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OECD Practical Tool on Environmental Due Diligence in Mineral Supply Chains

The minerals and metals industries have been associated with human rights violations and serious environmental impacts. How to address human rights and conflict related risks in global mineral supply chains is described in the *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas* which has been taken up broadly in company practice. The overarching *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* as well as the *OECD Due Diligence Guidance on Responsible Business Conduct* (RBC) address all kinds of RBC issues across sectors, including the environment. However, stakeholders have raised the need for practical support on how the environment-related recommendations can be implemented in practice.

In response to this need, the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety pursuant to the Federal Government's 2020 Raw Materials Strategy initiated a process in 2020 for the OECD Centre for RBC to develop a ***Practical Tool on Environmental Due Diligence in Mineral Supply Chains*** (the Tool). The German Environment Agency (UBA) and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) are supporting to advance this initiative.

The Tool is currently being developed in a **participative multi-stakeholder process at the OECD** over 2021 - 2022. An Expert Working Group has been established to provide advice and guidance throughout the development of the Tool.

The Tool will describe how the **6-step generic due diligence framework** recommended by the OECD can be applied to risks of adverse environmental impacts in global mineral supply chains. Whereas the Tool is primarily concerned with **environmental impacts in the upstream segment of the supply chain** (extraction, processing and refining of minerals), it is expected to be **used by businesses of any scale along the entire value chain** from mine to retail.

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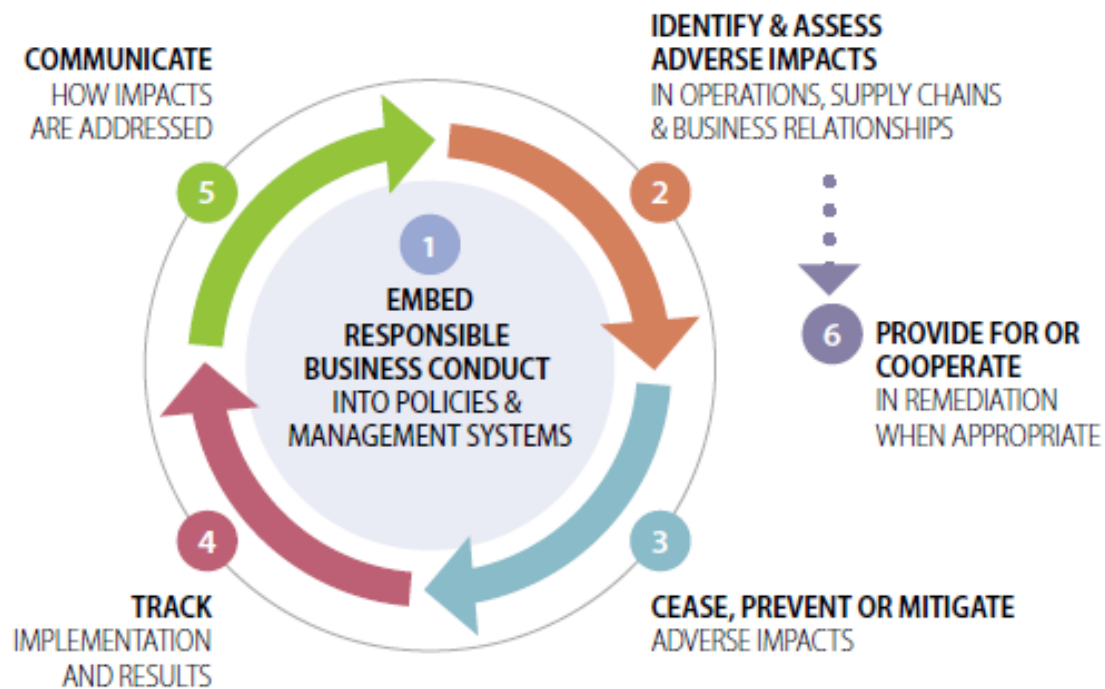
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By providing approaches and best practice examples, it shall help companies to **operationalize environmental due diligence** building on ongoing related activities such as environmental management, environmental risk assessment and due diligence according to the *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*. It aims to promote understanding of **how environmental issues intersect with** other RBC issues with a focus on **human rights**, including the recently acknowledged **human right to a clean and healthy environment**. It shall help companies to engage with stakeholders in order to develop effective measures to cease, prevent, mitigate, and in some cases remediate environmental impacts. In line with the *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct* it shall provide practical actions that companies can take having regard to key **environmental challenges**, including but not limited to **circular economy, climate change** and **biodiversity**.

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