

Illegal Sapphire Mining in Madagascar

The illegal sapphire mining industry in Madagascar has been a major issue for the country, contributing to a number of different security issues that are of concern to public and private interests. The continual growth of the illegal industry is often attributed to a lack of sapphire mining regulation, inadequate enforcement mechanism, and institutional corruption. Extractive companies need to be aware of the illegal sapphire trade and its effects, especially in regions of Madagascar that potentially have deposits of the precious mineral.¹

Sapphire mining in Madagascar accounts for an estimated 50% of the world's supply, with sapphire deposits located in all regions of the island. The government has instituted reforms which seek to enforce and curb the informal trade by designating sapphire rich areas as conservation zones. This technique was originally implemented in Northern

cont