

Community Questionnaire Results

More than 550 people from communities affected by bauxite mining took part in the consultation, led by IPAF members.



Community members in Guinea fill in the questionnaire, April 2026.

Thank you

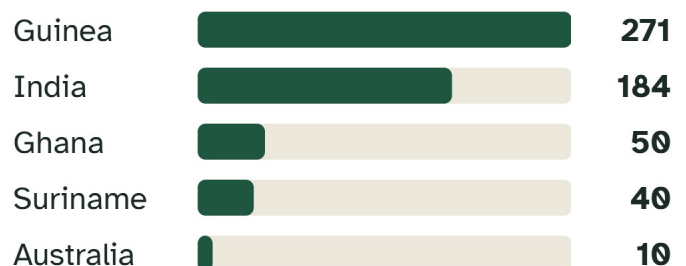
Members of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Forum (IPAF) visited communities in five countries. They listened to people affected by bauxite mining and asked them to answer a short set of questions.

Your answers are helping to shape the **ASI Standard**: the rules that mining companies certified by ASI must follow.

We asked about

- How companies share information with you
- How companies check their impacts
- How companies deal with complaints
- Harm caused by mining, past and present
- What you think companies should be required to do

Who took part



Total 555 people

How to read the pictures



Each picture shows 10 people. The **dark** people show how many gave that answer. Here it is **7 in 10** people.

Communities taking part

Communities want to help find out how mining affects them, and help monitor it.

How important is it for communities to be part of finding impacts?



10 in 10

people said this is important

What is changing: a new requirement is proposed. Companies must work with communities to find and write down the harm they may cause.

What companies said: they asked for clearer guidance on how this fits with the checks they already do.

Should community members be involved in monitoring the company's impact on the environment and people?



10 in 10 said this is important

What is changing: community checking of nature (water, soil, plants and animals) is in the draft as a leading practice that companies are encouraged to follow, but not mandatory.

Would your community like training so it can take part in monitoring?



9 in 10 are interested in training

What companies said: most liked the idea. They asked what role communities would have, how it would work with their own checks, and for room to fit local conditions.

Your ideas

Volunteers could watch over rivers, lakes and forests. Training could cover:

- Protecting the environment
- Repairing land after mining
- Closing a mine
- Measuring and managing dust
- Watching for effects on people

"Indigenous people should be involved in monitoring activities to prevent damage to the environment and the community."

Community member, Ghana

"By participating, the community will know in advance the impact of actions and measures to take."

Community member, Guinea

"So that things can be transparent and easily understood by the skilled, unskilled and local people."

Community member, India

Clear information and respect

Everyone said information about mining must be easy to understand. Many people said it is not happening yet.

How important is it that companies give you clear information about how they affect your community?



10 in 10 said this is important

What is changing: a new requirement is proposed. Companies must share information with communities in the way the communities choose to receive it, so that it is easy to access and understand.

Does the company share information in a way everyone in your community can understand?



7 in 10 said not always

What companies said: they agree to share information, but said it works best when it is shaped for each community, not only put on a website.

Your ideas for sharing information

Share information through:

- Trusted representatives and community leaders
- Local information centres and radio
- Local languages
- Community festivals and gatherings
- Meetings with different groups in the community

"Transparency between company and people is very important. It helps communities understand the motives, benefits and their role."

Community member

Do company staff understand and respect your local customs and traditions?



7 in 10 said not always

"Monitoring is very important. The past damage to cultural sites continues the lack of respect. This is still happening today. We need to be there for monitoring."

Community member, Australia

What is changing: two new requirements are proposed. Companies must look closely at how they affect traditional ways of living and cultural customs. They must also include traditional knowledge and customs in the FPIC process.

Complaints and consent

Communities strongly support these rules, but many do not feel safe making a complaint.

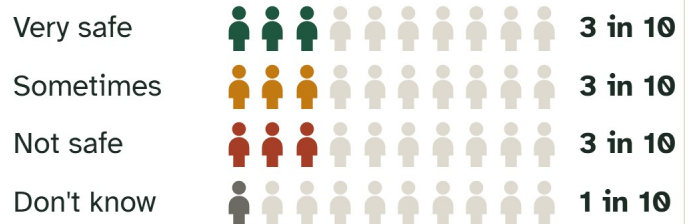
Making a complaint

How important are the new rules on how companies handle complaints?



10 in 10 said these rules are important

How safe do you feel (or would you feel) making a complaint to a company?



6 in 10 do not always feel safe

What is changing: a new requirement is proposed. Companies must enable community members to feel safe raising concerns, including through the complaints process, and make sure no one faces threats or punishment for speaking up.

What companies said: they support the rules and asked for clearer wording and ways to check them. Companies were not asked whether communities feel safe.

Consent when a mine closes

Should FPIC still be needed when planning a mine's closure?



10 in 10 said this is important

What is changing: FPIC stays a requirement for mine closure, with new, stronger protections for communities.

What companies said: most support FPIC here. Some want it only for key decisions or big changes to the closure plan, not for the whole process.

Do you support the new, adjusted definition of Indigenous Peoples in the ASI Standard?



9 in 10 support the change

Should the ASI Standard encourage companies to do more than the minimum?



10 in 10 said yes

Companies agree too.

Harm from the past

Almost everyone has seen harm from mining in the past. Everyone said it must be dealt with.

Have people in your community been harmed by mining that happened in the past?



9 in 10 said yes, and gave examples

How important is it that the ASI Standard deals with harm from the past?



10 in 10 said this is important

“Due to the lack of land levelling after bauxite mining, cattle and goats, as well as ordinary people, have fallen into pits and died.”

Community member, India

“Water bodies were destroyed, which brought about scarcity of water and us travelling far for water.”

Community member, Ghana

“We were forced to move from our community to resettle. It’s a struggle with not enough housing; we need more support even after 60 years.”

Community member, Australia

What is changing: a new requirement is proposed. Where a company has caused or contributed to serious harm, including harm from past mining that was never fixed, it must deal with it. This means working with the community to fix the harm, keeping a record, and doing what was agreed.

What companies said (different views): some companies said this rule is too broad and hard to apply. They asked how far back it should go, who is responsible, and about legal risks. Some suggested making it good practice instead of a rule. Others support it, but want to focus on the most serious harm and harm that is still happening.

Including everyone

Should companies show that people who are often left out are part of decisions about community benefits?



10 in 10 said this is important

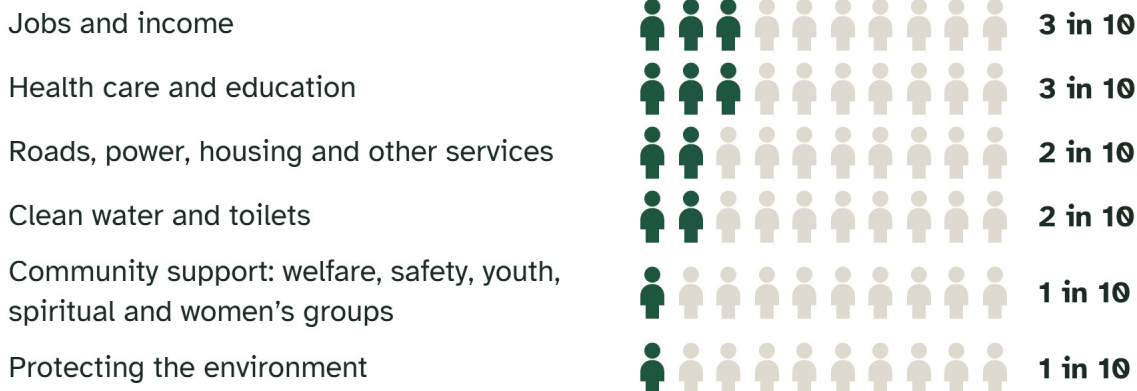
What companies said: they support this. They asked for clearer wording, more room to fit local situations, and for agreements that already exist to be recognised.

What is changing: a stronger focus on including vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Benefits for your community

Companies should plan benefits together with communities.

Which benefits are most important to your community?



People could give more than one answer.

Community agreements

Should companies have to make formal agreements with affected communities?



10 in 10 said this is important

What is changing: a new requirement is proposed. Where Indigenous Peoples are affected, companies must make a Community Development Agreement with them through an FPIC process.

What companies said: most support agreements. Some worry about legal challenges, cost, and places where laws or agreements already exist. Some said communities should decide if and when to start talks.

What happens next

- Your answers have already helped shape **new proposed rules**, shown in the green “What is changing” boxes in this newsletter.
- The draft is now being looked at by the Standards Committee
- The draft Standard is still being discussed. There will be another public consultation at the beginning of 2027 - you can contact your IPAF representative to give feedback.
- Questions? Contact Mark or Jessica at ipaf@aluminium-stewardship.org

Thank you for sharing your voice.