

PRIVATE SECTOR PEER LEARNING: PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA)

Description: The [Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade \(PPA\)](#) is a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder initiative that improves conflict-free mineral supply chains in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Great Lakes region of Central Africa. It responds to the global call for action to break the link between the illicit minerals trade and violence, human rights abuses and rebel groups. More specifically, it responds to Section 1502 of the United States' Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, which requires manufacturers to audit their supply chains and report conflict mineral usage.

Objective: The PPA supports supply chain systems that enable actors to source minerals that are validated, certified and traced to conflict-free mines, which are monitored and audited using agreed-upon international standards. It also provides platforms for industry actors to communicate and collaborate on issues related to conflict-free supply chain initiatives.

Partnership: The PPA is comprised of governments, supply chain actors, civil society organisations and foundations. It is administered by RESOLVE, a non-profit organisation that focuses on building enduring solutions to environmental and social challenges. Funding for the PPA includes USD 3.5 million from USAID and the US Department of State, and a forecasted USD 2 million in cash and in-kind contributions from “participants”. For these participants, the PPA provides a forum to demonstrate their commitments to conflict-free sourcing, work directly with other participants to co-ordinate initiatives and work on solutions, and connect participants and end users on the ground. The PPA also provides harmonisation of mine site inspections, audits and data, a vetted, safe channel for funding, and tools for avoiding the purchase of conflict minerals. Becoming a participant involves the submission of an expression of intent, a due diligence process and a memorandum of understanding. Currently, the PPA has 51 participants including corporate actors, such as Apple, BlackBerry, Boeing, Google, Intel and Panasonic, and civil society organisations such as the Diamond Development Initiative, Solidaridad, Enough Project and Free the Slaves.

Key activities: The PPA is a hub for funding, collaboration and sharing information on sourcing conflict-free minerals, specifically tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold. It funds pilot projects that focus on conflict-free supply chain management systems, with the ultimate goal of producing scalable, self-sustaining systems. It also improves engagement and co-ordination of industry actors through working groups and forums. The PPA website's members-only section provides space for co-ordinated, productive dialogue among government, industry and civil society actors in a non-regulatory setting.

Results: The PPA has funded pilot projects to: 1) create the first traceable conflict-free artisanal gold supply chain from the Democratic Republic of the Congo; 2) develop a manual to educate upstream actors on due diligence; 3) operate a telephone hotline to receive reports of smuggling and fraud; 4) build the capacity of civil society to participate in a regional traceability and certification mechanism; and 5) build non-governmental organisation capacity to support initiatives for monitoring transparency and accountability of the mining sector.

Monitoring and evaluation: An independent assessment of the impacts of three projects concluded that they provided a platform for global-local engagement, demonstrated the importance of the transparent collection of baseline data, demonstrated a business case for responsible sourcing of conflict-free minerals and demonstrated the viability of sourcing conflict-free minerals from the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. At the local level, projects improved work conditions, job security, and income opportunities for women.

Development Assistance Committee member: United States

Budget: USD 5.5 million

Duration: Ongoing since 2012

Location: Democratic Republic of the Congo and Great Lakes region of Central Africa

Sector: Mining

Activities: Developing verifiable, conflict-free supply chains for minerals and platforms to co-ordinate industry actors

Beneficiaries: All supply chain actors, including local miners

Insights: The PPA has established a safe space for private actors and other stakeholders to discuss and address difficult issues in the illicit minerals trade. The passing of the Dodd–Frank Act was a key impetus for the initiative, which demonstrates the importance of legislative and regulatory reform for promoting positive changes within particular sectors.

SOURCES:

RESOLVE (2012), “Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPARMT)” (fact sheet), RESOLVE, Washington, DC, www.resolve.org/site-ppa/files/2012/06/PPA-Overview-06-24-131.pdf; RESOLVE (n.d.a.), “Independent assessment of responsible sourcing pilot programs”, www.resolve.org/site-ppa/independent-assessment-of-responsible-sourcing-programs (accessed 1 July 2016).

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USAID (20 July 2015), “USAID/DRC fact sheet – responsible minerals trade”, www.usaid.gov/democratic-republic-congo/fact-sheets/usaid-drc-fact-sheet-responsible-minerals-trade.

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