



# THE ITSCI PROGRAMME

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RWANDA



## ITSCI TRACEABILITY AND DUE DILIGENCE EXPLAINED

### MONITORING 3T SUPPLY CHAINS AND TRACKING MINERALS FOR MINE TO SMELTER

**ITSCI is a joint industry programme of traceability and due diligence designed to promote responsible sourcing of 3T minerals. We work extensively on the ground in central Africa hand in hand with government services, international and local NGOs to deliver capacity building and improved governance, and with the international supply chain, to help large and small companies carry out effective due diligence. The programme is implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. ITSCI is operated at cost by not-for-profit associations, and all revenues are held in trust for sole use for Programme activities.**

One of the essential enablers for mineral supply chain due diligence is the presence of expert teams at grassroots level to continuously monitor and evaluate risks, engage local stakeholders, and report on mitigation actions. ITSCI has around 100 field staff across the Great Lakes Region who make an average of 700 visits to mine sites and processing and exporting facilities per month. Although sometimes misunderstood as a certification scheme (ITSCI does not deliver any certificates), what we provide is full visibility of minerals from mine to smelter, information and tools to support the management of OECD Annex II risks related to 3T mineral supply chains and companies' due diligence overall. We facilitate mineral traceability from mine to export and also record data from export to smelters. ITSCI trains government agents to implement in-region tagging and data recording to ensure traceability

from the mine sites to processors and exporters, via monitored transport routes.

Once a mine is identified and approved, traceability is implemented by government agents. ITSCI issues tags to agents for the approved sites and they tag and record the relevant data associated with each bag of minerals. Similar data recording takes place at processor and exporter locations and all data is transmitted to the ITSCI data team, where any anomalies that may indicate risk are recorded as incidents for follow up. After export, minerals are physically delivered to the smelter and their data reported back to ITSCI for verification of mineral source and associated mine information. Traceability data can be accessed by smelters for their due diligence procedures and company audit. Smelters can request tag information from the ITSCI data team who will complete the tag request and verify if the ITSCI data matches the information received by the smelters with physical tags including mineral weight at arrival.

Although traceability is an important aspect of ITSCI, it is one small part of due diligence which also includes an incident management system to identify and verify risks. Our teams report and where relevant, assist in the mitigation of OECD Annex II risks according to the expectations outlined in the OECD guidance. We provide companies, government partners and stakeholders with risk management tools that allow them to perform their due diligence duty and foster greater transparency in the 3T sector. We communicate incidents identified along the supply chain, recommend mitigation actions, facilitate incident management discussions among local stakeholders and follow up and report on the progress of mitigation.



## SUPPORTING RISK MANAGEMENT ON THE GROUND

### JOINT SITE VISITS, CAPACITY BUILDING AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**ITSCI helps foster stronger local governance of the 3T mining sector through stakeholder engagement, including via joint field visits in ITSCI operating areas. As well as regular mine and processing facility visits by our local teams (~700 per month), ITSCI performed 556 joint site visits with government partners in the Great Lakes Region in 2021.**

Joint visits with local partners represent a critical aspect of capacity building for traceability and due diligence among stakeholders.

They can vary from short day visits to follow up on a specific risk to much longer itineraries to multiple or remote sites.

In Rwanda, ITSCI and the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) perform joint visits to update baseline studies, conduct plausibility assessments at mine sites and evaluate the implementation of traceability procedures. Site visits with RMB and the District Mining Task Force (DMTF) help identify risk and enhance the implementation of mitigation measures through guidance and recommendations on traceability procedures and due diligence checks.

## ITSCI MEMBERSHIP AND COMPANIES' ACCOUNTABILITY

### 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

**ITSCI is a joint industry initiative with standards 100% aligned with the OECD due diligence guidance for responsible supply chains of minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. We support member companies in managing risks in their supply chains and works with government partners in central Africa to help improve due diligence practices along the 3T supply chain while building companies and other stakeholders' capacities.**

In 2021, ITSCI had 131 active members in 47 countries. The ITSCI membership is open to mining cooperatives, local traders or exporters, international concentrate traders, mineral re-processors, smelters, refiners and any company associated with the upstream mineral trade such as mineral transport and mineral assay companies. ITSCI additionally has downstream member companies and in 2021, we were delighted to welcome HP Inc as a new Associate member. Our Associate Membership is open to metal traders and exchanges, component manufacturers, product manufacturers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and retailers.

When using ITSCI information such as regular alerts on risk, reports on the success of mitigation measures and other information in our monthly reports, Associate members can perform enhanced due diligence on supply chains, and by contributing a membership

fee, they support the sustainable financing of ITSCI, sharing the cost of due diligence throughout the supply chain.

ITSCI undertakes an independent preliminary audit for companies who wish to join the programme. This part of our membership procedure is relevant to step 1 of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from CAHRAs. The preliminary audit report helps us understand the structure of the company, its ownership and management, and the extent of its previous involvement in trading in high-risk areas. The independent evaluator checks for any links to conflict or other issues related to Annex II of the guidance and recommend whether the company's application should be accepted. As part of this process, companies applying for ITSCI membership provide their due diligence plan and supply chain policy policy as well as information on company legal ownership.

When joining the programme, companies commit to carrying out due diligence in line with the OECD Guidelines. Step 5 of the OECD Guidance recommends that companies describe annually their due diligence efforts in a public report. Over the years, we have seen significant improvement in ITSCI members' due diligence practices with more than half of companies submitting their annual reports to the ITSCI secretariat.

In line with our objective of supporting transparency in mineral supply chains, ITSCI publishes members' due diligence reports to allow stakeholders to see what progress has been made by companies in managing risks and increases confidence in supply chains from high risk areas.



ITSCI RWANDA IN NUMBERS  
2021



ITSCI PARTNERED WITH CIVIL SOCIETY TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF DISTRICT MINING TASK FORCE COMMITTEES IN RWANDA

**In line with our ongoing efforts to support our partners and stakeholders in their due diligence duty, ITSCI partnered with civil society to strengthen the capacity of District Mining Task Force (DMTF) committees in Rwanda.**

From 10 to 21 May 2021, we collaborated RMB and Action for Education and the Defense of Human Rights (APEDDH) on a new initiative to build capacity among members of District Mining Task Forces committees in 9 Rwandan districts. The aim was to reinforce committee members’ technical knowledge and discuss human rights issues and working conditions in the mining sector. Informal mining was one of the key topics discussed during the event. ITSCI emphasised issues related to child labour, gender, and the environment, and RMB encouraged local communities to report cases of abuse using a toll-free number.

Highlighting efforts to help workers review their contracts, RMB stressed the importance of ensuring miners are aware of their rights. To expand on the topics and reflecting on its work with civil society, APEDDH argued that the lack of contracts between companies and employees and limited outreach from mining companies to the populations living around mine sites undermines workers’ rights.

The event proved a fruitful forum for identifying gaps and needs to build a stronger 3T mining sector to benefit miners and Rwanda’s economy. Participants encouraged companies to comply with due diligence, create employment in communities in which they operate, pay wages through banks, and use modern equipment to avoid accidents and protect the environment.

ITSCI TRAINS DMTFs IN RWANDA AND ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

**One of the main objectives of ITSCI Rwanda in 2022 was to reactivate and create new District Mining Task Forces that includes civil society organisations. The DMTFs play an important role in mineral supply chain risk management. They are composed of local authorities, security services and the RMB.**

As a Partner, ITSCI alerts DMTFs on issues and concerns in the 3T sector, trains members and participates in joint field visits when necessary. In July 2022, for instance, ITSCI, RMB and the civil society organisation APEDDH organised three workshops in different Rwandan districts. The objective was to discuss the main challenges and issues in the mining sector and strengthen partners, companies and miners understanding and practice of due diligence. The workshop also aimed to foster collaboration between the DMTF and APEDDH.

From 6 to 8 July, following the establishment of a new DMTF in Gicumbi district, the joint team organised training sessions on traceability and ITSCI procedures for mining operators and miners’ representatives. From 12 to 14 July, ITSCI and the DMTF conducted meetings with APEDDH in Kamonyi district and visited Rukoma Mining Cooperative and Comika following reports of informal mining, increased safety issues at a non ITSCI site, non-compliance from suppliers with traceability procedures, and Occupational health and safety (OHS) issues. ITSCI explained

the traceability procedures and safety measures to company representatives and recommended visits from the DMTF to the informal sites. ITSCI continues to advocate for the establishment of more DMTFs throughout Rwanda and continuous collaboration with civil society organisations.





## ITSCI SUPPORTS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE RWANDAN MINING SECTOR

**Many women are involved in the mining sector in Rwanda, and active in a historically male-dominated industry. The Rwandan government actively encourages women to study science and engineering and established regulatory and policy instruments to promote gender mainstreaming in the mining sector.**

FYvonne Uwimana, a mining engineer, makes a good illustration. After finishing high school, Yvonne studied at the Polytechnic Regional College where she combined studies with internships in mining companies where she learned the importance of due diligence in mineral supply chains. Today, Yvonne works for an ITSCI member company in the Rukoma sector of Kamonyi district. Yvonne focuses on ensuring compliance with the OECD due diligence including risk assessment and mitigation at the mine site. Addressing the stereotypes and the importance of encouraging more women in the sector, Yvonne stated: “People are often surprised when they see me working as a mining engineer, but I believe anything a man can do, a woman can do it.” Her ongoing advocacy for more gender balance led the company to hire more women, including an accountant, transporters and crushers, making up about 40% of the workforce.

Yvonne has experienced first hand how impactful a career in mining can be for the community. In three years, Yvonne has supported herself financially, paid school fees for her siblings, and bought land. She says, ‘women feared to work in mining because of some misconceptions, prejudices and stereotypes. But thanks to the ITSCI Programme and the Rwandan government efforts,

I have a place where I can practice safely and earn a decent income. I am grateful for ITSCI’s role in promoting responsible mineral supply chain that fights corruption and promotes human rights.’

ITSCI continues to encourage actions that enable environment for women to assert their rights in the mining sector across the Great Lakes region.



Ms. Yvonne Uwimana



## ITSCI TRAINS MINING TECHNICIANS FROM ALL THE MINING COMPANIES IN RWANDA

**From 8th to 21st June 2022, ITSCI, in partnership with RMB conducted a training workshop for mining technicians, geologists and environmentalists at five training centres in different districts, including Kigali, Muhanga, Karongi, Musanze and Rwamagana. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of mining technicians and RMB field staffs and recorded a number of 258 participants..**

The main topics addressed by ITSCI and RMB included OECD due diligence and other ITSCI procedures, ICGLR mineral certification, mining law and regulations, mining technics, environmental management best practices, mining exploration in Rwanda, occupational health and safety (OHS).

The participants were grateful to ITSCI for organising the workshop as it will have a positive impact in their daily activities.

Mr. Imaniriho Jean Claude, Mining Engineer at Ets Munsad Minerals stated that it was great initiative to gather the mining technicians from different mining companies together as they will be able to learn from their peers, to innovate and help their companies to be more productive.

Miss Niyikiza Rwambikana Grace, geologist for the RMB posted in Ngoma district, declared that this training enabled them to coordinate their daily activities while operating hand in hand with company technicians. She stated “I understand much better the rationale and relationship between due diligence and traceability and their impact on our sector.”



Mr. Imaniriho Jean Claude



Ms. Niyikiza Rwambikana Grace







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