

Cooperation on Peace, Security and Responsible Resource Governance in the Great Lakes Region

Sustainable Resource Supply Chains Program

The Challenge

The Great Lakes Region continues to be impacted by almost thirty years of violent conflicts. Civil wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola, clashes between rebel movements and regular armies in Burundi, Central African Republic, DRC, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, and the genocide in Rwanda have hit the region hard. The persistence of armed group activities within countries and across borders, the fragility of peace agreements, human rights violations, and rising insecurity hamper peacebuilding and development efforts.

In addition, the region is rich in mineral resources that are of great interest to the world economy. It is also the biggest producer of mined tantalum, which is used globally in electronics. However, illegal exploitation and trade of minerals often fuel local conflicts, hinder their sustainable economic use and slow down the development of the countries concerned. The minerals associated with the financing of armed groups are the so-called 3TG (tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold).

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

The Objective

The regional project supporting the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) aims to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region (GLR). This is done by strengthening the technical and coordination

capacities of the ICGLR Secretariat and its decentralized 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 mineral resource governance, mediation and combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Project Name	Cooperation on peace, security, and responsible resource governance in the Great Lakes Region of Africa
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), co-funded by the Netherlands and European Union Delegation to Rwanda (EU)
Project Region	Great Lakes Region
Lead Executing Agency	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Duration	01.12.2022 – 31.05.2026

Our Approach

The project approach builds on the results of the predecessor project, particularly the internal structural changes initiated at the ICGLR. These included a fundamental reform of the organization aimed at better exercising its mandate. In addition, the ICGLR provides improved services to its member states, which led to greater trust among member states as well as with the ICGLR. For example, the Regional Certification Mechanisms (RCM) was revised and successfully implemented in Burundi and Rwanda.

Moreover, a distinct pool of experts has been able to strengthen their skills, including a regional pool of mediators from the 12 member states and a regional pool of peace educators, that the



L. to R.: Gakenke Comikage site & Training stakeholder meeting in DRC.

ICGLR and its member states can draw upon to strengthen future peacebuilding initiatives in accordance with the goals of the ICGLR Strategic Plan. The above-described increase in ICGLR membership fees can be considered as a plausible indicator of the added value of ICGLR to member states through the impacts achieved so far.

Results Achieved Until 2022



1400 people benefited directly from project activities, i.e. mediation, workshops and trainings (67% women)



5 countries aligned their national laws with the ICGLR model law for the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources



4 countries Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi integrated the first regional Peace Education Handbook in their national curricula



5 countries CAR, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia developed national action plans based on the first regional Integrated Model to prevent and respond to SGBV

Our Areas of Focus


Output 1: Strengthening the technical and organizational capacity of the ICGLR Secretariat. Fostering the convening power of the ICGLR and its responsiveness to Member States' needs will support it in playing a leading role shaping regional cooperation among Member States on natural resource governance, peace and security.

Output 2: Supporting the ICGLR's and Member States' efforts to strengthen regional and national frameworks in order to promote a responsible minerals industry, regional trade and value creation in the 3TG sector. The implementation of regional frameworks by Member States, especially on 3TG minerals (e.g. the Regional Certification Mechanism, regional mineral trade agreements, investment security strategies and joint approaches to environmental aspects), will improve responsible resource governance, trade and value creation across the region.


Output 3: Developing the capacities of ICGLR to promote peace and security as well as gender equality in the region.

Establishing the ICGLR Mediation and Negotiation Unit will strengthen competencies, bundle learning experiences, disseminate knowledge on Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) and consolidate the ICGLR's mandate to intervene constructively in regional conflicts in the long term.


Project Indicators



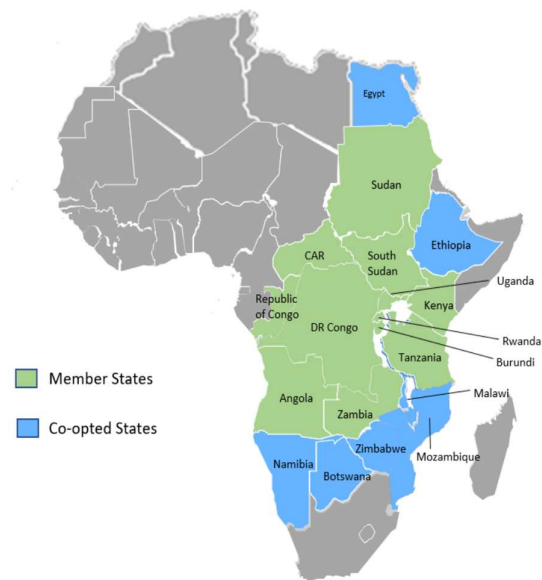
9 out of 12 Member States MS (75%) rate the professionalism and effectiveness of the ICGLR Secretariat as good in 2025.



In 3 national processes for implementing the RCM for tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (3TG), regional guidelines are taken into account based on proven digital approaches designed to strengthen the integrity of regional certifications.



The ICGLR's mediation coordination platform has implemented 10 activities in 2026 in accordance with the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda.



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