

Maendeleo Diamond Standards Program

Monitoring / Evaluation / Audit Approach

Overview

The MDS program consists of six steps. The first is sensitization and recruitment. Local DDI staff visit mining communities to promote Maendeleo Diamond Standard (MDS) Program and recruit artisanal diamond miners. The second step is training on the MDS provisions as well as on SMARTER Mining Techniques and First Aid. The third step is monitoring of MDS mining operations and mentorship of registered miners on the MDS provisions. The fourth step is verification of mining operations' compliance with the MDS provisions. The fifth step is certification of mining operations by independent third-party auditors. The sixth and final step is commercialization of Maendeleo Diamonds.

Background

Standards verification is a thematic activity in the MDS program cycle. It follows mining operation recruitment and capacity building and is a major component of the ethical certification of participating mining operations. The verifying organization must be an internationally recognized institution, with a solid reputation for doing development work, coupled with an institutional capacity to undertake and report fairly on audit processes. The audit leads to a recommendation concerning certification for the mining operation.

Method

The MDS program has two levels of audit, the third-party auditor being the certifying institution. The DDI local team, in collaboration with local partnering NGOs, embarks upon monitoring/evaluation and mentorship for standards compliance two to three weeks after completion of all MDS training (SMARTER Mining Techniques, First Aid for Artisanal Miners, MDS Provisions and related documentation) for participating operations. The trainees receive certificates of completion. The partnering NGOs have been provided training on all the above-mentioned programs and are ready to be deployed to various MDS mining operations to assist with the monitoring/evaluation activities. The MDS program ensures that there are two weekly spot verification checks by DDI local staff and participating NGOs on all mining operations in every internal monitoring/evaluation phase. This serves as a precursor to the major audit.

The major third-party audit takes place two to three times in every certification cycle. The independent auditors are expected to audit the mining operations themselves. The independent auditors are expected to receive the internal monitoring and evaluation reports prepared by DDI local staff for each participating mining operation prior to any external audit. The first audit is announced and DDI staff accompany independent auditors. The remaining are unannounced and unaccompanied. There are subsequent internal monitoring/evaluation of MDS mining operations following the 1st phase of the

third-party audit. The DDI monitoring/evaluation seeks to identify compliance gaps and preferred approaches to ensure compliance. Standards audit/mentorship will also continue after the third-party auditor's final assessment.

Outcome

The third-party audit institution produces a report on each operation's compliance efforts, with a certification recommendation. This recommendation for each mining operation can be to certify for compliance or not to certify. All mining operation certifications have a six-month validity period subject to renewal or withdrawal.

2018/2019 MDS Program Outlook:

#	Activity	Timeframe
1	MDS Standards capacity trainings	December 2017 – March 2018
2	DDI Internal Monitoring /Evaluation (Phase 1)	March 2018
3	Third party Audit (1 st wave)	April/May 2018
4	DDI Internal Monitoring/ Evaluation (Phase 2)	April/May 2018
5	Third party Audit (2 nd wave)	May 2018
6	DDI Internal Monitoring/Evaluation (Phase 3)	June 2018
7	Certification	June 2018 (Valid to December 2018)
8	MDS Standards capacity trainings	January 2019 – March 2019
9	DDI Internal Monitoring /Evaluation (Phase 4)	April 2019 – May 2019
10	Certification	June 2019

*Gemfair Site Audit: Brac, DDI's sole third-party standards auditor has indicated that their audit team will be available for audit work from April 2018 onwards.