



Exploring Collaborative Horizons:

**CivSource Africa's Visit to
Zimbabwe Environment Law
Association (ZELA)**

In the heart of Zimbabwe, the seed of a transformative partnership was planted when representatives from CivSource Africa, Malcolm Twino Mpmamizo, Associate CivAdvisory, and George Bogere, Associate Corporate Accountability visited the [Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association \(ZELA\)](#). Let's delve into the highlights of the visit.

ZELA is a 23-year-old Harare-based civil society organisation whose mission is to champion environmental justice and advocate for the responsible and fair use of natural resources. Its work spans a range of crucial areas, from mining to land and natural resources, responsible business practices, governance, and climate change.

With funding from the Wellsprings Philanthropic Foundation (WPF), ZELA is implementing a two-year project on promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Human Rights (UNGPs) in Southern Africa. The project covers three countries in the region namely Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The strategic objective of the project is to strengthen the voice of mining communities and workers to demand a more inclusive and responsible mining sector that respects human rights, protects the environment, and promotes women's and youth's economic empowerment. The project is expected to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by curbing the human rights-infringing activities of mining corporations towards local mining communities and mine workers, particularly women and the youth.

Connecting the Dots: The objectives of the meeting were to, i) share ZELA's strategic approaches and ii) explore opportunities for collaboration between ZELA and [CivSource Africa](#). During the presentations and discussions it was affirmed that ZELA's mission was aligned with that of the [Uganda Corporate Accountability Fund \(UCAF\)](#) under CivSource Africa. Both entities share the common goal of ensuring that governments and corporations are held responsible for protecting the rights of communities residing in mining regions. ZELA and its partners from the different countries including the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission shared their experiences with corporate accountability work.

Major Insights:

1. **Government Collaborations:** ZELA partners with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, showing how partners under UCAF could collaborate with various government departments to ensure accountability.
2. **Global Engagement:** ZELA's project aligns with global efforts for corporate accountability, highlighting the potential for UCAF to support similar global and regional initiatives.
3. **Empowering Youth:** ZELA's focus on youth empowerment through the Youth Initiative on Corporate Accountability (YICA) provided inspiration. Within CivSource Africa, they discussed the importance of ensuring that both women and youth benefit from partner activities.
4. **Building Capacity:** ZELA recognized the need for strengthening the leadership capacities of its staff. Malcolm presented CivSource offerings under the leadership program, sparking interest and appreciation.

ZELA expressed interest in participating in CivSource Africa's [Mopane' Leadership Program](#). We hope this visit was the start of a collaborative journey towards environmental justice and human rights protection in Africa. Stay tuned for more stories of positive change and impactful partnerships.