

Stakeholder Engagement in Post-Mining Land Restoration and Land Use

For many years, biodiversity has been in drastic global decline, faster than at any time in human history (IPBES, 2019). The impact of economic activities on biodiversity is widely recognised (Atkins and Maroun, 2018) and companies bear a great responsibility for the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of biodiversity (Boiral and Heras-Saizarbitoria, 2017). This is especially true in sectors in which companies are directly dependent on natural resources and the loss of biodiversity represents a high corporate risk (F&C, 2004). These include the mining industry (F&C, 2004), whose activities have significant direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity over a project's lifetime and beyond (Adler et al., 2017; ICMM, 2006; Samkin et al., 2014).

Mine closure and post-mining landscapes offers the opportunity to rehabilitate biodiversity affected by activities during the project developing and operation stages. Therefore, a biodiversity management should be in place. Engaging stakeholders in process and management is fundamental for successful restoration, to meet post-closure objectives, and to reconcile competing stakeholder demands and perspectives (e.g., economic post-closure land uses as opposed to biodiversity conservation) (Boiral & Heras-Saizarbitoria, 2017b; Ekstrom et al., 2015; ICMM, 2006).

When it comes to energy transition, switching to renewable energy sources is not only crucial to offset Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), but also to prevent further land contamination resulting from fossil fuel extraction processes (OECD, 2024). In addition, the flexibility of the renewable energy technologies to be placed on brownfield results in efficient use of land and protects pristine lands from being exploited with subsequent biodiversity loss prevention (Perez-Garcia et al., 2022). On the other hand, some technologies such as wind energy can have adverse impacts on biodiversity such as birds' mortality. Setting preventive measures for such adverse impacts is vital to protect biodiversity in projects locations. Hence, proper engagement of stakeholders plays an instrumental role in managing biodiversity, specially in mega-scale projects of wind, solar, and green hydrogen technologies (Laaroussi et al., 2023).

The session aims to discuss research and practice of stakeholder engagement in designing and implementing a post-mining and energy transition landscape. We welcome contributions relating to this topic. This session is open to all interested individuals, from PhD students to full professors, as well as practitioners eager to contribute to the conversation. Inter- and transdisciplinary contributions are expressly welcome. The session is planned as an intensive discussion of contributions. For this purpose, we strongly recommend in person attendance; Hybrid contribution is possible after consulting the session hosts. For contribution, we kindly request abstracts in English language of approx. 250 words including title and authors. Please note that the call for abstract ends **20th February**. Please view the PDF document and the website for further conference and submission information.