



Reconciling Economic Growth and Forest Protection in the Congo Basin: Mining

Kirsten Hund
Sr. Mining Expert, World Bank



Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group

Untapped wealth: Prospects for Mining development in the Congo Basin

- With the exception of the DRC, the mineral wealth of the Congo Basin remains largely underdeveloped :
 - Lack of infrastructure, in particular transport
 - Inaccessibility of the resources
 - Instability
 - Poor investment climate
 - The regions' economies rely heavily on oil

BUT this is changing: all Congo Basin countries have identified Mining as a priority sector

Technology, High prices, high demand have drastically changed the rules of the game



Impacts on Forest

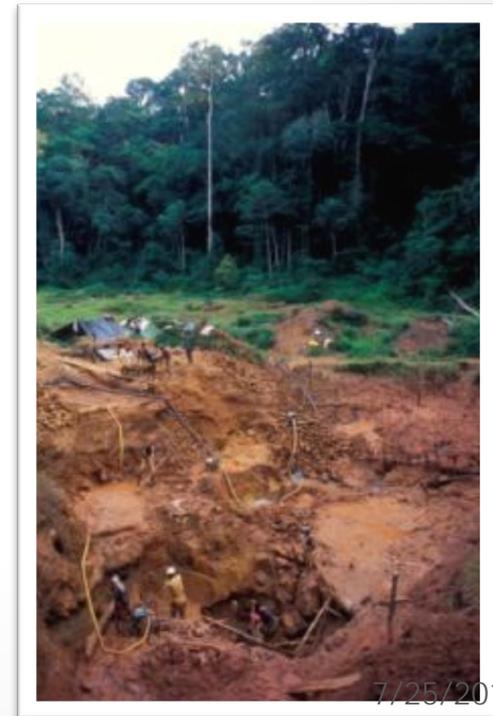
Industrial Mines

- New in all countries but the DRC
- Often junior companies
- Different phases have different impacts:
Exploration-construction-production-closure



Artisanal and Small scale Mining (ASM)

- By far the largest sector
- Largely Unregulated



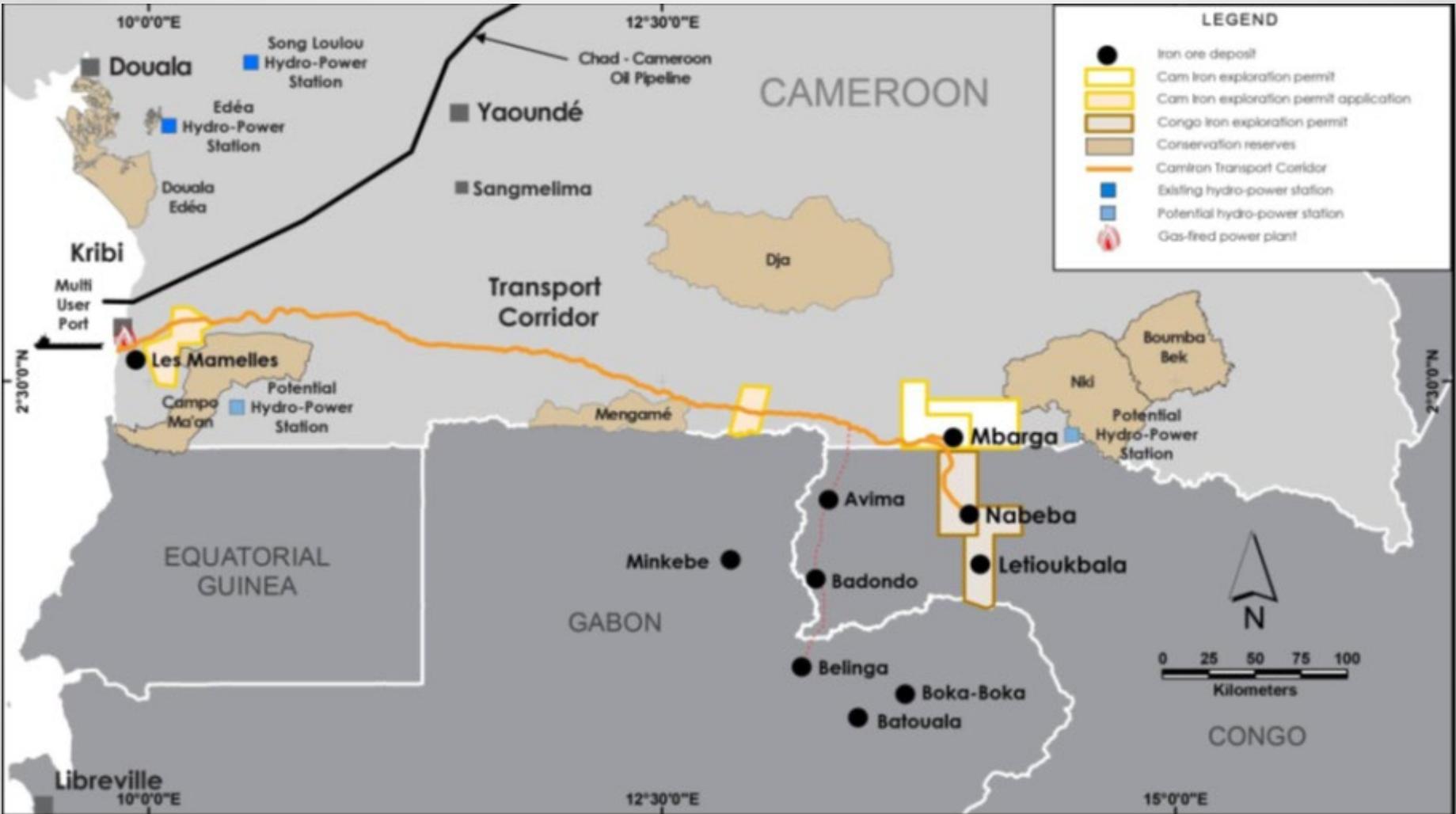


Key Challenges for mining and conservation in the Congo Basin

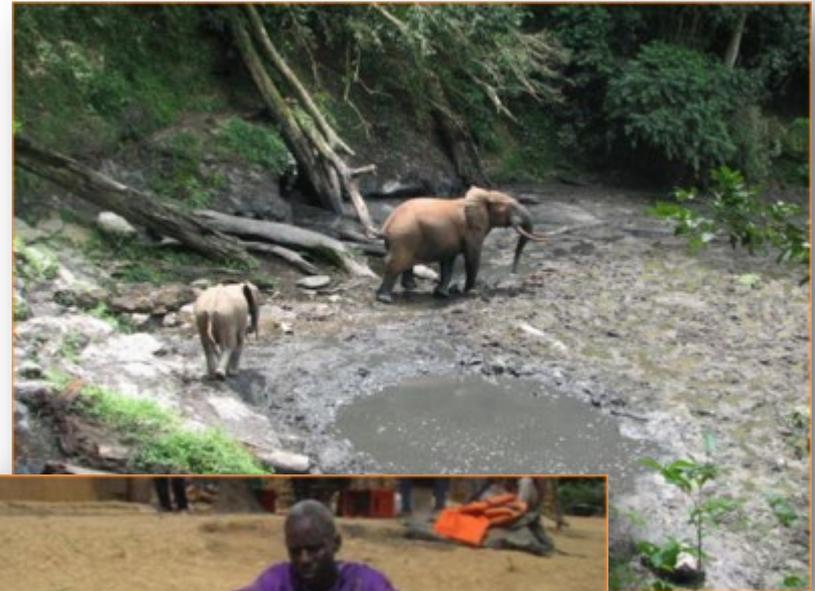
Associated Infrastructure development



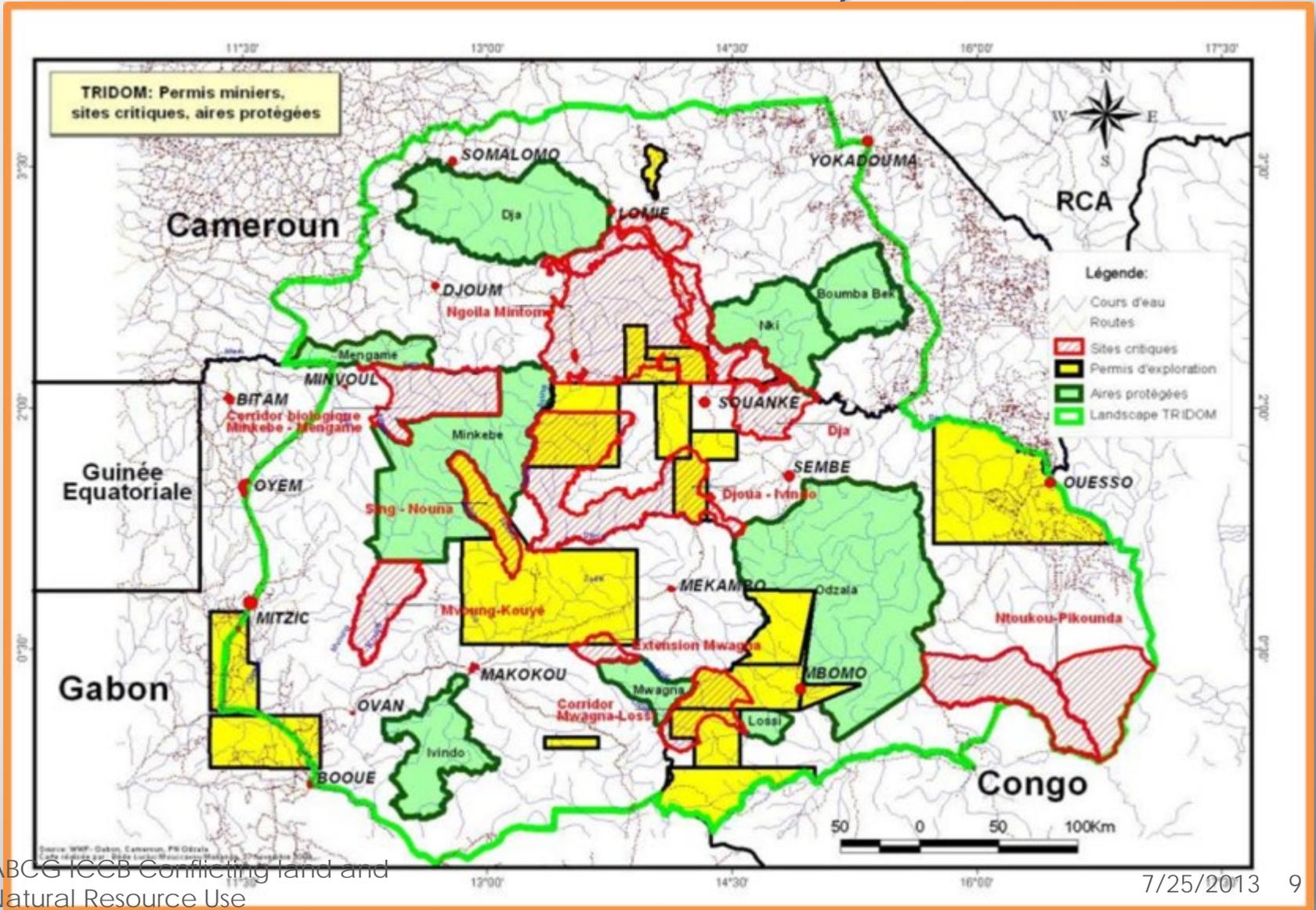
Population influx and increased economic activities in previously inaccessible areas



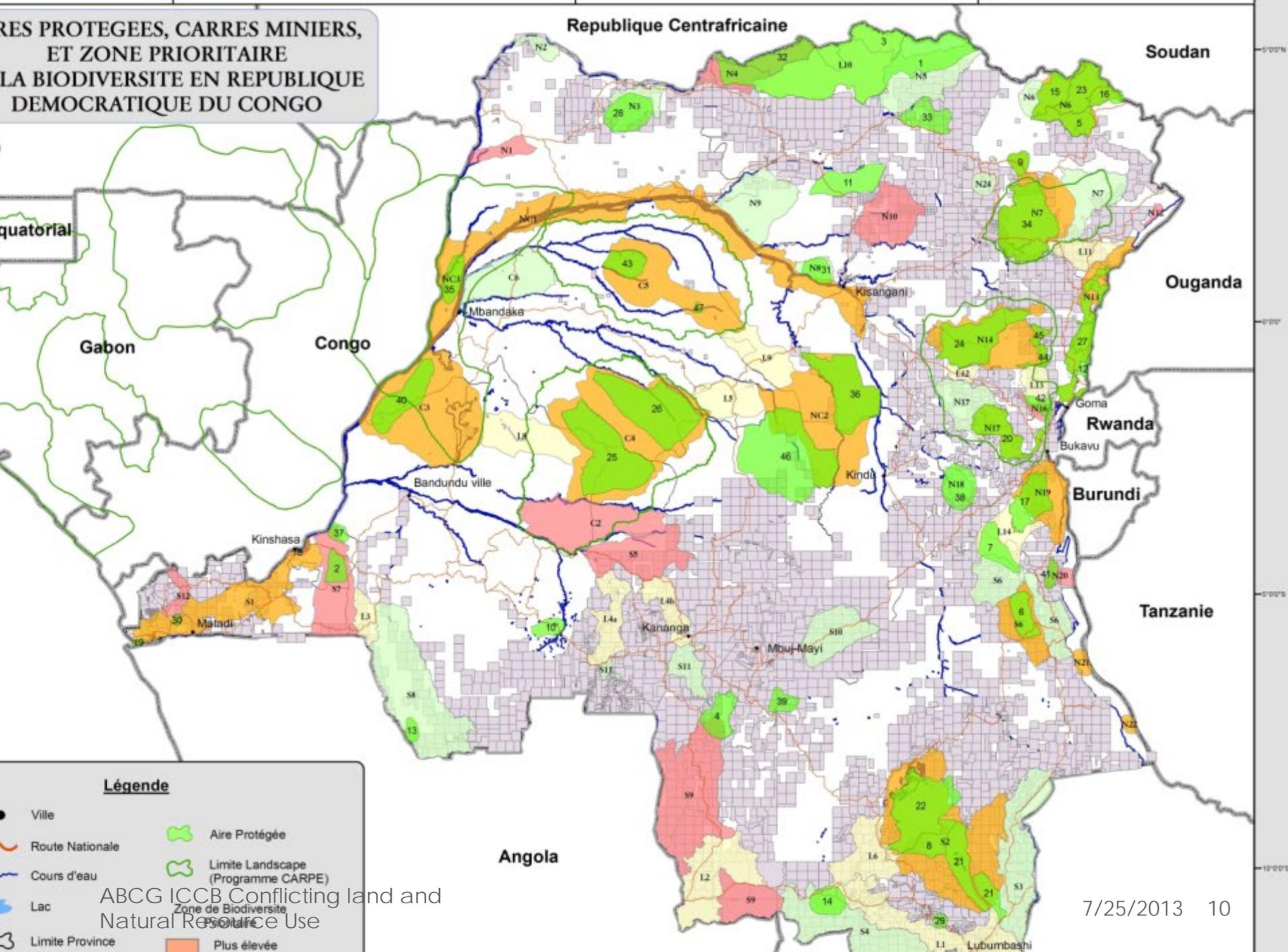
Increased Hunting & Poaching



2. Conflicting land use (mining and conservation)



**RES PROTEGEES, CARRES MINIERES,
ET ZONE PRIORITARES
LA BIODIVERSITE EN REPUBLIQUE
DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**



Equatorial

Gabon

Congo

Republique Centrafricaine

Soudan

Ouganda

Rwanda

Burundi

Tanzanie

Angola

Légende

- Ville
- Route Nationale
- Cours d'eau
- Lac
- Limite Province
- Aire Protégée
- Limite Landscape (Programme CARPE)
- Zone de Biodiversité Plus élevée

ABCG ICCB Conflicting land and Natural Resource Use

3. Unregulated ASM

- By far the largest mining sector in the Congo Basin
- Can be an important livelihood
- Significant direct (mercury, river diversion etc) and indirect (increased logging, hunting etc) impacts
- Increased ASM in protected areas



Kahuzi-Biega National
Park, DRC

The effects of conflict minerals
and ASM in KBNP,
2006



Recommendations



2. Strengthen governments' capacities to manage and monitor the mining sector (ASM and LSM)

- Develop a system of effective oversight from early exploration through to mine closure
- Make sure newly developed legislation incorporates achievable, international best practices /standards for all stages of a mining operation
- Review and monitor the quality of ESIAs and environmental management plans
- Regular multi stakeholder dialogues

3. Promote Innovative Mechanisms to Offset Negative Impacts



Considering the scale of expected mining activities in the Congo Basin, offsets may be the only mechanism that can prevent a net loss of biodiversity in the region.

A significant amount of work remains to be done to put theory into practice and to assess the relevant methodologies and the capacity needed to assess, measure, and monitor impacts and mitigation measures for mining projects in the Congo Basin.

Ideally, an appropriate methodology will be identified that can be used at the landscape level to measure losses and gains, so that residual effects from mining operations will be taken into account, measured, and offset.

4. Improve Management of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector in Areas of High Biodiversity



- Focus on organizing small-scale miners and applying regulatory frameworks, including enforcement of no-go zones for mining.
- Address The specific rights and duties of artisanal miners, including long-term security of tenure, and realistic environmental and safety requirements.
- Artisanal mining activities should be taken into account in land use planning processes.
- facilitate the use of environmentally friendly technologies, and mindful, conservation- minded mining strategies.
- Market-based interventions and sustainable supply chain initiatives



Thank You!

Khund@Worldbank.org