Democratic Republic of the Congo Mineral Exploitation by Armed Groups & Other Entities

Section 1522 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-203, enacted on July 21, 2010, states that “the Secretary of State shall, in accordance with the recommendation of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their December 2008 report, produce a map of mineral-rich zones, trade routes, and areas under the control of armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and adjoining countries based on data from multiple sources, including—(i) the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo, the governments of adjoining countries, and the governments of other Member States of the United Nations; and (ii) local and international nongovernmental organizations.” This map was compiled by the U.S. Department of State to submit to the Congress on Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, and Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations, Foreign Relations, Finance, and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate. The map is based on information from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, and Development (OECD) and cited by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in its final rule implementing section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-203, enacted on July 21, 2010, and cited by the U.S. Department of State in its final rule implementing section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-203, enacted on July 21, 2010.

Lack of verifiable data makes it difficult, in terms of what may be included in an appropriate manner for an official Department map, to confirm the location of many mine sites; to establish which mines are active and which are inactive at any given time; and to comprehensively verify the armed groups or other entities that are either present at mines or have access to revenue streams emanating from them. The Department expects to use data from several sources to improve the availability, breadth, timeliness, and quality of information, IPIS and the DRC government have launched a capacity-building project focused on mine site monitoring, data collection, and mapping. Data collection has begun and new information will be available in mid-2013. The Department expects to draw on these data for future iterations of this map, and has consulted with the DRC government, the Group of Experts, and MONUSCO regarding the current map.

There are hundreds of mining sites in North and South Kivu alone, nearly all of which are artisanal mines (dug by hand with basic tools), and the majority of which are very small scale operations that operate intermittently. Many of the mining sites in eastern DRC are inaccessible to outsiders due to remoteness, a lack of passable roads, and the dangers stemming from the presence of militia, undisciplined army troops, and bandits. A comprehensive mapping study that applies a consistent methodology within a single timeframe to the entirety of DRC’s conflict-affected eastern provinces and adjacent countries has not been conducted.

In light of the above, this map should not by itself be considered a source of sufficient information to serve as a substitute for the exercise of effective due diligence on companies’ supply chains.

Names and boundary representation not necessarily authoritative

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