

Sunday, Lusaka (16th March 2025)



CEJ CALLS FOR STRONGER GOVERNANCE IN CRITICAL MINERAL EXTRACTION AND LAND USE

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) Executive Director, Maggie Mapalo Mwape, has called for improved governance in critical mineral extraction and land use in Zambia.

Ms Mwape emphasised the challenges posed by rapid expansion in the extractive industry, including environmental degradation, land disputes, and the marginalisation of local communities.

This came to light in Lusaka during a Dissemination Meeting on Critical Minerals and Land Governance in Zambia implemented by CEJ with support from Climate Compatible Growth (CCG).

She stressed the importance of inclusive policies, transparency, and community empowerment, particularly for women, to address governance gaps.

Ms Mwape also acknowledged the support of various partners and urged collaboration to promote sustainable development and environmental justice in the sector.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rebecca Clube, representing Climate Compatible Growth (CCG), outlined the objectives of a nine-month seed project in Zambia.

She said the project explores the intersection of land use and critical minerals and its implications for economic opportunities, social stability, and just transitions to renewable energy.

Dr. Clube explained that the project seeks to evaluate Zambia's legal frameworks, identify policy gaps, and improve governance coordination to promote inclusive development and stronger protections for rural communities.

She expressed optimism that collaborative feedback from stakeholders will help refine research findings and shape future policy recommendations.

"Climate Compatible Growth (CCG) is a priority-driven research and capacity-building programme that promotes investment in sustainable energy and transport systems. Funded by UK Aid, the programme initially launched as a £38 million initiative set to conclude in mid-2025. However, in June 2024, the UK Government announced an additional £57 million in funding, significantly expanding CCG's scope and impact. CCG operates in multiple countries, including Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, India, Nepal, Laos, and Vietnam, supporting evidence-based policymaking and investment strategies for sustainable economic growth," she said.

Issued By: CEJ Communications Unit

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