

Full Glossary of Terms

The IRMA Glossary of Terms is not intended to be a complete set of terms associated with mineral development. However, in drafting the IRMA Standard it was sometimes necessary to develop or adopt rigorous terminology to ensure consistent interpretation and application of the Standard. These terms were added to this Glossary of Terms.

A

Adaptive Management

Adaptive Management is a structured, iterative process of robust decision-making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reducing uncertainty over time via system monitoring. It includes the development of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes, and monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting desired outcomes. If outcomes are not being met, the process requires development and implementation of management changes to ensure that outcomes are met or re-evaluated.

Source: Adapted from US Forest Service. 2008. *National Forest System Land Management Planning. Final Rule*. Federal Register. Vol. 73, No. 77, §219.16.

Accessible

In reference to grievance mechanism or engagement processes, accessible means these mechanisms or processes being known to all stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended, and providing adequate assistance for those who may face particular barriers to access.

Source: Ruggie, J. 2011. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

Accident

An event that results in injury, ill health, fatality or damage to property or the environment.

NEW. Added to Chapters 2.5 and 3.2

Accountable Executive

One or more executive (s) who is/are directly answerable to the CEO on matters related to this chapter, communicates with the Board of Directors, and who is accountable for the safety of critical facilities and for minimizing the social and environmental consequences of a potential critical facility failure. Accountable executive(s) may delegate responsibilities but not accountability.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Acid Rock Drainage (ARD)

The drainage produced when rocks with sulfide or other acid-producing minerals are under oxidizing conditions (exposed to water and oxygen) and generate an acidic water stream. Acid rock drainage generally contains elevated concentrations of metals, sulfate, and other constituents and has a pH < 6. The terms acid mine drainage and acid and metalliferous drainage (both AMD) are sometimes used as synonyms for ARD.

Actual Human Rights Impact

An adverse impact that has already occurred or is occurring.

Additional Conservation Actions

A broad range of activities that are intended to benefit biodiversity, where the effects or outcomes can be difficult to quantify.

Source: Biodiversity A to Z website. <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/themes/terms>

Adverse Human Rights Impact

When an action removes or reduces the ability of an individual to enjoy his or her human rights.

Affected Community

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

Source: Adapted from IFC. IFC Policy & Performance Standards and Guidance Notes. Glossary of Terms.

REVISED. Changed wording from project to project/operation.

Air Quality Modeling

Mathematical and numerical techniques used to simulate the physical and chemical processes that affect air pollutants as they disperse and react in the atmosphere. These include, for example: air dispersion models, which are used to predict concentrations of pollutants at selected downwind receptor locations; and receptor models, which use observational techniques and chemical and physical characteristics of gases and particles measured at source and receptor and to identify the presence of and to quantify source contributions to receptor concentrations.

Source: USEPA website: "Air Quality Models." <https://www3.epa.gov/scram001/aqmindex.htm>

Alien/Non-Native Species

Animals, plants or other organisms introduced by humans, either intentionally or accidentally, into areas outside their natural range. Some of these species become established and negatively impact native biodiversity. These species are classified as invasive alien species.

Source: IUCN. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/invasive-alien-species-and-sustainable-development>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6.

Ambient Air Quality

The concentrations of pollutants (e.g., chemicals, particulate matter) in air (for IRMA's purposes, outdoor air).

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.

Source: Adapted from IFC 2012. Performance Standard 1. <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2012/ifc-performance-standards> and USAID. 2017. Construction Sector Environmental Guidance. Glossary. https://2017-2020.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/SectorEnvironmentalGuidelines_Construction_2017.pdf

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.

Source: OECD. 2016. *OECD Due Diligence Guidance on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains from Conflict Affected and High Risk Areas*.

As Low As Reasonably Practicable

All reasonable measures are taken with respect to ‘tolerable’ or acceptable risks to reduce them even further until the cost and other impacts of additional risk reduction are grossly disproportionate to the benefit.

Source: Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Associated Facility

Any facility owned or managed by the entity that would not have been constructed, expanded or acquired but for the project/operation and without which the project/operation would not be viable. Examples include but are not limited to stationary physical property such as power plants, port sites, roads, railroads, pipelines, borrow areas, fuel production or preparation facilities, parking areas, shops, offices, housing facilities, construction camps, storage facilities, etc. Associated facilities may be geographically separated from the area hosting the project/operation (i.e., the site). See also ‘Facility’.

REVISED. Revised to indicate that a mineral processing facility could be an associated facility for a mining operation if not co-located with the mine.

B

Background Water Quality

Established after an operation has commenced, it is the water quality in a similarly mineralized area outside of the operation’s influence (e.g., surface water quality upstream of the mine site or upgradient for groundwater).

REVISED. Changed wording from mining to operation.

Background (Soil Quality)

Established after an operation has commenced, it is the soil quality in an area with similar soil characteristics that is outside of the operation’s influence.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.XX.

Baseline

A description of existing conditions to provide a starting point (e.g., pre-project condition) against which comparisons can be made (e.g., post-impact condition), allowing the change to be quantified.

Source: Adapted from the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme. 2012. Glossary.

Baseline Air Quality

Ambient air quality at the site and in the area surrounding a proposed project, before mining-related activities have occurred.

Source: Adapted from BC Ministry of Environment. 2008. Guidelines for Air Quality Dispersion Modelling in British Columbia.

Baseline (Ambient Noise Levels)

Ambient noise level is the total noise from all sources at a given location and time. For the purposes of this chapter, baseline ambient noise is the background sound pressure level at a given location without the presence of noise sources of interest (in this case, sources of interest would be noise related to a mining and/or mineral processing operation).

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.4.

Baseline Water Quality

The water quality at the site and in the area surrounding a proposed project, before mining-related activities have occurred.

Beneficial Owner

The natural person(s) who ultimately owns or controls a company and/or on whose behalf a company is owned. It includes those people who exercise ultimate effective control over a legal person or arrangement. Reference to “ultimately owns or controls” and “ultimate effective control” refer to situations in which ownership/control is exercised through a chain of ownership or by means of control other than direct control.

Source: Adapted from FATF Guidance: Transparency and Beneficial Ownership. 2014. Chapter III.

Best Available Techniques (BAT)

Techniques that can most effectively achieve a high level of environmental protection and allow implementation in relevant sectors under economically and technically viable conditions. “Techniques” includes both the technology used and the way in which the installation is designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned; “Available” techniques means those techniques that are accessible to the operator and that are developed on a scale that allows implementation in the relevant industrial sector, under economically and technically viable conditions, taking into consideration the costs and advantages; and “Best” means most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment as a whole.

Source: Adapted from the *Stockholm Convention*. 2009.

Best Available Technology (BAT)

Site-specific combination of technologies and techniques that are economically achievable and that most effectively reduce risks (e.g., physical, geochemical, ecological, social, financial, and reputational) to an acceptable level during all stages of operation and closure, and support an environmentally and economically viable mining operation.

Source: Adapted from Mining Association of Canada. 2017. *A Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities* (3rd Ed).

Best Available/Applicable Practice (BAP)

Encompasses management systems, operational procedures, techniques and methodologies that, through experience and demonstrated application, have proven to reliably manage risk and achieve performance objectives in a technically sound and economically efficient manner. BAP is an operating philosophy that embraces continual improvement and operational excellence, and which is applied consistently throughout the life of a facility, including the post-closure period.

Source: Adapted from Mining Association of Canada. 2017. *A Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities* (3rd Ed).

Best Environmental Practices

The application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies.

Source: *The Stockholm Convention*. 2009.

Best Practice(s)

In the context of the drafting of the IRMA Standard, this has been interpreted to mean that the Standard should consist of a set of auditable requirements that reflects agreement of the multi-stakeholder IRMA process on the most effective way to achieve the agreed social and environmental objectives of each chapter of the IRMA standard, given the current state of knowledge. The IRMA Standard is intended to specify levels of performance such that a mine that is operating according to best practice could reasonably be expected to conform with all the specified requirements of every chapter.

Biodiversity/Biological Diversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Source: *Convention on Biological Diversity*. 1992, Article 2.

Biological Exposure Indices (BEI)

The concentration of chemicals in the body that would correspond to inhalation exposure at a specific concentration in air.

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) website. “Chemical exposure limits.”

Biosphere Reserves

Biosphere reserves are areas comprising terrestrial, marine, and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Biosphere reserves are ‘Science for Sustainability support sites’ – special places for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity. Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Their status is internationally recognized.

Source: UNESCO. <https://www.unesco.org/en/biosphere/wnbr/about>

Breach Analysis

A study that assumes a failure of a critical facility and estimates its impact. Breach analyses must be based on credible failure modes. The results should determine the physical area impacted by a potential failure, flow arrival times, depth and velocities, duration of flooding, and depth of material deposition. The breach analysis is based on scenarios which are not connected to probability of occurrence. It is primarily used to inform emergency preparedness and response planning and the consequence of failure classification. The classification is then used to inform the external loading component of the design criteria.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X, 2.5

Brine

Groundwater, surface water or sea water that contains valuable dissolved minerals at sufficient concentrations to be economically extractable.

NEW. Added to 4.1, 4.2, others.

Broad Community Support (BCS)

A collective expression by the community in support of the mining project. Support may be demonstrated through credible (i.e., transparent, inclusive, informed, democratic) local government processes or other processes/methods agreed to by the community and entity. There may be BCS even if some individuals or groups object to the business activity.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *IFC Sustainability Framework*. p. 7.

REVISED. Changed company to entity.

Brownfield

Land which has previously been developed for industrial use and where disturbance, degradation and/or contamination have not been effectively addressed through rehabilitation or restoration.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.XX.

Business Relationships

Relationships a business enterprise has with business partners, entities in a value chain, and any other non-state or state entity directly linked to its business operations, products, or services. They include indirect business relationships in its value chain, beyond the first tier, and minority as well as majority shareholding positions in joint ventures.

Source: UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2012. *The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide*. p. 5.

C

Carbon Offset

A carbon offset broadly refers to a reduction in GHG emissions – or an increase in carbon storage (e.g., through land restoration or the planting of trees) – that is used to compensate for emissions that occur elsewhere.

Source: <https://www.offsetguide.org/understanding-carbon-offsets/what-is-a-carbon-offset/>

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.5.

Certification Body

Also known as a conformity assessment body, is an entity that performs auditing and conformity assessment services to determine if specified requirements are fulfilled (in this case conformity with the IRMA *Standard for Responsible Mining*).

Source: Adapted from ISO/IEC 17000:2005.

Chance Find Procedure

A chance find procedure is a project-specific procedure that outlines the actions to be taken if previously unknown cultural heritage is encountered.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 8*. Footnote 2.

REVISED. Changed term from ‘Chance Find’ to ‘Chance Find Procedure’.

Child Labor

Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. In most jurisdictions - and for the purposes of the IRMA Standard - child labor meeting this definition is all labor by children under the age of 15, and all labor by children between 15 and 18 years old that does not meet certain conditions (i.e., is not hazardous work - see definition below, does not occur during school hours, does not total more than 10 hours / day between work and school, etc.).

Source: Various, including International Labour Organization (ILO) website: “What is child labour.”; International Labour Organization (ILO). C182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and R190 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999 (No. 190).

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.

Source: Adapted from South Africa Dept. of Env. Affairs and Tourism. *Stakeholder Engagement*.

Company Union

A workers’ organization that is dominated or controlled by an employer.

Competent Authority

The government department or other authority having power to issue and enforce regulations, orders, or other instructions having the force of law in respect of the subject matter of the provision concerned.

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). *Maritime Labour Convention, 2006*.

Competent Professionals

In-house staff or external consultants with relevant education, knowledge, proven experience, and necessary skills and training to carry out the required work. Competent professionals would be expected to follow scientifically robust methodologies that would withstand scrutiny by other professionals. Other equivalent terms used may include: competent person, qualified person, qualified professional.

REVISED. Deleted reference to Chapter 4.1.

Comprehensible

In forms and languages that are easily understood by workers and/or other stakeholders.

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Code of Practice. *Ambient Factors in the Workplace*.

REVISED. This used to be 'Comprehensible Manner'. Changed to make applicable to more situations.

Conceptual Site Model (CSM)

A qualitative description, based on site measurements and observations, of what is known about the release, transport, and fate of contaminants at a site. A CSM includes a schematic or diagram and an accompanying narrative description.

Concurrent Reclamation

Concurrent reclamation, also termed progressive or contemporaneous reclamation, means a reclamation activity that is undertaken concurrent with mining and/or mineral processing activities, prior to the end of the operation's life, that contributes to the final reclamation and closure goals, and the post-closure land use objectives.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6.

Confidential Business Information

Material that contains trade secrets or commercial or financial information that has been claimed as confidential by its source. The information must be secret in the sense that it is not, as a body or in the precise configuration and assembly of its components, generally known among or readily accessible to people within the circles that normally deal with the kind of information in question; it must have commercial value because it is secret; and it must have been subject to reasonable steps under the circumstances, by the person lawfully in control of the information, to keep it secret.

Sources: US EPA Terms and Acronyms Search, and World Intellectual Property Organization: "What is the international legal framework of trade secret protection?"

Conflict Analysis

The systematic study of the profile, issues, and stakeholders that shape an existing or potential conflict, as well as factors in the interaction between the three. It helps companies gain a better understanding of the environment in which they operate and their role in that context.

Source: Adapted from International Alert. 2005. *Conflict-sensitive Business Practice: Guidance for extractive industries*.

Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Area

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.

Source: OECD. 2016. *Due Diligence Guidance on Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*.

Conflict Risk

The assessed potential consequences of any conflicts that may emerge or be exacerbated because of an entity's presence, activities, or relationships; and the probability that such conflicts will occur. Conflicts may arise within or between communities and/or stakeholder groups, or between the company and communities/stakeholders.

REVISED. Added that risk is based on an assessment of potential consequences and probability of conflicts.

Conservation Outcome

A conservation outcome is the result of a conservation intervention aimed at addressing direct threats to biodiversity or their underlying socio-political, cultural, and/or economic causes. Conservation outcomes are typically in the form of: (a) extinctions avoided (i.e., outcomes that lead to improvements in a species' national or global threat status); (b) sites protected (i.e., outcomes that lead to designation of a site as a formal or informal protection area, or to improvement in the management effectiveness of an existing protected area); and (c) corridors created (i.e., outcomes that lead to the creation of interconnected networks of sites at the landscape scale, capable of maintaining intact biotic assemblages and natural processes, and, thereby, enhancing the long-term viability of natural ecosystems). Conservation outcomes would also include any other intervention that leads to conservation gains.

Source: Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme. 2012. Glossary.

Conservation Values

The ecological, biological, geomorphological, geological, cultural, spiritual, scenic, or amenity values, features, processes, or attributes that are being conserved.

Construction Versus Design Intent Verification

Intended to ensure the design intent is implemented and still being met if the site conditions vary from the design assumptions. The CDIV identifies any discrepancies between the field conditions and the design assumptions, such that the design can be adjusted to account for the actual field conditions.

Source: Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

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.

Source: Adapted from South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. *Stakeholder Engagement*.

Contaminant of Potential Concern (COPC)

Contaminants that may pose a risk to human health or non-human biological receptors (e.g., flora, fauna, fungi).

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.1 and others.

Contamination

The presence of a substance where it should not be or at concentrations above background, but not necessarily high enough to have an adverse impact on ecosystem and/or human health. See also 'Pollution'.

Source: Chapman, P. 2006. "Determining when contamination is pollution," Environ. Int. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2006.09.001>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6, 4.2, 4.XX.

Contractor

An individual, company, or other legal entity that carries out duties related to a project/operation that are subject to a contractual agreement that defines, for example, work, duties or services, pay, hours or timing, duration of agreement, and that remains independent for employment, tax, and other regulatory purposes. This includes subcontractors. It also includes contracted workers hired through third party contractors (e.g., brokers, agents, or intermediaries) who are performing mining-related activities at the project/operation site or associated facilities at any point during the project/operational life cycle (including prior to or during construction phase). See also 'Mining-Related Activities.'

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 2*. Guidance Notes.

REVISED. Added contracted worker as a type of contractor. Changed wording from mining project to project/operation.

Control

An act, object (engineered), or system (combination of act and object) intended to prevent or mitigate an unwanted event.

Source: ICM. 2015. *Health and Safety Critical Control Management: Good Practice Guide*.

Corporate Owner(s)

The corporation(s) or other business institution(s) including any private or state-run enterprises that have complete or partial financial interest in or ownership of a project/operation.

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

Corruption

Any unlawful or improper behavior that seeks to gain a private advantage through illegitimate means. Any kind of bribery is a form of corruption; but corruption also includes abuse of power, extortion, fraud, deception, collusion, cartels, embezzlement, and money laundering.

Source: Adapted from Responsible Jewellery Council 2019. <https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/wp-content/uploads/RJC-COP-2019-V1.2-Standards.pdf>

NEW. Added to Chapter 1.5

CO₂e

A carbon dioxide equivalent or CO₂ equivalent, abbreviated as CO₂e is a metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their global-warming potential (GWP), by converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide with the same GWP.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Carbon_dioxide_equivalent

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.5.

Credible Failure Mode

Refers to technically feasible failure mechanisms given the materials present in a facility's structure and its foundation, the properties of these materials, the configuration of the structure, drainage conditions and surface water control at the facility, throughout its life cycle. Credible failure modes can and do typically vary during the life cycle of a facility as the conditions vary. A facility that is appropriately designed and operated considers all of these credible failure modes and includes sufficient resilience against each. Different failure modes will result in different failure scenarios. Credible catastrophic failure modes do not exist for all facilities. The term 'credible

failure mode' is not associated with a probability of this event occurring and having credible failure modes is not a reflection of facility safety.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Credible Method/Methodology

A method/methodology that is widely recognized, accepted, and used by experts and practitioners in a particular field of study.

NEW. Added to multiple chapters.

Critical Control

An action, object (engineered) or system (combination of action and object) put in place to prevent or reduce the likelihood of an unwanted event, or to minimize or mitigate the negative consequences if an unwanted event occurs, in particular for high-consequence risks.

Sources: Adapted from ICMM. 2015. Health and Safety Critical Control Management: Good Practice Guide, and Mining Association of Canada. 2017. A Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities (3rd Ed).

Critical Cultural Heritage

Consists of: (i) the internationally recognized heritage of communities who use, or have used within living memory the cultural heritage for long-standing cultural purposes, (ii) legally protected cultural heritage areas, including those proposed by host governments for such designation; or (iii) natural areas with cultural and/or spiritual value such as sacred groves, sacred bodies of water and waterways, sacred trees, and sacred rocks.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 7*. Para. 16; and *Performance Standard 8*, Para. 13.

Critical Facility

A facility that has a high, very high or extreme failure consequence classification, or a significant consequence classification that includes potential loss of life. See also 'Non-Critical Facility'.

NEW. Added to 4.X

Critical Habitat

Areas with high biodiversity value, including but not necessarily limited to: (i) habitat of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered species; (ii) habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species; (iii) habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory and/or congregatory species; (iv) highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; and/or (v) areas associated with key evolutionary processes. Other recognized high biodiversity values might also support a critical habitat designation, based on case-by-case evaluation.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 6*, Para. 13 and GN55, GN56, 57.

Cultural Heritage

Refers to (i) tangible moveable or immovable objects, property, sites, structures, or groups of structures, having archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values; (ii) unique natural features or tangible objects that embody cultural values, such as sacred groves, rocks, lakes, and waterfalls; and (iii) certain instances of intangible forms of culture that are proposed to be used for commercial purposes, such as cultural knowledge, innovations, and practices of communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

Source: Adapted from IFC Performance Standard 8.

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.7 and others.

Culturally Appropriate

Refers to methods, formats, languages, and timing (e.g., of communications, interactions, and provision of information) being aligned with the cultural norms, practices, and traditions of affected communities, rights holders, and stakeholders.

NEW. Added to Chapter 1.2 and other chapters.

Cumulative Impacts

Additive, synergistic, interactive or nonlinear outcomes of multiple development or disturbance events that aggregate over time and space. Examples of cumulative impacts (or effects) may include reduction of water flows in a watershed due to multiple withdrawals; increases in sediment loads to a watershed over time; interference with migratory routes or wildlife movement; or more traffic congestion and accidents due to increases in vehicular traffic on community roadways.

Source: Adapted from International Association for Impact Assessment. 2005. *Biodiversity Impact Assessment*. Special Publication Series No. 3, with examples from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 1*, page 4, footnote 16.

Cumulative Impacts (on biodiversity)

Cumulative impacts refer to the incremental impacts of the mining project on biodiversity values, when also considering other current and reasonably foreseeable future stressors affecting a biodiversity value in the landscape. Cumulative impacts can be similar in type (e.g., emissions to air from multiple projects) or distinct (e.g., the cumulative effect of habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and vehicular mortality on wildlife).

Source: Adapted from Gullison et al. 2015. *Good Practices for the Collection of Biodiversity Baseline Data*.

Customary Law (or Traditional Law)

The law and related customs of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and local communities, increasingly recognized by courts, lawmakers, and public administrative bodies. Even where national or subnational legislation is available that aims to protect Indigenous Peoples and local communities, their rights are frequently denied in practice. Recognition of customary traditional law can aid in fair and effective administration of justice that is necessary to foster reconciliation, peace, stability and development among Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Source: UN Economic and Social Council Commission on Human Rights. 2004. Human Rights and Indigenous Issues. pp. 2-3, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G04/105/28/PDF/G0410528.pdf?OpenElement> and World Intellectual Property Assoc. 2016. Customary Law and Traditional Knowledge. <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=3876>

NEW. Added to Chapter 1.X and 2.2.

Customary Rights

Rights that arise from a behavior or act that is repeated over time under the belief that it is obligatory, and due to repetition and acceptance acquire the force of law within a geography or society. Such rights may be based on patterns of long-standing land and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' customary laws, values, customs, and traditions. Such rights apply to the lands, resources, and territories that Indigenous Peoples and local communities have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used. They do not apply to lands, territories, and resources that these groups have acquired in other ways, such as by purchase or part of a compensation package. These rights are a collective human right of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that exists whether or not a title from the State has been issued.

Source: Accountability Framework. <https://accountability-framework.org/the-framework/contents/definitions/>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.2.

D

Design Basis Report

Provides the basis for the design, operation, construction, monitoring and risk management of a critical facility.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Dewatering (of mines)

The extraction of water to lower the water table to a level lower than the deepest point of the mine, thereby keeping the mine dry.

Direct Impacts

Direct impacts are those caused by activities that are undertaken and facilities that are owned and managed by an entity, and occur at the same time and in the same place that the action is occurring. See also 'Indirect Impacts'.

NEW. Separated out the constituent parts of 'Direct/Indirect Impacts'.

Discharge

A permitted release of treated mine-influenced water or compliant water to surface water, groundwater, or the land.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2.

Displacement (Economic and / or Physical)

A process by which the development of a project or operation causes people to lose land or other assets, or access to resources. This may result in physical and / or economic displacement, defined below. See also 'Involuntary Displacement' and 'Voluntary Displacement'.

- *Economic Displacement:* the loss of assets or access to assets that leads to a loss of income sources or other means of livelihood (i.e., 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). Economic displacement results from an action that interrupts or eliminates people's access to jobs or productive assets, whether or not the affected people must move to another location.
- *Physical displacement:* the relocation or loss of shelter (i.e., residential housing) as a result of project- or operation-related land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 5*

REVISED. We are proposing to combine definitions of physical and economic displacement under the broader category of 'displacement' as we more often refer to it in this general sense in the text.

Displacement Remediation Plan

Remediation refers to both the processes of providing remedy for an adverse impact and the substantive outcomes that can counteract, or make good, the adverse impact. Referring to historical land acquisition and displacement, this means a plan designed to remediate (through whatever means are most appropriate in the context) the adverse impacts of displacement caused by historical land acquisition processes. This plan should, to the extent possible, endeavor to achieve the objectives of a Resettlement Action Plan or Livelihoods Restoration Plan (see respective definitions).

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.4. This concept was not part of the 2018 IRMA Mining Standard.

Disposition

The process of selling, donating, or recycling all or part of a facility or equipment once it has been decommissioned.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6.

E

Ecological Processes

Biophysical processes (e.g., hydrologic regimes, local climatic regimes, soil chemistry/nutrient cycling, fires, floods and other natural disturbance regimes, herbivory, predation, ecological corridors, migration routes) necessary for the habitat to persist in a landscape or seascape for the long term.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 6*. Guidance Note.

Ecosystem

A dynamic complex of plant, animal, and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Source: United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Art. 2. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/convention/>

Ecosystem Services

The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.

Source: Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme. 2012. Glossary.

Emergency Scenario

A description of a possible unwanted event or emergency situation that could pose an immediate risk to health, safety, life, property, or environment.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.4, 4.3.

Emergency Situation

Any situation arising from a sudden and unexpected event that poses an immediate risk to health, safety, life, property, or environment and requires immediate corrective action to restore normal operation.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.4, 3.2, 4.3

Endangered Species

A species that is not 'Critically Endangered' but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Source: Adapted from IUCN Red List.

Engineer of Record

The qualified engineer responsible for confirming that a facility is designed, constructed, and decommissioned with appropriate concern for integrity of the facility, and that it aligns with and meets applicable regulations, statutes, guidelines, codes, and standards. The engineer of record may delegate responsibility but not accountability.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Energy Consumption

The total use of energy from fossil fuel and non-fossil fuel sources (including renewables), whether delivered in the form of electricity, steam, heat (combustion), or cooling.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2.

Enhancement (of biodiversity values)

The improvement of the ability of a degraded ecosystem to support biodiversity, through conservation measures such as alteration to the soils, vegetation, and / or hydrology. The term is sometimes used for a type of restoration that enhances the biodiversity present but is not couched in terms of restoring the ecosystem to some prior state.

Source: Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme. 2012. Glossary.

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.

NEW. Added to multiple chapters.

Environmental Flows

The water provided within a river, wetland, or coastal zone to maintain ecosystems and their benefits where there are competing water uses and where flows are regulated.

Source: IUCN. 2003. Flow: the essentials of environmental flows. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/publication/flow-essentials-environmental-flows>

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2.

Equitable

In reference to grievance mechanisms, means seeking to ensure that aggrieved parties have reasonable access to sources of information, advice, and expertise necessary to engage in a grievance process on fair, informed, and respectful terms.

Source: Ruggie, J. 2011. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

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.

NEW. Replaces 'Exploration Activity.'

Expropriation

The legal (according to host country laws) taking of land without the consent of the owner by an expropriating authority (often the host government) for the purposes of using said land for public interest. Definitions of public interest vary by country, but typically mining is considered to be in the public interest.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.4.

F

Facilitation Payment

Sums of money paid to get preferential treatment for something the receiver is otherwise still required to do— for example, paying an official to speed up, or 'facilitate', an authorization process.

Source: Responsible Jewellery Council. 2019. Code of Practices Guidance. <https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/wp-content/uploads/RJC-COP-Guidance-April-2019.pdf>

NEW. Added to 1.5

Facility

Refers to any land, building, installation, structure, equipment, conveyance, or area that alone or together serve a particular purpose. In the IRMA Standard, the term may be associated with a specific type of facility that is self-

described (e.g., tailings facility), but other examples of facilities are open pits, access roads, water dams, waste disposal sites, underground mine workings, beneficiation plants, brine ponds, slag piles, etc. See also 'Associated Facility'.

REVISED. Updated to be more descriptive.

Failure Consequence Classification

A rating or ranking (e.g., low, significant, high, very high, extreme) based on losses, damages or impacts on downstream populations, the environment, the economy, cultural values, property and infrastructure if there were to be a loss of stability or integrity in a facility or its appurtenances that leads to an uncontrolled release of all or part of its contents. Failure consequence classifications are carried out for all credible failure modes.

Source: Adapted from various, including British Columbia Government. 2017. Downstream Consequence of Failure Classification Interpretation Guideline. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/dam-safety/con_class_guidelines_for_owners-2017.pdf and Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Financial Assurance

A financial mechanism or instrument to provide funds for a regulatory authority (or functional equivalent) to hire a third-party to carry out reclamation, decommissioning, monitoring, cleanup or other activities at a specific facility or site if the responsible entity is unable or unwilling to perform required actions. Acceptable mechanisms or instruments for financial assurance are limited to forms of cash (commercial deposits, trusts), irrevocable letters of credit from an established bank, surety bonds and insurance policies from bonded insurers, and trust funds.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6.

Forced Eviction

The permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families, and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. For the purposes of this Standard, there is the potential that forced eviction could occur when efforts at good faith negotiations and arbitration with project-affected people whose lands a project or operation intends to acquire fail, triggering a legal expropriation process which ultimately ends in the state approving the land acquisition and clearing and the removal of the land occupants. See also 'Trafficking in People'.

Source: United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. 1997. *Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement*.

REVISED. Added language concerning when forced eviction could occur.

Forced Labor

Any work or service not voluntarily performed that is exacted or coerced from an individual under threat of force or penalty. This covers any kind of involuntary or compulsory labor, such as indentured labor, bonded labor or similar labor-contracting arrangements required to pay off a debt, or slavery or slavery-like practices. It also includes requirements of excessive monetary deposits, excessive limitations on freedom of movement, excessive notice periods, substantial or inappropriate fines, and loss or delay of wages that prevent workers from voluntarily ending employment within their legal rights.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 2*. Guidance Note 2, GN67.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Consent based on: engagement that is free from external manipulation, coercion and intimidation; notification, sufficiently in advance of commencement of any activities, that consent will be sought; full disclosure of information regarding all aspects of a proposed project or activity in a manner that is accessible and understandable to the people whose consent is being sought; acknowledgment that the people whose consent

is being sought can approve or reject a project or activity, and that the entities seeking consent will abide by the decision.

G

Gender

Gender refers to the norms, responsibilities, and social structure enforcing pre-defined roles for women, men, girls, boys, and gender-diverse people. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. Regarding mineral development (i.e., exploration, mining, mineral processing), issues of gender equality often focus on women in particular because they face a heightened risk to adverse effects from mining-related activities, due in large part to patriarchal gender norms and differences in women's access to and control over resources relative to men.

Source: Adapted from World Health Organization, Health Topics: Gender, https://www.who.int/health-topics/gender#tab=tab_1

NEW. Added as part of content in proposed chapter on Gender Equality and Gender Protections.

Gender Diverse

People whose gender identity, including their gender expression, is at odds with the gender norm, including those who do not place themselves in the male/female binary (non-binary) and people who identify with a different sex than the one assigned to them at birth (transgendered).

Source: Adapted from United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, The Struggle of Trans and Gender-Diverse Persons: Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/ie-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity/struggle-trans-and-gender-diverse-persons#:~:text=The%20term%20%22gender%2Ddiverse%22,binary%3B%20the%20more%20specific%20term>

Gender Equality

The equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women, men, and gender-diverse individuals. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same, but that rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on a person's sex at birth. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs, and priorities of women, men, and gender-diverse individuals are taken into consideration. Gender equality is not a women's issue; it is an issue that should concern and fully engage men, women, and gender-diverse individuals. Equality between women, men, and gender-diverse individuals is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

Source: Adapted from UN Women, Gender Mainstreaming Concepts and Definitions, available at <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>.

NEW. Added as part of content in proposed chapter on Gender Equality and Gender Protections.

Gender Mainstreaming

Integration of gender concerns into the design and management of business operations in order to improve business outcomes and identify areas where benefits, risks and impacts may be experienced differently for men, women, and gender-diverse individuals. This may include intersectional gender analysis, intersectional gender impact assessments, and consultation with gender experts.

Gender mainstreaming can better enable the successful development, implementation and ongoing monitoring of gender-responsive strategies and measures designed to address issues of gender equality.

NEW. Added as part of content in proposed chapter on Gender Equality and Gender Protections.

Gender Protections

Addressing and keeping people safe from gender-based discrimination, violence, and harm, e.g., sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Source: Adapted from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Protection, Gender and Inclusion, <https://www.ifrc.org/our-work/inclusion-protection-and-engagement/protection-gender-and-inclusion#:~:text=Protection%20means%20addressing%20violence%20and,excluded%20people%20in%20our%20work>

NEW. Added as part of content in proposed chapter on Gender Equality and Gender Protections.

Greenfield

Land that has not previously been developed for industrial use or land previously developed for industrial use where disturbance, degradation and/or contamination have been effectively addressed through rehabilitation or restoration.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.XX

Grievance

A perceived injustice evoking an individual's or a group's sense of entitlement, which may be based on law, contract, explicit or implicit promises, customary practice, or general notions of fairness of aggrieved communities. For the purposes of the IRMA Standard, the words grievances and complaints will be used interchangeably.

Source: Ruggie, J. 2011. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

REVISED. Added that IRMA Standard uses grievances and complaints interchangeably.

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.

Source: Ruggie, J. 2011. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

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

Ground Vibration

The level of vibration (peak particle velocity) measured in millimetre/second in the ground. The measurement point should be at least the longest dimension of the foundations of a building or structure away from the building or structure, if possible. If this is not possible, the measurement point should be as far from the building or structure as is practical.

Source: Adapted from Victoria (Australia) State Government. *Ground Vibration and Airblast Limits for Blasting in Mines and Quarries*.

Groundwater Remediation

The treatment of polluted groundwater to remove contaminants of concern or convert them to harmless products. Ex-situ groundwater remediation is the most commonly used approach (with the remediated water being replaced underground following treatment), but in-situ treatment may be possible in some cases.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2

H

Habitat

A terrestrial, freshwater, or marine geographical unit or airway that supports assemblages of living organisms and their interactions with the non-living environment. The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Sources: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 6; Convention on Biological Diversity*, Article 2.

Hazard (in relation to the workplace)

A potential source of harm or adverse health effect on something or someone under certain conditions at work.

Source: Canadian Centre for OHS website: “Hazard and Risk.”

Hazard

A potentially dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition. It may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Source: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. <https://www.ifrc.org/document/hazard-definitions>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.5.

Hazardous Material

Chemicals and materials with properties or characteristics that make them a physical, health, or environmental hazard.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.1 and others.

Hazardous Wastes

Wastes with properties or characteristics that make them a physical, health, or environmental hazard.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.1 and others.

Hazardous Work (in relation to child labor)

Work that, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.

Source: ILO. 1999. *Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour*. No. 182. Article 3 (d).

Health Surveillance

Procedures and investigations to assess workers’ health in order to detect and identify an abnormality. The results of surveillance should be used to protect and promote health of the individual, collective health at the workplace, and the health of exposed working population. Health assessment procedures may include, but are not limited to, medical examinations, biological monitoring, radiological examinations, questionnaires, or a review of health records.

Source: ILO. 1997. *Technical and Ethical Guidelines for Workers Health Surveillance*. OSH No. 72.

Heap Leach/Heap Leaching

An industrial mining process to extract precious metals, copper, and other compounds from ore. Typically, mined ore is crushed and heaped on an impermeable leach pad, and chemicals (reagents) are applied that percolate through the ore and absorb specific minerals and metals. The solution is collected and target metals are recovered from the solution.

Hierarchy of Controls

A step-by-step approach to eliminating or reducing workplace hazards that ranks controls from the most effective level of protection to the least effective level of protection as follows: Elimination (physically remove the hazard), Substitution (replace the hazard with something safer), Engineering Controls (use equipment or other means to isolate people from the hazard), Administrative Controls (change the way people work via procedures), Personal Protective Equipment (protect the worker using personal protective equipment).

Source: WorkSafe BC. <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/managing-risk/controlling-risks>

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.1.

Holding Costs

The costs that would be incurred by a regulatory agency immediately after bankruptcy of a company responsible for maintaining a mine site and before reclamation begins. Examples of such costs include continuing water treatment, routine maintenance, and the other operating costs involved with holding a piece of severely disturbed land.

Host Community

With respect to resettlement, any community receiving displaced people.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 5*.

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.

Human Rights Defenders

Any person or group of persons working to promote human rights and contributing to the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals. Defenders can be of any gender, of varying ages, from any part of the world and from all sorts of professional or other backgrounds, i.e., not only found within NGOs and intergovernmental organizations but might also, in some instances, be government officials, civil servants or members of the private sector, and individuals working within their local communities.

Source: Adapted from UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights website: "Who is a defender."

Human Rights Risks

Human rights risks are understood to be a business enterprise's potential adverse human rights impacts. (May also be referred to as potential human rights impacts).

Source: Ruggie, J. 2011. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*. Commentary on Principle 17.

I

Important Biodiversity Values

The particular biodiversity elements or features, such as individual species, assemblages of species, particular ecological processes, etc., that trigger an area's designation as having significant biodiversity value (e.g., designation as critical habitat, a Key Biodiversity Area, a protected area), as well as the ecological context needed to support the maintenance of the trigger elements.

Source: Adapted from IUCN.

In-Kind Compensation

In the context of resettlement, in-kind compensation refers to compensating project-affected people for lost assets with similar or equivalent assets (e.g., offering replacement land for lands acquired by a project / operation, rather than simply paying cash compensation for land value).

In-Kind Payments

Payments made to a government (e.g., royalty) in the form of the actual commodity (oil, gas, or minerals) instead of cash.

Source: Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Glossary.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.4.

Inclusive

In the context of stakeholder engagement, means that engagement includes men, women, gender diverse, the elderly, youth, displaced people, and other potentially vulnerable, marginalized, or disadvantaged people or groups

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 1*.

REVISED. Added the term gender-diverse.

Independent Dam Safety Review

Independent review of the safety of a critical facility covering technical, operational and governance aspects, conducted by an independent technical specialist according to established best practices. It is conducted at intervals based on the failure consequence classification and the complexity of its condition or performance. It is regulatory requirement in many jurisdictions.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Independent Review

Independent, objective, expert commentary, advice, and, potentially, recommendations to assist in identifying, understanding, and managing risks associated with critical facilities.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Independent Review Board (IRB)

A board of at least three members that provides independent technical review of the design, construction, operation, closure and management of critical facilities. The independent reviewers are third-parties who are not, and have not been directly involved with the design or operation of the particular critical facility. The expertise of the ITB members reflects the range of issues relevant to the facility and its context and the complexity of these issues.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Independent Senior Technical Reviewer

A professional who is either an in-house employee or an external party with in-depth knowledge and at least 15 years' experience in the specific area of the review requirements, e.g., tailings design, operations and closure, environmental and social aspects or any other specific topic of concern.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Indigenous Peoples

An official definition of 'Indigenous' has not been adopted by the UN system due to the diversity of the world's Indigenous Peoples. Instead, a modern and inclusive understanding of 'Indigenous' includes peoples who: identify themselves and are recognized and accepted by their community as Indigenous; demonstrate historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies; have strong links to territories and surrounding natural resources; have distinct social, economic ,or political systems; maintain distinct languages, cultures, and beliefs; form non-dominant groups of society; and resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and

systems as distinctive peoples and communities. In some regions, there may be a preference to use other terms such as tribes, first peoples/nations, aboriginals, Adivasi, and Janajati. All such terms fall within this modern understanding of 'Indigenous'.

Source: Adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Fifth Session, "Fact Sheet 1: indigenous peoples and Identity."

REVISED. Removed the term "ethnic groups" as this is broadly applicable to other populations that are not considered Indigenous Peoples and could make it challenging to audit.

Indigenous Peoples Living in Initial Contact

Indigenous Peoples or segments of Indigenous Peoples who maintain intermittent or sporadic contact with the majority non-indigenous population, generally used in reference to peoples or segments of peoples who have initiated a process of contact recently. However, "initial" should not necessarily be understood as a temporal term, but as a reference to the scant extent of contact and interaction with the majority non-indigenous society. Indigenous peoples in initial contact are peoples who were previously in voluntary isolation and who for some reason, voluntary or otherwise, came into contact with members of the surrounding population, and although they maintain a certain level of contact, they are not fully familiar with nor do they share the patterns and codes of social relations of the majority population.

Source: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. "Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Americas: Recommendations for the full respect of their human rights." <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/docs/pdf/Report-Indigenous-Peoples-Voluntary-Isolation.pdf>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.2.

Indigenous Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation

Indigenous Peoples or segments of Indigenous Peoples who do not maintain sustained contacts with the majority non-indigenous population, and who generally reject any type of contact with persons not part of their own people. They may also be peoples or segments of peoples previously contacted and who, after intermittent contact with the non-indigenous societies, have returned to a situation of isolation and break the relations of contact that they may have had with those societies.

Source: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. "Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Americas: Recommendations for the full respect of their human rights." <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/docs/pdf/Report-Indigenous-Peoples-Voluntary-Isolation.pdf>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.2.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

These include traditional rights, which are defined as "Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit." It also encompasses the rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples established by the United Nations Declarations of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Source: Adapted from Forest Stewardship Council.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.2.

Indirect Impacts

Impacts that are caused by a project or operation but occur later in time or are farther removed in distance than a direct impact. See also 'Direct Impacts'.

NEW. Separated out the constituent parts of 'Direct/Indirect Impacts'.

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.

Source: Adapted from South Africa Dept. of Env. Affairs and Tourism. *Stakeholder Engagement*.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Knowledge, innovations and/or practices, including oral expressions of folklore, performing arts, rituals, and festivals that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present, and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Interim Fluid and Site Management

The management of process fluids and associated facilities and management of the site to ensure it remains in a safe and stable condition during unanticipated periods of temporary closure such as a suspension of operations, and for periods of anticipated seasonal closure where there is potential to recommence operations in the future. Also may be referred to as 'care and maintenance'.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6.

International Accounting Standards

Several accounting standards are commonly recognized as an international accounting standard; for example, the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which are set by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

Source: *Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard*. 2013.

Intersectional

Discrimination based on one factor such as gender may intersect with other factors of discrimination such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, age, geographic location, gender identity and sexual orientation, among others.

Source: World Health Organization, Health Topics: Gender, https://www.who.int/health-topics/gender#tab=tab_1.

NEW. Added as part of content in proposed chapter on Gender Equality and Gender Protections.

Involuntary Displacement

Displacement is considered involuntary when affected people or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in physical or economic displacement. This occurs in cases of (i) lawful expropriation or temporary or permanent restrictions on land use (see also 'Forced Eviction') and (ii) negotiated settlements in which the buyer can resort to expropriation or impose legal restrictions on land use if negotiations with the seller fail. See also definition for 'Voluntary Displacement'.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 5*.

REVISED. We are proposing to change this definition from 'Involuntary Resettlement' to 'Involuntary Displacement' in recognition that resettlement - particularly historically - is a process by which displaced households are physically moved to another location, which may or may not have occurred following displacement.

K

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)

Sites that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity, including vital habitat for threatened or geographically restricted plant and animal species in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

Source: IUCN.

L

Lagging Indicators

Measure outcomes and occurrences (e.g., the extent of harm that has occurred in the past). Reactive, tells you whether you have achieved a desired result (or when a desired safety result has failed) and provides historical information about health and safety performance.

Source: Adapted from OECD 2008. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264221741-en>

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.2.

Landscape

A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic, and human interactions in a given area.

Source: IUCN.

Leading Indicators

Measure precursors to harm (e.g., conditions, events or measures that precede an undesirable event, whether it is an accident, near-miss incident, or undesirable safety state), and are associated with proactive activities that identify hazards and assess, eliminate, minimize, and control risk in order to achieve a desired outcome or avoid unwanted outcomes.

Source: Adapted from Grabowski. 2006.

<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=23b29d1d38d57b741e65a371b0854c43d1c40e29>

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.2.

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>

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.6.

Leverage

Leverage is an advantage that gives power to influence. In the context of Chapter 1.3, it refers to the ability to effect change in the wrongful practices of the party that is causing or contributing to an adverse human rights impact.

Source: UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2012. *The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide*.

Lin Peak/Linear Peak

The maximum level of air pressure fluctuation measured in decibels without frequency weighting.

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.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 5*.

Livelihood Restoration Plan

A plan that establishes the entitlements (e.g., compensation, other assistance) of affected people and/or communities who are economically displaced, in order to provide them with adequate opportunity to reestablish their livelihoods.

Living Wage

Remuneration received for a standard work week by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and their family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.

Source: Social Accountability International. 2014. *SA8000 Standard*.

Long-Term Water Treatment

Long-term water treatment is defined as any water treatment that requires active water treatment after mine closure. After mine closure long-term water treatment is assumed to be required until it can be empirically demonstrated that water treatment is no longer needed.

M

Major Modification

A proposed change in an existing operation that could create new risks or change the scale or scope of existing adverse impacts on the health or safety of workers or communities, human rights, the rights or interests of Indigenous Peoples, cultural heritage, livelihoods, or the environment.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.1 and others.

Material Payments

If not defined in a mandatory transparency regime or through an Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) country-specific multi-stakeholder process, material payments are those that exceed US\$100,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies). Payments may occur as a single installment or be the aggregate of a series of related payments that are made in the same fiscal/financial year. Material payments may be monetary or in-kind.

Mercury Emission Control System

Any system that will limit mercury emissions (either designed specifically for mercury, or mercury capture is a co-benefit), including sorbent technologies that can remove mercury from the gas stream during processing, or oxidation technologies that will increase the percentage of particulate-bound mercury removed by particulate scrubbers.

Mercury Waste

Wastes consisting of, containing, or contaminated with mercury (i.e., elemental mercury [Hg(0)] or mercury compounds.

Source: *Basel Convention*. Technical Guidelines.

Metals Leaching

The release of metals by contact with solvents. Leaching may be natural or induced (e.g., related to mining operations). Mining commonly accelerates metal leaching. Metals leaching can also be referred to as “contaminant” leaching.

Mine-Influenced Water (MIW)

Any water whose chemical composition has been affected by mining or mineral processing. Also referred to as mining influenced waters or mine impacted waters. Includes acid rock drainage (ARD), acid mine drainage or acid and metalliferous drainage (AMD), neutral mine drainage, saline drainage, and metallurgical process waters

of potential concern. A key characteristic of most mining impacted waters (also known as mining influenced waters) is that they contain elevated metals that have leached from surrounding solids (e.g., waste rock, tailings, mine surfaces, or mineral surfaces in their pathways). This fact is commonly acknowledged by the phrase “metals leaching” (ML), frequently resulting in acronyms such as ARD/ML.

REVISED. Previously ‘Mining Impacted Waters’. Previously focused on waters influenced by mining wastes. Now includes more examples of mine-influenced waters.

Mineral Development Life Cycle

All of the stages from cradle to grave required to produce a saleable mineral/metal product. Includes exploration, project development, permitting, construction, mining and mineral processing operations, reclamation and closure, and post-closure stages.

NEW. Added to 2.1, others.

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.

NEW. Replaces ‘Mining Project’.

Mining-Related Activities

Any activities carried out during any phase of the mineral development life cycle for the purpose of locating, extracting and/or producing mineral or metal products. Includes physical activities (e.g., land disturbance and clearing, road building, sampling, drilling, airborne surveys, field studies, construction, ore removal, brine extraction, beneficiation, mineral or brine processing, transport of materials and wastes, waste management, monitoring, reclamation, etc.) and non-physical activities (e.g., project or operational planning, permitting, stakeholder engagement, etc.).

REVISED. Added reference to mineral development life cycle, project/operation, brine.

Mitigation (including in relation to human rights impacts)

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

Source: Adapted from UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2012. *The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide*.

Mitigation Hierarchy

The mitigation hierarchy is a set of prioritized steps to alleviate environmental (or social) harm as far as possible through avoidance, minimization, and restoration of adverse impacts. Compensation/offsetting are only considered to address residual impacts after appropriate avoidance, minimization, and restoration measures have been applied. The biodiversity mitigation hierarchy is as follows (but the steps can be applied for any environmental or social impacts, although waste management has its own hierarchy. For waste, see definition of Waste Mitigation Hierarchy):

- i. *Avoidance*: measures taken to avoid creating impacts from the outset, such as careful spatial or temporal placement of elements of infrastructure in order to completely avoid impacts on certain components of biodiversity. This results in a change to a ‘business as usual’ approach.

- ii. *Minimization*: measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided, as far as is practically feasible.
- iii. *Restoration*: measures taken to assist the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Involves altering an area in such a way as to re-establish an ecosystem's composition, structure, and function, usually bringing it back to its original (pre-disturbance) state or to a healthy state close to the original.
- iv. *Offset*: measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse impacts on biodiversity arising from project development after appropriate prevention and mitigation actions have been taken. The goal of biodiversity offsets is no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity on the ground with respect to species composition, habitat structure, ecosystem function, and people's use and cultural values associated with biodiversity.

REVISED. Added reference to waste mitigation hierarchy, which is slightly different.

Mixing Zone

A volume of surface water or groundwater containing the point or area of discharge and within which an opportunity for the mixture of wastes with receiving surface waters or groundwaters has been afforded and where water quality is allowed to exceed otherwise specified standards.

Source: Adapted from US Environmental Protection Agency.

Modified Habitat

Areas that may contain a large proportion of plant and/or animal species of non-native origin and/or where human activity has substantially modified an area's primary ecological functions and species composition (this excludes habitat that has been converted in anticipation of the project). Modified habitats may include areas managed for agriculture, forest plantations, reclaimed coastal zones, and reclaimed wetlands.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 6*.

Multi-Criteria Alternatives Analysis

Generally, a process to identify and objectively and rigorously assess the potential impacts and benefits (including environmental, technical and socio-economic aspects) of different options so that an informed decision regarding a final option can be made. For IRMA purposes, it refers to a process to assess options for locating tailings or other waste facilities, and for selecting the site-specific best available technologies and practices for managing wastes throughout the life cycle. Technologies and practices may need to be reassessed during different stages of the life cycle, for example if there is a proposed expansion that requires additional waste storage and processing.

Sources: Adapted from: Environment Canada, 2016. *Guidelines for the Assessment of Alternatives for Mine Waste Disposal*, Chapter 2; and Mining Association of Canada. 2017. *Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities*.

REVISED. Changed term from 'Alternatives Assessment' to 'Multi-Criteria Alternatives Analysis' to align with the Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management.

N

Natural Habitat

Areas composed of viable assemblages of plant and/or animal species of largely native origin, and/or where human activity has not essentially modified an area's primary ecological functions and species composition.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 6*.

Natural Seep/Spring

A *natural seep* is a moist or wet place where water reaches the earth's surface from an underground aquifer. Seeps are usually not of sufficient volume to be flowing much beyond their above-ground location.

A *natural spring* is a discharge of water formed when the side of a hill, a valley bottom or other excavation intersects a flowing body of groundwater at or below the local water table, below which the subsurface material is saturated with water. A natural spring is differentiated from a seep in that water flows at a greater rate from an aquifer to the earth's surface.

Source: Adapted from USGS and others.

Near-Miss Incident

An unexpected event that disrupts regular work activity and there was the potential for injury, ill health, fatality or damage to property or the environment, but no actual harm occurred. Also known as a 'close calls', 'injury-free event', 'near accident'.

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.2.

No Net Loss and Net Gain (of biodiversity)

Targets for development projects in which the impacts on biodiversity caused by the project are balanced or outweighed by measures taken to first avoid and minimize the impacts, then to undertake on-site rehabilitation and/or restoration, and finally to offset the residual impacts (if appropriate). No net loss, in essence, refers to the point where biodiversity gains from targeted conservation activities match the losses of biodiversity due to the impacts of a specific development project, so that there is no net reduction overall in the type, amount, and condition (or quality) of biodiversity over space and time. A net gain (sometimes referred to as net positive impact) means that biodiversity gains exceed a specific set of losses.

Noise Receptor

A point of reception or (human) receptor may be defined as any point on the premises occupied by people where extraneous noise and/or vibration are received. Examples of receptor locations may include permanent or seasonal residences; hotels/motels; schools and daycares; hospitals and nursing homes; places of worship; and parks and campgrounds, and similar public spaces and commons. For wildlife, receptor locations may include wildlife habitat for sensitive animal species.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2007. *Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines*. Section 1.7. Noise Management.

Non-Critical Facility

A facility that, if a physical stability failure of the facility were to occur, would not lead to the loss of life, and would have only low or significant impacts that could be mitigated within a short period of time (e.g., 1 – 5 years) at a reasonable cost (e.g., <10 Million \$US). See also 'Critical Facility'.

NEW. Added to 4.X

Non-Replicable Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage that (i) is unique or relatively unique for the period it represents, or (ii) unique or relatively unique in linking several periods in the same site.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 8*. Guidance Note.

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.7.

O

Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL)

An upper limit on the acceptable concentration of a hazardous substance in workplace air for a particular material (e.g., gases, vapors and particles). It is typically set by competent national authorities and enforced by legislation to protect occupational safety and health.

Sources: ILO and others.

Offset

An activity undertaken to counterbalance a significant residual impact.

Offset (biodiversity)

As it relates to biodiversity, measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse impacts on biodiversity arising from project development after appropriate prevention and mitigation actions have been taken. The goal of biodiversity offsets is no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity on the ground with respect to species composition, habitat structure, ecosystem function, and people's use and cultural values associated with biodiversity. (See also mitigation hierarchy)

Operation(s)

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.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.1, all others.

P

Peak Particle Velocity

The instantaneous sum of the velocity vectors (measured in millimetres per second) of the ground movement caused by the passage of vibration from blasting.

Physical Displacement

Physical displacement refers to the relocation or loss of shelter (i.e., residential housing) as a result of project-related land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 5*.

Pit Lake

Lake formed in a mine pit when mine dewatering pumpage ceases.

Point of Compliance

For IRMA purposes, is the physical location where water quality must meet IRMA use-based standards (See IRMA Water Quality By End-Use Tables 4.2.a – 4.2.h). The location will vary based on the following scenarios:

Surface water compliance points are located where point source discharges enter surface waters. Points of compliance for non-point-source discharges are located downstream of but as close as practicable to known mine-related nonpoint sources.

Groundwater compliance points are located outside the groundwater capture zone (which extends from the land surface to the depth at which groundwater is not affected by mining activities) or area of hydrologic control for mine facilities or sources but as close as practicable to those sources.

Stormwater compliance locations in industrial stormwater collection impoundments when water is present.

If a mixing zone is used, the point of compliance is at the downstream or downgradient edge of the mixing zone. The edge of the mixing zone is where the diluted plume meets background water quality. In no case shall mine-related contaminants extend beyond the mine boundary, unless a mixing zone authorized by a regulatory agency extends beyond the boundary.

If a mine is providing water to another entity for a designated use, the water must meet IRMA use-based standards, or legal documentation must be received from the entity verifying that they will be responsible for treating water to meet use-based standards.

Pollution

Contamination that results in or can result in adverse biological effects to human or ecosystem health. All pollutants are contaminants, but not all contaminants are pollutants. See also 'Contamination'.

Source: Chapman, P. 2006. "Determining when contamination is pollution," Environ. Int. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2006.09.001>

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6, 4.2, 4.XX.

Potentially Affected Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples who have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired lands, territories, and/or resources that may be affected by mining-related activities.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.2

Post-Closure

The period after reclamation and closure activities have been completed, and long-term management activities (e.g., ongoing monitoring and maintenance, and, if necessary, water management and treatment) are occurring to ensure that a site remains stable and ecological restoration objectives continue to be achieved. This phase continues until final sign-off of site responsibility and relinquishment of post-closure financial assurance can be obtained from the regulator.

REVISED. Changed to be less focused on financial assurance and provide more description of the activities that are taking place.

Potential Human Rights Impact

An adverse impact on human rights that may occur but has not yet done so. (May also be referred to as human rights risk).

Source: Adapted from UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2012. *The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide*.

Practicable

Practicable means giving equal weight to environmental, social, and economic benefits and costs. This is not a technical definition. It is the discussion between the affected parties on the balance between these interrelated costs and benefits that is important.

Predictable

In reference to grievance mechanism, means providing a clear and known procedure with an indicative time frame for each stage, and clarity on the types of process and outcome available and means of monitoring implementation.

Source: Ruggie, J. 2011. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

Preliminary Design

A design performed to a level of detail sufficient to determine the differences between viable designs that adopt different external loading design criteria in terms of required footprints, volumes and drainage requirements.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Priority Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are considered priority under the following circumstances: (i) operations are likely to result in a significant impact on the ecosystem service; the impact will result in a direct adverse impact on affected communities' livelihood, health, safety and/or cultural heritage; and the entity has direct management control or significant influence over the service; or (ii) the operation directly depends on the service for its primary operations; and the operation has direct management control or significant influence over the service.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 6*.

Process Water

Water that is used to process ore using hydrometallurgical extraction techniques. It commonly contains process chemicals.

Source: Lottermoser, B. 2010. *Mine Wastes: Characterization, Treatment and Environmental Impacts*.

Project(s)

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.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.1 and all other chapters.

Protected Area / Protected Area Management Categories (IUCN)

A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. The definition is expanded by six "protected area management categories" (one with a sub-division), summarized below.

Ia *Strict nature reserve*: Strictly protected for biodiversity and also possibly geological/ geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values.

Ib *Wilderness area*: Usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, protected and managed to preserve their natural condition.

II *National park*: Large natural or near-natural areas protecting large-scale ecological processes with characteristic species and ecosystems, which also have environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.

III *Natural monument or feature*: Areas set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, marine cavern, geological feature such as a cave, or a living feature such as an ancient grove.

IV *Habitat/species management area*: Areas to protect particular species or habitats, where management reflects this priority. Many will need regular, active interventions to meet the needs of particular species or habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.

V *Protected landscape or seascape*: Where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

VI *Protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources*: Areas which conserve ecosystems, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. Generally large, mainly in a natural condition, with a proportion under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level non-industrial natural resource use compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims.

Source: Dudley. 2008. Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. IUCN.

Psychosocial Hazard

Hazards that can have an impact on the psychological health or mental or emotional wellbeing of a person.

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.2.

R

Receptor

Any human, plant, animal, or structure which is, or has the potential to be, affected by the release or migration of contaminants.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2 and 4.XX

Reclamation

The process of achieving stability, hydrologic balance and converting disturbed land and/or water resources to a productive post-mining (or post-mineral processing) land use, or establishing the potential for productive use. Components of reclamation may include: removal or isolation of hazardous material and waste, decommissioning and removal of buildings and other structures, removal and disposal of polluted soils, adjustment and stabilization of landforms (e.g., earthwork including backfilling, grading, recontouring, stormwater controls), creation of suitable conditions for the introduction of desired flora and fauna (topsoil placement, revegetation, ecological restoration), and any other planned mitigation (e.g., wetlands construction, water diversion, other).

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6 and others.

Release

An unintentional, unpermitted emission of mine-influenced water to the environment.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2

Remediation/Remedy (including in relation to human rights impacts or grievances)

Remediation and remedy refer to both the processes of providing remedy for an adverse impact and the substantive outcomes that can counteract, or make good, the adverse impact. These outcomes may take a range of forms, such as apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation, and punitive sanctions (whether criminal or administrative, such as fines), as well as the prevention of further harm through, for example, injunctions or guarantees of non-repetition.

REVISED. Added reference to grievances.

Remediation (Groundwater)

See Groundwater Remediation.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.2

Remediation (Soil)

See Soil Remediation.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6, 4.1, 4.XX.

Replacement Cost

In the context of land acquisition, the market value of assets acquired or affected by a project / operation plus transaction costs. In applying this method of valuation, depreciation of structures and assets should not be taken into account. Market value is defined as the value required to allow affected communities and people to replace lost assets with assets of similar value.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 2*.

Replicable Cultural Heritage

Tangible forms of cultural heritage that can themselves be moved to another location or that can be replaced by a similar structure or natural features to which the cultural values can be transferred by appropriate measures. Archeological or historical sites may be considered replicable where the particular eras and cultural values they represent are well represented by other sites and/or structures.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 8*. Guidance Note.

Resettlement

Resettlement is the "comprehensive process of planning for and implementing the relocation of people, households and communities from one place to another for some specific reason, together with all associated activities, including: (a) the provision of compensation for lost assets, resources and inconvenience; and (b) the provision of support for livelihood restoration and enhancement, re-establishment of social networks, and for restoring or improving the social functioning of the community, social activities and essential public services."

Source: Vanclay, F. 2017. "Project-induced displacement and resettlement: from impoverishment risks to an opportunity for development?" *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 35:1, 3.

REVISED. We are proposing to alter this definition which, previously, was more accurately defining the act and experience of *displacement* (voluntary or involuntary transfer of land / assets to a purchaser resulting in a need for reestablishment of these assets elsewhere, if relevant [see definition above]) rather than *resettlement* (which is a potential but not automatic or inherent strategy to mitigate the impacts of displacement). We are proposing this in recognition of the fact that resettlement - particularly historically - is a process of planning through which displaced households are physically moved to another location which may or may not have occurred following displacement.

Resettlement Action Plan

A plan designed to mitigate the adverse impacts of displacement by providing for the relocation of people. These plans typically involved: identifying livelihood restoration opportunities; developing a resettlement budget and schedule; and establishing the entitlements of all categories of affected people (including host communities). Such a plan is required when resettlement involves physical displacement of people.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 5*, paragraph 19.

REVISED. We are proposing to add some details concerning what is typically included in a RAP to better align with relevant requirements within the Standard.

Residual Impacts

Impacts that remain after on-site mitigation measures (avoidance, minimization, restoration) have been applied.

Restoration

Measures taken to assist the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Involves efforts to re-establish an ecosystem's composition, structure and function, intended to bring it back to its original (pre-disturbance) state or to a healthy state close to the original.

Responsible Critical Facility Engineer (RCFE)

An engineer appointed by the entity to be responsible for the critical facility. The RCFE must be available at all times during construction, operations and closure. The RCFE has clearly defined, delegated responsibility for management of the critical facility and has appropriate qualifications and experience compatible with the level of complexity of the critical facility. The RCFE is responsible for the scope of work and budget requirements for the critical facility, including risk management. The RCFE may delegate specific tasks and responsibilities for aspects of critical facility management to qualified personnel but not accountability.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Restoration

Measures taken to assist the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed. Involves efforts to re-establish an ecosystem's composition, structure and function, intended to bring it back to its original (pre-disturbance) state or to a healthy state close to the original.

Retrenchment

The elimination of a number of work positions or the dismissal or layoff of a number of workers by an employer, generally by reason of plant closing or for cost savings. Retrenchment does not cover isolated cases of termination of employment for cause or voluntary departure. Retrenchment is often a consequence of adverse economic circumstances or as a result of a reorganization or restructuring.

Source: IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 2*, Guidance Note GN 48.

Revegetation

Revegetation is the task of reseeding or replanting forbs, grasses, legumes, and other plants (sometimes including shrubs and trees) so as to provide cover to decrease erosion, provide for soil stability, and provide forage for wildlife or livestock or to otherwise return the site to a useable state.

Rights Holder

Rights holders are individuals or social groups that have particular entitlements in relation to specific duty bearers (e.g., state or non-state actors that have a particular obligation or responsibility to respect, promote and realize human rights, and abstain from human rights violations). In general terms, all human beings are rights-holders under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular contexts, there are often specific social groups whose human rights are not fully realized, respected, or protected.

Source: Adapted from UNICEF. *Gender Equality, UN Coherence & You*. Glossary.

Risk Control

An action, object (engineered), or system (combination of action and object) put in place to prevent or reduce the likelihood of an unwanted event, or to minimize or mitigate the negative consequences if an unwanted event occurs.

Source: See Critical Control definition.

Root Cause Analysis

Root cause analysis seeks to identify the primary cause of a problem that allowed a NC to occur. By identifying the root cause, a NC can be effectively addressed and recurrence can be avoided.

Source: Adapted from Aluminum Stewardship Initiative Glossary. <https://aluminium-stewardship.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ASI-Glossary-V1-May2022.pdf>

NEW. Added to Chapter 1.5, 3.2, others.

S

Safety Data Sheet

A document giving information on the properties of hazardous chemicals and how they affect health and safety in the workplace.

Source: RJC. <https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/wp-content/uploads/RJC-COP-2019-V1.2-Standards.pdf>

NEW. Added to Chapters 3.2 and 4.1.

Salient Human Rights

Those human rights that are at risk of the most severe adverse impacts through an entity's activities or business relationships. They therefore vary from company to company.

Source: UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework website. Glossary.

Scope 1

Direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the site, for example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, etc.; emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment.

Source: Slightly adapted text derived from GHG Protocol

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.5.

Scope 2

GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the site. Purchased electricity is defined as electricity that is purchased or otherwise brought into the organizational boundary of the site. Scope 2 emissions physically occur at the facility where electricity is generated.

Source: Slightly adapted text derived from GHG Protocol

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.5.

Scope 3

All other indirect emissions. Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of the site, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the site. Some examples of Scope 3 activities are extraction and production of purchased materials; transportation of purchased fuels; and use of sold products and services.

Source: Slightly adapted text derived from GHG Protocol

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.5.

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.

NEW. Added to multiple chapters.

Secondary Containment

Requires that areas be designed with appropriate containment and/or diversionary structures to prevent a discharge in quantities that may be harmful.

Serious Human Rights Abuses

Includes: i) any forms of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; ii) any forms of forced or compulsory labor, which means work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of penalty and for which said person has not offered himself voluntarily; iii) the worst forms of child labor (as per ILO Convention 182); iv) other gross human rights violations and abuses such as widespread sexual violence; v) war crimes or other serious violations of international humanitarian law, crimes against humanity, or genocide.

Source: OECD. 2016. *Due Diligence Guidance on Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*.

Site

An area that is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the entity and where mining-related activities are proposed or are taking place.

NEW. Added to multiple chapters.

Soil Remediation

The treatment of polluted soils to remove contaminants or convert them to harmless products using physical, chemical and biological processes. Ex-situ and in-situ remediation of soils are both commonly applied methods. Soil remediation may also include removal and deposition in repository.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.6, 4.XX.

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.

Source: Adapted from IFC. 2007. *Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets*.

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

Stormwater

Industrial stormwater (also known as contact water) is runoff of rainfall, snow, or snowmelt that has contacted mined or mineral processing materials (e.g., waste rock, tailings, mine openings, mine processing facilities, and associated mining roads). Non-industrial stormwater (also known as non-contact water) is runoff of rainfall, snow, or snowmelt from land and impervious surface areas that do not contain mined or mineral processing materials.

REVISED. Now also references mineral processing.

Subsidence

Subsidence is a sinking of the ground surface that results in a fracture of the surface which could change surface water hydrology, or pose a threat to human health or property.

Suppliers

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

T

Tailings

The waste stream resulting from milling and mineral concentration processes that are applied to ground ore (i.e., washing, concentration, and/or treatment). Tailings are typically sand to clay-sized materials that are considered too low in mineral values to be treated further. They are usually discharged in slurry form to a final storage area commonly referred to as a tailings storage facility (TSF) or tailings management facility (TMF).

Source: Global Acid Rock Drainage Guide and others.

Tangible Cultural Heritage

A unique and often non-renewable resource that possesses cultural, scientific, spiritual, or religious value, and are considered worthy of preservation for the future. Includes moveable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, natural features, or landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural value.

Temporary Transitional Resettlement

Temporary transitional resettlement occurs when entities permanently acquire lands and clear people from those lands before providing them with replacement lands and/or residential structures, thus requiring them to move to a transitional temporary location until their permanent location and/or assets are ready.

NEW. Added to Chapter 2.4.

Tentative List for World Heritage Site Inscription

The list of sites that relevant state parties are formally considering for nomination as a World Heritage Site in the next five to ten years.

Threatened (and Endangered) Species

Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered, and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for IRMA purposes according to official national classifications (which have legal significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures).

Source: Adapted from IUCN. 2001. *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1*.

Traditional Knowledge

A cumulative body of knowledge, innovations, practices, and representations maintained and developed by peoples with extended histories of interaction with the natural environment.

Trafficking in People

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person by means of the threat or use of force or other means of coercion, or by abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or by the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking practices. See also 'Forced Labor'.

Source: *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols*. Article 3(a).

Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP)

A tool to manage risk controls, including critical controls. TARPs provide pre-defined trigger levels for performance criteria that are based on the risk controls and critical controls of the critical facility. The trigger levels are developed based on the performance objectives and risk management plan for the critical facility. TARPs describe actions to be taken if trigger levels are exceeded (performance is outside the normal range), to prevent a loss of control. A range of actions is predefined, based on the magnitude of the exceedance of the trigger level.

Source: Adapted from Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management. https://globaltailingsreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/global-industry-standard_EN.pdf

NEW. Added to 4.X

Trigger Level

A concentration between baseline or background values and IRMA water quality criteria or other applicable compliance limits that can warn of mining- or mineral-processing-related effects to water quality and trigger adaptive management or corrective actions to improve water or soil quality.

REVISED. Now also references soil quality and mineral processing.

U

Unwanted Event

A situation or condition where there may be or is a loss of control of a hazard that leads to harm.

Source: Adapted from the Government of Western Australia, [Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety](https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/What-is-a-hazard-and-what-is-4721.aspx). <https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/What-is-a-hazard-and-what-is-4721.aspx>

NEW. Added to Chapter 3.2 and others.

V

Voluntary Displacement:

Displacement that occurs as a result of voluntary land transactions (i.e., market transactions in which the seller is not obliged to sell, and the buyer cannot resort to expropriation or other compulsory procedures sanctioned by the legal system of the host country if negotiations fail) that lead to the relocation of willing sellers.

NEW. We are proposing this definition to complement a new requirement in the Standard (2.4.7.8) dealing with voluntary land transactions and displacement.

Vulnerable Group

A group whose resource endowment is inadequate to provide sufficient income from any available source, or that has some specific characteristics that make it more susceptible to health impacts or lack of economic opportunities due to social biases or cultural norms (e.g., may include households headed by women or children, people with disabilities, the extremely poor, the elderly, at-risk children and youth, ex-combatants, internally displaced people and returning refugees, HIV/AIDS-affected individuals and households, religious and ethnic minorities, migrant workers, and groups that suffer social and economic discrimination, including Indigenous Peoples, minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ+) and gender-diverse individuals, and in some societies, women).

Sources: Adapted from IFC. 2002. Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan, FAO, and World Bank: "Vulnerable Groups."

REVISED. Proposing to add reference to LGBTQ+ and gender-diverse individuals in the list of examples.

CONSULTATION QUESTION 1.X-2 (From proposed Chapter 1.X on Gender Equality and Protection): References to women and gender-diverse individuals as potentially "vulnerable" or as "vulnerable groups" may sound disempowering and/or otherwise not aligned with the objectives of this chapter to advance gender equality. Are there other widely recognized terms or phrases we could use that recognize the potential susceptibility of women and gender-diverse individuals to adverse impacts such as health impacts or lack of economic opportunities due to social biases or cultural norms?

W

Waste Mitigation Hierarchy

A ranking of waste management options according to what is best for the environment. The priority order is to prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling (including composting), recovery (e.g., of energy from waste) and disposal, with prevention being the most preferred option and the disposal at the landfill being the least preferred option.

NEW. Added to Chapter 4.1.

Waste Rock

Barren or mineralized rock that has been mined but is of insufficient value to warrant treatment and, therefore, is removed ahead of the metallurgical processes and disposed of on site. The term is usually used for wastes that are larger than sand-sized material and can be up to large boulders in size; also referred to as waste rock dump or rock pile.

Water Balance

An accounting of the inflow to, outflow from, transfers and storage changes of water over a fixed period.

Source: Adapted from *Global Acid Rock Drainage Guide* Glossary.

Water Quality Criteria

Numerical concentrations or a narrative statement recommended to support and maintain a designated water use. Criteria are based on scientific information about the effects of water pollutants on a specific water use.

Source: Adapted from UNEP. 2015. *Compendium of Water Quality Regulatory Frameworks: Which Water for Which Use?*

Water Quantity

For IRMA purposes, water quantity refers generally to the amount of water present or passing a certain location in water bodies that exist on the earth's surface, such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, etc., (i.e., referred to as surface waters) and water present in water bodies that exist underground (i.e., groundwaters). It also includes the amount of water that originates underground but expresses itself at the surface (e.g., natural springs or seeps). Water quantity measurements may be expressed as volumes, however, for IRMA's purposes measurements for rivers, streams and natural springs/seeps maybe expressed as a flow (in ft³/sec or m³/sec),

while measurements for lakes and groundwater may be expressed as a level or elevation (e.g., feet or meters above a reference point such as sea level).

Whistleblower

A person who raises concerns regarding the unlawful or unethical activity or behavior of a person or organization.

NEW. Added to Chapter 1.5, 3.1 and others.

Whole Effluent Toxicity

The aggregate toxic effect to aquatic organisms from all pollutants contained in an effluent.

World Heritage Site

A site/property inscribed on the World Heritage List, which has outstanding universal value and meets the conditions of authenticity and integrity. The World Heritage property includes within its borders all of the attributes that are recognized as being of outstanding universal value.

Source: UNESCO.

Worker

All non-management personnel directly employed by the entity.

REVISED. Added that personnel are directly employed by the entity.

Workers' Health and Safety Representative

A worker chosen to facilitate communication with senior management on matters related to occupational health and safety, and to participate in and/or have access to information on health and safety risk assessments, monitoring, inspections and investigations. A representative is selected by other workers, or in unionized facilities may be selected by recognized trade union.

NEW. Added to 3.1 and 3.2.

Workers' Organizations

Typically called trade unions or labor unions, these organizations are voluntary associations of workers organized on a continuing basis for the purpose of maintaining and improving their terms of employment and workplace conditions.

Source: Adapted from *SA8000 Guidance* and IFC. 2012. *Performance Standard 2*.

Workers' Representative

A worker chosen to facilitate communication with senior management on matters related to working conditions or other workers' concerns. A representative is selected by other workers, or in unionized facilities may be selected by a recognized trade union.

Source: Adapted from *SA8000 Guidance*.

REVISED. Removed reference to occupational health and safety, as that is now covered by workers' health and safety representative, and revised second sentence.

TERMS REMOVED FROM PROPOSED UPDATED STANDARD

Alternatives Assessment

Basin/Catchment/Watershed

Avoidance

Certificate Holder
Conceptual Flow Model (CFM)
Contracted Workers
Economic Displacement
Existing Mine
Exploration Activity
Financial Surety
Hyporheic Zone
Legitimate
Mine Waste Facility
Mining Project
New Mine
Operating Company
Operational-Level Grievance Mechanism
Rights-Compatible
Should/Should Not
Significant Changes to Mining-Related Activities
Source of Continuous Learning
Transparent