

## **Annex II: Full restructuring proposal (clean text with deletions)**

This additional annex has been provided to help holistically visualise what this proposal would look like in practice.

Red and black text is as appears in October draft regulations ISBA/28/C/IWH/ENV/CRP.3  
Green text is where this group has introduced proposed wording to ensure that when detail is moved from Annex IV to Standards, and the requirement cannot be referenced back to to the current contents of the retained introductory paragraph, such requirement is added to the retained paragraph (full detail see Annex III).

*Part IV, Section II 'Environmental Impact Assessment Process', Annex IIIbis 'Scoping Report' and Annex IV 'Environmental Impact Statement'.*

**Text below is as provided by IWG  
Environment facilitator ISBA/28/C/IWG/ENV/CRP.3\*  
16 October 2023**

### **Section 2 The Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

#### **Regulation 47 alt.**

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

1. An applicant or Contractor shall carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment on the potential effects on the Marine Environment of the proposed operations and activities.
2. The purpose of an environmental impact assessment under this regulation shall be to predict environmental impacts anticipated from the proposed activities, to enable the Authority to assess the potential adverse Environmental Effects, with the aim to:
  - (a) Ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from such proposed activities,
  - (b) Ensure that activities in the Area are carried out with reasonable regard for other activities in the Marine Environment,
  - (c) Avoid Serious Harm to the Marine Environment arising out of the proposed activities,
  - (d) Ensure, in accordance with article 142 of the Convention and Regulation 4, that the Sponsoring State and the Contractor, with respect to resource deposits in the Area which lie across limits of national jurisdiction, conduct the environmental impact assessment with due regard to the rights and legitimate interests and duties of affected coastal States by maintaining consultations and a system of prior notification to avoid infringement of their rights and legitimate interests, and
  - (e) Ensure that the proposed activities are carried out in accordance with the Rules of the Authority, general International Law, including the Convention and the applicable Standard and taking into account the relevant Guidelines as

well as, Best Available Scientific Information, Best Environmental Practices, and Best Available Techniques

3. The Environmental Impact Assessment be conducted in accordance with these regulations, relevant Standards, and taking into account relevant Guidelines and the objectives and measures of the applicable Regional Environmental Management Plan, and shall:

(a) Be based on relevant environmental baseline data,

(b) Be carried out by qualified, independent experts,

(b)bis Be based on the best available science and scientific information, and, where available, relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

(c) Include an environmental risk assessment and a survey of the seabed to identify Underwater Cultural Heritage, that takes into consideration the region as a whole taking into account the objectives and measures of the relevant and applicable Regional Environmental Management Plan,

(d) Provide for Stakeholder consultation in accordance with Regulation 93bis, relevant Standards and taking into account the relevant Guidelines,

(e) Be subject to an independent scientific assessment prior to the submission of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement to the Authority,

(f) Take into account the results from test mining, if applicable, in accordance with Regulation 48bis,

(g) Be conducted in accordance with the terms of reference developed during scoping in accordance with Regulation 47ter 4(o), and

(h) Identify scientific and other knowledge gaps or data uncertainties, and the degree to which these influence the assessment.

(i) be an iterative process where specific stages are revisited and may be updated in the light of new information or new activity at a later stage

4. The Environmental Impact Assessment process must follow certain procedural steps and entail the following elements:

(a) A scoping Stage and scoping report in accordance with Regulation 47bis to identify and risk assess the anticipated activities and potential impacts associated with the proposed Exploitation which are relevant to the Environmental Impact Assessment.

(b) A stage for assessment of environmental impacts [in accordance with the relevant standard.]including:

(c) A stage on the preparation and submission to the Authority of the Environmental Impact Statement to document and report the results of the environmental impact assessment in accordance with Regulation 47bis, the applicable Standards and taking into account the relevant Guidelines,

(d) The publication and review by the Commission of the Environmental Impact Statement, and publication of the report and recommendation by the Commission to the Council pursuant to Regulations 11 – 15

(e) A decision by the Council to approve, or not approve, the proposed activities or proposed modification to the Plan of Work that was the

subject of the Environmental Impact Assessment, including any conditions imposed upon an approval, which decision shall be recorded and published in accordance with Regulation 16, and

(f) A proactive consultation by an applicant or Contractor with Stakeholders at all stages, in accordance with relevant Standards and taking account of Guideline,

#### **Regulation 47 bis alt. (47 ter)**

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

1. The applicant or Contractor shall, in accordance with the Standards, and taking into

account the Guidelines, undertake an impact assessment, based on the Terms of Reference agreed in the Scoping report, to describe the impacts on the marine environment and Underwater Cultural Heritage and to predict the nature and extent of the Environmental Effects of the mining operation, including residual impacts, on the marine environment and Underwater Cultural Heritage, also considering cumulative impacts, including existing and foreseen mining operations, other activities and natural phenomena. This includes assessing:

- (i) The intensity or severity of the impact at the specific site being affected;
- (ii) The spatial extent of the impact relative to the availability of the habitat type affected;
- (iii) The sensitivity/vulnerability of the ecosystem to the impact;
- (iv) The ability of an ecosystem to recover from harm, and the rate of such recovery;
- (v) The extent to which ecosystem functions may be altered by the impact; and
- (vi) The timing and duration of the impact relative to the period in which a species needs the habitat during one or more of its life history stages affected for its long survival.

2. Undertaking the impact assessment, the applicant or Contractor shall complete:

(a) An analysis of reasonable alternatives remaining post Scoping to the planned activity under the jurisdiction or control of a State Party, including the no-action alternative,

(b) Identification of measures envisaged to mitigate and manage prevent, minimize, control, Environmental Effects and risks to as low as reasonably practicable, while within acceptable levels in accordance with environmental Standards, including through the development and preparation of an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan

(c) An environmental risk assessment, which adds to the preliminary environmental risk assessment required during scoping by regulation 47bis (4j).

(d) An analysis of the results of the environmental risk assessment, including identification of high priority risks requiring particular focus, including in the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan.

(e) A proactive consultation by an applicant or Contractor with Stakeholders at all stages, in accordance with relevant Standards and taking account of Guideline, which includes:

- (i) Providing Stakeholders with access to up-to-date and comprehensive information about the proposed activities and environmental data and impacts,
- (ii) Using best efforts to obtain Stakeholder comments on the draft scoping report and draft environmental impact statement for a reasonable period.
- (iii) Provide a reasonable opportunity for Stakeholders to raise enquiries and to make known their views,
- (iv) Make publicly available Stakeholder comments received during the engagement ~~consultation~~ process, including on the applicant or Contractor's own website, and
- (v) Record and address, in the scoping report and Environmental Impact Statement respectively, any substantive and relevant Stakeholder comments received.

**Regulation 47 ter (bis) alt.**  
**Scoping Report**

1. The applicant or Contractor shall prepare and submit to the Secretary-General a scoping report in accordance with this regulation and in the format prescribed in Annex IIIbis.
2. An applicant or Contractor shall use environmental impact assessment scoping to identify and prioritize the main activities and potential impacts associated with the proposed mining operation, in order to focus the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement on the key environmental issues.
3. In undertaking the environmental impact assessment scoping process, the applicant or Contractor shall:
  - (a) Review available data and knowledge, and propose additional data to be collected and studies needed to complete an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with these regulations,
  - (b) Undertake a preliminary impact analysis and environmental risk assessment which will be updated as the environmental impact assessment proceeds,
  - (c) Proactively identify Stakeholders in accordance with relevant Standards and taking into account any relevant Guidelines,
  - (d) Identify and evaluate feasible alternative means of carrying out the project that will be examined in the environmental impact assessment. and
  - (e) Use the best available science and scientific information and, where available, relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- (5) 4. Upon receipt of a scoping report from an applicant or Contractor, the Secretary General shall:
  - (a) Make the report available on the Authority's website, with an invitation for members of the Authority and Stakeholders to submit comments in writing within a period of 90 days;
  - (b) Following the close of the comment period under paragraph (1)(a), provide any comments received to the applicant or Contractor [within 2 weeks] [Russia] for their response within [60 Days];
  - (c) At the expiry of the timeframe specified in paragraph (1) (b), provide the Commission with the scoping report, any stakeholder comments received, and any responses to those comments from the applicant or Contractor.

(6) 5. The Commission shall consider a scoping report submitted in accordance with this regulation, and any comments and responses received, in accordance with any relevant Standards and taking into account Guidelines. Based on this review, the Commission shall approve a scoping report, disapprove it or make recommendations to the applicant or Contractor regarding the proposed environmental impact assessment, accompanied by a detailed rationale.

(7) 6. The Commission's recommendations under the previous paragraph [paragraph 6] may include recommendation:

(a) To revise the environmental risk assessment or other aspects of the scoping report based on different methodology or inputs,

(b) To amend the proposed terms of reference for the environmental impact assessment, or

(c) To re-submit a revised scoping report for further Stakeholder consultation and Commission review, in the case where uptake of any of the Commission's recommendations are likely to lead to a Material Change in the Scoping Report.

(8) 7. The applicant or Contractor shall, before proceeding with an environmental impact assessment process:

(i) take full account of the Commission's recommendations under this regulation,

(ii) agree the final contents of the proposed terms of reference in the Scoping Report with the Commission.

**Regulation 48 alt.**  
**Environmental Impact Statement**

1. An applicant or Contractor shall prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with this regulation. Such an Environmental Impact Statement shall be considered by the Authority in accordance with Part II or Regulation 57 and is required for an application for a plan of work pursuant to Regulation 7(3)(d).

2. The Environmental Impact Statement shall document and report the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment carried out in accordance with Regulation 47ter and shall provide the International Seabed Authority, its member States and other Stakeholders with unambiguous documentation of the potential Environmental Effects based on the Best Available Scientific Information, Best Environmental Practices, and Best Available Techniques, and Good Industry Practice on which the Authority can base its decision, and any subsequent approval that may be granted.

3. The Environmental Impact Statement shall be in a form prescribed by the Authority in [Annex IV, ] the relevant Standard and in accordance with the relevant Guideline:

(a) Detail the results of the environmental impact assessment including the methodology used, and evaluation of the identified environmental impacts

(b) Demonstrate that the proposed Exploitation is in accordance with all relevant environmental Standards and the Authority's environmental objectives and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Regional Environmental Management Plan, environmental baseline data as well as any additional objectives as set by the Contractor and any results of the performed test mining study, where applicable,

(c) Identify substantive comments received through public consultation on the environmental impact assessment and explain how each comment has been incorporated or otherwise addressed,

(d) Be prepared in clear and non-technical language and in an official language of the Authority together with an English-language version, where applicable,

(e) Be peer reviewed by competent independent experts, before submission,

(5) 4. The Environmental Impact Statement of every project, including any revisions, should be available on the official website of the International Seabed Authority in the interests of transparency of the whole process in accordance with regulation 92.

**Regulation 48 bis alt.**

**New Environmental Impact Assessment and Revised additional Environmental Impact Statement**

1. A Contractor shall conduct a new Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with regulation 47ter and submit an additional revised Environmental Impact Statement when:

(a) A Material Change to an existing Plan of Work is proposed which is likely to increase the adverse Environmental Effects caused by the activities,

(b) A Material Change in the Marine Environment is detected through monitoring or other data sources which would call for a new or reviewed Environmental Impact Statement,

(c) An activity described in the Plan of Work is predicted to exceed the impact thresholds set out in the Standards on environmental thresholds,

(d) A relevant Standard, activity or-predicted impact has not already been addressed by an Environmental Impact Statement, or

(e) Otherwise deemed necessary by the Commission or Council, in accordance with applicable Standards and taking into account Guidelines.

## Annex IIIbis

### Scoping Report

An environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report shall include the following:

- (a) A brief description of the proposed Exploitation activities and any ancillary features
- (b) A description and overview of tentative timelines and deadlines for the proposed environmental baseline studies and Environmental Impact Assessment [conducted under the Exploration contract and any associated activities,
- (c) A description of what is known about the environmental setting, including Underwater Cultural Heritage, for the project (Contract Area and regional setting),
- (d) A description of data gaps, potential data gaps or data with a large uncertainty associated with it for the project,
- (e) A summary of existing environmental baseline studies, and, where available, relevant traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities
- (f) A description of the technical, spatial and temporal boundaries for the Environmental Impact Assessment,
- (g) A brief description of the socioeconomic and sociocultural aspects of the project
- (h) Any assumptions and how they are being addressed, and assessment of their implications to the environmental risk assessment findings,
- (i) A preliminary impact analysis which categorizes the important issues into high-risk, medium-risk and low-risk for the Environmental Impact Assessment to address and evaluates the need for further information, taking into account the environmental risk assessment,
- (j) A preliminary environmental risk assessment,
- (k) A description of the results of the environmental risk assessment, including identification of high priority risks for local and regional ecosystem functioning over short and long term, requiring particular focus in the subsequent impact assessment phase of the Environmental Impact Assessment,
- (l) A preliminary Stakeholder list that proactively identifies likely Stakeholders, and an indicative schedule and methodology for engagement with key Stakeholders throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment process,
- (m) A report of consultations undertaken during scoping.
- (n) A consideration of reasonable alternative means of carrying out the project that will be examined in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment, including a no-action alternative, and any others that have been not carried forward for further analysis at this stage, and the reasons for that selection,
- (o) A draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment, which identifies the activities and studies planned for the Environmental Impact Assessment, and any additional baseline data that will be required,
- (p) An explanation for how the activities and studies planned for the Environmental Impact Assessment will be sufficient to determine likely environmental impacts, and to propose Mitigation and management strategies and monitoring methodology,
- (q) A note describing and explaining any divergence from ~~relevant~~ ISA Guidelines.

## Annex IV

### Environmental Impact Statement

#### 1. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement prepared under these regulations and the present annex shall:

(a) Be prepared in clear language and in an official language of the Authority together with an English-language version, where applicable; (b)

Provide information [based on data from,] [as a general rule, a minimum of 15 years of] [monitoring], in accordance with the ~~relevant~~ regulations, ~~and taking into account the applicable regional environmental management plan, [requirements of regional environmental management plans,] and~~ Standards and ~~[[taking into account the relevant] ] Guidelines and the relevant applicable regional environmental management plan, and taking into account the relevant applicable regional environmental management plan~~, corresponding to the scale and potential magnitude of the activities, to assess the likely Environmental Effects of the proposed activities. Such effects shall be discussed in proportion to their significance. Where an applicant or Contractor considers an Environmental Effect to be of no significance, there should be sufficient information to substantiate such conclusion, or a brief discussion as to why further research is not warranted; and

[(c) Include a non-technical summary of the main conclusions and information provided to facilitate understanding of the nature of the activity by Stakeholders.]

[(d) Be peer reviewed by competent independent experts, before submission and include a description of the experts, their qualifications, and the results of their review.]

#### 2. Template for Environmental Impact Statement

~~[The [required] recommended format and contents for an Environmental Impact Statement is outlined below. It is intended to provide the International Seabed Authority, its member States and other stakeholders with unambiguous documentation of the potential Environmental Effects based on the Best Available Scientific Evidence, Best Environmental Practices, and Best Available Techniques, and Good Industry Practice on which the Authority can base its decision, and any subsequent approval that may be granted. Further detail for each section is provided following the overview.]~~

The required contents and recommended format for an Environmental Impact Statement is outlined below. It is intended to provide the International Seabed Authority, its member States and other stakeholders with unambiguous documentation of the potential Environmental Effects based on the Best Available Scientific Evidence, Best Environmental Practices, and Best Available Techniques, and Good Industry Practice on which the Authority can base its decision, and any subsequent approval that may be granted. Further detail for each section is provided following the overview.

This document is a template and does not provide details of methodology or thresholds that may be resource- and site-specific. These methodologies and thresholds may also change over time in according to, for example, development of new technologies, ~~or~~ new scientific data or new knowledge, and will be developed as Standards and Guidelines to support the regulations.



## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Executive summary	76
1. Introduction	76
2. Policy, legal and administrative context	77
3. Description of the proposed project	77
4. Description of the existing oceanographic environment	80
5. Description of the existing biological environment	81
6. Description of the existing socioeconomic environment	82
7. Assessment of impacts on the physicochemical environment and proposed Mitigation	83
8. Assessment of impacts on the biological environment and proposed Mitigation	86
9. Assessment of impacts on the socioeconomic environment and proposed Mitigation	87
10. Accidental events and natural hazards	89
11. Environmental management, monitoring and reporting	89
12. Product stewardship	90
13. Consultation	91
14. Glossary and abbreviations	91
15. Study team	91
16. References	91
17. Appendices	91

## Executive summary

One of the main objectives of the executive summary is to provide an overview of the project and a summary of the content of the Environmental Impact Statement for non-technical readers.

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of the Introduction section is to set the scene for the Environmental Impact Assessment. This section should contain enough detail for a reader to form an overall impression of the proposed project and how it has developed and understand how the Environmental Impact Assessment is structured. As this section mainly provides a 'roadmap' to more detailed material in the Environmental Impact Assessment, it may be relatively short.

### 2. Policy, legal and administrative context

Provide information on the relevant policies, legislation, agreements, Standards and Guidelines that are applicable to the proposed mining operation.

### 3. Description of the proposed project

Provide details of the proposed project and the area of influence of the project or impact area, including relevant diagrams and drawings. It is understood that most projects will likely involve the recovery of minerals from the Area, with the concentrating process(es) occurring on land within a national jurisdiction (outside the jurisdiction of the Authority). While this section should provide a description of the entire project, including offshore and land-based components, the Environmental Impact Statement should focus on those activities occurring within the Authority's jurisdiction (e.g., activities related to the recovery of the minerals from the Area up to the point of trans-shipment).

### Section 3bis1 Summary of Scoping results, including of the risk assessment process [

Provide a brief overview of the results of the scoping exercise including with regard to the sufficiency of the scientific baseline data collected during exploration to support a robust Environmental Impact Assessment.

### Section 3bis [2] Methodology for Description of the Marine Environment and Assessment of Impacts and Environmental Effects

[Methodological approaches should be consistent with established community standards. In the case that novel sampling techniques, new technology, or sampling designs are employed, particularly detailed methodology and justification should be provided in this section.]

### 4. Description of the existing physiochemical and geological oceanography

Give a detailed account of knowledge of the oceanographic\_(physical, chemical and geological) meteorological and air quality conditions at each mining site and impact area as well as Reference Zones, including the expected changes in such conditions due to climate change. This ~~which~~ should include information from a thorough literature review as well as from on-site studies in accordance with the Regulations and applicable Standard and taking into account the relevant Guidelines to be specified. The Guidelines on baseline data collection as updated from time to time by the Commission, shall guide the drafting of this

section by providing information on the minimum amount of detail required for an acceptable baseline description. The account will provide the baseline description of the oceanographic conditions, including physical, chemical and geological oceanographic **setting, including its spatial and temporal variability and temporal trends** [conditions], against which impacts will be measured and assessed. The detail in this section is based on the prior environmental risk assessment **carried out in line with the respective standard and guideline**, that will have identified the main impacts, and thus the **priority** elements that need to be **[measured] considered** and assessed in the environmental impact assessment.

## **5. Description of the existing biological environment**

Give a detailed account of knowledge of the biological communities' composition and structure and ecosystem functions in the **proposed mining sites and impact areas, and the designated Preservation Reference Zones (PRZs), including a regional overview**. This should include information from a thorough literature review and baseline data collected from on-site campaigns, in accordance with the Regulations and applicable Standard and taking into account the relevant Guidelines.

## **6. Description of the existing human activities / the socioeconomic and sociocultural environment**

This section should describe the socioeconomic and sociocultural environment aspects and **potential** impacts of the project **[based]** on **[the] existing and planned uses (for which information is publicly available)** human activities. This may include consideration of the scale of effects (such as the creation of jobs and estimates of the risk of environmental impacts), extent of duration of impacts in time and space, intensity or severity of social impacts and an assessment of whether impacts are likely to be cumulative. It is important to consider the social equity or distribution of impacts across different populations: in other words, which groups are likely to be affected in which ways.

## **7. Assessment of impacts on the physical, chemical and geological environment and proposed Mitigation**

Provide a detailed description and evaluation of potential impacts and Environmental Effects of the operation to components of the physical chemical and geological environment identified in section 4, **including environmental management measures to mitigate impacts and residual effects**. This should consider the entire lifespan of the project, i.e. construction/development (precommissioning-) of the mine site, operational and decommissioning phases, and following Closure of the site. The potential for accidental events and natural hazards. The detail in this section is expected to be based on a prior environmental risk assessment prepared, reviewed, and revised in accordance with **[Annex IVbis (H)] Regulation 47ter and respective Standard and Guideline for Environmental Impact Assessment (chapter III Scoping, D)**.

## **8. Assessment of impacts and Environmental Effects on the biological environment and proposed Mitigation**

Provide a detailed description and evaluation of potential impacts and Environmental Effects of the proposed operation and alternatives considered in section 3.7 to the biological environment components identified in section 5 in the

mine site and the Impact Areas, including environmental management measures to mitigate impacts and residual effects. Consider impacts and effects that could happen during the entire lifespan of the project i.e. construction/development (pre-commissioning), operational and decommissioning phases and following Closure of the site. The potential for accidental events and natural hazards should be considered.

The detail in this section is expected to be based on a prior environmental risk assessment prepared, reviewed, and revised in accordance with [Regulation 47ter][Annex IVbis(h)] and respective Standards and Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment Process. The [description] analysis shall be structured by the depth ranges described in section 5

## **9. Assessment of impacts on the socioeconomic and sociocultural environment and proposed Mitigation**

Provide a detailed description and evaluation of potential impacts and Environmental Effects of the operation to the socioeconomic and sociocultural components identified in section 6, including environmental management measures to mitigate impacts and residual effects. This should include projections on the potential impacts in national waters outside the mining area and should also consider the entire lifespan of the project i.e. construction/development (pre-commissioning), operational (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases. Attitudes towards, and perceptions of, the proposed project are among the variables that should be considered in determining the significance of impacts. The potential for accidental events [and natural hazards] should also be considered.

## **10. Hazards arising from natural, accidental and discharge events**

This section should outline the possibility/probability of accidental events and natural hazards occurring, an assessment of the impact they may have, to the mine site and impact area, the measures taken to prevent or respond to such an event and an assessment of the residual impact should an event occur. This should include an overview of potential environmentally hazardous discharges resulting from accidental and extreme natural events as these are fundamentally different from normal operational discharges of wastes and wastewaters. Reference should be made to the ERCP.

## **11. Environmental management, monitoring and reporting**

Provide sufficient information to enable the Authority to anticipate possible environmental management, monitoring and reporting requirements for an environmental approval. Information listed include a description of the applicant's environmental management system and should reflect the proponent's environmental policy and the translation of that policy to meet the requirements of this section and previous sections during different stages of the project life (i.e., from construction to decommissioning and closure and the post-closure period).

The Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan is a separate report from the Environmental Impact Statement, but this could be a useful opportunity to highlight some of the key issues from the Statement that will be addressed in the full Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan.

## 12. Product stewardship

Provide a brief description of the intended use of the mineral-bearing ore once it leaves the Area. The description should also address how the Contractor will minimize health, safety, environmental, ~~and~~ socioeconomic **and** sociocultural effects of the intended product or products to meet standards for environmental management, and should address the following potential impacts:

- (a) Energy and materials consumption;
- (b) Waste generation;
- (c) Toxic substances;
- (d) Air and water emissions.

The intention is not to provide a full and highly detailed account, but, where information is known about environmental impacts, these impacts should be described briefly here.

## 13. Consultation

Consultations shall be inclusive, transparent and open to all relevant stakeholders, including States, global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, as well as civil society, the scientific community, indigenous peoples and local communities. *To be reviewed after outcomes of Council discussion on Stakeholder consultation (e.g. DR93bis).*

*This section shall include, inter alia, Consultation methods; a list of Stakeholders, incl. details on the selection process; a reflection on public consultation prior to the drafting of the Environmental Impact Statement; a reflection on consultation with the Legal and Technical Commission; a reflection on consultation with States, incl. Coastal States, and Stakeholders; and an Outline of further consultation.*

## 14. Glossary and abbreviations

Include a glossary of terms, acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the document to ensure that users of the Environmental Impact Statement, including the decision-makers and relevant stakeholders, have a clear understanding of the intention behind the use of certain terms in the Environmental Impact Statement.

## 15. Study team

Outline the people involved in carrying out the environmental impact assessment studies and in writing the Environmental Impact Statement.

## 16. References

Evidence obtained from outside sources should be documented throughout the Environmental Impact Statement, with the use of footnotes or other suitable reference mechanism. In addition, all sources used in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (including those specifically referenced in the body of the document) should be listed in bibliography format, with full details of the source (including website addresses, if applicable).

## **17. Appendices**

The appendices section should include a list of all the technical reports carried out for parts of the environmental impact assessment or that are used in support of any aspect of the environmental impact assessment (such as prior risk assessments or monitoring activities conducted as part of exploration contracts). Copies of these reports should be provided as appendices to the Environmental Impact Statement, with clear indications as to which section(s) the document is being provided to support.