

IRMA Scope and Boundaries of its intended Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system

June 2019

Scope and Boundaries of the M&E System

This document describes the intended scope and boundaries of what will be and what will not be included in the IRMA future Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. It is intended to ensure transparency and demonstrate compliance with the ISEAL Impacts Code.

The scope and boundaries of IRMA's M&E system will be:

1. **Programs, activities and geographic scope:** The scope of IRMA's core M&E system includes all major assurance activities related to the industrial mining sector carried out in both 'downstream' purchaser and 'upstream' mining countries/regions where IRMA works: this is currently global in scope. Program or activity areas include all membership and communications activities, verification and certification activities, and other outreach and educational activities such as training or awareness-building on the *Standard for Responsible Mining*.
2. **Standard and mining sectoral scope and what is not included:** IRMA's Standard is focused on the *mine site* and is not intended to certify at the company level. IRMA certifies a mine, not a mining company (although a mining company may have all its mines certified). The scope within the mining, metals and minerals sector includes all types of industrial- or large-scale mining (meaning that the mining is mechanized – this includes surface, sub-surface and solution mining), and all mined materials (e.g., minerals, metals) with the exception of energy fuels. IRMA will not certify oil and gas operations, and more work is needed before thermal coal and uranium can be considered for inclusion. IRMA will certify metallurgical coal. IRMA is not for certification of artisanal or small-scale mining. By 'mining' we mean mining and its related activities, such as construction of infrastructure or preliminary ore processing that occur on the mine site, and includes different phases of the mine life cycle. In limited cases the IRMA Standard refers to infrastructure, such as transportation routes, or associated facilities located off of the mine site if that facility would not have been built except for the development of the mine. The IRMA Standard does not apply to the manufacturing and assembly of products, or end product use and disposal.
3. **Outcomes and impacts:** Since its founding in 2006, IRMA's work has been guided by its vision of *a world where the mining industry respects the human rights and aspirations of affected communities, provides safe, healthy and supportive workplaces, minimizes harm to the environment, and leaves positive legacies*.

Recognizing that longer term outcomes (such as respecting human rights, planning new mines so as to deliver positive impacts, maintaining the safety and cultural

needs of communities, and avoiding and/or minimizing environmental harm) will be more difficult to measure in the next few years, although may arise in time from IRMA's certification against the Standard and our work to bring value to responsible mining through commitments from downstream purchasers or investors, we intent to maximize our resources by focusing the IRMA M&E system in its first 3 years on the following:

- Measuring outputs - where audit data will be most readily available
- Measuring short term outcomes - where audit data will be most readily available
- Measuring against select SDG indicators - where there is good alignment with IRMA criteria and where audit data is sufficient

In these first 3 years of IRMA certification we will not focus on evaluating longer-term impacts of our work. Where possible, we will ensure audit data is kept electronically, in a database, as opposed to on paper/PDFs so we can use extract IRMA's early work as solid baselines or "pre-certification" data for later impact evaluations (pre/post certification or other robust studies) by IRMA and its partners.

Where possible, IRMA will identify opportunities to conduct evaluations on the broader effects of its work, such as on systemic issues or on specific outcomes of interest, with outside experts, credible NGOs, research institutes, government agencies or academia.

Unintended effects of the IRMA Standard

Supply chain tools such as certifications and standards can have negative unintended effects. These can include in the case of mining, the following examples:

- Proliferation of standards that are not as inclusive can be seen as 'equivalent' in the marketplace and by mines.
- More negative media attention on mining can arise talking about IRMA and the steps towards reducing harm, which can have the perverse effect of drawing attention to the fact that harm existed in the first place, thereby creating more hesitation from mines to enter IRMA's improvement programs.
- Displacement (choosing to do business elsewhere) of poor mining practices or exploration for new mines to places where IRMA or other credible mining, metals and minerals standards are not as present or as incentivized by partners such as governments and purchasers, creating a relocation rather than a reduction of the negative impacts of mining.

Some of these unintended effects may already be happening, such as the proliferation of other 'standards' or principles initiatives that are meant to create an easier path that does not require much (or any) change.

IRMA intends to *indirectly* monitor these unintended effects for now, and will not measure them directly in its M&E system. IRMA will welcome the work and opportunity for collaboration with partners who wish to delve into these issues.