

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Joint visit in Masisi territory

DRC

ITSCI helps foster stronger local governance of the 3T artisanal mining sector through stakeholder engagement, including via joint field visits in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other ITSCI areas. These missions are designed with representation of cooperatives, exporter/processor member companies, and state technical services, and they can vary in length from short day-long visit to follow up on a specific risk along the supply chain to much longer itineraries to multiple or remote sites. Carrying out these missions together is a critical aspect of capacity building and cost-sharing for traceability and due diligence among stakeholders.

In the Masisi territory in North Kivu, DRC, ITSCI's field teams help to spearhead the annual evaluation of traceability procedures in PE76, a concession near Rubaya town where 3T minerals are mined by multiple artisanal cooperatives. In December 2021, ITSCI took part in a joint field visit ordered by the provincial Governor and organised under the auspices of the Division of Mines and Geology. Over two days, the delegation's 12 members visited 21 different official mineral depots along the supply chain. Each depot is designated either for tagging or transit and is manned by representatives of the relevant cooperative and state agents. At each depot, procedures are in place to weigh and re-weigh minerals, register and cross-check weight, mineral owners and tagging information, and document the origin and destination of all



ITSCI staff build capacity at Bitonga sub-sector, December 2021

minerals. As part of regular due diligence checks, the delegation thoroughly examined whether procedures are correctly implemented and respected by local stakeholders, the potential risks to the supply chain such as mineral fraud, and how these should be mitigated.

In addition, the joint visit had an awareness-raising function, as ITSCI and its partners ensured that personnel at each depot were up to date on traceability procedures and understood the importance of communicating risks to authorities. Further, the delegation visited sites newly validated and qualified by the national Ministry of Mines to collect information and plan for the implementation of traceability and due diligence, with support from ITSCI and in the framework of OECD Annex II risks.

Following the December field visit, the joint delegation issued a written report on its findings countersigned by all participants. The report highlighted areas for improvement and called for continuous follow up and capacity building by all state services. The delegation highlighted the need for concession owners, exporter/processors, and certain cooperatives to take specific steps to reinforce their agents' traceability work, including cross-checking documentation.

The joint mission to Masisi demonstrates the role of stakeholder collaboration in mitigating risks and achieving progressive improvements along the supply chains.



Tagging depot at Ngungu sector, December 2021