

Technical Standard – Conducting ESIA to International Standards

Vedanta Resources Plc

Sustainability Governance System


Technical Standard

Conducting ESIAs to International Standards

Technical Standard – Conducting ESIA to International Standards

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Technical Standard is to guide non-technical specialists through the process of commissioning and managing Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in order to ensure that they meet international standards. This is particularly relevant for projects located in regions where country specific impact assessment legislation may be weak in comparison with the requirements of international standards, and for projects which are likely to require international project finance.

2. SCOPE

This Technical Standard is mandatory and applies to all Vedanta subsidiaries, operations and managed sites, including new acquisitions, corporate offices and research facilities and to all new and existing employees and contractor employees. This Standard is applicable to the entire operation lifecycle (including exploration and planning, evaluation, operation and closure).

3. DEFINITIONS

Definitions of key terms used in this document are shown in the following table.

Term	Definition
Action Plan	A formalised and documented set of actions necessary to implement and maintain mitigation measures required to address the impacts identified and assessed in the ESIA.
Affected Communities	Local communities directly affected by the new or existing project.
Baseline Data Collection	One of the earliest stages in the ESIA process during which baseline data is collected on current (i.e. pre-development) environmental and social conditions.
Cumulative Impact	A combination of individual impacts which may present more significant positive or negative impact than any of the individual potential impacts if considered in isolation.
Environmental and Social Management System	The structured framework that provides the arrangements for managing the environmental and social aspects throughout the lifetime of the project.
ESIA	Environmental Social Impact Assessment – a formalised process designed to identify, assess and document environmental and social impacts associated with a project, along with the mitigation measures and management arrangements for ensuring such measures are implemented.
Grievance	A concern or complaint raised by any stakeholder either affected or interested in company operations. Both concerns and complaints can result from either real or perceived impacts of a company's

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Term	Definition
	operations.
ICMM (International Council on Mining and Metals)	The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) was established in 2001 and seeks to drive performance improvement through its members which comprise 20 mining and metals companies as well as 30 national and regional mining associations and global commodity associations.
IFC (International Finance Corporation)	Member of the World Bank that finances and provides advice to private sector ventures and projects in developing countries.
Impact	Environmental and social impacts refer to any potential change to the physical, natural, or cultural environment, surrounding community, or health and safety of the community.
Impact Assessment	The stage in the ESIA in which the potential positive and negative impacts on the various environmental and social receptors identified during the baseline data collection phase are assessed to determine their significance.
Operation(s)	A location or activity that is operated by a Vedanta Company and is part of the Vedanta Group. Locations could include mines, refineries, ports or transportation activities, wind farms, oil and gas development sites, offices including corporate head offices and research and development facilities.
Receptor	An entity that may be subject to either adverse or positive impact arising from the project. In the context of this document the receptor may be either environmental or social in nature.
Residual Impacts	The remaining positive and negative impacts on environmental / social receptors following implementation of mitigation / reduction measures.
Scoping Exercise	This is the initial phase of an ESIA and comprises the identification of the key potential significant impacts of the project that will require further investigation and assessment. The Scoping Exercise will define and justify what will and will not be covered in the later stages of the ESIA.
Social Conditions	This includes, but is not limited to, community, health, safety and security, human rights, labour and working conditions associated with a proposed project.
Stakeholder	Persons or groups that are directly or indirectly affected by a project as well as those that may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively. This can refer to shareholders, lenders, employees, communities, industry, governments and international third parties.
Stakeholder	An umbrella term encompassing a range of activities and

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Term	Definition
Engagement	interactions between Vedanta and its stakeholders over the life of a project that are designated to promote transparent, accountable, positive, and mutually beneficial working relationships. Stakeholder engagement includes stakeholder identification and analysis, information disclosure, problem/conflict anticipation and prevention, ongoing consultation, formation of partnerships, construction of grievance resolution mechanisms, negotiated problem solving, employee involvement in project monitoring, regular reporting forums and procedures, and other related management activities.
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	A document that guides stakeholder consultations and communications during the period of the main ESIA studies and other aspects of the project analysis and design. It should also be updated toward the end of the ESIA studies to provide a roadmap for engagement in monitoring the effectiveness of impact mitigation measures.
Vedanta Company	A subsidiary of Vedanta Group either fully or majority owned that has its own management structure (e.g. Hindustan Zinc Limited, Vedanta Aluminium Limited, Sterlite Industries limited, etc.)

4. PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) aims to predict and evaluate the significance of positive and negative impacts to the environment and people from a proposed project. Usually an impact assessment is a legal requirement as well as typically being required as a condition of international project finance for new projects of a certain size or significant expansion of existing operations¹. The requirements described below shall be followed by all Vedanta subsidiary companies and operations with regards the commissioning and management of ESIA's.

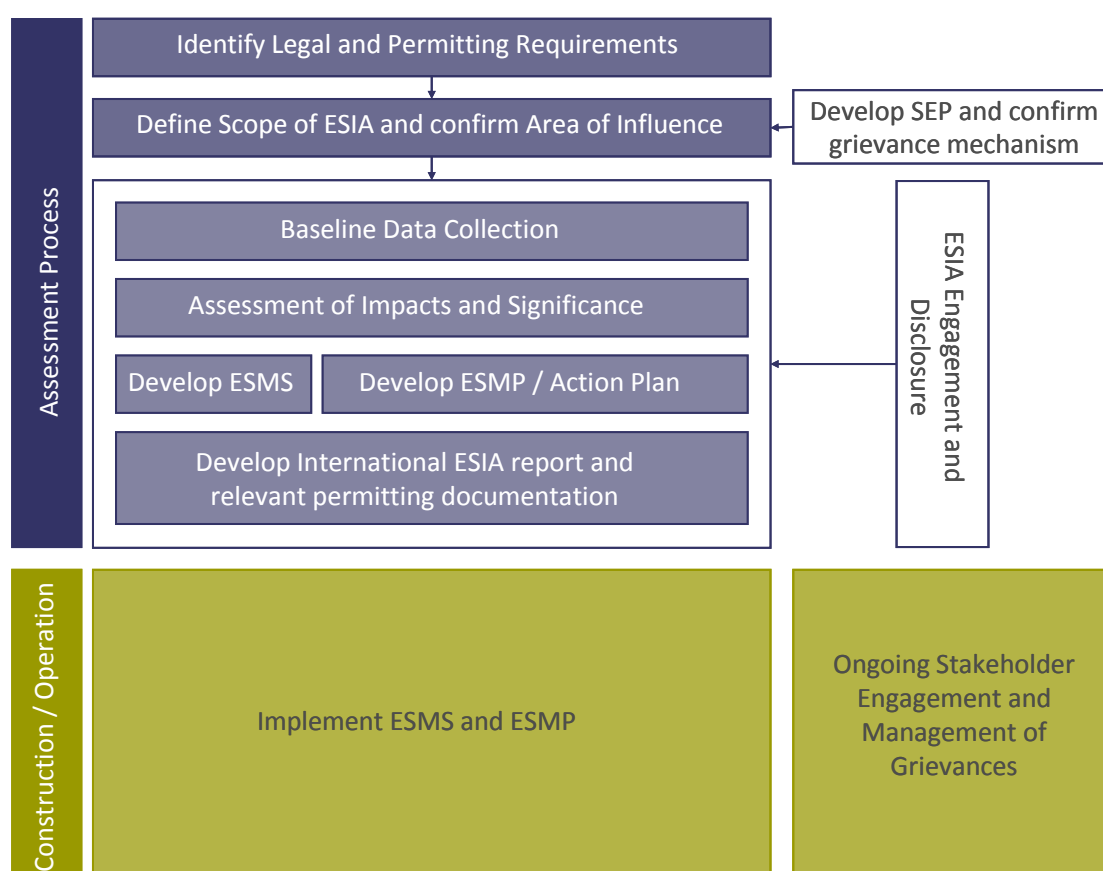
4.1. General Requirements

- a) Vedanta shall ensure that the requirements of this Technical Standard are adhered to as part of every potential new project or expansion activity and during the lifetime of every project in order to ensure that environmental, social and health impacts are systematically considered in all business decisions.
- b) All Vedanta operations shall create, implement and maintain arrangements to perform an international standard ESIA for every potential eligible new project or expansion of existing operations, and as part of business decision-making.

¹ Not all projects require an ESIA to be undertaken. This requirement will depend on the size and/or type of project, and the likelihood of significant environmental and social impacts arising from it. Many countries provide a schedule of projects which require an ESIA. The IFC also gives guidance on this subject. The requirement for an ESIA is usually determined at the Screening stage.

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- c) A desk-based screening exercise shall be undertaken as early on in the project planning process as possible, to evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the proposed project option and determine whether or not an ESIA is required. Screening shall be undertaken for all new potential projects to identify significant potential negative impacts that may make the proposed project option unviable.
- d) In the event that screening identifies significant negative environmental and social impacts associated with the preferred project options, alternative options should be considered in order to avoid these impacts.
- e) Once the project option has been selected, the project scope and area of influence shall be defined prior to commencing with the ESIA, in order to identify key issues. This should be done in consultation with key stakeholders.
- f) The ESIA shall comprise baseline data collection; impact assessment; development and implementation of an action plan and Environmental and Social Management Plan. Stakeholder engagement should take place throughout the ESIA process, as early as possible and ideally from the scoping stage. As part of this, the documented ESIA and other documentation that are part of the consultation process (including stakeholder consultation) shall be made publicly available. The general framework of the ESIA shall take the following form:



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4.2. Expertise

- a) Qualified and competent ESIA expert(s) shall be appointed to manage the overall ESIA process with full involvement and contribution by Vedanta project planning, subject matter experts, engineering staff and others throughout the process as appropriate.
- b) Vedanta may use in-house staff and/or external consultants or experts to carry out the risks and impacts identification process, provided that the applicable requirements of the performance Standards are met.
- c) The in-house staff or external personnel conducting the risks and impacts identification process shall be in a position to do so adequately, accurately and objectively, as well as have the requisite competency and experience.
- d) For projects with issues that may pose significant adverse impacts and risks, Vedanta shall (and may be required to) retain qualified external experts to assist in the conduct of all or part of the social and environmental assessment. These experts to be considered qualified for this requirement will be required to have substantive and extensive experience in similar projects.
- e) Qualified external experts are typically required in certain defined circumstances, on issues concerning resettlement (as provided in IFC Performance Standard 5), Biodiversity (as provided in IFC Performance Standard 6), Indigenous Peoples (as provided in IFC Performance Standard 7) and Cultural Heritage (as provided in IFC Performance Standard 8)
- f) ESIA experts shall be appointed at the pre-feasibility stage and shall be included on the project study team as the project moves from screening through to pre-feasibility, feasibility and planning. The purpose of appointing an external expert is to ensure not only expertise but impartiality throughout the assessment process.
- g) Vedanta shall maintain a list of approved external experts and this may include international consultancy firms, local consultancy firms, university departments and research institutions.

4.3. Permitting and Approval of Assessment Studies

- a) Vedanta shall identify all legal and formal permitting requirements and other formal permission(s) required prior to carrying out any survey work required for the ESIA.
- b) Vedanta shall create, implement and maintain arrangements to ensure compliance with any necessary permits and other formal requirements.
- c) Vedanta shall ensure that both the surveys and the individuals performing such studies meet any specific requirements that may be imposed.

4.4. Desk-Based Screening Exercise

- a) A desk-based screening exercise to determine whether or not the proposed project is likely to have significant social and environmental impacts) that will require further investigation and assessment through an ESIA.

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- b) The initial screening of the project shall be performed against the applicable local laws and regulations and the IFC Performance Standards which set out which projects will trigger the requirement for an ESIA. .
- c) The desk-based screening exercise shall consult secondary sources of information including but not limited to: internet-based searches; proprietorial information; academic research papers and publications; archives, museums and libraries (public and/or private); and applicable plans, studies, or assessments prepared by relevant government authorities or other parties that are directly related to the project and its area of influence. These include master economic development plans, country or regional plans, feasibility studies, alternatives analyses, and cumulative, regional, sectoral, or strategic environmental assessments where relevant. This screening exercise should, as a minimum, include a search/review of the information provided in the screening checklist provided in *Annex A*.
- d) The project screening scope should include the project base-case design assumptions or project plan and any other relevant information that may influence the severity of potential impacts and help to inform business and mitigation assumptions.
- e) Based on the severity of the impacts identified in this screening exercise the project shall be categorised on the basis of the IFC categorisation protocol for the purposes of internal guidance and to aid project selection². It should be noted that the IFC F1 project category is excluded from this list as it is used as a means of categorising projects on the basis of their source of funding and not on the basis of the level of potential environmental impact. The IFC Categories A to C are described below:
 - **Category A project:** a project likely to have significant adverse environmental (and social) impacts that are sensitive, diverse or unprecedented;
 - **Category B project:** a project with potential environmental (and social) impacts that are less adverse than those of Category A projects. These impacts are site-specific, few if any of them are irreversible, and in most cases mitigatory measures can be designed more readily than for Category A projects;
 - **Category C project:** a project that is likely to have minimal or no adverse impacts. This includes certain financial intermediary projects.

4.5. Consideration of Alternatives

- a) If the initial screening indicates potential risks and adverse impacts, consideration should be given to modifications in project design and/or project alternatives to reduce or eliminate these risks. The best project option should be selected at this stage.

² It should be noted that if the project is to receive direct IFC funding it will be categorised by the IFC as follows and likewise if the project is to be indirectly funded by the IFC (for example through a financial intermediary) it will be categorised as an F1 project if environmental impacts are anticipated.

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4.6. Scoping

- a) Once the preferred project option has been identified, and presuming it has identified the need for an ESIA, the scoping exercise shall clearly define and justify what will and will not be covered in the ESIA. As appropriate and relevant to the project, the screening exercise should include consideration of the following environmental and social indicators although this list is not exhaustive and other subject matter may need to be included on the basis of the screening exercise:
 - a. Air quality;
 - b. Water quality;
 - c. Soil/land impacts;
 - d. Biodiversity (including critical natural habitats);
 - e. Visual impacts;
 - f. Noise;
 - g. Local communities (including Indigenous Peoples);
 - h. Cultural heritage;
 - i. Security;
 - j. Socio-economic factors; and
 - k. Occupational health and safety.
- b) The Scoping Exercise should be undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders to obtain their input to identifying key issues at this stage.

4.7. Baseline Data Collection

- a) This is the stage at which baseline data is collected on current (i.e. baseline or pre-development) environmental and social conditions in order to support the identification of the risks and impacts associated with the proposed project.
- b) Vedanta shall ensure that the baseline study includes:
 - All relevant environmental and social baseline data, including any environmental and social receptors that have the potential to be positively or negatively impacted by project activities;
 - Identification and description of Affected Communities;
 - A description of the methodologies used to collect baseline information and the limitations and assumptions upon which these were based, and

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- Disclosure of the age (i.e. whether it is current / recent) and the sources from which data was gathered (e.g. secondary sources such as government development plans; and primary sources such as household surveys).

4.8. Assessment of Significance of Risks and Impacts

- a) The risks and impacts identification process shall be based on recent, up-to-date information, including detailed description of the project in its geographic, ecological, socio-economic, health and temporal context (the environmental and social baseline).
- b) Identification of project- and site-specific risks and impacts shall be based on current and verifiable primary information to supplement the secondary information collected during the desk-based screening exercise. It may also be necessary to collect additional secondary information.
 - The risks and impacts identification process shall consider among other subject matter the following: Environmental factors including: emissions of greenhouse gases and substances harmful to the ozone layer; climate change and adaptation opportunities; potential transboundary effects; resource use;
 - Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem goods and services;
 - Socio-economic impacts;
 - Community health, safety and security;
 - Business and human rights;
 - Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including consideration of disability and gender;
 - Indigenous peoples, and
 - Cultural heritage.
- c) Where the project involves specifically identified physical elements, aspects, and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, environmental and social risks and impacts shall be identified in the context of the project's area of influence and shall consider the following, as appropriate:
 - The area likely to be affected by: (i) the project activities and facilities that are directly owned, operated or managed (including by contractors) and that are a component of the project; (ii) impacts from unplanned but predictable developments caused by the project that may occur later or at a different location; or (iii) indirect project impacts on biodiversity or on ecosystem services upon which Affected Communities' livelihoods are dependent;
 - The roles, impacts and risks associated with its supply chain in relation to labour issues (child and forced labour and significant occupational health and safety risks) and biodiversity;
 - Associated facilities, which are facilities that are not funded as part of the project and that would not have been constructed or expanded if the project did not exist and without which the project would not be viable, and

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- Cumulative impacts that result from the incremental impact, on areas or resources used or directly impacted by the project, from other existing, planned or reasonably defined developments at the time the risks and impacts identification process is conducted.
- d) The risks and impacts identification process and outcomes shall be documented and include the following:
 - The project and its environmental and social aspects, including maps and drawings and a delineation or description of the project's area of influence
 - Environmental and health and safety performance levels established for the project, compliance with the legal and regulatory framework, consistent with the applicable Performance Standards
 - Description of the potential positive and negative impacts to the pre-development social and environmental receptors including the identification of Affected Communities as a result of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development;
 - Determination of the significance of each impact;
 - Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid, minimise/manage or optimise the identified impacts and any areas of concern that need to be further addressed;
 - Description of residual positive and negative impacts anticipated following the application of the aforementioned mitigation and enhancement measures;
 - The process of stakeholder engagement (see Section 4.8), and
 - The environmental and social management plan (see Section 4.9).
- e) Vedanta shall ensure that the impact assessment is comprehensive and complete and adequately covers the full range of potential impacts to all receptors, and in particular those that are protected or otherwise considered to be valuable. Reference to international standards and best practice guidance shall be included where appropriate.
- f) Vedanta shall ensure that the impact assessment provides an evaluation of the significance of the impact in accordance with a robust methodology and in reference to any relevant legal or other standards; regional, national or international policies and declarations (e.g. in relation to human rights, scheduled tribes and castes or indigenous people).
- g) Vedanta shall ensure that for every significant impact, measures are identified to reduce negative impacts and that enhancement measures which seek to augment positive impacts are identified and incorporated into the project plan.
- h) Significance shall be assessed both before the application of mitigation and enhancement measures and thereafter, to demonstrate the extent to which it is anticipated that impact significance can be affected through management action.

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- i) Vedanta shall ensure that the following hierarchy of control is adhered to in the identification of the most appropriate mitigation measures to be adopted in the following order: avoid; abate; attenuate; remedy; compensate for damage by replacement in kind, and compensate for damage by provision of a different resource.
- j) Vedanta shall ensure that the ESIA includes consideration and assessment of cumulative impacts and that the ESIA clearly documents and justifies any decisions to include or exclude certain facilities or areas from the cumulative assessment.

4.9. Unanticipated issues

- a) Vedanta shall ensure that the external experts have measures in place to adequately and appropriately identify and assess any unanticipated issues, such as cultural heritage unexpectedly uncovered by earthworks (*see also TS 01 Cultural Heritage*).
- b) Vedanta shall implement and maintain arrangements for ensuring conformance to the relevant Vedanta Management and Technical Standards.

4.10. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- a) If Affected Communities have been identified, Vedanta shall engage its experts to develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- b) If the project location is not confirmed but it is reasonably expected that there will be significant impacts on local communities, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan shall be prepared and implemented as part of the overarching Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) (refer to section 4.9).
- c) Vedanta shall ensure that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan adheres to the requirements of *TS05 Technical Standard Stakeholder Engagement* and that it includes the following:
 - Mechanisms for ensuring compliance with local and international legal requirements;
 - Culturally appropriate engagement process design which seeks to be inclusive of all affected stakeholders;
 - Description of steps to be undertaken in the consultation process;
 - Results of the consultation undertaken during the impact assessment (specifically issues raised and how these were considered in the development of mitigation measures developed);
 - Arrangements for disclosure of the ESIA to stakeholders for their review and the formal documentation of their comments;
 - Grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of the concerns and grievances of Affected Communities and other stakeholders; and
 - Explanation as to how Affected Communities and other stakeholders are to be informed of this mechanism.

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- d) Vedanta shall create, implement and maintain arrangements to keep the Stakeholder Engagement Plan updated and adjusted as the Project progresses, to ensure that effective and meaningful engagement with stakeholders continues throughout the lifetime of the Project.

4.11. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

- a) Where the impact assessment has identified specific mitigation measures and actions Vedanta shall prepare an ESMP in collaboration with the key stakeholders.
- b) Vedanta shall ensure that the ESMP includes the following:
 - Summary of impacts;
 - Description of the actions (and their priorities) required to implement mitigation or enhancement measures;
 - Designation of responsible person or parties;
 - A time-line for action implementation;
 - Indicators through which the success of negative impact management or positive impact enhancement can be measured;
 - Description of the schedule and mechanism for external reporting on implementation of the actions.
- c) Vedanta shall make the ESMP or a non-technical summary of it available to the Affected Communities and other stakeholders in a manner and form that is accessible to all stakeholders. This should be reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

4.12. Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS)

- a) Vedanta shall design, create and implement or otherwise adapt an existing environmental and social management system to incorporate the following:
 - Mitigation and enhancement measures, as detailed in the ESMP, for managing positive and negative impacts identified through the ESIA process;
 - Arrangements (roles, responsibilities, schedule) for implementing the mitigation measures;
 - Consideration of current and future organisational capacity and training;
 - Stakeholder engagement processes and arrangements; and
 - Mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on impact management.
- b) The ESMS shall be designed as a dynamic and continuous process initiated and supported by management, and shall involve engagement between the site's management team, its employees, any Affected Communities and, where appropriate, other stakeholders.

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5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Vedanta Resources, subsidiaries, businesses, operations and sites shall ensure that roles and responsibilities for implementing and complying with this Standard are allocated. Key responsibilities shall be included in job descriptions, procedures and/or other appropriate documentation.

6. COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Each Vedanta operation shall ensure they comply with the requirements of this standard. Performance against meeting the requirements of this Standard shall be assessed periodically, documented and, where required, reported to Vedanta Group. The assessment of performance shall include setting and reporting on key performance indicators (KPIs) where these have been established at Vedanta Group, Company or local level. The evaluation of performance shall include, as a minimum, confirmation that:

- An ESIA is undertaken to international standards for all potential projects.
- A formal and documented mechanism must be established and adequately communicated to manage unanticipated issues.
- A formal and documented Stakeholder Engagement Plan must be prepared and implemented when Affected Communities are identified in the impact assessment process.
- Stakeholder engagement must be included as an essential component of the assessment and involves Affected Communities where they exist within the project area.
- The competence and credibility of all specialists (internal and external) that contribute to the biodiversity assessments and impacts management must be able to present evidence (such as training, certification, etc) to demonstrate this.
- The data and findings of the impact assessment and management plan must be disclosed in a manner and form that is accessible to all stakeholders.
- Clear and transparent evidence of the adoption of the mitigation hierarchy must be available to support the proposed impacts management arrangements.
- All impact management and monitoring arrangements must be actively maintained and implemented and documentary evidence kept to demonstrate this.
- The ESMP must be formally documented and implemented and there must be a regular review according to a defined schedule to ensure it remains current, up-to-date, effective and applicable.

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7. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Reference	Description
ICMM (International Council of Mining and Metals)	The ICMM has produced and published good practice guidance on a range of health, safety, environment and community issues relating to mining. http://www.icmm.com/library
International Finance Corporation Performance Standards Guidance Notes	The IFC has published Guidance Notes to guide the implementation of the full range of performance standards. These are available on the website. The guidance is currently being updated and draft versions are available however these have not yet been finalised and formally published. http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sustainability.nsf/Content/PerformanceStandards

8. REVIEW

This Technical Standard shall be periodically audited and reviewed to determine its accuracy and relevance with regard to legislation, education, training and technological changes. In all other circumstances, it shall be reviewed no later than 12 months since the previous review.

9. RELATED DOCUMENTATION

A summary of the references and supporting documents relevant to this document is provided in the following table.

Doc. Ref.	Document name
	Vedanta Code of Conduct
POL 02	Human Rights Policy
TS 01	Cultural Heritage
TS 03	Land and Resettlement Management
TS 05	Stakeholder Engagement
TS 07	Biodiversity Management
TS 14	Water Management

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Annex A

ESIA Screening Checklist

A desk-based screening exercise to determine whether or not the proposed project is likely to have significant social and environmental impacts) that will require further investigation and assessment through an ESIA. The following checklist provides a list of the minimum information that must be reviewed and completed for the proposed project/operation and should be used as a starting point for the ESIA screening exercise.

Subject	Criteria/Material/Significant Issues	Yes	No
Locality	Will construction, operation or decommissioning involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in water bodies etc.)?		
Natural Resources	Will construction or operation use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?		
Substances/Materials	Will the project/operation involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?		
Wastes	Will the project/operation produce solid wastes during construction, operation or decommissioning?		
Pollutants	Will pollutants or any other hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air be released?		
Noise/vibration	Will the project/operation cause noise or vibration?		
Light/heat/radiation	Will the project/operation cause release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?		
Contamination	Will the project/operation lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?		
Accidents	Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation which could affect human health or the environment?		
Social changes	Will the project/operation result in social changes e.g. in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?		
Protected areas	Are there any areas on or around the proposed location which are protected under international, national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value which could be affected?		
Sensitive areas	Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses/waterbodies, coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected?		
Fauna and Flora	Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected?		
Water	Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected?		
Scenic value	Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected?		
Recreation/amenity	Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public/communities for access to recreation or other facilities which could be affected?		
Transport	Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which could cause environmental		

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	<i>problems which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Visibility</i>	<i>Is the proposed project/operation in a location which is likely to be highly visible to many people?</i>		
<i>Cultural heritage</i>	<i>Are there any areas or features of historic, religious or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Loss of land</i>	<i>Is the project/operation located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?</i>		
<i>Existing land use</i>	<i>Are there existing land uses on or around the location (e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying) which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Future land use</i>	<i>Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Built up areas</i>	<i>Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Sensitive land uses</i>	<i>Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Important Resources</i>	<i>Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Environmental damage</i>	<i>Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded which could be affected?</i>		
<i>Environmental conditions</i>	<i>Is the project/operation location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding, or extreme or adverse climatic conditions (e.g. fog, severe winds, temperature inversions)?</i>		
<i>Cumulative impacts</i>	<i>Is there a risk of cumulative impact on areas or resources used or directly impacted by the project, or from other existing, planned or reasonably defined developments?</i>		