

**Executive Summary**  
**NiZA Programme**  
**Peace, Principles and Participation**  
Corporate Social Responsibility and Natural Resource  
Exploitation in Southern Africa



**Netherlands institute for Southern Africa**

Authors: Gerno Kwaks, Kirsten Hund, Bas Zwiers, Jolien Schure

Date: October 2004

Economic Empowerment Programme  
Netherlands institute for Southern Africa

PO Box 10707

1001 ES Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Phone: +31-(0)20-520 62 10

Fax: + 31-(0)20-520 62 49

[economie@niza.nl](mailto:economie@niza.nl)

[www.niza.nl](http://www.niza.nl)

## JOINT DECLARATION

**From August 15-18 2004, the Netherlands institute for Southern Africa (NiZA) and 19 Civil Society Organisations from 5 SADC countries -Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Zambia- met at Centurion, Pretoria to discuss and concretise partnership agreements and explore areas of possible national and regional collaboration within the ‘Peace, Principles and Participation programme’.**

“While our countries are very rich in natural resources, the majority of our people suffer from the exploitation of their treasures, instead of sharing from the benefits.

We believe it is important that the people of Angola, Botswana, the DRC, South Africa and Zambia have an effective say in the appropriation of the benefits of natural resources of their countries and can effectively express their opinion about the negative impacts that exploitation of these resources can have.

Daily, the majority of the people we serve have to live with the following problems:

- Violation of human rights
- Lack of transparency
- Environmental injustices causing damage, pollution and health problems
- Violation of labour rights
- Illegal exploitation of resources
- Forced removals
- Deterioration of means of livelihoods and destruction of local economies
- Lack of spin-off to local economies
- Lack of an appropriate legislative framework and weak enforcement mechanisms
- Lack of compliance with existing norms
- Unsustainable behaviour

Jointly, in the South and the North, we will continue to enhance our work in order to be more effective stakeholders in the decision making process with governments, industries and International Institutions (African Union, SADC, EU, Worldbank, IMF) in order to create equality in governance and to lessen the power of corporate influence on governance. This is to ensure that industries and governments are held accountable and reliable for the consequences of their actions. Together we strive for the following:

- **Peace:** To end violent conflict and to establish a stable enabling environment for poverty eradication by means of a just, balanced and sustainable socio-economic development
- **Principles:** To develop a set of moral and/or legal standards that the various economic actors have to comply with, and by which they can be held accountable for, leading to sustained peace and social economic justice.
- **Participation:** To involve civil society in the debate on effects of economic activities on community livelihoods and the division of revenues generated by exploitation of natural resources.”

**Signed by:**

- Juventude Ecológica Angolana (JEA), Jubileu 2000, Mpalabanda , Rede Terra –**Angola**,
- The Botswana Council of Non Governmental Organisations – BOCONGO, Somarelang Tikologo, Botswana Mining Workers Union, -**Botswana**,
- CENADEP, OCEAN, ASADHO, NDS, -**Democratic Republic of the Congo**,
- BeFSA CSR, Groundwork, The National Children’s Rights Committee (NCRC), South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation (GRCF), - **South Africa**,
- Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, Development and Education Community Project (DECOP), Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP), -**Zambia**,
- The Netherlands institute for Southern Africa (NiZA), - **The Netherlands**.

## **Peace, Principles and Participation**

### **Corporate Social Responsibility and Natural Resource Exploitation in Southern Africa**

NiZA's Economic Empowerment Programme aims to support civil society organisations in SADC countries that are active in influencing and improving the socio-economic development policies of their countries to be socially and economically balanced.

Southern Africa's land, waters and forests are very rich in natural resources, but the majority of the population suffers from their exploitation, instead of benefiting. The 'Peace, Principles and Participation Programme: Corporate Social Responsibility and Natural Resource Exploitation' (the PPP Programme) intends to enhance the capacity of civil society organisations in Southern Africa in order to allow them to be more effective in tackling problems related to the exploitation of natural resources. This is to promote corporate social responsible behaviour and the involvement of communities in this sector, by making them more effective stakeholders in decision-making processes with governments, international organisations and the extractive industries operating in their countries.

Within the broader framework of Corporate Social Responsibility, three concepts that we believe are important to help realise, our goals are highlighted within this programme:

#### **Peace**

'Peace' refers to the abstinence of violent conflict and a situation of stability and social-economic governance that provides an enabling environment for sustainable development and social-economic justice. Government as well as companies have an important role to play to provide and maintain peace. SADC countries must be able to define and guard their own social and economic development. Strategies setting a framework for moral responsibility and replacing lawlessness with constructive parameters highlight the importance of principles.

#### **Principles**

'Principles' are the (voluntary or mandatory) norms, rules and regulations companies should live up to in order for them not to fuel violent conflict and to contribute to social-economic justice.

#### **Participation**

Civil society has an important role to play in monitoring the compliance with, and implementation of existing principles and the development of new ones by companies as well as governments; their 'participation' is vital.

#### **Linking North and South**

The PPP Programme is, in many ways, a logical consequence of NiZA's activities in the North on economic injustice and illegal resource exploitation. NiZA gained experiences and

knowledge within the Fatal Transactions campaign.<sup>1</sup> This international campaign aims to raise awareness in the North on the crucial relation between trade in Africa's natural resources, and the continuation and escalation of human rights violations and armed conflict.

The NiZA-Fatal Transactions campaign activities can be more effective when based on input from the South. The PPP Programme enables a structural co-operation between NiZA and Southern organisations that focus on company (mis)behaviour and the consequences of natural resource exploitation. By closely collaborating with the campaign and exchanging information or campaign material, these organisations will on the one hand be able to enlarge their influence in the SADC region, while the Fatal Transactions Campaign strengthens its credibility and influence with Northern consumers, companies and governments. Experience from the Fatal Transactions campaign will be shared with future PPP partner organisations to enhance their campaigning capacity, as the experience of partners will be used to improve the campaign.

### **Why?**

The PPP Programme believes that natural resources should contribute to a just and sustainable socio-economic development in Southern Africa, instead of financing war and inequality.

In the four year running period, starting January 1, 2005, the PPP Programme aims to enhance the capacity of a group of organisations in Angola, Botswana, the DRC, South Africa and Zambia, which share this vision. This support will help them become more effective stakeholders in decision-making processes with governments, international organisations and the extractive industries operating in their countries. This means that they will be strengthened in their ability to perform adequate networking, lobbying, monitoring and advocacy work on all the different aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility and the consequences of resource exploitation (individually, nationally and regionally).

### **Where?**

The first 4 years, the PPP Programme will focus on Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Zambia. In terms of natural resources, these countries are among the richest on the African continent. However, the extraction of oil, gold, timber and diamonds is rarely an engine for socio-economic growth and stability. On the contrary, the presence of these natural resources often contributes to inequality, instability, lack of transparency and conflict.

Many actors are involved in the consequences of the exploitation of natural resources in these countries. On the one hand there is a diverse group of national governments, rebel groups, neighbouring countries, multilateral organisations like the World Bank, international powers like the US or UK government, huge multinational companies, and small (local) rogue companies that are accountable to no-one. On the other hand, the group of actors that advocates for more responsible behaviour in the extractive sector is also very diverse; from

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.niza.nl/fataltransactions](http://www.niza.nl/fataltransactions)

the United Nations to international advocacy networks, local mineworkers unions, environmental groups, research institutes, consultancy firms and grassroots organisations.

NiZA has chosen to work with a selected group of local organisations that have the potential and will to be an important voice, representing their constituency and addressing social developmental issues with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility and natural resource exploitation.

Within the five countries, organisations are active on issues related to CSR and/or the exploitation of natural resources. These are for example: conflict diamonds, OECD-guidelines, transparency, environment and/or land rights. The NiZA PPP Programme is unique in its specific focus on capacity enhancement of local organisations, co-operating on a structural level with CSOs within a regional cross-boundary network on the integrated topic of CSR and the exploitation of natural resources.

### **Who?**

Nineteen organisations are joining NiZA as partners in the PPP Programme. They form a varied group of dedicated and inspired organisations that share an interest in -and activities on- the consequences of resource extraction, a lobby and advocacy potential, a networking role and a need for capacity development in various fields and levels.

Among them are trade unions, church-based organisations, environmental movements, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and human rights movements.

The organisations focus, among others, on illegal exploitation of resources, violation of human rights (by companies), employment and labour rights, transparency, destruction of livelihoods, environmental justice, and/or land rights.

### **How?**

The PPP Programme will facilitate the participating organisations to engage in activities that will enhance their capacity to be (more) effective stakeholders in the decision making procedures regarding (the consequences of) natural resource exploitation.

The expected results of these activities are:

- Reinforced internal organisational capacity by improving the skills of their staff and by improving their systems and structures in areas that support the functioning of the organisation
- The staff have enhanced technical skills related to Corporate Social Responsibility and natural resource exploitation
- The organisations have improved strategies and systems to collect and share information on CSR and natural resource exploitation
- The organisations participate more frequently and effectively in national and regional networks on CSR and natural resource exploitation.
- The organisations engage in information sharing, lobby and advocacy activities with relevant actors and stakeholders in the field of CSR and natural resource exploitation.
- The organisations have enhanced its outreach among its constituency through information dissemination, awareness raising and community mobilisation.

The organisations and their planned activities do not stand on their own. Apart from individual activities, the PPP partners also identified national and regional strategy activities, directed at both capacity enhancement and at joint lobby and advocacy strategies.

## **PPP Partner organisations**

### **Angola**

- Jubileu 2000 Angola
- Juventude Ecológica Angolana (JEA)
- Mpalabanda
- Rede Terra.

### **Botswana**

- The Botswana Council of Non Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO)
- Botswana Mining Workers Union (BMWU)
- Somarelang Tikologo (ST).

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

- Association Africaine de Droit de l'Homme / Katanga (ASADHO/Katanga)
- Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire (CENADEP)
- Nouvelle Dynamique Syndicale (NDS)
- Organisation Concertée des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature (OCEAN).

### **South Africa**

- Bench Marks Foundation of Southern Africa for Corporate Social Responsibility (BeFSA CSR)
- Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation (GRCF)
- Groundwork
- National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC)
- South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA).

### **Zambia**

- Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP)
- Development and Education Community Project (DECOP)
- Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU).