



# Finding common ground

The human story of gold mining





## The search for common ground

Within any gold mining district you will find a wide range of people. At a glance, they may appear very different — they use different tools, work in different conditions, and operate within different confines of the law. If you trust the headlines, you might believe that their differences define them and that their story is one of conflict, pollution and exploitation.

But read between the lines and you will find they have more in common than you thought, and that their story is one of joint humanity, shared values and mutual hopes for a good life. From the geologist at her desk to the miner down the pit, and from the mining officer to the village elder, large-scale miners, small-scale miners and government alike are people.

They are fathers, sons, mothers, daughters — working to provide for their families and secure a better future for themselves and their loved ones.

This is the human story of gold mining.

## Supporting dialogue

IIED's work on small and large-scale mining supports multi-stakeholder dialogue, promotes local voices and explores innovations that help deliver a more inclusive and accountable mining sector – with empowered local communities, enlightened decision-makers and sensitivity to the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

## Telling the human story of gold mining

To better understand the wide range of people who depend on gold mining, IIED travelled to Tanzania to talk to some of them. This photobook shares some of their stories. The exhibition was funded by the Ford Foundation.

## Next steps

More details: [www.iied.org/commonground](http://www.iied.org/commonground)

## Acknowledgments

IIED wishes to thank all those photographed and particularly those who shared their stories for this project: Levocatus Saidi Bujiku, Simon Sebastian Nsangano, Fortunatus Wazir, Mlindwa Maganga, Betty Bernard Kakulu, Wellington Moses and their families.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Fortunatus Wazir, and extend our sincerest condolences to all his friends and family.

Photojournalist: Brian Sokol/  
Panos Pictures.

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My name is Levocatus Saidi Bujiku. I am 22 years old and I have been working as an artisanal miner for about two years. I am also a son, a father and a husband. My own son, Kevin, lives

with my mother far away. My biggest hope is to give him education so he can uplift me as his parent. I pray to God that I can make enough money to take care of my family.





My name is Simon Sebastian Nsangano. I am 66 years old and have been a gold miner for 50 years.

I am also a farmer and a family man. I work in my garden and

then go to my mine pits. My wife recently died but I have my four children. I dream of giving my family a better life. I work day after day but the results are poor. If I had money I would send all my sons to high school.







My name is Fortunatus Waziri and I am 22 years old. In 2009 I travelled the 100km from Kahama to Mawemeru; and I have been working here in a small-scale gold mine ever since.

I am also a father. My two children live with my grandmother far away. I send them money whenever I can but it is my dream to get big money and build a house for them. As I mine, night and day I fight for my children's lives.





My name is Mlindwa Maganga. I am 41 years old. I am the chairman of Mawemeru village and as part of that role, I deal with small-scale mining licences.

I am also a farmer, a small-scale miner, a husband and a father. I

have a wife and three children, aged 13, 7 and 1. Most of my income goes on school fees — it's important for me that my children get the best in education so they can be in a better position in this life and in this world.





My name is Betty Bernard Kakulu. I am 33 years old and I come from Bukoba, 300km to the north of here. I have been a reconciliation geologist at a large-scale gold mine for six and a half years.

I am also a sister and a daughter. Forty per cent of my salary every month goes to support my siblings and mother, who live far away. My mother is my everything. I dream of having a family some day.





My name is Wellington Moses. I am 41 years old and have been a dump truck operator at a large-scale mine for nearly ten years. I work the biggest dump truck — 250 tons — in Tanzania: it's a beautiful machine.

I am also a husband and a father. I am not a poor man, I am not a rich man; but I have a comfortable standard of life with my wife and three children. My hope for the future is that my children get enough school.



IIED is a policy and action research organisation promoting sustainable development and linking local priorities to global challenges. We are based in London and work on five continents with some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them.

## International Institute for Environment and Development

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