Background to this guidance

Between 2012 and 2014 an international benchmarking study on land acquisition and resettlement was undertaken (Coetzee et al., 2013). It was supported at various phases by three ICMM members: Rio Tinto, Gold Fields and Glencore. The benchmarking study reviewed land acquisition and resettlement relating to 41 mining and oil and gas projects in 19 countries across the globe.

The objective of the study was to consolidate lessons learned from practical experiences, in order to improve understanding of critical issues and challenges related to land acquisition and resettlement, as well as to profile innovative approaches to overcoming them.

In 2015 ICMM decided to make the benchmark study more accessible by adapting the key learning from it and developing a set of practical modules for companies.

Overview of the plans presented in the guidance

The guidance sets out a number of frameworks and plans in the various modules. In order to explain how these all fit together in a comprehensive approach to the management of land acquisition and resettlement, see Figure 1. It is important to bear in mind that land acquisition and resettlement is one of a number of social issues that mining projects will typically face. Therefore, land acquisition planning needs to be integrated into broader social planning for the project.

How to use these modules

The modules in this guidance are based on the key challenges, lessons and recommendations highlighted in the original benchmarking study. The guidance has been designed to provide easy access to modules relevant to practitioners, and each module can be downloaded separately. You can access them from the download centre in the flipbook.

Figure 1 Approach to land acquisition and resettlement: illustration of relevant plans and frameworks

Land acquisition and resettlement
resettlement policy framework, resettlement action plan/livelihood restoration plan, construction management plan, handover and maintenance plan, transitional hardship and support plan

Other social issues and risks
stakeholder engagement plan, community development plan, other social management plans

Overall project social planning
social management and monitoring plan

Land management
land management plan

Monitoring and evaluation
social monitoring and evaluation framework, monitoring and evaluation plan, completion audit