



Welcome to the latest edition of the AEGT Newsletter! Over the past several months, our team has been actively engaged in a range of research, knowledge mobilization, and outreach initiatives. Alongside new instalments of our Critical Minerals Seminar Series and AEGT Podcasts, we have expanded our infographics and social media outreach, advanced preparations for our Working Papers series, and convened a Mid-Term Workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to review ongoing projects and plan the next phase of our work. In this issue, we are pleased to update you on our activities and introduce you to our new Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Patricia Ackah-Baidoo.

AEGT Workshop: Dar es Salaam



In March, we held a three-day workshop for AEGT study leaders and researchers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The meeting featured presentations and reviews of preliminary findings from AEGT's eight current studies. Participants explored cross-cutting themes and emerging research gaps and identified new opportunities for collaboration. The workshop concluded by mapping priorities for the next phase of research, knowledge mobilization, and policy engagement in 2026-27.

The meeting provided opportunities to engage directly with our institutional partners and researchers, and, more broadly, with local mining-sector stakeholders. Our Tanzanian anchor partner, the Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam, generously hosted a reception at their campus offices. We were honored that Her Excellency Emily Burns, the Canadian High Commissioner to the United Republic of Tanzania, joined us for the workshop's opening and hosted an opening reception, at which AEGT members engaged fruitfully with a diverse array of Tanzanian mining sector researchers and stakeholders. We are grateful to Global Affairs Canada for its generous hospitality and continuing support of our partnership.





Welcoming Our New Postdoctoral Fellow



**Dr. Patricia
Ackah-
Baidoo**

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Patricia Ackah-Baidoo to AEGT as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Her research examines how resource-rich countries can translate natural wealth into more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

During her fellowship, Dr. Ackah-Baidoo is investigating local content policies across critical minerals value chains in Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, focusing on how rising demand for critical minerals can generate meaningful benefits for local communities. We look forward to sharing findings from Dr. Ackah-Baidoo's research in future AEGT publications and events.

AEGT Projects

In late 2024, we launched our first call for research proposals. The AEGT Steering Committee approved eight studies covering all four focal case countries and spanning one or more of our four research clusters. After internal peer review, findings from these studies will be available in the coming months as Policy Briefs, Working Papers, and peer-reviewed publications. Please find details of our studies on the AEGT [website](#). In this issue, we feature two current studies.



**Dr. Richard
Saunders**



**Dr. Craig
Johnson**



**Dr. Araceli
Clavijo**

Project Title: “A comparative study on the impacts of lithium extraction on mining communities in Argentina and Zimbabwe”

Project Leaders: Richard Saunders, Craig Johnson, Araceli Clavijo

Research Clusters: Revenue, Equity and State Services; Productive Linkages and the 'Infrastructures' of Extraction; Regional and Transnational Contexts of Regulation

Country Focus: Argentina and Zimbabwe

This project examines the social, economic, and environmental impacts of lithium extraction in Argentina and Zimbabwe, where tensions have grown among communities, governments, and mining companies over local participation, environmental risks, and benefits. It addresses key knowledge gaps on regulation and governance through stakeholder-engaged, multifactor research. Using a comparative approach to analyze different extraction models, the project aims to inform policy, strengthen community engagement and contribute to broader debates on equitable critical minerals development in the Global South.

IN MEMORIAM: DR. FASCO IDFONCE CHENGULA

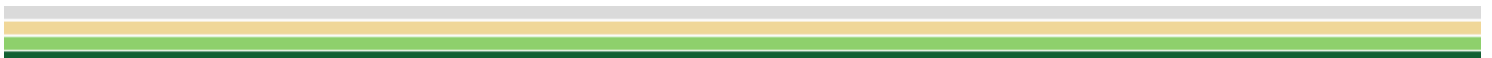


Dr. Chengula (1986–2026), a valued member of the AEGT team, was a Tanzanian scholar whose work bridged social and environmental anthropology, climate

change, and sustainable development. He was a lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam and was based at the Institute for Resource Assessment. He served as a Collaborator in the AEGT where he played a key liaison role.

Dr. Chengula's research examined how environmental policies and climate change shape the lives of vulnerable communities, with a focus on indigenous knowledge systems.

He is remembered by colleagues and students for his intellectual generosity, principled leadership and integrity. His work will leave a lasting mark on his institution, his collaborators, and the broader academic community. He will be greatly missed.





Project Title: “Building capacities in and implementing Health Impact Assessments to make visible and integrate health and social improvements in Critical Minerals extraction”

Project Leader: Dr. Rene Loewenson

Researchers: Dr. Marja Hinfelaar, Dr. Francine Iragi Mukotanyi, Dr. Japhace Poncian, Lyman Mlambo,

Research Cluster: Revenue, Equity and State Services

Country Focus: DRC, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

This project examines health gains and ongoing challenges in East and Southern Africa, focusing on the impacts of critical mineral and artisanal mining. It addresses gaps in evidence and the limited use of Health Impact Assessment tools despite existing legal obligations. By analyzing weak implementation and capacity constraints, the project highlights risks to communities, rising costs, and the broader consequences for governments and industry in failing to adequately protect public health.



Dr. Rene Loewenson

Dr. Marja Hinfelaar

Dr. Japhace Poncian

Dr. Francine Iragi Mukotanyi

Lyman Mlambo

Recap: AEGT Winter 2026 Critical Minerals Seminar Series

Unearthed: Bauxite Mining in Jamaica as Ecocide – January 22, 2026

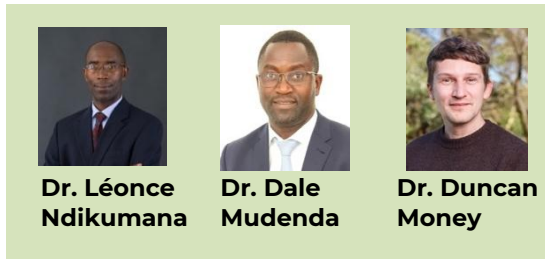
Dr. Tameka Samuels-Jones, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University, explored the ecological, social, and legal impacts of bauxite mining in Jamaica through the emerging framework of ecocide. Her presentation situated extractivism within broader systems of coloniality, global commodity chains, and environmental injustice. Dr. Tamanisha J. John, Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics at York University, served as the discussant.



Dr. Tameka Samuels-Jones

Dr. Tamanisha J. John

The State, Corporations, or the People: Who Benefits from Mining in Zambia? – February 11, 2026



Dr. Léonce Ndikumana

Dr. Dale Mudenda

Dr. Duncan Money

Dr. Léonce Ndikumana, Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Dr. Dale Mudenda, Lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Zambia, discussed their [working paper](#) on the history, governance, and performance of Zambia’s mining sector. Their presentation examined the structural factors that have constrained the sector’s contribution to economic development. Dr. Duncan Money, a consulting historian and researcher, served as the discussant.

Living Minerals: Nature, Trade, and Power in the Race for Lithium – March 12, 2026

Dr. Javiera Barandiarán, Associate Professor of Global Studies at the University of California, discussed her new book, *Living Minerals: Nature, Trade and Power in the Race for Lithium*. Focusing on the history of lithium mining at Silver Peak, Nevada, and Chile’s Salar de Atacama, she introduced the concept of “living minerals,” arguing that critical minerals should be understood as more than strategic commodities. Her work highlights the lasting impacts of the rapid expansion of lithium extraction on both communities and ecosystems. Dr. Craig Johnson, Professor of Political Science at the University of Guelph, served as discussant.



Dr. Javiera Barandiarán

Dr. Craig Johnson

