SAMESG Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:	31 August 2023	Time:	11:30
Chaired by:	Teresa Steele-Schober Chair	**Location:**	Zoom
Minutes prepared by:	Ann Donnely		

Participants:

Teresa Steele-Schober (Chair) (TSS)	Ashleigh Maritz (AM)	Seef Vermaak
Maria Antoniades (MA)	Tania Marshall (TM)	Charlene Wrigley (CW)
Kevin Davies (KD)	Tim Rowland (TR)	Bruce Williamson (BW)

SAIMM Secretariat:

Tshepiso Letlhaku

Apologies:

Vassie Maharaj (VM)	Marvin Lobeko (ML)	Steven Rupprecht (SR)
Nikki Fisher (NF)	Naledi Moeketsi (NM)	

Topic	Discussion
1. Welcome and apologies	TSS welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.
2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes	Previous meeting minutes were accepted.
3. Action items from last meeting	Protection of Personal Information: A table with members' email addresses was compiled and would be circulated to all committee members. It would be presented in the same format as the SSC agenda. The details will be updated when members change. **Action:** The committee agreed to attach awareness information regarding the POPI Act to the back of the agenda for all future SAMESG meetings. **SAIMM**. The ESG webinar held on July 11th would be discussed during the meeting. A discussion about having an SAIMM representative on the ESGS Committee for information sharing had not taken place yet but was planned to be addressed within the peer liaison portfolio. **Action:** VM.
4. SAMESG portfolios	SAMESG is working to become a centre of excellence for integrated ESG reporting in the minerals industry. Multiple portfolios have been established to address priorities. These are: • SAMESG Guidance Update (led by NF and ML): Coordinating review and feedback on (pending) SAMESG Guideline update as received from SAMCODES ESG Working Group. • Communication (led by CW, SJ): Establishing communication links with SAMCODES committees, peer groups, and industry organisations.

	Note: IAIA was seen as important due to the link between environmental impact assessors and SAMREC • Awareness and Training (led by AM and KD): Short-term focus on leveraging events for awareness and long-term focus on breaking down silos between reporting disciplines. • Peer Liaison (led by VM and pending member): Understanding the broader ESG landscape in South Africa and exploring collaboration opportunities. This committees aims to prevent duplicate or conflicting activities, and strengthen collaboration, within the ESG community. Each portfolio has broad objectives and guidelines, with flexibility for members to shape the work in each portfolio. Not all portfolio representatives were present at the meeting; report backs were expected in the future. TSS expressed gratitude to those involved in leading these portfolios. **Action: Portfolio leads** to present updates at future meetings.
5. SAMESG Terms of Reference update	The committee discussed the need to update its Terms of Reference (ToR) to align with its evolving focus areas and the changing ESG landscape. The focus areas for 2023 and beyond includes: • staying current with international developments, • ensuring representation of member requirements, • fostering collaboration, • enhancing communication, and • providing awareness and training. SAMESG aims to maintain alignment with the SAMCODES Standards Committee's ToR while updating its own to reflect its evolving needs. Key ToR requirements are to be reviewed and potentially strengthened. These include SSC alignment, committee structure, membership, responsibilities, meeting frequency, decision-making, reporting, and accountability. The ToR update process will include revision, implementation, and a continuous improvement approach, with the aim to issue the revised ToR for 2024. The committee discussed the requirement for members to attend at least one meeting a year and debated whether to implement a tiered membership approach or maintain a public forum / distribution list. Participants acknowledged the rapidly evolving nature of ESG in the mining industry and the importance of speeding up processes for integrating ESG into the SAMCODES and communicating with the investment community. TSS highlighted the opportunity for the SAMESG Guideline to progress, as the JSE was hesitant to mandate sector-specific ESG reporting without it being mandatory across all sectors. Discussion revolved around the challenges of achieving consensus within the committee, given the diverse backgrounds and interests of members. The need for clear communication channels and effective decision-making processes was emphasized to address these challenges. Participants discussed the importance of maintaining a balance between industry and investor perspectives in ESG reporting to ensure relevance and credibility. TSS highlighted the role of the committee in bridging the gap between mining companies and investors by providing practical guidance on achievable ESG goals. The discussion concluded with a shared commitment to accelerating the integration of ESG into the mining industry while recognizing the complexity and evolving nature of the field. **Action: CW** to share a proposed revised ToR

6. Update: SAMCODES ESG guideline	A webinar was held on 11 July 2023 to update stakeholders on the progress made with updating ESG integration into the SAMCODES. Gratitude was expressed to both the presenters and attendees of the webinar. The objective of the webinar was to inform the broader community interested in this workstream and provide an update on its current status. Technical aspects that required alignment were discussed during the webinar. A detailed review of the proposed amendments to Table 1 was a significant focus. Table 1 plays a crucial role in integrating various aspects of ESG and finalising it would expedite subsequent processes. It was noted that any intention to amend the SAMREC and SAMVAL Codes could be a lengthy process, involving regulatory bodies such as the JSE and Government Gazettes.
6. Update: CRISCO ESG Sub-committee	The CRIRSCO ESG Sub-committee has prepared a set of definitions related to ESG, and these were sent to National Reporting Organizations (NROs) for feedback. Earlier, there had been a discussion on these definitions at a SAMREC meeting, and SAMREC planned to organise a session for its members to delve deeper into these definitions. TSS suggested the idea of inviting representatives from SAMESG and SAMVAL to collectively prepare comments on the definitions for submission to the ESG working group. **Action: TSS** to contact Ken Lomberg to explore this collaboration. An additional CRIRSCO workstream involves creating a side-by-side comparison of the ESG aspects in all the CRIRSCO-affiliated codes. This comparison is in progress and will inform discussions and influence the next steps of the CRIRSCO ESG working group.
7. Update: GSSA Day	The ESG Day on 11 July 2023 was held under the banner of the GSSA. Nothing further to report.
8. General	CW highlighted the potential game-changing impact of disclosure standards in the sector and the likelihood of mandatory reporting being driven by financial reporting rules, stock exchanges or exchange commissions. KD mentioned amendments to the UK Companies Act and corporate governance to align with sustainability standards, including ISSB standards. The JSE's reluctance to mandate ESG reporting was noted. Active review of the SAMESG Guideline is an important process, especially considering its connection to materiality and double materiality. BW emphasized the need for clear definitions in areas like climate change and ESG to avoid confusion due to evolving guidelines and regulations. TSS suggested collaboration between subject matter experts and the investment community to streamline and consolidate sustainability standards. TSS suggested exploring ways to balance the business and thought leadership aspects of the ESG Committee and mentioned the SAMVAL Committee's practice of inviting outside industry experts for specific discussions. No action agreed.
9. Feedback from the GSSA ESG Division	Nothing to report.
10. Feedback from the SAIMM ESGS Committee	This agenda item was parked.
11. Closing	TSS thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting and for the work done behind the scenes.

12. Next meeting	30 November 2023.

Matters arising/Action Items

Meeting Date	Action	Responsible	Date Status	Comments
31/08/23	Prepare and circulate a table with members' e-mail addresses and attach to agenda for each meeting	TSS & Secretariat	On-going	
31/08/23	SAIMM representative on ESGS Committee	VM	30/11/23	
31/08/23	Involve representatives from SAMESG and SAMVAL to comment on CRISCO ESG definitions	TSS	30/11/23	
31/08/23	CW to share a proposed revised ToR	CW	30/11/23	