



# GREEN WASHING RED COBALT

## Getting away with exploitation

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### THE STORY ABOUT THE 70% :

In 2018, 70% was the share of the cobalt supply that comes from Congo, but also close to the share of Congolese who lives with less than 1.90\$/day in 2018 while "cobalt miners have an average daily income of USD 7.65."

Cobalt is used in lithium-ion batteries, that we then use for electric cars, smartphones, etc...

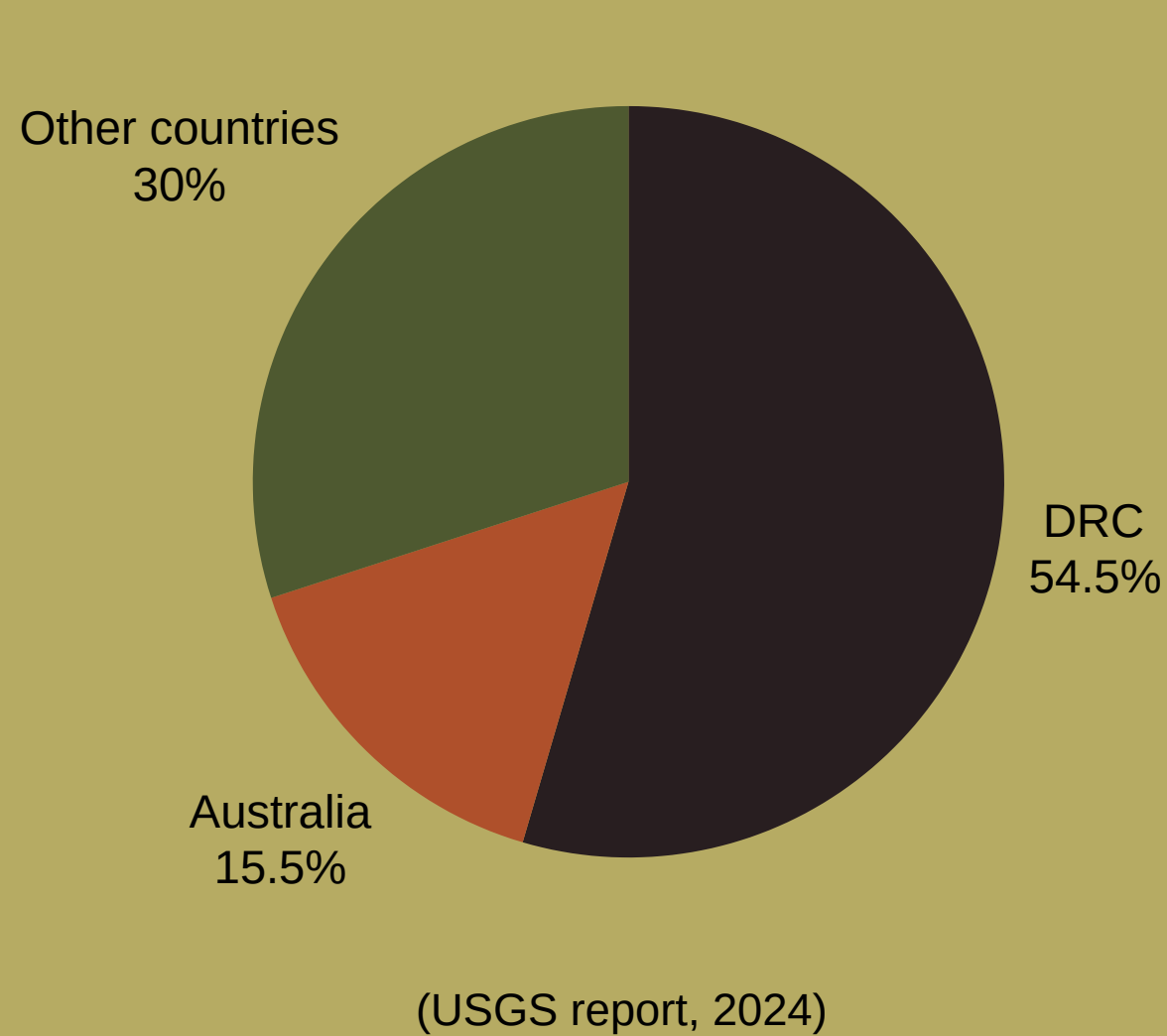
So, « "Green" » resources for green technologies or red flags? Where do you think this cobalt come from?

Behind the allegations of « green » cobalt : there is an unsustainable production - an environmental and social scandal that is happening right now in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

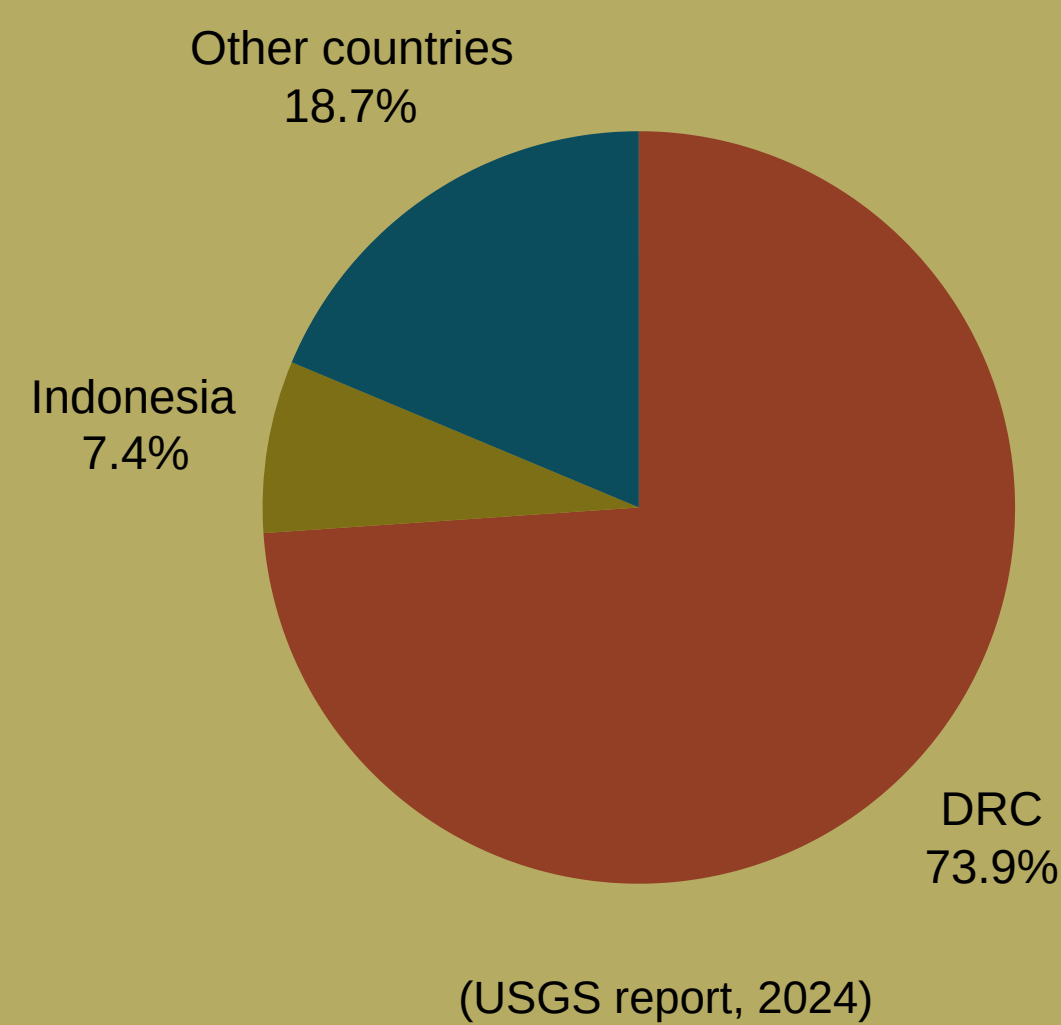


Picture : The Mutanda copper mine in Democratic Republic of Congo, 2012. Photographer: Simon Dawson/Bloomberg

### Global cobalt reserves in 2024



### Global cobalt production in 2023



### MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL

#### ISSUES AND INTERDEPENDENCIES

**Deforestation:** Multiple unique and essential systems are being affected. Especially the Congo Basin's Forest which aids in the capture of atmospheric carbon.

This will lead to mass biodiversity loss , Land changes and destruction of natural habitats.

**Depletion of limited resources:** Such as drinking water and land for other uses.

Contribution to **climate change** but **needed for climate policies**

Eutrophication

### WILL WE MAKE IT TO THE FUTURE?

#### Technology as a countermeasure

Efficiency in hardware such as batteries will reduce usage along with production and consumption. This along with the recycling of already existing components.

#### Reduce consumption / degrowth ?

Changes in the organisation of the production : implement better working regulations, empower local communities, create local democratic institutions?

#### What do we know?

The availability of data on the topic is scarce, by filling this knowledge gap we are able to take preemptive measures

### LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS COLLATERAL DAMAGE

#### Water contamination and pollution:

Consequences on drinking water, agriculture and fishing

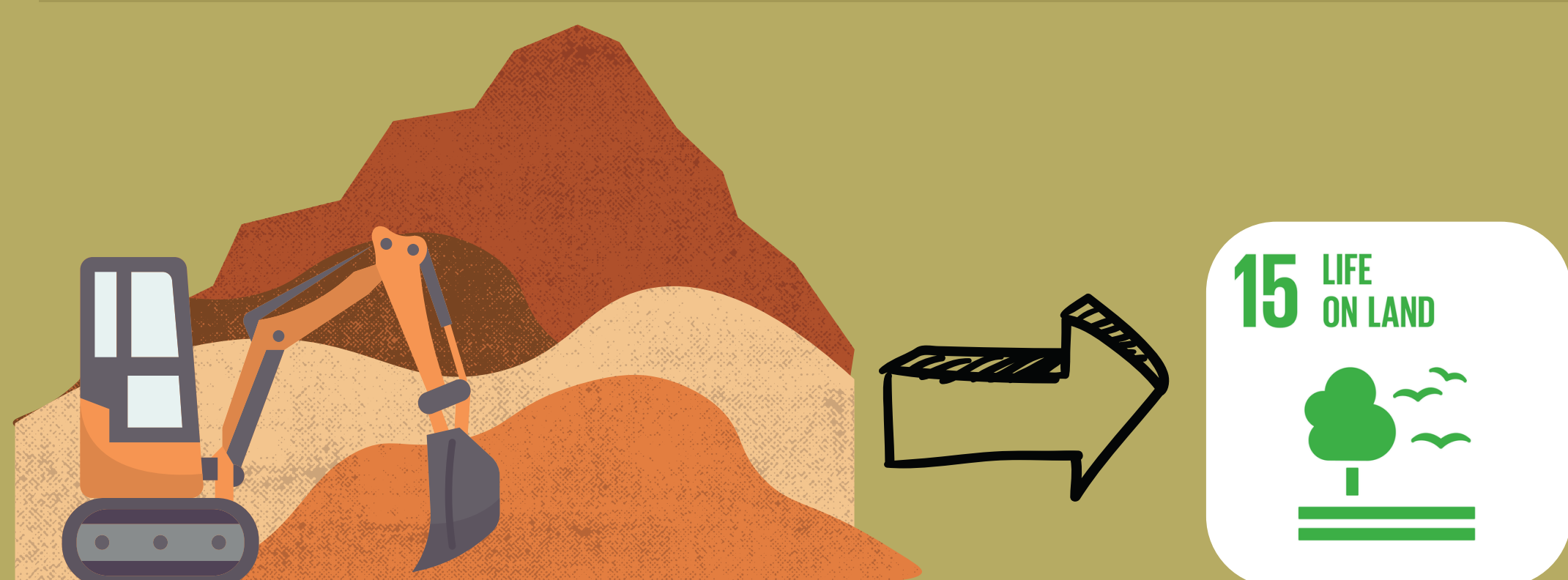
#### Issues for workers and «miners» :

Violations of human rights, child labour, very hard and dangerous working conditions, health issues, income inequalities and 40% underpayment / "modern slavery"

#### Issues for local communities :

Health issues (ex: cobalt and cobalt compounds possibly carcinogenic to humans, birth defects, skin diseases) ; displacements, forced eviction, conflicts, military occupations and violences.

**Benefits go mainly to mining companies and foreign investors**



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Scan me to see full references.

