



**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
OF THE COALITION AGAINST THE
ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL
RESSOURCES IN THE AFRICAN GREAT
LAKES REGION**

I. Background

The African great Lakes region hosts significant mineral resources which would contribute visibly to its socio-economic, political and strategic development (stability of institutions, security, peace). Unfortunately, the exploitation of and trade in these resources are faced with multiple challenges of management in a context of widespread illiteracy, poverty of local communities, lack of basic social infrastructure, weak institutional capacity and armed conflicts.

In this context, the mining sector of the Great Lakes region is characterized by illegal practices of which the most common are: the large-scale corruption, fraud and minerals smuggling, illegal mining of and trade in minerals, violations of human rights in the minerals supply chain, illegal taxation, etc.

These Practices are promoted by amongst others the absence of a reliable tracking and certification schemes at the national and regional level.

To address these challenges, initiatives are being developed and implemented at national, regional and international levels. Their success requires the involvement of local, national, regional and international stakeholders as well as state and non-State stakeholders in a participatory approach and effective, interactive and strategic partnership.

Among the most noteworthy initiatives we can include national and ICGLR certification schemes, the OECD due diligence guide for responsible minerals supply chains as well as already existing tracking systems (ITSCI-Metrak,...). To these initiatives comes to add the Law Dodd Frank which requires the end users sides on the American Stock Exchange to declare the origin of the miner AIS who are returning to their transactions. This reinforces the initiative of traceability and certification of ores on the entire chain of supply in the region of the Great Lakes.

In this framework, African great lakes region civil society organizations gathered within the Regional Coalition Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural resources are committed to contribute to promoting conflict-free mining operation and socio-economic development driver of the region. This action plan 2012-2014 implements this commitment and includes the core 4 countries namely Burundi, Uganda, the DR Congo and Rwanda.

II. Overall and specific objectives

1. Overall objective

To contribute actively to the great lakes region stability and socio-economic development.

2. Specific objectives

2.1. **To promote** Transparency and accountability in the mining sector of the 4 core countries.

2.2. To build capacities of the CSOs' national platforms (mobilization of resources, structuring, institutional organization)

2.3. To conduct advocacy with Governments in the great lakes region and with other partners (for joining EITI, for transparency and accountability in the sector, for OECD due diligence, for certification and traceability, for the harmonization of national legislations and formalization of the mining sector, etc.)

2.4. To get the population ownership transparent, responsible, accountable and effective mining resources (awareness, training, information, organization, structuring) In the region.

2.5. To Promote a permanent multi-stakeholder dialog on mining sector management system and conflicts resolution in the Great Lakes region.

2.6. To Promote networking and partnership in the mining sector at regional and national level.

2.7. To encourage solidarity, conviviality and good neighborly relationship amongst populations of the 4 core countries.

III. Activities

Specific Objective 1: To promote transparency and accountability in the management of mineral resources.

Activity 1. Collection of Data on mining and minerals trade in the african great lakes region countries.

- 1.1.-To make a mapping of companies, traders, diggers' associations and or mining cooperatives in the Great Lakes Region;
- 1.2.- To conduct a monitoring of taxes collected and their allocations by governments;
- 1.3.- To provide the national and regional databases with information(Member States and ICGLR Secretariat) ;
- 1.4. To conduct survey on the mining sector in the 4 countries (human rights aspects in the great lakes region minerals supply chain; mining and funding of armed groups in the region of the Great Lakes, woman's role in the Great Lakes region minerals supply chain; the contribution of the mining sector to economic growth in the region of the Great Lakes, national mining laws with a view to harmonizing them).

Activity 2. To hold public debates on mining and minerals trade and their socio-economic impact in the ICGLR member States;

Activity 3. Conduct a monitoring on illegal practices in the minerals supply chains (corruption, fraud, money laundering, smuggling, link between mining/minerals trade and conflicts in the Great Lakes Region).

Activity 4. To set up and to make operational a Whistle-blowing network.

Specific Objective 2. To build the national platforms' and civil society organizations' capacities (mobilization of resources, structuring, institutional organization)

Activity 1. Training the Coalition members on the 6 tools of the regional/ national certification, The OECD due diligence guide and tracking systems;

Activity 2. To provide the regional coalition with institutional, administrative and logistical support;

Activity 3. To support the organization and to structure the national platforms.

Specific Objective 3. To Conduct advocacy and lobby in favor of a conflict-free mining sector.

Activity 1. Advocacy for the formalization of the artisanal mining;

Activity 2. Advocacy in favor of joining EITI and the implementation of its Guiding principles ;

Activity 3. Advocacy for transparency and accountability in the mining sector;

Activity 4. Advocacy for the implementation of the 6 tools of regional certification and the implementation of the OECD due diligence guide;

Activity 5. To take part in national, regional and international debates on Mining management.

Specific Objective 4. To get the population take ownership of transparent, responsible, accountable and effective mining resources

Activity 1. To raise population's awareness on the harmful effects of illegal mining in the Great Lakes Region;

Activity 2. To structure and educate artisanal miners on the formalization of the mining sector and on the mineral certification scheme;

Activity 3. To train local mining operators and administrative officer on the effective techniques for artisanal mining to get mining activities worthier, to mitigate hazard risks at the mining sites and along the supply chain and environmental reverse impacts; and

Activity 4. To encourage and to accompany the activities of local committees for mining sector governance

Specific Objective 5. To Promote a permanent multi-stake holder dialog on mining sector management and conflicts resolving schemes in the Great Lakes Region.

Activity 1. To hold social dialogs at local and national level on mining topic (mining days);

Activity 2. To carry out the monitoring of and collection of information on conflicts related to mineral resources and to ensure their prevention and peaceful transformation/resolution;

Specific Objective 6. To Promote networking and partnership in the mining sector at the national, regional and international level.

Activity 1. To Identify the mining sector stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels (mapping);

Activity 2. To Encourage sector-based networking (artisanal mining associations and the Federation of associations, the Federation of traders, federations of mining companies, the comptoires, civil society organizations synergy ,...);

Activity 3. To Facilitate experience sharing amongst different stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Specific Objective 7. To Strengthen solidarity, conviviality and good neighborly relations between the populations of 4 core countries

Activity 1. To hold 3 regional round tables on the situation of cross-border trade as growth driver between the 4 countries.

Activity 2. To Facilitate exchange visits between the communities of the 4 countries (businessmen, women's organizations, small traders, sports competitions,...);

Activity 3. Advocacy for the improvement of cross-border trade to stimulate economic growth in the region.