



the federation for a sustainable environment

REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2019

News Media

- Bloomberg (Edwin Naidu): Energy Challenges and Solutions
- ENCA: 1 December at 7pm, eNCA took a critical look at the country's water woes in a special debate titled 'The Uncomfortable Truth'.
Link: <https://www.enca.com/analysis/uncomfortable-truth-sas-water-crisis>
- Voice of America (Franco Puglisi & Marize de Klerk) (ongoing in December 2019)

Research Assistance:

- Mooi River Catchment Management Forum: Andre Loots, Tlokwe Municipality re Waste Water Treatment Works and sewage
- Prof Elize van Eeden (North West University): "*Towards Proactive Activities & Initiatives for a sustainable Far West Rand in the 21st century*" (ongoing in December 2019)
- Dr Bruno Oberle (Chair), Ms Karen Nash (member of the Expert Panel on the Global Tailings Review) and Audrey Hackett: Global Tailings Review
- Manuel Dietrich: PhD candidate of Sociology. The research focuses on the co-habitation in diverse neighborhoods with Mindalore, Soul City, Tudor Shaft and Lewisham as research sites (ongoing in December 2019)
- David Grimsley: Roodeplaat, Hammanskraal, Rietvlei, Vaal Dam and AMD challenges
- Willie Fudzani

- Nino Rodda: Proposed PhD research
- The Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO): Project titled “Mind the Gap”, which is a collaborative effort with 10 partner organisations from across the globe. Mind the Gap aims to expose corporate strategies that are being used to avoid responsibility or being held accountable for human rights violations.
- Tharisa Mine: Closure and Rehabilitation Optimization Project
- Rosina Nkuna (Ph.D. candidate) Institute for the development of energy for African Sustainability, UNISA

Publications (ongoing in December 2019)

- Community Engagement Book Publication South Africa and Transnationally: “*Engagement with Mining Affected Communities: Lessons Learnt. A Case Study within the West Rand Goldfields*” (Draft)
- “*The cultural legacy of mining in the Far West Rand*” (Draft) (The visible cultural legacy of the region which includes several interesting historical legacies that vary from the environmental, to water, to sinkholes, to human memory and indigenous knowledge systems)

Litigation and interventions (ongoing in December 2019)

- Atha Africa (please see: <https://cer.org.za/programmes/mining/litigation/mabola-protected-environment>)
- Mintails Group (Legal Resources Centre’s (LRC) letter on behalf of the FSE to the Chief Inspector of Mines: notification of damage to property and the progressive collapse of infrastructure of the Mintails Group and foreseeable injury to motorists using main reef road within the magisterial district of Mogale City Local Municipality)
- Dilokong Chrome Mine (DCM)– request for clarity on Department of Minerals and Energy’s response following its inspection of DCM (Ref. Azwihangwisi Mulaudzi)
- Protea Mine: PAIA REQUEST (HO2810AR) (GRANTED ON THE 14TH OF JUNE 2019) - DOCUMENTS STILL OUTSTANDING; and NOTIFICATION TO THE DMR AND DWS OF ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GUIDELINE ON CYANIDE MANAGEMENT FOR GOLD MINING AND REQUEST FOR AN INVESTIGATION
- Bauba A Hlabirwa Mining Investments’ Moeijeljik Mine (Bauba) and the reason why Bauba was not required to establish a Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) for the storage of tailings on cement drying slabs and a dry tailings stockpile instead of a TSF. Request to DWS regarding the reason why the DWS permitted Bauba to employ this alternative method of storing tailings while other platinum and chrome producers are required to establish TSFs for the storage of their residue and tailings.

- William Patrick Bower Mine (Request for Environmental Audit Reports in terms of Regulation 34(6) of GNR 982 in Government Gazette 38282 dated 4th December 2014 as amended by GNR 326 (7 April 2017) (“the EIA Regulations”) published under Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) as amended.

Comments on (ongoing in December 2019)

- GLUBAY COAL (PTY) LTD APPLICATION FOR THE SPRINGFILED COAL MINING PROJECT (GP 30/5/1/2/2/(10084) MR
- Application number: NW30/5/1/1/2/10151 within the Mooi River Catchment Area
- Marievale: TSF Project (Final Scoping Report)
- Valley Silts Project (Ergo Mining Pty Ltd): Draft EIAr/EMPr
- Reclamation and reprocessing of the Soweto Cluster Dumps Application (Crown Gold Recoveries Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of DRDGOLD Limited
- Comments on Eskom’s applications in terms of the Minimum Emission Standards in March 2019 and on the 29 November 2019 Eskom submitted further applications for suspension and/or alternative limits of the Minimum Emissions Standards for Acacia and Port Rex Peaking gas power stations, as well as for Grootvlei, Matimba and Medupi coal-fired power stations to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.



Community Assistance (ongoing in December 2019)

- Yunus Chamda & Community (Glubay Coal Application)
- Drakenstein Municipality/Yara Fertilisers and the Charleston Hill Action Group regarding:
 - The alleged air emissions by Yara Fertilisers;
 - The allegation that Yara Fertilisers and the Drakenstein Municipality are withholding information from CHAG which is necessary for them to exercise their right to an environment that is not harmful to health and wellbeing;
 - The alleged flawed process which were followed regarding the application by Yara Fertilisers for the expansion of its operations.

(Request for information in terms of the provisions of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2 of 2000)

- Slovoville Community/Harmony Gold (reference: Bongumusa Mbata) re alleged health impacts alleged to be as a result of Harmony Gold’s Doornkop Operations
- Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Association (CHWHSA) re sewage (Percy Stewart Waste Water Treatment Works) and Western Basin AMD Treatment Plant (ongoing in December 2019)

- Joseph Modise: Robinson Lake’s historic pollution and the apportionment of liability - Randfontein Golf and Country Club/Harmony Gold/Rand Uranium
- Alma Zwart
- Successful intervention and closing of file: Herman Swart /Anglo American Coal SA matter

Date	Activity	Additional Comments
2 December	Department of Environment Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) - Waterberg/Bojanala Priority Area Multi Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting: Attendance and participation (oral and written comments)	 <p>State of air for WBPA MSRG 2 Dece</p> <p><i>“Concluding Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data overview form Dec 2018 to Dec 2019 •PM2.5& PM10 exceeded in Mokopane and Xanadu •O3 exceeded at all stations •According to the NAAQS, the WBPA is in non-compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (PM2.5& PM10 and O3).”
3 December	Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation (DWS) – Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment Management Forum (CMF) meeting: Attendance and participation (oral and written comments)	
5 December	US AID – Screening of Jozi Gold Documentary Film. Attendance by inter alia a team of officials from the Council of Geoscience, Water Research Commission, South African Medical Research Council, etc.	 <p>Invitation Jozi Gold 5 December 2019.pd</p> <p><i>From: Vusi Nkosi <vusi.nkosi@mrc.ac.za> Sent: 09 December 2019 11:56 AM To: Mariette Liefferink <mariette@pea.org.za> Subject: RE: CORDIAL INVITATION: Jozi Gold Screening December 5th</i></p> <p><i>Dear Mariette,</i></p> <p><i>The documentary was educational and inspiring.</i></p>

		<p><i>Kind regards</i> <i>Vusi Nkosi</i> Senior Scientist : Environment and Health Research Unit South African Medical Research Council</p>
7 December	<p>Meeting: Niel Pretorius (CEO: DRD Gold) and Prof Elize van Eeden re “<i>Towards Proactive Activities & Initiatives for a sustainable Far West Rand in the 21st century</i>”</p> <p>Meeting with be Dr Bruno Oberle (Chair), Ms Karen Nash (member of the Expert Panel on the Global Tailings Review) and Audrey Hackett and research assistance: Global Tailings Review. Written and oral comments.</p>	<p><u>“Background:</u></p> <p><i>“Global Tailings Review is a programme of work co-convened by the ICMM, the Principles for Responsible Investment and the United Nations Environment Programme. These co-convenors share a commitment to the adoption of global best practices on tailings storage facility management across the mining industry. To further this commitment, they co-convened the Global Tailings Review to establish an international standard on tailings management.</i></p> <p><u>“The role of stakeholders:</u></p> <p><i>While it is mining companies who are responsible for the safe and secure management of tailings facilities, there is broad acceptance that they cannot succeed if they operate in isolation. To create a step change, other actors will need be involved. Local, regional and central authorities have a critical role to play in embedding aspects of the Standard into licensing, permitting and inspections. Civil society and other such organisations can push for best practice by vocalising the perspectives of their constituency, in particular at moments such as these when international standards are being developed. Investors can exert influence by insisting on compliance with the Standard as a condition for lending and insurers can encourage adoption by linking implementation to the cost of insurance. Downstream customers can buy or use minerals and metals that are responsibly sourced, and local communities can demand that a company complies with the Standard to support their social license to operate.</i></p> <p><u>“Invitation to participate in the public consultation</u></p> <p><i>“An expert panel has developed the draft Standard which is now open for public consultation.”</i></p>
9& 10 December	Engagements with Perspective Asset Management Company (ref. Mikael Liefferink)	
18 December	Tour of the West Rand gold fields and the South Deep Mine’s Doornpoort Tailing Storage Facility (TSF) with	Photographs to follow.

	Gold Fields' South Deep Mine and the Bekkersdal community	
24 December	Comments on the Continuation of the Integrated Vaal River System Reconciliation Strategy Study (Phase 2): Draft Minutes SSC 3 for review	