



Briefing 3 - 9 March 2010

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Natural resources in the Great Lakes Region

Spain Advances Forest Certification in Central Africa.

(26/02/2010 – WWF)

http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/news/?uNewsID=190121

Demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting forest certification in Central Africa and public procurement policies that give preference to certified products, representatives from WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) and Spain's Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) gathered at the end of February 2010 to discuss collaborative efforts on advancing responsible forestry in the Congo Basin.

DRC

The Role of the Exploitation of Natural Resources in Fuelling and Prolonging Crises in the Eastern DRC.

(3/02/2010 – International Alert – Human Security Report Project)

<http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/showRecord.php?RecordId=31998>

This is the English version of the International Alert report that was published first in French in November 2009.

EU Urged to Ban 'Conflict Minerals'.

(4/03/2010 – IPS)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50543>

(4/03/2010 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003040846.html>

After the United States senate's move to stem the flow of money from mineral mines fuelling the brutal civil war in the DRC, the watchdog group Global Witness is calling on Europe to follow suit.

Province du Nord-Kivu - Minier contre Foncier.

(4/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003040448.html>

ICCN and SAKIMA are quarrelling over a part of the Kahuzi-Biega Park. SAKIMA authorised mining near Itebero, which is cultural heritage according to ICCN.

Six millions Usd disponibles pour des explorations géologiques sur les périmètres de l'Okimo.

(6/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003080727.html>

OKIMO has set aside US\$6 million for geological exploration at its territory.

IFC halts Congo investments until dispute resolved.

(4/03/2010 – BIC)

<http://www.bicusa.org/en/Article.11789.aspx>

After the DRC cancelled an IFC backed mining contract over disputed payments, the World Bank arm has declared that it will not begin new projects in the country until the dispute is resolved. The IFC is currently active in nine projects in Congo with a commitment of \$104.6 million.

Un proche de Kabila au pétrole.

(3/03/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Article on Célestin Mbuyu Kabango's nomination as the new Congolese minister for hydrocarbons. Among other things his ties with president Kabila are examined.

Dams, Rivers, and Stolen Millions.

(4/03/2010 – Pambazuka – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003040995.html>

Opinion article on the foreign investments for the DRC's Inga Dams.

Westcor, mort-née.

(3/03/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The regional project Westcor has been pushed aside. Kinshasa wants the development of Inga III to be a Congolese project.

Botswana Counts Its Losses as Westcor Folds.

(5/03/2010 – Mmegi - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080333.html>

Finances invested by the government through the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) could be declared unrecoverable after the drivers of Western Power Corridor reportedly declared the ambitious INGA III project terminated this week. But BPC officials say nothing is official yet.

TFM et KMT s'invitent dans le débat - Le point d'achèvement dans la turbulence.

(5/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003050453.html>

A delegation of the IMF is on a visit in Kinshasa, among other things to evaluate the DRC's investment climate. The TFM and KMT disputes are no good advertisements.

La brique de biomasse pour sauvegarder les forêts et parcs du Kivu.

(5/03/2010 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003050806.html>

Article on the promotion of biomass briquettes in the Kivu provinces as a sustainable alternative for charcoal.

Nord-Kivu - Des hommes armés accusés de braconnage au parc des Virunga.

(9/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003090717.html>

L'IDPE accuse les FARDC de braconnage au parc de Virunga.

(7/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/07/!%E2%80%99idpe-accuse-les-fardc-de-braconnage-au-parc-de-virunga/>

The NGO IDPE presented a report on poaching activities in the Virunga Park in February committed by armed men.

Le Fonds mondial pour la nature lance le processus de certification des essences forestières.

(5/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003050406.html>

WWF is supporting the certification process of the DRC's forest reserves.

Kinshasa - Le Code foncier vulgarisé, réduction attendue des conflits de terre devant les cours et tribunaux.

(8/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003081737.html>

The Congolese government will start a campaign to realize the dissemination of the "Code Foncier". This should help reduce conflicts over land.

DR CONGO: Will Poultry Project Live up to Expectations?

(3/03/2010 – IPS)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50536>

For some seven million Congolese living in Kinshasa the only meat and poultry they could buy to eat since the 1980s was frozen imports from Western countries, distributed locally by a few local businessmen. That was, until a few months ago, when government stepped in to develop the country's livestock farming industry. "The government cannot accept that (the) Congolese live on a meager diet composed mainly of frozen chicken and frozen fish imported under questionable conditions while the country has a tremendous food production potential," says Norbert Bashengezi Katintima, minister of agriculture, fisheries and livestock.

UGANDA

Pressure Mounts to Make Public Oil Agreements.

(4/03/2010 – IPS)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50548>

(4/03/2010 – IPS – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003041059.html> (English)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003090001.html> (French)

Pressure Mounts on Government Over Oil.

(7/03/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080819.html>

Uganda's MPs are pressurising government to make public details of oil production-sharing agreements it signed with various international oil companies. MP's are pushing for the documents to be made public to enable parliament to scrutinise agreements over the production of what could be one of sub-Saharan Africa's largest oil finds.

Uganda opposition seeks to revoke oil deals.

(9/03/2010 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E6280CE20100309>

Uganda's opposition will revoke existing production sharing agreements and force oil companies in the country to renegotiate their deals, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Corruption Could 'Curse' Uganda's Oil.

(5/03/2010 – The Wall Street Journal)

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704187204575101691078339102.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Extensive corruption and a lack of accountability in Uganda could turn the country's recently discovered oil reserves into a curse rather than a blessing, the World Bank's country representative has said.

Oil Exploration Renews Locals' Hope.

(6/03/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080260.html>

Tullow Oil which bought Heritage Oil's shares to explore Uganda's oil has offered tenders for service providers. The Albertine region is coming alive with hopes of employment, education and better health services.

Oil Technical School Set to Open in Kigumba District.

(8/03/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080448.html>

As new technology is needed in oil extraction, the government has decided to set up a training institute to provide oil extractors with knowledge and skills.

Formateurs nigériens?

(3/03/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

Peter Lokeris, Ugandan President Museveni's representative in Nigeria, visited Nigeria's interim president Goodluck Jonathan. He proposed him to invest in the Ugandan petroleum sector.

RWANDA

Exploit Methane Gas Energy in Lake Kivu.

(8/03/2010 – TradeInvest Africa – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003081116.html>

Rwanda faces substantial problems with electricity. The national power provider Electrogaz is not able to satisfy the population currently connected to the electricity network, forcing imports of about 13% of its electricity from neighbouring countries. However, the country has substantial hydroelectric resources, as well as natural gas deposits under Lake Kivu, which could make it self-sufficient in electricity or, even, a net exporter. The development of new thermal power plants to run on natural gas, or new dam construction to increase hydroelectric production requires investment.

International mining companies in the Great Lakes Region

DRC

Freeport-McMoRan close to agreement with DRC to expand Tenke Fungurume – CEO.

(10/03/2010 – Mineweb)

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page504?oid=100687&sn=Detail&pid=92730>

Freeport-McMoRan is close to agreement with the DRC government allowing it to go ahead and expand its huge copper/cobalt mine in the central African nation, its CEO said on Tuesday. Freeport has begun mining metal at the Tenke Fungurume project, but expansion of the mine's second phase has been held up by the Kinshasa government's decision to review all mining contracts in the country.

Energulf fait appel aux Israéliens.

(3/03/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The American company Energulf Resources will ask the Geophysical Institute of Israel to conduct a seismic exploration at its Lotshi block in the DRC.

DRC could rank with Ghana, Tanzania in 10 years – Banro chair.

(9/03/2010 – Mining Weekly)

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/drc-could-rank-with-tanzania-as-mining-destination-in-10-years-banros-village-2010-03-09>

Investors will become increasingly comfortable with mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has the potential to become the largest gold producer in Africa, Banro Corp chairperson Simon Village said on Tuesday.

Banro Foundation and Lugushwa community inaugurate the new Kigumo Health Clinic.

(5/03/2010 – PR-USA.net)

http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=345614&Itemid=95

Banro Corporation announces that the Banro Foundation, a registered charity in the DRC, has officially handed over to the community of Lugushwa in South Kivu province of the DRC the new Kigumo Health Clinic.

El Nino Ventures Inc. corporate update Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(5/03/2010 – Trading Markets)

http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/el_nof_el-nino-ventures-inc-corporate-update-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-827204.html

El Nino Ventures Inc. wishes to announce an update on the Company's business affairs in the DRC.

UGANDA

Dominion Seeks \$50 Million.

(4/03/2010 – New Vision – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003050322.html>

Dominion Petroleum, a UK firm exploring for oil and gas in Kanungu and Rukungiri districts, is to sell \$50m shares to raise funds for its drilling campaign.

CNOOC, Total submit oil proposals to Uganda.

(9/03/2010 – Commodity Online)

<http://www.commodityonline.com/news/CNOOC-Total-submit-oil-proposals-to-Uganda-26282-3-1.html>

CNOOC, Total pitch oil plans to Ugandan government.

(6/03/2010 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJ0E62500220100306>

Cnooc, Total Put Final Uganda Oil Proposals To Govt – Sources.

(5/03/2010 – The Wall Street Journal)

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100305-704222.html?mod=WSJ_World_MIDDLEHeadlinesEurope

Total, Cnooc Will Present Revised Ugandan Plans Next Week.

(8/03/2010 – Business Week)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-08/total-cnooc-will-present-revised-ugandan-plans-next-week.html>

China's CNOOC and Total SA of France have submitted their investment proposals with Ugandan government. According to Uganda's Ministry of Energy, it is currently studying proposals. However, no details of the proposal have been revealed yet.

Chemin de fer pétrolier.

(3/03/2010 – Africa Energy Intelligence)

For consultation at request, or at IPIS library.

The Egyptian company Citadel Capital seized 49% of the South African company Sheltam. Like this it hopes to be able to transport Tullow's oil, produced in the Albert Graben, through the Kampala-Mombasa railway.

Uganda may not allow Tullow Oil to list on stock exchange.

(9/03/2010 – Ghana Business News)

<http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2010/03/09/uganda-may-not-allow-tullow-oil-to-list-on-stock-exchange/>

Ugandan bourse may exclude Tullow Oil from index.

(9/03/2010 – Reuters)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJJOE62807E20100309>

Uganda's budding bourse may exclude Britain's Tullow Oil from its all-share index because the firm's shares could distort views of the market's performance, a top bourse official said.

China in the Great Lakes Region

China defends growing links with Africa.

(7/03/2010 – AFP – TerraDaily)

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/China_defends_growing_links_with_Africa_999.html

China rejected foreign concerns over its growing energy links with Africa on Sunday, saying it benefits African nations by bringing badly needed trade and infrastructure development.

Arms trade / Security in the Great Lakes Region

North Korea Arms to Africa - Unusual Only Because Illegal.

(8/03/2010 – The East African – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003081305.html>

The recently reported seizure of a North Korean arms shipment supposedly intended for Congo-Brazzaville highlights the continuing flow of weapons into African conflict zones from multiple sources. In this case, there is reason to suspect that the estimated \$770,000 worth of North Korean military equipment was actually destined for the DRC, which is known to have T-55 tanks in its arsenal.

DRC

Le général Maï-Maï «Lafontaine» intègre les FARDC.

(3/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003030367.html>

Mayi Mayi General Kakule Sikuli, known as Lafontaine, commander of the Pareco rebels has decided to join the FARDC.

DR. Congo to launch 'firearm for 50 dollars' campaign: minister.

(8/03/2010 – AFP – TerraDaily)

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/DR_Congo_to_launch_firearm_for_50_dollars_campaign_minister_999.html

Début de l'opération "récupération des armes à feu" à Kitchanga.

(9/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/09/le-gouvernement-espere-recuperer-dans-un-premier-temps-entre-vingt-mille-et-trente-mille-armes-a-feu-a-kitchanga/>

The DRC is to launch on Tuesday a "firearm for 50 dollars" disarmament campaign in the vast country's volatile eastern region, minister Mende said Monday.

“RDC – La Paix aujourd’hui”, Janvier – Février, n0 01/2010.

(March 2010 – GADHOP)

For consultation at request.

First edition of 2010 of GADHOP’s monthly briefing, it includes an overview of incidents with armed groups in Beni and Lubero.

United Nations Envisages Progressive MONUC’s Withdrawal, Starting June 2010.

(4/03/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8001>

Les Nations Unies proposent un désengagement progressif de la MONUC à partir de juin 2010.

(4/03/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=7996>

First set of UN troops could leave DR Congo by June, says peacekeeping chief.

(5/03/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33993&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo>

UN plans to end DR Congo peacekeeping mission.

(4/03/2010 – BBC)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8548794.stm>

RDC : vers un mandat reconfiguré pour la Monuc.

(4/03/2010 – BBC)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/french/news/story/2010/03/100304_rdcmonuc.shtml

UN to start troop withdrawals from Congo in 2010.

(6/03/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE62500Q20100306?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

UN begins talks on withdrawal from Congo.

(4/03/2010 – The Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/04/un-talks-withdrawal-congo>

UN Peacekeeper boss: Congo still needs us.

(4/03/2010 – AP)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iY7TVQp7eze10ZgneXmHmzq4VdhwD9E7OT380>

As peace returns to the Congo, the UN leaves.

(6/03/2010 – Jason Stearns)

<http://congosiasa.blogspot.com/2010/03/as-peace-returns-to-congo-un-leaves.html>

Le retrait progressif de la Monuc débute le au 30 juin.

(4/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003040459.html>

Le Conseil supérieur de la défense examine le processus de retrait des Casques bleus.

(4/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003040456.html>

Vers un retrait des casques bleus d’ici juillet 2011? Kinshasa le souhaite.

(09/03/2010 – Congo Indépendant)

<http://www.congoindependant.com/article.php?articleid=5443>

Alain Leroy visited Kinshasa to talk about the exit strategy of the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC. Beginning in June, the MONUC will gradually retreat. Congolese governmental spokesperson Lambert Mende said Kinshasa wants the UN blue helmets out off the DRC by mid-2011.

UN forces must remain in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(5/03/2010 – Amnesty International)

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/un-forces-must-remain-democratic-republic-congo-2010-03-05>

Amnesty International has said it strongly opposes any withdrawal or reduction of the numbers of UN peacekeepers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, after the government requested that the current force (MONUC) withdraws from the country by June 2011.

Arrival of the new Deputy Special Representative for the UN Mission in DR Congo.

(8/02/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=4382&ItemID=7998>

The new Deputy Special Representative for the Mission of the United Nations in the DRC, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Fidele Sarassoro arrived in Kinshasa to take office on February 7, 2010. Mr. Sarassoro had been nominated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, on December 23, 2009.

Nomination d'un nouveau commissaire de la police de la MONUC.

(5/03/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1690&ItemID=8003>

RDC : Nomination d'un nouveau commissaire de la police de la MONUC.

(5/03/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21376&Cr=Congo&Cr1=>

Alan Doss announced the new chief of the MONUC police, Abdallah Wafy.

La Monuc forme 500 policiers pour la stabilisation du Nord-Kivu.

(4/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003040461.html>

MONUC is training 500 policemen, including former members of armed groups, in human rights and public security in Munigi, North Kivu.

Western Kasai: Worrying humanitarian situation for Congolese expelled from Angola.

(8/03/2010 – MONUC)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=932&ctl=Details&mid=1096&ItemID=8039> (English)

<http://monuc.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1069&ctl=Details&mid=1143&ItemID=8032> (French)

A joint mission of MONUC / Katanga, OCHA, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, the provincial government and civil society visited the locality of Kamako in Western Kasai province, on the border with Angola, from 25 February to 2 March 2010, to reassess the humanitarian situation of both Congolese nationals who have been expelled from Angola and their host community, and check into alleged cases of torture and sexual abuse recorded during a previous mission.

Diplomat - Security Situation in DRC Fragile.

(5/03/2010 – The Citizen – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003050694.html>

The security situation in eastern DRC is still fragile despite efforts by the international community to bring lasting peace in the troubled region, a senior Tanzanian diplomat revealed last week.

A Light at the End of the Tunnel in Congo.

(1/03/2010 – John Prendergast – Enough Project)

<http://www.enoughproject.org/blogs/light-end-tunnel-congo>

Article from John Prendergast on the security situation in eastern DRC after he conducted a field visit.

Equateur - Les humanitaires se plaignent de l'insécurité sur la rivière Ubangi.

(9/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003090720.html>

(8/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/08/brazzaville-les-humanitaires-se-plaignent-de-l%E2%80%99insecurite-sur-l%E2%80%99ubangi/>

Humanitarian workers are complaining armed groups are causing insecurity for people living at the banks of Ubangi river.

Mwando Nsimba et Didier Etumba à Mbandaka pour évaluer la situation sécuritaire.

(6/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/06/mwando-nsimba-et-didier-etumba-a-mbandaka-pour-evaluer-la-situation-securitaire/>

The Congolese Minister of Defense Nsimba and FARDC Chief General Etumba visited Province Equateur to evaluate the security situation on the ground.

UN and aid partners call for \$60 million to help 110,000 Congolese refugees.

(9/03/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34020&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21403&Cr=Congo&Cr1=> (French)

The United Nations and its partners today launched an appeal for just under \$60 million to help more than 100,000 refugees from the northwest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have fled ethnic violence and are seeking refuge in neighbouring Republic of Congo.

Second joint report of seven United Nations experts on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/HRC/13/63).

(8/03/2010 – UN – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-83DNLM?OpenDocument>

This report is submitted by seven United Nations experts pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 10/33. The experts find that the human rights situation has not improved since their initial report and remains serious, including in areas not affected by conflict.

Les déplacés rentrent timidement à Kamombo.

(5/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/05/les-deplaces-rentrent-timidement-a-kamombo/>

IDPs are returning to Kamombo as the FARDC has recaptured this territory from the FRF rebels.

Les Congolais retournés du Rwanda mènent une vie difficile à Goma.

(4/03/2010 – Le Potentiel – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003040458.html>

Returning Congolese refugees from Rwanda are living in difficult conditions in the Kivu provinces, as their reintegration is advancing with difficulty.

Nord Kivu: le Starec prépare la réintégration des réfugiés et déplacés.

(6/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/06/nord-kivu-le-starec-prepare-la-reintegration-des-refugies-et-deplaces/>

In the framework of STAREC (national programme for stabilization and reconstruction) local committees will be established to facilitate the integration of returning refugees.

RD Congo : Bulletin d'Information Humanitaire 2 mars 2010 Province du Sud-Kivu.

(2/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SVAN-838RT2?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Population Movements in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo : October – December 2009.

(3/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AZHU-837NHZ?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

RD Congo/Sud-Kivu : Rapport humanitaire mensuel janvier 2010.

(3/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AZHU-837NFD?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

SITUATION HUMANITAIRE EN RDC - Période du 26 février au 04 mars 2010.

(4/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SVAN-839MFD?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

Situation humanitaire en République Démocratique du Congo : Note d'information à la presse, 04 mars 2010.

(4/03/2010 – OCHA – Reliefweb)

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-838HEP?OpenDocument&RSS20=22-P>

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

Prosecution Witness 161 Gives a Surprising Account.

(2/03/2010 – Aegis Trust - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003050445.html>

Former UPC Man Testifies In Lubanga Trial.

(3/03/2010 Lubanga Trial Website – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003050018.html>

Former UPC Soldier Commences His Testimony in Private.

(3/03/2010 – Aegis Trust - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003050020.html>

Prosecutors Cross-Examine Former UPC Fighter.

(4/03/2010 – Lubanga Trial Website - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003050019.html>

Prosecution Shows Defence Witness Pictures of UPC Top Ranks.

(4/03/2010 – Aegis Trust – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080056.html>

Lubanga Trial Adjourns As New Witness Discloses His UPC Links.

(5/03/2010 – Lubanga Trial Website – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080057.html>

Two Testify As Lubanga Defense Reels Off Complaints.

(6/03/2010 – Lubanga Trial website - allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080058.html>

'We Planned to Say Thomas Lubanga Had Enrolled Children in the Army'.

(8/03/2010 – Aegis Trust – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003090736.html>

Lubanga Witness Says ICC Agents Paid Him to Tell Lies.

(8/03/2010 – Lubanga Trial Website – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003090074.html>

Articles on the examinations of witnesses at the International Criminal Court in the Thomas Lubanga trial.

UPC Men Linked to Ugandan Army.

(5/03/2010 – 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=360958

A defence witness testifying in the trial of alleged Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga said this week that two photographs presented to him by the prosecution showed ex-senior members of the Union of Congolese Patriots, UPC, wearing Ugandan army uniforms.

ICC postpones trial of former Congolese leader charged with war crimes.

(8/03/2010 – UN News Centre)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34010&Cr=international+criminal+court&Cr1=> (English)

<http://www.un.org/apps/newsFr/storyF.asp?NewsID=21393&Cr=Bemba&Cr1=> (French)

War-crimes trial of DRC's Bemba postponed.

(9/03/2010 – Mail & Guardian)

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-03-09-warcrimes-trial-of-drcs-bemba-postponed>

The International Criminal Court (ICC) today announced it is pushing back the start date of the trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombi, a former senior official of the DRC who has been charged with war crimes.

Laurent Nkunda toujours à genoux!

(3/03/2010 – La Prospérité – allAfrica)

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201003030209.html>

Congolese rebel chief Laurent Nkunda, since about a year imprisoned in Rwanda, has gone to court to demand his release.

FDLR

UN-backed mission launched against Congo rebels.

(4/03/2010 – Reuters)

http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE62302420100304?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

A U.N.-backed military operation against FDLR rebels in eastern DRC was launched last weekend. The operation will involve 18 battalions from the Congolese FARDC army in a series of targeted attacks throughout north and south Kivu provinces in Congo's conflict-racked east, MONUC's Alan Doss said.

Rebel Arrests in Germany Fail to Halt Violence.

(5/03/2010 – 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=360974

The arrest of two key Rwandan rebels in Germany has done little to halt attacks by the group they led in the DRC, according to human rights groups. Ignace Murwanashyaka and Straton Musoni, leaders of the FDLR, were arrested by German police on November 17 in Karlsruhe, south-west Germany, for crimes committed by their armed group in the eastern DRC.

Combats dans les hauts plateaux d'Uvira entre deux coalitions de groupes réfractaires, 7 morts.

(9/03/2010 – Radio Okapi)

<http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2010/03/09/combats-dans-les-hauts-plateaux-d%E2%80%99uvira-entre-deux-coalitions-de-groupes-refractaires-7-morts/>

At the Uvira highlands FDLR in coalition with FRF rebels have clashed with UPCR, a coalition of armed factions that stepped out of the integration process in the FARDC.

RWANDA

Rwanda Refuses to Respond to Nyamwasa.

(6/03/2010 – The Monitor – allAfrica)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201003080520.html>

Rwanda has refused to be drawn into a war of words with renegade Lt. Gen. Kayumba Nyamwasa after he gave an interview to Voice of America. The officer stands accused of "serious crimes" by Kigali, not least allegations that together with another renegade in exile Col. Patrick Karegeya, he may have had something to do with explosions that have rocked the city recently. Lt. Gen. Nyamwasa, who until he fled was Rwanda's ambassador to India, joins a growing list of former senior Rwandan army officers who in recent years have fallen out with President Kagame -- and ultimately left the country.

BURUNDI

Analysis: Tensions high in run-up to Burundi elections.

(4/03/2010 – IRIN)

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=88313>

African Peace-building Agenda: "Elections au Burundi : Prévenir toute escalade de violence".

(3/03/2010 - François Grignon – International Crisis Group)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6556&l=1>

Le Burundi craint que la violence ne précède les élections.

(9/03/2010 – Colette Braeckman)

<http://blogs.lesoir.be/colette-braeckman/2010/03/09/le-burundi-craint-que-la-violence-ne-precede-les-elections/>

As Burundi approaches elections designed to cap the country's democratic transition after years of civil conflict, there is growing concern about worsening security and limits to political freedom.

IPIS latest publications

IPIS LATEST REPORTS

From deceit to discovery: The strange flight of 4L-AWA (text and documents).

(December 2009 – IPIS)

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

On Saturday 12 December 2009 Thai authorities seized an aircraft at Bangkok's Don Mueang airport. The Ilyushin-76 had stopped on the 11th December for refuelling while en-route from Pyongyang to Tehran, and was carrying 35 tonnes of arms and ammunition. While the media rushed to make unproven claims about the plane and alleged former owners of the aircraft, little attention was paid to the web of companies, the flight plan, and final destination.

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.

Impact de l'exploitation pétrolière sur la santé des populations locales et de l'environnement à Moanda. Cas de la firme Perenco.

(July 2009 – RRN)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/ong-congolaises.php?&lang=en>

Report the Congolese NGO RRN made under direction of IPIS within the framework of IPIS' capacity building project.

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 parafiscal 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.

Impact de l'exploitation de diamant et de l'or dans la reconstruction socio-économique de la Province Orientale.

(March 2009 – CENADEP)

<http://www.ipisresearch.be/ong-congolaises.php?&lang=en>

Report the Congolese NGO CENADEP made under direction of IPIS within the framework of IPIS' capacity building project.

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

Illicit brokering of SALW in Europe: lacunae in Eastern European arms control and verification regimes.

(September 2009 – IPIS)

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

The article argues that no arms control agreement which does not recognize the need to licence and control the activities of arms brokers can ever hope to be effective. Therefore the vital interest of the EU Code of Conduct for the purposes of this article is that it is extended to cover arms brokering activities by the EU Common Position on arms brokering of June 2003.

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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*Can be found at IPIS library

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