



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

Natural Resources

Summary of Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goma meeting in February convened together with UNEP and MONUSCO, expert report published in April on illegal production and trade of natural resources and cross-border criminal funds of 1.3 billion USD, feeding back the lifelines of negative forces; ▪ UNECA meeting in April, asking for cooperation on gold and charcoal studies; SESG commitment to help with resource mobilization for Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) ▪ Proposed pilot projects with UNEP-MONUSCO on various natural resources issues still need to be considered and approved within O/SESG; ▪ Regional high level conference planned, but not yet defined; ▪ Many conferences in Brussels, Paris, Kinshasa, no regional consensus on best approaches.
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very complex topic, several vested interests in region to maintain present illegal production and trade; ▪ WB stepped out after initial trials, because of corruption entanglements – not part of 1 billion regional programme; ▪ UNCT's Regional Strategy Paper lists natural resources as first 'pillar', but need committed resources and leadership/structure for implementation; ▪ ICGLR protocol and certification mechanism still to be embedded in national legislation and practices – only 3 with advanced consideration; ▪ Price drop of gold and natural resources may create opportunity for clean-up.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revive donor policy coordination meeting proposal with Dutch Ambassador in Kigali; ▪ Convene with UNECA a donor meeting on the RIRN; ▪ Agree with ICGLR and other regional organizations, E-Team, ROM on high level conference's objectives and deliverables; ▪ Review possibility of bottom-up projects with UNEP/MONUSCO;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with UNCTs for regional programme development and mobilize resources for it. 	
Messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A very complex root cause of conflict but addressing it effectively will contribute to development and cooperation in the region; ▪ Number of parallel approaches and search for solutions can be strengthened by unified structures, coordination and leadership. 	
	Drafted by	Distribution
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Date: 17 August 2015		