

resource matters



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Enabling the people of Congo to benefit from their abundant mining and energy resources

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Our Mission

exchange
analysis
research
building bridges

cooperation

awareness
training
communication
Advocacy

Our focus

Mining Governance

The Democratic Republic of Congo holds vast reserves of cobalt, copper, and lithium—key minerals driving the global transition to renewable energy and advanced technology. Yet, these resources have not led to meaningful development for its people. Resource Matters works to promote fair and sustainable management of Congo’s strategic minerals, ensuring that both the country’s public finances and communities in mining regions directly benefit.

Energy

The Democratic Republic of Congo has vast renewable energy resources, from its extensive waterways to abundant sunlight. Yet, access to electricity remains scarce, reaching less than 20% of the population. Resource Matters is committed to ensuring that the country’s energy needs are met through clean, sustainable, and affordable solutions.

Corruption

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, corruption is a major driver of poverty. Resource Matters works to ensure accountability by exposing and challenging corrupt practices within the country’s natural resource sector.

Foreword

Dear readers,

For over a century, natural resources from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been fuelling the world's progress. Today, it stands at the centre of yet another global shift: the rechargeable battery industry, a cornerstone of the clean energy revolution.

The stakes could not be higher. The Congolese Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development has called the DRC “the solution country” to the climate crisis, pointing to its vast forests, freshwater reserves, and rich deposits of strategic minerals as a “natural response” to global environmental challenges. Over two thirds of the planet's cobalt supply comes from the DRC and it is the second-largest producer of copper. Meanwhile, new frontiers of extraction loom, with lithium, manganese, and germanium under growing consideration.

Yet, despite being the bedrock of the world's clean energy future, the Congolese people remain trapped in a cycle of poverty. The numbers are staggering: three-quarters of the population live below the poverty line, as estimated by the World Bank. The healthcare and education systems are in crisis, and the country suffers one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. While the DRC is rich in renewable energy potential, less than one in five Congolese citizens has access to electricity.

Why does this paradox persist? The answer is complex, shaped by global market forces, political inertia, and geopolitical struggles.

One factor casts a long shadow: endemic corruption. At every level of governance, powerful interests—often backed by international investors—hinder progress. Too often, international donors work exclusively with the country's elite to shape Congo's development, turning a blind eye to the corruption scandals that surround them and, critically, failing to amplify the voices of ordinary Congolese citizens.

At Resource Matters, we are challenging this status quo. We are dedicated to addressing the paradox of plenty—the stark contrast between Congo's immense natural wealth and its widespread economic hardship. Our mission is to push for a transparent, equitable, and responsible management of the DRC's resources—one that delivers measurable socio-economic benefits to its population while minimizing environmental harm.

In 2024, Resource Matters focused on three key areas: (1) strengthening governance over Congo's strategic mineral sector, (2) expanding access to clean electricity for Congolese citizens and businesses, and (3) fighting large-scale corruption that siphons wealth away from the people.

Transition minerals are not truly ‘clean’ unless they contribute to socio-economic development in the Congo. The energy transition cannot be considered fair if the Congolese population remains without access to electricity. And natural resource governance is only effective when its benefits are equitably shared.

Elisabeth Caesens
Executive Director

Jean Claude Mputu
Deputy Executive Director

Mining



The DRC holds immense potential as a global supplier of critical minerals for the energy transition, yet its people—including those in mining regions—remain trapped in poverty.

Resource Matters, together with its partners, is working to ensure that the surge in Congolese mineral production leads to real benefits for its population.

Towards the adoption of a DRC transition minerals strategy

→ Supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
→ In partnership with the DRC Ministry of Mines



Many mineral producing countries have developed a comprehensive strategy to capture benefits from the booming demand in transition minerals. The DRC has engaged in several international strategic partnerships with consumer countries and expressed the clear will to add local value. However, a comprehensive strategy to achieve these and other policies objectives is missing.

This leads to a lot of missed opportunities. To give but one example, despite hosting about 70% of the world's cobalt reserves and being touted as “the OPEC of the energy transition”, the DRC has

little control over the international cobalt market, as multinational companies decide almost unilaterally how much they export.

This has led to a total collapse of the cobalt price at the expense of Congo's public revenue. Likewise, plans to install a battery precursor factory have stalled, in part due to the lack of forward-looking electrification planning. Many mineral producing countries have developed a comprehensive strategy to capture benefits from the booming demand in transition minerals. The DRC has engaged in several international strategic partnerships with consumer countries and expressed the clear will to add local value.

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Since 2023, Resource Matters has engaged with the Ministry of Mines to encourage the adoption of a national transition minerals strategy. To lay the foundation for such a strategy, in October 2024, Resource Matters facilitated multi-stakeholder discussions with around 80 Congolese experts at the DRC Alternative Mining

Indaba in Kolwezi —including government representatives, provincial leaders, mining companies, and non profit organisations.

In December, Resource Matters partnered up with the Ministry of Mines to host a high-level National Stakeholder Forum on the Strategy for Energy Transition Minerals in Kinshasa. Bringing together 70 leaders and experts from the government, the strategic minerals sector, civil society and academics, the forum served as a dynamic space for discussions on key topics including improved investment partner selection, advanced geological knowledge of key minerals, better control of mineral export volumes, increased value addition, improved energy, road and rail infrastructure, amongst others. With evidenced-based briefing notes guiding the conversations, the event sparked rich debates that are now shaping a comprehensive White Paper on Energy Transition Minerals Governance.



Forum on the Strategy for Energy Transition Minerals in Kinshasa, December 2024

Facilitating a DRC civil society roadmap for transition minerals

→ Supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Congo's civil society has a strong track record in mining sector reform, playing a key role in shaping the 2018 Mining Code. Their contributions led to higher local royalty payments, increased social development budgets, and greater transparency in revenue flows, environmental assessments, and contracts. Resource Matters believes civil society must remain involved, especially in discussions on the national transition minerals strategy.

In 2024, Resource Matters helped Congolese civil society develop a unified agenda for managing transition minerals transparently and sustainably.

Through workshops in Lubumbashi and Kinshasa and ongoing online discussions, they created a six-pillar roadmap focusing on national strategy, environmental protection, anti-corruption, revenue transparency, local value addition, and improved geological knowledge.

The roadmap was officially adopted at the DRC Alternative Mining Indaba in Kolwezi in October 2024. A peer-led commission was formed to oversee its implementation and assign leads for each action area.

Industrial copper-cobalt mines sit beside makeshift villages, making environmental and human rights advocacy a key focus for Congolese civil society groups.



Amplifying community voices on mining impacts

- Supported by the 11th Hour Project, the Sustainable Markets Foundation and SIDA (Sweden)
- In partnership with two civil society consortia in Lualaba and Haut-Katanga and the Toxicology and Environmental Unit of the University of Lubumbashi

International voices often dominate the critical mineral sourcing agenda, sidelining local concerns. In 2023, Resource Matters collaborated with Congolese civil society organizations to identify their top priorities: environmental pollution and labor rights violations in the industrial mining sector.

To address these issues, Resource Matters partnered with two civil society consortia: one studying mining's environmental impact in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba, and another examining labor rights at industrial operations, particularly

at Zijin's Compagnie Minière de Musonoi (COMMUS) and CMOC's Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM). Both consortia developed research methodologies and conducted field studies in 2024.

The University of Lubumbashi's Toxicology and Environmental Unit assessed soil and water pollution near targeted mining sites. Their research revealed depleted rivers once used for fishing and raised alarms about toxicity risks near TFM's 30K factory in Manomapia. Resource Matters supported and continues to support local advocacy on this particular case.



The new processing plant at Tenke Fungurume is built right next to the village of Mano Mapia, leading to complaints about toxic fumes.



Civil society leaders from Kolwezi meet with cobalt supply chain actors at the OECD Mineral Supply Chains forum to voice their concerns.

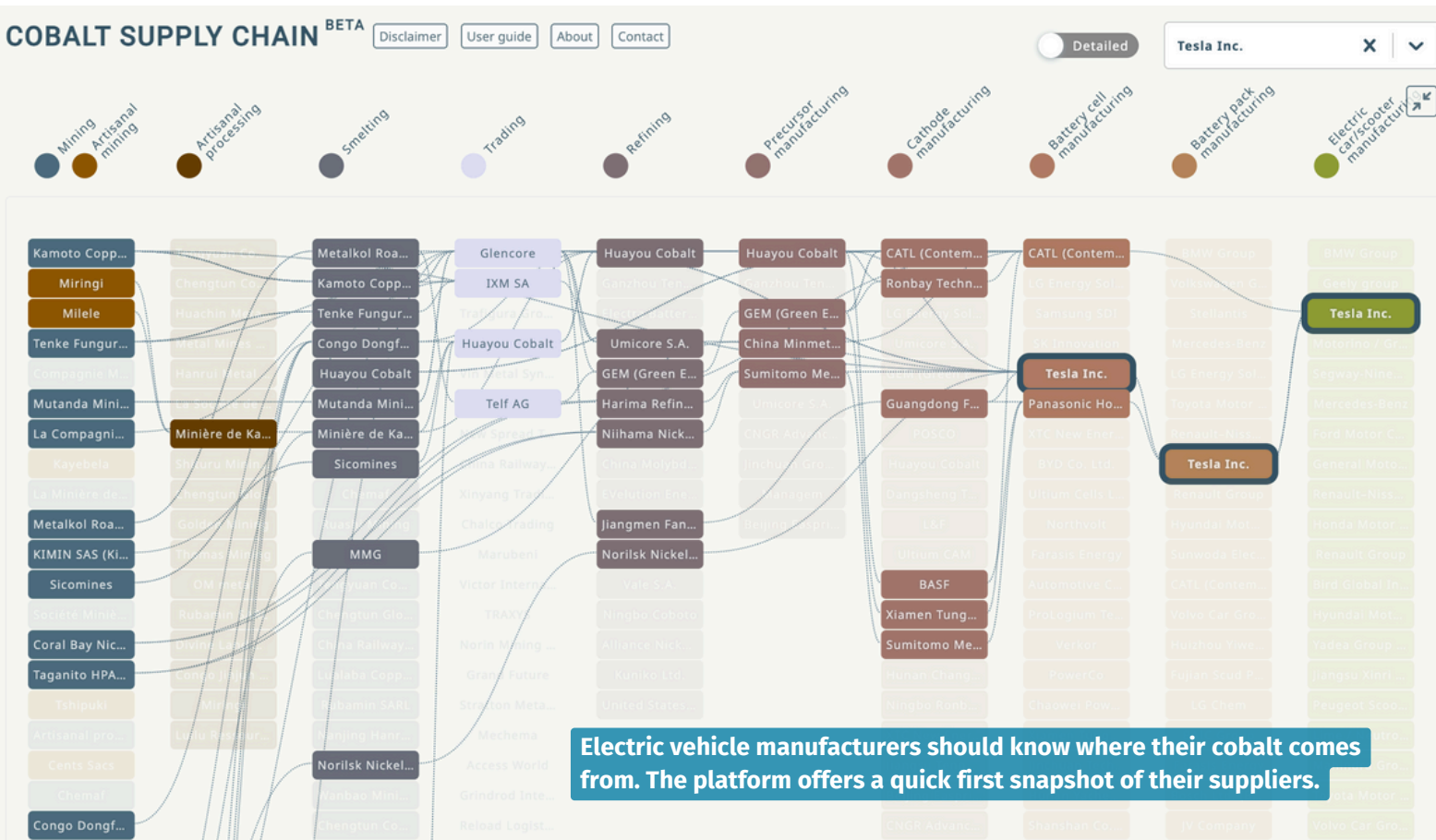
Resource Matters also facilitated engagement between local consortia, mining companies, and downstream supply chain actors at the international level. At the 2024 OECD Forum on Mineral Supply Chains in Paris, the team co-organized a side event on sustainable cobalt sourcing, enabling consortia representatives to meet with the Cobalt Institute and its members. This dialogue continued during a closed-door session at the EU Raw Materials Week in Brussels,

where Resource Matters deepened collaboration with midstream EU companies to bridge communication gaps between DRC communities and European buyers.

In 2025, Resource Matters will continue supporting civil society groups, fostering engagement with Congolese authorities and mining companies to highlight the pressing social and environmental challenges faced by mining communities in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba.

Mapping the cobalt supply chain for corporate due diligence

→ Supported by the 11th Hour Project in 2021-2022 and SIDA (Sweden) in 2023-2024



When mining companies pollute waterways or displace communities without fair consultation and compensation, they should be held accountable, alongside national authorities that fail to protect local rights.

Companies buying these minerals should also ensure that their supply chains do not contribute to harm by conducting proper due diligence. Currently, most supply chain disclosures are voluntary; however, upcoming EU regulations will soon mandate supplier transparency.

Despite resistance from some firms over cost and complexity, transparency is essential. Since 2021, Resource Matters has been mapping the global cobalt supply chain, tracing cobalt from DRC mines through intermediaries to end users like electric vehicle and battery manufacturers.

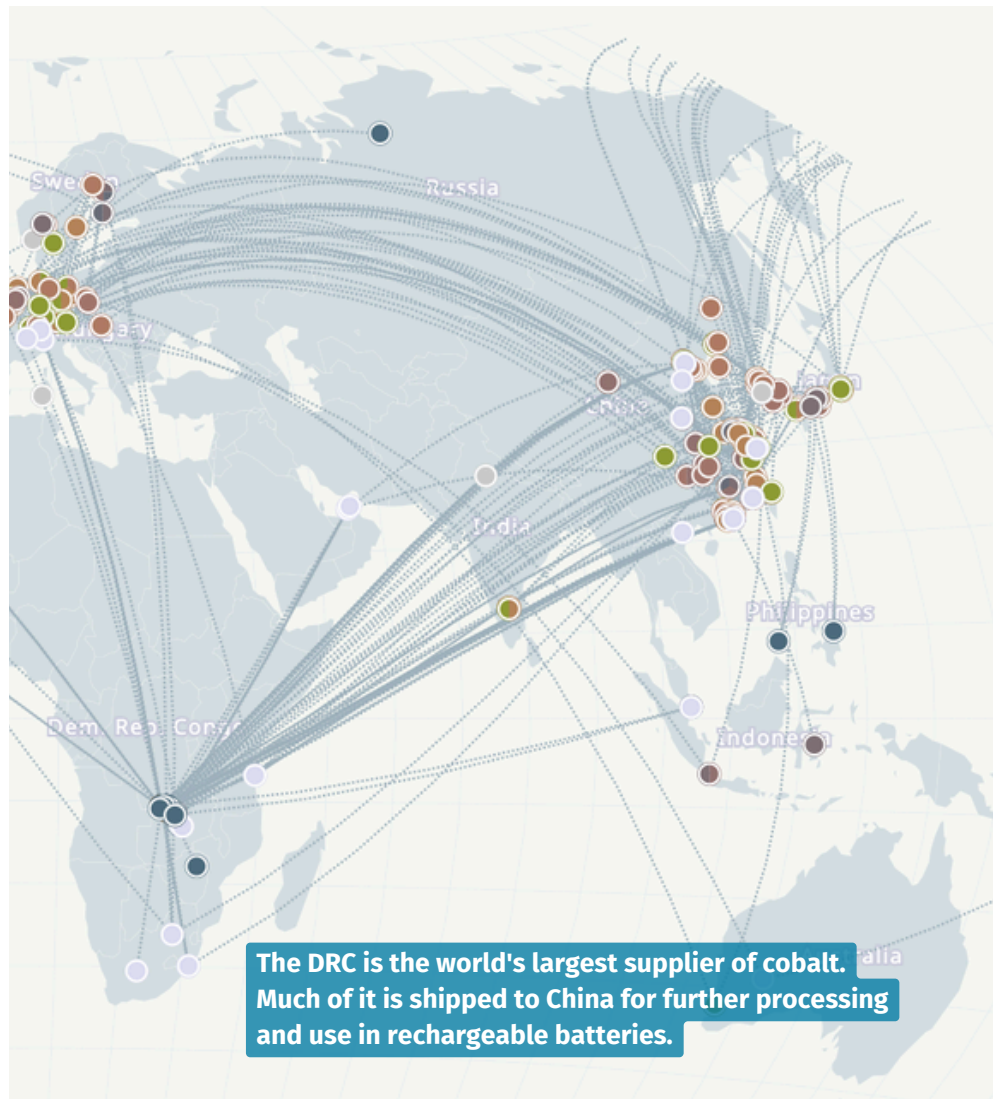
Using public data, corporate disclosures, and investigative reports, the Supply Chain Mapping Platform highlights key players and promotes due diligence among mid- and end-users while providing advocacy tools for civil society.

In 2024, Resource Matters documented 359 companies and 514 transactions, including 30 artisanal sites, based on field research from 2023 and 2024. The team presented the platform to key stakeholders, including the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the EU Raw Materials Week, the OECD Forum, and Sussex University's Mapping (De)Globalisation Research Group.

At RMI and OECD, the team showcased the platform's role in enhancing transparency and ethical sourcing. At the IEA, the team demonstrated how it tracks cobalt flows crucial to the energy transition. During EU Raw Materials Week and meetings with the European

Commission, Resource Matters engaged policymakers on sustainable sourcing, with officials recognizing the platform's role in tracking DRC-to-Europe cobalt flows. Outreach to civil society networks, including the China Global South Project, Supply Trace, and the DRC Alternative Mining Indaba, further broadened the platform's impact.

In 2024, Resource Matters expanded into the lithium sector, documenting over 180 transactions involving 117 companies, focusing initially on clients of the Manono site in the DRC before widening the scope.



Promoting EU policies that improve mining practices in the DRC

→ Supported by Open Society Foundations



In 2024, Resource Matters intensified its engagement with the European Union (EU) to ensure that its policies and decisions positively influence natural resource governance in the DRC and, more broadly, the Great Lakes region.

In October 2023, the EU and the DRC established a strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains. The previous year, Resource Matters had carried out an expert study to provide EU institutions with the necessary background, insights and recommendation for this agreement. In 2024, the EU and the DRC drafted a road map to clarify how the shared objectives, such as local value addition and improved ESG practices, would be met. The roadmap was announced at the EU Raw Materials Week in December 2024.

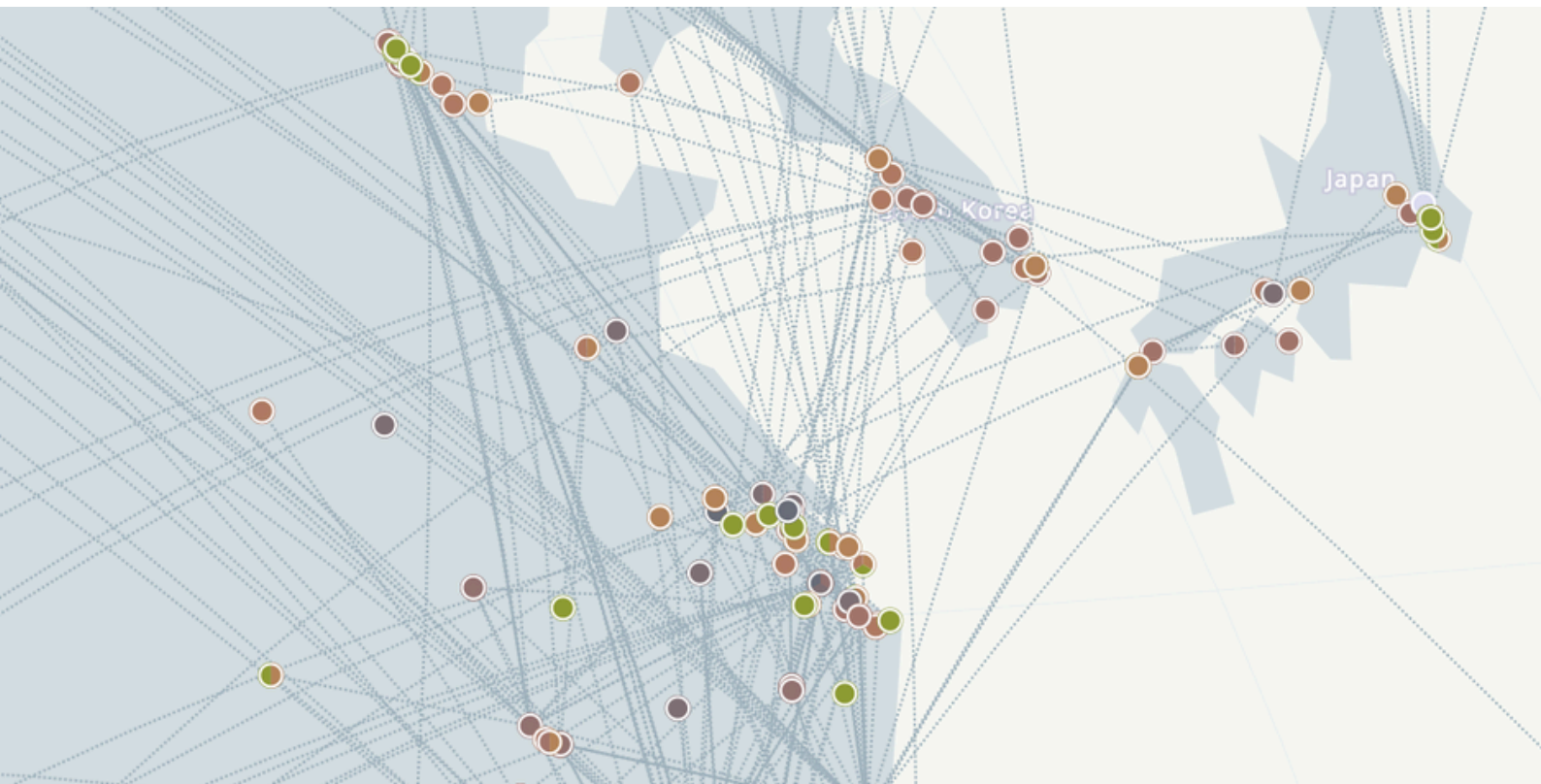
In parallel, the EU also signed a similar critical minerals partnership with neighboring Rwanda. This led to significant controversy among DRC civil society and within policy circles, given Rwanda's support to the M23 rebel group in Eastern DRC and longstanding allegations of illicit mineral trade in occupied zones. This prompted Resource Matters to join other members of the Congo is not for Sale coalition in writing a joint letter to EU officials, asking to reconsider its Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda and to step up its due diligence efforts to avoid legitimizing tainted supply chains. Unfortunately, M23's activities continued to expand throughout 2024, including the capture of Congo's most important coltan sites in Rubaya.

Throughout the year, Resource Matters stepped up its engagement on these partnerships with relevant EU institutions in both Brussels and Kinshasa, meeting with EU Commission officials and European Parliament representatives as well as the EU delegation. These efforts will continue in 2025 to ensure that strategic partnerships genuinely contribute to increased sustainability and transparency in sourcing critical minerals. Resource Matters will also review the selection of EU-backed Strategic Projects in the DRC; a first-round list of which is expected to be released in Q1 2025.

Coalition-building has been instrumental in amplifying Congolese partners' voice in EU policy discussions. In Kinshasa, Resource Matters facilitated meetings between DRC civil society and the EU delegation. In Brussels, Resource Matters

engaged with key civil society networks including the Steering group of the EU Raw Materials Coalition, the European Coalition for Corporate Justice and the Alliance for Corporate Transparency.

Finally, Resource Matters analyzed how various EU initiatives—such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the EU Battery Regulation, and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)—affect the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The goal was to identify opportunities to amplify the voices of Congolese civil society and help them use these regulations to advocate for stronger human rights and environmental protections in the DRC.



Enhancing transparency in mining royalties

→ Supported by the 11th Hour project and the Sustainable Markets Foundation

The 2018 Mining Code reform aimed to ensure that mining royalties directly benefit local communities by mandating payments to provinces and decentralized territorial entities (ETDs) rather than routing them through Kinshasa. However, critical data needed to track these royalties remains partially inaccessible. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) publishes payment data, but with delays, gaps and limited scrutiny of discrepancies. Additionally, key figures, such as site-specific production data, are unavailable, making it difficult to assess whether fiscal rules are being followed.

To address these challenges, Resource Matters and its partners developed Makuta ya Maendeleo, an online platform that publicly tracks subnational financial flows, comparing expected versus actual royalty payments. In 2024, with its civil society partners of the Makuta consortium, Resource Matters continued to update the platform with

new data from provincial mining divisions and incorporated findings from the EITI's latest reports.

After the publication of the EITI 2020-2021 report, Resource Matters and the Makuta ya Maendeleo consortium wrote to the EITI-RDC Executive Committee, submitting recommendations to improve data on subnational revenues in future EITI reports.

In April 2024, in Kinshasa, the briefing note was presented to key stakeholders, including experts from the EITI-RDC technical secretariat, Congolese civil society actors in the mining sector and independent researchers. Unfortunately, the 2022 EITI report released in December 2024 still presents significant disclosure gaps. The Makuta ya Maendeleo consortium will diversify its advocacy targets to ensure all relevant data is properly disclosed.



scan me
to access the
Makuta platform



How much do companies produce? ?

Company ▼

Cathode de cuivre (Cath.Cu) (99%) × ▼

8.7 million tons ?

between June 2018 and July 2024



PDF export

Kamoto Copper Company (KCC)



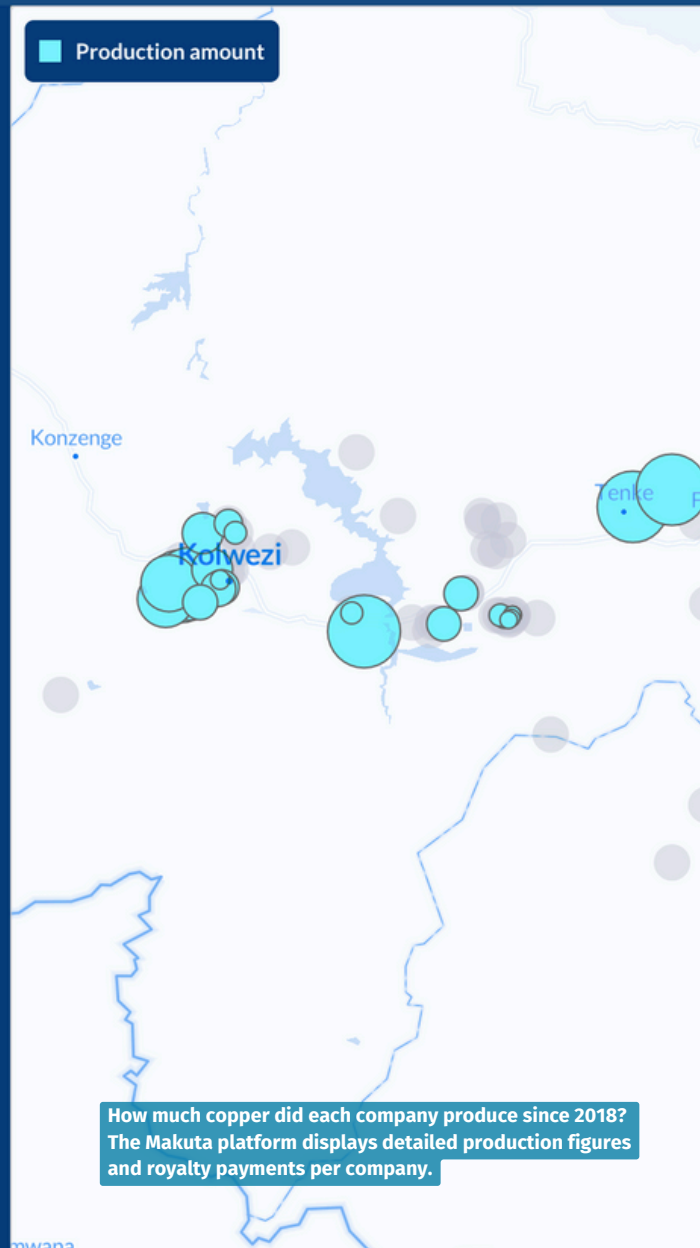
Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM)



Sicomines



Compagnie de Traitement des Rejets de Kingamyambo (Metalkol)



How much copper did each company produce since 2018? The Makuta platform displays detailed production figures and royalty payments per company.

Electricity

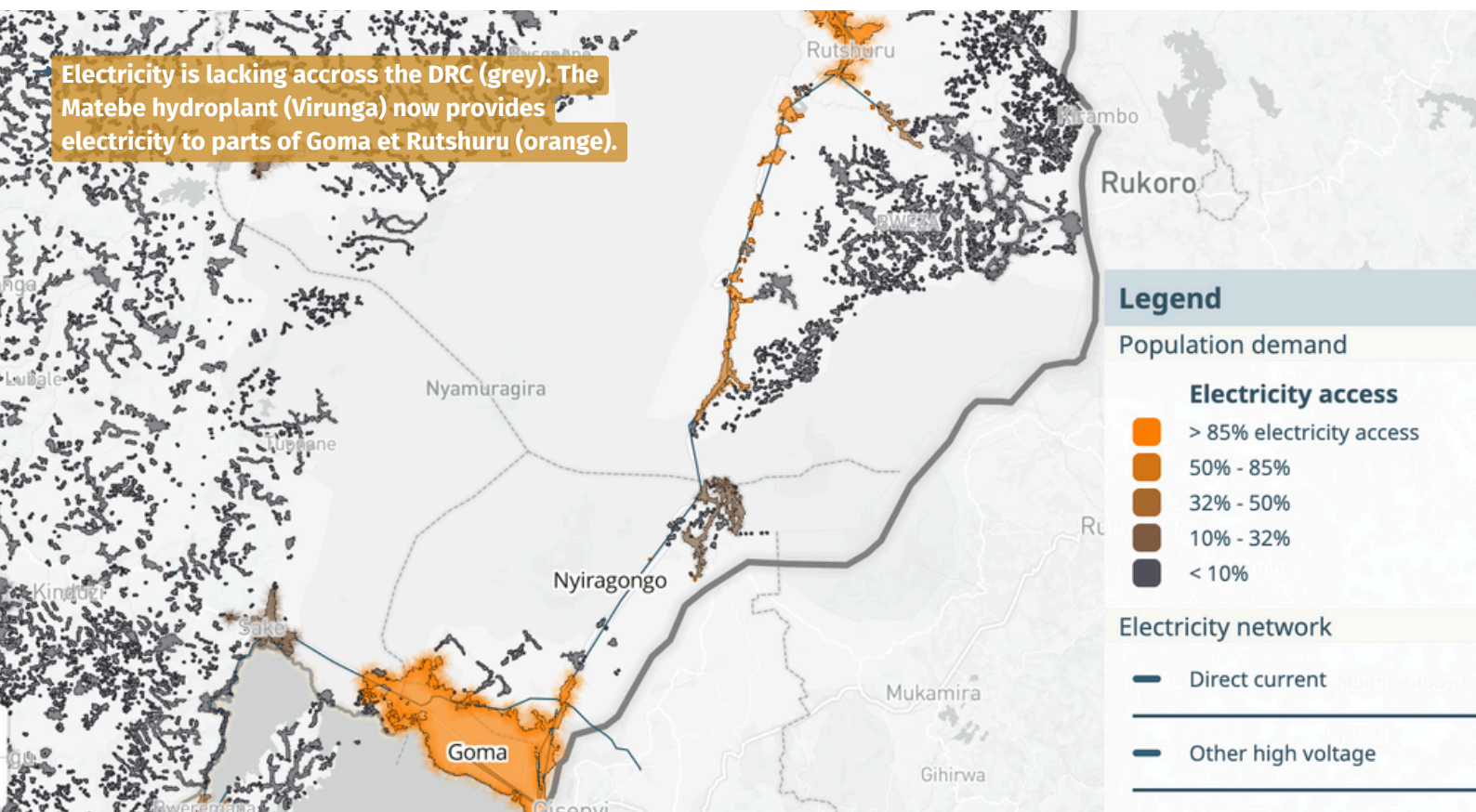


Congo has plenty of energy potential, but less than one out of five people has access to electricity.

Resource Matters, together with its partners, is working to ensure that Congo's renewable energy sources are tapped to provide equitable and affordable access to electricity to households, local businesses and public services.

Congo Epela : Mapping clean energy solutions across the DRC

→ Supported by the 11th Hour Project and American Jewish World Service
 → In partnership with the University of Cape Town, KTH Sweden and Reiner Lemoine Institut, the DRC Core group and the Mwangaza network



To help transform Congo’s energy potential into concrete electrification projects, policy makers and other stakeholders first have to get a solid understanding of renewable energy sources, electricity demand and the status of existing infrastructure. However, accessing reliable data is a serious challenge. To give one example, Congo has not carried out a population census in 40 years, making it difficult to estimate precise demographic growth and household demand.

To address the data gap, Resource Matters launched Congo Epela in 2022—an interactive platform providing civil society and stakeholders

with actionable data to promote equitable, sustainable energy solutions and inform policy development.

Congo Epela identifies the most cost-effective ways to provide access to electricity to communities and other customers, analyzing electricity demand, potential energy sources, and grid expansion opportunities. It prioritizes decentralized solutions, such as solar and hydropower mini-grids, alongside traditional centralized grids. The platform also documents the best clean energy mix for the main grid.

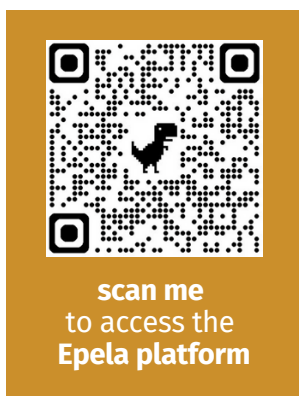
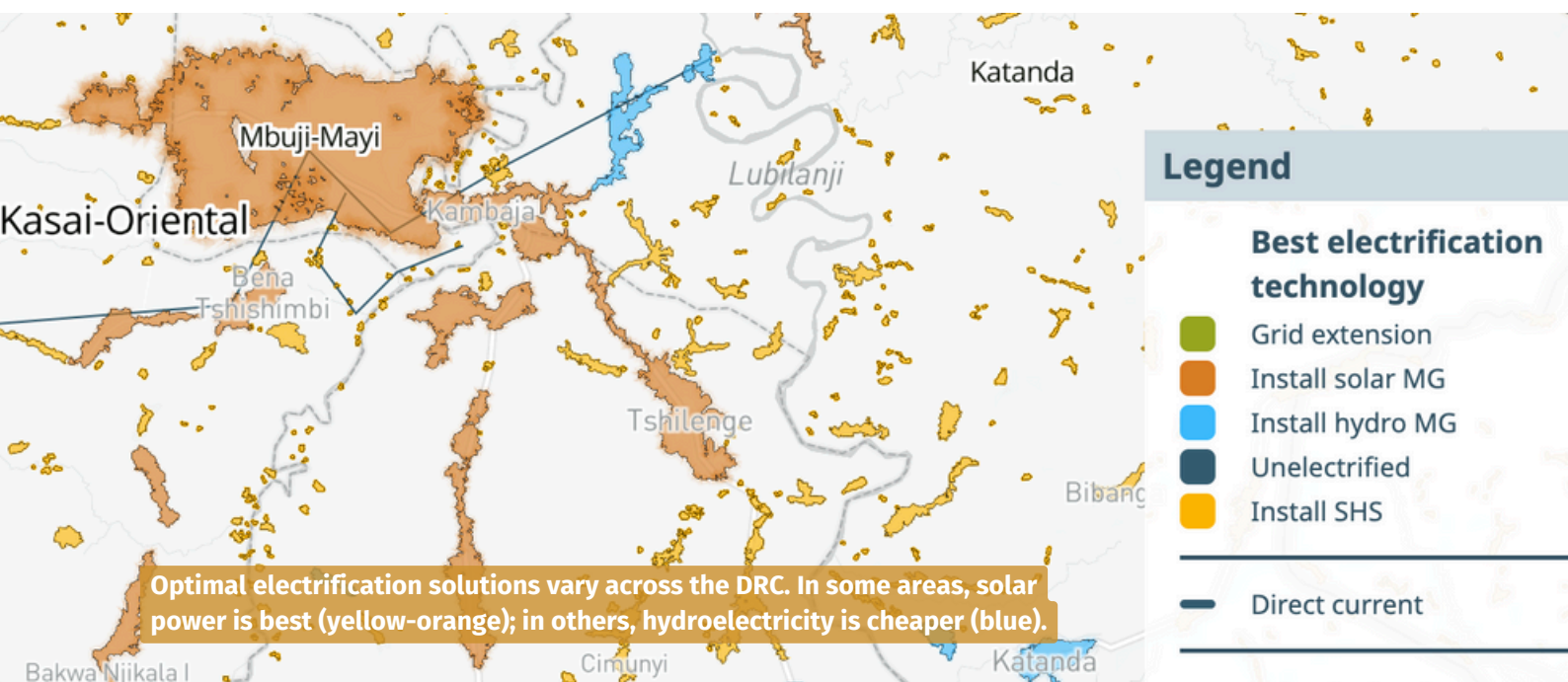
The platform is the result of a collaboration between Resource Matters, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, the University of Cape Town, the Reiner Lemoine Institute, and Mwangaza, a Congolese civil society coalition set up to advocate for access to electricity.

Since its inception, Congo Epela has also received systematic feedback and contributions from experts from the energy administration, the private sector, academics and civil society. This informal group of experts, called the “core group”, has been meeting on a regular basis since 2021.

In 2024, Resource Matters upgraded Congo Epela based on stakeholder feedback.

Population data was switched from WorldPop to UN-OCHA estimates, refining demand projections and electrification models. Distance calculations between communities and energy infrastructure were adjusted to address user-reported inaccuracies. Additionally, the platform now features 10 predefined electrification models, including a climate change scenario that factors in reduced hydropower potential and increased solar irradiation.

With these enhancements, Congo Epela continues to drive informed, equitable energy planning and advocate for a sustainable electrification future in the DRC.



Earmarking local mining royalties for renewable energy

→ Supported by the 11th Hour Project and American Jewish World Service
→ In partnership with Reiner Lemoine Institut



While access to electricity is problematic across the country, the situation in remote areas is even worse : only 1 out of 100 people living in Congo's rural communities has electricity. Mining royalties offer a significant but underutilized financial resource that could fund rural electrification projects. To this end, Resource Matters launched the Pont Mines-Énergie initiative to show how

local administrations that collect mining royalties could finance solar mini-grids. In collaboration with the Reiner Lemoine Institute (RLI), Resource Matters developed electrification models for selected pilot sites, demonstrating the potential for local revenue to contribute to sustainable energy solutions. Pilot sites include three villages (Kapanda, Mimbilu I and II, and Dibungi).

After additional field research to verify satellite imagery, Resource Matters prepared a modeling report on decentralized territorial entity (ETD) electrification.

For this type of development to take root at the local level, political buy-in is necessary across all levels of administration, from the capital to the most decentralized level. To encourage the debate, Resource Matters hosted a three-day multi-stakeholder workshop that gathered local officials, private developers, and key government ministries.

The event secured government commitments, and strengthened support for ETD-led electrification projects. As a result, the Ministers of Rural Development, International Cooperation, and Interior and Decentralization publicly endorsed the initiative, which marks a significant step toward integrating mining royalties into rural electrification efforts.

Supporting civil society action for sustainable electrification



Réseau Mwangaza

→ Supported by the 11th Hour Project and American Jewish World Service
→ In partnership with Reiner Lemoine Institut



According to DRC law, three levels of government are responsible for promoting access to electricity : the national level is in charge of projects that stretch across several provinces, the provincial level for projects that stretch across several local sectors, and the local level for small-scale projects within a given territory.

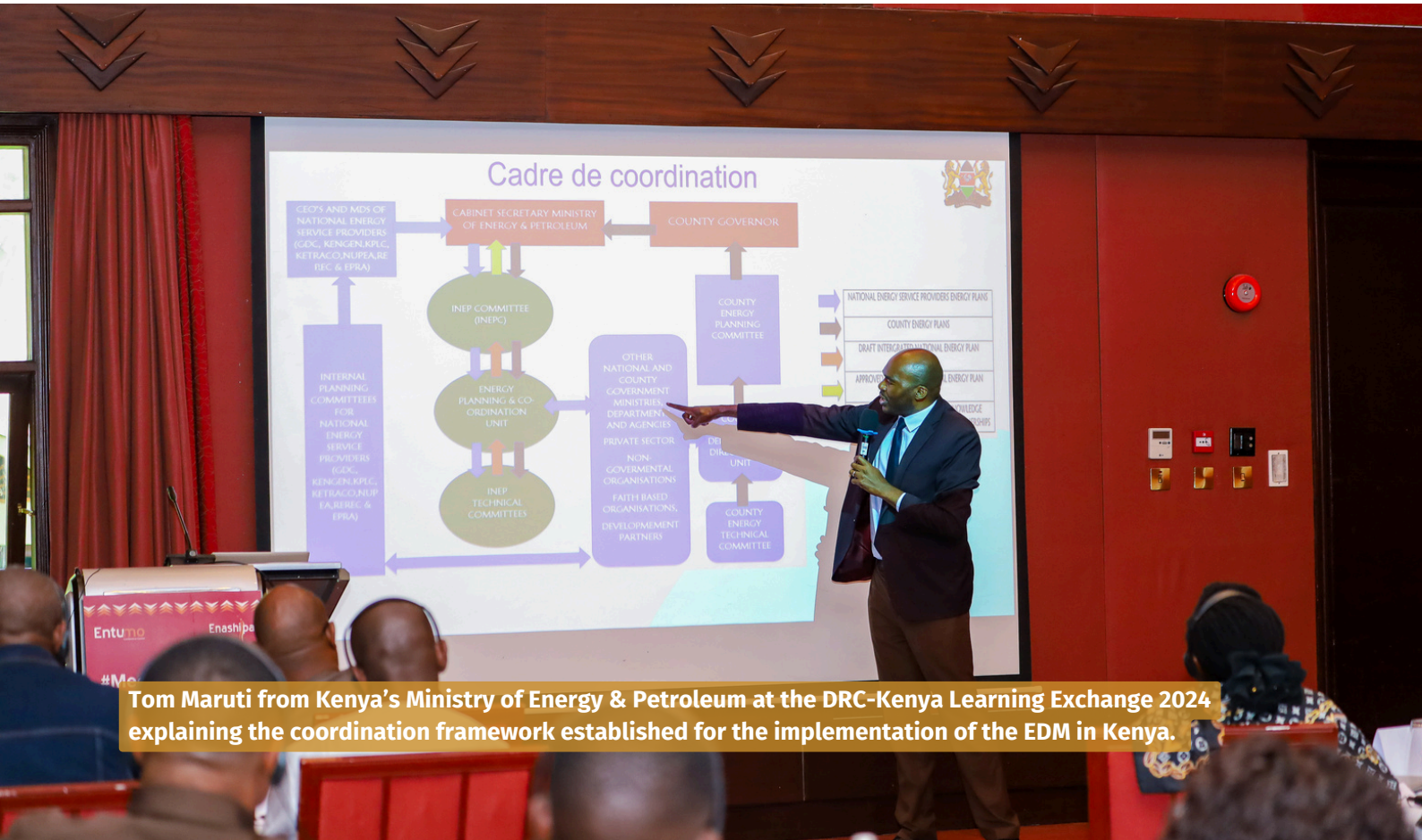
Since 2018, Resource Matters supports national and provincial organisations to drive universal, clean, and affordable electrification at each of these levels. They have united in the Mwangaza coalition, to share lessons learned and carry out joint advocacy at the national level. In 2024, Mwangaza was composed of 9 member organizations present in 7 provinces (Kinshasa, Kasai, Lualaba, Haut-Katanga, South Kivu, North Kivu, Ituri). In 2024, all member organisations finalized and released an assessment of the electrification status of their respective provinces (études diagnostiques).

Together, they identified recurring weaknesses across all provinces and released a joint summary report, which informed a multi-stakeholder workshop that generated concrete policy recommendations.

In some provinces, the assessments sparked expert round-tables which Resource Matters attended, using the Congo Epela platform to propose electrification solutions tailored to local needs. In mining provinces in particular, several Mwangaza members turned to the even more local level, sifting through the RSE commitments of mining companies and local development plans to advocate for a bigger uptake of electrification projects in both, and to generate greater synergy between mining companies and local administrations. This was the case in Lualaba's copper province and in the Kasai diamond region.

At the national level, the Mwangaza network pushed for sector-wide reforms. On the one hand, the coalition advocated for better and more integrated energy planning, considering all sectors of the economy and all different energy needs. A key milestone was a large seminar in Kenya, where representatives from all major Congolese electricity institutions and from several provinces as well as members of the Mwangaza network met with Kenya's government in the energy sector, delegates of Kitue and Meru counties, and the members of Kenyan civil society (ACCESS) to better understand Kenyan's experience in integrated energy planning to improve access to electricity.

The coalition also pushed for crucial legal reforms in the electricity sector. The 2014 Congolese electricity law, designed primarily for hydropower, fails to support the integration of intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind. In response, Mwangaza member CODED researched and drafted a new renewable energy law, which was debated in January 2025. However, around the same time, the government passed a limited set of legal amendments without proper consultation, disregarding input from renewable energy companies, key government institutions, and civil society. The Mwangaza network will now evaluate how best to respond to this setback.



Tom Maruti from Kenya's Ministry of Energy & Petroleum at the DRC-Kenya Learning Exchange 2024 explaining the coordination framework established for the implementation of the EDM in Kenya.

Promoting rooftop solar for public buildings

→ Supported by the 11th Hour Project and American Jewish World Service
→ In partnership with Reiner Lemoine Institut, Société Nationale d'Électricité and ISTA/Kinshasa

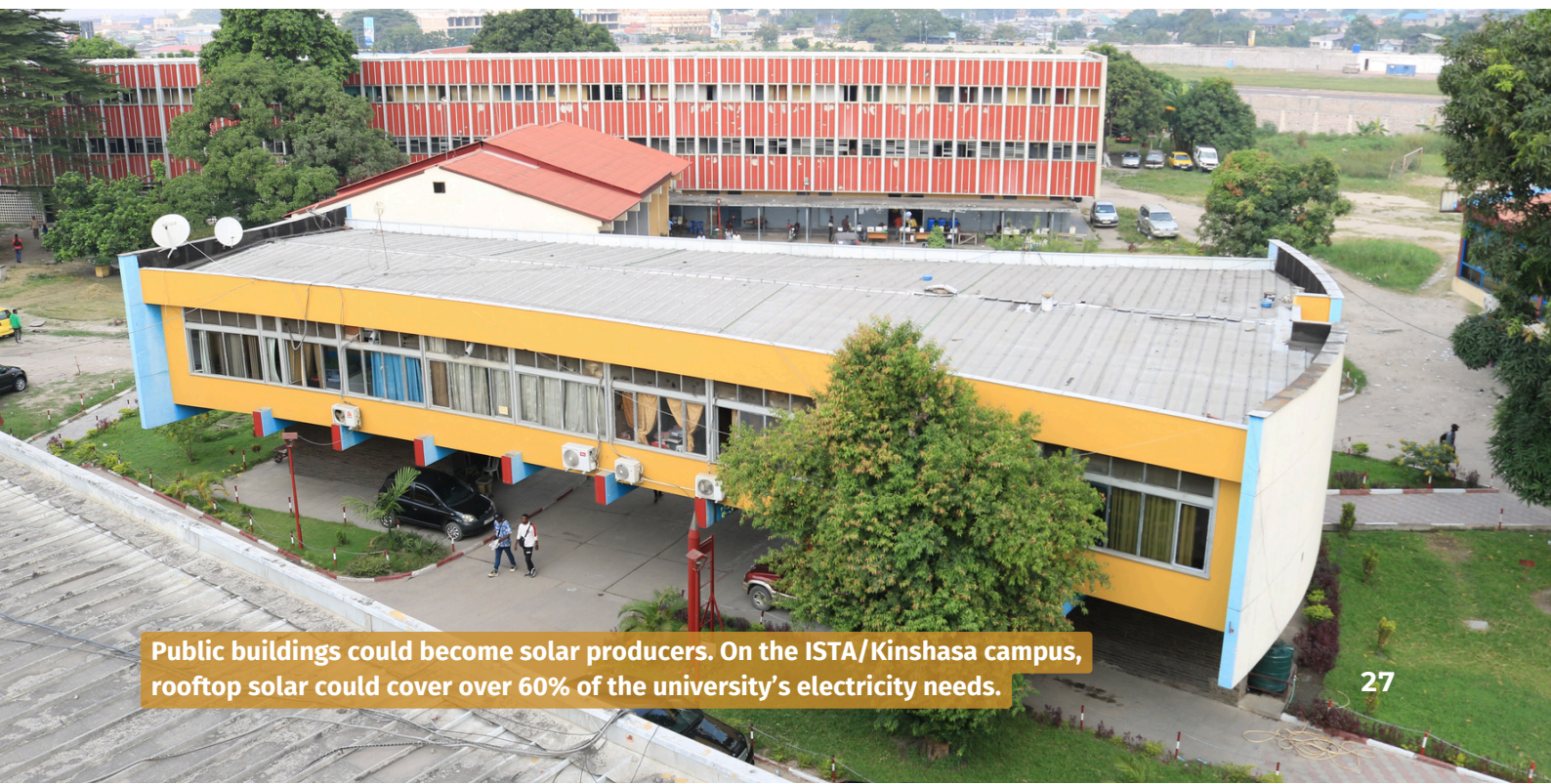
Public buildings in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have unreliable electricity supply and cause financial losses for the state utility due to unpaid consumption. This strain underscores the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions.

To address this, Resource Matters teamed up with two public institutions to explore whether solar installations on their own buildings could help address the problem: Congo's state utility itself, the Société Nationale d'Électricité (SNEL), and one of the main higher education institutions in Kinshasa, the Institut Supérieur de Technologie Appliquée (ISTA). Both were selected for their collaborative openness and data access.

In partnership with Germany-based Reiner Lemoine Institut, researchers analyzed energy demand, rooftop solar potential, and costs, including backup generator usage and power outages at SNEL's headquarters and ISTA's campus.

Modelling scenarios revealed that solar solutions with battery storage, although costlier upfront, provided greater energy independence and long-term savings by reducing fuel reliance. In contrast, diesel-based systems, though cheaper initially, offered limited autonomy and higher operating costs. The results highlight that scaling solar capacity with storage delivers the greatest long-term savings, far outweighing the impact of feed-in tariffs.

Resource Matters now aims to leverage these findings to engage policymakers, advocating for investments in renewable energy and positioning solar power in these types of projects as a cornerstone of DRC's transition to cleaner, more reliable energy for public infrastructure. Resource Matters and Reiner Lemoine Institute are considering modelling additional buildings of public institutions.



Public buildings could become solar producers. On the ISTA/Kinshasa campus, rooftop solar could cover over 60% of the university's electricity needs.

Corruption



As long as grand corruption persists, Congo's natural resources will fail to improve the well-being of its people.

The DRC holds vast reserves of critical minerals essential for the global energy transition, yet systemic corruption prevents its people from benefiting. Ranked 162nd out of 180 in Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, the country's mineral sector is plagued by opaque deals, high-level bribery, and the diversion of public funds.

While multinational companies and political elites profit, communities remain deprived of the wealth that should drive development.

At the core of Resource Matters' fight against corruption lies a fundamental belief: revenues generated from mining should contribute to national development and public welfare rather than illicitly enriching individuals or amassing windfall profits for foreign corporations. To achieve this objective, Resource Matters has focused on the most pressing corruption cases in the DRC and globally, working in close collaboration with the Congo Is Not for Sale (CNPAV) coalition. Our advocacy efforts have been conducted both within the DRC and on the international stage, demanding accountability at multiple levels and calling on all relevant stakeholders to act.

Pursuing a fair outcome in the Dan Gertler case

LE CONGO
N'EST PAS A VENDRE

→ Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and The Carter Center
→ In partnership with other members of the Congo n'est pas à vendre coalition

Israeli businessman Dan Gertler has been under U.S. sanctions for high-level corruption since 2017. The CNPAV coalition estimates that the DRC has already lost billions due to Gertler's mining deals.

In 2022, the DRC government signed an agreement with M. Gertler's company to return some of the oil blocks and mining licenses he still holds in Congo. The deal would allow M. Gertler to receive a net payment of more than €180 million. Moreover, he would retain the rights to collect royalties from three major mining projects, representing approximately \$250,000 per day in the DRC. Finally, according to the deal, the Congolese government would advocate for sanctions lifting against Gertler. At one point, President Félix Tshisekedi personally wrote to President Joe Biden requesting sanctions relief.

As a result, throughout 2024, the United States, the DRC, and Gertler discussed sanctions relief and amendments to the 2022 agreement to ensure M. Gertler would fully exit the country. This might have increased the pay-out to his benefit even further.

During 2024, Resource Matters and the CNPAV coalition teamed up with US-based civil society organizations to ensure that any form of U.S. sanctions relief for Gertler would be beneficial for Congo's treasury. CNPAV published a policy brief analysing the 2022 agreement between the DRC and Ventora, Gertler's company. The brief traces his corruption record, urging the U.S. to maintain sanctions and the DRC to renegotiate the deal. CNPAV also organized several protests, including a sit-in in front of the US Embassy in Kinshasa.



To raise awareness amongst a broader audience, the coalition also released a graphic novel, illustrating one of the corruption cases M. Gertler had played a central role in. Launched by Congolese citizen movements during the Alternative Mining Indaba DRC (October 2024), the book has since been widely distributed at forums in the DRC and abroad.

As of December 2024, negotiations remain stalled, and sanctions against Gertler remain in place.

Restoring civic space was a key advocacy point for the CNPAV coalition, as Mr. Gertler has filed lawsuits against several civil society actors and media outlets who have exposed his dealings over the years. Resource Matters and its vice-director, Jean-Claude Mputu, are currently facing a defamation lawsuit initiated by Mr. Gertler in 2023. Notably, in December of that same year, Mr. Mputu received the U.S. State Department's Anti-Corruption Award for his efforts to combat corruption in the DRC.



Glencore's \$150m corruption settlement: justice for Congo

→ Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and The Carter Center
→ In partnership with other members of the Congo n'est pas à vendre coalition

CNPAV citizen movements urge the Swiss Ambassador in Kinshasa to ensure the Congolese population benefits from Glencore's \$150M corruption settlement in Switzerland.



**LE CONGO
N'EST PAS A VENDRE**

In August 2024, Swiss federal prosecutors fined Glencore for failing to prevent corruption by its partner, Dan Gertler, in the DRC. The company was ordered to pay a CHF 2 million fine and \$150 million in compensatory damages. However, these funds will not go to the victims of Glencore's corruption—primarily the Congolese people. Instead, they will benefit Swiss taxpayers, who suffered no harm from Glencore's activities.

To address this injustice, Resource Matters and the Congo is not for Sale (CNPAV) coalition launched an advocacy campaign to ensure these funds are redirected to the Congolese people.

A CNPAV delegation including Resource Matters travelled to Switzerland to engage with Swiss civil society and policymakers. CNPAV's citizen movements, Filimbi and Lucha, held a sit-in at the Swiss embassy in Kinshasa and met with the Swiss ambassador, with active participation from Resource Matters.

While the objective has not yet been fully achieved, advocacy efforts have led to engagement with Swiss parliamentarians to explore legislative initiatives, the submission of official letters to Swiss authorities, and strategic planning for next steps with civil society partners and policymakers.

Investigating corruption in the lithium sector

The DRC is not only rich in copper and cobalt—it also holds a vast lithium deposit near the town of Manono. Lithium is a key mineral for battery production and the global energy transition.

Over the past decade, several companies have fiercely competed to secure rights to these valuable deposits. Even before producers obtained exploitation permits, commodity traders and refiners lined up to sign off-take agreements for future production.

However, a review of permit allocations and current deals reveals troubling patterns of bribery, undue influence, and opacity. Not a single tonne of lithium has been extracted from Manono yet, yet corruption red flags are already abundant.

Together with the CNPAV coalition, Resource Matters advocates for full transparency and accountability to prevent history from repeating itself. The goal is to ensure that the lithium sector does not suffer from the same well-documented issues that have plagued the copper-cobalt industry, depriving the Congolese people of the benefits of their natural resources.

Understanding losses from the revised China deal

LE CONGO
N'EST PAS A VENDRE

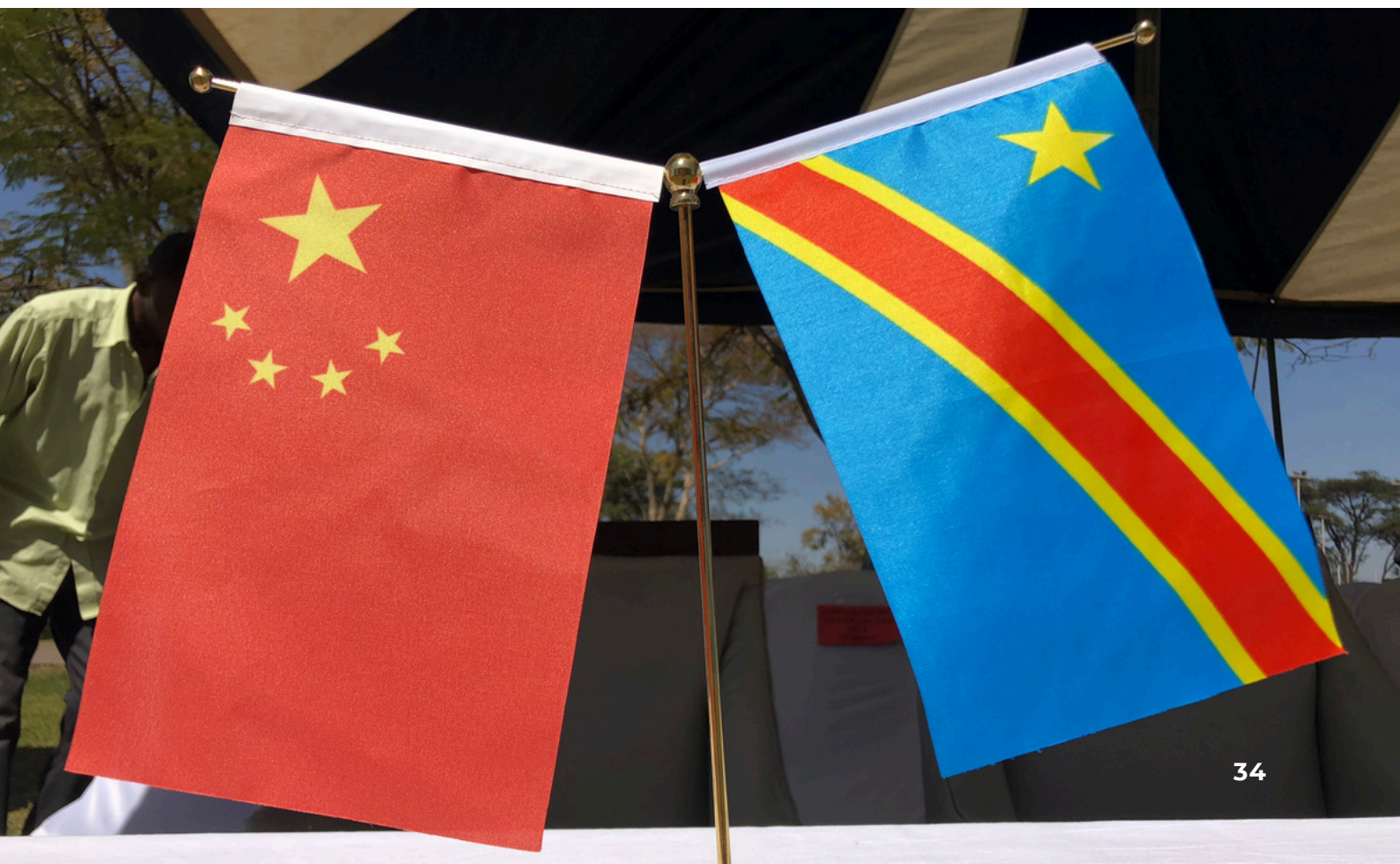
→ Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and The Carter Center
→ In partnership with other members of the Congo n'est pas à vendre coalition

In 2008, Chinese companies partnered with Congo's Gécamines to form Sicominex, a joint venture for a copper-cobalt project and infrastructure development. The Chinese consortium invested in mining and infrastructure, with mining revenues funding repayment. To accelerate this, Sicominex was granted full tax exemptions.

Over the years, the agreement faced heavy criticism for lack of transparency, poor infrastructure implementation, and allegations of bribery. In response, the DRC government launched renegotiations in 2022, leading to a significant amendment in early 2024.

In April 2024, Resource Matters and CNPAV successfully pushed for the amendment's disclosure, with support from the IMF. However, their analysis found the renegotiation failed to address key imbalances. Infrastructure funding now depends on an unstable copper price, tax exemptions remain, and there are strong indications of questionable payments to DRC stakeholders.

Resource Matters and CNPAV sent a letter to the Ministers who signed the amendment, raising concerns. They also supported a policy brief on Sicominex, set for publication in early 2025. This keeps all key points while improving clarity and flow.



Who wins, who loses? A joint podcast with Actualité.cd

→ Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy
→ In partnership with Actualité.cd

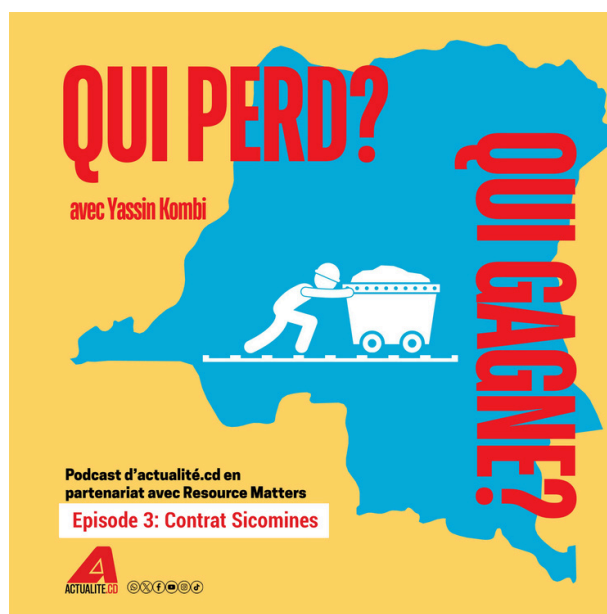
In the latter half of 2024, Resource Matters launched a joint podcast with DRC-based media outlet Actualité.cd to document who gains and who loses out in Congo's current mining affairs ("Qui Perd, Qui Gagne"). Actualité.cd is the most visited DRC online media outlet, and has proven an independent source, which is of fundamental importance when working on sensitive issues. The first episodes covered a variety of topics :

Episode 1 - Dan Gertler's royalties : This episode dives into Dan Gertler's right to receive royalties from the mining projects of KCC, Mutanda and Metalkol and stimulates public debate on sanctions lifting.

Episode 2 - The cobalt price collapse : Due to significant overproduction, the cobalt price has collapsed in 2023-2024. The episode explores the factors driving this development and its impact on the country's economy and artisanal workers.

Episode 3 - The China minerals-for-infrastructure deal : In 2024, the DRC government renegotiated its minerals-for-infrastructure deal with Chinese companies (the Sicomines agreement). The episode analyses the resulting amendments and what Congo is set to win and lose from it.

Episode 4 - The Lobito corridor : The US and the EU plan to invest in the Lobito corridor, a railway project to help expedite Zambian and Congolese minerals to the Atlantic ocean. This episode explains how the DRC could benefit from this project, which other actors could gain something from it, and what is preventing its implementation.



A special thanks to our partners

Financial partners

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DRC civil society partners

Action pour la Défense des Droits Humains (ADDH), African Resources Watch (AFREWATCH), Cadre de Concertation de la Société Civile sur les Ressources Naturelles en Ituri (CDC/RN), Initiative pour la Bonne Gouvernance et les Droits Humains (IBGDH), Justice pour Tous (JPT), Centre Congolais pour le Droit du Développement Durable (CODED), Coalition des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Suivi des Réformes et de l'Action Publique (CORAP), Conseil Régional des Organisations Non Gouvernementales de Développement (CRONGD), Ebuteli, Filimbi, Lutte pour le Changement (La LUCHA), Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises (OEARSE), Unis.

International civil society partners

Global Witness, Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID), Plateforme de Protection des Lanceurs d'Alerte en Afrique (PPLAAF), Congo Research Group (GEC), The Carter Center

Civil society coalitions

Mwangaza network (advocacy for DRC electricity access), Makuta Ya Maendeleo (advocacy for local mining tax transparency and accountability), Le Congo n'est pas à Vendre (fight against corruption in the DRC), EU Raw Materials Coalition (ensure that EU consumption of raw materials safeguards people and planet).

Academic partners

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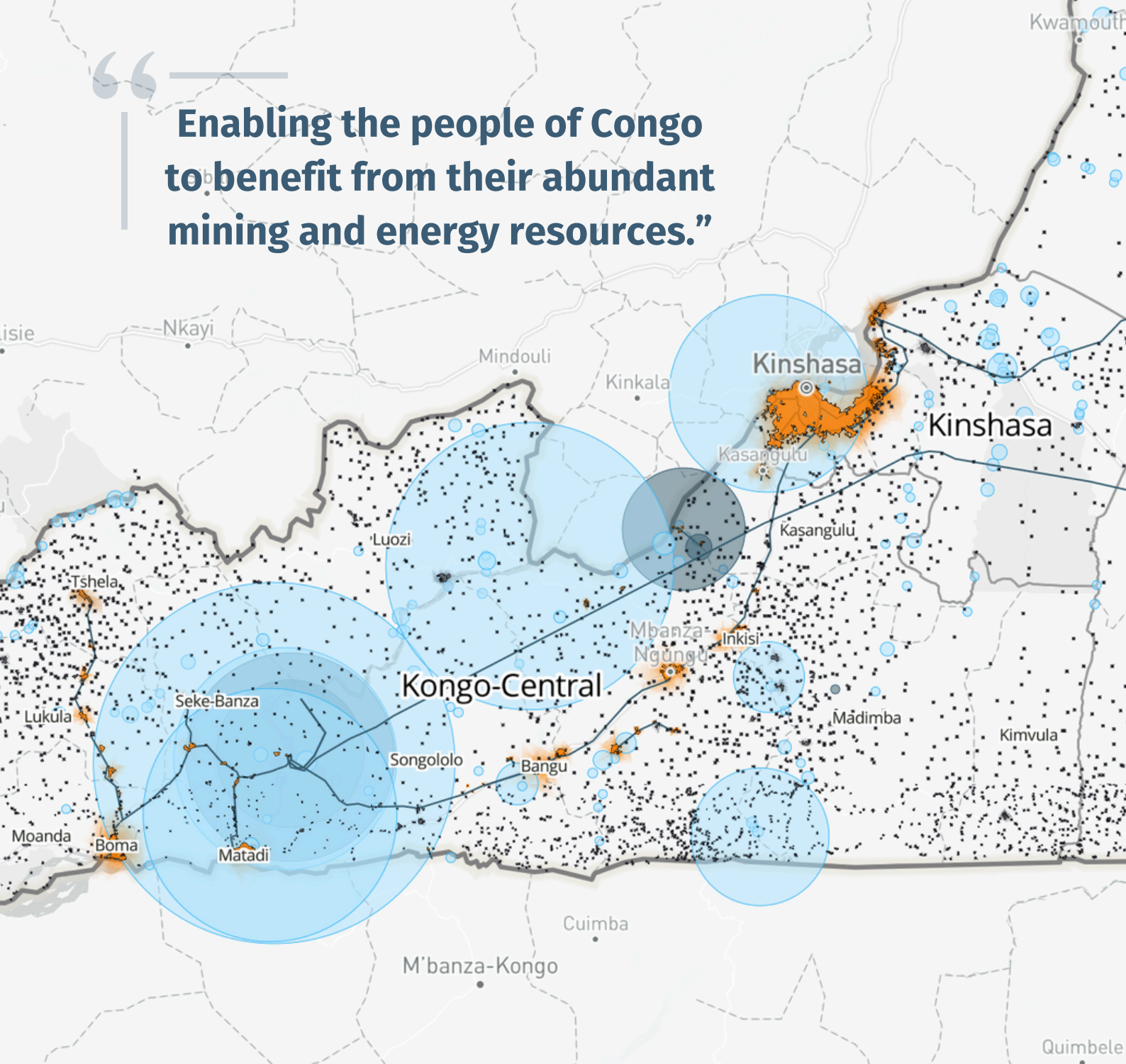
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“

**Enabling the people of Congo
to benefit from their abundant
mining and energy resources.”**



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