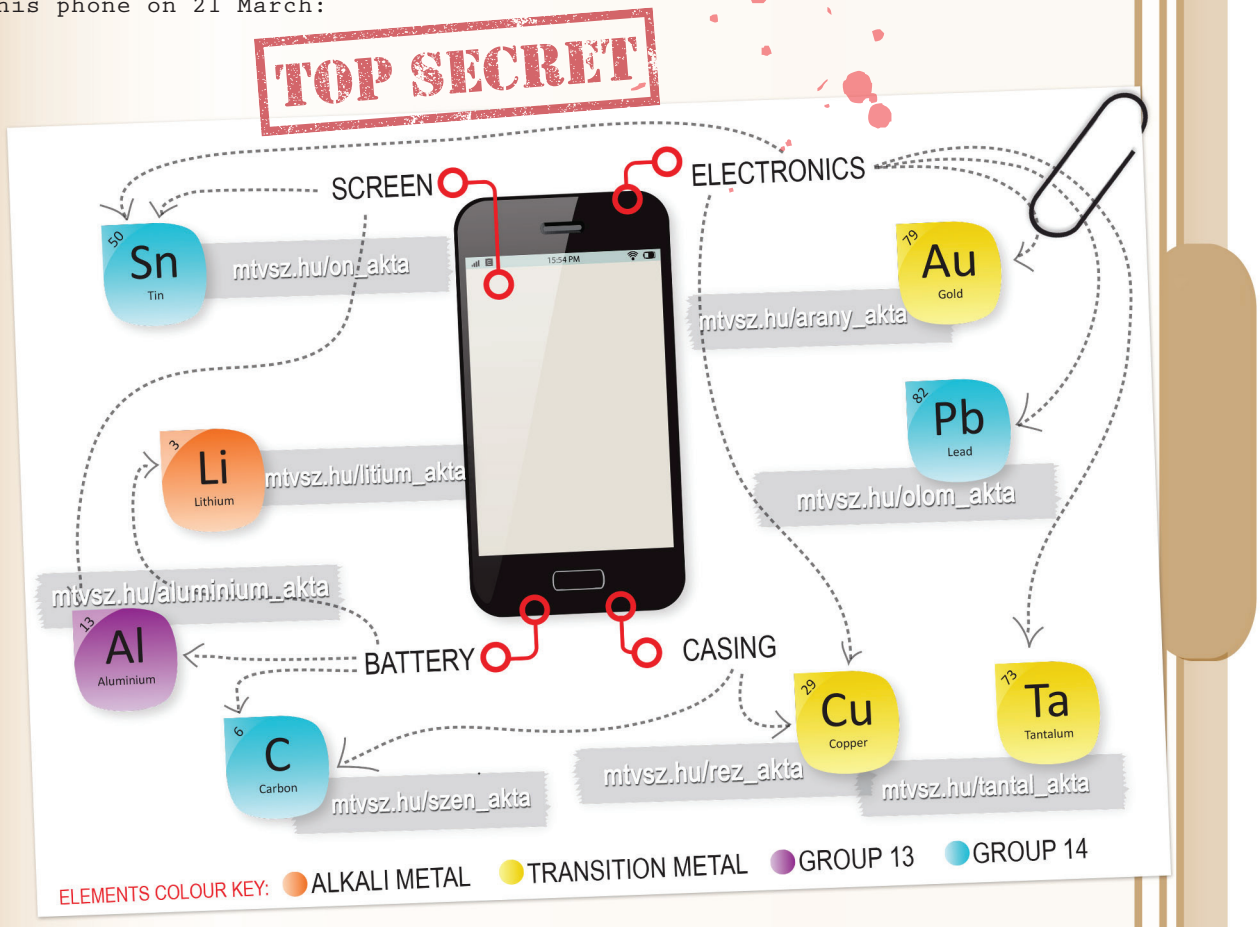
Round I

Dear Team,

thank you for joining the Extractive Industries mission detailed below.

A colleague of ours has been informed that the leader of a renowned international expedition group is in trouble - his name we cannot disclose -, while the group was investigating extractive industries projects in five continents, last time in Mongolia. The leader was last seen in Mongolia and he disappeared right after he sent this picture via his phone on 21 March:



The route map of the expedition and the diary of the lead expert were found, see them below. Unfortunately, the notes in the diary are deficient. Based on the picture and the notes, the international research group has to prepare the report of the expedition by 15 April. The group members are searching for the lead expert night and day, time is lacking so they have asked for help in preparing the report. They assume that the diary notes also decipher where the expert is now exactly.

Thus your team's task is to investigate the links on the picture, the map and the diary notes. Based on these write the expedition report, so fill in the answer form and find out where is the lead expert. Send the form to lassamelyere@mtvsz.hu by 15 April.

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EXPEDITION DIARY,

5 JANUARY, DEVECSER REGION, HUNGARY

Meeting the expedition team members. We've just arrived at Devecser: R the French photo&video-man, S. the Brazilian research assistant and I the lead expert. What a great team! I put together a traditional Hungarian dinner and they liked it. I might join S. on her morning running to keep fit. We arrived to our accommodation quite late so we watched a short movie about the Devecser case and discussed it with some local people invited over.

Task 1 for the Expedition report:
what short and long term impacts did the red sludge catastrophe cause in 2010 on the environment and local people? Max. half page.

Photo: www.katasztrofavedelem.hu

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9 JANUARY, ROSIA MONTANA, ROMANIA

The NGO activists host us here. Unbelievable that the gold mine company plans include a total eviction of 2 villages and would destroy the Kirnyik hill to build a 185 m high tailing pond! All day walking with the Save Rosia Montana activists – looking at the plans and talking with local people. Evening – I was too tired to write the report, rather I played with this related online game here: http://www.verespatak.ro/index.shtml?apc=hiv-n8823

Task 2 for the Expedition report:
to calculate: how much g spoil, mining refuse is generated by making an average wedding ring (5 g)? Also, during the Rosia Montana cyanide spill, approx. ? tonnes of fish died and how many people had temporarily no access to clean drinking water? Which other countries banned the cyanide-method mining banned besides Hungary?

Photos: www.verespatak.ro

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15 JANUARY, KOLUBARA, SERBIA

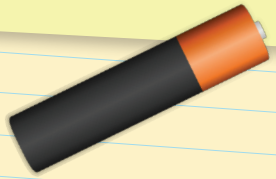
There are many coal mines operating in the Balkans – still Kolubara lignite mine was a good choice for the expedition: 600 km2 and just 60 km from Belgrade! The lignite then is burned in power plants to provide the major part of Serbia with electricity. Today we looked at the mine plans and talked with local people living in nearby villages – they spoke a lot about health and social effects of the mine.

Task 3 for the Expedition report:
to draw a human figure and list the health impacts of coal fumes to the various body parts (the list should be linked to the given body part)

25 JANUARY, SALAR DE ATACAMA, CHILE, SOUTH AMERICA

We suffer a lot from the aridity of the Atacama Desert. Evaporation (brine) pools everywhere near to the mine. Trucks roam to and fro all the time, we need to defend ourselves from the dense salty dust with masks.

Task 4 for the Expedition report:
summarize in brief why this claim is not true: „the desert is dreary, you can mine lithium there as you want without any impacts, consequences."



Photos: www.katasztrofavedelem.hu; www.reduse.org

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5 FEBRUARY, KONGO, COLTAN MINES

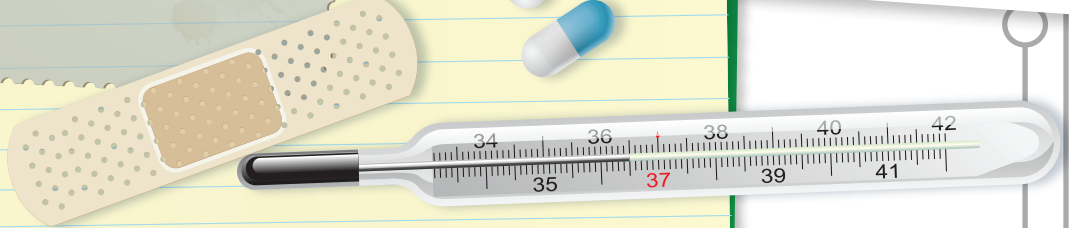
Local people in Kongo are welcoming hosts but you can feel the tension as we approach the mines. I needed to get special permits just to shoot some photos in the villages around the mines. Local culture is amazing, R. shoots photos like crazy.

Task 5 for the Expedition report:
I need to write a short article for our national TV news about what I saw, what I think, what are the problems around the coltan mines in Kongo. Max. half page article.

20 FEBRUARY, COPPER BELT, ZAMBIA (KABWE, MUFULIRA VILLAGES)

We've been in Zambia for two weeks now, the group is getting tired a lot. However, R. is worse shape than the others. He quickly made good friends with the locals while on the first days of our stay he helped in painting the school to make it more cosy... I am worried about his symptoms: numbness in limbs, muscle weakness, headache, abdominal pain, high blood pressure. His mood is fluctuating, he often forgets where he is and behaves very strange. His symptoms seem familiar, some kind of poisoning but we cannot diagnose him, the doctor is not available now and there is no Internet temporarily.

Task 6 for the Expedition report:
Bwrite down the chemical element that can cause these poisoning symptoms.



Photos:www.flickr.com/photos/bankwatch/sets/

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28 FEBRUARY, BANGKA AND BELITUNG ISLANDS, INDONESIA

The Indonesian islands are beautiful but we did not come here on vacation! Sometimes the environmental and social circumstances of mining can be improved due to international and local public pressure: I found this at Rosia Montana and here at the Bangka tin mine.

Task 7 for the Expedition report: summarize in short how the Bangka situation has improved.

Task 8 for the Expedition report: to calculate how much grams of tin is used by an average European family household during a generation (30 years)? According to my file about tin, the average tin contents are the following: tablet and similar: 1-3 g, laptops: 2,4-3,4 g, LCD flat TVs: 5 g, cars: 15 g.

10 MARCH, MONGOLIA

Weather conditions: dust storm!
One of the last Mongolian nomad families accommodated us in their yurt. Its freezing outside but inside the climate is pleasant. Out host, Sukhgerel told that the dust storms became more frequent and choking even at a respectful distance from the mine as well. Our Russian interpreter drank a little too much koumiss, and the terrible dust storm is raging so today is a resting day. At least I can arrange my notes.

Task 9 for the Expedition report: where do people use these chemical elements (from mines we analyse at this expedition) in everyday life? Yesterday I already listed the usage areas with which I only need to connect the chemical elements – but my notes were messed up totally in the dust storm...:(

Photos:www.flickr.com/photos/bankwatch/sets/; http://www.foe.co.uk/

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ELEMENTS

USAGE AREA

3 Li Lithium — LITHIUM

50 Sn Tin — TIN

82 Pb Lead — LEAD

29 Cu Copper — COPPER

73 Ta Tantalum — TANTALUM

79 Au Gold — GOLD

6 C Carbon — CARBON

13 Al Aluminium — ALUMINIUM

- TV, laptop
- packaging can
- baby toys
- graphite pencil
- electronic cable, wire
- printing
- jewellery, coins
- medicines, cosmetics
- mobile phone
- battery
- bowls
- paint (from 1970)
- car
- bronze statue
- tin

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13 MARCH, MONGOLIA

Still in Mongolia, this time we pursue the financial aspects of mining.

Task 10 for the Expedition report:
list cases where the mine is supported by banks from European taxpayers' money even if there are a lot of problems with these mine operations. Here are three such mines during our expedition – I need to write down these mines and their supporting banks' names.

Task 11 for the expedition report :
I need to find a good definition for the 'commodity curse' phenomenon. Then, based on all the examined mines in the expedition, summarize the main (positive and negative) economic, social and environmental impacts in connection with the mines, in a table. Only the local-regional impacts, on the local people.

19 MARCH, MONGOLIA

As the expedition finishes I am working on the summary materials. Before writing the report I go out and get some air around the 'Turquoise Hill' and then wander in a place which anagram is:

A R U B A T A L A N A

Photos:www.flickr.com/photos/bankwatch/sets/

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