



**Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Film Profiles (videos)**

***Katanga Business***

Michel, Thierry. *Katanga Business*. Belgium: Les Films de la Passerelle, 2009. 35 mm, 120 min.

In Katanga, a modern-day El Dorado in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, new world economic relations are woven through billion-dollar transactions. Among the new actors, tens of thousands of “diggers” search for ways to survive by illegally occupying the concessions of mining multinationals, whereas legal workers fight for barely-decent salaries and working conditions. An extremely wealthy provincial governor, praised by the masses; a Belgian manager also known as “The King of Katanga”; a Canadian CEO and a kind of white sorcerer attempting to save an obsolete, State-run industrial empire; a Chinese businessman who just signed the mining contract of the century with the Congolese government – these are the characters of Thierry Michel’s new film. And these are the people who draw up the new strategic alliances in Africa today. Their destinies intertwine in a tragicomedy staged on economic and social wars. Their symbolic and prophetic dimension make *Katanga Business* an edifying tale full of dark humor and realism about globalization, its hopes and its gloomy setbacks. (Source: [Official Film Website](#) and Press Kit)

© 2009 Doc & Film International. Trailer used with permission.

This film is available at the [Rachel Carson Center Library](#) (RCC, 4th floor, Leopoldstrasse 11a, 80802 Munich) for on-site viewing only. For more information, please contact [library@rcc.lmu.de](mailto:library@rcc.lmu.de).

[About the Environmental Film Profiles collection](#)

**Further readings:**

- Bury, Jeffrey. "Livelihoods in Transition: Transnational Gold Mining Operations and Local Change in Cajamarca, Peru." *The Geographical Journal* 170, no. 1 (2004): 78–91.
- Geenen, Sarah. "A Dangerous Bet: The Challenges of Formalizing Artisanal Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo." *Resources Policy* 37, no. 3 (2012): 322–30.
- Gifford, Blair, Andrew Kestler, and Sharmila Anand. "Building Local Legitimacy into Corporate Social Responsibility: Gold Mining Firms in Developing Nations." *Journal of World Business* 45, no. 3 (2010): 304–11.
- Hönke, Jana. [“New Political Topographies: Mining Companies and Indirect Discharge in Southern Katanga](#)

(DRC).” *Politique Africaine* 4, no. 120 (2010): 105–27.

- Mullins, Christopher W., and Dawn L. Rothe. “Gold, Diamonds and Blood: International State-Corporate Crime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” *Contemporary Justice Review* 11, no. 2 (2008).

#### **Related links:**

- When China Met Africa (Film Profile)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/when-china-met-africa>
- Why Poverty? Stealing Africa (Film Profile)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/why-poverty-stealing-africa>
- Blood in the Mobile (Film Profile)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/blood-mobile>

#### **Websites linked in this text:**

- [http://katanga-lefilm.com/film-dossier-de-presse\\_en.html](http://katanga-lefilm.com/film-dossier-de-presse_en.html)
- <http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>
- <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/multimedia/collection/environmental-films-project>