The environmental, social and governance demands on industry are increasingly complex, while at the same time essential. In 2003, ICMM established 10 Principles for sustainable development that set the standard of ethical performance for company members. Over time, these have been expanded with the publication of eight position statements on key industry issues. ICMM’s Mining Principles go even further, enhancing the social and environmental performance expectations of members at scale, and site by site.

What are ICMM’s Mining Principles?

Developed with extensive input from NGOs, international organisations, customers and academics, ICMM’s Mining Principles directly respond to evolving societal expectations of industry by strengthening member requirements on a variety of complex issues – such as resettlement, mine closure pollution and waste.

Building on the values of members, ICMM’s Mining Principles define enhanced good practice environmental, social and governance requirements of company members that, in turn, will support progress towards the global targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Incorporating robust site-level validation of company member requirements and credible assurance of corporate sustainability reports, the Mining Principles seek to drive improved performance to maximise benefits to host communities, while minimising negative impacts.

How are they validated?

Alongside the mandatory requirements of ICMM’s Mining Principles, company members are required to publicly disclose their sustainability performance against Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards (minimum Core option). With annual sustainability report assurance to be provided by an independent third-party, using a recognised assurance standard.

Starting in 2020, validation of ICMM’s Mining Principles at the corporate and asset levels will be an additional requirement of company members. With validation activities to be disclosed on an annual basis.

Assets subject to validation include all operations involved in the production or refining of minerals and metals over which a company member exercises control. Aligned with the objectives of other responsible sourcing initiatives, ICMM’s validation procedure ensures the credibility of members’ reported progress by measuring the implementation of individual performance expectations, site by site.

Validation involves a mix of first-party and independent third-party assessments. Third-party validations will be conducted by qualified validation service providers (VSPs). VSPs are professional service providers that meet ICMM requirements for independence, experience, expertise and lack of conflicts of interest. ICMM will keep a register of VSPs for members or other interested parties use.

How do they compare?

ICMM’s Mining Principles are a condition of membership. Applying to more than 650 assets in over 50 countries, they seek to drive performance improvements at scale.

Aligned with the objectives of other responsible sourcing initiatives, ICMM’s Mining Principles aim to avoid additional audit burden, to the extent possible, by providing recognition of members’ participation in other recognised third-party validation systems. Equivalent programmes are those with standards and requirements that are similar in scope and intent to ICMM’s Mining Principles validation programme. ICMM will maintain details on an ongoing basis of what elements of other third-party validation systems can be recognised as equivalent.
### Mining Principles

ICMM’s enhanced Mining Principles strengthen social and environmental requirements, on issues such as labour rights, resettlement, gender, access to grievance mechanisms, mine closure, pollution and waste. Implementation is supported by robust site-level validation, credible assurance and transparent disclosure. Aligned with the objectives of other responsible sourcing initiatives, our assurance and validation procedures reinforce commitments to transparency, and ensure the credibility of reported progress.

**MINING PRINCIPLES**

**EXPECTATIONS**

**ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES**

| 1.1 | Legal compliance.
| 1.2 | Prevent bribery and corruption.
| 1.3 | Advance to ISO 38001.
| 1.4 | Accountability.
| 1.5 | Disclose financial contributions.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

| 2.1 | Sustainability in decision-making.
| 2.2 | Responsible business partners.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

| 3.1 | Respect human rights.
| 3.2 | Avoid involuntary relocation.
| 3.3 | Manage security threats affecting human rights.
| 3.4 | Respect the rights of children.
| 3.5 | Fair pay and working hours.
| 3.6 | Respect Indigenous Peoples.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

| 4.1 | Environmental and social impact assessments.
| 4.2 | Operating in conflict-affected or high-risk areas.
| 4.3 | Management of health, safety and environmental risks.
| 4.4 | Emergency response planning.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

| 5.1 | Continuously improve health and safety.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**

| 6.1 | Plan for closure.
| 6.2 | Water stewardship.
| 6.3 | Manage tailings.
| 6.4 | Prevent pollution and related impacts.
| 6.5 | Reduce GHG emissions.

**CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

| 7.1 | Protect World Heritage Sites and legally designated areas.
| 7.2 | Protect biodiversity.

**RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION**

| 8.1 | Reduce waste.
| 8.2 | Manage hazardous material.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MANNER, EFFECTIVELY REPORT AND INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE.**

To promote sustainable benefits from mining and metals, it is imperative that industry engage and cooperate with key stakeholders in an open, honest and transparent manner. ICMM members commit to report annually on their sustainable development performance – using leading global standards to promote open and accountable management of natural resources.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

| 9.1 | Development of local communities.
| 9.2 | Local economic opportunities.
| 9.3 | Local stakeholders engagement.
| 9.4 | Artisanal mining.

**TRANSPARENCY**

| 10.1 | Transparency in stakeholder engagement.
| 10.2 | Payments to governments.
| 10.3 | Annual reporting.
| 10.4 | Assurance and validation.
What does this mean for the investment community?

Investment decisions in the mining and metals sector require a considerable level of due diligence. This can be difficult in light of the remoteness of many assets, and the range of areas in which diligence must be carried out. The enhancement of ICMM’s Mining Principles means that investors will be able to easily access information on how companies are managing a full spectrum of environmental, social and governance issues. With all company members disclosing on a comparable basis, and at asset level, the Mining Principles aim to both simplify the due diligence process and – crucially – offer assurance that a company is operating to the highest ESG standards.

Validation timeline

Members are required to complete a self-assessment of all subject assets once every three years. In addition, at least once every three years, members are required to prioritise assets for third-party validation within the three-year validation cycle. The number and frequency of third-party validation for member assets is determined by the member-driven prioritisation process.

Key resources

ICMM: www.ICMM.com/mining-principles