

1.3 Structure and scope of the Guide

The Guide is primarily aimed at providing guidance to companies on good practice where mining-related activities occur on or near traditional indigenous land and territory.⁶ This recognizes that particular rights, legal requirements and interests come into play, and in such cases these situations tend to present significant challenges for mining companies.

The main focus of the Guide is on mining-related activities that take place in relatively remote locations, but it is recognized that some mines are located close to large urban centres that contain substantial indigenous populations.

The remainder of Part one of this guide is divided into four chapters, each of which deals with an important thematic area that mining companies should be familiar with in order to ensure that their operations not only avoid or minimize their negative impact on indigenous groups, but also make a positive contribution to community and social development in indigenous communities.

Chapter 2 is concerned with engagement and indigenous participation across the project life cycle. In addition to other aspects of engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the chapter discusses the issue of FPIC.

Chapter 3 focuses on the practical aspects of managing the impacts of a project on Indigenous Peoples. The topics addressed include how to approach impact mitigation and enhancement, preserving cultural heritage, environmental protection, mine closure, and addressing discrimination and historical disadvantage.

Chapter 4 deals with agreements: both the making of them and their ongoing implementation across the project life cycle. Topics addressed in this section include sharing the benefits of projects through agreements, the factors that make for successful agreements, components of agreements, and implementation and participatory monitoring of agreements.



Students near Goldcorp's El Sauzal mine in Mexico. Contributing towards education, healthcare and community development create long-term social and economic benefits that outlive the life-cycle of mining.

Chapter 5, which concludes Part one, is concerned with complaints, disputes and grievances. The section focuses both on pre-emptive strategies and on mechanisms for dealing with community issues and concerns when they do arise.

Part two of the Guide contains a series of 13 tools. These tools have been developed to give practical effect to the good practice principles and themes discussed in Part one.

Part three provides a number of case studies from ICMM members which relate to different sections of the document.

Part four contains further information including a list of useful resources.

⁶ Indigenous land and territory are sometimes used interchangeably. While there is no firm distinction, "lands" is often used to refer to land over which Indigenous Peoples have formal or customary title, whereas territory refers to the broader area that Indigenous Peoples use and move throughout. The broader concept of territoriality embraces historical, cultural and other dimensions that are not tangible, such as connections to the spirit world. "Land" may also include areas beneath the waterline, such as reefs or river beds.