



COMMUNITIES, MINE DUMPS AND US

MAY 2018

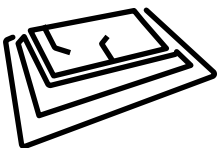


WHO WE ARE

DRDGOLD Limited recovers the material in economically viable mine dumps across the central Witwatersrand and retreats it to produce gold.

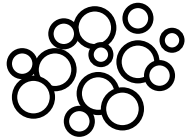
KEY STEPS IN WHAT WE DO

1



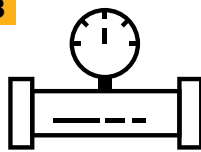
Reclamation of mine dumps

2



Retreatment of mine dump material in metallurgical plants to produce gold

3



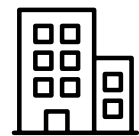
Deposition of tailings (waste) in modern tailings dams

4



Vegetation of tailings dams to prevent dust

5



Rehabilitation of cleared mine dump sites for redevelopment



WHY SO MANY PEOPLE LIVE NEAR MINE DUMPS

DRDGOLD owns tailings dams near Soweto and in Brakpan. These dams are used to store recycled tailings.

In the 1950s there were fewer than 300 households in close proximity to our tailings dams.

Now, in spite of advice to maintain buffer zones from the mining industry – through its representative organisation, the Chamber of Mines – and directives from the mining industry's regulators, there are several hundred thousand households close to the tailings dams – in many cases, within range of wind-borne dust from them.

This has required a new approach to dust containment.



HOW WE CONTAIN DUST FROM OUR TAILINGS DAMS

To bind the surface and sides of the dams to stop dust from being blown off the dams, dust traps have to be erected and vegetation planted.

The surface of the dam is prepared by smoothing it, fertilisers and lime are added and then it is topped with either topsoil or mulch. A seed cocktail is mixed into the soil or mulch and watered by way of micro-irrigation.

Over the past 10 years we have established hundreds of hectares of vegetation on the tops and sides of our tailings dams.





The dams near Soweto have been decommissioned, which means no more material is being stored on them. There, we are taking post-closure rehabilitation steps. We estimate that, by 2023, all of the dams will have been vegetated and dust pollution from them will be a thing of the past.



Our tailings dam at Brakpan is still being used for tailings storage. There, we are undertaking concurrent rehabilitation to contain dust. This has the benefit that, once this dam is decommissioned, hardly any further rehabilitation will be required. It also reduces the risk of the dam standing derelict or not rehabilitated because of premature cessation of mining operations.

HOW WE ARE HELPING TO ADDRESS SOUTH AFRICA'S POLITICAL LEGACY

The systematic racial and socio-economic discrimination of the past means that largely black communities are located close to the kinds mine dumps and tailings dams that are core to DRDGOLD's business. People in these communities are effectively separated from their places of work and from the purview of traditionally white communities.

DRDGOLD is committed to working hard to remove these barriers. In the 30 years we have been reclaiming mine dumps, we have cleared hundreds of hectares of land to the west, south and east of Johannesburg. These have either been redeveloped, or will be redeveloped in future. However, not all the dumps can be removed. More than likely, some are going to be permanent fixtures.



WE NEED THE CO-OPERATION OF COMMUNITIES

It is up to us all to ensure that we minimise the impact that mine dumps and tailings dams have on the quality of life of the communities that have been established in their shadow.

We cannot do it alone. We need the co-operation of everyone in the neighbouring communities.

When vegetation we have established is deliberately set on fire and our irrigation systems destroyed, when rubbish is dumped around and on the tops of mine dumps and tailings dams and children are allowed to play on them, their integrity is disturbed.

These actions prevent us from being effective catalysts for social cohesion and transformation. It undermines the quality of life of communities now and for generations to come. Working together, we can do wonderful things and change lives for the better. The time is ripe.



IZANDLA ZIYAGEZANA

one hand washes the other

FOR MORE INFORMATION

see our annual report, fact sheets and videos at www.drdgold.com



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