



# A Guide to Biodiversity for the Private Sector

[www.ifc.org/BiodiversityGuide](http://www.ifc.org/BiodiversityGuide)

## Mining

### The Bottom Line

Mining, if not well managed, can have a broad range of direct impacts on biodiversity, from habitat conversion to water and soil contamination. Most of these impacts are manageable with good practices. However, while parts of the industry have been very active in managing biodiversity, adoption of good practices has been uneven across the sector, in part because it is so diverse. Nevertheless, for all mining companies, especially when operating in remote areas, the greatest concerns involve less manageable indirect or induced impacts, such as those caused by improved access to an area along roads or other infrastructure corridors. This improved access can facilitate farming, artisanal mining, hunting or logging operations that can severely impact biodiversity and are very hard to control.

The mining sector was identified as a high risk (“red zone”) sector for biodiversity risk in the September 2004 report *Is Biodiversity a material risk for companies?* (F&C Asset Management plc) [Report available from: <http://www.businessandbiodiversity.org/pdf/FC%20Biodiversity%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>] The report defines red-zone sectors as those sectors in which *most companies* are likely to be exposed to biodiversity risks and the risks are *likely to be significant*.

### Drivers for change

- The need to **change perceptions** towards mining, which are typically negative and allow false rumors to spread quickly, even about otherwise well-managed projects (community, government, clients)
- Ensuring good **community support and a good reputation**, to increase the company's ability to withstand a problem and maintain their access to mineral resources (community, government, clients)
- **Combating mistrust** among communities and conservation organizations (community, civil society)
- New requirements and increased scrutiny imposed by **investors**, financial institutions and major fund managers (financiers)

### Key sustainability initiatives and good practices

- **The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM):** [<http://www.icmm.com>] The ICMM was formed by the mining industry to respond to the challenges identified by the Global Mining Initiative [<http://www.globalmining.com>] in its Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development report [<http://www.iied.org/mmsd>]. The organization has initiated work on the business case for addressing biodiversity in the mining sector, produced case studies and worked closely with the Global Reporting Initiative [<http://www.globalreporting.org>] on the drafting of a mining and metals sector supplement. The ICMM has also developed a website and online library, Good Practice: Sustainable Development in the Mining and Metals Sector [<http://www.goodpracticemining.org>], in collaboration with the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UK Department for International Development (DfID).

- **Guidance for the Mining Industry in Raising Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level:** [<http://www.mineralresourcesforum.org/docs/pdfs/APELL%20for%20Mining%20Exec.%20Summary.pdf>] This document has been produced by the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) [<http://www.icmm.com>] and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [<http://www.unep.org>]
- **IUCN-ICMM Mining Dialogue:** [<http://www.iucn.org/themes/business/mining/index.htm>] The World Conservation Union (IUCN) [<http://www.iucn.org>] and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) [<http://www.icmm.org>] are engaged in an ongoing Dialogue that seeks to improve the performance of the mining industry on biodiversity issues and increase mutual awareness and understanding between the mining sector and the conservation community. As part of this dialogue, the two organizations have released two documents: Good Practice Guidance for Mining and Biodiversity [[http://www.icmm.com/library\\_pub\\_detail.php?rcd=195](http://www.icmm.com/library_pub_detail.php?rcd=195)] and Integrating Mining and Biodiversity Conservation: Case studies from around the world [<http://conserveonline.org/docs/2005/07/Report%20FINAL.pdf>].

- **The Extractive Industries Review (EIR):** [<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTOGMC/0,,contentMDK:20605112~menuPK:336936~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336930,00.html>] A major review of World Bank Group investments in extractive industries.
- **The Kimberley Process:** [<http://www.kimberleyprocess.com:8080/site>] A joint initiative of 45 government, international diamond industry and civil society actors, that uses a diamond certification scheme stemming the flow of conflict diamonds (diamonds used by rebel groups to finance wars against legitimate governments).
- **The Center for Environmental Leadership in Business: Energy and Mining Program:** <http://www.celb.org/xp/CELB/programs/energy-mining>

For more on IFC's requirements in relation to mining, please see the World Bank/IFC Oil, Gas, Mining and Chemicals website: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTOGMC/0,,menuPK:336936~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:336930,00.html>