

WiMCon2026

The Game Changers Awards

The 4th Annual Game Changers Awards will take place on the evening of 25th September 2026.

These awards recognise individuals and organisations demonstrating excellence, leadership, and measurable impact within the mining sector.

Award Categories

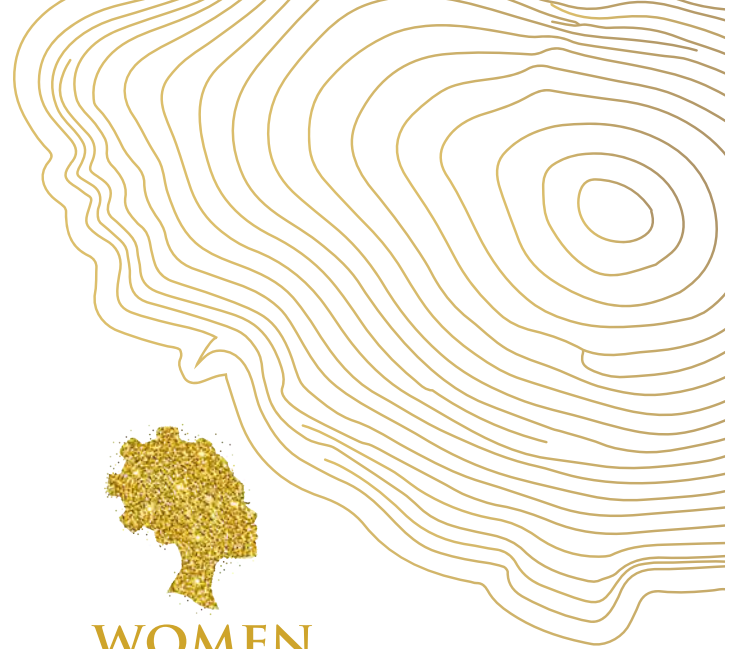
- Outstanding Operator / Trade / Technician
- Outstanding Support Services
- Mentorship Excellence
- Excellence in Technology & Innovation
- Excellence in Health, Safety & Environment
- Rising Star in Mining
- Gender, Diversity & Inclusion Champion
- Exceptional Woman in Mining
- Mining Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Award
- African Woman in Mining Impact Award

Special Awards

- Distinction Award of Excellence
- Legacy & Impact Award

The awards serve as a platform for industry recognition, credibility, and visibility.

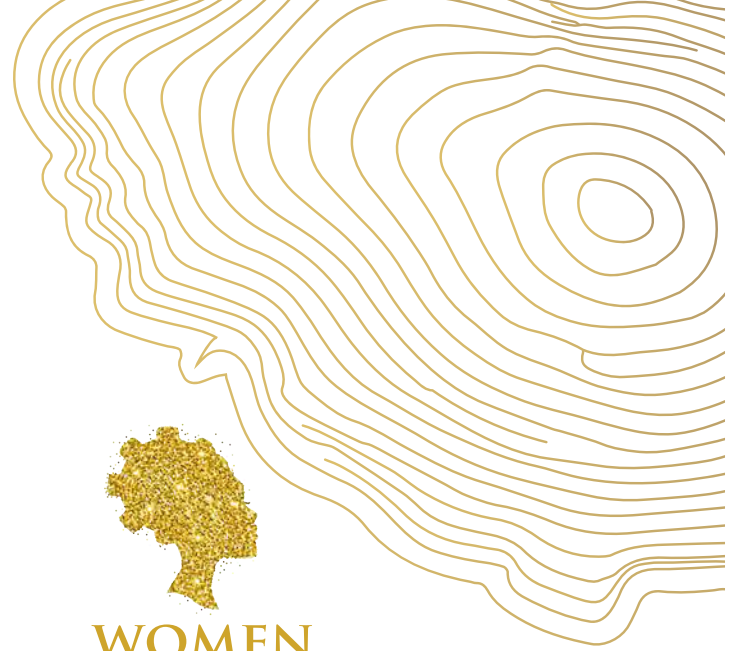
INSPIRE. EMPOWER. CONNECT



WOMEN
IN MINING
GAME CHANGERS
AWARDS



The Game Changers Awards



The Women in Mining Game Changers Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding women who are shaping the mining industry through excellence, leadership and impact. Designed to reflect the full mining value chain, the awards honour contributions across operations, technical roles, support functions, entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership.

They provide a platform to highlight real stories of achievement, resilience and progress, while reinforcing the importance of inclusive growth and sustainable development within the sector. At their core, the Game Changers Awards are not only a celebration of success, but a commitment to recognising the individuals who are building the future of mining in Africa.



The Game Changers Awards

Award Categories, Eligibility & Nomination Criteria



GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- All award categories are strictly open to women who are actively working in, or directly affiliated with, the mining sector or mining value chain
- The only exception is the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion Award, which is open to both women and men
- Nominees must demonstrate clear, measurable impact, achievement, or contribution within their category
- Nominees must have a minimum of two (2) years' relevant experience, unless otherwise specified in the categories
- All nominations must include detailed supporting evidence, including measurable results where applicable
- WIMCON reserves the right to verify all submissions and disqualify incomplete or inaccurate entries

1. Outstanding Operator, Trade & Technician Award

Eligibility

- Open to women working in hands-on operational, trade, or technical roles within mining operations
- This includes plant operators, equipment operators, artisans (electricians, fitters, boilermakers), and technicians (mechanical, electrical, instrumentation, etc.)
- Nominees must be actively involved in day-to-day operations
- Must have a minimum of three (2) years' experience in their role

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Proven competence and technical ability in their role
- Strong commitment to safety practices and compliance
- Contribution to operational efficiency, equipment performance, or productivity
- Ability to work effectively in physically and technically demanding environments
- Consistency, discipline, and reliability
- Respect and recognition from peers and supervisors

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2. Safety, Health & Environmental Excellence Award

Eligibility

- Open to women working in health, safety, environmental, or operational roles within mining
- Must have a minimum of two (2) years' experience
- Must demonstrate involvement in SHE initiatives, systems, or programs

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Contribution to improving workplace safety and environmental performance
- Evidence of risk reduction, incident prevention, or compliance improvements
- Leadership in promoting a safety-first culture
- Implementation of SHE systems, policies, or initiatives
- Measurable improvements in safety or environmental outcomes

3. Excellence in Mining Support Services

Eligibility

- Open to women employed within mining companies in support functions such as HR, Finance, Procurement, SHE support, Legal, Administration, Communications, or Supply Chain
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years' experience
- Must be working in a role that directly supports mining operations or organisational performance

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Significant contribution to organisational effectiveness and performance
- Delivery of high-quality, reliable, and professional services
- Initiative in improving systems, processes, or efficiencies
- Strong collaboration with operational teams
- Influence on workplace productivity, culture, or outcomes

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4. Excellence in Mentorship & Talent Development

Eligibility

- Open to women actively involved in mentoring, coaching, or developing others within the mining sector
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years' experience

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Evidence of mentee or team development (skills growth, promotions, performance improvement)
- Consistent commitment to mentorship and talent development
- Contribution to building a sustainable talent pipeline
- Leadership through empowerment and knowledge-sharing
- Long-term impact on individuals or teams

5. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion Award

(Open to both women and men)

Eligibility

- Open to individuals working within the mining sector or mining value chain
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years' experience
- Must demonstrate active involvement in DEI initiatives, programmes, or advocacy

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Implementation or leadership of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Measurable impact on workplace culture, representation, or opportunities
- Advocacy and visible leadership in promoting inclusion
- Contribution to breaking barriers and creating opportunities
- Sustainability and long-term impact of DEI initiatives

6. Innovation & Technology Excellence Award

Eligibility

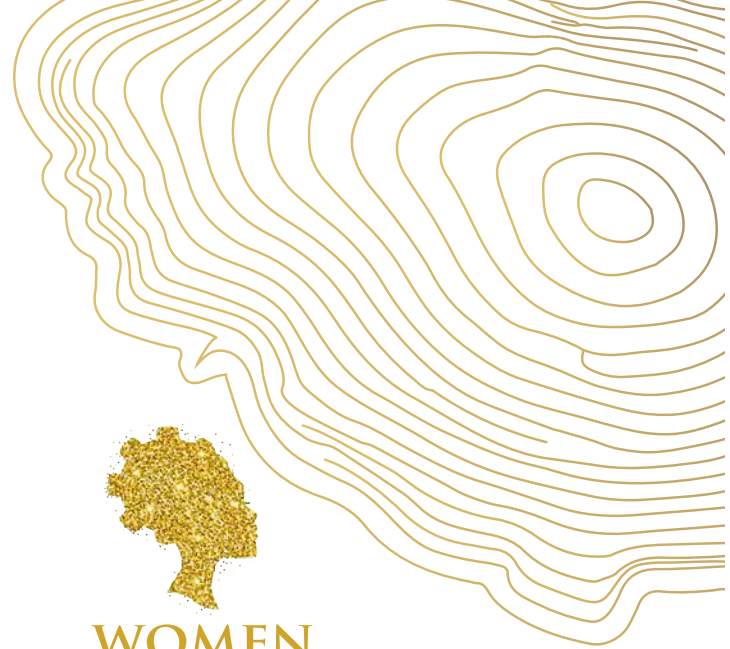
- Open to women who have led or contributed to innovative or technology-driven initiatives within mining
- Must have a minimum of three (3) years' experience

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Introduction or implementation of innovative solutions or technologies
- Measurable impact on efficiency, safety, cost reduction, or sustainability
- Practical application within mining operations or systems
- Potential for scalability or wider industry adoption
- Creative problem-solving and forward-thinking

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7. Mining Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Award

Eligibility

- Open to women who are founders, co-founders, or majority owners of businesses operating within the mining value chain
- Business must have been operational for a minimum of two (2) years

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Evidence of business growth, sustainability, and resilience
- Innovation in product, service delivery, or business model
- Contribution to the mining ecosystem
- Job creation and economic participation
- Strong leadership and entrepreneurial vision

8. Rising Star in Mining Award

Eligibility

- Open to women in early to mid-career stages
- Should be under 35 years of age OR with less than 10 years' experience

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Strong performance and career progression

- Initiative, ambition, and drive
- Leadership potential
- Contribution to team or organisational success
- Evidence of future impact within the mining industry

9. Exceptional Woman in Mining Award

Eligibility

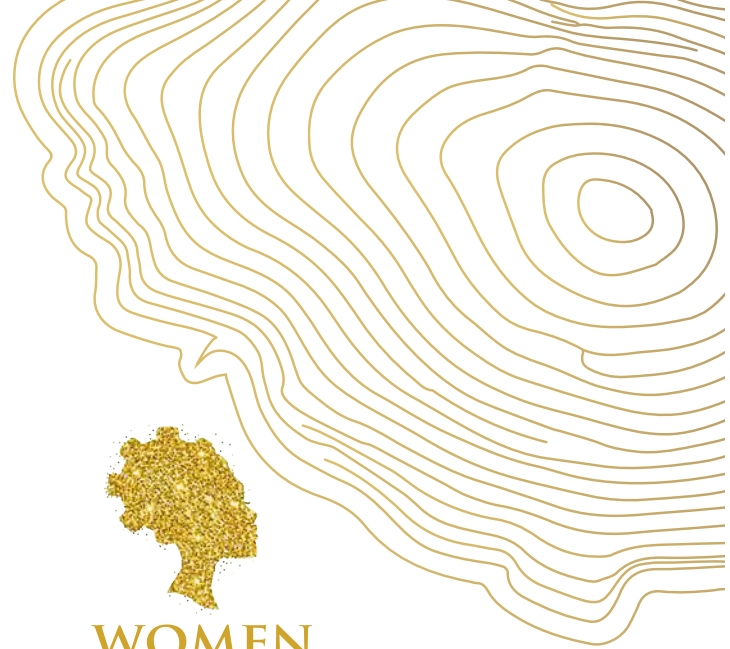
- Open to women in mid to senior-level roles within the mining sector
- Must have a minimum of five (5) years' experience

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Strong leadership and influence within their organisation or sector
- Proven track record of achievement and performance
- Contribution to organisational or industry success
- Recognition within the mining industry
- Sustained impact over time

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10. African Woman in Mining Impact Award

Eligibility

- Open to women working within the mining sector in any African country
- Must have a minimum of five (5) years' experience

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Significant impact beyond a single organisation
- Influence at national, regional, or continental level
- Contribution to transformation, sustainability, or industry advancement
- Strong leadership and visibility
- Measurable and lasting impact

11. Award of Distinction

Eligibility

- Selected by the judging panel
- Open to women whose contribution may not fall within a defined category but demonstrates exceptional merit

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Exceptional and unique contribution to the mining sector
- Impact that stands above standard category expectations
- Influence, recognition, or distinction within the industry
- Alignment with WIMCON values and vision

12. Legacy & Impact Award

Eligibility

- Open to women with extensive experience (typically 10+ years) in the mining sector
- Senior leaders, pioneers, or long-serving contributors

Nomination Criteria

Nominees must demonstrate:

- Lifetime contribution to the mining industry
- Enduring leadership and influence
- Contribution to industry development and transformation
- Mentorship and legacy-building
- Long-term, measurable impact across the sector

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Who Can Nominate

Nominations may be submitted by:

- Employers / Organisations (e.g. mining companies, contractors, service providers)
- Colleagues or Peers within the mining industry
- Industry Stakeholders (including professional bodies, partners, and associations)
- Self-nominations, provided that sufficient supporting evidence is included

All nominations must include:

- Completed Nomination Form
- Professional Profile/CV
- Motivation Statement
- Professional Photograph
- Supporting Evidence (Optional)

**Nominations will open on 11 May 2026
and close on 31 July 2026.**

All submissions must be completed within this period and supported by the required documentation. Late or incomplete entries will not be considered.

