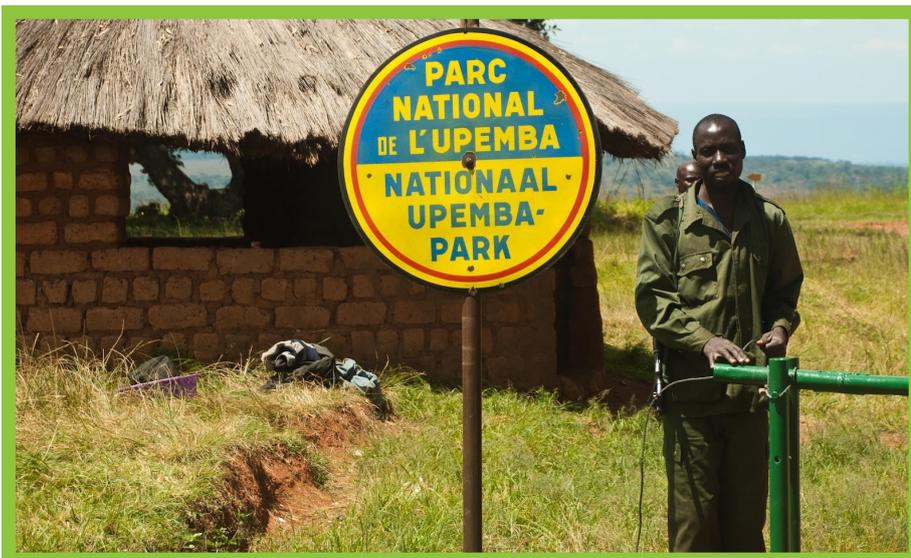




## Helping protect the Upemba national park

While iTSCI focuses on the implementation of due diligence for the avoidance of conflict and human rights issues, the traceability and risk management systems which have been put in place have many other benefits, with one such benefit being the possibility to help protect the national parks of the DRC. One of the many field checks that are regularly made by iTSCI staff is to ensure that minerals are not being mined in protected areas and this has resulted in some positive changes in Katanga region. The **Upemba National Park** is close to the 3T mining areas of Bukama territory in Katanga and iTSCI has had cause to open a series of field incident reports since 2012 recording the involvement of park rangers in mining, as well as other illegal activities within the park itself. However, through the iTSCI facilitated local multi-stakeholder committees (CLS's), iTSCI has brought visibility and coordinated action on this issue.



*The entrance to Lusinga Station, Upemba [Photo: geobobford.com]*

The CLS's have helped to achieve resolution to many field incidents recorded by iTSCI, bringing about transfers and disciplinary actions against the park rangers involved in mining, arrests of those mining illegally in the national park, and suspension of 'tax' surcharge applied by the mining regulatory authorities on minerals produced in the park. Most recently, work of the stakeholders has achieved the **withdrawal of miners at least 10 km away from the park boundary** in Kyenze mining sub-sector. By the end of 2016, all stakeholders, including iTSCI, mining regulatory authorities, and even park rangers confirmed mining must be confined to legal mining concessions.

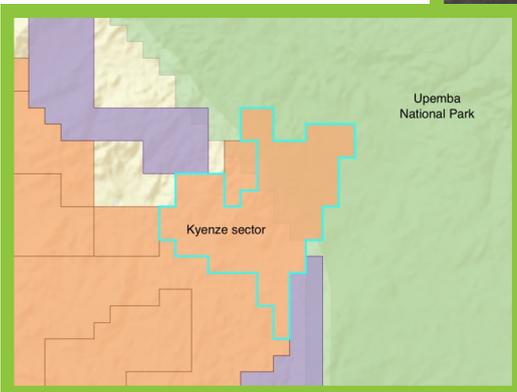
*iTSCI has recorded a number of incidents regarding the involvement of park rangers in mining, as well as other illegal activities within the park itself*

*Stakeholders have achieved disciplinary actions against park rangers involved in mining, arrests of miners working illegally in the national park, and suspension of 'tax' by authorities*

While this is a positive outcome, conflicting legislation and imprecise cartography mean continued follow-up is necessary by iTSCi. Park rangers claim Kyenze's concession overlaps with park boundaries, despite the site having been validated as 'green' by the DRC government. Park rangers also claimed there was a 50-km buffer zone beyond the park in which no mining is allowed. While national environmental law does stipulate the presence of buffer zones, it simply requires that activities within them, including mining, be regulated to avoid environmental damage to nearby protected areas. If these buffer zones are over-regulated, it could encourage illicit activities and fraud, dilute regulatory enforcement, and negatively impact opportunities for mining communities. iTSCi is therefore using this as an opportunity to galvanize its government partners to reach agreement and bring clarity to this issue.



*iTSCi, mining regulatory agencies, and customary authorities inspecting mining activities in Kyenze [Photo: Pact]*



*Kyenze mining sub-sector; iTSCi staff and local stakeholders have verified that miners are now only working in the far western edge area [Image Mining Cadastre <http://portals.flexicadastre.com/drc/en/>]*

## iTSCi Programme

*Supporting responsible mineral production*



c/o iTSCi Secretariat at ITRI Ltd  
3 Curo Park  
St Albans  
UK, AL2 2DD  
Phone: +44 1727 875 544  
E-mail: [itsci@itri.co.uk](mailto:itsci@itri.co.uk)

*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.*