

Whose SDGs, whose rules?

Sustainable paradoxes

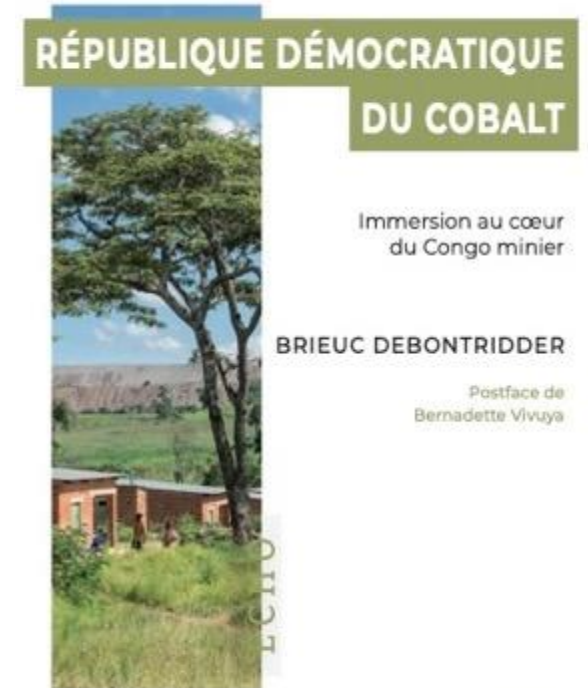
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SDG FORUM

13 October 2026

Introduction

- Social performance consultant, mediator
- 7y experience in the mining sector in DRC, Senegal & Guinea
- SDG4D at The Shift – Belgian network for sustainability
- Author of *République démocratique du Cobalt*
- (Cultural) mediator at Collectif Cobalt, aiming to foster dialogue and responsibility taking accross mineral value chains



Translating International Performance Standards



for responsible mining



From good intentions to sustainable paradoxes

- Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence legislation in a competitive world
- Protect reputation or Human Rights?
- Energy transition or reduction?
- Climate action and the embarrassing scope 3
- And the Spillover Index



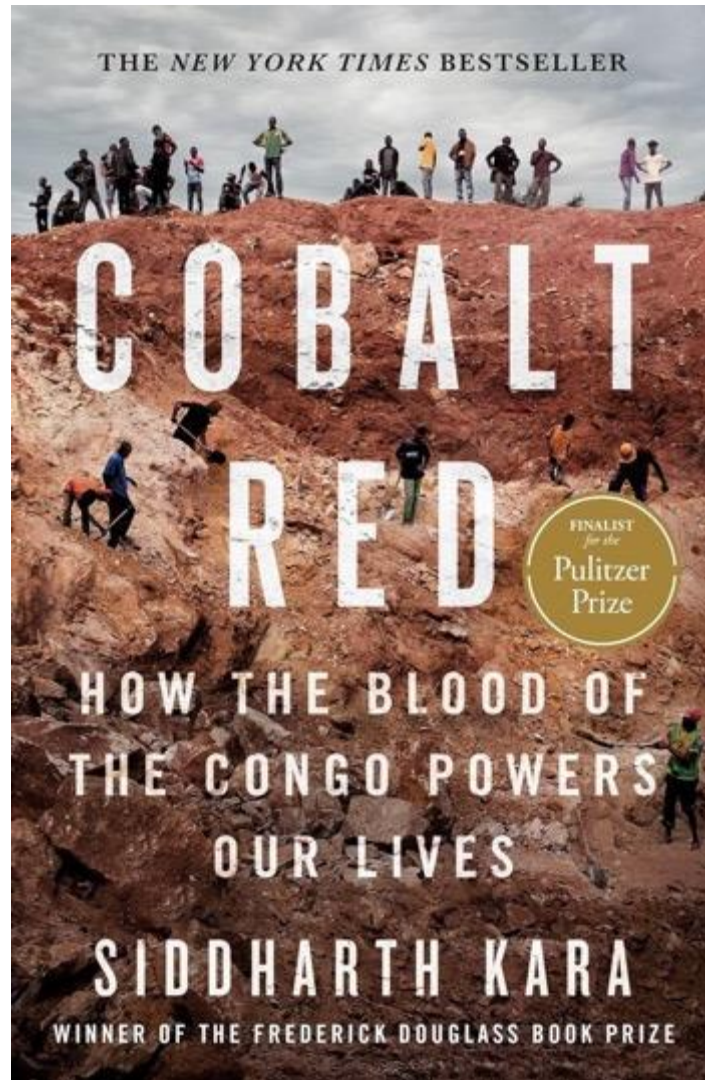
The spillover index 2026

158	 Israel	58.62
159	 Norway	56.99
160	 Estonia	55.14
161	 United Kingdom	54.91
162	 Qatar	53.84
163	 Cyprus	52.99
164	 Belgium	51.28
165	 Ireland	47.91
166	 Switzerland	42.08
167	 Netherlands	41.22
168	 Luxembourg	40.53
169	 Singapore	28.99
-	 Andorra	-
-	 Antigua and Barbuda	-

Question the heritage

- Most value chains (mineral, textile, coffee, cocoa, banana...) are the heritage of colonisation
- Increasing interdependence, whatever we do or decide, it will have impacts on people and the environment elsewhere
- It still shapes the nature of relations (of power), the way we perceive each others
- And our narratives

What are the driving narratives ?



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AFRICA

Cobalt Red: a regressive, deeply flawed account of Congo's mining industry

Billed as an exposé, Cobalt Red simply rehashes old stereotypes and colonial perceptions of the DRC

by SARAH KATZ-LAVIGNE and ESPÉRANT MWISHAMALI LUKOBO



An open pit cobalt mine in the DRC | Sebastian Meyer/Getty Images. All rights reserved

Effects of Dodd Frank Act in DRC

More legislation, more violence? The impact of Dodd-Frank in the DRC

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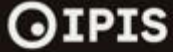
New York University (NYU) - New York University, Abu Dhabi

Date Written: August 01, 2018

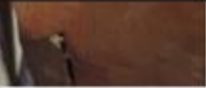
Abstract

The Dodd Frank Act was passed by the US Congress in July 2010 and included a provision-Section 1502-that aimed to break the link between conflict and minerals in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. To date there is only one rigorous quantitative analysis that investigates the impact of Dodd-Frank on local conflict events. Looking at the short-term impact (2011-2012), it finds that the policy backfired. This study builds on a larger, more representative, dataset of mining sites and extends the time horizon by three years (2013-2015). The results indicate that the policy also backfired in the longer run, especially in areas home to gold mines. For territories with the average number of gold mines, the introduction of Dodd-Frank increased the incidence of battles with 44%; looting with 51% and violence against civilians with 28%, compared to pre-Dodd Frank averages. Delving deeper into the impact of the conflict minerals legislation is important, as President Trump suspended the legislation in February 2017 for a two-year period, ordering his administration to replace it with another policy.

Effects of EU Conflict Mineral Regulation



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EU acknowledges shortcomings of Conflict Minerals Regulation: What next?

 December 4, 2024

 Author(s): Guillaume de Brier, Maureen Walschot

 Natural Resources  Due Diligence  Conflict mineral history, Responsible sourcing



This post is also available in: [ENG](#), [FR](#), [NL](#)

The European Union's 'Conflict Minerals' Regulation (CMR), which came into effect in January 2021, aims to prevent the trade in minerals that finance armed conflict and human rights abuses. By imposing due diligence obligations on EU importers of tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold (3TG) from conflict-affected and high-risk areas (CAHRAs), the regulation seeks to reduce the role of these minerals in fueling violence. However, both a [formal evaluation](#) by the European Commission and one conducted by civil society (IPIS/PAX, 2023), highlight significant shortcomings in the implementation and impact of the 'Conflict Minerals' Regulation. These findings show that the Regulation's overall impact remains limited, primarily due to the insufficient engagement with stakeholders in producing countries, the lack of transparency in supply chains, and inconsistent enforcement across Member States. This policy paper explores these findings and offers recommendations to enhance the regulation's effectiveness, addressing the ongoing challenges in the trade of the so-called 'conflict minerals' and highlighting the potential role of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) in improving due diligence and supply chain transparency.

Download the policy paper

Traceability, compliance and control

- Limits of traceability
- European values and standards appreciated but too much on paper, not enough on the ground
- If you can't source directly, support directly → FCA's Credit Cobalt to support ASM - very limited cost compared to traceability and certification



Conclusion

- No ideal policy, how to anticipate their impacts in an inclusive way?
- We can't fix the problem for others, how can we fix them collectively?
- Identify bias, change perspectives, go towards other stakeholders to identify responsibilities and co-build mutually beneficial relations
- Collectif Cobalt's (Cultural) Mediation with all stakeholders → create a larger and more inclusive story

