

# Glossary and Definitions

**Area of Influence:** The geographical space and the people inhabiting the geographical space that will be directly or indirectly affected by extractive activities on a nearby property.

**Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM):** Formal or informal mining operations with predominantly simplified forms of exploration, extraction, processing, and transportation. "ASM" is normally low capital intensive and uses high labour 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 even 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 organisational level, groups of 30-300 miners are common, extracting jointly one mineral deposit (e.g. working in different tunnels), and sometimes sharing processing facilities.

**Baseline:** Information gathered at the earliest possible point in a project against which predicted changes (positive and negative impacts) are measured.

**Best Practice:** The highest industry standard regarding any specific thematic issue as explained by Canada's six endorsed CSR Standards and/or host country government regulations.

**Catchment-based Approach:** Used to understand water characteristics and predicting potential impacts. A catchment is the area of land from which all surface run-off and subsurface water flow through a sequence of streams, rivers, groundwater aquifers and lakes into the seas or another outlet at a single river mouth, estuary or delta; and the area of water downstream affected by a site's discharge. A catchment-based approach encourages considering holistically how competing demands on water resources from a range of water users can create local pressures and potentially lead to conflict.

**Community:** A group of individuals broader than a household, who identify themselves as a common unit due to recognized social, religious, economic or traditional structures or shared locality.

**Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas:** Conflict-affected and high-risk areas are identified by the presence of armed conflict, widespread violence or other risks of harm to people. Armed conflict may take a variety of forms, such as a conflict of international or non-international character, which may involve two or more states, or may consist of wars of liberation, or insurgencies, civil wars, etc. High-risk areas may include areas of political instability or repression, institutional weakness, insecurity, collapse of civil infrastructure and widespread violence. Such areas are often characterised by widespread human rights abuses and violations of national or international law.

**Consultation:** A process of two-way communication between project proponents and people potentially affected by, or able to influence a project, in order to enhance understanding, build relationships and improve decision-making.

**Cumulative Social Impacts:** Those changes in baseline social conditions that result when the direct and indirect effects of a project are combined with those of other past, existing and/or immediate projects and activities.

**Cultural Heritage:** Refers to tangible objects such as property, sites, structures or natural features that embody cultural values such as sacred groves, rocks, lakes and waterfalls.

**Direct Social Impacts:** Those changes in baseline social conditions that are caused by a specific project-related activity.

**Due diligence:** Due diligence is an on-going, proactive and reactive process through which companies can identify, mitigate and account for how they address their actual and potential adverse impacts as an integral part of business decision-making and risk management systems. Due diligence can help companies ensure they observe the principles of international law and comply with domestic laws, including those governing the illicit trade in minerals and United Nations sanctions.

**Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPICs):** The principle that specific groups (such as indigenous peoples), based on their defined rights and claims, have the right to give or withhold their consent to proposed projects that may affect them.