

6.12.2018

**Dear Fiona (ASI CEO), and Daniel (Chair of the ASI Board),**

We the undersigned organisations are committed to develop a credible voluntary standard for responsible aluminium. However, **we believe that the ASI Performance Standard released by the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) in December 2017 is flawed with respect to its treatment of biodiversity**, in particular the ‘no go’ protections for areas of high conservation and societal value. This letter seeks a solution that will enable us to continue supporting the ASI.

Several ASI members have proposed to expand the ‘no go’ areas for bauxite mining and related activities, beyond the existing prohibition against new mines in World Heritage properties, as part of stronger protections for biodiversity and ecosystem services in the ASI Performance Standard. The issue has been raised and discussed at length in multiple meetings of the ASI Standards Committee and the ASI Board.

In response to these concerns, the ASI established a **Working Group on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES)** in January 2018. The mandate of the group is to “*recommend changes to the Performance Standard and related Guidance*” for consideration by the ASI Standards Committee.

Discussions within the BES Working Group have been frank and informative. However, on the issue of ‘no go’, working group members have been unable to reach consensus on a recommendation to the Standards Committee, although there was a clear consensus on the urgency to find a solution for the issue. On the integration of ecosystem services in the standard consensus has been reached, but integration in the ASI Performance Standard waits for the next revision.

In the last ASI members update (dated 07.11.18), the Secretariat of the ASI communicated a decision to delay resolution of the biodiversity and ‘no go’ issue until the next full revision of the standard, to “*commence in 2020*”. This is contrary to earlier ASI communications stating that the issue would be resolved as a matter of urgency and is deeply disappointing to the undersigned organizations.

We remain confident that a positive resolution to this situation is still possible. However, the matter is increasingly urgent, as material and products certified by the ASI under the existing production standard are now beginning to reach the market.

In order to avoid potential mixed messages about the legitimacy of ASI certifications, we request the following actions by the ASI Board and Secretariat:

- 1) **Before 15.12.18:** Publish this letter in relevant ASI communications (e.g. on the ASI website and/or via members update);
- 2) **Before 15.12.18:** Publicly communicate that the ASI is undertaking a review of ‘no-go’ criteria within the performance standard and that ASI members are directed not to pursue certification of operations inside or immediately adjacent to protected areas (including World Heritage sites and protected

areas within IUCN Categories I-VI), until the Standards Committee has made a formal ruling on the matter; and

- 3) **Before 01.02.19:** Establish a process for professional mediation and fast tracking of the BES working group, including a facility to allow funding to be raised from ASI member organisations to help progress the work stream.

Until this issue is resolved, we the undersigned organisations cannot support certifications issued under the existing ASI Performance Standard. We will not hesitate to communicate our concerns to any and all interested parties.



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Andrea Dreifke-Pieper, World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)  
*Chair Global Standards & Certification Team*



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Stewart Maginnis, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
*Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group*



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Pippa Howard, Fauna & Flora International (FFI)  
*Director, Extractives & Development Infrastructure*

## Supporting Declaration

We, the undersigned organizations, support the proposal by WWF, IUCN and FFI, and hope this issue is resolved quickly and effectively in the interest of the ASI, our organizations, and the wider cause of “*maximizing the contribution of aluminium to a sustainable society*”.



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Adam Lee, IndustriALL (SC)  
*Director for Campaigns, Organizing & Base Metals*



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Hugo Rainey, WCS (SC)  
*Director of COMBO Project*



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Jean-Pierre Mean (SC)  
*Independent Anti-Corruption Expert*



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Annemarie Goedmakers, Chimbo  
*President (Co-Chair of ASI SC)*