



Bringing better practice on security

Some insecurity persists in the Great Lakes Region and security services play an important role in protecting communities, mining areas and transport routes and maintaining the law, including to help legitimate trade to grow. At the same time, security forces should act responsibly and according to proper procedures and companies who work with public or private security services can help spread good practice. The OECD Due Diligence Guidance recommends that companies who contract public or private security forces do so in accordance with the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VP’s). The VP’s are a set of principles established in the year 2000, with the goal of guiding and encouraging companies in the extractive sector to ensure safety, security, and respect for human rights in their operations.



*Police officers participate in other training programmes in the DRC
[Photo Stephanie Dunga/DfID, published in The Guardian]*

Training events being held for key stakeholders as part of the **Scaling Up Mineral Traceability (iTSCI) in the Great Lakes Region** project (funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) are helping to promote the VP’s within the due diligence framework of the iTSCI system. The guiding principles cover interactions between companies and public security forces such as police or military (who may be assisting in safe transport of explosives), and private security forces (who may be employed to protect depots), and explain how to identify and manage risks. Thanks to this training, participants can better identify, prevent, report, and resolve human rights abuses, as well as integrate them into due diligence efforts within iTSCI.

*The Voluntary Principles
guide companies in the
extractive sector on how to
implement security with
respect for human rights*



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Local stakeholder committees meet regularly to discuss iTSCi incidents and also benefit from training such as on the VP's

“Thank you for bringing us this notion, which truly helps us have a clearer vision of what we need to do”

The Local Provincial Committees (Comités Provinciaux de Suivi – CPS) which are set-up and facilitated by the **iTSCi Programme** are a very important part of the multi-stakeholder consultation and risk mitigation process in the DRC. CPS members include provincial government, mineral companies, public and private security providers and civil society representatives, and the groups meet regularly to discuss important issues in the mineral sector. The existence of these groups can be utilized in many ways, and in this example, have eagerly participated in the training which helps to strengthen good governance in the mineral sector and the region.



Voluntary Principles Training for Maniema’s Provincial Monitoring Committee on 8th April 2016 in Kindu, Maniema, DRC [Photo: Pact]

Since 2015, three trainings for a total of 90 participants have been carried out in the cities of Goma, Bukavu, and Kindu. *“Where have you been all this time?”* David Kalonda, the extractives advisor to the Governor of Maniema Province, said to Pact’s staff while they were providing this new training made possible by the **Scaling Up** project. Mr Kalonda is a key member of Maniema’s CPS and was a participant of a VP’s training on 8th April 2016 in **Kindu**, capital of Maniema Province, DRC. *“Thank you for bringing us this notion, which truly helps us have a clearer vision of what we need to do”* added Mr. Kalonda.

iTSCi Programme

Supporting responsible mineral production



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iTSCi was developed and is managed by the global not-for-profit tin and tantalum industry associations ITRI and T.I.C. as an inclusive, sustainable, multi-stakeholder programme. We assist all actors in implementing OECD recommended due diligence to create responsible 3T mineral supply chains and benefit from trade, even from high risk areas. iTSCi has a track record of global co-operation and achievement contributing to capacity building, better governance, human rights and stability through monitoring more than 1,500 mine sites in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and protecting the livelihood of tens of thousands of miners plus their communities.

See more news and information on <http://itsci.org>

The field activities of iTSCi are implemented through Pact Inc. The programme is funded by the 3T mineral business with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.