

How to publish Mining LPRM data to promote use by stakeholders



This brief outlines guiding principles for disclosing the information outlined in the Mining Local Procurement Reporting Mechanism (LPRM) to promote data use, in line with best practices outlined by the World Bank, Open Data Institute, and Open Data Charter.

ABOUT THE MINING LOCAL PROCUREMENT REPORTING MECHANISM (LPRM)

The Mining LPRM is a set of disclosures that seeks to standardise how the global mining industry and host countries measure and talk about local procurement. In most cases, procurement of goods and services is the single largest in-country payment type by a mine site, and yet to date there has been no commonly accepted way of reporting on this issue. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through GIZ and created by the Mining Shared Value initiative of Engineers Without Borders Canada, the LPRM helps mine sites report on local procurement to:

- Improve internal management in mining companies to create more benefits for host countries and to strengthen their social license to operate.
- Empower suppliers, host governments, and other stakeholders with practical information that helps them to collaborate with mine sites and manage expectations.
- Increase transparency in the procurement process to deter problematic practices such as corruption.
- Improve standardisation and interoperability across disclosures in order to limit the cost for users of the data and to encourage innovative use.¹

ACCESSIBILITY OF MINING LPRM DATA

To provide mutual benefits for companies and their stakeholders, particular attention should be paid to accessibility of the information published in accordance with the LPRM. Accessibility can include consideration of the language used to report information, the type of information source or document used to transmit information, and the channels through which the information is shared (which may include community meetings, presentations, public forums, online websites, and conferences). Key to these efforts is ensuring that data is open, available, and useable. In line with best practice, LPRM disclosures should thus follow open data principles outlined by organisations including the World Bank, Open Data Institute, and Open Data Charter.

As defined by the World Bank, “[d]ata or content is open if anyone is free to use, re-use or redistribute it, subject at most to measures that preserve provenance and openness.”² There are two key aspects of ‘open’ to consider:

1. *legally open* with terms of use that explicitly allow free re-use; and
2. *technically open* which means data is provided in a machine-readable format.

¹ One example could be to encourage the use of ISO-codes for currencies and countries. More information about data standards in extractives can be found here: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/793601469102170609/Options-for-data-reporting-EITI-standard-2016-the-good-the-better-and-the-best>

² World Bank (2017). Open Data Defined, accessed April 30, 2018. Retrieved from: <http://opendatatoolkit.worldbank.org/en/essentials.html#policies>. The World Bank leans on the Open Definition as well as several government policies in countries such as the United Kingdom and France: <https://opendefinition.org>

ACTIONS TO INCREASE DATA USE

In addition to regular communication channels with stakeholders (including mine site websites and sustainability reports), to increase use and reuse of the LPRM data it is ideal to publish it:

- ✓ In a machine-readable format such as CSV, JSON, XML, HTML, .TXT, or accessible PDFs with clear metadata and documentation.³
- ✓ As much as possible, in its original, unmodified form and in a timely and comprehensive manner.
- ✓ Ideally in a non-proprietary electronic format so that it can be accessed and used with “common, freely available software tools”.⁴
- ✓ Free of charge with terms of use that explicitly allow re-use for any purpose, including commercial, such as open licences available under the Creative Commons such as CC-0 (public domain), CC-BY-SA or CC-BY.⁵
- ✓ Without mandatory registration so that users can download the data without having to identify themselves.
- ✓ On a central online platform that is publicly accessible with the availability to bulk download all of the data.

Beyond these guidelines for publishing data, it is important to consider how and through what mechanism data users can share feedback or report errors in the data set as well as any additional support that will be provided such as efforts to promote data literacy.

The LPRM is a flexible reporting system and can be adapted to the country context. Ultimately, the implementation of the LPRM will vary by mine site, but the more data is publicly available and used, the more effective it will be to support host country organisations to better target programming, investments, and policy to improve the connection between the mining industry and the local economy.

For more information about the Mining LPRM and how you can use it in your work, please contact Jeff Geipel (jeffgeipel@ewb.ca). Special thanks to Alla Morrison of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Anders Pedersen from the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) for their advice in developing this guidance.

Supporting resources on open data principles and how to apply them are provided below.

- While largely designed for governments, the World Bank’s Open Government Data Toolkit provides a comprehensive overview for any actor on what open data is and how open data principles can be applied across a variety of activities: <http://opendatatoolkit.worldbank.org/en>
- Guidance for developing an open data policy by the Open Data Institute: <https://theodi.org/article/how-to-write-a-good-open-data-policy>
- Guidance on open data in implementation of the EITI: <https://eiti.org/document/eiti-open-data-policy>
- Example of Open Data Policy Guidelines from Sunlight Foundation: <https://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines>
- Open Data Institute’s Open Data Consumer Checklist to offer guidance to data users: <https://theodi.org>



³ Open data handbook (n.d.). Machine readable, accessed on May 2, 2018. Retrieved from: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

⁴ World Bank (2017). Open Data Defined, accessed April 30, 2018. Retrieved from: <http://opendatatoolkit.worldbank.org/en/essentials.html#policies>

⁵ As an example, the World Bank publishes content under a CC-BY 4.0 license: <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/public-licenses>