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11/4/2017

Corruption Network in Ugandan Mining

Uganda borders several countries known for using conflict minerals to finance violence and terrorism. Because of this, a recent boom in Uganda mining has been accompanied by allegations of corruption, collusion, and smuggling. Recent news reports have focused on highlighting on specific companies and their ties to either Ugandan officials or regional unrest. As a network of organizations with varying degrees of connection to the governing bodies of Uganda, however, the Ugandan mining sector has not been well examined. Drawing from reports released by the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, it is possible to build a network of mining organizations through shared features such as the identification number of the licensed concession, the address, or even the type of material to be extracted. Past research on organizational structures has focused either on the intra-organizational networks of co-workers or the inter-organization flows of money or information. Network analysis methods traditionally applied to understanding business structures or financial flows can be applied to the Ugandan mining sector to understand the network, especially in relation to the companies that have been identified in news reports as related to corruption. From this, it may be possible to draw conclusions on how frequently companies may come into contact in general, which companies have the closest relationship to those known to be engaged in unethical practices, and how these corruption-influenced organizations affect the network structure overall.