

FOREWORD

This report represents the end of the second productive partnership between IIED and WBCSD.

Our first joint project was a major study of the paper industry and how it could better contribute to sustainable development. That was five years ago. Many acknowledge it was a turning point for the sector. Now, and on a more ambitious scale, we are proud to present *Breaking New Ground*, the first in-depth review of the mining and minerals sector from the perspective of sustainable development, undertaken with the support and engagement of mining companies, mining communities, labour, the research community, and a broad range of other stakeholders.

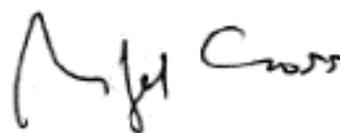
The project has not been without controversy for the report challenges all sides in the debate. The stakeholders in the chain of production and use of minerals extends in some sense to almost everyone. The project has had considerable success in engaging with stakeholders in some parts of the globe, but has fallen short of a deep involvement with every interest group. Indeed it has been explicitly rejected by some special interest groups, sometimes before there was anything concrete to judge by.

We need a more informed understanding of the industry's actual and potential contribution to sustainable development. It is no longer enough to argue that because society needs its products, it must tolerate whatever occurs in their production. Nor is it enough to play to a public audience conditioned to expect the worst from mining or the other minerals industries. We need to get past scoring points by addressing the obvious: a large part of the world's public has a negative view of the industry and feels it is not meeting legitimate needs and expectations of others.

But if we cannot do without the industry – and we clearly can't – we need to define what higher performance amounts to, and create sanctions and incentives to achieve it.

This report stands up to rigorous scrutiny. It has been executed with integrity by the IIED project team under the supervision of a distinguished, balanced, 25-member global Assurance Group. Now, with it in hand (and a wealth of background material available on the CD-ROM and, in some cases, in forthcoming publications), there is a real opportunity for big and small companies, governments and inter-governmental organizations, labour, non-governmental organizations and civil society to raise the game to higher and more accountable standards of performance.

Finally, while full acknowledgements are elsewhere, we should pay tribute to Luke Danielson, Project Director, and Richard Sandbrook, Project Coordinator, without whose leadership, integrity, and vision this report, and its associated research and publications, would not have been possible.



Nigel Cross

Executive Director, International Institute for Environment and Development



Björn Stigson

President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

STATEMENT BY THE MMSD ASSURANCE GROUP

The Assurance Group's key responsibilities were to seek to ensure the highest quality, balance, and integrity of the work of the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) project.

Consistent with its role, the Assurance Group held seven meetings during the process of consultation, preparation, and review of the effort that has led to the project report. In these meetings, members of the Assurance Group, in their individual capacities, gave feedback to the project Work Group on both process and substantive issues. In particular, members assisted in identifying priority issues, and commented on the scope of the project, the stakeholder processes being undertaken, and draft versions of the report.

The issues with which the report deals are highly complex and often extremely controversial. Because the Assurance Group is composed of individuals with diverse expertise, backgrounds, and perspectives, we did not attempt to reach consensus on the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report. We believe, however, that the Work Group have conducted themselves in accordance with their Charter, have maintained the independence of their perspective, have sought consultation broadly, have worked openly, and have produced a project report that is respectful of differing views.

We also recognize the enormous effort made by the Work Group in bringing the report to its final state. The MMSD project has been a substantial and innovative effort that has thoughtfully considered important issues that must be addressed. The Assurance Group challenges companies, governments, unions, communities, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to take the report's recommendations forward.

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Glenn Miller, *Vice-Chair*

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Detailed information on the MMSD Assurance Group may be found in Appendix 1.

STATEMENT BY THE MMSD SPONSORS GROUP

The following organizations abided by the MMSD Sponsors Group Charter, which entrusted them with the mandate of supporting and financing the project as well as ensuring its independence. They held regular meetings related to contractual and budgetary matters and participated in the MMSD process as stakeholders – that is, they attended workshops, contributed papers and presentations, submitted comments on drafts, and provided contacts from their particular stakeholder groups. Their sponsors' status did not afford them any special access to the process, nor was their participation considered any differently to that of other stakeholders.

Accordingly, the sponsors of the MMSD project:

- had no authority over the contents or production of any final material by MMSD;
- do not necessarily endorse the findings and conclusions of MMSD;
- accept no responsibility for the accuracy, lawfulness, or completeness of any material produced by MMSD; and
- are not bound by the conclusions of MMSD.

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A copy of the MMSD Sponsors Group Charter is available on the CD-ROM.