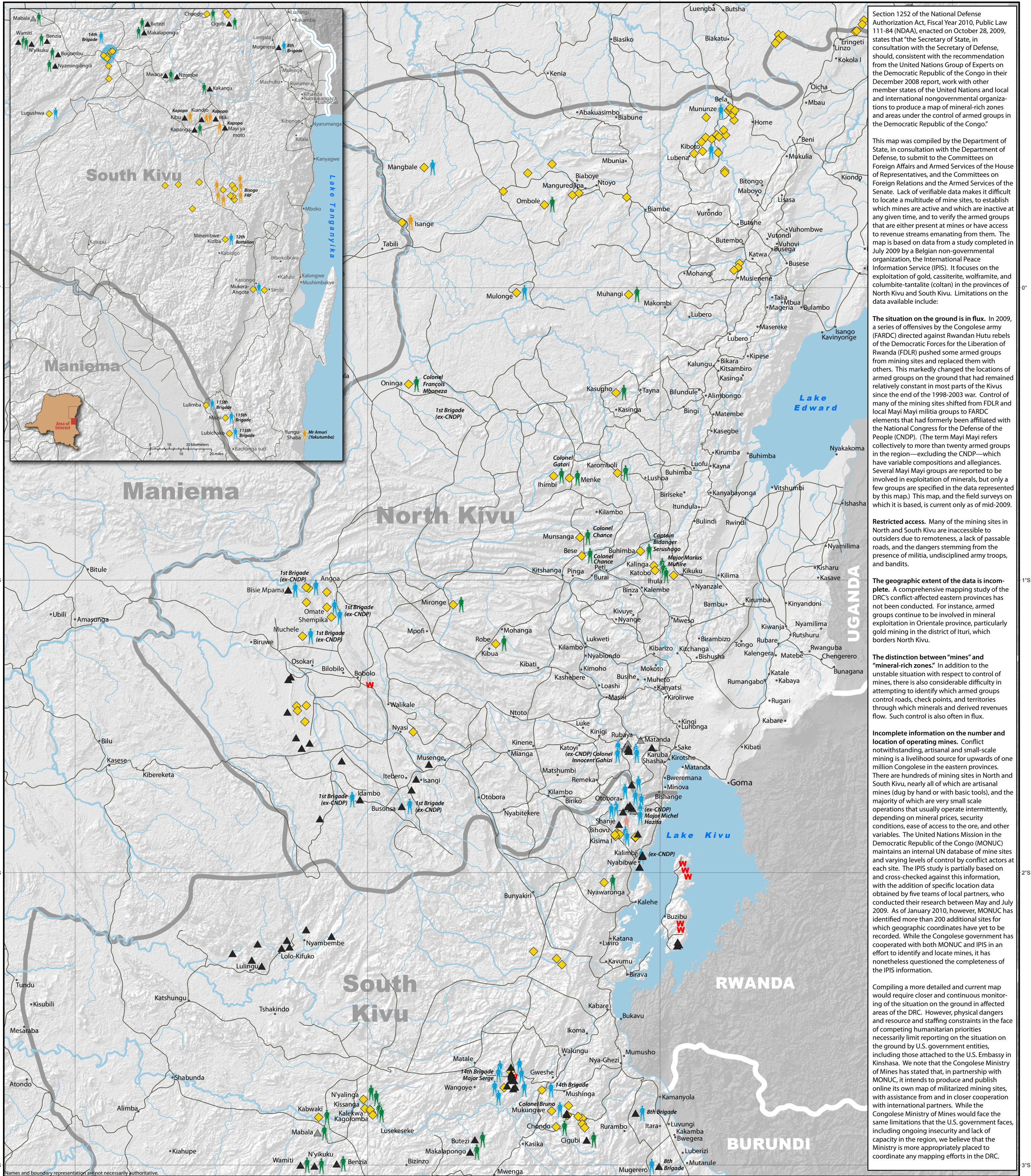


# Democratic Republic of the Congo Mineral Exploitation by Armed Groups



Section 1252 of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84 (NDA), enacted on October 28, 2009, states that "the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, should, consistent with the recommendation from the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their December 2008 report, work with other member states of the United Nations and local and international nongovernmental organizations to produce a map of mineral-rich zones and areas under the control of armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

This map was compiled by the Department of State, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Foreign Relations and the Armed Services of the Senate. Lack of verifiable data makes it difficult to locate a multitude of mine sites, to establish which mines are active and which are inactive at any given time, and to verify the armed groups that are either present at mines or have access to revenue streams emanating from them. The map is based on data from a study completed in July 2009 by a Belgian non-governmental organization, the International Peace Information Service (IPIS). It focuses on the exploitation of gold, cassiterite, wolframite, and columbite-tantalite (coltan) in the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. Limitations on the data available include:

**The situation on the ground is in flux.** In 2009, a series of offensives by the Congolese army (FARDC) directed against Rwandan Hutu rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) pushed some armed groups from mining sites and replaced them with others. This markedly changed the locations of armed groups on the ground that had remained relatively constant in most parts of the Kivus since the end of the 1998-2003 war. Control of many of the mining sites shifted from FDLR and local Mayi Mayi militia groups to FARDC elements that had formerly been affiliated with the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP). (The term Mayi Mayi refers collectively to more than twenty armed groups in the region—excluding the CNDP—which have variable compositions and allegiances. Several Mayi Mayi groups are reported to be involved in exploitation of minerals, but only a few groups are specified in the data represented by this map.) This map, and the field surveys on which it is based, is current only as of mid-2009.

**Restricted access.** Many of the mining sites in North and South Kivu are inaccessible to outsiders due to remoteness, a lack of passable roads, and the dangers stemming from the presence of militia, undisciplined army troops, and bandits.

**The geographic extent of the data is incomplete.** A comprehensive mapping study of the DRC's conflict-affected eastern provinces has not been conducted. For instance, armed groups continue to be involved in mineral exploitation in Orientale province, particularly gold mining in the district of Ituri, which borders North Kivu.

**The distinction between "mines" and "mineral-rich zones."** In addition to the unstable situation with respect to control of mines, there is also considerable difficulty in attempting to identify which armed groups control roads, check points, and territories through which minerals and derived revenues flow. Such control is also often in flux.

**Incomplete information on the number and location of operating mines.** Conflict notwithstanding, artisanal and small-scale mining is a livelihood source for upwards of one million Congolese in the eastern provinces. There are hundreds of mining sites in North and South Kivu, nearly all of which are artisanal mines (dug by hand or with basic tools), and the majority of which are very small scale operations that usually operate intermittently, depending on mineral prices, security conditions, ease of access to the ore, and other variables. The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) maintains an internal UN database of mine sites and varying levels of control by conflict actors at each site. The IPIS study is partially based on and cross-checked against this information, with the addition of specific location data obtained by five teams of local partners, who conducted their research between May and July 2009. As of January 2010, however, MONUC has identified more than 200 additional sites for which geographic coordinates have yet to be recorded. While the Congolese government has cooperated with both MONUC and IPIS in an effort to identify and locate mines, it has nonetheless questioned the completeness of the IPIS information.

Compiling a more detailed and current map would require closer and continuous monitoring of the situation on the ground in affected areas of the DRC. However, physical dangers and resource and staffing constraints in the face of competing humanitarian priorities necessarily limit reporting on the situation on the ground by U.S. government entities, including those attached to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa. We note that the Congolese Ministry of Mines has stated that, in partnership with MONUC, it intends to produce and publish online its own map of militarized mining sites, with assistance from and in closer cooperation with international partners. While the Congolese Ministry of Mines would face the same limitations that the U.S. government faces, including ongoing insecurity and lack of capacity in the region, we believe that the Ministry is more appropriately placed to coordinate any mapping efforts in the DRC.

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

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|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Deposits</b> | <b>Armed Groups</b> | — Road                   |
| ◆ Gold          | ♂ FARDC             | — River                  |
| ▲ Cassiterite   | ♂ National Police   | — International boundary |
| ▲ Coltan        | ♂ FDLR              | — Province boundary      |
| W Wolframite    | ♂ Mayi-Mayi         |                          |

