



## PILOTING INCLUSIVE GENDERED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT

During these times of climate crisis, the plight of women in rural communities has increasingly become dire as they have to live up to dwindling arable land, water sources and farming-based livelihood opportunities. Given the key role that women play within these households, their ability to adapt and cope with the changing environment is continuously tested as they are left with no choice but to innovate around sustaining their livelihoods and of their families in the face of climate change. Today, families still rely on women to facilitate provision of basic services

like food, energy, shelter and water, even when such resources are now more difficult to acquire.

To promote awareness on the rights of women affected by climate change in Manicaland province, Green Governance Zimbabwe Trust (GGZT) is piloting its gendered programming in Mutare rural district. With three distinct goals, the Woman Can Adapt (Fem-Adapt) Project builds a core grassroots movement of climate activists through tailor made training, mentoring and skills development. The project also

promotes, through a select key activities, awareness on the rights of women affected by climate change, and contributes towards improving their adaptive capacity to the changing climate. Institutionally, it also advocates for the development of a local level gender sensitive climate change response strategy.

The project will be piloted in Mutare Rural District Council as an extension of localised interventions to strengthen rural communities by creating interfaces dialogue with duty bearers and the public sector. Funded under the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands Human Rights Innovation Fund 2021, this project feeds into our thematic programming areas by enhancing inclusive, participatory and people centered climate governance.

It is GGZT's vision that natural (capital) resources governance should translate to sustainable development. It is the organisation's firm belief that no development is sustainable outside deliberate empowerment of vulnerable groups, specifically those affected by climate change. In the same vein, GGZT implemented the Women and Land Project in Chimanimani district, informed of the need to build grassroots capacity and skills of women affected by cyclone idai. The outcomes of the project include addressing contentious land tenure rights and exposed the foregoing skills gaps in rural communities.

Zimbabwe has for decades endured constrained macro-economic conditions

periodically worsened by droughts and erratic weather patterns - for Manicaland province the 2019 Cyclone Idai was a devastation of huge proportions. Government officials state conservatively that currently in Manicaland a staggering 12 000 households are currently facing food insecurity, as poor rains and erratic weather patterns are impacting harvests and livelihoods.

What makes this a climate change induced human rights issue is that, whilst the government is mandated to protect women's right to and easy access to clean water, health and shelter for its citizens, their priorities only favours the elite. For women in rural areas who heavily rely on rain fed subsistence farming, the situation has become dire with the dearth of urban

support which has also dwindled with the drop in wage and salary employment. It is GGZT's belief that by placing climate change and gender within the broader development matrix in Mutare District - by and large rural Zimbabwe, women can steer sustainable community development, poverty alleviation, food security and demand protection of their rights.

## How natural capital plunder perpetuates the resource curse

When proponents of the resource curse coined this paradox, partly it was in reflection of how huge deposits of minerals (natural capital) have failed to translate into improved sustainable socio-economic development in Africa and the Global South broadly. This notion of "poverty in the midst of plenty" was for the Global South, an acknowledgement that when natural capital is exploited and sustainably utilised, it can redeem millions of resource rich communities out of poverty. Therefore, modeling development using the capital approach in its broad sense from natural, human, social, manufacturing and financial capital becomes key. Civilisation aims to then ensure that all these capitals are managed sustainably, improved over time and are equally nourished through strong governance systems.



In flourishing communities, strong and resilient social institutions, thriving natural ecosystems and a stable climate underpin economic and societal prosperity. The root of this is an understanding of the symbiotic relationship between sustainable exploitation of natural resources to finance socio-economic development.

However, for the Global South, inheriting capitalism, austerity and development assistance often with stringent conditions, has exposed its human, social and manufactured capital to the benevolence of the global financial architecture. The International Financial Institutions (IFI) drive profit agendas ultraistic to national development visions, that are modelled to meet peculiar country

needs, in order to maximise the value of natural capital. Financial capital resultantly drives mining operations, with little considerations for host communities which bear the negative impacts of operations. It also dictates prices of natural capital (mineral commodities) at an international level, while engaging in aggressive tax planning and maximising financial returns.

Mining is a capital intensive venture with negative environmental impacts and social cost to host communities not the least, direct violence against communities, land and water grabbing. It also leads to unfair displacements of communities, pollution and sacrilege of cultural norms and values by extractive industries.

## A tale of lofty mining targets, with low output

Mining has significantly failed to transform economic fortunes of the Global South, including Zimbabwe, where there is general lack of socio-economic development in communities endowed with natural resources. Governments in the global south continuously fail to maximise revenue generation, lag behind on the transfer and distribution to sub-national authorities and to focus on equitable revenue sharing from extractive projects to local government, institutions or directly to citizens.

For Zimbabwe, where the mining sector underpins the vision for an Upper Middle Income Country status through development of a US\$12 billion industry by 2030, this ambitious target is flaunted by lack of transparency, accountability and secretive contracts. The Auditor General's 2019 report on State Owned Enterprises and Parastatals, shows that SOEs performance in the mining sector was underwhelming with several governance issues, previously raised continuing unabated by the Mineral Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ).

Similarly, Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) which replaced former mining companies in Chiadzwa also gets a negative assessment for failing to fulfil its objectives of remitting diamond revenue to the fiscus. Revenue loss risks therefore

remain high as ZCDC continuously fail to account for diamond revenue. The Auditor General Chiri states this could have been facilitated by using non-existent companies as a conduit for siphoning public funds. To avert this, the names of ZCDC's debtors must be revealed and operations in Marange diamond fields should meet international standards for the sector where they are monitored to mitigate against financing conflict or other illicit and criminal activities.

A Chinese-Zimbabwean military venture, Anjin, returned and was handed one of the country's most lucrative diamond-producing blocks, despite past problems of failing to remit diamond revenue to the national fiscus. ZCDC's security standards for the company have deteriorated despite investments into autonomous central monitoring systems, state security assistance and aerial monitoring. Illegal miners under politically connected syndicates are still operational on the ground and encroach in concessions.

Civil society organisations, including Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), Centre for Research and Development (CRD) and Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) have raised concerns over the diamond sector. The annual Diamond Security Indaba hosted by ZCDC, has been used to lobby and advocate for implementation of minimum security standards, respect of business and stop human rights violations, which for a while restricted the sale of local gems. While diamonds from Zimbabwe have Kimberley Process certification, which means they are supposed to be traceable, questions on accountability and transparency in the country's

diamond-mining sector still persist.

In the gold sector Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) facilitated by corrupt state officials, porous border posts, and vulnerable artisanal miners erode an estimate of US\$100 million monthly as revealed from a conservative summation issued by the Minister of Home Affairs Kazembe Kazembe.

Transparency initiatives like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) are then able to provide guides to national authorities on enhancing the management and utilisation of revenue, royalties and taxes from the mining sector. In the meanwhile chaotic mining operations, directly financed by the elite, politicians, dubious foreign investors and concealed beneficial owners are leading to huge revenue losses in Zimbabwe and should be stopped forthwith.



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## Depoliticising natural resource governance in the electoral cycle

It is election season in Zimbabwe already, and the usual political grand-standing manifestos are in line, as parties seek to draw support from their economic blueprints. It is a period where incentives will be dangled to lure investors, while the communities are promised milk and honey. For Zimbabwe, like most African countries endowed with minerals, metals and vast natural capital, politicians will use these to lure voters first against the promise of improved livelihoods. Such overtures are also offered to foreign investors, which command capital to invest in the extractive sector - but more often than not in the height of political desperation to consolidate power such deals are often retrogressive.

At best huge sums of investments are promised in the platinum, gold and diamond sector without any realisation of such. At worst investors with soiled track records, from China, Belarus, Russia among others are offered concessions in opaque contracts. The principle of multi-party democracy should promote free participation of political parties, provide freedom to organize and express views, and an environment where people can freely and fairly vote for candidates, as it leads to better resource governance.

It has been observed that there is a strong positive correlation between the strength of political representation in a country and the quality of its governance systems including the management of natural resources and environmental protection. Two international bodies which include the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's (IDEA), Global State of Democracy Indices; and Natural Resource Governance Institute's (NRGI) Resource Governance Index (RGI) confirm this reality.

In jurisdictions with free and equal access to political power, there are stronger laws, institutions and practices in place to help realize the full value of resource extraction and to manage the resulting revenues. Only through good governance do strong and informed political parties realise the potential to bring sustainable and equitable economic development to vulnerable, poor, undernourished and impoverished locals. In a report, Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) makes reference to the nexus between natural resources and the financing of electoral activities in Zimbabwe and how this feeds into illicit flow of funds. CNRG, says parties are using the country's vast mineral resources as bait, the incumbent Zanu-PF lures potential funders with mining concessions while their serious challengers, the MDC, in its various formations, use the same modus operandi though with little success.

"They both promise to avail economic opportunities to friendly funding partners to secure funding for their campaigns in some quid pro quo arrangements with potential funders," states part of the report. After election periods, where pronouncements of

social service delivery are louder than others, there is an implementation gap between law and practice as most countries struggle to implement resource policies and laws.

Locally the Mines and Mineral Amendment Bill, under amendment since 2013, prohibits double allocation of mining title yet there are several cases of such allocations. For instance GGZT has in good authority a case in Odzi, South East of Mutare, where a local miner is fighting for his title after it was also erroneously allocated to a Chinese investor. There is a need to take the time to better understand existing legal frameworks, available opportunities and trade-offs around resource governance issues, for Zimbabwe it is the finalisation of the MMB.

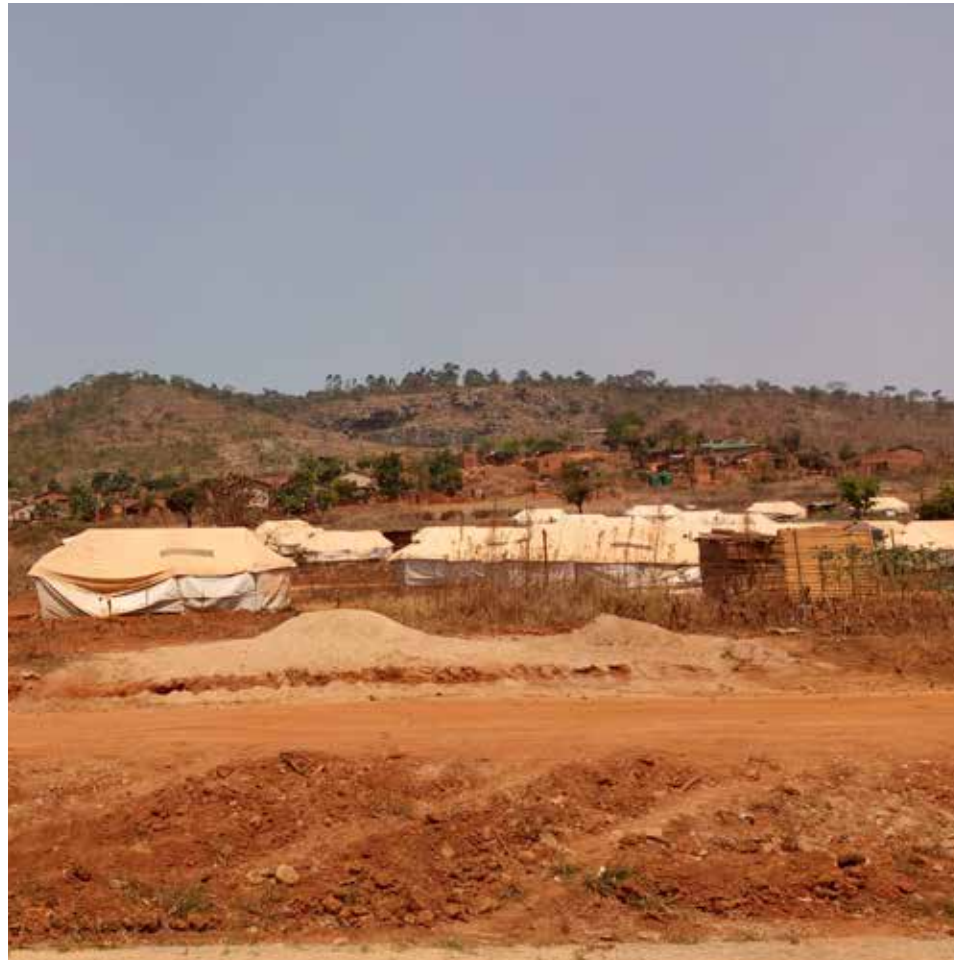
With this existing gap of corrupt tendencies in double allocation, there is a need for local political parties to push for better implementation across the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development offices. As Zimbabwe continues to lose US\$100 million a month from illicit gold trading, perceived corruption places high rents and relative secrecy associated with the extractive sector can attract nefarious actors seeking personal gain over the best interests of citizens.

Furthermore, eruption of machete violence across gold mining centres in the country in 2020, was a ghastly reminder of this foregoing challenge, where lawlessness and abuse of human rights was rampant in mining communities. Politicians face a challenge of reversing this status in a murky but lucrative sector by developing sustainable resource positions, with clear policy targets, including "strong transparency

and oversight commitments to reduce risk of corruption. When resource wealth is concentrated in a small area of a country, those who live closest typically absorb more of the negative impacts leading to conflict, parallel governance structures and demands for a greater share in the benefits. Politicians should be wary of using the electoral period to make promises without proper consultations and inclusive representation, to elevate the voices of local communities, respond to local concerns and help build regional and national consensus.

Through inclusive planning and reflection, political parties can advance policy positions which provide more sustainable ways for value addition, local content development and ensure communities are involved in the mining value chain. Overt use of wealth gained from the mining sector only entrenches rent seeking behaviour of incumbent political actors, while closing of democratic space for contestation, which is a Constitutionally guaranteed right.

Chiadzwa community is under siege from Anjin Investments, following the arrest of the Headman Robert Chiadzwa (90 years old) and twenty seven other villagers. Of these twenty seven, eight are Kraal Heads, which lead villages serving under the Headman. Below is our comprehensive statement on the arrest, and a Cartoon editorial which depicts how Chinese foreign investments lead to Development Induced Displacements (DID). See PRESS STATEMENT on Chiadzwa arrests





## Press Statement on arrest of Headman Chiadzwa, community members in Marange

Mutare, 04 November 2021

### Mining investments should seek social license to operate

Green Governance Zimbabwe Trust (GGZT), a public interest organisation advocating for inclusion and participation of communities in the mining value chain, notes with concern the recent arrest of a traditional leader and his subjects in the Marange area of Manicaland province over protests against violation of cultural rights, legacy debt and defilement of workers' rights. We are alarmed, like all forward thinking organizations lobbying for natural resource governance to drive sustainable development, to learn of the arrest of Headman Robert Chiadzwa and 27 others on 2 November, 2021.

Mutare Magistrate Langton Mukwengi is presiding over the case where the State accuses them for violating Section 36 of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act, and gaining unauthorized entry onto the mining premises to demand management feedback on the issues raised. Ironically, on the date in question the community had an appointment with the company management hastily agreed on 28 October 2021 when the community rose as a whole to shut down Anjin operations in demand for fair treatment. As they were making a follow up, exercising their Constitutionally guaranteed rights to seek redress, the company turned on the villagers.

Such spurious charges not only expose Anjin for negotiating with the community in bad faith, it reeks of state sanctioned impunity (political protection) always claimed by foreign investors. This unfortunate development comes against the backdrop of formal diamond mining that has failed to feed into the national treasury while the concerned community faces numerous developmental challenges further worsened by the discovery of diamonds.

GGZT stands in solidarity with the community and its traditional leaders for challenging the perpetuation of business operations which violate human rights, social and cultural values and the national environmental laws. Worryingly the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development, Provincial Mining Director (PMD) Members of Parliament and traditional leaders, have failed to fully explain circumstances leading to the return, in February 2020, of Anjin Investments in Chiadzwa.

There is lack of contract transparency around Anjin - a joint venture between Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group (AFFEC) of China and Matt Bronze, a subsidiary of Zimbabwe Defense Industries (ZDI) which is wholly owned by the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA). This lack of transparency and accountability are the major reasons why the Community of Chiadzwa is demanding engagement with Anjin on local economic development and community benefit share as guaranteed in Section 13(4) of the Zimbabwean Constitution.

No traditional leader, let alone Headman Chiadzwa aged 90, should be incarcerated, obstructed or hindered from lawfully representing his community and seeking socio economic justice from foreign investors. State security must always be awake to this obligation in their exercise of authority ensuring that they "demonstrate respect of the people and readiness to serve them rather than to rule them". Section 62 of the Constitution also guarantees the right to access to information and this is the information should not be coerced by citizens but actively facilitated by public officials in respect to Section 196(1)(b) of the Constitution. We express the foregone benefits of joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to decisively deal with the lack of transparency in the diamond sector, and indeed the mining industry in Zimbabwe. The government of Zimbabwe must also move with speed to finalise the Mines and Mineral Amendment Bill (MMAB) given the national development aspiration of the Vision 2030 to turn the country into an Upper Middle Income Country.

Civil society submissions have been made through extensive consultations for a legal instrument that promotes responsible investments, provides benefit sharing, formalise artisanal mining and a framework for devolved mining governance. We therefore call for transformative conflict resolution, fully cognisant of the need to maintain public order in compliance with criminal law dictates, as a sustainable solution to repair the fractious relations between mining investments and the community. We call for the Parliament of Zimbabwe, Council of Chiefs and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission to immediately intervene, to facilitate dialogue between the community and Anjin.

Further, a Commission of Inquiry into the plight of Chiadzwa community whose livelihoods, culture and socio-economic activists have been impacted by diamond mining whose finalization should precede a wholesome address of legacy debts by Anjin, displacement compensation of relocated villagers and a defined community corporate development plan.



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