

Cooperation on Peace, Security and Responsible Resource Governance in the Great Lakes Region

Sustainable Resource Supply Chains Program

The Challenge

The Great Lakes Region continues to be impacted by almost thirty years of violent conflicts. The persistence of armed group activities within countries and across borders, the fragility of peace agreements, human rights violations, and rising insecurity hamper peacebuilding and development efforts.

In addition, the region is rich in mineral resources that are of great interest to the world economy. It is the biggest producer of mined tantalum, which is used globally in electronics. However, illegal exploitation and trade of minerals often fuel local conflicts, hinder the sustainable economic use of minerals and slow down the development of the countries concerned. The minerals associated with the financing of armed groups are the so-called 3TG (tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold).

The establishment of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) was based on the recognition that political instability and conflicts beyond the power of individual countries affect the entire region and require joint and coordinated efforts to promote peace and sustainable development.

The Objective

The regional project supporting the ICGLR aims to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability. This is done by strengthening the organizational and technical capacities of the ICGLR Secretariat and its decentralized entities to implement the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region and its protocols. Interventions in the ICGLR Member States are especially focused on the areas of mineral resource governance, mediation and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).

Project Name	Cooperation on peace, security, and responsible resource governance in the Great Lakes Region of Africa
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), co-funded by the Netherlands (DGIS)
Project Region	Great Lakes Region
Lead Executing Agency	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Duration	01.12.2022 – 31.12.2026

Our Approach

The project approach builds on the results of the predecessor project, particularly the internal structural changes initiated at the ICGLR. These included a fundamental reform of the organization aimed at better exercising its mandate. In addition, the ICGLR provides improved services to its member states in the targeted fields with the aim of improving collaboration and trust in the region. For example, the Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) to proof the conflict-free origin of tin, tantalum and tungsten was revised and successfully implemented in Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania and Uganda.

Moreover, a regional pool of mediators from the 12 member states and a regional pool of peace educators have been able to strengthen their skills. This ICGLR and its member states can draw upon these resources to strengthen future peacebuilding initiatives in accordance with the goals of the ICGLR Strategic Plan.



L. to R.: Gakenke Comikage site & Training stakeholder meeting in DRC.

Our Areas of Focus

Output 1: Strengthening the technical and organizational capacity of the ICGLR Secretariat. Fostering the convening power of the ICGLR and its responsiveness to Member States' needs will support it in playing a leading role shaping regional cooperation among Member States on natural resource governance, peace and security.

Output 2: Supporting the ICGLR's and Member States' efforts to strengthen regional and national frameworks in order to promote a responsible minerals industry, regional trade and value addition in the 3TG sector. The implementation of regional frameworks by Member States, especially on 3TG minerals (e.g. the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism) will improve responsible resource governance, trade and value creation across the region.

Output 3: Developing the capacities of ICGLR to promote peace and security in the region.

Establishing the ICGLR Mediation Coordination Platform will strengthen competencies, bundle learning experiences, disseminate knowledge on Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) and consolidate the ICGLR's mandate to intervene constructively in regional conflicts in the long term.



Results Achieved Until 2025



5 Member States rated the professionalism and effectiveness of the ICGLR secretariat as good.



120 professionals have been trained in the integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and Peacebuilding to ensure more effective SGBV prevention in the Great Lakes region.



5 ICGLR Member States are implementing the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism to promote responsible mineral resource governance.



1 Gender-responsive mediation coordination strategy was developed to reinforce collective regional peace efforts.

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