



**How IRMA can
help fill regulatory
gaps and support
communities
affected by mining**

Nov. 2019

www.responsiblemining.net

IRMA
Initiative for Responsible
Mining Assurance

Outline

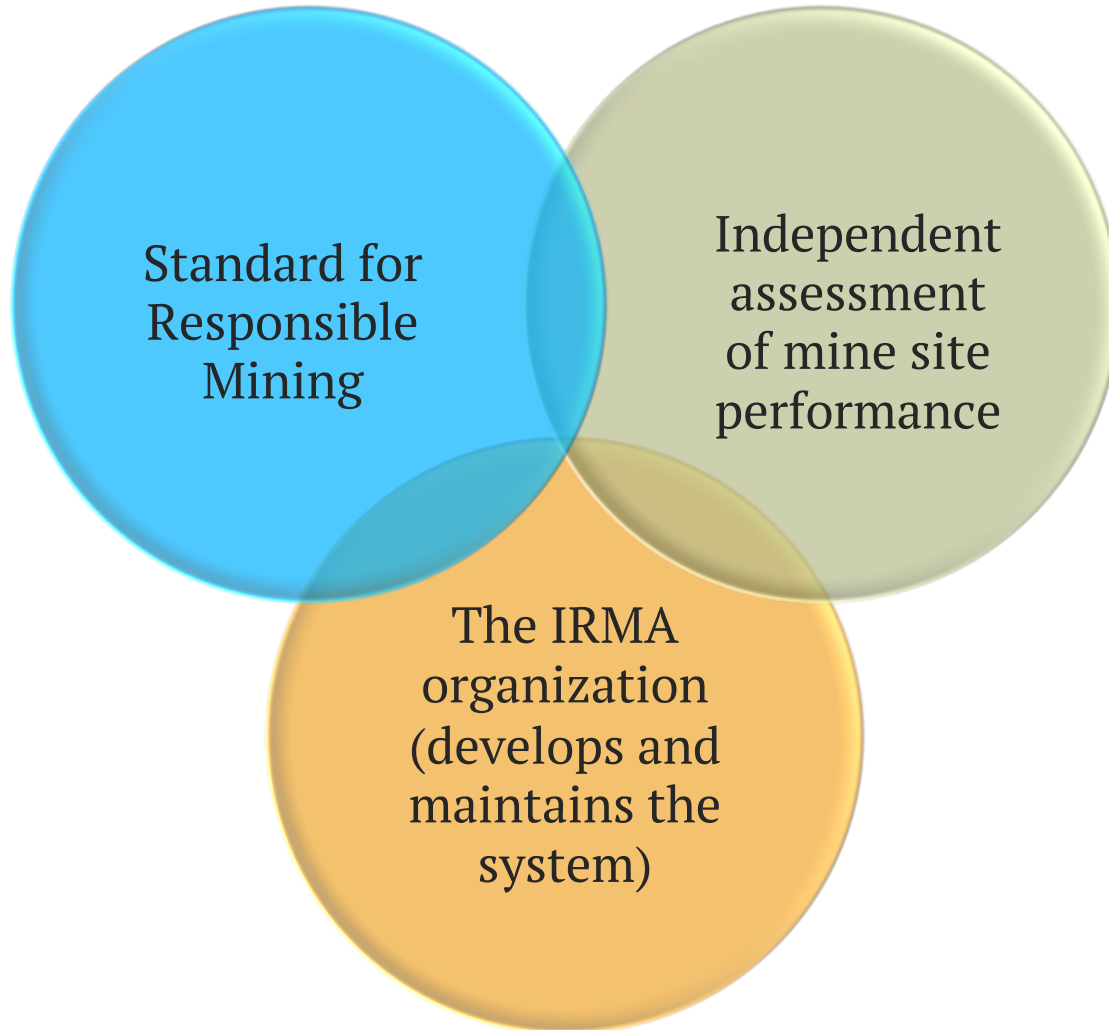


- What is the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)
- How can IRMA support mining-affected communities and stronger mining regulations

Voluntary certification: a tool to promote responsible practice



IRMA System composed of:



IRMA's multi-sector governance

A coalition working toward a common purpose,
using an equitable governance model

Mining Companies	Purchasing Companies	NGOs	Labor Unions	Affected Communities
Anglo American	Tiffany & Co.	Earthworks	United Steelworkers	First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining (Canada)
ArcelorMittal	Microsoft	Human Rights Watch	IndustriALL Global Union	Mining Affected Communities United in Action (South Africa)

Standard for Responsible Mining

A multi-stakeholder developed, shared definition of responsible mining. The IRMA Standard is comprehensive, and rigorous. It has 26 chapters under four main principles:

Business Integrity

- Legal compliance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Stakeholder complaints process
- Human rights due diligence
- Revenue transparency/anti-corruption

Social Responsibility

- Labor rights
- Worker health & safety
- Community health and safety
- Conflict affected areas
- Security Arrangements
- Cultural heritage protection
- Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM)

Planning for Positive Legacies

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Community Support and Benefits
- Resettlement
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Planning and financing reclamation and closure

Environmental Responsibility

- Water management
- Waste (tailings) management
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gases emissions
- Noise Management
- Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Protected Areas
- Cyanide management
- Mercury management

Community Engagement
and Access to Information



IRMA
Initiative for Responsible
Mining Assurance

IRMA Standard for
Responsible Mining
IRMA-STD-001

June 2018



Independent, third-party assessment of mine site performance



- To be certified or make claims about achievement levels mines must undergo **independent, third-party audits** by IRMA-trained auditors
- Audits include **desk review** of materials (e.g., policies, plans, reports, meeting minutes, etc.), **on-site visits** and **interviews with stakeholders** to provide additional verification of mine site performance
- **Audit results are made public**, and complaints mechanism available

IRMA Fundamentals

- For industrial scale mines
- For all mined materials (except uranium, thermal coal, fossil fuels)
- Global application
- Assessment is at **mine site level** (not company)
- Certification is at **‘best practice’ level**, but there are ways for mines at all performance levels to participate and demonstrate improvement over time



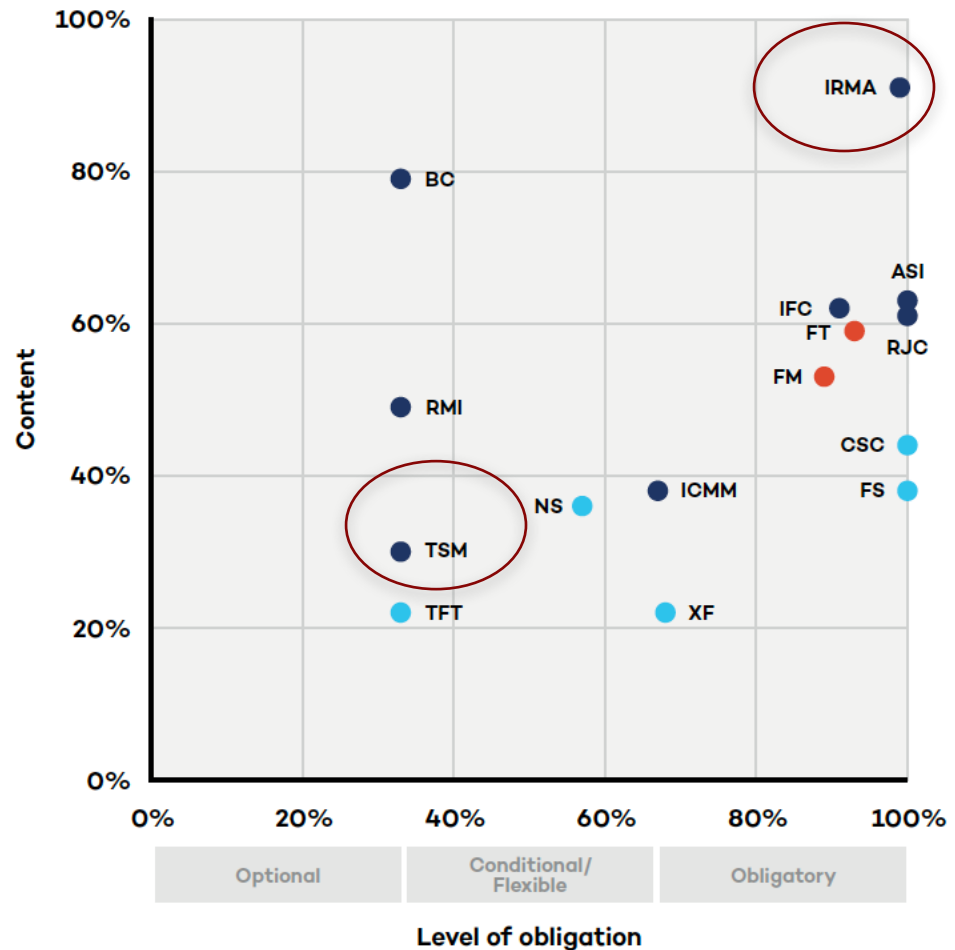


How IRMA supports better outcomes for communities

IRMA asks more of mines

- IRMA has both breadth and depth in its coverage of issues

Figure 3.1. Summary of coverage findings (content and level of obligation)





Access to information and more meaningful engagement are key

There are hundreds of requirements in the IRMA Standard that have been written to improve community and stakeholder access to information, and promote more meaningful engagement:

- Input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders must be included when designing engagement processes, complaints procedures, and determining how to overcome barriers to participation
- Stakeholders must have timely access to information about the mining operation and its performance
- Stakeholders must be engaged in assessments of risks (to human rights, health, environment) and the development of mitigation strategies, and have opportunities to participate in monitoring of mining operations and access monitoring data



**Can IRMA be used to
support strong(er)
regulations?**



How IRMA interacts with host country laws

- IRMA's Standard for Responsible Mining is intended to complement, not replace, strong laws and regulations.
- Legal compliance is required in the IRMA Standard. But host country **laws form the floor**. If a regional law is stronger than IRMA, mines must meet it.

Where IRMA requirements exceed legal expectations mines must go beyond those laws and also meet IRMA requirements.

Can IRMA be a tool to support strong(er) regulations



“voluntary sustainability initiatives contribute to responsible sourcing by **complementing, aligning with** and, in some cases, **bolstering** government regulations, helping to support public policy and increase transparency in the mining sector.”

IRMA supports strong(er) regulations



- IRMA is pushing beyond many host country laws by **integrating a number of international norms** and principles that may not have yet worked their way into national laws (e.g., UNGP, VPSHR, EITI, UNDRIP, OECD DDG, ILO Conventions).
- In IRMA, mines are being measured against these, moving beyond the realm of principles and into practice.

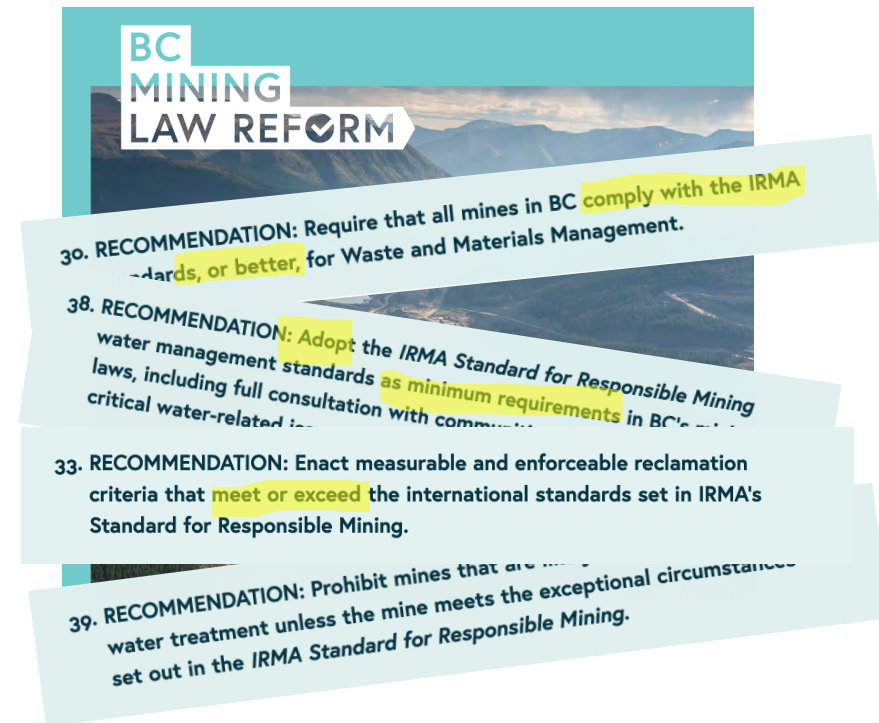
IRMA supports strong(er) regulations



- The IRMA Standard can serve as a **template for stronger laws**, or a starting point for **discussions on regulatory reform** (benchmarking laws and looking for gaps).

BC groups call for mines to meet or exceed requirements in the IRMA Standard (May 2019)

- **35 groups** including Amnesty International (Canada), BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council, Sierra Club of BC, David Suzuki Foundation, Rivers Without Borders



Civil society references IRMA:



Human Rights Watch letter (Sept 2019)

- Raised several important human rights concerns in South Africa, including protections for environmental defenders and communities affected by mining
- Encouraged use of Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) as a tool the government can use to drive improved practices at mine sites

Human Rights Watch Letter to President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

Advancing Human Rights in South Africa and Beyond

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

Your Excellency,

Please accept my regards on behalf of Human Rights Watch, an independent, nongovernmental organization that monitors human rights developments in more than 100 countries around the world. We have reported on human rights concerns in South Africa for more than twenty years.

We would also like to draw your attention to an unprecedented international collaboration that brought together mining companies, labor unions, companies that buy mined materials, civil society, and communities affected by mining, to establish the [Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance \(IRMA\)](#). Together these diverse groups, including Human Rights Watch, developed a shared definition of global best practices described in the Standard for Responsible Mining, and a trusted independent way to measure achievement of these practices at industrial-scale mine sites around the world.

Given that South Africa is a leading country providing mined materials, and thus experiences both the environmental and social impacts, as well as the opportunity for economic benefits from mining, we urge your administration to ask that the mining industry in South Africa operate using best practices. IRMA's Standard for Responsible Mining and independent assessment are tools South Africa may use to drive improved performance at mines and give greater market value for companies to operate in a manner which protects human rights and environmental values.

Summary



- IRMA can be a tool for communities to have a greater say in mineral development (but mines will need to be convinced to participate in the IRMA system).
- IRMA Standard is open source, so it can be used now as tool to improve mining regulations.
- Contact IRMA if you'd like a webinar or workshop on how to use IRMA as a tool for achieving better outcomes in mining-affected communities:

info@responsiblemining.net