



Baseline Study of the Artisanal and Small- Scale Cobalt Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo

July 29th, 2021



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Housekeeping Items

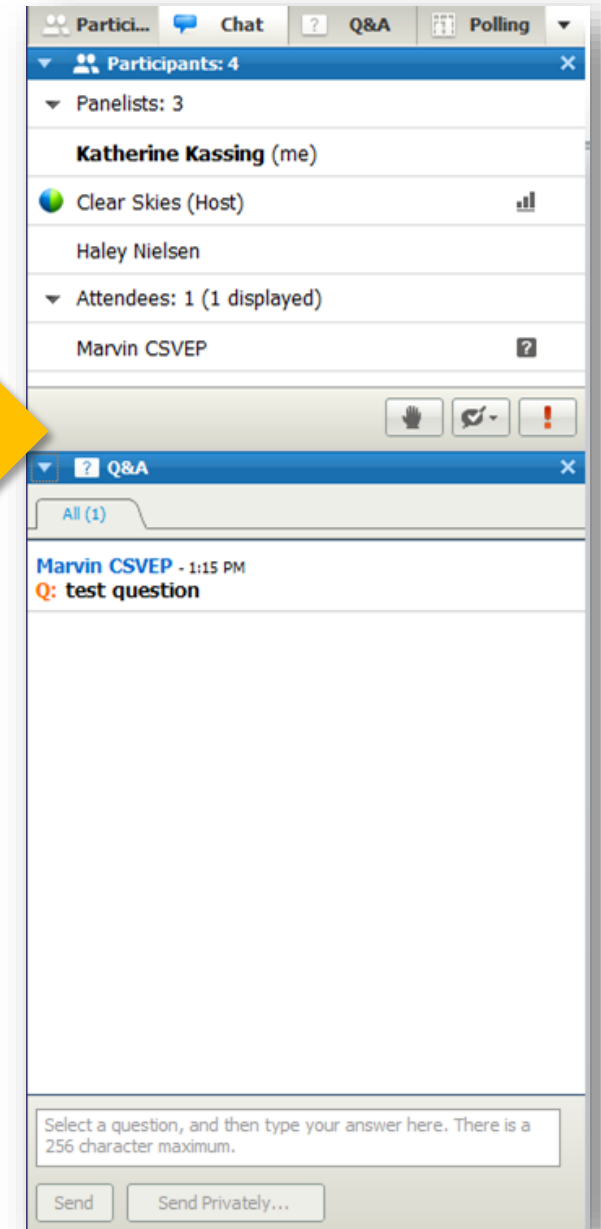
- This webinar is being **recorded**.
- We will send the recording out to all registrants after the webinar and it will be posted on the RSN website along with the slide deck.
- Speakers will answer questions at the end.



Audience Q&A

- Download the study at:
<https://www.sourcingnetwork.org/cobalt>
- Use the **Q&A Window** to send us your questions.
- Or "**raise your hand**" so we can unmute you.

Q&A Window



The screenshot displays the Zoom meeting interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Partici...', 'Chat', 'Q&A', and 'Polling'. Below these, a 'Participants: 4' window is open, showing a list of participants: 'Katherine Kassing (me)', 'Clear Skies (Host)', 'Haley Nielsen', and 'Attendees: 1 (1 displayed)' with 'Marvin CSVEP' listed below. A yellow arrow labeled 'Q&A Window' points to the 'Q&A' tab, which is active. The Q&A window shows a list of questions, with one question from 'Marvin CSVEP - 1:15 PM' visible: 'Q: test question'. At the bottom of the Q&A window, there is a text input field with the instruction 'Select a question, and then type your answer here. There is a 256 character maximum.' and two buttons: 'Send' and 'Send Privately...'.



Speakers

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Partners



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Methodology

- **Literature review** including but not limited to (1) academic articles, (2) industry reports, (3) industry working documents, (4) non-profits reports, (5) governmental documents.
- **Formal interviews** (21 respondents) from (1) downstream, (2) midstream, (3) upstream, (4) civil society, (5) government, (6) service providers, and (7) international organizations.
- **Informal discussions.**
- Study provided for **review** to all stakeholders involved.





Objectives

Identifying and providing a baseline analysis of the:

- Structure of the ASM cobalt supply chain
- Socio-economic situation of cobalt miners
- Business relationships between ASM, LSM, midstream and downstream
- Cohabitation between ASM and LSM
- Political landscape of cobalt mining (including EGC)





Main findings

- **Expansion of risks** (e.g. moving beyond child labor).
- Integration of **environmental risks** (e.g. water and air pollution).
- Tackling **elite capture** at the cooperative level.
- Tackling **unproductive competitive behavior** in the responsible sourcing sphere.
- **Limited local ownership** of responsible sourcing projects.
- **Land rights** as conflict driver.
- **Manipulation of the production.**



Selected Findings

- **Limited local ownership** of responsible sourcing programs.
 - Establishing more partnership with Congolese organizations, including from civil society.
 - Decreasing overhead costs located in Western countries.
 - Capacity building of Congolese cooperatives.
 - Standard and framework development in partnership with Congolese actors.



Selected Findings

- **Land rights** as driver of conflictual ASM/LSM relationships.
 - Update of the mining code to reflect ASM operations on LSM concessions.
 - Increased acceptance of ASM miners on LSM concessions from the upstream.
 - Change in downstream perception of ASM mining (e.g. issue of red flags in case of ASM presence on LSM sites).
 - ZEAs location and physical characteristics should be reconsidered.





Selected Findings

- **Manipulation of the production** as critical limitation for ASM miners' livelihoods improvement.
 - Falsification of the mass balance and ore purity.
 - Increased establishment of official depots.
 - Increased checks by the Office Congolais de Controle (OCC) and the Centre d'Expertise, d'Evaluation et de Certification des substances minerales (CEEC).
 - Critical role of EGC.
 - Increased on-the-ground research.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands, likely of African descent, holding a large quantity of small, multi-colored mineral grains (possibly cassiterite or similar) in their palms. The person is wearing a patterned garment with green, blue, and white designs. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with rocks and soil.

Recommendations

- Industry at different supply chain levels:
 - Increase investments in upstream programs.
 - Create a mediator fund to support third-party negotiations.
 - Recognize the significance of ASM sourcing.
 - Clarify the expectations toward SoRs.
 - Train security forces.
 - Avoid unproductive competition.
- Congolese government:
 - Support transparency of EGC.
 - Ensure the establishment of viable ZEAs.
 - Enforce strict controls on Comptoirs.

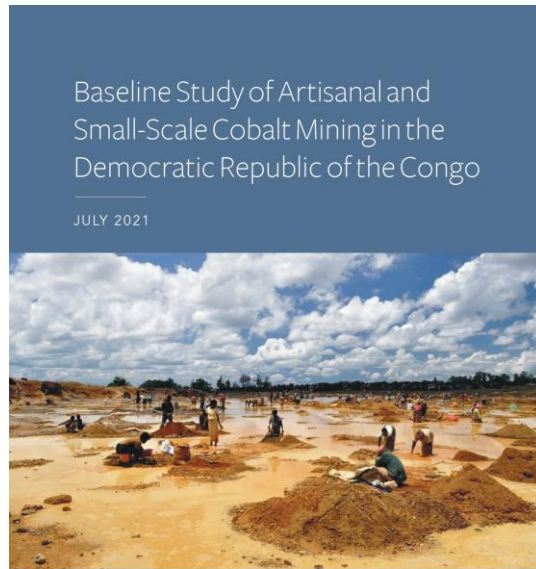


Recommendations

- Nonprofits and international organizations:
 - Increase partnerships with Congolese organizations.
 - Bridge the gap between Congolese and international academic institutions.
 - Ensure the alignment between on-the-ground realities and program implementation.
 - Avoid greenwashing approaches.
- Research and academic institutions:
 - Adopt a holistic approach informed by social sciences.
 - Forge links between industry and academic institutions.
 - Place Congolese institutions at the core of program evaluations.



Download the study



The study is available free of charge on
RSN's website

<https://www.sourcingnetwork.org/cobalt>



Thank you

**Questions, comments and
discussion?**

Feel free to reach out at
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