



Government improving inspection and controls

Since the start of the iTSCi Programme across Rwanda in 2010, we have worked closely with government staff of the Rwanda Mines Board (RMB) to ensure traceability and due diligence is in place for all 3T minerals exported from the country. **Traceability relies on RMB mineral field officers** carrying out activities such as monitoring mine sites, and recording traceability and tag data for all companies. In the early years of implementation mineral field officers were recruited by RMB and trained in traceability with the assistance of iTSCi, but they faced a number of challenges, especially in accessing remote sites and coping with increasing numbers of mining companies and active mines. These factors contributed to **potential risks of fraudulent** activities in the minerals sector and potential improvements were a frequent topic of discussion.



Joint visit of RMB and iTSCi staff to Kamonyi District, Rwanda [Photo: Pact]

Recently, **RMB decided to further improve controls at mines in Rwanda** through redistribution of the mineral field officers in local districts. This new strategy re-structures the key field resources to add a new **supervisor in each district** to manage officers allocated on more detailed analysis of the companies present in each area. In addition, the mineral field officers have **increased responsibilities for inspection** of the mine operations. This new strategy is already improving the management of staff and the sector overall. As explained by the RMB traceability coordinator, Mrs Chantal Ingabire, *“the deployment of mineral field officers in districts is supported by the new RMB regulation of 17 August 2017 which specifies the new responsibilities of staff and deployment in districts”*.

RMB officers faced challenges in accessing remote sites and coping with increasing numbers of active mines...

Many officers are now trained for increased responsibility and new equipment to improve communication

The deployment modifications of the mineral field officers was put in place in November 2017 and is progressing well. As well as the officers present at exporters, processors and in the RMB management office, another **~70 are now deployed locally to enable even more regular inspection of mines** and recording of their activity. Equipment including computers, scanners and cameras were provided by RMB to the newly deployed staff to significantly improve communications between the districts and Kigali.



New tag distribution procedure being carried out, Rwamagana District, , Rwanda [Photo: Pact]

iTSCi worked with RMB to design new procedures to support the restructuring...

iTSCi worked with RMB to **design new procedures** to support the restructuring, including revision of tag distribution methods. According to Mrs Ingabire the strategy will *“help decrease the illegal sale of tags, officers’ absenteeism at the mines, and traceability consumables being kept in unsecured storage”*.

Training on tagging, inspection and other revised iTSCi procedures, as well as due diligence guidance, health and safety in mining, and collaboration with other institutions, was also carried out by iTSCi for newly deployed officers and RMB staff.

This increased collaboration between iTSCi and district authorities is also expected to improve **resolution of incidents** related to illegal mining, child labour and illegal movement of minerals.

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.

See more news and information on <http://itsci.org>

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