



Meeting Minutes: NYCE Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Dates: 28–30 April 2025

Location: B2Gold Environmental Centre

Facilitators: NYCE-NEC

Minute Taker: Regional Committee members in attendance

Day 1 – Constitution Focus

Opening Remarks

The AGM opened with welcoming remarks and a presentation of the meeting’s agenda and objectives. Participants were reminded of the significance of the constitution review process and the importance of full participation.

Constitution Presentation and Review

- The current NYCE constitution was presented and read out loud by the President for collective input.
- Members agreed on the need for updates to improve structure, inclusivity and legal clarity.

Constitutional Amendments

Many amendments were made with some notable ones being:

- “Sustainable development” was added to the preamble.
- Redundant and unclear definitions, including Clause 1.3.4 (gender), were removed.
- Definitions section to be organised alphabetically.
- Tristan’s signature was declared invalid due to his absence status.
- All AGM attendees agreed to sign the constitutional Declaration of Delegation naming the National Executive Committee as founder members.
- The section on quorum was removed; a suggestion of 30 members or 50% of the region was proposed as a practical threshold.
- NEC and RC quorum set at 50% of RCs and three NEC members for meetings.
- Article 6.1 was amended to confirm the AGM as the highest decision-making body.
- A five-year strategic planning clause was introduced.
- Article 8.6 was removed; Article 8.7 was moved to Article 12.
- Articles 8 and 10 were merged.
- The membership point system was removed from the constitution but retained and modified for operational use. (Document attached)
- A “Who recruited you?” field will be added to the membership form.
- Discussions included setting an age limit (18–35) and creating an alumni category.

Motto and Logo Discussions

- The importance of a motto was acknowledged, but it will not be included in the constitution.
- The group agreed that the logo should not be defined within the constitution.
- Usage guidelines for the logo will be outlined in a separate policy or the Membership Code of Conduct.



Guest Presentation – Dr. Chris Brown

- Dr. Brown spoke on Namibia's challenges in maximising its wildlife economy.
- Leadership and youth engagement were emphasised as critical success factors.
- Participants were encouraged to take bold roles in conservation leadership.

Game Drive – Conservation Experience

- Attendees participated in a guided game drive to experience conservation in action.
- The activity supported the day's themes of environmental stewardship.

Dinner and Fire Discussions

- The day ended with informal discussions around a fire, promoting networking and reflection and getting to know members from other regions.

Day 2 – Natural Resources, Dialogue & Youth Challenges

Guest presentation

- Gail Thomson discussed the human-wildlife conflict and community-driven conservation.

Field Tours

- An agricultural tour showcased sustainable and climate-resilient farming methods at B2Gold utilises. During the tour Mr Jeremy highlighted that with more land they could grow enough wheat to feed the country
- A mining tour demonstrated sustainable extraction and showcase their land rehabilitation practices.

Breakaway Sessions

- Participants split into 3 groups to explore:
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Water and land management
 - Biodiversity threats
 - Youth integration in environmental policy
- Group findings were presented to the full assembly.

Breakaway sessions-key finding – Youth Challenges in Environmental Action

- Challenges identified:
 - Limited funding
 - Inadequate mentorship
 - Exclusion from decision-making platforms
- Proposed solutions:
 - Launching a NYCE mentorship program
 - Policy development to increase youth representation
 - Enhancing NYCE's visibility in national platforms



Day 3 – Strategic Planning, Resolutions & Elections

Drafting of Resolutions

- Key outcomes from previous sessions were compiled into formal and final constitution.

Guest Presentation

- A video of Jasper Kasoma's presentation on climate justice and the role of youth in sustainability was displayed.

Action Plan Development

- A roadmap for the next year was established, including:
 - Formation of a fundraising committee
 - New outreach and branding strategies
 - Regular youth-led environmental education forums
 - Monitoring and evaluation tools for NYCE programs

Elections

- Elections were held for the new National Executive Committee (NEC).
- Treasurer had 4 nominees, and Oliver Hoffman had the highest number of votes
- For the additional members, 8 nominations were made and the 3 with the highest number of votes were selected, Simeon Namweya, Thanti Bengela and Julia Nghishoongele
- Newly elected leaders were confirmed and introduced.
- Oath of office signed by all NEC members in attendance

Finalisation and Adoption

- Resolutions and the amended constitution were officially adopted.
- All attendees, excluding the NEC and Gail Thomson signed the declaration of delegation, and the NEC signed the final constitution.

Closing Session

- A final review of achievements was conducted.
- Next steps and follow-up actions were outlined.
- Gratitude was expressed to all contributors and partners.