

SARW Annual Report 2023

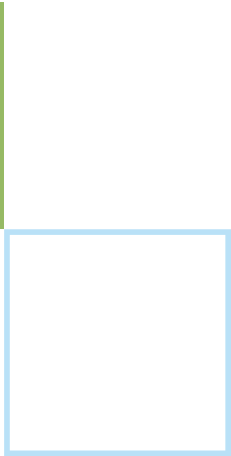
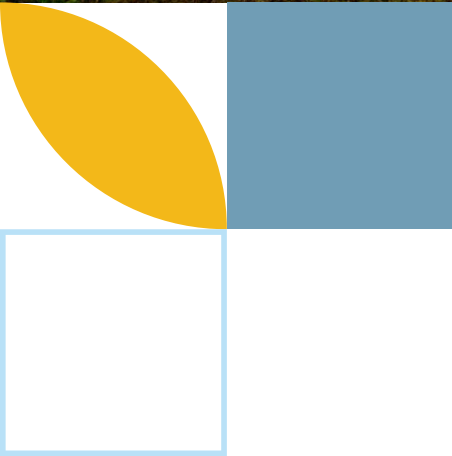
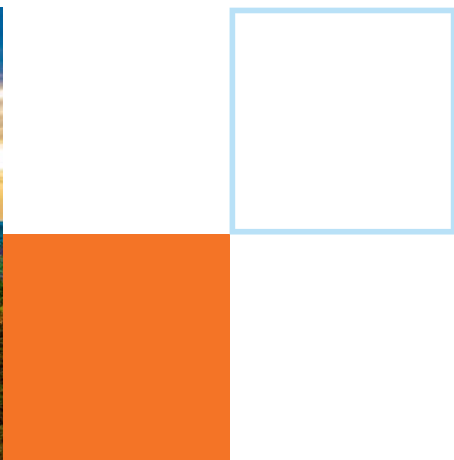


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Chairperson's Message

In 2023, SARW significantly expanded our engagement with mining-impacted communities. Their proactive stance in holding corporations accountable is a source of encouragement and motivation for us as we stand in solidarity with their cause. We have successfully connected people's struggles to critical areas of mineral resource governance.

THE WORLD CANNOT PROGRESS IF YOUTH ARE VULNERABLE OR WOMEN ARE MARGINALISED. THEY CANNOT BE LEFT BEHIND. WE AMPLIFY THEIR VOICES, ENSURING THAT THEY ARE HEARD AND COUNTED. OUR YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THIS, PROVIDING PLATFORMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN TO INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS.

These voices, full of potential and promise, must be front and centre of a just energy transition, inspiring hope and optimism for the future. Women's voices have gained prominence in Carolina (in South Africa) for instance, and their agency is stronger than ever. We proudly support these local communities in confronting the harmful practices of extractive industries.

Our unwavering focus remains on advocating for a shift from mere concern with "government" to "democratic governance" of our resources. We have actively engaged elected and appointed officials to champion people's requests. A prime example is our collaboration with members of parliament from throughout the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) on projects such as the Resource Governance Initiative, which underscores our steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability. Our partnership with the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) has empowered women parliamentarians through training programmes, enabling them to effectively advocate for land rights and natural resource governance.

Aligned with the African Mining Vision, we stress the need to benefitate our minerals, adding value within the continent. By doing so, we can ensure that the wealth generated from our natural resources directly contributes to the socio-economic development of our people. SARW's Critical Minerals and Renewable Energy Value Chain Initiative fosters local processing and manufacturing, creating jobs and promoting sustainable industrialisation. We continue to call for model laws in SADC to, among other things, harmonise our industrialisation policies in the renewable energy space. In the context of the climate emergency, we launched initiatives linking our region's green mineral wealth to renewable energy opportunities. In the

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia, our engagement with the battery initiative showcases our commitment to transparent value chains in green technology. The DRC-Zambia Cooperation Agreement to manufacture electric vehicles also marks a significant milestone in leveraging our mineral wealth for sustainable development. This agreement aims to create jobs and promote local industries, making our region a key player in the global green economy. By supporting civil society and local communities, we ensure they have a voice in green mineral industrialisation, pushing against exclusion and advocating for inclusion.

We remain cautious of a green minerals resource curse, learning from past conflicts that were fuelled by resource plunder and illicit trade. During this crucial time for clean energy transition, we reinforce grievance-handling mechanisms in mining-affected areas. An example is our partnership with local NGOs to establish community grievance forums, ensuring that concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

As we push back against rights violations, we refuse to be silenced by corporate intimidation. Our efforts to uphold human and environmental rights have, therefore, intensified. SARW's awareness campaign on intimidation lawsuits has highlighted the need to protect rights defenders. Hosting the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Africa (CASA) – a movement born of the urgent need to confront and dismantle the oppressive force of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) across our continent – underscores our capacity to support and strengthen advocacy networks. Together with our partners, we will continue enhancing CASA as a beacon of hope and resilience for activists, human rights defenders, and all those committed to preserving freedom of speech, accountability, and justice in Africa.

Addressing climate change requires tackling poverty, inequality, and unemployment. We are committed to a comprehensive transition that integrates and addresses various forms of marginalisation and discrimination, including energy poverty, by increasing access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy. This dedication is evident in our advocacy for structural transformation, which aligns climate action with socio-economic and climate-resilient development, instilling confidence in progressive stakeholders.

Institutionally, we are committed to strengthening our governance and leadership capacity as a team, continually strengthening our institutional systems and growing our partnership base. As we move forward, we are committed to deepening this work in the next year and beyond, ensuring that our shared mission of justice and sustainability remains at the forefront, and fostering a sense of optimism and trust among our stakeholders.

Deprose Muchena
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD



Director's Foreword

Addressing the Imperfections and Avoiding the Green Curse

This report covers the work of SARW in 2023, a post-Covid year. The year 2023 brought new dynamism for most civil society organisations, and also saw debates on the just energy transition taking centre stage in most conversations related to natural resources in Africa.

SARW quickly positioned itself as a leading voice with targeted research projects, roundtable discussions, and capacity building of affected communities. Although the just energy transition continues to take centre stage, SARW has not abandoned the issues that have always defined our work—including gender, labour, transparency and accountability, and transformation of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). We projected our work into the future by infusing into the debate Africa's capacity to process its critical minerals and use them as a basis for industrialisation. The argument here is simple:

Africa needs to redefine, to rethink, its relation to minerals. It cannot continue to be an exporter of raw minerals and an importer of (now green) technology. This redefinition will help the continent to avoid moving from a 'resource curse' to a 'green curse'.

SARW becomes a leading voice on critical minerals and energy transition in Southern Africa

In 2023, we made our presence visible with significant research, facilitating discussions between stakeholders, and expanding our capacity building projects. These initiatives have positioned SARW as a key player in the rapidly changing global environment, where the world is shifting from fossil fuels towards a zero-carbon economy. Our interest has been in the critical role that African minerals are playing in the global economy, and how Africa can fully benefit from this.

We are pushing African governments to think, to plan and to act. The shift from coal and fossil fuels towards renewable energy is unavoidable for Africa, but Africa's move towards renewable energy is not happening as fast as we would have wished. Africa is committed to the Paris agreement and has no alternative but to pivot from fossil fuels to renewable energy, but faces serious financial, skills and technological challenges. In 2023, SARW invested in research and dialogue to identify opportunities and challenges facing the continent. SARW analysed the nationally defined contributions (NDCs) of all SADC countries. We published short and easily accessible briefs on the NDCs



in the DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These NDC briefing papers were launched at the COP28 climate change conference in December 2023.

Also in 2023, SARW organised a conference during the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, Kenya, in September. The conference, which was attended by civil society, government and academics, made clear policy observations, the most important being that:

“Africa is not ready to fully benefit from the energy transition. The absence of national and regional policies and regulations on critical minerals is a serious hindrance.”

The Nairobi conference pushed governments to consider drafting policies on critical minerals. The Zambian government has since produced its critical mineral policy, becoming the first country in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) with such policy. SARW submitted comments to the Zambian government on the draft, and organised another important event—the DRC Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI). This was the Seventh edition of the AMI, and brought together 250 participants from government, civil society, communities, youth, and labour. The theme was ‘Promotion of Good Governance and Revenue Mobilization of the Mining Sector in the Context of the Energy Transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo’.

SARW prepares communities to engage in the energy transition, and preparing citizens to demand a just transition was at the core of our interventions in 2023. The energy transition will not be just if African people, especially mining communities which have been excluded from sharing in the benefits of mining, continue to watch from the sidelines while others benefit from the mineral that are powering the energy transition and make all the decisions. The transition will not automatically be just. Any justice will require communities to mobilise and demand that they are included. SARW is very much alert to this, and in 2023 we started community capacity-building initiatives using a feminist approach. We worked with women in the DRC, Zimbabwe and South Africa in cobalt, lithium and coal mines respectively.

IN THE DRC THE WOMEN WERE ABLE TO PREPARE A DECLARATION WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENT AT THE ALTERNATIVE MINING INDABA (AMI) IN KINSHASA. IN SOUTH AFRICA, WOMEN PRODUCED STORIES FROM THEIR LAND, WHICH WE PUBLISHED.

In 2023, we initiated a movement to demand accountability from governments and corporates on critical mineral extraction, environmental impact, and benefit sharing in 21st November 2023 we launched the Pamoja Critical Minerals Alliance (PCMA).

There is an unprecedented increase in the extraction of critical minerals. This increase in extraction needs to be matched by increased monitoring. The increase in critical mineral extraction is causing conflict between corporates and communities over land dispossession, pollution, and lack of consultation. In 2023, SARW consolidated its work on grievance redress



mechanisms in mining communities, with experimental interventions in Motoko (Zimbabwe), Tenke Fungurume (DRC), and Mufulira (Zambia).

Youth and women are the most strategically important groups in our societies, and also the most vulnerable. In 2023, we continued engaging young people and preparing them to engage with debates about the just energy transition, fossil fuels, and critical minerals. SARW, in partnership with Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe (GreenGov), hosted a workshop on 25-26 July 2023 in Masvingo (Zimbabwe). Participants in the workshop included women and youth from lithium mining communities in Zimbabwe, who have gone on to participate in data gathering for SARW's research into lithium mining in Bikita. They have also created a network and a platform for human rights monitoring and reporting, which has been key in expanding the rights documentation and related advocacy for SARW and other rights-based organisations in Zimbabwe. The trained women and youth have become known rights activists in their communities. Some have gone on to represent their communities in strategic platforms such as the AMI at national and international levels.

The agenda around energy transition and critical minerals, and how to ensure that Africa benefits, requires us to build strong strategic partnerships if we are to have any impact. At the strategic level, SARW initiated discussions with key universities and research institutions in Southern Africa to formalise relations and to work together. These partners include the University of the Copperbelt (Zambia), the University of Lubumbashi (DRC), the University of Harare (Zimbabwe), and SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF).

SARW is concerned about increasing threats to human rights defenders and community members who speak out against environmental and human rights violations in the extractive industries. This is reflected in the increasing use of strategic litigation against public participation (SLAPP). SARW has set up the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Africa (CASA). The launch of CASA in Southern Africa will be followed by similar launches in East and West Africa.

There is an urgent need to hold corporates to account for their environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitments. In 2023, we initiated an important project to promote corporate accountability in the mining sector. Under this project, we will use technology to monitor mining companies' environmental and social accountability. The project is informed by the slow pace of change in corporates' behaviour, and will provide access to information for anybody who needs it through an App. This App will also provide an opportunity for interaction between different stakeholders, and will enable companies to respond directly through the App to issues being raised by communities. Providing direct interaction between stakeholders will promote accountability and transparency.

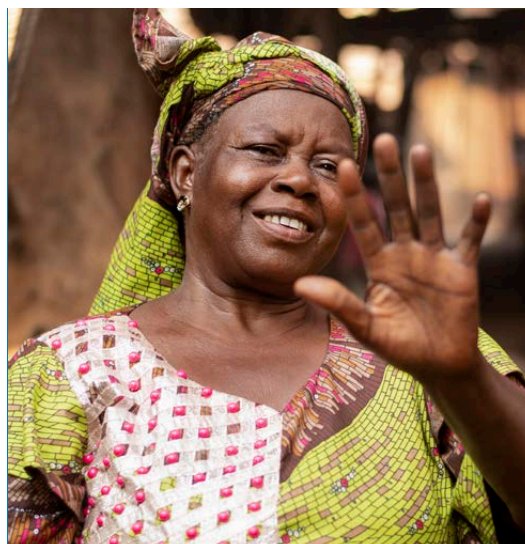
Claude Kabemba
DIRECTOR

The 2023 Programming Context

Despite numerous challenges arising from the national elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zimbabwe, the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) continued implementing its project activities in the SADC region in 2023. The organisation successfully executed most of its planned project activities. However, it faced some delays due to the complex political climate and the need to ensure the safety of its staff and partners on the ground.

Despite these obstacles, SARW remained committed to promoting transparency and accountability in the region's extractive industries. The organisation made significant progress towards achieving its goals. It continued to work towards enhancing the capacity of different stakeholders—Members of parliament and mining communities, especially women and girls, in Zimbabwe and DRC in areas where Lithium and cobalt are extracted, respectively; in promoting the nexus between critical minerals and energy transition in Southern Africa; and pushing for a just transition in coal mining communities in South Africa, promoting labour rights in artisanal and industrial mining in the DRC, building coalitions to promote good governance, and advocating for the protection of human rights defenders in extractive industries and promote corporate accountability in Southern Africa targeting Western and BRICS companies.

SARW's efforts in the SADC region have played a critical role in addressing the challenges that local communities and other stakeholders in the extractive industries face. The organisation's commitment to transparency and accountability has helped to enhance the public's understanding of the sector and promote responsible investment in the region.



Capacity Building

Members of Parliament Training on Women's Land Rights and Natural Resources in Southern Africa

SARW and ARISA partnered with the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) to train Sixteen Members of Parliament from seven SADC-PF member states. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of Members of Parliament using the Natural Resources and Women's Land Rights Training Manual. The training included MPs from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. This training aimed to strengthen the voice of women members of Parliament to advocate and influence policy for equitable land rights in Southern Africa through legislation. The training also sought to share experiences and knowledge about existing laws protecting women's land rights and natural resources.

The training focused on key topics related to women's land rights in the context of extractive industries. Participants explored the impacts of large-scale projects and investments on women and their struggles to secure land and understand it as a women's rights issue. The training will also cover the concept of patriarchy and its relation to women's land rights, the importance of free prior informed consent, and the legal and policy frameworks relevant to women's land rights. Finally, participants will learn about customary and statutory law differences in this context.



Key Achievements

The training provided members of parliament in the SADC region a deeper understanding of the challenges they face regarding land access and natural resources policy formulation. Notably, women members of parliament have gained an improved comprehension that land access is a human rights issue. Furthermore, the training has facilitated a unified approach to building women's capacity to demand their land and natural resources rights in the legislative process.

[LINK TO VIDEO: HERE](#)



Women and Youth Training and Symposium on Critical Minerals in Zimbabwe

SARW, in partnership with Green Governance Trust Zimbabwe (GreenGov), hosted a workshop on July 25th and 26th, 2023, in Masvingo. Participants in the seminar included women and youth, a councillor from the Goromonzi Rural District Council, the headman (sabhuku), farm owners, the community chairperson, and the village head. On the second day, key stakeholders from the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe, Masvingo Media Center, TellZim, Hevoi FM, GZU Campus Radio, and representatives from government stakeholders such as the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and the Ministry of Youth were also present.

The Transitional Minerals Training Workshop and Symposium were designed to strengthen participants' capacity to understand lithium's sustainable and responsible supply chain and its central role in the clean energy transition in Zimbabwe and beyond. The primary goal of the symposium was to create a platform that allowed dialogue, information sharing, engagement, and identification of solutions to climate governance and just energy transition in Zimbabwe. The activity also aimed at promoting community rights monitoring and movement building, improving coordination, and consolidating advocacy on climate issues by various actors.

The meeting was divided into two parts. The first part was a training session for community women and youth to oversee the extraction of critical minerals in Zimbabwe, particularly in Bikita, Mutoko, and Goromonzi. The training aimed to equip the monitors with the skills to conduct monitoring actions and oversee any Women and Youth's Human Rights violations during the extraction process. The second part was a symposium designed to provide a space for dialogue and idea-sharing, focusing on challenges, perspectives, and collective actions to improve the rights of women and youth involved in lithium extraction in Zimbabwe. Overall, the workshop aimed to create a space where participants could engage in meaningful conversations about lithium mining and its impact on their communities.



Strategic Achievements

The Symposium managed to enhance the capacity of youth and women from key lithium mining communities in Zimbabwe. Some of these women and youth have gone on to participate in data gathering for the research on lithium mining in Bikita. They have also created a network and platform for human rights monitoring and reporting, which has been key in expanding the rights documentation and related advocacy for SARW and other rights-based organisations in Zimbabwe. The trained women and youth have become known rights activists in their communities. Some have gone on to represent their communities in strategic platforms such as the Alternative Mining Indaba at national and international levels.

[ACCESS THE REPORT: HERE](#)

SARW Training of SA Women groups on Advocacy, engagement and storytelling



SARW continues to promote a fair energy transition by empowering women to effectively engage with policymakers and mining companies. This initiative follows the women's creation of a manifesto and a documentary sharing their experiences related to a just energy transition in their communities.

SARW facilitated a transformative five-day training program from November 20-24, 2023, to empower women in climate change advocacy. Focusing on three distinct communities of Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, the program attracted a diverse group of 15 women from Womxndla

Strategic Achievements

The SARW training program gave participants the necessary skills and knowledge to tackle climate change and gender-related issues in their communities.

The storytelling initiative within the SARW training program has been a cornerstone of our approach to empowerment and advocacy. By enabling women from Womxndla Community Development NPC, Sekhukhune Combined Mining Affected Communities, and the Grootvlei Power Station area to share their narratives, this initiative has effectively highlighted the intersection of gender, climate change and energy transition challenges in mining-affected communities. These stories, rich with personal experience and resilience, provide a powerful testament to the hardships and triumphs of the participants. Through storytelling, the women have transformed from silent sufferers to vocal advocates, using their narratives to shine a light on critical issues such as gender-based violence, environmental degradation, and the social inequities perpetuated by mining activities. This approach has raised awareness and fostered a sense of solidarity and collective action, making storytelling a vital tool in our mission to empower women and advocate for sustainability and transitions in their communities.

Community Development in Carolina, Lejoy in Grotvlei, and Sekhukhune Environmental Justice Network in Sekhukhune.

The training covered critical topics such as women's rights in the context of coal and climate change, storytelling for advocacy, and strategies for effective campaigning and community mobilisation. SARW and sector experts led the interactive sessions, focusing on equipping the participants with practical skills to lead initiatives in their communities.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Women in ASM training in DRC

In DRC, SARW hosted a training for women and girls. Women working in mines and human rights defenders were trained on emerging environmental issues linked to exploiting critical minerals in Kolwezi. This training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to address environmental challenges that arise from mining activities. Through these initiatives, 40 women and young girls were trained to create or affiliate with feminist movements at the local, provincial, national, and regional levels to support women's rights in connection with the energy transition. Furthermore, the women signed up to join a regional initiative called Pamoja Critical Minerals Alliance. This initiative aimed to provide a platform for women to share their experiences and challenges and advocate for their rights.



Community-Led Grievance Redress Mechanisms in Southern Africa

In 2023, SARW continued its work on practical and sustained community participation, establishing grievance redress mechanisms and ensuring environmental justice financing in mining projects. This was achieved through the establishment or support of existing community stakeholder forums.

The project aimed to improve relations between stakeholders by addressing negative perceptions that mining projects in the area violate human rights.

During the period under review, various activities were implemented. These include training four communities in DRC, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe on grievance complaints management, reaching out to over 150 community members, establishing Community Grievance Redress Mechanism working groups in DRC, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, developing country models for Grievance Redress Mechanism practices, and convening the launch of the Grievance Redress Mechanism Tool Kit in Angola and Zambia.

Strategic Achievements

The project managed to see the establishment of GRM's working groups in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and DRC- aggrieved stakeholders from communities in the three countries have raised some complaints and precautions to the working group members. Three models of GRM's operationalisation have been developed and published.

The project established more inclusive grievance redress mechanism models owned by the community through local leadership. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Joint Committee recommended relocating the affected community after conclusive evidence that the company's activities could be responsible for health problems in the community. The company has already begun the relocation process and is nearing completion.

In Zimbabwe, the engagement processes with the Mutoko community facilitated the establishment of the community-company grievance committee, which is represented by the Chief Mutoko, Assistant District Development Coordinator, Mutoko Rural District Council, Ministry of Youth, Representatives of community-based organisations, Representatives of community members, and two Representatives of mining companies.

LINK TO MODEL: HERE

In Shibuyunji town district, Zambia, the following institutions and stakeholders established the Community-Mine Grievance Management Working Group: Council Chairperson, Pastors Fellowship, District Planner- Council, Sanje Hills Training Institute, Office of the MP - National Assembly, Community Members, Disabled Association, W.D.C. Sala Ward, Councillor - Shibuyunji, Councillor - Shibuyunji, Shakumbila Royal Establishment, Sanje Hill Iron - Universal Mine and Chemical Ltd, Konkola Copper Mines - Nampundwe Mine, and CCAMDEC Mine.

LINK TO MODEL: HERE

A multi-stakeholder group was established in the DRC Tenke Fungulume Community of Kabombwa, and it has commenced its work by undertaking a joint environmental audit exercise with the support of three laboratories. In South Africa, SARW engaged Sefateng Chrome Mines, led by Alexandra King, and they listened to the community's grievances.

LINK TO MODEL: HERE



SARW focuses on Labour rights in DRC

SARW implemented a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to better understand the artisanal minerals supply chain, the working conditions of artisanal miners, and the scope of freedom of association in mining companies. As part of this project, SARW visited two mines - an artisanal mine called Shabara Mine, and an industrial mine known as Société Minière de Deziwa (SOMIDEZ) in the Lualaba Province.



During the visit, SARW contacted the Provincial Minister of Mines, local partners, and officials of the Mining Cooperative (COMAKAT). They discussed the challenges faced by artisanal miners and explored ways to address them. The team also had the opportunity to observe miners' working conditions, the process of mineral extraction, and the overall supply chain of minerals.

In addition to the mine visits, SARW facilitated a training session on human rights, workers' rights, due diligence in the mineral supply chain, and artisanal mining. More than 20 artisanal miners and cooperative agents attended the training. It provided participants with a clear understanding of human rights protection in artisanal mining and equipped them with knowledge of due diligence in the supply chain of artisanal minerals. The training also served as a platform for participants to share their experiences and feedback on the difficulties encountered by artisanal miners.

Overall, SARW's project in the DRC was an essential step towards promoting responsible mining practices and improving the working conditions of artisanal miners.



Campaigns

Coalition Against Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (CASA)

SARW continued strengthening its work under CASA in 2023 to build and strengthen anti-SLAPP movements at a continental level. The project aims to have a solid African coalition that advocates against SLAPPs by supporting movements under attack and raising awareness. The alliance seeks to work with various groups and entities

concerned about legal harassment and intimidation by corporations that silence free speech and hinder transparency. In 2023, CASA held the Southern Africa consultative and launch meeting for the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Africa (CASA) from May 16th to May 17th, 2023, in Rosebank, South Africa.

To ensure that the work of the coalition advances, a Governance team was set up, and the following organisations were put forward and agreed to serve: Natural Justice, Botswana Watch, Groundworks, Transparency International Initiative (TII) Madagascar, ZELA, Devine Witbooi (activist and victim of SLAPPs) from the West Coast Food Sovereignty and Solidarity Forum, and Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (Zambia).

Another “technical” working group on a model law was established to fast-track issues related to legal advocacy. This comprises a few persons with an interest and expertise in law-making and democratisation. Its members included representatives from Wits Law Department, Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Southern Africa Litigation Centre, Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association and Business and Human Rights Resource Centre Network.

Since the launch of the South Africa group, other regional groupings have been approached, and similar launches will be implemented. A member mobilisation plan has been rolled out, and an online platform for the coalition has been created, accessible [here](#).





PAMOJA platform

On November 20th and 21st, 2023, SARW hosted a joint country meeting to discuss critical minerals. The conference focused on the collaboration between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia on EVS Battery Manufacturing and the role of Civil Society in this regard. The objective of the meeting was to reflect on and map out the role of key stakeholders in the groundbreaking joint project based on the parties' MoU.



36 members from CSOs, the labour movement, the private sector, and academia attended the meeting. Participants were from DRC's Kolwezi, Lubumbashi, and Kinshasa, and the Zambian delegation included organisations from Chililabombwe, Chingola, Mufulira, Kitwe, Ndola, and Lusaka.

During the meeting, it was decided to create a platform called "Pamoja Critical Minerals Alliance". Its purpose is to monitor and engage with the implementation of Electric Vehicles (EVs) cooperation agreements. The platform promotes solidarity and networking among stakeholders to ensure the demand for critical minerals is connected to the SADC region's transformative, environment-friendly, and climate-sensitive industrial strategies. The Alliance is committed to creating decolonised and gender-just critical minerals value chains focusing on manufacturing clean energy technologies. These technologies are critical in addressing energy poverty in the SADC region. They increase energy access, create green jobs, provide cleaner energy solutions, and generate a higher fiscal share of critical minerals-aligned national and local government revenue streams across SADC. The ultimate goal is to establish a fair and environmentally friendly critical minerals value chain to help the region address its energy poverty challenges.

[ACCESS A VIDEO OF THE MEETING HERE](#)

Publications

In 2023, SARW published key publications, which are the following:

Newsletters

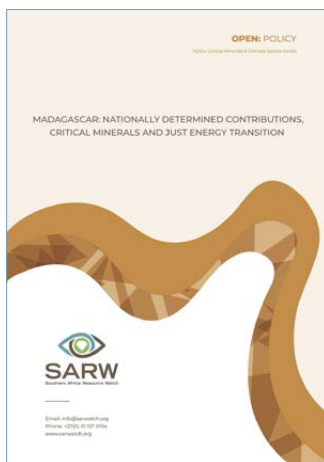
1. SARW 2023 November Newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/e013b3ce3a0c/sarw-2023-november-newsletter>
2. Empowering Change: SARW Unveils Dynamic Engagements in Our Latest Newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/ec8a34791b51/empowering-change-sarw>
3. Empowering Change: SARW Newsletter - August 2023 Edition - <https://mailchi.mp/fd503b1eb30a/empowering-change-sarw-newsletter-august-2023-edition>
4. Monthly Newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/7f69b5794b97/april-newsletter>
5. March 2023 Newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/d02e66a9187c/march-2023-newsletter>
6. Southern Africa Resource Watch - January 2023 Newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/2722dd8e2fdd/southern-africa-resource-watch-january-2023-newsletter-15112059>

The Nationally Determined Contributions, Critical Minerals and Just Energy Transition Serie

These policy briefs provide information on five SADC countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Critical Minerals, and Just Energy Transition policies. They provide valuable insights into how countries implement these policies and their impact on the environment and society.



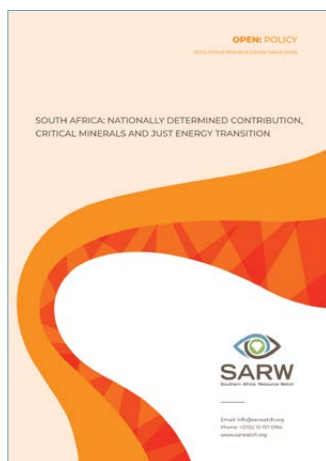
DRC: Nationally Determined Contributions, Critical Minerals And Just Energy Transition



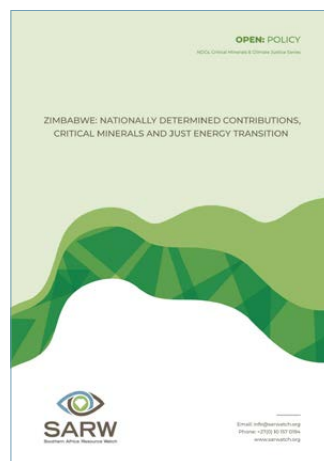
Madagascar: Nationally Determined Contributions, Critical Minerals And Just Energy Transition



Namibia: Nationally Determined Contributions, Critical Minerals And Just Energy Transition



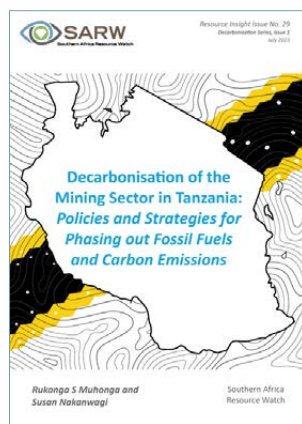
South Africa: Nationally Determined Contributions, Critical Minerals And Just Energy Transition



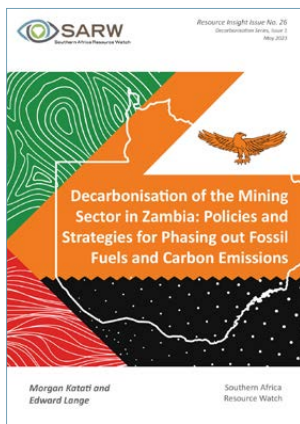
Zimbabwe: Nationally Determined Contributions, Critical Minerals And Just Energy Transition

The Decarbonisation Series

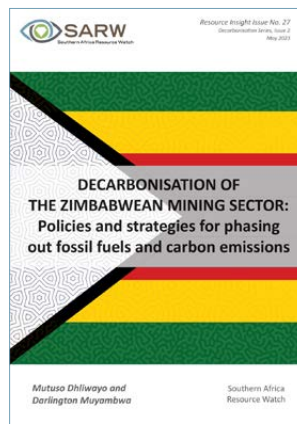
This series focused on understanding the extractive industry's efforts in selected Southern African countries to meet mid-century net zero emission targets in line with national climate commitments. It explored the government's and mining corporations' efforts towards decarbonisation to outline the current context, strengths, challenges, and opportunities.



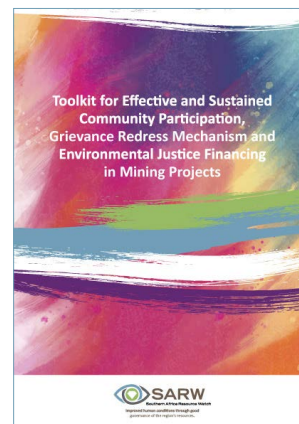
Decarbonisation of The Mining Sector In Tanzania: Policies And Strategies For Phasing Out Fossil Fuels And Carbon Emission



Decarbonisation of The Mining Sector In Zambia: Policies And Strategies For Phasing Out Fossil Fuels And Carbon Emissions



Decarbonisation of The Zimbabwean Mining Sector: Policies And Strategies For Phasing Out Fossil Fuels And Carbon Emissions



Illustrated Toolkit On Effective Grievance Redress Mechanisms In Mining Projects

Post-Mining Models Report

SARW and CALS launched a research report on post-mining and climate change. Many mining companies prioritise profit over rehabilitation costs, leaving communities to deal with unrehabilitated mine dumps that violate their environmental rights. The report investigates the effects of mine closure on communities and workers in fossil fuel areas. It evaluates the adequacy of existing laws and policies in addressing the environmental, social, and economic aspects of mine closure, worker sustenance, gender equality, and public education about mine closure, climate change, and just transition issues.

In 2023, SARW also initiated several research studies, some of these studies include:

Title/Focus	Summary
Regional Gender Report on Women's participation in the mining Sector	Based on research conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It examines the roles of governments and mining companies in the mining sector and recommends strategies to end gender inequality.
Mapping Environmental, Social and Governance Issues in Lithium Mining in Zimbabwe	The study sought to identify the policy, legislative, and institutional arrangements and related gaps associated with extracting green or critical resources, their value chains, and benefit-sharing in Zimbabwe.
Studies on AMV domestication into CMVs for Ghana, Kenya and Uganda	The SARW facilitated studies on the status of the Africa Mining Vision's domestication into national mining policy (CMVs) development and implementation in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda.
Strategic Minerals and Energy Transition in Southern Africa Research Project	Under this, SARW focused on six resource-rich countries in critical minerals: DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to provide data on the existing energy transition ecosystem by documenting existing initiatives and actors to ensure alignment by identifying opportunities for a sustainable and inclusive REN supply chain.
Human and Environmental Rights Monitoring of Chinese Mining Operations in SADC	The research aims to document the state of human and environmental rights in Chinese extractive companies systematically and develop policy and practice reform strategies that facilitate engagement with the SADC countries on proposed reforms for improved operations and conduct.



Convenings

Women and Youth Symposium on Climate Change and Energy Transition



The women's and youth symposium on climate change and just transition occurred in Johannesburg, South Africa, on July 10th and 11th, 2023. SARW and its partners, the Climate Ambition to Accountability Project (CAAP) and Womandhla, hosted a two-day symposium on Women and Youth Action on Climate Justice and Energy Transition in South Africa.

The symposium was an output of the Fair For All project, where CAAP was supported to provide capacity building for 35 youths on various climate change and just transition issues so that they can play an active role in participating in these issues at their community and national levels and where Womandhla carried out a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) as well as led the development of their own Climate Change Manifesto.

Strategic Achievements

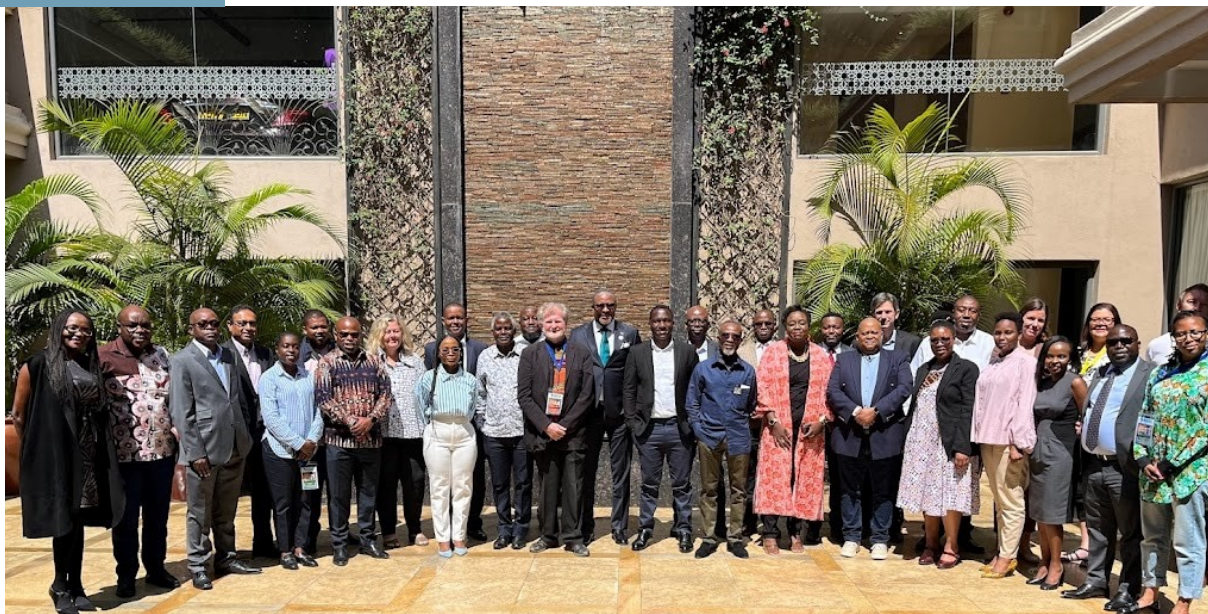
The Women and Youth Symposium on Climate Justice and Energy Transition in South Africa brought together experts, trainers, and participants, including the Presidential Climate Commission. The event provided a platform to learn from the practical grassroots actions of women and youth, helping to design and implement climate action plans that promote sustainability and ensure fair and inclusive transitions. Discussions highlighted the importance of inclusive policies, youth engagement, and women's empowerment in climate action. The Women's Manifesto on Just Energy Transition serves as a powerful call to address the challenges faced by women affected by coal mines. Overall, the symposium helped drive progress towards a sustainable future and set the stage for ongoing collaborations to drive impactful change towards a more sustainable and equitable future for women and youth in South Africa on climate change issues.

The Women and Youth Symposium on Climate Justice and Energy Transition in South Africa was a remarkable event that aimed to address climate change and promote sustainable livelihoods. It was designed with the active participation of women and youth in mind and was organised by SARW, CAAP, and Womxndla. The symposium focused on grassroots actions and knowledge sharing among women and youth, providing them with a unique opportunity to address the pressing challenges of climate change and advocate for meaningful actions.

The main goal of the symposium was to promote conversations and engagements around sustainable livelihoods, decrease poverty and inequality, and ensure the active participation of women and youth in climate action.

On the symposium's first day, participants engaged in reflections and shared experiences, showcasing their community-led initiatives and ideas for further action. Through these discussions, an action plan was developed to consolidate the shared work. The second day of the symposium featured a hybrid Policy and Practice Forum, where the Women's Manifesto on climate change and the Youth's position paper were presented and discussed, guiding conversations towards actionable outcomes.





Africa Climate Summit - High-Level Meeting on Climate Change Action, Critical Minerals, and Energy Transition in Africa

On the sidelines of the Africa Climate Summit in September 2023, SARW, in partnership with the Southern Africa Trust (SAT), held the seminal meeting to address the pivotal role of critical minerals in Africa's sustainable future, emphasising the integration of strategic mineral resources into the global green energy shift. Stakeholders across sectors convened to craft a cohesive and actionable roadmap for the continent's sustainable future. The meeting convened participants from strategic mineral-producing countries, intergovernmental organisations, private sector entities, civil society, and academia. The assembly aimed to sculpt a shared vision and understanding of the role of strategic minerals in climate action, fortify regional and national strategies for local beneficiation, and forge enforceable Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards for more robust regulatory frameworks.

Strategic Achievements

The event was a turning point in Africa's discourse on climate policy and strategic minerals. It brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts from different fields, who engaged in robust discussions on the impact of these resources on regional and global policy frameworks. The event propelled the dialogue forward, leading to more inclusive and beneficial policy frameworks for the continent. The participants shared knowledge, experiences, and best practices, demonstrating a collective resolve for sustainable development and climate resilience in Africa. The discussions covered many topics, including policy, technology, innovation, and investment. The confluence of expertise significantly enhanced our understanding of the potential and challenges of these resources. The meeting had a significant impact on regional and international policy frameworks. The discussions and recommendations generated at the event informed policy decisions on climate policy and critical minerals, leading to more effective and sustainable policy frameworks for Africa.





Conference on Corporate Accountability of BRICS Mining Companies in Africa

In August 2023, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, SARW hosted the Conference on Corporate Accountability of BRICS Mining Companies. The 2023 BRICS summit was the fifteenth annual BRICS summit, an international relations conference attended by the heads of state or heads of government of the five member states: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

The meeting addressed the need for embedding comprehensive social, cultural, environmental, and economic accountability in the mining operations of BRICS nations across Africa, aiming for responsible mining. The conference emphasised the need for BRICS nations to integrate robust accountability mechanisms into their African mining operations, focusing on critical minerals and the comprehensive impact of mining activities.

ACCESS TO REPORT: [HERE](#)



Strategic Achievements

The meeting discussed the creation of a pioneering Corporate Accountability tool tailored for the extractive industries, setting new industry standards. It further forged crucial partnerships with China's Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPEA), to enhance global ESG practices through the envisaged corporate accountability tool. The meeting achieved a unanimous commitment among stakeholders to adopt and implement rigorous, transparent accountability mechanisms.

SARW hosts the first Civil Society Climate Day in DRC

In 2023, SARW hosted the first Civil Society Climate Day in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The event's central theme was "How to achieve a just energy transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo?". Over 22 people took part in the workshop, which resulted in a dozen recommendations, including developing a national energy transition policy, carrying out studies to understand the country's resources better, reviewing provisions of mining legislation related to access to strategic minerals, and guaranteeing integrity and transparency in the implementation of the carbon market. The aim is to ensure that local communities and populations are the first beneficiaries without excluding others.

One of the biggest challenges discussed at the workshop was the need to federate environmental organisations that work in a non-concerted manner. To bridge this gap, the workshop was organised in partnership with OCEAN, one of the oldest environmental NGOs.

The Alternative Mining Indaba Movement

In 2023, like many years before, the Southern Africa Resources Watch (SARW) continued actively participating in the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) movement. It continued to be a member of the platform's steering committee and a convenor of sessions for the international platform in Cape Town and the National platforms in DRC, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



Cape Town

SARW participated in the 2023 Alternative Mining Indaba, along with other civil society organisations. The theme was "A Just Transition: Unlocking Community Potential and Participation." As part of this theme, SARW organised a side session, which the women of Carolina Mpumalanga exclusively coordinated. During this session, they shared the findings from their Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR), highlighting the impact of coal mining and climate change on women in Carolina. The report also describes how climate change affects women and their views on divesting from coal and transitioning to clean energy. The report captures the women's voices on what a just energy transition would mean for them.

[ACCESS THE DOCUMENTARY HERE](#)
[ACCESS THE REPORT HERE](#)

DRC

The 7th DRC AMI was held at the KinPlaza Arjaan by Rotana Hotel from September 26th to 27th, 2023. The theme was “Promotion of Good Governance and Revenue Mobilization of the Mining Sector in the Context of the Energy Transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo”. The event aimed to promote good governance and revenue mobilisation in the mining sector. Discussions were held on the role of regulatory bodies and the judiciary in the fight against corruption, energy transition, strategic resources and revenue maximisation, synergies for revenue mobilisation and the fight against corruption, and the impact of disputes between the Government and investors over the management of mining projects. Approximately 200 people participated, including the Presidency of the Republic, the Government, businesses, local communities and civil society, and women’s and youth organisations. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the European Union (EU) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) provided technical and financial support.

Zambia

Zambia held the 11th Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) in Lusaka from August 29th to 31st, 2023. The Indaba aims to find policy and legislative solutions to the challenges facing the natural resources governance sector and mining. This year’s theme was “Working Towards Strengthening Mineral Resource Governance in Readiness for the Energy Transition Era in Zambia”.

The dialogue focused on the ongoing legislative processes concerning the Mines and Minerals Development Act of 2015. The government is creating a regulatory structure through the “THE MINERALS REGULATION COMMISSION BILL, 2023” and revising the principal legislation to transform it into “THE GEOLOGICAL AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2023”.

Zambia lacks specific policies for uranium mining, and the only law governing uranium exploration/mining is the 2008 Mines and Mineral Development Regulation. The Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) recommended that Zambia establish laws and policies governing uranium mining and protect mine workers and host communities.



SARW launched a tool kit on the Grievance redress mechanism for mining companies, communities, and government, which the Shibuyunji Multi-stakeholders community working group showcased. The Zambia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (ZEITI) appealed to exploration companies in Zambia to adopt the tool kit to prevent conflicts with communities.

Zimbabwe

SARW participated in the 2024 Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba. The event had over 200 delegates from different sectors, and the theme was “A Just Energy Transition: Unlocking Community Potential and Participation”. SARW highlighted the positive and negative impacts of the transition to sustainable energy sources on communities. They also shared the emerging model of a community and company grievance redress committee established in Mutoko. This work continues SARW’s efforts to enhance Business and Human rights by promoting Grievance Redress.



SADC People's Summit

SARW participated in the 2023 SADC People's Summit. The summit prioritised justice in development and green economies, and SARW facilitated a side session on natural resources governance. The summit noted that Artisanal and Small-scale Mining is central to growth and just energy transition. Despite its contribution, the sector is inadequately regulated, and regional policies require attention. The DRC produces 70% of the world's cobalt, and 15-30% is extracted by artisanal miners. The trend is the same across the region, demonstrating the importance of focusing on the sub-sector.

Strategic Achievements

SARW shared its Community Grievance Redress toolkit at a regional summit. The toolkit helps communities create grievance mechanisms for mining host communities. SARW recommended that SADC member states develop a policy framework for regulating ASM, revise their industrialisation strategy, address child labour, and ensure revenue from critical minerals supports sustainable social policies. They also called for transparent tax regimes, a Grievances Redress Mechanism, and a specialised tribunal to handle cases relating to mining activities.



COP28

The Southern Africa Research Watch (SARW) participated in the UNFCCC COP 28 events at the Blue Zone. This venue hosted several conversations on what must be done to meet the internationally agreed-upon target of 1.5 degrees Celsius to prevent worsening and potentially irreversible effects of climate change, adaptation and demands for a just transition from fossil fuels to cleaner green technologies. This year's COP was hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. This brief is preliminary, and a more comprehensive brief will be provided based on the final decisions of COP28.

On 3 December, the Executive Director participated in a panel discussion at the South Africa Pavilion in the Blue Zone space. The discussion centered around Standards and South Africa's Just Energy Transition Plan (JETP). This meeting provided an important opportunity for SARW to share its views with the South African Presidency's Climate Commission, responsible for South Africa's JETP, and business representatives on its experience regarding critical minerals and energy transition. During the discussion, the SARW Executive Director, Dr. Claude Kabemba, emphasised the need for South Africa's JETP to focus on standards that allow meaningful community participation in the JETP.

Furthermore, SARW, the Southern Africa Trust (SAT), and the Economic Justice Network of the Fellowship of Christian Councils South Africa (EJN–FOCCSA) organised two events that explored the nexus between critical minerals, development, and climate change in Africa. A representative of the Africa Climate Foundation, a key partner of SARW, moderated the meetings.

The participation at COP enabled SARW delegates to contribute to climate dialogue and debate based on the organisation's evidence from its work across themes. The team also met current SARW partners and strengthened its network participation and collaboration based on its expertise in natural resources governance. There are critical lessons for improving the force and effect of future involvement in COP 28 activities, including the priority to register as an observer to the UNFCCC processes.

Key Partnerships

In the year 2023, SARW continued to collaborate with various key strategic partners such as National Ministries of Mining, Environmental Agencies, the African Union (AU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Transparency International, Publish What You Pay Coalition Responsible Mining Companies, Local Universities and Research Centres, Think Tanks, Local Community Organizations, the World Bank, the European Union, Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI), SADC PF, SAPSN, SADC People's Summit, National Assemblies, and Lawyer Associations. These partnerships were established and maintained to enhance responsible mining practices, protect human rights, promote environmental conservation, and improve policy development and implementation.

SARW Carries Due Diligence for Sibanye Still Waters

To comprehensively assess the operational integrity and strategic positioning of SIBANYE's projects in South Africa, a detailed due diligence process was undertaken from February to October 2023 by the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW). This process evaluated SIBANYE-Stillwater's (SSW) adherence to human rights standards throughout its operations. SARW conducted a thorough review of various documents and conducted extensive fieldwork, including desk reviews and in-depth interviews with internal and external stakeholders. The objective was to identify potential risks, assess human rights implications, and uncover strategic opportunities that could guide future decision-making and policy development. This due diligence was essential to ensure that SIBANYE's operations aligned with best corporate governance practices and adhered to the highest social and environmental responsibility standards. The insights gained from this initiative were expected to significantly influence the company's strategic direction and operational methodologies moving forward.



Documentary Series shares women's voice, agency, and inclusion in climate change, just transition.

SARW, in partnership with the Southern Africa Trust, implemented a project to facilitate participatory documentary production processes in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, and Malawi.

As part of this project, SARW successfully developed the overall concept for the documentaries. They organised community dialogues to gather storylines and identify representative stories of women's struggles in the context of mining and climate change. SARW also created documentary scripts and a storyboard for filming and producing the documentary in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Additionally, they conducted appropriate video filming and interviews with the project's beneficiaries and stakeholders in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Ford Foundation Film and Art Festival - Showcasing Environmental Justice

In December 2023, amidst the global momentum of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, SARW participated in the Ford Foundation's groundbreaking film festival. SARW, in collaboration with Womxndla Community Development, was chosen as one of the leading community engagement initiatives in the mining sector to share its documentary "Women on Coal."

The documentary showcases the stories of women from Mpumalanga in Carolina on just energy transition, rights and livelihoods.

The recognition of SARW and Womxndla, Community Development, underscored the festival's commitment to amplifying the voices of marginalised communities and fostering dialogue around pressing environmental and social issues.

The Ford Foundation Film and Art Festival provided a platform for communities to share their stories, advocate for justice, and envision a more equitable future. As we reflect on the impact of this inaugural event, we are reminded of the transformative potential of collective action and the enduring power of storytelling to inspire change.



Media reach and social media

In 2023, SARW had various interviews, such as with Newzroom Afrika Channel 405 on 9th July 2023 and another on ETV news on the 10th of July, which was subsequently uploaded on the organisation's Twitter account. Social media platforms were utilised to share real-time updates and highlights of the event. Additionally, Dr. Claude Kabemba was interviewed on Alex FM, reaching the local community through their 5 a.m. news bulletin. Furthermore, an interview with the programme managers was aired on Vuka Online Radio on July 14th, 2023.

These interviews played a crucial role in the media outreach campaign, allowing for broader dissemination of the symposium's discussions and outcomes. The campaign raised awareness about the seminar by utilising different media channels, including television, radio, and social media platforms and engaged a diverse audience in the climate change conversation.

In Zambia, SARW was featured in four press statements profiling its work, including its involvement in the Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba and establishing the community company grievance redress mechanism.

In 2023, SARW continued to use various social media platforms, mostly X, formerly Twitter, to share information, insights, and coverage of its activities. Below is the reach-out recorded in 2023 through X.

Month	Post Impressions ⁱ	New Followers	Profile Visits	Mentions
January	2461	15	-	-
February	10700	23	-	-
March	4287	11	-	-
April	28200	80	-	-
May	10800	17	-	-
June	5782	24	7-86	20
July	8015	20	2016	25
Aug	8043	25	-	-
Sep	16600	35	-	-
Oct	4426	14	-	-
Nov	10600	-	-	-
Dec	4203	-	-	-

ⁱ The total number of times a tweet has been seen by any user, regardless of whether it was clicked. It includes the number of times a tweet appears on a user's timeline and the number of times it appears in search results or other places on Twitter.

In the past year, SARW - (please let me know if there's a specific meaning to the acronym you want me to use) has achieved some impressive results on X. It has managed to reach 113,000 impressions which means that its content has been displayed to that many users. Additionally, there have been 470 profile visits, which means people are interested in what SARW offers.

On LinkedIn, SARW has 950 followers, and its following continues to grow, which indicates its popularity and influence. LinkedIn is an excellent business platform, so it is great that SARW has established its presence there. However, on Facebook, SARW has the lowest number of followers, with only 69. This might be because Facebook is not the most popular platform for businesses, but having a presence on it is still essential.

SARW has done an excellent job establishing its brand and presence on social media. The numbers speak for themselves, and it's clear that SARW is doing something right. With continued effort and engagement, SARW can grow its following and reach even more people.

SOME OF THE KEY MEDIA COVERAGE CAN BE ACCESSED HERE



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