

How Much Cobalt?



SMARTPHONE
0.3 ounce
(the weight of
three pennies)



LAPTOP
1 ounce
(the weight of
one slice of bread)



ELECTRIC CAR
15 pounds
(the weight of about
two gallons of milk)

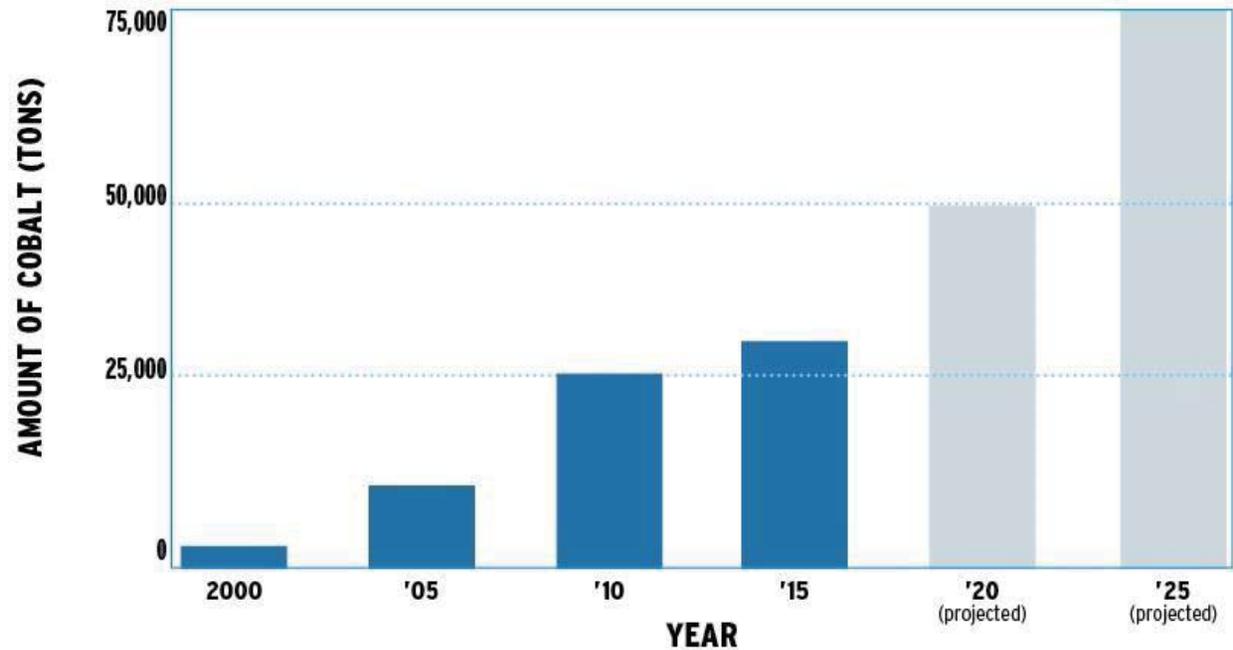
SOURCE: THE WASHINGTON POST

Booming Cobalt Demand

This graph shows the amount of cobalt used worldwide for batteries since 2000 (with projections through 2025).

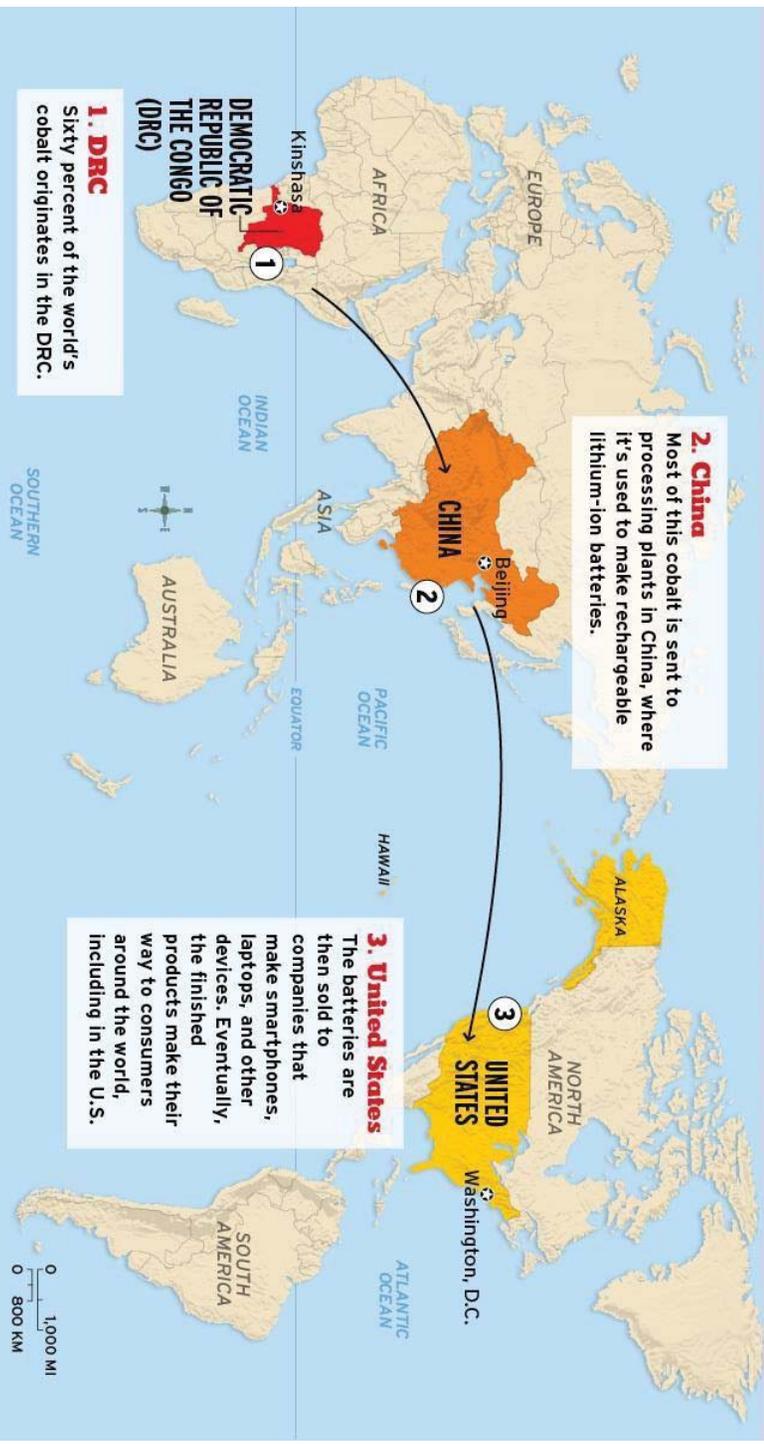
SOURCE: THE WASHINGTON POST

Station A



Station A

Tracing Cobalt From the DRC to Your Smartphone



CONFLICT MINERALS REPORT: Summary of Apple’s Commitment

Apple is deeply committed to upholding human rights and using minerals in its products that do not directly or indirectly finance armed conflict or benefit armed groups. Apple works to safeguard the well-being of people involved in its supply chain and to

protect the place where these materials are found. As of December 31, 2017—for the third straight year—100 percent of identified smelters and refiners* in Apple’s supply chain for all applicable products manufactured during calendar year 2017 participated in an independent third-party conflict minerals audit (“Third Party Audit”) program for gold, columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, wolframite, tantalum, tin, and tungsten (collectively, “conflict minerals”). In 2017, Apple directed its suppliers to remove from its supply chain 10 smelters and refiners not willing to participate in, or complete, a Third Party Audit within given timelines.

Blood, Sweat, and Batteries

By Vivienne Walt and Sebastian Meyer

August 23, 2018

...**ROUGHLY TWO-THIRDS** of the world's cobalt is produced in the DRC's southeastern province of Luailaba, near the border with Zambia. The region sits atop a dizzyingly rich mineral vein known as the Copperbelt—and cobalt is mostly a by-product of copper and nickel extraction. Mining accounts for about 80% of the DRC's earnings. Stretching across Africa's broad midsection, the DRC has for decades epitomized the term "resource curse." Despite giant riches of tin, gold, nickel, copper, and now cobalt, the average person there earns just \$700 a year.

Life is grindingly difficult for the millions of Congolese who have no running water or electricity at home; the average life expectancy is about 60. The DRC ranked near the bottom on the UN's Human Development Index in 2015, at 176th out of 188 countries. And it fares little better on the anti-corruption index of the NGO Transparency International, which cites rampant patronage among a small elite, headed by President Joseph Kabila, who has held power for nearly 18 years. Kabila has picked a close ally to succeed him, in December elections, which could spark violence.

...While it is impossible to know how many underage miners there are, Congolese activists working to end child labor say poverty has driven up the numbers. "Because of the economic crisis, there are about 10,000 of them," says Hélène Kayekeza Mutshaka, who coordinates a monitoring program in Kolwezi that the government began last year, to try to stop children from mining cobalt. Mutshaka says she faces strong resistance from poor families, who have long sent their children to dig for minerals in order to supplement their meager earnings. "They believe they can try to make it into the middle class if they work as artisanal miners," Mutshaka says.

...Despite the grueling conditions, the temptation for children to keep working is strong. Many earn just \$2 per day, often acting as human mules for cobalt diggers. "When kids are not in school, they all go work in the mines," says Franck Mande, who oversees a project funded by Apple that aims to teach child miners new skills. "They work from 14, 15, 16 years—even from 10 years old," Mande says.

... Shaken by the possibility that children might be mining cobalt used in iPads and iPhones, Apple says that it has identified every smelter providing cobalt in its supply chain, and that they are regularly audited by independent third parties. Last year, the company announced that it would stop sourcing all cobalt from informal mines in the DRC, but that it did not agree with those pushing to pull out of Congo altogether. "There are real challenges with artisanal

mining of cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo," the company said in an email to Fortune. "But we believe deeply that walking away would do nothing to improve conditions for people or the environment. "

30 October 2005

Station D Station D

BUKAVU, Democratic Republic of Congo: Children's Poems

Translated by Eric Schiller

The following poems by Congolese children and young people appeared in 'Salam', a publication of the Center for the Peace for Children. Bukavu, a city in the eastern area of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the site of the Center, suffered a devastating assault in June 2004 by a Tutsi-based militia in which hundreds of Bukavu residents were raped and killed. PEACE

I am born of my parents

Today I am an orphan

I lived with my parents

Andre is an orphan of war

It's you, war, who has done this

Because of you, my parents are dead

My brothers no longer speak a word

I am now without help

The earth has a poisonous look to me

War -- give us peace!

Paulin has been killed so that his possessions can be

Seized -- in Justice!

We are traumatized. Why this catastrophe?-- War--give us peace

During the night we are in the bush.

Justice no longer seems to

work Give us peace -

authorities -- give us peace!

Pascal, sixth grade

Peace -- where are you?

A high wall has risen in front of me

As if to eliminate the horizon of life

I am like a blind person in the dark

The darkness which has paralyzed our existence

Peace. . . I am looking for you.

You are ignored as though you no longer exist

That's why there is a lack of conscience We

have been killed by small weapons and heavy

blows

These men who massacre others These men

who imprison others and crush the innocent

Peace -- where are you? I am looking for you

How many broken hearts, murders?

How many people dehumanized?

How many oppressed, without hope?

How many tortured for their religious opinions?

How many people smashed for having said the

truth?

Peace -- I am looking for you. . .

People are dying without saying anything,

because they don't even have the strength to

speak

Dear God give us peace

Ntakwindja, eighteen

A rebel quagmire for South African troops

Some of the dozens of rebel factions operating in North and South Kivu in the DRC

Station E



Countries bordering the DRC



Rebel groups and militias in eastern DRC

- FRPI** *Force de résistance patriotique en Ituri*
Based in gold-rich region of Ituri
- ADF-Nalu** *Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda*
Ugandan-led Islamists
- Other armed groups**
- UPCP** *Union des patriotes congolais pour la paix*
Loose coalition of nationalist groups
- FDLR** *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda*
Rwandan Hutu rebels
- APCLS** *Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain*
Mai Mai group
- Sheka**
Mai Mai group
- M23**
Tutsi, allegedly backed by Rwanda
- Rai Mutomboki**
Anti-FDLR group
- Mai Mai groups**
Local forces claiming to act in self-defence

Station E

