

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

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Antofagasta plc's 2008 Sustainability Report ("the Report") continues the practice established with the publication of its first Report in 2007 and complements the 2008 Annual Report.

The section on sustainability within the 2008 Annual Report sets out the principal matters relating to management of sustainability within the Group. The subjects dealt with are: governance, ethics, relationships with stakeholders, human capital, occupational health and safety, employee development, working relationships, community relations, environmental management and protection, energy and water management, waste management, management of emissions and biodiversity. The present report covers these topics in greater detail.

The information presented in this Report relates to the period January to December 2008. This Report is based on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Guidelines for Sustainability Annual Reports as well as the two relevant sector supplements: Mining and Metals, and Logistics and Transportation. The GRI Boundary Protocol criteria were used to establish its limits and scope. The self-evaluation questions suggested by GRI were taken into account and an analysis was carried out of the relevant issues arising from consultation with stakeholder groups in the United Kingdom and Chile. This Report seeks to respond to these matters.

The Report considers more GRI indicators and provides information regarding the Group's governance and management approach to sustainability, and is self-declared at GRI level C.

One of the important events of 2008 was the creation of a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Committee which includes the Chief Executive Officer or General Manager of each of the three business divisions and the Vice-President of Corporate Affairs, whose responsibilities include environmental and external affairs. Under its terms of reference, the Committee's main function is to establish the scope of the Report and to supervise the reporting process.

As part of an ongoing process of improvement, progress was made in the methodology of collection and internal validation of information. There has also been a greater degree of precision in the criteria and concepts which have been used to report information. Accordingly some comparatives have been restated as compared with Antofagasta plc's 2007 Sustainability Report. In such cases, an explanatory footnote has been provided in the tables where data has been restated.

As set out in Antofagasta plc's Terms and Conditions for the Drawing up of Sustainability Reports, this Report describes the performance of the Group's three business divisions: mining (Antofagasta Minerals S.A.), transport (Antofagasta Railway Company plc) and water (Aguas de Antofagasta S.A.).

In accordance with these Terms and Conditions, Antofagasta Minerals S.A. provides narrative information and performance indicators for its mining operations and projects under development over which it has control or significant influence. With regard to exploration activities and projects which are not yet under development, only narrative information and qualitative indicators are provided.

Antofagasta Railway Company plc provides narrative information and performance indicators for its operations in Chile over which it has control. Information about operations in Bolivia, which only represent 0.49% of Group assets, is not included in this Report. Aguas de Antofagasta S.A. provides narrative information and performance indicators for its operations, all of which are based in Chile.

This Report has been made available on the Group's website in both English and Spanish. A highlights version has also been published in both languages. Decisions about design and distribution methods have taken into account the sustainable use of resources.

