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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MICHAEL L. RAE NAMED CEO OF COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY PRACTICES; SANTIAGO PORTO NAMED PROGRAMME DIRECTOR**

LONDON - The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices, which promotes responsible ethical, social and environmental practices throughout the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain, has named Michael L. Rae as its Chief Executive Officer, and Santiago Porto as its Programme Director. The two men will begin their work in early February.

“Michael’s exceptional ability to bring industry, government and civil society together to work collaboratively on social and environmental issues makes him an ideal choice,” says CRJP Chairman Matthew A. Runci.

“Santiago’s background and his varied fieldwork experience have enabled him to develop a real understanding of the issues facing companies working together to embed ethical considerations into their supply chains,” says Runci.

As CEO, Rae will work to expand membership in the CRJP, communicate with various stakeholders and supervise the development of the Council’s Responsible Business Framework. He will promote awareness, understanding and continuous improvement within the industry on key ethical, social and environmental issues.

Porto will be responsible for executing the Council’s programs, including the development of the CRJP Principles and Code of Practices and their associated implementation and monitoring. He will also work to ensure that appropriate guidance, training and education are available to CRJP members and their business partners.

Rae has worked for the WWF, formerly known as the World Wildlife Fund, since 1989. He has been a catalyst of international collaborative efforts among participants from mining companies, associations and civil society, seeking to reach agreement on independent verification of environmental, social and economic performance in the mining industry.

“I have taken this role because I think the CRJP represents a fantastic opportunity to ensure good social and environmental performance in the jewellery industry, from mine to market,” says Rae.

Porto has been membership development manager for the Ethical Trading Initiative in London, a multi-stakeholder organization promoting international labour standards in global supply chains in the footwear and clothing industry. He also managed projects engaging business, civil society and government with the United Nations Development Programme in Mozambique.

**Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices, Ltd**

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“I enjoy getting programmes off the ground, developing relationships and working at a global level,” says Porto. “My experience with multiple stakeholders on various issues will enable me to effectively implement the Council’s programmes.”

#### ABOUT CRJP

The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices has as its objective to promote responsible ethical, social and environmental practices throughout the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain from mine to retail.

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