

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

Anna Nguno

Deputy Director

Geological Survey of Namibia

AMREC Technical Working Group member

[Anna.Nguno@mme.gov.na](mailto:Anna.Nguno@mme.gov.na)

<http://www.mme.gov.na/gs>



# 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.

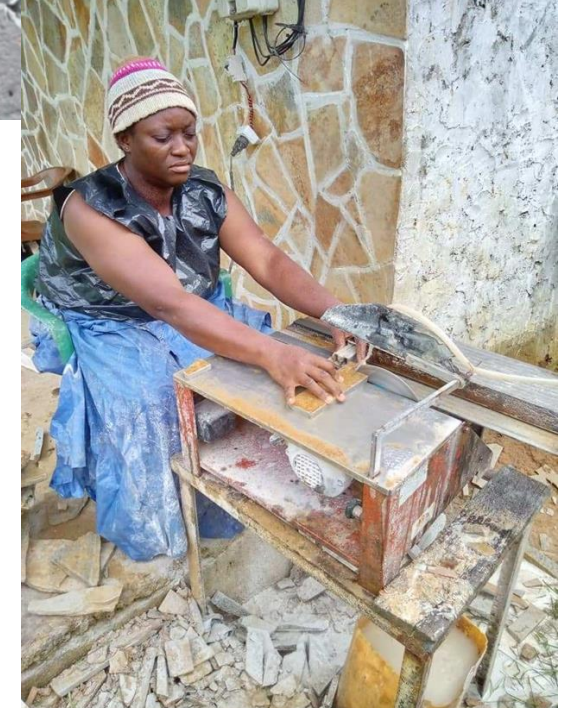


Photo courtesy Mary Barton

# 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

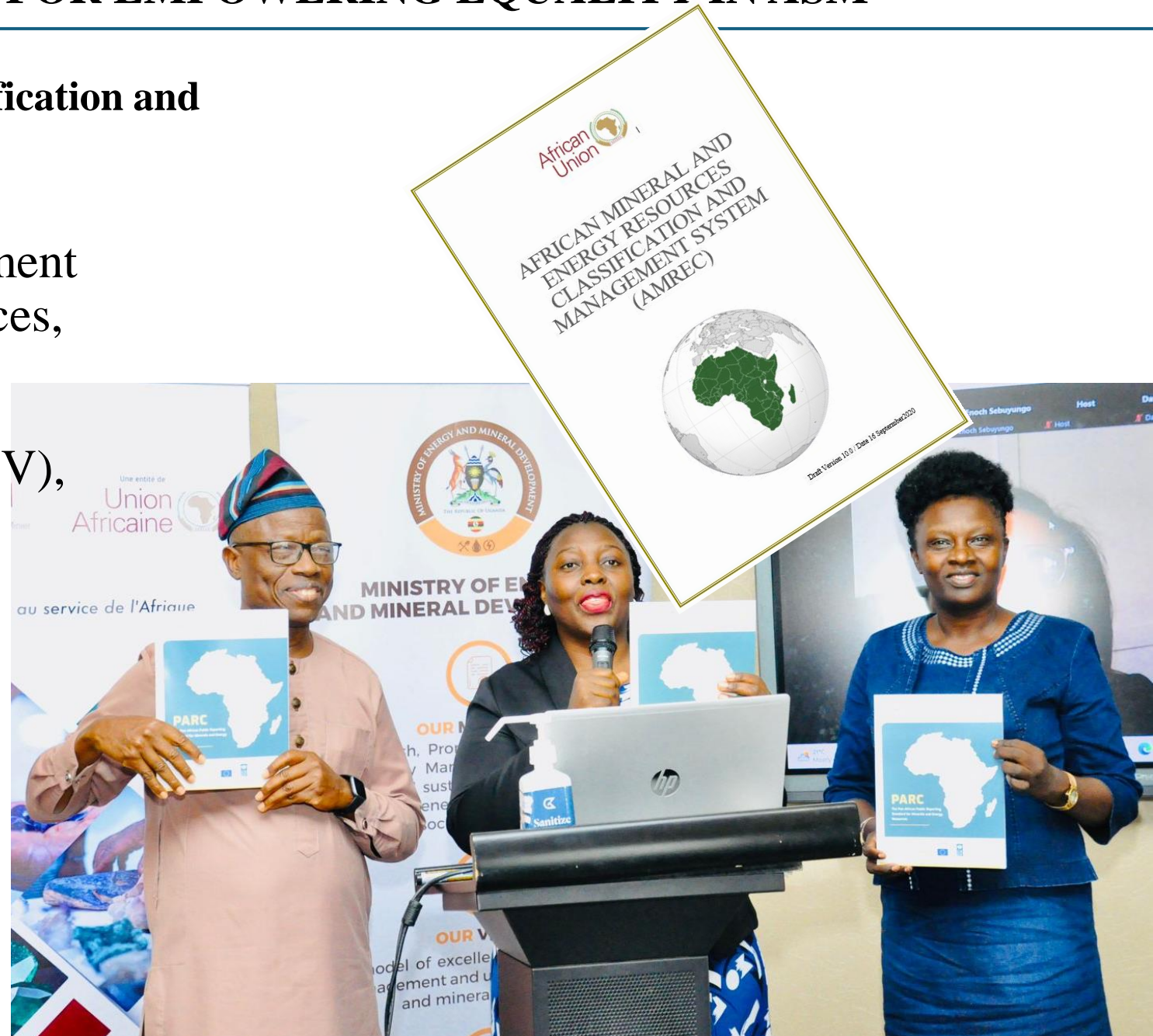
- Both gender and human rights issues are interconnected in ASM.

*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

*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



# 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

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

**Thank you**