

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

PPA Delegation Visits ITSCI Sites in DRC and Rwanda

DRC
RWANDA

Since its establishment in 2010, ITSCI has facilitated due diligence and risk mitigation processes with companies throughout the 3T minerals supply chain.

In December 2019, members of the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) had the opportunity to visit ITSCI mine sites in the Great Lakes region. Representatives of the U.S. government, PPA Secretariat, and downstream companies toured mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. The PPA is a joint government, industry, and civil society effort to advance conflict-free mineral sourcing, and ITSCI and its implementing partner, Pact, are among its members.

Vincent Gbolo Songe, ITSCI's Program Manager for the DRC, provided the delegates with on-the-ground perspectives into how ITSCI functions daily at Nzibira trading point in South Kivu's Walungu territory to ensure responsible sourcing and the significant impact it has on miners' lives.

“As a far downstream consumer of tin, it was extremely enlightening to witness ITSCI traceability and due diligence system in action at the mine level.”

Erin Mitchell and Adam Schafer, Intel representatives

PPA delegates also met with South Kivu's Governor, Minister of Mines and technical services CEEC, Mine Division and SAEAMPE, all of whom welcomed the visit. CEEC provincial director highlighted the good cooperation between ITSCI and state services while showing that main issues were on gold and the lack of responsible sourcing initiatives for that mineral. In Rwanda, the PPA delegates were accompanied



PPA delegation visiting Piran, Rwanda, December 2019



by ITSCI Rwanda Program Manager Ildephonse Niyonsaba as they explored the mine site of ITSCI member company Piran Rwanda.

Visits like PPA's ensure that downstream companies grasp the complexity of risk management in their supply chains through tangible insights into on-the-ground conditions.

Prominent technology industry leader Intel, both a PPA and ITSCI member, participated in the visit. Intel representatives



Division of Mines Nzibira branch director explaining recording of data on ITSCI logbooks to PPA delegates

“ As an ITSCI Associate Member and early driver of conflict minerals due diligence, it was very affirming for us to hear the honest feedback from the mining actors on how such traceability schemes have helped organize their business in addition to giving them a method to demonstrate responsible sourcing of their product. ”

Erin Mitchell and Adam Schafer, Intel representatives

Erin Mitchell and Adam Schafer received feedback from mining actors who shared their views on the positive impact of the ITSCI programme.

The visit enabled Intel representatives to interact directly with mining communities and reassert the value Intel places in ITSCI.

ITSCI looks forward to continued partnership with PPA and to harnessing the potential of field visits.



PPA delegation with the South Kivu Governor