



# Support to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

## Containing trade in conflict minerals

### Objective

The Regional Project in support of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) aims to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. This is done by strengthening the technical and coordination capacities of the ICGLR Secretariat and its decentralised entities to implement the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the GLR and its protocols. Interventions in the ICGLR Member States are especially focused on the areas of resource governance, mediation capacity, peace education as well as combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

### Context

The Great Lakes Region continues to be impacted by almost thirty years of 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 armed group activity within countries and across borders, the fragility of peace agreements, human rights violations and rising insecurity continue to hamper peacebuilding and development efforts.

The region is rich in mineral resources that are of great interest to the world economy. In fact, the region is the

biggest producer of mined tantalum, that is globally used in electronics. However, illegal exploitation and trade of minerals often promote local conflicts, hinder their sustainable economic use and slow down the development in the countries concerned. The minerals that are associated with the financing of armed groups are 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 name	Support to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Containing illegal trade in conflict minerals
Comissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) and European Union (EU)
Project region	Great Lakes Region
Duration	01.01.2017 – 31.12.2022



Artisanal mine

## Project approach

The project is divided into the following complementary areas:

### 1. Organisational development at the ICGLR

- Institutional strengthening and organizational development through support to ICGLR's planning processes, strategic coordination and institutional communication

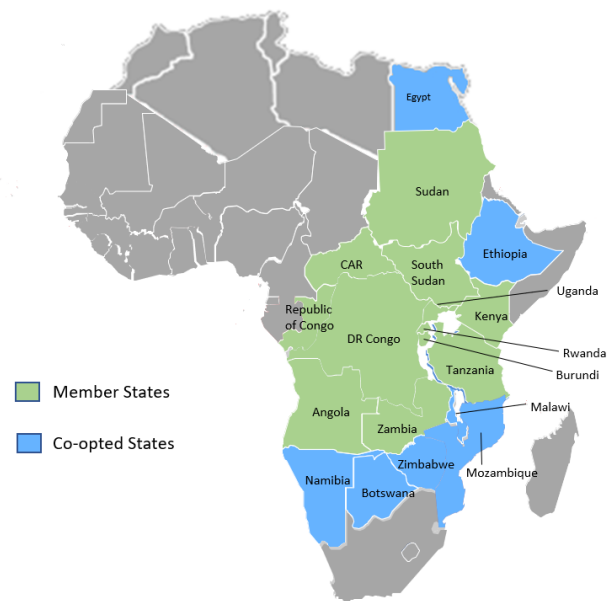
### 2. Supporting the governance of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

- Advisory support and strengthening the technical and management capacities of the ICGLR Experts
- Supporting a regional governance framework through the Regional Initiative to Combat Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR)
- Supporting the implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) in ICGLR Member States
- Engaging with international industry to improve international acceptance of this proof of origin
- Support professionalization of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in Rwanda and Uganda

### 3. Promoting Peace and Security as well as supporting the implementation of the ICGLR Pact to Prevent and Combat Sexual Violence against Women and Children in ICGLR Member States

- Supporting peacebuilding interventions to address the root causes of conflict, including through formal and informal peace education programs and capacity-building of existing ICGLR structures operating on mediation.
- Enhancing security cooperation and coordination through capacity-building and operational support to ICGLR's Expanded Joint Verification Mechanisms (EJVM)

- Supporting the ICGLR Gender Programme to strengthen its gender normative framework, including the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and ICGLR's Gender Policy
- Strengthening the ICGLR's Regional Training Facility's mandate to prevent and respond to SGBV, by building capacities of service providers (medical, psycho-social, legal) and promoting holistic models of care to SGBV survivors



The steering and implementation of the activities is conducted in close partnership with the ICGLR Secretariat and its decentralized entities: EJVM and RTF.

The project is financed by the BMZ with EUR 12.1 million and co-financed by the EU with EUR 8.5 million. It runs for 6 years until December 2022. The project interventions are closely coordinated and in some areas implemented jointly with the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) as well as the United Nations, in particular the Office of the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General Office (O-SESG-GL), UNDP, UN-FPA and UN Women.

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In cooperation with: ICGLR