



Conference organised by the Institute for Environmental Security with the support of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Development Cooperation, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Background reading materials

09:30-11:00 **Session I: Problem - Illegal trade in natural resources, a global issue and the limits to existing tools**

What is the share of illegally traded natural resources compared with global natural resources trade? What are its impacts on development, the environment, security and international trade? Are international and domestic law sufficiently equipped to face this problem? How are the gaps in international and domestic law exploited by illegal traders?

More information

- DanWatch, *Bad Connections. How your mobile phone is linked to abuse, fraud and unfair mining practices in DR Congo*, May 2008 ([pdf](#));
- Life & Peace Institute, "Extractive Industries. What's the problem?", in *New Routes*, Vol 15, February 2010 ([pdf](#));
- J. C. Li, "China's Rising Demand for Minerals and Emerging Global Norms and Practices in the Mining Industry", *Working Paper No. 2*, Foundation for Environmental Security & Sustainability, 2006 ([pdf](#));
- R. Matthew, O. Brown, D. Jensen, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding. The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*, UNEP, February 2009 ([pdf](#));
- D. Sullivan & N. Atama, *Digging In. Recent Developments on Conflict Minerals*, Enough - The project to end genocide and crimes against humanity, January 2010 ([pdf](#));

11:30-13:00 **Session II: Analysis - The politics and economics of illegal trade**

What are the political and economic aspects/contexts that allow illegal trade in natural resources? What are the main illegal trade routes for timber, minerals, bushmeat, etc.? How do illegal commodities end up being sold as legal natural assets in importing countries?

More information

- Global Witness, *Faced with a Gun, What can you do? War and the militarisation of mining in Eastern Congo*, July 2009 ([pdf](#));
- Lai-Lynn Angelica B. Barcenas, *How Trade Facilitation Measures Impact Current Law and Policy on the Wildlife and Timber Trade. Case Study of the Greater Mekong Subregion*, Series on Trade and the Environment in ASEAN, Policy Report 1, IISD, 2010 ([pdf](#));
- R. Saunders, *Geologies of Power: Blood Diamonds, Security Politics and Zimbabwe's Troubled Transition*, June 2010 ([pdf](#));

- E. Van de Giessen, R. Van Rompaey, N. Vissers, N. Wielaard, P. Yamba Tshisungu Kantu, *Mining, forest change and conflict in the Kivus*, Institute for Environmental Security, May 2008 ([pdf](#));
- World Trade Report 2010, Trade in natural resources, WTO, 2010 ([pdf](#));

See new link below.

14:00-15:30 **Session III: Solutions & Gaps - International, legal and voluntary initiatives**

What kind of solutions can be implemented in importing countries to curb illegal trade in natural resources? Do conflict zones need to be treated separately? Should the EU FLEGT system be replicated for other natural resources? Can a general legal framework including trade in all natural resources be created? Is it desirable? How can initiatives emanating from governments, the corporate sector and civil society be better coordinated for enhanced efficiency? Where is further action needed/lacking?

More information

- Basel Institute on Governance, *Tracing Stolen Assets: A Practitioner's Handbook*, International Centre for Asset Recovery, 2009 ([pdf](#));
- H. Baumuller, D. Brack, K. Umpfenbach, *Keeping Illegal Fish and Timber off the Market. A Comparison of EU Regulations*, Briefing Paper 2009/04, Chatham House, October 2009 ([pdf](#));
- D. Brack, *Controlling Illegal Logging: Consumer-Country Measures*, Briefing Paper 2010/01, Chatham House, January 2010 ([pdf](#));
- R. De Koning, *Controlling conflict resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, SIPRI Policy Brief, July 2010 ([pdf](#));
- European Parliament legislative resolution of 7 July 2010 on the Council position at first reading for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (05885/4/2010 - C7-0053/2010 - 2008/0198(COD)) ([link](#));
- Fatal Transactions, *From Conflict Resources to Sustainable Development. Memorandum by Fatal Transactions on the European Union's contribution to natural resource management in Africa*, July 2008 ([pdf](#));
- J. Garfieldt Kofoed, E. Perridon, M. Wysocka, *Criminal Jurisdiction in the Netherlands over Trade in Natural Resources Originating from Conflict Zones*, Institute for Environmental Security, October 2008 ([pdf](#));
- International Commission of Jurists, *Corporate Complicity & International Liability*, Volume 3 Civil Remedies, 2008 ([pdf](#));

16:30-16:45 **Trade in Natural Resources: A Role for Remote Sensing?**

What kind of role could remote sensing play to help discourage illegal trade in natural resources? Can space be an asset for importing countries' governments?

16:45-17:30 **Session IV: The way forward - Panel discussion - Q&A**

Can we envision a general approach for illegal trade? Does the answer need to be legal or voluntary, or both? If a general legal approach should be taken, could we together draw up draft legislation and should it be at the international or EU level? What can/should the EU do? What commitments for common action could be taken by conference-participating organisations?

More information

- N. Garrett, H. Mitchell, M. Lintzer, *Promoting Legal Mineral Trade in Africa's Great Lakes Region. A Policy Guide on Professionalisation, Formalisation and Increased Transparency*, Resources Consulting Services, May 2010 ([pdf](#));
- Global Witness, *A Guide for Companies: Do No Harm. Excluding conflict minerals from the supply chain*, July 2010 ([pdf](#));
- HM Government, *UK Foreign Bribery Strategy*, CM 7791, 2010 ([pdf](#));

- K. Keenan, *Export Credit Agencies and the International Law of Human Rights*, Halifax Initiative, 2008 ([pdf](#));
- H. Mitchell & N. Garrett, *Beyond Conflict: Reconfiguring approaches to the regional trade in minerals from Eastern DRC*, Communities and Small-Scale Mining, September 2009 ([pdf](#));
- Open Society Institute, *Legal Remedies for the Resource Curse: A Digest of Experience in Using Law to Combat Natural Resource Corruption*, February 2005 ([pdf](#))
- A. Perelygin, A. Selin & V. Ivanov, *Metal Fingerprint: Countering Illicit Trade in Precious Metals and Gemstones*, Policy Paper 4/2008, EastWest Institute, 2008;
- L. Wenar, "Clean Trade in Natural Resources. A Policy Framework for Importing States and Multinationals in the Extractive Industries", School of Law, King's College London, 2010 ([pdf](#)).

See new link below.

Additional information - Thematic Maps (UNEP Grid Arenal)

- **Mining the conflict - Importing from Kivu war zone**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).
- **Wood exports from Congo Basin**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).
- **Mineral deposits in eastern Congo**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).
- **Multinational networks and the exploitation of natural resources in developing countries**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).
- **Under siege - Gorilla territory affected by war, mining and logging**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).
- **The bushmeat chain reaction**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).
- **Trade in illegal wood products and corruption**, [view](#) (Last visited September 24, 2010).

Corrections to Links:

E. Van de Giessen, R. Van Rompaey, N. Vissers, N. Wielaard, P. Yamba Tshisungu Kantu, Mining, forest change and conflict in the Kivus, Ins:tute for Environmental Security, May 2008 ([pdf](#));

https://cdn-cms.f-static.net/uploads/2385729/normal_5e7cc6d1eb560.pdf

L. Wenar, "Clean Trade in Natural Resources. A Policy Framework for Importing States and Multinationals in the Extractive Industries", School of Law, King's College London, 2010 ([pdf](#)).

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