



PWYP Africa Africa Steering Committee Report 2021

Introduction

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) is the global movement for the open, accountable, sustainable, equitable and responsive governance of the extractive industry. We are the only global movement working to ensure that revenues from oil, gas and mining are used to drive development. With more than 1,000 member organisations and 51 national coalitions, our strength lies in our ability to coordinate action nationally and globally, maximising our collective impact, so everyone benefits from their natural resources – today and tomorrow.

Africa is a continent rich with natural resources and home to a significant extractive sector. It is also home to 29 national PWYP coalitions, which work to drive the transparency and sustainability agenda in their respective countries and to implement PWYP's five-year global strategy, Vision 2025. The PWYP Africa Steering Committee (ASC) is responsible for providing strategic and governance leadership for the movement in Africa. The ASC is elected at the PWYP Africa Conference for a term of three years.

This report outlines the summary of the mission led by the outgoing ASC members, who were elected at the PWYP Africa Conference in Livingstone, Zambia, in July 2017. It includes an overview of the ASC, the activities carried out, and the main achievements and challenges members faced in their role.

1. Overview of the PWYP Africa Steering Committee (ASC)

1.1. Role of the ASC

The role of the Africa Steering Committee includes:

- To oversee implementation of the strategic action plan in Africa and provide strategic guidance as needed.
- To ensure that national coalitions and members in Africa comply with PWYP principles and standards.
- To oversee and validate the setting-up of national coalitions.
- To ensure the implementation of the PWYP protection policy at African level.

1.2. Background of the current ASC members

In July 2017, PWYP coalitions in Zambia and Zimbabwe jointly hosted the Africa Conference in Livingstone, where the following members were elected to the ASC:

- Anglophone West Africa: **Erisa Danladi** (PWYP Nigeria)
- Central Africa: **Dupleix Kuenzob** (PWYP Cameroon)
- Francophone West Africa: **Tiemoko Sangare** (PWYP Mali)
- East and Southern Africa: **Mutuso Dhlwayo** (PWYP Zimbabwe)

The 2017 ASC also included **Faith Nwadishi** (PWYP Nigeria), **Moses Kulaba** (PWYP Tanzania) and **Brice Mackosso** (PWYP Congo Brazzaville), who served in

their capacity as EITI International Board members, until the first two were replaced on the EITI Board.

- In June 2019, **Mtwalo Msoni** (PWYP Zambia) joined the ASC in his capacity as EITI Board member.
- The current ASC is chaired by **Mutuso Dhlwayo**, with **Tiemoko Sangare** as Vice-Chair for the first 18 months.

1.3. The ASC three-year term priorities (2017-2020)

At their first meeting in Douala, Cameroon, in January 2018, the ASC members identified the following priorities for their term of office:

Strategy and advocacy: The ASC will play a leadership role in advancing PWYP's advocacy agenda at the regional and international levels.

- 2018 goal: All PWYP members in Africa are aware of and input into the PWYP global strategy planning process for 2020-2025, including on questions relating to gender and the extractive sector.
- 2019 goal: PWYP ASC members actively advocate for regional mining, oil and gas code revisions, to align with the Africa Mining Vision.

Membership consolidation and outreach: the ASC will ensure consolidation among PWYP coalitions in West Africa and other sub-regions.

- 2018 goal: The ASC will lead a re-engagement strategy with PWYP coalitions in Anglophone West Africa and in other sub-regions.
- 2019 goal: The ASC will continue the re-engagement in Anglophone West Africa and will support potential new coalitions to join the movement across the continent.

Governance: The ASC will support PWYP coalitions in Africa to uphold the PWYP Operating Principles.

- 2018 goal: The ASC will engage actively in preparations for the 2019 Global Assembly, including supporting the dissemination of PWYP's Operating Principles among PWYP coalitions in Africa.
- 2019 goal: The ASC will provide in-person support to PWYP coalitions to assist their institutional development, in particular at AGMs.

2. Activities carried out by the ASC

2.1. ASC election and handover meeting in Livingstone, Zambia, 13 July 2017



ASC handover meeting group photo

2.2. ASC meeting in Douala, Cameroun

In January 2018, the PWYP ASC met in Douala, Cameroon, for its second meeting following members' election to the ASC in Livingstone in July 2017. One of the aims of the meeting was to **identify the ASC's high-level objectives for members' three-year term**, on which they would report back to the wider membership at the next Africa Conference in 2020.

Among the objectives members agreed to prioritise was **advocacy work in line with the Africa Mining Vision (AMV)**. The ASC discussed **opportunities and strategic approaches to influencing the uptake of the AMV** at the national and continental levels. It was noted that there is currently not a large movement calling for AMV domestication among the wider PWYP membership, although there is work being done at the national level – for example, in the revision of national mining, oil and gas codes. The ASC reflected on the unique value it could add to the goal of advancing AMV domestication.



ASC holding a press conference in Douala, January 2018

2.3. Joint ASC/PWYP Global Council meeting in Brussels

For their third in-person meeting, the ASC members met in Brussels, Belgium, in November 2018. One of the meeting's main goals was **to develop understanding of how to engage strategically in AMV implementation**. The ASC welcomed the development of the Africa Mineral Governance Framework in 2017, and noted the significant contribution to the framework by many PWYP members – as well as to the advancement of the vision itself. The AMV calls for revenue, contract and beneficial ownership transparency, the protection of extractives activists' human rights, and disclosure of the environmental and social impacts of extraction on communities. All these aims are reflected in PWYP's own vision and mission, and are in line with the goals of our Global Strategy 2020-2025.

As the **10th anniversary** of AMV adoption approached (2009-2019), the PWYP ASC issued a communique to echo our call to **governments to commit to effective implementation of the vision**. In Brussels, we participated in a **one-day workshop on the AMV** delivered by Dr. Yao Graham, in preparation for delivering on our 2019 strategic goal to advocate for mineral governance reform in line with the AMV.



2.5. ASC meeting in Paris

Civil Society EITI Board nominations

In June 2019, on the eve of the EITI International Conference in Paris, France, African CSOs submitted a formal objection to the nomination of Oxfam (or its employees) to fill the civil society EITI Board seat for the African Continent, Anglophone and Lusophone sub-region, as announced on the CSO EITI Selection website.

According to the letter's signatories, the objection was not based on personal grievances or targeting an organisation, but was made in pursuit of the principle of fairness over Africa's representation, questioning the ability of an International Non-Governmental Organisation to articulate Africa's needs. They requested that the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG), which lead the nomination process, consider their objection from this perspective and treat the matter with appropriate fairness and urgency.

This objection led the Oxfam candidate to withdraw her application, and resulted in Mtwalo Msoni, National Coordinator of PWYP Zambia, to be nominated as an Alternate Civil Society EITI Board member, representing Anglophone/Lusophone Africa.

The ASC members raised this issue at their meeting in Paris. The PWYP Executive Director, Elisa Peter, provided additional clarifications on how the nomination process was led by the CBI and the CSAG, which involved PWYP members. The candidates were nominated based on clear criteria after the submission of a formal application.

Following this precedent, the ASC decided to constitute a committee to look into the issues raised by members regarding civil society EITI board nominations, to improve future nomination processes.

Applications from new coalitions, including Gabon, Kenya, South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea

- ASC members discussed the re-engagement of PWYP Gabon. The main recommendation was to make sure that the process takes into consideration the previous issues faced with this coalition. ASC members planned to have a side meeting with delegates from Gabon at the francophone regional meeting in Abidjan in July.
- There was a general consensus over the need to discuss how best to address the issues around civic space with regard to PWYP members in Equatorial Guinea.
- The Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas (KCSPOG) was formed in 2013 against the backdrop of Kenya's first oil discovery. Subsequent discoveries have brought new opportunities and challenges, resulting in the need for stakeholders – especially civil society actors – to consolidate their efforts towards ensuring an equitable and sustainable oil and gas sector that benefits Kenya's people. ASC members therefore approved KCSPOG's application to join the global network as PWYP Kenya.
- In 2020, the ASC approved the application of the Civil Society Coalition on Natural Resources to join the network as PWYP South Sudan. Formed in 2018, the coalition brings together 43 CSOs working to ensure all citizens benefit equitably from South Sudan's natural resources.

3. Research and advocacy conducted by the ASC

3.1. AMV Research, published in February 2020

On behalf of the ASC, PWYP commissioned a consultant to **undertake a synthesis and overview of the research and advocacy work carried out to date by national PWYP coalitions in Africa to advance implementation of the AMV, and identify key policy asks.** The research findings and recommendations aimed to inform a collective pan-Africa advocacy agenda to advance key elements of the AMV, including in relation to stability clauses and tax holidays; public disclosure of extractive contracts and beneficial owners of extractive projects; protection of civic space, and enabling women to effectively participate in natural resource governance decisions.

3.2. Participation in international forums

ASC members participated in various international forums to amplify PWYP advocacy messages and policy asks. These included the EITI International Conference in June 2019 in Paris, where they protested against civic space deterioration in Equatorial Guinea.

- **Civil Society AMV Conference**

In October 2019, ASC members attended the Civil Society AMV Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference was convened by a consortium of organisations: the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW), Third World Network Africa, Tax Justice Network Africa, Publish What You Pay, Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association and Norwegian Church Aid. It followed on from the one held in Zambia in 2014 to review implementation of the AMV after five years. The 2019 Civil Society AMV Conference assessed progress made by countries in the past decade towards implementation of the AMV, as an agreed development framework to transform the management of mineral resources. The progress review of implementation sought to solidify efforts by civil society to keep the vision alive and contribute towards its promotion and full implementation by African governments.

- **The IGF Africa Forum on mining**

In November 2019, the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development held a continent-wide forum on mining in Accra, Ghana, in partnership with the African Union Commission and its African Minerals Development Centre, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank and its African Natural Resources Centre, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the CONNEX Support Unit. This first forum was themed “The Africa Mining Vision at 10: Looking Back, Moving Forward”. It aimed to launch a regional platform for African countries, regional organisations and continental institutions to discuss issues of strategic importance for the African mining sector, providing a space to generate common positions and explore home-grown policy actions for mineral-rich African economies. It also aimed to facilitate peer learning and knowledge exchange between African countries on the management of mineral resources for sustainable development, with a view to deepening the effectiveness and impact of mining-sector reforms.

- **Civil Society consultation visit to the ECOWAS Commission**

In July 2019, with support from Oxfam in West Africa, ASC member Erisa Danaladi and PWYP Global Council member Mariatou Amadou participated in a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting on women's participation in mineral resource governance in West Africa. Held in Abuja by Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the meeting involved 25 women's

organisations from 13 ECOWAS countries and members of the West African Civil Society Organisations Geo-Extractive Forum, established by the ECOWAS Commission.

The consultation aimed to support the creation and empowerment of a platform of women's groups and women's rights defenders to contribute to the extractive sector policy development agenda, and to bring a gender perspective to extractive industry norms and standards in the region. It also aimed to improve collaboration between West African women's organisations and other stakeholders in the extractive sector, including ECOWAS and regional civil society organisations. This engagement with ECOWAS has led to the integration of women's organisations into the process of developing a charter on gender mainstreaming in the geo-extractive sector.

3.3. Civic space engagement

Niger

The issue of civic space has occupied an important place in the ASC mission over the last three years, particularly in Niger and Equatorial Guinea.

In Niger, civic space is rated as “obstructed” by the CIVICUS Monitor, indicating the closure of civic space by the authorities and restriction of freedoms, such as repression by security forces, surveillance or threats against journalists.

Since October 2017, Nigerien civil society activists have been protesting against the 2018 finance law, which they deem as containing "anti-social measures". In March 2018, when civil society organisations organised a public demonstration to demand the withdrawal and revision of the finance law, the authorities severely repressed the mobilisation and arrested at least 27 activists, including leaders of the PWYP national coalition.

To free PWYP's members, the ASC mobilised PWYP coalitions around the world, while carrying out missions twice to Niger to finally obtain the release of the activists, who spent six months in prison.

Unfortunately, after a relative lull in 2019, the situation deteriorated again in 2020. Activists denounced a corruption scandal and the COVID-19 crisis, leading to increased repression and restriction of civil rights in the country. Several journalists have been arrested, and a pattern of harassment has emerged against civil society. Most activists were targeted in the wake of the corruption scandal involving the Ministry of Defence.

In March 2020, the PWYP ASC initiated a joint declaration with several other organisations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Defenders, Tournons La Page, etc. calling on the Nigerien authorities to end the harassment of human rights defenders, following the arrests involving three PWYP members and a member of Niger's EITI multi-stakeholder group, under charges of “organising a prohibited

demonstration and for complicity in the destruction of public property, arson and manslaughter”.

Equatorial Guinea

On the fringe of the 2019 EITI International Conference in Paris, France, civil society activists organised a rally outside the OECD plenary room to protest against the degradation of civic space in the Philippines and Equatorial Guinea. With the slogan "Our Space, Our Rights", PWYP members, under ASC leadership, denounced Equatorial Guinea's EITI application, due to repeated attacks and intimidation of civil society. These attacks have particularly targeted PWYP members such as Alfredo Okenve Ndoho.

A few months earlier, in March 2019, Alfredo was arrested at Malabo airport and placed under house arrest at his home. In his capacity as a human rights activist and an emblematic figure of Equatorial Guinean civil society, he was to receive the Franco-German Human Rights and Rule of Law Prize. The authorities demanded the cancellation of the award, the validity of which is not recognised by the government.

In collaboration with several other organisations, PWYP, through the ASC, issued a communique calling on the Equatorial Guinean authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Alfredo and cease all acts of intimidation against civil society activists.

In September 2019, Alfredo was forced into exile in Europe, after being victim of a brutal assault from security forces in 2018, and his organisation being dissolved in summer 2019.

The ASC continues to call on the government of Equatorial Guinea to cease all acts of intimidation against activists in the country. Members have additionally requested that Equatorial Guinea abide by its international human rights obligations, in particular by articles 19, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, respectively.

4. Governance

4.1. Mission to Gabon

In September 2019, Dupleix Kuenzob led an ASC mission led in Libreville, Gabon, accompanied by PWYP Central Africa Regional Coordinator, Eric Bisil. The mission aimed to meet with international institutions present in Gabon that might be interested in supporting the PWYP Gabon coalition technically or financially, and to take part in the PWYP Gabon general assembly. The assembly was organised after the ASC decided during its 2017 meeting in Douala to readmit the PWYP Gabon

coalition. Subsequently, under the supervision of the ASC and the PWYP Secretariat, the Gabonese coalition set up a new coordination office to mark its effective return to the movement.



Launch of the new PWYP Gabon coordination office

4.2. Mission to Liberia

Since its election, the ASC has identified re-engagement with PWYP national coalitions in Anglophone West Africa as a priority for its 2017-2020 term of office. In November 2017, Erisa Danladi led a mission to Liberia to identify the key factors that were undermining the performance and effective engagement of PWYP Liberia. This ASC visit enhanced the re-engagement with the PWYP coalition in Liberia.

5. ASC coordination of the Africa Conference: review of the Africa Charter

The ASC plays a key role in the planning and organisation of the PWYP Africa Conference. Committee members lead the event, with support from the PWYP Secretariat. As the organisation of the conference requires a collective effort from different entities of the network, the ASC created an Advisory Group, in which ASC members occupy three seats. The group's role consists of strategic input to the conference, including agenda design, outreach to potential speakers and supporting fundraising initiatives.

The Africa Conference was scheduled to take place from 6 to 8 July 2020 in Arusha, Tanzania, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the ASC, in consultation with Advisory Group members, decided to postpone it and organise it virtually for March 2021.

In September and November 2020, the ASC prioritised the review of the Africa Charter, a specific consultation on how to proceed with ASC elections should the Africa Conference be postponed for any reason. All PWYP members in Africa were given the opportunity to contribute to this important aspect of the movement's governance. The consultation focused on three main points: ASC elections, gender balance on the ASC, and the role of civil society EITI Board members on the ASC. The revised draft was presented to all members in a webinar in November 2020, so they could see the consultation results and provide further input. In the current revised draft, provision is made for elections to be organised online if they cannot take place in person for any reason, and gender balance in ASC representation is institutionalised. Civil society EITI Board members from PWYP coalitions in Africa continue to have an ex-officio role on the ASC. The final draft of the Africa Charter is due to be adopted during the Africa Conference in 2021.

6. Main achievements and messages

6.1. Release from prison for PWYP members in Niger

The ASC term between 2017 and 2020 has been marked by a tremendous deterioration of civic space in some African countries, notably Niger. As a result, much of its work has focused on engaging with members who have been subject to attacks, intimidation and arrests in their respective countries. This engagement contributed significantly to the release from prison of civil society activists in Niger between 2018 and 2020. The ASC organised two missions, both related to the protection and release of civil society members. The arrest of the activists in Niger also allowed the ASC to mobilise PWYP members and partners to demand the release of the activists, strengthening PWYP's networking around the world.

6.2. Re-engagement with the PWYP coalition from Liberia

Since January 2020, the Liberia national coalition has organised a series of planning meetings. Several meetings were held, some of which engaged the PWYP Liberia leadership. During these meetings, coalition members developed an action plan and a budget, validated the membership listing, and reviewed and adopted election guidelines. In July 2020, 17 member organisations held an extraordinary general assembly, leading to the adoption of a revised constitution and the election of a new PWYP Liberia board.

6.3. Re-engagement with PWYP coalition from Gabon

The PWYP Gabon General Assembly held in September 2019, with ASC support, aimed to build the capacity of PWYP Gabon members on the EITI Standard, PWYP's Vision 2025 strategy and PWYP governance, and to elect the new PWYP Gabon Coordination Office. Under the moderation of ASC member Duplex Kuenzob, the two-day assembly ended with the election of PWYP Gabon's new board of coordinators. Paul Aimé Bagafou of the *Observatoire Citoyen des Industries Extractives*, Ida Navratilova Oye Obame of BrainForest and Adelaïde Makaga Mbourou of the *Réseau des Organisation de Lutte pour la Bonne Gouvernance* will respectively hold the positions of National Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and

Administrator in charge of advocacy, finance and resource mobilisation for a three-year term.

6.4. Publication of AMV study

On behalf of the Africa Steering Committee, the review commissioned by PWYP on the research and advocacy work carried out by PWYP coalitions in Africa to advance AMV implementation was published in April 2020. The [report](#) presents the work by PWYP coalitions to promote AMV implementation by thematic area, and offers key lessons and recommendations.

6.5. EITI Global Conference 2019 – civic space protest

Under ASC leadership, PWYP members denounced Equatorial Guinea's EITI application during civil society protests on the fringe of the 2019 EITI International Conference, against shrinking civic space in the Philippines and Equatorial Guinea. This influenced partly the EITI Board decision not to approve the Equatorial Guinea application to be part of the EITI process.

7. Challenges faced by the ASC

7.1. Challenges for some ASC members to participate in online meetings

In the context of COVID-19, governments have taken several measures to contain the pandemic, including travel restrictions. This prevented PWYP from holding in-person meetings. In order to continue to fulfil their mission, the ASC adopted new approaches, including holding meetings online. However, this has brought many limitations, particularly on the participation of all members. Some ASC members have had difficulties in accessing the internet or in using online meeting platforms, which has often had an impact on the decision-making process, particularly in terms of quorum, or obtaining substantive inputs from members.

7.2. COVID-19 and postponement of the Africa Conference

The Africa Conference was scheduled to take place from 6 to 8 July 2020 in Arusha, Tanzania. Its postponement to a virtual event in March 2021 has impacted further strengthening of the PWYP network across Africa.

8. Environment and Management changes

8.1. Impacts of COVID-19 on the ASC Pan-Africa agenda

Since March 2020, we have witnessed unprecedented and unsettling developments as the global community reacts to the threats posed by the coronavirus – to our health, our way of life and our livelihoods. At this time of great uncertainty, we recognised that no one is untouched by this health and humanitarian crisis.

Like other organisations around the world, PWYP members had to review the plans in place for 2020, and to make decisions about how to adapt in order to ensure that

we continue to fulfil our mission to make oil, gas and mineral governance open, accountable, sustainable, equitable and responsive to all people.

Given the extent and severity of the health crisis, disrupting the lives of billions of people, including across the African continent, and following consultation with the Advisory Group established to oversee the planning of the event, the ASC took the difficult decision **to postpone the conference** for reasons beyond our control, for the health and safety of all PWYP members and partners.

8.2. End of term for Faith Nwadishi and Moses KULABA

During their meeting in June 2019 in Paris, France, the ASC recognised the tremendous contribution of Moses Kulaba and Faith Nwadishi, after their departure from the EITI Board. Moses and Faith had ex-officio seats on the ASC as a result of their EITI Board membership. The ASC members encouraged them to continue working for and supporting the movement. At the same time, Mtwalo Msoni was welcomed to the ASC following his nomination as the civil society representative for Anglophone/Lusophone Africa on the EITI Board, replacing Moses Kulaba.

New role for Mtwalo Msoni

In 2020, Mtwalo Msoni stepped down as coordinator of PWYP Zambia to take on a new role at ActionAid. This also meant he could no longer serve as an ASC member representing the EITI Board, as this requires PWYP membership. However, he remains an active ally of the PWYP movement while serving on the EITI Board.

Annexes

Links to communiqués and meeting minutes (on PWYP website)

Online meetings

1. ASC Call - [30 August 2017](#)
2. ASC Call - [9 November 2017](#)
3. ASC Call - [7 September 2018](#)
4. ASC Call - [17 January 2019](#)
5. ASC Call - [21 January 2020](#)
6. ASC Call - [23 March 2020](#)
7. ASC Call - [21 July 2020](#)
8. ASC Call - [02 September 2020](#)