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Sustainable Resource Extraction in Finland How to keep stakeholders involved?

Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining
Kimmo Collander, Secretary General



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Problem setting - From crisis to cooperation

- Mining boom in early 2000 => strong investments in Finnish mining sector
- The environmental accident in Talvivaara was a turning point in October 2012 => roundtable process launched by the Finnish government in November 2012
- National action plan for sustainable mining published in May 2013
- Contained 35 proposals: Two of them pointed out the need for improved dialogue and better monitoring and mitigation of social and environmental impacts
- The Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra) lead the preparatory work 2014-15

Mining in Finland in a nutshell

- long tradition
- geological data and ore potential
- existing infrastructure
- high educational level
- political and social stability
- mining and processing cluster
- security
- North and East

Challenges & developing issues

- social licence to operate and reputation
- conflicts in land-use
- foreign investments and financing
- perception of foreign-owned companies
- volatile commodity prices
- long throughput time for permits
- discussion around uranium
- Talvivaara

Canadian “Towards Sustainable Mining” initiative

Original TSM:

- a) Similar approach as in credit rating: national legislation represents lowest level (C), next steps B, A, AA and AAA
- b) Companies report on an annual basis on their development and achievements in implementing the standard
- c) External audit every three years to verify that reported achievements and level of implementation are correct
- d) Flexibility to local conditions
- e) Going to be the international standard

Finnish improvements:

- a) Stronger (semi)independent institutional framework
- b) Additional protocols
- c) CSR
- d) Exploration

TSM is a performance system that helps mining companies evaluate and manage their environmental and social responsibilities. It is a set of tools and indicators to drive performance and ensures that key mining risks are managed responsibly at participating mining and metallurgical facilities.



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Building blocks and structure of the Network

- Focus of activities is in **voluntary action and self-regulation**.
- **Members:** the Finnish Mining Association, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, WWF Finland, the Association of Finnish Steel and Metal Producers, the Finnish Metalworkers' Union, the Regional Council of Lapland, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra), Finnish Industry Investment Ltd, **the Reindeer Herders' Association** and the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK). Most are represented in the Board.
- Chairperson: Hannele Pokka, Secretary General: Kimmo Collander. Host organisation: the Finnish Mining Association.





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Lessons learnt

- If there is a will, there is a way to cooperate
 - Co-operation or conflict?
- Consensus requirement is a powerful tool
- Lot of time is needed
- Strong godfather or midwife
- Organisations <-> people representing them
- Transparency, trust
- Dynamic organisational structure, don't trust the founding fathers and mothers

- What happens if a member leaves? Be prepared to check the level of ambition





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Achievements so far

- Platform for interaction and trust between the mining sector and key stakeholders
- Common approach → cooperation and shared interests
- Tools: CSR report, best practices for local actions, new sustainability standards for mining and ore exploration
- Added-value to mining sector: site-related approach, instrument for risk management and public relations, comparability of actions
- Rating system adds up to the motivation to improve the sustainability of operations





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Further information

Kimmo Collander, Secretary General
Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining

kimmo.collander@kaivosvastuu.fi

+358 50 431 4982

www.kaivosvastuu.fi

LinkedIn Kaivosvastuu