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***Standard for Responsible Mining Self-Assessment Tool Released***

*Mines can now demonstrate performance in new certification program*

Following publication of the [Standard for Responsible Mining](#), the [Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance](#) (IRMA) has released a new tool that allows mine sites to evaluate their operations against the Standard's high-bar requirements. Mine sites can use the self-assessment tool to prepare for independent auditing of achievement, scheduled to begin later this year, and also provide feedback to IRMA to improve its certification system.

IRMA is a precedent-setting global certification program for industrial-scale mine sites and seeks to emulate for mining what has been done with certification programs in fair trade agriculture, responsible forestry and sustainable fisheries. The new self-assessment tool and its companion online [Responsible Mining Map](#) will allow mine sites to demonstrate their commitment to responsible practices and build networks of suppliers and customers who want to promote responsible mining value chains.

This marks the first time mine sites can make public commitments to environmental and social responsibility in the context of IRMA's diverse, equitable stakeholder system. The Standard was developed collaboratively by nonprofit environmental/social justice groups, mining companies, labor unions, and consumer-facing brands that use mined materials in the products they sell.

"Tiffany & Co. helped launch IRMA in 2006 because we felt there was a need for a high-bar, shared definition of what it means to mine responsibly," said Anisa Kamadoli Costa, Chief Sustainability Officer at Tiffany & Co. "The Standard for Responsible Mining provides a robust definition, developed through a decade of collaboration between diverse stakeholders. This new tool will allow mines to assess their performance against a defined set of best practices and clearly communicate their commitment to operating responsibly."

"Microsoft works to address labor, human rights, and environmental issues throughout our supply chain and leverage these learnings, as well as our technologies, to accelerate the progress of others," said Joan Krajewski, General Manager of Compliance and Safety at Microsoft. "IRMA's self-assessment tool provides an opportunity for mine sites to make commitments to improve and be evaluated using a comprehensive standard in a system that is accountable to diverse stakeholders."

While IRMA certification will ultimately be based on an independent third-party audit, the self-assessment tool will introduce mining companies to IRMA's Standard, while simultaneously allowing them to provide feedback to improve the Standard. Mines participating in this phase of self-assessment will be recognized for early engagement on IRMA's Responsible Mining Map.

"We are looking forward to implementing this new self-assessment tool at our operations as part of our longstanding commitment to responsible mining," said Jon Samuel, Group Head of Social Performance and Engagement at Anglo American. "The self-assessment tool provides a concrete set of metrics to use alongside our existing programmes that drive our investments in a more sustainable future for mining."

The *Standard for Responsible Mining's* best practice requirements include elements such as health and safety for workers, human rights, community engagement, pollution control, mining in conflict-affected areas, rights of indigenous peoples, transparency in revenue payments from companies to governments, and land reclamation once mining is done. The Standard, released earlier this year, reflects input from over 100 companies, organizations and individuals worldwide.

“Despite our differences, IRMA participants have consistently agreed on the need to establish a high-bar Standard for environmental and social responsibility—one that has meaningful benefits for workers and communities on the ground, and one that would be implementable and measurable,” said Payal Sampat, Mining Program Director at Earthworks. “The new self-assessment tool is a helpful step in that direction and we encourage mining companies to take part in this opportunity.”

“Although ten years of work has gone into development of the *Standard for Responsible Mining*, and two field tests have been conducted (USA, Zimbabwe), a great deal more will be learned through diverse mines using this tool to evaluate their own performance at various sites around the world,” said Aimee Boulanger, IRMA Coordinator. “Feedback provided by mines using the tool will be used to inform additional edits needed on the *Standard* before full certification is granted to mines beginning in late 2019.”

**Background:**

Quotes above are from current members of IRMA's Steering Committee. Additional Steering Committee members include Mark Rowlinson of [United Steelworkers](#), Alan Knight of [ArcelorMittal](#), Dewa Mavhinga of [Human Rights Watch](#), and Glen Mpufane of [IndustriALL Global Union](#).

The [Standard for Responsible Mining](#) is a certification system for mine sites, rather than mining companies, and will not certify the mining of energy fuels (e.g. uranium, thermal coal, oil or gas).

In addition to full certification, IRMA will offer an entry status for mines meeting core requirements, and a scoring tool to measure continuing improvement for mines at all levels. Achievement will be measured through independent third-party verification in line with ISEAL Alliance's [Code of Good Practice](#). Full certification will be offered in late 2019, based on the learning from mines engaged in self-assessment and auditor-verified scoring in 2018 and early 2019.

IRMA is committed to working collaboratively with colleague standard systems seeking similar solutions, including ResponsibleSteel, Mining Association of Canada's *Toward Sustainable Mining* program, Responsible Jewellery Council, Alliance for Responsible Mining, Forest Stewardship Council, Responsible Business Alliance, US Green Building Council, Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council and others.

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