



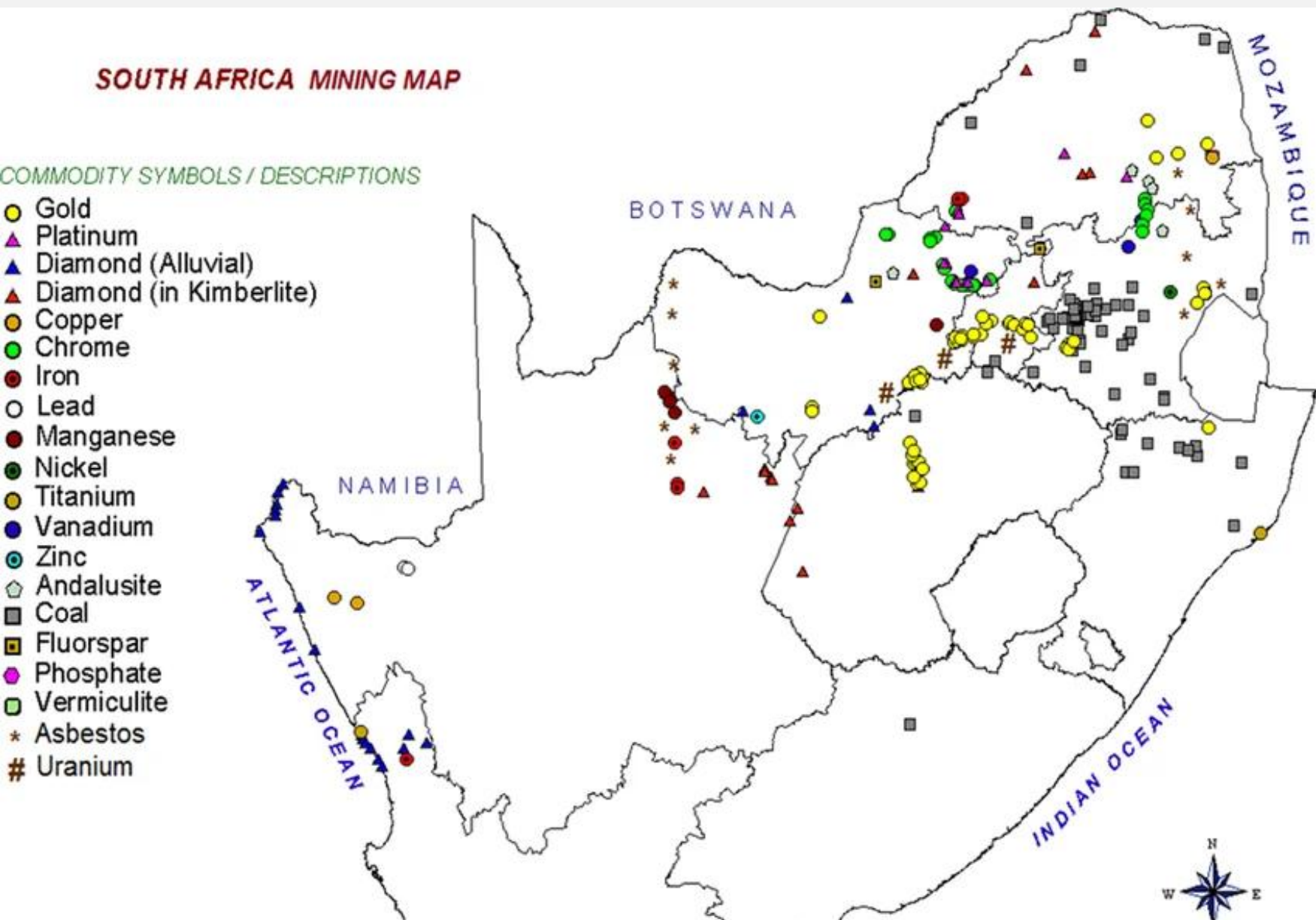
Community Perceptions on the Effects of Reclaiming Copper Tailings Dams

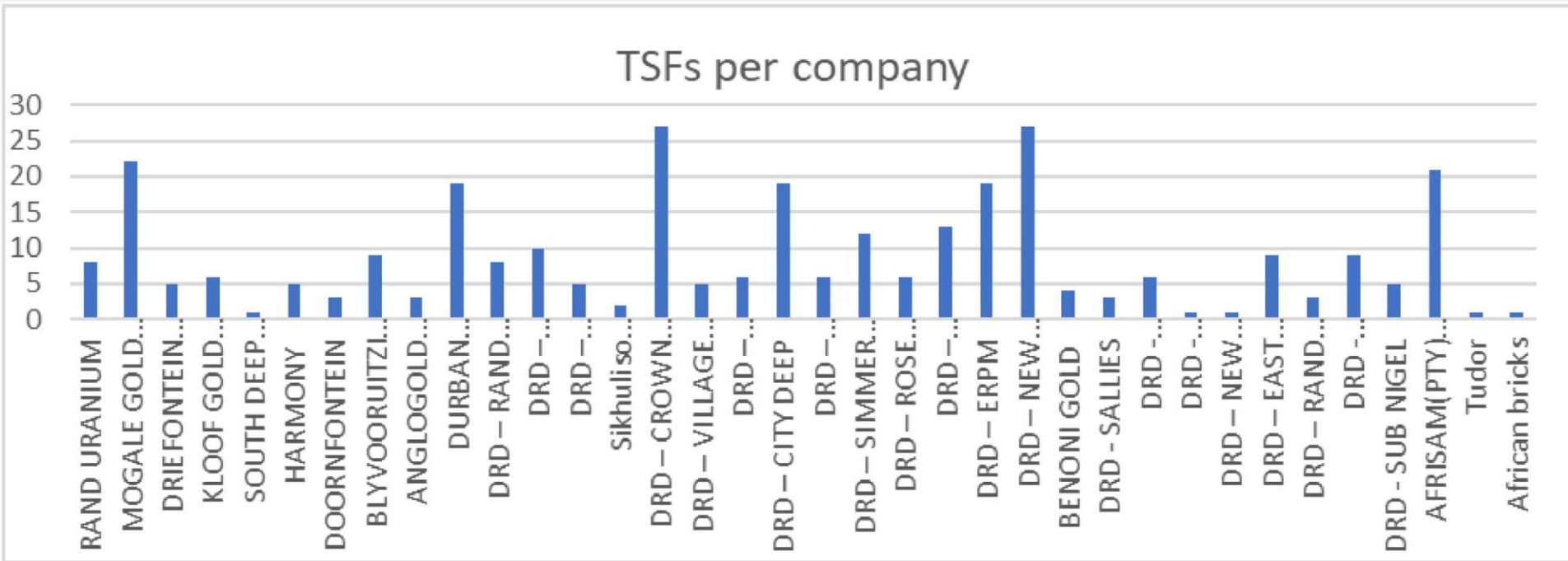
Mary Evans & Khuliso Masindi
and the Wits P2Cu5 Team

School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, PO WITS, 2025. Email:

mary.evans@wits.ac.za

Background





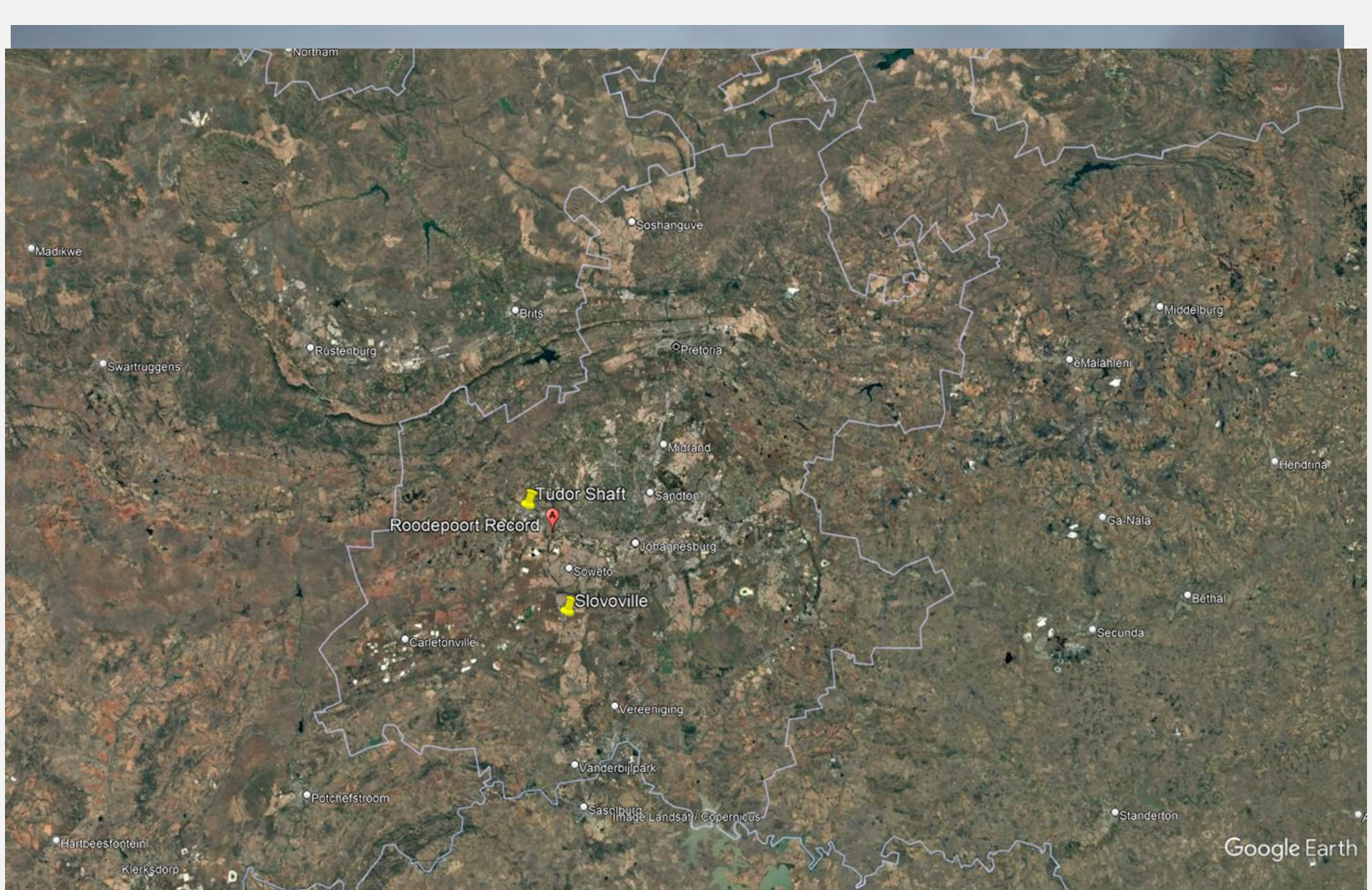
TSFs with their identified companies in Gauteng.

Tailings Storage Facilities



Mine dump in Johannesburg (<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/jul/06/radioactive-city-how-johannesburgs-townships-are-paying-for-its-mining-past>) Accessed 16 May 2026.

<https://www.miningdoc.tech/2025/07/29/when-tailings-dams-collapse-and-what-can-be-done-to-prevent-it/>

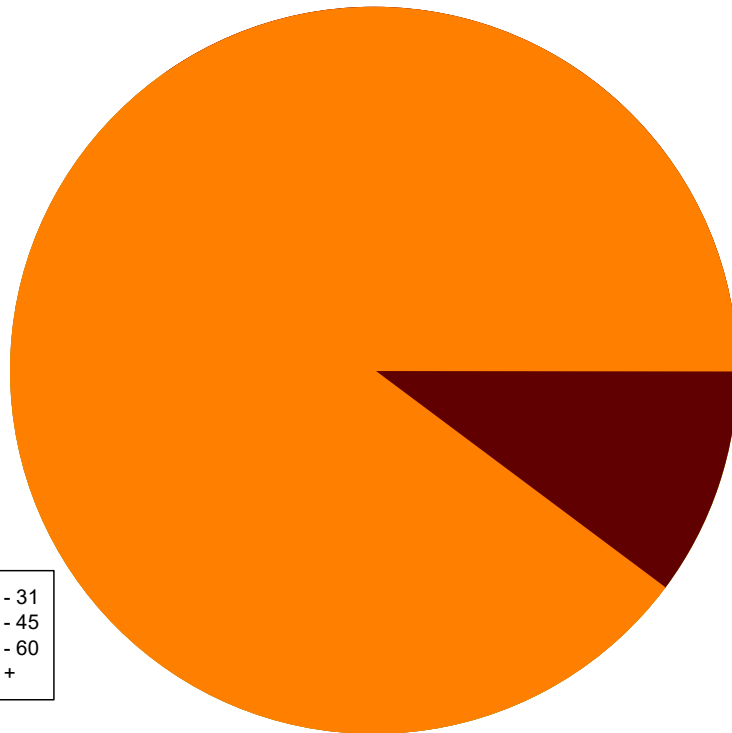


Slovoville Informal Settlement

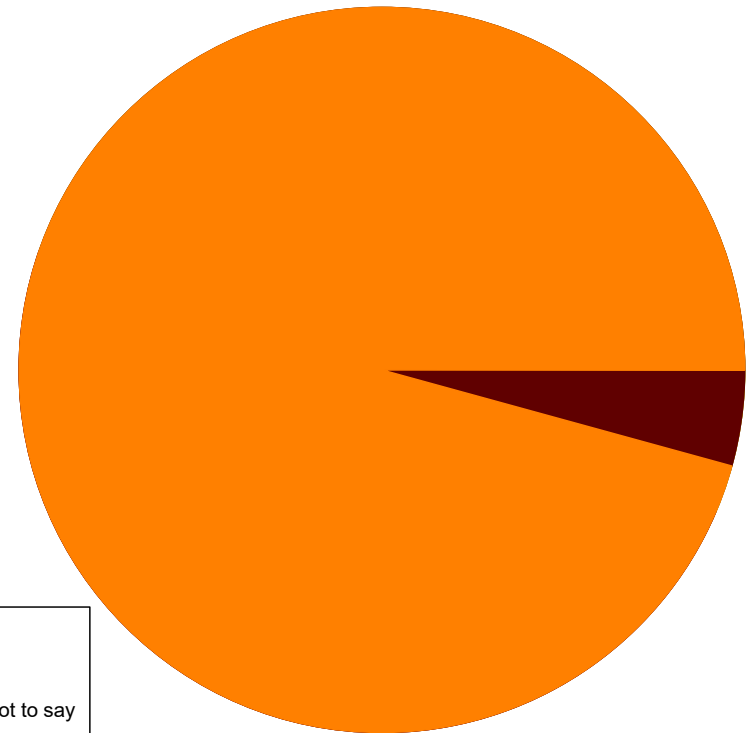


Pilot Study Results: Demographics

Age Distribution



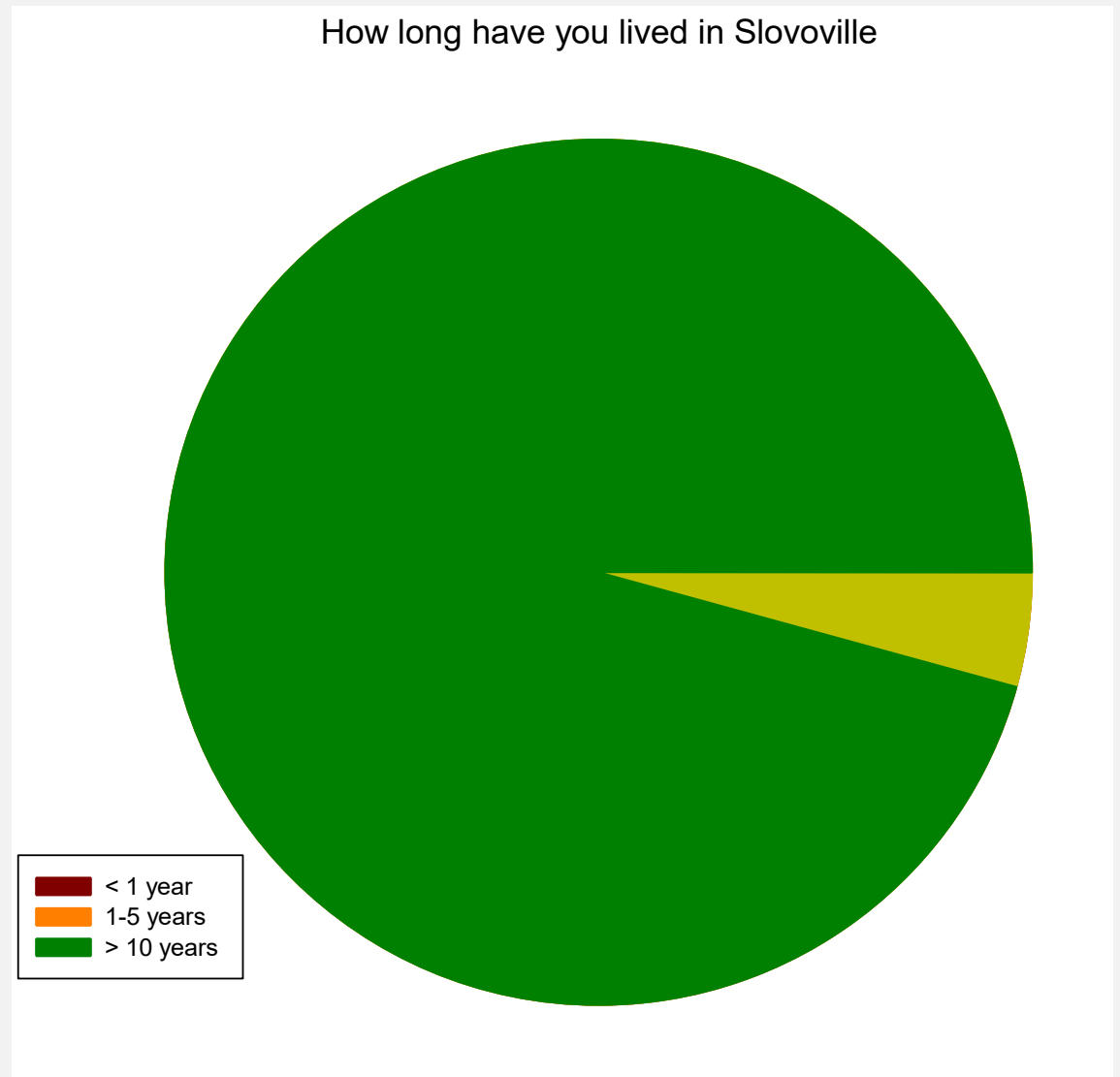
Gender Distribution



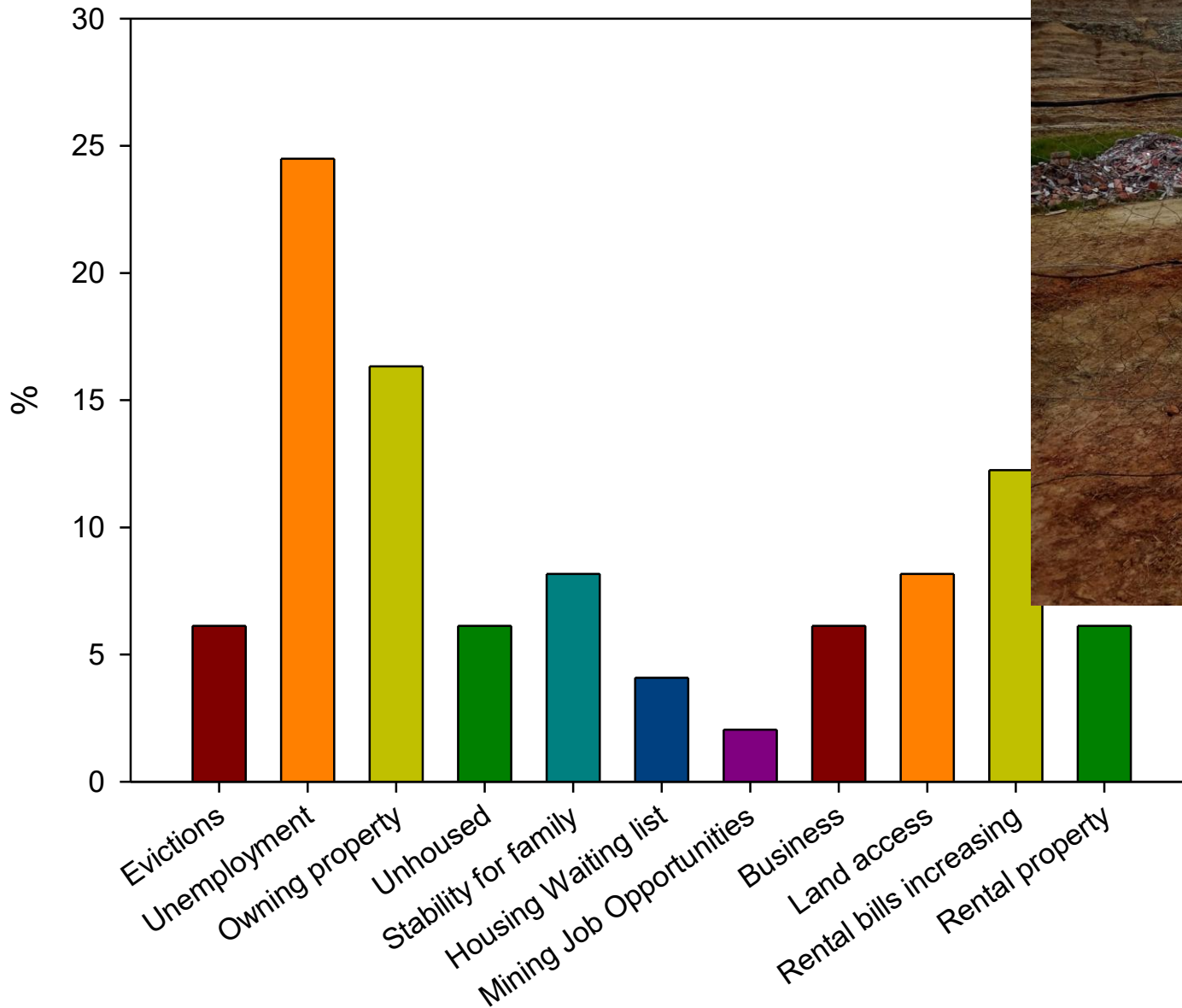
N = 50

Resident's time

- New informal settlement
- Less than 10 years old



Why did you move into the area?



Employment

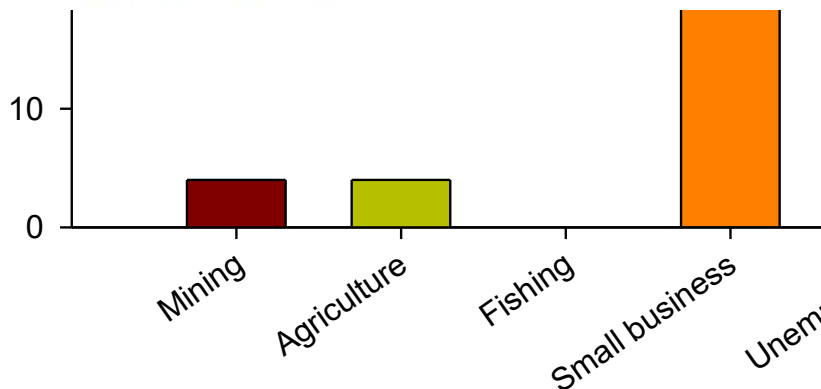
What type of employment are you



Shoan Yantolo

April 23 at 5:09 PM · 🌐

Hala me if you want this ngila e slovoville
this is solar system bafethu 0710279063



Zozo Zozo ▶ VIDEO KHASI-MULDERSDRIFT Community forum

11h · 🌐



Zozo Zozo

May 10 at 10:01 AM · 🌐

ZOZO FOR SALE 🏠 100

☎️ 0684229730 call and Whatsapp



Yika Lungile

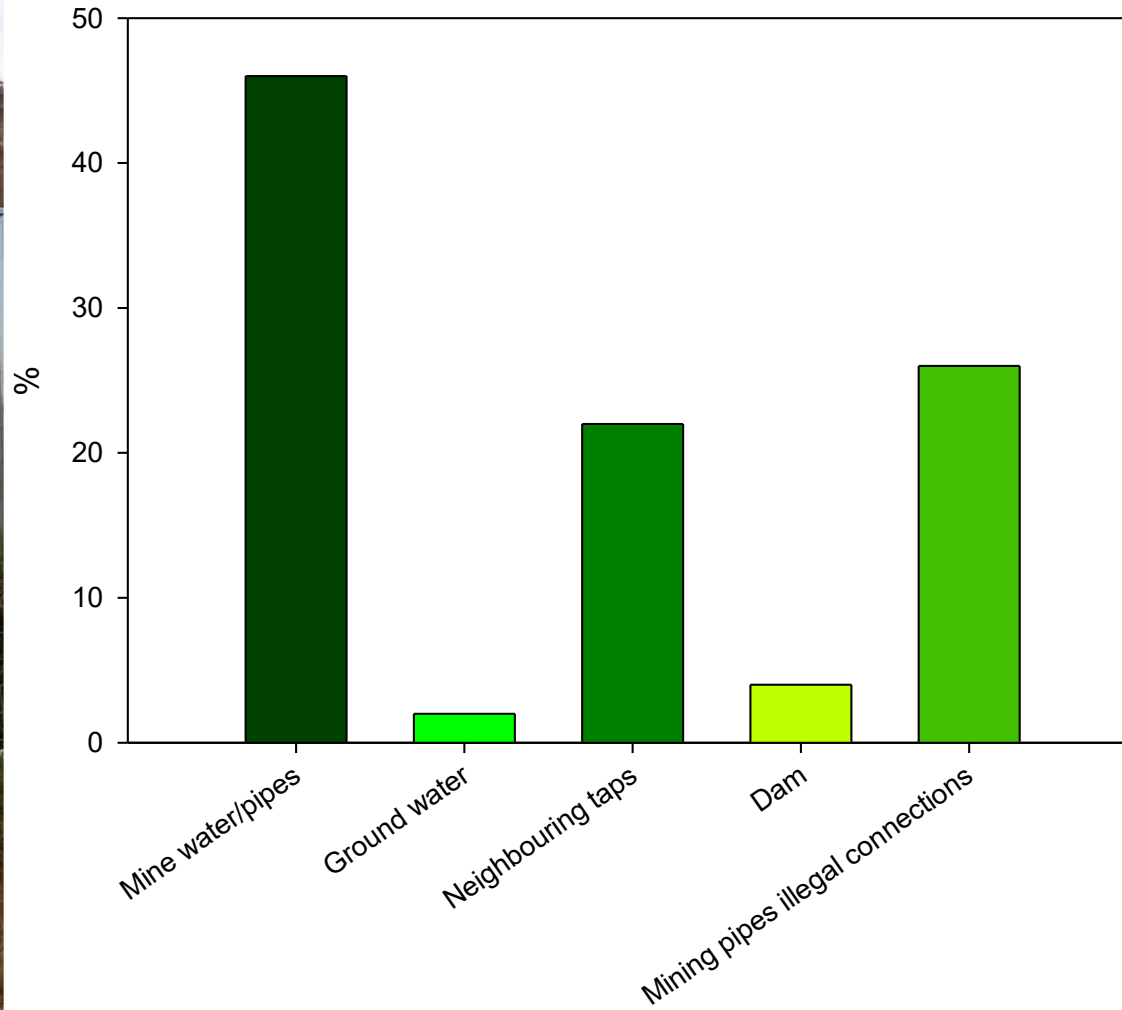
April 28 at 1:05 PM · 🌐

hello.... please help me looking for a room to rent for a salon even if it can be a big room in a busy place 🙏



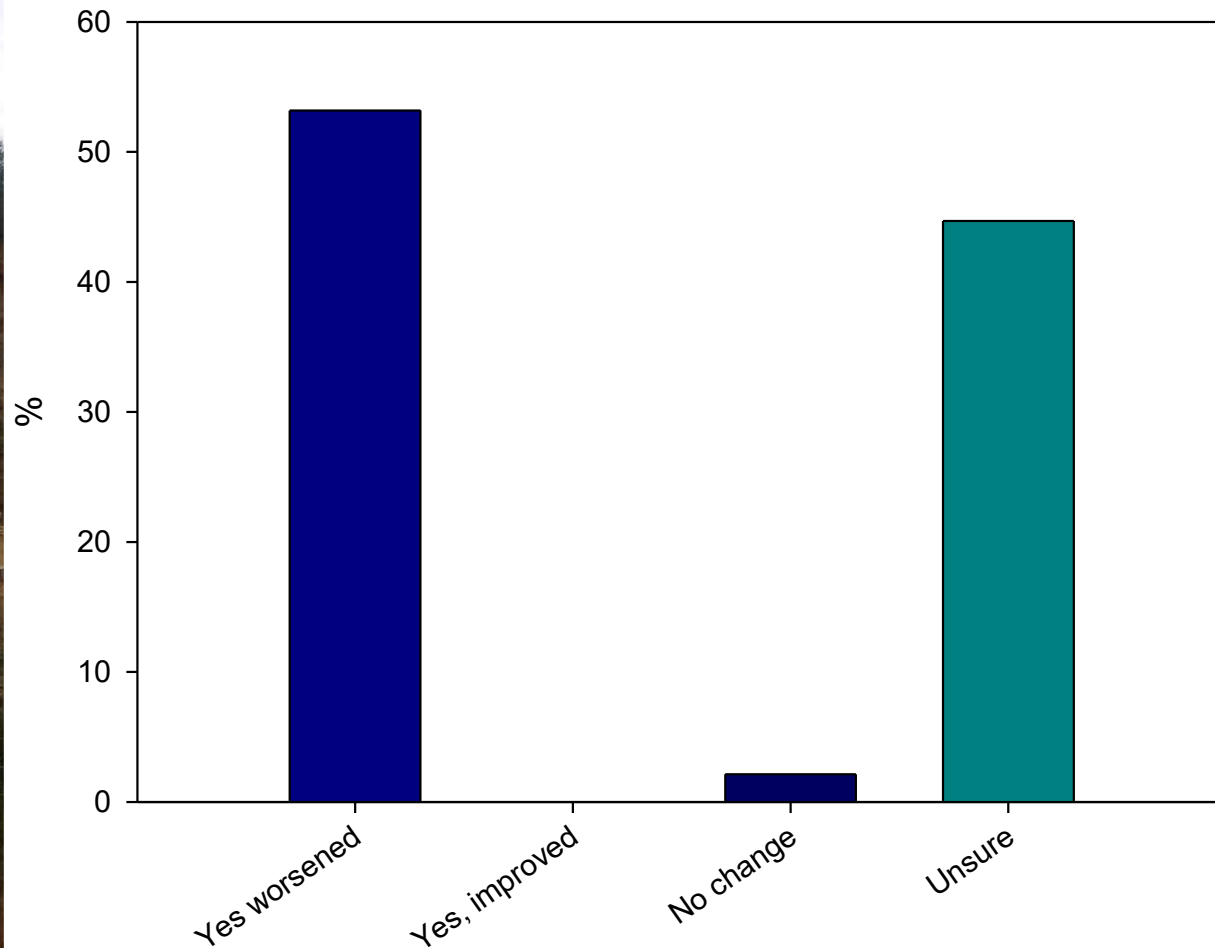
Water Supply

Where do you get your water supply from?



Water Quality

Have you noticed any changes in water quality in local rivers, dams, or wells from the mine tailings?



Have you noticed changes in the dust, air pollution, odour, soil contamination, or health-related issues?

	Unsure					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Dust	0	0	2	0	2	96
Air pollution	0	0	0	2	4	94
Bad smells /odours	6	0	4	6	10	73
Soil contamination	12	10	10	18	31	24
Health issues (e.g., respiratory illnesses, skin conditions, waterborne diseases)	12	0	0	14	14	59

Do you think removing the mine tailings would have a positive or negative impact?

	Unsure					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Improved infrastructure	0	9	83	0	0	9
Job opportunities	4	2	85	0	0	8
Improved air quality	7	7	76	4	0	7
Environmental safety	4	13	74	0	0	9
Community involvement in decision-making	10	44	40	0	0	6

The way forward

- Undertake a status quo analysis of communities' perceptions of tailing dams at the selected sites before the removal of tailings, including an understanding of safety, infrastructure, and environmental impacts
- Evaluate communities' perceptions of the land after the tailings have been removed and user acceptance of reclaimed land.
- Determine interest in community engagement and willingness to participate in job creation, skills development and training.



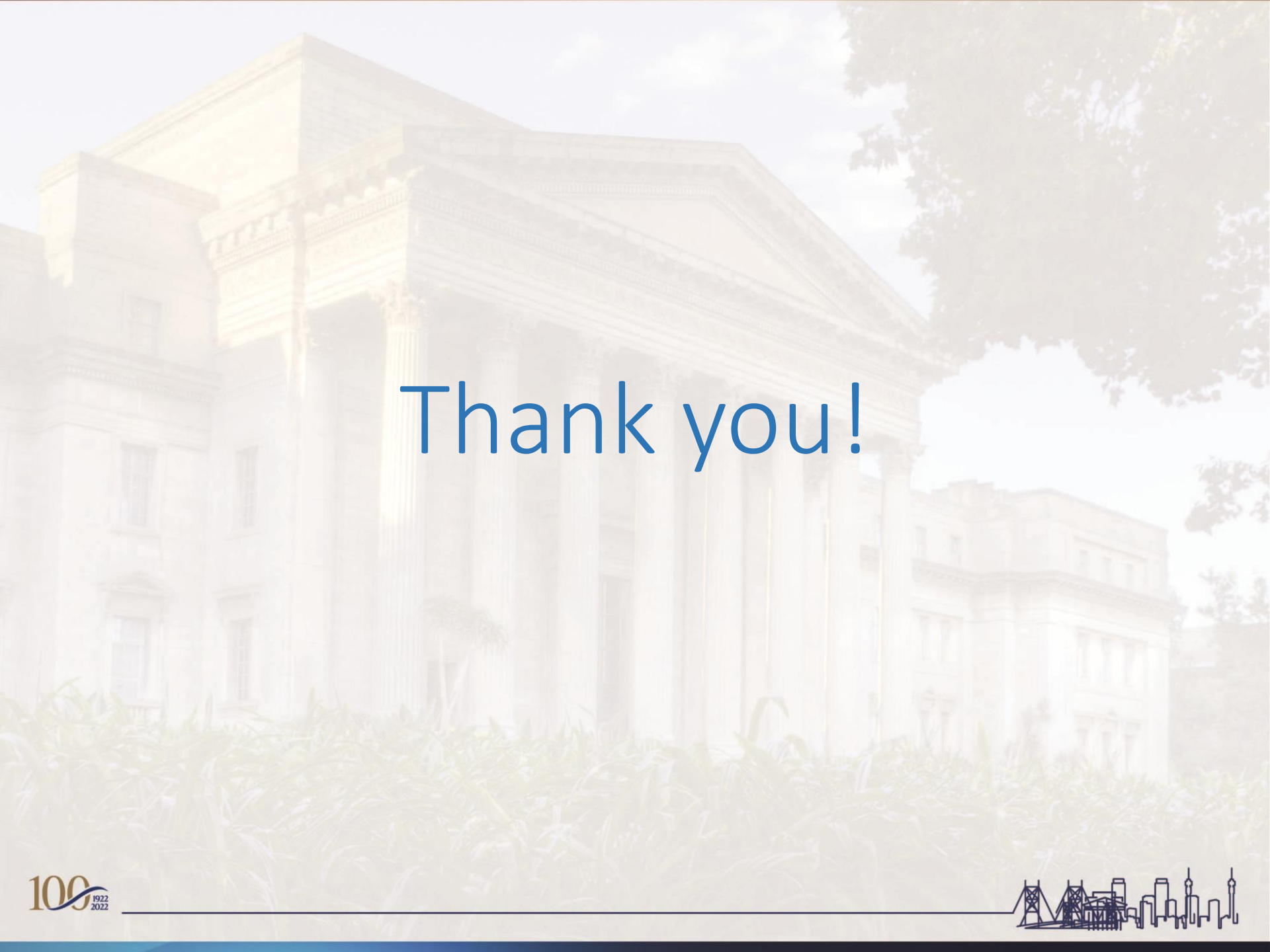
Data will be collected using self-administered questionnaires, distributed across the five study sites.



The questionnaires will include dichotomous items to assess interaction with and awareness of tailings dams, as well as scaling items to measure perceptions of environmental impacts, socio-economic benefits, and willingness to participate in reclamation.



Open-ended questions will be included to capture in-depth views on preferred land uses after reclamation.



Thank you!