



Findings from 2019 review of ISEAL's Impacts and Standard-Setting Codes

Introduction

The ISEAL Code for Setting Social and Environmental Standards (v6) (Standard-Setting Code) and the ISEAL Code for Assessing the Impacts of Social and Environmental Standards Systems (v2) (Impacts Code) were both published in December 2014 and are due for review and revision in accordance with the ISEAL Code Development and Revision Procedure (v4, Nov 2015).

In 2019, ISEAL carried out a review of both Standard-Setting and Impacts Codes. Through the review, ISEAL gathered information regarding the usability of the Codes, their effectiveness in delivering against their objectives, as well as their scope and objectives.

The outcome of the review determined that there is a need to revise the Codes, which will begin in 2020. This document details the activities carried out as part of the review and the findings.

Review activities

In reviewing the Codes, ISEAL conducted activities including:

- feedback and input from ISEAL members and applicants, including from recent meetings of the ISEAL Communities of Practice for each Code, and from 2016 interviews with members regarding the changes, learning and value supported by the Impacts Code
- discussions with key stakeholders including the ISEAL Technical Committee and ISEAL technical staff
- a detailed review of member compliance against each Code
- analysis of the gaps and overlaps between the Codes

Key findings

Key findings from the review include:

- there are a numbers of improvements needed related to terminology as well as consistency and alignment between the Standard-Setting and Impacts Codes
- the Standard-Setting Code is missing important aspects of good practice for review and revision
- the Impacts Code does not sufficiently help systems identify which information is of greatest value to different stakeholder groups
- additional guidance and incentives beyond the scope of compliance to the Impacts Code may be required to ensure that systems are producing high quality evidence and then adopting and applying learnings

Decision to revise the Codes

The findings of the review informed the ISEAL Technical Committee's decision to proceed to revision of the Codes. Revision of the Codes will be informed by the revision of the ISEAL Credibility Principles, which will begin in early 2020. Revision of the Codes will begin in mid- to late 2020.

Contact

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