

Press Release

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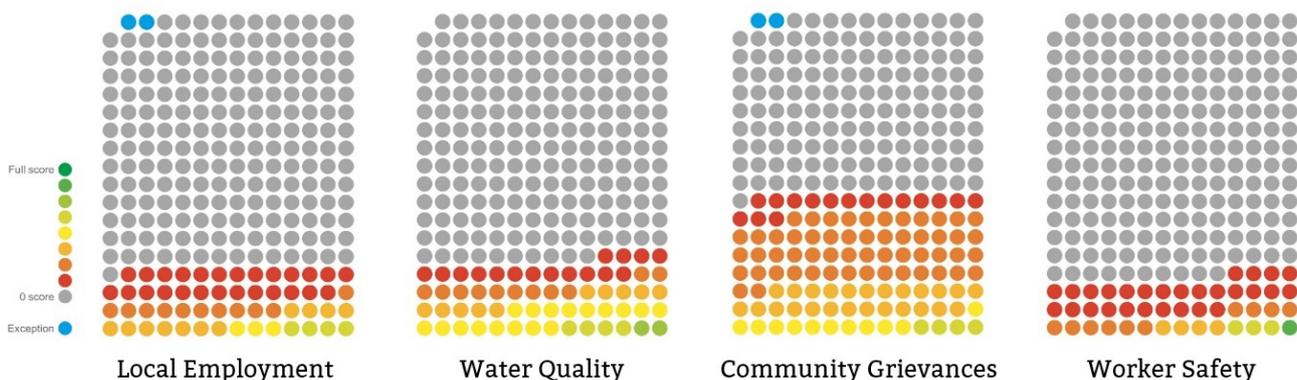
RMI Report 2022 reveals little ESG action at mine sites

In its latest assessment of 40 companies and 250 mine sites, the Responsible Mining Foundation highlights a striking disconnect between corporate commitments and mine site action on critically important ESG issues. Commitments are now commonplace, yet basic actions at mine sites – to inform and engage with communities and workers on for example safety issues or environmental impacts – are rarely evident. Some 94% of the mine sites score an average of less than 20% on the fifteen basic ESG issues assessed. It is at mine sites where the risk of harm is greatest and companies can certainly be expected to show respect for those most exposed to these risks. And without evidence that corporate commitments and protocols are being implemented at mine-site level, the credibility of these HQ measures will be limited. At a time when many companies are announcing record profits and ambitious plans on technical issues such as emissions reductions or efficiency gains, there is an urgent need for a similar level of effort and leadership to ensure responsible practices across companies’ operations.

Mine sites lag behind corporate standards

The vast majority of the 250 assessed mine sites across 53 countries cannot demonstrate that they are informing and engaging with host communities and workers on important ESG risk factors, despite the fact that many companies require their mine sites to take these basic actions. For example, most companies show some level of corporate protocols for their operations to engage with other water users on water management and to engage with worker representatives on occupational health and safety. However only a minority of the 250 assessed mine sites show any evidence of having implemented these requirements. Hélène Piaget, CEO of RMF, says: “We have seen examples of leading practice on many issues – companies are proving it can be done. What is needed is much quicker adoption of these good practices to enable the industry, especially at mine-site level, to prevent harm, limit risk and build trust.”

Figure 1. Results on four of the fifteen mine-site indicators (each dot representing one mine site)



Some companies catching up

Although the results on corporate policies and practices remain low on many issues, overall it is good to note that companies show an average 11% improvement over the previous assessment in 2020. However, this average masks significant differences between companies at opposite ends of the performance spectrum. Companies in the first tier – i.e., those with the highest overall results – show only an 8% average increase in their results. This contrasts with the 41% average improvement seen among companies in the third tier, who are beginning to catch up by putting in place policies and practices on a range of ESG issues, while increasing their transparency.

Commitments need implementation

The RMI Report 2022 finds that formal ESG commitments are becoming the norm, and it is clearly within every company's reach to meet society expectations on ESG policy commitments. But implementation and performance tracking remain weak. If companies are serious about ESG and sustainability, the leadership needs to ensure that these departments have sufficient budget, people, agency and respect within the organisation.

Normalising responsible mining

There is much scope for companies to improve their responsible policies and practices by adopting the good examples shown by their peers, highlighted as leading practices in the report. Given that the energy transition will further increase demand for minerals and metals, it is more important than ever for companies to accelerate their continuous improvement efforts and normalise responsible mining.

[Read the summary report](#)

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Issued by: **Responsible Mining Foundation**, Nyon, Switzerland
Email: media@responsibleminingfoundation.org – Tel.: +41 22 361 14 18

RMI Report 2022

The RMI Report 2022 assesses the ESG policies and practices of 40 of the largest mining companies in the world, and basic ESG actions at 250 of their mine sites. Analysts scrutinised over 6,500 documents for the evidence-based assessment (without recourse to artificial intelligence) against indicators and scoring criteria that are fully transparent. The vast majority of the companies actively participated in the assessment. A summary report published today provides some overall results and thematic extracts from the RMI Report 2022. The full results and individual 40 company and 250 mine-site reports are available online at www.responsibleminingindex.org.

40 companies assessed in the RMI Report 2022

Anglo American, AngloGold Ashanti, Antofagasta, ArcelorMittal, Banpu, Barrick, BHP, Boliden, Buenaventura, Bumi Resources, China Shenhua, Coal India, CODELCO, ERG, Evraz, Exxaro, First Quantum, Fortescue, Freeport-McMoRan, Glencore, Gold Fields, Grupo México, KGHM, MMG, Navoi MMC, Newcrest, Newmont, NMDC, Nordgold, OCP Group, Orano, Peñoles, Polymetal, Rio Tinto, RUSAL, Sibanye-Stillwater, Teck, Vale, Vedanta, Zijin.

53 producing countries covered in the mine-site-level assessment

Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, DRC, Eritrea, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Caledonia, Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

About the Responsible Mining Foundation

The Responsible Mining Foundation (RMF) is an independent research organisation that encourages continuous improvement in responsible extractives across the industry by developing tools and frameworks, sharing public-interest data and enabling informed and constructive engagement between extractive companies and other stakeholders. The Foundation does not accept funding or other contributions from the extractives sector.

DISCLAIMER

The findings, conclusions and interpretations within this RMI Report 2022 do not necessarily represent the views of funders, trustees, and employees of the Responsible Mining Foundation (RMF), and others who participated in consultations and as advisors to the report.

This report is intended to be for information purposes only and is not intended as promotional material in any respect. The report is not intended to provide accounting, legal, tax or investment advice or recommendations, neither is it intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any financial instrument. In order to fully understand the methodology of the RMI Report 2022, the respective sections on the website should be consulted.

The RMI Report 2022 seeks evidence of companies' policies and practices on economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues, but does not seek to measure the actual outcomes achieved on EESG issues. Results are based only on evidence sourced from the public domain or provided by companies as open data. Whilst this information is believed to be reliable, no guarantee can be given that it is accurate or complete, nor does it preclude the possibility that policies and practices may exist, but which the RMI Report 2022 has not been able to consider for purposes of assessment. In this respect, the results of the low-scoring companies do not necessarily reflect a lack of relevant policies and practices; as they may be due to a lack of public reporting by the companies, and/or limitations in accessing information.

The full disclaimer can be found on the RMI Report website: <https://www.responsibleminingindex.org/>