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Metalkol RTR

A major tailings reprocessing operation

Metalkol Roan Tailings Reclamation (RTR) in the Kolwezi area of the DRC consists of two legacy tailings deposits hosting approximately 110 million tonnes of reserves (2019). In 2020, Metalkol reached full Phase 1 production capacity and completed Phase 2 construction, with the additional plant increasing its production. In 2021, Metalkol achieved its design capacity for cobalt production and exceeded budget production for both its products, producing 20 718 tonnes of cobalt and 94 807 tonnes of copper.

Unlike conventional mining operations which extract primary ore, at Metalkol RTR legacy copper-cobalt tailings are reclaimed and reprocessed. Since the 1950s previous operators have been releasing these tailings into the environment (including the Musonoi River). Over decades this waste material has accumulated into one of the largest tailings deposits in the world and continues to cause water and dust pollution, negatively impacting local aquatic systems, ecological habitats and surrounding communities. This presents a unique opportunity for us to go beyond 'do no harm' and to progressively address the extensive legacy of environmental degradation and pollution while improving the quality of life of local communities.

