

Madini Consulting

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Andreina Vanoni	2023	International Business
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Soma Munnangi	2023	International Business
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Diego Jenkins	2023	International Business
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Advisor(s): Dr. Joan Martínez Evora

Topic Title: Digging Deep: Congo's Blood and Iphone's Glow

Audience: Apple Board of Directors

Sustainable Development Goal

SDG # 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

Executive Summary

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the richest countries in terms of natural resources that have been untapped with an approximate value of \$24 trillion. However, the people of the DRC are one of the poorest and live in one of the worst living conditions according to the United Nations human development index.

The DRC is known to have 70% of the world's cobalt reserves. Cobalt is an essential component for most electronic devices, as it is a crucial element for batteries and other components. Cobalt is a vital metal ore from which pure cobalt is extracted, which is used to make transistors, capacitors, and semiconductors. Nevertheless, the extraction is executed in the conflict-stricken area of North Kivu, Eastern DRC. Those activities are predominantly controlled by several militia groups that have developed throughout the years. These groups utilize forced child labor to exploit the region's mineral extraction.

Apple uses cobalt for semiconductors and, therefore, the company must implement measures to ensure that the cobalt sources for their devices are obtained legally, ethically, and in a sustainable manner to successfully compete within the global marketplace. Madini Consulting proposes to Apple Board of Directors solutions that are financially sound, legal, ethical, and sustainable such as recycling cobalt, increasing penalties for the use of child labor via an internal reporting system and monitoring of its supply chain, and partnering with organizations on the ground to monitor its supply chain.