



Wide praise for SAESSCAM internship solution

The iTSCi programme has enabled mining regulatory authorities in the DRC to be more efficient, participating in training, tracking minerals and facilitating due diligence on minerals from the mine to export. In the Province of Maniema, 91 mines are included in the iTSCi system, which is funded by industry, implemented by government, and monitored by civil society. **The government plays a pivotal role** in iTSCi, starting with SAESSCAM, the mining agency responsible for artisanal mining activities whose agents weigh and tag bags of minerals, and record the corresponding information, including origin, weight, grade, date, method of extraction, and tag number.



Training on iTSCi procedures, SAESSCAM interns (right); company representatives (left); iTSCi staff, SAESSCAM Officer, and Mine Office Secretary (Center) [Photo: Pact]

The **work of SAESSCAM is critical** to tracking minerals and monitoring the conditions of their production and trade to ensure they are conflict-free and do not contribute to human rights abuses. However, SAESSCAM has limited financial and human resources, which poses challenges to implementation of the iTSCi system. In Maniema where many mines are located in remote areas, **more agents were needed** to cover all iTSCi mine sites, and the local stakeholder committees found a solution by implementing an internship programme. Discussion of issues among stakeholders is fundamental to iTSCi implementation and the programme facilitates meetings of state services, civil society, and private company representatives, in all implementation areas.

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Currently, **10 interns have been recruited and trained** by both SAESSCAM and iTSCi, are receiving a monthly stipend from SAESSCAM, and working under close supervision of more experienced agents and iTSCi staff visiting mine sites, they now contribute to the agency's effectiveness while advancing their own professional development.

"I am extremely satisfied with the work of the interns" said Laurent Kituma, head of the office in Kalima. *"Their addition was crucial to improving the quality of our work and allowed us to address traders' concerns"* he added. Traders echoed this **positive feedback** on the internship solution *"Thanks to the additional staff, minerals leave the mine site quickly. We do not need to await SAESSCAM agents or go to the SAESSCAM office in Kalima to ask for an agent to tag minerals"* explained Elias Tindi, president of the negotiant's association This pilot initiative is now being adopted elsewhere in Maniema.



iTSCi staff explaining traceability procedures to SAESSCAM interns [Photo: Pact]

The recruitment of regular agents would be the ideal long term option but internships are a positive development and working well, demonstrating how discussion among local actors can not only resolve conflict related risks but can also find solutions to other challenges. iTSCi's field implementation partner Pact is also implementing a PROMINES-funded project to strengthen overall SAESSCAM capacities, laying the groundwork for what will hopefully be continued improvements in the agency's performance in the coming year.

iTSCi Programme

Supporting responsible mineral production



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iTSCi was developed and is managed by the global not-for-profit tin and tantalum industry associations ITRI and T.I.C. as an inclusive, sustainable, multi-stakeholder programme. We assist all actors in implementing OECD recommended due diligence to create responsible 3T mineral supply chains and benefit from trade, even from high risk areas. iTSCi has a track record of global co-operation and achievement contributing to capacity building, better governance, human rights and stability through monitoring more than 1,500 mine sites in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and protecting the livelihood of tens of thousands of miners plus their communities.

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The field activities of iTSCi are implemented through Pact Inc. The programme is funded by the 3T mineral business with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.