
Press Release

New mine-site level study – major gaps and encouraging signs in ESG reporting

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A new study by the Responsible Mining Foundation reveals weak disclosure of environmental, social and governance information by Toronto-listed small and mid-tier companies with mine sites in Australia, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Kyrgyz Republic, and Suriname.

The study assesses mine-site-level disclosure by 12 mining companies and their 31 mine sites located across 9 countries. The assessment covers 15 key environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues of strong public interest. The results highlight a wide variation in disclosure levels, but also that stronger disclosure is within reach of many companies.

Public disclosure of mine-site-level ESG data is essential for companies to be able to develop trust-based relationships and engage in constructive discussions on issues of shared interest with mining-affected communities, workers, governments, shareholders, investors, and other stakeholders.

Key findings highlight a lack of accessible ESG information

Overall, the scores on mine-site-level disclosure of ESG data are low, with an average score of 11%, and only three of the 31 mine sites scoring over 25%. “Where companies do publish site-level ESG information, the data is often presented in ways that reduce its usefulness to stakeholders. This includes, for example, environmental data shared without information on where and when pollution levels exceeded limit values,” explains Pierre de Pasquale, lead researcher of the study at the Responsible Mining Foundation.

Government regulation of reporting clearly helps drive stronger disclosure on, for example, impact assessments or closure plans. Similarly, sites that are subject to requests from shareholders or investors to align their practices with international initiatives and reporting standards, also tend to show stronger ESG data disclosure.

About the Responsible Mining Foundation

The Responsible Mining Foundation (RMF) is an independent not-for-profit organisation that encourages continuous improvement in responsible mining by transparently assessing the performance of mining companies, also at mine-site level, highlighting leading practice and supporting learning. The Foundation does not accept funding from the mining industry.

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