

MAENDELEO DIAMOND STANDARDS™

A SUMMARY

The Diamond Development Initiative

The Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) began in 2005 at a meeting of representative from the United Nations, national governments, US and UK international development aid agencies, NGOs and the diamond industry. DDI was governed through a Coordinating Group until June 2007, when a Board of Directors and an Advisory Group took over. In January 2008, DDI appointed its first Executive Director.

The organization was created to address the social and economic issues faced by the millions of artisanal diamond diggers and their dependants in Africa and South America who live in poverty outside the formal economy, vulnerable to exploitation, health and safety risks, and human rights abuses. This will be achieved through the formalization of the Artisanal and Small Scale (ASM) sector.

DDI envisions a world in which artisanal and small-scale miners have access to the opportunities, information and tools they need to work with dignity in flourishing, self-sustaining communities, as valued actors in the formal economy and as contributors to their country's development.

DDI helps transform the artisanal and small-scale mining communities through innovative programs and partnerships that bring together governments, civil society, industry, academia and artisanal miners themselves. The work complements regulatory efforts by fostering the integration of development solutions that favour positive socioeconomic outcomes for miners and their families. DDI is a member of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, with independent observer status. DDI supports a range of other initiatives oriented to improving responsibility in jewellery supply chains.

Diamond Mining Standards and Responsible Sourcing

Today's consumers want to know that the goods they buy are produced responsibly, particularly in the case of diamonds. Controversy over conflict or blood diamonds and reports about human rights abuses in diamond mining areas, have raised consumer awareness to new levels. Companies have responded by developing responsible sourcing protocols to improve consumer confidence in their products. However, a significant gap remains in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector.

The standards and responsible sourcing protocols that currently exist in the diamond industry are generally aimed at large-scale industrial mining, concessionaires and other entities that operate in a more formalized manner. These existing protocols neither reach the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, nor do they fully address their specific conditions. Without a dedicated focus on artisanal and small-scale diamond mining, initiatives to promote responsible jewellery supply chains will continue to be undermined by their limited applicability to the large number of diamonds produced by this sector.

The Maendeleo Diamond Standards™ (MDS) overcome this challenge by underwriting a transparent certification process tailored for artisanal and small-scale diamond miners. This Standard complement existing protocols by extending and adapting them to the particular needs of the miners and their conditions. The Maendeleo Diamond Standard are also designed to build a bridge between this sector and existing responsible supply chains. As a result, artisanal and small-scale diamond miners have access to new markets for the diamonds they produce, and the world diamond market will have access to a supply of responsibly sourced artisanally mined diamonds.

Maendeleo Diamonds™

“Maendeleo” is a Swahili word meaning “development.” It also connotes the ideas of improvement and advancement. Maendeleo Diamonds™ come with an assurance for diamond buyers and consumers alike. They are an investment that promotes sustainable development and responsible mining practices at artisanal and small-scale diamond mines. This improves the lives of the miners who dig artisanal diamonds and benefits the broader communities to which they belong. Maendeleo diamonds are artisanally mined in conflict-free zones and produced safely in consenting and engaged communities through violence-free operations with respect for human and worker’s rights using practices that promote environmental responsibility.

- ***Conflict-free zones*** are areas in compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which ensures that diamond purchases do not finance violence by rebel movements and their allies seeking to undermine legitimate governments. These zones must also be free from extra-legal actions on the part of governments (e.g. human rights violations by national security forces).
- ***Safely*** means mining operations and related activities do not endanger the health and wellbeing of miners and their communities.
- ***Consenting and engaged communities*** means that free, prior, informed and ongoing consent for mining operations is provided by communities throughout the mining site lifecycle.
- ***Violence-free operations*** means that miners can operate without fear of physical or mental harm.
- ***Respect for human and worker’s rights*** means mining operations and related activities that are consistent with the basic rights and freedoms of workers.
- ***Promote environmental responsibility*** means encouraging and facilitating work practices that minimize the environmental impact of artisanal and small-scale diamond mining.
- ***Fair pricing*** means a price that has been mutually agreed by everyone through dialogue and participation, provides a fair return to miners and can be sustained by the market.

The Maendeleo Diamond Standard System

The Maendeleo Diamond Standard are a baseline standard that addresses the mode of production and socio-economic context of the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector in Kimberley Process-approved zones. These zones must also be free from extra-legal actions on the part of governments (e.g. human rights violations by national security forces) and must not be located in environmentally protected areas. The MDS certification process is voluntary, practical and cost effective. This system has been created in consultation with artisanal and small-scale diamond miners who are committed to improving their own practices, increasing their family livelihoods and benefitting the communities to which they belong.

The Maendeleo Diamond Standards are composed of eight specific provisions, covering legality, consent and community engagement, health and safety, violence-free operations, environmental management, interactions with large-scale mining and site closure. Each of these provisions consists of a related series of Provisions defined by measurable requirements, concrete performance criteria and a list of acceptable audit evidence. The Standards are tailored to local conditions in the form of critical provisions that are determined to be relevant for each location (e.g. a specific zone in a country).

The certification process for the Maendeleo Diamond Standards helps to formalize the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector through better mining practices and professionalized operations. The formalization of the artisanal diamond mining process through clear and transparent Standard, a reliable certification process and integrating artisanally mined diamonds into existing responsible supply chains can open up new markets for artisanal and small-scale miners, thereby increasing their earning power. The certification process is specifically tailored to the needs of artisanal and small-scale diamond miners, and helps improve their working conditions, increase their production capacities, access to new markets and implements best practices.

The Maendeleo Diamond Standard Process

Only artisanal and small-scale diamond mining operations located in zones or countries that meet the necessary prerequisites of compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, are free from government-led violence and abuses, and do not undertake mining operations or related activities in any protected or conservation areas are eligible for certification. The operations must also be licensed or be in the process of being licensed and able to provide evidence to this effect.

Certification is valid for a six-month period and then must be renewed. To receive certification, eligible mining operations must fulfill the critical provisions applicable to their location and particular mining site. It is necessary to produce evidence of having done so, which is verified by independent third-party auditors. Designed as a modular approach, critical provisions are identified for each certification cycle. Compliance is a progressive achievement that builds on gains consolidated in the previous certification cycle.

The MDS certification process is entirely voluntary. It depends on the buy-in and ownership of artisanal and small-scale diamond miners. The MDS certification process is designed so site operators and miners can participate without incurring prohibitive participation and auditing costs that could otherwise render responsible artisanal and small-scale diamond mining impractical. Importantly, the MDS certification process also aims to support eligible mining operations to progressively improve over time.

No Diamond Development Initiative representatives or independent third-party auditors are directly engaged in commercial transactions throughout the MDS certification process nor do they benefit from any financial gains through certified artisanally mined diamonds or Maendeleo diamonds.

Summary Charter: Maendeleo Standard

Provision 1: Legality. Intended to reiterate the status of the Maendeleo Diamond Standard as a voluntary certification system that does not aim to supersede or replace national laws or legal frameworks. Where the laws and regulations in force or their enforcement create a comparatively lower threshold, the site operator(s) shall actively aspire to the higher, voluntary Provisions of the Standard.

- **Minimum Requirements:** designed to formalize the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector by ensuring legal compliance and traceability for the diamonds mined at artisanal and small-scale mining operations.¹
- **Progress Requirement:** seeks to encourage site operator(s) participation in government actions to formalize artisanal mining processes over the medium and long term.

Provision 2: Consent and Community Engagement. Helps ensure that communities are involved in discussions and negotiations around the potentials (e.g. economic growth and employment opportunities) and known impacts (e.g. environmental and loss of economic resources with mine closure) of such projects. **Minimum Requirements:** designed to facilitate the building of positive, mutually beneficial relationships and understanding between the site operator(s) and the local communities affected by or located in areas where mining operations and related activities occur.

- **Progress Requirements:** seek to involve the responsible parties for the mining site, appealing for MDS certification to actively drive or engage in community development initiatives beyond direct mining operations, over the medium and long term.

Provision 3: Human and Worker's Rights. Intended to help ensure that artisanal and small-scale diamond mining site operator(s) conduct their mining and related activities—over which they exercise control and influence—in a manner that is consistent with the basic rights and freedoms of their workers, and the individuals and communities involved in or affected by said mining operations.

- **Minimum Requirements:** designed to establish the basic rights of individuals working at (or related to) mining operations at all times.

¹ Beyond the Kimberley Process prerequisite, the Maendeleo Diamond Standard (MDS) certification process excludes any and all individuals, companies or entities subject to UN, US, UK, Canadian and/or EU sanctions or who/which appear on any government or international organization sponsored list of “specially designated persons”, “politically exposed persons” or those suspected of engaging in money laundering or terrorist financing.

- Progress Requirements: seek to develop rights-based approaches to mining operations over the medium and long term.

Provision 4: Health and Safety at the Mining Site. Intended to minimize the risks to health and safety that are directly associated with artisanal and small-scale diamond mining operations and related activities.

- Minimum Requirements: designed to achieve the most basic health and safety Standard for miners.
- Progress Requirements: aim to achieve higher levels of health and safety, including preventative planning, at mining operations over the medium and long term.

Provision 5: Violence-Free Operations. Intended to promote violence-free mining operations.

- Minimum Requirements: aim to ensure that everyone at an artisanal and small-scale diamond mining site can work without fear of physical or mental harm.
- Progress Requirements: seek to foster artisanal and small-scale diamond mining as an endeavour that enhances violence prevention and resolution over the medium and long term both at mining operations and in the community at large.

Provision 6: Environmental Management. Intended to progressively diminish the potential for environmental degradation of the natural surroundings (including soil, water, air and biodiversity) in the communities where mining operations and related activities and/or their impact occur.

- Minimum Requirements: adopt an approach focused on raising awareness and building capacities for basic, remedial action that reduce negative impacts of artisanal and small-scale diamond mining operations, and on the surrounding environment.
- Progress Requirements: aim to facilitate greater responsibility with respect to environmental impact, along with enabling the gradual attainment of capacities for mitigation and remediation of environmental impacts.

Provision 7: Interactions with Large-Scale Mining (Where Applicable). Intended to improve the relationship between the ASM and LSM sectors.

- Minimum Requirements: aim to equip artisanal and small-scale diamond miners and site operator(s) with the necessary guidance required to successfully navigate LSM-ASM relations.
- Progress Requirements: seek to structure and build constructive relationships based on greater transparency, mutual respect and nonviolent interactions between ASM and LSM operations over the medium to long term.

Provision 8: Site Closure. Intended to address the role of the site operator(s) in social and economic planning for the cessation of mining operations and related activities and rehabilitation of the mining site.

- Minimum Requirements: aim to reduce the geophysical impact of the mining site lifecycle, in particular at the time a mine closes.

- Progress Requirements: seek to mitigate, in greater detail, the broader negative effects of site closures on mining communities, especially the social, economic and environmental effects associated with site closure.

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