

Democratic Republic of the Congo Mineral Exploitation by Armed Groups & Other Entities



Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-203, enacted on July 21, 2010, states that "the Secretary of State shall, in accordance with the recommendation of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their December 2008 report—(i) produce a map of mineral-rich zones, trade routes, and areas under the control of armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and adjoining countries based on data from multiple sources, including— (I) the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo; (II) the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the governments of adjoining countries, and the governments of other Member States of the United Nations; and (III) local and international nongovernmental organizations."

This map was compiled by the U.S. Department of State to submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, and Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations, Foreign Relations, Finance, and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate. Lack of verifiable data makes it difficult to locate many mine sites, to establish which mines are active and which are inactive at any given time, and to verify the armed groups or other entities that are either present at mines or have access to revenue streams emanating from them. The map is based on data from studies completed in July 2009 and July 2010 by a non-governmental organization, the International Peace Information Service (IPIS). It focuses on the exploitation of gold, cassiterite, wolframite, and columbite-tantalite (coltan) in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu (data from a 2009 study), and parts of Orientale, Maniema, and Katanga provinces (data from a 2010 study). Limitations on the data available include:

The situation on the ground is in flux. In 2009, a series of offensives by the Congolese army (FARDC) directed against Rwandan Hutu rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) resulted in changes in control of some mining sites. This markedly changed the locations of armed groups on the ground that had remained relatively constant in most parts of the Kivus since the end of the 1998-2003 war. Control of many of the mining sites shifted from FDLR and local Mai-Mai militia groups to FARDC elements that had formerly been affiliated with the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP). (The term Mai-Mai refers collectively to more than twenty armed groups in the region—excluding the CNDP—which have variable compositions and allegiances. Several Mai-Mai groups are reported to be involved in exploitation of minerals, but only a few groups are specified in the data represented by this map). This map, and the field surveys on which it is based, is current as of 2009 for North and South Kivu.

Restricted access. Many of the mining sites in eastern DRC are inaccessible to outsiders due to remoteness, a lack of passable roads, and the dangers stemming from the presence of militia, undisciplined army troops, and bandits.

The geographic extent of the data is incomplete. A comprehensive mapping study that applies a consistent methodology within a single timeframe to the entirety of DRC's conflict-affected eastern provinces and adjacent countries—such as the Central African Republic, some areas of which are experiencing unrelated conflicts—could not be conducted.

The distinction between "mines" and "mineral-rich zones." In addition to the unstable situation with respect to control of mines, there is also considerable difficulty in attempting to identify which armed groups and other entities control roads, check points, and territories through which minerals and derived revenues flow. Such control is also often in flux.

Incomplete information on the number and location of operating mines. There are hundreds of mining sites in North and South Kivu alone, nearly all of which are artisanal mines (dug by hand or with basic tools), and the majority of which are very small scale operations that usually operate intermittently, depending on mineral prices, security conditions, ease of access to the ore, and other variables. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) maintains an internal UN database of mine sites and varying levels of control by conflict actors at each site. Both IPIS studies are partially based on and cross-checked against the information in this database, with the addition of specific location data obtained by teams of local partners. As of January 2011, however, MONUSCO has identified many additional sites for which geographic coordinates have yet to be recorded. Future MONUSCO-led field missions on behalf of the GDRC Ministry of Mines to validate mine sites will fill some, but not all, of the data gaps. While the Congolese government has cooperated with both MONUSCO and IPIS in an effort to identify and locate mines, it has nonetheless questioned the completeness of the IPIS information.

Compiling a more detailed and current map would require closer and continuous monitoring of the situation on the ground in affected areas of the DRC. However, physical dangers and resource and staffing constraints in the face of competing humanitarian priorities necessarily limit reporting on the situation on the ground by U.S. government entities, including those attached to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa.

The Congolese Ministry of Mines faces most of the same limitations that the U.S. government faces, including ongoing insecurity and lack of capacity in the region. As of April 2011, IPIS and the GDRC Mining Ministry (Cadastre Minier) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and are seeking funding for an 18 month project of mine site monitoring, collecting data and generating ongoing and updated maps, along with capacity building of the Ministry of Mines' services to sustain this mapping.

Given the aforementioned limitations on the data available, this map does not provide sufficient information to serve as a substitute for information gathered by companies in order to exercise effective due diligence on their supply chains.

Minerals	
▲ Cassiterite	◆ Gold
■ Coltan	◆ Wolframite

Armed Groups & Other Entities	
◆ Mai-Mai Associated sub-group	◆ FDLR
◆ FARDC Associated sub-group	◆ PNC Associated sub-group

★ National capital	— International boundary
○ Provincial capital	— Province boundary
● Populated place	— Selected roads
	■ Nature reserve/national park

0 25 50 100 Kilometers
0 25 50 100 Miles

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.