

THE “EU-UN PARTNERSHIP ON LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONFLICT PREVENTION”

The Great Lakes Region: A pilot project



With funding and support from the European Union's
Instrument for Stability



The United Nations
Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action

The Great Lakes Region: A pilot project of the “EU-UN Partnership on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention”

Managing and resolving natural resource-induced conflicts will define global peace and security in the 21st century.

In the African Great Lakes Region, demographic trends, increasing resources consumption, environmental degradation and climate change, are placing significant and potentially unsustainable pressures on the availability and usability of natural resources, such as land, water, forests, minerals and ecosystems. With an increasing number of conflicts around the globe related to access to land and natural resources, their sustainable management is critical.

Approach

The *EU-UN Partnership on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention* is a multi-agency programme launched in 2008 with the objective of supporting countries to improve natural resource management for conflict prevention and peace building. The programme aims to prevent land and natural resources from contributing to the outbreak or continuation of violent conflict.

In four pilot countries of the African Great Lakes Region (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo), the project has been working since 2013 to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations to understand conflict dynamics and employ conflict-sensitive development solutions to contentious national issues - such as land and natural resource competition and conflicts.

As an initial step, the project trained 50 representatives of pre-selected civil society organizations from across the region in land and natural resources conflict prevention and resolution. Based on the results of a competitive procedure (four calls for proposals launched respectively in each of the four pilot countries), six land and natural resource related projects have been selected and are being implemented since late 2013 by local civil society organizations with the support of the EU-UN Partnership.

Planned activities and results:

In two provinces in **Burundi** (i.e. Cibitoke and Kayanza), a first project led by the “Conseil pour le Développement Intégré” (CONSEDI) is working to support the registration of three artisanal mining cooperatives. Assistance on environmental sustainable mining techniques, marketing, Burundian laws and regulations on mining and cooperatives’ management is provided to these newly created cooperatives.



The programme also helps communities to resolve conflicts over land and natural resources by using methodologies developed by the EU-UN Partnership.

At the same time, a second project led by the Observatoire de Lutte Contre la Corruption et les Malversations Economiques (OLUCOME) supports the process of Burundi’s adhesion to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.¹ The project aims at raising public awareness among civil society organizations, the private sector, local authorities and the general public on transparency, as well as to strengthen the capacity of civil society and artisanal mining cooperatives to engage in this process. It also foresees research on financial management and transparency of the concession of exploration and exploitation licenses and taxation practices by the different authorities.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, a project led by *Action Justice et Paix (AJP)* provides assistance to communities in conflict management related to land concessions in Ituri District (Province Orientale). A database on current concessions in the territories of Djugu and Mahagi will be developed and several frameworks for dialogue and cooperation will be created and supported. The participation of civil society, concessionaires, local authorities and traditional leaders will be crucial in analyzing land governance and finding durable solutions for land conflicts.

¹) The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is an international standard that ensures transparency around countries’ oil, gas and mineral resources. It is developed and overseen by a coalition of governments, companies, civil society, investors and international organisations.

EU-UN Project in The Great Lakes

In addition, to improve social cohesion in Rubaya's mining sector in North Kivu Province, the project led by the *Comité d'Appui à la Promotion (CAAP Tujitegemee's)* aims to study the dynamics of existing conflicts between an artisanal mining cooperative and a mining company over land and minerals. The project will outline possible recommendations, which will be shared with the concerned parties and mediators will help facilitate a peaceful solution and reconcile the parties.

In **Rwanda**, the EU-UN Partnership focuses on land dispute management in communities in Kamonyi and Musanze districts. A range of training tools are being developed by the *Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD)* to improve the ability of local state-supported and traditionally based local mediation committees, called Abunzi to mediate land-related disputes. Also, a media campaign will raise public awareness about land related rights and laws and the role of the Abunzi as mediators.

In **Uganda**, the *Ecological Christian Organization (ECO)* works to build the capacity of community based organizations and local authorities to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts related to land and mining, as well as to strengthen artisanal mining sector in the Karamoja Region. ECO is developing a training module which will improve the ability of civil society organizations, CBOs and local authorities to understand, prevent, manage and resolve natural resources related conflict and advocate for the adoption of legal and regulatory reforms regarding the mining sector. The programme will also improve

communication and dialogue mechanisms between authorities and local communities about existing mining licenses and production. The formal registration of a small-scale artisanal miners' association will be supported while its members' capacity to operate in accordance with Ugandan laws and regulations will be improved.

At a regional level, through this project, civil society participation in national and sub-regional debate on contentious issues such as land and natural resources management will be enhanced, while strengthening civil society access to key actors from government and private sector. Communication and cooperation among diverse national and sub-regional civil society groups will be fostered and partnerships are being encouraged.

At the end of 2014, the six organisations will be invited to participate in a second regional workshop together with the EU-UN Partnership's members and other key actors (development agencies and donors, other local and international organizations).

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Partner agencies:

- European Union (EU)
- United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

The members of the EU-UN Partnership include: DPA, IOM, PBSO, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP and UN-HABITAT together with the EU.

Objective of the Great Lakes project: Assisting the civil society organizations of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda in preventing conflict over land and natural resources.

Partners in the Great Lakes: ICGLR, GIZ, OECD

Duration: 24 months (Jan 2013- Dec 2014)

Donors: EU Instrument for Stability

AN EU-UN PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONFLICT: FROM CURSE TO OPPORTUNITY



WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HANDLING NATURAL RESOURCES CONFLICTS?

Check out the new website of the EU-UN Partnership at:
<http://www.un.org/en/land-natural-resources-conflict/>

Free online interactive training module and guidance notes on land, extractive industries, renewable resources, conflict prevention in resource rich economies and capacity-building for natural resource management.

Guidance material available in French and Spanish.



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