



Initiative for Responsible
Mining Assurance

Excerpt from the DRAFT Standard for Responsible Mining and Mineral Processing 2.0

Chapter 3.6 – Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

Context & Disclaimer on IRMA DRAFT Standard 2.0

IRMA DRAFT Standard for Responsible Mining and Minerals Processing 2.0 is being released for public consultation, inviting the world to join in a conversation around expectations that drive value for greater environmental and social responsibility in mining and mineral processing.

This draft document invites a global conversation to improve and update the 2018 IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining Version 1.0. It is not a finished document, nor seeking final review, but rather is structured to invite a full range of questions, comments and recommendations to improve the IRMA Standard.

This IRMA DRAFT Standard for Responsible Mining and Minerals Processing (v.2.0) has been prepared and updated by the IRMA Secretariat based on learnings from the implementation of the Standard (v.1.0), experience from the first mines independently audited, evolving expectations for best practices in mining to reduce harm, comments and recommendations received from stakeholders and Indigenous rights holders, and the input of subject-specific expert Working Groups convened by IRMA in 2022.

IRMA's Standard has a global reputation for comprehensive in-depth coverage addressing the range of impacts, as well as opportunities for improved benefit sharing, associated with industrial scale mining. This consultation draft proposes a number of new requirements; some may wonder whether IRMA's Standard already includes too many requirements. The proposed additions are suggested for a range of reasons (explained in the text following), including improving auditability by separating multiple expectations that were previously bundled into a single requirement, addressing issues that previously weren't sufficiently covered (e.g. gender, greenhouse gas emissions), and providing more opportunities for mining companies to receive recognition for efforts to improve social and environmental protection.

Please note, expert Working Groups were created to catalyze suggestions for solutions on issues we knew most needed attention in this update process. They were not tasked to come to consensus nor make formal recommendations. Their expertise has made this consultation document wiser and more focused, but work still lies ahead to resolve challenging issues. We encourage all readers to share perspectives to improve how the IRMA system can serve as a tool to promote greater environmental and social responsibility, and create value for improved practices, where mining and minerals processing happens.

The DRAFT Standard 2.0 is thus shared in its current form to begin to catalyze global conversation and stakeholder input. It does not represent content that has been endorsed by IRMA's multistakeholder Board of Directors. IRMA's Board leaders seek the wisdom and guidance of all readers to answer the questions in this document and inform this opportunity to improve the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining.

IRMA is dedicated to a participatory process including public consultation with a wide range of affected people globally and seeks feedback, comments, questions, and recommendations for improvement of this Standard. IRMA believes that diverse participation and input is a crucial and determining factor in the effectiveness of a Standard that is used to improve environmental and social performance in a sector. To this end, every submission received will be reviewed and considered.

The DRAFT Standard 2.0 is based on content already in practice in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining Version 1.0 (2018) for mines in production, combined with the content drafted in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mineral Development and Exploration (the 'IRMA-Ready' Standard – Draft v1.0 December 2021) and in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Minerals Processing (Draft v1.0 June 2021).

Chapter Structure

BACKGROUND

Each chapter has a short introduction to the issue covered in the chapter, which may include an explanation of why the issue is important, a description of key issues of concern, and the identification of key aspects of recognized or emerging best practice that the standard aims to reflect.

OBJECTIVES/INTENT STATEMENT

A description of the key objectives that the chapter is intended to contribute to or meet.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

A description of the conditions under which the chapter may or may not be relevant for particular mines or mineral processing sites. If the entity can provide evidence that a chapter is not relevant, that chapter will not need to be included in the scope of the IRMA assessment. A requirement is 'not relevant' if the issue to which a requirement relates is not applicable at the site. For example, requirements related to the use of cyanide would not be relevant at a site at which cyanide is never used.

TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

This is a list of the terms used in the chapter ■ Each term is separated with ■

Terms listed here are identified in the chapter with a dashed underline. And they are defined in the [Glossary of Terms](#) at the end of the chapter.

Chapter Requirements

X.X.X. These are criteria headings

X.X.X.X. And these are the requirements that must be met for an IRMA assessment to be issued and subsequently maintained by a site. Most criteria have more than one requirement. All requirements must be met in order to comply fully with the criterion.

- a. Some requirements consist of hierarchical elements:
 - i. At more than one level.
 - ii. Operations may be required to meet all elements in a list, or one or more of the elements of such a list, as specified.

NOTES

Any additional notes related to the chapter and its requirements are explained here.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

Terms used in the chapter are defined here.

ANNEXES AND TABLES

Annexes or Tables are found here.

IRMA Critical Requirements

The 2018 IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining v. 1.0 includes a set of requirements identified as being critical requirements. Operations being audited in the IRMA system must at least substantially meet these critical requirements in order to be recognized as achieving the achievement level of IRMA 50 and higher, and any critical requirements not fully met would need to have a corrective action plan in place describing how the requirement will be fully met within specified time frames.

The 2023 updates to the 2018 Standard may edit some critical requirements in the process of revising and therefore there will be a further review specific to the language and implications of critical requirements that follows the overall Standard review.

Associated Documents

This document is an extract of the full DRAFT IRMA FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING (Version 2.0) – DRAFT VERSION 1.0, released in October 2023 for a public-comment period. The English-language full version should be taken as the definitive version. IRMA reserves the right to publish corrigenda on its web page, and readers of this document should consult the corresponding web page for corrections or clarifications.

Readers should note that in addition to the DRAFT Standard, there are additional policies and guidance materials maintained in other IRMA documents, such as IRMA’s Principles of Engagement and Membership Principles, IRMA Guidance Documents for the Standard or specific chapters in the Standard, IRMA Claims and Communications Policy and other resources. These can be found on the IRMA website in the Resources section. Learn more at responsiblemining.net

Comment on the IRMA Standard

Comments on the IRMA Standard and system are always welcome.

They may be emailed to IRMA at: comments@responsiblemining.net

Additional information about IRMA is available on our website: responsiblemining.net

Chapter 3.6

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

NOTES ON THIS CHAPTER: This chapter is similar to the 2018 Mining Standard, with only minor wording changes and some enhancements to requirements for entities that source from artisanal and small-scale mines (ASM), to better align with expectations in other standards (see 3.6.4.1).

Glossary:

- We are proposing new/revised definitions for several glossary terms. The ‘Terms Used In This Chapter’ box shows which terms are new, and the proposed definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the chapter requirements. The full glossary is at the end of the document. Feedback on definitions is welcome.

BACKGROUND

It has been estimated that there are between 20 and 30 million men, women and children involved in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) worldwide, and that the ASM sector is responsible for 15 to 20 percent of the production of global minerals and metals.¹

While there is no single definition of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), it is generally understood to encompass a range of activities, including prospecting, exploration, extraction, processing and transportation, and use more simplified and labor-intensive technologies and practices than industrial or large-scale mining (LSM).

The ASM sector is complex and diverse. It includes individuals or families mining to earn or supplement their livings, as well as small-scale commercial operations that employ numerous workers. Much of ASM is informal, with entities operating in in contravention to laws, or in the absence of an appropriate legal framework, although some ASM operators do have permits, pay taxes and abide by social and environmental regulations.² In some contexts, there may be a criminal element to ASM activities, such as smuggling, tax evasion, money laundering, trafficking in illegal chemicals, or financing of conflict.³

ASM sometimes occurs in areas close to or on LSM concessions. ASM miners may have traditionally operated in those areas, full-time or seasonally, or in other cases miners may have arrived during LSM exploration or after the development of the large-scale mine.

Given the diversity within the ASM sector, it is understandable that interactions between LSM and ASM entities can also take on a variety of forms, from violent confrontation to harmonious co-existence.⁴

TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

Affected Communities ■ Area of Influence ■
Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) ■
Collaboration ■ Conflict-Affected or High-Risk Area
■ Consultation ■ Entity **NEW** ■ Exploration **NEW** ■
Grievance Mechanism ■ Host Country Law ■ Inform
■ Legitimate ASM **NEW** ■ Livelihoods ■ Mineral
Processing **NEW** ■ Mining **NEW** ■ Mitigation ■
Operation **NEW** ■ Project **NEW** ■ Scoping **NEW** ■
Stakeholder ■ Suppliers ■ Worker ■

*These terms appear in the text with a dashed underline.
For definitions see the Glossary of Terms at the end of this chapter.*

¹ Buxton, A. 2013. Responding to the Challenge of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining: How can knowledge networks help? Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London. p. 3. <http://pubs.iied.org/16532IIED/>

² ibid. p. 4; Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF). 2017. IGF Guidance for Governments: Managing Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).p. 5. <https://www.igfmining.org/resource/guidance-for-governments-managing-artisanal-and-small-scale-mining/>

³ IGF, 2017, p. 12; and Echavarría, C. 2014. ‘What is legal?’ Formalising Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Colombia. Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London and Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), Columbia. P. 23. <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/16565IIED.pdf>

⁴ Communities and Small-Scale Mining, World Bank/IFC Oil, Gas and Mining Sustainable Community Development Fund and ICMM. 2010. Working Together - How Large-Scale Mining Can Engage with Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners. p. 5. <https://www.commddev.org/publications/working-together-how-large-scale-mining-can-engage-with-artisanal-and-small-scale-miners/>

ASM is playing a growing role in many national economies,⁵ and holds the potential to provide decent livelihoods if conducted in an organized and responsible manner and afforded more secure access to capital and markets. Large-scale mines that operate in the same regions as ASM, or that purchase minerals produced by ASM, have the opportunity to contribute to positive transformations in the ASM sector.

OBJECTIVES/INTENT OF THIS CHAPTER

To avoid conflict and, where possible within the scope of host country law, foster positive relationships between entities managing large-scale mining and mineral processing operations and artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) entities, and support the development of ASM that provides positive livelihood opportunities and is protective of human rights, health, safety, and the environment.

NOTE ON OBJECTIVES: REVISED. Added reference to mineral processing.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

RELEVANCE: This chapter is applicable to all exploration, mining, and mineral processing projects and operations that have the potential to interact with ASM entities due to proximity. In such situations, criteria 3.6.1, 3.6.2 and 3.6.3 are applicable.

Criterion 3.6.4 is relevant for mining operations that are currently sourcing from ASM, and for proposed mining or mineral processing projects that may have commercial relationships with ASM (such as sourcing ore or minerals from ASM entities, or processing ASM materials).

If mineral processing operations are currently sourcing from ASM but do not have the potential to interact with ASM due to proximity, then only the requirements in criterion 3.6.4 apply.

NOTE ON SCOPE OF APPLICATION: This proposed version of the IRMA Standard is meant to apply to exploration, mining, and mineral processing projects and operations (see definitions of project and operation), but not all requirements will be relevant in all cases. We have provided some high-level information below, but the IRMA Secretariat will produce a detailed Scope of Application for each chapter that will indicate relevancy on a requirement-by-requirement basis (and will provide some normative language where the expectations may slightly differ for proposed projects versus operations, or for mining versus mineral processing, etc.).

CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS IN THIS CHAPTER

None at this time.

NOTE ON CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS: The 2018 IRMA Standard includes a set of requirements identified as being critical. Projects/operations being audited in the IRMA system must at least substantially meet all critical requirements in order to be recognized at the achievement level of IRMA 50 and higher, and any critical requirements not fully met need a corrective action plan for meeting them within specified time frames.

INPUT WELCOME: The proposed revisions to the 2018 Standard have led to new content, as well as edits of some critical requirements in the process. Therefore, there will be a further review of the language and implications of critical requirements prior to the release of a final v.2.0 of the IRMA Standard. During this consultation period we welcome input on any existing critical requirement, as well as suggestions for others you think should be deemed critical. A rationale for any suggested changes or additions would be appreciated.

⁵ Freudenberger, M., Ali, S., Fella, T. and Pennes, S. 2013. Property Rights and Artisanal Mining: Clarifying and Strengthening Rights: Options for Policymakers. USAID Issue Brief. p. 1. <https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Property-Rights-and-Artisanal-Mining.pdf>

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Requirements

3.6.1. Understand the ASM Context

3.6.1.1. A scoping process (or equivalent) is undertaken to understand the legal, social, and environmental context in which ASM activities are occurring in the project/operation's area of influence.

NOTE FOR 3.6.1.1. REVISED. This was 3.6.1.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard. Previously this requirement referred to ASM on the LSM concession or in close proximity. We have changed to in the area of influence, as "close proximity" is not clear.

3.6.2. Engage with ASM Entities and Communities

3.6.2.1. A good faith effort is made to:⁶

- a. Engage with ASM entities including, where relevant, informal ASM operators and formal ASM associations, as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts (see Chapter 1.2);
- b. Consult with informal and formal ASM entities during relevant risk and impact assessments and closure planning (see Chapters 2.1 and 2.6);
- c. Engage with communities that are or may be affected by ASM activities or interactions between the entity and ASM entities; and
- d. Informs ASM entities and communities that there is an operational-level grievance mechanism available to raise concerns and resolve conflicts related to the entity and its project/operation (see Chapter 1.4).

NOTE FOR 3.6.2.1. This was 3.6.2.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard.

3.6.3. Foster Positive Relationships and Opportunities for ASM and Communities

3.6.3.1. The project's/operation's security personnel are trained in respecting the human rights of individuals engaged in ASM activities and members of affected communities.

NOTE FOR 3.6.3.1. This was 3.6.3.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard.

3.6.3.2. The entity collaborates with ASM entities and affected communities to develop and implement measures to improve the safety and enhance the positive environmental and social impacts of ASM activities.

NOTE FOR 3.6.3.2. This was 3.6.3.2 in the 2018 Mining Standard.

3.6.4. Perform Due Diligence in Commercial Relationships with ASM⁷

3.6.4.1. When a mining or mineral processing project proposes to source from ASM, or a mining operation sources minerals from ASM entities, the entity:

- a. Identifies the legal status of the ASM entities and maintains commercial relationships only with entities engaged in legitimate ASM;
- b. Regularly assesses the safety, social and environmental risks and impacts related to the ASM entities with whom it may have or has a commercial relationship;⁸

⁶ Recognizing that some outreach may be difficult in some situations that pose a material risk to the entity's personnel.

⁷ Criterion 3.6.4 is only relevant if the LSM has a commercial/business relationship with an ASM entity. LSM with commercial relationships must carry out 3.6.4 in addition to 3.6.1, 3.6.2 and 3.6.3.

⁸ An array of social and environmental issues at ASM operations may pose social and environmental risks. These include, but are not limited to lack of legal compliance, bribery and corruption, child labor, forced labor, low wages, lack of labor rights, poor occupational health and safety (e.g., exposure of workers and communities to toxic chemicals such as mercury and cyanide), lack of gender equality, security risks, human rights abuses, especially in conflict-affected areas, environmental pollution and degradation from poor waste management practices, and operating in protected areas or areas of key biodiversity.

- c. Collaborates with those ASM entities with whom it can legally and legitimately engage to develop and implement a plan to eliminate or mitigate the most significant risks⁹ and, over time, address other social and environmental risks related to those ASM operations; and
- d. Periodically monitors the effectiveness of mitigation strategies, and adapts plans as necessary to facilitate continued minimization of risks;
- e. Participates in or supports initiatives that promote the professionalization, formalization and/or certification of ASM entities, as appropriate to the situation;
- f. Supports development opportunities for ASM communities; and
- g. Offers fair commercial terms to all ASM suppliers.

NOTE FOR 3.6.4.1: REVISED. Sub-requirement (a) has been added. The previous 3.6.4.1 was missing the step of identifying the status of ASM and sourcing from those deemed legitimate. This is consistent with guidance provided by the OECD and others.¹⁰ Sub-requirements (e), (f) and (g) align requirements in the Responsible Jewellery Council Code of Practices.¹¹

To support interpretation of 3.6.4.1.a, we are proposing the following definition of **Legitimate Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)**:

ASM that is conducted in a manner that is consistent with applicable laws and does not contribute to conflict and serious abuses associated with the extraction, transport or trade of minerals (as defined in Annex II of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas), or, in the absence of a legal framework or if the legal framework is not enforced, where ASM entities can demonstrate ‘good faith efforts’ to work within the legal framework (i.e., obtaining permits where available) and pursue formalization. (Source: Adapted from OECD.¹²)

3.6.4.2. When a project proposes to, or an operation actually sources minerals from ASM entities that are located in a conflict-affected or high-risk area, the entity carries out additional due diligence requirements in Chapter 3.4.¹³

NOTE FOR 3.6.4.2. This was 3.6.4.2 in the 2018 Mining Standard.

NOTES

To be determined. There were no notes in the 2018 Mining Standard.

CROSS REFERENCES TO OTHER CHAPTERS

This table will be added when the new content for all chapters is finalized and approved.

⁹ The most significant risks will vary, depending on the ASM operations. However, if present, the following should always be considered “significant risks”: serious human rights abuses, including the worst forms of child labor, forced labor, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, widespread sexual violence, war crimes or serious violations of international humanitarian law, crimes against humanity or genocide.

¹⁰ For example, see: OECD. 2016. OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. (3rd Ed.) p. 84. <https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Minerals-Edition3.pdf>

¹¹ Responsible Jewellery Council. 2019. Code of Practices. Requirement 8.1.b. <https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/wp-content/uploads/RJC-COP-2019-V1.2-Standards.pdf>.

¹² OECD. 2016. OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. (3rd Ed.) p. 69. <https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Minerals-Edition3.pdf>

¹³ In addition to relevant requirements in Chapter 3.4, entities are also expected to meet the requirements outlined in 3.6.4.1.

PROPOSED NEW DEFINITIONS

Entity

A company, corporation, partnership, individual, or other type of organization that is effectively in control of managing an exploration, mining or mineral processing project or operation.

Exploration

A process or range of activities undertaken to find commercially viable concentrations of minerals to mine and to define the available mineral reserve and resource. May occur concurrent with and on the same site as existing mining operations.

Legitimate Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

ASM that is conducted in a manner that is consistent with applicable laws and does not contribute to conflict and serious abuses associated with the extraction, transport or trade of minerals (as defined in Annex II of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas), or, in the absence of a legal framework or if the legal framework is not enforced, where ASM entities can demonstrate ‘good faith efforts’ to work within the legal framework (i.e., obtaining permits where available) and pursue formalization.

Source: Adapted from OECD. 2016. OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. (3rd Ed.) p. 69. <https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Minerals-Edition3.pdf>

Mineral Processing

Activities undertaken to separate valuable and non-valuable minerals and convert the former into an intermediate or final form required by downstream users. In IRMA this includes all forms of physical, chemical, biological and other processes used in the separation and purification of the minerals.

Mining

Activities undertaken to extract minerals, metals and other geologic materials from the earth. Includes extraction of minerals in solid (e.g., rock or ore) and liquid (e.g., brine or solution) forms.

Operation

The set of activities being undertaken for the purpose of extracting and/or processing mineral resources, including the running and management of facilities and infrastructure required to support the activities, and the ongoing legal, environmental, social and governance activities necessary to maintain the business endeavor.

Project

The development phases before a mining or mineral processing operation can begin (e.g., exploration, pre-feasibility, feasibility, conceptual design, planning, permitting). Includes all desk-top and field-based activities, including exploration activities, needed to inform and develop a project proposal, support the environmental and social impact assessment of a proposal, generate information necessary to fulfill regulatory and permitting requirements, engage with stakeholders and rights holders, and maintain the entity’s business endeavor.

Scoping

The process of determining potential issues and impacts and producing information necessary to inform decision-making regarding whether additional evaluation and actions are necessary.

EXISTING DEFINITIONS

Affected Community

A community that is subject to risks or impacts from a project/operation.

REVISED. Changed wording from project to project/operation.

Area of Influence

The area likely to be affected by the project/operation and facilities, including associated facilities, that are directly owned, operated or managed by the entity, as well the area affected by any unplanned but reasonably foreseeable developments induced by a project/operation and cumulative impacts from the project/operation.

REVISED. Streamlined - removed examples.

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

Formal or informal operations with predominantly simplified forms of exploration, extraction, processing, and transportation. ASM is normally low capital intensive and uses high labor-intensive technology. ASM can include men and women working on an individual basis as well as those working in family groups, in partnership or as members of cooperatives or other types of legal associations and enterprises involving hundreds or thousands of miners. For example, it is common for work groups of 4-10 individuals, sometimes in family units, to share tasks at one single point of mineral extraction (e.g., excavating one tunnel). At the organizational level, groups of 30-300 miners are common, extracting jointly one mineral deposit (e.g., working in different tunnels), and sometimes sharing processing facilities.

Closure

Refers to the post-reclamation activities that are required to close and secure a site to maintain compliance with environmental and health and safety regulations. It includes interim fluid and site management in addition to post-reclamation monitoring and maintenance during the period when the success of reclamation measures to achieve site-safety, stability, revegetation, and water quality as well as other reclamation objectives is measured and maintained. The closure period is finite and typically no more than ten years in duration.

REVISED. Changed term from 'Mine Closure' to 'Closure', as the term can also apply to stand-alone mineral processing facilities, and some language changed to be less mining-specific.

Collaboration

The process of shared decision-making in which all stakeholders constructively explore their differences and develop a joint strategy for action. It is based on the premise that, through dialogue, the provision of appropriate information, collectively defined goals, and the willingness and commitment to find a solution acceptable to all parties, it is possible to overcome the initially limited perspectives of what is achievable and to reach a decision which best meets the interests of the various stakeholders. At this level, responsibility for decision-making is shared between stakeholders.

Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas

Areas identified by the presence of armed conflict, widespread violence, including violence generated by criminal networks, or other risks of serious and widespread harm to people. Armed conflict may take a variety of forms, such as a conflict of international or non-international character, which may involve two or more states, or may consist of wars of liberation, or insurgencies, civil wars. High-risk areas are those where there is a high risk of conflict or of widespread or serious abuses of human rights as defined in paragraph 1 of Annex II of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance Area on Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk (see source of definition, below). Such areas are often characterized by political instability or repression, institutional weakness, insecurity, collapse of civil infrastructure, widespread violence, and violations of national or international law.

Consultation

An exchange of information between an entity and its stakeholders that provides an opportunity for stakeholders to raise concerns and comment on the impacts and merits of a proposal or activity before a decision is made. In principle the entity should take into account the concerns and views expressed by stakeholders in the final decision.

Grievance Mechanism

Any routinized, state-based or non-state-based, judicial or non-judicial process through which project- or operation-related complaints or grievances, including business-related human rights abuses, stakeholder complaints, and/or labor grievances, can be raised and remedy can be sought. An operational- or project-level grievance mechanism is a formalized means through which individuals or groups can raise concerns about the impact of a specific project/operation on them—and can seek remedy.

REVISED. Changed wording from mining project to project- or operation-related, and added operation-level grievance mechanism to this definition.

Host Country Law

May also be referred to as national law, if such a phrase is used in reference to the laws of the country in which a project or operation is located. Host country law includes all applicable requirements, including but not limited to laws, rules regulations, and permit requirements, from any governmental or regulatory entity, including but not limited to applicable requirements at the federal/national, state, provincial, county or town/municipal levels, or their equivalents in the country where the project/operation is located. The primacy of host country laws, such as federal versus provincial, is determined by the laws of the host country.

REVISED. Changed wording from mining project to project or operation.

Inform

The provision of information to inform stakeholders of a proposal, activity, or decision. The information provided may be designed to help stakeholders in understanding an issue, alternatives, solutions or the decision-making process. Information flows are one-way. Information can flow either from the company to stakeholders or vice versa.

Livelihood

The full range of means that individuals, families, and communities utilize to make a living, such as wage-based income, agriculture, fishing, foraging, other natural resource-based livelihoods, petty trade, and bartering.

Mitigation (including in relation to human rights impacts)

Actions taken to reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of a certain adverse impact. The mitigation of adverse human rights impacts refers to actions taken to reduce their extent, with any residual impact then requiring remediation.

Stakeholders

Individuals or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project/operation, such as rights holders, as well as those who may have interests in a project/operation and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively.

REVISED. Changed wording from persons to individuals, and from project to project/operation.

Suppliers

Providers of goods, services, or materials to a project/operation.