



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 (DRC) and adjoining countries based on data from multiple sources, including—(II) 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. 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), and additional 2010 and 2011 data from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). It focuses on the exploitation of gold, cassiterite, wolframite, and columbite-tantalite (coltan) in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu (data from the 2009 study), and parts of Orientale, Maniema, and Katanga provinces (data from the 2010 studies).

Lack of verifiable data makes it difficult to locate precisely many mine sites, to establish which mines are active and which are inactive at any given time, and to comprehensively verify the armed groups or other entities that are either present at mines or have access to revenue streams emanating from them. Limitations on the data available include:

The situation on the ground is in flux. The map depends on variable attributes such as the presence of armed groups and other entities, the control of mining sites, and the control of roads, checkpoints, and territories through which minerals and derived revenues flow. The map represents the aggregation of available data in an attempt to produce as accurate and comprehensive a picture as possible. Companies, trade associations, governments, and other stakeholders involved in the minerals trade may be able to obtain additional data through their own channels, as recommended in the guidance on due diligence of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The geographic extent of the data is incomplete. 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. 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—has not been conducted.

Incomplete information on the 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 operate intermittently. MONUSCO maintains an internal UN database of mine sites and varying levels of control by armed groups and other entities 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 December 2011, however, MONUSCO had provided information, but not geographic coordinates, for many additional sites.

The above challenges and resource and staffing constraints in the face of competing humanitarian priorities necessarily limit the ability to compile a more detailed and current map. To improve the availability, breadth, and quality of information, IPIS and the DRC government are preparing to launch a capacity-building project focused on mine site monitoring, data collection, and mapping. Future MONUSCO-led field missions in cooperation with the GDRC Ministry of Mines to verify mine sites will fill some, but not all, of the data gaps.

Given the aforementioned limitations and the recommendation of the OECD that companies, whether individually or through industry-wide initiatives, should identify, assess, and respond to risks in their supply chains, this map should not by itself be considered a source of sufficient information to serve as a substitute for the exercise of effective due diligence on companies' supply chains.