

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

SAEMAPE provides new scales to reduce traceability incidents

DRC

SAEMAPE agents in Pangni territory of Maniema province received a long-awaited supply of eight brand new scales.

SAEMAPE (Service d'assistance et d'encadrement des mines artisanales et de petit échelle) is the DRC government service devoted to supporting artisanal and small-scale miners, and a key ITSCI partner on the ground. SAEMAPE agents are tagging minerals with ITSCI at the mine level, meaning daily contact with 3T minerals that enter the ITSCI supply chain. In order to carry out these responsibilities, accurate tools are necessary.

In Pangni, various ITSCI incidents were opened that stemmed from data inaccuracies or conflicting mineral weights reported at the mine and processor level. When the ITSCI field team in Pangni followed up to make sure the companies involved were fulfilling their due diligence obligations by accounting for weight discrepancies, SAEMAPE's lack of scales surfaced as a cause.

Because of limited equipment, SAEMAPE resorted to local negotiants' scales, but they appeared not to be calibrated according to government standards.



SAEMAPE supervisor Mr Mukumba at Nakenge and Chantier 12 sub-sectors

“ I know that at the sites where we have installed the new scales, the number of weight difference incidents will decrease ”

Zachari Mwibya, SAEMAPE agent stationed at Yubuli-Matonge mine



Last year, the issue of lack of equipment was discussed at the monthly meetings of the local multi-stakeholder committee (CLS) in Kalima town facilitated by ITSCI. ITSCI also liaised with SAEMAPE's provincial leadership to reinforce reports submitted by the SAEMAPE Heads of Office throughout Pangni that explained how the lack of scales impeded their daily work.

The positive impact the new scales have on data traceability will enable ITSCI and its local partners to better advocate for updated equipment from national authorities. As Mwibya argued, the objective is that eventually data incidents will cease entirely.

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 ITA and T.I.C. as an inclusive, sustainable, multi-stakeholder programme. We assist all actors in implementing due diligence to create responsible 3T mineral supply chains and benefit from trade, even from high risk areas and our standards are 100% aligned with the OECD guidance. 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 2000 mine sites in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and protecting the livelihood of tens of thousands of miners plus their communities.

The field activities of ITSCI are implemented through Pact Inc. See more news and information on <http://itsci.org>