

# Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative

ICMM  
International Council  
on Mining & Metals

IPIECA



Supporting extractive companies and their financiers in managing biodiversity



# Good Practices for the Collection of Biodiversity Baseline Data

*The Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI) is a partnership between IPIECA, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) and the Equator Principles Association, for developing and sharing good practice related to biodiversity in the extractive industries. It is a unique collaborative platform for convening the collective knowledge and expertise of practitioners working across the three participating sectors: finance, oil and gas and mining. CSBI has developed products that guide users towards limiting, as far as possible, the negative impacts of development projects on biodiversity, and realizing positive impacts when possible.*

## About this good practices document

*Good Practices for the Collection of Biodiversity Baseline Data*<sup>1</sup> was prepared for the Multilateral Financing Institutions (MFI) Biodiversity Working Group and CSBI. It summarizes good practices for biodiversity baseline studies that allow biodiversity to be included effectively and fully in impact assessment and related management plans.

A biodiversity baseline study is the collection and interpretation of information on the biodiversity values at a site; this includes the species, habitats and ecological systems present, their current condition and their trends before a project commences. Biodiversity baseline studies play an important role in supporting

the assessment of the risks and impacts of projects on biodiversity. They allow for applying the mitigation hierarchy and designing long-term biodiversity management and monitoring measures.

The guidance is for companies, financial institutions, regulators, specialists in environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) and other parties interested in biodiversity. Through clear, practical guidance, it helps practitioners to understand the technical concepts underpinning biodiversity baseline studies, specify the required studies/analyses to be undertaken, identify the specialized skills required to undertake them, and interpret the results.

<sup>1</sup> Gullison, R. E., J. Hardner, S. Anstee and M. Meyer (2015). *Good Practices for the Collection of Biodiversity Baseline Data*. Prepared for the Multilateral Financing Institutions Biodiversity Working Group and the Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative.

## ... Good Practices for the Collection of Biodiversity Baseline Data

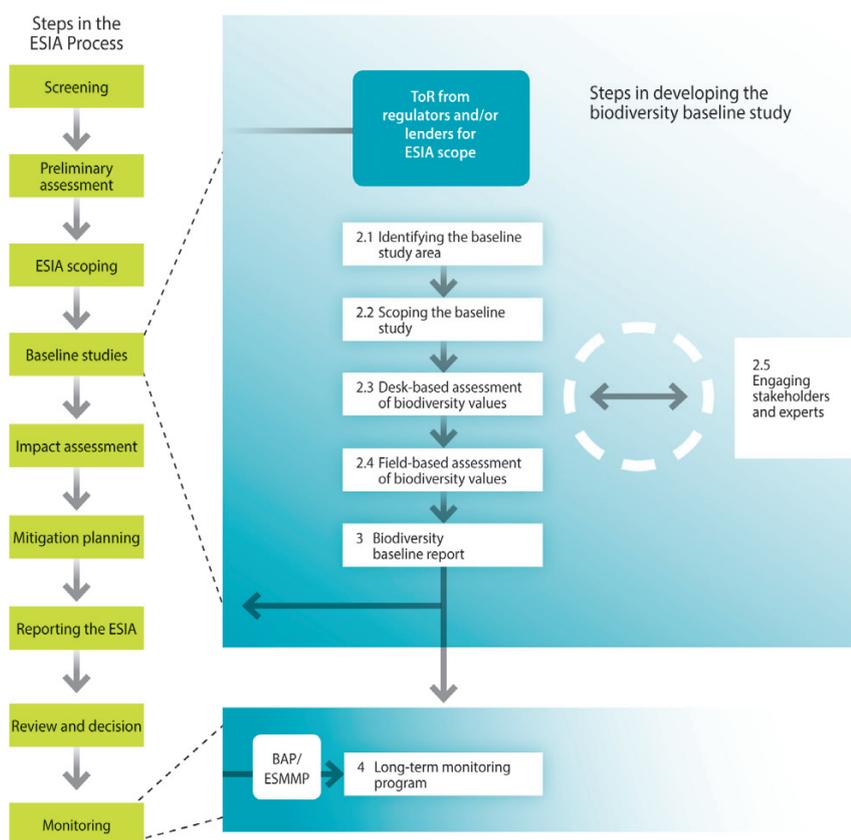
The guide is available in English. It is a companion document to the MFI Biodiversity Working Group's *Good Practices for Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment and Management Planning*<sup>2</sup> and CSBI's *Timeline Tool* and *A cross-sector guide for implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy*.

CSBI welcomes feedback on how the guide has been used in practice and on any improvements that can be made, as well as suggestions to enhance its uptake and dissemination. To provide comments or feedback, please email us at: [feedback@csbi.org.uk](mailto:feedback@csbi.org.uk).

The guide may be freely downloaded from the CSBI website at: [www.csbi.org.uk/tools-and-guidance](http://www.csbi.org.uk/tools-and-guidance).

### Basic steps involved in developing a biodiversity baseline study

(the numbers on the diagram correspond to chapter and sub-chapter headings where the step is described in the guide)



<sup>2</sup> Hardner, J., R. E. Gullison, S. Anstee, M. Meyer (2014). *Good Practices for Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment and Management Planning*. Prepared for the Multilateral Financing Institutions Biodiversity Working Group.



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