

DRIVING CHANGE

PUTTING SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF BATTERY-MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN REGULATION

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Abstract

Global North companies that source minerals for electric-vehicle batteries are increasingly tasked with verifying and remedying human rights, social, and environmental abuses in their supply chains abroad (due diligence). Private actors' increased responsibility has gone hand in hand with their growing power in transnational regulation. The rapid proliferation of regulatory initiatives means that the meaningful participation of communities and small-scale producers in decision-making lags behind. This oversight, combined with insufficient consideration of competing normative and knowledge systems and of power relations shaping mineral supply chains, means that due diligence initiatives struggle to have a meaningful impact. By bringing together literature on transnational non-state regulation and critical work on participation, this project aims to put small-scale producers in the driver's seat. This empirically rich project collects data in the Democratic Republic of Congo through a novel mix of participatory research methods, and advances the debate on non-state regulation and (digital) participation.

Keywords

1. (Digital) participation
2. Transnational regulation
3. Non-state actors
4. Mineral supply chains
5. Democratic Republic of Congo



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- Université de Lubumbashi