

Alexandre Brutelle



- Director & Co-Founder @EIF (Environmental Investigative Forum)
- Investigative Project Manager @CiFAR (Civil Forum for Asset Recovery)
- Freelance Investigative Journalist



Environmental
Investigative
Forum

What do we do at EIF ?

- To research further, explore, experiment and further fill the gap between IJ and Climate Journalism.
- To connect experts and journalists worldwide in this sense, develop new investigations, replicate frameworks and methodologies, through our networking & training activities.
- To develop long-terms tools destined to environmental journalists worldwide, with our first African Mining Monitoring Platform coming out in Beta in November 2023, or our [#Environmentaleaks.org](https://environmentaleaks.org) whistleblowing platform published earlier this year.

NOV 09, 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

TOXIC FUMES AND LEAKS: PERENCO'S POLLUTING OIL BUSINESS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Energy giant Perenco is allegedly responsible for 167 pollution incidents and huge methane emissions, new analysis by Investigate Europe, EIF and Disclose can reveal. The Franco-British group is the country's only oil producer, operating right next to a Mangrove protected area. In 2021, Perenco's flaring had an estimated carbon footprint equivalent to 21 million Congolese



**Investigate
Europe**



DISCLOSE

by A. Brutelle, L. Szulewicz, B. Nkoy (EIF), L. Minano, Maxence Peigné (IE), [read here](#)

What is Perenco ?

- EIF started a serie of investigations on Perenco's activities in Tunisia since 2021, and expanded this serie with other media partners in 2022, with a follow up on the company's activities in DRC
- Perenco's is the 2nd largest oil and gas operator in France after Total, active in 16 countries
- Coined as the "low-cost" of petrol, the company's strategy consists in acquiring end of life oil and gas plots across the world.

Drawing a framework from a past investigation

From previous work over the company's wrongdoing in Tunisia, published in Inkyfada, Blast and Jeune Afrique, we had established that:

- The company had operated over protected areas, without any specific authorization (namely a national park and a RAMSAR site).
- The company was extracting oil & gas through the use of "unregulated" practices in Tunisia (= fracking)
- The company was responsible for various incidents of pollution as well as legal harassment over local populations opposing its projects

From Tunisia to DRC: a “system” of env. abuses ?

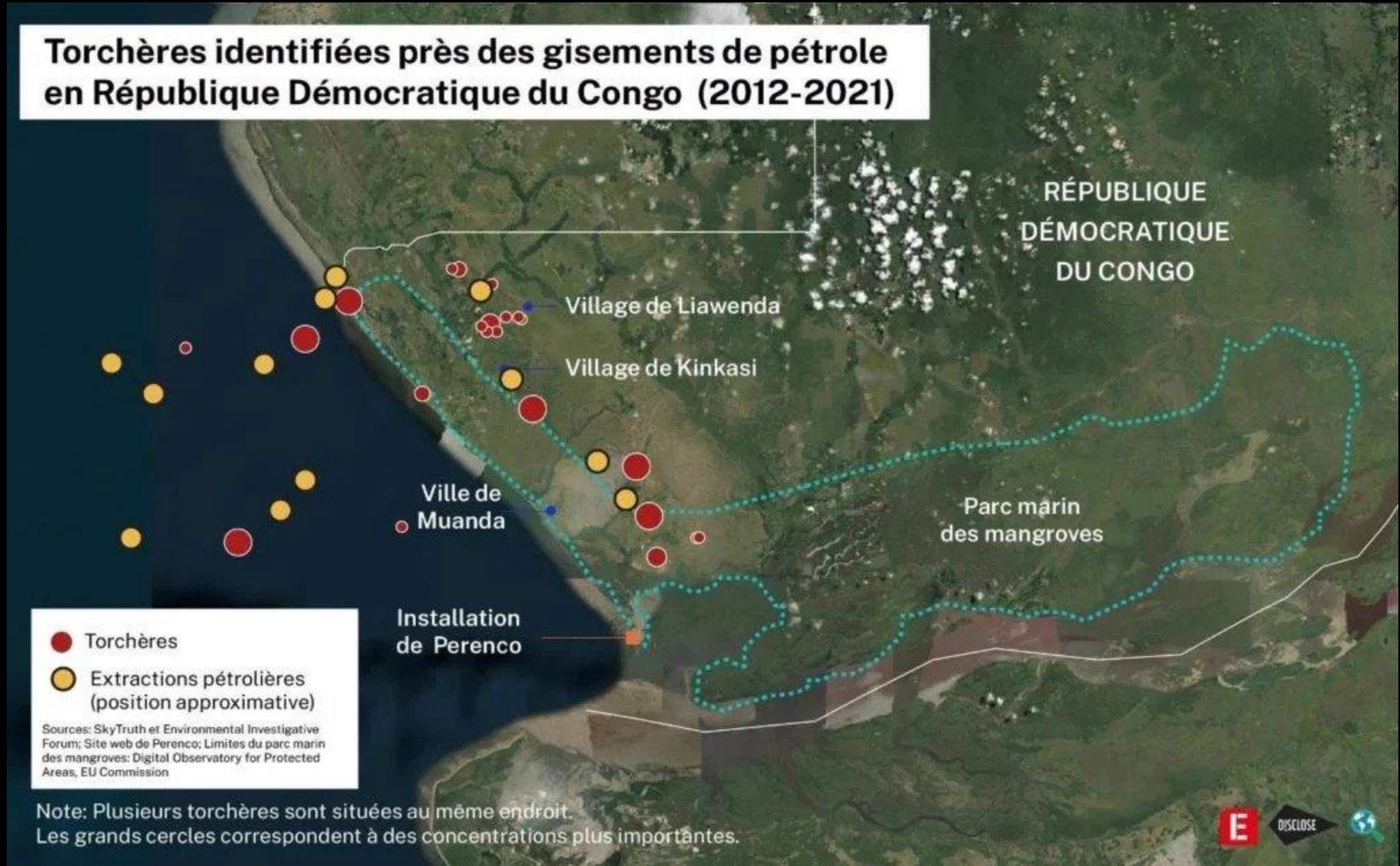
To validate this hypothesis, we had the aforementioned 3 leads to dig into. Which meant we had to further:

- Retrieve oil & gas blocks belonging to the company and projecting it over protected areas in the country
- Dig into the extractive processes used by the company and their legal statuses
- Do a literature review for all accounts of environmental and social prejudices over time, since the company’s implementation in DRC around 2016

1. Cross-referencing Perenco's borders versus Protected Areas in DRC



2. Reviewing unlawful extractive processes through remote sensing



3. Quantifying accounts of pollution cases through literature review

Overview - Risques et dommages environnementaux ☆ 📄 🌐

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

100% 123 Default... 10

Type de pollution	Description	Type de mesure documenté (témoignage, photo, sampling ? etc.)	Localité	Latitude, longitude	Date de l'impact constaté	Source
Pollution de l'air	Emission de gaz par des torchères	ONG locale à Muanda	Parc marin des mangroves	-5.920096697223063, 12.363442299994626	2008	Rapport impact activité pétrolière Muanda Université de Kinshasa 2017
Pollution de l'air	Concentration élevée en NO2	Sampling	Est-Mibale (torchère)	-5.8130556, 12.227777777777778	2013	Rapport Sénat RDC_Pollution pétrolières_Muanda_2013
Pollution de l'air	Concentration élevée de gaz toxiques (NO2 et SO2)	Sampling	Kinkasi	-5.8557222, 12.324805555555555	2013	Rapport Sénat RDC_Pollution pétrolières_Muanda_2013
Pollution de l'air	Concentration élevée de gaz toxiques (NO2 et SO2), 3 fois au-dessus de la norme	Sampling	Kinkasi (incinérateur près du centre énergétique de)	-5.8669444, 12.333333333333334	2013	Rapport Sénat RDC_Pollution pétrolières_Muanda_2013
Pollution de l'air	Concentration élevée de gaz toxique (NO2)	Sampling	Mibale-East (Torchère)	-5.8130556, 12.227777777777778	2013	Rapport Sénat RDC_Pollution pétrolières_Muanda_2013
Pollution de l'air	Pollution de l'air par les fumées et gaz des torchères	Témoignages	Kitombe	-5.911333, 12.404033	Novembre 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Pollution de l'air	Fortes chaleurs dégagées par les torchères, fuite de gaz toxiques	Témoignages	Kitombe (village)	-5.911333, 12.404033	2016	20201118-Extrait-assignation-PERE NCO-Préjudices
Pollution de l'air	Pollution de l'air par les fumées et gaz des torchères	Témoignages	Liawenda	-5.820881, 12.337892	Novembre 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Pollution de l'air	Pollution de l'air par les fumées et gaz des torchères	Témoignages	Tshienda	-5.788746117930313, 12.240359866777315	Novembre 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Pollution de l'air	Pollution de l'air par les fumées et gaz des torchères	Témoignages ; lettre du ministre de l'Environnement Didas Pembe (2007)	Kinkasi	-5.857278, 12.325344	2007, 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Pollution de l'air	Pollution de l'atmosphère aux HAP	Théorie ? (Pour mémo : Perenco se défend en disant qu'ils chauffent les sols, ils ne les incinèrent pas, donc ça ne pollue pas tant)	Kinkasi (Traitement des déchets recyclables)	-5.873133, 12.337258	2013	Rapport Sénat RDC_Pollution pétrolières_Muanda_2020
Impact sanitaire	Maladies respiratoires ; de la peau (prurit) ; diarrhées associées à l'exposition à l'extraction du pétrole	Témoignages	Kinkasi	-5.857278, 12.325344	Novembre 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Impact sanitaire	Maladies respiratoires, cécité et anémie associées à l'extraction de pétrole et à l'exposition des populations situées à proximité.	Témoignages	Kitombe	-5.911333, 12.404033	Novembre 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Impact sanitaire	Maladies respiratoires et de la peau (prurit), diarrhées associées à l'exposition à l'extraction de pétrole et à l'exposition des populations situées à proximité.	Témoignages	Liawenda	-5.820881, 12.337892	Novembre 2019	Muanda Rapport Pétrole Celestin Lubaba
Impact sanitaire	Constat d'augmentation continue des maladies respiratoires dans une zone proche des torchères de la société	Reportage de terrain	Kitombe	-5.911333, 12.404033	2021	Rapport ASF à anonymiser
Pollution des sols	Rejets de pétrole brut	Reportage de terrain	Kitombe	-5.911333, 12.404033	2021	Rapport ASF à anonymiser
	Maladies respiratoires et diarrhées associées à l'exposition à l'extraction de			-5.788746117930313,		

Impact: French NGO's taking Perenco to court over "environmental prejudice"

The results from our investigation led to the company's prosecution in France by Friends of the Earth & Sherpa, namely based on:

- Fossil fuel extractivism operations over a Mangrove Forest Reserve classified as a RASMAR site
- Illegal flaring in a remote area, equaling to the carbon footprint of over 21 million congolese, where less than 400.000 are living (Muanda district)
- Accounts of 167 cases of pollution relating to oil, soil and air pollution as well as alleged cases of health hazards



Environmental
Investigative
Forum

**Join us tomorrow !
Main conference hall, 10h45-11h30**

www.eiforum.org
team@eiforum.org / alexandre.brutelle@eiforum.org
[Linkedin](#)