



SARW

Southern Africa Resource Watch

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NEWSLETTER



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

CIVIL SOCIETY'S STANCE ON ILLICIT MINING IN SOUTH KIVU AND THE MISMANAGEMENT OF THE MINING FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



On January 7, 2025, **Southern Africa Resource Watch** hosted a meeting with 22 civil society organizations involved in natural resource governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The discussion focused on two urgent issues:

1. The illicit exploitation of mineral resources in South Kivu, particularly by Chinese entities.
2. The government's attempted mismanagement of the Mining Fund for Future Generations (FOMIN).

Following this meeting, two press releases were issued:

- The first statement called for transparency and legal action against both Chinese nationals and their Congolese collaborators engaged in illegal gold mining in Karhembo, Walungu territory, South Kivu. It urged the Attorney General to prosecute all violations related to resource exploitation.
- The second statement demanded that the Prime Minister uphold the intended purpose of the FOMIN and refrain from diverting its revenues to meet general government expenses.



Statement #1



Statement #2

Background on the Mining Fund (FOMIN):

Established in 2018 under the Mining Code, FOMIN is financed by a percentage of mining royalties paid by companies operating in the DRC. Initially set at 10%, this contribution was reduced to 8% in 2022. The fund is designated for sustainable development projects benefiting future generations and preparing for the post-mining era. However, there have been repeated attempts to misuse these resources.

The civil society organizations urged the Prime Minister to rescind the directive reallocating FOMIN revenues to the national budget. Additionally, they called on the President of the Court of Auditors to conduct an investigation into the management of FOMIN funds since 2019.



PIONEERING THE AFRICAN GREEN MINERALS SUSTAINABILITY ATLAS

Multi-University Partnership on Green Minerals

On January 17-18, 2025, Southern Africa Resource Watch convened a research methodology workshop at the Copperbelt University (CBU) in Kitwe, Zambia, marking the first step toward creating Africa's first Green Minerals Sustainability Atlas.

Copperbelt University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nyambe, a distinguished geologist, highlighted the dual role of green minerals:

“Copper, cobalt, lithium, and graphite are indispensable for manufacturing green technologies that power the global energy transition. Our region holds an abundance of these resources, presenting a unique opportunity for Southern Africa to lead the green economy.”

However, he also emphasized the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) concerns associated with mining and stressed the need for responsible resource management.

Southern Africa Resource Watch formalized partnership agreements with three universities—Copperbelt University (Zambia), the University of Lubumbashi (DRC), and Great Zimbabwe University (Zimbabwe). This multi-university collaboration will develop specialized training modules aimed at empowering mining communities to understand and advocate for their rights within the ESG framework.

As part of this initiative, SARW has identified four companies for in-depth ESG value chain analysis:

- First Quantum Limited (Zambia) – Copper, Nickel, Cobalt
- Sino Congolaise des Mines (Sicomines, DRC) – Copper, Cobalt
- Syrah Resources (Mozambique) – Graphite
- Bikita Mineral Resources (BMR, Zimbabwe) – Lithium



THE AFRICAN GREEN MINERALS SUSTAINABILITY ATLAS

This interactive mapping tool will provide real-time insights into mineral exploration, production, trade, and corporate responsibility efforts. Integrated into SARW's African Mining Accountability Framework, the Atlas will highlight critical issues such as:

- ✓ Mining sites and mineral production trends
- ✓ Revenue transparency
- ✓ Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives
- ✓ Grievance redress mechanisms for mining-affected communities

In his remarks, Dr. Claude Kabemba, SARW Executive Director, reiterated:

“While critical minerals like copper, cobalt, lithium, and graphite are vital for the energy transition, they also pose environmental and social risks. This Atlas will be a key tool in holding mining companies accountable and ensuring communities benefit from these resources.”

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



CIVIL SOCIETY'S POSITION ON OIL EXPLORATION IN THE DRC

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



On January 22-23, 2025, SARW organized a workshop in Kinshasa on "The Future of Oil Exploration in the DRC in the Context of the 2015 Paris Agreement."

This workshop was held amid growing concerns over the expansion of oil and gas exploration in the Congo River Basin, which threatens the country's climate commitments.

The event brought together 30 participants from Kinshasa, North Kivu, and Kongo Central to discuss:

1. The DRC's oil exploration policy in light of its Paris Agreement commitments
2. Developing a civil society advocacy strategy on fossil fuel governance

Key Recommendations:

- ✓ The DRC government should maintain its commitment to the Paris Agreement by drafting a clear oil exploration policy and a phased exit strategy from hydrocarbons.
- ✓ Establish a civil society consultation framework for monitoring and influencing petroleum governance.
- ✓ Develop an advocacy roadmap for 2025 to engage policymakers on oil and gas issues.

This dialogue underscores SARW's commitment to promoting sustainable energy policies that align with global climate goals.

THANK YOU!