

SEG 2022 Conference: Minerals For Our Future

Leaving a Positive Legacy, Making a Difference in Africa

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The reliance towards natural resources has an even greater importance now more than ever. This reliance has far reaching applications due to the varied use and applications in green energy, technology, infrastructure and electrification. As we transition towards a more carbon-neutral economy, there is an increased emphasis on production and expansion of existing projects as well as the discovery of new projects, to bridge the potential supply gap of critical metals.

An increase in demand of this nature must be aligned to social, environmental and political expectations. Considerations must be made to the ways in which responsible Mining can be achieved in a Sustainable manner. This includes prospecting, exploration, construction, expansion, abandonment, decommissioning and repurposing. This can yield a number of direct and indirect social, economic and environmental impact.

As a result, Social License to Operate is becoming an essential tool. This can be achieved by greater community engagement as a sustainability strategy, and deserves attention. My talk explores the social, economic and environmental impact created by industry in Africa, with a focus on aspects that may be obscure from our usual line of sight as Scientists.

If an approach using a key set of “Golden rules” is applied, this can foster and lead to the potential positive societal and environmental impact that can achieve a long lasting positive legacy.