



JOINT PRESS RELEASE NO. 01/AWNR-ACN KYAGHANDA/2026

Copper Intelligence and its partners involved in the "Butembo Copper/Gold" project are invited to ensure transparency, accountability and respect for the rights of local communities in Bashu, in the territory of Beni (North Kivu)

African Women for Natural Resources (AWNR), a feminist civil society organization working in the natural resources sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is following with particular attention the evolution of the DRC-USA agreement that led, in February 2026, to [the acquisition of the Butembo copper license by the American company Copper Intelligence](#), for the conduct of exploration activities on the "Butembo Copper/Gold" project, in the Bashu chieftaincy in North Kivu.

On July 1, 2026 in New York, [Copper Intelligence](#) announced in a communication the report of the encouraging results from the exploration work of the Butembo Copper/Gold project. Discovery drilling (BCDD001) returned 7.55 m copper mineralization from surface at an average grade of approximately 5.96% and step-out drilling (BCDD002), completed 100 m along strike, confirmed the continuity of mineralization with two significant intervals, 3 m at 0.24% Cu (8–11 m) and 3 m at 1.89% Cu (19.7–22.7 m). These results confirm the continuity of the mineralized system and highlight the strong copper potential in the DRC.

However, beyond these technical performances, AWRN expresses its deep concern about the compliance with the legal and social obligations that govern these research activities.

To date, AWRN notes a clear lack of transparency and accountability on the part of this company regarding the publication of the Mitigation and Rehabilitation Plan (RAP), which is required by Article 50 bis of the Mining Code as a prerequisite for carrying out the research work. This requirement is reinforced by Articles 477 to 489 of the Mining Regulations, relating to the organization and preparation of environmental instruments, in particular the RAP, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which require the disclosure of relevant information as well as the effective participation of stakeholders, including communities likely to be affected by mining activities due to their socio-environmental impacts.

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, Prefed building local 201, Kinshasa-DRC; Tel: +243810825409; Email: info@awnr.org; Website: www.awnr.org

However, information gathered by AWRN from local communities, through the Nande Cultural Association (ACN) kyaghanda, a grassroots community organization working in the DRC, which is committed to defending the interests of local communities and is also concerned about this situation, reveals that the launch of exploration work on the Butembo copper mining project was not preceded by any consultation with the communities concerned. In addition, no publication relating to the PAR, as recommended by Congolese mining legislation, was found on the company's official website. This raises serious concerns about compliance with the principles of transparency.

Faced with this situation, AWRN and ACN Kyaghanda call on the American company Copper Intelligence involved in the Butembo Copper/Gold project to demonstrate transparency, accountability and respect for Congolese legislation. The two organisations urge it to publish the environmental documents required by law, to engage in a constructive dialogue with the communities concerned through consultations and to ensure complete, accessible and continuous information throughout the different phases of their activities.

They also invite the Ministry of Mines, its technical services and the provincial authorities of North Kivu to ensure the strict application of the provisions of the Mining Code and its regulations, by strengthening the framework, monitoring, control and sanction mechanisms in order to guarantee the effectiveness of the social obligations of the American company Copper Intelligence, to improve the impact of its activities on the community of Bashu and to consolidate a governance based on the on inclusion, transparency and accountability.

Done in Kinshasa, **08 July 2026**

For Signatory Organizations

For AWRN

Mrs. KAMALA MURUMBA Johanna
Country Director
+243810825409
Jkamala@awnr.org

For ACN KYAGHANDA

Pr KASEREKA MWANAWAVENE Roger
Representative Kinshasa
+243992210680
Roykasmwana@gmail.com

Address: Av de la Gombe n°4746, Prefed building local 201, Kinshasa-
DRC; Tel: +243810825409; Email: info@awnr.org; Website:
www.awnr.org