
Impact of artisanal mining in Idjwi sud (D.R.Congo) according to environment protection and sustainable development

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Abstract

Idjwi Island belongs to the graben of West African Rift Valley inside Kivu Lake. It's an island subdivided in Idjwi sud and Idjwi nord. A Mesoproterozoic belt formation covers largely this region and the Precambrian granitic intrusion has contributed a lot in Sn-W mineralization with rich pegmatite and veins found all over this island.

The main mode of mining is artisanal since the discovery of tin and associated ore deposit. The field trip, environment quantification impact and the people interview allowed mainly making this study. Three exploitation sites constitute our survey: Lusengezi, Buhumba and Bwino. Lusengezi and Bwino are tin deposit, Buhumba a Tungsten deposit.

The artisanal mining in Idjwi started since 1998 and was developed with the mining boom of 2000, when the need in Niobium-Tantalum minerals was at the high level in the world.

The three sites are mainly affected by massive destruction of environment, stream and ground water pollution, illness and death of miners, destruction of landscape, radioactive elements contamination and landslide in adds and pits.

Even if Idjwi artisanal mining had certainly contributed to a relative development of few people, the measures of environment protection still a great challenge. The sustainable development also should depend on the environment protection.

A lot of Idjwi Sud interviewed people consider high the degree of vulnerability due to mining artisanal exploitation and concluded the difficulty of happiness from it. About 30% of environment nearby mining sites are destroyed, the education rate of young people very low because of mining interest, the lack of built infrastructure, the poverty; are among problem which stopped a sustainable development of this region.

Many measures should be applied in the future to make safe the environment by mining activity and the sustainable development should follow with new perspectives.

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