



## Equal Partnerships

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#ForwardFest



What do true equal partnerships of  
the future look like?

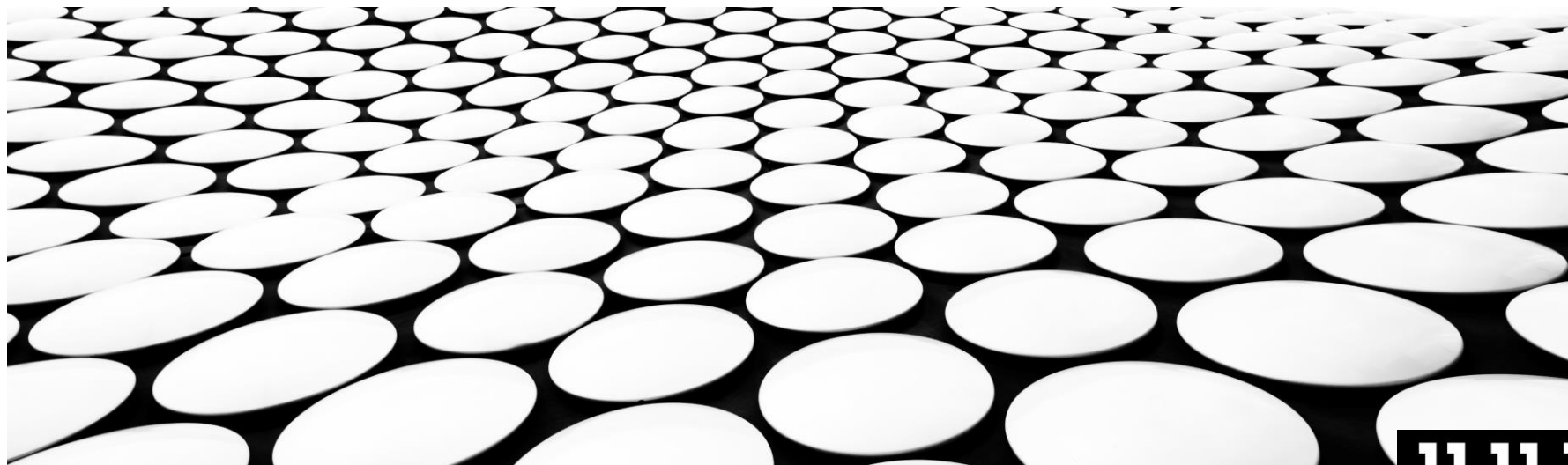


# **OBSERVATOIRE CONGOLAIS DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

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

## **EQUAL PARTNERSHIP**

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**11.11.11**

VECHT MEE TEGEN ONRECHT

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## 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

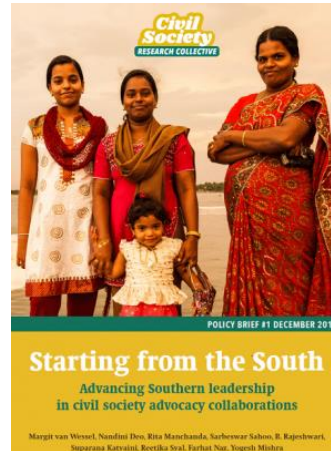
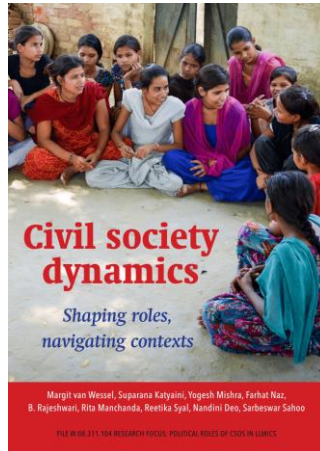
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Report, policy brief and other outputs on this topic of equal partnership are available on our project team website:

<https://www.civil-society-research-collective.org/>



# 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?



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## 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.



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### **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

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