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IPIS

IPIS UPCOMING EVENTS

10 December - 'Analyse du plan Starec et son impact sur la violence faite aux femmes' – CNCD, Brussels

17 December – Public Debate “Congolese NGO’s als sleutel voor beter beheer van natuurlijke rijkdommen” – IPIS, Antwerp – More information: <http://www.ipisresearch.be/news.php?id=263>

Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Lake Kivu's deadly secret.

(4/12/2009 – Pambazuka)

<http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/60742>

The Lake Kivu basin, which Rwanda shares with the DR Congo, contains vast quantities of methane gas, which can be used to provide desperately needed electricity, but it could cause far more lethal problems than its current power shortage.

New Oxfam Report - Lifting the Resource Curse.

(4/12/2009 – AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=22409>

Lifting the Resource Curse recommends compulsory transparency measures in the licensing and award of extractive contracts, in payments made by companies to governments, in the public management of revenues, and in the targeting and implementation of public spending.

Continents Oil and Gas Potential Growing – UNCTAD.

(9/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912090038.html>

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has stressed that the continent's oil and gas potential is steadily growing, according to a communiqué by the African Union (AU).

Illegal Ivory Trade Detrimental to Developing World.

(21/11/2009 – Media Global – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912040324.html>

Despite international efforts to halt the trade of ivory, the criminalized industry is once again flourishing on multiple continents, according to a new report released by the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). The findings of the report signal a threat to reverse valuable gains achieved in the elimination of elephant poaching over the last two decades.

DRC

D R Congo: Conflict minerals: Cover for Western mining interests?

(4/12/2009 – Pambazuka – AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=22446>

"The conflict mineral approach or efforts emanating from the United States and Europe are no exception to this symptomatic approach, which serves more to perpetuate the root causes of Congo's challenges than to resolve them."

D R Congo: Technical workshop to combat militarization of natural resources.

(8/12/2009 – AfricaFiles)

<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=22454>

Here are highlights of a technical workshop on "Practical Mechanisms to Combat the Militarization of Natural Resources in the DR Congo". Participation included individual researchers who have worked for the UN Panel of Experts on the DRC, Global Witness, IPIS, Catholic Services, Open Society Southern Africa, Entraide missionnaire, and others. There are some suggestions of how to concretely apply due diligence, certification, and third party verification mechanisms to and in the context of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

How Technology is Fuelling Conflict in the Country.

(7/12/2009 – East African – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912070704.html>

Opinion article from Enough Project's John Prendergast on the DRC's conflict minerals.

Conspicuous Correlation: Coltan and Crisis Reports.

(8/12/2009 – appfrica.net)

<http://appfrica.net/blog/2009/12/08/conspicuous-correlations-coltan-and-crisis-reports/>

Mashing up some data from Ushahidi and a number of reports on the mining of coltan (columbite and tantalite) it's easy to see the correlation between heavily mined areas and the conflict regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The World Bank and the forest sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo: REDD FUTURE or GREENWASH?

(3/12/2009 – Global Witness)

http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/893/en/the_world_bank_and_the_forest_sector_in_the_democratic_republic_of_congo_redd_future_or_greenwash

Ahead of Copenhagen, Global Witness, Greenpeace and the Rainforest Foundation have delivered an open letter to the World Bank criticising its role in the forest sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo - home to the second largest rainforest in the world.

MONUC holds environmental workshop in Kinshasa.

(3/12/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6621> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6622> (French)

An environmental workshop was held for MONUC and UN agency staff today by MONUC's Environmental Affairs unit, with the support of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UNESCO, the Swedish Defence Registry Institute and the DRC ministry for the environment. The aim of the workshop was to highlight areas where MONUC and UN agencies in the DRC can do more to protect, preserve and enhance the environment in which they work, and to develop a long term environmental plan.

Parc de Virunga : l'ICCN sensibilise sur l'énergie à base des briquettes biomasse.

(3/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25705>

Article on the ICCN's campaign to promote the biomass briquettes as an alternative for charcoal.

UGANDA

Uganda's 2009 mineral exports up.

(6/12/2009 – New Vision)

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/220/703410>

Uganda expects to earn about \$55m from its mineral exports this year, higher than \$52.7m in 2008, a government official said. The country's mining sector is viewed as underexploited with small scale miners mainly involved in gold and cobalt, the leading mineral exports. Earnings from the resources reached a high of \$88m in 2007.

Leaked Report On Oil Deals Puts Pressure On Govt.

(1/12/2009 – The Independent – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912020522.html>

A scathing new report issued by the London-based environment and governance watchdog Platform has put government and oil companies under fire. Revealing for the first time one of the production sharing agreements (PSAs) between Heritage and the government, Platform's analysis reveals that, contrary to oil company and government executives' claims that the state would get up to 80% of oil revenues, internal figures reveal that the state will actually take in between 67%-74%. Platform's own analysis puts the government take even lower at a potential 47.4% - 79.5%, depending on a variety of external factors (price of oil, developmental costs, etc).

Minister Ordered to Produce Oil Agreements.

(8/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912090109.html>

The state minister for mineral development, Peter Lokeris, is slated to submit the oil sharing agreements the Government signed with prospecting companies before Parliament today. The minister committed himself to this yesterday, after presenting a statement explaining the proposed sale of Heritage's interest to Eni Spa, an Italian oil company.

Great expectations in Uganda over oil discovery.

(2/12/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2009/dec/02/oil-benefits-rural-uganda>

Uganda is on course to become one of the top 50 oil producers in the world. But will the proceeds change the lives of the country's poorest?

Can Uganda escape the 'resource curse' of oil?

(2/12/2009 – Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2009/dec/02/oil-resource-curse>

Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Congo, Sudan. In a bleak partnership, civil war and natural resources, like oil or diamonds, go together in Africa. As Uganda's oil discoveries at last offer an unimagined vision of future prosperity, Ugandans should be thinking hard about what has gone wrong in the past.

NGOs to Monitor Minerals.

(6/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912071313.html>

Civil society organisations operating in countries of the Albertine Rift Valley region have formed a coalition to make inputs in the region's mining sector. It will work to ensure rational distribution of mineral wealth through lobbying political authorities to ensure that communities benefit from the proceeds of their countries' resources.

Nigeria to Assist Country Grow Its Oil Industry.

(7/12/2009 – Vanguard – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912071843.html>

The Nigerian Federal Government has expressed its willingness to collaborate with Uganda to develop its nascent oil industry in line with its commitment towards promoting the ideals and objectives of the NEPAD and the African Union.

RWANDA

Country Needs a Potential Investor in Agro-Business.

(3/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912030071.html>

Opinion article stating Rwanda has the gift of unique soils which are situated in the volcanic mountains. The soils are rich with nutrients but the agro sector seems to be forgotten and not exploited to full capacity. The country has potential to produce and compete on international markets because of its organic products. The investment in agro-business will make the whole sector move forward with more of the countries citizens improving their lives and creating a change in society.

Kagame Calls for More Investment in Agriculture.

(8/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912080018.html>

President Paul Kagame yesterday called upon African countries to commit more funds to the agricultural sector if the continent is to address the problem of food security and transform one of the major engines for growth and prosperity.

Mineral Wealth to Improve Country's GDP.

(6/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912070638.html>

The Director of Rwanda Geology and Mines Authority (OGMR), Michael Biryabarema, has said that mineral wealth will improve the country's economic Gross Domestic Product (GDP). He stressed that Rwanda is rich in mineral ores like cassiterite, gold, wolframite, and monazite among others that are not so common elsewhere with exception of gold.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

DRC's Tenke copper/cobalt mine review may disrupt next phase if not completed soon.

(8/12/2009 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page36?oid=94147&sn=Detail>

DRC review could hit Tenke mine in Q1-Lundin.

(7/12/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/drc-review-could-hit-tenke-mine-in-q1-lundin-2009-12-07>

The DRC's review of the Tenke Fungurume copper-cobalt mine contract may disrupt Tenke's development timetable if it is not complete by the end of the first quarter of next year, minority owner Lundin Mining said on Monday. Tenke, which is majority-owned and operated by U.S. miner Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, began mining metal in March and has continued to operate even though it is one of 61 mining projects whose contract has been looked at by the government with a view to renegotiation.

Congo mine strike not hurting production – Freeport.

(8/12/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/congo-mine-strike-not-hurting-production-freeport-2009-12-08>

Katanga : arrêt de travail à Tenke Fungurume Mining.

(4/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25720>

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc said on Tuesday that a strike at its Tenke Fungurume copper and cobalt mine in Democratic Congo has not affected production. Spokesman Bill Collier said workers staged "an illegal work stoppage" at the mine starting Friday, but many had returned to work after being urged by government labor officials.

Namakwa Diamonds boosts DRC resources with Kasai Resource deal.

(8/12/2009 – SmallCapNews)

http://www.smallcapnews.co.uk/article/Namakwa_Diamonds_boosts_DRC_resources_with_Kasai_Resource_deal_/7979.aspx

Namakwa Diamonds expands in DRC with \$5m acquisition.

(8/12/2009 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/namakwa-diamonds-expands-in-drc-with-5m-acquisition-2009-12-08>

African diamond business Namakwa Diamonds has pulled off a US\$5 million cash deal to buy Kasai Resource Mining Ltd, a DRC-based mining operator. Namakwa already has operations in the DRC, as well as South Africa, Namibia and Angola. The acquisition means Namakwa can take its DRC production levels beyond a re-stated target of 160,000 carats for 2010 on revised budgets, given the extra equipment and resource base. This re-statement follows the announcement of a 2010 target of 90,000 carats for the DRC in October's preliminary results.

Mazorro Resources Announces Acquisition of Exploration Permits in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

(8/12/2009 – Marketwire)

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Mazorro-Resources-Inc-TSX-VENTURE-MZO-1087174.html>

Mazorro Resources is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement in principle with Congo Mining Company sprl ("CMC") of Kinshasa. Under the terms of the Agreement, Mazorro has agreed to acquire a 100% interest in six mineral exploration permits located in eastern DRC, two of which are currently held by CMC, and the additional four permits will be acquired by CMC from a related party. The exploration permits total approximately 235 km² ranging in size from 12 km² to 108 km².

UGANDA

URA Eyes Shs700 Billion Tax Cash in Heritage Oil Deal.

(2/12/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912020716.html>

If sealed, the Heritage Oil and Eni SPA deal will earn the government between Shs700 billion and Shs1.3 trillion in tax making it the first such oil cash gain since the resource was discovered here.

Battle for Stake in Oil Heats Up.

(7/12/2009 – East African – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912071161.html>

Speculation over who will be developing Uganda's potentially massive oilfields reached fever pitch last week after it became clear that Tullow Oil have just a few weeks to decide whether to pre-empt the sale of Heritage Oil's Ugandan assets to Eni, the Italian energy group.

Uganda sees production at Eni fields in 2 yrs-min.

(8/12/2009 – Reuters)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idINDEL43210520091207>

Production at Eni's Ugandan oil blocks will begin within two years when the Italian energy major will pump out 100,000-200,000 barrels per day of crude, Uganda's energy minister said on Monday.

Global oil majors show interest in Ugandan blocks.

(7/12/2009 – Commodity Online)

<http://www.commodityonline.com/news/Global-oil-majors-show-interest-in-Ugandan-blocks-23594-3-1.html>

American, French Firms Eye Oil Fields.

(4/12/2009 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912040598.html>

Dominion Petroleum, one of the four firms exploring for oil in Uganda, has said a group of "quality" global oil giants are interested in taking up a share of its oil block in the western region. Exxon Mobil Corporation, the United States-based oil and gas giant and France's Total are interested in owning stakes of Dominion's exploration zone in western Uganda, according to the US-based Wall Street Journal.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

Tripartite RDC-Rwanda-Burundi.

(5/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912070067.html>

Grands Lacs : une conférence sur la sécurité et le développement à Goma.

(4/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25723>

In the framework of the CEPGL the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi met in Goma to talk about the security situation and development in the three countries' shared border region.

DRC

UN extends embargo on weapons for armed groups operating in the DRC.

(2/12/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6607> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6606> (French)

RDC : prolongation de l'embargo sur les armes, Kinshasa exprime sa satisfaction.

(2/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25692>

L. Mende - «Le gouvernement se félicite de la prolongation de l'embargo sur les armes contre la RDC».

(4/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912040315.html>

The United Nations Security Council, through resolution 1896, extended the embargo on weapons for all armed groups operating on Congolese soil until 30 November 2010. The embargo does not apply to the Congolese government and its security forces.

Alarm As Military Leader Forms Own Squad.

(7/12/2009 – East African – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912060004.html>

As the rape and death toll mount in military offensives against Hutu rebels in eastern Congo, a key leader of the military campaign is forming his own paramilitary group, the United Nations has said. Nearly a year after being installed in a senior position in the Congolese armed forces, former rebel-general Bosco Ntaganda has teamed up with the Front for the Liberation and Emancipation of the Congo (FLEC).

Dongo : la police et les FARDC planifient une opération armée.

(2/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25699>

Dongo : une mission de la police en route pour rétablir l'ordre, selon John Numbi.

(4/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25727>

Equateur - Un renfort des FARDC envoyé à Dongo pour contrer les violences.

(8/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912080427.html>

FARDC and PNC are planning a military operation in Dongo, the operation might be supported by the MONUC.

Dongo - La Monuc s'en mêle.

(3/12/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912030849.html>

The MONUC, PNC and FARDC are consulting regularly about the security situation in Dongo.

Selon Ocha - La situation humanitaire demeure préoccupante à Dongo.

(5/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912070063.html>

OCHA reported the humanitarian situation remains critical in Dongo.

UN: More than 90 000 flee DRC violence.

(2/12/2009 – Mail&Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-12-02-un-more-than-90nbsp000-flee-drc-violence>

Dongo : nouvelles vagues des réfugiés enregistrées au Congo-Brazzaville.

(6/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25745>

More than 92 000 people have fled sectarian violence that erupted in October in the north-west of the DRC, UNHCR said on Tuesday.

Update on Masisi.

(5/12/2009 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2009/12/update-on-masisi.html>

Article on CNDP's parallel administration in Masisi.

L'éventuel départ de la MONUC au centre d'une polémique.

(2/12/2009 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912020743.html>

Pour ou contre le départ de la Monuc ? Les Congolais divisés sur la question.

(3/12/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912030850.html>

Articles on the controversy in the DRC concerning the MONUC's exit strategy.

Congo-Kinshasa: Putting the Conflict in Context.

(4/12/2009 – Pambazuka – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912040786.html>

Opinion article trying to sketch the conflict in eastern DRC.

Sud-Kivu : les ex-groupes armés exigent leur intégration dans l'armée ou la police.

(6/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25738>

Nine representatives of ex-armed groups signed a memorandum demanding the government to comply with their engagements of the Goma agreement of March 2009.

Accord de Goma - Des précisions du gouvernement aux ex-groupes armés.

(7/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912070020.html>

The Congolese government discussed the integration process last weekend, as several rebel groups have threatened to disengage from the process.

Bunia : opération ramassage et collecte d'armes, le PNUD débloque 300 000 USD.

(4/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25724>

UNDP provided US\$ 300.000 for the launch of a disarmament campaign in Bunia.

Situation humanitaire en République démocratique du Congo : Note d'information à la presse, 02 décembre 2009.

(2/12/2009 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EDIS-7YCNV6?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

OCHA report on the humanitarian situation and humanitarian assistance in the eastern Congolese provinces.

Congo court upholds death penalty for Norwegians.

(3/12/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5B200T20091203?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

DR Congo stays Norway executions.

(4/12/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8395859.stm>

A Congolese military appeal court on Thursday upheld death sentences against two Norwegians convicted of murder and espionage and ordered them and their government to pay more than \$500 million in damages, the judge said. Norway said it has been assured by the DRC that two will not now be executed.

CPI : La Chambre d'appel annule la mise en liberté provisoire de Bemba.

(2/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20711&Cr=CPI&Cr1=>

Appeals Chamber Reverses the Decision on the Interim Release of Jean-Pierre Bemba.

(2/12/2009 – International Criminal Court - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912020508.html>

Jean-Pierre Bemba - Privé de liberté provisoire.

(3/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912030038.html>

Bemba - Pas de liberté, nouveau rendez-vous le 14 décembre!

(3/12/2009 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912020879.html>

CPI - Pas de liberté provisoire pour JP Bemba.

(3/12/2009 – Le Phare – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912030848.html>

Congo suspect Jean-Pierre Bemba's bail revoked by ICC.

(2/12/2009 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8390208.stm>

Jean-Pierre Bemba : la liberté provisoire est toujours possible.

(2/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25696>

The ICC's Court of Appeal reversed Bemba's provisional release.

Katanga, Ngujolo Trial Postponed.

(4/12/2009 – Institute for war and peace reporting)

http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state=hen&s=0&o=I=EN&p=acr&s=f&o=358048

The International Criminal Court, ICC, has had to delay proceedings in the trial of Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngujolo, taking place in The Hague, after one of the judges was involved in a road accident. The trial will now start again on January 26.

Report UN Group of Experts

Final report of the UN Group of experts on RDC with annexes.

(23/11/2009 – UN Security Council)

<http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1533/egroup.shtml> (English)

<http://www.un.org/french/sc/committees/1533/experts.shtml> (French)

Global minerals, arms smuggling networks fuel DR Congo conflict – UN report.

(7/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33173&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo>

Autour du dernier rapport des experts de l'ONU - Le Kivu livré aux pilliers.

(1/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912020249.html>

Minerals and arms smuggling worth millions of dollars persists in eastern DRC despite international sanctions, fuelling rebel strength despite national army operations, and army and rebel soldiers continue to kill civilians, according to a new UN report that calls on the Security Council to take action to plug the gaps. The independent Group of Experts monitoring UN sanctions on the DRC reports that the mainly Rwandan Hutu rebels of the FDLR continue to exploit gold and cassiterite in North and South Kivu provinces with the help of trading networks in Uganda, Burundi and the United Arab Emirates, while irregular arms deliveries have come from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Sudan.

Combatants Have Created Global Support Networks.

(7/12/2009 – East African - allAfrican)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912070710.html>

Supporters of the rebel group FDLR in North America and Europe are part of "a far-reaching international diaspora network involved in the day-to-day running of the movement, the co-ordination of military and arms trafficking activities and the management of financial activities," the UN panel says.

Officials Complicit in Rape of Congo - UN Experts.

(7/12/2009 – East African - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912070708.html>

Officials in Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi are conniving with arms dealers and gold smugglers working for rebel forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a panel of United Nations experts charges in an unreleased report. The report also appears to imply that some of the gold is being flown out of East Africa aboard a Kenya-based airline's flights.

FDLR

Opération Kimia 2 : plus de 1200 FDLR tués et presque autant des rapatriés, en 10 mois.

(8/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25749>

According to the Kimia II spokesperson the FARDC has achieved considerable successes with its operation against the FDLR rebels.

Efforts to thwart rebels in eastern DR Congo a mixed bag, says Ban.

(8/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33182&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20765&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

Progress in bringing stability to the war-wracked east of the DRC is mixed, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says in a new report, noting the heavy humanitarian toll wrought by a military operation to flush out a notorious ethnic Hutu militia.

Kindu : Kimia 2, certains éléments FARDC violent et pillent à Lukola.

(7/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25757>

Some Kimia II elements have harassed the population in Lukola and Mutuka village, Maniema province.

Nord-Kivu - Rester sur ses terres malgré les attaques des FDLR.

(7/12/2009 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200912070022.html>

Article on the villages in Lubero that have been harassed by FDLR attacks.

North Kivu: Progressive return of security in the Otobora-Hombo region.

(8/12/2009 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=6655> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=6654> (French)

Walikale : libérée du joug de FDLR et Maï-Maï, la population d'Otobora pousse un ouf de soulagement.

(5/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25730>

Three months after the deployment of the MONUC contingent in Otobora, some 150km west of Goma in Walikale territory in North Kivu province, normal life is returning slowly to the region, and the population is pleased with the progressive return of security. But the populations are still fearful of FDLR elements, who although driven back by operation Kimia II, are entrenched again in the hills surrounding Otobora. The users of the Walikale-Hombo road complain of much harassment from the FARDC and the Mai Mai along the road.

Shabunda : attaque des FDLR, l'hôpital général de Kalole incendié et 7 civils capturés.

(5/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25733>

FDLR rebels have attacked Kalole village, Shabunda, last week.

Uvira : les FDLR sèment à nouveau l'insécurité dans les hauts et moyens plateaux.

(8/12/2009 – Radio Okapi)

<http://www.radiookapi.net/index.php?i=53&a=25766>

With several FDLR attacks, the security situation has deteriorated again in Magunda and Mugaja villages in Uvira.

"UN Must Stop Backing Congo's Disastrous Operation Against Marauding Rebel Militias".

(30/11/2009 – The East African – International Crisis Group)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6404&l=1>

Opinion article from Donald Steinberg on the Kimia II military operation against the FDLR rebels.

Dealing with the FDLR: The art of the possible.

(5/12/2009 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2009/12/dealing-with-fdlr-art-of-possible.html>

Article looking at the possible solutions and strategies to deal with the FDLR rebels.

LRA

République centrafricaine : les rebelles et les militaires ougandais compromettent les récoltes.

(3/12/2009 - Missionary International Service News Agency - Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VVOS-7YDQ4X?OpenDocument&RSS20=18-P>

Article on the insecurity created by the presence of LRA rebels in the CAR. Furthermore, the article also talks about the effects on the people's livelihoods.

More LRA Rebels Surrender in Sudan.

(1/12/2009 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912020004.html>

Two more LRA rebels have surrendered to the UPDF intelligence squad in Nzara in South Sudan's Western Equatoria State. 'Sergeant' Onen Alex and Moses Kabo turned themselves in last week, an anonymous source said.

UGANDA

HRW says impunity may fuel Uganda poll instability.

(4/12/2009 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E5B306020091204?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+reuters%2FAFRICATopNews+%28News+%2F+AFRICA+%2F+Top+News%29&utm_content=Bloglines

Impunity over past electoral violence and abuses in Uganda may mar the 2011 vote and increase the chances of instability in east Africa's third largest economy, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Friday.

RWANDA

Unicef Lauds Country on Land Mines Clearance.

(7/12/2009 – The New Times – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912070108.html>

The UNICEF country chief Joseph Fombi has congratulated government for being the first country in the world to be declared landmine free.

BURUNDI

Worrying Split Among Former Rebels.

(3/12/2009 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=87303>

Months after transforming itself from a rebel movement into a political party, Burundi's Forces nationales de la liberation (FNL), is embroiled in a leadership wrangle that analysts warn could jeopardize the country's fragile peace. FNL leader Agathon Rwasa, who was appointed director-general of the National Social Security Institute when the party joined the government, is facing dissent from a group led by party spokesman Pasteur Habimana.

Citing progress, Ban urges further support for Burundi's peace process.

(3/12/2009 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33138&Cr=burundi&Cr1=> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=20732&Cr=Burundi&Cr1=> (French)

The peace process in Burundi has witnessed significant progress in recent months but the country needs help to ensure successful elections next year and to tackle challenges such as human rights abuses, corruption and weak institutions, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says in a new report.

Stop Deporting Rwandan Asylum Seekers.

(3/12/2009 – Human Rights Watch – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912030731.html>

Burundi's government should immediately reverse a new policy of deporting Rwandan asylum seekers without considering their cases, Human Rights Watch said today. On November 27, 2009, Interior Minister Edouard Nduwimana ordered police to return 103 asylum seekers to Rwanda, in violation of international law.

IPIS latest publications

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

Activity Report 2008.

(9/11/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

Jaarverslag 2008.

(13/10/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/news.php?id=252>

IPIS has published its activity report 2008. The activity report is a comprehensive report of IPIS' activities in 2008. Its assignments, publications and lectures are presented in this document.

Note accompagnatrice de la carte interactive des zones minières militarisées aux Kivus.

(13/10/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/mining-sites-kivus.php>

The French version of the accompanying note on the interactive map of militarised mining areas in the Kivus has been published. It is an explanatory guide to the research methodology used to produce the interactive map of militarised mining areas in the Kivus (MiMiKi) map, the Concessions map and the 'Comptoirs 2008' table that are available at the site.

Africa's natural resources in a global context.

(12/08/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

While, on the one hand, it is widely acknowledged that Africa has great natural resource potential, on the other hand, one cannot but regret that the complex interplay between political and economic factors at the national and international level appears to make it impossible to use a more substantial part of the revenues from the exploitation and trade of these resources for the promotion of the well-being of people at the grassroots level. This paper, which concentrates on non-renewable natural resources, aims to disentangle some of the processes that explain the paradox between Africa's natural wealth and its relatively limited level of economic development. It shows that the state of affairs in the resource sectors of most African countries is still to a large extent determined by external factors. Extractive industries in Africa tend to be export-oriented and contribute disappointingly little to local development.

Militarised Mining Areas in the Kivus.

(10/08/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/mining-sites-kivus.php>

IPIS has published an interactive map of militarised mining areas in the Kivus (MiMiKi). Together with the map comes an explanatory guide to the research methodology and the possible uses of the map, including some striking findings.

The MiMiKi map constitutes a first systematic attempt to clarify the issue of profit by armed groups from the extractive industry in the east of the DR Congo. The interactive map contains information on the location of mines, the presence of armed groups at mining pits and a number of other variables. Although most recent analyses written on the issue point out that the region's relative mineral wealth is not the primary cause of the armed conflict in the Kivus, its role in financing armed groups is indisputable. Because of this situation, Western companies buying ores originating from the Great Lakes region, have been targeted by international NGOs who are asking them to implement a thorough system of due diligence. In the light of the loudening call for a stricter regulation of the sector, the listing of mining sites in the Kivus is essential.

The MiMiKi map only shows a part of the mining sector, namely the extraction of the minerals. In order to find out whether Western companies are buying Congolese minerals from which armed groups might benefit, the whole trading chain needs to be established. Therefore, in addition to the MiMiKi map, IPIS has appended a specific table containing information on the activities of the official comptoirs (mineral traders) in 2008.

It has to be noted that the MiMiKi map is not yet complete and should be considered as a work in progress. To date, more than 200 active mining sites are located on the map, including the most important. There are a few remaining blind spots (areas on which IPIS has no first hand information) on the map.

The impact of the global financial crisis on mining in Katanga.

(14/07/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

This report examines the impact of the global financial crisis on the mining sector in Katanga, the southeast province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As far as the industrial mining sector is concerned, it is shown that the crisis exacerbated the uncertainty of mining companies that were waiting for the results of the review of the mining contracts and that were often in the middle of starting up or expanding their activities in Katanga. Nevertheless, IPIS remains convinced that the renegotiation of the mining contracts is of vital importance for the long-term development of the Congolese mining industry. As far as the artisanal mining sector is concerned, it is pointed out that, due to the sharp decline in mineral prices, large numbers of artisanal miners have left the mines. While some of them appear to have found a new source of income in agriculture, there are disturbing reports that others may have chosen to engage in criminal activities in order to stay afloat.

Given the importance of the mining sector as a source of revenue for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the development of a sound policy for crisis management is of vital importance to protect the health of the Congolese Treasury and to keep intact the possibility of stepping up government efforts in terms of poverty reduction and infrastructure development once the global economy starts to recover. This report shows that both the central government in Kinshasa and the provincial government in Lubumbashi have taken a number of measures to cope with the consequences of the global financial crisis.

Unfortunately, there are indications that the ongoing decentralisation process tends to complicate the cooperation between the two governments. Moreover, as a result of the exaggerated attention for the so-called 'rétrocession' issue in the Congolese press, there is a real risk that the anti-crisis measures of the Congolese authorities are not examined in a critical manner.

Zimbabwe - Arms and Corruption: fuelling human rights abuse.

(July 2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/arms-trade.php>

The following examples of irresponsible arms transfers involving Zimbabwe and other actors should be of great concern to the international community. The examples cited below are intended to illustrate further the need to ensure that the proposed international Arms Trade Treaty is as comprehensive as possible, and fully reflects the obligations of States to prevent arms transfers which pose a substantial risk of being used in serious violations of international human rights law. It is perhaps not a coincidence that these examples involve, amongst others, China and the U.S.A. – both of whose governments have been amongst the 'doubters' in the ongoing United Nations General Assembly deliberations on the ATT since 2006. Hopefully, as the new Obama Administration reviews the U.S. approach to the control of conventional arms, the U.S. position will become more constructive.

Culprits or scapegoats? Revisiting the role of Belgian mineral traders in eastern DRC.

(13/05/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

Ever since the eruption of the second Congo war in August 1998, the mining sector in eastern DRC has been under the scrutiny of UN Sanctions Committees, academics, NGOs, and local and international media, who have been worried and disturbed by the links between natural resource exploitation and armed conflict in the region. Both state and non-state armed actors are deriving benefit from the local mining business by levying taxes on mineral exports, by selling minerals for their own profit, and by trading mining rights for financial and military support.

The present report aims to clarify the position and responsibility of Belgian mineral traders in the area. Our purpose is not only to shed more light on the activities of Trademet and Traxys, the two companies featuring in the latest UN report, but also to discuss the activities of two other companies that have received less attention so far, namely Services and Trading International (STI) and Société pour le Développement et l'Expansion d'Entreprises (SDE).

An analysis of Finexpo's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere's support practices in comparison to the EURODAD principles on responsible financing.

(29/04/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/corporate-social-responsibility.php>

In 2007, Belgian exports generated 89,3% of Belgium's gross domestic product. The exports created employment as well as fiscal and para-fiscal revenues. Because of the importance that exporting holds in the Belgian economy, Belgium has several public instruments in place to encourage and support the export of goods and services. At the federal level, there are Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere (ONDD), FINEXPO and the Belgian International Investment Company (BMI-SBI). At the regional level, the most important are the Agence Wallonne à l'Exportation (AWEX) for Wallonia, Brussels Export for the Brussels region, and Flanders Investment and Trade for the Flanders Region.

This research paper looks specifically at the practices of the two most significant players at the federal level: FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere. FINEXPO provides advice to the Belgian government about five types of support measures: rent stabilisation mechanism, interest relief (with or without grants), pure grants and loans (tied and untied). Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere provides insurances and financial guarantees against commercial and political risks. Annex 1 to this report lists and explains the various types of support. The paper will discuss the financial terms, legal terms and conditions in place when FINEXPO and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere provide support for Belgian exports.

The paper also looks into what extent FINEXPO's and Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere's practices match the financial terms, legal terms and conditions which are set out in the EURODAD Charter on Responsible Financing. The principles in the Charter outline the essential components of a reasonable loan. Given that only FINEXPO provides loans, the principles in the Charter are only directly applicable to the provision of loans by FINEXPO. Despite this fact, the principles are still useful in determining whether the financial and insurance practices of all support measures by FINEXPO and those by Ducroire/Nationale Delcredere are responsible support measures or not. EURODAD's principles represent a general framework for a tough but fair policy.

Mapping Conflict Motives: Central African Republic.

(20/02/2009 – IPIS)

www.ipisresearch.be/mapping_car.php

IPIS has published 'Mapping Conflict Motives: Central African Republic'. It is the third study in the IPIS mapping series and it deals with the presence, behaviour and motivation of the armed groups that operated in the Central African Republic in 2008. Also the French version of the report is now online.

Rechercher la problématique des ressources naturelles dans la RDC.

(12/02/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

This syllabus has been created by IPIS for its project 'Renforcement de capacité d'ONG congolaises qui travaillent autour les ressources naturelles : méthodologies de recherche et rédaction de dossiers de haute qualité servant de base aux activités de campagne et de lobbying'. The project aims to reinforce the capacity of Congolese NGOs to produce reports and articles of high quality.

Mapping Conflict Motives: Katanga Update: May- September 2008.

(6/01/2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/updates-katanga.php>

This report is the third (and for the moment the last) in a series of updates following an initial report on conflict motives in the Congolese province of Katanga. It analyses the most important security developments from May 2008 until September 2008.

IPIS would like to highlight the following issues dealt with in the report:

Security problems in Katanga have stopped figuring in the news. To a certain extent this is justified because the overall humanitarian situation in Katanga has improved and in general the number of human rights violations has decreased.

However, with MONUC gradually retreating from the province the international presence diminishes and with it the number of eyes and ears of observers in the field. Nonetheless, for the future several security hazards remain.

For one, the impact of the economic crisis on Katanga is enormous. Virtually all mining companies have significantly reduced or stopped their activities. The social consequences are dire for a province that economically relies heavily on mining. Secondly, in August a law was promulgated providing for the creation of 25 Congolese provinces instead of the 10 current ones. In this scenario Katanga will be cut into 4 new provinces. Feelings about the issue are mixed. The possible impact is difficult to estimate. Finally, the human rights situation in the North of the province remains disquieting, with persistent violations committed by state agents.

The information for the updates is drawn from desktop research by IPIS and permanent field research carried out by four Katangese partner organisations based in different parts of Katanga.

IPIS LATEST ARTICLES

Stabilisation et secteur minier dans l'Est de la RDC.

(August 2009 – IPIS)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/natural-resources.php>

In the beginning of July the Congolese government established a plan for the stabilisation of eastern DRC. The media remained silent concerning this initiative and the plan has not been made public. IPIS, however, managed to obtain this Congolese stabilisation plan. The objective of this article is to look at the essential points of the plan that could be useful as part of the Congolese and international efforts to dissolve the crisis in the eastern part of the country.

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Africa Energy Intelligence		RSS Feed	
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Afrique Souveraine	Newsletter		
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BBC News Africa World Edition		RSS Feed	
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GICHD (Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining)	Newsletter		
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PAC (Partnership Africa Canada)	Newsletter		
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Pax Christi International	Newsletter	RSS Feed	
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*Can be found at IPIS library

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