

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Towards increased ownership of the ICGLR Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) and sustainable natural resources management by the ICGLR Member States

1. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL) will jointly engage with all the Governments of the region to promote the implementation of the Regional Initiative to fight against illegal exploitation of Natural Resources; including stepping up efforts to collect reliable production and export data; first engagement will focus on Uganda and other core countries that are not implementing the initiative.
2. The Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) should be implemented by all Member States of the ICGLR, in line with the Lusaka Declaration signed by Heads of State and Government on 15 December 2010. It is suggested that a regional sanction mechanism to fight/prevent acts that constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the RINR should be elaborated. The sanction mechanism should target all stakeholders including Member States, individuals and companies.
3. ICGLR Member States to harmonize taxation regimes at the provincial, national and regional levels in general and on trade of gold in specific, and to set the goal to ensure that all companies exporting natural resources from the Great Lakes region (with a focus on gold) will gradually be audited.

4. The ICGLR and O/SESG-GL to encourage and support criminal (civilian and military) investigation and prosecution into crimes related to the illegal exploitation of natural resources; including via support by the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, established by the ICGLR in coordination with the O/SESG-GL.
5. ICGLR Member States, in coordination with the private sector and national, regional and international stakeholders, to accelerate the development and implementation of a regional Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Gold Due Diligence Strategy; and ICGLR Member States to designate more areas as legal artisanal mining zones.
6. ICGLR Member States with the support from all stakeholders to focus on gold detection measures at border crossing and export hubs including to coordinate with existing initiatives such as *Initiative de Traçabilité de l'Or d'exploitation Artisanale* (ITOA).
7. ICGLR Member States with support from all stakeholders to reach out to aviation companies and custom authorities to raise awareness on transportation of gold via hand luggage; and further, to implement all recommendations from the Meeting of Services in charge of fighting against mineral smuggling and fraud held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo in April 2015.
8. The ICGLR Member States should implement article 16 of the Protocol Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, regarding the seizure and confiscation of illegally exploited minerals.

9. ICGLR Member States should implement the recommendation by Ministers in Charge of Mines held on 21 October 2016 on the Self-Financing Mechanism for the Regional Initiative to fight against the illegal exploitation of Natural Resources.

B. Strengthening the capacity of the ICGLR

10. Given the ICGLR's mandate on peace and security, under the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region (ICGLR Pact) and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region (PSC Framework), the ICGLR to remain the driver on the issues of good governance of natural resources in the Great Lakes region in reference to the ICGLR Protocol Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, in close partnership with relevant stakeholders.
11. With the support of relevant stakeholders, the ICGLR's organizational and financial management capacity should be strengthened in order to deepen the ICGLR's impact on good governance in general and to increase its support to ICGLR Member States for the implementation of the RINR in particular.
12. In light of the fact that the RINR tools have not yet been fully implemented, focus will initially remain on 3Ts (tin, tungsten, tantalum) and gold. Practices will serve as lessons learned for a potential future expansion of the RINR to other natural resources and commodities. Such potential future expansion would be the decision of the ICGLR Regional Steering Committee against the illegal exploitation of natural Resources.

C. Strengthening partnerships

13. The ICGLR Member States to promote joint investment into natural resources extraction and trade in the Great Lakes region and address trade barriers amongst themselves.
14. Partnerships will be strengthened to increase coordination with international, regional and national stakeholders, civil society organizations and the private sector.
15. ICGLR's close coordination with the O/SESG-GL will continue in order to politically support the RINR, in line with the PSC Framework.
16. The partnerships will address coordination of efforts to avoid duplication; the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has offered to facilitate a multi-stakeholders consultation to take stock of the RINR progress.
17. The partnerships will also address technical and financial assistance towards the implementation of the RINR. In particular, ICGLR will liaise with partners on a resource mobilization strategy for the Office of the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor (IMCA).
18. Efforts to be made to ensure stakeholders are better informed of ICGLR's efforts on issues of natural resources. In this regard, ICGLR will increase efforts towards information sharing and regular reporting amongst partners. In particular partners should support the regional peer-learning

platform on Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), with a focus on capacity building and sensitization.

19. The ICGLR and O/SESG-GL to coordinate diplomatic engagement with Governments of claimed destination countries of (illegally) exploited natural resources commodities, specifically gold. The stakeholders made specific reference to China, India, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.
20. The ICGLR, with the support from UN and other partners, to engage directly with the international and national financial sectors to stimulate financial inclusion of ASM Gold producing areas and to curb illicit financial flows.
21. The ICGLR to accelerate the implementation of the ICGLR whistleblowing mechanism, which will serve the protection of stakeholders, amongst them civil society representatives.
22. On the topic of the fight against criminal networks, the ICGLR will coordinate with UN and other partners and stakeholders to address and assess the issue.
23. The ICGLR, the O/SESG-GL and the UN Sanctions Committee on the DRC to cooperate to promote implementation of the UN sanctions regime.
24. Donor countries and organizations to regularly meet for effective coordination of their efforts in support of the fight against illegal exploitation of natural resources.