Support to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
Containing trade in conflict minerals

Objective
The objective of the Regional Project Support to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. To this end, the Secretariat of the Regional Organisation and its decentralised structures are being strengthened with the aim of offering their twelve member states improved support in the areas of resource governance, peace and security as well as combating sexual and gender-based violence.

Context
For almost thirty years, the Great Lakes region has been marked by violent conflicts. Civil wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola, clashes between rebel movements and regular armies in Burundi, Central African Republic, DR Congo, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda as well as the genocide in Rwanda have hit the region hard. The persistence of unresolved and subliminal conflicts in parts of the region has led to an erosion of democratic principles and an increase in violence, hampering reconstruction and development efforts. Moreover, human rights are often not sufficiently taken into account.

The region is rich in mineral resources that are of great interest to the world economy. Illegal exploitation and trade in these resources often promotes local conflicts and hinders their sustainable economic use. Conflict minerals in the Great Lakes region include in particular the so-called 3T (tin, tantalum, tungsten) and gold.

The establishment of the ICGLR was based on the recognition that political instability and conflicts beyond individual countries affect the entire region and therefore require joint and coordinated efforts to promote peace and development.

Project approach
The project is divided into the following complementary areas:

1. Organisational development at the ICGLR
   - Supporting the restructuring of the ICGLR Secretariat and the functioning of the whole organisation

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Artisanal gold mine
2. Monitoring the exploitation of natural resources through the Regional Initiative to Combat Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR)

- Further development of RINR instruments such as the introduction of a due diligence strategy for artisanal and small scale mining in the gold sector in order to reduce the financing of conflicts through gold
- International positioning of the ICGLR and its Regional Certification Mechanism in order to strengthen international industry's acceptance of this proof of origin
- Advisory support and strengthening of the technical and management capacities of the ICGLR Experts
- Advisory services to Ministries of Mines in Member States

3. Support the implementation of the ICGLR Pact to Prevent and Combat Sexual Violence against Women and Children in ICGLR Member States

- Enhancing cooperation and coordination with other African peace and security structures and early warning mechanisms at continental, regional and national levels.
- Support to peacebuilding interventions to address the root causes of conflict, in particular the development of a comprehensive multi-level mediation strategy and a pilot Peace Education program.
- Sensitisation and capacity building, in particular in the security sector
- Support to the ICGLR Gender Programme to coordinate the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.
- Strengthening the capacity of staff the ICGLR Secretariat and in its Member States to address gender-based violence and impunity

The steering and implementation of the activities is mainly carried out through the ICGLR Secretariat in close cooperation with the Programme Directors for Good Governance and Democracy, Peace and Security and Gender, Youth and Children.

The project is financed by the BMZ with EUR 6.9 million and co-financed by the EU with EUR 8.5 million. It runs for 5.5 years until June 2022. Parts of the project in the area of peace and security are implemented jointly with the United Nations.