



# BLACKEARTH


Specialising in Critical Commodities

## BlackEarth Minerals NL Achieves ESG Certification from Digbee ESG (UK)

MARCH 2022

ASX:BEM



 Digbee ESG™



# Highlights

- BlackEarth receives maiden independent Environmental, Social and Governance (**“ESG”**) **rating from Digbee ESG**
- BlackEarth achieved both a **corporate rating** and a rating for its **Maniry Graphite Project of “BB”**
- The tailored questionnaires, provided by Digbee ESG, **reflected the stage of the Company and development phase (DFS)** of its Maniry Project in Madagascar.
- This inaugural assessment by Digbee ESG demonstrates the **Company’s commitment to create a baseline for future transparent ESG reporting.**
- The process has generated a number of **priority target areas to focus** on as part of our corporate and project development plans over the next 12-24 months.



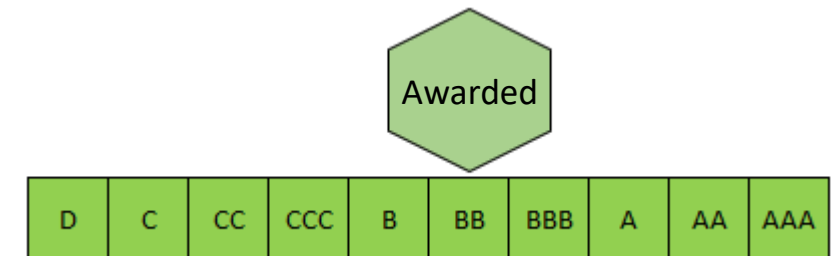
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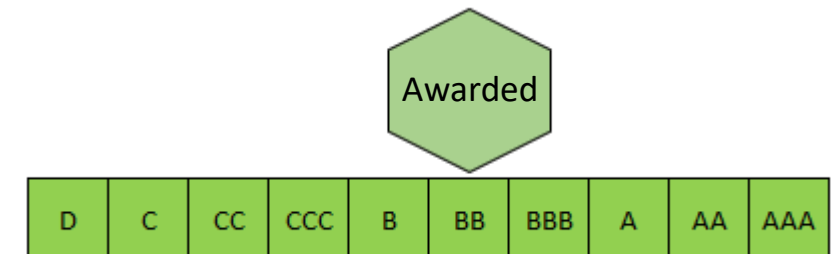


Digbee ESG™

## Corporate Score



## Maniry Graphite Project Score



# Digbee ESG Overview

- ❖ UK-based Digbee ESG is an industry ESG disclosure framework for the mining sector.
- ❖ It provides a right-sized, future-looking set of frameworks aligned to the key global standards
- ❖ Digbee's ESG framework currently maps to the following:



<https://digbee.com/esg>



*“Digbee ESG is unique in that it anchors itself to leading standards while providing a right-sized and simple approach for the entire sector to engage. Comparability of company or project will encourage improvement on the ground and in the boardroom while allowing positive and negative factors to be clearly identified.”*

*Evvy Hambro Head of Thematic Investments, BlackRock*



# Our Journey to Sustainable Development







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# Highly Rated

- ❖ BlackEarth is currently focused on a critical commodity required for global energy transition and decarbonisation
- ❖ Clear Company ownership structure, compliance with relevant ASX listing requirements and interactive stakeholder communication strategy
- ❖ Specialised independent companies are currently undertaking ESG related studies as part of BlackEarth's ESIA for the Maniry DFS
- ❖ Long term positive interaction with communities (Maniry), industry bodies within Madagascar and general Government engagement
- ❖ Positive current and future security, health and safety plans (including Covid-related) for stakeholders involved in the development of the Maniry Project



Regional centre – Ampanihy, located 30km from the Maniry Project site

# Key Near Term Undertakings (Corporate)

- ESG to be formally integrated into the Company's key policies
- BlackEarth to adopt the guidelines of the Equator Principles in the design, construction and operation of its Maniry Project
- Ongoing recruitment of senior personnel to reflect greater diversity and ESG experience, and to have remuneration linked to overall ESG performance
- No formal feedback process in place

## Planned Action

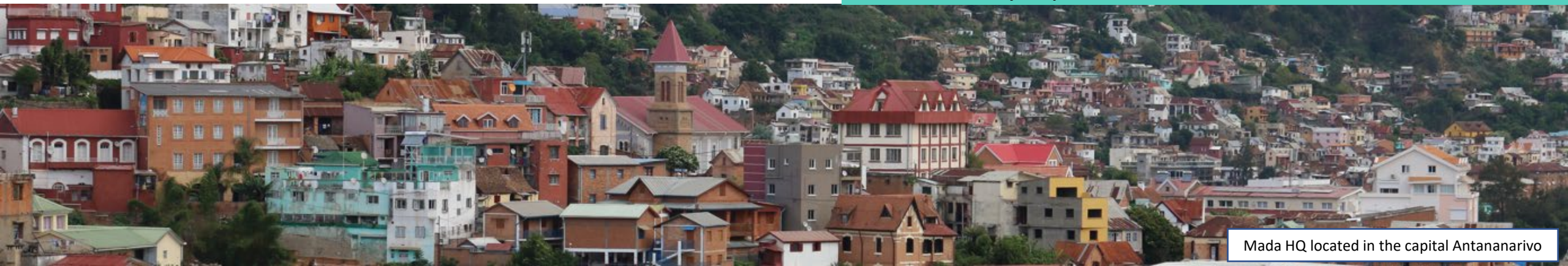
ESG policy to be drafted and tied to other key policies

Equator Principles already integrated within all aspects of the Maniry DFS to date; will be formally set within the Company's ESG frameworks and standards

Recruitment to reflect greater representation from vulnerable and or underrepresented stakeholder groups; those with ESG related experience will be actively sought

Remuneration to be linked to ESG performance

Relevant stakeholder feedback to be incorporated into the MD's monthly report to the Board for review







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## Key Near Term Undertakings (Maniry)

- Presence of local communities, land ownership and impact on subsistence farming
- Reliance on deep borehole sourced water for the Project needs to consider the potential impacts on local community water supply
- Potential noise, emissions and vibration impacts of local villages

### Planned Action

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is currently underway as part of the Maniry DFS by an independent specialist consultant experienced in southern Madagascar. Their scope of work includes many of the aspects identified by Digbee, including the need for developing a mutually agreeable relocation plan

Deep hydrogeological bore holes are being flow rate tested with outcomes to be included as part of overall detailed stress testing to identify any impacts on local villages' shallow water sources.



On route to the Maniry Graphite Project



*“Over the last 6 months that we have been working with BlackEarth, we have found them to have a genuine focus and approach to ESG matters.*

*The BEM team have developed clear actions **which when implemented will contribute to an improved score** ”*


*Jamie Strauss – Digbee CEO*



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