

Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #1. Improving the Physical Security of Radioactive Materials

Project Purpose	To provide secure storage for radioactive materials in the DRC.
Recipient	Atomic Energy Commission (CGEA)
Need	The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (GDRC) is continuing to implement physical security improvements at its radiological facilities, particularly at the Kinshasa Nuclear Research Center (CREN-K), with the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other international partners. However, the GDRC needs one or more secure storage facilities for its disused radioactive sources.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial assistance for the construction/upgrade of one or more secure storage facilities for radioactive sources. • Assist the GDRC in consolidating radioactive sources from the locations where they are currently stored into the new facilities.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable storage facilities that securely house disused and abandoned radioactive sources.
Project Status	Project being considered for funding by the United States. Also seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #2. Searching For and Securing Orphaned Sources

Project Purpose	To identify vulnerable radioactive sources and ship them to secure storage.
Recipient	National Committee on the Protection Against Ionizing Radiation (CNPRI)
Need	There may be a significant number of orphaned radioactive sources in the DRC, which could be dangerous if smugglers discover these sources before they are properly secured. Therefore, it is important for the National Committee on the Protection Against Ionizing Radiation (CNPRI), as the country’s radiation protection authority, to identify locations that may have radioactive sources and send a team to conduct an inspection, to register any sources that are located, to remove any sources no longer in use, and to transport such sources into secure storage. CNPRI search and secure teams, however, currently lack the personnel, equipment, training, and operational funding needed to accomplish these tasks.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialized search and secure/source recovery equipment, personal protection equipment, and training to CNPRI personnel to enhance their capabilities to locate orphaned sources and transport them safely into secure storage. • Fund missions to proactively search for and secure radioactive sources. This would likely include funding for local salaries, transportation costs, and travel, as well as administrative support for developing an effective search plan. Participation by outside experts may also be needed. • Place any discovered disused sources into secure storage. • Help the GDRC implement a public awareness campaign, informing the general public of the hazards of nuclear and radioactive materials.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly-established CNPRI is fully, funded, staffed, equipped, and trained to carry out search and secure missions. • Search missions are conducted regularly and integrated into the regulatory infrastructure. • In the long-term, all significant radioactive sources are identified and placed under regulatory control or removed to a secure storage facility.
Project Status	Project being considered for funding by the United States. Also seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #3. Strengthening the Regulatory Infrastructure For Nuclear and Radioactive Materials

Project Purpose	To develop a nuclear regulatory system for the GDRC that has comprehensive control over its radioactive sources in accordance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards.
Recipient	National Committee on the Protection Ionizing Radiation (CNPRI)
Need	The CNPRI, the DRC’s national nuclear regulator, has begun efforts to identify indigenous nuclear and radioactive sources in order to build a national registry as an important step in developing control over the country’s radioactive sources. Due to limited resources, however, the GDRC’s nuclear regulatory system has not yet developed a fully comprehensive control over its sources in accordance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to GDRC efforts to develop and maintain its national registry of radioactive sources. • Assist the CNPRI to carry out a comprehensive review of its laws and regulations related to the accounting and control of radioactive and nuclear material. This review should continue to be done in coordination with the IAEA. • Assist the GDRC to revise its laws and regulations as needed to implement best practices in accordance with the IAEA Code of Conduct.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national nuclear materials registry completed. • Laws and regulations related to material accounting and control meet international standards. • Regulatory infrastructure meets the IAEA Code of Conduct and other IAEA standards.
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #4. Reviewing the Export Control and Strategic Trade System

Project Purpose	To help the GDRC to meet international standards on export control and strategic trade requirements.
Recipient	Congolese Oversight Agency (OCC), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI DRC), and National Committee on the Protection Ionizing Radiation (CNPRI)
Need	The GDRC’s export control and strategic trade system needs a comprehensive review to determine the degree to which it adheres to international standards. This will be especially important if the GDRC legalizes uranium mining and export.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an effort to review the GDRC’s export control and strategic trade system and develop recommendations for improvements and refinements. • Provide legal and industry expertise to ensure that relevant export laws and regulations are appropriately modified if the GDRC legalizes uranium mining. • Fund participation by Congolese officials in relevant training at the Export Control Academy at the University of Georgia’s Center for International Trade and Security.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective enforcement of export controls, particularly those related to uranium and mineral exports. • Awareness of international strategic trade requirements.
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #5. Improving Radiation Detection Capability at the DRC's Points of Entry

Project Purpose	To provide appropriate radiation detection equipment and training for staff at priority points of entry.
Recipient	Customs and Excise Administration Directorate (DGDA) and General Directorate of Migration (DGM)
Need	The absence of radiation detection equipment and inadequate training at many of the DRC's points of entry create a critical vulnerability in the anti-nuclear smuggling effort. In addition, inadequate standard operating procedures at the border crossings hinder the effectiveness of border police and customs personnel responding to nuclear smuggling incidents.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an assessment of representative DRC points of entry in order to determine the state of existing infrastructure, security, training, and staffing, to provide the basis for recommendations on deployment of radiation detection equipment. • Support development of a list of priority points of entry to receive recommended radiation detection equipment, as well as personnel protection equipment and relevant training. • Conduct a pilot project to provide appropriate equipment and training to the highest priority points of entry. • Support training and curriculum development at border security-related training academies, such as the National Migration Management Training Center (CNGM). Such training may focus on enhancing customs procedures, improving radiation detection capabilities, and developing standard operating procedures.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded, sustainable capacity of the DGDA and DGM to detect illegally trafficked nuclear and radioactive materials and other contraband goods.
Project Status	Project at the Port of Matadi with potential for national level training funded by the United States. Seeking international donors for additional priority points of entry.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #6. Reviewing Relevant Laws to Enable Prosecution of All Types of Nuclear Smuggling Cases

Project Purpose	To ensure that the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s legal code permits prosecution of all types of cases of nuclear smuggling, including scams.
Recipient	Office of Government Ethics (OCEP) and Ministry of Justice
Need	Since nuclear smuggling is generally an opportunistic, profit-driven crime, effective prosecution is vital to deter nuclear smugglers. It is not clear if the GDRC Criminal Code provides adequate legal authority to prosecute all types of cases of nuclear smuggling, including hoaxes and scams. Many countries have difficulty prosecuting nuclear smuggling scams, in which individuals misrepresent the materials they are trying to sell in order to increase the price. Often this involves smugglers trying to sell lower-risk materials, such as uranium ore, or non-radioactive materials while claiming they are more dangerous nuclear or radioactive materials. Such cases divert law enforcement officials from more serious cases and may attract terrorists or smugglers to the GDRC if they create a perception that it is a place where dangerous nuclear materials are available for purchase. A thorough review of the GDRC legal system would serve to identify gaps in current laws that need to be addressed in order to enable the GDRC to prosecute and jail both genuine and scamming nuclear smugglers.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts by one or more legal experts to consult with GDRC officials and review the legal code. • If gaps were identified, support efforts by the legal expert(s) to assist GDRC officials in developing proposed revisions to existing laws or new laws to ensure that all types of nuclear smuggling cases can be prosecuted.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase prosecution of all nuclear smuggling cases, including scams. • To decrease the number of nuclear smuggling scams, thereby decreasing the amount of time spent by law enforcement agencies investigating fraudulent cases.
Project Status	The United States funded this project. The legal review was conducted in May 2011, and several proposed revisions were developed.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #7. Developing a National Response Plan

Project Purpose	To develop and exercise a national response plan, in line with IAEA and other relevant international standards, that identifies the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies in responding to any illicit trafficking incident.
Recipient	National Committee on the Protection Ionizing Radiation (CNPRI)
Need	Successful responses to nuclear smuggling incidents require expertise that often resides in various ministries, including nuclear experts, intelligence and law enforcement officials, and prosecutors. In order to manage a smuggling event from its detection to successful prosecution, a national response plan is an essential interagency coordinating mechanism. The IAEA has developed several documents as part of its Security Series that highlight international best practices in responding to nuclear smuggling incidents. These IAEA recommendations provide a framework that a government can use to craft its own response plan consistent with its national capabilities and requirements. Currently, the GDRC lacks such a national response plan.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help draft a national response plan that specifies the roles and responsibilities of each agency in line with the IAEA guidance. • Organize exercises and training, as well as technical exchanges, to ensure effective execution of the response plan.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National response plan drafted and approved that clearly identifies the roles of each agency in responding to various smuggling incidents. • Improved coordination among Congolese agencies and with their international counterparts. • A regular program of exercises implemented.
Project Status	The United States is funding this project. A national response plan workshop was conducted in August 2011, and several recommendations were developed, including, but not limited to, formalizing a plan and then exercising it regularly. The United States will schedule additional meetings with the GDRC to monitor progress in implementing these recommendations.

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Project #8 Training and Equipping Law Enforcement to Detect and Respond to Radioactive Materials

Project Purpose	To increase the likelihood that law enforcement personnel will detect, identify, and respond effectively to smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials.
Recipient	Multiple Agencies.
Need	Beyond the authorities stationed at the DRC’s point of entry, the officials most likely to come in contact with nuclear and radioactive sources are law enforcement personnel who are conducting an investigation or interdiction operation. In most cases, DRC Aliens Police (<i>police des étrangers</i>), DGM Border Police, NCP, and other DRC law enforcement entities are not properly equipped or trained to detect and identify nuclear and radioactive sources, or to respond most effectively should a source be detected. Providing basic handheld radiation detection equipment and training to DRC police forces would enhance their anti-nuclear smuggling capability.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide select GDRC police units or other specialized law enforcement personnel with training and appropriate portable radiation detection equipment. • Provide additional training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worldwide and regional trends in nuclear smuggling. ○ Investigative techniques for targeting nuclear smugglers. ○ How to operate and maintain radiation detection equipment. ○ How to identify nuclear smuggling hoaxes from real cases. ○ How to preserve evidence for nuclear forensics. ○ How to perform nuclear forensics on contaminated sources. ○ Response procedures in light of the discovery of radioactive materials. • Coordinate with U.S. and other assistance providers to ensure that the equipment deployed for this effort is compatible with equipment used on the borders.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement personnel able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better identify nuclear or radioactive materials upon seizure. ○ Understand the significance of the materials seized. ○ Take appropriate action to protect themselves from the effects of radiation. ○ Arrest those in illegal possession of these materials.
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:
Project #9 Strengthening Anti-Corruption Efforts

Project Purpose	To decrease opportunities for corruption among agencies and individuals combating nuclear smuggling and reduce the influence of corruption on anti-smuggling assistance programs.
Recipient	Office of Government Ethics (OCEP)
Need	While the GDRC has adopted the African Union Convention Against Corruption and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, corruption remains a serious problem, as it is in many countries. Corruption within agencies responsible for protecting radioactive materials or detecting illicit trafficking in such materials could lead to officials being enticed by smugglers to overlook illicit trafficking incidents or to assist them in avoiding radiation detection checkpoints.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of agency-specific plans to reduce corruption among all competent entities responsible for combating nuclear smuggling. • Assist in curriculum development in order to ensure anti-corruption training is incorporated into standard curricula at national security-related training academies. • Assist the GDRC in developing standardized risk models to determine what is searched at the borders. • Support technical accountability measures at points of entry, such as installing cameras and that report to central alarm stations. • Assist the GDRC in continuing to improve transparency in the mining sector by working toward compliance with standards established by the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI).
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased influence of corruption reflected in Transparency International’s annual Corruption Perceptions Index and global corruption report. • Survey evidence showing a reduced number of individuals who made unofficial payments at border crossings. • Increased and consistent levels of aggregate customs revenues (as a proxy measure of professionalism and integrity).
Project Status	Seeking international donors.

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Priority Assistance Project to Help the Democratic Republic of the Congo Combat Nuclear Smuggling:

Project #10. Supporting Participation in the Nuclear Forensics International Technical Working Group

Project Purpose	To improve the GDRC’s nuclear forensics capabilities by increasing its participation in the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on nuclear forensics.
Recipient	National Committee on the Protection Ionizing Radiation (CNPRI)
Need	The International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on nuclear forensics holds annual meetings for forensic scientists and law enforcement experts, and conducts nuclear forensic exercises using actual material. Participation in the ITWG would help GDRC scientists develop relationships with the international forensics community and increase their forensic and attribution knowledge and capabilities, which is particularly useful when examining seized material of unknown origin. Wider participation also increases the international knowledge base, which plays a critical factor in attribution during forensics testing of seized material.
Project Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor participation by a GDRC scientist and a law enforcement representative in ITWG activities.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded nuclear forensics capabilities among the DRC’s scientific community. • Improved cooperation between the GDRC’s technical experts and its law enforcement community. • Improved contacts and cooperation between DRC scientists and other scientists in the international nuclear forensics community. • Improved contacts and cooperation between the DRC law enforcement community and their international counterparts. • Closer adherence to the international best practices on nuclear forensics reflected in the IAEA Nuclear Forensics Support Reference Manual (2006).
Project Status	The United States funded the GDRC’s participation in the ITWG for 2010, but another donor may be needed for future years.

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