



CONIAS  
RISK  
INTELLIGENCE

## CONIAS Newsletter December 2018

Dear Reader,

With 2018, an exciting year for CONIAS, coming to an end, we're happy that sending out this Newsletter № 12 also gives us the opportunity to wish you and your families Happy Holidays and all the best for 2019! As usual, the Newsletter aims at giving you a brief overview of what kept us busy and up at night the last weeks. If you don't want to wait another four weeks for new insights from our CONIAS work or have comments and suggestions, please engage with us directly via [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

*Hinweis: Ab sofort gibt es den monatlichen CONIAS Newsletter auch in deutscher Sprache. Eine Anmeldung hierfür ist ab sofort möglich und benötigt nur einen [Klick](#).*

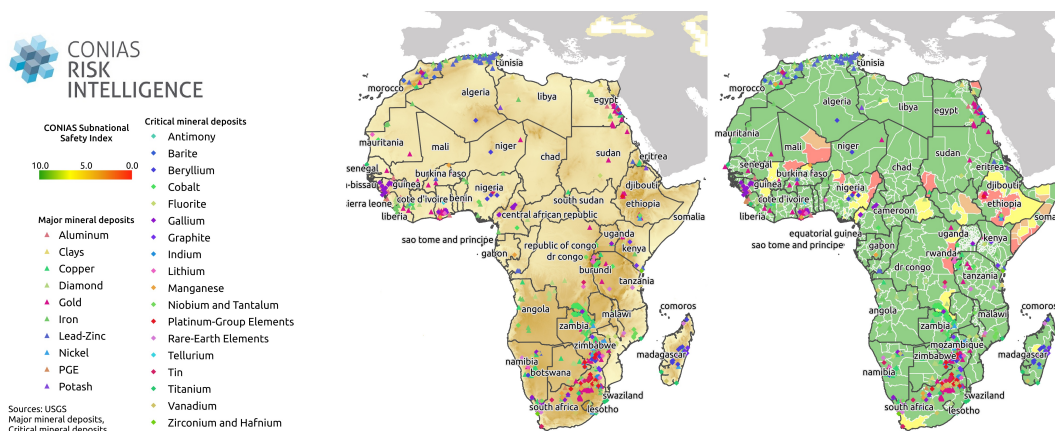
For now, we hope you enjoy the read and look forward to further exchanges!

Your CONIAS-Team



## CONIAS Blog: What made us think last month

### Scarce Supply: How to enter Rare Earth Markets in a *Sustainable* Way?

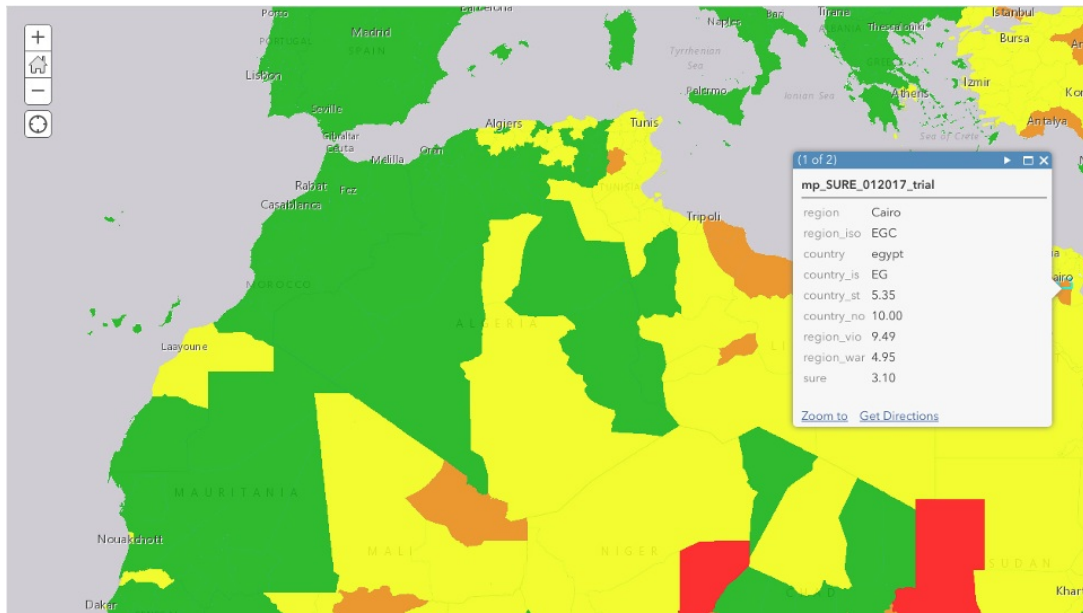


Erbium, yttrium, thulium – these metals, belonging to the "[rare earth](#)" elements, are vital to many modern technologies. Rare earths are not only required for the production of 3D printers but are equally essential for the production of electric motors and wind turbines. Rare earth elements are not as "rare" as their name implies. The raw materials, a total of 17 chemical elements, even occur rather frequently in ores. In fact, what is hard to find, are larger and contiguous deposits, so whoever controls them has a clear advantage.

In her latest [Blog post](#), [Binta Bah](#) examines recent and structural challenges to companies that want to sustain or enhance their supply with rare earth elements and argues that entering new and alternative markets requires proactive risk management.

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## CONIAS Insight: What you might have missed



With two new datasets, we entered the [ArcGis Marketplace](#) in November, the largest GIS user base in the world. Based on our conflict data and key socioeconomic indicators, the [Subnational Safety \(SUSAFE\) Index](#) and the [Subnational Resilience \(SURE\) Index](#) address current as well as mid- and long-term challenges to political stability and communal well-being in more than 3,800 first level administrative divisions worldwide. Monthly updates and a high compatibility with other datasets and monitoring tools used in this context support users to plan and adjust travel and expat security strategies ([SUSAFE](#)) and to evaluate (potential) suppliers, production sites and markets through the prism of future (in)stability and conflict ([SURE](#)).

Both tools can help us understand the at times highly complex dynamics at play in a country like Ukraine, where a recently again intensified bilateral crisis with [Russia](#) has also major implications for the developments inside the country, among all the Presidential elections in

2019. Mattia Nelles, a fellow for International Politics at the Berlin-based think tank [Center for Liberal Modernity](#), who authored an in-depth study on [Ukraine](#) as part of our [Risk Report Series](#), argued in an expert analysis published by the [Atlantic Council](#) that amid the declaration of martial law in several provinces, "the slow and shaky process of reforms that already stalled during the ongoing election season seems to be over." In addition, the online platform Mannheim ["Stadt im Quadrat"](#) published an article on our work and the Risk Report Series, which has also become a permanent feature of the [S-Country Desk](#) solution, a joint project of the [Savings Banks Finance Group](#) and their European and overseas partners.

On November 2, [Dr. Magdalena Kirchner](#) joined the [German Council on Foreign Relations](#) and the US Consulate in Frankfurt for a panel [discussion](#) on Germany's (future) role in the world, the current state of the Transatlantic Partnership and perspectives of European security in the post-Brexit Era. Addressing NATO's largest headache on the Alliance's Southern Flank, Dr. Kirchner gave a [talk](#) on [Turkey's](#) Middle East Policy and the latest developments in Northern Syria at the [Austrian Orient Society Hammer-Purgstall](#) (ÖOG) on November 5 in Vienna.

While we are as always curious to find out what awaits us next month, we would like to also draw your attention to a very special event in February 2019. On February 21, our CEO [Dr. Nicolas Schwank](#) and other high-level officials and experts will discuss strategies to manage and adjust to political risks and instability at the conference ["Eine Welt in Unordnung – Strategien zur Absicherung Politischer Risiken"](#) in Bonn, hosted by the [Funk Foundation](#).

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## About CONIAS

In our daily business, we combine hands-on consulting on political landscapes with the steady and research-based improvement of our [methods](#). We think that learning from [partners](#) and customers alike and growing with challenges is essential for start-ups like us, seeking to stay agile and customer-oriented. Curiosity and open-mindedness also drives the way we develop our products - the digital solutions from CONIAS help clients to evaluate and monitor

suppliers in real-time. Our [maps and charts](#) support our partners in presentations for target audiences, customers and co-workers alike. Last but certainly not least, we provide deeper insights and understandings through background [reports](#), webinars and [workshops](#).

**Contact us**



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CONIAS Risk Intelligence GmbH Newsletter

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