## Natural Resources

### Summary of Facts
- 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;

### Analysis
- 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
- 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;
### Messaging

- Work with UNCTs for regional programme development and mobilize resources for it.
- 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.

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**Date:** 17 August 2015