

PPA Contributions to Responsible Minerals Trade

SINCE 2011, the PPA has established itself as a unique and important platform for bolstering progress on responsible sourcing. From 2011-2022, the PPA focused on responsible sourcing of tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold (3TG) in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) of Africa.

The PPA is evolving to meet current challenges and possibilities in responsible sourcing by broadening its scope to include additional minerals and geographies that are linked to human rights or other due diligence considerations. By doing so, the PPA seeks to maximize its collective impact and yield benefits for conflict-affected and high-risk areas globally.

Impacts to date include:

- » Funding 11 in-region projects to promote the development of tools, civil society and public capacity to enable responsible development and trade of artisanal minerals, and explore the role of finance and financial institutions in expanding responsible minerals trade from the GLR;
- » Complementing and informing government efforts to promote a responsible minerals trade; and
- » Convening and facilitating tough and timely discussions among key regional and international leaders and stakeholders including ICGLR, regional governments, and international and regional business and civil society organizations.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE
ALLIANCE *for*
RESPONSIBLE
MINERALS TRADE

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SELECTED OUTCOMES 2011 - 2022

Convened regional and international stakeholders to promote alignment and coordination.

Brought together ICGLR, member states, due diligence systems, supply chain actors, and civil society in 9 sessions to highlight and identify a path forward for technical and policy coordination gaps

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Grants to Congolese organizations to mitigate human rights impacts. Supporting learning about the link between women's leadership, reintegration following sexual violence, and economic inclusion - and the long-term vision of a more responsible minerals economy with less risk of serious human rights abuses

First to engage on GLR artisanal gold.

PPA's early grant directly contributed to first due diligence system for artisanal gold in the GLR

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Breaking links between military and minerals trade.

Funding programming to encourage demilitarization of mine sites and minerals trade including breaking links between the military and illicit minerals

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Established ombuds office for responsible minerals. Supported launch and co-funded first year of office to support implementation and credibility of the Regional Certification Mechanism for conflict-free minerals

Addressing key financial barriers to responsible minerals trade.

Commissioned research on the potential roles and existing barriers to financial institutions in promoting responsible minerals trade; and piloting approaches to expand access to finance for 3TG ASM miners

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Tested tools and models for enhanced upstream due diligence and reporting.

Made grants to test models for collecting and disseminating due diligence data. Supported civil society training and mechanisms to monitor and report fraud and smuggling

SINCE 2011, the united voice and action of the PPA as a coalition of companies, civil society organizations, and governments has enabled members to directly effect on-the-ground change at a much larger scale than any one member could achieve alone. Since its inception, the PPA has become a unique and vital platform for bolstering progress on responsible sourcing.

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF FINANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The PPA commissioned Sofala Partners and Betterchain to conduct research on the roles of and barriers to financial institutions in engaging in responsible minerals trade from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The resulting report captured issues and maps of financial flows in the tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold sectors; barriers to financial access for artisanal miners; and potential design concepts aimed at overcoming these. The [executive summary](#), [full report](#), and [webinar](#) appear on the PPA website.

Informed by this research, the PPA contracted Trust Merchant Bank (TMB, one of the largest commercial banks operating in DRC) to conduct a pilot to expand the ability of legitimate actors in the ASM sector and surrounding communities to access legal finance. Collaboration with the PPA has informed TMB's strategy approach, and tools for assessing risk and conducting due diligence. These findings will be captured and shared to encourage similar action by other stakeholders in the banking sector.

PROMOTING EQUITY THROUGH ASM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND FORMALIZATION

In late 2021, the PPA awarded a grant to IMPACT, in partnership with Synergy, to **research models for ASM governance structures (e.g., cooperatives), including those which have successfully addressed or avoided issues of elite capture and social inequities** that are often perpetuated within these structures in DRC. IMPACT and Synergy's research engaged diverse focus groups to clarify the distinct challenges artisanal miners face within the DRC's legal and regulatory context. Interviews with additional stakeholders, including women and Indigenous peoples who are often excluded from management structures, also produced insights that will inform **recommendations that policymakers, civil society, and business can take to address these challenges**, including how the PPA can advance awareness and implementation of potential solutions.

FACILITATING ALIGNMENT OF IN-REGION ACTORS AND SYSTEMS

The PPA convenes regular "[alignment meetings](#)" among ICGLR member states, due diligence system operators, supply chain actors, and civil society. **These meetings have become a go-to forum for highlighting and identifying a path forward for technical and policy coordination gaps**, as well as a mechanism for information sharing and follow-up on cross-sector commitments. A 2019 PPA [member delegation](#) to DRC and Rwanda also furthered these objectives.

In 2021, PPA members and U.S. Government embassy and mission representatives operating in the GLR participated in a [virtual delegation](#), during which PPA member organizations highlighted specific issues and needs that closer engagement with GLR-based U.S. Government actors and regional host governments can address.

COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO MITIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS

In 2020, the PPA announced grants to two Congolese organizations, Panzi Foundation and City of Joy, to learn more about the link between women's leadership, reintegration into communities following sexual violence, and economic inclusion in communities in South Kivu (many of which are directly and indirectly impacted by mining) and the long-term vision of a more responsible minerals economy with less risk of serious human rights abuses.

Panzi Foundation is using the funds to implement a project in Katagota and Kaziba on expanding children's educational access and socio-economic opportunities for their families and vulnerable women (including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence). City of Joy and V-World Farm are receiving program support for their work on women's leadership and reintegration into communities following sexual violence.

FIRST ACTION ON ARTISANAL GOLD IN GLR

In 2012, the PPA was the first funder of what is now recognized as one of the biggest challenges in responsible minerals trade in the region: artisanal gold. The project and the PPA's engagement raised this critical need to the attention of other donors and the international community. With PPA funding, IMPACT's early attempt to establish a conflict-free artisanal gold supply chain:

- » Directly contributed to the development of the first due diligence system for artisanal gold in the GLR;
- » Identified and tested possible interventions to break the cycle of conflict financing;
- » Yielded valuable insights into the dynamics, practices, and incentives for upstream actors within the artisanal gold trade in DRC.

TESTING MODELS TO SCALE UP COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF DUE DILIGENCE INFORMATION

Under its 2016–2017 grant from the PPA, IPIS tested a geography-focused¹ and primarily SMS-cloud based system to collect, assimilate, and disseminate due diligence information on gold production and trade in and around Mambasa, a major artisanal gold hub in eastern DRC. The system provides a variety of stakeholders with access to useful data on gold production, flows, pricing, and security in support of sector transparency good governance and responsible sourcing.

In addition to increasing local capacity of civil society and state services near Mambasa, the data system helped to facilitate OECD due diligence on artisanal gold at and between mines and trading hubs; supported the identification of ASGM responsible sourcing opportunities; provided information on gold flows and pricing to support improved design of responsible sourcing programs; and provided insight and lessons to enable successful replication of the model in other major trade hubs.

¹ Over 50% of gold trade in Eastern DRC flows through the 15 largest upstream trading centers. Analysis of interactive map of artisanal mining areas in Eastern DR Congo: May 2014 update, IPIS, May 2014.

BREAKING LINKS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND ILLICIT MINERALS

A grant to COSOC in 2017 built awareness of the importance of the demilitarization of mine sites. COSOC's work included direct workshops and a radio campaign targeting members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), civil society, and citizens in critical sectors of South Kivu, one of DRC's most conflicted-affected provinces. In workshops with the FARDC, COSOC educated soldiers on the consequences of military presence in mine sites; the appropriate role of the military in supporting responsible mining; and strategies and mechanisms for raising awareness among their peers and reporting illegal behaviors. COSOC's radio programming included journalist-mediated roundtable discussions by civil society, government, and FARDC members on conflict-minerals issues; a series of radio reports by trained journalists to communicate first-hand information including local surveillance and monitoring, perspectives from miners and traders, and common smuggling routes; recorded educational and humorous skits; and commercials summarizing key messages.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SMUGGLING AND FRAUD

With its 2014–2015 grant from the PPA, Congolese NGO **Save Act Mine operated a telephone hotline to receive reports of suspected fraud and smuggling of tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold in the Kivus.** 65 cases of suspected illicit activity were passed on to relevant authorities, including agencies responsible for regulating the exploitation and marketing of minerals, mining administration, border police, customs services, and supply chain systems.

EDUCATING UPSTREAM ACTORS ABOUT DUE DILIGENCE

In 2014, the PPA provided funding to Save Act Mine to develop a graphic manual (available in **French, Swahili, and Lingala**) **to educate upstream actors on the importance of due diligence.** 1,000 hard copies were distributed to miners, traders, and civil society across five provinces in Eastern DRC. The printable manual is available online for use and distribution by other organizations.

BUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY

From 2012–2014, a PPA grant enabled Congolese NGO CENADEP to provide capacity building trainings to over 75 facilitators from monitoring committees and 40 civil society representatives in South Kivu. The training curriculum included essential information on mineral traceability and certification issues in the region; standards relating to due diligence in 3TG supply chains in the GLR; and the operation of the ICGLR Whistle-Blowing Mechanism. Workshops also covered techniques for artisanal mining data collection and management; strategies for networking and partnership building; and strategies for internal and external communication. These workshops also provided the opportunity for civil society actors to share information on progress and obstacles to legal trade of artisanal minerals in 7 of the 8 territories in South Kivu.

UNDERSTANDING IMPACTS TO INFORM FUTURE INTERVENTIONS

In 2015, the PPA supported documentation of the impacts that responsible sourcing efforts are having through an independent assessment of three direct sourcing pilots in the DRC. Such documentation is critical for advancing the message that “conflict free doesn't mean Congo-free.” The PPA also reflects at the completion of each grant to discuss lessons, good practices, and adjustments to incorporate into future interventions and grant priorities.

ADVANCING US GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

PPA briefings and engagement with former Special Envoy Tom Perriello, former Special Envoy Russ Feingold, and other U.S. Department of State officials have led directly to high-level diplomatic efforts urging heads of ICGLR member states to support implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism and alignment of in-region programs and initiatives. Congressional briefings have also helped raise the profile of PPA member priorities perspectives on progress and challenges. **In remarks before the United Nations, former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power recognized the PPA as an important demonstration of the U.S.' commitment to institution-building and stability in the Great Lakes Region.**

DATA FOR IMPACT

The PPA has recently launched a new suite of activity aimed at understanding existing tools, methodologies, models, indicators, systems, and other approaches that could inform future action for **improved socioeconomic outcomes and local benefits**. An inaugural Data for Impact Symposium is planned for June 2022.

"INTERNET" OF PPA

Beyond collective activities and grantmaking, PPA members achieve a range of impacts through their individual responsible sourcing actions, projects, and other grantmaking. In 2019, members launched "The Internet of PPA" – a suite of activities which enables information sharing about individual members' work, supporting identification of key insights and opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

MAXIMIZING MEMBER IMPACT AND CAPACITY

The PPA draws from the experience, expertise, and contributions of supply chain actors, governments, and civil society organizations, and each sector benefits from this tripartite engagement. Members have reflected finding particular value from the following:

- » The PPA has created a trusted community of peers where members can share and discuss challenges and work together to build mutual and durable solutions.
- » The PPA provides members with an opportunity to play a leadership role in building solutions to conflict-free trade and to directly impact in-region activities.
- » The PPA serves as a vetted, safe, and efficient channel for organizations seeking to provide funding to spur development of conflict-free sourcing. Leveraging joint funding also allows individual donors to maximize the impact of their contributions.
- » The PPA serves as a forum for alignment, coordination, and harmonization of various sector-specific initiatives.

PPA MEMBERS

LAUNCHED IN 2011 in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development, the PPA today has 47 member organizations—spanning government, international NGOs, academic institutions, and companies across the electronic, jewelry, automotive, and aerospace sectors—and one observer.

MEMBERS

Acer
Amazon
Africa Faith and Justice Network
Alliance for Responsible Mining
Apple
Assent Compliance
Boeing
Colorado School of Mines
Dell
Ford Motor Company
General Motors
GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH)
Global Advanced Metals
Global Communities
Global Witness
Google
Halcyon
Heartland Alliance
Hewlett Packard Enterprise
HP Inc.
IMPACT
Intel
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
International Peace Information Service
ITSCI Programme
KEMET, a Yageo company
LG Electronics
Microsoft Corporation
Nokia
NVIDIA
OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct (*Observer*)
Pact
PAMP SA
Project on Resources and Governance
RESOLVE (*Secretariat*)
Responsible Minerals Initiative
Responsible Sourcing Network
Save Act Mine
Signet Jewelers
Solidaridad
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The Sentry
University of Delaware's Minerals, Materials and Society Program
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