

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

The “Good Mining Governance” Radio Show in South Kivu, DRC

DRC

Radio can be an effective way to reach local communities in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Since 2020, communities in Shabunda territory can listen to a weekly radio programme aiming to provide information about the mining sector. The shows are broadcasted on Mutula Community FM with the support of ITSCI field staff in Shabunda, and funded by the Shabunda CTS (Territorial Multistakeholder Committee, or Comité Territorial de Suivi).

The “Good Mining Governance” radio show stems from recognition of the fact that while multistakeholder discussions are vital to address risks and make decisions along the supply chain, such dialogue does not always adequately reach mining communities. Ongoing awareness raising via the radio helps to advance ITSCI programming priorities – traceability and due diligence – while also enabling the Shabunda government, SAEMAPE, and Divimines to highlight key issues to miners, cooperative members, and the general population. Each radio show is 30 minutes long and includes a presentation of the week’s theme and a panel discussion between civil society representatives with relevant expert knowledge. The themes covered range from sound management strategy of cooperative finances to the role of the mining police (PMH) in the sector and technical explanations of the DRC Mining Code.

The radio programme also cover other topics such as livelihoods activities and climate change issues. For example, in October 2021 the shows focused on the impact of artisanal mining on the environment and on the promotion of women’s rights in the mining sector. ITSCI’s field staff provided a basic presentation of the concept of climate change, relying on research from the



ITSCI field staff recording show on OHS_April 2021

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Climate Change, and called on cooperatives to respect environmental protective measures laid out in the DRC Mining Code. To discuss women’s rights in the mining sector, representatives of two women’s artisanal mining cooperatives (Kamukazi Lwango and Women’s Mining Cooperative of Shabunda) highlighted Congolese women’s right to participate as equals in all aspects of artisanal mining.

In remote areas of the DRC, the local multistakeholder committees that ITSCI supports offer a powerful forum for strengthening mining governance and responding to risks along the supply chain. The “Good Mining Governance” radio programme, initiated by one such local committee to address identified needs, demonstrates the transformative impact of including local stakeholders in decision-making. With the success of the Shabunda radio programme in mind, ITSCI intends to expand the initiative to additional areas of South Kivu and beyond.