

ANNUAL REPORT

BENCH MARKS FOUNDATION

2012



Community wants environmental project

The richest community is the poorest.

Sello Moapari, Kamogelo & Tshepang Motsi
Rustenburg monitoring group



According to the title deed of Rustenburg, the areas of Buffelspoort, Marikana, Kroondal, Bosfontein and Waterfall Mall are all included as our land.

Rankelenyane is very rich in agriculture, hotels and minerals, especially granite.

The community was forced to relocate during the 1960s to Nooitgedacht farm outside Rustenburg, where the community managed to buy land under the ownership of Mr Rankels. The village was named after his son.

Why is the community poor and disadvantaged?

We conducted house-to-house interviews with those who have land claims and concerns about the environment.

The investors who established quarries on our land failed to empower the community with mining skills, learnerships or even provide any jobs.

They also failed the community in terms of improving infrastructure, and they gave empty promises to fund community projects that would eradicate poverty and protect the environment.

Opencast mining or quarry companies fail to close and rehabilitate their pits after excavating the granite. This poses a danger to the community, as young people drown, get ill due to swimming in the contaminated water and our livestock drink from these pits and die.

As a community organisation we need a project to rehabilitate

the areas where erosion has taken place because of the opencast mining operations.

The community demands that investors engage with and develop the community as they promised when they started their operations.

Our main recommendation is that a meeting should be arranged by our organisation, between the management of R.E.D Granite, Kelgran, Kudu, the ward councillor and his committee and the tribal leaders.

The aim of this meeting must be to try and start an environmental project with the community and develop learnership programmes or internships in the mining sector. In this way we look after the environment and create jobs. ■

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“The Bench Marks Foundation combines high level research and advocacy with strong community organisation and involvement.”



Mike Deeb, Bishop Jo Seoka, Piet Beukes, Thembela Njenga, Allan Wentzel, Mokethi Moshoeshoe and John Capel.

Board members

The Right Reverend Dr Bishop Jo Seoka (Chairperson)

Ds Piet Beukes

Dr Allan Boesak

Fr Mike Deeb, Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC)

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Ms Thembela Njenga, Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET)

Rev Mautji Pataki, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC)

Mr Allan Wentzel, CDT Foundation NPC

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Maria Dyveke
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participant



Freek Cronjé
Director, Bench
Marks Centre



Busi Thabane
General
Manager, 2013



Nizar Seleman
Utanga, 2013
FK/NCA
exchange
participant from
Tanzania

Media Consultancy
Quo Vadis Communications



80 community monitors
29 communities
6 provincial facilitators
22 community organisations

(pages 7, 14 and 17)



Editing and design
Leah Marais

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FOREWORD

Whose minerals are being extracted and who does it benefit? This is one of many important questions facing South Africa, and Africa, today.

Most of our minerals are used in production processes in Europe, China and the United States. Platinum is used in heart bypass surgery, in the car manufacturing industry, and in cellphones and other electronic equipment. Coal is used to generate electricity and South Africa is a leading export nation of coal. Gold is valuable and has always been in demand.

If Africa is rich in mineral resources, then surely Africa should be highly developed. In South Africa we have had mining for over 100 years and this helped develop the economy, but also held it back. The events and severity of the strife in the mining industry over the last year can attest to this.

In South Africa we have a long history of mining forcing people off the land, the use of cheap migrant labour, very low wages, extremely bad living conditions and huge negative impacts on communities.

What has changed from 100 years ago to now? Not much. Now perhaps the gap is wider between executives and workers, between the winners and the losers.

The Bench Marks Foundation's *Policy Gap* research studies reveal a context of increasing community

resistance to mining and the costs of mining being passed on to communities.

We have an economy where the proceeds of wealth are distributed so unevenly, with a culture of entitlement among top executives, that they believe they actually deserve remuneration of R15 million a year. It's shocking and can't go unchallenged. This culture of individualism, no matter the cost to other people, tells us we lack a consciousness around our actions. The three top Lonmin executives in 2011 earned R46m and this equalled the total increase in salaries demanded by the 4 200 rock drillers (R44m) during the 2012 strike action. What is a society without a conscience?

A democracy should provide for the human rights of all citizens, including the right to decent work, a living wage and collective bargaining. South Africa won its democratic character through negotiations where people came together to talk and discuss their way towards a solution for the common good for all.

In South Africa during 2012 we witnessed huge discontent in mining, with over 100 000 mineworkers going on strike demanding a bigger share of the wealth they generate. This is part of a bigger social and investment problem facing Africa.

We know in the Democratic Republic of Congo that hundreds of

thousands of people have been killed over resource extraction. In Tanzania over 200 000 artisanal miners lost their jobs when AngloGold Ashanti and Barrick Gold entered under the guise of investment. Can investment under private ownership, that is for the benefit of the shareholders, really bring about holistic development?

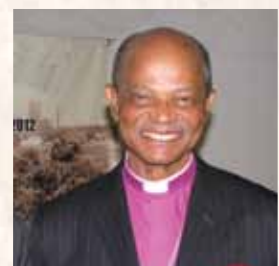
When investment is modelled according to multinational companies' material self-interest at the lowest cost possible, is this really beneficial and to whom?

I am proud of our achievements, not only organisationally, but that we have managed to stay focussed on our core mission to influence the corporate social responsibility (CSR) agendas of corporations to bring about sustainable and developmental changes.

We owe our strength to a committed board, dedicated staff and a host of supporting organisations that help us in our mission.

I remain your humble servant:

Bishop Jo Seoka



*The Rt Rev Dr Jo Seoka
Chairperson, Bench Marks Foundation*

It's time for miners to benefit

"The killings at Marikana could have been avoided if management had only listened to the workers' concerns. There was really no need for the strike, let alone the violence that occurred, leading to the loss of 44 lives."

Right Reverend Dr Jo Seoka – (*Business Day*, October 30, 2012)

The Bench Marks Foundation released a number of press statements in 2012 commenting on, and responding to, the crisis in the mining industry as illustrated by the Marikana massacre. Here are some of the main points raised by the Foundation.



Crosses memorialise the workers who died at Marikana.

The BMF's research into the corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes of the mining sector points to a high level of irresponsibility by mining companies. Research over the past five years show little effectiveness of any kind of CSR or efforts made towards sustainable development. Our *Policy Gap* studies reveal a context of increasing community resistance to mining and the costs of mining being passed on to communities.

Many mines operate without a social license and continue to ignore the needs of impacted communities. There needs to be committed community engagement processes with legitimate community organisations aimed at mutual understanding and improved community relations.

For the mining industry, CSR should be about balancing the diverse demands of communities and the imperative to protect the environment, with the ever-present need to make a profit. CSR calls

for a company to respond not only to its shareholders, but also to other stakeholders; including employees, customers, affected communities and the general public, on issues such as human rights, employee welfare and environmental protection.

As strikes in mining communities throughout South Africa continue, the unhappiness that was so apparent during the Marikana strike will not go away unless the root causes of discontent are addressed. Government has a large role to play in addressing inadequacies in mining operations in the country. It needs a more assertive approach to ensure that mining is done responsibly.

The involvement of government officials in mining companies is undermining democracy. It causes tensions and conflict and is destroying the trust of communities in government. Government cannot allow corporations to get away with ignoring legislation and destroying the environment. It should not allow

its officials to become involved in the mines in any way.

With investment in mining there are winners and losers. The winners are shareholders and executive management who get all the benefits, and the losers are communities.

With mining comes a host of negative environmental and social issues. Migrant labour is attracted to mining areas, putting strain on local infrastructure and government services. Rarely is this considered a cost to mining.

Noble claims are made in the sustainability reports of Anglo American Platinum, Impala Platinum, Xstrata, Aquarius Platinum, Lonmin and Royal Bafokeng Platinum of responsible mining, community partnerships and local economic and social development. However, Bench Marks Foundation's research points to the failure of companies to truly engage with affected groups and instead only engage with politically connected individuals.



Mine workers. Photo by Siphiwe Sibeko, Reuters

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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One could say 2012 was a watershed year in South African politics, a year that changed how we looked upon our new democracy. With the killing of 34 miners on the 16th August 2012, in what has been termed the Marikana massacre, we need to pause for reflection and ask how and why such a brutal response to workers was called for. Not only was the world shocked, but South Africa was shaken to its core.

Fear and dread dominated as we tried to make sense of the State's responses and Lonmin's refusal to engage with their workers. The Bench Marks Foundation had just released its research study: *Policy Gap 6, Communities in the Platinum Minefields – a review of platinum mining in the Bojanala District of the North West province*, two days before the massacre.

The Bench Marks Foundation's

research contextualised events and spoke of the growing resistance by communities to platinum mining, the impacts of platinum mining on communities, and the fact that these communities did not benefit in any way from platinum mining, and were among the poorest in South Africa.

The chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation, Bishop Jo Seoka, was in the thick of mediating peace on the side of the workers. He was there on the day of the massacre and took it upon himself to side with the workers after hearing their side of the story. His experience of the workers on the koppie was one of peaceful, yet defiant people. Scared? Yes, because four workers had earlier in the year lost their lives during disputes with other mine companies' management.

In the media the Bench Marks Foundation provided extensive background information on the living conditions of the communities and

mineworkers of the platinum belt. We spoke of the irresponsible actions of the mining houses, especially Lonmin, in fuelling the conflict due to their poor responses to the workers' grievances, especially those of the rock drillers. Ongoing production, profit accumulation and shareholder interests directed Lonmin's response and government reactions to striking workers.

During 2012 a number of government leaders from Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands visited the Foundation's offices



John Capel
Executive Director



Miners assembled on the hillside in Marikana during the memorial service for those killed by police. Photo: Reuters.

to gain deeper insights and the organisation grew and developed as a result. We took the Norwegian development minister to Marikana to meet communities and Lonmin management. His impression afterwards was of an irresponsible corporation.

To amplify this point, at the last annual general meeting of Lonmin, it took a South African shareholder activist, Theo Botha, to get Lonmin to give a minute's silence for those who died at the altar of profits.

The Foundation could not keep track of just how many international journalists, television crews, radio and other media bombarded us for information, day and night. We were just about on every major television channel throughout the world, from Latin America, Europe, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

We received recognition for how our research study shed light on the plight of mining communities,

from the presidency to the finance minister in South Africa. However, 2013 opened with attacks by Anglo Platinum and Harmony Gold on workers. Anglo threatened to retrench 14 000 workers and Harmony Gold locked workers out, as if to say, "We have seized the agenda. We will teach these workers a lesson."

The Bench Marks Foundation realises that to maintain momentum, we have to continue to strengthen mining communities to engage with corporations, government and other stakeholders.

Marikana made us reflect on how to strengthen our advocacy work, both at a community level and at a policy level. We asked how we could get government oversight and regulatory bodies to do their work more efficiently and respond to the crisis in the mining industry and how we could assist communities to strengthen themselves and influence the Marikana Commission of Inquiry Commission.

This crisis in the mining industry, as we have tried to warn in reports, has been brewing for many years. Lip service is paid by companies to CSR and their sustainability reports mask the reality experienced by communities living adjacent to the big six platinum mining corporations.

The Bench Marks Foundation combines high-level research and advocacy with strong community organisation and involvement.

Over the past six years we have managed to build a new discourse around the agenda of CSR, moving it from a reporting-led agenda to one that requires change.

When we began our work in 2003, mining companies in particular were at the forefront of promoting themselves as good corporate citizens through well-thought-out strategies. These strategies were, and still are based on reporting, advertising and marketing strategies backed up by grand policies – 'corporate propaganda'. These

reports are meant for investors and shareholders, not the communities they impact on.

Our work is uncovering the gap between corporate policy and practice and we are beginning to make an impact on the agendas of the mining industry.

The Chamber of Mines, mining companies, foreign investors, governments and a host of civil society organisations have approached the Bench Marks Foundation for advice and input.

Our reports receive wide media coverage, both here in South Africa, in Africa and in the rest of the world. We recognise the strong interest groups around mining, from the captains of industry to black economic empowerment partners, to the politicians with an interest in post-government jobs.

We are up against a wall, but the wall is beginning to show cracks. Perhaps in the post-Marikana era, a real examination of inequality and poverty will emerge.

The mining industry while it looks inward, will hopefully address the need to operate in a sustainable manner, to respect people and communities, and to behave responsibly towards the environment.

The challenge for the Bench Marks Foundation is to encourage this new agenda, maintain our profile and improve our advocacy, whilst remaining strong on the ground.

Our focus is on turning CSR from being a reporting-based process to a more developmentally focussed endeavour within a human rights perspective.



The Marikana Commission of Inquiry was appointed to investigate the tragic incidents at the Lonmin mine in Marikana in August 2012.



Monitors prepare their community reports.

Bench Marks Community Monitoring School

Monitors learn to write with confidence and power. They analyse local problems and understand how these link to political and economic systems globally. They learn the art of strategic and tactical action in order to bring about change.



The Community Monitoring School took a giant leap in 2012, from training 15 monitors in 2011 to training over 80 in 2012.

The programme was coordinated by six facilitators based in five provinces, supported by core Bench Marks Foundation staff and an expert trainer/educator.

All the monitors trained were linked to community organisations and reported back on what they learnt in the School to their organisations.

The monitoring programme's website has the slogan: "We are watching you" – a statement that should be of concern to the mining industry. This vibrant site is regularly

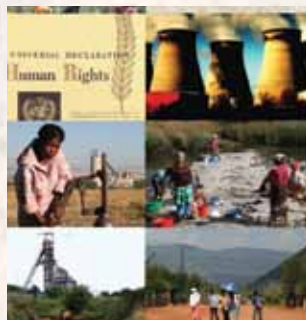
updated with work in progress from community monitors. (See www.communitymonitors.net)

The South African community monitors project is linked with groups in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania who are engaged in similar training and action activities.

During the year the Monitoring School continued to receive requests for expansion into other areas of South Africa and neighbouring countries.

The demand for the expansion of the School grew as the spotlight fell on mining, with requests from countries such as Mozambique and Burundi.

Africa Roundtable on Investment (ART)



In 2012 we extended the concept of the Monitoring School to Tanzania. One of our coordinators, Joseph Magobe, participated in an exchange programme facilitated by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and the Norwegian Government. He worked with the Interfaith Centre in Tanzania conducting community workshops on mining companies and their impact.

A cross-boundary extension of the Monitoring School took shape with Caritas in Zambia. Monitors in the Solwazi district were trained together with members of EITA Zambia (Extractive Industry Transparency Association).

NCA Malawi also indicated interest in doing the same training with their partners.

Together with the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA), we implemented a successful programme with the Chiadzwa Community Development Trust (CCDT) based in the Marange diamond fields.

Along with the Canadian Steel Workers Humanity Fund we explored possibilities for setting up a monitoring programme in Tete in Mozambique. Tete is going to be the biggest coal mining area in Southern Africa. A visit there took place in December 2012. Coal mining produces the worst toxic air in the world.

The *Church Leaders Call for Responsible Investment* (CLC) was endorsed by the Council of Churches of Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and

Botswana. The CLC has generated interest across the churches and was endorsed at the Just World Conference, a conference jointly organised by the Bench Marks Foundation, NCA and Fredskorpset Norway.

We continue to do research into South African retail companies in Africa, with a focus on Walmart's (Massmart) operations in Botswana. We investigate whether South African companies contribute towards local economic development and strengthen the host economy, or whether they just fly in the goods and export the profits. From research already done, we see a negative economic impact, local farmers and producers lose market share, wages remain low, and unsustainable production processes continue.

ART promotes evenly developed economies and the challenge is to monitor on a much bigger scale the impact of foreign multinational companies' operations in Africa.



Bench Marks Centre



After four years of working to establish the Bench Marks Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, the Centre was launched on 23 January 2012.

During 2012, ten students enrolled in its Masters and doctoral programme.

The Bench Marks Centre, in collaboration with the Bench Marks Foundation, will run a basic short course, support community projects and conduct joint research with the Stockholm School of Economics in 2013.

Bench Marks Rating Agency

Working with the Young Economists for Africa and Wits University we are developing a community perception index which will be part of the Bench Marks Rating Agency.

A post-graduate thesis from the Bench Marks Centre created the basis for a community tool using the *Bench Marks Principles*. The tool is being tested and once finalised will be used by communities, socially responsible investors, governments and policy makers to increase the accountability of transnational corporations.

Voice Power: media and advocacy



Media advocacy work in both local and international media received wide coverage during the year. Internationally, even before Marikana, we were mentioned in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *Seattle Times*.

After Marikana, we were interviewed by many international television and radio stations, and contributed to print articles. In 2012 we had between 600 and 1000 media mentions and contributed six opinion pieces to the second biggest business newspaper in South Africa.

The Voice Power programme covers all the international and local visitors who request information from us, including SRI investors from New York, Germany and the UK. We received visitors from the governments of Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands asking about our views on mining. In particular, the Norwegian government wanted to know if they should disinvest their oil fund shares in Lonmin.

We assisted Al Jazeera and Dutch journalists doing documentaries on mining in South Africa. We had a Swedish journalist living with us for three months, who followed the activities of the Foundation for in-depth reporting on mining for Swedish newspapers and TV.

Each year we co-host the Alternative Mining Indaba and in 2012 we received considerable media coverage. The main Mining Indaba brings ten thousand investors to Cape Town each year.

We were part of the Dutch Coal

Dialogue developing standards for coal mining to hold companies accountable.

We gave a presentation to Element Investors, a local SRI company, and continue to provide them with information they can use at shareholder meetings.

We met regularly with the South African Human Rights Commission and continue to work with them to address human rights abuses in mining. We also presented our findings to the South African government's Portfolio Committee on Mining and said what we felt needed to be done.

The Chamber of Mines met with us and although they felt we were tarnishing the reputation of mining, they requested that we tell them what the mining industry should be doing in the short, medium and long term. We hope they take our submissions seriously.

We gave input at the 360 Degree Mining Consultation organised

by business and raised pertinent issues around resource ownership and models. We engaged with the SA Human Rights Watch and the National Economic Development and Labour Council.

Civil society groupings and a number of departments at WITS University are collaborating with the Foundation. Slowly we are beginning to influence the national discourse on mining and although it is difficult to measure our influence, we realise that our work, both at research and community level, is beginning to be heard. However, it will take time to see shifts in policy.

Our intervention with Conservation SA against the proposed selling of De Beers' mining plants on the West Coast was effective. We believe that we contributed to the prevention of the total sale of De Beers' marginalised operations in the area. The Minister of Mineral Resources stopped the sale, putting the onus on De Beers to first rehabilitate the mine.



A word of thanks

Our core constituency is communities, churches and companies and remains our focus. Our aim is to reshape the corporate-led agenda for CSR, to one that is developmentally led, that addresses poverty, and promotes better communities.

We want environmentally sound mining practices, human rights obligations to be observed and for corporations not to enjoy more rights than people. To do this, we need to increase our capacity. The Bench Marks Centre helps with research projects and output, but the Centre is still in its infancy and we continue

to employ expert economists to do research and form linkages with other universities.

The Bench Marks Foundation's board plays a big part in the organisation, offering expertise where needed, and this is of great help to the organisation. The chairperson, Bishop Jo Seoka, is pivotal to the organisation's direction and he played a lead role in diffusing events around the Lonmin strike. The chair of the finance committee, Mr Allan Wenzel, plays an important governance function helping with legal compliance issues. Ds Piet Beukes reads through all the research reports and acts as a

watchdog for the board, ensuring we produce credible research that does not undermine the policy framework in which we operate. The checks and balances ensure good governance of the organisation and allow us to meet our mandate and secure funding.

Our donor partners assist us in many ways, through making funds available for exchange programmes and assisting us with organisational assessments and strategic planning exercises. We are extremely grateful for this.

We need to thank Christian Aid, EED-Bread for the World, Diakonia, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Fredskorpet-NCA, Bread for All, ICCO, Action Aid SA and Action Aid in the Netherlands. Without their support we would not be delivering on our mandate. Our challenge is to bring on more local donors to support our work, whilst understanding the limitations of support for policy work.

We have to thank the staff, Moses Cloete for his crucial role in operational support, Simo Gumede in administration, Brown Motsau for his commitment to networking, Caroline Ntaopane for her community work, Eric Mokuoa for administering the Monitoring Shool, Joseph Magobe for his good coordination skills, and to our associate staff: Bobby Marie, expert trainer; Hassen Lorgat, advocacy specialist; David van Wyk, lead researcher; Prof Freek Cronjé, who heads the Bench Marks Centre; and finally to Leah Marais, editor, layout and design expert for most of our publications.

But, we can't end without mentioning Maria Dyveke Styve, our NCA research exchange student for 2012, who assisted the organisation immensely.

We look forward to a continuing fruitful collaboration with our partners.

John Capel
Executive Director



Top: Singing at the Community Monitoring School graduation. Middle: The Bench Marks Foundation staff and family. Bottom: Rob Cunningham (Christian Aid), Bishop Jo Seoka, Moreblessings Chidaushe (NCA). Bottom right: Kari Bjornsgaard (Ambassador), Ingrid Fiskaa (Norwegian state secretary and deputy minister for development) and John Capel.

OPERATIONS REPORT



RESEARCH PROGRAMME

An overall objective for the research programme is to develop a model around CSR that is developmental. The research is based on the premise that sustainable business practices consider not only profits, but also the protection of the environment and fair treatment of workers and communities. Corporations are accountable for their actions and should consider the impact they have on communities.



Mining community march in Rustenburg,



"Workers, whether in Lonmin or Amplats, have legitimate grievances. I know that it is not instigators that are driving the work stoppages, but genuine issues of absolute poverty, lack of respect for workers in the economy and how they contribute to the overall development of the country. For far too long now workers have had to bear the brunt of bad working and living conditions and all government can think about is cracking down on legitimate worker grievances. The problem will not go away, even if this crackdown wins the present battle; the 'war' of workers who do not receive just remuneration against the enormous amounts of money paid to executives will continue to fester."

Bishop Seoka – (Media statement, August 2012)

Research studies 2012

Policy Gap 6: Communities in the Platinum Minefields



The *Policy Gap 6* report investigated six platinum mining companies: Anglo American Platinum, Impala Platinum, Xstrata, Aquarius Platinum, Lonmin and Royal Bafokeng Platinum in the Rustenburg area.

The launch of the report took place on the 14th August 2012, two days before the Marikana massacre. The report spoke of the

growing resistance by communities to platinum mining, the impacts of platinum mining on communities, and the fact that these communities did not benefit in any way from platinum mining, and were among the poorest in South Africa.

The study developed a number of recommendations for government and other stakeholders on addressing community problems in the platinum mining industry.



A Lonmin CSR project.

Impacts of Coal Mining in the Mpumalanga Province



A report on coal mining operations in Middleburg was completed for the Dutch Coal Dialogue and is yet to be published. Development of best practice standards for the coal-supply chain will allow for the training of community monitors to use these standards in the monitoring of coal companies.

Community Voices in the Vanderbijl Park area, Vaal



This report will be finalised in 2013. The study focuses on the impacts of the ArcelorMittal steel plant on a number of communities in its vicinity.

This report was developed in collaboration with the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA), a Bench Marks Foundation partner organisation, who also participates in the Monitoring School programme.

Impacts of Walmart



Walmart or Massmart is a large retail chain that operates on the African continent.

This research report examines the impact of the company on local supply chains, and local suppliers. The study is in the process of being developed with University of Botswana researchers and will be published in 2013.



Research impact

The Policy Gap 6: Communities in the Platinum Minefields report received wide media coverage in the local and international press following the Marikana massacre.

The research report also attracted interest from a number of role players including companies in the platinum industry, public and private investors, government, foreign governments' legislative bodies and a range of civil society organisations.

The Bench Marks Foundation was involved in over a hundred interviews on radio and television across the world: in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Spain, the USA, the Netherlands, Sweden and a number of international media outlets including CNN, BBC, ABC, CNCBS, Duetsche Welle and locally ETV, DSTV (Carte Blanche), SABC TV 1, SABC radio, 702, Muslim Radio and others.

The local press that covered the report extensively included *Business Report*, a supplement to all the Independent Online (IOL) newspapers, *City Press*, the *Sunday Independent*, *Sunday Times*, the *Mail and Guardian* and to a lesser extent the *New Age*, *Business Day* and *Financial Mail*. In a number of these the Bench Marks Foundation contributed opinion pieces, the first of which appeared on the 14th August 2012 in the *Business Report*. John

Capel, the executive director of the Bench Marks Foundation, David van Wyk, lead researcher and Bishop Jo Seoka, chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation's board fielded the numerous interviews.

The Bench Marks Foundation also arranged tours for a number of TV crews and journalists who did not have access to the Rustenburg area, in particular the Marikana township, where more than 20 monitors from the Monitoring School work in six communities.

The release of the *Policy Gap 6* report raised the profile of the Foundation considerably, leading to its recognition as an authority on corporate social responsibility. This has led to a wide range of interactions within the platinum industry, including the companies cited in the report, the Chamber of Mines and the parliamentary oversight committee.

As the media focus on mining companies increased, investor groups met with the Bench Marks Foundation to see how pressure can be applied on corporations to change their approaches.

Perhaps there will be some tangible changes in the way the local authorities, government, industry and industry bodies relate to communities in the future?



Community life in the platinum mining areas.

Bench Marks Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility

The Bench Marks Centre for CSR (BMC) at the North-West University is one of the collaborative research partners of the Bench Marks Foundation's research programme.

The BMC hosts studies on the role of corporations in society and their impact on democracy.

The work of the BMC is built around three pillars: research and research projects, teaching post-graduate students and community engagement. The latter is mostly through the Monitoring School.

The BMC was involved in the *Policy Gap 6* research report which looked at the CSR practices of platinum mining companies and the experiences of communities living in close proximity to platinum mining operations.

Other collaborative research studies between the BMC and the Bench Marks Foundation include:

1) An exploration of Swiss

mining companies' impact on the community, environment and economy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in particular, copper and cobalt mining areas in the Katanga Province.

2) Research on supply-chain monitoring and social entrepreneurship of mining companies in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

The Bench Marks Centre developed a Masters and doctorate degree with the School of Social and Government Studies at the North-West University.

In the two-year course students are required to complete eight modules and one mini-dissertation.

The Centre promotes the community as the starting point of economic life with the understanding that if corporations are to be beneficial and accountable to communities, corporations cannot enjoy more rights than citizens.

Staff



Freek Cronjé
Director



Susanne
Reyneke



Charity Chenga



Prof Eddie Bain



Carina Snyman



Photo: Limpopo monitoring group.

COMMUNITY, CHURCHES AND CAPACITY BUILDING

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This programme integrates the Community Monitoring School and the integrated community research programmes in South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Community monitoring outside of South Africa falls under the Africa Roundtable on Investment (ART).

Community Monitoring School

The Community Monitoring School has an integrated approach which links the research activities of the Foundation with the documenting of community lives. This makes for greater impact among role players or stakeholders and allows the Bench Marks Foundation to highlight the plight of communities and be an informative voice on corporate responsibility to society.

The overall objective of the Monitoring School is to develop a network of local community groups actively involved in monitoring the impact of corporations on the environment and communities.

The Community Monitoring School project is a collaboration between the Bench Marks Foundation and local community organisations. The aim is to develop and support informed community action.

During the year, the Monitoring School trained 80 monitors from

29 communities in five provinces, working in partnership with 22 organisations. Schools were localised in Rustenburg, Limpopo, Klerksdorp, the East Rand, Vaal and Middleburg. More workshops were conducted in the Rustenburg area due to a need to strengthen work there after the Marikana massacre in August 2012. In total around 52 workshops were conducted during the year.

Between five and 10 participants from a number of communities and organisations attended the school programme from April through to October 2012.

Six community facilitators in the five provinces assisted in the training of the 80 monitors together with the trainers and fieldworkers. Facilitators organised activities and facilitated learning sessions.

The monitors graduated in December 2012. Forty percent of the graduates were women.



Impact of the Monitoring School

As the number of monitors trained increased, this gave voice to a broader section of the community to speak out about the conditions experienced in communities impacted on by the extractive industries.

Monitors had increased confidence to write their life stories and report on their experiences. In some areas, especially in Rustenburg, monitors organised communities, and engaged with mining companies to articulate demands specific to their areas. In the Stijldrift area, for example, community organisations managed to force the mines to meet with them and were stronger in formulating demands based on the identification of problems and mapping of their areas learnt in the training.

An impact of the Monitoring School was increased organisational ability in communities.



"In Norway we depend on oil, but because it is found off-shore, in the North Sea, there are no local communities that directly experience the impacts."

"Here in South Africa, the impacts of mining on community life are devastating. It is shocking to see how similar the social, economic and environmental impacts are across different communities. The benefits of extractive industries do not reach the surrounding communities."

"The Community Monitoring School is what makes the Bench Marks Foundation unique in many ways."

Maria Dyveke Styve, FK/NCA exchange participant, Norway



"I started with the Monitoring School in 2011. The School has helped me change my attitude towards life and has given me skills to deal with the impact of mining on a day-to-day basis. I'm especially concerned about the issues facing women. I can say that the Monitoring School has helped to develop me as a person."

"Just recently, 16 youths were arrested, shot with rubber bullets, detained and did not receive any medical attention. Their bruises have now turned septic and I'm trying to organise medical attention for them. This morning, one of the Chaneng Youth Organisation's members was also arrested. We are dealing with a lot of intimidation."

"I'm using Facebook and other social media forums to keep people informed on what is happening. The Monitoring School has helped me with my writing skills and the use of social networking media."

Olebogeng Motene, Chaneng Youth Organisation, Rustenburg.

"Through the Monitoring School I can see that the community now has a sense of standing on their own and can raise issues by themselves."

"They are able to communicate better, identify problems and take appropriate action."

Tshepo Mmusi, Justice & Peace Commission, Klerksdorp.

"The Monitoring School became involved in service delivery issues in Jouberton, as this area had no electricity for seven years. We met with the local municipality and mobilised the community, and showed that money had been allocated for the electrification of the area. We met with the IDP department of the municipality, the chief whip, the electrical engineering department and the councillor."

"The issue was addressed and within eight months the area had electricity. We see this as a great victory."

Tshepo Mmusi, Justice & Peace Commission, Klerksdorp.



"Twice a month we meet with different communities. Together we decide on a plan of action."

"We've spoken to the East Rand municipalities about pollution and dumping of waste."

"We also spoke to the Health and Safety officials of two mines on the East Rand to see if something can be done about the acid mine drainage and the dangerous open mine shafts that are left unattended."

"I work a lot with unemployed youth. By giving them information we are helping the community to know what the problems are, the history of the area and to identify where they want to see themselves in the future."

"When people see a change they get excited and have hope for a better future."

Mesh Mbangula, Ekurhuleni Environmental Organisation



Community Monitoring School Graduation 2012.

Materials produced

A number of platforms were created where monitors were able to write and document their testimonies on environmental and social issues affecting them and their communities. Monitors were also assisted in the use of audio-visual means and social media to express themselves.

A *Resource Handbook for Monitors* was completed and is being used by facilitators and organisations across the region in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and in the training sessions in South Africa.

The Monitoring School's website is regularly updated and community issues and concerns can be read here. A webmaster was employed to ensure updates to the website from monitors.

The publication of *Action Voices 2012* provided a printed version of monitors' reports on the experiences of their communities. Trainee monitors submitted more than 60 stories for publication. Two of the stories that appeared in *Action Voices* can be read on the inside covers of this report.



Monitoring School coordination team and facilitators.

Luka is a village in the north of Rustenburg. We are located in the heart of the platinum mining region. Our great grandparents lost their land to the Afrikaner settlers and bought back areas with their own money. We built our own church and schools, and sunk our own boreholes. We planted crops for our use and every family had a herd of cattle.

Platinum mining came into our lives in the 1960s. We were not consulted about this.

We have lived in Luka for over a century. Now we are surrounded by mines and our land is slowly being turned into mine dumps.

Luka community monitors

Future work

The Community Monitoring

School, in addition to providing socio-political analytic skills and basic research skills, will continue a more action-oriented approach built into all the School's activities and more regular interaction with community organisations that send participants to participate in the programme.

Practical training in using community radio may be investigated and training could be practical using role plays and involving community radio stations themselves.

A certificate course has been developed with the Bench Marks Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility at the North-West University and will be implemented in 2013 and 2014. This will give monitors a more formal qualification.



Monitoring School Footprint

North West Province

Area: Rustenburg

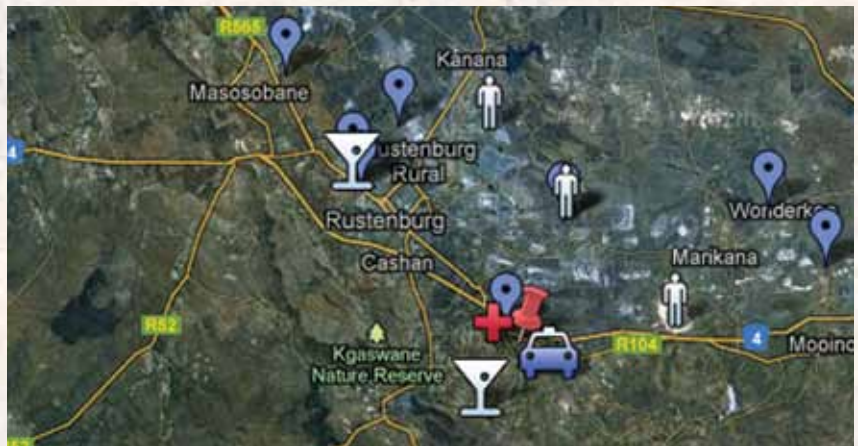
Communities: Chaneng, Mafenya, Ikemeleng, Marikana, Luka, Tlhabane, Segwelane.

Organisations: Ikemeleng Environmental Organisation, Chaneng Youth Organisation, Marikana Development Organisation (MADO), Bapong Youth organisation, Thlabane Youth Organisation, Land Buyers' Association.

Area: Klerksdorp

Communities: Dominionville, Kanana, Jouberton.

Organisations: Catholic Justice and Peace.



Digital mapping

An internet-based digital map of the mining operations on the platinum belt has been developed. The area begins in Rustenburg, crosses Pretoria into Limpopo and trails into Zimbabwe.

Monitors tag specific locations and point to problem areas and important community actions.

The map shows where communities are located in relation to the mines and where specific incidents have taken place.



See Community Maps on www.comunitymonitors.net

Gauteng Province

Area: Vaal, Sasolburg

Communities: Bophelong, Sebokeng, Zamdela, Boipatong, Sharpeville, Evaton.

Organisations: Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA), Botle Ba Tlhaho Environmental Group (BBTEG).

Area: Ekurhuleni (Springs)

Communities: Kwa-Thema, Thokoza

Organisations: Ekurhuleni Environmental Organisation (EEO).

Free State Province

Area: Welkom

Communities: Thabong, Meloding, Kutlwanong, Nyakallong, Masilo.

Organisations: Gold and Uranium Impact Censoring Organisation (GUBICO).

Mpumalanga Province

Area: Witbank, Middelburg

Communities: Mhluzi, Skoongezicht, Abor, Breyten, Ogies, Ermelo, Kwaguka.

Organisations: Middelburg Environmental Justice Network, Highveld Monitoring Group, Witbank Youth Against Climate Change, Skoongezicht Concerned Residents Organisation.

Limpopo Province

Area: Makopane (Pietersburg)

Communities: Ga-Pila Sterkwater.

Organisations: Ga-Pila monitoring group.

Area: Sekhukhune land

Communities: Driekop, Magobading, Atok.

Organisations: Driekop Youth Organisation, Reconciliation, Driekop Monitoring Group.



Meeting of community members.

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

Africa Roundtable on Investment

The Bench Marks Foundation aims to develop networks of local communities actively monitoring the impact of corporations, both in South Africa and the SADC region.

The Africa Roundtable on Investment (ART) programme encompasses all the Foundation's work with partners on the African continent to develop cross-border solidarity and support for the *Church Leaders Call for Responsible Investment*.

Nationally, regionally and internationally, the Bench Marks Foundation works in and through several networks. These networks include the International Alliance on Natural Resources in Africa (IANRA), African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society (AIMES) Third World Network (AIMES-TWN), the Alternative Mining Indaba, Norwegian Church Aid Partner Network.

These networks support an exchange of knowledge, practice and methods. Cooperation happens on joint initiatives and campaigns.

Partner organisations influence and support the planning and implementation of some of the Foundation's work, especially that which relates to campaigns targeting corporations and the influencing of government.

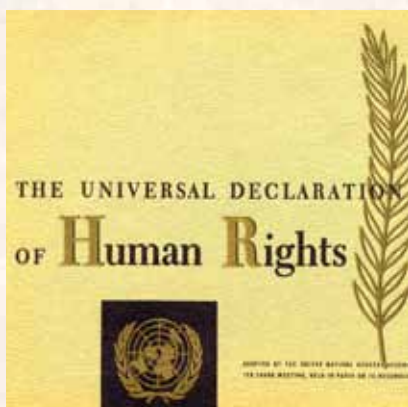
The Church Leaders Call for Responsible Investment (CLC)

The main objective of the CLC is to heighten the awareness of churches and civil society of the need for big corporations to adhere to ethical standards of behaviour.

The CLC is a set of ethical considerations for responsible investment in Africa. The aim is to develop a common perspective among church leaders on what is responsible investment.

The CLC serves as a tool to forge a broad-based campaign of church and religious leaders and civil society organisations for investment that serves the needs of people.

A copy of the CLC can be found and endorsed on the Foundation's website.



Alternative Mining Indaba

The Economic Justice Network (EJN), Bench Marks Foundation, IANRA and Norwegian Church Aid co-hosted and organised the 2012 Alternative Mining Indaba.

The objective was to bring concrete campaigns to the fore and consolidate previous efforts to promote governance and transparency in the extractive industries sector. This third Alternative Mining Indaba was attended by 85 delegates. Participants came from 10 African countries and from the UK, Brazil, Philippines, Ecuador, Norway, Sweden and Canada.

Extension of the Monitoring School

The community monitoring programme outside of South Africa in the SADC region falls under the ART programme. The Monitoring School now has an extended footprint in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Zambia.

Participants from the three countries, together with the community facilitators in South Africa, participated in a training session in March 2012 on how to use the *Resource Manual* in their respective contexts. Subsequent to the training, the Monitoring School was extended to Tanzania, where training was conducted in the Mbezi, Geita and Temeke communities.

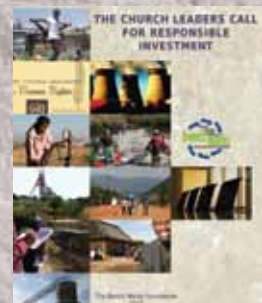
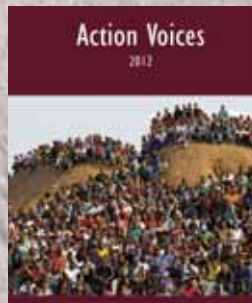
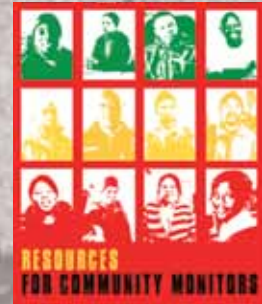
In Zambia and Zimbabwe the local schools were conducted and taken further by Caritas in Ndola in Zambia and Zimbabwe Lawyers for the Environment (ZELA).

The Bench Marks Foundation also participated in the hosting of two national Alternative Mining Indaba initiatives in Zambia and Mozambique.

The Foundation visited the Tete province in Mozambique in collaboration with the Steelworkers Humanity Fund to introduce the Monitoring School project to communities impacted on by Brazilian TNC, Vales.

VOICE POWER

The Bench Marks Foundation was widely mentioned in the media during the year. This generated greater awareness of the gaps in CSR pronouncements of companies and helped the development of the Foundation as a significant commentator on mining.



Publications

The *Rustenburg Community Report* was launched on the 23rd January 2012, in Potchefstroom, on the occasion of the launch of the Bench Marks Centre.

The *Policy Gap 6* report was launched on the 14th August 2013. Two companies responded to the report and their responses together with the report can be seen on the Bench Marks Foundation's website.

A selection of stories together with action plans appeared in *Action Voices 2012*.



Websites

Research, information and press releases are regularly updated on the Bench Marks Foundation's website.

Community monitors' blogs and progress on the Monitoring School project can be read on the website: www.communitymonitors.net.





Just World Conference participants.

Just World Conference

The “Just World Conference – Whose Resources?” was organised by the Bench Marks Foundation, Norwegian Church Aid and Fredskorpset Norway.

The conference was held at Willow Park Conference Centre in Johannesburg on 29th – 31st October 2012.

Participants came from local communities, civil society organisations and religious leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo,

Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Guatemala, Madagascar, South Sudan, Burundi and Norway.

The objective of the conference was to reflect on the ownership of natural resources and the effects of extractive industries.

Representatives from local communities in various countries were invited to present on their experiences of the effects of mining.

Academics from a variety of

universities gave presentations on the different models of ownership of natural resources.

The key outcomes of the conference will feed into ongoing initiatives to address and campaign against the different forms of injustices in the extractive industries sector.

The Annual General Meeting of the Bench Marks Foundation took place on the 31st October 2012 at the conclusion of the Conference.



Rt. Revd Jean Paul Solo, Bishop of the Diocese of Toamasina, Madagascar.



Participants at the “Just World – Whose Resources?” Conference.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Musonda Trevor Mwamba, Bishop of Botswana and Bishop Jo Seoka.

Who are the real illegal miners of South Africa?

Interview with illegal miners in the Free State

Pule Ledaka

Gold and Uranium Belt Impact Censoring Organisation (GUBICO)

We visited an undisclosed location in the goldfields to talk to the *Zama Zama*, illegal small-scale miners.

We were received with hostility as we were carrying a camera. They did not want to engage with us for fear of being exposed to the media or even worse, we could be the police!

After some discussion, they agreed to send a few people to come and talk to us.

They told us that most of them were working in the mining houses and the extraction of minerals from the ground is the thing they know best. When the large gold mines in the region closed down and retrenched workers, they became small-scale miners.

They acknowledged that they are labelled illegal miners, though they feel that they are not. Instead, they are just trying to survive after much of their pension funds were not paid, or only proportionally paid. They had little other skills and there was no retraining after the mines closed. Illegal mining was the only opportunity for them to use their skills to survive.

The person who spoke to us pointed in the direction of where they were working and said, "Many of us were dismissed on the grounds of occupational illness, which the mining companies refuse to admit that they caused."

Many of them were elderly and middle-aged men. Some were from labour-sending areas in and outside South Africa.

They were forced to find other means of sending money to their dependents after they were not properly compensated by the mining companies. They told us of the blame shifting by every mining department they went to, while they became sicker waiting for compensation.

They told us that there were high levels of illiteracy and despondency and little support from the labour movements once you were retrenched.



Union organisers took less interest in your issues once you joined the anguish of the reserve army of labour. Union organisers had never visited them on these sites to understand their reasons for doing what they were doing. The only visits were from police officials who came to arrest them and beat them half dead.

A gentleman, who had a cloth around his face for fear of being identified, said the brutality that they experienced at the hands of the police was never reported by the mainstream press. He went into detail about how they were beaten and when they reported the incidents, their cases didn't

get to court. How easily and quickly the media and courts of law found them guilty, while their side of the story was never told.

The perception exists that they are criminals, but they are also citizens with rights and needs.

At this stage I stopped writing and lifted my head as I looked around. I realised we were now surrounded by tens of other miners who were listening attentively, as others were interchangeably telling of their struggle!

We requested a short tour of their operation. They were reluctant, but agreed to show us how they manually process their minerals.

I was surprised when they told us how much they make after processing, and more importantly, the little quantity of water they require in the process. This is nothing compared to the thousands of litres used to refine minerals by huge mining operations.

We left without knowing how to offer our assistance, except to tell their stories. We learnt that *Zama Zamas* are people faced with the reality of life which requires them to do what they can to survive.

The bottom line is that there has to be a national public platform or forum to engage on the impact, importance and possible contribution of small-scale mining. This forum should look at how small-scale miners can benefit and contribute to our economy. ■

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“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”

Nelson Mandela