

CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION THROUGH RESPONSIBLE MINING - THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES REGION

TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL



Geographical scope

- **Primary:** Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda
- **Secondary level:** Angola, Central African Republic, Congo, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia

Promote formal regional trade in the mineral sector:

- Dialogue and cooperation (support of AfCFTA and EPA frameworks)
- Capacity building (tax harmonization, strengthening of anti-smuggling laws, customs, and border controls)
- Support to certification frameworks
- Dialogue with private sector and CSOs

Support the implementation of the bilateral partnerships on sustainable raw materials value chains with GLR's countries:

- Local value addition and integration of (critical) raw materials value chains
- Research and innovation
- Alignment on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria and international standards
- Raw material value chains as drivers for infrastructure development
- Capacity Building
- Dialogue with private sector and CSOs

Support responsible and sustainable management of raw materials

- Effective mechanisms and awareness raising of environmental, health safety and social norms in the mining sector
- Sectoral formalisation, modernisation and professionalisation, incl. TVET and technological transfer
- Fighting against organized crime and illegal natural resources trade, anti-money laundering
- Good governance and transparency
- Support governance in natural resources and minerals management
- Capacity building at government level
- New traceability methodologies of value chains
- Solutions to secure mining sites
- Strengthen CSOs accountability
- Dialogue with private sector and CSOs

TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

- Support peace, stability, human rights, environmentally sustainable economic development, and control of illegal cross-border trade of the Great Lakes region.
- Transformational impact both in terms of development and in terms of fostering integration into EU industrial supply chains of strategic raw materials.

*This Team Europe Initiative is work in progress

**SDGs included based on a new JRC electronic text mining tool, which identifies SDGs (targets)

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MODALITIES/TOOLS

Policy dialogue
Technical assistance
Loans

KEY DELIVERABLES

Effective Regional Certification frameworks for GLR minerals are operationalized.

Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials established with country(ies) of the region.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Great Lakes region experience instability and severe humanitarian crises.

Contains minerals (e.g. cobalt and lithium) of strategic importance for its green transition.

Severe environmental degradation caused by mining activities.

Mining - 3.4 million workers in ASM alone across the Great Lakes.

Poor working conditions - are extreme in Artisanal and Small-scale mining (ASM):

- 240 000 children work in ASM across Tanzania, Uganda, DRC

Illicit conflict minerals (3TG – tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold) production, smuggling, contraband:

- DRC, 1st global producer of tantalum, 27.8% in 2019
- Burundi is in the top 8 of tantalum producing states
- Uganda's trade of gold has become its largest export
- Gold flows via Uganda or Rwanda to the UAE and then onwards to China and India

Key critical raw materials: cobalt, lithium, Rare Earth Elements, others:

- DRC, 1st global producer of cobalt, 62.9% share in 2019
- 6% of world nickel reserves, are in Burundi

Policies:

- AU African Minerals Development Centre
- ICGLR Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region (RINR)
- CGLR Regional Certification Mechanism (RDM)

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGS

Agenda 2030 Green Deal

Other EU Policies:

- EU Victims' Rights Directive
- EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy
- EU Responsible Sourcing Regulation
- EU Global Gateway strategy

Multilateral standards:

- EITI
- OECD Due Diligence guidelines on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains
- Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Mineral, Metals

Coherence with continental level programmes:

- ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme
- PanAfGeo

EU-Africa Partnerships on Sustainable Raw Material Value Chains

UN strategy for the Great Lakes Region

Synergies with the TEI on Social Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa

