

Responsiveness

ROYAL BAFOKENG PLATINUM (RBPLAT)

▶ **Adopting the AccountAbility Principles can help mitigate systemic risk in the mining industry**

▶ **Inclusive and Responsive community engagement proves good for the bottom line**

Royal Bafokeng Platinum (RBPlat) has been using the AA1000 Series of Standards since 2008, and continues to use the AA1000 Assurance Standard (AA1000AS, 2008) to assure that its integrated report remains aligned with the AccountAbility Principles.

With the transition to the latest AccountAbility Principles (AA1000AP, 2018), RBPlat hopes to refresh its approach to leveraging the existing three Principles, enhance its emphasis on the new Principle of Impact, and ensure an integrated management approach to sustainability. The Principle of Responsiveness was identified as particularly important for RBPlat due to the nature of the mining sector.

“The AccountAbility Principles are of great value to us at RBPlat. We are excited for the introduction of the Principle of Impact ... It’s something we strongly believe in; it will guide us in the right direction.”

MS. TSHEGOFATSO TYIRA
HEAD: CORPORATE RISK AND SUSTAINABILITY

SPOTLIGHT

Adopting the AccountAbility Principles can mitigate systemic risk in the mining industry

RBPlat is committed to achieving sustainable impact in its mining business by managing its impact on the environment, society, and economy of South Africa. RBPlat’s corporate mission – “to leave a lasting legacy of sustainable benefits for our stakeholders” – embraces the spirit of the AccountAbility Principles, which guide RBPlat’s actions and initiatives.

Stakeholder management is core to RBPlat’s business, and is considered both a material issue and a strategic opportunity, as disclosed in RBPlat’s integrated report. A formalized, Board-approved Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement Framework defines the scope and type of engagements undertaken by the organization. Engagement occurs throughout the year at RBPlat, providing stakeholders with information on the company’s performance, challenges, and future strategies, and an opportunity to listen to diverse stakeholder ideas and concerns.

KEY FACTS



SECTOR / INDUSTRY

Mining

TYPES OF PRODUCTS / SERVICES OFFERED

Mining and Concentrating of PGM’s

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

5,177

NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS

4,910

PRIMARY GEOGRAPHIES OF OPERATION

Boshhoek in Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa

WEBSITE

bafokengplatinum.co.za

KEY INSIGHT

To build trust with stakeholders more effectively, develop responses related to material topics under the governance of senior management who actively participate in implementation – rather than taking a passive approach.

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INHERENT RISKS

Labour and community instability (potential cost and impact)

MATERIAL ISSUES

- ▶ **Labour stability**
- ▶ **Stakeholder relationships**
- ▶ **Expectations and concerns of the communities in which we operate**
- ▶ **Meeting Mining Charter III targets and our *More than Mining* aspiration**

OUR RESPONSE TO RISKS, MATERIAL ISSUES, AND OPPORTUNITIES THEY PRESENT

- ▶ Successful negotiation of a second five-year wage agreement, a first in our industry, at terms in line with PGM industry average wage increases for the next three-year period
- ▶ Ongoing focus on community engagement, local enterprise and supplier development, job creation, and skills development opportunities for community members

Source: RBPlat, Integrated Report 2019, p.23

Inclusive and Responsive community engagement proves good for the bottom line

Community engagement is of critical importance to RBPlat. RBPlat's CEO, Mr. Steve Phiri, personally engaged local community members to get their feedback on regional socio-political issues in a series of meetings aimed at addressing local challenges and building connections and trust.

As a result of this engagement with local communities, RBPlat altered its socio-economic development plans and initiatives to more closely align with community expectations. Engagement channels, such as business forums, events, media, engagement meetings, and community newsletters, were employed to encourage ongoing communication with stakeholders.

These efforts, which closely align to the AccountAbility Principles, have significantly improved RBPlat's risk management mitigation practices.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIVENESS

Responsiveness of sustainability at RBPlat is aligned to the AA1000AP. In response to the material topic of "water," RBPlat established a water treatment plant at Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM). This water treatment plant saves potable water by replacing grey water with treated process water, contributing to a saving of R7.3 million (close to £0.4 million GBP) and potable water saving of 682.4 ML in 2019.

NEXT STEPS

In light of the release of the newest AA1000AP (2018) Principle - Impact - RBPlat has begun assessing the most effective approach to measuring its sustainability impact.

Moving forward, RBPlat plans to use the AccountAbility Principles to support a holistic, integrated management approach to impactful stakeholder engagement, aligned to South Africa's National Development Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.