



A Cry of Alarm

Twa and Mbuti People Under Assault

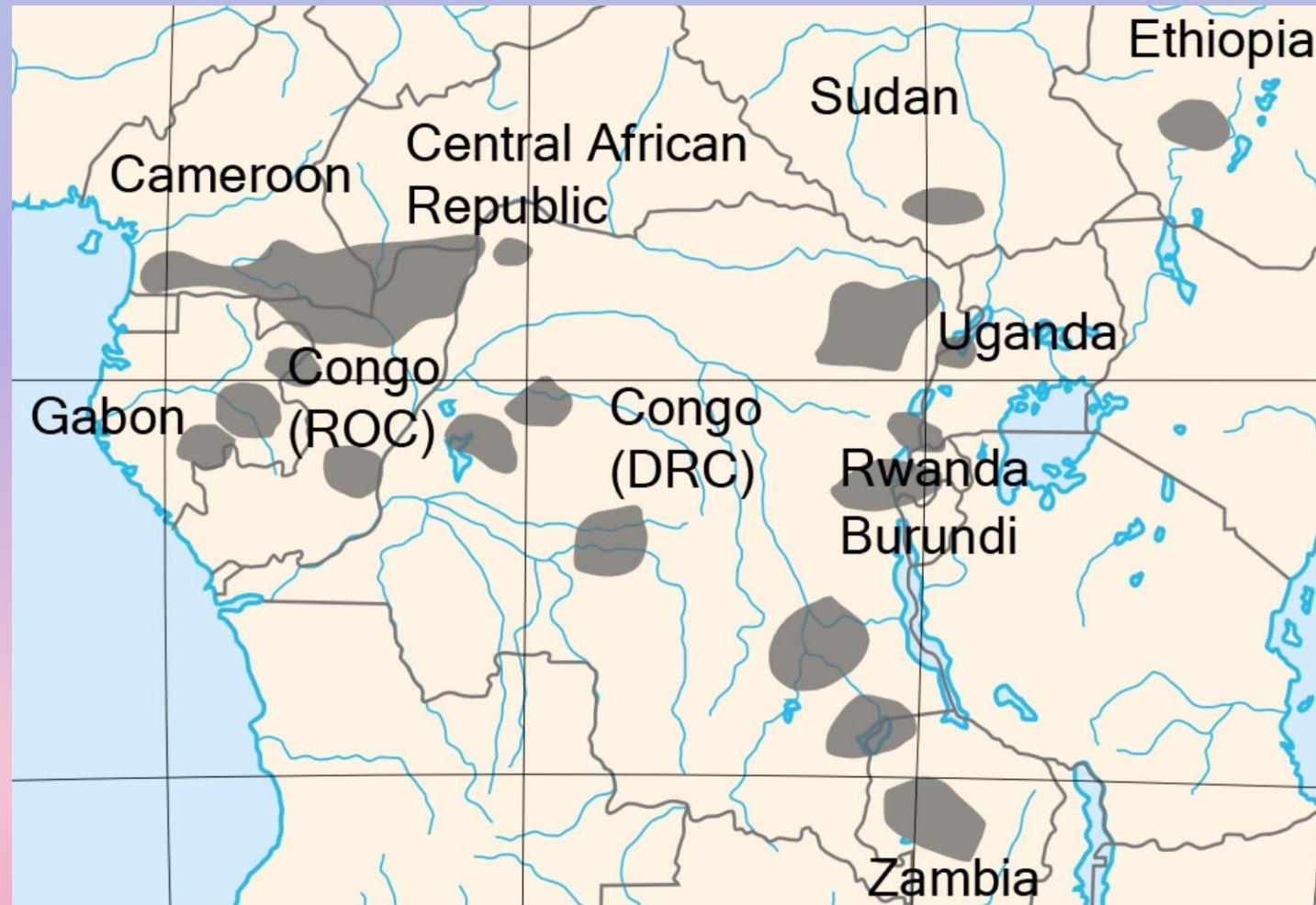
Deborah S. Rogers

Initiative for Equality – African Great Lakes Network

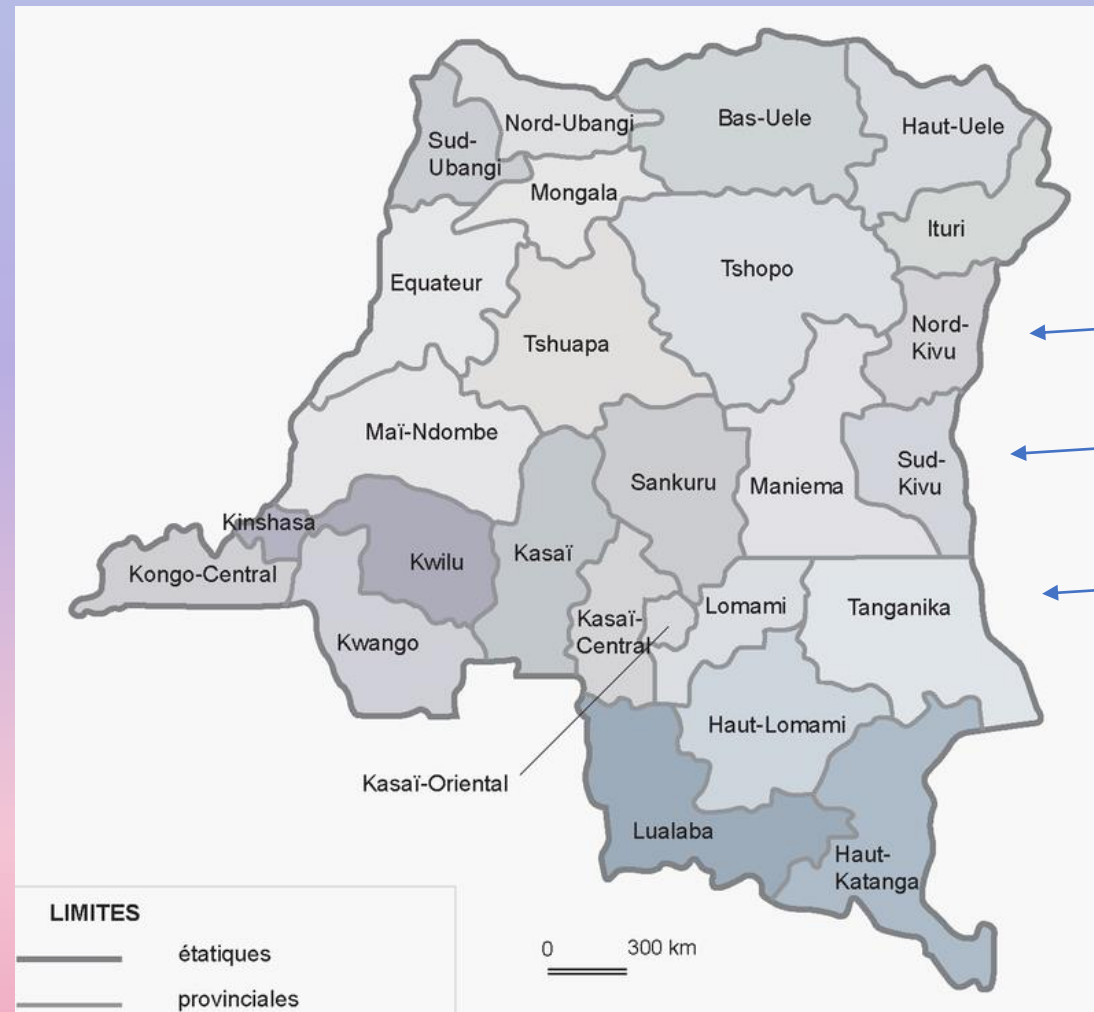
UNPFII Side Event

New York 18 April 2018

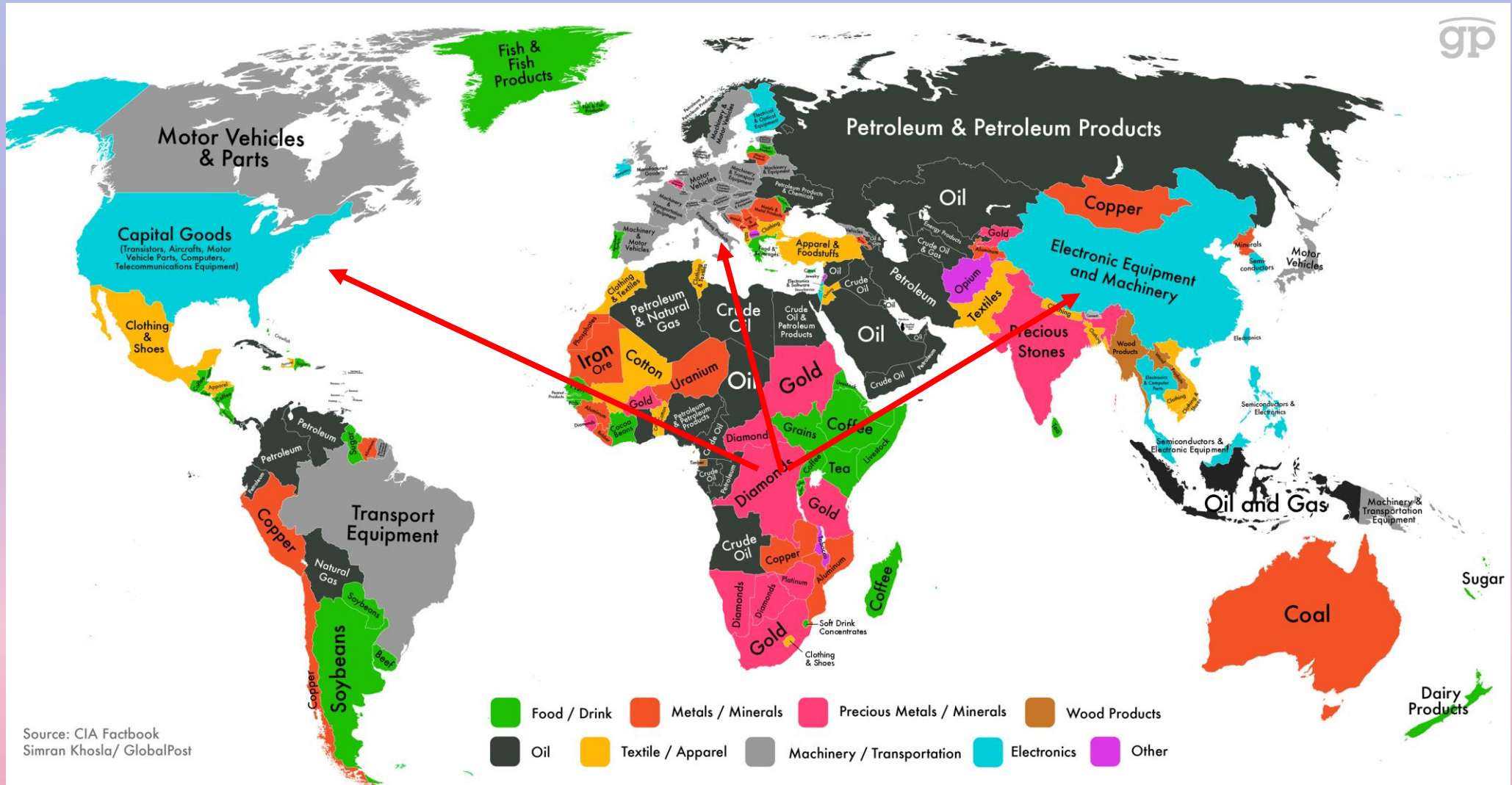
Batwa, Bambuti and Related Groups



Democratic Republic of the Congo



Global Resource Extraction Economy



Cash Crop Land Grabs

- DRC top country for land grabs in Sub-Saharan Africa; over 8 million ha as of 2013; 37% of this by Chinese companies
- European, US and multilateral development funds are bankrolling palm oil company Feronia Inc (Canadian) on 100,000 ha despite land and labor conflicts in DRC
- \$6 billion National Agricultural Investment Plan for 2013-2020; partners to include Caterpillar, Massey Fergusen, and Triomf
- Unilever may convert up to 3 million ha for palm oil in the near future

Timber Concessions

- The Congo Basin rainforest is the second largest in the world, after the Amazon; very important to the earth's biodiversity and climate
- Timber concessions a massive problem – similar to that of minerals extraction; Displacement of communities through clear-cutting
- “Artisanal” timber cutting by local citizens is bundled together (illegally) by large companies for huge profits
- Wood goes primarily to Europe (40%) and China (40%)

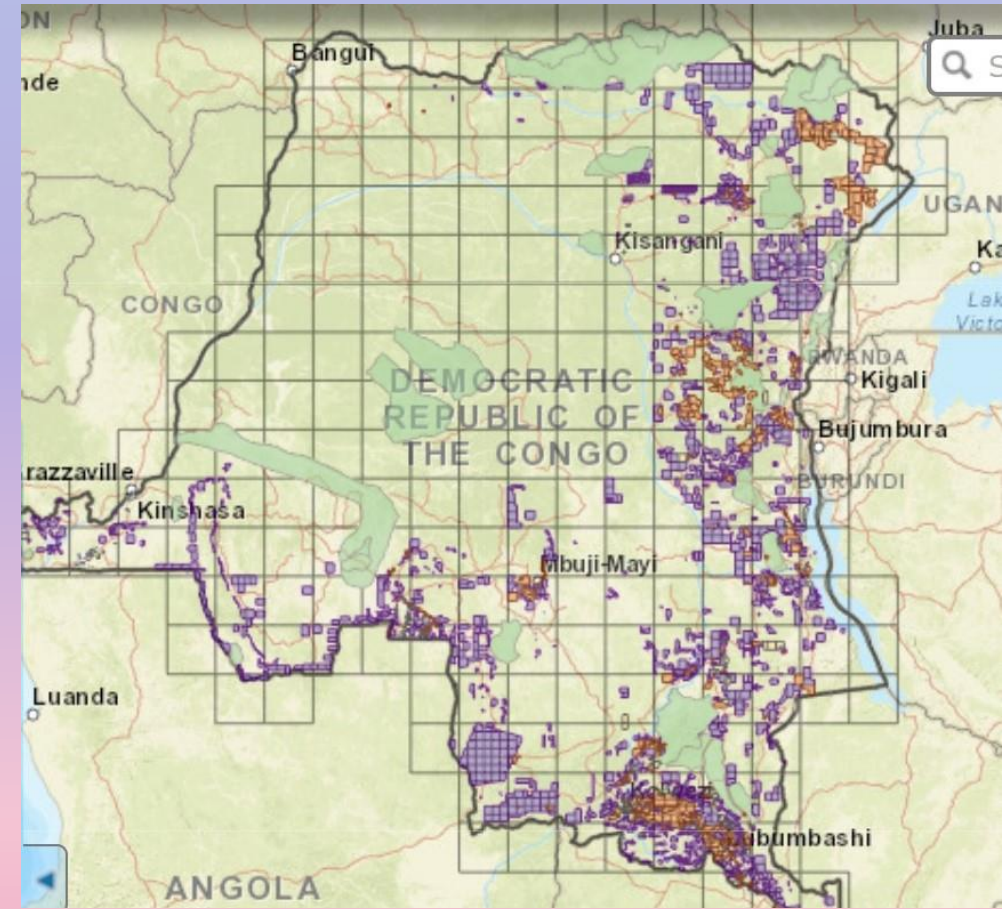
Minerals Extraction

Major minerals: diamonds, gold, copper, tin, tungsten, coltan/tantalum, cobalt; oil

Global significance: 25% of world's diamonds; 85% of world's cobalt (used in smartphones & electric cars)

Economic impact: 20% of GDP, 97% of exports; 25% recorded government revenues; 24% of employment

Artisanal and small-scale mining: accounts for 80% of mineral ore and 89% of diamonds



Minerals Extraction: Problems

- Labor abuses, including severe health impacts and child labor; pollution of water & soils; destruction of forests
- Lack of transparency in money flows leads to inadequate taxation; failure to help the population; encourages and funds corruption and anti-democratic practices
- Minerals often smuggled out of the country (Rwanda, Uganda)
- Used to fund militias; artisanal miners often controlled by militias
- Thus it both *creates* and *funds* regional conflict

Hydropower

- Hydropower is presented as a “green” alternative
- Land taken from local population; rivers dammed and forests flooded
- Large hydropower projects need large customers to pay for them; thus electrical power goes to minerals processing plants rather than the local population
- Example: Inga 3 on Congo River - funded by World Bank, will displace 20,000 people, electricity will go to minerals processing in South Africa, southeastern DRC, and Nigeria

Nature Preserves & Tourism

- Batwa & Bambuti living with natural forests and wildlife for millennia
- Nature tourism demands large nature reserves, devoid of people; Batwa & Bambuti driven out; often killed as 'poachers' if they return
- Laws requiring consultation with and resettlement of evicted people are rarely followed by ICCN (DRC), WWF and WCS (international)
- Examples: Virunga, Kahuzi-Biega and Maiko National Parks; Itombwe Nature Reserve

Illicit Flows and Offshore Accounts

- New information on illicit diversion of profits to avoid taxes recently came out in Panama and Paradise Papers, and reports by the Carter Center, Congo Research Group, and Global Witness (which estimated a missing \$1.3 billion over 3 years)
- Imran Daniels has compiled a report on illicit flows and off-shoring of profits in DRC for *Initiative for Equality*
- Culprits inside DRC include Gecamines (state mining company), Dan Gertler (Israeli businessman who was recently sanctioned), and the Kabila family's businesses
- International business interests are also greatly at fault, including ENRC (global), Glencore (Swiss), and the various tax havens

Land & Resources → Incentives → Massacres

Global Markets & Extractives
Business Interests

Militias

Local Working People

Local Agricultural &
Herding Communities

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Tax Evasion and
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Local 'MaiMai' &
'Elements'

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Traditional Territories, but no
legally enforced land rights

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Cultural Differences,
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VIOLENT ASSAULT

Babysitter Massacre

- January 09, 2017: Baluba community members killed many Indigenous Mbuti youth who were working for them as babysitters, domestic workers and herders.
- This took place near Nyunzu and Kabalo, in Tanganyika Province.
- It happened because during ongoing clashes between the Bambuti and Baluba, teenage Mbuti boys and girls had been forced (by both sides) to function as spies.
- Indigenous leaders are calling for a demobilization program for these young people, and their reintegration at all levels.

Moba Massacre

- January 13-14, 2017: In a nighttime attack by BaTabwa people against Indigenous Batwa and Bambuti near Moba in Tanganyika Province, an estimated 600 Indigenous people were slaughtered.
- During the attack, at least 1600 women and girls were raped by BaTabwa forces.
- More than 40 of those women and girls had died or were on the verge of death several days later.

Lukwangulu Massacre

- July 4, 2017: daylong clashes between Batwa and other ethnic groups at Lukwangulu were triggered after the Batwa killed two others in a fight at a displaced persons camp near the provincial capital of Kalemie, Tanganyika Province.
- No casualty list was provided in the local news, but according to a list of names compiled by our sources, 189 Batwa men, women and children were killed that day.

Petition to the Special Rapporteur

We are requesting her to make a fact-finding trip to:

- (1) gather information on the urgent needs of the Batwa and Bambuti people from community members, civil society organizations and officials who work to promote Batwa and Bambuti safety, rights and dignity
- (2) develop a report on the situation in which urgently needed actions are identified and recommendations made, including high priority investigations and urgent responses

Batwa/Bambuti International Support Committee

- organizing a speaking tour in the US and EU for Batwa/Bambuti representatives
- translating and circulating articles – EN/FR
- approach UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, European Union/European Commission, etc., regarding Batwa situation; demand that they enforce human rights, charge war criminals, and support peacekeeping missions
- contacting national governmental representatives and agencies to demand that they enforce resource extraction transparency laws and agreements and tax codes, prevent off-shoring of profits, and stop supporting offending governments and militias with money, arms, or public relations support
- help research individuals and companies engaged in land grabs, illicit trade, offshoring and arms trafficking

Join Us!

Initiative for Equality (IfE)

African Great Lakes Network

International Batwa/Bambuti Support Committee

<http://www.initiativeforequality.org/support-regional-movement/>



