

## WHAT ARE CONFLICT MINERALS?

Conflict Minerals are minerals mined in conditions where armed conflict and human rights abuses occur. Commonly used for 4 minerals (3TG): Tungsten, Tantalum, Tin and Gold that are mined in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). These minerals are used in the production of various goods such as electronic devices and jewelry.

## INDUSTRIES AFFECTED

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Electronics (Consumer and Professional)
- Healthcare
- Industrial Manufacturing
- Jewelry

## 3TG MINERALS

**Tungsten** – from Wolframite. Used in the vibration of cellphones, filaments in vacuum tubes and electric lights, contact points in cars, electrodes, rocket engines nozzles and cutting tools.

**Tantalum** – from Coltan ore. It is used in capacitors, condensers, cutting tools, vacuum tube filaments and camera lenses

**Tin** – It is used in solder, electronic components, coating for steel cans, bearing alloys and glass making.

**Gold** – It is used in electronics, electronic components, jewelry, dental crowns and coins.

## WHO SHOULD CARE?

- Publicly traded companies and companies that supply them
- Companies that use these minerals to manufacture their products.

## TOP 10 COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL TRADE OF CONFLICT MINERALS

1. Angola
2. Burundi
3. Central African Republic
4. Republic of Congo
5. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
6. Rwanda
7. South Sudan
8. Tanzania
9. Uganda
10. Zambia

## WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The United States of America passed the 2,300 page Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in May of 2010. It was signed by President Obama on July 21, 2010. Section 1502 of this law is referred to as the 'Conflict Minerals Law' and requires all companies that are registered with the SEC to disclose the source of minerals in their products. This is the first of its kind in the world.

The United Nations and DRC have started a pilot project aimed at creating 5 mineral trading centers in the eastern section of the country to regulate the sale of minerals. The U.S. Department of State has released several statements regarding Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act since the signing of the law in 2010, most involving guidance on due diligence in addressing the issue. The Department last issued guidance concerning due diligence in July 2011.

On February 28, 2013 the U.S. Department of state released a 'Statement Concerning Continued Implementation of Conflict Minerals Due Diligence Pursuant to Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act'. The statement says that 'the United States government continues to encourage companies to exercise due diligence based on the guidance issued by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'. The OECD is an international economic organization of 34 countries. The statement also mentions partnerships with organizations in the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA).