

ASI Management Response

State of Sustainability Initiatives Review: Standards and the Extractives Economy

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The research report can be found on IISD's website here:

<https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/igf-ssi-review-extractive-economy.pdf>

Findings and Recommendations

The report examines voluntary sustainability initiatives (VSIs) in the mining sector, detailing their evolution, interface with public policy, findings from a CARE analysis, and sector snapshot. It underscores VSIs as market-driven tools influenced by regulatory dynamics, offering insights into their role in sustainable development.

The study evaluates fifteen voluntary sustainability initiatives (VSIs) out of 158 standards in mining. Participating organizations include Alliance for Responsible Mining Foundation, Fairmined Gold (ARM), Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI), Bettercoal, Cornerstone Standards Council (CSC), Fairtrade International, Fairtrade Gold and Silver, Fair Stone, International Council on Mining and Metals Sustainable Development (ICMM), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), Mining Association of Canada, Natural Stone Council (NSC), Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), Responsible Mining Index (RMI), Responsible Stone Programme (TFT), The Forest Trust, Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) and XertifiX.

The study conducts comprehensive CARE analysis across coverage, assurance, responsiveness, and engagement. Coverage assesses standards' breadth and compliance levels. Assurance examines verification robustness and value chain traceability. Responsiveness measures indicators for improvement and adaptation. Engagement evaluates stakeholder accessibility and transparency. Findings highlight differences and strengths across environmental, social, and business aspects, aiding stakeholders in enhancing VSI effectiveness in mining practices.

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We recognise the importance of continuous improvement in sustainability practices. IISD's findings underscore the evolving landscape of VSIs and their interface with regulatory frameworks, which is helpful for our future strategies. We are committed to leveraging these insights to enhance our Initiative and ensure alignment with best practices in sustainable development.

Moving forward, we are eager to collaborate further with stakeholders to foster transparency, improve stakeholder engagement, and strengthen our commitment to responsible mining practices. We believe that ongoing dialogue and collaboration will be instrumental in addressing the challenges identified and advancing the positive impacts in our operations.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this study, which has highlighted ASI's robust verification processes and traceability within value chains. We look forward to continued partnership in driving meaningful change in the aluminium industry.