

Metals Economics Group partners with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Providing a tool to visualize the relationship between mining operations and global protected areas

Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Cambridge, UK, April 19, 2011 – Metals Economics Group (MEG) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre are pleased to partner to provide information for mining companies on their proximity to national parks and other internationally important protected areas. This valuable new data layer in MEG’s online service will increase awareness within the sector about biodiversity conservation, providing additional context to mining-related development and investment.

Areas included in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) are displayed on satellite and terrain maps within MEG’s MineSearch— the most extensive and reliable online global mining project and company database.

The screenshot shows the MineSearch web application interface. On the left is a sidebar with search criteria and filters. The main area displays a map with various mining projects marked as orange diamonds. A pop-up window titled 'IDENTIFIED FEATURES' is open, showing details for a protected area named 'Ndola'.

IDENTIFIED FEATURES	
PROJECTS	PROTECTED AREAS
2 of 2 identified protected areas. prev next	
Name	Ndola
Designation	Forest Reserve
Designation Type	National
IUCN Category	Not Reported
Status	Designated
Status Year	1980
Government Type	Not Reported
IUCN and UNEP-WCMC (2010), The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA): Annual Release. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC.	

Protected area information maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre is highlighted in a new MineSearch map layer.

“We are delighted UNEP-WCMC is providing up-to-date information on protected areas to add important context to MEG’s services”, says Dominique di Gesu, COO, Metals Economics Group, “at a time when mining companies and investors are devoting considerable thought to a diversity of social issues ranging from land and water use to environmental impact and protection.

The WDPA is the most comprehensive global spatial dataset on marine and terrestrial protected areas available. “The mining sector has a compelling need for this information,” comments Jon Hutton, Director, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. “Companies need to understand protected areas better for their risk analysis and planning as some of these places are ‘no-go’ zones for drilling and other forms of development.”

The MineSearch client community includes the majority of large global mining companies, banks, investment and fund managers, as well as smaller mining companies focused on growth, service and equipment providers, governments, and consultants. MineSearch is available by subscription through Metals Economics Group. For more information, email sales@metalseconomics.com, or visit the MEG web site at www.metalseconomics.com.

About Metals Economics Group (www.metalseconomics.com)

Metals Economics Group (MEG) is the most trusted source of global mining information and analysis. From worldwide exploration, development, and production to strategic planning and acquisitions—our experienced and knowledgeable researchers and analysts provide the highest-quality services to all facets of the industry. MEG services are the foundation for confident growth decisions—allowing users to quickly gain efficiencies through easy-to-use online databases, and by accessing credible, reliable research for clearer insights and better decisions.

About UNEP-WCMC.org (www.unep-wcmc.org)

UNEP's mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre is an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence for the synthesis, analysis, and dissemination of global diversity knowledge, providing authoritative, strategic, and timely information for conventions, countries, and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions.

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