

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 | 2024

IMPACT
Transforming natural resource management
Empowering communities

Enabling **LOCAL ACTORS** to **CREATE CHANGE**





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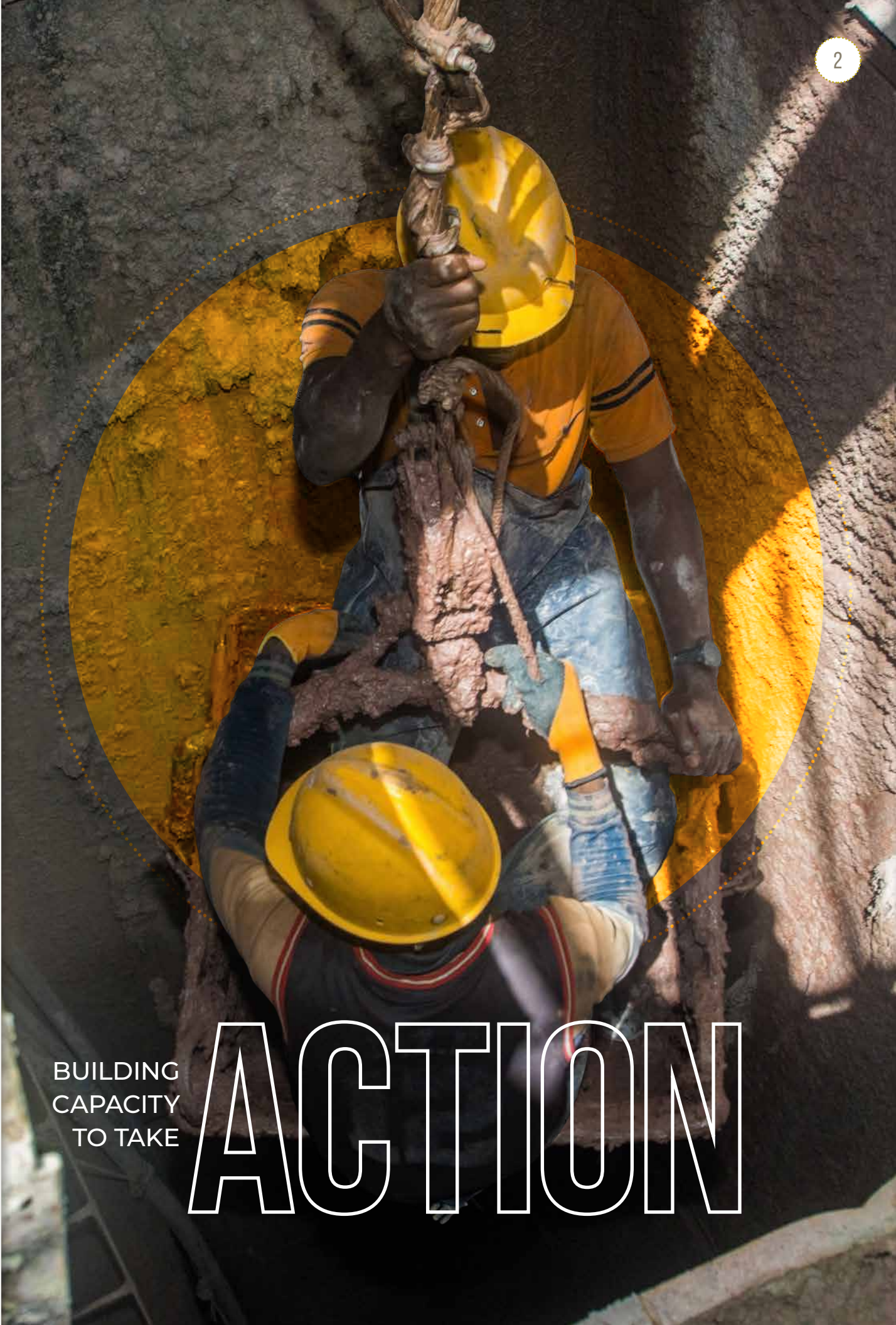
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DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year as our 2018-2023 Strategic Plan ended and we looked forward to the next five years, our team came together to celebrate successes, welcome growth, and revise goals to better meet current contexts and emerging issues. Public health challenges, security concerns from armed conflict and violent extremism, as well as the increasing urgency to address climate change are global issues interlinked with supply chains. They also directly impact the women and men we work with in the first mile of supply chains of high-value commodities such as critical minerals and gold.

Despite shifting realities for the natural resources sector and the communities we serve, our mission, vision, and values have not changed.

Within IMPACT's new Strategic Plan 2024-2029, *Enabling Change*, we have decided to stay the course and reaffirm our five focus areas and approach to driving change. The next five years we are continuing our efforts to strengthen security, development, and equality by enabling change—and we name communities as our guiding star.

We're excited to share that in 2023-2024, we've embarked on the next phase of growth for our organization. We've launched multiple, multi-year projects across Africa allowing us to build upon lessons learned and contribute to capacity building and transfer of knowledge to local partners, leading to more locally led natural resources management.

In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Challenging Corruption project supports local civil society to monitor corruption more effectively in the artisanal cobalt sector by tracking informal payments. The five-year Powering

Resilience project, implemented across four provinces in DRC, supports local artisanal mining communities at the heart of the green energy transition to protect and restore degraded forests, as well as adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Across the region, IMPACT has renewed its long-standing support of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to improve mineral governance. Our work together will harness the potential of artisanal mineral flows as drivers for security, stability, and development.

This past year we've seen progress towards more responsible mining practices across communities and supply chains. In Côte d'Ivoire, we are working with gold traders to unlock their potential as drivers of legal trade. We continue to work with communities producing critical minerals, such as cobalt in DRC, to address issues of child labour and corruption in the supply chain. In the gold sector, our teams in Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire have been working with miners on improving health and safety, in preparation for the introduction of mercury-free mining techniques.

We thank our partners, funders, and supporters. Importantly, we thank the communities we work with. We look forward to building on the results from this past year and working together to enable change in the years to come.



Joanne Lebert
Executive Director



Nicole Piggott
Board President

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This year, IMPACT launched its new Strategic Plan 2024-2029, *Enabling Change*.

Our Vision REAFFIRMED

AS WE HAVE WORKED TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE, shift paradigms, pave the way, and break barriers, it has never been clearer that to improve natural resource management, the communities at the heart of our work must be our guiding star.

After much reflection, we have decided to stay the course, reaffirm our five focus areas, and use this new strategic plan to:



During the next five years, we are continuing our efforts to strengthen security, development, and equality by **ENABLING CHANGE**:

- **From the ground up:** building capacity, investment, and spotlight with and for local actors.
- **At the systemic and global levels:** influencing political, financial, and regulatory decision-making.



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Who we are

IMPACT IS A GLOBALLY DISTRIBUTED TEAM

with headquarters in Canada and offices in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, and Uganda. With partnerships and relationships as an integral part of our work, IMPACT collaborates with all levels of civil society organizations, academic institutions, governments and regional institutions, and the private sector. IMPACT is an active member of several inter-governmental bodies and civil society coalitions that work on standards, justice, and equality in natural resource management. IMPACT's beneficiaries include miners' groups, artisanal mining operators, women's associations, local governments, and national authorities.

What we stand for

- Natural resources should benefit local communities and all genders and peoples equally.
- Security, peace, and gender equality are essential to equitable development.
- Transforming natural resource management systems will generate more equitable benefits for local communities while decreasing conflict.
- Local communities know their contexts best.
- Local communities must challenge, change, and ultimately, lead how their natural resources are being managed and used. To do that, they need support to access capital, appropriate technologies and tools, and skills.
- Political will is required to ensure transformation of natural resource management is sustainable.



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Our Approach

PARTNERSHIPS

We favour partnerships as a critical path to multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative solutions.

INTEGRATION

We ensure issues like gender equality and environmental protection are addressed across our work.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATION

We strive to be attentive to the knowledge, needs, and concerns of Indigenous peoples and communities in areas targeted by mineral exploitation.

INNOVATION

We push boundaries by identifying, testing, and sharing bold, new models.

DATA

We believe in the power of data informed by evidence-based research and evaluation.

SUSTAINABILITY

We prioritize long-term strategies for capacity, investment, and attention for local actors.

PEACEBUILDING

We promote and practice non-violence.



In our new Strategic Plan 2024-2029, we embrace the opportunity to build on the results we have achieved together by enabling change, communities first.

READ NOW:

<https://bit.ly/EnablingChange2024-2029>



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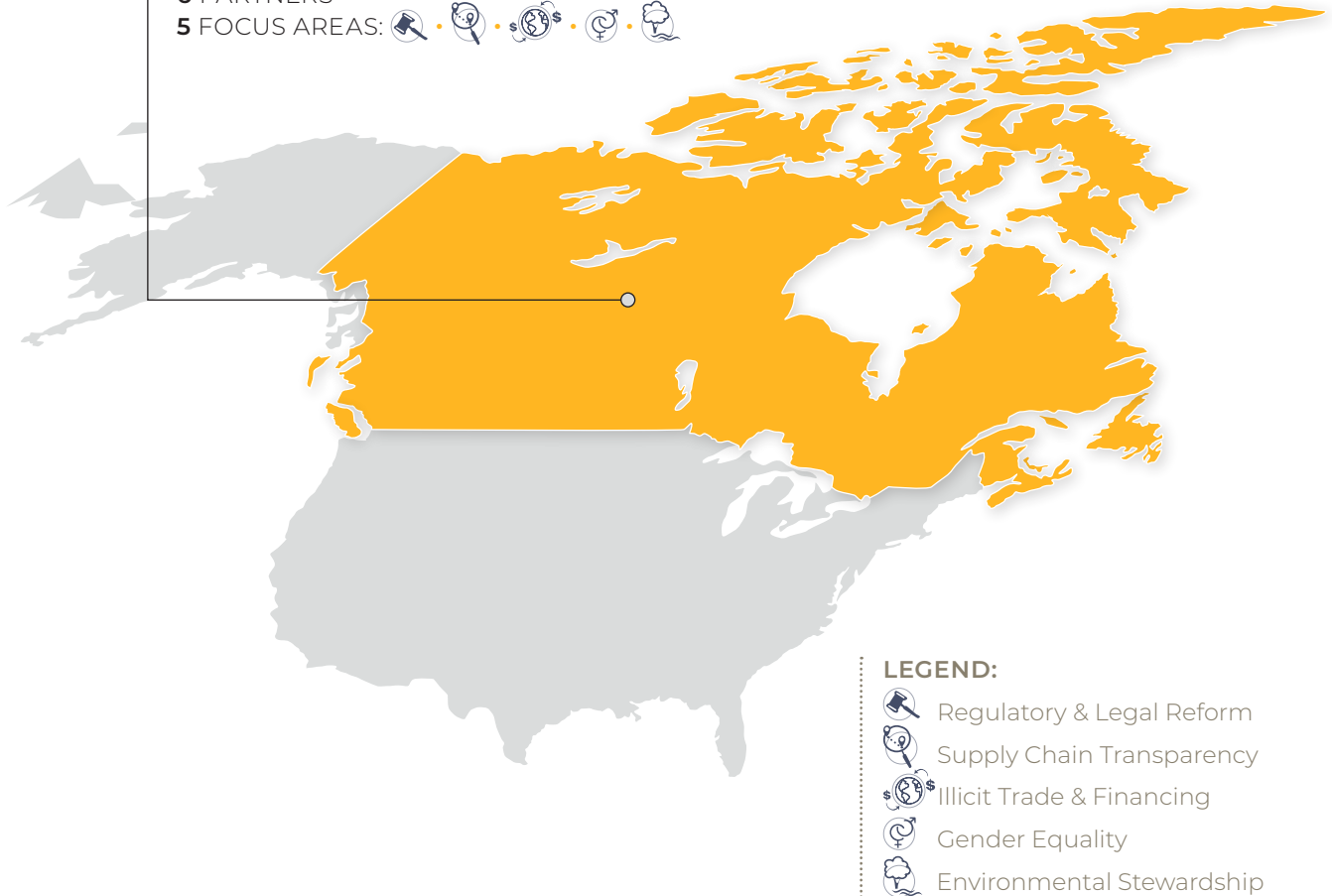
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CANADA *based in Canada, not necessarily with a Canada-focus

4 PROJECTS

6 PARTNERS

5 FOCUS AREAS:     



LEGEND:

-  Regulatory & Legal Reform
-  Supply Chain Transparency
-  Illicit Trade & Financing
-  Gender Equality
-  Environmental Stewardship

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

- Alliance 8.7 Member
- Environmental Peacebuilding Association Founding Member
- European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) Member
- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group Civil Society Co-Chair
- Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) Governance Committee Member and Founding Member
- Publish What You Pay Canada (PWYP-Canada) Steering Committee Member and Host
- Responsible Minerals Initiative Steering Group Member
- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Member
- Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Member
- Women's Rights and Mining Member

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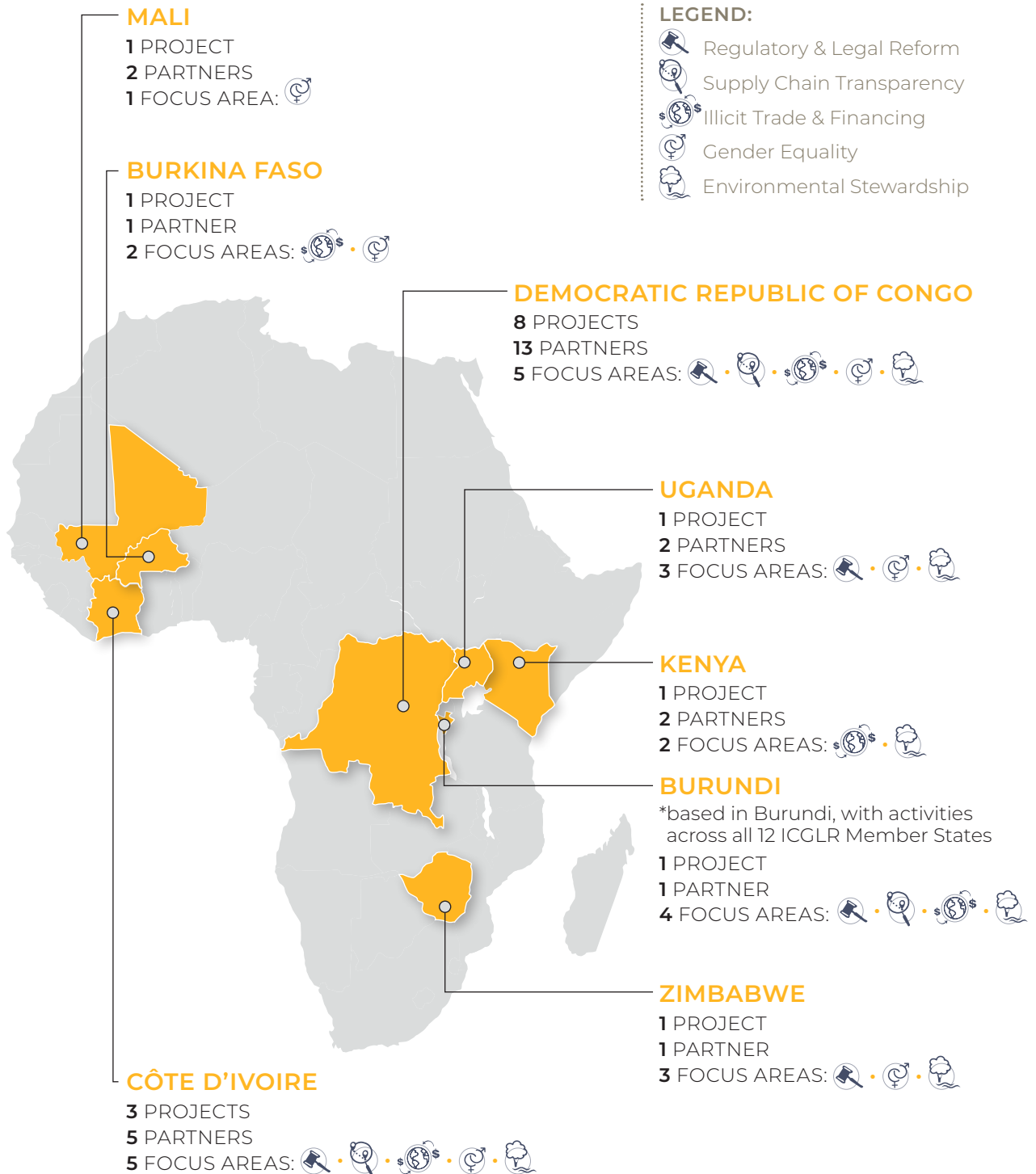
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Highlight on CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Identifying Barriers for Traders to Enter Responsible Supply Chains

TRADERS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S ARTISANAL MINING ECOSYSTEM ARE INTEGRAL TO THE SECTOR'S OPERATION, YET THEY FACE A COMPLEX LANDSCAPE. Most of the artisanal gold mined in the country is easily channeled through illegal routes, with a significant portion exiting through neighboring countries to reach international markets.

The role of traders extends beyond mere middlemen; they are key to the survival and prosperity of communities, often providing additional essential goods and services that range from fuel to daily necessities, like cooking oil and clothing.

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However, operating within legal constraints is hindered by several significant barriers. The administrative processes for engaging in legal trade are daunting, with a fiscal framework that often makes legal trade less competitive and at times uneconomical. Corruption further complicates these challenges, as it permeates the supply chain at multiple levels, making it difficult for traders to operate transparently and legally. Given these conditions, many traders rely on informal financing sources, which ties them to less formal and accountable trading methods.

The involvement of traders in responsible sourcing initiatives is crucial for the success of sustainable practices within the artisanal gold sector, including in Côte d'Ivoire. Without integrating these traders into responsible sourcing frameworks, formal supply chain initiatives risk being undermined by the pervasive influence of informal trading networks, thereby jeopardizing the effectiveness of sustainability efforts. By integrating traders into responsible sourcing initiatives, it is possible to bridge the gap between informal operations and formal market demands, enhancing the overall efficacy and integrity of the supply chain.

IMPACT's experience with the Just Gold project in both Côte d'Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo underscores the critical need for integrating traders into efforts to formalize artisanal gold supply chains—and potential barriers. The project demonstrated that working within the existing structures of the artisanal mining sector and directly engaging with the actors already embedded within these systems—actors that have deep expertise, extensive networks and key roles in the sector—is likely more scalable and more sustainable than attempting to create completely new supply chain relationships.

By acknowledging these challenges and focusing on what motivates traders to participate in due diligence, we can better tailor initiatives to align with their needs and realities. The Scaling Up project in Côte d'Ivoire is now testing the inclusion of traders. This project builds on Just Gold's foundation, enhancing market transparency and legitimacy for traders, thereby supporting more effective community development and creating supply chains that adhere to both national and international standards.

SCALING UP

Funded by the European for Partnership for Responsible Minerals

IMPACT's Scaling Up project aims to enable scalable and sustainable artisanal mineral supply chains by encouraging artisanal gold traders in Côte d'Ivoire to participate in responsible resourcing. The project will test

an open-pipe sourcing model to provide a stable and consistent supply of responsible minerals to downstream market actors.

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Highlight on DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Ending Child Labour Starts with Investing in Women

GLORIA* HAS ALWAYS LIVED IN KOLWEZI, WHERE COBALT MINING WAS SIMPLY A WAY OF LIFE. Now, it has become essential for her family's survival.

Her husband, Simon, worked as a digger. With few options available, he joined others just outside the gates of the large company. Money was tight but they made it work.

But five years ago, tragedy struck when Simon was killed in a car accident on his way to the village. Gloria was left to care for their three children now aged 14, 11, and 6.

After Simon's death, Gloria's family took her in. However, she couldn't stay long, not wanting to be a burden. Her choice was simple, let her family starve or join the women at the mine site. Now she washes ore. It's a difficult job standing in the stagnant water. She often worries about illnesses and is tired from backbreaking work. But she is proud. Every day she brings home money.

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Then things started to change. As the price of cobalt shot up, more people started digging, others hoping to get rich quickly. Suddenly there was competition everywhere. They were told the market changed or that their ore wasn't pure enough. Everything started to become more expensive, and household costs began piling up.

The money stopped being enough and they went without food for a couple of days. After that, Gloria's two older children started coming with her to the mine site. She keeps them close so she can watch over them, and when she hears the agents coming, she tells them to run back home. Gloria knows it's not right, but they have no other choice. Despite the risks, they can now afford rent and manage to eat a meal each day. The children even save a little to buy sweets or put away for new clothes.

This was not the life she dreamed of for her children. More than anything, she wants them to go to school and have a better future.



IMPACT's research reveals how poverty and hunger are a driving force behind child labour in DRC's artisanal cobalt mines. Families depend most on women's income. When mothers are struggling, children step in to help. IMPACT found that if children's income is paying for family needs like food, then as a first step to tackle child labour, the income of the main breadwinners—the women—needs to increase.

* Gloria's story has been written to reflect the experiences of interviews with women in Kolwezi to protect their anonymity. While names and details have been changed, Gloria's story is true to what we heard.

Amid rising costs, families are struggling to make ends meet. Children work when families get desperate. IMPACT's research shares key findings and recommendations to end child labour in DRC's artisanal cobalt sector.

READ NOW: <https://bit.ly/IMPACTChildLabour2023>



HER SECURITY

Funded by a member of the Responsible Business Alliance, through the Responsible Business Alliance Foundation

IMPACT's Her Security project investigates how enhancing women's security in artisanal cobalt and copper mining

communities in DRC can improve livelihoods and decrease child labour. The project examines various aspects of

women's security to lay a foundation for future evidence-based programs and policy interventions.

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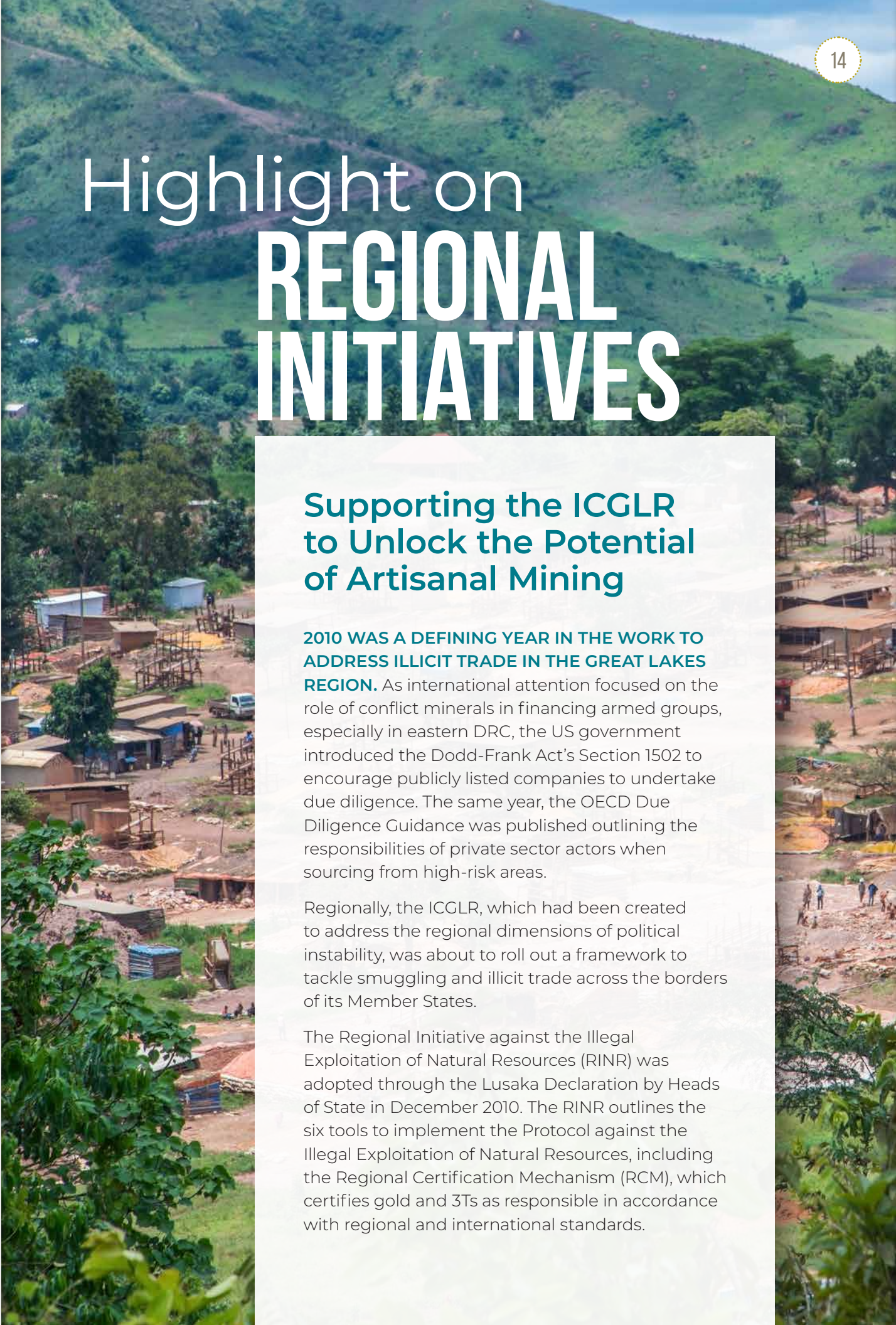
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Highlight on REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Supporting the ICGLR to Unlock the Potential of Artisanal Mining

2010 WAS A DEFINING YEAR IN THE WORK TO ADDRESS ILLICIT TRADE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION. As international attention focused on the role of conflict minerals in financing armed groups, especially in eastern DRC, the US government introduced the Dodd-Frank Act's Section 1502 to encourage publicly listed companies to undertake due diligence. The same year, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance was published outlining the responsibilities of private sector actors when sourcing from high-risk areas.

Regionally, the ICGLR, which had been created to address the regional dimensions of political instability, was about to roll out a framework to tackle smuggling and illicit trade across the borders of its Member States.

The Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) was adopted through the Lusaka Declaration by Heads of State in December 2010. The RINR outlines the six tools to implement the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, including the Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM), which certifies gold and 3Ts as responsible in accordance with regional and international standards.

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Since then, the reliability and integrity of the leading private 3T traceability scheme in the Great Lakes region has faced increasing criticism. At the same time efforts to implement traceability for gold haven't stemmed smuggling. Many buyers of artisanal gold in transit points and trading centers don't seem to question its origin, whether it's been traded and exported legally, whether it's funding armed groups or corruption, or contributing to human rights violations.

The ICGLR's Member States have made important progress to advance the implementation of their commitments in keeping with the Lusaka Declaration. But implementation of the ICGLR's six tools is inconsistent across the region. The RCM is currently being implemented by five countries: Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. However, it still lacks recognition by the international market.

Much remains to be done across the countries of the region, both for those that have begun applying the RCM and those that have not. While artisanal mining has often been seen as a driver of conflict and insecurity, many governments are now recognizing the potential of the sector to contribute to economic and social development. In addition, the surge in demand for critical minerals has brought similar struggles to other supply chains—emphasizing the need for the ICGLR and its Member States to adopt a holistic approach to their natural resource sectors that can drive sustainable development and economic growth.

Through the Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region project, IMPACT is supporting the ICGLR and Member States to use the mining sector as an engine for economic growth. The project will broaden the scope of the RINR beyond peace and security considerations to reflect stakeholder needs, while supporting a more efficient RCM that meets market expectations.



PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Funded by the European Union

The project aims to improve mineral governance in the region while advancing security, stability, and development.

The project builds the capacity of the ICGLR and its Member States to address artisanal mineral flows and harness their

potential as drivers for economic and social development, as well as stability and security.

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Highlight on UGANDA

Miners at Kayonza-Kitumbi Look Towards More Responsible Mining Practices

NESTLED IN CENTRAL UGANDA'S KASSANDA DISTRICT, THE KAYONZA-KITUMBI MINE SITE IS A BUSTLING HUB OF ACTIVITY, PRODUCING UP TO 2.5 KG OF GOLD EACH MONTH. The mine site is managed by the Kayonza-Kitumbi Miners Association, whose more than 40 members are on the path towards formalization and improved mining practices.

The Kayonza-Kitumbi miners largely use mercury to extract gold from the ore. Although mercury was banned in Uganda, the miners indicate that they are yet to find an alternative which works well and is affordable.

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Partnering with the planetGOLD Uganda project, the Association is making strides in promoting safer mercury handling among its members. The Association has established a designated area for mercury use and disposal to prevent water contamination. The planetGOLD project will also be supporting the miners to introduce and support the adoption of mercury-free technologies.

However, miners handling mercury or working in mining pits lack proper protective gear. Speaking to miners during a visit in 2024, the Kassanda District environment officer emphasized the importance of encouraging miners to wear protective equipment to ensure their safety and health.

The planetGOLD Uganda project has launched a nationwide sensitization drive to address this gap across Kayonza-Kitumbi and other mine sites. Recorded messages and video have been broadcast highlighting the dangers of mercury to human health and the environment. Information has also been shared on topics such as alternative technologies to mercury, gender, health and safety, child labour, and the importance of registration.

As Uganda takes steps to implement new regulations to formalize the artisanal gold sector, the Kayonza-Kitumbi Miners Association is empowering its members to comply with the new policies. By formalizing, including moving towards becoming a cooperative association, the group is poised for growth and is strengthening its position within the local supply chain.

The mine site illustrates both the challenges and opportunities within Uganda's artisanal gold mining sector. Through the planetGOLD Uganda project and the efforts of the Kayonza-Kitumbi Miners Association, significant strides are being made to promote safer, more responsible practices, and enhanced financial stability for miners.

The planetGOLD Uganda project is partnering with miners at the Kayonza-Kitumbi mine site to help them transition to mercury-free methods and to achieve full legal recognition by the government.

WATCH NOW:

<https://bit.ly/DispatchesUganda2024>



PLANETGOLD UGANDA

Supported by the Global Environment Facility, Led by the UN Environment Programme

The planetGOLD project in Uganda is part of a global programme similarly implemented in 23 countries. By working to close the financing gap, supporting formalization,

raising awareness, and connecting mining communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets, the planetGOLD programme aims to demonstrate a

pathway to cleaner and more efficient small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from mine to market.

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Helping Mining Communities Protect the “Lungs of Africa”

THE CONGO BASIN TROPICAL FOREST, KNOWN AS THE “LUNGS OF AFRICA,” IS THE LARGEST CARBON SINK IN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO RECENT ESTIMATES, ABSORBING MORE CARBON THAN THE AMAZON. It plays a vital role helping to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and slow global warming.

Spanning six countries, including DRC's northeastern Ituri and Tshopo provinces, it is the second largest tropical rainforest in the world, home to a rich ecosystem and diverse biodiversity.

HOWEVER, THE FOREST IS UNDER THREAT.

It is estimated that the country's deforestation levels are rising each year, with more than half a million hectares lost in 2022 alone. This accounts for 13 percent of all global deforestation that year—and puts DRC in second place behind Brazil for the number of trees felled. At the current rate, DRC's primary forests could be completely razed by 2100. In addition, while it plays a vital role to absorb carbon—DRC is also one of the largest polluters, as the world's 12 largest greenhouse gas emitters as of 2018.



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While mining is not the only cause of deforestation, it plays a major risk factor. Importantly, all eyes are on DRC's mineral wealth.

DRC boasts abundant mineral resources, including tin, tungsten, tantalum, gold, copper, and cobalt, with the latter two being essential for manufacturing "carbon-friendly" technologies like electric batteries and wind turbines. To support the transition to a carbon-neutral economy, the International Energy Agency predicts that meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement will require an increase of at least 400% in the production of critical minerals by 2040. This puts DRC's forests in further danger.

Local communities are already facing the adverse effects of climate change such as heavy rainfall, droughts, and rising temperatures which increase food insecurity among households. At the same time, local environmental stewardship needs to increase to prevent further deforestation risk and support mining communities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

IMPACT's newest project, Powering Resilience, strengthens the knowledge and technical capacity of local communities to implement actions to restore and protect degraded forests, as well as create new economic opportunities from their ecosystem to replace those currently threatened by climate change. The project centers women's leadership and promotes Indigenous knowledge to ultimately support more resilient communities in the context of climate change and inclusive governance over ecosystems.



70%

OF DRC'S LAND
IS COVERED BY

FORESTS.

THE CONGO
BASIN IS THE
2ND LARGEST

**RAIN
FOREST**

IN THE WORLD.



POWERING RESILIENCE

Funded by Sweden

The Powering Resilience project aims to increase the resilience of DRC's communities vulnerable to the impacts of mining, particularly critical minerals that are vital for

the green transition. The project will enhance the local populations' capacity to restore and safeguard their ecosystems, such as tropical forests and woodlands. It will center women's leadership

and promote Indigenous knowledge as part of efforts to support communities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

2023 – 2027

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Transparency as a Tool to Uncover Corruption

DRC's national and provincial laws are complex, confusing, and often contradictory.

Inside the INNOVATION LAB

In the artisanal cobalt sector, many supply chain actors such as miners, cooperatives, and traders don't fully understand the laws or if they are being charged legal taxes. The many state and technical services aren't clear on what others are collecting or inconsistently apply the laws, providing opportunities for some state agents to abuse their power.

These informal payments, ranging from a few dollars to several thousand, add up and result in corruption along the supply chain every day.

Tackling these informal and illegal payments starts with all stakeholders knowing which ones are legally required. IMPACT worked with stakeholders to map all the payments, fees, and taxes applicable to artisanal cobalt supply chains and their legal basis.



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The findings indicated that too many taxes and fees—both formal and informal—are being imposed on supply chain actors. Stakeholders identified that at the extraction level, the number of payments to be made would be reduced from eight to four. This would allow cooperatives to avoid informal payments which have no legal basis, such as \$10,500 USD charged by SAEMAPE for technical advice on installations in the mine site.

IMPACT proposed that when actors have a map of legal payments—it becomes a powerful tool for communities to fight against corruption.

The five Payment Maps for DRC's artisanal cobalt sector were published in November 2023 as part of the Mapping Payments project. They are being widely disseminated across Lualaba and Haut Katanga provinces through IMPACT's Challenging Corruption project which aims to make corruption more visible.

IMPACT is testing the use of transparency as a tool to fight corruption in DRC's supply chain, based on its learnings from the artisanal gold sector. In 2022, a similar process mapped the taxes and fees for the gold supply chain in Ituri Province.

The resulting Payment Maps for gold have been used by supply chain actors to deter demands for illegal payments.



Together with stakeholders, IMPACT mapped the taxes and fees for DRC's artisanal cobalt sector. The five payment maps identify the legally required taxes, fees, and procedures for production, trade, and export of cobalt.

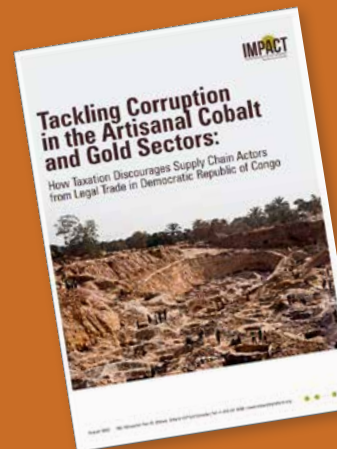
READ NOW:

<https://bit.ly/CobaltMappingPayments>

High taxes are pushing artisanal mining actors across DRC into informality and illegality—even when legal trade is an option. IMPACT's latest research examines how the fiscal regime is contributing to corruption and proposes recommendations to the DRC government for reform.

READ NOW:

<https://bit.ly/DRCTaxationReform2023>



CHALLENGING CORRUPTION

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Powering a Just Energy Transition Green Minerals Challenge

IMPACT's Challenging Corruption project aims to make corruption and its impacts in DRC's artisanal cobalt supply chain more visible. The project supports civil society to monitor corruption more effectively in the sector and leverage analytics for change.

2023 – 2025



SPOTLIGHTED PARTNERS in 2023-2024

ACTION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES (ADGRN) is an NGO in DRC established in 2010 whose work is based on human dignity. ADGRN's activities focus on civic education, agroforestry, and land issues. It has a wide range of stakeholders such as farming communities, Indigenous Peoples, rural and women leaders, civil society, political parties, trade unions, policymakers, and the private sector.

BON PASTEUR KOLWEZI is a DRC nonprofit established in 2012 by the Good Shepherd sisters to improve the situation of artisanal miners by promoting community development, women's empowerment and child protection. It is currently consolidating its activities in Kolwezi, Lualaba Province, and gradually expanding to seven new artisanal mining communities nearby.

CENTRE AFRICAIN POUR LA SANTÉ ENVIRONNEMENTALE (CASE) is a non-government organization dedicated to protecting the environment, improving conditions for better health, preserving natural resources and promoting sustainable development throughout the African continent. They have offices across Africa including in Côte d'Ivoire.

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES is a public research university in Golden, Colorado founded in 1874. The school offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering, science, and mathematics, with a focus on energy and the environment.

EITI-DRC is committed to strengthening transparency and accountability of the management of DRC's extractive sector by implementing the EITI Global Standard. This process is supported by a National Committee composed of an Executive Committee, represented by the Government, the private sector, and civil society, as well as a Technical Secretariat. The executive body of the National Committee is led by a National Coordinator.

GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (GSIF) is a non-profit organization based in Italy. GSIF was founded by the Good Shepherd sisters to support their programs in developing countries by promoting Economic Justice for women and children and offering opportunities for the empowerment of grassroots communities and individuals.

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ICGLR is an inter-governmental organization of 12 Member States: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. It was created in response to the recognition that political instability and conflicts in these countries have a considerable regional dimension and require a concerted effort to promote sustainable peace and development. The headquarters of the ICGLR are in Bujumbura, Burundi.

MINESPIDER is a technology company offering a blockchain-based platform for tracking mineral supply chain data and creating more sustainable and transparent mineral supply chains. Minespider developed digital Product Passports, which are digital IDs of material that easily communicate key data across the supply chain.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY is the principal agency in Uganda responsible for the management of the environment by coordinating, monitoring, and supervising all activities in the field of the environment.

ORGANISATION CONGOLAISE DES ÉCOLOGISTES ET AMIS DE LA NATURE (OCEAN) is a DRC NGO dedicated to placing local communities and Indigenous Peoples at the forefront of ecosystem preservation and resource management for over 28 years. Their vision is to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of ecological balance in natural ecosystems

while promoting socio-economic development by safeguarding the rights and interests of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The organization possesses technical expertise in a wide range of areas including environmental management, forestry, conservation, implementation of activities related to REDD+ and climate change, participatory mapping, security, human rights, the mining sector, and Indigenous Peoples.

PROGRAMME D'APPUI AUX POPULATIONS FORESTIÈRES EN RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, LES PYGMÉES AUSSI (PAP-RDC)

(PAP-RDC) is a DRC organization established in 2002. It supports vulnerable forest-dependent populations, particularly Indigenous Pygmy Peoples. PAP has experience in ecosystem protection measures, agroforestry, and support to communities whose ecosystems are threatened by mining. Additionally, PAP works on strengthening human rights, including monitoring human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples, advocacy, and supporting women's and Indigenous Peoples' leadership.

PROTECTION DES ÉCORÉGIONS DE MIOMBO AU CONGO (PREMI-CONGO)

is an environmental NGO established in 2002 and active in the mining sector since 2005, specializing in the Miombo woodlands located in DRC. It works on community forestry and defending the rights of local communities and Indigenous Pygmy Peoples, creating maps of the regions affected by industrial mining activities.

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SOLIDARIDAD is an international civil society organization with over 50 years of experience in developing solutions to make communities more resilient — from its early roots working with marginalized communities in Latin America to current work fostering more sustainable supply chains. Solidaridad currently operates in over 40 countries, on five continents, through seven independently supervised regional offices.

SOLIDARITÉ FÉMININE POUR LA PAIX ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INTÉGRAL (SOFEPADI) is a national organization in DRC that advocates for women's rights. It was established in 2000 in Bunia as part of the community radio station CANDIP/ ISP Bunia, to promote and defend women and children's rights, as well as to involve women in the province's peace process. SOFEPADI brings extensive experience in promoting gender equality and women's leadership, conducting

peace education and peaceful conflict resolution initiatives, advocating for women's political representation, championing women's socio-economic rights and driving advocacy initiatives.

TROPENBOS DRC has been active in the country since 2010. It is part of the international Tropenbos network. Tropenbos' mission is to improve the governance and management of tropical forests for the benefit of people, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Their area of expertise includes forest and natural resource governance, community forestry, and improving the livelihoods of local communities.

ZIMBABWE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (ZELA) is a public environmental law group promoting environmental justice, sustainable and equitable use of natural resources, democracy and good governance in the natural resource and environment sector.

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INVESTING IN PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCALLY-LED




CHANGE

SPOTLIGHTED PROJECTS in 2023-2024




LEGEND:

-  Description
-  Location
-  Donor

ASM COBALT FRAMEWORK

-  Facilitating restitution workshops with stakeholders in DRC on the updated criteria and supporting efforts towards its publication and piloting.
-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  Responsible Minerals Initiative

BLOOM BY IMPACT MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT (MVP)

-  An out-of-the box monitoring and evaluation tool empowers users to understand how supply chains affect communities. Generate customized monitoring & evaluation frameworks.
-  Global
-  Technology partners

CHALLENGING CORRUPTION

-  Making corruption and its impacts in DRC's artisanal cobalt supply chain more visible, while supporting civil society to monitor corruption more effectively and leverage analytics for change.
-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  JET Minerals Challenge, run by USAID




FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE ARTISANAL GOLD MINING SECTOR IN BURKINA FASO

-  Builds peace by promoting financial inclusion in artisanal gold mining communities supports the capacity of local stakeholders to challenge illicit trade and incentivize the legal trade of artisanal gold.
-  Burkina Faso
-  Global Affairs Canada

HER SECURITY

-  Investigating how enhancing women's security in artisanal cobalt and copper mining communities in DRC can improve livelihoods and decrease child labour.
-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  Responsible Business Alliance Foundation


MAPPING PAYMENTS

-  Bringing together stakeholders to agree on the legally required taxes, fees, and administrative steps in the cobalt supply chain, as well as creating proposals on how to increase transparency and legal trade.
-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  European Union

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PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

 Building the capacity of the ICGLR and its Member States to address artisanal mineral flows and harness their potential as drivers for security, stability, and development.

 Great Lakes Region

 European Union

PLANETGOLD CÔTE D'IVOIRE

 Decreasing the use of mercury in Côte d'Ivoire's mining sector, support formalisation, access to traceable gold supply chains and finance for the adoption of sustainable mercury-free technologies. Led by UNEP.

 Côte d'Ivoire

 Global Environmental Facility


PLANETGOLD UGANDA

 Reducing the use of mercury by supporting formalization of the artisanal gold mining sector and increasing access to finance. This will lead to adoption of mercury-free technologies and allow access to more responsible and traceable gold supply chains. Led by UNEP.

 Uganda

 Global Environmental Facility


PLANETGOLD ZIMBABWE PREPARATORY PHASE

 Collaboration with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Environment to support the project preparation phase for implementing the planetGOLD Zimbabwe project. Led by UNEP.

 Zimbabwe

 Global Environmental Facility


POWERING RESILIENCE

 Supporting DRC's artisanal mining communities driving the transition to a low carbon future to protect their forests and adapt to climate change.

 Democratic Republic of Congo

 Sweden


SCALING UP

 Working directly with traders as a pathway for scaling responsible practices in the ASM gold sector and testing an open-pipe ASM gold supply chain model.

 Côte d'Ivoire

 European Partnership for Responsible Minerals


UNDERSTANDING AND DISRUPTING KEY CONVERGENCE NODES OF THE ILLICIT GOLD AND MERCURY SUPPLY CHAINS IN LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA

 Examination and comparison of key convergence nodes in the global supply chains for illicit gold and mercury in Latin America and Africa, with a focus on Peru and Kenya. In collaboration with Colorado School of Mines and I.R. Consilium.

 Kenya, Global

 National Science Foundation

WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF ARTISANAL MINING COMMUNITIES (FEMA)

 Tackles the root causes of poor livelihoods for women, child labour and the general informality of the sector with the objective to achieve sustainable improvements. In collaboration with Cowater and Right to Play.

 Mali

 Global Affairs Canada

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Year ending March 31, 2024 with comparative information for 2023

	2024	2023
REVENUES		
UN Environment Programme	1,407,379	836,416
European Union	546,448	103,052
Cowater/ Global Affairs Canada	508,556	282,200
European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM)	377,506	32,534
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	330,705	-
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	175,929	-
Apple	225,195	-
Microsoft	102,842	41,545
Responsible Business Alliance	99,353	323,412
Global Affairs Canada	19,580	1,174,630
Interest	73,482	16,576
UNICEF	24,933	-
Other	16,581	36,860
Colorado School of Mines	17,117	21,215
Resolve	14,504	22,926
German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ)	13,700	1,768
International Alert	-	208,853
Solidaridad (USA)	-	15,712
Stratos	-	6,342
Contributions to PWYP	159,575	123,284
Share of loss from investment in Knowledge for Impact Inc.	(588)	(13,025)
TOTAL	\$4,112,797	\$3,234,300
EXPENSES		
Direct Project Costs	2,023,136	1,573,392
Salaries and Benefits - Canada	1,112,269	986,510
Salaries and Benefits - International	701,271	392,884
Project Development	23,058	30,497
Communication (Public Awareness)	18,997	25,118
Administration and Project Support	230,824	152,028
TOTAL	\$4,109,555	\$3,160,429
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	3,242	73,871

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We are deeply grateful to the following for support in 2023-2024:

Apple

European Partnership for Responsible Minerals

European Union

GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*)

Global Affairs Canada

Global Affairs Canada/Cowater

Global Environment Facility/UN Environment Programme

Microsoft

Natalie Marie Jewellery

National Science Foundation/Colorado School of Mines

Resolve

Responsible Business Alliance

Sweden

UN Environment Programme

UNICEF

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David Onyalo
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Netherlands

Issa Dominique Konate
Burkina Faso

Pamela Fierst-Walsh
United States

Term Ended in 2023-2024:

Ginette Martin
Canada

Hilary Homes
Canada

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Making a world of difference
in small-scale gold mining.



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Looking AHEAD

Just Energy Transition

WITH THE GROWING DEMAND FOR COBALT, DRC plays a crucial role in the global supply chain. Most of the world's cobalt is sourced from large-scale mining operations in DRC and it has also become a lucrative source of income for artisanal miners.

However, the benefits of green technology have yet to reach local households, many which still lack electricity and rely on charcoal fires for cooking. DRC has the second-highest number of people without access to electricity worldwide.

As DRC becomes key to fighting climate change and enabling a green energy transition, **WE NEED TO ENSURE INEQUALITY IS REDUCED AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES DON'T END UP PAYING THE PRICE.**

Valuing Indigenous Knowledge

AS WE BEGIN WORKING WITH MINING COMMUNITIES ON SAFEGUARDING THEIR ECOSYSTEMS, we can't ignore the knowledge and expertise already locally held. Indigenous Peoples live in and rely on these local ecosystems. Whether formally or informally, they already play the important role of environmental stewards. Their vital role cannot be overlooked.

We need to work in partnership with and respect Indigenous Peoples' cultures, practices, and techniques, to support and build on already locally held knowledge.

At the same time, we need to support this knowledge to be valued—not just by us, but by local communities and policymakers—so that they can have greater say over their communities and contribute to the **MANAGEMENT OF THEIR RESOURCES.**



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Are Lab Grown Diamonds the Ethical Choice? (MYTH or FACT)

Lab-grown diamonds—also known as human-made, or synthetic—have shaken up the industry, offering consumers a lower price point, as well as a greener and more ethical option. But as well-intentioned customers turn to the lab for the sparkle around their finger, not all is what it seems.

✘ MYTH: LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS ARE GREENER

Many lab-grown diamond producers tout the environmental benefits saying they have lower emissions than naturally mined diamonds. This assumes that choosing a lab-grown gem reduces the demand for natural diamonds, which is unlikely. Natural diamonds are marketed as a luxury product and high-end investment, with the sector expected to grow in the coming decade.

✘ MYTH: LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS ARE MORE ETHICAL

Just like natural diamonds, without full traceability and due diligence of the lab-grown diamonds in your jewellery, you can't be confident in their origin or conditions in which they were manufactured. Reports indicate that lab-grown diamonds and natural diamonds are often mixed at aggregations points. Jewellers have noted that despite wanting to only use lab-grown, they are receiving mixed packages of melee (small diamonds which are used to accentuate

larger stones). Lab-grown diamonds are also similarly cut and polished in large centers likes India, an industry which has been plagued by reports of human rights and labour violations over the years.

✔ FACT: LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS ROB ARTISANAL MINERS OF A PATHWAY TO IMPROVED INCOMES

More than 20 percent of the world's natural diamonds are produced by artisanal miners. Millions of artisanal miners rely on the income from diamond mining to support their households and feed their families. While governments and the diamond industry have spent the last twenty years arguing about definitions, these miners continue to be vulnerable to human rights abuses and corruption.

By shifting to lab-grown diamonds, it robs artisanal miners of vital incomes and the opportunity to access the legal market. It ignores the need for responsible sourcing in the natural diamond supply chain by pushing synthetics as the ethical choice and delaying action by the diamond industry.

Always ask for evidence of where your diamonds and gems—even if lab-grown—come from. **Support sourcing directly from artisanal miners.**



CREATING
CHANGE THAT'S

SUSTAINABLE

IMPACT

Transforming natural resource management
Empowering communities

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