

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale mining operation. The image features a large body of water on the left side, with a series of parallel tracks or roads leading from the water towards the right. The terrain is rugged and appears to be a mix of dirt and rock. The overall color palette is dominated by earthy tones like brown, tan, and grey.

# **MINE CLOSURE READINESS: ARE INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT PREPARED?**

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# ICMM AT A GLANCE

ICMM is an international organisation dedicated to a safe, fair and sustainable mining and metals industry.



- Company members adhere to our Mining Principles – comprising robust ESG requirements, site-level validation of performance expectations and credible assurance of corporate sustainability reports.
- With the support of over 35 associations we are strengthening performance at scale.

# WHY IS RESPONSIBLE CLOSURE IMPORTANT?



## Mining and metals industry

- Future access to land and resources
- Maintaining asset value for longer
- Reducing closure liability
- Increasing opportunity for relinquishment



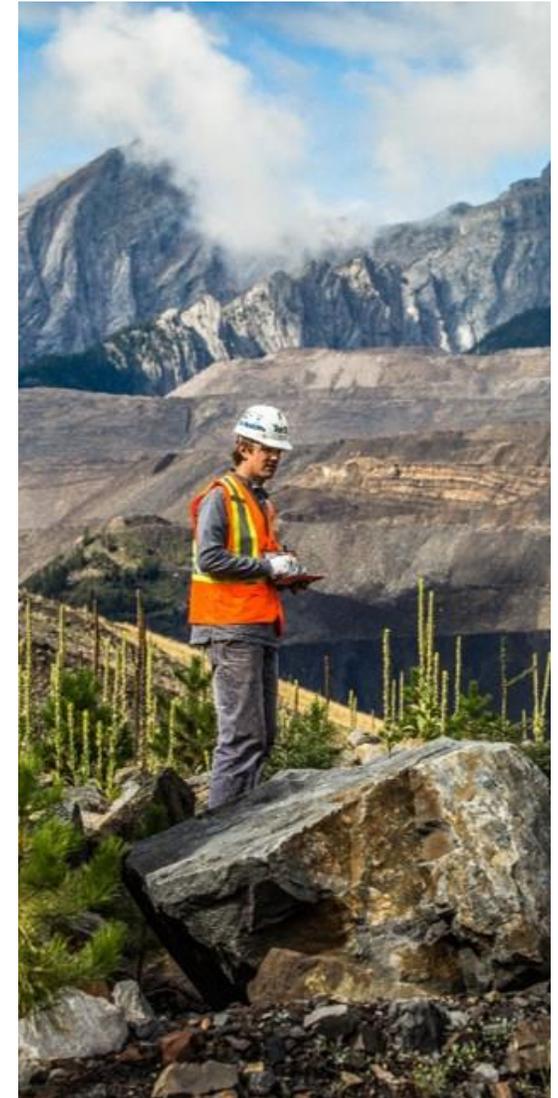
## Regulators

- Increased confidence in operations being progressively closed
- Limits potential for abandoned sites and liabilities which would be taken on by the regulator
- Contributes towards sustainable development

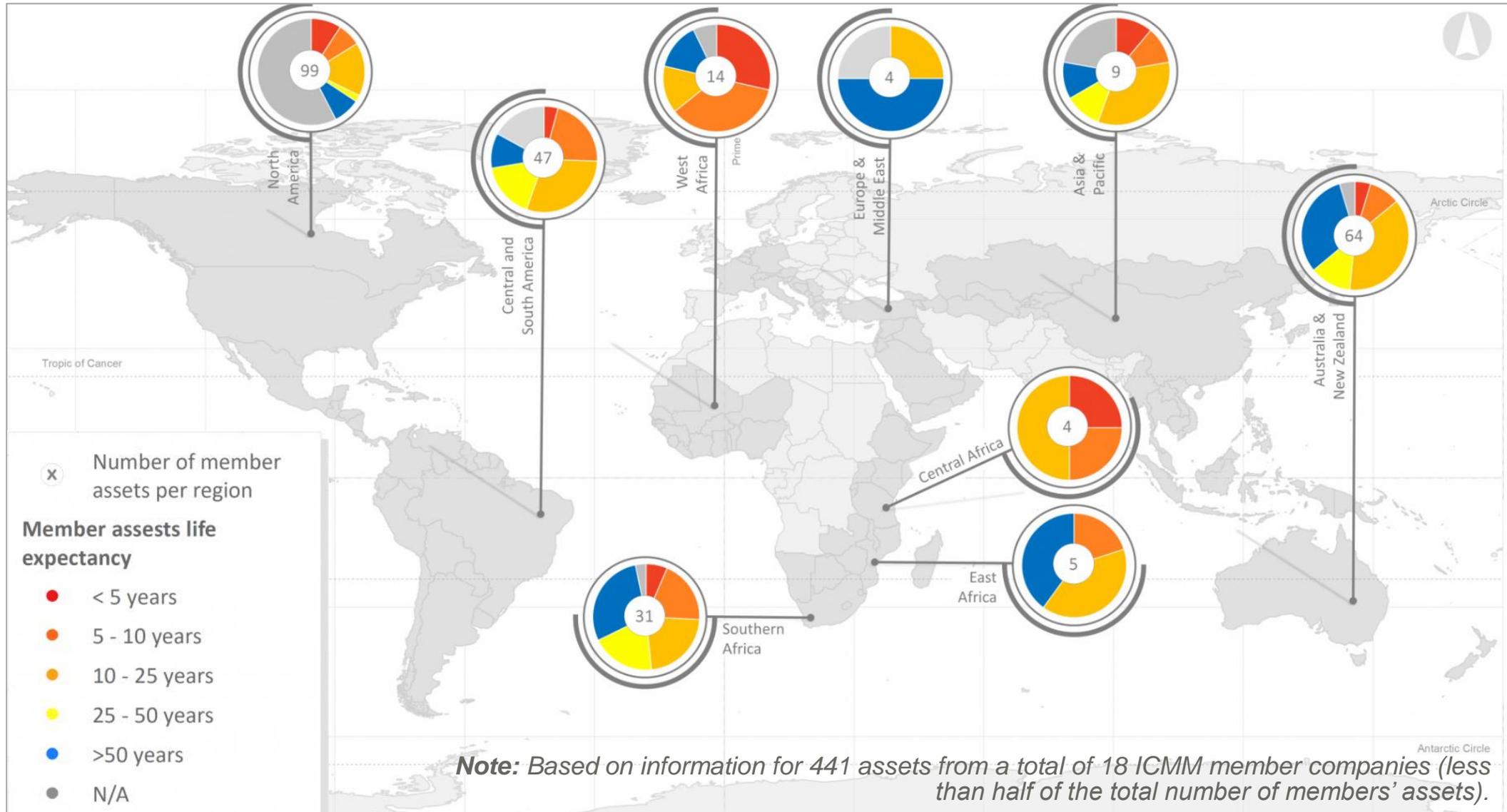


## Communities

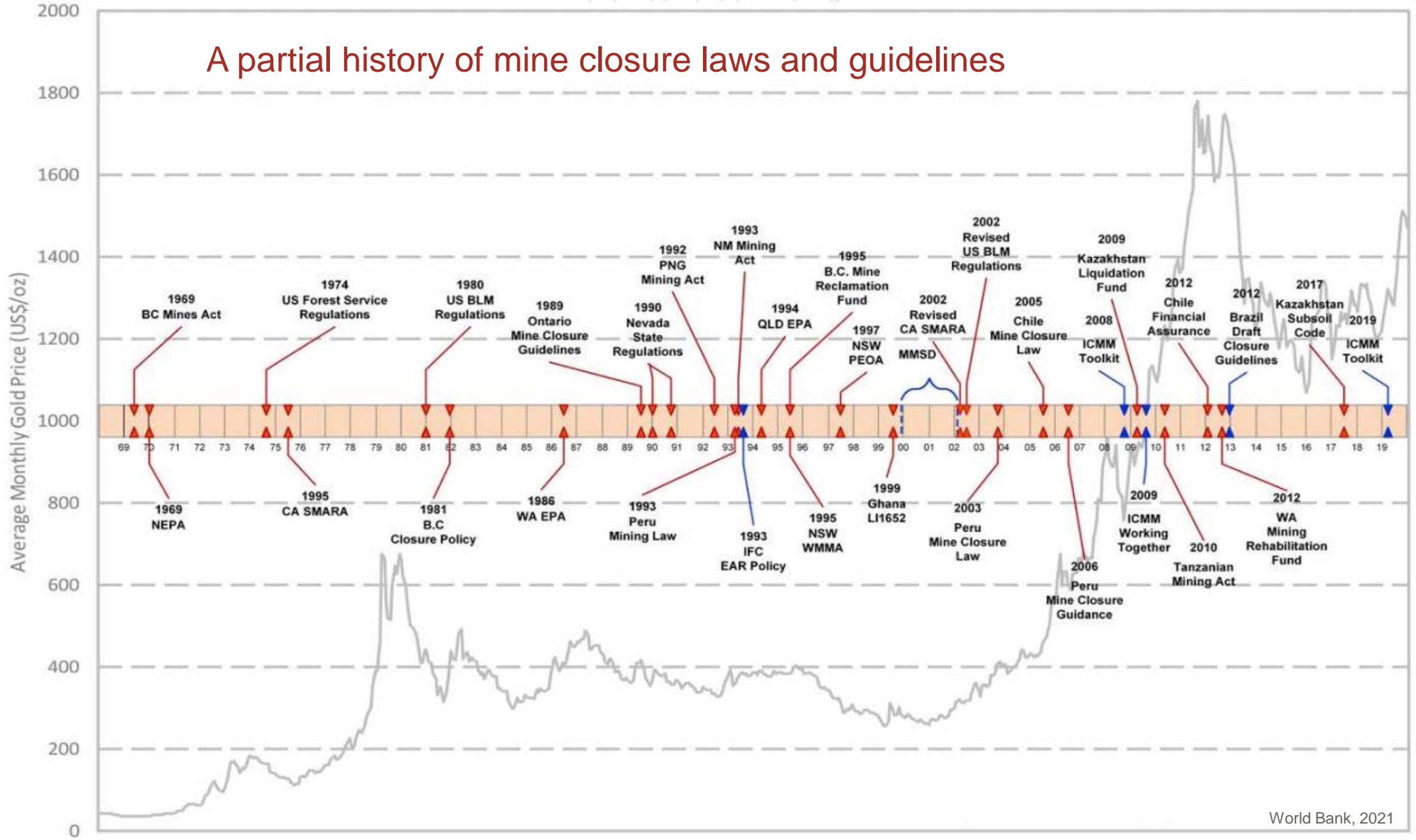
- Post mining future
- Improved livelihoods
- New opportunities



# MINE CLOSURE CONTEXT



# A partial history of mine closure laws and guidelines



# WHAT WE FOUND

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- Many Governments do not have the policies and regulations in place that govern mine closure.
- Many governments don't have the capacity to manage and regulate existing policies in relation to mine closure.
- Both government and industry stakeholders are still grappling with the social challenges of mine closure.
- Inadequate or uncertain policy has obscured the responsibilities and expectations of both industry and regulators.
- There is a general lack of experience in closing mines, and for government, lack of human resources to manage mine closure.







## Mine Water Coordinating Body

Established in 2016, the Mine Water Coordinating Body (MWCB) provides an effective **platform for engagement and partnership between mining companies, communities and governments** to work together to achieve sustainable benefits for mining companies, its employees, host communities and the environment post mine closure.

To date, the MWCB has attracted Thungela (previously Anglo American Thermal Coal), Eskom, Exxaro, Glencore, Sasol and Seiriti as private sector partners and is working closely with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) and the Mpumalanga Province Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism (DEDT), who are key government bodies governing the mining sector.

The MWCB has a number of projects including the Mine Water for Irrigation Project, The Green Engine, and the Regional Post-closure Economic Study for the Coalfields and Power Stations.