EITI Impact in Zambia
By Luke Viljoen

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) has helped the Zambian people maximise the benefits gained from its rich but finite resources. For too long Zambia has been at the mercy of multinational corporations and corrupt governments alike, losing billions of dollars and decades of lost progress.

The EITI allows the public to view what companies pay, and what governments receive, including information regarding exploration activities, licenses, and contracts. In doing so, Zambia has seen a significant reduction of corruption as well as received more foreign investment in the mining sector.

Power has now shifted from the political elite to allow the Zambian people to realise the country’s full potential from mining. Thanks to the EITI and the governments newfound commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance, we are finally seeing roads being paved in the Copperbelt province and Northwestern province, the principal copper producing regions of Zambia.

Luke Viljoen is an exploration geologist who has worked in Zambia over the past four years for both local and international companies. In addition to geology, Luke has a keen interest in development issues in the extractive sector.