

Senior Researcher

Responsible Mining Foundation

As an independent research organisation, the Responsible Mining Foundation (RMF) encourages continuous improvement in responsible extractive value chains by developing tools and frameworks, sharing public-interest data, and enabling informed and constructive engagement between companies and other stakeholders.

In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, RMF's vision is that extractive value chains should benefit the economies, improve the lives of peoples, and respect the environments of producing countries - while allowing for companies and their investors to benefit in a fair and viable way.

The Foundation produces the biennial Responsible Mining Index (RMI) Reports: evidence-based assessment of large-scale mining companies' policies and practices on key economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues. The latest edition, the RMI Report 2020, covers 38 of the world's largest mining companies that together account for about 28% of global mining production. Other research products include, for example, regular editorial-style Research Insights on topical EESG issues, a recent report Mining and the SDGS: a 2020 status update, a Mine Site Assessment Tool and ongoing studies on Responsible Extractives Trading and on the severe adverse impacts of mining.

Job Summary

The Senior Researcher position presents an exciting opportunity to work in a small dynamic and multi-disciplinary team, playing a key role in RMF's successful and highly respected research programme.

The senior researcher is directly involved in, for example, development and review of research methodologies, frameworks and tools; analysis and synthesis of results; and production of reports, presentations, etc. In addition, the senior researcher supports RMF's Head of Research in planning and managing research projects.

The immediate focus of the Foundation's research team will be preparation for the third edition of the RMI Report, continued work on ongoing studies, and further development of research frameworks related to RMF's three transversal issues of climate change, gender and human rights.

Activities and Responsibility

- In-depth involvement in research programme including data collection, assessment, scoring, synthesis and presentation of results;
- Contribute own ideas and insights to the development, implementation and review of research methodologies and frameworks;
- Participate in the production of a wide range of research products including regular online publication of thematic syntheses and comparative analyses;



- Support the use and maintenance of IT research tools including RMF's digital platform and database;
- Identify and review emerging issues and initiatives of relevance to RMF's research work and theory of change;
- Maintain familiarity with developments in the extractive industries and the broader geopolitical context;
- Support project planning and management and coordination with external research partners;
- Participate in external representation of RMF research products and results at web events, online meetings, conferences, seminars, media briefings, and similar fora;
- Participate in maintaining relationships with related initiatives, governments, investors, extractive companies, civil society and other key stakeholders.

Competencies

- In-depth knowledge of the extractive industries and the broader extractive value chains;
- Knowledge and understanding of the stakeholder dynamics related to the extractives sector and the expectations of society regarding economic, environmental, social and governance issues;
- Respected researcher with demonstrated understanding of methodology and analytical research approaches;
- A clear understanding of the goal and approach of RMF research and how the research contributes to RMF's theory of change;
- Inquiring and independent thinker who can convert complex data into useful explanatory concepts and compelling narratives;
- Qualitative and quantitative proficiency;
- Appreciation of the need for analytical rigour, attention to detail and irreproachable impartiality;
- Editorial judgment and proven ability to communicate research methodology and results clearly and concisely in both verbal and written form;
- Project management experience;
- Familiarity with the management of digital platforms, websites, and databases (knowledge of Wordpress, html, css, SQL, network and server maintenance);
- Ability to work effectively in teams in a collaborative and cooperative spirit;
- Fluent English, other languages are an advantage.



Qualifications:

- Post-graduate degree in economics, mining engineering, extractive resource management, environmental sciences, international development studies or related field;
- At least 5 years of extractive-relevant experience in an academic, business or not-for-profit context;
- Proven skills in analysis of quantitative and qualitative data;
- Excellent Excel, PowerPoint and Word skills;
- Good technical writer;
- Articulate in English written and spoken at first language level; other languages a bonus;
- Travel: willing to do occasional international travel;
- Nationality/work status: qualify to work in Switzerland.

Work Environment and Location

This position offers the opportunity of international exposure in a fast-paced learning environment, while contributing to the conceptual and practical understanding of responsible practice within extractive value chains. RMF is based in the Geneva area, Switzerland.

How to Apply

A cover letter, resume, sample of analytical writing and reference contact information are required to be considered for this position. Pre-employment background checks are a standard procedure. Send your application including a CV, motivational letter and writing sample (in one PDF file) addressed to administration@responsibleminingfoundation.org. The email subject line should read: Senior Researcher. Receipt of application will be confirmed. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further interviews.

Deadline for applications: 15 January 2021.