# FORWARD FEST



# **Equal Partnerships**

Martin Mpinda Tushiminine Observatoire Congolais de l'Environnement

Margit Van Wessel Wageningen University & Research

Moderator: Serge Beel – 11.11.11 #ForwardFest





BEFORE THE SESSION MUTE YOUR

MICROPHONE





DURING THE SESSION





# What do true equal partnerships of

the future look like?

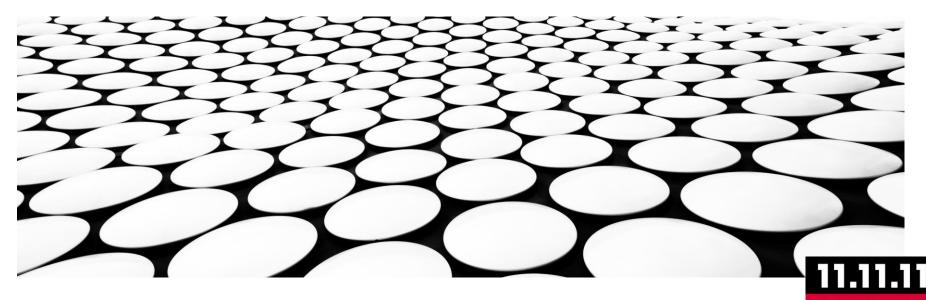


## **OBSERVATOIRE CONGOLAIS DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

PROJET : « CONTRIBUTION À L'ÉQUITÉ ÉCOLOGIQUE DANS LES ZONES MINIÈRES DU HAUT-KATANGA »

## **EQUAL PARTNERSHIP**

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VECHT MEE TEGEN ONRECHT

## WHAT DOES AN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP OF THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE, REGARDLESS OF ALL EXISTING STRUCTURES?

- Today's world is more interconnected than ever, offering unparalleled opportunities for cooperation.
- These inclusive partnerships are needed at all levels and will need to be built on a common vision and common goals, putting people and the planet at the center.
- Equal partnership = win-win (what do we give? what do you give?)
- > What do we have to offer? In present time and in the future time?



# Equal partnership

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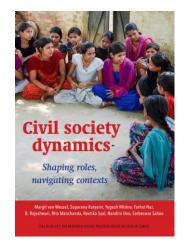




Report, policy brief and other outputs on this topic of equal

partnership are available on our project team website:

#### https://www.civil-society-research-collective.org/





in civil society advocacy collaborations

Margit van Wessel, Nandini Deo, Rita Manchanda, Sarbeswar Sahoo, R. Rajeshwari, Suparana Katyaini, Reetika Syal, Farhat Naz, Yogesh Mishra

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ESEARCH PAPERS	

Complementarities in CSO Collaborations: How Working with Diversity Produces Advantages

Margh von Woost<sup>1</sup>0 - Furbat Naz<sup>1</sup> - Sarborvor Salour<sup>2</sup>

#### O'The Aubustic 2020

OSOB!

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### What can equal partnership look like?

- Finding common ground while recognizing partners for what they are: organizations with their own understandings, agendas and capacities
  - So not: you can work with me if you fit my programme requirements

- Complementarity: how can we strengthen what you are doing?
  - So not: here we are with our intervention in which you can join

- Shared or distributed control over funding
  - So not: I manage the funds but you can give input



# What are the current challenges to equal partnerships and how do we

move forward?

#### 1. STRENGTHS:

a) Contextual knowledge (governance of the mining sector, environment, forests and human rights)

- b) Ability to define problems
- c) Ability to provide adequate solutions to the problems found

#### 2. EXPERTISE:

- a) Proven skills in several specific fields
- b) Expertise in several specific fields
- c) Knowledge
- d) Quality of our actions
- e) Timeliness in providing appropriate solutions
- f) Etc.



#### **3. WEAKNESSES:**

- a) Lack of access to new technologies
- b) Lack of financial resources

#### 4. THREATS/RISKS:

- a) Country/Regional Instability
- b) Insecurity
- c) Absence of laws protecting human rights and environmental activists/defenders



## Challenges to equal partnership

- Donor requirements: multi-country programmes from one `coherent' plan or ToC; accountability for pre-defined outcomes, from `Northern' understandings
  - Step forward: awareness raising among donors on their role in this issue, and developing alternative forms of programming

- NGOs' vested interest in existing organizational roles
  - Step forward: re-imagining roles in terms of complementarity the change is not about marginalizing the North, power is not a zero-sum game!

- Equal partnership requires broad and deep sectoral transformation
  - Step forward: making changes around e.g. funding and roles that transform the relations between those involved



# **FORWARD FEST**



## What's next?

15u00: "Advocacy in a digital and polarizing era" or "International redistribution"
16u00: "Framing"
19u30: "MO\*conference - Development in a new geopolitical context"

5 more sessions tomorrow Closing with Minister of Development Cooperation Meryame Kitir

Share your dream for the future via 11.be/blog!

