

“Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for worthless pebbles.”

Thomas Browne



**PETRA DIAMONDS AND BIODIVERSITY**

A number of Red Data List species have been identified in Petra Diamond’s operational areas. Where appropriate, protected plants are relocated, or ‘no-go’ areas are established around species that cannot be relocated, such as the ‘Cullinan Ant’ colony situated on 1ha of undisturbed land in the middle of Cullinan’s coarse tailings facility. Programmes are run with non-governmental organisations to assist with research into fauna, such as the secretary bird programme at Koffiefontein in the Free State in conjunction with BirdLife Africa, which has been running for the last five years. More recently, work is being carried out to register the Benfontein-Rooifontein-Dronfield complex in Kimberley as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and formal provincial Protected Environment.

Mining companies are constantly seeking new ways to avoid, minimise or mitigate any negative impacts mining may have on the environment.



**WATER USE**

The diamond mining industry uses this scarce resource responsibly, lessening consumption by reusing and recycling water and aiming for zero discharge with the help of water treatment plants.



**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The diamond mining industry endeavours to avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, treat and dispose of waste in an effort to move towards zero waste and curtail their total mining environmental footprint.



**ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The industry invests time and expertise in formulating energy saving projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change.



**MINE REHABILITATION**

Rehabilitation and closure are incorporated into overall planning from initial concept stage and during the life of mine. Often only a small proportion of the land covered by a company’s mining rights is disturbed by mining.



**LAND MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY**

Biodiversity management plans are implemented at mining sites to mitigate any environmental risks during the establishment of mining operations and protect areas of land which are rich in biodiversity or are home to species of flora or fauna of importance.



**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND DE BEERS**

De Beers’ Venetia diamond mine is located in an environmentally sensitive area. The company has spent more than R17 million on initial environmental engineering projects including the underground placement of a 35-km long water supply and other service supply pipelines; a state-of-the-art dust control system; and the minimising of noise and lighting impacts.

The company also established the 36,000ha Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve adjacent to the mine and moved a large number of animals from a new mining area to the reserve. The reserve is home to three of the big five - lion, elephant and leopard.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Diamonds were originally found and mined in India.