

Data for Impact Symposium: Request for Abstracts

Request for abstracts on applied tools and analysis to improve the knowledge base of impacts from due diligence and other upstream interventions, and to inform collective action.

Due: 17:00 EDT (GMT-4) August 4, 2023

1. Problem Statement

Significant progress has been made in scaling up minerals due diligence processes in the past decade, with initiatives such as the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Mineral Trade (PPA) driving forward a shared interest in improving local impacts and benefits. For example, there is high interest in improving outcomes with direct links to mining (e.g., conflict, presence of armed groups, income and economic security, child labor, land tenure, and occupational health and safety), as well as community-oriented impacts (e.g., community perception of well-being, increased economic development and income, food security, livelihoods options, children’s access to and participation in schooling, environmental impacts, governance, and anti-corruption).

Investment in due diligence programs, community initiatives, and development projects has begun to support the types of outcomes described above, accompanied by extensive reporting. However, there remains an apparent data gap in understanding either comparative or cumulative impacts of these interventions and the benefits sought by both communities and international stakeholders. This data gap hinders informed decision-making and action for future investments. It also prevents the capturing and dissemination of valuable lessons learned (e.g., in the Great Lakes Region), which can inform interventions in other minerals and geographies – for example, those needed to support a clean and just energy transition.

2. Symposium Background

The PPA is now distributing this request for abstracts as part of a planning process to convene a Data for Impact Symposium in late 2023 or early 2024. The Symposium will profile existing tools, methodologies, models, indicators, systems, and other approaches that could provide a basis for a sustainable, just framework to build data sets and analysis and inform future action for improved socioeconomic outcomes and local benefits.

The PPA is composed of companies and governments who make substantial investments in responsible minerals sourcing, and NGOs who utilize and input into due diligence and other data systems. The Symposium will be attended by PPA members as well as selected invitees – other donors, investors, and potential users of the tools, methodologies, and

approaches to be presented. The PPA is committed to helping to facilitate connections between promising tools/models and prospective users and investors.

Like many who have focused on responsible sourcing, the PPA has historically focused on tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold (3TG) from the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa (GLR). While the region and these minerals remain in scope and of high priority for the PPA, the PPA is now expanding its scope to include minerals needed for the green energy transition, without geographic constraint. As one outcome of this Data for Impact Symposium, the PPA is seeking to understand:

- A. where there may be particular opportunities to observe lessons from the past decade of responsible sourcing efforts in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRA) – especially but not only in the GLR, which could inform efforts and interventions in other geographies; and
- B. where there may be high risk of significant impacts to human rights, labor rights, or the environment – or risk of increased conflict – in other geographies due to increased development of minerals needed for the green energy transition.¹

Overall, the PPA's intended outcomes of the Symposium include the following:

- Learn about existing impact data tools and analyses relevant to minerals supply chains and mining communities;
- Explore how these tools, methodologies, or insights could be deployed and scaled to better quantify and understand impacts and inform due diligence and community program design and remedy mechanisms;
- Inform PPA priorities in 2024 and beyond, and
- The PPA is additionally interested in supporting the development of data that informs the [2022 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#).²

3. PPA Questions of Interest

The PPA is particularly interested in increasing shared understandings and access to data that can help to answer a number of key questions that can inform collaborative action in support of a just energy transition.

Specific questions include the following:

- A. To what extent are Annex II Adverse Impacts occurring in mining and mineral processing areas?
- B. What is known about emerging risks related to issues associated with the green energy transition (e.g., Indigenous rights, deforestation, or other large-scale environmental degradation, etc.)? Where are these issues emerging?

¹ I.e., Aluminum, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Graphite, Iron, Lead, Lithium, Manganese, Molybdenum, Nickel, Silver, Rare Earth Elements, Titanium, Vanadium, Zinc.

² While it is challenging to isolate and estimate the effect of the Due Diligence Guidance implementation on specific ultimate outcomes, the data collected can potentially affirm (or call into question) the Theory of Change and its underlying hypotheses as set out in Chapter 4 (“Theory of Change”) of the M&E Framework.

- C. What is the current backdrop of trends and emerging issues related to the sourcing of minerals from CAHRAs at the international level?
- D. What are the socio-economic conditions of miners in CAHRA? In geographies of importance to global energy transition?
- E. What tools/systems/methodologies/key indicators can be deployed to collect data on and inform design of mining community interventions to build on due diligence systems and deliver additional, priority socioeconomic and community-level or regional benefits?
- F. How can due diligence tools enable or support effective remediation in cases where violations occur?
- G. To what extent are miners and mining communities economically affected by Due Diligence Programmes (DDP)?
- H. What is the degree of demand for Due Diligence Minerals from CAHRA?
- I. What are the current business and operating environment issues that affect a company's ability to conduct business and/or operate in the sector/CAHRA? In countries with significant reserves of energy transition minerals?
- J. What is quality and scale of DDPs supplying minerals from CAHRA? From countries with significant reserves of energy transition minerals?
- K. To what degree are companies in *downstream* mineral supply chains aligned with the OECD's 5-step due diligence framework? In *upstream* mineral supply chains?

4. Application and Evaluation Process

The PPA invites applications for impact data tools, systems, methodologies, and other approaches in support of the above objectives. There is a three-stage process, with interim evaluation, as follows:

1. **Request for Abstracts (through August 4):** Candidates are invited to submit one or more abstracts by 17:00 EST (GMT-5) on August 4, 2023.
 - a. Abstracts should be no longer than 2 pages.
 - b. Abstracts should be submitted by email to ppa@resolve.ngo with the subject line "PPA Data for Impact Symposium – <Abstract Title>." Researchers or organizations sharing more than one submission should send individual emails for each submission.
 - c. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French, or Spanish and must meet criteria outlined in Section 6 below.
2. **(Tentative) Recorded Preview of Symposium Presentation (mid August – mid September):** PPA representatives will evaluate all eligible concepts received by the deadline. Depending on the volume and quality of submissions received, the PPA may invite semi-finalists to submit a three- to five-minute, recorded "spotlight" presentation/demonstration of their tool, within four weeks. Videos will not need to be professionally recorded/edited/produced, and may be submitted in English, French, or Spanish (the PPA will provide translation support). Further information and instructions will be provided to semi-finalists, if this intermediary stage of evaluation becomes necessary.

3. **Interactive Symposium (anticipated sometime in December – January):** Selected speakers will be invited to join a live Symposium to provide a more in-depth presentation on their featured tool or analysis. At the Symposium, speakers will contextualize their presentation using a particular scenario, geography, or other model to demonstrate application or summarize their intervention and/or findings, followed by an interactive discussion with participants about how the tool or analysis could be applied and scaled to support data collection, increased understanding of socioeconomic impacts, and more informed design of due diligence or other interventions to improve socioeconomic impacts, particularly in the GLR and/or mining regions relevant to the green energy transition. The discussion will also explore enabling conditions and resources required to deploy at scale. The Symposium will be offered with simultaneous language interpretation reflective of the presentations selected. Presentations will be recorded, for distribution among the PPA’s network and for use by presenters.

5. Submission Process and Screening Criteria for Abstracts

Abstracts must be submitted to ppa@resolve.ngo by 17:00 EST (GMT-5) on August 4, 2023. Please note the following criteria for eligibility (a-c) to participate in a Symposium Spotlight, as well as preferred characteristics (d) which will be considered in selecting final participants for the Interactive Symposium:

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

- a. The abstract is:
 - i. Limited to 2 pages
 - ii. Submitted in English, French *or* Spanish
 - iii. Relevant (has been or could be directly applied) to the artisanal *or* large-scale mining of tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold (3TG) and/or green energy minerals, in key producing geographies
- b. Abstracts must include the below completed chart at the top of their submissions (does not count toward page limit):

Presenter name:	
Presenter email address:	
Presenter affiliation (if relevant):	
Title of the tool, study, methodology, model, etc. to be presented:	
1-2 sentence description of the tool (or other) to be presented:	
Brief description of relevance to questions outlined in Section 3:	
Brief description of the intended user(s) of the study/tool/approach:	

- c. In addition to the requested chart, abstracts *should speak to* the following topics. Abstracts will be evaluated according to the following (points awarded in evaluation; 100 points possible):
- Clear relevance/potential for application to understanding due diligence system impacts, mining community socioeconomic impacts in CAHRAs, or to inform understanding of similar risks and opportunities tied to a clean and just energy transition, or both, as described in Section 3 of this call for abstracts (*total of 55 points, composed of the following*):
 - The study/tool/approach provides new insight that can inform future decision making and design of due diligence and other interventions to improve conditions for mining-affected communities (*25 points*)
 - Clarity on how the study/tool/approach (or other) effectively links to the questions outlined in Section 3 (*15 points*)
 - Qualitative or quantitative measurement of impacts (*15 points*)
 - Potential for use by, accrual of benefits for, and sustainability of costs to:
 - Upstream actors, including miners (of any scale), cooperatives, local traders, etc. (*15 points*)
 - Downstream companies (*15 points*)
 - Civil society (*15 points*)

Preferences

- d. Please note the following *preferences* of the PPA and speak to these in your abstract if they apply. These are not required to be eligible, but will especially be considered in selecting finalists:
- Field-based partners and local experience among team
 - Responsible sourcing experience/knowledge (within and outside minerals sector)

6. Submission of Queries

Inquiries may be submitted at ppa@resolve.ngo by 12:00 EDT (GMT-5) on July 14. The PPA will reply by email and will also post all questions and answers on the PPA website by July 21.