

PRESS RELEASE



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DUTCH FUNDING TO SCALE UP MINERAL TRADE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

iTSCi and Pact are delighted to welcome confirmation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MFA) on funding for a three-year project to achieve “*Scaling up Mineral Trade*” in the Great Lakes region of central Africa. Funding will support activities of Pact, the implementing partner of the iTSCi Programme in the region, in order to bring more miners and their communities back into the responsible international market. This economic opportunity is expected to lead to improved security and governance in the local area. The project will also add social value through provision of training on savings and business skills, improving health and safety in artisanal mines, and addressing various human rights issues in the mining sector such as gender equity.

In 2012, the MFA led action to break the de facto embargo persisting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 2010 by bringing together a range of stakeholders in the Conflict Free Tin Initiative (CFTI). That project encouraged international sourcing of conflict-free minerals from high-risk areas enabled by financing from MFA to launch the iTSCi Programme in the Kivu Provinces of DRC. The Netherlands’ Minister for Development and Cooperation, Lilianne Ploumen, said “A few years ago, we were struggling to balance the need to prevent the fueling of conflict with the need to use mining as a motor for economic and social development. Now I think we are starting to find this balance – thanks to increased security, and thanks to the many stakeholders who refused to give up on the Great Lakes as a provider of minerals to the world.”

The CFTI represented an important milestone towards conflict free mineral trading in the DRC, and the partners have been in discussion since the project ended in May 2014 to follow up on this previous success. Minister Ploumen continued to say that “there is more to be done: more mines need to become conflict free, so that more communities can benefit from the responsible export that contributes to sustainable development; building local capacity needs to continue; health and safety consciousness, and other aspects of responsible business need to be supported; and communities need to be empowered to benefit from the increasing economic opportunities in and around the mines.” MFA is now demonstrating their continued strong commitment to further assist the mineral sector through this follow-on project which aims to provide economic and social development through production and trade of tin, tantalum and tungsten (the ‘3Ts’) more widely across the region, as well as address issues beyond conflict.

The project will enable iTSCi to achieve important targets, notably increasing the inclusion of 3Ts mines by around 25%, and increasing the number of trained government representatives by roughly 33%. The project will also lead to improved iTSCi data collection and strengthened capacity of local stakeholders to monitor the integrity and effectiveness of the system. Importantly, the project also aims to maximise the benefits available to local participants from the exploitation of mineral resources through training in literacy, savings and business management with a curriculum specifically designed for artisanal miners, as well as raising awareness of safety issues and reducing

the number of accidents reported at the mines. The project has a specific focus on supporting women's representation and opportunities in the mining sector.

While MFA is providing significant funding, some aspects of the social programming on business and safety training will not be able to go ahead without co-funding from other sources, said Karen Hayes, senior director of the Mines to Markets program at Pact. "This project is an exciting opportunity that brings together the private sector with public funding to achieve trade and development aims," said Hayes. "We hope that other donors and downstream companies using metals produced from these mines will become involved in the iTSCi Programme, providing more direct contributions to support this important work."

Kay Nimmo, ITRI representative on the iTSCi Governance Committee, explained "While iTSCi has continued to extend into new geographic areas when possible through funding from local actors, this has been a continual challenge, particularly in the current market environment of low metal prices. The contribution of MFA brings funding that is critical to start-up traceability and due diligence in currently neglected areas and will significantly speed up implementation of this industry programme with a proven track record of success which can finally bring an end to the economic embargo of the region."

Yves Bawa, Pact's Regional Director for the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi, praised the continued and generous support of the Dutch government saying, "The MFA's support for this project goes beyond funding as it is hallmarked by ongoing commitment, thoughtful engagement and close collaboration. '*Scaling up Mineral Trade*' brings the miners and the market closer together than ever, improves good governance and the capacity of the government to manage the sector, and opens the door to new, positive impacts on the lives of the people we seek to serve."

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About iTSCi:

The iTSCi Programme is a joint industry mechanism designed to address 'conflict mineral' concerns in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and other Great Lakes Region countries. The Programme establishes traceability in the upstream mineral chain for 3T minerals by working with local Governments and their field agents, and assists companies to establish due diligence through independent monitoring on the ground and regular audits. The Programme supports the practical implementation of the OECD's Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas as well as the UN Security Council Resolution 1952 (2010) due diligence recommendations. Members are expected to recognise all aspects of these guidelines and cooperate with monitoring, evaluation and audits as required, as well as working on their own company policies and contracts to influence the supply chain in a positive way. Through the implementation of the internationally recognised OECD Guidance, the Programme aims to aid compliance with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule interpreting the US Dodd Frank law, section 1502 on conflict minerals. The Programme complements other initiatives, including the Conflict-Free Smelter audit programme (CFS), the ICGLR's Regional Certification Initiative, and BGR's Certified Trading Chains Initiative (CTC). Please see the project website; https://www.itri.co.uk/index.php?option=com_zoo&view=frontpage&Itemid=60

About Pact:

Pact is a promise of a better tomorrow for all those who are poor and marginalized. Working in partnership to develop local solutions that enable people to own their own future, Pact helps people and communities build their capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources around them. At work in more than 25 countries, Pact is building local promise with an integrated, adaptive approach that is shaping the future of international development. Pact works in partnership with government, industry and communities as the field implementation partner of the iTSCi joint industry due-diligence and mineral traceability system. For technical inquiries, please visit us at www.pactworld.org/mining

About ITRI:

ITRI is the world's foremost authority on tin with over 80 years' experience in tin related technologies. It is a membership based organisation representing major tin producers and smelters and is the premier source of tin related information. ITRI has specialist knowledge of tin use in all the major sectors as well as groups responsible for technology, statistical and market information, regulatory affairs and sustainability. It provides links to the main tin consuming sectors through a substantial network of industry contacts. The organisation hosts seminars, conferences and industry-specific group meetings. It also provides marketing and technical support to its members and the tin industry in general. ITRI is the tin representative to the iTSCi programme Steering Committee and Secretariat of the programme. Further information can be obtained from ITRI <http://www.itri.co.uk>

About MFA:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the channel through which the Dutch Government communicates with foreign governments and international organisations. It coordinates and carries out Dutch foreign policy. The Ministry has two halves: its headquarters in The Hague and its missions abroad (embassies, consulates, and permanent representations). The Ministry is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bert Koenders, who is responsible for Dutch foreign policy as well as policy regarding the Netherlands' cooperation with Europe and is accountable to Parliament. His civil servants help him prepare and deliver that policy. The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Lillianne Ploumen, is responsible for policy on trade, development cooperation and foreign aid. The mission is to promote the security and well-being of the Netherlands and the Dutch people, and to that end it will focus on international stability and security, energy and raw material security, the international legal order (including human rights) and the commercial and economic interests of the Netherlands and Dutch businesses. In addition, development cooperation, the international legal order and active involvement in European and transatlantic partnerships will remain cornerstones of Dutch foreign policy. These principles have been translated into an integrated policy with three pillars: security, prosperity and freedom.

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