

# Newsletter on the ICGLR Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR / CIRGL)



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## Objectives for the RINR after the Special Summit against the illegal exploitation of natural resources

With the signing of the Lusaka Declaration on December 15th, 2010, the 11 Heads of States of the ICGLR Member States endorsed the 6 tools developed by the ICGLR to address the issue of illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region.

Now that this political endorsement has been reached, the RINR is entering a new phase: the implementation stage. Indeed, in Lusaka, the Heads of State directed their national institutions to implement the tools developed by the ICGLR.

It is within this framework that the ICGLR Secretariat has set the following objectives for the further development of the RINR in this year:

### 1) Support to the Member States in the implementation of the tools

The first objective for 2011 will be the implementation of the

tools, in line with the Lusaka Declaration. To this end, the ICGLR Secretariat will provide technical guidance to the Member States, starting with the launch of the regional certification.

### 2) Set-up of a RINR thematic unit within the ICGLR Secretariat

In order to be in a position to adequately guide the Member States, the ICGLR Secretariat will reinforce its staff working on the RINR by hiring additional officers and setting up a thematic unit, which will be responsible for the further developing the tools and supporting their implementation in the Member States, as well as coordinating the various donor programs supporting the RINR (see article below).

### 3) Conceptual development of the tools

The tools formalization, coop-

eration in the framework of Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as well as whistle-blowing mechanism are not yet fully conceptually developed. This will also be a task on which the thematic unit within the Secretariat will work in 2011.

### 4) Dissemination of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance

In the Lusaka Declaration, the ICGLR Heads of States also affirmed their endorsement of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance on Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the ICGLR and the OECD in December 2010, the ICGLR will cooperate with the OECD in the implementation of the Due Diligence Guidance, by informing and disseminating the Guidance within its Member States.

## In this issue

- AFTER THE SUMMIT: OBJECTIVES FOR 2011 (P.1)
- START OF NEW COOPERATION PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE RINR (P.1)
- NEXT STEPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL CERTIFICATION MECHANISM (P.2)
- UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (P.2)

## 5) Development of a mechanism for the auto-financing of the RINR

The Special Summit directed the ICGLR Secretariat to propose a mechanism for financing of the RINR, with the objective of ensuring the sustainability of this Initiative and its tools. This mechanism shall be endorsed by the next Regional Interministerial Committee.

## Partnership Africa-Canada (PAC) and Belgium start cooperation programs in support of the RINR

Since January 2011, two new partners started their work with the ICGLR Secretariat in support of the RINR. With the GIZ, this amounts to three partner organizations directly working with the ICGLR Secretariat on the development of the tools.

Belgium sent a geological expert attached to the ICGLR Secretariat who is working especially on the formalization of the artisanal mining sector in Burundi, as well as on capacity - building measures to the Burundian Ministry of Mines.

Additionally, PAC, a Canadian NGO which has been closely associated to the process of the RINR through its work on the design of the Regional Certification Mechanism, recently strengthened its support to the ICGLR Secretariat.

PAC's support will focus on the tools certification and regional database. From February 8th to 13th, PAC held together with the ICGLR Secretariat and the GIZ a planning workshop that developed a detailed work plan for the operationalization of those two tools.



Ambassador Mulumula and the Director of PAC, Mr. Bernard Taylor, during the signing of the Memorandum Understanding between PAC and the ICGLR.

## **Current developments for the implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism: consultations on the third party audits**

The ICGLR, in cooperation with PAC, is currently jointly running an inclusive consultation process for the further development of the audits system in the framework of the Regional Certification Mechanism.

Stakeholder consultations are taking place in Bukavu (March 11th), Goma (March 14th) as well as Kigali (March 21st). In Goma, the consultations will be a joint event with the OECD, who will inform stakeholders on the OECD Due Diligence

Guidance.

During the ICGLR consultations, the terms of reference for selecting auditors and conducting audits will be presented to local stakeholders from the civil society, the private sector and the government authorities, asking them to provide comments and propositions for adjustment. At the end of this consultation process, the feedback of the different stakeholders will be analyzed and the terms of reference for the se-

lection of the auditors and the audits standards and procedures will be amended accordingly.

The process of developing the third party audits includes the establishment of an Audit Committee, which includes representatives of governments, civil society and the private sector. The ICGLR Regional Committee has the authority to form the audit committee, and will be asked to do so during its next meeting. The auditor's

responsibility will be to ensure that certificates are issued according to the standards set by the ICGLR.



*Presidents Banda (Zambia) and Sassou Nguesso (Republic of Congo) during the Special Summit of Lusaka.*

## **Upcoming events and announcements**

### **Next meeting of the Steering Committee scheduled for April**

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for April 26th-27th, and will take place in Resha (an hour drive from Bujumbura). During the meeting, Committee members will participate in an ICGLR training and planning workshop in order to prepare the launch of the Regional Certification Mechanism within their respective states. The Steering Committee meeting will be immediately followed by a workshop to discuss the conceptual design of the whistle-blowing mechanism. A detailed agenda of the meeting and working documents will be circulated in due time.

### **Recruitment of two database officers**

In the framework of the cooperation with Partnership Africa-

Canada on the regional database of mineral flows, the ICGLR Conference Secretariat is recruiting two mineral statistics officers (a data collection coordinator and a regional data analyst) to be based in the ICGLR Conference Secretariat in Bujumbura.

Terms of reference for the positions can be consulted on the ICGLR website.

### **Joint OGMR-ICGLR Conference on mineral certification in Kigali**

On March 17th and 18th, the Rwanda Geology and Mines Authority (OGMR) and the ICGLR will be holding a joint conference in Kigali. The conference is supported by the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and by the GIZ. The joint event will review the Certified Trading Chains (CTC) project that has been implemented in Rwanda by OGMR

and the BGR with the aim to improve supply chain due diligence and good governance in the Rwandan artisanal and small-scale mining sector. The results of the CTC project and the Rwandan experience with certification are considered as an important contribution to the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism.

### **Development of a concept for the whistle-blowing mechanism**

In April, a team of international experts will work on the conceptual development of the whistle-blowing mechanism to report on the illegal trade with natural resources.

This tool is conceived as a supplement to systematic approaches like mineral tracking and certification. In the framework of their assignment, the consultants will define the precise mandate of this mechanism, the structure of reporting,

follow-up methods, investigation and prosecution, as well as the protection of witnesses. As indicated above, the results will be discussed with the members of the Steering Committee and results of this discussion will be incorporated in the final design.

### **Consultancy for the auto-financing system of the RINR**

The implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism entails investment as well as operating costs. Therefore, it is proposed to charge additional fees on the production of minerals to be certified, to compensate for the expenses devoted to the gain in transparency.

This concept will be developed by a consultants' team and shall be reviewed by the Steering Committee and endorsed by the RIMC.

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