



IGO GROUP ENVIRONMENT STANDARD 5

LAND USE & BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

INDEPENDENCE GROUP

DOCUMENT APPROVAL FOR USE

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1. PURPOSE

Access to land is central to exploration and mining. Access requires consent that is granted both through a statutory process and a social licence to operate. As a consequence, failure to responsibly manage the land under our control will adversely affect our capacity to access land, and may well have long lasting impacts on biodiversity and future land uses. Given this, IGO is committed to the conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land-use management with the aim of enhancing our social licence to operate.

2. APPLICATION

This standard shall apply to all IGO exploration activities, projects and operations. It applies to all land held privately, under concession, lease or tenement. To the extent that a law may contradict this standard or specify other requirements, the law shall prevail. However, this document defines the minimum standard required and, as such, may impose a higher standard than may be required in some jurisdictions.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

The impact to land and biodiversity must be considered in Project and Operational Risk Assessments. As applicable, risk assessments should be undertaken for each stage of the mining life cycle. Refer to **Group Environment Standard 2 Social & Environmental Impact Assessment** for guidance on requirements between exploration and project phases.

For further information refer to both **Group Safety Standard 12 – Operational & Project Risk Management**.

4. TENURE RECORD & KNOWLEDGE BASE

IGO shall maintain (or have access to) a **Register of Land Tenure** that captures the following information:

- A record of all land owned or leased by IGO (including spatial data on title boundaries), the nature of the tenure, tenure conditions, land use permits and similar records;
- A record of Traditional and other land ownership boundaries that are concurrent or adjacent to IGO's land and cross references to any associated agreements;
- A record of, or cross reference to, spatial environmental data;
- A record of land use domains (Section 5);
- A record of land clearing and rehabilitation activities;
- A record of contaminated land;
- A record of statutorily designated or protected areas concurrent or adjacent to IGO's land; and
- Cross reference to **IGO's Stakeholder Register**.

5. LAND USE DOMAINS

To aid IGO's land management activity, all land under IGO management shall be subject to categorisation by predominant mining-related land usage. These categories are collectively known

as Land Use Domains. In the absence of other guidance, land use shall be categorised in accordance with the *DMIRS/EPA Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans (May 2015)*.

Note: The land use domains used at IGO's operating and closed mines must be consistent with the relevant Mine Closure Plan (Refer to IGO Group Environmental Standard 1 – Rehabilitation & Mine Closure).

6. LAND USE & BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

The IGO Exploration Department and each IGO mine site shall develop and maintain an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (Refer to ***IGO Group Environmental Guideline 2 - Environmental Management Plan Development***).

With regard to mine site EMPs, and their associated land use and biodiversity management, they must include the following:

- A summary of the tenure, customary/traditional land ownership, bio-physical, biodiversity values and social setting of the mine site;
- A summary of the risk assessment (Section 3);
- Cross reference to **IGO's Obligations Register**, and specifically those obligations and or commitments relating to biodiversity protection and land use, and IGO's activities to address these commitments;
- A description of the 'biodiversity values'¹ that must be protected and the activities to protect or mitigate the impacts on these values;
- A description of the ongoing impact monitoring (***Group Environment Standard 2 Social & Environmental Impact Assessment***);
- A list of responsibilities and accountabilities for land-use management and biodiversity protection;
- A description of stakeholder engagement processes relating to land management and land access;
- A description of objectives and targets relating to use and management of land which are consistent with the life of mine plan and closure plan;
- Reference to procedures related to the implementation, monitoring and maintenance of the EMP; and
- Reference to procedures related to emergency preparedness and response.

EMP's must be reviewed at least every three years.

7. BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

As general principles, IGO will:

- Limit its impacts on biodiversity values to those approved by the state.

¹ The concept of diversity values is addressed in Appendix A of Group Environment Standard 2 Social & Environmental Impact Assessment.

- Mitigate its impacts on vulnerable species and habitats by off-sets or comparable measures including the support of research.

IGO will not engage in activities that will or are likely to result in:

- The extinction of a species or recognised subspecies
- The destruction of an entire habitat or ecological niche
- The inhibition or restriction of the capacity of other land-users to provide for their subsistence
- The destruction of significant cultural property

8. SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES

To manage and mitigate common mining-related risks to land management and biodiversity, all exploration and mining activity must be subject to the following:

- A land clearance authorisation process;
- A topsoil and cleared vegetation management process; and
- A stakeholder engagement plan (which specifically addresses land access).

9. INSPECTIONS & MONITORING

IGO will complete ongoing land disturbance and biodiversity impact monitoring at our operational mines. For guidance on development of monitoring programs refer to **Group Environment Standard 2 - Social and Environmental Impact Assessment**.

10. REPORTING

Significant incidents and non-compliances, and associated corrective actions, shall be recorded in INX.

11. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the:

- General/Resident Manager to ensure that their operation conforms to this standard and all relevant statutory obligations. GMs must ensure their operation maintains an up to date Environmental Management Plan.
- Exploration Project Manager to ensure that their exploration team conforms with this standard and any additional statutory obligations.
- Senior site or exploration Environment Lead to ensure the Environment Management Plan is developed and maintained and that all land disturbance and biodiversity impact monitoring and reporting conforms to this standard and any additional statutory obligations.
- Tenement Manager to ensure the register of tenure records is maintained.

12. RELATED DOCUMENTS

This standard shall be viewed with reference to the following IGO documentation where relevant:

- IGO Group Safety Standard 12 - Operational and Project Risk Management
- Group Environment Standard 2 - Social and Environmental Impact Assessment
- DMIRS/EPA Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans (May 2015)