

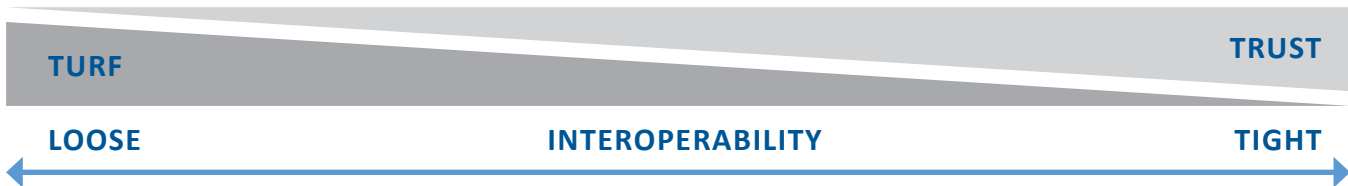
FRAMEWORK OF INTEROPERABILITY

The following Framework of Interoperability can help sustainability standards and other sustainability initiatives navigate the types and intensity of collaboration and interoperability, using the metals, minerals and mining sectors as examples.

CONTINUUM OF COLLABORATION	COMPETE	CO-EXIST	COMMUNICATE	COOPERATE	COORDINATE/HARMONISE	COLLABORATE	INTEGRATE/MERGE
	Competition for resources: clients, funding, support etc.	No systematic connection among organisations. Independent.	Dialogue and information exchange. Build understanding and trust. Identify opportunities.	Ad-hoc, informal interaction and/or discrete activities or projects.	Organisations systematically adjust and align work for greater outcomes.	Longer term interaction based on shared missions, goals, shared decision making and resources.	Fully integrated programs.



ASPECTS OF INTEROPERABILITY	TYPE	ISSUES-BASED WORKING GROUPS	JOINT PROJECTS	"PLUG AND PLAY"	RECOGNITION	SHARED PROCESSES	HARMONISATION
	DESCRIPTION	Address common challenges, including defined terms, methodologies and assurance.	Pooling resources. Investing together, e.g. for capacity building.	Use of only specific tools and processes often for efficiencies but may also lead to harmonisation.	Refer to or accept another system, so its provisions including full, partial, unilateral, stepwise.	Mechanisms which sustainability standards are able to operate jointly, for example, by joint auditing and other assurance processes.	Alignment of texts to adopt similar language eliminating major differences and creating common minimum requirements.
EXAMPLES	Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) working group, Living Wage Coalition.	Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI), Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) support Code of Risk-mitigation for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Emerging in Formal Trade Code of Conduct, led by Alliance for Responsible Mining (CRAFT) Code of Conduct (ARM).	Reference to other standards or guidelines, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) MoU with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for use of policies and procedures.	Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) /London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) / Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI).	Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) and Fairmined joint audits	ISEAL Common Core Indicators (CCI), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (OECD-D).	



Moving from left to right in the above figure, the potential to accomplish together that which cannot be achieved alone increases. Each level requires an increase in time, trust and 'turf-sharing'.

Source: Taken from the report "Creating Shared Value: How sustainability standards can learn from interoperability in the metals, minerals and mining sectors," published by ISEAL, written by Aimee Russillo and Christine Carey. LiSeed Consulting. Collaboration continuum adapted Collective Impact Group, Tamarack 2013. Aspects of Interoperability adapted Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the University of Queensland (CSR).



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Funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).