

# Maendeleo Diamond Standards™

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are artisanal diamond miners interested in the Maendeleo Diamond Standards?

Participation and uptake in the MDS system has been very strong on the part of 14 artisanal diamond mining sites located in Kono District, Sierra Leone. Miners are very interested in learning about efficient production techniques and in improving the socio-economic conditions in which they live and work. In particular, miners have shown strong interest in health and safety, environmental management and a rights based approach, while communities have provided free, prior and informed consent for legal mining operations and have participated actively in social and environmental assessments and site closure planning.

### How do artisanal diamond miners pay for third-party auditing?

There are no direct costs borne by miners for third-party auditing. These costs are covered by DDI, through the generous support of its donors. The Maendeleo Diamond Standards program in Sierra Leone is funded by GIZ GmbH and The Tiffany & Co. Foundation. Although there are no participation fees for miners, there are indirect costs and investments required to comply with the Standards.

### How do you select third-party auditors?

DDI selects third-party auditors, based on their field knowledge and familiarity with the local context, experience performing evaluations and mandate to support economic development. Audits are currently performed by the Independent Evaluation and Research Cell (IERC) of BRAC International, which aims to create evidence-based development efforts in 10 countries in Africa and Asia.

### Will the Maendeleo Diamond Standards be implemented in other countries that produce artisanally-mined alluvial diamonds?



Yes! The Maendeleo Diamond Standards system is scaleable and replicable. Expansion will be underway in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016 and further expansion is anticipated in West Africa in 2016-2017. DDI hopes that governments of alluvial diamond producing countries will take part in the effort to scale and replication of the MDS system by partnering with DDI for roll-out. The MDS Standard system is available in English and French, and will be made available in Portuguese and Spanish in due course.

## What is your due diligence process for buyers?

Buyers are invited to participate in the purchase of diamonds on a case-by-case basis for the time being. Invited buyers must meet or exceed DDI's due diligence program requirements, which covers know your customer and anti-money laundering policies and procedures. Buyers selected to participate in the MDS system must fulfil three key criteria. They must (1) demonstrate due diligence for regulatory compliance, sound business practices and demonstrate commitment to responsible sourcing; (2) provide information about the chain of diamond ownership from point of export to retail, which can be verified in an audit; and (3) comply with all requirements stipulated by the Buyer Memorandum of Understanding signed by DDI. The MOU stipulates that buyers must pay a miner support fee to participate in the MDS system.

## How can I be invited to become a buyer?

Artisanal diamond production produces an uncertain number and quantity of diamonds, therefore participation is limited at present. DDI does anticipate that it will be possible to invite new buyers to participate in the MDS system in late 2016-2017 and buyers are invited to express interest by emailing Ms. Ainsley Butler, MDS Program Director ([mds@ddiglobal.org](mailto:mds@ddiglobal.org)).

## When will Maendeleo Diamonds be available in retail stores?

Working with a small group of buyers, DDI expects that the first Maendeleo Diamond jewellery will be available in retail stores in 2017. DDI's [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts will provide information when the Maendeleo Diamonds are available to consumers.