



Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

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| Evaluation Title: | Implementation Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector |
| Evaluation Number: | 510 |
| Evaluation Completion Date: | 11 August 2015 |
| Period of Evaluation: | May 2014 - August 2015 |
| Submitted: | 07 December 2015 by Meagan Jooste |
| Approved: | |

Evaluation Details

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| Evaluation Title: | Implementation Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector |
| Evaluation Number: | 510 |
| Evaluation Completion Date: | 11 August 2015 |
| Created: | 03 November 2015 by Mike Leslie |
| Submitted: | 07 December 2015 by Meagan Jooste |
| Approved: | |
| Period of Evaluation: | May 2014 - August 2015 |
| Known Cost: | R 1 329 034.00 |
| Known Cost Type: | Referenced |
| Initiated By: | Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (The Presidency) |
| Initiated By Internal: | Yes |
| Undertaken By: | Genesis Analytics in partnerships with Digby Wells Environmental |
| Undertaken By Internal: | No |

Assessors

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|---------------|------------------|
| Meagan Jooste | meagan@pdg.co.za |
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Assessment Documents

| Document Name: | Document Type: | Added By: | Added On: |
|--|---|---------------|------------------|
| Env Gov in Mining Final Report FULL 15 08 11 JB.pdf | Evaluation report | Mike Leslie | 03 November 2015 |
| Environmental Gov in the Mining Sector 1525 FINAL Report 15 08 11 JB.pdf | Evaluation report | Mike Leslie | 03 November 2015 |
| Appointment Letter Genesis 131414.pdf | A letter of engagement or contractual agreement with the service provider | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| Genesis DPME Inception report Environmental Governance in Mining 20May2014.pdf | An inception report | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| Minutes of Stakeholder Workshop on findings of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector 15 01 23.docx | Minutes or notes of meetings with stakeholders | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| TOR's for Implementation evaluation.pdf | Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| Genesis DPME Revised proposal Environmental Governance in Mining 20May2013_FINAL.pdf | The proposal selected to conduct the evaluation | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| Genesis DWE DPME Env gov of mining Evaluation report DRAFT 12 12 2014.pdf | Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |

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| Presentation of Final evaluation report to DEA - 21.09.2015 v2.pptx | Presentations of evaluation findings and recommendations | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| Genesis Digby WellsDPMEEnvironmental governance Lit Review 22 08 2014.pdf | Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| Data Request for Environmental Governance Evaluation 2015 06 04.docx | Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process | Meagan Jooste | 24 November 2015 |
| DEA - Mining Sector Recommendation.pdf | Any other relevant documentation pertaining to the evaluation process | Meagan Jooste | 02 December 2015 |

Quality Assessment Summary

The overall score of this evaluation has been rated at 3.22 out of 5 on the scale applied to assess the quality of government evaluations.

Parties interviewed for this quality assessment were generally positive about the evaluation both in terms of the quality of the evaluation team and the output generated. There was a concern about the timing of this evaluation given that the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) were undertaking legislative amendments in parallel to this study's review of such legislation. Unfortunately, due to the evaluation team only being alerted to this parallel amendment of legislation towards the latter end of the study, there was limited scope to incorporate these amendments into the evaluation analysis. There were concerns thus raised about the timeliness of the study's recommendations, but it was viewed as important that an independent assessment of the environmental governance legislation in the mining sector was done. Fortunately, the evaluation recommendations aligned well to some of the amendments which the DMR and DEA had already undertaken and gave these amendments important validation.

Another challenge posed to this evaluation, but not unique to it, was limited quantitative data access to corroborate the qualitative findings for the full duration in years, of the evaluation's scope. A key recommendation put forward from the evaluation was the need for the DMR to move towards an automated internal reporting system to enhance the completeness of such data.

The planning and design phase of the evaluation obtained the highest score of 3.43, mainly attributed to the fact that the Terms of Reference was well constructed, the appointed evaluation team well suited to completing this specific evaluation and the methodology being appropriate given the types of evaluation questions raised. The phase which scored the lowest, but still well on the scoring scale, was the implementation phase. The reasons being that: i. there was a time-frame extension to the project to allow for report edits in response to the legislative amendments which took place in parallel, as well as, ii. there being limited capacity-building of the parties responsible for the evaluand.

In terms of overarching considerations, the highest score was obtained for quality control (3.49) as key channels of quality control were utilised including the appointment of an external peer reviewer and, a high quality report was produced. The free and open evaluation overarching considerations scored notably low (2.78), mostly driven due to the conclusion section not explicitly making reference to the original evaluation questions and purpose nor to drawing explicit reference to the theory of change. However, the evaluation scored well in terms of the evaluation ethics overarching consideration (3.40) due to good practice being applied. The evaluation was also viewed as an important platform for building a relationship between the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the DEA in particular. The partnership approach overarching consideration thus scored well, at 3.12.

In sum, this evaluation has been scored 3.22 out of 5 as, the evaluation was of well conducted and provided important independent validation to some of the recent legislative amendments made by the DMR and DEA.

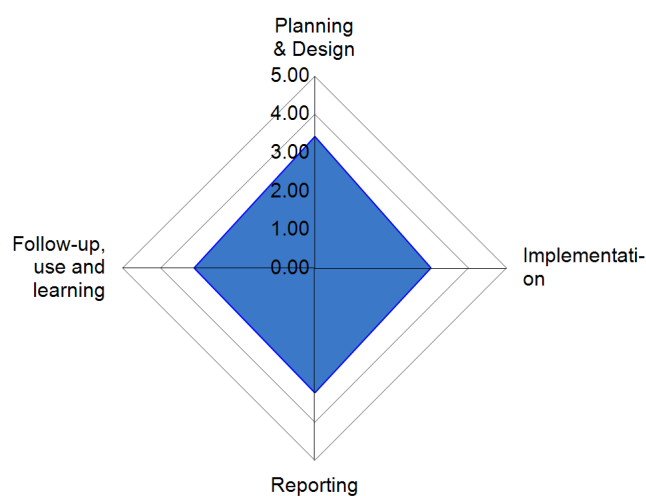
Quality Assessment Scores

| Phase of Evaluation | Score |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Planning & Design | 3.43 |
| Implementation | 3.03 |
| Reporting | 3.25 |
| Follow-up, use and learning | 3.13 |
| Total | 3.22 |

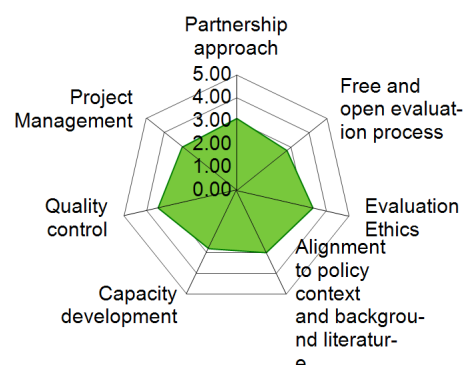
| Overarching Consideration | Score |
|---|-------|
| Partnership approach | 3.12 |
| Free and open evaluation process | 2.78 |
| Evaluation Ethics | 3.40 |
| Alignment to policy context and background literature | 3.00 |
| Capacity development | 2.80 |
| Quality control | 3.49 |
| Project Management | 3.00 |

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| Total | 3.22 |
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Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



| Phase of Evaluation | Area of Evaluation | Score |
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| Planning & Design | Quality of the TOR | 3.31 |
| Planning & Design | Adequacy of resourcing | 3.57 |
| Planning & Design | Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology | 3.36 |
| Planning & Design | Project management (Planning phase) | 4.00 |
| Implementation | Evaluation ethics and independence | 3.00 |
| Implementation | Participation and M&E skills development | 2.57 |
| Implementation | Methodological integrity | 3.00 |
| Implementation | Project management (Implementation phase) | 3.50 |
| Reporting | Completeness of the evaluation report | 3.00 |
| Reporting | Accessibility of content | 3.50 |
| Reporting | Robustness of findings | 3.80 |
| Reporting | Strength of conclusions | 2.33 |
| Reporting | Suitability of recommendations | 3.00 |
| Reporting | Acknowledgement of ethical considerations | 3.57 |
| Follow-up, use and learning | Resource utilisation | 2.00 |
| Follow-up, use and learning | Evaluation use | 3.42 |
| Total | Total | 3.22 |

Planning & Design

Quality of the TOR

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| Standard: | The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or a well-structured and complete internal evaluation proposal (e.g. Background, Purpose, Evaluation Questions, Design & Methodology, Deliverables & Timeframes, Resource requirements, Intended Audience & Utilisation, etc). |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this project were clear, concise and included all key components including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Background information and rationale;- Purpose of the evaluation;- Key evaluation questions;- An indication of potential users of the evaluation as well as the way in which they will use the outputs of the evaluation;- An outline of the scope of the evaluation as well as the deliverables and the associated time-frame of analysis;- Methodology / Evaluation approach;- Outline of milestones and related delivery dates;- An indication of key competencies and skills-set required;- An overview of the management arrangements. <p>In general, the evaluation ToR is well-structured and complete and provided context to the study as well as an indication of the study's core intentions and a suggested approach to the completion of the evaluation. Parties interviewed as part of this quality assessment also felt that the document was clear and well defined.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or internal evaluation proposal of a good standard |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | The approach and type of evaluation was suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>It is understood from the interviews conducted for this quality assessment that, initially, an impact evaluation was proposed for this study. However, on further investigation of what data would be needed for such an evaluation, relative to what data is actually available for such an evaluation, it was decided that an implementation evaluation would be best suited.</p> <p>According to the National Evaluation Policy Framework, an implementation evaluation is one which aims "...to evaluate whether an intervention's operational mechanisms support achievement of the objectives or not and understand why."</p> <p>The ToR outlines that the purpose of this evaluation is to "...determine whether the objective of the Environmental management governance regime for the mining sector is being met through the implementation of the current legislation including the rehabilitation fund."</p> <p>In this way, it is viewed that the type of evaluation was suited to the purpose of the evaluation.</p> <p>The scope of the evaluation was set to include the "...period from the promulgation of the Minerals Act (Act 50 of 1991) up to the current legislation, however, the literature review will cover the period from the implementation of the Mines and Works Act (Act 27 of 1956) to the current legislation".</p> <p>The proposed approach outlined in the ToR included a document review, benchmarking, interviews, case studies, learning processes and a review of the design of Environmental Governance.</p> <p>Parties interviewed as part of this quality assessment felt that the selected type of evaluation (implementation) and the approach was suitable and aligned with the intentions and scope of the evaluation. However, as the study evolved there were some challenges with data sourcing. These are discussed later in this assessment.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: The approach and type of evaluation was suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs |
| Comment and Analysis: | Within the ToR there is a section dedicated to assessing the potential users of the evaluation as well as their anticipated use of the evaluation outputs. These included the: Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), Cabinet, Parliament / Portfolio committees, Chamber of mines and Technical task team. In this way, the ToR indirectly communicated what the information needs of the relevant stakeholders were. |
| Rating: | 3: The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | DPME is the Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, no longer 'performance'. Also, consider if this score isn't possibly a 4 if their needs were differentiated well. |

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| Standard: | Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation |
| Comment and Analysis: | The scoping of the ToR involved the DPME's Project Manager arranging a Design Clinic whereby all relevant stakeholders (including the DEA, DMR, and Department of Water Affairs) were invited to participate in a session whereby the key aspects of the design of the evaluation were discussed. Among the key stakeholders invited to attend were main Programme Implementers across the various departmental representatives. There were multiple reasons for bringing these stakeholders together including, most importantly, the need to determine the theory of change as well as to define the purpose, scope of work and key evaluation questions. |
| Rating: | 3: Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Adequacy of resourcing

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| Standard: | The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>In terms of the budget allocated to this implementation evaluation, the Service Level Agreement (SLA) shows that this amounted to R1.3 million. The Service Provider (Genesis-Analytics in partnership with Digby Wells) felt that this amount was sufficient to complete the evaluation. During the inception phase, there was some discussion between the DPME and Genesis-Analytics around the scope of work in relation to the Northern Cape case study and whether it necessitated inclusion. The discussion revolved around whether the Northern Cape (NC) example was perhaps too historic to have relevance but also, around the importance of capturing the NC as an example given the relative difference in its context as compared to the other case study contexts. Ultimately, according to the Inception Report, a decision was taken to include the NC through at least a desktop analysis, while ensuring that the findings were robust.</p> <p>In terms of the time allocated to the evaluation. The study was initially, according to the ToR, intended to run from April - November 2014. However, it ultimately ran from May 2014 - August 2015. The study thus continued for a significantly longer period than initially intended. On discussion with the interviewees for this quality assessment, it was felt that the time allocated was sufficient. The extended time-frame of the study was attributed to the fact that, in parallel to this evaluation being completed, the DMR and DEA were in the process of revising the legislation as relevant to the governance of the mining industry in South Africa. The extra time build into the study time-frame was thus allocated to incorporate some mention of these parallel legal amendments and the comparable relevance to some of those findings being drawn out from the study's recommendations. This is outlined in more detail within the implementation section of this quality assessment.</p> <p>Overall, parties interviewed for this quality assessment felt that the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | <p>Comment on the Northern Cape inclusion is a bit misplaced since that is more an issue of scope than time and budget, at least as it's been presented here.</p> <p>Further, if there were no significant budget implications for the evaluation team given the add-on to incorporate parallel legal arguments, consider improving the score on time and budget allocations.</p> |

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| Standard: | The team conducting the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The evaluation team from Genesis-Analytics and Digby Wells included a blend of evaluation specialists and mining experts. In terms of the DPME and DEA's expectations of the evaluation team, they identified their specific needs of the appointed service provider in section of the ToR. The DPME and DEA felt that the Genesis-Analytics and Digby Wells project team possessed the ideal set of skills and competencies in terms of being expert evaluators and mining sector experts. DEA also valued the teams familiarity with the financial provisions for mining closures in particular. It is also worth noting that in advertising this bid, the DPME only issued the ToR to its selected panel of evaluators in order to ensure that teams with evaluation expertise respond to the bid.</p> <p>Overall, the parties interviewed for this quality assessment felt that the evaluation team were well resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: The evaluation was well resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology

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| Standard: | There was explicit reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change of the evaluand in the planning of the evaluation |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>Within the methodology section of the ToR, there is an explicit requirement that the evaluation team, as part of the review of the design of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector:</p> <p>"Before undertaking the evaluation, facilitate in a stakeholder workshop to develop the theory of change and logistical framework for the intervention." and "Review the initial theory of change and logical framework towards the end of the evaluation and recommend how the system should be revised /strengthened. Recommendations should be specific and practical, remembering that an improvement plan will be developed following the evaluation."</p> <p>The ToR thus makes explicit reference to the need for the theory of change (ToC) to be reviewed as well as how this review will inform the development of an improvement plan, post the study's completion.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: There was explicit reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change of the evaluand in the TOR or the Inception Report |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The ToR specified that this study would be completed as an implementation evaluation with the planned methodology including a multi-method approach whereby a desktop literature review, stakeholder engagements in case study provinces and complimentary data collection and analysis. Given the scope of the evaluation questions, which included:</p> <p>3.1. What is the effect of the promulgation of the Minerals Act (Act 50 of 1991) and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) on the environmental performance of mining? Is there a measurable improvement on the environmental performance of mining as a result of these two pieces of legislation?</p> <p>3.2. Is the current model used to determine the cost of rehabilitation of mining operations adequate and effective to ensure adequate rehabilitation and to protect the State from mining related long term liability?</p> <p>3.3. Are there means or mechanisms for determining the most sustainable use of land, if so are they effective? 1. If not, what mechanism could be proposed?</p> <p>3.4. Are the current institutional mechanisms for environmental performance appropriate and effective in achieving and promoting good governance in the mining sector? If not, what changes can be made?</p> <p>3.5. To what extent are mining-related environmental liabilities covered by the State? Could these costs have been significantly reduced through efficient and effective environment governance in the mining sector?</p> <p>3.6. Is the anchoring of implementation and enforcement of mining related environmental governance within the Department of Mineral Resources appropriate? If not, what would be the appropriate department?</p> <p>It is viewed that such a multi-method approach was appropriate in unpacking both the experience to date in the implementation of Environmental Governance legislation, as well as the means by which the ToC could be revisited to improve the efficacy of the legislation's implementation. The approach's inclusion of a data collection and analysis exercise was also important in garnering the state of available information to assess the cost of mining rehabilitation and how to minimise such a liability on the State. As mentioned earlier, this was initially planned as an impact evaluation, but on review of the available data, it was proposed that an implementation evaluation would be more suited given the lack of sufficient data to facilitate a complete impact evaluation.</p> <p>As such, it is viewed that the planned methodology was well suited to the evaluation questions.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: The planned methodology was well suited to the questions being asked and considered the data available |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | <p>"Complimentary" in the first sentence=complementary. Further, it's unclear what is the "complementary data collection" meant in terms of the methods beyond the case studies. What methods did this entail? Secondary data already in existence like administrative data or sectoral economic surveys, or primary data collection like interviews, focus groups, electronic questionnaires, etc.</p> <p>Or was the sum of the individual case methods taken as the basis for arriving at an overall judgment in relation to the questions?</p> |

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| Standard: | The sampling planned was appropriate and adequate given the focus and purpose of evaluation |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The sampling approach included case studies to assess the effectiveness of environmental governance in Mpumalanga (Emalahleni and Piet Retief), Gauteng (Witwatersrand and West and East Rand), Northern Cape (Priska) and North West (Rustenburg). Within these case study areas, the intention was for senior managers responsible for implementing the environmental governance model in the relevant departments, Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations, to be interviewed.</p> <p>Given the focus and purpose of this evaluation was to:</p> <p>"...determine whether the objective of the Environmental management governance regime for the mining sector is being met through the implementation of the current legislation including the rehabilitation fund."</p> <p>There was some concerns regarding the inclusion of the Northern Cape case study in particular. As mentioned above, the Northern Cape example was viewed to have been too historic, to be of relevance. Specifically, the mining closures had taken place so long ago that the evaluation team would have found it difficult to obtain stakeholder input of relevance given that many stakeholders would very likely not be working in government anymore, or would have been retired. In this particular case, at inception there was a decision to maintain the inclusion of the Northern Cape case study, but to only engage stakeholders in the Northern Cape to fact check the conclusions.</p> <p>Overall, the planned sampling approach was appropriate and adequate given the focus and purpose of the evaluation.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: The sampling planned was appropriate and adequate given focus and purpose of evaluation |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Project management (Planning phase)

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| Standard: | The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented |
| Comment and Analysis: | There was consensus among the parties interviewed for this quality assessment that the inception phase was well utilised to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented, as well as to outline key project management arrangements. This included the DPME establishing a Technical Working Group and Steering Committee to oversee the study, as well as the appointment of an external peer reviewer with mining sector expertise. |
| Rating: | 4: The inception phase was used to good effect to achieve a common agreement and understanding of how the evaluation would be implemented |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Consider noting to what extent it was used to change the evaluation type and to appraise the available data as well. Otherwise, fine. |

Implementation

Evaluation ethics and independence

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| Standard: | Where data was gathered in contexts where ethical sensitivity is high, informed consent, assurances of confidentiality and appropriate clearance were achieved; e.g. through an ethics review board, in evaluation involving minors, institutions where access usually requires ethical or bureaucratic clearance |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>In the case of this particular assessment, it was viewed by the stakeholders interview for this quality assessment that ethical sensitivity was a concern but not a significant one given the parties interviewed were government officials. However, to ensure that the confidentiality of stakeholders, the feedback obtained from the interviews were anonymously documented into high-level responses. While there was at one point a suggestion made that the qualitative feedback be consolidated into quantitative outputs, a decision was taken to refrain from doing so to avoid the risk of explicitly revealing the key viewpoints and how these correspond specific stakeholders.</p> <p>The final report also documents some of the ethical considerations taken into account including anonymity and confidentiality, the allowance for voluntary participation, and the provision of a clear outline of the purpose of the research at the outset of each stakeholder engagement (i.e. that information collected would solely be used as input to this study). As such, it was viewed by those interviewed for this assessment that the identity of stakeholders was appropriately protected to ensure their confidentiality.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: There was clear evidence that ethical protocols were observed for some data collection instances including: informed consent agreements; confidentiality; documenting and storing data notes, recordings or transcripts; and ethics review board approvals where appropriate |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | <p>Give the comment a proofread: "stakeholders interview" (1st sentence) and "correspond specific stakeholders" (last sentence).</p> <p>Further, it's not necessary to discuss methodological considerations regarding the presentation of qualitative data and the statement appears counter-intuitive. Generally, if one goes to present qualitative data in quantitative form, this introduces a degree of anonymity that isn't available in a comments that can be personally revealing. Consider revising.</p> |
| Standard: | Where external, the evaluation team was able to work without significant interference and given access to existing data and information sources |
| Comment and Analysis: | The evaluation team were external and felt that they were able to work freely, and without any interference from the client. There were some obstacles in obtaining data relevant to the analysis, but the evaluation team were well-supported by the project secretariat in identifying their data needs and relaying data requests to the relevant parties. In the end, some of the required data was not secured but this was due to a lack of available data, rather than any challenges in support provided to the team in sourcing it. As such, the external evaluation team were able to work independently to produce the required output. |
| Rating: | 3: The evaluation team was able to work without significant interference and was given access to existing data and information sources |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Participation and M&E skills development

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| Standard: | Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement |
| Comment and Analysis: | At the beginning of this evaluation study, a project Steering Committee was appointed. In addition, a Technical Working Group was established. This Steering Committee included representatives from the DPME, DEA, DMR and DWS. This committee was engaged at multiple points in the study to help shape the study approach, clarify roles and responsibilities, support the team in accessing and sourcing necessary data as well as to review the study outputs. There was thus a formalised mechanism through which key stakeholders were engaged. |
| Rating: | 3: Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement (e.g. a steering committee or reference group) |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand and evaluators was incorporated into the evaluation process |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>At the outset of the study, it was agreed that capacity building and knowledge transfer from the evaluators to those responsible for the evaluand was key. This took place loosely through the evaluation team's engagements with the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group but it was not a formalised process. There was an intention for a DPME intern to work closely (without contravening stakeholder identity protection) with the evaluation team but as the study unfolded, this intern's other responsibilities in the department inhibited them from participating in such a knowledge transfer process.</p> <p>On the evaluation team's side, Genesis and Digby has junior staff on their team who gained experience in evaluation practice, through the course of this study.</p> <p>As such, there was some knowledge transfer or capacity building for the evaluand and evaluators, but this was not done through a formalised process.</p> |
| Rating: | 2: There was some evidence of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand or evaluators but this was either unstructured or incomplete |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Methodological integrity

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| Standard: | A literature review was developed which informed the analytical framework and findings of the evaluation |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>A literature review report was developed as part of the second phase of the study (Desktop review and evaluation design). This literature report included an assessment of the current context of environmental governance in South Africa as well as looking at examples from Zambia and Australia as a point of reference. This assessment importantly included a review of the limitations and lessons to be drawn from each of these country contexts in terms of the implementation of environmental governance.</p> <p>It is understood that this literature report built the context for the analytical framework, including the key questions to be posed to stakeholders and thus formed an important basis on which to engage stakeholders in garnering feedback on the experience with implementing environmental governance legislation in the mining sector in South Africa. Further, as the final report shows, this literature formed an important reference point against which the study's findings were contrasted to understand how environmental governance in the mining sector might be reshaped to improve its effectiveness.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: An adequate literature review was developed in terms of coverage and analysis which informed the analytical framework and findings of the evaluation |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Comments seems to suggest it might be a 4? Consider. |

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| Standard: | The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented adequately |
| Comment and Analysis: | The multi-method analysis approach planned for at the outset of the evaluation were adequately implemented. Parties interviewed for this quality assessment were happy with the approach by which these methods were implemented. There was however a significant extension of the project time-frame from its initial period of April - November 2014 to May 2014 - August 2015. As stated above, this was due to the need for the evaluation team to incorporate an assessment of how the study's findings compared to the revised environmental governance legislation but did result in the time-frame of the study being delayed. Thus while the approach to the study in terms of its content and coverage was implemented as planned, there was a time delay in the completion of the study which meant a deviation somewhat from the planned approach. |
| Rating: | 2: The methods employed in the process of the evaluation deviated somewhat from those planned or implementation was inadequate |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | I think given that this wasn't a significant methodolo |

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| Standard: | A pilot of basic data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection and it was used to inform the research process |
| Comment and Analysis: | The evaluation team completed a pilot of the basic data collection instrumentation prior to undertaking the main data collection process. Given the minimal sample size, the pilot included only 2-3 stakeholder interviews but was used as the basis for the reshaping of the questionnaires to be more relevant to the various types of stakeholders. In this way, the pilot of the data instruments was important in designing questionnaires appropriate to the research process. |
| Rating: | 4: All components of the data collection instrumentation were piloted which led to some improvements in the data collection instrumentation or affirmation of the instruments |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The study included a number of interviews with key informants which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National government stakeholders including: the DMR, DEA, DWS; 2. An industry association: the Chamber of Mines; 3. Legal representatives: Werksmans, Webber Wentzel, Hogan Lovells; 4. Non-governmental organizations: Legal Resource Centre, Centre for Environmental Rights, Federation for a Sustainable Environment; and, 5. Research organizations: Council for Geosciences, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Mining innovation department). <p>Further to this, the case study stakeholders from the four case study provinces included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provincial government departments: DMR, DWS, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Local Municipality officials and a MINTEK representative; and, 2. Mining houses: GlencoreXstrate, Namane Resources, Exxaro, Impala Platinum, Northern Platinum. <p>As such data collection included good coverage of a range of stakeholders including implementers, governmental role-players and indirectly affected stakeholders (whose concerns and challenges were presented by government officials).</p> |
| Rating: | 3: Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. Implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | The comment again appears possibly suggestive of a 4 instead of a 3. |

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| Standard: | The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information |
| Comment and Analysis: | The methodology included engaging the beneficiaries of the State completing mining closure rehabilitation and those affected by environmental governance in the mining sector, i.e. mining houses, as a key source of data and information for this study. |
| Rating: | 3: The methodology included engaging beneficiaries as a source of data and information (or if based on secondary data, includes data from beneficiaries) |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Are mining house the only beneficiaries? Are there beneficiaries at citizen level, whether accessed by representative forums, citizen groups or civil society? |

Project management (Implementation phase)

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| Standard: | The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together adequately to facilitate achievement of the objectives of the evaluation |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and evaluation team reported having worked well together. There was a sense that the evaluation team had the flexibility to complete their evaluation without interference and that the necessary support from the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group were forthcoming when needed.</p> <p>The only reported challenge which the evaluation team faced was the extended time-frame of the study which was attributed to the fact that, in parallel to this evaluation being completed, the DMR and DEA were in the process of revising the legislation as relevant to the governance of the mining industry in South Africa. In particular, the DMR, DEA and Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (DWS) were working towards a legislative system which supported the "One Environmental System" agreed upon, whereby there is better synchronization between mining related authorizations and clarity on the roles of these departments in the regulation of the mining industry. As a consequence, in parallel to this implementation evaluation, there were legislative amendments being made while under review in this study. The post-script in the final report was thus included towards the end of the study to take cognisance of these developments and frame them in the context of this evaluation.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together adequately to facilitate achievement of the objectives of the evaluation |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | The comment seems to stray away from the interface of the committees and the service provider. If the parallel legislative reform was indicative of a failing of the representation on the committees to bring this attention early on, state this. |

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| Standard: | Support provided by the evaluation secretariat (e.g. the administrators responsible for the evaluation) facilitated achievement of the objectives of the evaluation (eg turnaround times, addressing problems, preparation for meetings etc) |
| Comment and Analysis: | The evaluation secretariat were viewed to have been effective in supporting the evaluation team achieve the objectives of the study. There was notable gratitude for the ease of communication between both parties as well as the responsiveness of both parties. This allowed for problems around data access to be communicated to the evaluation secretariat, channelled to the relevant stakeholders and where possible, addressed to avoid the project team experiencing delays in the implementation of the study. Where problems were encountered by the project team in terms of sourcing required data or being informed of legislative amendments taking place in parallel to this study, there was good communication and support provided to the team in overcoming these hurdles. |
| Rating: | 4: Good support was provided by the evaluation secretariat and facilitates timely and constructive achievement of the objectives of the evaluation |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Reporting

Completeness of the evaluation report

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| Standard: | The first draft evaluation report was of a sufficient quality to go to stakeholders and did not require major changes |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>It is understood from the interviews conducted for this quality assessment, that while the first draft evaluation report was of a fair quality, it received significant comments from stakeholders. It is understood that the reason for there being so many comments was a function of some stakeholders disagreeing vehemently with some of the study's findings, at times using fairly emotional language. It was however ever because some of the draft findings were derived using insufficient data. At the time of drafting the report, the evaluation team were posed with challenges in accessing the necessary data to compile a complete analysis.</p> <p>Some parties interviewed for this assessment felt that the first draft evaluation report contained more depth than the revised evaluation report. This it is understood, was due to the fact that some stakeholders raised particular concerns about the conclusions being drawn on the basis of limited data. However, as mentioned, the evaluation team were facing difficulty in accessing sufficient data.</p> <p>In general, it was viewed by those interviewed for this quality assessment that the first draft evaluation report was of a fair quality but required notable changes based on stakeholder feedback.</p> |
| Rating: | 2: A first draft of the evaluation report was of a poor quality and required major changes |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Comment and score is fine, just revise the second to last sentence "however ever" |

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| Standard: | The final evaluation report is well-structured and complete in terms of the following: executive summary; context of the development evaluation; evaluation purpose, questions and scope; methodology; findings and analysis; conclusions and recommendations |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The final evaluation report is quite well-structured, clear and complete in terms of comprising the key components including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- An executive summary;- Background to the evaluation (including an overview of the theory of change);- An outline of purpose of the evaluation including the related questions;- Indirect specification of the scope of the evaluation (which includes the time period of legislation under review, themes covered and the geographic coverage of case studies);- Methodology including the analysis framework;- Findings;- Analysis as well as;- Conclusions and recommendations. <p>The final evaluation report thus follows a very clear and coherent structure.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: The final evaluation report is well-structured, complete and presents the following report components well: executive summary; context of the development evaluation; evaluation purpose, questions and scope; methodology; findings and analysis; conclusions and recommendations |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Accessibility of content

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| Standard: | The final evaluation report is user-friendly, written in accessible language and adequate for publication (e.g. adequate layout and consistent formatting; complete sentences and no widespread grammatical or typographical errors; consistency of style and writing conventions; levels of formality; references complete and consistent with cited references in reference list and vice versa; etc.) |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The final evaluation report is very user-friendly; written in accessible, clear language and quite adequate for publication. The report reads well and makes clear linkages between the various sections. The information is presented in an adequate layout with consistent formatting and of a high quality of writing.</p> <p>There were however come in-text references missing from the reference list, such as references for the legislation reviewed (such as NEMA, MPRDA, etc.) as well as references for the international case study examples (for example, Geoscience Australia, 2012). There was also some inconsistency in the referencing style in the reference list, for example, in most instances author references are by surname and then first name initial. However, in the case of Baxter, R (Chamber of Mines), this is recorded as Robert Baxter. It may be worth a quick recheck of the reference list to ensure all in-text references are captured.</p> <p>Overall however, the final evaluation report is user-friendly and well written, with only minor issues with referencing.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: The final report is well written, accessible to the common reader and ready for publication with only minor spelling, grammar or formatting mistakes |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | "come in-text references", otherwise fine. |

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| Standard: | Figures, tables and appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data (e.g. use of appropriate statistical language; reporting of p-values where appropriate; not reporting statistically insignificant findings as significant; clarifying disaggregation categories in constructing percentages; not using quantitative language in reporting qualitative data, etc.) and are readily discernible to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>It is understood from the interviews conducted for this quality assessment, that the main intention of this evaluation study was to garner and reflect on qualitative feedback obtained through interviews with key stakeholders. The report thus predominantly presents on the qualitative feedback of stakeholders as relevant to the analysis framework (in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact). Where necessary, this is complimented by the use of quantitative data as sourced from DMR and other stakeholders, to unpack some of the issues raised by stakeholders. Where such data is presented, it is done in a clear and appropriate fashion. Overall, tables and figures (the theory of change figure, specifically) are presented in an appropriate, clear manner.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: Figures, tables and appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data and are readily discernible to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | "complimented" to complemented, otherwise fine. |

Robustness of findings

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| Standard: | Data analysis appears to have been executed to an adequate standard |
| Comment and Analysis: | The predominant for of data analysis is of qualitative information. This appears to be well executed given that it entailed consolidating feedback from a range of stakeholders into coherent and interconnected points. This qualitative data is well presented in response to the analysis framework which helps the reader link it to the other key sections of the report. The data analysis appears to thus be well executed. |
| Rating: | 4: Data analysis appears to have been well executed for all datasets |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Should be 'form' in the first sentence. If qualitative data analysis predominates, is there any explanation of the process for collecting and analysing this data? Any description of capture and analytical method. Consider elaborating on this and noting how different methods were combined for a more balanced assessment. |
| Standard: | Findings are supported by evidence which is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument, integrating sources of data |
| Comment and Analysis: | The findings are drawn on the basis of the consolidated qualitative feedback of stakeholders. The findings are well supported through the integrated presentation of qualitative feedback and quantitative evidence to substantiate points raised by stakeholders. There were some data gaps in a few tables, but it is understood from the parties interviewed for this quality assessment that this was due to the absence of such data at the time of writing. Overall, the findings are well supported by evidence which is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the arguments derived in the study. |
| Rating: | 4: The evidence gathered is well analysed, integrated and supports the argument in key sections of the report, without presenting data which are not used in the argument |
| Moderation: | Accepted |
| Standard: | There is appropriate recognition and exploration of the possibility of alternative interpretations |
| Comment and Analysis: | The report makes appropriate, clear recognition of the variation in viewpoints held by stakeholders in terms of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of environmental governance legislation in South Africa. In particular, in reflecting on these various viewpoints, there is appropriate recognition and exploration of alternative perspectives on the extent to which environmental governance legislation in the country is achieving its intended objectives. The report thus makes appropriate recognition and exploration of the possibility of alternative interpretations. |
| Rating: | 3: There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations |
| Moderation: | Accepted |
| Standard: | The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws |
| Comment and Analysis: | The report is structured in a manner which appropriately responds to the required methodology set out in the ToR. The report is viewed to be free of methodological and analytical flaws and where there were limitations to the methodology (as outlined in the next standard), the report states how these were mitigated. |
| Rating: | 4: The report documents some of the methodological and analytical processes used to ensure that it is free of methodological and analytic flaws |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly articulated (e.g. limitations of scope or evaluation design, recommendation for additional research, data collection challenges, etc) |
| Comment and Analysis: | The report contains a section dedicated to unpacking the limitations of the methodology and scope of the study. These include: 1. Timing of legislation; 2. Interview response rate; 3. Lack of quantitative data. These 3 limitations are described and the approach taken to the mitigate these, outlined. In the case of the issue of the timing of legislation, this was in part mitigated through the inclusion of a 'post-script' section to the report to document some of the legislative developments which happened in parallel to this study. It is viewed that the report documents the limits to the methodology and findings well. |
| Rating: | 4: Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly articulated and distinguish between different kinds of limitations |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Strength of conclusions

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| Standard: | Conclusions are derived from evidence |
| Comment and Analysis: | The conclusions in the report are derived as a summary of the key results from the findings and analysis sections to the report which represent a reflection on qualitative and quantitative information. These include the regulatory framework shortcomings and challenges surrounding the implementation of environmental governance legislation. As such, the conclusions are derived from evidence. |
| Rating: | 3: Conclusions are derived from evidence |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Consider whether this might be considered a 4 given some of the preceding commentary on data analysis and findings. |

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| Standard: | Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The evaluation purpose was to determine whether the objective of the environmental management governance regime for the mining sector is being met through the implementation of the current legislation including the rehabilitation fund. The conclusions respond well to the intended purpose of the evaluation by unpacking the regulatory framework shortcomings (including the insufficiency of existing financial provision guidelines) as well as the challenges surrounding the implementation of environmental governance legislation.</p> <p>In terms of the conclusions responding to the evaluation questions, this is completed within the conclusion section. However, the analysis section of the report carefully unpacks each of the evaluation questions and summarises the findings of the study in response to these, which informs the conclusions drawn. As such, the conclusions address the original evaluation purpose directly and the evaluation questions indirectly.</p> |
| Rating: | 2: Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions in implicit or indirect terms to an extent |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | We should not be too prescriptive here with regards to whether evaluation questions were explicitly placed within the conclusions section if the conclusions section built on how they were addressed in the findings and analysis. Consider revising up to 3. |

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| Standard: | Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change |
| Comment and Analysis: | The conclusions do not make explicit reference to the theory of change. However, within the analysis section, which precedes the conclusion section most closely, there is a Theory of Change analysis which identifies the results from the testing of this logframe through the stakeholder engagement process. The conclusions thus indirectly respond to the outlined theory of change. |
| Rating: | 2: Conclusions make implicit or indirect reference to the intervention logic or theory of change |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Again, if the findings and analysis deal with this in sufficient detail and build on those results for a concise set of conclusions, consider revising this up to a 3. |

Suitability of recommendations

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| Standard: | Recommendations are made in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts |
| Comment and Analysis: | The final report was presented for into on the recommendations through at least two channels, the first being a Steering Committee meeting and the second being a review of the report by an external peer reviewer with expertise in the mining sector. Through these two channels, some revisions were made to the findings and related recommendations in the report. In this way, the recommendations were derived through consultation with relevant stakeholders. |
| Rating: | 3: Recommendations are made in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | First sentence: "for into on" revise. This is debatable whether this constitutes 'consultation' since these are all existing structures and processes for alternative purposes than consultation and it appears no additional meeting, engagement or input was held with a consultative intent. I'd consider revising this down. |

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| Standard: | Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable |
| Comment and Analysis: | The recommendations outlined in the report are clear and specific. Parties interviewed for this quality assessment viewed the recommendations to be feasible and acceptable and were important in providing an independent, external validation to some of the legislative amendments which had been made by the time of the study's conclusion. |
| Rating: | 3: Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable to an extent |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Maybe just note why this is not a 4 as the comment seems to put it on the threshold. |

Acknowledgement of ethical considerations

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| Standard: | The full report documents procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary (in some cases this is not needed - e.g. evaluation synthesis - in which case N/A should be recorded) |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>Within the final report is a section dedicated to unpacking some of the ethical considerations factored into account in conducting the data collection process. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anonymity and confidentiality (protecting the identity of interviewed stakeholders by not referencing statements to specific interviewees);- Voluntary participation (giving stakeholders the right to withdraw from interviews at any point); and,- Clear outline of the purpose of the research (on engaging stakeholders). <p>In this way, the report documents procedures intended to ensure the confidentiality of stakeholders.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: The full report documents some procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the evaluation report on a public website |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>At the time of this quality assessment, the parties interviewed felt that there were minimal concerns to making the evaluation report available on a public website. These were mostly related to concerns surrounding the fact that the evaluation was completed in tandem with legislative amendments, but these amendments could not be factored into the analysis. It is viewed that some stakeholders may have issue with this. However, in general it is viewed that the report is constructed in a fashion which does not present a risk to those interviewed through the evaluation and that, once approved by cabinet, it can be made publicly available.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the original full evaluation report on a public website |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | The comment seems to note some minimal concerns and what could be considered institutional risk. I'd consider revising this to a score of 3 based on the comment, rather than a 4. |

Follow-up, use and learning

Resource utilisation

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| Standard: | The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget |
| Comment and Analysis: | The parties interviewed for this quality assessment felt that the study was well completed in terms of the allocated budget. However, there was a delay in the completion of the study as a result of the certain legislation in the domain of environmental governance in the mining sector, being under simultaneous review and amendment at the time of this evaluation. As a consequence, in order to capture some of the findings from these legislative amendments into the evaluation report, additional time was afforded to the evaluation team to include a post-script in the final report to frame the study's findings relative to the legislative amendments. |
| Rating: | 2: The evaluation was completed outside of the planned timeframes and over budget, but with approval of the commissioning organisation |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

Evaluation use

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| Standard: | Results of the evaluation have been presented to relevant stakeholders |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The parties interviewed for this quality assessment reported that the evaluation was presented to stakeholders through at least three forums, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Steering Committee;2. To the DPME DG and DEA DG; and,3. The DEA Working Group with the provincial departments. <p>These forums were important platforms for piloting the findings of the study and for identifying any grey areas which required further clarification.</p> <p>As such, the results of the evaluation have been presented adequately to relevant stakeholders within government.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: Results of the evaluation have been presented to all relevant stakeholders, inside and outside of government |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | Just consider revising "piloting the findings" as this statement could be misconstrued or misinterpreted. Otherwise, fine. |

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| Standard: | A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee with the service provider (if no steering committee exists then by the evaluation management team or the involved department officials) to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>There were three main lenses through which reflection on this evaluation were undertaking, with the idea of identifying ways of strengthening future evaluations. These were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The external peer reviewer of the evaluation reviewing the lessons garnered through this evaluation; 2. The final project Steering Committee meeting; 3. A presentation made to senior management of the DEA. <p>Through each of these avenues, reflections on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations revealed the importance of understanding what data is available prior to the commissioning of an evaluation. While this is something which was done, and informed the decision to opt for an implementation, rather than impact, evaluation, data access challenges revealed themselves through the duration of the study. This key lesson of the need for better quality, more complete and easily accessible data, was also communicated through at least two of the study's recommendations.</p> <p>As such, a fair amount of reflection was undertaken both among the relevant government stakeholders as well as between the service provider and the Steering Committee.</p> |
| Rating: | 4: A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee with the service provider and reflections on how to strengthen future evaluations have been documented |
| Moderation: | Reconsider |
| Moderation Comment: | The comment may go too far here in terms of attributing lenses to the reflective process. The standard is meant to determine whether or not a reflective process (potentially inclusive of all stakeholders described in terms of lenses) dedicated to identifying what could be done to strengthen future evaluations was undertaken. If this wasn't an agenda point on the final steering committee meeting or a telephonic session that looked at what can be learned across all of these things, then the comment makes it seem like more reflection occurred as part of the QA where these things were addressed, more than anywhere else. |
| Standard: | The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value to the policy or programme (e.g. raised its profile) |
| Comment and Analysis: | <p>The parties interviewed for this quality assessment felt the evaluation was well-constructed and added symbolic value to understanding the status of environmental governance in the mining sector in South Africa. There were concerns raised about the unfortunate timing of the evaluation, given the parallel legislative amendments which were being undertaken by the DEA and DMR at the time of the evaluation. These concerns were raised because some of the recommendations put forward in the report were addressed through the legislative amendments and thus made parts of the evaluation recommendations seem less relevant.</p> <p>However, those interviewed felt it key to have an independent (and external) evaluation completed to validate and give good standing to these particular legislative amendments and to provide an information source. Further some of the evaluation's findings in terms of financial regulations were of particular value. The report's findings have, since the study's conclusion, being drawn on to frame a proposal on how environmental governance in the mining sector can be taken forward.</p> <p>It is thus viewed that the evaluation's findings have added symbolic value to environmental governance and to reaffirming the one environmental system.</p> |
| Rating: | 3: The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as being of symbolic value to the policy or programme |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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| Standard: | The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping future policy and practice |
| Comment and Analysis: | The parties interviewed for this quality assessment felt the evaluation was of conceptual value in understanding the theory of change underpinning environmental governance in South Africa's mining sector. There was a preference revealed for the evaluation to have captured more recent legislative developments, but there was agreement that the team were not aware of the legislative amendments underway during the study, the evaluation output should be viewed in that light. This study limitation is explicitly acknowledged in the report as well as a post-script being included to make explicit acknowledgement of the limits to the conceptual value of the evaluation given the parallel legislative amendments. Overall, those interviewed for this quality assessment felt it added important conceptual value in understanding what has happened and in potentially influencing future policy design. |
| Rating: | 3: The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping policy and practice |
| Moderation: | Accepted |

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- Genesis Analytics and Digby Wells Environmental. 'Implementation Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector: A proposal for DPME and DEA (Revised Technical)'. Dated: 20 May 2014.
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- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (The Presidency). 'Terms of Reference for the Implementation evaluation of the Effectiveness of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector'. Dated 26 February 2014.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (The Presidency). 'DPME REF 13/1414: Implementation Evaluation of Effectiveness of Environmental Governance in the Mining Sector'. [Appointment letter]. Dated 25 April 2014.

List of Interviewees

- Mr Jabu Mathe (Director: Evaluation & Research - Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, The Presidency). Telephonic interview conducted on 18 November 2015.
- Ms Dee Fischer (Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Management - Department of Environmental Affairs). Telephonic interview conducted on 1 December 2015
- Ms Alyn Wyatt (Partner - Genesis Analytics). Telephonic interview conducted on 23 November 2015.