



## North and South Kivu

### MONUC to support the Congolese Government's efforts for the regulation of the mineral trade

*The DRC Government and the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) launched a pilot project on the building of five mineral trading centres in North and South Kivu provinces, to facilitate the control and regulation of mineral trading and traceability.*

The building of the mineral trading centers was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1906 of 23 December 2009. The Council asked that MONUC work with the DRC Government to consolidate and assess on the pilot project to bring together all State services in five trading centers in North and South Kivu provinces to improve the mineral traceability system. Certificates will be issued by the Mining Authority for the purposes of controlling exports and ensuring that mineral resources can be traced.

The project is part of the Government's stabilization plan for eastern DRC (STAREC), supported by the International Strategy for Security and Stabilization (ISSS) launched in 2009. The ISSS is supported by MONUC, United Nations agencies and the DRC's bilateral and multilateral partners. Construction of the trading centres is due to start in a few weeks..

On 12 February a joint delegation made up of members of the provincial Government, MONUC and specialized UN agencies travelled to Rubaya in Masisi territory, about 50 Km north-east of Goma, on an evaluation mission to the site where one of the three mineral trading centers will be built in North Kivu.

The mission was dispatched to identify the site and to ensure that it is not subject to any land conflict. In



Small-scale miners in DRC (Archives Photo)

November, another mission already identified a site in Mubi in Walikale territory, while other missions are scheduled for Itebero and Baraka in Fizi territory next week.

Several organizations are involved in the project. MONUC's role will consist in providing security for the sites (Congolese police will be trained and deployed to protect the sites where the Mission is not present). The International Organization for Migration will erect buildings on the sites, while the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) will rehabilitate roads to facilitate access to the sites

and build administrative offices to help establish the Government's presence.

There are about 10 mining sites in the territory surrounding the Rubaya site alone, where coltan and cassiterite are exploited in large quantities. Erecting a centre there will help to ensure legal trade activities in terms of the sale and purchase of minerals. Controlling the trade will also help curb the financing of conflict through illegal trade. Establishing State control will also help to combat smuggling, to help ensure that the people of the DRC benefit from the revenues generated from mining in the Kivus.