Pilot Program for the
Draft IRMA-Ready Standard for
Responsible Mineral Exploration and Development

December 2021

IRMA **Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance**

OUTLINE

—Brief overview of the coverage and approach of the IRMA-Ready Standard for Responsible Mineral Exploration and Development

—The public review process

—Pilot program: purpose, benefits of participation

IRMA is creating a voluntary certification system
for mineral exploration and development projects

1. **The IRMA-Ready Standard**

   — Best practice requirements on 26 topics – a comprehensive and rigorous exploration and development standard

   — Based on the IRMA mining standard, but will go though its own global multi-stakeholder review process

2. **A third-party, independent assurance**

   — Auditors external to the company will evaluate whether a project is meeting the IRMA requirements

   — Audits will include input from stakeholders and rights holders

   — Audit results will be made public

   — Likely to be notable reduction in time/cost compared to mining standard assurance

The IRMA-Ready Standard for Responsible Mineral Exploration and Development
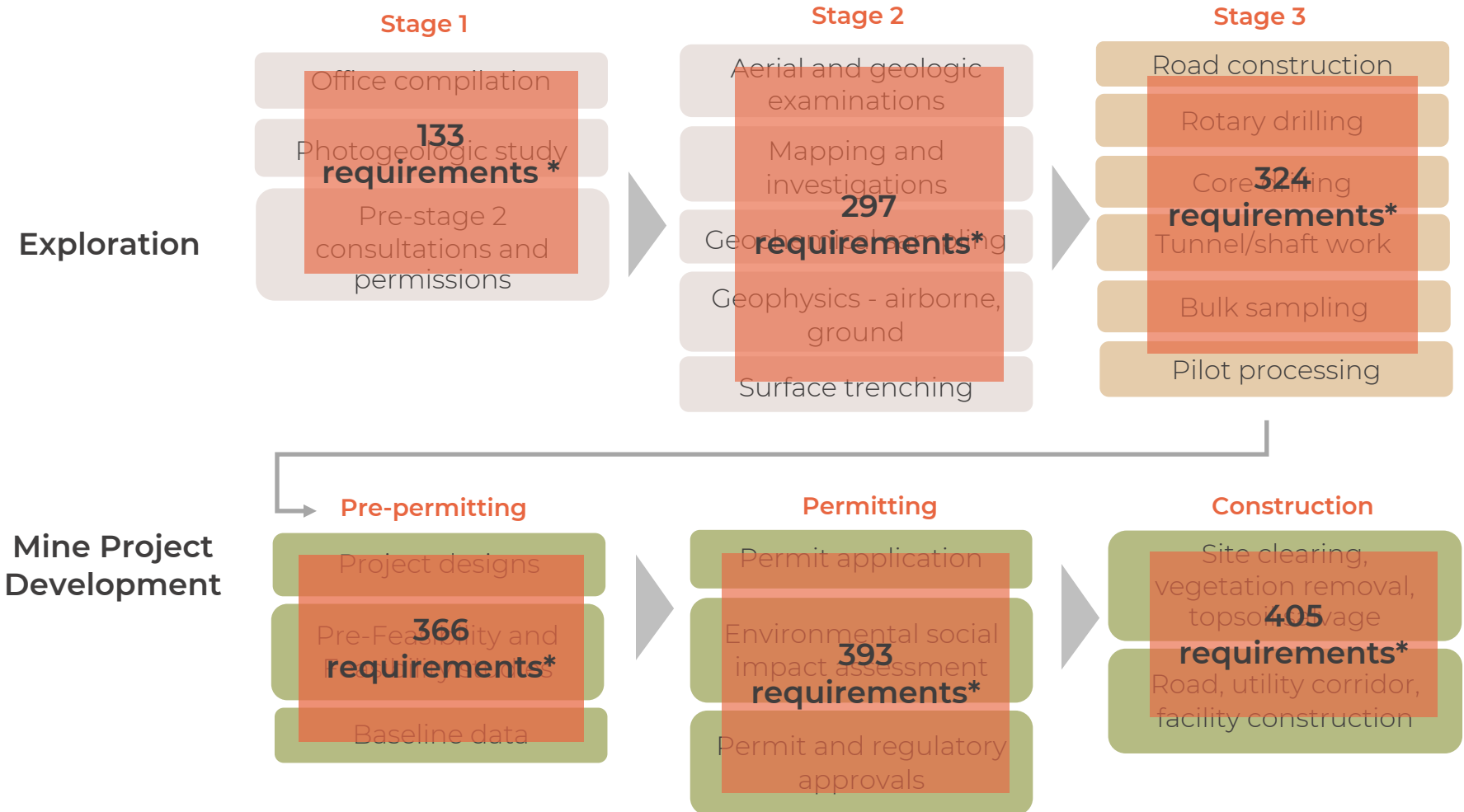
Meant to define best practices for activities that occur prior to the operational phase of a mine.

It is referred to, in short, as the **"IRMA-Ready"** Standard because it is assumed that any project that meets the requirements in the standard will be well prepared to also meet the requirements in the IRMA *Standard for Responsible Mining* if a project becomes an operational mine.

IRMA-Ready: Why Use It?

— A way for companies to demonstrate, and purchasers, investors and civil society to assess that a company is **striving to achieve best practices** from the beginning of project activities

- — Early phase is the time when **opportunities exist** to avoid culturally/environmentally/politically sensitive areas

- — Best time to **design-in safeguards**, select the best technologies and equipment

- — Appropriate time for free, **prior** and informed consent

— Early engagement important for **building a foundation of trust between companies and stakeholders**, and early awareness and and information sharing enables more meaningful engagement and ability of stakeholders to contribute to project decisions

— Evaluating projects against best practices can **differentiate between projects**, inform investment, and contribute to a discussion on social licence to operate

What is covered in the draft Standard?

Exploration

Stage 1
- Office compilation
- Photogeologic study
- Pre-stage 2 consultations and permissions

133 requirements *

Stage 2
- Aerial and geologic examinations
- Mapping and investigations
- Geochemical sampling
- Geophysics - airborne, ground
- Surface trenching

297 requirements*

Stage 3
- Road construction
- Rotary drilling
- Core drilling
- Tunnel/shaft work
- Bulk sampling
- Pilot processing

324 requirements*

Mine Project Development

Pre-permitting
- Project designs
- Pre-Feasibility and Feasibility studies
- Baseline data

366 requirements*

Permitting
- Permit application
- Environmental social impact assessment
- Permit and regulatory approvals

393 requirements*

Construction
- Site clearing, vegetation removal, topsoil salvage
- Road, utility corridor, facility construction

405 requirements*

* Actual number will be lower if some chapters not relevant (e.g., FPIC, resettlement, cyanide, etc.)

The IRMA Standard

Comprehensive coverage of mining issues

Business Integrity
- Legal compliance
- Stakeholder engagement
- Stakeholder grievance mechanism
- Human rights due diligence
- Revenue transparency/anti-corruption

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

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)

Environmental Responsibility
- Water management
- Waste (tailings) management
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gases emissions
- Noise management
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas
- Cyanide management
- Mercury management

IRMA Ready is based on the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining:

- Changed mining terminology to exploration, or "proposed" mining projects, or mine construction

- Sometimes reduced level of rigor compared to mining standard

- Sometimes combined requirements to simplify

- In some cases added new requirements (e.g., Chapter 1.5, 2.5, 4.1) to address early phase issues or reflect changes in best practices since Mining Standard was finalized

Public Review Process

IRMA Draft Standard
Consultation Process

1. **Global stakeholders will have until 15 April 2022 to comment on draft standard**

2. **In 2022, more webinars offered and possibly working groups**

3. **IRMA will review comments, revise draft and release for another consultation**

4. **Finalize the standard based on input**

Send feedback to:
comments@responsiblemining.net

Piloting will occur coincident with public comment period, using Mine Measure self-assessment tool.

No claims of achievement can be made by participants engaged in pilot.

RESPONSIBLEMINING.NET

Piloting the IRMA-Ready Standard
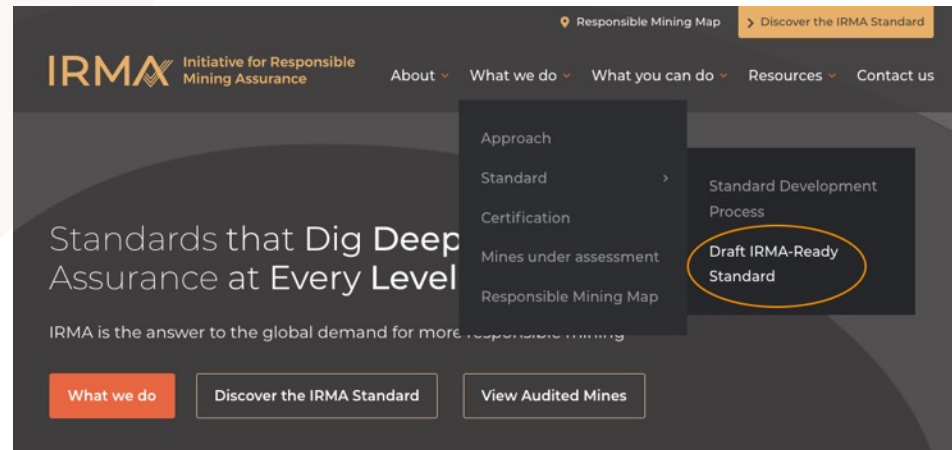
How can I participate in pilot testing the draft IRMA-Ready Standard?

IRMA leaders invite and encourage the pilot testing of this draft Standard by companies engaged in actual exploration or proposed mining projects, and by stakeholders of existing or proposed projects.

This type of involvement will help to ground-truth the proposed requirements and inform ways that content should be changed and clarified to create value for the diversity of stakeholders who are interested in or affected by mineral exploration and development

Companies or others engaged in the pilot program will test the draft Standard using the Mine Measure self-assessment tool, which has been adapted for the exploration and development stages.

Input from pilot tests will be used to inform revisions to the draft IRMA-Ready Standard.

To participate in the pilot program, please fill out an application form and send it to: info@responsiblemining.net

Piloting the IRMA-Ready Standard

Who can participate in the Pilot Program?

— **Mineral Exploration and Development Companies** wanting to review IRMA's draft metrics, provide feedback to IRMA, and carry out a gap analysis against the draft metrics

— **Communities and NGOs** interested in measuring a proposed project against IRMA's draft metrics and providing IRMA with comments on the metrics

— Those not interested or without the information needed to carry out an assessment (e.g., **purchasers, investors, others**) could ask project proponents to participate in pilot program. The pilot assessment tool, Mine Measure, allows answers to be shared with third parties, if permission is granted.

Piloting the IRMA-Ready Standard

Step 1: Fill out an Application Form

Application form includes a checklist, to determine the appropriate stage of development.

Step 2: Send the form to IRMA

info@responsiblemining.net

MINE MEASURE
responsible exploration/development self-assessment

Step 3: An on-line assessment will be created for you in the Mine Measure self-assessment system

The IRMA Secretariat will create an assessment for your project that includes the requirements specific to the stage identified in your application form.

Step 4: Start filling the assessment

There is no limit to the number of people who may contribute to the assessment.

Filling out the assessment

If you believe a chapter is not relevant, enter your rationale in the General Comments box, at top of page, and move on to the next chapter.

MINE MEASURE
responsible exploration/development self-assessment

Filling out the assessment

Users will be able to rate a project's performance

Users can add a rationale for your rating

1.1.1.1. (critical requirement)

The company shall have a system in place to identify all host country laws that are applicable to the project, and shall track the status of the project's compliance with those obligations.

▲ Notes on this requirement

○ Fully Meets

○ Substantially Meets

○ Partially Meets

○ Does Not Meet

○ Not Relevant

Rationale for Rating

[ ]

Save   Remove

Notes to Reviewers, and some explanatory notes/footnotes, are added here

MINE MEASURE
responsible exploration/development self-assessment

Opportunity to comment on every IRMA-READY requirement

It would be helpful for us to know:

— If you do not believe the requirement it is relevant for your circumstances, or the particular stage being assessed, and why not

— If you disagree that this is an important metric

— If you agree with the intent of the requirement but want to suggest changes to the metric or language

— Other comments

Provide Feedback
Please let us know if the requirement is unclear, if you think we are using the wrong metrics, if the requirement is inappropriate for the Stage of exploration or development, or any other input you wish to provide. Suggested changes to language or approach welcome.

Save   Remove

MINE MEASURE
responsible exploration/development self-assessment

Opportunity to comment on every IRMA-READY requirement

— There will be individual feedback boxes for <mark>Consultation Questions</mark>

CONSULTATION QUESTION

CONSULTATION QUESTION 4: Is it critical that engagement begin as outlined in the following requirements, or should IRMA allow full points as long as the company can demonstrate that during a particular stage the expectation is currently being met? Or should companies be recognized and rewarded for implementing practices at the time when they can be most effective?

Save   Remove

Benefits of participating in the IRMA-Ready Pilot Program

— Participants will help to inform improvements to the draft standard, so it is an opportunity to help influence the metrics that sites will be measured against if they participate in IRMA.

— The MINE MEASURE self-assessment tool will retain answers. So mining participants will have done some of the work necessary when the final IRMA-Ready Standard is released and integrated into Mine Measure.

— Your comments and participation in the pilot program can be done confidentially, or publicly.

Benefits of participating in the IRMA-Ready Pilot Program

—You have the option of being on the Responsible Mining Map, showing that your project is participating in the IRMA-Ready Pilot Program (indicate your interest on the application form)

Benefits of participating in the IRMA-Ready Pilot Program

Claims:

IRMA will allow public claims about participation in the pilot

—You <u>cannot</u> make any claims that you have achieved a particular score or level in IRMA-Ready. Those types of claims will be allowed once the standard is final, and you have undergone an independent, third-party audit.

—You <u>can</u> state publicly that you are participating in the IRMA-Ready Pilot Program to help contribute to a multi-stakeholder, shared definition of responsible mineral exploration and development.

—You <u>can</u> state publicly and/or on the Responsible Mining Map that once the standard is final you are committed to moving toan independent, third-party audit of your project.

IRMA-Ready Consultation Timeline

Comment period:

2 December 2021 – 15 April 2022

Piloting using Mine Measure:

Sign up now!

Mine Measure system should be ready before the end of December 2021.

Questions?

IRMA
Initiative for Responsible
Mining Assurance