

Request for support to project for “Provision of an indicative, non-exhaustive list of conflict-affected and high-risk areas under Regulation (EU) 2017/821”

Reference

TRADE2018/G3/G11 (Revised)

Project context and purpose

Natural mineral resources can be a driver of development, generating income and economic growth for local economies, but can also contribute to the outbreak of violent conflicts and the exploitation of local communities. The European Union (EU) is committed to ensuring that its imports of minerals and metals are sourced responsibly and align with European policies on conflict prevention and development. In light of this commitment, Regulation (EU) 2017/821 (“the Regulation”) requires EU importers of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (and the minerals containing them) to carry out supply chain due diligence based on the five-step approach established by the OECD.

The European Commission Directorate General for Trade (DG TRADE) has contracted RAND Europe to conduct a project for the provision of an indicative, non-exhaustive and regularly updated list of conflict-affected and high-risk areas (“CAHRAs”), as set out in Article 14(2) of the Regulation. The objective of this project is to develop and maintain updated such a list of CAHRAs to facilitate the calibration of due diligence efforts made by EU importers of the relevant metals and minerals.

This letter is to confirm that this is a legitimate project and that RAND Europe is acting under the contract set up with DG TRADE to undertake these research and development activities.

Interview purpose and process

In the context of this project, RAND Europe would like to engage with organisations, institutions, and individual experts and stakeholders in order to collect data and insights relevant to the project. We would be grateful if you could support this project by taking part in a remote interview, sharing your insights and knowledge. This would help to ensure that the project is supported by a robust evidence base and that its products and outputs are best suited to the needs and requirements of key stakeholder communities.

The interview would be conducted by phone and will take up to 60 minutes. The study team will take notes during the interview and, if given permission, record the interview for note-taking purposes. A **consent form** and **privacy notice** for participation in the interview are enclosed with this letter. All statements provided in the interview will be anonymised, unless otherwise agreed with you. The information gathered during the interviews will be used only for the purpose of this study. Any interview notes will be securely stored and be accessible only to study team members.

Further information

For further queries about RAND Europe and this project, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jacopo BELLASIO (bellasio@rand.org) and Ms Anna KNACK (aknack@rand.org). For queries concerning the role of the European Commission, please contact Ms Zora MINCHEVA (Zora.MINCHEVA@ec.europa.eu).

Indicative list of questions

1. Background

- What are your current role, responsibilities and background?

2. Designing and presenting an indicative, non-exhaustive list of conflict affected and high-risk areas (CAHRAs) under Regulation (EU) 2017/821

- Considering the intended end-users of the CAHRAs list to be produced, what specific data and analysis would be most valuable to include in the list and in the country- and region-specific reports that it will comprise?
- Considering the intended end-users of the CAHRAs list to be produced, what approach could be taken to presenting information? Are there any accompanying resources or products that you would find useful or suggest to be considered for inclusion as part of the CAHRAs list?
- Are there any online platforms presenting conflict and risk-related mapping and monitoring data that you have found useful in the past or that you would recommend the project team reviews during the design phase?

3. Conceptualising conflict and high-risk areas

- What do you consider to be the main measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators of a conflict or high-risk area? Please consider indicators and drivers related to
 - Violence and armed confrontations
 - Governance
 - Economy
 - Human rights
 - Natural resources
- Are there established methodologies or approaches you are familiar with or have used in the past to define and monitor conflict-affected and high-risk areas?
- Are there any databases and repositories you are familiar with that you would recommend for the purpose of gathering data on indicators and drivers that could help define and monitor conflict-related and high-risk areas?

4. Interview close

- Is there anyone else that you would recommend us speaking with, or any documentation you would recommend us reviewing as part of our ongoing project?
- Do you have any closing remarks or questions for the study team?
- If we have any further questions or clarifications, would you be happy for us to contact you again?
- Would you be happy to be contacted for future elicitation and validation activities under this project?