

EMPOWERING PEACEBUILDERS

annual report 2018

IMPACT

Transforming natural resource management
Empowering communities

MISSION

We transform how natural resources are managed in areas where security and human rights are at risk. We investigate and develop approaches for natural resources to improve security, development, and equality. We are an independent non-profit, collaborating with local partners for lasting change.

BUILDING A FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

The demand for minerals found in areas of conflict is growing. We need innovative solutions to today's crises—empowering communities to benefit from their resource wealth and move towards peace.

That's why we are environmental peacebuilders at heart.

We believe in taking a holistic approach to transform how natural resources are managed in areas where security and human rights are at risk. Our five focus areas—regulatory reform, transparent supply chains, ending illicit trade, gender equality, and environmental stewardship—demonstrate a commitment to sustainable and equitable development of women, men, and children affected by the mismanagement of natural resources.

Throughout 2018, we strengthened our commitment to empowering peacebuilders in resource-rich communities.

Our report, *Best Practices: Formalization and Due Diligence in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining*, highlighted efforts around the globe to formalize artisanal mining and sparked conversation in Côte d'Ivoire about creating an enabling environment for women and men to work in the sector.

In northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the technical assistance provided to the local artisanal gold mining cooperative as part of our Just Gold project promoted sustainable environmental practices at mine sites. Together with trainings on safer mercury handling techniques, we supported the cooperative in introducing new equipment to reduce mercury use and increase safety.



Photo: Zuzia Danielski/IMPACT

Our work in DRC led to the establishment of the first association of women artisanal gold miners in Ituri Province, the Network for the Empowerment of Women in Mining Communities (REAFECOM). Quickly growing to over 300 members, REAFECOM came on the heels of our work to build awareness through the Just Gold project on human and women's rights, along with a series of trainings to develop women's leadership, entrepreneurship, and economic participation.

Importantly, we were excited to share our work with Canadians during events in Ottawa and Montreal. As part of our full-day conference, *From Driving Conflict to Building Peace*, stakeholders from across government, the private sector, and civil society shared innovative approaches to environmental peacebuilding. Two women artisanal miners from DRC—representatives of REAFECOM—shared how the international community can support their efforts towards economic empowerment.

We need to develop solutions that address system-wide transformation of the linkages between natural resources, conflict, and development. By empowering local actors—and women in particular—we're paving the way for lasting change.

Together, we're building a future of environmental peacebuilding

JOANNE LEBERT
Executive Director

ROLLAND MORIER
Board President

Photo: Sven Torfinn/IMPACT



VISION

We envision a world where resources contribute to equitable peace and development, and where communities are empowered to decide how their natural resources are managed.

Photo: Zuzia Danielski/IMPACT



2018 GLANCE

JANUARY

- As part of the Just Gold project in Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Ituri Province, we provide technical assistance to the local artisanal gold mining cooperative, CODEMA. Miners receive training and support in developing Environmental Protection and Risk Reduction Plans, as well as Personal Protection Plans, contributing to improved safety conditions at mine sites.

FEBRUARY



- We launch *Transformation: 2018-2023*, our first Strategic Plan as IMPACT. The Strategic Plan outlines how we intend to achieve system-wide transformation over the next five years. Our Strategic Plan focuses on how partnerships with different stakeholders can contribute to innovative approaches in addressing improved natural resource management.
- We hold workshops in Uganda to support the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, which includes the Regional Certification Mechanism and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance. The Regional Certification Mechanism is a regional standard for certification of the 3Ts (tin, tantalum, tungsten) and gold sourced from or transiting across an International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Member State. President Yoweri Museveni adopted it into law on December 2017.

MARCH

- We publish an overview to our approach on gender equality, spotlighting how we identify and address critical gaps in knowledge and data on women's empowerment in the artisanal mining sector. Our briefing paper demonstrates how gender equality is integrated into our projects, and how our research and projects contribute to policy change in support of women's empowerment in the natural resource sector.
- As a technical partner to the ICGLR Member States, we hold workshops in Kenya and Zambia to support Ministry of Mines officials to develop a workplan to integrate the ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources into these countries' legislative frameworks.

WORKSHOPS were held across Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia, to support the implementation of traceability and due diligence of the 3Ts (tin, tantalum, tungsten) and gold.

APRIL

- We partner with Consensas, a Canadian technology company delivering scalable solutions for risk management, supply chain traceability, and due diligence. Consensas' technology is uniquely adapted to complex environments. Our partnership supports communities to share traceability, due diligence, and impact data in exchange for fair compensation. We are testing the application developed for the ASM gold sector as part of the Just Gold project.

“ We are **CREATING** a solution that allows companies to confidently source minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas, while supporting upstream supply chain actors to progressively meet international market standards. ”

IMPACT and Consensas in *Unlock the Value of Data in Your Supply Chain*



- In partnership with the UN Environment, we raise awareness on the risks of mercury in artisanal gold mining and better handling techniques among Swahili speakers. We translate UN Environment's video that spotlights improved practices into Swahili and support its release and distribution.

MAY

- Women artisanal miners in DRC's Ituri Province launch a new women's rights association, the Network for the Empowerment of Women in Mining Communities (REAFECOM). REAFECOM is the first association of women artisanal miners in the province, supporting women's rights in their communities. The new association comes on the heels of our work as part of the Just Gold project to enhance awareness about women's rights through a series of trainings to develop women's leadership and economic participation.

“ Our organization is a network that has a far reach in fighting for the rights of all women. Women came together to fight for their voice to be heard, and that is why they are coming and finding that this is a good place to share their issues and be a part of the solutions. ”

Apoline Awachanock, President of REAFECOM

- We publish *Best Practices: Formalization and Due Diligence in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining*, a policy brief that examines different approaches to formalization of the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector. By examining cases in Colombia, DRC, and Mongolia, we demonstrate how policies and legislation can support formalization of the ASM sector and can position it to contribute to equitable development.

JUNE

- We share our lessons learned from developing a traceable and conflict-free supply chain for artisanal gold in DRC at events in Stockholm, Vancouver, Brussels, Chicago, Washington DC and more. We encourage scaling responsible sourcing efforts that provide evidence of development benefits for women and men in artisanal mining communities.
- After our research on women in the artisanal mining sector in Rwanda called on small-scale mines in the country to increase women's participation, eight women are hired at the Gifurwe semi-industrial tungsten mine. This marks a major step forward in supporting women's empowerment in Rwanda's ASM sector.

JULY

- We hold a sensitization workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire to raise awareness about formalization of the ASM gold sector in the country and actions the government can take to have the sector contribute to peace and development. The three-day workshop is geared towards government officials, the private sector, and civil society with 73 participants—33% of which were women.
- We support business skills training for over 300 women artisanal gold miners in Ituri with funding from Dell, as part of the Artisanal Mining Women's Empowerment Credit & Savings (AFECOR) project. The training aims to improve the success of entrepreneurial activities through capacity building of business skills. Local civil society representatives are trained as trainers, allowing for long-term sustainability.
- In Ituri Province, as part of the Just Gold project's technical assistance, we support artisanal gold miners across six mine sites to develop improved techniques to handle mercury more safely and decrease their use of the chemical. We also support the mining cooperative, CODEMA, to start the installation of a mining plant which makes processing more efficient and mercury-free.

AUGUST

- The Just Gold project gains new partners with Hoover and Strong, a United States-based refiner, and Fair Congo, a DRC-based exporter coming on board. They begin sourcing gold from the cooperative in Ituri Province, CODEMA. For the first time, gold from the Just Gold project is available in the United States.

SEPTEMBER

- We hold public events in Ottawa and Montreal on natural resources, conflict, and gender equality. Our full-day *From Driving Conflict to Building Peace* conference brings together over 100 stakeholders to discuss innovative responses for natural resources to improve peace and women's empowerment. Two women artisanal gold miners from the DRC participate and share how they are changing the narrative on Congo and conflict minerals.



“Previously, we weren't allowed to sell the gold ourselves. But men and women both went to training, and the men saw the importance of supporting the women towards equality. They saw contribution women could make to the households.”

Kahambu Vaherenie, an artisanal gold miner from DRC, speaking at IMPACT's conference.

OCTOBER

- Over 1,000 women and more than 200 men in South Kivu's Walungu Territory are trained in a collaboration DRC civil society organization RIO (Organizational Innovation Network). The trainings focus on increasing gender equality and women's empowerment at an artisanal gold mining community, through a number of workshops and engaging with local authorities, women's associations, customary chiefs, and religious leaders.
- We prepare to launch the Women of Peace project In Ituri Province, which supports the members of REAFECOM to increase their skills as mediators—with a goal to decrease and prevent conflict in artisanal mining communities. We hold capacity building workshops on gender and social and economic development, as well as training on sexual and reproductive rights, with co-funding from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Global Affairs Canada.

NOVEMBER

- 50 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) participating in the AFECCOR project pay out their savings after the project's financial cycle. More than 1,400 women and men established VSLA's, contributed money to their savings each week, and distributed loans to group members.
- Through the Just Gold project, the mining cooperative has sold over 9.7kg of traceable and conflict-free artisanal gold to partner exporters in DRC. Over 1,000 miners have participated in the project. As a result of the project's work, the number of women miners in the community who self-declare to be members of the cooperative increased from one percent to 64 percent.

DECEMBER

- We kick-start work with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) to develop a framework to measure the impacts of the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (OECD Guidance). The OECD Guidance is clear that companies must review their supply chains for human rights risks and abuses, corruption, and bribery, then mitigate these risks and publically publish both risks identified and measures taken.



Photo: Zuzia Danielski/IMPACT

GROUP MEMBERS saved over \$45,000 USD over one year and granted more than 1,200 loans that were invested into new or existing businesses like the trade of palm oil, fruit, or fish. The project also successfully decreased women and men's reliance both on informal and predatory credit networks and on the use of gold as currency.

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HOW WE DRIVE CHANGE



REVEAL. We investigate, monitor, and analyze how natural resources are managed and how these systems can be improved.



INNOVATE. We develop, test, and deliver improved systems for the management of natural resources through technical assistance, information sharing, and capacity building.



ENGAGE. We advance constructive dialogue with stakeholders including civil society, policymakers, industry, and communities to improve how natural resources are managed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Dell

European Union

**European Partnership on
Responsible Minerals**

**GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit*)**

Global Affairs Canada

**Organization for Economic
Co-Operation and Development
(OECD)**

**Swiss Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs**

**Tungsten Industry-Conflict
Minerals Council**

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenues and Expenses for the Year Ending	March 31, 2019	March 31, 2018
REVENUES		
Global Affairs Canada	3,497,753	3,491,310
European Union	72,235	241,726
Netherlands Enterprise Agency - EPRM	301,584	272,238
Tetra Tech/USAID	—	134,744
German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ)	139,056	46,086
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	82,623	—
Artisanal Gold Council (Canada)	—	8,141
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	16,362	—
Carleton University	—	130,430
Tungsten Industry Conflict Minerals Council	—	37,736
Dell USA L.P.	241,405	6,764
Contributions to PWYP	193,395	191,384
Other	20,879	7,449
Interest	6,943	1,450
TOTAL	\$4,572,235	\$4,569,458
EXPENSES		
Direct Project Costs	2,201,239	2,210,381
Salaries and Benefits - Canada	1,274,778	1,344,587
Salaries and Benefits - International	670,812	586,315
Project Development	26,447	16,191
Communication (Public Awareness)	35,802	46,382
Administration and Project Support	318,446	368,755
TOTAL	\$4,527,524	\$4,572,611
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	44,711	(3,153)



Photo: Zuzia Danielski/IMPACT

