



Barrick Gold

2018 Independent Assurance Statement

July 26, 2019

The Health, Safety and Environmental division of Bureau Veritas North America, Inc., which was recently acquired by Apex Companies, LLC (Apex), was engaged by Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick) to provide independent external assurance for Barrick's 2018 Sustainability Report. The scope of the assurance was limited to mines operated by, or under significant operational control by Barrick during 2018 (Barrick legacy operations), and does not include mines operated by RandGold Resources (Randgold) during 2018, with the exception of assurance of the Conflict Free Gold Report which pertains to both Barrick and Randgold legacy operations. The assurance process also included an assessment of Barrick's 2018 performance on a range of sustainability issues.

Building on the previous nine years of assurance we have performed for Barrick, the assurance process is designed to further our understanding of how Barrick identifies material environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and emerging issues in a changing environment, and to assess Barrick's performance against the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Sustainable Development Framework.

Objectives of the Assurance Process

1. Provide reasonable assurance over the stated content of the 2018 Sustainability Report as it pertains to Barrick legacy operations;
2. Provide impartial commentary on Barrick's alignment with ICMM's 10 Sustainable Development Principles and eight Position Statements;
3. Assess implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights;
4. Provide reasonable assurance over the 2018 Conflict-Free Gold Report;
5. Provide reasonable assurance over the 2018 greenhouse gas emissions inventory reported to CDP; and,
6. Provide reasonable assurance over the 2018 water withdrawal reported to CDP.

Scope of Assurance

1. Review relevant activities undertaken at Barrick legacy operations over the reporting period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018;
2. Review the robustness of underlying reporting systems and processes used to collect, analyze and report relevant information for Barrick legacy operations;
3. Evaluate the 2018 Sustainability Report against the principles of the GRI Reporting Framework as defined in the GRI Standards;
4. Evaluate evidence provided to support Barrick's alignment with ICMM's 10 Sustainable Development Principles and eight Position Statements at Barrick legacy operations;
5. Interview employees and external stakeholders with respect to Barrick's sustainability performance at Barrick legacy operations during the reporting period;
6. Assess implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights at one Barrick legacy mine site;

7. Assess implementation of the World Gold Council (WGC)'s Conflict-Free Gold Standard as described in the 2018 Conflict-Free Gold Report for both Barrick and Randgold legacy operations;
8. Verify Barrick's 2018 Barrick legacy operations total water withdrawal reported to CDP for 2018;
9. Verify Barrick's 2018 Barrick legacy operations greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory reported to CDP for 2018.

To conduct the assurance, we undertook the following activities:

- Review of the 2018 Sustainability Report including source verification of performance data and factual information for Barrick's legacy operations contained within the Report;
- Review of processes for identification and collation of relevant information, report content and performance data from Barrick's legacy mining operations;
- Interviews and follow-up communication with corporate functional leads in Toronto (Canada), and with mine managers and staff at the two mines we visited (see below);
- Site visits to two Barrick operated mines, including Golden Sunlight (USA) and Veladero (Argentina);
- Interviews with local stakeholders at each visited mine.

Our work was planned and executed in a manner designed to produce a reasonable level of assurance and to provide a sound basis for our conclusions. Our assurance process is aligned with and informed by the following international protocols:

- ICMM Sustainable Development Framework – Assurance Procedure
- GRI Standards (Core Option)
- International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 Revised, *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* (effective for assurance reports dated on or after Dec. 15, 2015), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.
- ISO 14064-3:2006: *Greenhouse gases - Part 3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions*
- WGC's *Conflict Free Gold Standard – Guidance for Assurance Providers* (WGC, 2012)

Limitations and Exclusions:

Excluded from the scope of our work is information relating to:

- Activities outside the defined reporting period and scope;
- Statements of commitment to, or intention to undertake future actions by Barrick;
- Statements of position, opinion, belief and/or aspiration by Barrick;
- Financial data audited by an external third party;
- Data and statements in the Sustainability Report related to 2018 RandGold Resources operations.

Our Findings

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, we provide reasonable assurance, based on Barrick legacy operations, that:

- The 2018 Sustainability Report (Report) provides clear and straightforward presentations of Barrick's material issues and their underlying management systems and controls as they relate to operations at legacy Barrick mines in 2018.
- The information and data regarding Barrick's legacy operations in 2018 is accurate, reliable and free from material misstatements. Information in the Report are clearly presented and understandable.
- The Report provides a fair representation of Barrick's 2018 sustainability performance at Barrick's legacy operations and provides readers with a balanced perspective of its material issues and operations for legacy Barrick operations.
- The Report advances Barrick's public communication about its 2018 legacy operations, environmental and social impacts, and related programs to manage these impacts.
- Barrick, for its legacy Barrick operations, has appropriate systems in place for the collection, aggregation and analysis of relevant information and has implemented adequate internal data quality and assurance practices.

ICMM Sustainable Development Framework

Barrick, for its legacy operations, maintained its alignment with the ICMM Sustainable Development Framework, including ICMM's 10 Sustainable Development Principles and the applicable mandatory requirements of the eight Position Statements.

Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

Barrick, for its legacy operations, maintained its commitment to the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. The high-risk site in our sample, Veladero, has instituted appropriate systems and procedures to ensure adherence to the principles.

WGC Conflict-Free Gold Standard

Barrick, for its legacy and acquired Randgold operations, has prepared and presented a Conflict-Free Gold Report for 2018 in accordance with the requirements of the Conflict-Free Gold Standard. We conclude that Barrick, at its legacy and acquired operations, does not produce gold from conflict-affected or high risk areas as defined by the Standard.

GRI Standard Sustainability Reporting Standards

The 2018 Sustainability Report has been prepared in accordance with GRI Standards Core Option, including appropriate consideration of the Reporting Principles, profile disclosures, management approach disclosures and performance indicators.

CDP

Barrick's GHG emissions inventory assertion for its 2018 Barrick legacy operations was verified to be correct and complete within the bounds of materiality ($\pm 5\%$). A separate GHG emissions verification statement was issued for submittal to CDP.

Barrick's company-wide water withdrawal assertion for its 2018 Barrick legacy operations was verified to be correct and complete within the bounds of materiality ($\pm 5\%$). A separate water withdrawal verification statement was issued for submittal to CDP.

Statement by Apex of independence, impartiality and competence

Apex Companies, LLC is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety and Environmental management, who acquired the Health Safety and Environmental Division of Bureau Veritas North America, Inc. on July 1, 2019. Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, and Environmental management with over 30 years' history in providing these services.

No member of the assurance team has a business relationship with Barrick, its Directors or Managers beyond that required of this assignment. Our assurance team is not involved in any other Barrick projects outside those of the independent assurance scope of work. We conducted this assurance independently and to our knowledge there has been no conflict of interest.

Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The assurance team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, security, safety, health and ethical information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of standard methodologies for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports and associated data.

Attestation:A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Reilly'.

David Reilly
Lead Assurer
Apex Companies, LLC
Santa Ana, California

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Rohde'.

John Rohde
Technical Reviewer
Apex Companies, LLC
Lakewood, Colorado

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