Changing the rules for the mining industry:

THE INITIATIVE FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING ASSURANCE

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Reclaiming the Sierra
IRMA is governed by a Steering Committee with a representative and an alternate from each of these five sectors (affiliations of current Steering Committee members for each sector are listed):

- **Mining Companies**: Anglo American
- **Non-Governmental Organizations**: Earthworks, Canadian Boreal Initiative
- **Labor**: United Steel Workers, IndustriALL
- **Affected Communities**: Western Shoshone Defense Project
IRMA envisions a world where the mining industry is: **respectful** of the human rights and aspirations of affected communities; provides **safe**, healthy and respectful workplaces; avoids or **minimizes** harm to the environment; and leaves **positive legacies**.

To establish a **multi-stakeholder** and **independently verified** responsible mining assurance system that improves **social and environmental performance**.
The IRMA Mining Assurance System

Includes six basic tenets:

- **Best practice standards** that describe environmentally and socially responsible mine operations as well as legacy mine site management;

- An independent **third-party verification** of the standards;

- A **membership program** designed to maintain long term support for the system from all key stakeholder groups;

- **Communication tools** (such as certificates, approved claims and labels/logos) that generate rewards for effective implementation by participating enterprises.

- An **organizational structure** sufficient to ensure the long term stability and success of the system as a whole (through legal entities and associated personnel, governance and financial resources);

- **Mechanisms for resolving disputes.**
Best Practice Standards: IRMA’s Working Definition

- **Protect environmental and social values**: Practices that are widely recognized by interested stakeholders as being the most effective way to avoid or minimize negative social and environmental impacts, given the current state of knowledge.

- **Measurable**: A set of auditable requirements, created through the multi-stakeholder IRMA process, that can be measured by a trained independent auditor.

- **Comprehensive**: a mine that is operating according to best practice in the IRMA system is expected to conform with all the specified requirements in their entirety, as worded.
IRMA will establish and oversee an independent, third-party certification program which includes:

- An international accreditation body contracted by IRMA to provide an ‘IRMA accreditation’ service in accordance with IRMA’s specifications

- Multiple certification bodies, accredited to issue ‘certificates of conformity with IRMA standards’ under the terms and conditions of the IRMA accreditation program

- The requirement that all inspectors/auditors and other key personnel involved in assessing conformity with IRMA standards have achieved and maintain an IRMA training qualification.
Standard Scope

How the IRMA Standard will be applied:

- Applicable to all kinds of industrial-scale mining globally with the exception of energy sources (no uranium, oil and gas, or thermal coal)

- Certification is at the mine site, though some requirements are at the company level

- Cover all phases of the mine life cycle (will apply to new and existing mines and have expectations for responsible reclamation/closure)

- Encouraging continuing improvement: while a mine site must meet all chapters of the IRMA Standard to achieve certification, IRMA leaders are currently considering an “IRMA Candidate” status where companies can meet a base level of improvement and commit to continuing improvement
What makes IRMA different?

IRMA is the **only** assurance program for responsible mining that includes:

- **multi-stakeholder** governance since its inception;
- development of **credible standards** approved by all sectors;
- **independently verified** certification;
- **financial support** in direct dollars and in-kind time/talent contributions by each sector

"**What makes this effort unique in the mining sector is the focus on independent verification.**"

- Michael Conroy, Colibri Consulting
IRMA’s standard for responsible mining focuses on these environmental and social issues (a sampling of chapters included):

- Labor rights and safety
- Cyanide management
- Mercury management
- Protecting areas of high conservation value
- Indigenous free, prior and informed consent
- Indigenous people and cultural heritage
- Resettlement of communities
- Security and human rights
- Waste disposal and tailings management
- Water protection
- Conflict zones
- Emergency response
- HIV/Malaria/AIDs/TB
- Revenue transparency
- Reclamation, closure and bonding
- Air quality
IRMA’S VALUE FOR EARTHWORKS

- Earthworks has a 26-year history working to reform large scale mining, change policies and practices, and prevent mines from opening

- Producing enough gold to make a single gold ring generates 20 tons of mine waste

- Metals mining is the top toxic polluter in the US and likely globally

- Launched No Dirty Gold campaign in 2004
IRMA’S VALUE FOR EARTHWORKS

- Over 100 jewelers signed onto campaign, 75 jewelers signed onto Bristol Bay Protection Pledge.
- Downstream users ask: ‘Where do we buy more responsible metals?’
- Mining companies band together and race to the bottom.
- IRMA provides new policy framework that changes practices, answers jewelers need for an alternative to the worst practices, and paves the way for a ‘race to the top’
VALUE PROPOSITION FOR ALL SECTORS:

**NGOs/ Environment/ Labor:**
- Protection of health and rights of workers & affected communities;
- Protection for land, water, air.
- Improved relations with mining companies;

**Retail/ Downstream Users:**
- Increased demand for products made from responsibly mined metals (product differentiation);
- Improved reputation and positive publicity for innovation.

**Mining Companies:**
- Improved relations with labor, local communities and governments;
- Commercial advantages, for example becoming a preferred supplier;
- Improved reputation in marketplace.
IRMA TODAY AT A GLANCE:

- Creation of active Steering Committee led by respected leaders from all five sectors with longstanding time and commitment to the process;

- Development of governance documents and processes;

- First draft of *Standard for Responsible Mining* released for public review and feedback in 2014, more than 1000 points of comment received and being reviewed/integrated; revised draft to be released for second review July 2015;

- Identification of model independent verification system for use by IRMA;

- Subscribing member of ISEAL; aspiring to become fully ISEAL compliant (meeting international code of good practice for standard-setting programs)
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“There is ample evidence from consumer surveys that a significant portion of the consumer populations in Europe and the U.S. is willing to pay a price premium up to 20% for products that have credible claims of social and environmental superiority over conventional products without those claims.”