

"Effectively, change is almost impossible without COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP"

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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ), I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report.

It has been a year of successes and growth for CEJ. The communities, Corporating partners, mining firms and the government of Zambia, continued to offer their time, audiences, exhibitions, programs, research and experiences that respond to CEJ's ever-growing desire to learn more and contribute to community livelihoods sustainability, environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources. CEJ's' activities continue to be guided by the five strategic directions established by the Board of Trustees and Management in 2015, which focus on Extractive Industries, Environmental protection, Sustainable energy, Climate Change, Agricultures and Water access; engaging in dynamic and innovative partnerships and ensuring that CEJ is financially equipped to carry out its mandate. These directions were intended to guide CEJ's activities for the five-year period from 2015 to 2020. The directions have subsequently been reviewed and refined to reflect evolving priorities and new external environments to which the institution must respond over the coming five years.

Fundraising for CEJ's activities remains critical to all its work. As an organisation, we placed great emphasis on keeping our Corporating partners engaged and informed on the important work made possible by their support. Our 2020 activities where supported by the Bread for the World-Germany, International Centre for Non-profit Law-USA, WWF Zambia Country Office and ActionAid Zambia.

Thank you to all the generous partners and organizations who see the value of working to preserve and protect our country's natural resources, the environment and community livelihoods. This year, CEJ celebrated its 10th Year Anniversary advocating for environmental justice. So much of what we do would be impossible without this support.

*Vincent Ziba, Board Chairperson
Centre for Environment Justice*

*Our Partner's support has
made CEJ reach the most
vulnerable communities and we
are ready to do so much more.*

WHO WE ARE - CEJ

Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) is a registered non-governmental organization whose mandate is to create platforms and processes that:

- (i) promote community access to quality and accurate information on extractive industries, environmental protection, sustainable energy, climate change, water access and agriculture with the ultimate aim of enhancing accountability for better decision making and sustainable development.
- (ii) support safe and adaptive environment as basic fundamental human rights to having a better and prosperous livelihood.

Therefore, we actively mobilise public support through information collection and dissemination, advocating for policy development and implementation, consultations, assessments and monitoring; lobby and advocacy, campaigns, awareness and sensitization.

Vision

To become a "Centre for Environmental Justice" and action for sustainable development at Community, District and National level.

Mission

To empower, enhance and strengthen environmentally challenged communities, youth, children, women and men by involving them in promoting environmental justice and sustainable management of natural resources.

Work Focus Area: Extractives, Sustainable Energy, Environmental protection, Climate Change, Water Access & Agriculture



PROGRAMMES

Mining Community Voices and alternative livelihoods preparedness.

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) with support from the Bread for the World (BftW) is implementing a 3-year project titled Mining Community Voices and Alternative Livelihoods in Sinazongwe, Southern Province.

Sinazongwe District is one of the three rural valley districts in Southern Province of Zambia. It lies in the South-Eastern border of Zambia along Lake Kariba in the Zambezi valley. It shares boundaries with four districts; Zimba and Kalomo in the South West, Choma and Pemba in the West and Gwembe in the North-East and Zimbabwe in the south-east.

Sinazongwe is divided into two Chiefdoms, Sinazongwe and Mweemba. The population distribution follows the physical characteristics of the District. The district has a total population of 121,405 disaggregated as 51.6% female and 48.4% male. The population density is at 26 persons per Kilometer squared. Annual growth rate of 2.4%. Total number of district households is 19,721 and total number of farming households is 15,800 (CSO 2010). Sinazongwe lies in Agro-ecological Region 1 with rainfall pattern follows an uneven distribution, unpredictable and is generally insufficient with more than 70% probability of drought. With the adverse effect of climate change on Zambia the district has not been spared.

Sinazongwe is endowed with mineral resources and the official and legal coal mining started in the year 2000 with current operations being two major coal mines namely; Mamba Collieries Limited (MCL) in Mamba and Collum Coal Mine in Sinazongwe, both in Southern Province.

The activities for 2019 focused on developing the community CSER Priorities, Training of community auditors in tracking government and mining companies' investments in the district, engagement of community traditional leaders' engagements in natural resources management and alternative livelihoods preparedness.

The project was officially launched by the District administration and urged CEJ to work closely with the district structures and all affected communities in the mining zones.

The activities included community symposium, environmental protection dialogue, multi-stakeholder dialogue, local authority-councillors engagement and traditional leader's dialogue.

Community symposium:

The symposium saw a good representation from the stakeholders namely the mining community (among these are traditional and religious leaders), Local Government, civil Society Organizations and mining companies comprising a turnout of 117 attendees. The primary objective of the DAMI was to facilitate and enhance better engagement between mining communities, governments and mining companies. It also aimed to provide a voice to communities through sharing experiences and the impacts on community livelihoods; to understand the mines' focus, investments and planned development for communities; to learn of government and its district institutional structures commitment and implementation of mining investment, transparency, accountability, environmental protection and improving people's lives through natural resources--mines. During the meeting, key challenges were raised: Absence of the mining companies in the said event, differentiating corporate social responsibility from government service provision. Who should take responsibility on the concerns of the community, displacement of community, mining companies lack of respect and recognition for the traditional leaders, there are some villages with no water as well as contamination of both surface water and ground water, destroyed roads and excessive dust on the road, environmental degradation and Unemployment / Not employing locals.



4 Key recommendations:

- The development of a clear mechanism to provide clear guideline on revenue sharing with the community.
- That CSOs should ensure that they start a process of legal provision for the people to get benefit from the exploitation of the minerals.
- That the government should start negotiating with the investors on behalf of the community with regards to community affairs—displacement, compensations and resettlement issues.
- That Mining companies should provide farming inputs to support the agricultural sectors through their CSR programme.

Local Authority – councilor’s engagement in corporate social and environmental responsibility:



The Councillors’ CSER meeting drew a total of fourteen (14) Councillor’s from the six (6) wards of Chiefdom Sinazongwe, namely Nkandabwe, Sinazongwe, Mweezya, Malima, Nangombe, and Sinenge were represented. The other eight (8) Councillors represented Maamba, Mweemba, Muuka, Mweenda, Mabinga, Namazombwe, Muchekwa, and Tekelo from Chiefdom Mweemba.



The project’s rationale was to encourage harmonious relations among communities and the mines in order for communities to attain alternative livelihoods preparedness whilst at the same time the mining companies and local businesses showed commitment to investment in identified priority needs of the communities under Corporate Social Environmental Responsibility (CSER) plans.



The purpose of this meeting was to engage Civic leaders from all the fourteen wards in order to afford them an opportunity to consider and review the Sinazongwe CSER plan, whose priority areas stakeholders had earlier proposed and agreed upon. The objective of the meeting was to ensure that the priority needs of the communities from the fourteen (14) wards were treated with the importance that they deserved although the Civic leaders had an opportunity to review and contribute to what stakeholders and communities.

The key CSER priorities where water points, health facilities, rehabilitation of community schools, road network structures, educational facilities, Agriculture, Youth skills training center, security-police, alternative livelihoods among others.

Key CSER recommendations included; establishment of multipurpose-cooperative funded in poultry projects, fish and crocodile farming, formation of Goat and honey cooperatives and promote sustainable clean energy that could assist in the reduction of unsustainable use of natural resources.

Environmental Protection dialogue:

CEJ flagged Off the National Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) which is an annual event starting 2020. The EPD2020 event was held under the theme: “Towards a Sustainable Mining Sector in Zambia through Green Investment for Nature and People”. The dialogue will focus on seven (7) key issues namely; mining communities water rights, mining communities land rights and tenure, mining communities compensations, relocations and displacements, mining companies level of compliance on investment agreements, mining communities’ alternative livelihoods, mining impacts on biodiversity, and corporate social and environmental responsibility.

The specific objectives of the Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) as an annual National and International event included: 1. To enact a National platform for interface Dialogue for conflict resolution between civil society, government, communities and Investors on issues to do with environmental protection and conservation 2. To champion the Social Cooperate and Environmental Responsibility (CSER) Model to be employed through the community based natural resource management approaches to poverty alleviation through enhancing local value chains. 3. To promote community participation and inclusion in National Social and Economic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the good of man and nature. 4. To create a summit of best practices and experience sharing in green practices to sustainable development 5. To create a high level multi-stakeholder civic platform for environmental policy enhancement and action oriented dialogue.

Key Issues of the EPD:

Mining Communities Water Rights: Summary of Issue Focus; Water Quality, Demand for water, The Utility of water, Management of hazardous effluent.

Mining Communities Land Rights and Tenure: Summary of issue Focus; Protection of land rights and its tenure, Customary rights & legal gaps, Strategic inclusion of customary tenure systems, Domestication of ratified international treaties to bridge constitutional gaps, Land transactions in reserves and trusts and Recognition of indigenous people's rights in settled places.

Mining Communities Compensations, Relocation, and Displacement: Summary of Issue Focus; Multiple displacements, Unsatisfactory compensation, Demographic pressure on water point, Legal systems' provision for surface holder rights, Land ownership and rights clearly defined, Inclusive criterion of classification of loss and Determination of Compensation, An inclusive compensation administration body and systems.

Mining Companies Level of Compliance on Investment Agreements: Summary of Issue Focus; Mining leading role in air and water pollution, Environmental Degradation, Sustainable environmental management, Political commitment to implementing new national policy on environmental protection.





Mining Communities Alternative Livelihoods: Summary of Issue Focus; Availability of Alternative Livelihoods, Child labour for community sustainability, increased social vices and criminality.



Mining Impacts on Biodiversity in Protected Areas: Summary of Issue Focus; National statistics accounts for loss of ecosystem, Relating biodiversity loss to real economic growth and its impact on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates, Mining in national parks and protected areas (licensing). ∪ High biodiversity areas and large scale investment, sustainability of Zambia's ecological process, regard for natural heritage of Zambian people and links to tourism economy and the sustainable use of biodiversity.



Cooperate Social and Environmental Responsibility: Summary of Issue Focus; Negative impacts of mining operations on communities, Cooperate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER) commitment to address social challenges, Strategic inclusion of local communities in CSER decision making, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, Community orientation of high level dialogue skills to effectively engage in conflict resolution.

Environmental Protection Dialogue side events: The EPD had two side events; the New Deal for Nature Campaign led by WWF Zambia and the Launch of the Recognition Awards for the Environmental Leaders.

- *New Deal for Nature and People:* WWF Zambia introduced the campaign initiative to the epd2020 delegates. The initiative was based on the fact that global temperature and pollution would increase by the year 2030 and that there has been a 60% mammal decline loss of forests and fisheries. Hence, the need for traditional leaders, government and communities to take urgent action in order to secure our future generation. Communities are not supposed to wait for political leaders to take action; they must be part of the solution. WWF Country Director said nature is being lost faster than it is being replenished hence the need for what can be done to fix the damage on nature as these are things that one cannot be neutral about. The campaign was a call for all stakeholders to play a part in restoring nature by taking responsibility to plant more trees , invest in youth environmental initiatives and sensitize people on the dangers of charcoal production and cutting done of trees.



- Recognition Environmental Awards: CEJ launched this initiative as an annual event meant to be recognizing environmental defenders in Zambia that has been advocating for environmental justice, nature restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. The 2020 Awards recognized Government line ministries, civil society organisations, Youth groups, Women, Mining companies and the clergy. CEJ believes that the initiative will also encourage stakeholder's to do more in protection the environment, contribute to its restoration and investment in community alternative livelihood initiatives.



Traditional leader's engagement:

The discussion focused on alternative livelihood preparedness in the communities. Traditional leaders concern were that sinazongwe district keeps attracting opportunities for more mining investments primarily coal and this requires dialogues with governments, traditional leaders, communities and mining companies to ensure that communities are protected from mining induced displacements, unfair compensation negotiations and pollution. Lack of coordinated community structures such as cooperatives in mining communities has led to mining companies taking advantage in not addressing concerns which are of community interest and benefit. Furthermore, launching a campaign addressing unsustainable mining practices in the district would be of great help and biodiversity restoration and regeneration. Furthermore, undertake sensitization and awareness raising activities through Community Symposium as platforms where traditional leaders and community representatives can reflect and understand the EIA, Compensation processes, and resettlement plans in line with government policy guidelines.



Multi-stakeholder engagement:

The activity brought together government heads, civil society organisations, youth and women groups, media, community members and leaders, mining companies, and faith based organisations. The meeting focus discussions were meant to have an understanding of CSER plans designed by business entities in Sinazongwe districts. Stakeholder emphasized the need to bring all business entities in



sinazongwe to be part of the project and share their CSER Plans. However, mining companies requested that the government should also fulfil their obligations of supporting communities through taxes which they pay annually and royalties paid every quarter to Royal Establishments. The meeting also noted the new mining developments in the district such as Sezic, Sable and upcoming farming businesses such as CEG, Commercial fisheries, and others whose activities are likely to have or have a direct or indirect bearing on the socio-economic, and environmental landscape of the district and communities. The major rationale has been to review and determine their CSER commitments and plans, and if possible forging further commitments.

Civil Society Human Rights Voices in the Implementation of the SDG 2030

The Centre for Environment Justice with support from the International Centre for Non-Profit Law implemented a pilot project in Lusaka, Lusaka Province and Chifunabuli, Luapula province respectively. The project was focusing on creating a multi-stakeholder platform that include civil society and other relevant actors, to contribute to the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets by the year 2030 with focus on SDGs 7, 13 and 15. The project objectives includes; creation of a safe and enabling environment for civil society participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; ensure that national action plans to implement the Goals recognize the need to protect the rights to freedom of peaceful association and of assembly to enable the participation and mobilization of all stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda; mentor and inspire young people and leaders to participate and engage in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The initiative also encouraged civil society and the public to fully participate during the implementation of interim **Supportive interventions, that would lead impacts of reform of Civil society law in accordance with The** Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association of the United Nations General Assembly - Seventy-third session Item 74 (b) of the provisional agenda "Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" with focus on number IV. Challenges faced by civil society actors in contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals section D. Sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. The activities included media engagements, parliamentarian dialogue, civil society symposium, multi-stakeholder dialogues and traditional leader's engagements.

Media engagements: The radio and television discussions focused on the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms where CSOs like CEJ and other relevant actor's contribute to the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs and their targets. The engagements also emphasized the fact that despite mining being critical to Zambia's development, CSOs played a key role in advocating for sustainable management of natural resources whereby mining activities are supposed to be sustainable and in some cases protected areas such as national parks, water bodies, among others being spare from destruction and the importance of Civil society as partner especially when it came to speak out on behalf of vulnerable and voiceless communities who were mostly and negatively affected by adverse impacts of climate change or deforestation, and hence the quest and interest in demanding for civic space and seeing the achievement

of the goals, and the country adapt to adverse effects of climate change, in line with important convention such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2015 agreement, among others, which equally recognized some of the roles of CSOs as well as the challenges faced as they got involved in the implementation of the SDGs 2030.



High level parliamentarian Dialogue: Constitutionally, Parliamentarians play different and important functions towards planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and their targets in Zambia. It was emphasized that MPs played legislative and decision making roles, and this was key for sustainable development espoused by **Article 8** of the Constitution, whereby the national values and principles among others included: **sustainable development**, which required MPs, CSOs, and citizens to collaborate and demand for civic space. The presenter drew MPs to **Article 62. (2), where** the legislative authority of the Republic is vested in and exercised by Parliament, are recognized, and thereafter noted that it was similarly expected of them to look into laws and policies that would enable CSOs to work in peace and effectively in promoting SDGs 2030, as well as advocating or monitoring the sustainability of policies and transparency in climate change related domestic resources and programmes.



SDG 2030 Symposiums: Youth and CSO Voices: CEJ organized Two Symposia with the purpose of providing a platform for networks and organizations to share ideas on engagement with regards to the role of Youths and CSOs in fostering sustainable development through engaging government on recognition of the role of civil society in the implementation of SDGs, in line with the objective to mentor young people to participate in the SDGs 2030 policy context. The symposium actions agreed where that; there was need for translations of information in local languages about sustainable development goals that would be

effective in adequately reaching all stakeholders and communities; and creation of consolidated CSO platform in advocating for SDG implementations.



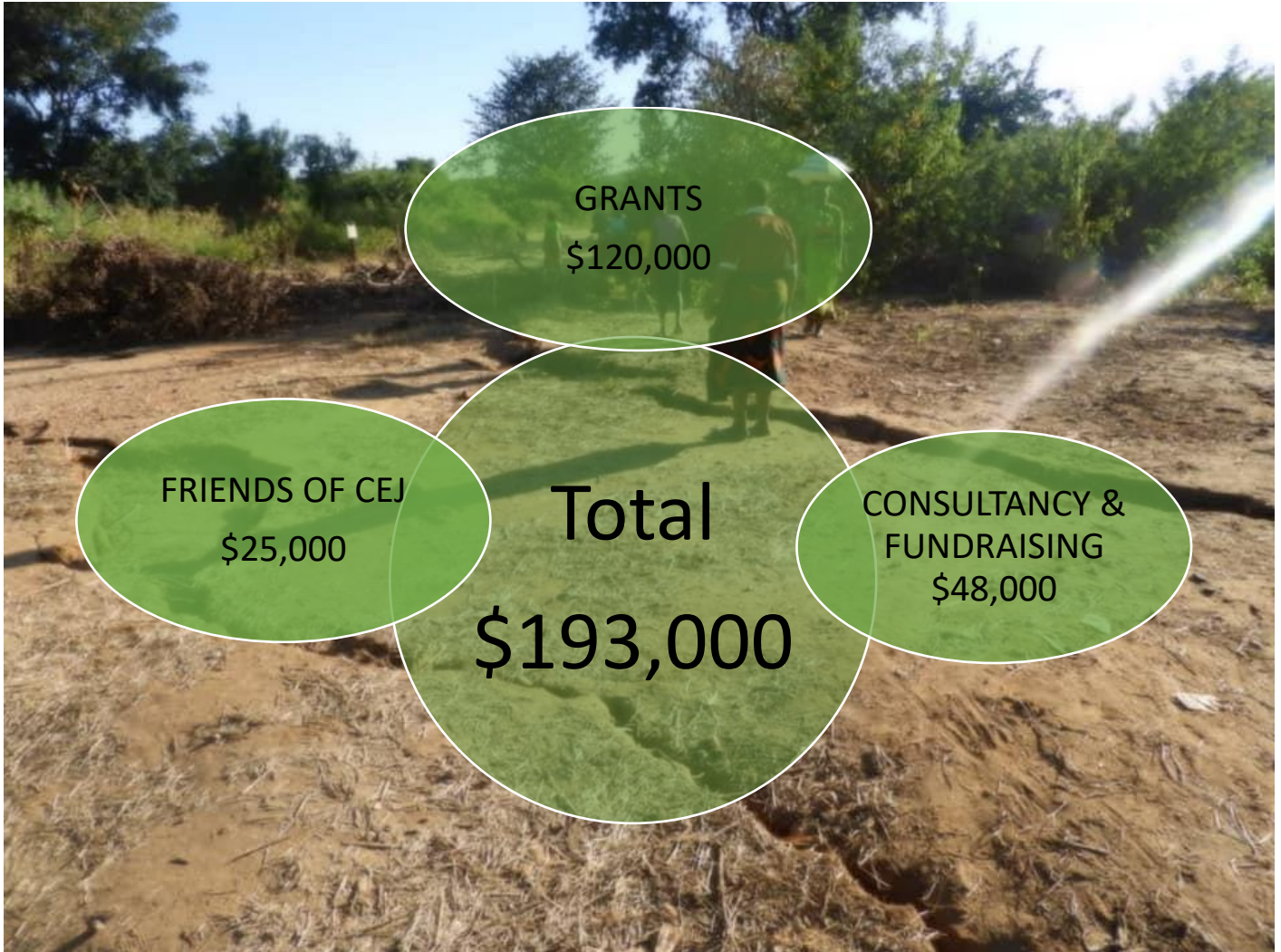
Community and Traditional Leaders Engagement on Land Rights, Natural Resources and Environmental Safe Guard.: CEJ held an engagement meeting that was attended by Traditional leaders, community members, government heads, civil society organisations, and youth and women groups. Chifunabuli is lies along Lake Chifunabuli and community's major source of income is bent on traditional fishing and needed education and capacity building for them to shift to other economic activities and sources of livelihoods. The stakeholders concerns were that mining companies in the district where not following government guidelines of investments and did not engage the district administration and local authorities before commencing operations. Furtehmore highlighted that despite the district being surrounded by water bodies communities lacked access to clean safe water and sanitation.



Project impact

The project beneficiaries where able to identify the gaps in local community involvement in the implementation of the SDGs and recommended six (6) initiatives that would support the protection of natural resources, use of clean energy, access to safe clean water and sustainable alternative livelihood's for communities. These include campaign on Zambia's commitment to Non-extraction in protected and reserved areas; Traditional leaders and community nature conservation for sustainable livelihoods. Promotion of 100% Renewables energy campaign; community sustainable alternative livelihoods and crop production; mining communities' human rights to safe clean water; and Youth campaign on climate justice with focus on the implementation SDG 7, 13 & 15.

SUMMARY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS



COLLABORATION

COOPERATION

CONSENSUS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CORPORATING PARTNERS

Since 2010, Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) started the journey of advocating for environmental justice and sustainable management of nature resources. The journey has been tough; however with your support, we pulled through and remained relevant in the sector.

I want to take the time to express my gratitude to you for being part of our donor family, and to let you know that we wouldn't have reached our goal without your generous support rendered to CEJ in 2020. Without your financial contribution and technical support, we would not be able to reach and engage the vulnerable communities, and also create multi-stakeholder dialogues with governments, civil society organisations, youth, women groups, traditional leaders, private companies, academia and media to realize win-win solutions for environmental protection, nature and people.

We are so happy to have kind Corporating partners like you. Your financial support will make it possible for us to continue creating platforms where communities, policy makers, civil society organisations, Youth and women groups will seat on the same table to come up with initiatives to improve community livelihoods, identify policy gaps, create synergies for the betterment of our country and make positive impact in the lives of the vulnerable.

Once again, thank you for your kind and generous support.



Maggie M. Mwape
Executive Director



CONTACT:

Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ)

Phone: +260 966 603537/ +260 954545302 / +260 973 389859

Email: info@cejzambia.com / centreforenvironmentjustice@gmail.com

Office address: Plot 296, Off Twinpalm Road, Ibex Hill , Lusaka - Zambia



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