Resource curse to conflict minerals, lessons from DR Congo

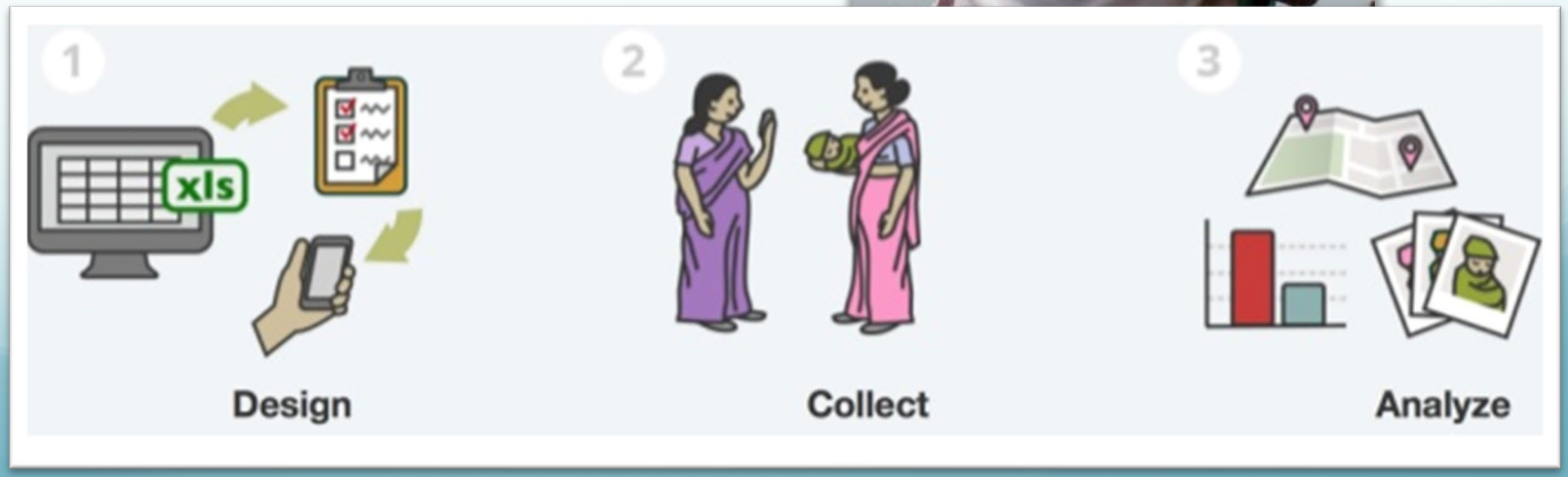
Maputo, September 2022

IPIS

IPIS – Mapping ASM in DRC

Methodology

- Mapping ASM sites and **Primary data collection** by research teams
- Close **collaboration** and data exchange with technical services of Ministry of Mines;



IPIS

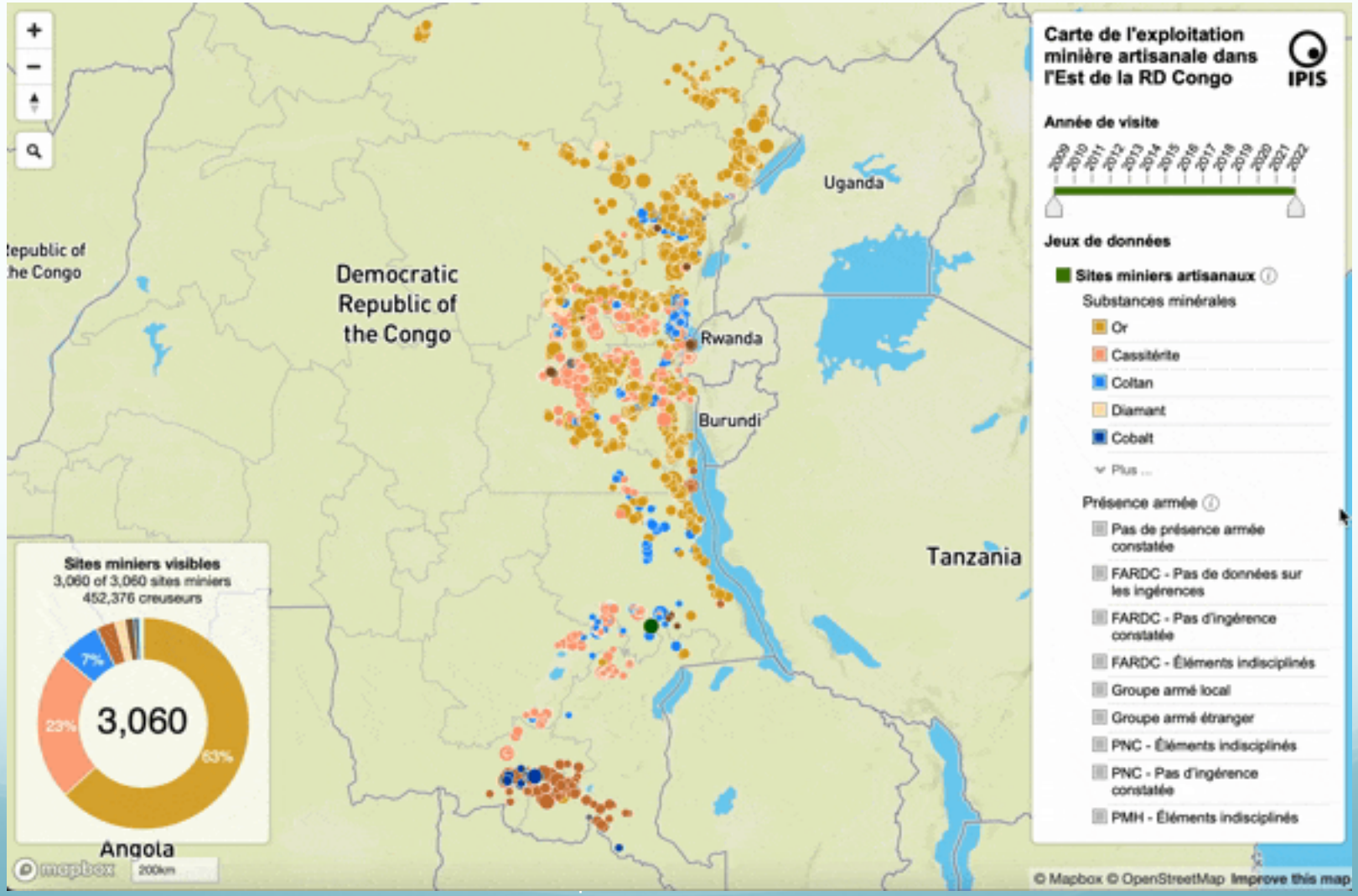
Methodology

- Trainings and working meetings with research teams

- Assessment of ASM mining sites based on different parameters:
  1. Security
  2. Accessibility
  3. Formal status
  4. Production levels
  5. State presence and monitoring
  6. Health & safety
  7. Mining coops

Output – Interactive webmap

ipisresearch.be/mapping/webmapping/drcongo/v6

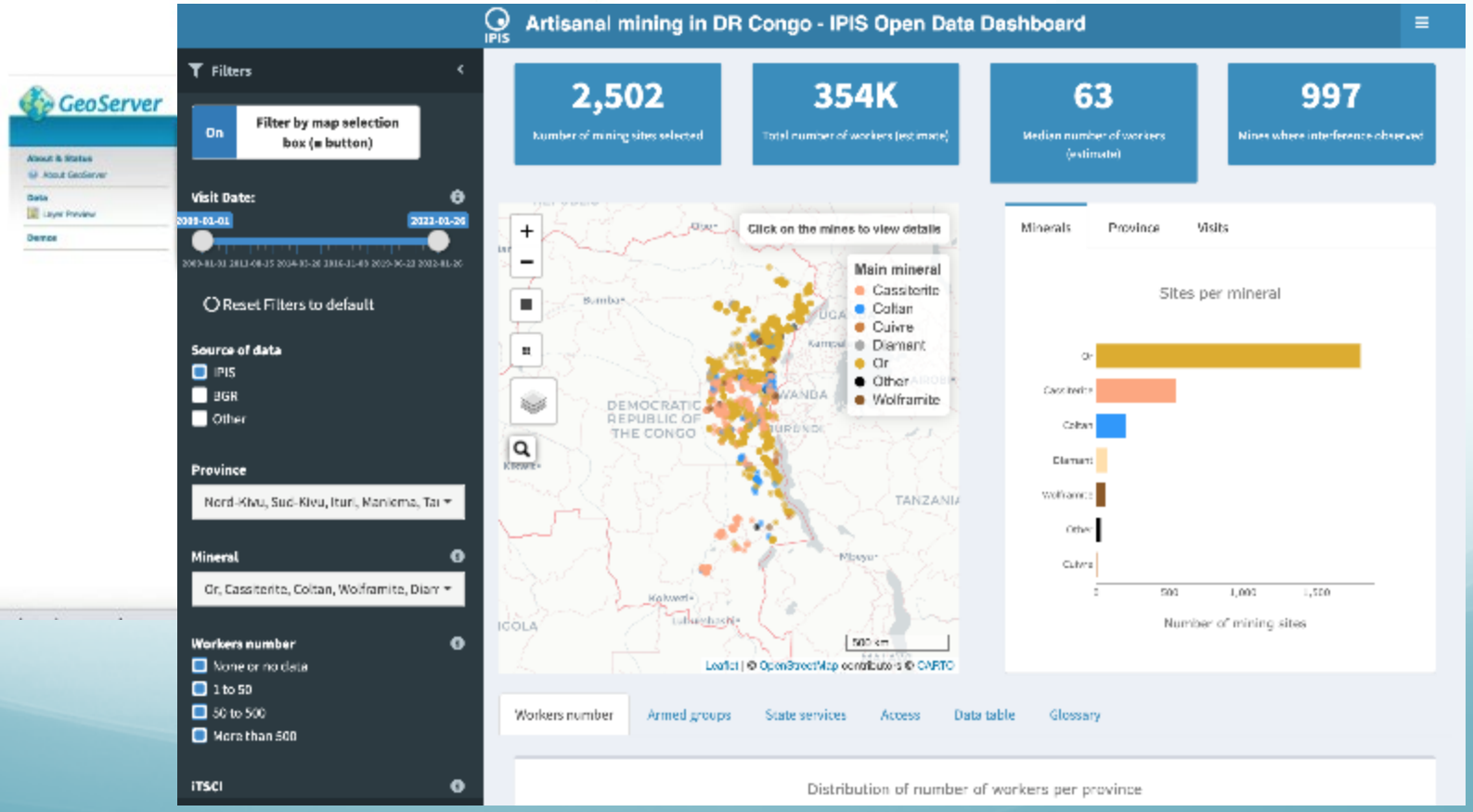


Output - Open data dashboards

https://ipisresearch.be/home/maps-data/open-data/

Accessing our Open Data

The datasets we publish can be accessed on the web via the dedicated download page, which lists the datasets available for download. Use the drop down menus to start downloading a layer is a specific format. We advise downloading as **CSV** or **GeoJson**. Downloading as **Shapefile** is possible as well, but will lead to abbreviated column names and errors with exotic characters ('é', ...). Want to use **Excel**? Then download as CSV and use our *Getting Started* page!



History of conflict

> Two successive wars

> **Regional conflict**: “The Great African War” (14 countries)

Rebel groups continue to emerge and thrive in eastern DRC

1996-2003

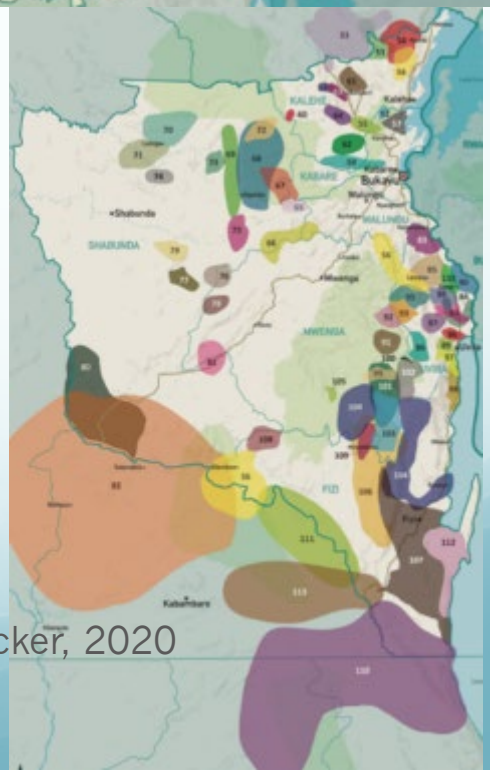
2006-2012

2013-…

> ‘Foreign’ armed groups and state fragility

> Proliferation of self-defense groups;

> Fragmentation of local armed groups



Source maps: Kivu Security Tracker, 2020

Conflict minerals

- Definitions:
  - *minerals from **conflict-affected and high-risk areas***
  - *the presence of **armed conflict**, widespread **violence** or other risks of harm to people. … political instability or repression, **institutional weakness**, insecurity, collapse of civil infrastructure and widespread violence. … widespread **human rights abuses** and violations of national or international law .*

- Three broad analytical frameworks:
  - 'Resource conflicts' (Conflict over resources: **cause**);
  - 'Conflict resources' (**Opportunity** to finance armed struggle);
  - 'Resource curse' (Poor resource **governance**)

- In eastern DRC: tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (3TG)

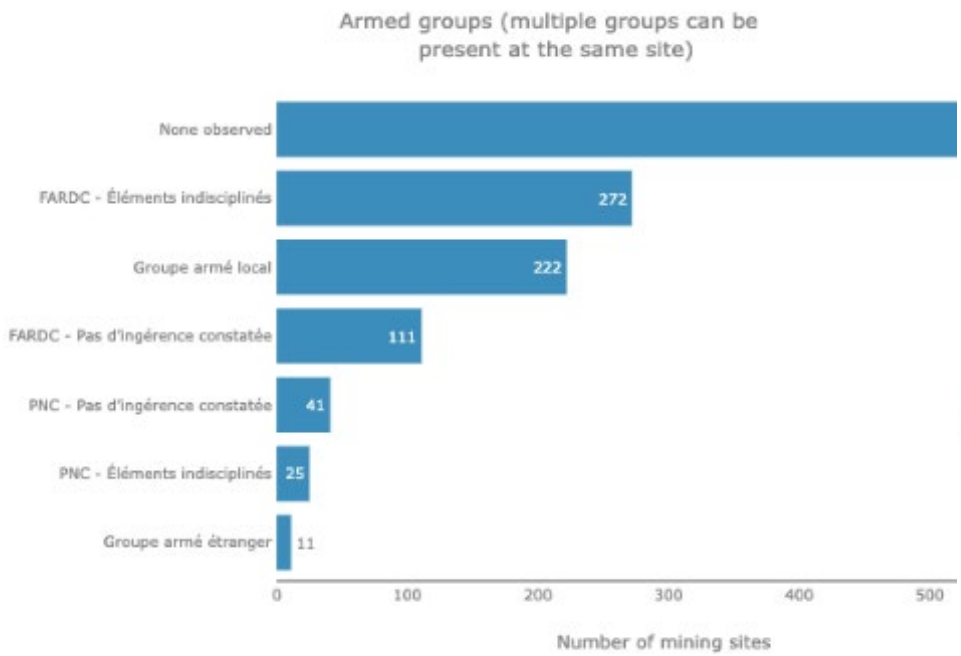
DRC conflict minerals: history

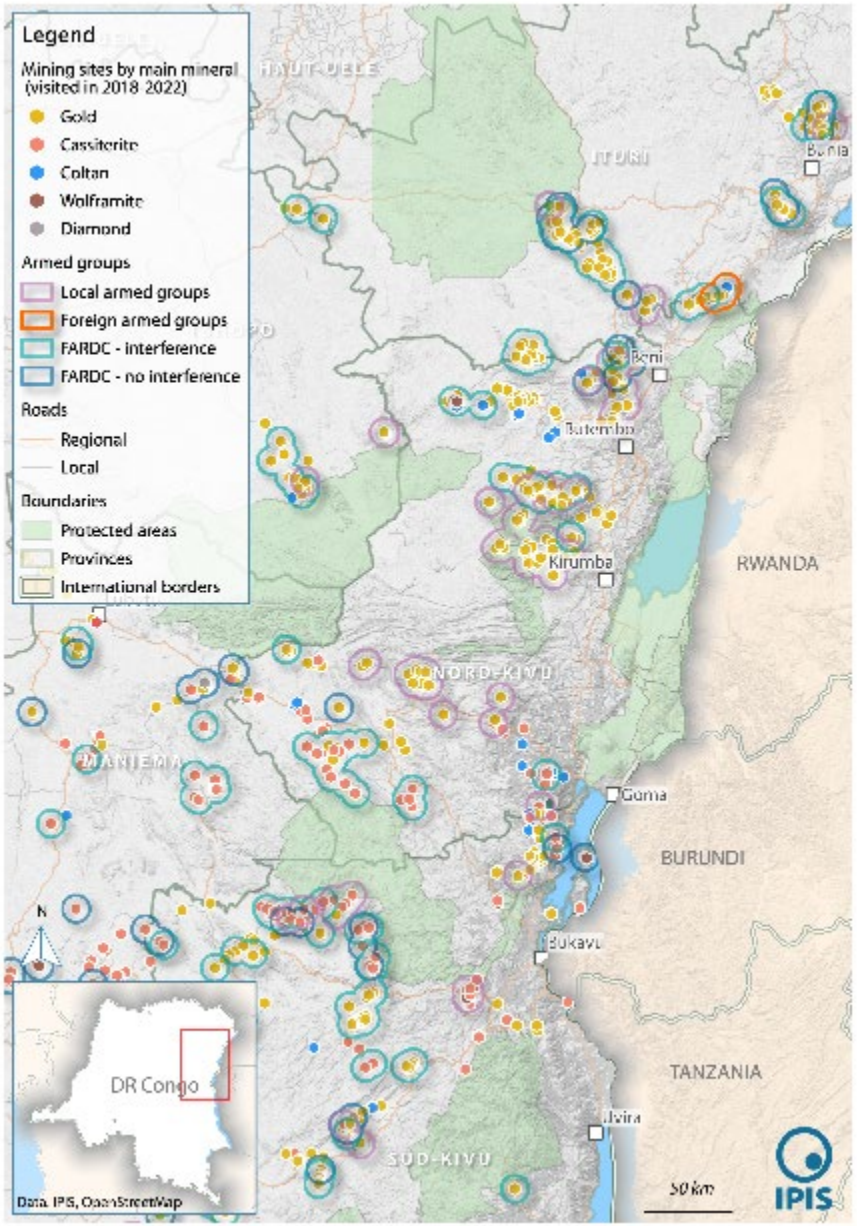
- Second Congo War (1998-2003) : **Economic dimension** of conflict
  - Plunder and Systematic extortion

- 2013-…: Local armed groups & State security forces
  - **Inertia** of the conflict
  - Regional dimension
  - Need of armed groups to survive:
    - ✓ Shift from self-defense groups to illegal predation;
    - ✓ Extracting resources;
    - ✓ Claiming to fight for community interests;
  - Army misbehaviour

DRC conflict minerals: current situation

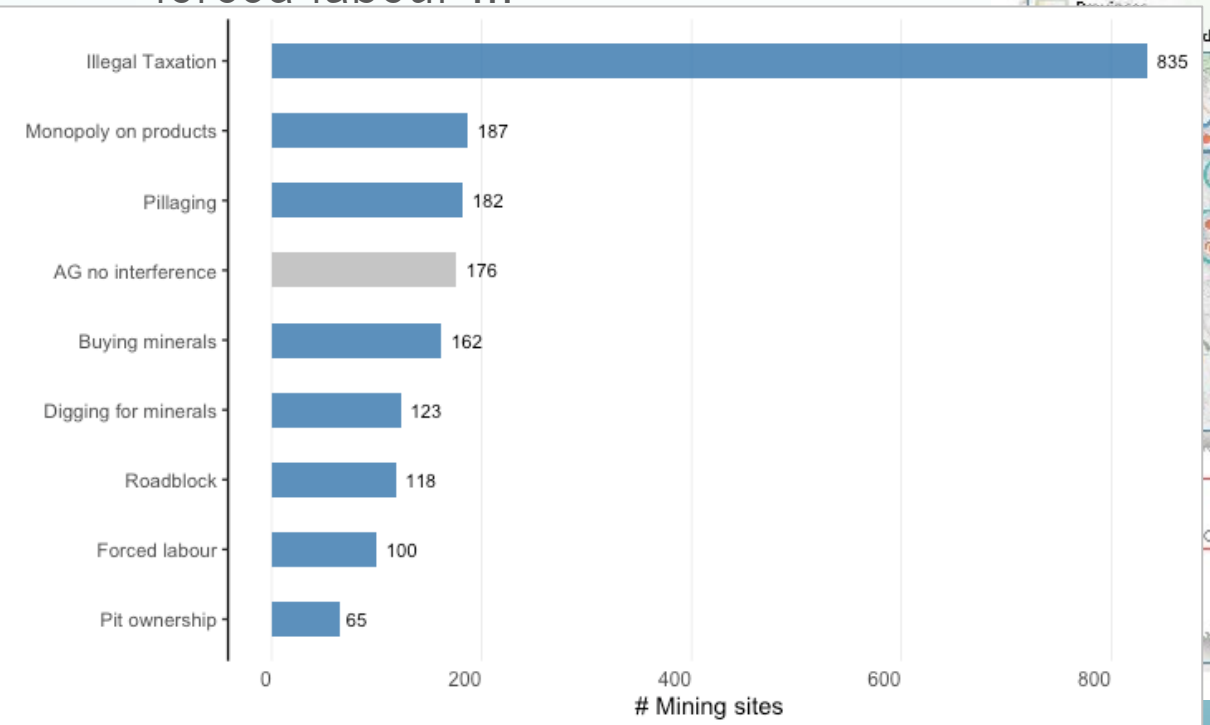
- Armed men at 47% of ASM sites
- Army main culprit
  - « Effort de guerre »
  - « Des businessmen »
  - « Private security actors»

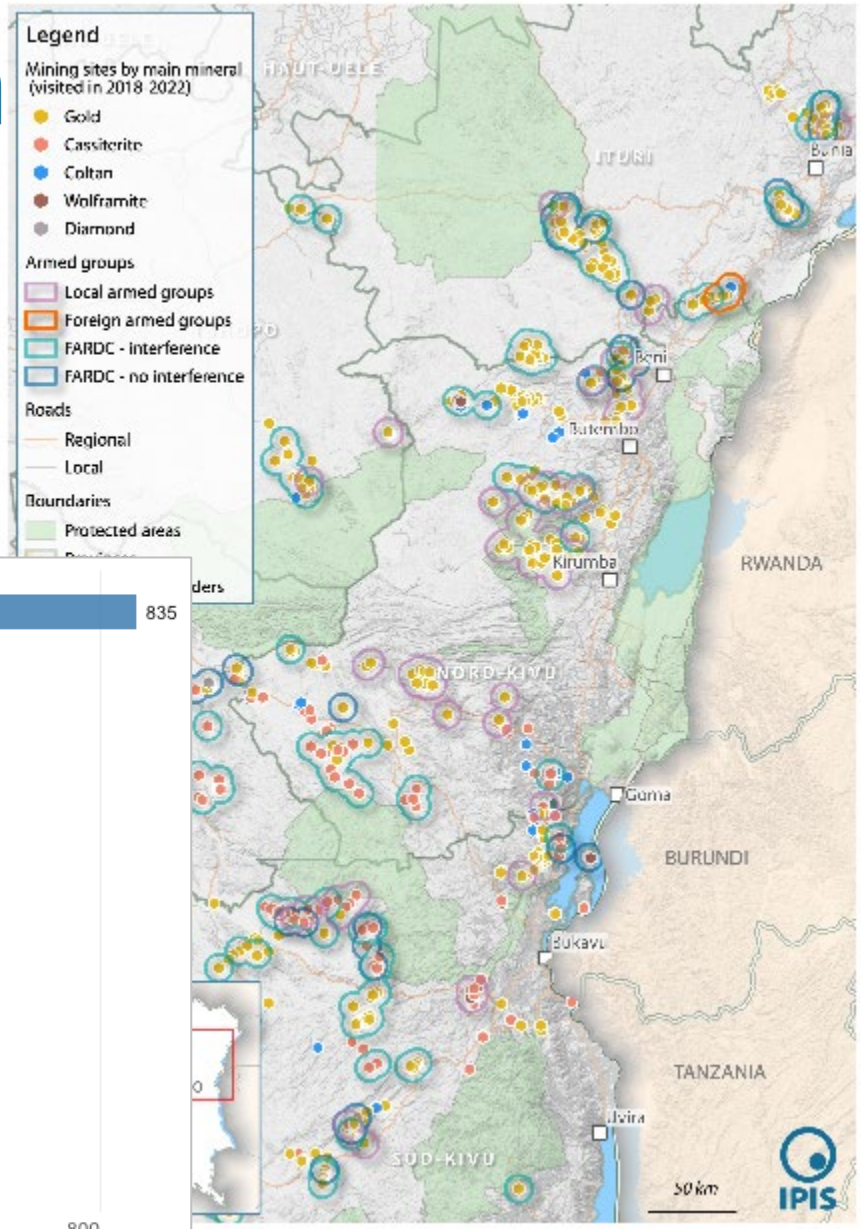




DRC conflict minerals: current situation

- Illegal taxation
- Protection rackets
- business interests (pit ownership, processing machinery, trading, etc.),
- monopoly on consumer goods
- forced labour …





DRC conflict minerals: problems

- Army (FARDC)
  - Integration process of rebel groups: rashly executed
  - Irregular payment of salaries
  - Corruption
  - Military justice system failing
  - Lack of political will for SSR (reform)
- Failing DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-integration)
- Intercommunity tensions, economic underdevelopment, social dissatisfaction
- Governance issues

DRC conflict minerals: new threat

International competition and Rush on resources:

- In a context of weak mining governance;
- The arrival of semi-industrial gold exploitations;
- Regional dimension: supply chains.

Thanks for your attention!

Q & A