

SustainBlock: Blockchain-based supply chain traceability

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Blockchain is an intensively discussed technology for enabling mineral and metal supply chain traceability, automated and improved due diligence activities. This session will shed light on the advantages and limitations of the application of blockchain technology in the area of supply chain traceability.

The aspects of applicability, data privacy, performance, implementation efforts, and costs will be discussed in the reflection of the SustainBlock framework. [The following is not a sentence and I don't know how to make it into one. Should it be added to the previous sentence?] An open protocol framework and reference implementation for a 3T metal in Africa's Great Lakes region sponsored and funded by the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM). The EPRM is a public-private multi-stakeholder partnership initiative aiming to increase the proportion of responsibly-produced minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas and to support the socially responsible extraction of minerals that contributes to local development.

SustainBlock establishes a traceability process along the entire supply chain from mine to store, thereby demonstrating end-users' accountability for, and relevance of due diligence data from, a given mine site [Check original for rest of sentence which I can't make sense of here](while protecting commercial confidentiality along the supply chain), the project will make relevant upstream due diligence data available to downstream users. This creates a market for upstream data and provides a sustainable funding mechanism for upstream due diligence. Upon upscaling, the value generated from the due diligence process will become an incentive for more transparent reporting and can be allocated towards addressing key local supply chain challenges.

A critical review of the applicability, implementation, and connections between software systems and real-world interaction at Africa's Great Lakes region will provide an insight into the requirements for the application, the benefits but also the restrictions of the technology of such a system for different supply chain types.