

Responsible Mining Foundation

Summary Strategy 2018-2020

Updated January 2019



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Introduction

Although mining activities can contribute significantly to the GDP of many resource-rich countries, this mineral wealth often fails to effectively translate into broader economic development or tangible benefits for producing country populations, many of whom often continue to live in poverty. Host communities everywhere tend to bear the brunt of the environmental degradation and social and economic disruption caused by mining operations, with women and girls bearing a disproportionate share.

The Responsible Mining Foundation (RMF) is an independent non-profit organisation created in 2012 with the aim that the full potential of large-scale minerals and metals mining positively benefits the economies, improves the lives of peoples and respects the environments of producing countries, while mining companies also benefit in a fair and viable way.

The specific goal of RMF is to encourage continuous improvement in responsible large-scale mining by assessing and comparing the performance of large, globally dispersed mining companies on economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues, and highlighting leading practice.

To contribute to this goal, RMF intends to achieve the following three outcomes:

- Increased awareness by large-scale mining companies and other stakeholders of what society expects from large-scale mining companies on EESG issues.
- More informed engagement and discourse between large-scale mining companies and other stakeholders.
- Improvement in transparency and disclosure of public-interest data by large-scale mining companies.

Beneficiaries

While mining companies are the primary focus of the Responsible Mining Indices, the ultimate beneficiaries will be the communities, workers, environment, and economies of producing countries.

Activities

RMF will produce a global Responsible Mining Index every two years to assess and compare approximately 30 globally dispersed large-scale mining companies, including publicly listed, state-owned, and private companies. For the global Indices, company performance will be scored largely at company-wide level, with a small number of indicators focusing on the performance of selected mining operations. Other research, for example on mine site level reporting, will be undertaken to reinforce the open data aims of the Foundation and to improve the effectiveness of the global Indices.

In parallel, RMF will actively inform key stakeholders of research results and leading practices, publish in multiple languages, and encourage constructive dialogue in the public domain to provide the incentive for all mining companies to improve their practices.

In the next three years, two global Indices and one mine site study will be published.

Approach

The Responsible Mining Index approach has been developed drawing on extensive engagement with mining-affected stakeholders and experts as well as a range of internationally agreed practices and principles. Within the context of the growing number of responsible business- and mining-related initiatives, the Responsible Mining Index is distinctive in that it:

- assesses and compares large, geographically-dispersed mining companies;
- includes publicly listed, state-owned and private companies;
- is based on what society at large expects from large-scale mining companies;
- produces mine-site-level data as well as company-wide data;
- emphasises continuous improvement, leading practice and learning; and
- makes this information freely available in multiple languages and formats.

The Foundation is well-placed for the tasks ahead. Its results achieved to date demonstrate its capacity and commitment to deliver.

Timeline

