



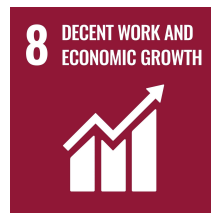
Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment

August 2026

Environmental and Social Assessment as a powerful starting point for Mineral resources governance



Minimising risks, maximising opportunities



*Related to these
and other SDGs*

The rising demand for critical (transition) minerals and metals creates crucial risks and opportunities for supplying countries. Environmental and social assessment is a powerful starting point to map these pros and cons. In most countries in the world environmental and social assessment is legally defined. That is for a reason: a proper assessment gives clear guidance on how to minimise risks and how to maximise opportunities for People, Planet, Profit, Peace, and Partnership. It also helps to involve and inform stakeholders through underpinned and plausible communication.

About environmental and social assessment

Environmental and social assessment is legally adopted in most countries in the world. It is applied at two levels of decision-making: at strategic level and at project level.

SEA & ESIA **assess the compatibility** of a proposed project / plan with (inter)national policies and agreements.

Authority: "What are the national and global objectives, norms and standards for mining? Which ones are relevant for this project?"

Investor: "How can a swift implementation be ensured?"

SEA & ESIA contribute to **accountability and transparency** which enhances credibility and trust, and prevents conflict.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

Decision-making on plans, policies, or programmes, such as a land use plan or national mining strategy.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):

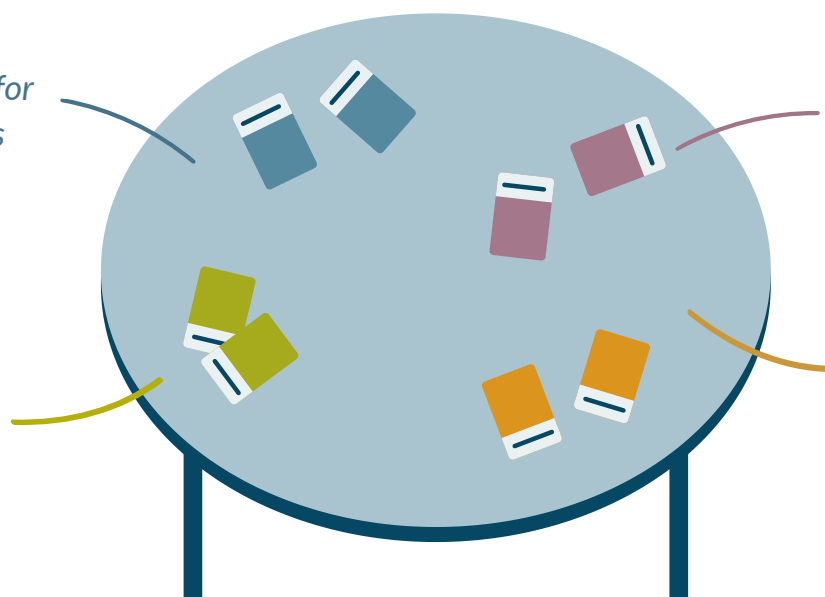
Decision-making on projects, such as a new landfill or a mining location. ESIA is even more effective when SEA is in place.

SEA & ESIA provide a roadmap for **informing and involving stakeholders**, including specific groups.

Community member:
"How can our community benefit from this mine? And how will the rights and opinions of artisanal miners be addressed?"

Environmental organisation: "The mine pit planned at this location will threaten 5 rare species. What alternatives do we have?"

SEA & ESIA offer **alternative development pathways**. All alternatives are compared and judged by their effect on environment and society.



Expertise Independency Transparency

Since 1993, the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment advises and supports governments and institutions around the world to assess environmental and social impacts for well-informed, integrated, and supported decision-making. Activities include independent advice, process support, capacity strengthening, and system analysis. The NCEA follows national legislation and apply international good practice.



Examples of recent activities of the NCEA related to mining

Senegal - Advisory review on the rehabilitation plan for the abandoned sand quarry of Kamb Souf in the Diourbel region

Guinea - Advisory review on the scoping report and Terms of Reference for an aluminium refinery in the Boké region in Guinea

West Africa - In cooperation with IGF, workshop on ESIA for mine closure for seven member countries of the of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Mali - Workshop to assess the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment approach for the mining sector in cooperation with IGF

More information and activities



What does the NCEA look for in an environmental and social assessment process?

Quality of information

Does the process deliver all information needed for decision making, such as impacts, alternative options, mitigation measures and impact management measures?

Dialogue

Does the process engage affected stakeholders in a timely, transparent and inclusive way?

Influence

Does the process address relevant issues and provide usable information for decision makers? Is this done at the right time? Can decision makers be held accountable for their use of the assessment outcomes?

All NCEA advisory reports are available at www.eia.nl



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