

Industry organisations

In addition to ICMM, there are a number of industry-wide organisations with voluntary membership designed to represent member interests and improve member performance in key areas, including social performance. In the extractive sector these organisations include the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada and IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues). Such organisations have developed guidance materials to help deal with social issues, including land access and resettlement.

Lessons from using international policies and standards

Challenges

- With all the policies and standards that have been developed, employees sometimes find it challenging to know which standards and policies to apply.
- If there is a significant gap or difference between national legislation and international standards, companies undertaking resettlement activities will need to determine how to address this.

Lessons and recommendations

- There is increasing convergence between the policies and standards of institutions like the IFC, World Bank, EBRD, African Development Bank and other such international organisations.
- In addition to national laws and regulations, consider which policies and standards should be complied with, as a result of corporate policies and commitments or the stipulations of lending or other institutions.
- While policies and standards need to be adhered to, they also need to be applied in a practical way appropriate to each country and site.
- Preparation of a resettlement policy framework allows for early scoping of key issues and clarity on the legislative and policy context
- Having corporate social, community and resettlement policies in place can help to frame and regulate the planning, negotiation and implementation of land access and resettlement, and to ensure a fair outcome. This also provides a clear framework to site teams and helps avoid pressure on them to take short cuts.
- Preparation of a resettlement policy framework allows for early scoping of key issues and clarity on the legislative and policy context.
- Always design the land access management plan and resettlement action plan, in accordance with applicable national legislation and international standards.