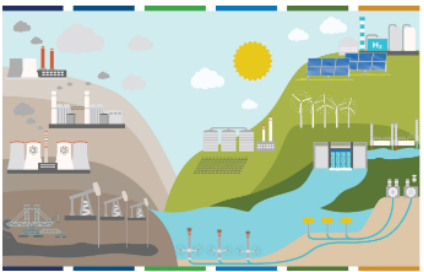


Empowering Equality: Gender and Social Justice in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and Resource Management

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UNECE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WEEK 2024
ASSURING SUSTAINABILITY IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
22 - 26 APRIL 2024 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

ASM'S ROLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

- Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is a key sector for the supply of a wide variety of precious minerals and revenues for many people; e.g., on a global scale, ASM production account for :
 - 25% of the world's Diamond supply,
 - 20% of the world's gold,
 - 80% of the world's sapphire,
 - 25% of the world's overall tin extraction,
 - and 80% of the world's coloured gemstone
- Despite facing environmental, human rights, and health and safety challenges, artisanal and small-scale miners play a vital role in their communities and the global economy.



Women Panning, Zimbabwe : Photo curtesy John Tychsen

ASM'S ROLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) sector employs;

➤ **Globally**

- Approximately 45 million people (in 80 countries), and indirectly supports 150 million
- Women make up about 30 to 50 % of the ASM workforce



Photo courtesy Sibeso Minzosi

➤ **Africa**

- Approximately 8 million Africans across the continent and supports more than 45 million indirectly
- Women make up about 40 to 50 % of the 8 million workforce



Photos courtesy John Tychsen

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING

Human Rights are fundamental rights and freedoms inherent to all people, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, or other status. In the context of ASM, human rights concerns include:

- **Right to life, liberty, and security:** This includes ensuring safe working conditions and preventing accidents, injuries, and fatalities.
- **Right to health:** Workers should have access to appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and healthcare services.
- **Right to fair and safe working conditions:** This encompasses adequate pay, reasonable working hours, and protection from forced labour.
- **Right to education:** Children should not be involved in hazardous work and should have access to education.



Photo courtesy Sibeso Minzosi



Photos courtesy John Tychsen

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING

- **Gender** in the context of **Artisanal And Small-scale Mining (ASM)** refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and expectations associated with being a woman or man.

It's crucial to understand how these roles impact participation and experiences within the ASM sector. Here's how:

- **Unequal access and control:** Women often face barriers to accessing lucrative mining claims, tools, and financing. They might be relegated to less profitable tasks like processing ore or excluded from decision-making.
- **Gender-based violence and harassment:** Women in ASM settings can be vulnerable to sexual harassment, exploitation, and even violence due to their perceived vulnerability.
- **Health and safety risks:** Pregnant or breastfeeding women might face additional health risks due to exposure to hazardous materials or lack of adequate sanitation facilities.

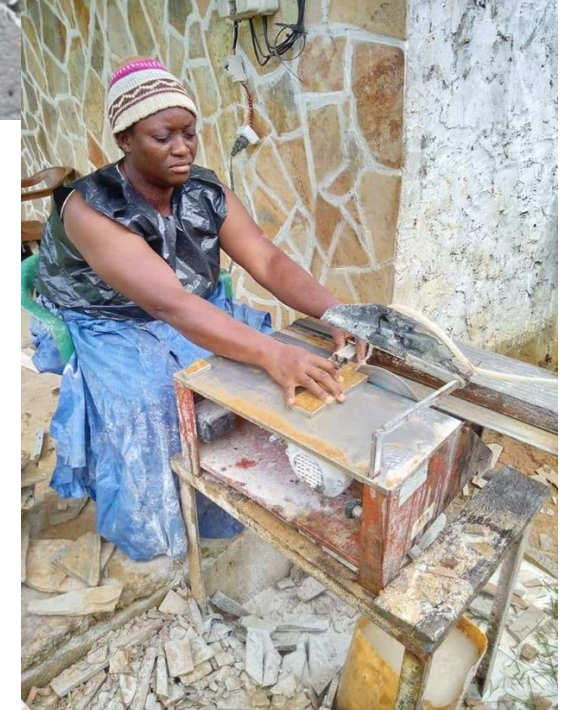


Photo courtesy Mary Barton

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN AFRICAN ASM

Issues include

• Gender Inequality:

- Lack of women's participation in decision-making and ownership.
- Gender-based violence and harassment.
- Unequal access to resources (land, equipment, finance).

• Human Rights Concerns:

- Child labor in ASM.
- Unsafe working conditions and health risks.
- Environmental degradation impacting communities.



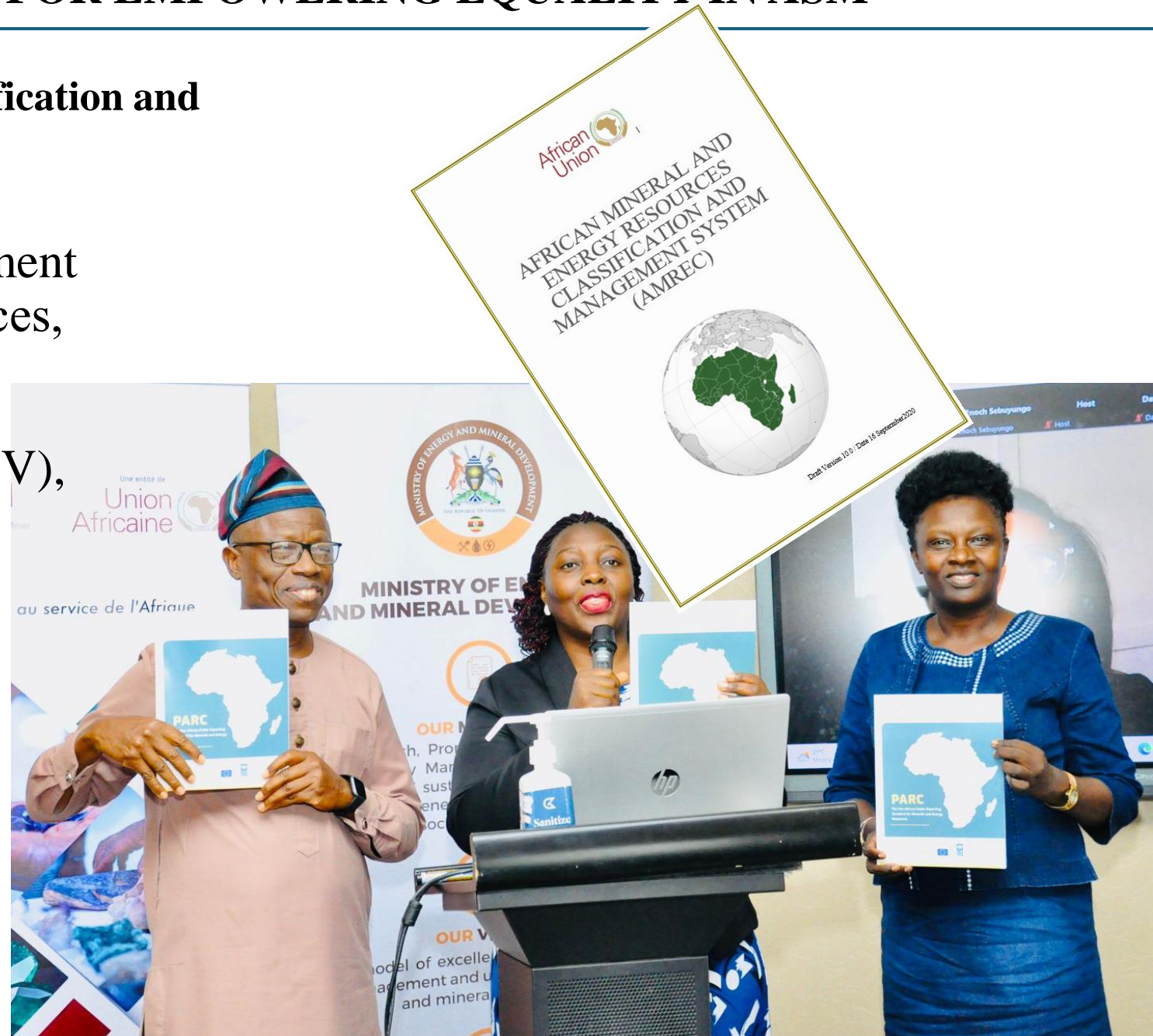
Photos courtesy Nellie Mutemeri

Rachel Perks wrote “Equality and empowerment of women and girls will not be possible until their rights are secured in legal frameworks”.

UNFC-AMREC/PARC AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERING EQUALITY IN ASM

African Mineral and Energy Resources Classification and Management System (AMREC)

- A comprehensive system for management of Africa's mineral and energy resources, which based on UNFC and UNRMS.
- Aligned to Africa Mining Vision (AMV), Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Includes the Pan-African Resource Reporting Code (PARC)



UNFC-AMREC/PARC AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERING EQUALITY IN ASM

African Mineral and Energy Resources Classification and Management System (AMREC)

When it comes to the Social and Environmental Considerations, some of the aspect considered include

- Human rights
- Rights of Workers
- Rights of Women
- Rights of Children
- Rights of local populations and local communities
- Age consideration issues
- Site remediation and financial guarantees

Rights of Women

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, enshrines “the equal rights of men and women”, and addressed both the equality and equity issues. In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)”

The African Mining Vision (AMV), which calls for the “Transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development”; also calls for more progress on gender equality including the “empowerment of women through integrating gender equity in mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes.”

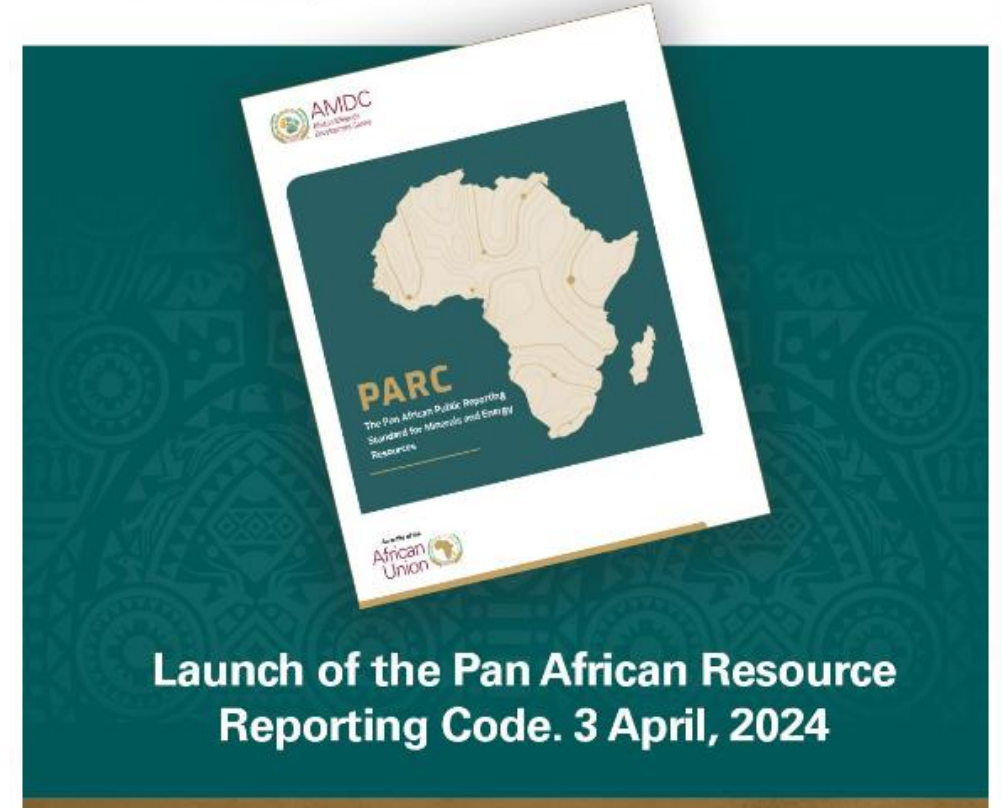


UNFC-AMREC/PARC AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERING EQUALITY IN ASM

AMREC provides the rules and guidelines for public disclosure through **Pan-African Resources Reporting Code (PARC)**.

Reporting for Artisanal-scale mining is also catered for and includes;

- Project description,
- Location and accessibility,
- Prospecting, exploration data information
- Technical studies (mining Methods, processing, recovery methods and production rates)
- Legal permits and governance
- Environmental Studies, Social and Community Impact



Launch of the Pan African Resource Reporting Code. 3 April, 2024



Empowering Equality: Gender and Social Justice in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and Resource Management

There is need to:

- Ensure laws, policies, regulations, and practices affecting the ASM sector serve to improve women's security and reduce gender inequality
- Provide capacity building, training, and awareness-raising to increase the economic benefits that women derive from ASM
- integrate gender equality in resource management in the ASM sector
- Cooperate, coordinate amongst various stakeholders (Government, NGO, Academic, private sector, Development partner)



Capacity Building Workshops

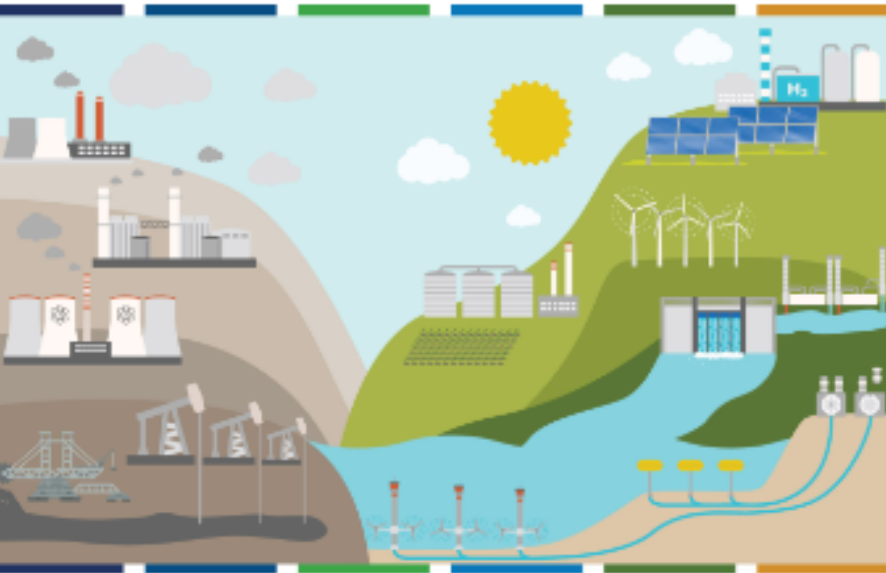


Basics of Business skills training workshop



ASM showing off their certificates at the end of a training workshop on Health and Safety Issues in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

Thank you



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