

# SARW Annual Report 2021



# Message from the Executive Director

**It is our pleasure to share with stakeholders some highlights from the work that we managed to carry out in 2021. Characterised by its own challenges, the year offered opportunities for growth and consolidation of our work around the various work streams.**



Claude Kabemba



As the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW), we remain committed to our belief that the proper governance of extractive industries is critical in ensuring that natural resources generate wealth for local communities (and countries). This resolve is motivated by the poverty of most mining communities throughout the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

SADC's mineral wealth rightfully belongs to the people, but the benefits of natural resource extraction in mineral-rich countries have not always been distributed evenly or fairly. Many factors have been blamed for this, the most obvious being the SADC governments' failure to ensure that the contracts that they enter into with mining companies promote a win-win situation. Instead, mining companies across the continent continue to be given excessive tax incentives in the name of attracting foreign investment. Governments have also shown serious weaknesses in monitoring the sector to prevent human rights abuses and environmental destruction.

SARW work in 2021 exposed serious human rights abuses of mineworkers, especially women. The failure by government to enforce laws, regulations and policies could be the biggest challenge that Africa's mining sector faces. Ongoing tensions on the continent between mining companies and affected communities find their origin in state weaknesses. States have repeatedly failed to govern the sector, leaving companies (both domestic and foreign) to behave as they wish. Most communities firmly believe that the state protects corporations rather than citizens.

Although mining is frequently perceived as a complex industry, it is critical that citizens take an interest and are free to engage with governments and mining companies. It becomes imperative for civil society actors like SARW to work with communities as partners, to empower them to demand the change they want to see through meaningful and constructive dialogue with companies and governments.

During the past year, SARW dedicated itself to strengthening the capacity of communities to hold companies and the state accountable by pursuing activities used in implementing programmes that have been developed over time. Such activities were introduced to address needs in ways that would provide the most efficient and beneficial service to the target groups within SADC's mining sector. Most of SARW's current activities are developed from projects that have been in operation for several years and have a stable record of impact and success. Extensive technical skills have been provided through these projects to assist the mining communities. This work would not have been possible without the support of the various partnerships we have forged with different stakeholders who share our vision.

In this year's annual report, we take pleasure in sharing the lows and highs of the past year.

1

11

SARW  
Annual  
Report  
2021

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

THE 2021  
REPORT

PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT



# The 2021 Report

SARW's work on natural resource governance spans over 15 years. During this time the organisation has facilitated a coordinated, holistic strategy that addresses the various social, political and economic factors affecting mining communities in the SADC region and across the African continent. In the year 2021, SARW implemented programmes to meet the needs of mining-affected communities and respond to current challenges and opportunities within the mining sector. Activities which were implemented and completed in the past year included knowledge production, policy dialogues, advocacy work, campaigns, and capacity building.

SARW  
Annual  
Report  
**2021**

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

**THE 2021  
REPORT**

**PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES**

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT

## Synopsis of projects and activities implemented in 2021

### Monitoring of Workers' Human Rights violations by Chinese Mining Companies in the DRC

Through its Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) offices, SARW has been working in partnership with Electronics Watch on a project that seeks to contribute to the protection of workers' rights in the mining industries in the DRC. In 2021, the project involved investigating a Chinese cobalt and copper mine (Commus) based in Lualaba province. The research revealed significant issues around workers' rights in terms of employment, health, and safety conditions. The investigation process included extensive interaction with workers through direct interviews and focus group discussions. Workers who participated in the investigation are aware of the abuse of their rights by the mining company but don't know how to protect themselves due to lack of knowledge of the law and also because of fear that they might lose their jobs. This project helped workers to realise the extent to which their human rights were being violated, and made them aware of the mechanisms in place they can utilise to claim their rights. The second phase of the project is to expose the company and report its abuse to the DRC government, the Chinese government, and consumers of its products.



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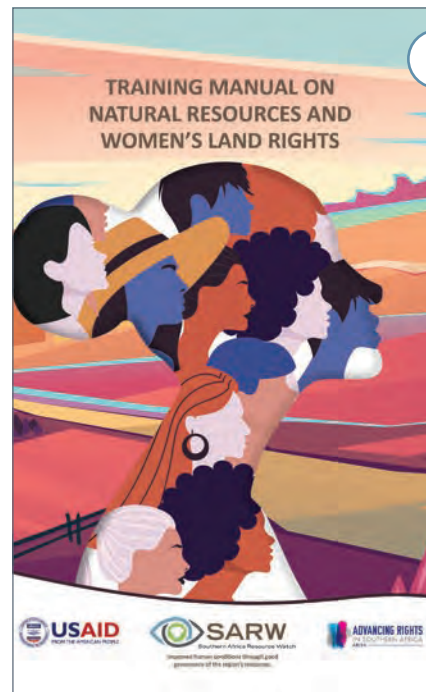
PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED IN  
THE PROJECT



## Natural Resources and Women's Land Rights



SARW, in partnership with the Advancing Rights in Southern Africa (ARISA) Program, implemented a joint project on Women's Rights and Natural Resource Management. The project was undertaken in the form of a regional study which culminated in a roundtable discussion, which brought together over 36 researchers, academics, civil society activists, journalists and lawyers from the Southern African region to discuss and debate findings of the research on Women's Land Rights and the Extractive Industries in Southern Africa. One of the key recommendations from the roundtable discussion held on 8 March 2021 (International Women's Day) was the need for capacity building for the affected women in the SADC region.



SARW  
Annual  
Report  
2021

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

THE 2021  
REPORT

**PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES**

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

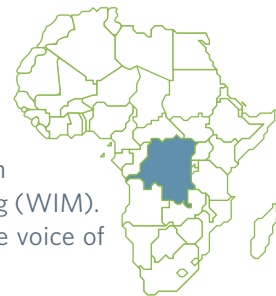
MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT

**IMPACT:** The project managed to ensure the identification of needs that are specific to women's land rights. It also resulted in the production of the first sector-based training manual that aims to impact positively on safeguarding women's land rights in the SADC region.

## Women in Mining in the DRC

SARW implemented a project aimed at assessing the treatment of women in the mining sector in the DRC, focussing on the need to ensure that there is gender inclusion and equity. As part of this project SARW engaged the mining companies on gender and strengthened its partnership with the DRC section of Women in Mining (WIM). The project reinforced the importance of gender inclusivity and strengthened the voice of women in the DRC's mining sector.



Women in Mining in the DRC





In 2021 AMI brought  
together

**150**  
PARTICIPANTS

from Botswana,  
the DRC, Ethiopia,  
Kenya, Senegal, South  
Africa, South Sudan,  
Uganda and Zimbabwe.

## Alternative Mining Indaba of the DRC 2021

SARW initiated the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) platform in the DRC with the aim of bringing all stakeholders around the table to address the challenges and opportunities within the country's mining sector. In 2021, SARW organised the fifth annual AMI of the DRC under the theme: "Valorization and Local Transformation of Mineral Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Scope, Challenges and Prospects." The choice of the theme was motivated by the need to rectify the current minerals management model, consisting of exporting raw materials and then importing their finished products, particularly in the global economic context of the energy transition. It also sought to highlight how the DRC intends to leverage its strategic minerals at this critical time of energy transition. The event made important recommendations on how to enhance the contribution of the mining sector to the lives of the country's citizens and to the fiscal capacity of the country.



Alternative Mining Indaba  
of the DRC 2021



## Development Finance for Community Environment and Justice Defenders in Southern Africa

In order to promote development finance for community environment and justice defenders in Southern Africa, SARW implemented a project which sought to identify the best practices on effective and sustained community participation. The project aimed to diffuse community and civil society perceptions that have long seen mining projects in the region as gross violators of human rights. SARW undertook and finalised five country assessment studies on the development financing by business and financial institutions on human rights and community participation of mining companies in DRC, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Following the country studies, SARW has embarked on an initiative to develop a simplified toolkit on effective and sustained community participation, grievance redress mechanisms, and environmental justice financing in mining projects.



Meeting on Development Finance for Community Environment and Justice Defenders in Southern in Zambia.

SARW  
Annual  
Report  
**2021**

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

THE 2021  
REPORT

**PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES**

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT



## The DRC's Diamond Mining and its Socio-economic Impact

DRC diamonds have been mined for over a century, and are an important part of the country's mining sector. However, this has not contributed to the socio-economic development of the DRC in general or the provinces where diamonds are mined, or the fight against poverty in local communities. SARW implemented a project that aimed to open discussions on the DRC's diamond mining sector. In 2021, SARW completed research that aimed to encourage and improve the governance of diamonds and to recognise how they are being exploited by companies and individuals. The research generated a public debate on the governance of the diamond sector in the DRC, stimulated particularly by the bankruptcy of Société minière de Bakwanga (MIBA) and the socio-economic consequences in Kasai-Oriental Province.



**IMPACT:** Public government is in deficit, although Kasai-Oriental Province is rich in diamonds. The research project opened the possibility to start a discussion and present a challenge to the Congolese government and all stakeholders involved in the mining of diamonds in this province.



SARW DRC Program Director, Georges Bokonde, interviewed by B-One television at the launch of the diamond report

SARW  
Annual  
Report  
**2021**

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

THE 2021  
REPORT

**PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES**

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT



## Protection of Human Rights of SADC Migrant Mineworkers during the Covid-19 Crisis



During the Covid-19 pandemic, migrant workers across the world were exposed to harsh treatment including poor working conditions and weak labour protection, which increased their vulnerability to ill-treatment during the pandemic. SARW implemented a project that aimed to promote and defend equal rights and fair labour practices for migrant mineworkers in the context of Covid-19 in South Africa. The project sought to advocate for legal reform in the labour law in alignment with emerging issues brought about by the pandemic, both as a protection for mineworkers and as a preventive measure in case of future pandemics. It advocated for increased social protection measures for migrant mineworkers during the Covid-19 recovery phase, especially in their living conditions. Redress and reparation were also promoted with the possibility of litigation and escalation to the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:** The overall impact of the various facets of the project ensured that migrant mineworkers have been able to draw attention to the many challenges that they and their families face in the SADC region, and helped to galvanise various stakeholders into action to resolve some of these issues. The intervention resulted in commitments from the Tshiamiso Trust to prioritise the speedy compensation of ex-workers and their families.

SARW  
Annual  
Report  
**2021**

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

THE 2021  
REPORT

**PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES**

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT



*Validation meeting for the report on the impact of Covid-19 on migrant mineworkers' human and labour rights in South Africa*





## Election and Mining in Zambia Radio Programme

Ahead of Zambia's general elections, SARW partnered with three radio stations to host debates around the country's mining sector. This saw various political parties being invited to discuss their manifestos, with a focus on how these manifestos respond to the needs and expectations of the electorate. A total of eight episodes were aired across the three radio stations (Rise FM, Radio Chimwemwe, and Mafken Radio). The radio programme became a platform for engagement between politicians and members of the public. The politicians were invited to share their respective political parties' mining policies, while members of the public were given an opportunity to call in and ask questions. Apart from political parties, the miners' unions also took part in the debates and shared their expectations of the participating political parties in terms of workers' rights.



SARW  
Annual  
Report  
2021

MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

THE 2021  
REPORT

PROJECTS &  
ACTIVITIES

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKING

SARW  
ADMIN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESS  
RELEASES  
AND NEWS

MEDIA  
COVERAGE

CONTACT



Rise FM radio, in Chingola district, where Nchanga parliamentary candidates discussed mining policy.

## Webinars

[Namibia's Minerals Governance Perspectives](#)

[Zambia's Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Perspectives](#)

[First Quantum Minerals vs Civil Society](#)

[Local Content policies and laws in the SADC Mining Sector](#)

[Development Financing by Business to Promote Human Rights and Community Participation in SADC](#)

[Communities Speak Out Against SLAPPs](#)

[China-DRC Relations in the Mining Sector: Is a win-win partnership possible?](#)

## Strategic Partnerships and Networking

Since its establishment in 2007, SARW has built an extensive system of networks and partnerships to support the reach and influence of its work and activities. These networks and partnerships include regional bodies, international advocacy groups, government bodies, embassies, and private and public entities. SARW works towards creating synergy between different groups and between countries, working together to find lasting solutions to challenges emanating from resource extraction. In 2021 SARW partnered with the following organisations in different capacities:

1. Publish What You Pay
2. Third World Network Africa
3. Tax Justice Network Africa
4. Copperbelt Civil Society Mining Forum
5. Corporate Crimes Hubs
6. BenchMarks
7. Electronics Watch
8. Corporates Crimes Hubs
9. Centre for Democracy and Development
10. Southern Africa Miners Association.

## SARW Administration

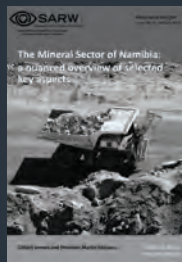
Following a protracted period of remote working due to the pandemic, SARW's Johannesburg staff moved into a newly-acquired office space in Sandton. The office represented a turning point for the organisation since becoming an autonomous body after having been a project under OSISA for more than a decade. The new offices provide a sound working space for SARW's staff and come with various advantages, which include an ideal space to host meetings.



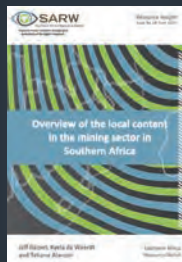
The SARW Office  
in Sandton



In 2021, SARW continued with its tradition of knowledge development through coordinating and publishing publications on various themes around natural resource governance. Key publications that were produced in 2021 include the following:



**1.** The Mineral Sector of Namibia: a nuanced overview of selected key aspects



**7.** Overview of the local content in the mining sector in Southern Africa



**13.** Reflexion Sur Les Conditions Pour La Reussite D'un Eventuel Processus De Renegotiation Des Contrats Miniers En Republique Democratique Du Congo



**2.** Southern Africa Extractive Quarterly Monitor, 4th Issue: The SADC Mining Sector Strives despite COVID-19



**8.** Analysis and Evaluation of Local Content Legal Regulations in Mozambique's Mining Sector



**14.** SADC AMV Alignment and Harmonisation Report



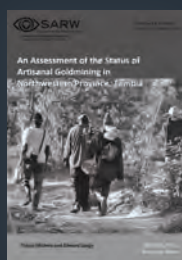
**3.** The Status of Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Nathenje Area, Malawi



**9.** Evaluation of the application of legal provisions on local content and sub-contracting in South Africa



**15.** A Qui profite le Diamant du Kasai Oriental?



**4.** An Assessment of the Status of Artisanal Goldmining in Northwestern Province, Zambia



**10.** Legal and policy framework for local content and sub-contracting in Zimbabwe



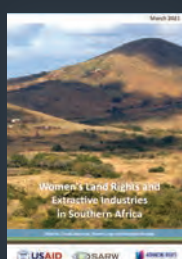
**16.** Experiences and Benefits of Optimised Mineral Resource Governance for Zimbabwe: Lessons from SADC Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Implementing Countries



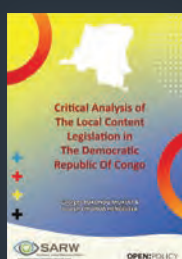
**5.** Decrypting Illicit Gold Trade in Zimbabwe



**11.** Legal framework for local content and sub-contracting in the mining sector in Zambia



**6.** Women's Land Rights and Extractive Industries in Southern Africa



**12.** Critical Analysis of the Local Content Legislation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE 2021 REPORT

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

WEBINARS

PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKING

SARW ADMIN

**PUBLICATIONS**

PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS

MEDIA COVERAGE

CONTACT



## Press Releases and News

As part of its information sharing, SARW generated various press releases and media statements that put issues of natural resource governance on the media agenda. These included:

1. [SARW Appeal for a Just and Equitable Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine to Include Mining Communities](#)
2. [SARW's welcomes progress on Kansanshi Mining PLC collective bargaining agreement with trade unions](#)
3. [Zimbabwe Civil Society Calls for Transparency in the Granting of Tax Incentives in the Platinum Sector](#)
4. [The Status of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining in Nathenje, Malawi](#)
5. [An Assessment of the Status of Artisanal Goldmining in Northwestern Province, Zambia](#)
6. [How mineral resources can fuel the development of Africa in the context of post-Covid economic recovery](#)
7. [SARW's message on International World Health Day 2021](#)
8. [Rapport De La Seance Academique Au Conseil Economique Et Social](#)
9. [Report of the Academic Session to The Economic And Social Council](#)
10. [Mining Workers' Health Must Be Prioritise Before Profit](#)
11. [SARW Opposes Attempts by First Quantum Minerals to Silence it Through Court Action](#)
12. [Civil Society Organisations Working on Extractive Resource Governance on the Copperbelt Province Of Zambia Launch "The Copperbelt Civil Society Mining Forum"](#)
13. [Copperbelt Civil Society Mining Forum Cautions Government on the Suspension of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Activities on Disused Mining Dump sites](#)
14. [The South African government needs to act swiftly to formalise the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining to curb illegal mining activities](#)
15. [SADC countries must position natural resources for the purposes of fighting poverty](#)
16. [COP26 Should Call on Extractive Industries to be Proactive in Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts Especially on the African Continent where their Activities are Dominant](#)
17. [La Cop26 Devrait Appeler Les Industries Extractives A Participer De Maniere Proactive Aux Efforts D'adaptation Et D'attenuation Du Changement Climatique, En Particulier Sur Le Continent Africain Ou Leurs Activites Sont Dominantes](#)
18. [Summary Report Of The 5th Edition Of The Alternative Mining Indaba Of The Democratic Republic Of Congo](#)
19. [Rapport Synthèse Des Travaux De La Cinquième Edition De L'alternative Mining Indaba De La Republique Democratique Du Congo](#)
20. [Human Rights Day 2021: Extractive Industries Must Swiftly Adopt A Human Rights-Based Approach To Their Operations](#)

## Media coverage

Various aspects of SARW's work in 2021 were profiled in the media. Examples of mentions in the media include:

1. [SARW Opposes Attempts by First Quantum Mining to Silence it through Court Action](#)
2. [Vaccine must be available to mining communities](#)
3. [Analysis: South Africa diamond rush threatens health, trust and environment](#)
4. [Namibia: Regional Watchdog Raises Mining Sector Alarm](#)
5. [Zimbabwe says it lost a third of its gold output to smugglers](#)
6. [Regional watchdog raises mining sector alarm...levels](#)
7. [Report: In Zimbabwe, Corrupt Actors Benefit from Illegal Gold](#)
8. [Poverty Eradication | Africa not using resources adequately](#)
9. [State Security Agents Implicated In Booming Gold Smuggling](#)
10. [RDC: l'observatoire Sarw publie un rapport "interpellateur" sur](#)
11. [Kasaï-Oriental : le diamant ne contribue pas au](#)
12. [Zimbabwean Policymakers Accused Of Inaction On Illicit Gold](#)
13. [RDC: un atelier de Sarw à Kinshasa sur la promotion des](#)





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