



# Southern Africa Deep Dive

## Background

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre's [Transition Minerals Tracker](#) monitors the human rights policies and practices of companies mining six key commodities vital to the clean energy transition: cobalt, copper, lithium, manganese, nickel and zinc. The Southern Africa deep dive explores the top producers within the region for each of these six minerals. Allegations can feature multiple impacts across categories. A full regional methodology can be read [here](#).

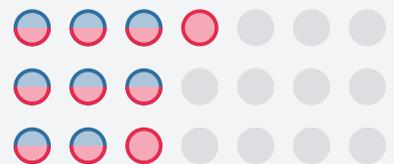
## Key findings

We examined the records of the top **21 companies producing these minerals** in Southern Africa. Of those, we identified a total of **55 human rights allegations related to 10 companies**. **Eight of the companies have a human rights policy**. The majority – 47 of 55 allegations (85%) – were related to **copper and/or cobalt operations**; two commodities often co-located within a project. Overall, the largest number of abuses relate to **poor governance and lack of transparency**, with 23 of the 55 allegations (42%) linked to this category. Well over a quarter of allegations (29%) were linked specifically to **corruption**. **Impacts on local communities and attacks on civil society organisations** follows not far behind, with 20 allegations (36%).

## What does mining cost?

The proportion of allegations related to poor governance and lack of transparency in Southern Africa (42%) is significantly higher than our global Transition Minerals Tracker findings (25%). Well over a quarter of allegations (29%) were linked specifically to corruption, compared to one in 10 allegations (12%) globally. Several companies in the regional research have been closely implicated in corruption allegations, from [campaign finance for elected officials](#) to [bribery claims](#). One company, [Bikita Minerals](#), has also faced allegations that it may have been exporting undeclared lithium illicitly as petalite, denying the Zimbabwean Government of tens of millions of dollars of potential revenue. Bikita Minerals [has denied these allegations](#).

### KEY STATS

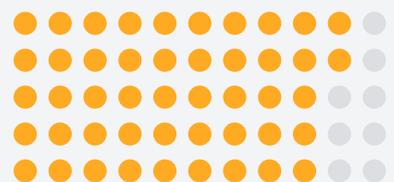


**21** companies examined in Southern Africa

**8** companies have a human rights policy

**10** companies have human rights abuse allegations

**55** allegations of human rights abuses identified



**47/55** allegations were found in **copper and/or cobalt operations**



**23/55** – poor governance and lack of transparency



**20/55** – impacts on communities and attacks on civil society organisations

## The rights of communities and workers

More than one in three allegations (36%) relate to human rights impacts on local communities or attacks on civil society organisations. Forced relocation accounted for 16% of all allegations, reflecting the [large land footprint](#) often required for extractive activities and the lack of effective action by companies to engage with communities regarding project impacts. Thirteen allegations were recorded relating to workers' rights, with half of these linked to occupational health and safety. These allegations relate only to formal workers, and do not reflect the additional significant risks to works in Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM), which is prevalent in the region. Because such allegations often cannot be tied to a specific company or operation, they are not captured in this research.

## Conclusion

Africa will experience some of the worst impacts of climate change, but it is also positioned to help fuel the solutions that will allow a rapid transition to a net-zero carbon economy. As transition mining expands across the continent to meet the ever-growing demand for renewable energy technology, the demand for land will inevitably increase. Without strong mechanisms to guard against forced removals, alongside ongoing work on increasing transparency of fiscal flows from projects, disproportionate harms will continue to be felt at the community level. Recognition of these issues alongside the introduction of measures to combat them, ensures that a rights respecting sector can operate to support communities, workers, and the just transition.

### COMPANIES UNDER SCOPE OF STUDY<sup>1</sup>

● Companies with HR policy   ● Allegations

#### COPPER

● <b>Glencore</b>	● DRC
● <b>First Quantum Minerals</b>	● Zambia
● <b>China Minmetals (MMG)</b>	● DRC
● <b>Eurasian Resources Group</b>	● DRC
● <b>Ivanhoe</b>	● DRC

#### COBALT

● <b>Glencore</b>	● DRC
● <b>China Molybdeum</b>	● DRC
● <b>Gecamines</b>	● DRC
● <b>Ivanhoe</b>	● DRC
● <b>Shalina Resources</b>	● DRC

#### NICKEL

● <b>Nornickel</b>	● South Africa
● <b>Jinchuan International</b>	● Zambia
● <b>Trevali Mining</b>	● Namibia
● <b>Vedanta Resources</b>	● South Africa
● <b>Sibanye Stillwater</b>	● South Africa

#### ZINC

● <b>Vedanta Resources</b>	● South Africa
	● Namibia
● <b>Trevali Mining</b>	● Namibia

#### LITHIUM

● <b>Bikita Minerals</b>	● Zimbabwe
--------------------------	------------

#### MANGANESE

● <b>South32</b>	● South Africa
● <b>Jupiter Mines</b>	● South Africa
● <b>MN Holdings</b>	● South Africa
● <b>Kalagahari Resources</b>	● South Africa
● <b>Assmang Proprietary</b>	● South Africa

<sup>1</sup> All companies listed here are parent companies; joint ventures and subsidiaries are included in the study and listed under their parent companies.