

DEGROWTH AND RESOURCE EXTRACTION : VIEWS FROM GLOBAL SOUTH. DR CONGO

1. Contribution of the resource extraction to the economic development

- **Around of one-tenth of DRC annual budget (800 millions USD out of around 8 billions USD)** is coming from the resource extraction industry.
- **Resource extraction is increasing.** In 2013: copper : 900.000 tons; cobalt: 58.000 tons; gold: 6.000 tons and diamond: 17.000 tons.
- **\$5 billion worth 600.000 tons of copper** exported in 2012. The beneficiaries are mainly multinationals.
- Mining represents an estimated **60% of the country's Foreign Direct Investment stock** according to International Council on Mining and Metal Report 2012.
- **Jobs creation:** the mining sector is the **second employer in the DRC** behind the government for **formal employment** with around **50.000 people** according to "Oxford Policy Management Report of October of 2013 .
- This number can be multiplied by two (**100.000 people**) if we consider the **informal employment** generated by the mining demand in term of sub contractors and services deliveries.
- Artisanal Small Scale Mining (ASM) : **around 5 millions artisanal miners.**

2. Contribution of the resource extraction to social development contribution

- *Extractive Industries Investment in the DRC*
 - **Education** in building primary and secondary schools.
 - **Health** with medical centers for workers and the local population.
 - **Energy** with hydroelectric dams
 - **Roads constructed.**
 - **Agriculture** for food security with maize production (50 hectares for everyr mining company in Katanga)

3. Immediate social and environmental impacts of resource extraction.

Environmental impacts of resource extraction

- ❖ Displacement of people without adequate compensation, people suffering from polluted air and water, erosion of forests and soil, from toxic deposits.
- ❖ For ecological sustainability: investment and protection of DRC second largest forest in the world after the Amazon forest (56% of the forest in Africa).
- ❖ The Government has been working since **2002 on implementing its DRC priority reform agenda for the next 20 years with a view to achieving the sustainable management of its forests.**
- ❖ **Experiments of forestry community.**

Social impacts of resource extraction

- ❖ **The DRC's mineral wealth has yet to translate into sustainable socio-economic development** for a fair trade, as laid out by the country's macro-economic gains from mining sector.

- ❖ **Social and economic injustices.** Workers have wages of misery, less than 100 USD per month. Governor of Katanga was asking mining companies to pay a minimum of 100 USD per month to workers.
- ❖ **Diversification of economic model** with the revenue of the **mining sector** while investing in **agriculture, health, forestry, roads, transport and electricity.**
- ❖ **No long term environmental and social impacts** because of the lack of a strategic vision of global development of the Country.

4. Degrowth strategy in DR Congo

- ❖ **Degrowth is not a hegemonic or universal concept**
- ❖ **Degrowth can be an opportunity if it is re-thought, understood, implemented in different African contexts and cultures**
- ❖ **"Degrowth with a human face" for all, with a dignified human face without extractivism, for fair trade, ecological sustainability and good living for all.**

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