

# Annual Report 2022

IPIS vzw



# Contents

- From the Chair..... 3
- Board of Directors..... 4
- Activity report .....6**
- Natural resources ..... 8
- Business & human rights ..... 17
- Conflict mapping .....23
- Arms trade & security .....26
- Maps & data .....30
- About IPIS .....37**
- Mission statement .....38
- Finances.....39
- Outreach ..... 41
- Assignments 2022.....48
- IPIS team.....50
- Contact .....51



## From the Chair

While our world witnessed the phasing out of COVID restrictions, this year was marked by another shock to the global community. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February, apart from its devastating effects on the population of the country and the severe disruptions of global trade, posed an enormous challenge for civil society actors committed to peace, disarmament, and international dialogue.

The year 2022 marked the start of our new five-year strategy and the initiation of our new five-year program funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD). Notable elements are more structural presence in DR Congo and Tanzania, long-term partnerships in the Great Lakes region, and a turn to policy advice with a prominent role in key thematic networks and platforms. This was accompanied by more outspoken outreach on social media and in the international press, greatly increasing our visibility and underlining IPIS' relevance.

The continued support from the European Union (FPI) enabled us to collaborate closely with our African partners of the Civil Society Coalition to the Kimberley Process. Interestingly enough, the Russian invasion of Ukraine opened up a window to discuss effective traceability in the diamond trade, something that was high on the agenda of the Coalition but was considered unachievable before by the major players amongst the diamond industry and governmental actors. IPIS was intensely engaged in this

important debate, both with policy makers and through the media.

IPIS remained involved in multiple initiatives for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the DR Congo. Next to researching and monitoring the underlying drivers or conflict, we contributed to these interventions at the policy level. A prominent outcome was the emergence of the "blue mine" status to complement the existing system of mining site validation.

Our expertise in GIS analysis and cartography allowed us to stay at the forefront of visualisation of conflict in innovative ways. Apart from the direct support of our own research, we were proud to be engaged to design various web maps for new partners.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their important commitment to the good governance of our organization, and the IPIS staff for their diligent work in research, reporting, and closely engaging with partners and practitioners on a daily basis, in a cordial and collaborative spirit. Once more, this annual report offers an impressive portfolio as a tangible result.

# Board of Directors

On 01/01/2022, the Board was composed of the following persons:

## Chair:

---

- Johan Swinnen, Honorary Ambassador, former diplomat.

## Members:


---

- **Jean Reynaert**, former Director of the Belgian/ Flemish NGO Federation and former programme coordinator of 11.11.11, the coalition of NGOs, unions, movements and various solidarity groups in Flanders.
- **Saartje Boutsen**, Advisor on Sustainable Business at Studio.D.
- **Dirk Timmermans**, Education Advisor – Coordinator, Chair of the UN Association workgroup Education.
- **Arnim Langer**, Professor of International Politics at KU Leuven and Director of the Center for Peace Research and Development (CRPD).
- **Eva Berghmans**, expert in human rights and migration issues.
- **Eric de Deckere**, Sustainability Manager at the European Chemical Industry Council and former academic researcher at the Institute of Development Policy (IOB), University of Antwerp.
- **Loïc De Cannière**, co-founder of Incofin IM, an independent impact investment management company.



*Cassiterite and gold mine, Walikale, North Kivu, 2022*





Coltan mine, Masisi territory, North Kivu

**Activity report**

**Research Programmes**

# United for peace and sustainable development in fragile and conflict-affected settings

In 2021 IPIS was formally accredited as an NGO by the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD). In 2022, we witnessed the start of a long-term partnership with this donor in the form of a five-year programme. The programme was developed in close collaboration with our partner organisation Search for Common Ground. Together we operate under the title “United for Peace and Sustainable Development in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings”.

In Belgium and beyond, the initiative wants to promote stakeholders as champions of peace and sustainable development. We aim to ensure that policymakers in Belgium, as well as targeted policy actors at the European, international, and multilateral level are better informed on and incentivised to apply sustainable business, conflict-sensitive, and/or peacebuilding policies and practices. For this programme outcome, IPIS collaborates closely with the networks EurAc (for natural resources), IANSA (for arms control), and Belgium-based peace organisations.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, IPIS engages in capacity enhancement for local communities, civil society organisations, cooperatives and technical services. The aim is to increase their contribution to peace and sustainable development in eastern DRC, to improve human rights

and working conditions in the artisanal mining sector, to increase knowledge about the causes of conflict and the resilience of mining communities, and to strengthen participatory governance of the sector. This programme outcome includes a collaboration with the Belgian NGO Eight, where IPIS studies the effects of unconditional cash transfers in mining communities.

In Tanzania, we aim to empower communities and civil society organisations to engage government and industry in fostering access to justice, good governance and human rights in natural resource governance. This entails the mapping and reporting of human rights issues, and improving the socio-economic impact related to natural resource governance by civil society organisations and those affected. We try to empower justice seekers to seek remedy for human rights abuses through improved corporate and government avenues, and promote corporate and governmental policy changes for improved justice, good governance and human rights in natural resource extraction through evidence-based multi-stakeholder dialogues. This programme outcome is executed in synergy with Avocats sans Frontières and in partnership with Tanzanian NGOs HakiRasilimani and Business & Human Rights Tanzania (BHRT).

# Natural resources

## Mapping mineral supply chains to understand their dynamics and impact

### Mapping artisanal and small-scale mining supply chain in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

Analysis of the interactive map of artisanal mining areas in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo  
2022 update

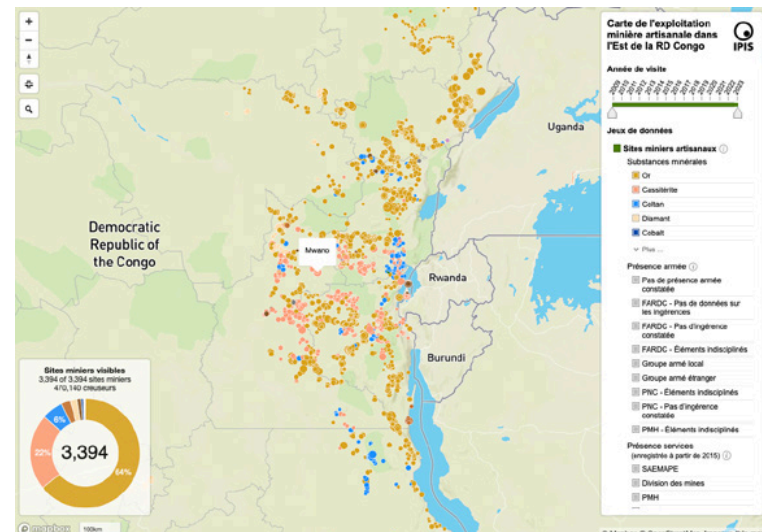


In 2022, IPIS pursued its efforts to provide observers, suppliers and policymakers with reliable data to understand artisanal mineral supply chains. With the support of USAID and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IPIS' surveyors conducted over 380 mining site visits in the provinces of Ituri, Tshopo, Haut Uele, North- and South Kivu, Maniema, and Tanganyika in the DRC. Teams collected primary data about the interference of armed groups, the types of minerals mined, mineral pricing, worker demographics,

trade routes, and environmental issues. IPIS analysed trends in a [comprehensive report](#) and uploaded the data on its interactive [webmap of DRC](#).

The analysis of the newly visited mining sites shows that a range of armed actors are present at the mines. While progress has been made over the past decade to address 'conflict financing', particularly in the 3T (Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten) sector. Yet, 3T mines are a low-hanging fruit as the sector has traditionally been less prone to conflict financing than gold. The study shows that more than half of the miners are still affected by the interference of armed actors and highlights that insecurity is linked to various sources.

To make sure that Congolese actors along the upstream part of the supply chain benefit from the data collected and to discuss the underlying challenges for local mining governance, IPIS organised multiple feedback sessions with local mining monitoring committees.



DRC webmap





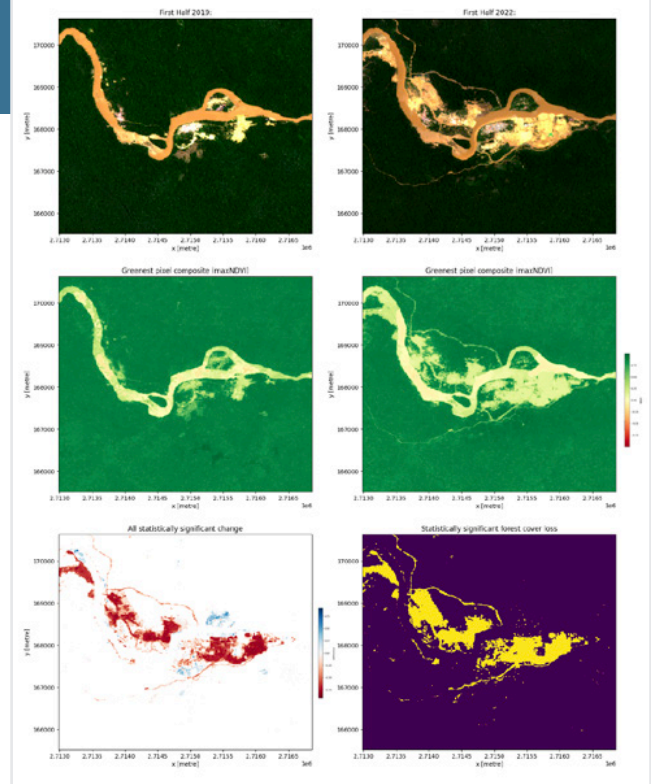
Workshop with the Comité Local de Suivi (CLS) in Nzibira, Walungu territory, South Kivu, 2022



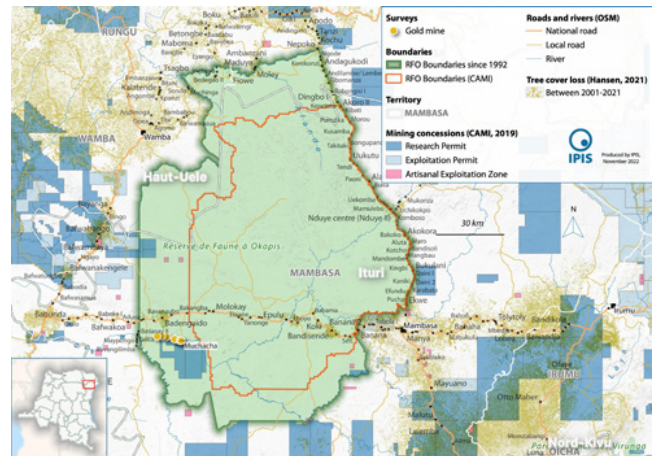
## Visualising environmental changes related to mining activities

Using remote sensing technologies, IPIS also investigated environmental changes associated with mining activities. Processing satellite images, IPIS studied human activities and land-cover, land-use changes to better capture the development of semi-industrial exploitations of gold in eastern DRC and the issues they raise.

In eastern DRC, mineral deposits also overlap with protected areas. In 2022, IPIS provided technical assistance to a team of researchers from the University of Sheffield, the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) of the University of Antwerp and the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) to understand human activity in and around the Okapi and Itombwe protected areas. IPIS helped collecting and analysing field data, mapped research findings and analysed satellite images of the study area.



Satellite images of the Muchacha mining site, Mambasa, Ituri



Map of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and artisanal mining activities

## Engagement with stakeholders involved in responsible sourcing

### Capacity enhancement with mining cooperatives in eastern DRC



*Billboard of a cooperative in Masisi territory*

Mining cooperatives are key actors in the formalisation of the artisanal mining sector in eastern DRC. As part of the new programme funded by the Belgium Development Cooperation, IPIS aims to strengthen the capacity of cooperatives in targeted mining zones. In collaboration with the Expertise Center on Mining

Governance (CEGEMI), IPIS will work with SAEMAPE, the governmental service in charge of supporting mining cooperatives, and more in general, supporting the artisanal mining sector. Together with the Civil Society Organisations ACADHOSHA in the province of South Kivu and Maniema Liberté in the province of Maniema, CEGEMI will organise training sessions for SAEMAPE agents who will later assist cooperatives in zones where needs have been identified.

### Training on ASM formalisation, conflict minerals and conflict mapping for representatives of geological services

IPIS participated in PanAfGeo-2, a project aimed at training the geoscientific cadres of the Geological Surveys of Africa countries. During a training session in Maputo, Mozambique in September the project gathered state agents from 16 countries of the Southern African Region. The objective of the workshop was to present and describe in detail policies, methods, tools, challenges and opportunities in the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) sector.

IPIS provided presentations on formalisation of ASM, and challenges around insecurity and conflict financing in the mining sector, topics on which IPIS wrote two chapters for PanAfGeo-2's "Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Handbook for the Southern African Region".





## The European Partnership for Responsible Minerals

Network

The European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) is a multi-stakeholder partnership with industry, governments and civil society, established to increase the demand for responsibly sourced 3TG minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas and to create better social and economic conditions for mine workers and local mining communities.

As a founding member, IPIS chaired the EPRM Governing Board in the second part of 2022. During this period, the vision and mission of the partnership were reformulated and ASM entered at the heart of the EPRM mission statement. Moreover, the mineral scope was broadened beyond 3TG to also include some critical minerals, more specifically those that are covered by the EU Battery Regulation. IPIS chaired the CSO pillar and participated in the downstream working group, focusing on preparing downstream companies for their due diligence obligations.



## Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade

Network

The Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) is a multi-sector initiative between leaders in civil society, industry, and government that supports projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the surrounding Great Lakes Region that improve the due diligence and governance systems needed for ethical supply chains.

IPIS is an elected member of the Governance Committee as part of the civil society pillar, that provides input and advice to the Alliance concerning the current political, economic, security, and on-the-ground realities in conflict-affected and high-risk areas of interest to the PPA. The civil society pillar participates in Alliance meetings to inform programmatic priorities, to advise on the design of PPA activities and grant making, to review implementation and to evaluate progress towards reaching the Alliance goals, and to provide and analyse input from local communities to ensure projects are addressing their needs and are not causing undue harm.



## Empower civil society actors to ensure monitoring and enhance accountability

### Kufatilia – Incident reporting and monitoring

By sending the keyword “Kufatilia” (“to track” in Swahili) via text message, members of mining communities, civil society actors, or any other informant can anonymously report mining-related incidents occurring in the extraction, transport or trade of minerals. The information collected is compiled in an online database where incidents are processed by a network of 19 civil society organisations (CSOs), with the support of the Center of Expertise on Mining Governance (CEGEMI) of the University of Bukavu, South Kivu. CSOs can work together to validate and follow up on the reported incidents in a transparent, independent and participatory way.

A public and [interactive dashboard](#) developed by IPIS allows local authorities and other stakeholders to visualise the location and nature of reported incidents.

Kufatilia is coupled with a pricing information system to which two minerals were added in 2022. By sending the key word ‘Matokeo’ by text message to the Kufatilia phone lines, users automatically receive the daily price of one gram of gold, cobalt and cassiterite (tin) on the international market in both USD and Congolese Francs.



Dissemination workshop in Lumbishi, Kalehe territory in September 2022

Thanks to the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, the Kufatilia network will expand to the cobalt-producing province of Lualaba. In November, IPIS met with local Civil Society Organisations to set up the collaboration.

**More than 75 dissemination workshops  
and 2,100 persons reached**

**Over 1,200 reported incidents**

#### Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/kufatilia-incident-reporting-and-monitoring/>

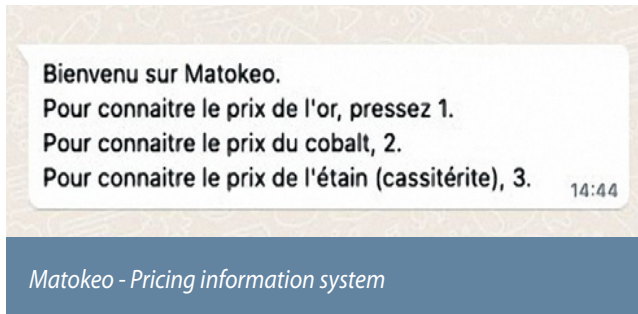
#### With:

CEGEMI, Ulula, ACADOSHA, ACOSYF, ADECO, AEMAPRI, APDE, ASADHO, ASSODIP, CDJP, CENADEP, CPDH, CRESA, CRPRDH, FEAUTWA, FOMI, FSH, Justice Plus, Max Impact, OGP, RHA.



Belgium  
partner in development

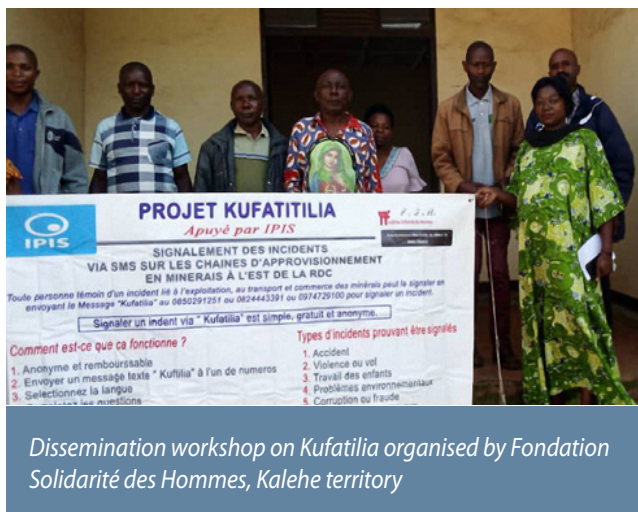




*Matokeo - Pricing information system*



*Dissemination workshop in Bunia, Ituri, June 2022*



*Dissemination workshop on Kufatilia organised by Fondation Solidarité des Hommes, Kalehe territory*

## Voix du Congo - Congolese CSOs document successes and challenges of responsible mineral sourcing

As part of its work on responsible mineral sourcing and in the context of the European Union Regulation on Conflict Minerals, IPIS launched a new series of Voix du Congo collaborations. Through this activity, IPIS aims to amplify the experience and knowledge of Congolese partners within the European and international audiences. IPIS provides editorial support to Congolese Civil Society Organisations who wish to put down in writing some of their experiences of the ASM sector. This series of exploratory studies intends to draw attention to both the successes and challenges of responsible sourcing in eastern DRC. Covered themes include environmental issues, child labour, demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) and mining benefits. In October, IPIS gave an online training on the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation to participants of the [Voix du Congo](#) project.

### With:

ADECO, CRESA, FEAUTWA, Justice pour tous, RECOREN, RHA



*Session on the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation, October 2022*

## Promoting civic space in Tanzania's extractive sector governance

Tanzania is endowed with significant mineral resources. Yet the contribution of the extractive sector to sustainable development is undermined by governance challenges, including a lack of transparency, accountability, and civic participation. With the support of the Belgian development cooperation, IPIS and HakiRasilimali, a network of Tanzanian Civil Society Organisations, engaged in a project to strengthen the role of civil society in dialogues and decision-making on extractives. The project aims to empower civil society in enhancing civic participation and representation, particularly for the numerous remote and geographically dispersed communities affected by extractive operations.

IPIS and HakiRasilimali strengthened the network to engage in community-led advocacy in mining, oil and gas governance. We conducted research on extractives in Tanzania and invested in outreach and advocacy to bring key

messages to policy makers and industry in local and national fora. Participation of community-based organisations was sought in regional *extractive Baraza* meetings. Key messages from communities were brought to the national *Jukwaa* Conference, a dialogue space where civil society, academia, industry and government discuss new and better laws and policies that encompass community needs.

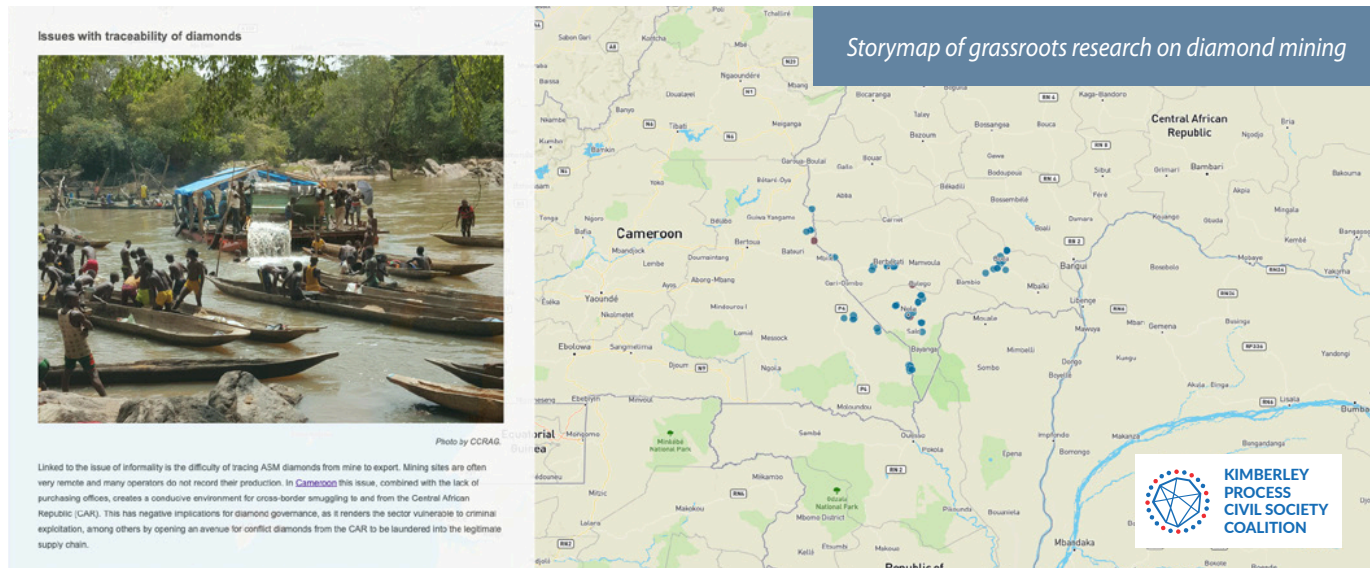
When closing the project in 2023, we hope to see a network with increased research capacity to bring evidence-based recommendations to policymakers and with an agenda-setting and influential role in dialogue and decision-making on the extractive sector.

### Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/promoting-civic-space-in-tanzanias-extractive-sector-governance/>



Jukwaa Conference, Dodoma, November 2022



## Engagement with the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition

IPIS is a member of the Civil Society Coalition (CSC) of the Kimberley Process (KP). The KP operates a UN-mandated certification scheme to stop conflict diamonds. Representing communities affected by diamond mining and trade, the KP CSC strives to improve diamond sector governance, both by acting as a watchdog within the formal KP structures and by documenting the human rights impact of diamond mining and advocating for change. As a member of the Coalition, an important objective of IPIS is to link the grassroots efforts of the African member organisations to European and international policy discussions.

The coalition brings evidence on human rights abuses, violence and environmental impact related to diamond mining to the heart of the KP meetings and working groups, and continuously calls on the certification scheme to act on them. The KP, however, fails to live up to its potential and

is unable to address the impact on the diamond trade of conflicts such as the Russian invasion in Ukraine or to act on documented cases of human rights abuses, violence and environmental damage in many producing countries. The coalition will continue to advocate for meaningful change in diamond governance, within and outside the KP.

In 2022, IPIS provided technical assistance to the Coalition to summarise the findings of the Coalition's grassroots studies on the impact of diamond mining in an [interactive story map](#). The story map formulates clear recommendations to governmental, industry and civil society stakeholders on the enhancement of human rights, traceability, accountability and sustainability in the diamond supply chain.

# Analysing the impact of unconditional cash transfers in an artisanal mining zone

Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) in the Democratic Republic of Congo:  
A Comparative Baseline Study in an Artisanal Mining Zone in Maniema Province



In 2021, the non-profit organisation Eight World launched an Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) pilot project in a village in an artisanal mining zone in the Congolese province of Maniema. For two years, inhabitants will receive cash transfers (20 USD per adult and 10 USD per child) via a mobile money transfer system.

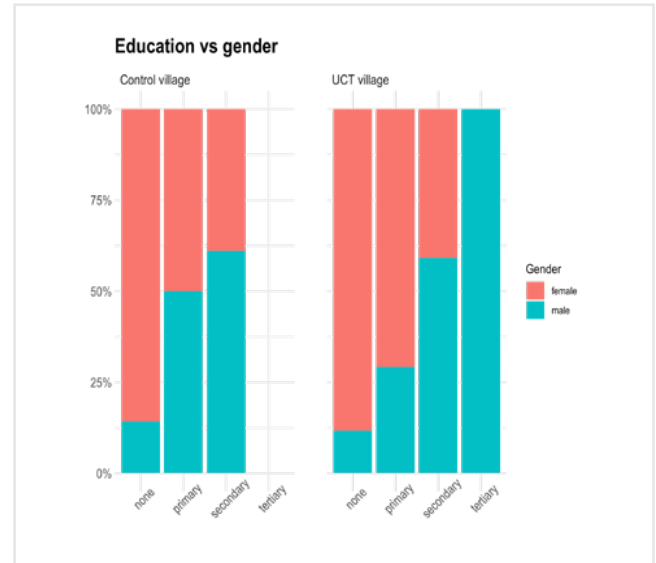
With a controlled study approach, IPIS will assess potential effects of the intervention on the socio-economic well-being of beneficiaries. To do so, IPIS

conducted a *baseline study* to measure a broad range of indicators in the group of people receiving UCT and in a comparable group of people in a control village, two weeks before the start of the intervention.

IPIS performed the same operation in a second village that started benefiting from the basic income project in 2022. To measure change over time, IPIS will conduct follow-up surveys after one and two years, in the UCT and control villages.

## Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/analysing-the-impact-of-unconditional-cash-transfers-in-an-artisanal-mining-zone-in-maniema-province-drc/>



*Relationship between gender and education in the UCT and Control villages*





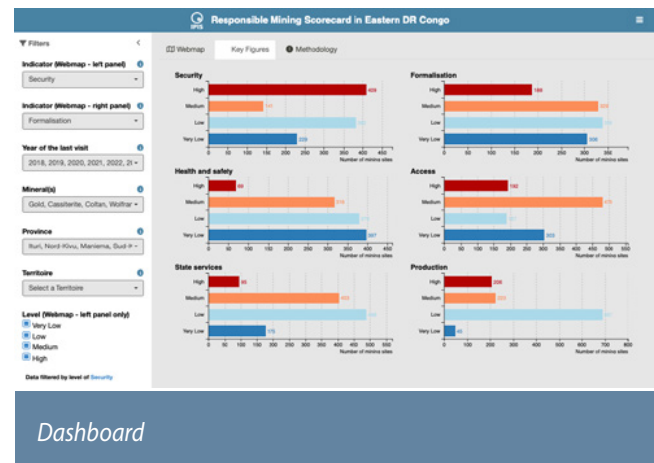
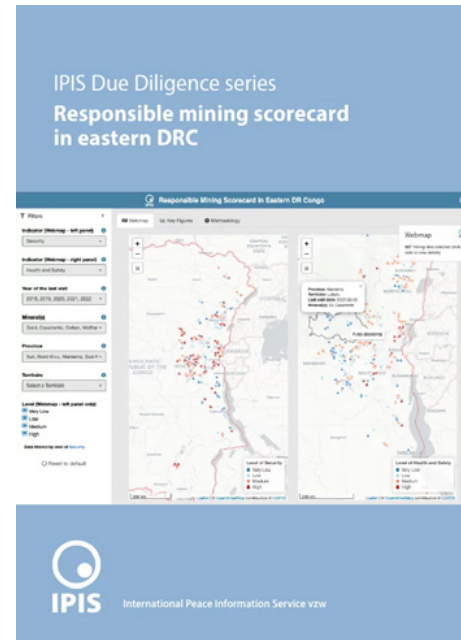
# Business & human rights

Inform responsible sourcing initiatives and draw lessons learned

## Responsible Mining Scorecard

Building on its database of ASM sites, IPIS developed a new tool, the *Responsible Mining Scorecard*. This tool assesses mining sites against different indicators of responsible mining, namely security, health and safety, presence of state services, and level of formalisation. Two additional indicators, production and accessibility, were also considered to provide further contextualisation on working conditions and help prioritising areas to set up responsible sourcing initiatives. The calculation system will be applied to a growing number of mining sites and aims to assess compliant zones for responsible sourcing, and explore linkages between the different indicators.

With the support of the European Union (*Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace*), IPIS developed a dashboard that enables to compare the spatial distribution of the scoring levels and introduced the methodology in a report.



## “The Blue Mine”, implementation of a qualification status for mining sites in DRC.

Mine site qualification and validation are a mandatory process in the DRC to legally extract minerals artisanally. However, the system has shown to be (too) slow and expensive, therefore leaving thousands of artisanal mines in the DRC de facto illegal, even if their mining sites complied with all the criteria for a formal validation (green mine). To speed up the formalisation of the ASM sector, the members of the *Madini kwa Amani na Maendeleo* (Minerals for Peace and Development) project advocated for the creation of the blue mine status that was integrated in Congolese law through the Ministerial decree n°677 in November 2021. The Blue status allows a registered mine site to exploit and export minerals while officially waiting for its qualification / validation status and puts the private sector back at the centre of the due diligence of its supply chain.

After the signature of the ministerial decree, IPIS extended its field missions to new mining sites that could potentially apply for the blue status in South Kivu (territories of Shabunda and Fizi). In March 2023, two of these sites were listed blue by the Minister of Mines (Ministerial Decree n°00098 of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023).

In 2022, IPIS worked hand in hand with its partners of the Madini project to promote the Blue Mine status amongst civil society organisations, the private sector and national authorities. In May 2022, IPIS was in the panel of the session “How to unlock ASM gold from eastern DRC: Madini Blue Mines pilot project and tax harmonisation” at the OECD forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chain organised in Paris.



*Evaluation mission in Mukera, South Kivu, July 2022*

### **Project page:**

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/madini-strengthening-regional-stability-in-the-great-lakes/>

### **With:**

International Alert, Observatoire Gouvernance et Paix (OGP), Justice Plus, European network for central Africa (EurAc)

## The European Conflict Mineral Regulation: lessons learned so far?

Since January 2021, the European Regulation on Conflict Minerals obliges European companies to carry out due diligence checks on their suppliers up to the middle of the supply chain to minimize and manage the risks of human rights abuses and to break the link between the exploitation of mineral resources and violent conflicts. The implementation of the Regulation and its impact, particularly with regards to benefits for local communities and small-scale artisanal mining operators, were at the center of IPIS' work in 2022. IPIS explained the regulation to various stakeholders, including companies and Congolese CSOs throughout the year. Lessons learned are of particular importance in the context of the development of other corporate due diligence directives in the European Union.



## Diamond governance

### Russian diamonds and the war in Ukraine

Russia's war against Ukraine, which it started in February 2022, led to international outrage and triggered a series of economic sanctions against the Russian Federation, mainly by Western governments, designed to block the Kremlin's sources of revenue. Unlike the United States and the United Kingdom, the European Union has not yet sanctioned Russian diamonds which are still circulating through the diamond *trading hub of Antwerp*. Only in May 2023 did the EU commit to develop a strategy to restrict the trade in Russian diamonds by means of a system of traceability requirements it is developing in coordination with the G7 group of countries.

*Aerial view of Alrosa's Mir mine, 2016 ©Igor Dvurekov*



In an *insight report* in April, IPIS provided background and analysis on several aspects of the Russian diamond sector, its links to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and how the international business and political community is seeking an adequate response to the challenges this raises. IPIS continued to provide analysis to diverse stakeholders, in policy discussions and in the media, and closely followed the national and international policy developments related to the issue as well as the impact of the crisis on the diamond industry and governance.

### Failure of the Kimberley Process to address conflicts sponsored by diamond revenues



As a member of the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition, IPIS witnessed the inability of the KP to discuss whether it could continue to certify Russian diamonds as conflict free, but also, how this process and more generally its certification system is failing more strongly than ever to break the link between diamonds and ongoing violent conflict. The issue of Russian diamonds put the global spotlight on a long-standing criticism by the KP CSC, namely that the KP's conflict diamond definition, and its overall model of controls and enforcement, is not fit for purpose and that urgent reform is needed.

While the Russian diamond controversy took most international attention, IPIS and the KP CSC also continued to *monitor other human rights challenges* associated with diamond mining in countries such as the Central African Republic, Angola, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania.

## Documenting the harms and benefits of natural resource extraction to promote accountability

### Empowering Tanzanian communities and civil society to foster justice and human rights in natural resource governance

In Tanzania, the country's natural resource wealth is considered a key driver of development. Despite this potential for "doing good", the narrow economic focus on resource governance in combination with reduced civic space and respect for human rights in the country tend to worsen the vulnerability of communities and fuel precarious human rights conditions.

With the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, IPIS and its partners aim to strengthen the documentation and reporting of human rights issues and socio-economic impact related to natural resource governance, and to increase justice seekers' access to remedy. In 2022, scoping visits were organised in the northern regions of Mara, Shinyanga, Manyara and Tanga to map the main resource extraction operations, good practices, challenges and stakeholders from government, industry and civil society.

Community-based monitoring and (para)legal aid will promote empowerment, feed advocacy actions and multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote positive policy changes.

#### Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/empowering-tanzanian-communities-and-civil-society-to-foster-justice-human-rights-in-natural-resource-governance/>



Women crushing minerals, Tanzania



## Corporate responsibility cases in our briefing

---

IPIS focused on two specific cases related to natural resource governance in African countries in the monthly IPIS briefing. Following Glencore's admission of corruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo to the US Department of Justice in May 2022, IPIS studied the different cases against the company and the way corruption by the multinational was dealt with by the supply chain and the market. IPIS argues that although the fight against child labour is obviously important, international attention for the issue tends to overshadow that of corruption and its impact.

One year after a massive spill at the Angolan Catoca diamond mine caused immense pollution of the Congolese Tshikapa and Kasai rivers, IPIS took stock of the poor actions taken to hold the company accountable and ensure remedy for affected communities. Despite dramatic human and biodiversity losses, both the company and governments are still failing to assume responsibility.

- ➔ *A fault confessed is half redressed: Glencore pleads guilty*
- ➔ *Troubled waters in the Kasai. Pollution by the Angolan diamond industry and culpable negligence by the Congolese government*

# Conflict mapping



Sous-Bureau du SAESSCAM, Luema, Haut Katanga, 2018

## Reflections on the natural resources and armed conflict nexus in eastern DRC

Violent conflict and conflict financing in eastern DR Congo has changed dramatically over the past two decades. Yet, an over-simplified and incorrect narrative of a proxy war driven by 'conflict minerals' persists, and influences policy and donor interventions. In partnership with USAID, IPIS therefore launched a [new reflection](#) on the drivers, causes and actors that together define the nature of the conflict in eastern Congo today.

Within the DRC's fragmented conflict landscape, a wide range of other drivers interact with the so-called 'conflict minerals'. They include tensions over landownership, corruption among government officials, poorly executed Disarmament Demobilisation and Reinsertion (DDR)

programmes, and the continued existence of self-defence groups for whom rent-seeking incentives (mining revenues) have become more prominent.

The resurgence of M23 stresses that the regional dimension remains important for understanding the full context of the conflict as regional trade chains of commodities – including minerals – and bilateral (military) cooperation give rise to geopolitical tensions.

### Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/understanding-artisanal-mining-supply-chains-and-conflict-financing-in-drc/>



Presence of the Mining Police in Kampene area, Maniema province, 2016.

### Armed conflict, insecurity, and mining in eastern DRC

Reflections on the nexus between natural resources and armed conflict



## Taxes and levies: a cost for artisanal miners and a source of insecurity



The Madini kwa Amani na Maendeleo (Minerals for Peace and Development) project, of which IPIS is a member, aims to improve security in targeted mining areas of South Kivu and Ituri, and to promote regional security and stability through cleaner chains and more effective mineral governance at all levels. Because of its importance for the formalisation of the ASM sector and for stability, the Madini project deployed various efforts to better understand the fiscal regime both in eastern DRC and in the Great

Lakes region. To address a significant data gap and inform policy, IPIS performed a [large-scale field study](#) on taxation, both legal and illegal (levies), at the level of artisanal mining sites in Ituri and South Kivu.

Based on data collected in 193 sites, findings demonstrate that current regulations and practices in the field not only cause mineral smuggling, which leaves some of the sector's fiscal potential untapped at the provincial and national levels, but also constitute a source of insecurity and instability.

IPIS identified 62 payments claimed, of which more than 60% were illegal due to unclear regulations and a lack of transparency in their application. Far from being limited to mineral production, levies and taxes also affect equipment and the registration of artisanal miners. The multiplication of payments is adding to the insecurity and distrust felt by artisanal miners towards representatives of the state authorities.

Findings and recommendations on the reduction of the tax burden for artisanal miners were discussed with various Congolese stakeholders during two workshops organised in Bukavu and Bunia.



Feedback sessions in Bunia and Bukavu, December 2022





## Conflict and stakeholder mapping of mining zones around the Okapi Wildlife Reserve

The overlap between mineral deposits and protected areas can be a source of tensions in eastern DRC. For conservation purposes, mining activities are prohibited in protected areas such as the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the province of Ituri. However, rich gold deposits in the area attract both artisanal miners seeking livelihoods and semi-industrial operators. Tujenge, the Partnership for the Development of Eastern DRC (P-DEC) aims to identify and address the root causes of conflicts and promote sustainable economic alternatives to armed violence. With a focus on mining activities, IPIS mapped stakeholders and analysed conflict motives in the region of Nia-Nia, a trading centre in the Mambasa territory. IPIS also conducted visits in 41 mining sites located in Western Mambasa in June and July 2022 to provide an overview of the potential mining areas outside the Okapi reserve. The IPIS stakeholders mapping has provided essential information to the partners of P-DEC to implement their activities successfully. The data collected during the field visits in June-July will be subjected to a deep analysis that will be published in 2023. Finally, two Congolese CSOs from the province of Ituri joined the Kufatilia network to report and monitor mining-related incidents in the region.

### Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/program-for-the-development-of-eastern-congo-p-dec/>



Gold mining site 'Paradis', Mabasa, Ituri, 2022

## Mapping conflicts in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri

In the framework of its programme supported by the Belgium Development Cooperation, IPIS launched a collaboration with partner organisations of the civil society - ACADHOSHA in South Kivu, ASSODIP in North Kivu, and RHA in Ituri, - to map conflicts in the respective regions. In 2022, the three organisations conducted a qualitative baseline assessment to draw an overview of ongoing conflicts. Each year, the organisations will select specific conflicts and conduct fieldwork to study them in detail.



Byaboye gold mine, Lubero territory, North Kivu



# Arms trade & security

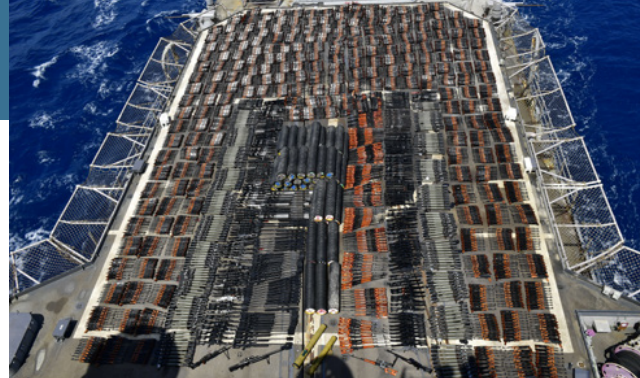
## Research on arms transfers

### Russia's invasion of Ukraine and arms transfers in the framework of international law

In February 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine constituted a massive escalation from its military intervention in south-east Ukraine that began in 2014, when it illegally annexed Crimea and seized control of areas around Donetsk and Luhansk using uniformed and irregular forces. The international crisis and threat to world peace brought up difficult questions regarding the defence of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Following the international condemnation of Russia's aggression, an *IPIS Insight* detailed Russia's responsibility in the war in Ukraine from a legal perspective. The report analyses the justification of the invasion by the Russian President Vladimir Putin and traces Russian support for Ukrainian separatists. Finally, it examines the legality of arms transfers by NATO and EU countries to Ukraine, in light of International Law and in particular of the UN Charter.



Street art collage "The Dove of Peace in the Sky of Ukraine" @ industrie.tarte



Thousands of illicit weapons, North Arabian Sea, 2021 ©US Navy

### Assessing transparency mechanisms to improve arms trade scrutiny

Arms export licensing procedures are often shrouded in secrecy and the exchange of information is limited to the exporting companies and/or individuals, and the competent licensing authority. In collaboration with Vredesactie, IPIS is working on the issue of transparency in the arms trade. The objective is to enable increased scrutiny by civil society, researchers and the general public, but also to allow for effective legal challenge of arms export decisions. With the financial support of the Belgian Development Cooperation, this project will cross-examine best practices in different countries such as the use of arms export reports, public registers, parliamentary inquiries, or freedom of information acts.

A first *study* conducted in 2022 highlights the need for a human rights perspective on arms export licensing and access to information. A follow-up publication will present a comparative country study and will shed light on different transparency mechanisms. Based on this research, IPIS and Vredesactie intend to engage in a dialogue with relevant actors.

#### Project page:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/assessing-transparency-mechanisms-to-improve-arms-trade-scrutiny/>

## Policy advice on small arms and light weapons (SALW) controls

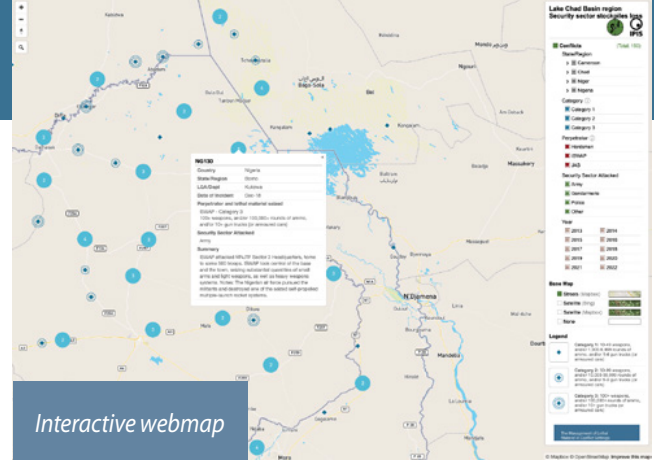
In partnership with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) IPIS contributes to advocacy and campaign activities in an effort to improve small arms and light weapons (SALW) controls and reduce gun violence. IANSA and IPIS produced thematic briefing papers to inform and coordinate advocacy by the IANSA members. These briefings were disseminated at a number of high-level events such as the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in June/July 2022, where IANSA was the official coordinator of civil society participation, or the UN General Assembly First Committee session on conventional arms in October 2022.

### Briefing papers:

- ➔ *Small arms and light weapons proliferation and violence: Estimating its scale and forms*
- ➔ *Post-shipment control of small arms and light weapons*



Soldier inspecting ammunition ©EU Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina



## The management of lethal material in conflict settings

In 2022, the Security Sector Stockpiles (S4) Initiative and IPIS pursued their collaboration and translated their study on the management of lethal material in the Lake Chad Basin Region in French and Chinese to reach a wider audience.

In addition, 50 new incidents were added to the interactive webmap developed by IPIS, which enables users to visualise the location of security sector stockpile losses. IPIS also designed a static map covering a wider geographic scope including Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo, where attacks on security forces resulting in loss of small arms, light weapons, and heavy weapons systems also occur.



### Project page:

- ➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/the-management-of-lethal-materiel-in-conflict-settings/>





Demolition of ammunition ©UN photo/Abel Kavanagh

## Arms trade bulletins

Throughout 2022, IPIS continued to share its series of Arms Trade Bulletins, providing a digest on arms trade and security and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The Arms Trade Bulletin takes a regional or thematic perspective to selected relevant news articles. A topical editorial gives more in-depth background to arms trade and conflict related topics.

### In 2022, IPIS covered the following issues:

- [January – February](#): Russia's invasion of Ukraine and arms transfers in the framework of international law
- [March – April](#): End-Use Monitoring of Military Assistance to Ukraine
- [May – June](#): States gather to tackle illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
- [October – December](#): Africa and the Arms Trade, 2022

## Participating in the dialogue between Belgian peace organisations to promote conflict-sensitive policies

### Belgian Peace network

Network

With the present reconfiguration of the global order in the background, states and alliances have chosen the path of increased defence spending to prepare against projected threats and new risks. Arms production and exports have soared and peaceful solutions to conflict have taken a back seat. In Europe, the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation proved to be a turning point for member states' vision of security and defence.

In Belgium, the joint initiative of IPIS and Search for Common Ground is the only DGD-funded programme with a central focus on peace and conflict prevention. As part of this programme, IPIS and Search seek synergies with peace actors in Belgium. In 2022, peace actors in civil society and research institutes such as the Flemish Peace Institute and GRIP convened in Brussels to map key issues for the peace sector in Belgium. The network formulates challenges that can be addressed in joint collaboration through an informal peace network directed at policy change in Belgium, enriching present debates with a peace perspective.



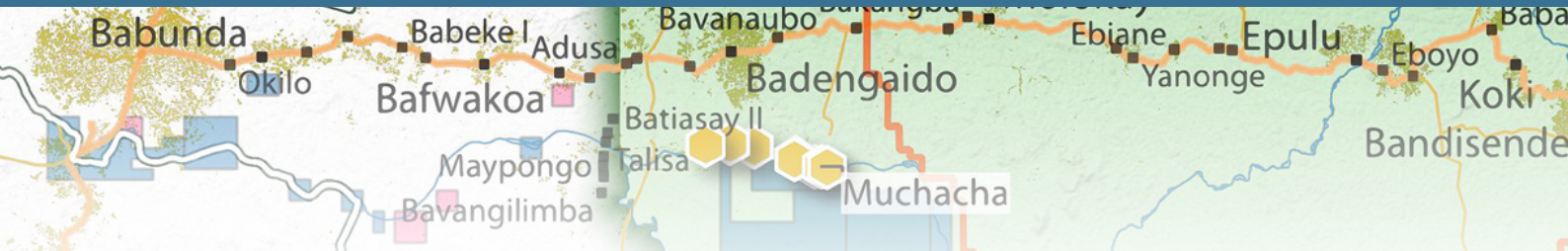
*Witende mining site, Kalehe territory, South Kivu, 2022*

## Flemish Peace Institute

### Network

The Flemish Peace Institute was established by the Flemish Parliament in 2004 to contribute to peace and violence prevention in our own society and in the rest of the world through research, advice and information activities. The director of IPIS was elected to the Board of Directors since 2013 and holds the office of vice-chairman from 2020 to 2025. In this capacity he also represents the Board in the Scientific Council which supervises the research activities of the Scientific Secretariat.

The Board is conceived as a multistakeholder platform where representatives of the Flemish political parties, civil society, industry and academia interact to formulate policy advice based on the Institute's research reports. IPIS is particularly vested in the domains of arms export controls and peace-oriented foreign policy. IPIS contributes to the discussions drawing from its own thematic expertise and broad experience with international multistakeholder platforms.



## Maps & data

IPIS designs interactive and static maps as an integrated part of its research methodology and upon external requests.

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/home/maps-data/>

## DRC

### Mapping artisanal mining areas and mineral supply chains in eastern DRC: Webmap and dashboard

With IPIS' interactive webmap and open data dashboard, users can visualise the data IPIS collected at over 2,860 artisanal mining sites in eastern DRC.

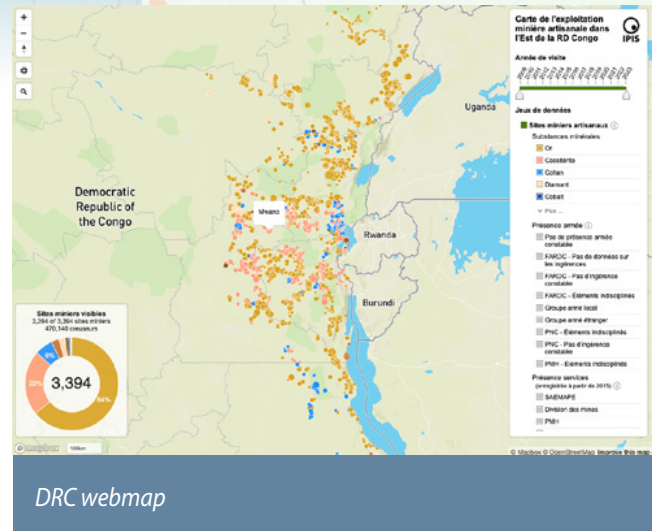
In 2022, IPIS shared updated data on 504 mining sites, of which 170 were visited for the first time. IPIS also refreshed its webmap by creating additional filters and adding tooltips to guide users.

#### Webmap:

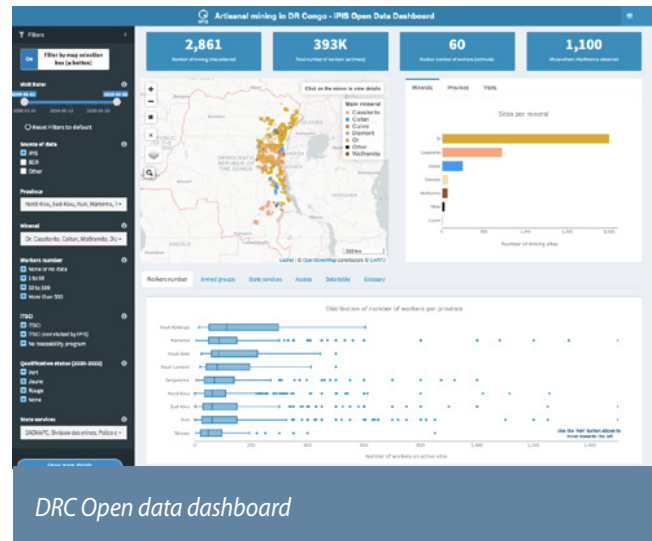
➔ <https://www.ipisresearch.be/mapping/webmapping/drcongo/v6/>

#### Open data dashboard:

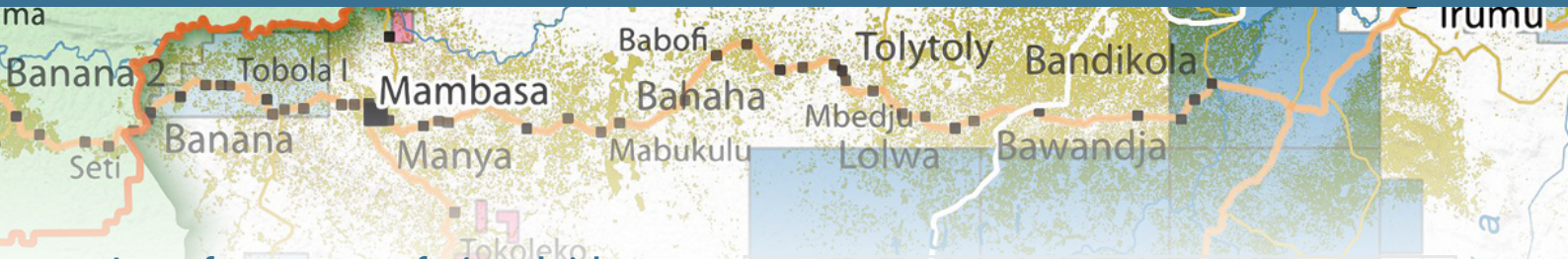
➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/publication/ipis-open-data-dashboard-on-the-artisanal-and-small-scale-mining-sector-in-eastern-drc/>



DRC webmap

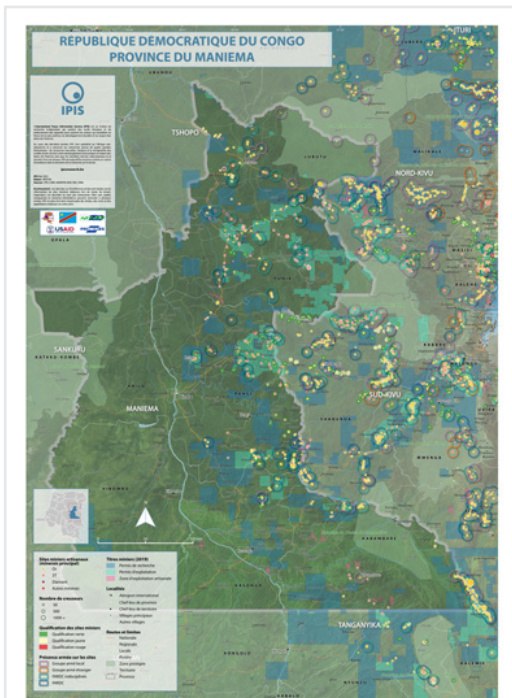


DRC Open data dashboard

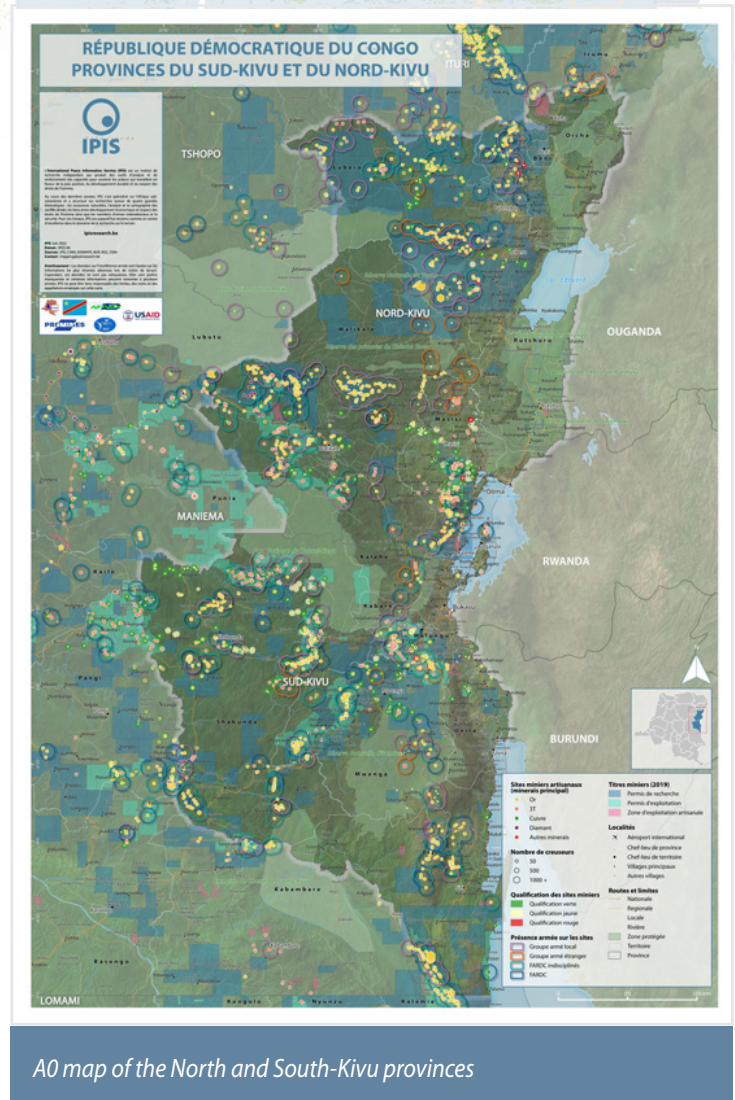


## Large format maps of mineral-rich provinces of the DRC

IPIS has created *large format maps* of known past and present ASM sites in the provinces of Haut Uele, Maniema, Ituri and North and South Kivu. Each map details the type of minerals, the qualification status by official authorities, the mining titles, and provides an overview of armed presence in and around the mines as reported during field visits conducted between 2009 and 2022.



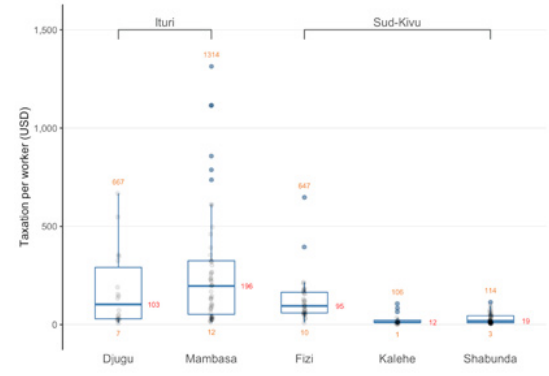
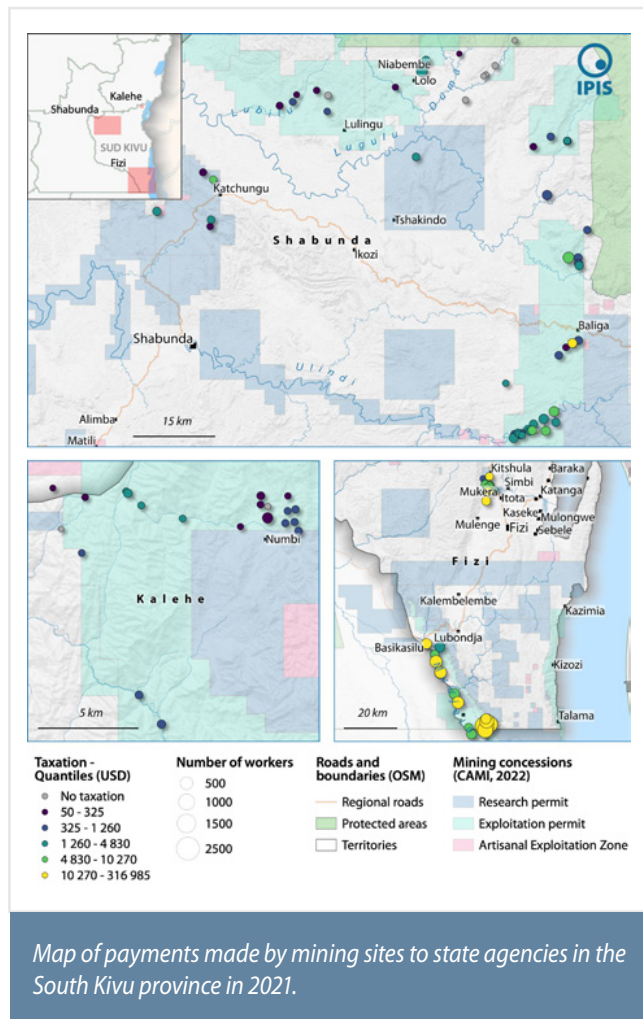
A0 map of the Province of Maniema



A0 map of the North and South-Kivu provinces

## Taxes and levies: How much does an artisanal miner pay?

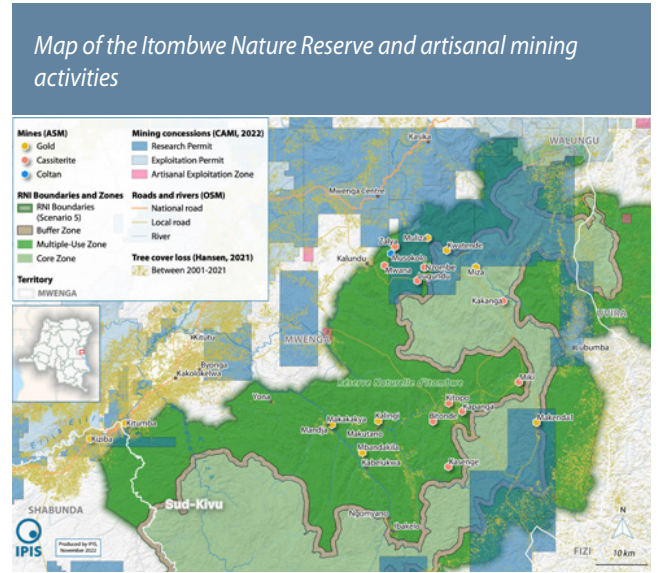
IPIS designed several maps to visualise field data on taxes and levies paid by artisanal miners in the different mining sites visited for the Madini project.



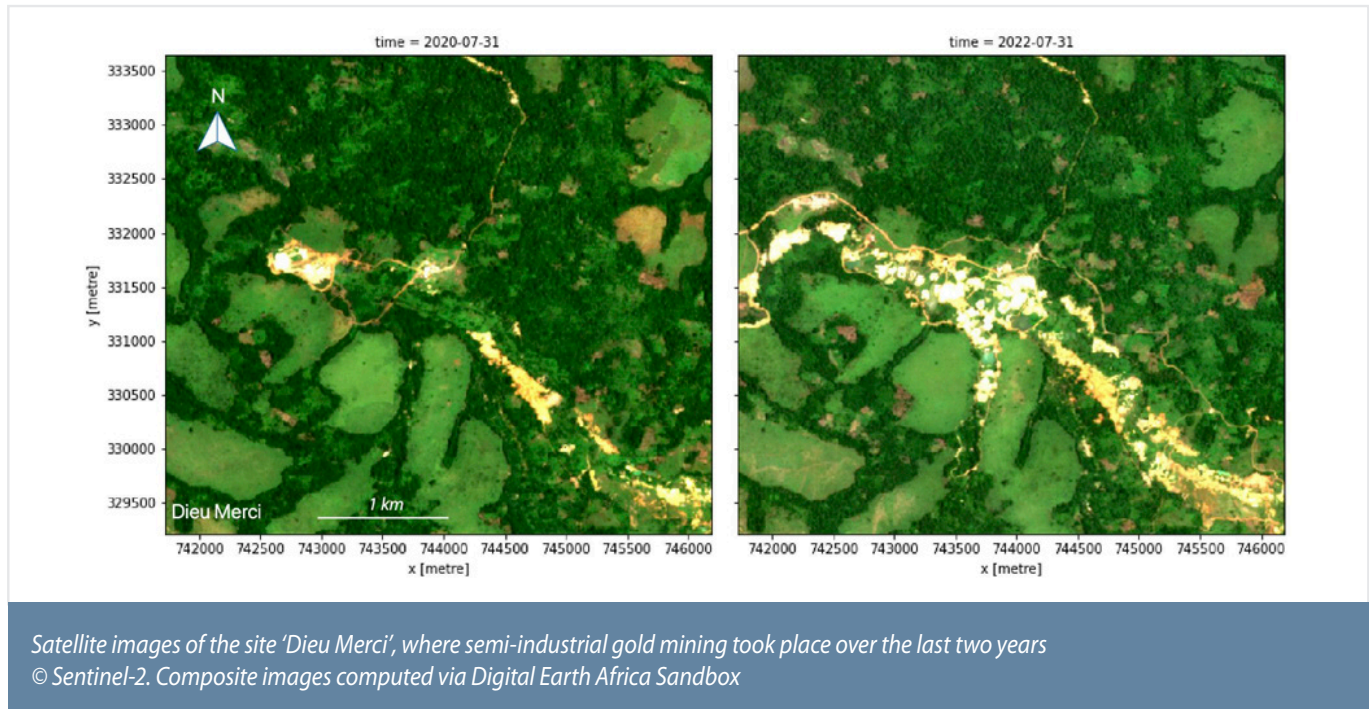
*Distribution of total payments per artisanal miner for each territory in 2021 (in USD)*

## Mapping human activity in and around protected areas

IPIS provided technical assistance to a team of researchers from the University of Sheffield, the Institute of Development Policy of the University of Antwerp, and the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) to understand human activity in and around the Okapi and Itombwe protected areas. IPIS helped collecting and analysing field data, mapped research findings and analysed satellite images of the study area.



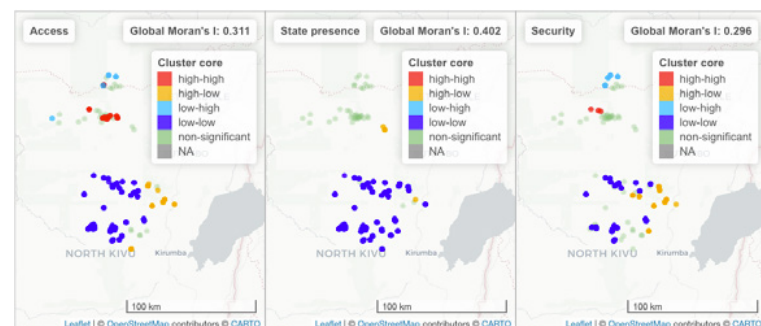




## Use of diverse analytical tools

Another key trend in the ASM sector is the increasing number of enterprises, often with foreign capital doing semi-industrial gold exploitation. Using satellite imagery, IPIS mapped some of these exploitations to visualise their scale and impact on the surrounding environment.

By generating Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA) maps, IPIS can study the spatial relationship between mining site accessibility, type of mineral, state control and security.



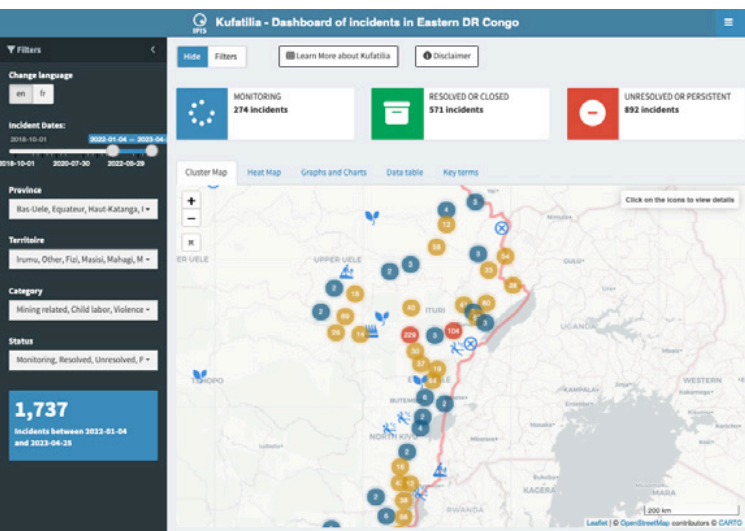
LISA map showing the clusters of mines for the indicators 'Access', 'State presence', and 'Security' in Lubero territory, North Kivu

## Kufatilia - Dashboard of incidents in eastern DRC

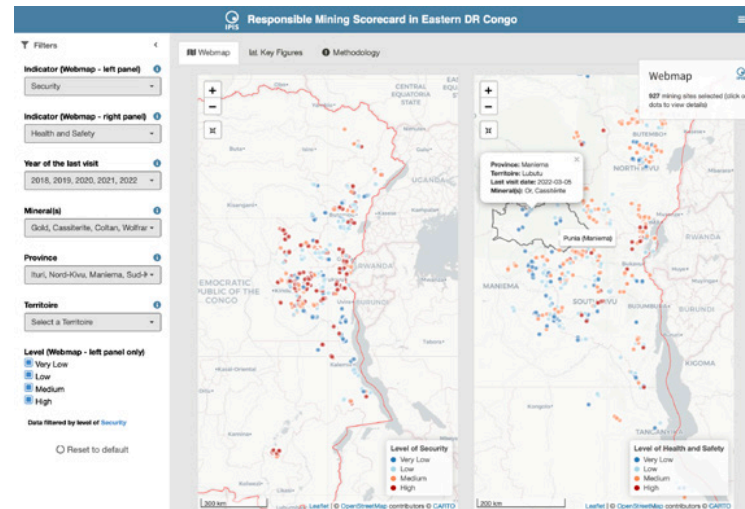
Incidents reported through the Kufatilia monitoring platform can be visualised on a public and interactive dashboard developed by IPIS. In 2022, IPIS updated the design of the map.

### Dashboard:

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/publication/dashboard-incidents-eastern-drc/>



Kufatilia Dashboard



Dashboard of the responsible mining scorecard

## Dashboard of IPIS' Responsible Mining Scorecard in eastern DRC

Drawing on the results of the [Responsible Mining Scorecard](#), IPIS developed a dashboard that enables to compare the spatial distribution of the scoring levels of two indicators to subset mines, and to zoom in on an area of interest using various combinations of filters, namely the mineral(s) extracted in the mining sites, province and territory, year of last visit, and the level of the indicator of their choice.

# Sri Lanka conflict mapping and archive project

IPIS provided technical support on database integration and visualisation to the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) by developing an interactive web app displaying PIAC's extensive mapping of war crimes and human rights abuses during the civil war in Sri Lanka between 1983 and 2009. Based on open-source information, the webmap allows users to query thousands of reported human rights violations using advanced search functionalities including regions, time period, violation type and keywords. The map demonstrates patterns of violations over place and time as well as gaps and trends in reporting with a view to advancing truth-seeking efforts, accountability, and justice.

➔ <https://ipisresearch.be/project/sri-lanka-conflict-mapping-and-archive-project/>

## Interactive webmap and database

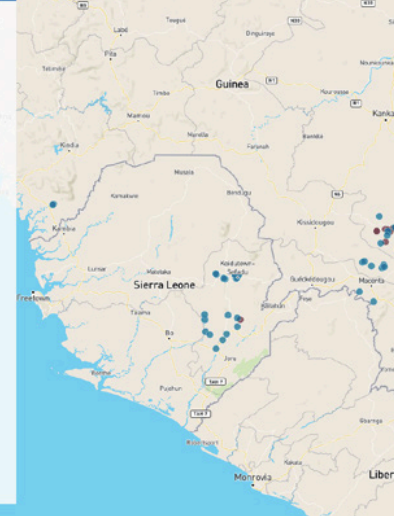
### Gender inequality in the ASM sector



Photo by CEDIDE and Action Mines Guinea.

While ASM remains a male-dominated profession, women are involved in different functions in and around mining sites. At the Gwakaesi site in Guinea, for example, almost a third of the workers on site are women. Women are, however, more vulnerable to fluctuations in income. The report in [Quintus](#) shows that women are not able to finance, buy or sell diamonds; if a woman finds a diamond it belongs not to her, but to the trader.

Similar observations were made in the other case-studies, where men and women have unequal opportunities to benefit from their country's mineral wealth. Women were often engaged in less rewarding positions on mining sites, such as transporting and washing gravel. Less visible, but indispensable for the sector's survival, women play a key role in all kinds of commercial activities around the mines, keeping shops, restaurants and beer running.



## KP CSC storymap

# Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition

## KP CSC - Story map of grassroots research on diamond mining

In 2022, IPIS developed a story map to present the conclusions and recommendations of the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition's grassroots studies on diamond mining impact. This interactive summary of the research activities formulates clear recommendations to governmental, industry and civil society stakeholders on the enhancement of human rights, traceability, accountability, and sustainability in the diamond supply chain. IPIS has also enhanced its capacity for storytelling by developing an in-house map builder system facilitating the production of high-quality interactive story maps.

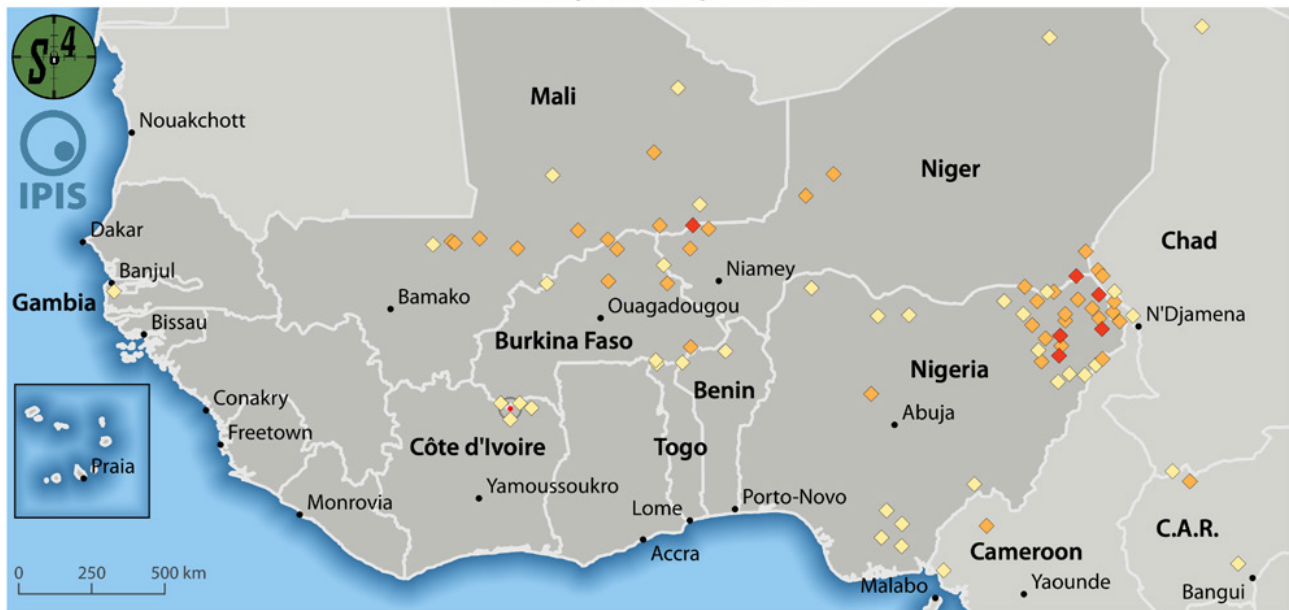
➔ [https://ipisresearch.be/mapping/webmapping/kpsc\\_diamond\\_mapping/?story=grassrootsdiamondsstory](https://ipisresearch.be/mapping/webmapping/kpsc_diamond_mapping/?story=grassrootsdiamondsstory)

# Arms trade & security

In 2022, 50 additional incidents were added to the interactive map on attacks on security forces and diversion of lethal materiel in the Lake Chad Basin designed by IPIS for the Safeguarding Security Sector

Stockpiles (S4) Initiative. S4 and IPIS also developed a static map covering a wider geographic scope including Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo, where attacks on security forces resulting in loss of small arms, light weapons, and heavy weapons systems also occur.

**Selected Attacks on National Security Forces and Peace Operations Resulting in Diversion of Arms and Ammunition (January 2018 to April 2022)**



**Amount of materiel lost**

- ◆ 1 10-49 weapons, and/or 1,000-9,999 rounds of ammo, and/or 1-4 gun trucks (or armoured cars)
- ◆ 2 50-99 weapons, and/or 10,000-99,999 rounds of ammo, and/or 5-9 gun trucks (or armoured cars)
- ◆ 3 100+ weapons, and/or 100,000+ rounds of ammo, and/or 10+ gun trucks (or armoured cars)

**Countries**

- ECOWAS member
- Other country
- Capital

Sources: Safeguarding Security Sector Stockpiles (S4) Initiative Data Set, as of June 2022.  
Map: National Earth, OpenStreetMap. IPIS 2022.



Map of selected attacks on national security forces and peace operations resulting in diversion of arms and ammunition

Women in a cassiterite site, Walungu territory, South Kivu

**About IPIS**



# Mission statement

IPIS is an independent research institute that provides tailored information, analysis and capacity enhancement to support those actors who want to realise a vision of durable peace, sustainable development and the fulfilment of human rights.

Throughout the years, IPIS has developed a geographic focus on sub-Saharan Africa and a thematic focus on natural resources, conflict motives of armed actors, business and human rights, and international arms transfers. Within this scope, IPIS strives to be a centre of excellence on field-based research.

The research programme Natural Resources brings in-depth research on the exploitation of natural resources. IPIS has a unique expertise on natural resources, its links to conflict and its financing, development, environment, human rights and governance.

The research programme Arms Trade & Security sheds light on facts related to the opaque international arms trade with and in our region of focus. The analysis of these data offers insights into the consequences of arms flows on conflict and underdevelopment, and recommendations to prevent the proliferation of arms in Sub-Saharan Africa. In this respect, IPIS investigates logistical chains and infrastructure that facilitate arms transfers to our focus region.

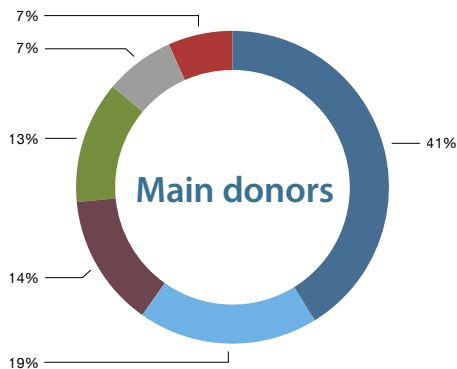
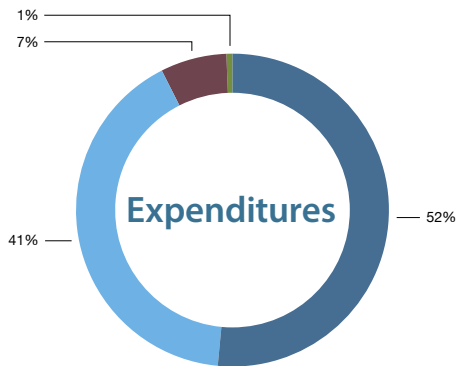
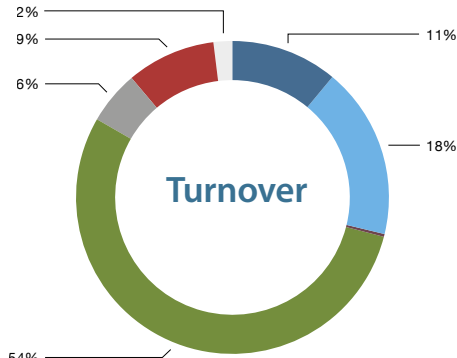
The research programme Conflict Mapping aims to map the various motives of conflict actors. A significant part of this research is devoted to the collection of reliable data on the field and its visualisation into cartographic material.

The research programme Business & Human Rights deals with corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the role of the private sector in our focus region. In the course of many years, we have witnessed the potential of private companies to create wealth and promote peace, as well as conflict and inequality. The research focuses on all aspects of sustainable development, respect for human rights, and the implementation of self-regulatory and legal frameworks.

In order to ensure that our research and expertise reach as wide an audience as possible, IPIS often complements research with capacity enhancement. Increasingly, IPIS offers stand-alone capacity enhancement, designed to meet the needs and knowledge gaps identified by partners and clients.

IPIS often deals with sensitive information and in handling this we pursue deontological principles such as reliability, critical sense, impartiality and check & double-check.

# Finances



## Turnover

€ 2 663 813

Services for social / commercial enterprises	€ 293 536
Services for non-governmental organisations	€ 472 613
Services for governmental organisations	€ 7 747
Programme subsidies	€ 1 445 626
Project subsidies	€ 146 897
Structural Subsidies	€ 245 304
Other	€ 52 091

## Expenditures

€ 2 686 453

Operational costs: projects	€ 1 383 595
Personnel costs	€ 1 102 241
Operational costs: overhead	€ 183 796
Write offs & other costs	€ 16 821

## Main donors

Belgian Development Cooperation	€ 1 097 121
European Commission	€ 495 402
USAID	€ 365 129
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	€ 336 224
Flemish Government	€ 192 324
Other	€ 177 613

## Networks and platforms

- Kimberley Process (KP)
- European Partnership for Responsible Mining (EPRM)
- Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA)
- European Network for Central Africa (EurAc)
- Flemish Peace Institute
- Belgian Network on Natural Resources (BNNR)
- Working Group on Corporate Accountability (11.11.11)

## Memberships

- A-net, Library Network of the University of Antwerp
- Flemish Study and Documentation Centre for non-profit organisations (VSDC)
- NGO Federation: Flemish federation of Development NGOs
- Sociare, Socio cultural employers' organisation





# Outreach

## Lectures, workshops and presentations

### January

---

- **24 January** – Lecture at the Amsterdam Vrije Universiteit Business Faculty on Multi-stakeholder initiatives. (*Filip Reyniers*)
- **27 January** – Briefing and working session with USAID on mining, mineral trade, and conflict financing in eastern DRC. (*Ken Matthysen*)
- **28 January** – Online workshop on Kufatilia with Avocats sans Frontières. (*Alexandre Jaillon*)

### February

---

- **10 February** – Leigh Day webinar on diamonds and human rights. (*Hans Merket*)
- **14 February** – Lecture on “Responsible sourcing of minerals in the Great Lakes Region” for Actief Werken en Leven, De Singel, Antwerp. (*Filip Reyniers*)

### April

---

- **6 April** – [Restitution workshop](#) on the results of the ASM data collection in Shabunda territory (South Kivu). (*Zacharie Bulakali*)
- **18 April** – Guest lecture at IOB on responsible sourcing of 3TG and diamonds. (*By Filip Reyniers*)
- **28 April** – Presentation of Kufatilia at the Global Forum on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold mining organised by PlanetGold. (*Alexandre Jaillon*)

## May

- **2 May** – “Geopolitics, sanctions and minerals due diligence”, 15th OECD Forum on Responsible Mining Supply Chains. (*Hans Merket*)
- **4 May** – “Getting most out of measurement and monitoring”, 15th OECD Forum on Responsible Mining Supply Chains. (*Zacharie Bulakali*)
- **5 May** – “Kufatilia - signalement par sms et suivi des incidents de l’artisanat minier dans l’Est de la RDC”, OECD Forum side session. (*Alexandre Jaillon*)
- **6 May** – “How to unlock ASM conflict gold from eastern DRC: Madini Project”, OECD Forum side session. (*Guillaume de Brier*)
- **23 May** – “Monitoring ASM sites in eastern DRC” at the conference “20 Years of Conflict Research”, Ghent Conflict Research Group. (*Thomas Muller*)
- **26 May** – Presentation on IPIS’ ASM mapping results at a roundtable in Kinshasa, organised by the projects ‘Madini kwa Amani na Maendeleo’ and USAID-Pact’s ‘Sustainable Mine Site Validation’ (SMSV) and the DRC Ministry of Mines. (*Ken Matthysen*)
- **31 May** – Online presentation of Peer Schouten’s book Roadblock politics moderated by Filip Reyniers.

## June

- **13 June** – Webinar on industry standards. (Lotte Hoex)
- **14 June** – Workshop with Eight vzw. Presentation of the study on miner’s income. (Guillaume de Brier)
- **16 June** – Seminar “What ecological transition for tomorrow?” Moderation of the roundtable by Guillaume de Brier



- **20-24 June** – Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting in Kasane, Botswana. (*Hans Merket*)



## July

---

- **1 July** – WCO/UNODC/OECD 6th Informal Law Enforcement Network Meeting in Paris. (Hans Merket)

## August

---

- **30 August** – Restitution workshop in Bunia on the results of the ASM data collection. (Guillaume de Brier)

## September

---

- **13 September** - Workshop with Eight vzw. Feedback on the baseline study on the impact of Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT). (Erik Gobbers & Lotte Hoex)
- **22 September** – Presentation on formalisation and the impact of responsible sourcing at the roundtable: “Promoting decent work in ASGM: Time to dig differently?”, organised by IOB. (Ken Matthysen)
- **26-30 September** – Training in Maputo for mining officials of southern Africa on natural resources, conflict and formalisation in the ASM sector. Regional Workshop on ASM for the Southern Africa Region in Mozambique, organised by PanAfGeo. (Ken Matthysen)
- **28 September** – Presentation on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme during HakiRasilimali’s Extractive Sector Knowledge Incubator. (Elard Mawala)
- **29 September** – [IPIS Event](#): “Russia’s geopolitical and mining interests in Africa: implications of the Ukraine invasion”. (Hans Merket & Filip Reyniers)



## October

---

- **7 October** – Presentation of potential human rights risks along the supply chain. Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economy. Thematic session on the national new raw material strategy. (Lotte Hoex)
- **20 October** – [Restitution workshop](#) of ASM mapping results in Walungu territory (South Kivu). (Zacharie Bulakali)

## November

- **4 November** – Presentation at the Chicago Responsible Jewellery Conference on gold mining in eastern DRC. (Ken Matthysen)
- **8 November** – Meeting with MEP Bernd Lange to present recommendations on the review of the EU 3TG Regulation. (Lotte Hoex)
- **25 November** – Conference on the extractive sector in Tanzania organised by HakiRasilimali (Elard Mawala)
- **29 November** – Restitution workshop in Bukavu on the results of recent mapping activities. (Zacharie Bulakali & Ken Matthysen)



## December

- **1 December** – Workshop on artisanal diamond mining for officials from DRC, CAR, Republic of Congo and Angola. (Erik Gobbers, Hans Merket & Filip Reyniers)



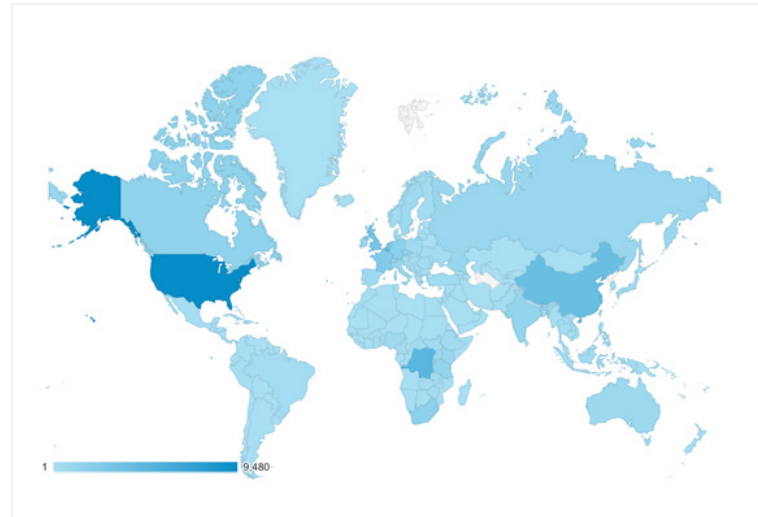
- **5 December** – Lecture “Responsible sourcing of minerals in the Great Lakes Region” for Actief Werken en Leven, Cultuurcentrum Strombeek Grimbergen. (Filip Reyniers)
- **6 December** – Presentation on the impact of Covid-19 on ASM at the World Bank conference “Business Unusual: What Future for ASM post Covid-19?”. (Zacharie Bulakali & Lotte Hoex)



- **7 and 13 December** Presentation of the study on taxes and levies in the artisanal mining sites of South Kivu and Ituri in Bukavu and Bunia. (Guillaume de Brier & Patient Birindwa)
- **14 December** – Presentation on the impact of the invasion of Ukraine on diamond governance at the US embassy in Brussels. (Hans Merket & Filip Reyniers)
- **15 December** – Presentation of results of recent mapping work during a workshop of Eight vzw. (Erik Gobbers)
- **20 December** – Training to companies on responsible sourcing at the Agoria Academy on supply chain due diligence and conflict minerals. (Lotte Hoex)

## Website and social media

IPIS reaches its audience via its website and social media channels such as Twitter and LinkedIn.



Website  
**65,165**  
users



Twitter  
**4,128**  
followers



LinkedIn  
**2,071**  
followers



Newsletter/ mail  
**620**  
subscribers

# Presence in the media

In 2022, IPIS shared its expertise with diverse Belgian and international media (press, radio and television).

Covered topics included the traceability and accountability in the mineral sector of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the challenges posed by Russian diamonds after the invasion of Ukraine, and the energy transition. IPIS also wrote an op-ed on the role of the European Union on the international scene.



NPO Radio

Le Vif

## Société

### Minerais du Kivu Les failles de la traçabilité

Pour lutter contre l'utilisation dans nos smartphones de minerais de conflit « exploités dans l'est du Congo, l'industrie a mis en place un programme de contrôle de l'origine des ressources minières. Bien implanté, il comporte encore des lacunes, pénalise les creuseurs et n'a pas réussi à réduire le nombre de groupes armés.

Par Quentin Nieroffense, au Kivu, avec Julien Clajoux Munanzongo

Jacques Bulanda est assis sur un banc en bois, à côté d'un tas de déchets miniers. Il est entouré de dizaines de personnes qui travaillent dans une mine artisanale à l'est du Congo. Les minerais de conflit sont exploités dans cette région, ce qui a entraîné une situation de conflit armé. Les groupes armés contrôlent les mines et vendent les minerais à des négociants locaux. Ces derniers les transportent vers les frontières avec les pays voisins. Les minerais sont utilisés dans divers secteurs, notamment dans l'industrie électronique. L'industrie a mis en place un programme de contrôle de l'origine des ressources minières. Bien implanté, il comporte encore des lacunes, pénalise les creuseurs et n'a pas réussi à réduire le nombre de groupes armés.



« Il est évident que la traçabilité des minerais est un défi majeur. Les groupes armés contrôlent les mines et vendent les minerais à des négociants locaux. Ces derniers les transportent vers les frontières avec les pays voisins. Les minerais sont utilisés dans divers secteurs, notamment dans l'industrie électronique. L'industrie a mis en place un programme de contrôle de l'origine des ressources minières. Bien implanté, il comporte encore des lacunes, pénalise les creuseurs et n'a pas réussi à réduire le nombre de groupes armés.

« Il est évident que la traçabilité des minerais est un défi majeur. Les groupes armés contrôlent les mines et vendent les minerais à des négociants locaux. Ces derniers les transportent vers les frontières avec les pays voisins. Les minerais sont utilisés dans divers secteurs, notamment dans l'industrie électronique. L'industrie a mis en place un programme de contrôle de l'origine des ressources minières. Bien implanté, il comporte encore des lacunes, pénalise les creuseurs et n'a pas réussi à réduire le nombre de groupes armés.

« Il est évident que la traçabilité des minerais est un défi majeur. Les groupes armés contrôlent les mines et vendent les minerais à des négociants locaux. Ces derniers les transportent vers les frontières avec les pays voisins. Les minerais sont utilisés dans divers secteurs, notamment dans l'industrie électronique. L'industrie a mis en place un programme de contrôle de l'origine des ressources minières. Bien implanté, il comporte encore des lacunes, pénalise les creuseurs et n'a pas réussi à réduire le nombre de groupes armés.

per le Tantalum multinationales internationales analysé en tant que métaux basés en Belgique, se présente comme un défi majeur. L'industrie a mis en place un programme de contrôle de l'origine des ressources minières. Bien implanté, il comporte encore des lacunes, pénalise les creuseurs et n'a pas réussi à réduire le nombre de groupes armés.

Support the Guardian  
Fund independent journalism with €5 per month  
Support us →



- News
- Opinion
- Sport
- Culture
- Lifestyle

World Europe US Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality

### Belgium Belgium's trade in Russian diamonds continues despite moral pressure

Poland and the Baltic states are pressing for diamonds to be included in the EU's next round of sanctions



Rings and earrings in the diamond quarter of Antwerp, Belgium. Photograph: Bloomberg/Getty Images

kort & bondig

Hoeveel bloed kan de Antwerpse diamantsector nog verdragen?



Hans Merket  
Onderzoeker bij  
international  
onderzoekscentrum  
IPIS.

Er blijven geen argumenten meer over die het verantwoordelijk om niets te doen aan de stroom van inkomens die het Russische regime haalt uit de diamanthandel met België.

Zowel de Antwerpse diamantsector als de Belgische overheid lijdt de storm te willen uitzitteren. Maar het is steeds duidelijker dat die niet zo maar zal overvaren. De nieuwe realiteit vraagt een nieuwe aanpak.

Eerst en vooral is er de ethische kwestie die steeds harder doorgeweept. Hoeveel Russische oorlogsmisdaden kan het partnerschap van de Antwerpse diamantsector met een Russisch staatsbedrijf dat dit regime helpt te financieren nog aan?

Als diamantcentrum heeft Antwerpen de laatste twintig jaar enorme vooruitgang geboekt qua regulering en transparantie. De Antwerpse controles op de diamanthandel zijn ongeveerd. Antwerpen

en België presenteren zich daarom, niet onterecht, als het meest ethische diamantcentrum ter wereld. Dat maakt het heel ongemakkelijk om in de huidige controlevrije de hoge standaarden niet toe te passen, omdat het financieel te veel pijn zou doen.

Geen tijdelijke dip

Hetzelfde gemak treft wie zich strijd tegen conflictdiamond, maar nu passief wacht wat Europa zal doen. Het argument dat internationale coördinatie essentieel is om te voorkomen dat de handel zich gewoon verplaatst, is valabel, maar dan zou je als zelfverklaarde leider proactief die coördinatie in gang moeten zetten.

Ook het argument dat het België meer pijn zal doen dan Rusland, is niet langer doorslaggevend. De oor-

log doet België nu al pijn. De in-stroom van Russische diamant is stilgevallen door de financiële sancties, logistieke beperkingen en zeker ook door de groeiende afkeer bij consumenten voor Russische diamant.

Alles lijkt erop dat dit geen tijdelijke dip is. De sector wordt wereldwijd door elkaar geschud en deelt zich steeds duidelijker op in twee kampen: degenen die extra inspanningen willen leveren om een ethische diamanthandel te garanderen, en degenen die liever een oogje dichtknijpen uit commerciële overwegingen. Het wordt met de handel zich moeilijkjar om daartoe geen partij te kiezen, zeker voor spelers die met ethische principes in de markt zetten.

Imagoprobleem

Dat die keuze niet zonder gevolgen

lijft, is duidelijk. Maar dat komt, net zoals met de Europese gasleveringen, doordat België zich de afgelopen jaren te afhankelijk heeft gemaakt van Russische diamant. Die situatie kan alleen rechtgezet worden met een proactieve houding. België moet met gelijkgestemde landen afspraken maken om diamantcentra zoals Dubai, die muunt proberen te slaan uit deze crisis, verder in de hoek te drukken.

Tegelijk moet de diamantvoerder laatste tien jaar, onder meer door imagoproblemen naar Dubai, maar wordt in de praktijk voor het overgrote deel verantwoord ontgongen. Daarboven draagt de Afrikaanse productie veel meer bij aan de ontwikkeling en de tewerkstelling.

De Standaard vrijdag 2 december 2022



Met tranen en verwijten naar huis. **Martinez stopt bij Rode Duivels**

Ook **IV's** ontsnappen niet aan ontstagnende bij VRT

Russische Wagner-groep voerde diamanten in naar België

**ONDERZOEK** Via een bedrijf in de Centraal-Afrikaanse Republiek verhandelt het Russische huurlingengreg Wagner wereldwijd diamanten. In 2019 voerde het er zelfs rechtstreeks uit naar België, blijkt uit onderzoek van *De Standaard* en internationale partners.

De Russische Wagner-groep wordt wereldwijd actief in de handel met diamanten. Volgens een bron die niet wil worden genoemd, zou de Wagner-groep in 2019 voor de eerste keer diamanten hebben geëxporteerd naar België. Dit zou gebeuren via een bedrijf in de Centraal-Afrikaanse Republiek (CAR).

De Wagner-groep wordt wereldwijd actief in de handel met diamanten. Volgens een bron die niet wil worden genoemd, zou de Wagner-groep in 2019 voor de eerste keer diamanten hebben geëxporteerd naar België. Dit zou gebeuren via een bedrijf in de Centraal-Afrikaanse Republiek (CAR).

De Wagner-groep wordt wereldwijd actief in de handel met diamanten. Volgens een bron die niet wil worden genoemd, zou de Wagner-groep in 2019 voor de eerste keer diamanten hebben geëxporteerd naar België. Dit zou gebeuren via een bedrijf in de Centraal-Afrikaanse Republiek (CAR).

De Wagner-groep wordt wereldwijd actief in de handel met diamanten. Volgens een bron die niet wil worden genoemd, zou de Wagner-groep in 2019 voor de eerste keer diamanten hebben geëxporteerd naar België. Dit zou gebeuren via een bedrijf in de Centraal-Afrikaanse Republiek (CAR).

opinie

FILIP REYNIEERS

is directeur van IPIS, een internationaal onderzoekscentrum dat gevestigd is in Antwerpen.

De rol van Europa is nog niet uitgespeeld

In zijn essay in *De Morgen* schetst Jonathan Holslag een somber verhaal dat goed lekt: Europa trekt op zijn werkloos, leeft bij gratie van de Verenigde Staten en werd een speelbal van de grootmachten. De Russische invasie van Oekraïne aan dit bevenging. "We" waren gekantelings en leedlen in oekraïne. Maar wie is de "we" in dit verhaal? Holslag zelf niet. Is hetken mezelf er eveneens in. Samen met vele anderen vraag ik om democratische rechtstaat en de vrede op ons grondgebied als een kwetsbaar voorrecht. Vele raamstellingen bepalen dat onze werkdag een schaduwak heeft. Vredesbewegingen, mensenrechtenorganisaties en ngo's wijzen al decennialang op de hypocrisie van een beleid dat democratie en mensenrechten promoten, maar tegelijkertijd wapens levert aan dictatoren. Zij pleiten niet voor eenzijdige handel, onovereenkomsting. Het zijn daarentegen de "realisten" van de buitenlandpolitiek die in hun mediagebruik steeds meer aandacht hebben besteed aan de huidige keer van onze werkdag.



Frans militairen, als onderdeel van de NAVO, staan paraat op een tocht. Zevenen nabij de Russische stad Constansta. n. 2022

In zijn meer naar de "pacifistische Europese middenklasse" noekt Holslag stem bij Johan Galbraith, de grondlegger van de moderne vredesonderzoek. Galbraith zou Holslag pleitlood voor het betoel van onze militaire macht echter met grove onachtzaamheid.

Paradoxaal genoeg wint Poetin ook al het Westerse van komende jaren op grote schaal militair toert, enorme investeringen in Europese legers die nooit tegen hem gebruikt zullen worden, ten koste van de welvaartstaat, omgietstrategie en internationale solidariteit.

Er is ook goed nieuws: geen enkele grootmacht niet strafloze internationale orde op zijn knip. De VS betalen nog voor hun invasie van Irak, en Rusland moet het nu nog veel harder ontvinden. Omgeacht de militaire afloop is de prijs die Poetin betaalt in binnen- en buitenland hoog. Zal Rusland over tien jaar nog wel een grootmacht zijn?

Van alle grootmachten geniet de Europese Unie wellicht nog het meeste krediet in de mondiale publieke opinie.

Van alle grootmachten geniet de Europese Unie wellicht nog het meeste krediet in de mondiale publieke opinie. Van leiders van het stad wereld is in zakelijk. Afrika hoorde ik dat termen als "leiders" en "verantwoordelijke" ontgingen

Van alle grootmachten geniet de Europese Unie wellicht nog het meeste krediet in de mondiale publieke opinie



LE SOIR

Podcasts Politique Société Monde Economic Videos Sports Culture MAD Planete

ACCUEIL | OPINIONS | CARTES BLANCHES

La transition verte de la Belgique doit aussi être certifiée «sans conflit»

A la COP27, quelques annonces offrent des signes d'espoir, notamment du côté de la Belgique. Mais attention: notre pays doit s'assurer que son adaptation climatique ainsi que celle qu'elle finance à l'étranger, ne deviennent pas elle-même source de plus de conflits et de crises.



Les militants militants, ils préparent pour le développement de technologies plus vertes, sont réjouis de nombreux conflits dans les zones où les agriculteurs - AFP

Certe Blanche: Par Clarine Perrier, directrice de l'INSEE, Search for Common Ground (Belgique), Filip Reynders, directeur de l'IPS, l'International Peace Information Service (Anvers)



# Assignments 2022

## Facilitating responsible sourcing and trade in diamonds and other minerals in Sub-Saharan African countries

---

*For European Commission, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace*

## United for peace and sustainable development in fragile and conflict-affected settings

---

*For the Belgian Development Cooperation*

## Madini – Strengthening regional stability in the Great Lakes

---

*For Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

## Understanding artisanal mining supply chains and conflict financing in DRC

---

*For USAID*

## Partnership for the Development of Eastern Congo (P-DEC) – Tujenge

---

*For USAID*

## Kufatilia – Incident reporting and monitoring

---

*For Avocats sans Frontières, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Madini), USAID (P-DEC), Belgian Development Cooperation*





## Promoting civic space in Tanzania's extractive sector governance

---

*For the Belgian Development Cooperation*

## Analysing the impact of unconditional cash transfers in an artisanal mining zone in Maniema province, DRC

---

*For Eight, FairPhone*

## Analysing human activity in and around the Okapi and Itombwe protected areas in the DRC

---

*For the University of Sheffield*

## The management of lethal materiel in conflict settings

---

*Safeguarding Security Sector Stockpiles (S<sup>4</sup>) Initiative*



## IPIS team

On 31 December 2022 the, IPIS team was composed of the following persons:

**Filip Reyniers, Director**

[filip.reyniers@ipisresearch.be](mailto:filip.reyniers@ipisresearch.be)

**Anne Hullebroeck, Office manager**

[anne.hullebroeck@ipisresearch.be](mailto:anne.hullebroeck@ipisresearch.be)

**Peter Danssaert, Researcher**

[peter.danssaert@ipisresearch.be](mailto:peter.danssaert@ipisresearch.be)

**Ken Matthysen, Researcher**

[ken.matthysen@ipisresearch.be](mailto:ken.matthysen@ipisresearch.be)

**Zacharie Bulakali, Liaison Officer**

[zacharie.bulakali@ipisresearch.be](mailto:zacharie.bulakali@ipisresearch.be)

**Lotte Hoex,**

**Researcher and Policy Manager**

[lotte.hoex@ipisresearch.be](mailto:lotte.hoex@ipisresearch.be)

**Guillaume de Brier, Researcher**

[guillaume.debrier@ipisresearch.be](mailto:guillaume.debrier@ipisresearch.be)

**Hans Merket, Researcher**

[hans.merket@ipisresearch.be](mailto:hans.merket@ipisresearch.be)

**Didier Verbruggen, Researcher**

[dider.verbruggen@ipisresearch.be](mailto:dider.verbruggen@ipisresearch.be)

**Han Verleyen, Programme Manager**

[han.verleyen@ipisresearch.be](mailto:han.verleyen@ipisresearch.be)

**Mieke Thierens, Researcher**

[mieke.thierens@ipisresearch.be](mailto:mieke.thierens@ipisresearch.be)

**Elard Mawala, Liaison Officer**

[elard.mawala@ipisresearch.be](mailto:elard.mawala@ipisresearch.be)

**Erik Gobbers, Researcher**

[erik.gobbers@ipisresearch.be](mailto:erik.gobbers@ipisresearch.be)

**Julien Marquet,**

**Partners and logistics officer**

[Julien.marquet@ipisresearch.be](mailto:Julien.marquet@ipisresearch.be)

**Thomas Muller, Researcher**

[thomas.muller@ipisresearch.be](mailto:thomas.muller@ipisresearch.be)

**Patient Birindwa, Liaison Officer**

[patient.birindwa@ipisresearch.be](mailto:patient.birindwa@ipisresearch.be)

**Patrick Vanderstukken,**

**Financial controller**

[patrick.vanderstukken@ipisresearch.be](mailto:patrick.vanderstukken@ipisresearch.be)

**Laure Gerig, Communication Officer**

[laure.gerig@ipisresearch.be](mailto:laure.gerig@ipisresearch.be)

**Lisa Lopper, Programme Manager**

[lisa.loeper@ipisresearch.be](mailto:lisa.loeper@ipisresearch.be)

**Markus Fahlbusch, Researcher**

[markus.fahlbusch@ipisresearch.be](mailto:markus.fahlbusch@ipisresearch.be)

**Jan Leysen, Programme Manager**

[jan.leysen@ipisresearch.be](mailto:jan.leysen@ipisresearch.be)

**Lilian Ogolla, Project Officer**

[lilian.ogolla@ipisresearch.be](mailto:lilian.ogolla@ipisresearch.be)

**Ali Malik, Finance Assistant**

[ali.malik@ipisresearch.be](mailto:ali.malik@ipisresearch.be)

**Amin Sofla, Finance Manager**

[amin.sofla@ipisresearch.be](mailto:amin.sofla@ipisresearch.be)

**Brian Sabbe, Researcher**

[Brian.sabbe@ipisresearch.be](mailto:Brian.sabbe@ipisresearch.be)

**Jonatan Weenink, Research &**

**Communication Intern**

**Philip Knirsch, GIS Intern**

### Associate Researchers

- Peer Schouten
- Liliana Lizarazo Rodriguez
- Brian Wood
- Fiona Southward
- Steven Spittaels



## Contact



**IPIS vzw**

Italiëlei 98a

2000 Antwerp

Belgium

✉ [secretariat@ipisresearch.be](mailto:secretariat@ipisresearch.be)

🌐 [ipisresearch.be](http://ipisresearch.be)

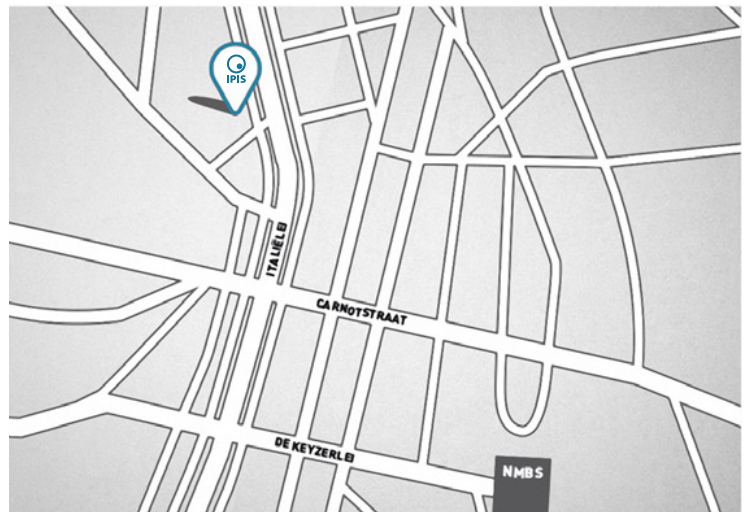
Follow us:

🐦 [@ipisresearch](https://twitter.com/ipisresearch)

📘 [ipisresearch](https://www.facebook.com/ipisresearch)

🌐 [International Peace Information Service](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-peace-information-service)

📺 [International Peace Information Service - IPIS](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



***Independent research and  
capacity enhancement for durable peace,  
sustainable development  
and human rights***

