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ITSCI statement about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

March 18, 2020

ITSCI has been closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation as it unfolds and we are publishing this statement to inform you of the current situation.

In the Great Lakes Region

- Cases have been confirmed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although ITSCI Pact office in Kinshasa is closed for quarantine with staff working at home, there is no impact in the field.
- Cases have been confirmed in Rwanda where the government is implementing control measures. Field work is currently continuing as usual, including the distribution of tags.
- There are so far no reported cases in Burundi or Uganda and no reported impacts.

At the ITSCI Secretariat, UK

The UK Government has advised avoiding non-essential travel and social contact and that people should work at home whenever possible. London has been identified specifically as a high risk location where the virus has advanced further than in the remainder of the country. ITSCI staff will be working from home, but activities will continue; including traceability data management and analysis, monthly and incident reporting, membership administration and levy collection.

Potential impacts

The situation with Coronavirus is changing by the day and we are aware that businesses may be feeling worried. Mineral trade is currently continuing and ITSCI will endeavor to support traceability and due diligence as effectively as possible during these difficult times. ITSCI is taking every step necessary to ensure that communication with members and stakeholders continues as usual. We aim to continue to provide support and guidance to all ITSCI members, including smelter reports required for audit purposes. It is too early to estimate possible impacts on international metal markets or demand but disruption is likely in the coming months.

We recommend all our members, partners and stakeholders to follow the advice of government authorities and health experts for their wellbeing and that of the others. To prevent catching or spreading the virus, wash your hands with soap and water often, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue if you cough or sneeze, and put used tissues into the bin immediately. Avoid close contact with people who have or are suspected of having the virus.

In case of questions or concerns, please email ITSCI@internatinaltin.org as usual.