

Ok Birim Tailings Storage Facility Project

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Chapter 15

Conclusion



15. CONCLUSION

Tetra Tech Coffey has prepared this environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) on behalf of Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML). By establishing a new tailings storage facility (TSF), OTML proposes to largely eliminate riverine tailings disposal at the Ok Tedi Mine. This is proposed to sustain the profitable operation of the Ok Tedi Mine, including ongoing copper, gold and silver production over the medium-to long-term.

The shift to a TSF for tailings disposal will bring environmental and social benefits and represents a significant opportunity to enhance the mine's environmental and social performance, contributing positively to the mine's legacy as a responsible and sustainable mining operation planned to operate until 2050.

This ESIA will be used as the statutory basis for the environmental assessment of the project. The ESIA provides details on the project to regulatory authorities, the general public and other stakeholders, and will allow the relevant government agencies of PNG to assess the project and formulate conditions under which it might proceed.

This ESIA:

- Describes the main environmental and socio-economic impacts and benefits associated with the development of the project.
- Outlines the proposed environmental and social management measures OTML will implement to address these impacts. Measures relevant to the construction phase are documented in the Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan (CESMP) (Attachment 2).
- Describes the predicted residual environmental and socio-economic impacts assuming the successful implementation of the management measures.
- Outlines the project's environmental and social management, monitoring, auditing and reporting framework.

The ESIA has been prepared in accordance with the environmental inception report, the requirements of the *Ok Tedi Environment Management Act 2019*, and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) *Guideline for Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment and Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement* (DEC 2004). It is generally aligned with international benchmarks such as the Equator Principles and International Finance Corporation Performance Standards.

Volume A is the Executive Summary to the ESIA. The Executive Summary presents a summary of the main findings of the ESIA in English and Tok Pisin to provide an explanation for non-technical readers. It is intended to be able to be read as a stand-alone report without reference to the main report or appendices.

The front part of the ESIA (Volume B, Chapters 1 to 9) provides:

- An introduction to the project.
- The viability and purpose of the project.
- The policy and legal framework and guidelines and standards used to assess the potential impacts of the project.
- The assessment method framework used to assess potential impacts of the project.
- A summary of the stakeholder engagement undertaken to support project permitting and the feedback that has been provided by stakeholders about the project to date and proposed future stakeholder engagement after submission of the ESIA.
- A detailed description of the proposed project.
- A detailed description of alternatives considered during project planning.
- A detailed description of the project's environmental and socio-economic setting.

Particular emphasis has been given to those aspects of the project with the greatest potential for environmental and socio-economic impacts, as identified through feasibility and technical studies.

The second part of the ESIA (Volume B, chapters 10 to 19) forms the bulk of the ESIA and provides a detailed description of the predicted impacts to the physical, biological and socio-economic environment, as well as the proposed management measures OTML will implement to address these. It also contains the results of the climate change risk assessment, human rights impact assessment and ecosystem services assessment for the project. Specialist studies contained within the technical appendices and/or material referenced in the body of the ESIA have been used to support this part of the ESIA. The second part of the ESIA also presents a cumulative impact assessment and an assessment of the potential natural hazards and unplanned events that may occur and OTML's safeguards in order to be prepared for them, describes OTML's environmental and social management, monitoring, auditing and reporting framework that will guide the project and also provides supporting information, such as the references, study team, acknowledgements, glossary and abbreviations used to prepare the ESIA.

Volume C Attachments 1 to 3 provide a cross-reference of this ESIA against the DEC EIS guidelines and the project's environmental inception report (EIR), the CESMP, and a conceptual TSF closure and rehabilitation plan.

Volume D Appendices provides the 13 technical specialist reports that support this ESIA.

It is anticipated that details of the proposed development will be progressively refined as engineering work proceeds through the completion of the feasibility study then the detailed design phase. Material changes that have the potential to significantly change the results of the ESIA will be reported to the relevant government agencies.