

ASI Nature Working Group – Call 6 – Meeting Notes – 20 October 2025

Agenda points:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Updates since last call
3. Site-level impact assessment for water
4. ISO 14001 alignment
5. Key issues for consultation
6. Wrapping up and next steps

Participants

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ASI Secretariat – Chelsea Reinhardt, Laura Brunello

Discussion Notes:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Updates since last call – Standards Committee work**
 - Standards Committee (SC) workshops have been reviewing all thematic areas, including Nature. They discussed: summary of major V4 changes, likely “focus points” for consultation.
 - Protected Areas: broad support to shift alignment from CBD to IUCN categories/WDPA reference; will still go to consultation.
 - Biodiversity requirements for sites without material impacts: mixed views; keep current draft (minimum requirement for all) and test via consultation.
 - Next SC steps: deeper read Oct 23–mid-Nov; aim to finalize a consultation draft for approval Dec 2025–Jan 2026.
3. **Site level impact assessment for water**
 - The Working Group discussed concerns raised by a WG member that the term ‘impact assessment’ sounded like a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at every step.

The Secretariat clarified that the intent is for a targeted, *site-level* assessment focused only on the material water risks already identified, not a full EIA, and avoiding group-level roll-ups that could mask site affected. The WG agreed the wording is clear enough though the term 'risk assessment' over 'impact assessment' for water was preferred (for biodiversity, the term 'impact assessment' is kept, as it requires baseline and different rigor).

- The WG also discussed whether to hardwire the water section to bauxite mines (plus any other sites with material risks). There were mixed views, the outcome of the discussion was to keep hard-wiring to mines for now and add relevance caveats (for bullet point b).
- **Action:** ASI to adjust the wording in the draft to refer instead to a risk assessment for water.
- **Action:** Maintain the hardwiring for now for mine but adjust the blue that implies it is mining/refining-only and keep consultation where *affected communities exist* by adding 'where relevant', irrespective of supply chain activity.

4. ISO 14001 alignment

- The Secretariat presented the current process of equivalency: ASI V3 recognizes ISO 14001/45001 at management-system level (auditors shouldn't re-audit those elements if valid, in-scope certification exists). In practice, auditors sometimes still re-check. The Working Group was asked whether ASI should expand formal recognition so that topic-specific requirements can, where appropriate, be considered equivalent to elements of ISO 14001 certification.
- WG members explained that ISO 14001 can cover some key points but may not fully cover biodiversity specifics. Another member emphasized interoperability, and the importance of avoiding having ASI-specific documents (standalone water, air etc. management plans). If ISO instruments are used and the content meets ASI intent, that should be acceptable. There were mixed views on 'accepting an ISO certification as fully equivalent without re-auditing - as ASI includes topic specificity, and there is variable audit rigor across schemes: recognition is good, but ASI-specific checks are still needed.
- The consensus was to maintain core ISO 14001 recognition for Environmental Management System, but to not yet extend that recognition to additional criteria under the Nature section.
- **Action:** ASI to further review the ISO 14001 requirements and also review ISO 17298 standard on Biodiversity , to look at future opportunities for cross recognition.

5. Key issues for consultation

- The Secretariat went over some key issues to flag for future public consultation. A WG member suggested that feasibility of No Net Loss/Net Gain targets for Entities outside of bauxite mining (e.g. refining) may be challenging.

6. Wrapping up and next steps

- SC workshop (final of the series) will happen on the 21st of October on remaining topics.

- Public webinar on the revision: 12 Nov 2025 (registration link circulated via newsletter).
- SC approval of consultation draft: target Dec 2025 – Jan 2026.
- Public Consultation Round 1: Expected to launch Q1 2026 (60 days).
- WG Phase 2: several sessions mid-2026 to work through key consultation feedback
- Public Consultation Round 2: towards the end of 2026 (dates TBD).
- A short WG feedback survey will be sent, please respond to help refine the process for 2026.
- Chelsea Reinhardt (chelsea@aluminium-stewardship.org) will be the point of contact for the Nature Working Group in 2026.