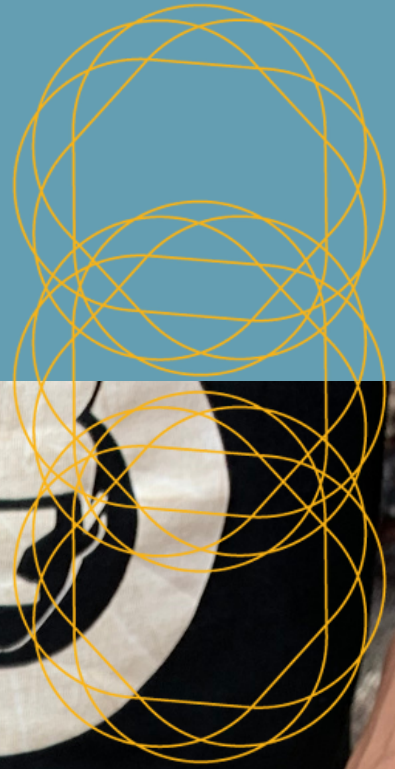


Resource Matters



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

## **BRUSSELS OFFICE**

Mundo-Madou  
Avenue des Arts 7-8  
1210 Brussels  
Belgium

BE 0662.969.264 RPM-Brussels  
Contact: [info@resourcematters.org](mailto:info@resourcematters.org)  
[www.resourcematters.org](http://www.resourcematters.org)

## **KINSHASA OFFICE**

Sedec Concession  
Avenue de la Paix n°1  
Commune de La Gombe  
Kinshasa

Democratic Republic of Congo

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# Our Mission

exchange  
**analysis**  
**research**  
building bridges

cooperation

awareness  
training  
communication

# What we focus on

## Mining Governance

The Democratic Republic of Congo harbors significant mineral riches—cobalt, copper, lithium—essential for the global shift toward renewable energy and technology. However, this wealth hasn't translated into development for its people. Resource Matters strives to enhance equitable and sustainable management of Congo's strategic minerals, benefiting both the DRC's public finances and local communities near mining sites.

## Energy

With abundant waterways and ample sunlight, the Democratic Republic of Congo boasts immense renewable energy potential. However, less than 20% of the population currently has access to electricity. Resource Matters strives to ensure that the demand for electricity in the DRC is met adequately through clean, sustainable, and affordable means.

## Corruption

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, poverty is often a consequence of widespread corruption. Resource Matters is committed to holding individuals and companies operating in the natural resources sector in the DRC accountable for corrupt practices.

# In the spotlight : Jean Claude Mputu received U.S. State Department Anti-Corruption Award

In December 2023, Resource Matters Deputy Director Jean Claude Mputu received the Anti-Corruption Champions Award from the US State Department for his exceptional leadership in combating corruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This prestigious award, presented by the US Bureau for International Crime Control Affairs, recognizes Mputu's unwavering courage and significant impact in preventing and exposing corruption.

As the spokesperson for the Congo is Not for Sale coalition (CNPAV), of which Resource Matters is a founding member, Mputu has played a crucial role in shedding light on corruption within the mining and hydroelectric sectors, contributing to the ongoing fight against persistent poverty in the country.



# Mining



Resource Matters is working with its partners to ensure that the spectacular increase in exports of Congolese strategic minerals benefits its people.

# Context

The global energy transition hinges on minerals abundant in the DRC, notably copper and cobalt, offering a vital opportunity for inclusive economic growth and development. Mining exports are booming, breaking new records each year. However, communities in mining regions continue to face deepening poverty. Despite a comprehensive revision of the Mining Code in 2018 aiming to boost mandatory contributions of the mining industry to community development, tangible progress remains elusive.

In response, Resource Matters focused on two key areas in 2023 : (a) enhancing critical minerals governance, promoting transparency and sustainability in the supply chain, and (b) improving the management of local mining tax revenues to ensure effective contribution to community development.

# Progress in 2023

## National strategy on the management of critical minerals

Many countries have adopted strategies to manage their strategic mineral wealth or ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical minerals. However, such a national strategy is lacking in the DRC.

In 2023, Resource Matters engaged with the DRC government to initiate the development of a DRC Strategy on the Management of Critical Minerals. The organization undertook preparatory activities for the inaugural high-level multi-stakeholder seminar on mineral governance and helped establish the Preparatory Technical Committee of Government Experts. Unfortunately, this committee was later suspended due to the general elections held in December 2023.

In 2024, Resource Matters will deepen its own analysis to feed into the strategy process. It will reconnect with the Technical Committee of Government Experts once the new government is established and engage in further dialogue with the multi-stakeholder group to refine analysis and validate the draft strategy.

## Raising community voices with companies on the impact of mining

Sustainable cobalt mining has gained considerable international attention over the past five years. However, these efforts often disregard urgent concerns of local communities, such as repeated forced evictions and environmental pollution, while industrial mining companies escape scrutiny.

In 2023, Resource Matters organized workshops in the copper-cobalt belt to pinpoint the most pressing issues at the community level and devise strategies to elevate awareness among supply chain actors.


Environmental pollution emerged as the foremost concern, closely followed by labor conditions at various industrial mining sites. With Resource Matters' support, civil society partners launched data collection for two case studies probing the environmental and human rights impacts of mining in Haut-Katanga and Lualaba. Furthermore, Resource Matters continues to support civil society in their development of a joint civil society position on strategic minerals.

During 2024, Resource Matters will collaborate with partners to finalize and publish the civil society strategic paper on critical mineral governance. Concurrently, ongoing case studies examining mining impacts in targeted communities will continue. Moreover, Resource Matters will team up with civil society partners to craft and execute communication and advocacy strategies, aimed at holding both upstream and downstream companies accountable for the consequences of their mining activities on local communities in the DRC.

## Mapping the cobalt supply chain for due diligence

**COBALT SUPPLY CHAIN** BETA

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) produces around 70% of all cobalt consumed in the world. Demand for cobalt is set to increase substantially in the next years due to the energy transition underway, as it is used to make electric batteries more stable and increase their energy density.



We have gathered information about the transactions of several leading companies in the cobalt market. We want to disclose where the cobalt produced by certain companies ends up, to identify potential levers and pressure points, in hope that this helps improve corporate behavior on the ground.

[Start exploring →](#)

End-users of cobalt such as electric vehicle companies have often argued that their supply chain is too complex to carry out proper due diligence. Since 2019, Resource Matters has maintained the Cobalt Supply Chain platform, a comprehensive tool that charts companies across the cobalt supply chain, spanning from mining operations to smelting, refining, battery material production, and ultimately the electric vehicle industry.

In 2023, Resource Matters enhanced the platform by meticulously validating existing transactions, bolstering source references, and broadening the platform's coverage to include a wider array of companies. Additionally, Resource Matters and its partners initiated new research into artisanal mining production, expanding the online mapping of the supply chain to encompass this sector.

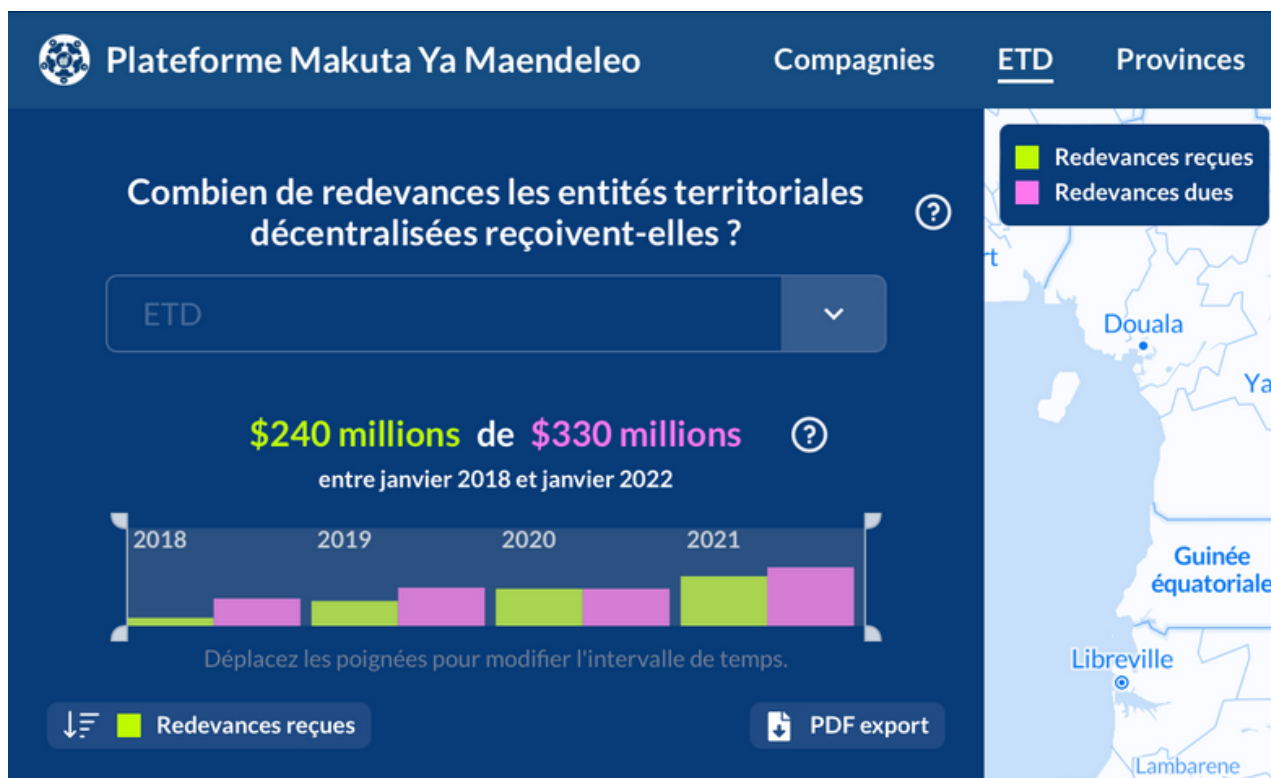
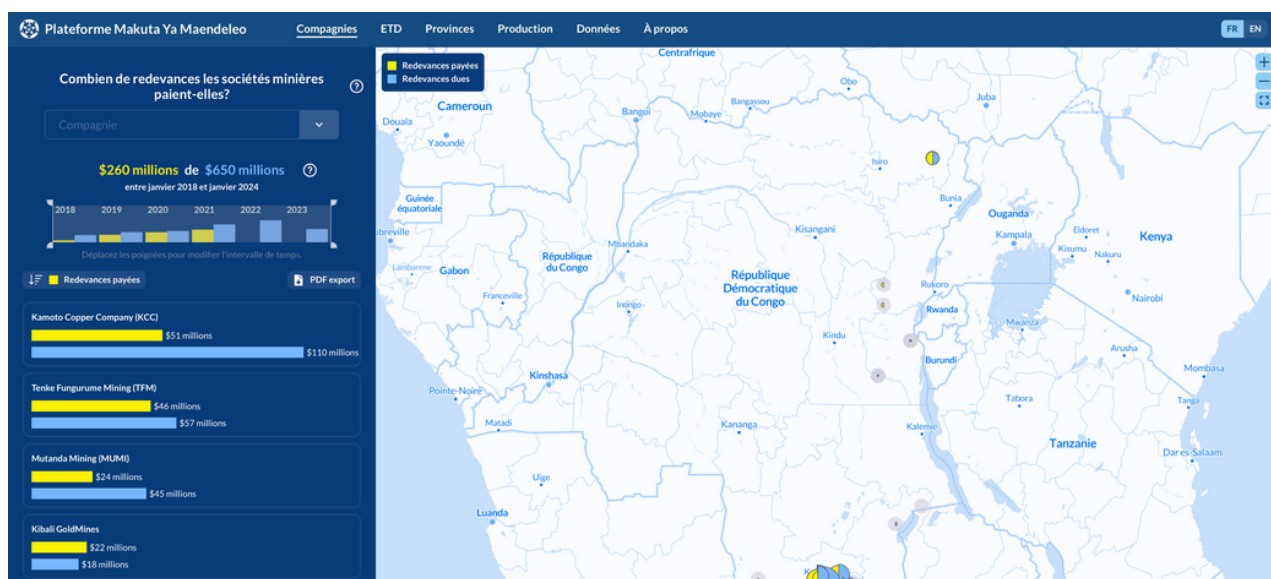
To increase transparency in the supply chain, Resource Matters will continue collaborating with partners in 2024 to further develop and refine the cobalt supply chain mapping tool.



This effort will involve uploading artisanal mining sector data, establishing connections with other data platforms such as the Business & Human Rights Resource Center, reaching out to companies all along the supply chain to further validate our datasets, and raise awareness among businesses and other stakeholders.

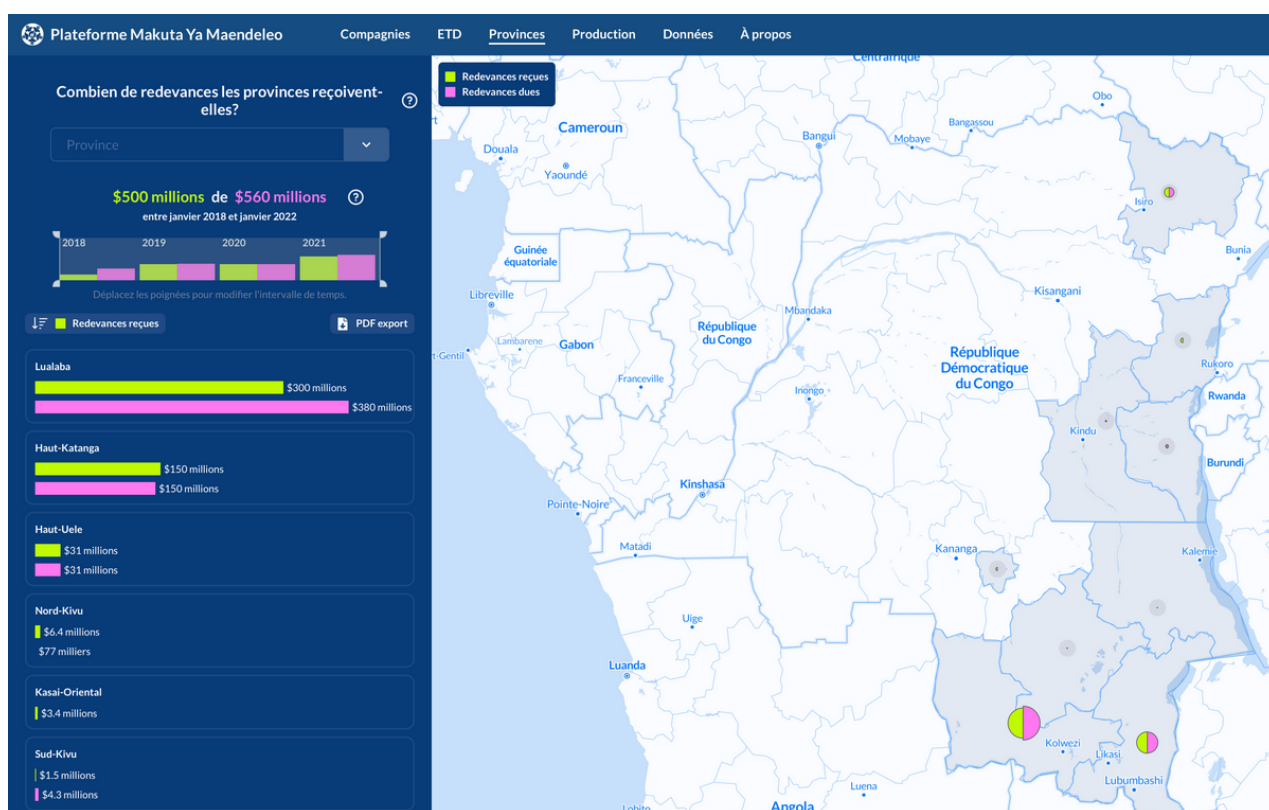
# Improving local tax revenue management: Makuta ya maendeleo

Resource Matters is dedicated to ensuring that the Congolese population reaps the benefits of the DRC's mineral wealth, advocating for enhanced management and utilization of local mining revenues for community development. In partnership with other Makuta members, Resource Matters aims to increase civil society engagement in participatory budgeting and decentralized development.





During 2023 Makuta partners gathered and updated local tax revenue data for Haut-Uélé, North and South Kivu, Maniema, Haut-Katanga, and Lualaba provinces for the financial years 2022-2023. The collected data was disseminated primarily through the Makuta Platform, which is an online platform developed by Resource Matters which makes public information on the collection and allocation of subnational revenue streams including mining royalties that companies should be paying vs what they actually pay, what provinces and local entities should collect against what they actually receive, and export statistics. Additionally, a technical note was drafted to support advocacy efforts for regular and comprehensive disclosure of payments made by subnational mining entities. The note will be published in 2024.



To further enhance the management and leveraging of subnational revenue streams, Resource Matters and its partners in the Makuta platform published a [report](#) summarizing civil society's position on the draft report published by the Technical Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). In particular, Resource Matters and its partners expressed acute concern regarding data gaps in the subnational revenue information for 2020 and 2021. Getting access to improved data through the EITI remains a priority for Resource Matters and the Makuta platform for 2024.

During 2024, depending on available funding, Resource Matters will also evaluate the implementation of the 2022 decree on royalty sharing, analyze remaining gaps, expand the Makuta platform's coverage to include other subnational revenue flows, and/or bolster the capacities of local CSO actors.



# Energy





# Context

Despite its abundant energy potential, the DRC continues to struggle with improving access to electricity, with less than 20% of the population having access. This lack of electrification significantly hampers development and diminishes the quality of life for the Congolese people.

Resource Matters has identified several root causes behind Congo's electricity gaps, including the absence of a clear electrification plan at both national and provincial levels, a tendency to prioritize expensive large-scale projects over more cost-effective local solutions, and electricity strategies that prioritize powerful clients, such as the mining industry, over households. Resource Matters is committed to contributing to the adequate and sustainable meeting of electricity demand in the DRC in a clean, sustainable, and affordable manner.

# Progress 2023

## Provide and promote data on sustainable electrification solutions : Congo Epela plateform

Resource Matters recognizes the pivotal role of accurate data in tackling the electricity crisis in Congo. Its Congo Epela online platform serves as a comprehensive repository of data on Congo's energy sources, electrification demand, and models for affordable, clean, and local electrification solutions, developed in collaboration with the KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), the University of Cape Town, and the Reiner-Lemoine-Institute.

**Welcome to Congo Epela!**  
Explore data and solutions for energy access in DRC

The interface features a sidebar with navigation icons (Home, Bookmarks, Settings, Lists, Profile) and four main action buttons: a map icon, a lightbulb icon, an open book icon, and an information icon.

**In this view you can find the cheapest solution to electrify the DRC under different conditions at two different future year**

DRC

Choose the year of results

Baseline 2030

Choose conditions of electrification

- Electrification target
- Population growth
- Household demand growth

**Here you can visualize data related to energy demand, supply, infrastructure and more**

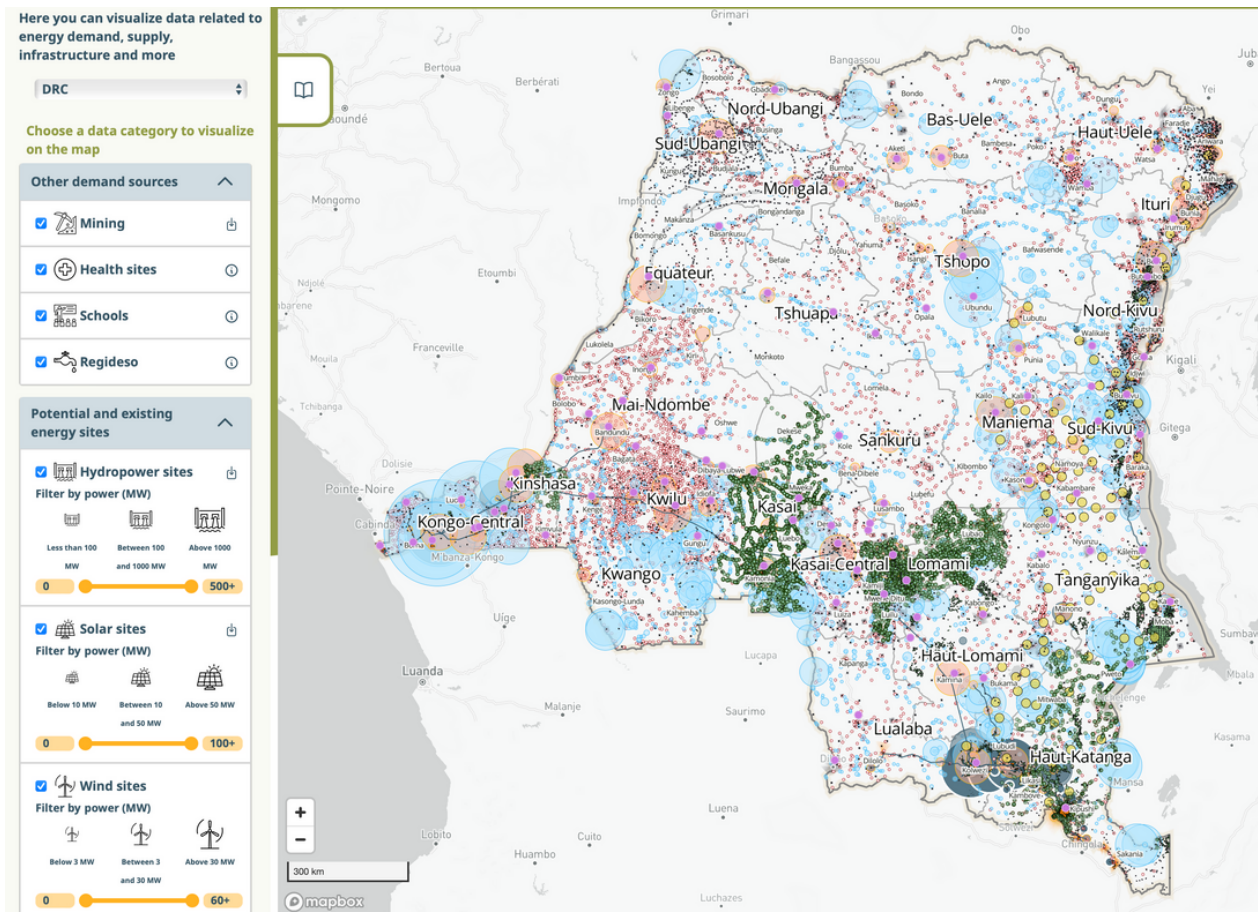
DRC

Choose a data category to visualize on the map

- Population demand
- Other demand sources
- Potential and existing energy sites
- Raw energy resources
- Electricity network
- More information

The main area displays a map of the DRC with various regions labeled (Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Ubangi, Mongala, Equateur, Tshuapa) and numerous data points plotted on the map.

In 2023, Resource Matters and its academic partners focused on enhancing modeling tools for the Congo Epela platform. This involved refining the Open Source Spatial Electrification Tool (OnSSET), the tool Resource Matters relies on to define which electrification technologies are best suited for each region. Resource Matters also developed a user-friendly offline version in collaboration with the KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden) to cater to regions with limited internet connectivity. Efforts were also made to improve the Open Source Energy Modeling System (OSEMoSys), a tool that allows to determine the optimal energy mix for primary electricity grids.



Resource Matters' experts participated in OSEMoSys training conducted by Climate Compatible Growth in Namibia, strengthening their ability to model potential electrification solutions for Congo's national grid.

To ensure the accuracy of proposed electricity models, Resource Matters updated its dataset on existing power plants in the DRC, documenting 109 hydro, thermal, and solar power plants. Additionally, geothermal resource data and hospital electricity demand were integrated into the platform.

In 2024, Resource Matters will continue to refine and update data and streamline models on the Congo Epela platform. Congolese stakeholders at both national and provincial levels will receive training to use the updated OnSSET tool. Based on models generated through the Congo Epela platform, Resource Matters will draft policy recommendations to illustrate potential electrification solutions and disseminate the findings.



## Stimulate National Discussion on Sustainable Electrification Solutions

In 2022, Resource Matters established the Core Group, a diverse body of 15 experts from government, electrification institutions, the private sector, and academia. This group convenes regularly to help improve the Congo Epela platform.

In 2023, the Core Group released a [case study](#) to encourage the government's use of Congo Epela data in its electrification planning, such as the Programme de Développement Local des 145 Territoires program (PDL 145 Territoires). The Ministry of Planning requested additional modelling to identify electricity solutions for designated areas currently devoid of any electricity infrastructure. Resource Matters will provide this input in the first half of 2024.

## Strengthen Civil Society Action for Sustainable Electrification Solutions

Throughout 2023, Resource Matters maintained its collaboration with the Mwangaza network, a coalition of civil society organizations dedicated to advocating for sustainable, reliable, and affordable electrification across the DRC while promoting responsible governance within the energy sector.

Resource Matters first contributed to Mwangaza's [draft legal and regulatory framework](#) aimed at safeguarding the rights of communities affected by new electricity infrastructure projects. The [second report](#) advocated for a mandatory rule for independent power producers to set aside some of the electricity they produce specifically for the nearby communities.

In 2024, Resource Matters will continue supporting its Mwangaza partners in advocating for the adoption of provincial electrification plans and bolstering advocacy efforts on key themes such as electricity quotas for households, defending community rights, and enhancing transparency through initiatives like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

## **Encourage the use of decentralized mining revenue for clean, people-centered electrification solutions**

Resource Matters aims to empower Decentralized Territorial Entities (ETDs) to utilize mining revenues for community electrification initiatives. In 2023, Resource Matters identified three ETDs—Luilu (Lualaba), Kaponda (Haut Katanga), and Kakangayi (Kasai Oriental) to model decentralized electrification solutions.

Following extensive data collection in 2023, including on-site assessments to verify satellite imagery accuracy, Resource Matters will collaborate with the Reiner-Lemoine-Institute to develop mini-grid solutions for the selected ETDs. Working closely with partners, Resource Matters will continue advocating for ETDs to incorporate electrification projects into their governmental agendas.

In addition, Resource Matters will devise sustainable, clean electrification models for three prominent public buildings. Resource Matters is currently in discussion with authorities responsible for the target locations, potentially including the Palais du peuple, Hôpital général Mama Yemo, and the Makala Prison.

# Corruption



Congo's natural resources will not contribute to the well-being of the population as long as high-level corruption prevails.

# Context

Corruption is a widespread epidemic in the DRC, hindering efforts to translate natural wealth into development for its people. Resource Matters is deeply committed to combating corruption in the DRC in general and in the mining sector in particular, both independently and as a founding member of the Coalition Congo is not for Sale (CNPAV). In collaboration with 13 other national and international organizations, CNPAV fights corruption through public awareness, research and advocacy, and legal action for greater accountability.

In 2023, Resource Matters and other CNPAV members intensified its efforts to hold high-level corruption perpetrators accountable, notably in the case of Dan Gertler. Over the past two decades, Dan Gertler, an Israeli businessman involved in the oil and mining sector in the DRC, has enriched himself at the expense of the Congolese people and treasury through his close ties with Congolese leaders, taking control of some of the country's prime mining assets. As a result, Mr. Gertler has been sanctioned by the United States under the global Magnitsky Act.

# Progress in 2023

## Struggle for a better outcome in the Gertler case

In February 2022, in response to CNPAV's advocacy, the Congolese government signed an agreement with Mr. Dan Gertler's company, Ventora.

Throughout 2022 and early 2023, Resource Matters and CNPAV successfully advocated for the publication of the agreement and its annexes. This publication confirmed CNPAV's concerns that the agreement is highly unfavorable for the DRC. In 2023, Resource Matters and CNPAV repeatedly denounced the deal, advocating notably for the restitution of mining and oil assets M. Gertler illegally acquired.

## SLAPP lawsuit brought by Dan Gertler

In response, Dan Gertler has filed a gag lawsuit in a Congolese court against Resource Matters and its Deputy Director Jean Claude Mputu, who is also CNPAV's spokesperson. M. Gertler is claiming \$1 million in damages.

Resource Matters had to devote a significant amount of time and resources to its own defence in 2023. Hundreds of organizations worldwide, such as Human Rights Watch and Transparency International, supported Resource Matters. Furthermore, CNPAV and Resource Matters engaged in written correspondence with Mr. Gertler, asking him to withdraw his accusations and provide all evidence of his numerous acquisitions in the DRC. Despite promises to withdraw the lawsuit, the case is still pending. In December 2023 the United States Department of State awarded Resource Matters Deputy Director Jean Claude Mputu as one of the global anti-corruption champions.

## Monitoring of sanctions

In the United States, Resource Matters continued to advocate, alongside CNPAV, for the American administration to maintain sanctions until significant behavioral change from sanctioned individuals is achieved. Moreover, Resource Matters and the SciencesPo Law Clinic advocated for the adoption of an EU anti-corruption sanctions regime to prevent corrupt individuals from circumventing US sanctions to access the European market. Negotiations will continue in 2024.

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

# Monitoring prosecutions

## Glencore

Throughout 2023, Resource Matters closely monitored ongoing investigations into Glencore in various jurisdictions. In 2022, Glencore settled with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Brazil, admitting to corruption and price manipulation in several countries.

This prompted Resource Matters to organize an online consultation in March 2023 with civil society representatives from the affected countries to better understand the impact of Glencore's settlement. Victim compensation emerged as a top priority. In collaboration with the SciencesPo Law Clinic, Resource Matters has begun exploring avenues for compensation, restitution, and asset recovery in international settlement cases involving Glencore. Investigative and advocacy efforts will continue in 2024.

Special attention has also been devoted to the \$180 million agreement between Glencore and the DRC. Indeed, since the announcement of this agreement, Resource Matters and other CNPAV members have continuously requested its publication for in-depth analysis. This advocacy will continue throughout 2024.

## Tshimanga/Ivanhoe

In 2023, Resource Matters closely monitored developments concerning DRC presidential advisor Mr. Tshimanga and the Canadian company Ivanhoe, owner of the Kamo-Kakula mining complex in the DRC.

Following the leak of a video in 2022 implicating Mr. Tshimanga in a corruption scheme possibly involving Ivanhoe, CNPAV initiated written correspondence with Ivanhoe in February/March 2023 to obtain clarifications. These communications were extended to shareholders, auditors, and other relevant stakeholders of Ivanhoe.

This led to an online meeting with Ivanhoe's senior management about deals with politically exposed persons (PEPs) and the risk of conflicts of interest and even corruption. Resource Matters will remain vigilant in monitoring the progress of this case throughout 2024.

# A special thanks to our partners

## **Financial partners**

Resource Matters is grateful to receive financial support from the following donors: 11th Hour Project (Schmidt Family Foundation), the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), American Jewish World Service, Sustainable Markets Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy, Germany Development Cooperation (GIZ), and the European Union during 2023, for a total amount of €3,534,089 for 2023-2025 period.

## **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

## **Academic partners:**

Le Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Énergies Renouvelables Kitsisa Khonde de l'ISTA (DRC) (CERERK), L'Institut de Sciences Politiques (France) (SCIENCES PO), L'Institut Royal de Technologies (Suède) (KTH), University of Cape Town (South Africa) (UCT), Reiner Lemoine Institute (Germany) (RU).

# Collaborations



# Team 2024

**Elisabeth Caesens** Executive Director

**Jean Claude Mputu** Deputy Director

**JIMMY MUNGURIEK** Country Director - DRC

**Christian Kabongo** Electricity sector coordinator

**Dorcas Tabitha Nsomi** Energy technical assistant

**Jean-Pierre Okenda** Mining director

**Philippe Masudi** Mining assistant

**Adrien Mwenyemali** Project manager - strategic minerals

**Cristian Trujillo** Research coordinator

**Marie Binuya Ana** Modeling and mapping - intern

**Martina Matarazzo** EU Advocacy officer

**Sara Nicoletti** Chercheuse d'investigation

**Michael B. Kalamo** Communications officer

**Anna Ressler** Operations director a.i.

**Chloé Dale** Finance and operations manager Belgium

**Noël Mayamba Nkoso** Finance and operations manager DRC

**Bénédicte Njudi** Administrative assistant DRC

**Callystia Kiangani** Logistics assistant DRC



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Mundo-Madou  
Avenue des Arts 7-8  
1210 Brussels  
Belgium

BE 0662.969.264 RPM-Brussels  
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Designed with love and passion  
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