



# ESG & Governance

*With Fidi.*

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## GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT ESG IN MINING: DE BEERS GROUP'S 12 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS FOR 2030

### Introduction: ESG Practices in Mining

The mining industry, once notorious for its adverse environmental impacts, is now seen as a pivotal player in driving change and reformation when it comes to sustainable development. Mining companies are increasingly integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments into their operations to address societal, investor and stakeholder concerns.

Partnering with the countries where it operates

such as Botswana, De Beers Group has embraced a strong focus on sustainability, aiming to protect the natural world and improve the lives of those involved in the diamond journey. This article explores De Beers' approach to achieving its ESG targets and offers insights for other companies looking to embark on similar journeys.

### De Beers' 12 Sustainability Goals

In 2020, De Beers Group outlined 12 sustainability goals to achieve by 2030, categorized into four focus areas:

1. Partnering for Thriving Communities;
2. Protecting the Natural World;
3. Accelerating Equal Opportunities; and
4. Leading Ethical Practices Across Industry.

These goals include commitments such as achieving carbon neutrality, reducing their water footprint, supporting women entrepreneurs, and promoting diversity in the diamond jewellery sector. By setting clear targets aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and being transparent about their progress in these respects, De Beers demonstrates its commitment to responsible business practices.

### Reporting and Progress

De Beers' sustainability efforts are transparently and credibly reported in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards. Analysis of the 2022 report indicates significant progress towards achieving the outlined goals. To name a few achievement, as of 2022, 80% of the proceeds from De Beers' rough diamond sales remain in the countries where they are found and there has been a 3.3% increase in Women's representation in senior management.



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## **Conclusion: Embracing ESG in Mining**

The growing emphasis on ESG commitments within the mining industry signifies a positive shift towards sustainable development. While most mining companies' challenges remain in translating ambition into action, companies like De Beers are paving the way by embedding ESG principles in their organisational structures. De Beers' comprehensive sustainability plan not only enhances its brand value but also contributes to broader societal and environmental objectives, while giving them a competitive advantage.

Looking ahead, continued progress in ESG initiatives promises a brighter future for the mining industry. As we await the next sustainability report, the promising results from De Beers' efforts serve as inspiration for further advancements in responsible mining practices. Indeed, diamonds might just be forever.

If you have interest in an in-depth discussion on this subject matter or any ESG and Governance issues, feel free to contact us at [info@gobhozalegalpractice.co.bw](mailto:info@gobhozalegalpractice.co.bw)

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