

Developing Best Management Practices for Biodiversity Conservation in the Mining Industry

by

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IAIA Conference 2004 - Vancouver





Objective

- Provide an overview of the discussions and collaboration between IUCN and ICMM members regarding the development of guidance to better integrate biodiversity conservation in mining activities

Outline



- ICMM
- IUCN-ICMM Dialogue
- Gland Workshop, July 2003
- Key aspects identified to better integrate Biodiversity in Impact Assessment
- Other aspects related to EMS, Closure and Community issues
- Next Steps

ICMM

- Includes over 15 major mining companies and near 30 mining associations from around the world
- Promote science-based regulations and material-choice decisions that encourage market access and the safe production, use, reuse, and recycling of metals and minerals.
- Identify and advocate the use of good practices to address sustainable development issues within the industry.
- Commitment to good governance and transparent decision-making processes within the organization.
- Seek continual improvement of our health, safety and environmental performance.



ICMM (cont'd)

- Implement and maintain ethical business practices and sound systems of corporate governance.
- Integrate sustainable development considerations within the corporate decision-making process.
- Contribute to the social, economic and institutional development of the communities in which we operate.
- Contribute to conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning.

IUCN-ICMM Dialogue

- In 1999, IIED and WBCSD launched an independent analysis of challenges that industry is facing when contributing to sustainable development:
- Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD)
- Responding to the recommendations of the MMSD Project, IUCN and ICMM initiated a Dialogue on mining and biodiversity.

IUCN-ICMM Dialogue (cont'd)

- Provide a platform for communities, mining corporations, NGOs and governments to engage in a dialogue to seek the balance between the protection of important ecosystems and the social and economic importance of mining.
- IUCN and ICMM are committed to discussing a full range of issues with the objective of enhancing the contribution of the mining industry to biodiversity conservation.
- First key element of the work programme for the dialogue is a *Workshop on best practice principles and reporting criteria in order to enhance the industry's contribution to biodiversity conservation*.

Gland Workshop, July 2003

- Engage participants with the latest developments in the IUCN ICMM Dialogue initiative and other parallel activities
- Obtain stakeholder inputs on the various issues / projects that will be considered in the Dialogue in the lead up to the World Parks Congress and beyond.
- Develop best practice guidelines for mining in relation to biodiversity conservation, taking into account environmental and social considerations, including those related to communities and indigenous peoples.
- Develop recommendations to help guide future work in a number of areas related to mining and sustainable development.

Workshop Process

- Plenary session
- Specific workgroups session
- Final plenary session



Main Biodiversity Aspects considered in Workshop



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1. Impact Assessment
 2. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Community Development Programmes (CDP)
 3. Closure and Rehabilitation
 4. Community and Indigenous People



1. Impact Assessment

- A. Demonstrate corporate commitment to biodiversity
- B. Adopt an ecosystem approach
- C. Understand the nature of project site
- D. Assess biodiversity impacts
- E. Mitigate biodiversity impacts
- F. Facilitate and support a partnership approach



2. Environmental Management Systems and Community Development Programmes

- A. Document and assess local biodiversity in consultation with appropriate partners
- B. Undertake comprehensive identification of actual biodiversity impacts
- C. Plan and design preventive and mitigative responses to identified biodiversity impacts
- D. Implement preventive and mitigative responses to identified biodiversity impacts
- E. Monitor, measure and report performance on biodiversity management
- F. Implement and support initiatives that promote and enhance biodiversity



3. Closure and Rehabilitation

- A. Develop appropriate and realistic objectives and targets
- B. Develop comprehensive closure strategies and plans
- C. Promote progressive closure
- D. Plan for and promote rehabilitation with local species
- E. Maintain restoration standards and conditions following ownership changes
- F. Develop dedicated financial provision
- G. Promote public participation



4. Community and Indigenous Peoples

- A. Effective engagement and participation
- B. Legacy issues
- C. Assessment
- D. Operations and Management
- E. Closure
- F. Code of Ethics

1. Impact Assessment

A. Demonstrate Corporate Commitment to Biodiversity

Companies should:

- demonstrate high-level commitment to
 - the integration of biodiversity aspects into decision-making processes and,
 - the maintenance and enhancement of important and protected habitats and species.
- address biodiversity at ecosystem, species and genetic levels as appropriate, and to integrate associated social aspects.



1. Impact Assessment

B. Adopt an Ecosystem Approach

- Relationships between biological / ecological systems and human systems should be identified
- Potential impacts on these relationships should be addressed in a local, regional, national and international context.
- Ecosystem functions and structure should be maintained

1. Impact Assessment

C. Understand the Nature of Project Sites

- The diversity of species and richness of ecosystems at should be considered, alongside related cultural and social aspects.
- Impact assessments should
 - identify and describe the importance of a site
 - provide the rationale of this importance (site within a protected area, sensitive / vulnerable site with high biodiversity values, site of cultural importance).
- Specific local biodiversity values and uses and local, traditional & indigenous knowledge relating to biodiversity should be recognized.

1. Impact Assessment

D. Assess Biodiversity Impacts

- Impact assessment: a process, not a product!
- Direct, secondary and cumulative impacts on biodiversity should be assessed in a phased approach, early in the project and throughout the lifecycle of the mining activity.
- Impact assessment should also take into account social, economic and health impacts.
- The open and iterative process should actively seek and allow time for stakeholder input.
- Biodiversity data gathered via baseline studies, impact assessment and subsequent monitoring information, should be shared with and validated by stakeholders (eg. local communities, academics, conservation organizations).

1. Impact Assessment

E. Mitigate Biodiversity Impacts

- Impacts on biodiversity should be avoided wherever possible, minimized where they cannot be avoided, and mitigated where there are residual impacts.
- During the development phase of a project, there should be a rigorous assessment of all options, including 'do nothing'.
- Offsets may be useful in mitigating residual impacts; preference should be given to in situ offsets that are aligned with local, regional, national and international conservation strategies, bringing a net positive benefit for biodiversity conservation.

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1. Impact Assessment

F. Facilitate and Support Partnership Approach

- Manage risk around biodiversity
- Maximise positive contributions and opportunities by working in partnership with government, communities and others.
- Community involvement in biodiversity assessment should be implemented at an early stage.
- Sufficient time should be allowed for government, industry, and other stakeholders to understand, evaluate and communicate biodiversity aspects throughout the process.

Workshop Outcomes

- Overall positive feedback
- Constructive engagement among the stakeholders
- Next steps will be critical in determining its success
- Important milestone in the IUCN ICMM Dialogue on Mining and Biodiversity was the World Parks Congress in Durban September 2003.
 - Durban Accord and Action Plan provides a framework that will help enhance the industry's contribution to biodiversity conservation and can guide the future course of the IUCN ICMM Dialogue.
 - Various opinions within the conservation movement on the need for IUCN ICMM Dialogue



Next Tasks

- Refine the draft operating principles.
- Identify performance criteria / reporting indicators.
- Develop implementation guidance in the areas of biodiversity assessment and management.
- Determine the success of guidelines through validation in the field.



Acknowledgements

- Andrea Athenas (IUCN)
- Scott Houston (ICMM)
- Dave Richards (Rio-Tinto)

