



Initiative for Responsible
Mining Assurance

EXCERPT FROM THE **IRMA Standard**

for

Responsible Exploration, Extraction,
and Processing of Minerals

→ **2nd DRAFT** ←

for public consultation

Glossary of Terms used in this Standard

IRMA Standard v2.0 DRAFT 2

July 2025

English Version

Disclaimer and Context on this Draft

The 2nd DRAFT Version of the IRMA Standard for Responsible Exploration, Extraction, and Processing of Minerals V2.0 (hereafter referred to as the “2nd DRAFT”) is being released for public consultation, inviting the world to join once again in a conversation around expectations that drive value for greater environmental and social responsibility in mining and mineral processing.

The 2nd DRAFT does not represent content that has yet been formally endorsed by IRMA’s equally-governed multi-stakeholder Board of Directors. IRMA’s Board leaders seek the wisdom and guidance of all readers to inform this through an inclusive revision process one more time, to improve the Standard.

This draft document builds on the 1st DRAFT Version published in October 2023, and invites a global conversation to improve and update the 2018 IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining V1.0. This 2nd DRAFT is intended to provide as final of a look-and-feel as possible, although input from this consultation will result in final edits, and consolidation to reduce overall number of requirements (more on this on page 6), for a version that will be presented to IRMA’s equally-governed multi-stakeholder Board of Directors for adoption and implementation.

This 2nd DRAFT has been prepared and updated by the IRMA Secretariat based on:

- learnings from the implementation of the current IRMA Standard (V1.0)
- experience from the [first mines independently audited](#) (as of July 2025, 24 sites have completed audits or are in the process of being audited)
- evolving expectations for best practices in mining to reduce harm
- comments and recommendations received from stakeholders and Indigenous rights-holders
- the input of subject-specific Expert Working Groups convened by IRMA between 2022 and 2024
- all comments and contributions received during the public-comment period of the 1st DRAFT version (October 2023-March 2024)

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

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

This current 2nd DRAFT is based on content already in practice in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining V1.0 (2018) for mines in production, and its accompanying normative Guidance document and Supplementary Guidance, combined with the content drafted in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mineral Development and Exploration (‘IRMA-Ready’ Standard – Draft v1.0 December 2021) and in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Minerals Processing (Draft v1.0 June 2021), and offers an updated version of the 1st DRAFT Version of the IRMA Standard V2.0 that received over 2,500 unique points of comments between 2023 and 2024.

Please note: The IRMA Standard V2.0 is new in its approach in that it now covers more phases of the mining and mineral supply chain, from exploration and development, through mining, closure, and mineral processing. IRMA also, separately, oversees a [Chain of Custody Standard](#) for tracking materials through the supply chain from mine-to-market end use products.

GLOSSARY

Disclaimer on Language and Corrections

For this public consultation, only an English version is available. This excerpt provides the Glossary of Terms used in this Standard. IRMA reserves the right to publish corrigenda on its web page, and readers of this document should consult the corresponding web page for corrections or clarifications.

This document provides only an excerpt from the IRMA Standard v2.0 DRAFT 2.

[Click here](#) to view the full version.

Glossary of Terms used in this Standard

Direct access to each letter entry

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A

Accessibility (also Web accessibility)

Accessibility ensures that all people—regardless of ability or disability— can interact with the information or services provided. This includes, but is not limited to, appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. To be efficient, these measures require the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility.

Source: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Article 9
<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/article-9-accessibility>

Accident

An event that results in injury, ill health, fatality or harm/damage to people, animals, biodiversity, property or the environment.

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 tailings storage and mine waste storage facilities and for minimizing the social and environmental consequences of a potential 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

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 on human rights that has already occurred or is occurring.

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.

Additional Conservation Measures

Measures which benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services, but which do not directly compensate for losses. This contrasts with 'biodiversity offsets', which specifically aim to compensate for project impacts by generating gains at least equivalent to the biodiversity losses. (Also referred to as 'Additional Conservation Actions').

Adverse Human Rights Impact

When an action removes or reduces the ability of an individual to enjoy their 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.

Affected rights-holders and stakeholders

In the context of this Standard, refer to the rights-holders and stakeholders **affected or potentially affected** by the site and its associated facilities; including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. Their identification and mapping are covered in Chapters 1.2 and 1.3, and are fundamental steps to ensure meaningful engagement and collaborative decision-making with those affected rights-holders and stakeholders, as well as effective protection of their rights, health, and safety.

Affected Indigenous Peoples

Refer to all Indigenous Peoples (individuals and groups, other than those uncontacted or in initial contact) whose rights or interests may be directly or indirectly affected by the ENTITY's mining-related activities. IRMA recognizes that there may be peoples for whom relevant chapters apply who prefer to use other terms such as tribal, aboriginal, First Nations, Adivasi, etc., but who have the right to FPIC according to international and/or in-country laws. For the purposes of interpreting this standard IRMA uses the full inclusive definition presented in the Glossary (see Indigenous Peoples), which is directly adapted from guidance published by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples and from guidance published by the World Bank.

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>

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 of influence encompasses the areas: 1) likely to be affected by the project/operation and facilities, including associated facilities; 2) actually affected by the project/operation and facilities, including associated facilities; and 3) affected by any unplanned but reasonably foreseeable developments induced by a project/operation and/or cumulative impacts from the project/operation. In the context of this Standard, the area of influence is required to be determined in Chapter 2.1 – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management (see requirement 2.1.4.1). If not done as required by Chapter 2.1, entities would be expected to establish the area of influence in order to fully meet any requirement that refers to it.

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

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

Assistive Technology

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.

Source: ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association)

Associated Facility

Any facility owned, managed, and/or used by the ENTITY that would not have been constructed, expanded or acquired but for the project/operation and/or 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 site. See also 'Facility'.

Autonomous Consultation and/or FPIC Protocol

A documentation or codification of Indigenous Peoples' principles and rules for the exercise of collective rights as regards their internal organization and their relationship with the State and other actors. These protocols are developed by the Indigenous Peoples themselves to formalize their engagement rules and procedures in relation to robust FPIC processes ensuring they can give or withhold consent. Other terms, such as regulatory or normative frameworks, policies, templates, guidelines and manifestos, are also used by Indigenous Peoples, or are used interchangeably, to describe such instruments, and some peoples have their terms in their own languages which they deem culturally appropriate. According to UNDRIP (Article 34), Indigenous Peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain autonomous protocols or procedures, "in accordance with international human rights standards."

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).

GLOSSARY

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. In the context of this Standard, 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).

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).

GLOSSARY

Best Environmental Practices (BEP)

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.

Biodiversity Offset

As it relates to biodiversity, measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions applied to areas not impacted by the project designed to compensate for residual adverse impacts on biodiversity arising from project development. Offsets should only be used after or while appropriate avoidance, minimization, and restoration actions have been assessed. 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).

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 tailings storage or mine waste storage 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

GLOSSARY

Brine

Groundwater, surface water or sea water that contains valuable dissolved minerals at sufficient concentrations to be economically extractable. (See also *Evaporate*).

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.

Business Partner

Refers to any individual or organization: with which the ENTITY has a commercial agreement related to the operations, products or services of the ENTITY or to which the ENTITY provides services pursuant to its chain of activities ('direct business partner'); or which is not a direct business partner but which performs business operations related to the operations, products or services of the ENTITY ('indirect business partner'). In the context of this Standard, business partners, but are not limited to: contractors, suppliers, agents, brokers, intermediaries, and subsidiaries or joint-venture partners that may be involved in (and/or have a shared legal or regulatory responsibility for) the management of the project/operation and associated facilities.

Figure G1 below clarifies the terminology used to differentiate the ENTITY and its on-site Contractors from upstream and downstream business partners (including upstream suppliers of input mineral for mineral processing operations).

Figure G1. Schematic representation of the interactions and business relationships between the Entity, on-site Contractors, and upstream and downstream business partners (both direct and indirect)

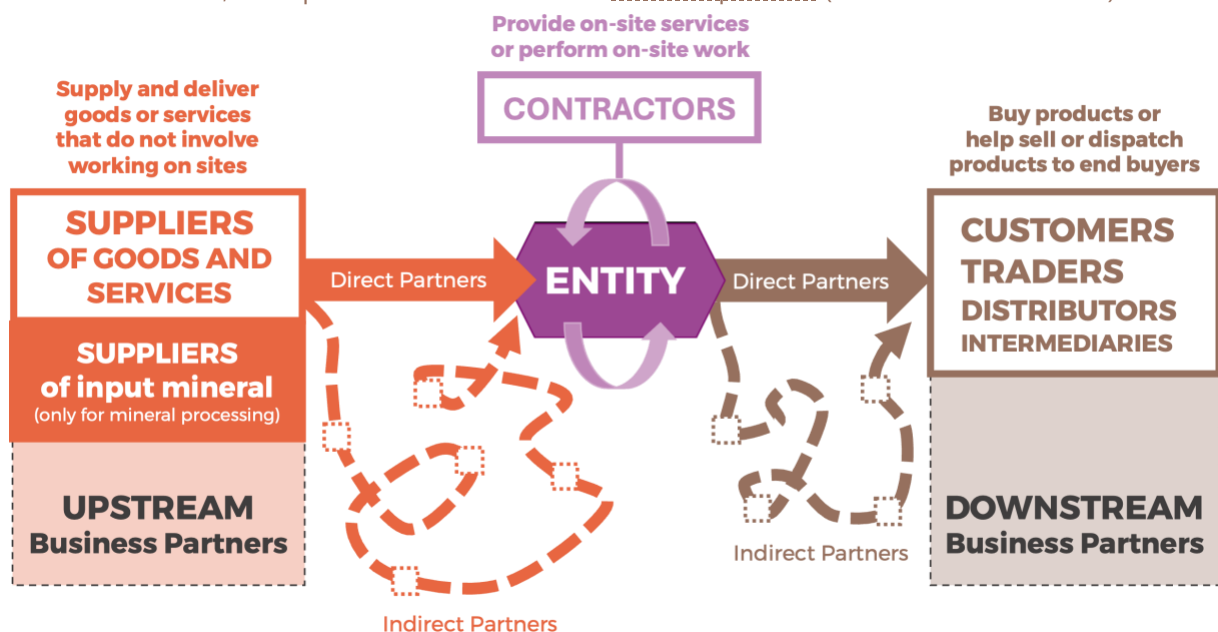
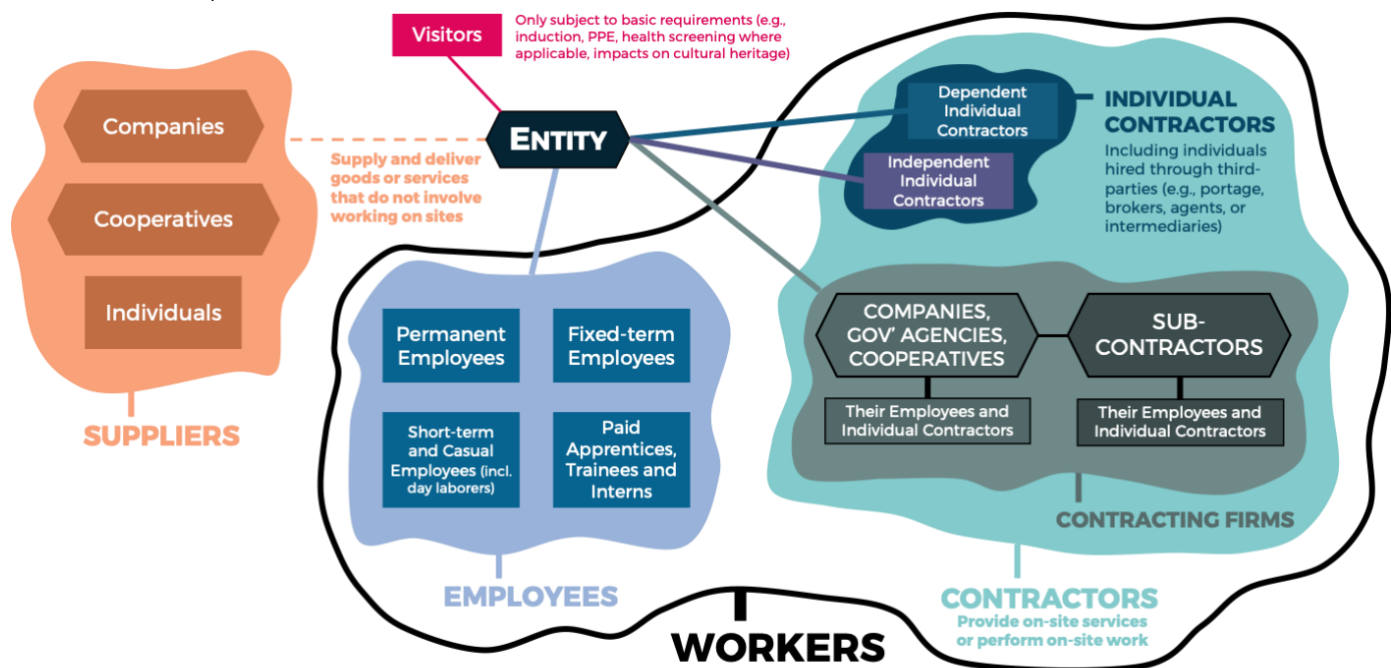


Figure G2 below clarifies the terminology used to differentiate the ENTITY and its employees from Contractors, Suppliers, and Visitors.

GLOSSARY

FIGURE G2. Scope and Terminology related to Employees, Contractors, Suppliers, and Visitors

Source: adapted from ILO ICSE-18-A



<https://ilostat ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/classification-status-at-work/>

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. See *Business Partner*.

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/>

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).

Source: Adapted from ISO/IEC 17000:2005.

Chain of Activities

The ENTITY's chain of activities encompasses: 1) all activities of the ENTITY's upstream business partners, i.e. related to the production of goods or the provision of services by these business partners to the ENTITY, including the design, extraction, sourcing, manufacture, transport, storage and supply of raw materials (including input raw materials for an ENTITY running mineral processing operations), products or parts of products and the development of the product or the service; and 2) all activities of the ENTITY's downstream business partners, i.e. related to the distribution, transport and storage of a product of the ENTITY, where the business partners carry out those activities for the ENTITY or on behalf of the ENTITY.

GLOSSARY

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.

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.

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.

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.

Complaint

See '*Grievance*'.

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.

GLOSSARY

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.

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

This terminology encompasses a wide range of realities and situations. The OECD Guidance includes in its definition of conflict-affected areas: “areas identified by the presence of armed conflict, widespread violence, including violence generated by criminal networks, or other risks of serious and widespread harm to people”. And a definition of high-risk areas: “where there is a high risk of conflict or of widespread or serious abuses of human rights. 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.” The Guidance notes that “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.” And the UNGP Guide points out to “new forms of widespread violence distinct from those associated with traditional armed conflict that have emerged in recent years. This ‘non-conventional armed violence’ is the result of the activities of groups summarized as tribal networks, thugs (organized crime) and terrorists such as organized criminal groups (‘gangs’) and violent extremist organizations, illicit economy-related actors and other actors who may not be driven by clear political or ideological agendas, or be organized by the state.” Further elaborating on the complexity and nuances that conflicts can take, the UNDP Guide notes that “businesses should be aware of early ‘red flags’ pointing towards armed conflict or mass violence which should prompt them to initiate (or update earlier) heightened human rights due diligence processes.” These include:

- Amassing of weapons, especially arms, especially by non-state groups.
- Weak or absent state structures, including the imposition of emergency laws or extraordinary security measures, or the suspension of, or interference with, vital state institutions, particularly if this results in the exclusion of underserved and/or marginalized people or minority groups.
- Records of serious violations of international human rights and/or humanitarian law.
- Increased inflammatory rhetoric or hate speech targeting specific groups or individuals.
- Signs of militia or paramilitary group recruitment, public appearances or other activity.

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- Strengthening of the state security apparatus or mobilization against specific groups.
- Strict control or banning of communication channels; including control of media and distortion of facts, censorship, propaganda, misinformation and lack of access to reliable objective information, lack of objective independent media (TV and radio) and closure of internet or websites.
- Expulsion or banning of non-governmental organizations, international organizations, media, or other relevant actors.
- Groups of individuals at the mercy of an authority they oppose or that perceives them as the enemy, and the members of their families and communities.
- People are not protected from acts of violence perpetrated against them.
- People are unable to meet their basic needs because of a climate of fear and violence.
- Presence of displaced persons including those who are internally displaced.

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

United Nations Development Programme (2022). Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for business in conflict-affected contexts; A Guide.

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.

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) new or additional sites protected or conserved (i.e., outcomes that lead to the designation of a site as a formal or informal protected or conserved area and thereby an improvement in the management effectiveness of an area); and (c) corridors created (i.e., outcomes that lead to the creation of interconnected networks of sites at the landscape scale, which enable the maintenance of intact biotic assemblages and natural processes, and, thereby, enhance the long-term viability of natural ecosystems). Conservation outcomes would also include any other intervention that leads to conservation gains (i.e., improvements in biodiversity or ecosystem services). However, they are not the interventions themselves.

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

Consultation

An exchange of information between a company 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. The ENTITY should take into account the concerns and views expressed by stakeholders in the final decision.

GLOSSARY

Contaminant of Concern (COC)

Contaminants of Concern (COCs) are those contaminants which have been shown through risk assessment, analysis, or equivalent, to be those that are likely to be actually posing risk to human health or non-human biological receptors (e.g., flora, fauna, fungi).

Contaminant of Potential Concern (COPC)

Contaminants that may pose a risk to human health or non-human biological receptors (e.g., flora, fauna, fungi). COPCs are usually identified using the results of laboratory short-term and long-term (kinetic) leach tests or results of chemical analysis of extracted brines and liquid wastes. In the context of this Standard, If laboratory leachate, brine or liquid waste concentrations exceed numeric IRMA Water Quality Criteria ([See Annex 4.3-A](#)), those constituents are identified as COPCs. A risk assessment will be conducted to determine actual final Contaminants of Concern (COCs).

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>

Continuous Feedback

In the context of this Standard, continuous feedback from internal and external sources encompasses all information obtained through regular and ongoing review, communication and engagement activities. In addition to time-bound evaluation measures (such as the ones required on a biannual or annual basis throughout the Standard), continuous feedback is often gathered when relevant information becomes available. A continuous feedback loop helps identify concerns from workers, rights-holders, and stakeholders throughout the project cycle, and enhance their participation in decision-making and overseeing processes.

Source: Adapted from The World Bank.

Contract

In line with the approach taken by the EITI, the term "contract" in Chapter 1.6 means:

- 1) The full text of any contract, concession, production-sharing agreement or other agreement (or equivalent) granted by, or entered into by, the government (or the competent authority) which provides the terms attached to (as relevant) the exploration, development, exploitation, production, and processing of mineral resources by the ENTITY.
- 2) The full text of any annex, addendum or rider which establishes details relevant to these rights, or the execution thereof.
- 3) The full text of any alteration or amendment to the documents described 1) and 2) above.

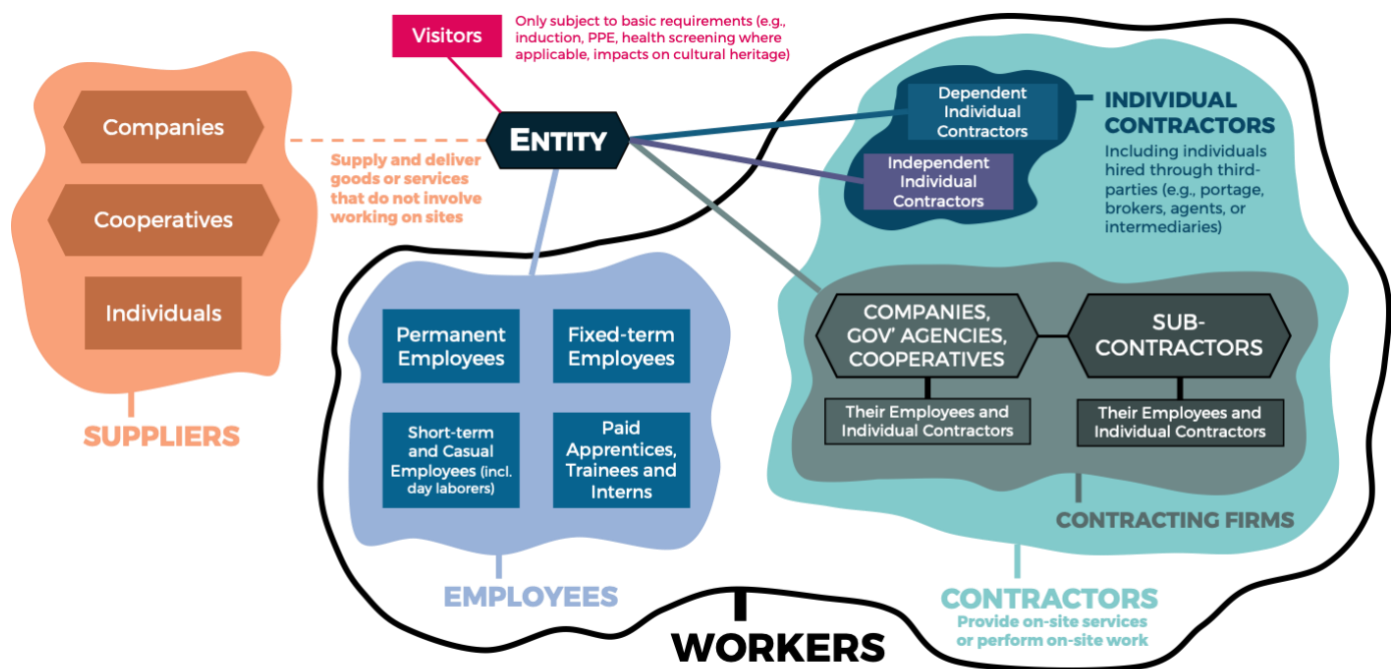
See also definition of licenses.

GLOSSARY

Contractors

Include all individual contractors, and contracting firms, as well as the latter's employees and contractors, regardless of management levels. Individual contractors include both dependent and independent individual contractors (also including those hired through third party contractors e.g., brokers, agents, or intermediaries) that carry out duties, or supply services and/or goods, in a manner that involves working on sites. Dependent individual contractors are individual contractors who maintain an economic reliance on a specific company, although they are not classified as formal employees, and still offer their services to multiple clients. Contracting firms include companies, firms, government agencies, cooperatives, or other legal entities that are subject to a contractual agreement to carry out duties, or supply services and/or goods, in a manner that involves working on sites. See Figure G3 below.

FIGURE G3. Scope and Terminology related to Employees, Contractors, Suppliers, and Visitors



Source: adapted from ILO ICSE-18-A

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/classification-status-at-work/>

Control

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

Source: ICMM. 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.

GLOSSARY

Corruption

In general terms, corruption can be defined as “the abuse of entrusted power for private gain” (Transparency International) or “any unlawful or improper behavior that seeks to gain a private advantage through illegitimate means” (RJC). In the context of the mining and mineral sector, corruption covers a range of different types of actions including bribery, abuse of power, extortion, fraud, deception, collusion, cartels, embezzlement, money laundering, nepotism, cronyism, influence peddling and self-dealing. Corruption can include legal and illegal actions. Some forms of corruption are not necessarily prohibited by a country’s laws, particularly since the beneficiaries of corruption may play a role in setting those laws.

Source: Adapted from Natural Resource Governance Institute, Diagnosing Corruption in the Extractive Sector: A Tool for Research and Action (2nd Edition, 2023, <https://anticorruptiontool.resourcegovernance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Diagnosing-Corruption-in-the-Extractive-Sector-A-Tool-for-Research-and-Action.pdf>); and Responsible Jewellery Council, Code of Practices (2019, <https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/wp-content/uploads/RJC-COP-2019-V1.2-Standards.pdf>)

Country of Operation’s 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 the project or operation is located. Country of operation’s 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 or operation is located. The primacy of country of operation’s laws, such as federal versus provincial, is determined by the laws of the country.

CO₂e (or CO₂-e or CO₂-equivalent)

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

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 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

Credible Method/Methodology

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

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).

GLOSSARY

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 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, artefacts, works of monumental sculpture and painting, artworks, inscriptions, cave dwellings, landscapes, gardens and urban spaces, buildings, architectural works, monuments and historic places having archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values that are considered worthy of preservation for the future from the point of view of history, art or science; (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 practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, innovations – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – and practices of communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

Source: Adapted from IFC Performance Standard 8 (IFC, 2012), EBRD Performance Requirement 8 (2019), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2003), and the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972).

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 the target audience/group (i.e. affected communities, rights-holders, and/or stakeholders). This includes paying particular attention to sensitive cultural issues and avoiding the use of images, terms or concepts that may be perceived as offensive. In the context of this Standard, requirements to engage and/or share information with stakeholders and rights-holders in a culturally appropriate manner is aimed at ensuring their understanding of the issues, risk, and impacts addressed.

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.

GLOSSARY

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>

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 those customary rights-holders' customary laws, values, customs, and traditions. Such rights apply to the lands, resources, and territories that those customary rights-holders 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. In the case of Indigenous Peoples, these rights are one of their collective human rights, that exists whether or not a title from the State has been issued.

Source: Accountability Framework Initiative, 2024. <https://accountability-framework.org/the-framework/contents/definitions/>

D

Defenders

See *Human Rights, Land, Environmental, and Labor Rights Defenders*.

Deforestation

Loss of natural forest as a result of: (1) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; (2) conversion to a tree plantation; or (3) severe and sustained degradation.

- This definition pertains to no-deforestation supply chains that generally focus on preventing the conversion of natural forests.
- Severe and sustained degradation (scenario iii in the definition) constitutes deforestation even if the land is not subsequently used for a non-forest land use.
- Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal.

Source: The Accountability Framework Initiative, 2024. <https://accountability-framework.org/use-the-accountability-framework/definitions>

Design Basis Report

Provides the basis for the design, operation, construction, monitoring and risk management of a tailings storage or mine waste storage facility.

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

GLOSSARY

Dewatering (of mines)

Pumping of groundwater inside or outside mine facilities to allow for underground or open pit mining or to create or maintain hydrologic control of mine influenced water. The extraction of water to lower the water table to a level lower than the deepest point of the mine keeps 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'.

Disabled/Disability

Disabilities may be hidden and/or visible. Common challenges are mobility, vision, autism, hearing, chronic pain or illness, developmental, intellectual, speech. The focus should be on understanding the reason for a challenge, e.g. spina bifida requires use of wheelchair.

Discharge

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

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.

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).

Disposition

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

GLOSSARY

Diversion

Diversion is the act of causing the instream flow of water to be rerouted temporarily or permanently from its natural channel. Water may be diverted into or away from a waterway. A diversion may be permanently (e.g., inter-basin transfer scheme) or temporary (e.g., interim realignment a waterway during road construction, with the original routing then re-instated). Water can be diverted via various means, including dams, weirs, culverts, canals, berms or pipes, amongst others). Diversion can considerably change flow, water levels and water quality. Any of these activities can adversely affect the natural characteristics of a waterway, the associated species and ecosystems, related ecological processes, and the delivery of ecosystem services.

Sources: NWA, 2023; NIWA, 2024.

Document Accessibility

Refers to the practice of designing documents in a way that allows persons with disabilities to read, understand, and interact with the content effectively. Key aspects to be considered include text, structure, color and contrast, images and multimedia, and tables. An accessible document is designed to be easily readable by all users, including low-vision or non-sighted readers, who may navigate through a document using screen reader software. Documents of various file formats can be proactively developed to make content accessible to assistive technology by applying a set of common principles.

Source: University of Pittsburgh, University Center for Teaching and Learning.

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.

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

The EBSAs are special areas in the ocean that serve important purposes, in one way or another, to support the healthy functioning of oceans and the many services that it provides.

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 Health

A value judgement of the overall condition of an ecosystem. Indices that can be used to assess ecosystem health for aquatic, estuarine, marine and terrestrial ecosystems include remaining ecosystem extent in relation to its historical distribution, habitat condition, degree of naturalness or degradation, extent of habitat modification, habitat integrity and fragmentation, diversity and abundance of indicator species, species assemblages, number or proportion of threatened species, distribution and prevalence of invasive species, change in stocks, change in flows, deviation from natural flow, flow connectivity, functionality of ecological processes, ecosystem ability to deliver goods and services, and water quality, amongst others

Sources: DWA, 2001 ; USEPA, 2024 ; Vollmer et al, 2018 ; Wu et al, 2015 ; Souter et al, 2015 ; Carlisle et al, 2008.

GLOSSARY

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.

Effluent

Mine- or project-influenced water that has been treated to remove contaminants before being released to the environment.

Emergence of Infectious Disease

See 'Emerging Infectious Disease'.

Emergency Response Simulation

In the context of this Standard, a hands-on experience where participants perform procedures (i.e., act out their roles and responses) in a simulated environment to mimic a real-life emergency situation, thus building capacity of exposed stakeholders/populations while enabling an assessment of technical skills and decision-making under pressure.

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.

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.

Emerging Infectious Disease

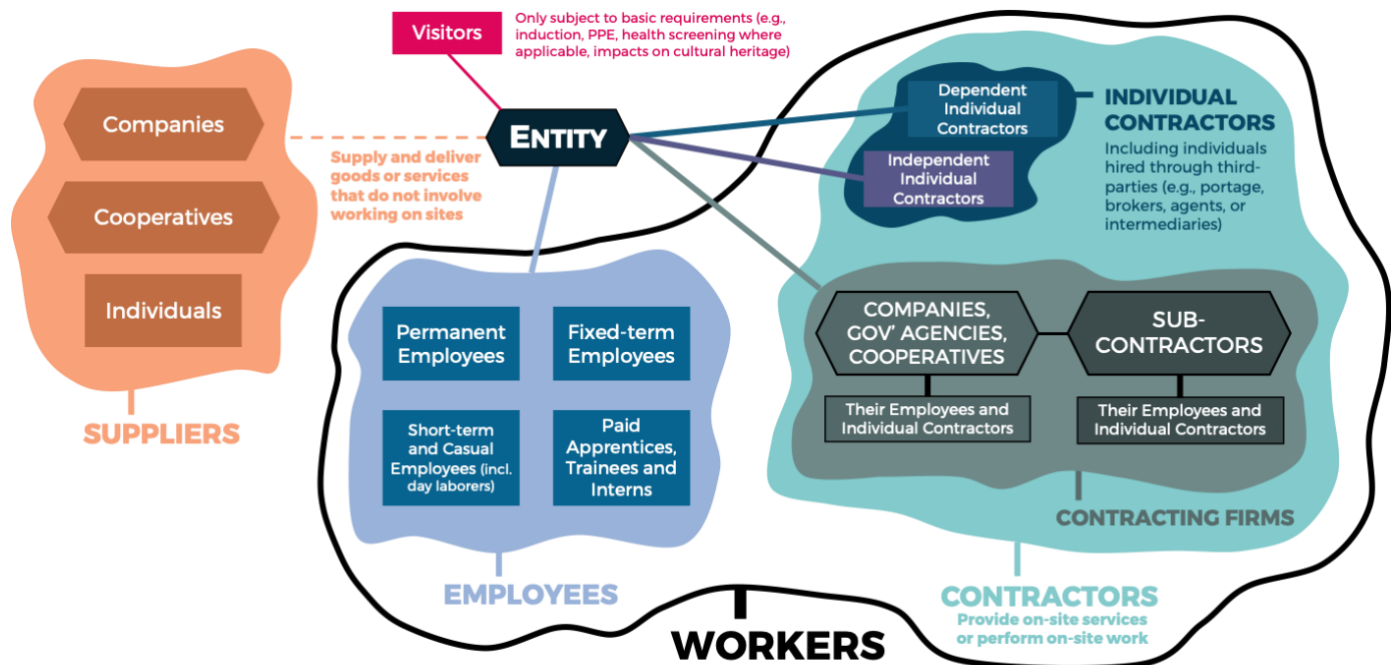
An infectious disease whose incidence has increased recently, and could increase in the near future. "The most frequent factor in emergence is human behavior that increases the probability of transfer of viruses from their endogenous animal hosts to man." (Morse SS, Schluenderberg A. "Emerging Viruses: The Evolution of Viruses and Viral Diseases". *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*. 162 (1): 1–7).

GLOSSARY

Employees

All staff (regardless of management levels) employed by the ENTITY. This includes permanent employees, fixed-term employees, short-term and casual employees (including daily workers employed directly by the ENTITY), and paid apprentices, trainees and interns. See Figure G4 below.

FIGURE G4. Scope and Terminology related to Employees, Contractors, Suppliers, and Visitors



Source: adapted from ILO ICSE-18-A

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/classification-status-at-work/>

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

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.

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

The company, corporation, joint-venture partners, partnership, individual/s, or other type of organization/s that is effectively in control of managing an exploration, mining or mineral processing project or operation, and that is responsible for implementing this Standard (and for being independently audited against the Standard, for a third-party IRMA audit).

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>

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.

Evaporate

Solid material produced by evaporative concentration of brine (may be by solar or other evaporation method).

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.

Exploration Stage 1: Office compilation, photo-geologic study, pre-contact and exploration investigations (e.g., review of existing information, previous studies, research, and screening evaluations). The strict assumption in all cases is that there are no on-the-ground or in-the-air activities or activities that presume future exploration, such as contact with affected communities or applying for permits during the desktop stage of exploration.

Exploration Stage 2: Preparatory activities, consultations with affected communities, exploration project specific free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) determination, initial non-invasive site visits. The assumption in all cases is that these activities are conducted prior to other Stage 2 activities including any aerial examinations, geologic examinations, mapping and investigations, geochemical sampling, geophysics-airborne/ground, non-mechanized surface trenching.

Exploration Stage 3: Continued consultations with affected communities, exploration project specific FPIC determination, road construction, mechanized surface trenching, rotary drilling, core drilling, underground work, other surface work (e.g., surface facilities to support underground work), bulk sampling, on-site pilot processing plant. If additional exploration or in-fill drilling is performed during mine development or the operations stages, then the requirements of Stage #3 are applicable to those activities.

Expropriation

The legal (according to country of operation's 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.

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>

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’.

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

Financial Assurance

Financial assurance is the monetary provision (or monetary safeguard)—based on the value calculated from the cost estimates for reclamation, closure and post-closure—required to be made by the Entity to mitigate and manage mining-related reclamation, closure and post-closure liabilities.

Source: Adapted from IGF (2021, “Global Review: Financial assurance governance for the post-mining transition”)

Financial Assurance Instrument

In the context of this Standard, a financial mechanism or instrument to ensure that sufficient funds are available for a regulatory authority (or functional equivalent) to ensure that the required reclamation, decommissioning, monitoring, cleanup or other activities at a specific facility or site are undertaken if the responsible ENTITY is unable or unwilling to perform required actions. In the context of this Standard, 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 (see Chapter 2.7).

First Aid

First aid is the immediate treatment or care given to a person suffering from an injury or illness until more advanced care is provided or the person recovers.

GLOSSARY

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.

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.

Forest

Land spanning more than 0,5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10 %, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. Forest includes natural forests and tree plantations.

Sources: European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council); The Accountability Framework Initiative, 2024 <https://accountability-framework.org/use-the-accountability-framework/definitions/>

Forest degradation

Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:

- a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or
- b) primary forests into planted forests.

Source: European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council)

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

A process and an outcome that is 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 collectively approve or reject a project or activity, and that the entities seeking consent will abide by the decision. The right to FPIC is a fundamental right of Indigenous Peoples (see *Indigenous Peoples*). The First Nations Mining and Energy Council states that, "consent is simple — it is the right to say yes, the right to say no, or the right to say yes with conditions." Consent can be given or withheld at distinct stages of a project, including exploration. See Chapter 2.2 for comprehensive details on IRMA articulates this fundamental right in the context of exploration, mining, and mineral processing projects and operations.

Sources: BC First Nations Mining and Energy Council, 2021. Indigenous Sovereignty: Consent For Mining On Indigenous Lands; Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2016. Free Prior and Informed Consent: An Indigenous Peoples' right and a good practice for local communities.

G

Gender

Gender refers to the norms, responsibilities, and social structures enforcing pre-defined roles for women, men, girls, boys, and LGBTQIA+ persons. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. (see also definition of '*Gender Identity*').

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

Gender Equality

People have equal access to, and are given equal treatment when it comes to, rights, responsibilities, and opportunities, regardless of their gender identities. Gender equality does not mean that female, male, non-binary persons, and all gender identities become the same; only that access to opportunities and life changes is neither dependent on, nor constrained by, their sex assigned to a person at birth or their adherence to prescribed gender norms. Gender equality 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>.

Gender Equity

The process of being fair to all people, regardless of their gender identities. To ensure fairness, strategies and measures must often be available to compensate for historical, cultural, and social disadvantages, as well as privilege, bias and other parameters that prevent women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ persons from otherwise operating on a level playing field, using an intersectional approach. Gender equity leads to gender equality.

Source: Adapted from United Nations Population Fund Frequently Asked Questions About Gender Equality, available at: <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions-about-gender-equality>

Gender Identity

All persons have some form of gender identity. Gender identity refers to each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body and other gender expressions, including dress, speech and mannerisms. The notion that there is a gender norm, from which certain gender identities "vary" or "depart" is based on a series of preconceptions that must be challenged if all humankind is to enjoy human rights. Those misconceptions include: that human nature is to be classified with reference to a male/female binary system on the basis of the sex assigned at birth; that persons fall neatly and exclusively into that system on the same basis; and that it is a legitimate societal objective that, as a result, persons adopt the roles, feelings, forms of expression and behaviors that are considered inherently "masculine" or "feminine." A fundamental part of the system is a nefarious power asymmetry between the male and the female. Concepts of gender identity vary greatly across the world and a wide range of gender identities and gender expressions exist in all regions as a result of long-established cultures and traditions. Some of the terms used include *hijra* (Bangladesh, India and Pakistan), *travesti* (Argentina and Brazil), *waria* (Indonesia), *okule* and *agule* (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda) *muxe* (Mexico), *fa'afafine* (Samoa), *kathoey* (Thailand) and *two-spirit* (Indigenous North Americans). Some of these and other identities transcend Western concepts of gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation and, depending on the language, the terms "sex", "gender", "gender identity" and/or "sexual identity" are not always used or distinguished. Cultures and countries from all over the globe, including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, Nepal, New Zealand and Pakistan — together representing a quarter of the world's population — recognize in law and in cultural traditions genders other than male and female.

Source: United Nations, 2018, Report of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity on 'Legal Recognition of Gender Identity and Depathologization', available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/report-legal-recognition-gender-identity-and-depathologization>

GLOSSARY

Gender Mainstreaming

Integration of a gender equity perspective into the design, management, and monitoring of business operations in order to improve business outcomes and identify areas where benefits, risks and impacts may be experienced differently for men, women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ persons. 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 achieve gender equality.

Gender Protections

Addressing and keeping people safe from gender-based discrimination, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), , e.g., abuse, rape, harassment, exploitation or harmful practices.

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> and UNHCR Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, <https://help.unhcr.org/turkiye/social-economic-and-civil-matters/sexual-and-gender-based-violence/>

Geochemical Test Unit

Geochemical test units are rock types of distinctive lithology, mineralogy, and/or alteration. The units should be as homogeneous as possible, based on information on lithology, mineralogy, alteration, and the availability of minerals to weathering.

Sources: Maest and Kuipers, 2005; GARD Guide, Sections 5.4.2 and 5.4.4 and Figure 5-5; http://www.gardguide.com/index.php?title=Chapter_5b#5.4.4_Introduction_to_Geochemical_Characterization

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.

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.

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.

Ground Vibration

The level of vibration (peak particle velocity) measured in millimeter/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.

GLOSSARY

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.

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>

Hazardous Materials

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

Hazardous Wastes

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

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' (or others') 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, or 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: Adapted from 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.

GLOSSARY

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>

High Conservation Value

As per the IUCN ESMS, areas with high biodiversity value extend to areas identified as High Conservation Value areas (HCV). The HCV approach has been adopted by TNFD, the Accountability Framework Initiative, and by other standards in soft commodities and agricultural products. The analogous six High Conservation Values are:

- HCV 1: Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- HCV 4: Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc...), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- HCV 6: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.

High-Potential Incident

A High-Potential Incident (HPI) is a near-miss incident that could have ended in someone getting seriously hurt or killed, but for some reason that was avoided.

High-Risk Hazard

Hazard that could result in serious injury or illness and would require at least first aid. These high-risk hazards include those that have caused or have a reasonable potential to cause a life-altering or fatal injury or disease. In the context of this Standard, high-risk hazards are identified in collaboration with workers' health and safety representatives and relevant workers in requirement 3.2.4.2 (see sub-requirement b.)

High-Risk Work Area

Work areas where workers are exposed to high-risk hazards (as opposed to low-risk work areas).

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.

Human Right

In the context of this Standard, internationally recognized human rights are understood, at a minimum, as those expressed in the International Bill of Human Rights, the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the International Labour Organization's core/fundamental conventions (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No 98); Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No 29) and its 2014 Protocol; Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No 105); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No 138); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No 100); and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No 111)), the fundamental right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as recognized by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 and the UN General Assembly in 2022, and all United Nations human rights instruments elaborating the rights of persons belonging to particular groups or populations (the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. In most instances, the rights in these instruments relate to the individuals in the groups they address. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples addresses both the human rights of Indigenous individuals and the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples). See also Annexes 1.3 and 1.4-A.

Human Rights, Land, Environmental, and Labor Rights Defenders

Any person or group of people working to promote human rights, land rights, environmental rights, and/or labor rights, and contributing to the effective elimination of all violations of these rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals. Also referred to as "Rights Defenders" or "Defenders", their rights and the protection owed to them by governments and businesses are detailed in a special UN Declaration (the UN "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms"). Defenders can be of any gender, of varying ages, from any part of the world and from all sorts of professional or other backgrounds, e.g., social justice activists, Indigenous rights-holders, community members or leaders, community lawyers, unionists, public-interest journalists, staff members at human rights organizations, government officials, civil servants or members of the private sector. Land and environmental Defenders in particular are people who take a stand and carry out peaceful action against the unjust, discriminatory, corrupt or damaging exploitation of natural resources or the environment.

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.



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.

GLOSSARY

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.

Inclusive

In the context of stakeholder engagement, means that engagement includes men, women, non-binary people, the elderly, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced people, and other potentially underserved, and /or marginalized people.

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

Independent Dam Safety Review (DSR)

Independent review of the safety of a tailings storage or mine waste storage 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

Independent Review

Independent, objective, expert commentary, advice, and, potentially, recommendations to assist in identifying, understanding, and managing risks associated with tailings storage or mine waste storage facilities.

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

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 tailings storage or mine waste storage facilities. The independent reviewers are third-parties who are not, and have not been directly involved with the design or operation of the particular 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

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

Indigenous Peoples

An official definition of “Indigenous” has not been adopted by the United Nations 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 and/or collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats, ancestral territories, or areas of seasonal use or occupation, as well as to the natural resources in these areas; have distinct customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are distinct or separate from those of the mainstream society or culture; maintain distinct languages, dialects, cultures and beliefs; form non-dominant groups of society; resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities. This may include communities or groups who, during the lifetime of members of the community or group, have lost collective attachment to distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area because of forced severance, conflict, government resettlement programs, dispossession of their land, natural disasters, or incorporation of such territories into an urban area. In some regions, there may be a preference to use other terms such as: Tribes, First Peoples, First Nations, Aboriginals, Ethnic Groups, Adivasi and Janajati. All such terms fall within this modern understanding of “Indigenous.”

Sources: Adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Fifth Session, “Fact Sheet 1: Indigenous Peoples and Identity” and World Bank Guidance for the Borrower on the application of the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) ESS7 (2018)

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.

Indigenous Peoples 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. An Indigenous Peoples or a segment of Indigenous Peoples is considered to be “in initial contact” so long as it remains vulnerable (to disease, loss of territory, etc.) as a result of its situation with regard to contact or so long as it remains at risk of extinction owing to problems generated by mainstream society and the consequences arising at the moment of contact, regardless of how long this situation lasts. Other terms used for Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact include “Recently Contacted Peoples”.

Sources: 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>

UN Human Rights Council. 2009. Draft Guidelines On The Protection Of Indigenous Peoples In Voluntary Isolation And In Initial Contact Of The Amazon Basin And El Chaco. A/HRC/EMRIP/2009/6, 30 June 2009.

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/ExpertMechanism/2nd/docs/A_HRC_EMRIP_2009_6.pdf

Indigenous Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation

See ‘Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples’.

GLOSSARY

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'.

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'.

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

In the context of this Standard, refers to the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to an individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. 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.

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.

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>

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.

Laws, Rules, and Regulations

In the context of this Standard, laws, rules, and regulations, include all applicable requirements, including but not limited to laws, rules regulations, and permit requirements, from any governmental or regulatory body, 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 and the country where the ENTITY (but also all (if any) relevant subsidiaries and joint-venture partners that may be involved in (and/or have a shared legal or regulatory responsibility for) the management of the project/operation and associated facilities) may be registered or listed.

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>

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 (including those 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>

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. "Leverage" over an ENTITY (business, governmental or non-governmental) in this context may reflect one or more factors, such as: (a) Whether there is a degree of direct control by the ENTITY over its partner/counterpart/other party; (b) The terms of contract between them; (c) The proportion of business the ENTITY represents for the other party; (d) The ability of the ENTITY to incentivize the other party to improve human rights performance in terms of future business, reputational advantage, capacity-building assistance, etc.; (e) The benefits of working with the ENTITY to the other party's reputation and the harm to its reputation if that relationship is withdrawn; (f) The ability of the ENTITY to incentivize other enterprises or organizations to improve their own human rights performance, including through business associations and multi-stakeholder initiatives; (g) The ability of the ENTITY to engage local or central government in requiring improved human rights performance by the other party through the implementation of regulations, monitoring, sanctions, etc.

GLOSSARY

Source: United Nations, 2012, The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide (to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights)

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/HR.PUB.12.2_En.pdf

LGBTIQA+ persons

LGBTIQA+ is an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning, asexual, and more (+). These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes people whose gender identity, including their gender expression, is at odds with social construction of binary gender, 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 (transgender, intersex). There is no single LGBTIQA+ community, rather a plurality of identities and experiences. Definitions of each individual term can be found on the website of the United Nations Human Rights Office: <https://www.unfe.org/know-the-facts/definitions/>.

Sources: UN Free & Equal, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Australian Institute of Family Studies, UCSF LGBTQ Resource Center,

License

In line with the approach taken by the EITI, the term “license” in Chapter 1.6 means:

- 1) The full text of any license, lease, title or permit (or equivalent) by which the government (or the competent authority) confers on the ENTITY rights to (as relevant) explore, develop, exploit, produce, and process mineral resources.
- 2) The full text of any annex, addendum or rider which establishes details relevant to these rights, or the execution thereof.
- 3) The full text of any alteration or amendment to the documents described 1) and 2) above.

See also definition of licenses.

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.

GLOSSARY

Lobbying activities

Any activity carried out to influence a government or institution's policies and decisions in favor of a specific cause or outcome. Even when allowed by law, these acts can become distortive if disproportionate levels of influence exist – by companies, associations, organizations and individuals. There is no internationally accepted standard for what constitutes lobbying and who qualifies as a lobbyist. Some interest groups that attempt to influence government policy, legislation and priorities do not consider themselves lobbyists and instead portray their activities as advocacy, public affairs or interest representation

Source: Transparency International

Local

In the context of Chapter 2.4 (Obtaining Community Support and Delivering Benefits), local (as in local content, local supplier, local business-owner, local entrepreneur, local community) refers to the geographical areas within the vicinity of the site and its associated facilities, i.e. the immediate units of administrative/territorial division in and around the site's area of influence. Depending on the jurisdiction, the land footprint of the site and its associated facilities, and the proximity of the closest inhabited areas, this may extend to entire districts, counties, departments, provinces or regions. As identified by the IGF, "some companies distinguish between "local" suppliers, meaning businesses registered in the country, and "local-local" businesses, meaning mining communities. Although the local content regulation does not make express reference to the obligation to procure from specific geographic locations, it is nonetheless good practice for some mining companies to give preference to suppliers originating from their local communities when goods and services are available". According to this terminology, the term "local" used in Chapter 2.4 should be understood as "local-local". Note that the GRI Sector Standard for Mining requires companies to report "the organization's geographical definition of 'local'" (GRI 14.9.6).

Source: Adapted from IGG (2019, "Local Content Policies in the Mining Sector: Scaling up local procurement", available at:

<https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/local-content-policies-mining.pdf>

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.

Low-Risk Work Area

Work areas where workers are not exposed to high-risk hazards (as opposed to high-risk work areas).

M

Major Modification

A proposed change in an existing operation that could create new significant risks or change the scope, magnitude, duration, or probability 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, biodiversity or the environment.

Management Plan

A comprehensive plan that specifies objectives, identified impacts and risks, mitigation/management measures, timelines for implementation, roles and responsibilities, monitoring metrics, and adaptive management measures in response to the results of monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the mitigation/management measures. The plan should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound.

GLOSSARY

Marine Environments

Marine environments include estuaries, coastal marine and nearshore zones, and open-ocean-deep-sea regions (seas or oceans).

Source: European Environment Agency

Mass Wasting

Movement of rock and soil down slope under the influence of gravity. Rock falls, slumps, and debris flows are all examples of mass wasting.

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.

Mine Waste Facility

In the context of this Standard, any facility that contain, store, is constructed of, or come in contact with wastes that are generated or created during/as a result of mining (e.g., waste rock, overburden, rejects material, topsoil, and other stockpiles) and during/as a result of mineral processing (e.g., tailings, sludges and residues, spent heap leach piles, process residue storage ponds). These facilities include, but are not limited to open pits, underground mine workings and subsidence areas, waste rock facilities, tailings storage facilities, heap leach facilities, process water facilities, stormwater facilities, borrow areas for construction and/or reclamation, water treatment facilities, and water supply dams/impoundments; as well as any associated transport/delivery infrastructures such as pipes/pipelines, conveyors, launder channels, ploughs, radial stackers, etc.

GLOSSARY

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.

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, including beneficiation (e.g., flotation and heap leaching).

Mine Waste Facility

In the context of this Standard, any facility that contain, store, is constructed of, or come in contact with wastes that are generated or created during/as a result of mining (e.g., waste rock, overburden, rejects material, topsoil, and other stockpiles) and during/as a result of mineral processing (e.g., tailings, sludges and residues, spent heap leach piles, process residue storage ponds). These facilities include, but are not limited to open pits, underground mine workings and subsidence areas, waste rock facilities, tailings storage facilities, heap leach facilities, process water facilities, stormwater facilities, borrow areas for construction and/or reclamation, water treatment facilities, and water supply dams/impoundments; as well as any associated transport/delivery infrastructures such as pipes/pipelines, conveyors, launder channels, ploughs, radial stackers, etc.

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.

Mining-Related Activities

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

Mitigation (including in relation to human rights impacts)

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

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 as a last resort, 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):

1. 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.
2. Minimization: If avoidance is not possible, measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided, as far as is practically feasible.
3. Restoration: If avoidance and minimization are not possible, 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.
4. Offset: As a last resort, if avoidance and minimization and restoration are not possible, 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 measures 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.

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 legally permitted 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.

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 forest

A forest that is a natural ecosystem. Natural forests possess many or most of the characteristics of a forest native to the given site, including species composition, structure, and ecological function. Natural forests include:

- Primary forests that have not been subject to major human impacts in recent history.
- Regenerated (second-growth) forests that were subject to major impacts in the past (for instance by agriculture, livestock raising, tree plantations, or intensive logging), but where the main causes of impact have ceased or greatly diminished and the ecosystem has attained much of the species composition, structure, and ecological function of prior or other contemporary natural ecosystems.
- Managed natural forests where much of the ecosystem's composition, structure, and ecological function exist in the presence of activities such as:
 1. Harvesting of timber or other forest products, including management to promote high-value species.
 2. Low intensity, small-scale cultivation within the forest, such as less-intensive forms of swidden agriculture in a forest mosaic.
- Forests that have been partially degraded by anthropogenic or natural causes (eg, harvesting, fire, climate change, invasive species, or others) but where the land has not been converted to another use and where degradation does not result in the sustained reduction of tree cover below the thresholds that define a forest or sustained loss of other main elements of ecosystem composition, structure, and ecological function.

Source: The Accountability Framework Initiative, 2024. <https://accountability-framework.org/use-the-accountability-framework/definitions>

Natural Regenerating Forest

Forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration; it includes any of the following:

- a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated;
- b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity;
- c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration; or
- d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species

Source: European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council)

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.

GLOSSARY

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'.

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 (when necessary) so that biodiversity values are returned to or beyond (exceeding) baseline levels. 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 value over space or 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-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.

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.

Operating Mine

A site where mining activities take place, i.e. activities being undertaken for the purpose of extracting 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. Includes extraction of minerals in solid (e.g., rock or ore) and liquid (e.g., brine or solution) forms.

Operating Mineral Processor

A site where mineral processing activities take place, i.e. activities being undertaken for the purpose of processing mineral resources, through separating valuable and non-valuable minerals and converting the former into an intermediate or final form required by downstream users. In the context of this Standard, this includes all forms of physical, chemical, biological, and other processes used in the separation and purification of the minerals.

Operation

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

Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Sites of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are “A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values” (IUCN, 2024). This could include IUCN Green List Sites that are not protected areas, Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs), Private Protected Areas (PPA), Conservancies, Communal Reserves, Flora and Fauna Sanctuaries, Marine Conservation Areas, Areas of Responsible Fishing (ARF), and areas managed under land-use rights in fisheries, amongst other conservation areas.

Source: IUCN

Overtime

Overtime refers to all hours worked in excess of the normal working hours. Acknowledging that definitions used in practice may differ between jurisdictions, in the context of this Standard the threshold used for identification of overtime is made up by the contractual working time.

Source: Adapted from ILO, 2019, ‘Overtime work: A review of literature and initial empirical analysis’.

P

Peak Particle Velocity

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

Pit Lake

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

Points of Compliance

For IRMA purposes, points of compliance are the physical locations where water quality must meet IRMA used-based standards (See IRMA Water Quality By End-Use Tables in Annex 4.3-A). The locations of these points of compliance will be determined based on the following scenarios:

- Surface water points of compliance 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 non-point sources.
- Treated effluent is a point of compliance and should be sampled in the treatment plant or where it is discharged to the environment.
- Groundwater points of compliance 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, including locations: 1) as close as practicable to the sources; and 2) downgradient of those proximal locations and upgradient of receptors.
- Stormwater points of compliance are located in industrial and non-industrial stormwater collection impoundments or conveyances when water is present.
- If a mixing zone is used, as a last resort, 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.
- 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.

Political Contribution

Financial or in-kind support given directly or indirectly to political parties, their elected representatives, or persons seeking political office. More specifically, indirect political contribution is defined as financial or in-kind support to political parties, their representatives, or candidates for office made through an intermediary organization such as a lobbyist or charity, or support given to an organization such as a think tank or trade association linked to or supporting particular political parties or causes. Financial contributions can include donations, loans, sponsorships, retainers, or the purchase of tickets for fundraising events. In-kind contributions can include advertising, use of facilities, design and printing, donation of equipment, or the provision of board membership, employment or consultancy work for elected politicians or candidates for office.

Source: GRI

Politically Exposed Person

A *politically exposed person* (PEP) is an individual who is or has been entrusted with a prominent function by any political administration, a State, a multi-lateral or international body. PEPs include, but are not limited to:

- Heads of state, heads of government, ministers, and deputy or assistant ministers
- Members of Parliament (MPs)
- Members of courts of auditors or of the boards of central banks
- Ambassadors, chargés d'affaires and high-ranking officers in the armed forces
- Members of the administrative, management or supervisory bodies of State-owned enterprises
- Members of supreme courts, constitutional courts or other high-level judicial bodies whose decisions are not generally subject to further appeal, except in exceptional circumstances

PEPs also include:

- The person's family members
- Close business associates
- Beneficial owners of the person's property (see *Beneficial Owner*).

Many PEPs hold positions that can be abused for the purpose of laundering illicit funds or other predicate offences such as corruption or bribery.

Sources: UK Law Society, Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

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>

Post-Closure

The period after reclamation and closure activities have been completed, and long-term management activities (e.g., ongoing monitoring and maintenance of slope stability, water quality and biodiversity restoration etc., adaptive management, 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.

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.

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

Primary Forest

Naturally regenerated forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

Source: European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council)

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.

Private Security Personnel

In the context of this Standard, this term encompasses both the Entity's own security personnel and any private security forces used/contracted in relation to the site, its associated facilities, and transportation routes.

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

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.

Project Development

Baseline environmental data collection, stakeholder engagement related to proposals for mining or mineral processing projects, proposed operations level FPIC determination, project designs, pre-feasibility, and feasibility study.

Project Permitting

Permit application and environmental social impact assessment, permit finalization; both for mining and mineral processing projects.

Project-Level Information

In the context of Chapter 1.7, and as per EITI, a project refers to operational activities that are governed by a single contract, licence, lease, concession or similar legal agreement, and form the basis for payment liabilities with a government (or competent authority). However, in some jurisdictions, projects may encompass a set of operationally- and geographically-integrated contracts, licenses, leases or concessions or related agreements with substantially similar terms that are signed with a government. Where this is the case, disclosures of payments may reflect this aggregation. Alternatively, some jurisdictions may only require that payments be made at the ENTITY level, rather than the project level. In such cases, disclosures may be made at the ENTITY level, with a rationale provided.

Protected and Conserved 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.

Publicly Available

Data and information are publicly available when they are, at least: 1) available online on a webpage or online portal/repository, so that they are easily discoverable and accessible in one place; and 2) released free of charge and without mandatory registration, allowing users to choose to download data without being required to identify themselves.

Publicly Accessible

A document or piece of information is “publicly accessible” if: 1) the means of accessing the information is communicated to all relevant stakeholders; and 2) the data is both publicly available and made accessible without any kind of physical or psychological barrier, e.g.: published without clear and public announcement, hidden away in portals, in obscure formats, in language/s that are not adapted, with titles, labels or headers that are wrong, etc.

R

Reasonable Accommodation

“Reasonable accommodation” means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. In the workplace, it may mean making changes to the work environment to allow persons with disabilities to work safely and productively.

Source: UN Global Compact Guide for Business on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2017).
<https://unglobalcompact.org/library/5381>

Receptor

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

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).

Release

An unintentional, unpermitted emission of mine-influenced water to the environment. See also ‘Discharge’.

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.

GLOSSARY

Remediation (Groundwater)

See Groundwater Remediation.

Remediation (Soil)

See Soil Remediation.

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

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.

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.

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.

GLOSSARY

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-Compatible

In reference to grievance mechanism, means ensuring that outcomes and remedies accord with internationally recognized human rights.

Rights Defenders

See *Human Rights, Land, Environmental, and Labor Rights Defenders*.

Rights-holders

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 human rights-holders under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular contexts, there are often specific social groups whose rights (human rights and other rights) are not fully realized, respected or protected. More often than not, these groups tend to include women/girls, ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants and youth, for example. A human rights-based approach does not only recognize that the entitlements of rights-holders needs to be respected, protected and fulfilled, it also considers rights-holders as active agents in the realization of human rights and development – both directly and through organizations representing their interests.

Source: UNESCO

Risk (OSH Risk)

In the context of occupation safety, health and wellbeing, a risk is the likelihood of a hazard causing harm. Risk is characterized by reference to potential "events", their "consequences", and their "likelihood" to occur.

Source: Adapted from ISO 45001:2018.

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 non-compliance/non-conformity to occur. By identifying the root cause, the non-compliance/non-conformity can be more effectively addressed and recurrence can be avoided.

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>

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. This also includes emissions from land use changes and reductions in land carbon stock arising from the site's direct activities.

Source: Adapted from GHG Protocol

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: Adapted from GHG Protocol

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: Adapted from GHG Protocol

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.

Secondary Containment

Requires that areas be designed with appropriate containment and/or diversionary structures to prevent a release 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 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.

Significant Change

In the context of this Standard, a significant change is a change to the project/operation (due to a major modification, e.g., design, physical footprint, area of influence, new infrastructure or associated facility), to the operational context (e.g. due to climate change or other external factors), or to model predictions, that could create new significant risks or change the scope, magnitude, duration, or probability 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, biodiversity or the environment.

GLOSSARY

Site

An area that is owned, leased, permitted, managed, or otherwise controlled by the ENTITY and where the activities relevant to the IRMA Standard are proposed or are taking place (i.e., mineral exploration activities, project development and permitting activities, mining, mineral processing, reclamation, closure and post-closure activities), including any associated facilities. *See also 'Associated Facility'.*

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.

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.

Storativity

The storage capacity of an aquifer is referred to as the storativity, S . The older term, storage coefficient, is also used to describe the same aquifer storage property. Storativity describes the capacity of an aquifer to store or release water. It is defined as the volume of water removed or stored per unit change in head normal to the earth's surface over a unit area. Storativity is dimensionless and is expressed as a decimal.

Source: William W. Woessner and Eileen P, "Hydrogeologic Properties of Earth Materials and Principles of Groundwater Flow", available through The Groundwater Project.

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.

Subsidence

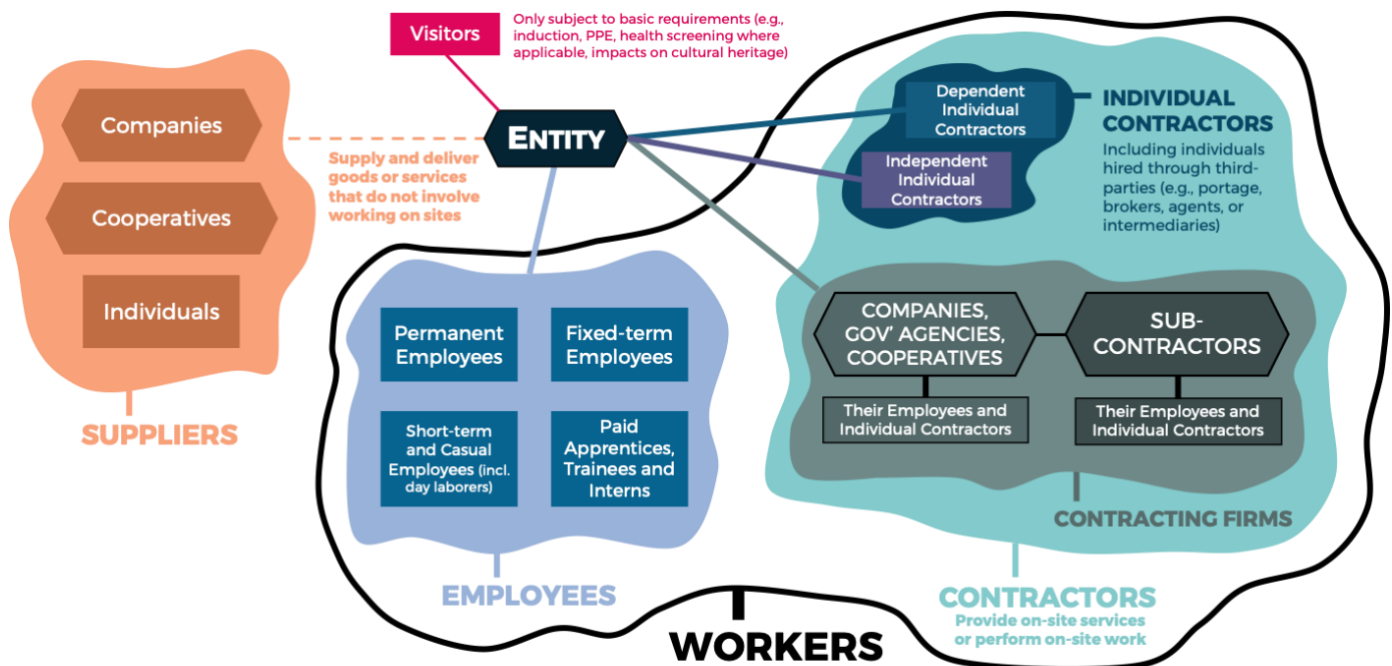
Subsidence is a sinking of the ground surface that results in a fracture of the surface which could change surface water hydrology, or pose a threat to human health or property.

GLOSSARY

Suppliers

Individuals or organizations that are providers of goods, services, or materials to a project/operation, and that do not involve working on sites. See Figure G5 below.

FIGURE G5. Scope and Terminology related to Employees, Contractors, Suppliers, and Visitors



Source: adapted from ILO ICSE-18-A

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/classification-status-at-work/>

System

A set of interconnected elements (processes, people, resources, technology, documentation and measurement) that work together to achieve a common goal.

T

Table Top Discussion

In the context of this Standard, a discussion-based session in which participants talk through their roles and responses, and brainstorm or identify potential issues and decision-making points, for one or more example emergency scenarios.

Tailings

The waste stream resulting from mineral processing (see *Mineral Processing*). 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.

GLOSSARY

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.

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.

Territory

A territory is a geographic area of land, sea, or space that is connected to a particular country, community or group, person, or animal. A territory is distinct from land, which is a geographical notion. Most land is claimed by a state, and so is territory, but there could be unclaimed land or land that is contested between two states and/or non-state actors. In the context of this Standard, territory is understood as a socio-political concept that includes the idea of belonging and customary, political, and/or jurisdictional, authority. Territory is also distinct from “property” and “ownership” (i.e. as framed and understood in many legal and regulatory instruments). Regarding territory of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 recognize that Indigenous peoples do not have rights only to the land they directly cultivate or inhabit, but to the broader territory, encompassing the total environments of the areas which they occupy or otherwise use, inclusive of natural resources, rivers, lakes, and coasts. Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has established that the special relationship between Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and their territories means that “the use and enjoyment of the land and its resources are integral components of the physical and cultural survival of the Indigenous communities and the effective realization of their human rights more broadly.” It also established that, given that the foundation of territorial property lies in the historical use and occupation which gave rise to customary land tenure systems, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples’ territorial rights “exist even without State actions which specify them” or without a formal title to property.

Sources: IACHR, Norms and Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System https://cidh.org/countryrep/Indigenous-Lands09/Chap.V-VI.htm#_ftnref5; IBEL, University of Leuven, CCC, “Borders, sovereignty and self-determination” research project - Euborders Working Paper 05.

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.

Top Management

Top management, sometimes called senior management is a person or group of people who direct and control an organization at the highest level. Top management is the people who hold the resources, authority and decision-making power of an organization and are the ones who control what changes occur within the organization. Top Management has the power to delegate authority and provide resources within the organization. This includes, but is not limited to: Boards of directors, C-level executives, presidents, vice-presidents, and equivalent denominations.

Source: ISO 9000:2015 Quality Management Systems – Fundamentals and Vocabulary

GLOSSARY

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).

Tree plantation

A forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding that lacks key elements of a natural forest native to the area, such as species composition and structural diversity.

Tree plantations generally have one or a few tree species and tend to include one or more of the following characteristics:

- planted on cleared land
- harvested regularly
- trees are of even ages
- products from the plantation are managed and processed for commercial production

Tree plantations can consist of trees planted for timber, pulp, non-timber forest products (e.g., rubber latex), or ecosystem services (e.g., soil stabilization). Plantations dominated by agricultural species (e.g., fruits or oil palm) are considered agriculture, not tree plantations.

Source: The Accountability Framework Initiative, 2024 <https://accountability-framework.org/use-the-accountability-framework/definition>

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 tailings storage or mine waste storage facility. The trigger levels are developed based on the performance objectives and risk management plan for the 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

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 measures to improve water or soil quality.

U

Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples or segments of Indigenous Peoples who do not have or do not maintain sustained contacts with the majority non-Indigenous population, and who generally reject any type of contact with any person who is 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 (i.e. living in “voluntary isolation”). In practice Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples find themselves in highly vulnerable situations, and many of them are in grave danger of disappearing completely. For those living in “voluntary” isolation, the decision to remain in isolation can be a survival strategy resulting in part from outside pressures. This absence of sustained contacts is an expression of the autonomy of these peoples as holders of human rights, including their right to self-determination, and as such must be respected. As of 2024, it is estimated that there are over 150 distinct groups of Indigenous Peoples living Uncontacted or in Voluntary Isolation, though there may be over 200. The majority live in Brazil but many others in Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. There are also Uncontacted Peoples living in Indonesia, in the Andaman Islands of India, and New Guinea. There is also some indication of the presence of other Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples living in Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Thailand, Malaysia and some parts of Central Africa.

Sources: 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>;

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. 2013. Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact in the Americas: Recommendations for the Full Respect of Their Human Rights. OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 47/13. 30 December 2013. Paras 12 and 17.

<https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/docs/pdf/report-indigenous-peoples-voluntary-isolation.pdf>; and Survival International.

Underserved and/or Marginalized People

Underserved and/or marginalized populations include people who experience social or economic discrimination and/or oppression of any kind, and encounter barriers (e.g., racial, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual orientation, economic, cultural, and/or linguistic) to accessing public and private services, recognition, protection and respect of their rights, jobs, and/or wellbeing. They thus receive fewer and lower quality public and private services; tend to have a lack of familiarity with engagement and recourse systems; and lack access to rights protection systems, engagement and job opportunities, as well as to quality systems of care. Various groups and individuals have been historically underserved and/or marginalized within societies and continue to be disproportionately exposed to risk, harm, and violation of their rights. When underserved and/or marginalized people share some specific characteristics that, due to social biases, historical oppression/control processes or cultural norms make them: 1) more susceptible to health, safety, and security risks and impacts; and/or 2) more susceptible to lack of economic opportunities; and/or 3) have access to a resource endowment that is inadequate to provide sufficient income from any available source to ensure decent living conditions; they can be referred to as a ‘group’ (i.e. underserved and/or marginalized group). Depending on the context, underserved and/or marginalized groups may include, but are not limited to, one or several of the following categories: women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants and other customary land-rights-holders, households headed by women or children, persons with disabilities, disabled communities with particular attention to sensory challenges (Deafblind, Blind, Deaf, Hard of Hearing), poor people, elderly people, at-risk children and youth, ex-combatants, internally displaced people, asylum-seekers and returning refugees, HIV/AIDS-affected individuals and households, religious and ethnic minorities, Rights Defenders, migrant workers, sex workers, itinerant/travelling groups, nomadic peoples, people of the “Global Majority”, and LGBTIQAP+ persons (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning, Asexual, and other gender identities).

Source: Adapted from IFC 2002 ‘Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan’, FAO and World Bank approaches to ‘Vulnerable Groups’, and Health Equity and Policy Lab, University of Pennsylvania.

GLOSSARY

UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. These geoparks certified by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council as meeting all the requirements for belonging to the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

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>

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 country of operation if negotiations fail) that lead to the relocation of willing sellers.

Vulnerable Worker

While there is no generally accepted definition of “vulnerable worker”, in the context of this Standard, the term is used to refer to workers for whom employment is precarious, poorly paid and sometimes dangerous, and/or who often suffer from some form/s of discrimination. Their vulnerability is often related to their gender or age. Vulnerable groups therefore include women, young workers below the age of 18 and under-age child workers. Older workers may also be vulnerable to certain risks in the workplace because of poorer general health, and may be more prone to injury compared to younger adult workers. They are often economically, socially and/or politically marginalized, for instance those subject to forced labor and migrant workers. They may work in geographical, social or cultural isolation, which can include workers from ethnic minority groups. When determining and identifying vulnerable workers, particular attention should be paid to workers who are disabled, including those who have sensory challenges (DeafBlind, Blind, Deaf, Hard of Hearing). Vulnerable workers may be subject to discrimination, psychosocial pressures, abuse or harassment. They are also often at greater risk of work-related accidents and ill-health. And they are often poorly organized and represented by trade unions or other workers’ organizations, if at all.

Source: ILO, ILO Curriculum on Building Modern and Effective Labour Inspection Systems, Module 9: Dealing with vulnerable groups of workers.

https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_dialogue/@lab_admin/documents/genericdocument/wcms_856569.pdf

W

Waste Facility

In the context of this Standard, an area or site where wastes are stored, treated or disposed. For wastes derived from mining and mineral processing, these may include, but are not limited to: tailings impoundments, waste rock dumps, slag heaps, heap and dump leach piles, open pits, pit lakes, and underground working. For other wastes generated at projects/operations, these may include, but are not limited to: hazardous waste storage, treatment or disposal sites, solid waste landfills, sewage treatment plants.

GLOSSARY

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; if energy recovery can occur without generating significant air quality impacts on health and safety, ecosystems or the environment) and disposal, with prevention being the most preferred option and the disposal at the landfill being the least preferred option.

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.

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.

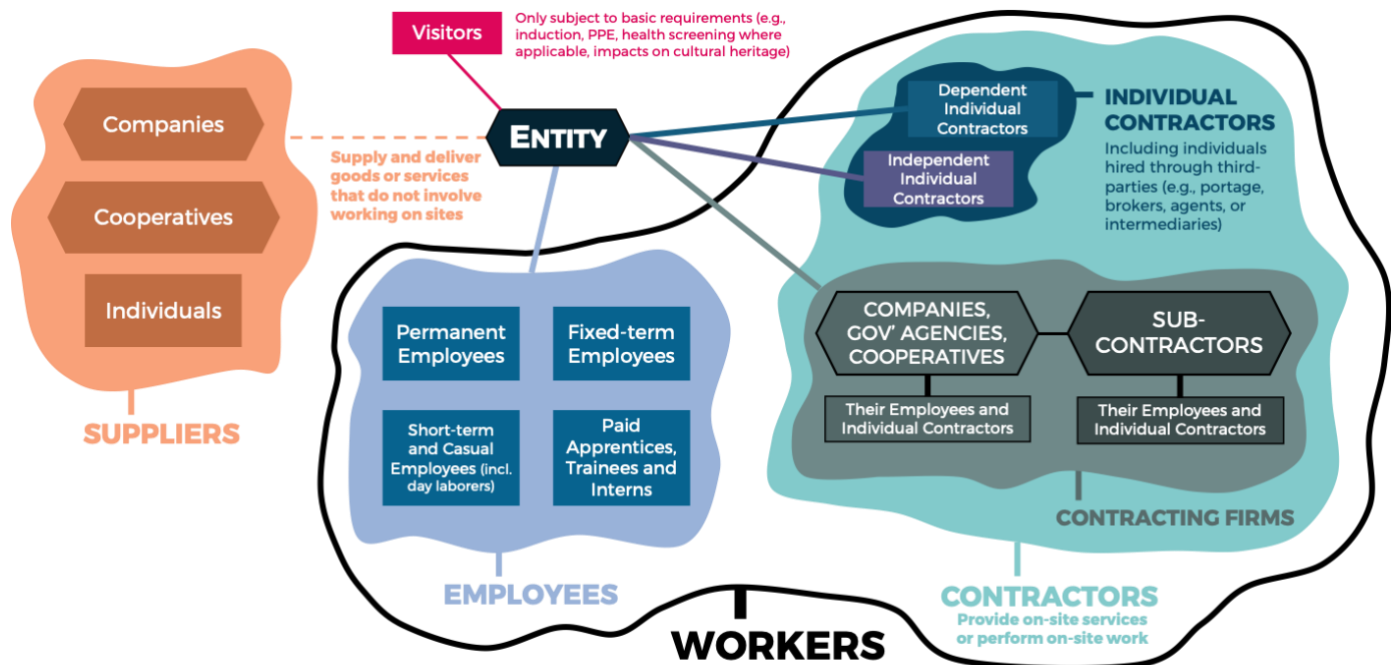
Source: UNESCO.

GLOSSARY

Workers

All staff, regardless of management level, working either as a direct employees of the ENTITY or as contractor/s providing on-site services or conducting on-site work. See Figure G6 below. See also definitions of *Contractors* and *Employees*.

FIGURE G6. Scope and Terminology related to Employees, Contractors, Suppliers, and Visitors



Source: adapted from ILO ICSE-18-A

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/classification-status-at-work/>

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.

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.

Z

Zoonotic Spillover

Transmission of a pathogen from a vertebrate animal to a human. "Zoonotic spillover of pathogens from animals to humans is recognized as the predominant cause of emerging infectious diseases and as the primary cause of recent pandemics."

Source: WHO, <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/prevention-of-zoonotic-spillover>

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