



Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences
Koninklijke Academie voor Overzeese Wetenschappen
Académie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer

April
2-4
2025

International Conference



Strategic minerals, mining and society in the D.R. Congo

PROGRAMME

Venue:
Palais des Académies
Rue Ducale 1, 1000 Brussels

PROGRAMME

1ST DAY – APRIL 2, 2025

13.00 – 13.30	Introductory talks (Philippe De Maeyer, Thierry De Putter, Arnaud Vajda)
13.30 – 14.00	KEYNOTE LECTURE Nina Wilen (Egmont Institute) Africa in the midst of the Current Global Power Competition
14.00 – 14.30	Q&A
14.30 – 15.00	<i>Coffee break & poster session</i>
15.00 – 15.20	ORAL COMMUNICATION Raw materials criticality assessment: A key tool to rethink EU-Africa Partnerships Gabriele Casella (Politecnico di Milano), Diana Shendrikova (Politecnico di Milano), Emanuela Colombo (Politecnico di Milano), Emidio Diodato (Università per Stranieri di Perugia), Silvia Orioli (Università per Stranieri di Perugia)
15.20 – 15.40	Encadrement étatique de l'exploitation artisanale: le retour du monopole dans le secteur minier congolais? Ithiel Batumike Mihigo (UMons)
15.40 – 16.00	The M23 conflict in DRC: A War for Strategic Minerals? Erik Kennes (Egmont Institute), Freddy Nzonga (Madini Project)
16.00 – 16.20	Current trends of air quality in the Katangese copper belt: Data from preliminary monitoring Emery Kasongo Lenge Mukonzo (UNILU)
16.20 – 16.40	Population exposure and vulnerability to mining-induced geo-hydrological hazards in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo Christiane Migabo (UCLouvain), Marnik Vanclooster (UCLouvain), Sara Geenen (UAntwerpen), Caroline Michellier (UCLouvain, RMCA)
16.40 – 17.00	Mining-induced environmental and social changes: How vulnerable is the population in the southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo? Serge Mugisho Mukotanyi (UAntwerpen, KMMA), Sara Geenen (UAntwerpen), Caroline Michellier (UCLouvain, RMCA), Bossissi Nkuba (UAntwerpen, RMCA)

2ND DAY – APRIL 3, 2025

08.45 – 09.00	Opening remarks
09.00 – 09.45	KEYNOTE LECTURE Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU) & Benoît Nemery (KULeuven) Collateral damage to the environment and human health caused by mining strategic minerals in the D.R. Congo
09.45 – 10.00	Q&A
10.00 – 10.30	<i>Coffee break & poster session</i>

	ORAL COMMUNICATION
10.30 – 10.50	Between hope and disappointment: Geology and exploration history of the Manono-Kitotolo lithium-tantalum-tin deposit Anouk Borst (KULEuven, RMCA)
10.50 – 11.10	Cartographie des sites miniers et évaluation de la contamination par les éléments traces métalliques dans les eaux des rivières Ulinde et Elila, territoire de Mwenga, à l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo Gabriel Mukabo Okito (UBurundi, ISP-Goma, UOBukavu), Sylvain Firiki Rumbaka (UOBukavu), Mulongaibalu Mbalassa (UOBukavu), Claver Sibomana (UBurundi), Gaspard Ntakimazi (UBurundi), Jean-Claude Micha (UNamur), Venant NSHOMBO MUDERHWA (UOBukavu, CRH-Uvira), Robert Mandiki (UNamur)
11.10 – 11.30	Metal pollution and bioaccumulation in Lualaba aquatic ecosystems, DR Congo Paulin Kilufya Kalomo Kitikimo (UNILU), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL), Taty Muta Musambo (UNILU), Irène Kabange Umba (UNILU?), Erick Smolders (KULEuven), Benoît Nemery (KULEuven), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkululu (UNILU)
11.30 – 11.50	Factors affecting local community feelings about water quality and availability around cobalt mines in Lualaba province, Democratic Republic of Congo Israel Muchiza Bachinyaga (UNILU)
11.50 – 12.10	Biomonitoring of trace elements among artisanal gold miners in South-Kivu (D.R.Congo) Paterne Safari Mudekereza (UCBukavu), Roméo Bujiriri Murhega (UCBukavu), Franck Zahinda (UCBukavu), Patrick Katoto Cimusa (UCBukavu), Radu Cornelius Duca (Laboratoire National de Santé, Luxembourg), Matteo Crete (Laboratoire National de Santé, Luxembourg), Maria-Mirela Ani (Laboratoire National de Santé, Luxembourg), Frank Van Calenbergh (KULEuven), Philippe De Vloo (KULEuven), Benoît Nemery (KULEuven)
12.10 – 12.30	Exposure assessment and respiratory health in cobalt artisanal miners in DR Congo Joseph Pyana Kitenge (KULEuven, UNILU), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL); Celestin Banza Lubaba (UNILU), Jeroen Vanoirbeek (KULEuven), Steven Ronsmans (KULEuven), Benoît Nemery (KULEuven)
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break & poster session</i>
	ORAL COMMUNICATION
14.00 – 14.20	Cobalt price fluctuations and socioeconomic conditions of small-scale artisanal miners in the Katanga Copper Arc in the Democratic Republic of Congo Eric Lubangu Muamba (UNILU)
14.20 – 14.40	A socio-anthropological approach to uranium mining in the DRC Célia Carlier (UMons)
14.40 – 15.00	Strategic (in)visibility: Corporate-funded multi-stakeholderism and cooperative partnerships in the cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo Sarah Katz-Lavigne (UAntwerpen), Sara Geenen (UAntwerpen), Hadassah Arian (UAntwerpen)
15.00 – 15.20	Radon exposure and lack of oxygen in artisanal copper-cobalt underground mining in Kolwezi, DRC Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL), Steven Verpaele (Belgian Centre for Occupational Hygiene), André Ndala Nyongonyi (UNILU), Tony Kayembe Kitenge (UNILU), Patrick de Marie Katoto

	(UCBukavu), Desiré Nshimbi Mundali (UNILU), Elodie Lwendela Kalasa (UNILU), Boris Dehandschutter (Federal Agency for Nuclear Control), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)
15.20 – 15.40	Biomonitoring of metals and respiratory health in a copper-cobalt refinery in Likasi Désiré Nshimbi Mundali (UNILU), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Blandine Ngalula Mubadi (UNILU), Maria Mirela Ani (Laboratoire National de Santé, Luxembourg), Radu-Corneliu Duca (Laboratoire National de Santé, Luxembourg), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)
15.40 – 16.00	The cooperatives: Gatekeepers of the sites Espérant Mwishamali (UGent), Sara Geenen (UAntwerpen), Sarah Katz-Lavigne (UAntwerpen)
16.00 – 16.30	<i>Coffee break & poster session</i>
	DOCUMENTARY MOVIES
16.30 – 17.15	Quentin Noirfalisse — “Cobalt, l’envers du rêve électrique”
17.15 – 18.00	Roy Maconachie, Simon Wharf & Bossissi Nkuba — “Cobalt Rush”
18.00 – 19.00	Q&A
19.00 – 19.45	<i>Cocktail</i>
3RD DAY – APRIL 4, 2025	
08.45 – 09.00	Opening remarks
	ORAL COMMUNICATION
09.00 – 09.20	Future making: ASM formalization in the DRC’s cobalt sector Hadassah Arian (UAntwerpen), Jeroen Cuvelier (UGent)
09.20 – 09.40	Management of Kipushi mining environments: Involvement of local residents in phytostabilisation and cost evaluation in inhabited and uninhabited polluted areas Joëlle Kilela Mwamba (Terra Gembloux Agro-Bio-Tech ULiège, UNILU), Jacques Kilela Mwanasomwe (UNILU) Michel Mpundu Mubemba (UNILU), Gilles Colinet (Terra Gembloux Agro-Bio-Tech ULiège)
09.40 – 10.00	Vernacular Knowledge and Local Resistance to Mining Extractivism in the DRC Rose Ukeci Uwodha (UMons)
10.00 – 10.30	<i>Coffee break & poster session</i>
10.30 – 12.30	Roundtable on mining and development (to be confirmed).

LIST OF POSTERS

- 1. Geology of the Isiro-Ngayu gold-bearing region, western belts of the Kibali granite-greenstone superterrane in the northeastern Congolese craton, Democratic Republic of Congo: Results of first field observations**
Didier Birimwiragi Namogo (ULiège, UGoma, UKisangani), Joseph Martial Akame (ULBruxelles), Mokili Mbuluyo (UUélé, UKisangani), Lavie Arsène Mango Itulamya (UGoma), Aurélia Hubert-Ferrari (ULiège)
- 2. Environmental hazards associated with mining activities in the tropics**
François Kervyn (MRAC), Anouk Borst (KULeuven, RMCA), Dominique Derauw (Centre Spatial Liège), Olivier Dewitte (RMCA), Sara Geenen (UAntwerpen), Murielle Kirkove (Centre Spatial Liège), Florias Mees (RMCA), Caroline Michellier (UCLouvain, RMCA), Serge Mugisho Mukotanyi (UAntwerpen), Christiane Nabintu Migabo (UCLouvain), Bossissi Nkuba (UAntwerpen, RMCA), Anne Orban (Centre Spatial Liège), Benoît Smets (RMCA, VUBrussel), Harald van der Werff (UTwente), Sachinthani Weeranayake (RMCA, UTwente)
- 3. Dietary intake of cobalt and lead in the mining region of Katanga**
Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL, KULeuven), Germain Kasongo Tengwa (UMalembaNkulu), Lore Roels (KULeuven), Eddy Mbuyu Ilunga (UNILU), Taty Muta Musambo (UNILU), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU, Centre Anti-Poison de Lubumbashi), Tony Kayembe Kitenge (UNILU, Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales de Lubumbashi), Patrick Katoto (UCBukavu, Stellenbosch University), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU), Erik Smolders (KULeuven), Peter Hoet (KULeuven), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)
- 4. Artisanal mining as a socioeconomic lifeline in Rubaya: Factors of dependence and sustainable alternatives**
Elie Idrissa (UGoma), Mafuko Nyandwi (UGoma)
- 5. Domestic indoor radon exposure in Lubumbashi, DR Congo**
Élodie Lwendela Kalasa (UNILU), Gilbert Alpha Byadunia (UNILU), Desiré Nshimbi Mundali (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL), Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU), Boris Dehandschutter (Federal Agency for Nuclear Control), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU)
- 6. Évaluation de l'impact des activités minières sur les ressources halieutiques et leur environnement dans le Grand Katanga en République Démocratique du Congo**
David Mfwana Inabanza (UNILU)
- 7. Behavioral problems in children working in Kolwezi's artisanal copper-cobalt mines**
Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Eunice Bilonda Mbuyamba (UNILU), Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL), Jean Paul Mande Ngoy (UNILU), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU), Laurence Ris (UMons), Daniel Okitundu (UNIKIN), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)
- 8. Erectile dysfunction in Copper-Cobalt miners: A cross-sectional study in Katanga, DRC**
Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL), Georges Kalenga Ilunga (UNILU), Jaak Billen (Leuven University Hospitals), Tony Kayembe Kitenge (UNILU), Vincent Haufroid (UCLouvain), Abdou Mukalay Wa Mukalay (UNILU), Laurence Ris (UMons), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven), Paul Enzlin (KULeuven)
- 9. Hypoxaemia and risk of asphyxia during underground work in artisanal cobalt mines**
Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU), Trésor Carsi Kuhangana (UNIKOL), Steven Verpaele (BeCOH), André Ndala Nyongonyi (UNILU), Tony Kayembe Kitenge (UNILU), Patrick de Marie Katoto (UCBukavu), Célestin Banza Lubaba Nkulu (UNILU), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)

- 10. Social environmental impacts of the exploitation of energy transition minerals in Lualaba and Haut Katanga in DRC: analysis of the practices of mining companies and state actors in the implementation of the law that govern the mining sector**
Espérant Mwishamali Lukobo (UGent, UCBukavu)
- 11. The hidden legacy from the manufacture of asbestos-cement in DR Congo**
Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU, KULeuven), Pascal Mambwe (KULeuven), Jan Van Bouwel (IBEVE), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Désiré Mundali Nshimbi (UNILU), Tony Kayembe-Kitenge (UNILU), Jeroen Vanoirbeek (KULeuven), Célestin Banza Lubaba (UNILU), Steven Ronsmans (KULeuven), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)
- 12. Rapidly progressive silicosis masquerading as tuberculosis in cobalt mine workers**
Joseph Pyana Kitenge (UNILU, KULeuven, Centre Médical du Centre-Ville Lubumbashi), Qonitha Said-Hartley (U. of Cape Town), Adrianna Dubbeldam (KULeuven), Ida Kabeya Mulaji (UNIKOL), Pascal Kyansa Mangi (Centre Médical du Centre-Ville Lubumbashi), Paul Musa Obadia (UNILU), Mohamed Jeebhay (U. of Cape Town), Steven Ronsmans (KULeuven), Benoît Nemery (KULeuven)

International Conference organiser:



"Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences" (RAOS) of Belgium
"Promoting scientific knowledge in overseas regions"

Ringlaan - Avenue circulaire 3 / 1180 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 (0)2 790.39.02 / Fax: + 32 (0)2 374.98.22

Website: <https://www.kaowarsom.be/en> / E-mail: contact_raos@kaowarsom.be