

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

Sustainable Resource Supply Chains Program

The Challenge

Have you ever considered how your phone ended up in your hands? **Let us take you on a journey.**

Our journey begins in the **Great Lakes Region of Africa**, home to fertile lands, vast seas, and abundant natural resources. The Region is a key supplier of the so-called **3TG minerals** - tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold. These minerals are indispensable in your phone's components.



Unfortunately, across the Region, the trade of minerals is linked to **unregulated economies**, environmental degradation, exploitation and **armed conflict**. For instance, the mining of 3TG minerals plays a significant role in funding armed groups and perpetuating violence in the Region. Local populations, especially women and children, bear the brunt of this violence.

Addressing these issues requires **strong regional regulations** and **community-driven initiatives** that tackle root causes. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (**ICGLR**) was established to promote responsible resource governance as a driver of socio-economic development, **peace and security** in the Region.

Project Overview

Project Name	Cooperation on Peace, Security, and Responsible Resource Governance in the Great Lakes Region of Africa
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-funded by the Netherlands (DGIS)
Project Region	Great Lakes Region
Lead Executing Agency	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Duration	01.12.2022 – 31.12.2027

The Objective

The objective of the regional project is to **promote peace and stability** in the Great Lakes Region by harnessing the potential of responsible mineral resource governance and cutting ties to conflict-financing.

The Approach

The regional project supports the ICGLR in the **implementation** of its Pact on Peace, Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

- ✓ We strengthen the **institutional capacities** of the ICGLR Secretariat
- ✓ We promote **conflict-free 3TG supply chains** by implementing the ICGLR's Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM)
- ✓ We support regional **mediation** efforts that integrate perspectives of gender and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS)

Our Initiatives

Promoting Conflict-Free 3TG Supply Chains

The Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) of the ICGLR confirms the conflict-free origin of 3TG minerals in regional supply chains.



We support **harmonization of national laws** with ICGLR traceability standards by identifying gaps in laws and providing a template law.

This has enabled **five** ICGLR Member States to implement the RCM:



Burundi
DRC
Rwanda
Tanzania
Uganda

Within the framework of the RCM, we support **certification of mines** and **third-party audits** of 3TG exporters by financing the ICGLR's audit committee, training auditors, and financing on-site missions.

Third-Party Audits in Uganda

Most recently, Uganda has piloted third-party audits in the tin sector. At the Woodcross Smelting Company Mbarara, ICGLR auditors traced a shipment to its origin in Ntungamo and Isingiro.



Of tin exporters
audited



Of 3TG exporters
audited

Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of the ICGLR Secretariat

The ICGLR Secretariat has experienced challenges in the monitoring and enforcing of its Pact due to financial and technical capacity constraints.



We are guiding a **change process** to reduce annual operational costs by **\$1 Million**

Supporting Regional Mediation Efforts

The ongoing conflicts in the Region have left deep psychological scars, with an average of 22% of the affected population suffering from mental illness.

To support conflict prevention, we facilitated the establishment of the **ICGLR Mediation Coordination Unit** and developed a **Regional Mediation Strategy** that streamlines MHPSS.



To support the new Unit, we also strengthened the mediation skills of **76** mediators, including **51** women.

The skills acquired in these trainings enabled the mediators to actively contribute to conflict prevention in **two** ICGLR Member States through local-level mediation.



1,167 conflicts were prevented at the sub-national level in Burundi and DRC

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