Mining Associations in Zambia Supporting Women in Small-Scale Mining: A Case Study of Zambian Women in Mining Association

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Abstract

This article focuses on the findings presented from the primary data collected on the Mining Associations in Zambia in general, supporting women in smallscale mining. Using the case study approach, particular attention is given to the Zambian Women in Mining Association (AZWIM) that was created specifically for women. The selection of the case study site was purposive since the association specifically supports women in small-scale mining. The data collected from the case study used the empirical method of observing the facts within their natural surroundings without any attempt to interpret those facts. In addition, eco-feminism as a feminist methodology that supports social change through activism was used to analyse the findings. Ideas and lessons were drawn from three selected examples from different parts of the world that embrace eco-feminist activism. Firstly, from 'The Chikpo Movement' in India where women saved the indigenous forests and their water resources from destruction by the limestone mining companies. Secondly, from the possibility to save from collapse the Brazilian dam which was created by the accumulation of the tailing over a decade of mining activities. The overflowing mud from the dam destroyed the communities and the eco-systems caused by the mining companies' negligence. Finally, from the feminist table an initiative formed after the death of thirty-four mine workers during a strike in Marikana, a mining town in South Africa to help not only the mine workers but the women who supported the men who went on strike. The case study findings showed that there was a clear need to use eco-feminist activism in the mining associations as per the ideas and lessons drawn from the three selected examples to overcome the oppression of women and damage to the environment in small-scale mining in Zambia.

Keywords: eco-feminism, activism, the Association of Zambian Women in Mining, small-scale mining

1.0 Introduction to Eco-feminist Activism

The purpose of this article is to show how eco-feminist activism can promote women's participation in small-scale mining through mining associations. Eco-feminism is based on a variety of different perspectives which not only connect to the different feminist understandings but also reflect different pressing environmental problems (Warren, 2015). The objective of the article is therefore to understand the eco-feminist standpoint and translate that into activism for the mining associations. By applying the three examples of the Chikpo Movement of 1978; the collapse of the

Brazilian dam in 2015; and finally the feminist table for the "Marikana Movement" of 2012. These associations can promote activism.

The Chikpo Movement of 1978 in India is the tree-hugging attempt to maintain sustainability, having its roots in an Indian Hindu culture that worshipped tree goddesses. To save the trees and support the traditional ecological use of forests for food, fuel, fodder, fertilizer, water and medicine, the women embraced the tress and organised direct confrontations with miners, lumberers and the police. The collapse of the Brazilian dam in 2015 as well as in 2019 was caused by the tailings released by the giant Brazilian mining company Vale S.A. The tailings stored in an enormous, bare-bones reservoir of mining waste were held back by little more than walls of sand and silt. When the dam collapsed in 2019, it released around twelve million cubic meters of tailings burying part of the community under it and destroying their livelihoods. Finally, a more recent movement that is directly linked to mining, 'The Feminist Table' is a modest initiative established in 2012 to address from a feminist perspective the crises of the black working class and peasant women in South Africa experience. It emerged from the "Marikana Movement" which acknowledges the support women provided to the striking miners in their long-standing strike action to earn a living wage.

1.1 Methodology Approaches

The article used eco-feminism as an environmental as well as a feminist approach. The arguments presented under the different strands of eco-feminist thinkers have shown that there is a connection between women and nature. In addition to the eco-feminist approaches, a case study research methodology of qualitative nature was used to collect primary data and secondary data from the mining associations using interviews and observations. The focus was on the Zambian Women in Mining Association (AZWIM) as a case study. Further, the ideas and lessons drawn from the three selected examples were applied to the data collected to determine if activism in mining associations can be used to overcome the oppression of women and the environment in small-scale mining in Zambia.

1.2 Eco-feminist Activism explained in the Three Selected Examples

Phillips (2014) states that, 'Eco-feminism exists both as a diverse academic discourse' and as a practical movement for social change arising from the struggles of women to sustain themselves, their families and their communities in the face of maldevelopment (Shiva, 1990) and environmental degradation (Murphy, 1997). The characterisation of eco-feminism was introduced by Warren, J.K. *et al.* (1993) as 'women-nature connections. Eco-feminism contends that there are important interconnections between the domination of women and the domination of the environment (Anon, 2020). This is because women, as primary caretakers of families are placed on the front line of the environmental crisis through their nurturing responsibility (Dobscha, S., 1993). The ideas and lessons are drawn from following

the three examples of eco-feminist activism. The first example of 'The Chikpo Movement' took place in the Nahi-Kala village in Doon valley in the Grarhwal Himalayas in India (Miles, M. & Shiva, V., 1993). The women had organised themselves and had set up a "chikpo camp" on the road to a limestone quarry to prevent the trucks of the mining company from passing to extract the limestone from the mountains. The destruction caused by the limestone mine was described by the community in terms of the forests with indigenous species of trees which was rich and densely nourished by twelve springs and a perennial waterfall all of which had now dried out. Mining according to the Nahi-Kala community had killed their forests and streams and their source of life and that is why the community was ready to give up their lives to save the forests and the river (Shiva, V., 1993). Women had struggled for the protection and regeneration of these forests (Rao, M., 2012). From the first example, the ideas and lessons drawn show that eco-feminist activism should be proactive to prevent oppression of women and the destruction of the environment.

The collapse of the Brazilian dam as the second example, was one of the deadliest mining accidents in Brazilian history and was a real tragedy (Anon, 2020). All the elements of a potential catastrophe were present, and warning signs were overlooked for years. According to experts, the metals in the tailings were incorporated into the river's soil and affected the region's whole eco-system. According to environmentalists, the waste stream reached the São Francisco River the water source for most of the communities living along the river. The mud destroyed the community's way of life and it is women who are most affected by the collapse of the dam. The lessons and ideas drawn from this example, show the lack of activism needed to prevent such tragic incidents. The question that remains unanswered throughout this tragic incident is the role that activists would have played in protecting both damages to nature as well as women's oppression by the mining company holding the tailing dumps.

Thirdly, the feminist table is one of the more recent initiatives which has resulted in making visible the exploitation of women and nature (Fakier & Cock, J., 2018). The initiative was formed after the death of thirty-four mine workers who were killed by the South African Police during the strike in the mining town called Marikana. The feminist table as a form of eco-feminist activism could bring about change in the manner in which the mining associations would contribute to the protection of the environment and women in small-scale mining communities.

1.3 The Situation of Mining Associations in Zambia

In Zambia, mining is carried out by at least twelve large scale mines, more than 400 small-scale miners and unspecified number of illegal miners and artisanal miners who are estimated to be over 5000 (UNECA, 2020). These persons engaged in mining and mining related activities need representation in one form or another. To be effective this representation should not be on an individual basis but through associations using collective action. Some associations look into the affairs of both

women and men such as the Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM) and those that are specifically created to assist women only such as the Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM). The focus of this article is on AZWIM and the activism that it promotes for women and men involved in small-scale mining. For this reason mining Associations intending to protect women's rights in small-scale mining ought to ensure that they are affiliated with AZWIM.

The formation of associations and membership to these organisations is encouraged by the Zambian government as part of the condition to access loans to finance the small-scale mining industry (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2011). Research on mining associations in terms of whether they are useful and if they do indeed promote activism is fragmented (Dreschler, B., 2002). This gap means that there is no systematic analysis of the contribution that mining associations have made so far in dealing with empowering women and protecting the environment in small-scale mining. This article fills this gap to some extent by using the case study method and presenting data on the formation, structure, membership, challenges and operations of AZWIM, the association representing women in the small-scale mining sector in Zambia. The selection of AZWIM as a case study was purposive since its membership is restricted to women only.

Another association that was focused on was the Emerald and Semi-Precious Small-Scale Mining Association of Zambia (ESSMAZ). The information about the physical location as well as the visibility of the mining association is a general problem. The visibility of these associations is hampered by the fact that they do not have any form of a website or other forms of internet information that can easily give their physical location as well as contact details and information about what they do and their membership.

The information given to the author by the General Secretary of ESSMAZ in an interview (2020) was scanty since there were no formal reporting mechanisms by the members of the association. The General Secretary confirmed that emerald mining takes place in restricted areas in towns and access to these areas is restricted. Any visitor or researcher would be required to purchase a pass issued by the Zambian Women in Mining Association to conduct a site visit. The association represents the miners by listening to them and making representations to the government on their behalf. Further, he stated that the association had succeeded in suspending the fifteen per cent export duty to be paid by the small-scale miners from the recent budget by making representations to the government on behalf of its members. The General Secretary lamented that the small-scale mining sector was burdened with a lot of different taxation regimes which would result in killing the industry instead of supporting it. In terms of physical location of the mining sites for its members, small-scale emerald mining takes place about fifty-seven kilometres from Kafue, an area known as the Kafubu emerald restricted area. In order to access the mining site there is a requirement to obtain a temporary pass at a fee of Five Hundred Kwacha (K500) per month from the Association. With this pass, data was collected from the mining site. However, the General Secretary advised that the mining site could

not be accessed during the rainy season that lasts from November to late April. It was observed by the researcher during the collection of data that it is difficult for the small-scale miners to access these associations due to lack of information about them and no coordination or networking among the mining associations and each one follows the different objectives set out by the donor that provide the funding.

1.4 Structure of the Small-Scale Mining Associations in Zambia

There are several small-scale mining associations in Zambia including Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM); Federation of Small-Scale Mining Association of Zambia (FSSMAZ); Small-Scale Miners Association of Zambia (SSMAZ); Association of Zambia Mineral Exploration Companies (AZMEC) and Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM). These associations are found in every province, town or district where small-scale mining is conducted to ensure the protection of their members. For example, the Kalomo Miners Association (KMA) based in Southern province protects all miners including women in Kalomo district only. On the other hand, some associations have been formed to protect miners involved in one particular type of mineral such as the Emerald and Semi-Precious Small-Scale Mining Association of Zambia (ESSMAZ).

The establishment of an Association is not structured in any way but depends upon a particular need for example ESSMAZ and AZWIM that represent emerald and semi-precious stones and women respectively. In other words, there is no linkage or connection between the umbrella body such as FSSMAZ representing the whole consortium of the Associations dealing with small-scale mining and the other Associations. Further, there is no hierarchal structure in the formation of ASM Associations as illustrated below (Figure 1) because most of the Associations deal with issues related to both large and small-scale miners. The structure is also complicated by the fact that there are several associations with overlapping functions. However, the only known association that deals exclusively with women in mining in Zambia is AZWIM. Apart from the number of associations and the overlapping functions, it is clear from the voices of small-scale miners that international policy dialogues would result in an economically and environmentally productive small-scale mining sector in Zambia. This statement supports the argument that activism through these

associations needs to be harnessed in order for the voices of the women to be heard.

Figure 1: Mining Associations in Zambia



Source: Generated by the Researcher

From the above figure, it can be noted that the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development is mandated to ensure the development and management of mineral resources in sustainability for the benefit of the people of Zambia (Anon, 2020). Under this mandate, the Ministry guides and assists the associations wherever possible. The Ministry is also responsible for ensuring that mining regulations for both Large-scale and Small-scale mining are complied with. As the regulator of the mining sector, the Ministry offers consultations to the Associations (Association of Zambian Women in Mining, 2020). There is no set hierarchal structure formed among the various associations but the only connecting factor between them is that they are established with the objectives to deal with issues relating to the mining sector. The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources is the overseer or is the line Ministry for these Associations and has several departments performing different roles, functions and mandates. The departments include Geological survey, Human Rights and Administration, Mining Cadastre, Mines Development, Mines Safety, Planning and Information and Finance, to mention but a few (Anon, 2020). The seven associations indicated in Figure 1 above are discussed below.

1.4.1 The Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM)

Originally established in September 1942, The Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM)

was formerly known as the Northern Rhodesia Chamber of Mines of Zambia until it was replaced by the Copper Industry Services Bureau (CISB) in 1965. Following the privatisation of the mine assets in 2000, the Zambia Chamber of mines was re-established (Anon, 2020). The ZCM is registered as an association for mining and allied companies both large and small. The association, however, represents mainly the interests of large-scale mines as compared to supporting the small-scale mines (Siwale, 2018). In terms of the structure of the Chamber, it is governed by a constitution while the policy-making body is the Council drawn from member companies. Membership to the Chamber is voluntary and comprises of four categories as; Class A, Class B, Class C and Associate members. The classification is based on the type of mining license that a particular mine or miner holds in terms of the Mines and Minerals Development Act of 2015. The licences include exploration license mining license and mineral processing license depending on whether it is a large scale or small-scale mining operation. There are also other permits such as the mineral trading permit that has to be obtained by the mining companies.

1.4.2 The Federation of Small-Scale Miners Association of Zambia (FSSMAZ)

On the other hand, the Federation of Small-Scale Miners Association of Zambia (FSSMAZ) was registered with the Registrar of Societies in 2008. This is an umbrella body of all the Small-Scale Mining Associations operating in Zambia. It has sixteen affiliated member associations representing all the ten provinces of Zambia. The Federation is managed by an elected executive committee representing all the sixteen associations. The executive is elected at an interval of every three years at the general conference (Federation of Small-Scale Mining Association of Zambia (2020). The Association encourages membership of both women as well as men involved in small-scale mining. As a Federation, the association represents about three thousand members from all provinces in Zambia and has an additional 25,000 more members who benefit from the small-scale mines through job creation (Commerce Gazette, 2020). The association undertook a baseline survey with ZCCM-IH to assist with data collection to develop the small-scale mining sector in Zambia. The assistance to small-scale miners should be distributed transparently and equitably going by the data collected. The survey subsequently recommended joint ventures between ZCCM-IH and small-scale miners as a means of bringing about real investment in small-scale mining as opposed to the small-scale mining sector providing for itself (Commerce Gazette, 2020).

1.4.3 Small-Scale Miners Association of Zambia (SSMAZ)

The general Association that deals with small-scale mining in Zambia is the Small-Scale Miners Association of Zambia (SSMAZ). This association has a membership of small-scale miners situated anywhere within Zambia. The association aims at

educating, training, demonstrating and monitoring small-scale mining activities in Zambia and to improve occupational safety and health in these mines (Mwebantu News, 2017).

1.4.4 Emerald and Semi-Precious Small-Scale Mining Association of Zambia (ESSMAZ)

Other Associations such as the Emerald and Semi-Precious Small-Scale Mining Association of Zambia (ESSMAZ) are more specific and have a mandate to deal in the mining and exploration of a certain type of mineral only. The ESSMAZ has a membership of small-scale emerald mines only. Its secretariat is situated in Kitwe but the offices are operated by employees that report to work in Kitwe but reside in Luanshya and Chingola. In terms of the available data, it was difficult for the association to have accurate and updated data about Small-scale mining because not all miners are members of the association. The available information confirmed that there are about 400 small-scale miners in the Kafubu emerald restricted area. Most of the miners are not involved in active mining as producers except the two slightly bigger mines (Lungu & Shikwe, 2007). The miners become members of the association voluntarily and there is no form of reporting mechanism requirement by the association on the mining activities. Further, the records indicated that only one woman is actively involved in mining in the Kafubu emerald restricted area and that one other co-operative mine is operated by a woman. This would mean that only about two or three women are involved in mining in the Kafubu emerald restricted area. The only requirement for membership is that once the mining license is obtained, the mining company or the individual who pay the annual membership fee becomes a member of the association and benefits from the representations made to the government by the association on behalf of its members.

1.4.5 Kalomo Miners Association (KMA)

The other specific Association for small-scale miners is Kalomo Miners Association (KMA) which is in Southern province of Zambia, Kalomo district. The creation of this association is a clear suggestion that there are associations created in each province, district and town. This association looks into the affairs of small-scale miners that are affiliated with it in terms of geographical area and not in terms of mining a particular mineral for example, ESSMAZ.

1.4.6 Association of Zambia Mineral Exploration Companies (AZMEC)

Association of Zambia Mineral Exploration Companies (AZMEC) is an association specifically for mining companies holding exploration licenses only. It is set up with several aims and objectives. To provide a discussion forum and a dedicated lobby group for mineral exploration companies and mining companies carrying out exploration. The forum is extended to government representatives, donor agencies, NGOs, service providers, academic institutions and other interested parties in Zambia with the view to contributing to the growth, promotion and sustainable

development of the sector. The membership to the association is in four categories namely: Large Scale, Small Scale, associate and Individual. This simply means that AZMEC looks into the affairs of both large and small-scale miners.

1.4.7 Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM)

Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM) is an Association that deals with small-scale mining specifically for women. The Association is managed and operated by women only. AZWIM members' vision for small-scale mining is that in the next five years the association should build the capacity of other mining associations to engage and dialogue with government and international donors. At the same time the association should reach more members to promote education and the benefits of the formalisation of small-scale mining (Anon, 2020).

1.5 Struggles Encountered by the Associations Representing the Small-Scale Mining Sector

Generally, the small-scale mining sector faces numerous challenges which have resulted in minimal economic contribution to the national economy by this sector (Milimo, I., 2018). Several struggles facing the sector have been identified. Among the main challenges is non-compliance with statutory rules and regulations, such as non-payment of annual license fees and area charges. On the reporting side are non-submission of mineral production returns and non-submission of annual reports. Non-contribution towards the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and non-adherence to the environmental regulations pose the biggest challenge to this sector. Non-adherence to environmental regulations by the mines adversely affects all stakeholders of the small-scale mining communities. Mining operations by the small-scale miners are often undertaken haphazardly, for example, overburden is dumped randomly around the pit and proper benching is shunned in an attempt to minimise costs. This results in environmental degradation where the mining sites are located. Several Associations have been established to assist the small-scale miners to overcome some of the challenges faced by the industry. Environmental problems are one area that the mining association can tackle in order to assist small-scale miners through activism. This article supports the argument that the mining associations are better placed to support coordinated activism to assist small-scale miners to overcome some of the challenges. Additionally, small-scale miners often lack the most basic social and economic infrastructure needed to break out of extreme poverty(Siegel, S. & Viega, M.M., 2009) making them unable to successfully educate their children, build upon their productive assets, and move ahead economically (Carter, A.S., Hayes, K. & Ziulkowski, A., 2009). Inappropriate technologies, poor information, low levels of environmental awareness and a low asset base perpetuate this poverty trap which the small-scale miners face.

The mining associations on the other hand face many specific challenges in representing small-scale miners as the president of FSSMAZ noted (Anon, 2020). The federation has been facing a number of problems that were clearly outlined at

the mining conference relating to the environment, health and safety concerns and including labour among others. After several days of discussion, a key output of the conference was the signing of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Declaration on small-scale mining and Quarrying that provides for both gender and environmental issues (Anon, 2020). The call for participation of women in small-scale mining was as outlined: 'Affirming the recognition by The Harare Guidelines of the central role and contribution of women to small-scale mining, and the identification and elimination of the barriers that hinder their effective participation.' While in terms of small-scale mining and the Associations the declaration advocated for the support in transforming the small-scale mining to protect the environment through activism as follows.

Affirming the division of responsibilities of the Agenda for Action of the International Roundtable, where governments take primary responsibility for improving the legal and regulatory conditions for artisanal mining and for ensuring that the appropriate institutions to carry out this mandate are established and adequately financed, NGOs and ASM associations support the transformation of ASM by mobilising and organising miners into groups and training them to mobilise financial resources and protect the environment, multilateral organisations catalyse the transformation by disseminating best practices and experiences in ASM, financing policy reforms and targeted actions in the sector including supporting microfinance programmes and while the actions expected of international mining companies were not clearly stipulated, they were expected to support the transformation of ASM in order to reduce social tensions with local miners and Indigenous People.

The small-scale mining association's role in transforming the small-scale mining sector has been supported by Siwale (2018) arguing that mining associations in Zambia are financially weak and highly dependent on government, donors and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). As such, their activities mirror the objectives of the donors and governments who are willing to offer financial support to these associations. For example, the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme (from 2014 todate) focuses on training in environmental management and value-addition amongst others, with only small amounts available for grants to its member associations. On the other hand, Zambia Development Agency (ZDA), is a state unit with the objective to support enterprise development in Zambia.

The agency has discontinued offering loans to small enterprises or miners but focuses specifically on training. When in reality training is not the only activity in mining that requires funding. Much more funding is required to address environmental as well as health and safety concerns in the small-scale mining sector. This support in favour of activities of secondary importance to miners is disappointing because it is pursued despite limited, to no proof of success (Siwale, 2018). This has led some association members to allege that government officials and NGOs use training as an opportunity to gain allowances as monetary compensation while miners who are members do not benefit in any way. The transformation of the associations supporting small-scale mining will result in overcoming the struggles faced by both

the small-scale miners as well as the ones experienced by the members representing them.

1.6 Reflections on Activism in AZWIM

The need to establish an association specifically for women only was because for a long time mining in Zambia has generally been regarded as male-dominated but then in recent years, a number of women have entered this sector. Very few studies have discussed mining associations for women especially in terms of the structure, formation, membership and challenges. The available broader reports and studies present fragmented accounts of these associations in terms of whether they are useful or not in assisting women in small-scale mining (Dreshler, B., 2002). 'This has led to mixed accounts but no systematic analysis of mining associations in a particular context or across countries.'(Siwale, 2018). Using the case study method this part of the article reflects on the role that AZWIM plays in supporting women in small-scale mining by using the three selected examples and the lessons learnt about ecofeminist activism.

Following the example of the chikpo movement from India, AZWIM, through ecofeminist activism which connects women to nature, can claim the natural resources for the women small-scale miners. In other words, if women can come together through the association and through activism, they can claim their natural resources while protecting the environment. In terms of the lessons learnt from the second example, the collapse of the Brazilian dam and the destruction of the communities and the ecosystem caused by the mining companies negligence, AZWIM can, through ecofeminist activism challenge the mining companies to take up more protective measures when carrying out their mining activities so that both the communities and the environment are protected from any kind of destructions. Finally, the creation of the feminist table in Marikana South Africa as an initiative to support both men and women in mining can be used by AZWIM as a tool to allow women in the small-scale mining sector to participate effectively and overcome some of the oppression they face in the sector.

The in-depth interview with the Secretary General of the Association (Association of Zambian Women in Mining, 2020) presents the position of the lack of activism that in the association. The Secretary General of AZWIM, Pauline Sialumba Mundia is also the Vice-President of the Southern Africa Mining Chapter (Anon, 2020). In her interview (Association of Zambian Women in Mining, 2020) she emphasized that there were many challenges faced by women in small-scale mining. However, as a woman herself she feels that women have a spirit of perseverance and it is this hope against hope to persevere that keeps these women and the association moving forward. In terms of the association, she has observed that the result of this positive thinking and perseverance has increased the number of women entering the small-scale mining and relying on the hope and thinking that the future will be much brighter for them. It was clear that the association did not apply any form of eco-feminist activism in the conduct of its affairs. It is the lack of eco-feminist activism that has resulted in the oppression of women and damage to the environment in small-scale mining.

1.6.1 The Overhaul mandate of the Association of Zambian Women in Mining

As presented by the Secretary General (Association of Zambian Women in Mining, 2020) the whole purpose of the association is centered on encouraging gender mainstreaming in small-scale mining sector. AZWIM as a national association for Zambia and affiliated with the African Women in Mining Network at Regional level has the mandate to support women in mining (Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, 2018). To benefit from networking at a regional level the association is also affiliated with the Southern Africa Mining Chapter (Southern Africa Mining Chapter, 2016). At the national level, the association supports women involved in small-scale mining. In terms of membership, the association has approximately three hundred members in total (Lusaka Times, 2019).

The Membership of the association is wide and naturally covers the entire value chain within the mining industry. As far as the category of mining was concerned the membership to the association included women that mine base metals such as gold, lead, manganese and copper, including others involved in mining semi-precious as well as precious stones. Geographically, membership extends to all the districts in Zambia. The secretary General lamented that since mining has a lot of challenges, some women prefer to trade in minerals rather than the actual mining of the minerals therefore, women in trading are also included in the membership of the association. These women have acquired trading licenses and they are involved in the buying and selling of gemstones and other minerals locally and some of them are even able to export the minerals.

Furthermore, some members of the association are also involved in the transportation of minerals mined by other mining companies. The mining of some minerals in Zambia is carried out on a large scale such as copper and as such, there is a need to transport those minerals to destined markets. Hence, the association accepts women in transportation to its membership. The only qualification for membership to the association is being a woman involved in mining- related issues. Members also include women who are employed in the mining sector such as geologists and other professionals. Currently, the association has only one member who is in metallurgy. The association intends to attract professional members such as geologists, mining engineers and metallurgists. By expanding the scope of the membership to professional women the association's objective of gender mainstreaming in the mining sector can be achieved.

1.6.2 AZWIM's Role in Promoting Women in Small-Scale Mining

One positive development noted by the association is that many more women have seen the need to enter the mining sector due to the progress that some women have made in this area. The older members of the association have been encouraging younger ones to join the Association. The association has witnessed an increase in the number of women joining its membership especially after a visit by the

Republican President. The Republican President showed interest in assisting the women who are involved in mining. This interest by the Republican President triggered a number of women to join the association because they realised that the membership to the Association could in some way benefit them. To expand the scope of its membership, the association had also conducted visits, to other relevant Ministries for support such as the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign affairs and the Ministry of Mines which is the line ministry. In addition, the association is also involved in facilitating and organising exhibitions within and outside the country. For example, in February 2020 some women who are members of the association travelled to New York City for one such exhibition. Such interaction results in promoting networking and exchange of information on small-scale mining between different countries.

1.6.3 The Role of AZWIM in the Protection of the Environment

The case of environmental protection and preservation is important for the mining sector due to its extractive nature. The association of Zambian Women in Mining (2020) holds the view that under ASM the degradation of the environment is not as harmful when compared with mining on a larger scale. Deforestation and degradation take place on a smaller scale. The association, as part of its plan to conserve the environment, encourages its members to back-seal the pits and also plant trees to replace the ones removed and prevent pollution. A project undertaken by the association to encourage women involved in small-scale mining in Southern Province was to plant trees. The women were advised to buy moringa seeds to plant however the project was not successful due to insufficient rains experienced in the southern province. The association needs to work with the members of the communities residing around the small-scale mining to become actively involved in protecting the environment.

1.7 Way Forward and Proposed Remedial Measures

Associations representing women in small-scale mining should embrace ecofeminist activism as a way forward to overcome the challenges that they face. The associations can rely on the success stories of the three selected examples to bring about the desired change in the small-scale mining sector. AZWIM believes it is the passion and the determination of knowing what women want to achieve and the proof that they can achieve it collectively that makes the association move on (Association of Zambian Women in Mining, 2020). The Association's desired goal should be reflected in the objectives of the other mining associations. Women are determined to prove to men that they can equally perform in a male-dominated sector. Associations, in general, depend on donor funding and are compelled to implement the objectives set by the funders. AZWIM as an association representing women (Association of Zambian Women in Mining, 2020) is also donor-driven and competes for funding with the rest of the mining Associations. Hence, the activism that the

Association promotes is limited to the priorities set by the funders. As expressed by the Secretary General of the association of Zambian Women in Mining, the search for a more suitable donor for this association continues. It is hoped that once small-scale mining sector is fully developed in Zambia and women can export their products they will contribute to the increase of foreign exchange earnings for the country. Through such collective activism, it is hoped that the objectives of the association will be met through increased membership and more women becoming owners of small-scale mines in Zambia.

Women should begin to embrace activism using eco-feminist approaches to raise awareness of the benefits of small-scale mining through environmentally friendly methods. In terms of structure and governance, AZWIM as an association specifically for women should unite with other mining associations in Zambia as well as regional and at a global level to come up with best practices. The best practices should protect the members from illegal miners that have become a hindrance to the growth of the small-scale mining sector. Lack of visibility and the nature of the function of these associations including limited membership has prevented the associations from achieving their goals. In addition, a further remedial measure would be the establishment of reporting mechanisms between the members and the associations. Other remedial measures would include a support programme for the provision of technical extension services specifically tailored for smallscale mining workers for them to learn about environmental issues and general compliance regulations and to employ good mining practices in their operations. In addition, there is an urgent need to establish a separate tax regime for the smallscale mining sector instead of the same tax system as the one for the large-scale mining.

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