

Ok Birim Tailings Storage Facility Project

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Chapter 5

Stakeholder engagement



5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This chapter describes stakeholder engagement conducted for the Ok Birim Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Project (the project) environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA). This includes engagement requirements outlined in Papua New Guinea (PNG) legislation, relevant international standards, and Ok Tedi Mining Limited's (OTML's) corporate policies; project stakeholders; engagement activities; and stakeholder feedback. Details on future stakeholder engagement proposed for disclosure of the ESIA and construction phase are also provided.

5.1 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

This section provides an overview of OTML's engagement approach for the current mining operations, and engagement objectives and principles for the project.

5.1.1 OTML's current engagement approach

Stakeholder engagement is central to OTML's operations. OTML currently conducts formal and informal engagement activities with a wide range of stakeholders, including landowners, affected communities, provincial and national government agencies, employees, contractors, suppliers, and other interest groups, to share information and updates on OTML's operations, seek feedback, and respond to stakeholder issues and complaints. Stakeholder engagement activities involve formal communication and consultation meetings, including with men, women and children of villages across the eight Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) regions and six mine villages, and targeted stakeholder forums (OTML 2023).

Stakeholder feedback is captured and managed through OTML's dedicated Complaints and Grievance Management System and Stakeholder Engagement System (SES). These systems are managed by OTML's Community Relations and Sustainability team and have been designed to meet the *United Nations and International Finance Corporation (IFC) guidelines for resource sector development* (OTML 2023).

OTML is committed to refining its stakeholder engagement processes through periodic review and continuous capacity building, sustaining constructive stakeholder relationships throughout the life cycle of its operations.

5.1.2 Engagement objectives for the project

The key objectives guiding stakeholder engagement activities for the project have been to:

- Inform potentially affected communities and other interested stakeholders about the project and its potential impacts.
- Receive input from communities and other stakeholders about the nature and extent to which project-related effects may impact on the physical and social environment.
- Contribute to the continued partnership between OTML and stakeholders, which enables a collaborative approach to maximising the potential social benefits, and minimising potential negative impacts, of the project and the Ok Tedi Mine.
- Meet statutory requirements relevant to the project.

5.1.3 Principles of engagement

Engagement for the project has been approached in accordance with the following guiding principles, consistent with the principles of a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process:

- **Informed consent:** using methods that create effective and meaningful opportunities for engagement; providing consistent and detailed information, accessible to affected peoples and other relevant stakeholders; respects community and individual's privacy and confidentiality, and; applies a time schedule that suits community governance and decision-making processes.
- **Participatory:** engagement will promote informed participation and be supported by timely and accurate information; stakeholders will be provided with sufficient time and resources to provide feedback and input into this process; consultations with community members will be in a way that is appropriate for their customs and practices.
- **Integrity:** engagement will be open, truthful, and transparent to enable all stakeholders to participate in a meaningful way.
- **Inclusiveness:** engagement will be accessible and balanced; reasonable attempts will be made to include stakeholders that may be harder to reach; information will be understandable and readily accessible to stakeholders in culturally appropriate ways so a full range of values and perspectives are included, with specific attention to particular interests and needs of different clans, women and vulnerable groups. Adherence to cultural protocols may necessitate the need for flexibility in engagement schedules and the development of fall-back plans to satisfy the engagement purpose.
- **Respect and collaboration:** stakeholders will be valued and respected; engagement throughout the process will be based on actively listening to, and attempting to understand their human rights and cultural, stakeholder needs, and; being responsive to how stakeholders wish to be engaged considering human rights.
- **Transparency and accountability:** ongoing processes will be established to monitor, evaluate and disclose information, including processes to track and communicate decisions and activities in a reliable, accurate and clear manner. OTML's grievance and complaints mechanism has and will be followed to address stakeholder concerns or issues.
- **Independent:** the engagement related to the ESIA has been conducted in an independent and impartial manner, free of political or stakeholder bias.

5.2 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND ACTIVITIES

Stakeholder engagement for the ESIA has been planned around four key phases:

1. Project initiation and awareness.
2. Information gathering and impact assessment.
3. Pre-EIS submission disclosure.
4. Environmental impact statement (EIS) disclosure in accordance with the requirements of the *Ok Tedi Environment Management Act 2019* (OTEMA). This ESIA fulfils the requirements of an EIS under OTEMA and incorporates stakeholder engagement undertaken prior to EIS disclosure.

The first three phases informed this ESIA, with EIS disclosure to be conducted following submission of the ESIA to the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA).

The following sections provides an overview of engagement activities for each phase. Figure 5.1 shows community engagements for the ESIA to date.

5.2.1 Project initiation and awareness

A roadshow was conducted in May and June 2025 in the villages near the TSF, Ningerum, and Kiunga. The purpose of the roadshow was to inform communities and other stakeholders about the project, the EIS process and upcoming fieldwork and engagement activities, including:

- Details of the project, particularly the TSF and infrastructure corridor.
- Explaining the EIS process under OTEMA, including key milestones and timelines, including CEPA's role in the process.
- Describing the environmental and social studies being conducted for the ESIA.
- Receiving feedback from communities and stakeholders to ask questions and raise initial concerns about the project and its potential impacts, and provide feedback on issues for consideration in the ESIA.
- Explaining how local people can raise concerns and grievances with OTML regarding the project.

Feedback was also sought on stakeholders to be engaged and community preferences for engagement to inform future engagement for the project.

Engagement was conducted through community focus group discussions, male focus group discussions, female focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Stakeholder groups targeted for this phase included:

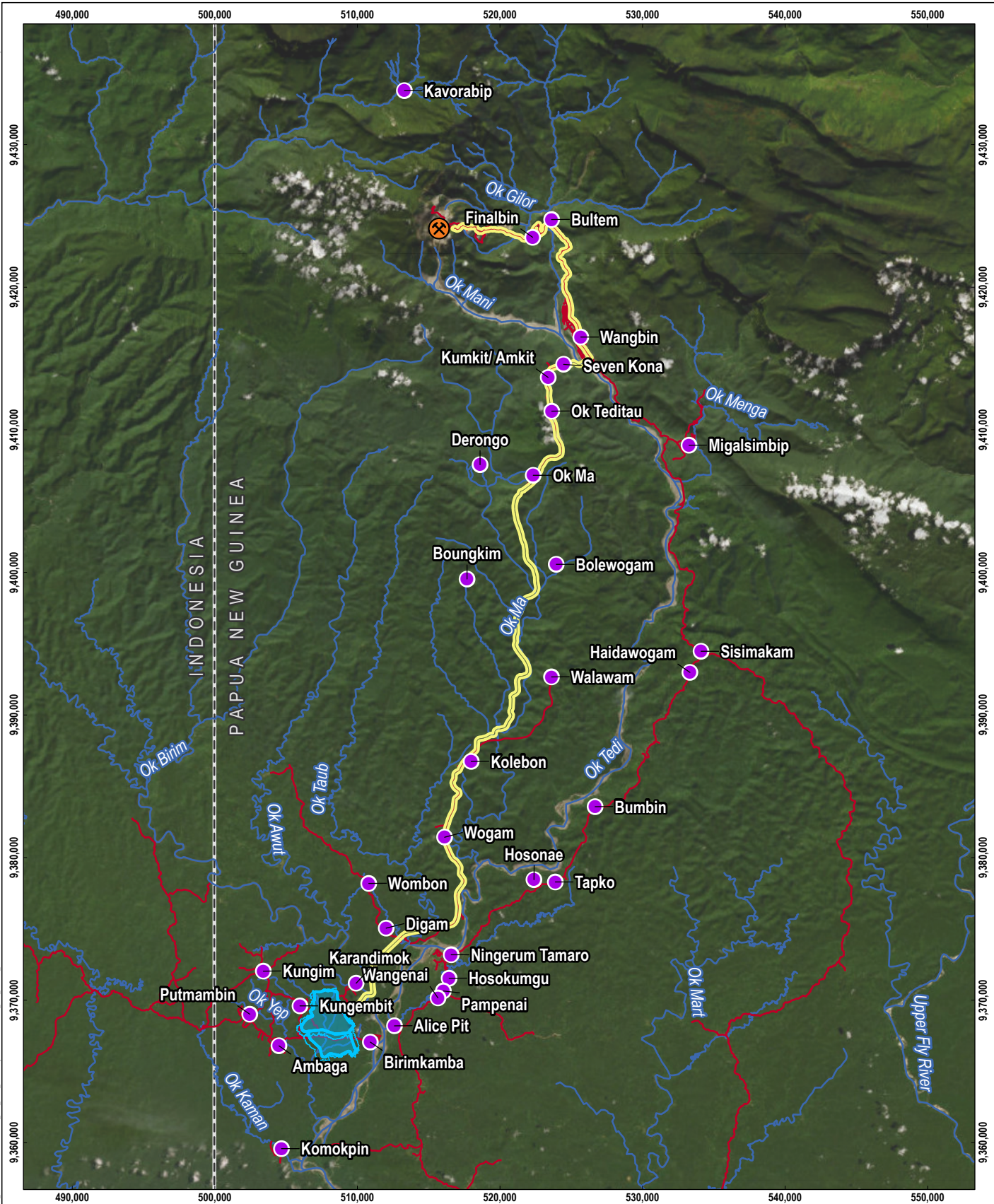
- Affected landowners and communities from villages near the proposed TSF site, including Birimkamba, Putmambin, Karandimok, Kungembit, Ambaga and Kungim (see Figure 5.1)
- Government representatives from the North Fly District, and Ningerum Rural Local Level Government (LLG).
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as the Ok Tedi Development Foundation and Montfort Catholic Diocese.

5.2.2 Information gathering and impact assessment

The purpose of this phase was to share information about the project and ESIA activities, and to gather information from project affected communities and other stakeholders on existing environmental and social conditions, and feedback on perceived impacts and benefits of the project. Engagement for this phase was conducted by OTML, Tetra Tech Coffey, and technical specialists during fieldwork.

As part of this phase, engagement was conducted through fieldwork for several technical investigations during July and August 2025:

- Aquatic ecology.
- Terrestrial ecology.
- Archaeology and cultural heritage.
- Social studies, including social characterisation, social impact assessment, resource use assessment, and human rights impact assessment.



LEGEND

-  Ok Tedi Mine
-  Community
-  Road/track
-  Watercourse
-  International border
-  Proposed TSF footprint
-  Proposed infrastructure corridor



0 5 10 km
SCALE 1:375,000
PAGE SIZE: A4
PROJECTION: PNG94 PNGMG94 Zone 54

SOURCE
Villages from Tetra Tech Coffey.
Proposed infrastructure from KCB and OTML.
Topographic features from OSM. Admin boundary from NSO.
DEM from SRTM. Imagery from ESRI.

OK TEDI MINING LIMITED

OK BIRIM TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY PROJECT

FIGURE 5.1

Communities engaged with during
ESIA process



TETRA TECH
COFFEY

DATE: 19.06.26 PROJECT: 754-MELN374244 FILE: 374244C_R08_F05.01_GIS

Engagements for social studies was conducted by OTML's Community Relations and Sustainability Department and Tetra Tech Coffey. Stakeholders targeted for this round included:

- Affected landowners and communities from the TSF villages, including Ambaga, Birimkamba, Karandimok, Komokpin, Kungembit, Kungim, Putmambin, and the Buseki people of Lake Murray who own land within the proposed TSF site.
- Affected landowners and communities along the Kiunga–Tabubil Highway from Tabubil to Alice Pit for construction haulage. This included Alice Pit, Ningerum (which had representatives from Bumbin, Hiorinkia, Hosokumgu, Hosonae, Pampenai, Tapko), Wangenai, Wurimkanatgo, Walawam, Haidawogam and Sisimakam.
- Affected landowners and communities from villages along the tailings pipeline route, including Kumkit, Ankit, Ok Teditau, Bounkim and Wombon at the Ok Ma settlement, Digam, Ningerum Tamaro and Wombon at Ningerum and Bolewogam and Wogam.

Engagement methods used in this phase include:

- Meetings with community leaders from villages near the proposed TSF site, villages along the Kiunga–Tabubil Highway (between Tabubil and Alice Pit) and tailings pipeline route.
- Community focus group discussions, including separate discussions with males and females.
- Key informant interviews with key stakeholders, such as community service providers.
- Written community updates (Toksava and Komuniti Nius).
- Written requests for information.

5.2.3 Pre-EIS submission disclosure

The purpose of the pre-EIS disclosure was to inform affected stakeholders and the public about the proposed project and its likely impacts before the EIS is finalised and submitted to CEPA. It provided an opportunity to present the draft EIS results, and gather comments, concerns, and suggestions from interested parties. This step of disclosure helps improve transparency, support meaningful public participation, and allow for key issues to be considered in the preparation and finalisation of the ESIA.

OTML regularly met with CEPA and the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) in late 2025 and March 2026 regarding the ESIA.

Prior to commencement of the pre-EIS disclosure program, OTML facilitated a familiarisation visit to the Bige operations area on 9 April 2026 for representatives of TSF communities. The visit was attended by 30 community leaders and representatives from Ambaga, Birimkamba, Karandimok, Kungembit, Kungim and Putmambin, comprising 25 males and five females, including community leaders, ward members, councillors, women representatives, church representatives and three youth representatives. The purpose of the visit was to provide participants with an opportunity to observe dredging operations and gain an appreciation of the scale of the existing stockpile areas on the east and west banks of the Lower Ok Tedi. The visit was intended to improve understanding of tailings management concepts given the similarity of the Bige stockpiles with the proposed TSF, and support informed participation in subsequent pre-EIS disclosure activities.

OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey conducted pre-EIS disclosure with project communities and with community leaders between 24 April and 11 May 2026. Engagements commenced in Tabubil with leaders from the mine villages of Bultem, Migalsim, Kaworabip, Wangbin and Finalbin, as well as the President of Star Mountain LLG and Lord Mayor of Tabubil. Atemkit leaders were unavailable.

Subsequent engagement was undertaken with Seven Kona communities, including Kumkit/Ankit and representatives from Ok Teditau. Other engagement locations included Bolewogam at kilometre 117 along the Kiunga-Tabubil Highway, Ningerum-Tamaro at Ningerum, Wogam Village, Ok Ma communities comprising Ok Teditau, Bounkim, Nioksikwi and Derongo, Kolebon and Bumbin at kilometre 90, Digam and Wombon at

Ningerum waterfront, Kungim and Karandimok at their respective village locations, and Walawam at kilometre 96.

Joint engagement was undertaken with Kungembit, Putmambin, Ambaga and Birimkamba at Birimkamba waterfront. Komokpin and Mendua communities were engaged at Alice Pit.

Pre-EIS disclosure with Kiunga Urban and Rural LLGs did not occur.

5.2.4 EIS disclosure

Public disclosure of the ESIA (EIS disclosure) will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of OTEMA. OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey will conduct EIS disclosure in conjunction with CEPA and the MRA. This process will include:

- Presenting the ESIA to national and provincial governments in Port Moresby and Kiunga.
- Presenting the ESIA to project affected communities within the project area, in Ningerum and Tabubil by an EIS roadshow (in Tok-Pisin and local language as necessary via a translator).

The purpose of this phase is to present findings from this ESIA and address issues previously raised by project affected communities and other stakeholders. It will seek to:

- Present the information contained in this ESIA.
- Summarise the issues and concerns raised in previous engagement.
- Inform the community about how these issues have been considered and the management measures developed to address these concerns.

CEPA will determine the timing for the EIS roadshow in conjunction with OTML. It is expected to occur between three and six months following the submission of the ESIA to CEPA.

5.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

PNG legislation, international standards and OTML policies and standards outline requirements for stakeholder engagement. The following outlines the PNG legislation and the international standards that have guided stakeholder engagement for the ESIA, and how these have been considered.

5.3.1 PNG legislation

The principal legislation for regulating the environmental and social effects of the Ok Tedi Mine is OTEMA. The OTEMA recognises public consultation as part of the environmental impact assessment process (EIS disclosure). Specifically, Section 24 of OTEMA requires the EIS (termed the ESIA for this project) to be made available for public review, including:

- Provision of information to public authorities and members of the public.
 - A public presentation to those likely to be affected by the project.
- Public submissions received on the ESIA will be considered by the Director of CEPA and the Environment Council in determining whether to recommend approval in principle for the project.

Section 5.2.4 discusses the stakeholder engagement process relating to EIS disclosure.

5.3.2 International standards

OTML has aligned stakeholder engagement conducted for the project with the requirements of the international stakeholder engagement standards outlined below.

5.3.2.1 The Copper Mark

The Copper Mark (Responsible Minerals Initiative and The Copper Mark Company 2023) provides an assurance framework for responsible copper production sites to effectively manage environmental, social, and governance issues through meaningful stakeholder engagement. Table 5.1 outlines the stakeholder engagement requirements relevant to the project.

Table 5.1 Copper Mark consultation requirements

Risk readiness assessment criterion	Consultation requirement*	Project response
Criterion 7: Grievance Mechanism	Consult stakeholders on the design, implementation, and regular review of grievance mechanisms, ensuring they meet the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectiveness criteria.	OTML will implement its existing Complaints and Grievance Management System, which meets relevant guidelines of the United Nations and IFC for Resource Sector development (OTML 2023).
Criterion 8: Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder identification and mapping – identify and map stakeholders potentially impacted by the project, including their connections to land, water, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. Inclusive and meaningful engagement – conduct ongoing, two-way, good-faith stakeholder engagement that is timely, accessible, culturally appropriate, safe, and responsive to stakeholder views. Disclosure and documentation – provide accessible and culturally appropriate disclosure of information to stakeholders about environmental, social and governance risks, impacts, mitigation measures, and progress on agreed actions. FPIC – adhere to FPIC when engaging Indigenous Peoples, ensuring culturally appropriate engagement and decision-making. Grievance mechanism – consult stakeholders to ensure the grievance mechanism meets their needs, ensuring accessibility, legitimacy, transparency, and responsiveness. 	<p>Stakeholder identification and mapping has been conducted to identify project affected communities and other stakeholders with an interest in the project. Suggestions for stakeholders to be engaged were also sought during discussions with community leaders during initial engagement in mid-2025.</p> <p>ESIA technical studies have been informed by engagement with project affected communities near the TSF and infrastructure corridor. This engagement has been conducted in Tok Pisin by field teams comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papua New Guinean and international team members with experience in engagement in PNG. Male and female team members. <p>A disclosure process will be conducted for the ESIA as part of the roadshow with CEPA.</p>
Criterion 9: Mine Closure and Reclamation	Consult stakeholders throughout the life cycle of the project, including in the development and monitoring of the mine closure plan, the vision for post-closure land use, and management of long-term environmental and social impacts.	Potential impacts of decommissioning and rehabilitation are assessed in this ESIA. OTML has existing processes in place for consulting with stakeholders about mine closure planning.
Criterion 23: Indigenous Peoples' Rights	Engage Indigenous Peoples through culturally appropriate, transparent consultation processes, respecting their rights to FPIC on decisions affecting their lands, resources, and cultural heritage.	Engagement has included landowners, leaders, and community members of potentially affected communities to understand their use of land, natural resources and cultural values. EIS disclosure will present the results of the ESIA, including potential impacts and proposed management measures.

Risk readiness assessment criterion	Consultation requirement*	Project response
Criterion 24: Land Acquisition and Resettlement	Consult stakeholders, especially affected communities, in planning, implementation, monitoring, and compensation processes related to land acquisition, involuntary resettlement, and livelihood restoration.	Land acquisition and resettlement (if required) will be managed by OTML in accordance with its standard practices and other voluntary standards.
Criterion 25: Cultural Heritage	Consult local communities to identify cultural heritage and manage potential impacts, ensuring local input influences project decision-making and protection measures.	The Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment has been informed by survey of and feedback from project affected communities, including identification of cultural heritage values and proposed management measures.
Criterion 31: Tailings Management	Consult stakeholders on tailings management plans, especially regarding risks and potential impacts, and ensure preparedness and response strategies incorporate community input.	The ESIA addresses potential impacts and risks of the project on local communities. Ongoing management of the project will be in accordance with OTML's current practices.
Criterion 32: Biodiversity and Productive Land	Engage stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in the assessment and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services impacts, ensuring their knowledge and interests are integrated into mitigation and conservation strategies.	The aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems services assessments have been informed by engagement with project affected communities, including landowners and other potential users of the project development area.

* Responsible Minerals Initiative and The Copper Mark (2023)

5.3.2.2 Equator principles

The Equator Principles IV (EP IV) (Equator Principles Association 2020a) provide a framework for Equator Principle financial institutions to assess and manage environmental and social impacts and risks of projects that they fund. Table 5.2 outlines the EP IV requirements relevant to stakeholder engagement for the project.

Table 5.2 EP IV consultation requirements

EP IV	Consultation requirement	Project response
Principle 5: Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed consultation and participation – The EP IV requires that projects with potentially significant adverse impacts on affected communities will undertake an informed consultation and participation process. IFC Performance Standard (PS) 1 provides detail on engagement requirements, including stakeholder analysis and engagement planning, disclosure of information, consultation, informed consultation and participation, Indigenous people and grievance management. FPIC – The EP IV requires projects that trigger the special circumstances in IFC PS 7 to establish a process for achieving FPIC of affected Indigenous Peoples. Disclosure and documentation – The EP IV requires that assessment documents are readily available to affected communities and stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner and the stakeholder engagement process is documented. 	<p>FPIC principles have guided consultation for the ESIA, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing communities prior knowledge of field investigations through pre-awareness conducted by OTML. Providing community members with a briefing on the project and allowing time for questions. Conducting engagement activities in Tok Pisin with translation to Tok Ples as required. Providing stakeholders with an understanding of the field investigations, including purpose, how feedback will be used, and potential risks. Providing community members and other stakeholders with information about the likely environmental and social impacts of the project prior to submission of the ESIA to CEPA, and giving an opportunity for them to provide feedback and ask questions about this.

EP IV	Consultation requirement	Project response
		<p>A disclosure process will be conducted for the ESIA as part of the roadshow with CEPA. Engagement materials for the EIS disclosure will include information in both English and Tok Pisin.</p> <p>The ESIA will be available on the OTML website for public access.</p>
Principle 6: Grievance mechanism	The EP IV requires the establishment of a grievance redress mechanism, which is scaled to the risks and impacts of the project.	OTML will implement its existing online Complaints and Grievance Management System for the project, which meets relevant United Nations and IFC guidelines for resource sector development (OTML 2023).
Principle 10: Reporting and transparency	The ESIA will be accessible and available online.	<p>An EIS disclosure process will be conducted as part of the roadshow with CEPA. Engagement materials for the EIS disclosure will include information in both English and Tok Pisin.</p> <p>The ESIA will be available on the OTML website for public access.</p>

5.3.2.3 IFC performance standards

The *IFC PS on Environmental and Social Sustainability* (IFC 2012) comprise eight performance standards that detail commitments, roles and responsibilities relating to environmental and social sustainability. Table 5.3 details the performance standards relevant to the project's stakeholder engagement activities.

Table 5.3 IFC PS consultation requirements

IFC PS	Consultation requirement*	Project response
PS 1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	Requires disclosure of project information to allow communities to understand and express their views on the project's risks, impacts, opportunities, and mitigation measures, and allows for the proponent to consider and provide a response to these.	<p>Pre-submission disclosure has provided community members and other stakeholders with information about the likely environmental and social impacts of the project prior to submission of the ESIA to CEPA, and given an opportunity for them to provide feedback and ask questions about this.</p> <p>An EIS disclosure process will be conducted as part of the roadshow with CEPA. Engagement materials for the EIS disclosure will include information in both English and Tok Pisin.</p>
PS 4: Community health, safety and security	Requires disclosure of relevant information to help communities prepare effectively to emergency situations and provide opportunities for communities to express concerns about security arrangements.	<p>Pre-submission disclosure has provided community members and other stakeholders with information about the likely health, safety and security impacts of the project prior to submission of the ESIA to CEPA, and given an opportunity for them to provide feedback and ask questions about this.</p> <p>An EIS disclosure process will be conducted as part of the roadshow with CEPA. Engagement materials for the EIS disclosure will include information in both English and Tok Pisin.</p>
PS 5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement	Requires consultation with, disclosure to, and active participation of, affected communities during the planning, implementation and monitoring of compensation payments, livelihood restoration activities and resettlement. A grievance mechanism is also required to receive and address specific concerns by communities and displaced persons.	Land acquisition and resettlement (if required) will be managed by OTML in accordance with its standard practices and other voluntary standards.

IFC PS	Consultation requirement*	Project response
PS 6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	Requires consultation with stakeholders to identify differing values associated with biodiversity, including ecosystem services. Also requires the proponent to consult with sponsors and managers, local communities, and other key stakeholders on protected areas.	The aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems services assessments have been informed by engagement with project affected communities, including landowners and other potential users of the project development area.
PS 7: Indigenous Peoples	Details the engagement requirements for Informed Consultation and Participation with the Indigenous Peoples affected by the project. Expands and builds upon Informed Consultation and Participation for FPIC of Affected Communities of Indigenous Peoples. FPIC is required for Indigenous Peoples whose connection to land may be affected by the project, either directly or indirectly, such as through resettlement, or through changes that would affect people's land and marine resource use and management, inclusive of subsistence resource use.	Engagement for the ESIA has included landowners, leaders, and community members of potentially affected communities to understand their use of land, natural resources and cultural values. An EIS disclosure process will be conducted to present the findings of the ESIA, including potential impacts and proposed management measures.
PS 8: Cultural heritage	Requires consultation with local communities where the project may affect cultural heritage to identify cultural heritage importance. This performance standard requires the incorporation of these findings into the decision making process. Relevant national or local regulatory agencies are also required to be consulted.	The Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment has been informed by survey of and feedback from project affected communities, including identification of cultural heritage values and proposed management measures.

* IFC (2012)

5.3.2.4 Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management

The Global Industry Standard for Tailings Management (GISTM) establishes global best practices for tailings facility safety, governance, and social responsibility. The standard comprises 15 requirements relating to the TSF's design and management planning, including meaningful engagement with potentially affected communities, integrated risk assessment, and emergency preparedness. Table 5.4 details the requirements relevant to the project's stakeholder engagement activities.

Table 5.4 GISTM consultation requirements

Principle	Consultation requirement*	Project response
Principle 1 - Affected communities - Respect the rights of project-affected people and meaningfully engage them at all phases of the tailings facility lifecycle, including closure.	1.2. Where a new tailings facility may impact the rights of indigenous or tribal peoples, including their land and resource rights and their right to self-determination, work to obtain and maintain FPIC by demonstrating conformance to international guidance and recognised best practice frameworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPIC principles have guided consultation for the ESIA, through: • Providing communities prior knowledge of field investigations through pre-awareness conducted by OTML. • Providing community members with a briefing on the project and allowing time for questions. • Conducting engagement activities in Tok Pisin. • Providing stakeholders with an understanding of the field investigations, including purpose, how feedback will be used, and potential risks. • Pre-submission disclosure providing community members and other stakeholders with information about the likely environmental and social impacts of the project prior to submission of the ESIA to

Principle	Consultation requirement*	Project response
		<p>CEPA, and giving an opportunity for them to provide feedback and ask questions about this.</p> <p>A disclosure process will be conducted for the EIS as part of the roadshow with CEPA. Engagement materials for the EIS disclosure will include information in both English and Tok Pisin.</p> <p>The ESIA will be available on the OTML website for public access.</p>
	1.3. Demonstrate that project-affected people are meaningfully engaged throughout the tailings facility lifecycle in building the knowledge base and in decisions that may have a bearing on public safety and the integrity of the tailings facility. The Operator shall share information to support this process.	<p>The ESIA addresses potential impacts and risks of the project on local communities. A disclosure process will be conducted for the ESIA as part of the roadshow with CEPA.</p> <p>Ongoing management of the project will be in accordance with OTML's current practices.</p> <p>OTML has existing processes in place for consulting with stakeholders about mine closure planning.</p>
	1.4. Establish an effective operational-level, non-judicial grievance mechanism that addresses complaints and grievances of project-affected people relating to the tailings facility, and provide remedy in accordance with the UNGP.	OTML will implement its existing online Complaints and Grievance Management System for the project, which meets relevant United Nations and IFC guidelines for resource sector development (OTML 2023).
Principle 15 - Publicly disclose and provide access to information about the tailings facility to support public accountability.	<p>15.1. Publish and regularly update information on the Operator's commitment to safe tailings facility management, implementation of its tailings governance framework, its organisation-wide policies, standards or approaches to the design, construction, monitoring and closure of tailings facilities.</p> <p>A. For new tailings facilities for which the regulatory authorisation process has commenced, or that are otherwise approved by the Operator, the Operator shall publish and update, in accordance with Principle 21 of the UNGP, the following information:</p> <p>1. A plain language summary of the rationale for the basis of the design and site selected as per the multi-criteria alternatives analysis, impact assessments, and mitigation plans (Information may be obtained from the output of multiple Requirements including, but not limited to, Requirements 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.4, 6.6, 7.1 and 10.1); and</p> <p>2. The Consequence Classification.(Requirement 4.1).</p> <p>C. Provide local authorities and emergency services with sufficient information derived from the breach analysis to enable effective disaster management planning (Information may be obtained from the output of Requirement 2.3).</p>	<p>The ESIA outlines the site selection and alternatives analysis and an assessment of natural hazards and unplanned events. A disclosure process will be conducted for the ESIA as part of the roadshow with CEPA.</p> <p>Ongoing management of the project will be in accordance with OTML's current practices. This includes publishing an annual review online.</p> <p>OTML has existing processes in place for consulting with stakeholders about mine closure planning.</p> <p>OTML will work with local authorities and emergency services for emergency response planning prior to operation of the TSF, specifically for dam failure.</p>
	15.2. Respond in a systematic and timely manner to requests from interested and affected stakeholders for additional information material to the public safety and integrity of a tailings facility. When the request for information is denied, provide an explanation to the requesting stakeholder.	The OTML Community Relations and Sustainability Department have regular engagement with stakeholders and are available in-person or through shared contact information. Any project information is provided by this department as and when required. Project information is provided at dedicated meetings. Requests for further information are

Principle	Consultation requirement*	Project response
		<p>responded to via local leaders as soon as practicable.</p> <p>All media-related enquires are managed through the OTML Media and Public Relations Department.</p>
	15.3. Commit to cooperate in credible global transparency initiatives to create standardised, independent, industry-wide and publicly accessible databases, inventories or other information repositories about the safety and integrity of tailings facilities.	<p>OTML is committed to operating a safe TSF that aligns with GISTM, IFC, International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), the Copper Mark and other relevant standards set out in this ESIA.</p> <p>All necessary databases will be developed and continuously updated. They will be accessible to key stakeholders.</p>

* ICMM et al. 2020

5.3.3 OTML policies

OTML recognises the importance of transparent communication, consultation, and awareness-raising with stakeholders as key elements of environmental performance and continuous improvement. This is evident in the *Community Level Stakeholder Complaint and Grievance Mechanism Operation Guideline* (CGM 2021) and the *Environmental Policy* (OTML 2023)

The OTML CGM Operation Guideline is a commitment by OTML to establish a formal mechanism for the management of community level stakeholder complaints in a timely, fair and respectful manner. This is managed by the Community Relations and Sustainability Department.

OTML's Environmental Policy (2023) demonstrates a commitment to stakeholder communication and engagement as part of its environmental management approach. The policy states that OTML will:

- Respond quickly and effectively to environmental incidents arising from its operations.
- Communicate openly with the Government and the community on environmental issues.
- Contribute to the development of policies, legislation and regulations that affect the company.

OTML commits to undertake employee and community awareness activities to promote conservation and recycling of resources, minimise waste, and improve processes to protect the natural environment.

5.4 KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders identified for the ESIA include those that are expected to experience impacts from the project, or those that may influence project activities (e.g., regulatory authorities) or have an interest in the project. Table 5.5 describes stakeholders identified for the project.

Different stakeholder groups require different methods of communication and consultation (i.e., catered to their language and level of literacy). OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey have tailored stakeholder engagement activities to the needs of each stakeholder group, taking into account their interest and understanding of the project and how they may be affected by it.

Table 5.5 Stakeholder groups

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder description
Affected landowners and project affected communities	<p>Affected landowners and project affected communities comprise customary landowner groups and other communities impacted by, or near, project infrastructure and construction activities. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners and communities within the seven villages surrounding the proposed TSF site, comprising Kungim, Ambaga, Birimkamba, Karandimok, Kungembit, Putmambin, and Komokpin. The Buseki people from Lake Murray who own land within the TSF site. Communities and businesses in Alice Pit, located on the western side of the Ok Tedi near the proposed bridge crossing. Communities along the tailings pipeline corridor, including Kumkit, Ok Teditau, Boungkim, Wombon, Digam, Ningerum Tamaro, Bolewogam and Wogam. Communities and businesses along the Tabubil-Kiunga Highway, where construction material will be transported through, including those within approximately 26 villages between Alice Pit and Ok Tedi Mine. Communities and businesses along the proposed transport route between Kiunga and Alice Pit, including those within approximately 19 villages located along the Tabubil-Kiunga Highway. Communities, businesses and other stakeholders within the regional centres of Tabubil, Ningerum and Kiunga. <p>Six communities (Ambaga, Birimkamba, Karandimok, Kungembit, Kungim and Putmambin) signed Clan Land Usage Agreements on 21 January 2025 to allow OTML to use the 'Ok Birim Land' for the project. This provides OTML with access to proceed with the feasibility works for the project.</p>
Community services and NGOs	<p>This group comprises government and non-government service providers (e.g., health, education, police) that service the project affected communities, and non-government organisations such as research, religious, and environmental and social interest groups.</p> <p>OTML currently engages with a range of stakeholders around operational, environmental, livelihood and social issues, including environmental groups, church organisations, Ok Tedi Development Foundation, PNG Sustainable Development Program, and PNG Chamber of Resources and Energy.</p>
Provincial, district and local level governments	<p>Provinces are the primary administrative divisions of PNG. Each province contains many districts and each district has one or more LLG areas.</p> <p>The proposed project area is within the North Fly District and Ningerum Rural and Star Mountain LLGs within the Western (Fly River) Provincial Government. Surrounding LLGs within the North Fly District also have facilities that will support activities for the project's construction and operation.</p> <p>The following provides a summary of the main infrastructure and activities in each of the LLGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ningerum Rural LLG – proposed TSF site, proposed tailings pipeline from south of the Ok Menga to the proposed TSF site, Ok Tedi bridge crossing, and proposed transport access north of Ok Ma at Bige. Star Mountain LLG – proposed tailings pipeline from north of the Ok Menga to the Ok Tedi Mine. Kiunga Rural LLG, which includes the proposed transport route south Ok Mart to Kiunga town, and Komokpin village located south of the proposed TSF site. Kiunga Urban LLG, which is the location of Kiunga shipping facility that will be used for transport of construction materials and equipment, and the proposed transport route through Kiunga town. <p>The North Fly District Development Authority was established in 2014 under the <i>District Development Authority Act 2014</i>. It is responsible for coordinating and implementing development plans and projects in the North Fly District, which includes the communities of Ningerum, Olsobip, Star Mountains, and Kiunga.</p> <p>The capital and administrative headquarters for the Western Province is Daru. Other major townships in the province include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tabubil, which is the headquarters for OTML and the Star Mountain LLG. Ningerum, which is the headquarters of the Ningerum Rural LLG. Kiunga, with is the headquarters of the Kiunga Urban LLG.

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder description
PNG National Government	<p>Comprises key agencies responsible for regulating and managing resource developments and associated environmental and social impacts.</p> <p>OTEMA is administered by CEPA, which is represented in the National Executive Council by the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change. The Managing Director of CEPA is the Director of Environment for the statutory roles of OTEMA relevant to the EIS. The Managing Director is responsible for administering the EIS assessment and approval process from its submission, referrals to the Environment Council, and issuance of amendments to Ok Tedi Mine's existing environment permit through to compliance monitoring and project closure.</p> <p>The MRA is the PNG National Government agency responsible for the management of mineral resources in PNG. The MRA was established through the enactment of the <i>Mineral Resources Authority Act 2005</i> by parliament. The primary functions of the MRA are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the Minister on matters relating to mining and the management, exploitation and development of the country's mineral resources. • Overseeing the administration and enforcement of the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> and the <i>Mining Development Act 1955</i>, among others. • Negotiate mining development contracts under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> on behalf of the State. • Oversee the administration and enforcement of the Ok Tedi Agreements. <p>Engagement with these departments is mandated by legislation for some EIS and other project-related activities.</p>
Other parties	<p>This includes stakeholders with a broader interest in the project, such as OTML employees, contractors, suppliers, PNG media (e.g., newspaper, radio, television), lender organisations, people of the wider North Fly District and Western Province, and the general public.</p>

5.5 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The following provides an overview of stakeholder engagement activities undertaken for the EIS and a summary of engagement outcomes, including key issues raised.

5.5.1 ESIA engagement

Stakeholder engagement and consultation for the ESIA has been undertaken between May 2025 and May 2026 occurring as part of project awareness, the specialist studies, household surveys, landowner identification process and to inform the preparation of this ESIA. Activities have included project briefings to provide an overview of the project and simplified technical information, public hearings and ESIA/EIS-related roadshows.

Table 5.6 presents a summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken for the ESIA to date.

Table 5.6 Stakeholder engagement undertaken to date

Phase	Timing	Summary of engagement
Project initiation and engagement	26 May to 13 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey provided: • Project updates to key stakeholders. • Targeted awareness sessions and focus group discussions (FGDs) with potentially affected communities near the TSF site. • Four key informant interviews were held with key stakeholders in Kiunga and Ningerum. <p>Approximately 324 people, including 225 men and 99 women, attended the project awareness sessions, held in six villages surrounding the TSF site (Ambaga, Birimkamba, Karandimok, Kungembit, Kungim and Putmambin).</p>

Phase	Timing	Summary of engagement
Information gathering and impact assessment	17 July to 8 August 2025	<p>OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates to key stakeholders. • Targeted awareness sessions and FGDs with potentially affected communities from the TSF villages, and villages along the construction haulage route between Tabubil and Alice Pit. • Household and village surveys conducted by OTML's Community Relations and Sustainability Department with each of the TSF villages. • Three key informant interviews held with key stakeholders from Star Mountain LLG and Ningerum. <p>Approximately 402 people, including 238 men and 164 women attended and participated in the sessions conducted.</p>
Information gathering and impact assessment – Tailings pipeline corridor	17 to 28 October 2025	<p>OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted awareness sessions to key stakeholders at the tailings pipeline corridor. • FGDs with affected landowners and communities along the proposed tailings pipeline and transport routes <p>Approximately 386 people, including 160 men and 116 women attended and participated in the sessions. 110 was the total in Ok Teditau (not split into men and women).</p>
Pre-submission ESIA roadshow	24 April 2026 to 12 May 2026	<p>OTML and Tetra Tech Coffey conducted the pre-EIS engagements in all the communities and respective community leaders.</p> <p>Approximately 875 people, including 537 men, 221 a women 117 youths attended and participated in the sessions.</p>

5.5.2 Summary of issues raised

This section provides a summary of the main issues and concerns raised and the questions by project communities and key stakeholders.

5.5.2.1 Land and livelihood

June 2025 consultation

Communities expressed concerns about the potential loss of land used for subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, gardening, and sourcing building materials, highlighting the importance of land for daily life and traditional practices. For example:

- Kungim community members stated, *'we depend entirely on this land – it's our mother'*.
- In Putmambin, concerns were expressed about the future generation's access to resources: *'[I'm] worried about my son... if I give up all my land, what will you be doing for my son?'*
- Similarly, a Karandimok community member highlighted their dependence on a healthy environment: *'Life relies on the environment; if you don't have a good environment, you don't have a community'*.
- Kungembit community members also underlined their limited options if their land within the TSF development area was impacted, stating clearly, *'There are no other places available for the community to use freely apart from land here [TSF development area]'*.

July/August 2025 consultation

Communities across the TSF project-affected areas rely heavily on land and natural resources for subsistence and income generation. Gardening, hunting, fishing, and forest resource gathering form the foundation of their daily lives and cultural practices. Food gardens are typically located along riverbanks, such as the Alice and Ok Tedi rivers, or in nearby forests, where crops like sago, banana, taro, sweet potato, and leafy greens (aibika, kumu) are grown.

Communities reported declining soil fertility, pest infestations, crop diseases, and challenges from heavy rainfall, all contributing to reduced yields. Some community members practice alluvial mining as a major income source, particularly along the Ok Tedi River up to Ningerum, while others depend on small-scale cash crops such as betel nuts, rubber, eaglewood, and balsa wood. Fishing for species such as catfish, eels, and shrimp supplements protein intake. The use of traditional medicine such as the salat plant commonly recurred in FGDs.

In women's FGDs, community members shared that the women of the communities sustain their livelihoods through gardening, small trade (especially betel nut sales). However, they face difficulties carrying heavy loads from distant gardens. Restrictions on crossing clan boundaries further limit women's access to arable land, and environmental impacts are expected to exacerbate these challenges.

Ambaga community's women expressed a desire to form associations or groups prior to project commencement for recognition and inclusion in community development projects. They expressed willingness to be involved in training for skills such as poultry farming and sewing. While some benefits from mining projects exist, such as compensation payments and employment opportunities, concerns about equitable distribution and sustainability for the future generations were mentioned as concerns. Community members noted the visible impacts of the mine but also commonly expressed willingness to benefit from the mine and TSF for improved livelihoods.

Communities expressed concern about environmental damage to land and water resources caused by mining and related developments, fearing long-term effects on livelihoods. In some areas, such as Ambaga and Komokpin, the loss of productive land has increased dependency on the mining company for survival. Traditional hunting and forest resource gathering, once abundant, are now scarce, forcing communities to travel long distances for meat and other resources. Subsistence practices remain central, but surplus produce is occasionally sold in local markets for small cash income to buy store goods. For example, the Ningerum High School has adopted rubber cultivation to earn income.

Overall, communities emphasised the significance of land and natural resources, viewing them as essential for food security, income, and the well-being of future generations. There is a strong call for proactive measures to support alternative livelihoods, safeguard traditional practices, and address environmental degradation to ensure sustainable development in the region.

April/May 2026 consultation

Communities expressed concerns about the land being lost to the project and the impact this would have on livelihood activities that will no longer be supported. This in turn prompted questions about the benefit arrangements and compensation for the loss of subsistence and income generation activities.

Community members generally asked, *'if my land is lost due to the TSF project, how will the company [Ok Tedi] look after me?'*

Similar sentiments were raised across all communities.

5.5.2.2 Resettlement

June 2025 consultation

Concerns were raised about uncertainty regarding potential relocation, emphasising the need for clear information on TSF boundaries, the resettlement process, and assurance of suitable living conditions and access to land after relocation. For example:

- In Putmambin, community members expressed anxiety about future land access for their children, stating clearly: *'I have to leave land for my kids; not all my land will be used'*.
- In Kungembit, community members highlighted a refusal to discuss relocation until clear TSF boundaries were provided, noting, *'Don't want to talk about resettlement until we know where the TSF boundary is'*.
- Additionally, Putmambin stressed their reluctance to move onto other clans' lands due to past negative experiences, stating: *'[we] can't go and sit on somebody's land – today they will say yes, tomorrow they will say no'*.

July/August 2025 consultation

Concerns were raised about social impacts of resettlement, as well as uncertainty regarding how relocation and land ownership issues would be managed if it was required. Communities emphasised the need for clarity on resettlement processes, security of customary land rights, and the social implications of an influx of outsiders. For example:

- In Birimkamba, women expressed fears about new people moving into their village, saying: *'We are worried about our girls – if other people come into the community, our children will marry outsiders and leave their families.'*
- In Karamdimok, women highlighted the importance of traditional land boundaries, stating: *'We hunt and garden only in our own bush. We do not cross into other people's' land.'*
- In Komokpin, community members stressed their limited involvement in the TSF area and potential displacement challenges, noting: *'Only two or three landowners from here are in the proposed TSF location. If something happens to us, we may have to cross the border (to Indonesia) – but that would require negotiation between the two countries.'*
- In Kungembit, people accepted relocation but mentioned conditions, stating: *'The initial TSF site will disrupt our preferred access routes, so we agree to move to the site already identified. Our position is that the TSF must remain within the five villages – Karamdimok, Kungim, Putmambin, Ambaga, and Kungembit in the centre.'*
- Among southern pipeline communities, concerns focused on the pipeline route and negotiation opportunities: *'If OTML keeps the pipeline along the current route, the same principles will apply. If they move it to customary land, we can negotiate for a better package before giving consent.'*
- The Ningerum police station reported recent law and order issues tied to resettlement pressures, explaining: *'After the eviction of illegal settlers near Tabubil, people from Kopiago and Wabag moved down to Ningerum for business opportunities.'*
- The Star Mountain LLG warned of future risks, saying: *'There could be ethnic tensions over the TSF project. There's also trespassing into customary land and inadequate compensation along the pipeline. Joint awareness with OTML and the government is needed to clarify road corridor ownership.'*

April/May 2026 consultation

Concerns were raised about improving the quality of life, particularly through better housing structures once the project commences. Communities were also highly concerned about the social impacts of an influx of outsiders migrating into the communities near to the TSF project area, relating to in-migration.

Communities expressed concerns about safety and security in their village due to increased in-migration and the opening of the infrastructure tax credit scheme (ITCS) Road to the Indonesian border. They asked for police and defence presence in the area as this will now become an international route, with community members from Kungim stating, *‘This is a high-risk area - there is a whole other country right at our doorstep. This development must come with border security - either Defense or Police’*.

5.5.2.3 Environmental impacts

June 2025 consultation

Communities noted concerns about potential impacts of the project on water resources, forest areas, wildlife, and overall biodiversity, emphasising the need for effective environmental management measures. For example:

- Kungim community members stressed, *‘[the] environment is a victim, but we need development,’* reflecting their dual concerns about environmental conservation and development pressures.
- Similarly, Birimkamba villagers voiced apprehension about potential degradation, citing previous experiences: *‘[we are] concerned about environmental destruction of the Ok Tedi’*.
- In Karandimok, community members linked community wellbeing with environmental health, stating: *‘If you don’t have a good environment, you don’t have a community’*.
- Kungembit village community members also underlined their reliance on natural resources, stating: *‘creeks are from one river—whatever they [OTML] do, flows into one river,’* highlighting their concern for waterway health and broader ecosystem impacts.

These statements illustrate the communities’ concern for practical environmental management measures.

July/August 2025 consultation

Communities expressed significant concerns about the potential environmental impacts of the project on land, rivers, forests, and biodiversity. These concerns were linked to both immediate and long-term effects on water quality, soil fertility, wildlife populations, and the overall sustainability of their natural resources. For example:

- Women in Ambaga expressed concern regarding loss of their traditional lifestyle, which relies on access to gardens, forests, and rivers for food, hunting, and recreation, stating: *‘The lifestyle will change and I won’t be able to do these things anymore – to enjoy the environment and fresh air, walk through the forests’*.
- Communities such as Alice Pit and Birimkamba highlighted issues of dust pollution, road safety, and the need for robust environmental monitoring to ensure food and water remain safe from contamination. Birimkamba villagers reported a decline in fish stocks and deterioration in river quality compared to the past.
- Karandimok residents noted a reduction in animal numbers and raised serious concerns about water safety, and stressed continued reliance on rivers for drinking and cooking. They expressed worries linked to potential overflow from the TSF and damage to river systems, which could impact their livelihoods. Community members referred to past pollution of the Alice River, claiming it might have had significant negative health effects. Remarks were made by the villagers on insufficient compensation, saying: *‘No*

proper compensation for the environmental damages to Alice River which was our livelihood before the mining.'

- In Komokpin, communities experienced flooding that damaged gardens, while Kungembit residents observed reduced fallow periods and declining crop yields, attributing these changes to environmental pressures and possible climate change.
- Putmambin community women pointed to diminishing timber supply, destruction of water systems, and soil degradation affecting food production.
- Various communities along the southern pipeline area expressed concerns of chemical spills from potential pipeline leaks, which could contaminate gardens, rivers, and drinking water. They noted that past incidents were solved without benefitting the entirety of communities, stating: OTML only deals with the affected individuals or communities alike whether they are situated on land or riverine.

Overall, communities emphasised the importance of effective environmental management and long-term monitoring to safeguard water, forests, and ecosystems essential for their subsistence and cultural practices (way of life).

April/May 2026 consultation

Communities expressed strong concerns about the project's potential environmental impacts, particularly air quality, with dust and odour identified as key issues and questions were raised about how these would be managed. For example:

- Community members from Digam and Komopkin highlighted concerns about air pollution from dust and odour. They stressed the need for environmental monitoring to ensure impacts are controlled.
- Residents from Birimkamba raised serious concerns regarding potential impacts to human health, specifically for the TSF communities.
- In Kungim, community members noted the potential loss of land value, stating: *'The land will have no more value once tailings are stored'*. They also expressed the need to document and share their environment through children's books, so future generations can understand what existed before the project starts.
- Kolebon community members queried what will happen to the trees that are cleared from the designated TSF area, questioning whether they would be returned to communities or be used for the project.
- Women from Karandimok also raised concerns about the air quality and dust pollution, as their community is close to the TSF and pipeline route.
- Several communities around the TSF area raised questions on land rehabilitation and life after mine closure, particularly in relation to planned land and river rehabilitation plans.

5.5.2.4 Economic development opportunities

June 2025 consultation

Communities indicated expectations that the project could provide improved economic opportunities, infrastructure development, and better access to essential services such as education, health, and transportation. The project is seen by the communities as a potential catalyst for broader community development that has been historically limited or absent. For example:

- Karandimok community members emphasised their desire for infrastructure, stating: *'we are waiting for the road – if it comes, we are developing'*.
- In Kungim, community members expressed their expectations by stating, *'we need development but want OTML to meet the consequences'*.

- For Putmambin, community members indicated that the project could address longstanding isolation and neglect by improving infrastructure and essential services.
- Kungembit community members summarised their expectations by stating they '*don't want failure*'.

July/August 2025 consultation

Communities identified the project as a potential driver of economic development, with expectations centred on improved infrastructure, employment, and access to essential services. Many saw it as an opportunity to address neglect and isolation by enabling education, trade, and income generation. For example:

- In Ambaga, women highlighted their expectations for improved housing, electricity, and water supply, as well as better access to education for women and girls, stating '*The project can come in and assist with education*'. They also noted opportunities for cross-border trade with Indonesia through new road access resulting in lower prices and stimulated economic activity.
- Several communities including Alice Pit requested clarity on project impacts and asked if the pipeline will be underground.
- In Birimkamba, people underlined the need for improved services, noting their longstanding exclusion from development. Women raised concerns about law and order, mentioning the '*need to have a checkpoint established*' to manage population movements and ensure community safety.
- Karandimok residents emphasised the value of infrastructure such as bridges to improve mobility and sought assurances of the project's tangible benefits.
- Both Kungembit and Kungim expressed collective support for the project, associating it with improved roads and access to wider services.
- In Putmambin, women engage in a range of economic activities, including market trade, sewing, and poultry rearing. They also expressed desire for more formal employment opportunities, stating '*women want to be trained and be able to operate heavy machinery and trucks to be employed and earn an income to support themselves and their families*'. The community members also pointed to the benefits of new road infrastructure in overcoming longstanding market barriers for cash crops such as rubber and betelnut.
- Representatives of the southern pipeline communities reflected on lessons from the four decades of Ok Tedi operations, emphasising that development benefits must be measured in terms of delivery of services such as '*water supply, community housing and electricity supply, etc.*'
- Stakeholders in Ningerum, including the high school and police station, stressed the need for investment in infrastructure and resources to address chronic under-funding of education and law enforcement.
- The Star Mountain LLG (SMLLG) emphasised the importance of inclusion in formal agreements, noting that '*For a long while, SMLLG was never included in the [memorandum of agreement]*'.

April/May 2026 consultation

Communities continue to hold expectations that the project will deliver improved economic opportunities, infrastructure development, and better access to essential services such as education, health, and transportation.

The project is seen to benefit communities along the west bank; however, concerns were raised about the accommodation camp being located at Ningerum Station, with community members calling for it to be moved to the west bank, for example:

- Kungembit community members emphasised their preference for infrastructure development to remain on the west bank stating: '*We don't want the camp to be at Ningerum station - we gave our land because we want Ok Tedi to develop our land for us*'.

- Kungim community members expressed support for TSF communities to receive assistance from OTML, particularly through training and education opportunities.

5.5.2.5 Social services

June 2025 consultation

Limited access to social services (education, healthcare, roads) was highlighted by stakeholders, who anticipate improvements in community infrastructure and service delivery associated with the project. For example:

- Putmambin community members specifically mentioned longstanding isolation and limited government services, stating: *'People go to Ningerum to look for services'*.
- Similarly, Kungim stakeholders voiced their concerns about inadequate support for education and healthcare, stressing that current compensation mechanisms (CMCA payments) have provided insufficient improvement: *'Kungim has only received CMCA payments, with insufficient support for education and health services'*.
- Karandimok village members described access to services as particularly challenging, highlighting reliance on neighbouring towns such as Ningerum and Kiunga: *'We are waiting for the road—if it comes, we are developing'*.
- Likewise, Birimkamba community members expressed difficulties in accessing healthcare and schooling [in Kungim] due to distance and lack of transportation infrastructure, noting that reaching services *'can take three to four hours walk'*.
- Kungembit residents pointed out the lack of alternatives for accessing services, with community members emphasising the importance of bringing essential services closer to their area.

July/August 2025 consultation

Communities consistently emphasised their limited access to essential social services, particularly education, healthcare, water, and policing. Stakeholders saw the project as an opportunity to address longstanding service gaps and improve the quality and availability of infrastructure. For example:

- In Ambaga, Karamdimok and Putmambin, women highlighted the serious risks posed by the lack of nearby health facilities, with delays in reaching hospitals often resulting in complications during childbirth and missed immunisations. They also linked women's limited participation in formal employment to poor access to education and schools located far from the community. For these reasons, a village resident expressed hope for development: *'I agree with the project because it will benefit me. I need the services.'*
- Birimkamba residents identified education and health as critical needs: *'We would like a school and hospital or health center (in our village)'*. Putmambin community members also expressed interest in education sponsorship opportunities for women and girls.
- Komokpin and Kungim stakeholders reported inadequate education facilities, noting that schools lacked proper housing for teachers, had no library, and required substantial upgrades to infrastructure, communication, and healthcare access. This view is shared in Kungembit: *'Why we want TSF is because we want service. We are situated in a thick jungle and there is no service'*.
- Kungim community members reported an under-resourced church-run sub-health centre without refrigeration for vaccines, stressing the need for technical and vocational training, as well as improved medical supplies to respond to common emergencies such as snake bites.
- Representatives of the southern pipeline communities raised concerns about the fairness of road use, noting that road users beyond landowning groups were often overlooked in support when incidents occurred.

- Ningerum High School reported rundown and poorly maintained facilities, inadequate water supply, limited electricity, and sanitation challenges affecting boarding students. Similarly, the Ningerum Police Station was described as severely under-resourced, though construction of new barracks was underway to increase capacity. The police staff also shared the importance of the auxiliary police (designated community members) in maintaining law and order despite being unpaid volunteers, necessitating more resources.
- The SMLLG stressed the importance of connecting mine-affected communities through road projects, particularly those isolated by the destruction of the lower Ok Tedi bridge due to sedimentation build-up from mining activities. They highlighted the centrality of these communities to mine ownership and the need for service provision in parallel with new infrastructure.

April/May 2026 consultation

Limited access to social services was raised by stakeholders, who expect the project to bring improvements associated with the project; however, they had concerns on how these social developments will occur. For example:

- Komopkin community members specifically noted that health, education and church services will be impacted from the project and questioned how OTML would support the existing infrastructure.
- Similarly, Kungim stakeholders raised concerns about the timing of the social development projects, stating *'they must start at the same time the TSF project starts.'*

Communities generally stated that any social development projects should be delivered through OTML rather than the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF), reflecting long-standing frustrations with OTDF's performance in communities throughout the years.

Additional concerns were raised across all communities regarding ownership of the pipeline corridor road, stating they did not want the road to be acquired by the Government, but instead preferred it to be leased to OTML.

5.5.2.6 Fairness and compensation

June 2025 consultation

Communities emphasised the importance of transparent negotiations and equitable distribution of compensation and benefits, reflecting a desire for fair outcomes and clear communication from OTML and the government. They also raised concerns about fairness and inclusion in decision-making, particularly around land compensation. For example:

- Kungim community members described the existing CMCA as insufficient and stated that it was a 'side show'.
- Putmabin community members stressed the need for careful consideration of individual impacts and compensation reflecting personal circumstances.
- Kungembit stakeholders insisted on clear and fair compensation terms, emphasising that discussions around resettlement and compensation should only occur once precise TSF boundaries were established.

These community statements underline their desire for fair negotiations, transparent communication, and equitable distribution of project benefits.

July/August 2025 consultation

Communities highlighted the importance of fairness, inclusion, and transparency in compensation and benefit distribution arrangements. They expressed concerns about unequal treatment, inadequate payments, and the need for clear communication from OTML and the government. For example:

- In Ambaga, women noted that while local leadership structures are respected, there is a need for formal women's associations to ensure their participation in decision-making. Community members also raised concerns of providing compensations to a greater number of people who do not necessarily reside in directly impacted zones of the TSF: *'expectation is to receive at least some benefit from the lease payment'*.
- Kungembit residents stressed that the project must deliver fair benefits to all six TSF villages and safeguard them from negative impacts. They also expressed dissatisfaction with OTML's decision to move the project location from that in the pre-feasibility study (see Chapter 7 for the reason for the change).
- In Putmambin, frustrations were voiced regarding limited local employment opportunities, with claims that recruitment often favoured relatives or certain ethnic groups over equally qualified community members from the project area.
- Southern pipeline communities recalled long-standing grievances with past compensation processes, mentioning inadequate payments and exclusion from benefits. Community leaders stated: *'OMTL needs to come out clearly and tell us exactly how we are going to benefit from the proposed pipeline. Only then, peoples' consent will be sought'*.
- The SMLLG explained that compensation rates are set by the Valuer General's office. While communities often complain that payments are too low, they are bound by government-approved rates, leaving little room for negotiation.

April/May 2026 consultation

Communities stressed the need for open and transparent negotiations, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of compensation and benefits with all representative clans, reflecting their expectation of just outcomes and clear communication processes.

They also raised concerns about fairness around land compensation and sought clarification on whether the TSF and the tailings pipeline route will be covered under as separate agreements. For example:

- Karadimok communities sought clarification on whether the TSF project would be separate from the pipeline road corridor.
- Komopkin community members expressed concerns that, although their community falls outside of the LMP boundary, they would still be affected as they are downstream users of the TSF and the Ok Yep: *'Will I be excluded from the benefits because I am not in the LMP boundary? We have experience with the first TSF failure where we have been impacted downstream outside of the LMP. Is it 100% safe for me living downstream of this project - because we don't want to experience dam failure for the second time'*.
- Kungim community members expressed the need for OTML to respect traditional customs during project implementation, and to recognise land-use practices for the land allocated to the project.

5.5.2.7 Additional notes from July/August 2025 consultation

Communities highlighted a range of broader issues and long-term concerns that extend beyond immediate resettlement, compensation, and development expectations. Access and connectivity remain a daily challenge, with many areas relying on foot crossings, log bridges, or canoes to reach schools and

neighbouring villages, often requiring hours of walking. Such limitations affect education, healthcare access, and the movement of goods and services.

Safety and law-and-order concerns were consistently raised, particularly in relation to the anticipated influx of people once the project commences. Communities fear increased risks of alcohol and drug abuse, domestic disturbances, aggressive behaviour by outsiders, and potential sorcery-related conflicts. Women, in particular, expressed anxiety about personal safety, including unwanted attention from migrants and the risk of social disruption. These concerns were often linked to cross-border movement from Indonesia and migration from other parts of Papua New Guinea. Several communities stressed the absence of local policing services, with communities reliant on a distant settlement for law enforcement.

Environmental and social security risks were also emphasised. Communities noted fears about the long-term safety of the TSF, particularly in the event of natural disasters such as flooding or earthquakes. There was concern that, even after mine closure, the TSF could continue to pose risks without clear safeguards.

Traditional knowledge and practices, such as the use of bush medicine, remain important in daily life, but communities worry these may be undermined by greater external influence and the pressures of development.

Broader governance challenges were also identified. The absence of adequate police resources and checkpoints to manage movement were seen as weaknesses in maintaining order, with existing village court systems insufficient to address more complex issues. Arms and drug smuggling across the border were specifically mentioned as emerging threats.

Finally, stakeholders expressed a desire for clearer project information, especially regarding pipeline routes, infrastructure placement, and long-term planning. Concerns were also raised about in-migration, with fears that people from outside may settle on customary land near the project site, creating tensions and competition for resources.

5.5.3 Key outcomes

The stakeholder engagement activities undertaken throughout the ESIA process has identified a consistent range of concerns and expectations across the TSF and pipeline-affected communities, local institutions and key government stakeholders. The key issues centred around themes of land access and livelihood security, resettlement uncertainty, environmental protection, fairness and compensation, access to social services, safety and security, and expectations for economic development.

Communities expect the project to deliver visible and equitable benefits, including improved infrastructure, employment, training, housing, roads, and access to health, education, and policing services. However, these expectations were accompanied by repeated calls for transparent negotiations, fair compensation, and inclusive decision-making, particularly in relation to landowners and communities that may be indirectly affected. Stakeholders also expressed concerns about in-migration, law and order, border security, and the potential social disruption associated with increased movement of people into project-affected areas. These concerns were especially prominent in communities along the pipeline corridor and in areas close to the Indonesian border, due to the development of the ITCS Road that will connect Western Province to Indonesia.

Concern about environmental issues were another major outcome of engagement. Stakeholders raised concerns regarding dust, odour, water quality, river health, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, flooding, and the long-term rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Communities also expressed concerns about the potential health effects of environmental degradation and the need for ongoing monitoring and clear management measures throughout construction, operation, and closure. These views reinforced the need for strong environmental safeguards, robust monitoring programs, and credible rehabilitation commitments to protect the natural resources on which communities depend.

Feedback received through consultation has directly informed project design and the development of environmental and social management measures. In particular, concerns regarding land access, livelihood security and resettlement reinforced the importance of avoiding or minimising physical displacement and reducing impacts on homes, gardens, customary land and livelihood resources wherever practicable. Chapter 7 provides detail about how this was incorporated into project design. Community concerns regarding environmental impacts, community health and safety, in-migration, law and order, border security, compensation, benefit sharing and access to social services have also informed the impact assessment process and the development of mitigation, monitoring and management measures presented throughout the ESIA. The project design has therefore been influenced not only by technical and engineering considerations, but also by the concerns, expectations and priorities raised by affected communities and stakeholders during the engagement process.

5.6 FUTURE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Engagement with project affected communities and other stakeholders is ongoing and will include:

- Public disclosure of the ESIA through the EIS roadshow in conjunction with CEPA and MRA (see Section 5.2.4).
- Project updates and stakeholder briefings to provide information on key project decisions and milestones.
- Engagement with customary landowners of land directly impacted by the project, to provide information on landowner compensation.

Should the project proceed, engagement will be conducted during the construction phase to provide information on construction activities, potential impacts and proposed management measures. This engagement will then continue throughout the life of the project, including leading up to, during and after closure.

5.7 GRIEVANCE AND COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

OTML maintains an established grievance and complaints management system that provides structured procedures for recording, managing, and resolving stakeholder concerns, with the aim of addressing potential social impacts and ensuring transparency and accountability in line with corporate policies.

Grievances relating to the project and EIS process will be managed through OTML's existing grievance management process for the Ok Tedi Mine.