

LAND MANAGEMENT

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OBJECTIVE
3. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
4. SCOPE
5. REQUIREMENTS
 - 5.1. Legal Requirements and Community Expectations
 - 5.2. Categorization of Land Disturbance Status
 - 5.3. Managing Land Use Change
 - 5.4. Managing Land Use Impacts
 - 5.5. Information and Reporting
6. GLOSSARY

1. INTRODUCTION

Mining is a temporary land use, and although activities can span many decades, if poorly controlled, residual impacts can last for many generations. Mining companies hold tenure to land for exploration and mining in various forms, ranging from full ownership to concessions or a lease of tenements. Regardless of the form of land holding, mining companies are not only stewards of the land under their control and influence, but are also responsible to host governments and communities for leaving it in a condition that ensures the optimization of post closure outcomes.

Activities associated with mineral exploitation give rise to numerous types of temporary and permanent activities on land including: exploration drilling, development of mining pits, ore processing plants, overburden and waste storage, water supply and treatment, offices, and recreation and accommodation facilities. The total extent of land disturbed for these multiple uses is often referred to as the mine footprint.

The change of existing land use or securing access to land for new mining or exploration activities can be controversial, especially where communities are affected. If insensitively managed, this change process can result in a hostile relationship developing between the site and affected communities, which may pose a threat to long term production viability. In keeping with the company's commitment that "We want communities and the societies in which we operate to be better off for us having been there", the needs of affected communities in planning and making decisions regarding land use change, are vital.

Recognizing that land management issues at each site are unique, this standard sets out generic requirements to ensure that land-related environmental burden liabilities (1) which may accrue to GNCC Capital, Inc. ("GNCC") and community-related threats are minimized or avoided.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this document are:

1. To outline a common approach to the management of land resources at sites under the control and influence of GNCC.
2. Primarily the associated financial liability caused by mining-related disturbance to land in company managed areas, including onsite and offsite impacts that result in the need for rehabilitation.
3. To ensure that impacts on land resulting from GNCC activities are managed in line with host government requirements, the reasonable expectations of communities and GNCC Capital, Inc.'s values.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Overall accountability for implementing this standard lies with the Manager in direct control of the site. Responsibility for its implementation can be delegated to a designated person(s) who should clearly understand their role(s) and responsibilities.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 This standard applies to the management of land resources held privately or under concession, lease or tenement.
- 4.2 Onsite contractors and subcontractors are required to adopt this standard unless they have an alternative land management standard, approved in writing by GNCC.
- 4.3 Where GNCC has no operational responsibility but a significant equity stake, and an equivalent standard is not in place, this standard must be made available to the operator for application.
- 4.4 This standard excludes requirements specific to the development of decommissioning and closure (2) plans appropriate to the mining lifecycle stage because these are addressed by the GNCC Closure and Rehabilitation Standard, and to closure liability estimation.

5. REQUIREMENTS

Legal Requirements And Community Expectations

Site operators are required to maintain the requisite licenses, permits and/or authorizations for the different land use activities (3) carried out. Regulatory conditions applicable to land use management must be fulfilled.

Existing agreements attached to land title deeds or formally and informally entered into with neighbors, including communities, must be honored.

Categorization of Land Disturbance Status

5.2.1 To facilitate land management planning and reporting, information on the disturbance status of all land owned, under mining concession or leased by the site must be maintained as per the categories listed below:

The closure phase is a period extending beyond the usual operational life of a mine.

For example, prospecting or exploration drilling, sinking of shafts or excavation of pits, processing plants, waste storage facilities, soil borrow pits, water storage dams, heap leach facilities, recreational and accommodation areas.

- i. Total land owned or managed under lease, concession or tenement for production and exploration activities, in hectares.
 - ii. Extent of land undisturbed by company activities (4), in hectares.
 - iii. Extent of land disturbed by company production activities (5) and not yet rehabilitated, in hectares.
 - iv. Extent of land disturbed by non-production activities (6), in hectares.
 - v. Extent of land rehabilitated to an agreed closure standard, in hectares.
- 5.2.2 The land disturbance status (7) must be updated at the end of the calendar year to reflect changes in additional land area disturbed or successfully rehabilitated.

Managing Land Use Change

Environmental and social impact assessments, including baseline biodiversity and landscape function studies, must be undertaken by qualified specialists before the commencement of new projects or major changes such as expansions to existing operations, in order to anticipate, avoid or minimize associated impacts on land and on potentially affected communities. Land management use changes in conflict or post-conflict areas require specialized impact assessments by appropriate experts.

Where not specified by host country regulation, the environmental and social impact assessment considerations will be as specified in sections 4 to 12 (Social and Environmental Assessment) of the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standard 1: Social and Environmental Assessment and Management System (dated 30 April, 2006) (8).

During exploration and mine development activities, the extent of land disturbed by production activities must be minimized in order to limit the associated restoration liabilities and where relevant, the potential for damaging conflicts with affected communities.

Some concession areas may be ‘disturbed’ by pre-mining land uses such as agriculture, rural settlements or ‘artisanal mining’. There should be careful delineation of these activities, in a GIS or equivalent system, as well as, inventorying pre-GNCC mining-related land disturbance.

Includes land disturbed by infrastructure related directly to mining and ore processing, such as mine shafts, pits, metallurgical plants, water and energy supply equipment, waste storage facilities, supplier/contractor site offices, etc.

- 6 Includes land disturbed by activities such as mine accommodation, recreational facilities, etc. but excludes land disturbed within the company-managed concession/lease area by non-company or associated activities such as agricultural activities, residential areas, illegal occupations, etc.
- 7 This information and updating interval is aligned with the G3 reporting requirement (MM EN23)
- 8 The corresponding IFC Guidance Note 1: Social and Environmental Assessment and Management Systems provide further explanation and context for the requirements. See the full Standard on:[http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sustainability.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/pol_PerformanceStandards2006_PS1/\\$FILE/PS_1_SocEnvAssessmentMgmt.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sustainability.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/pol_PerformanceStandards2006_PS1/$FILE/PS_1_SocEnvAssessmentMgmt.pdf). IFC Guidance Note 1 can be found on:[http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sustainability.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/pol_GuidanceNote2007_1/\\$FILE/2007+Updated+Guidance+Note_1.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sustainability.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/pol_GuidanceNote2007_1/$FILE/2007+Updated+Guidance+Note_1.pdf)

- 5.3.4 A formal site-based system to assess the potential impacts of and authorize the utilization of land previously undisturbed by GNCC mining or exploration activities must be maintained. This system must ensure regular identification of areas no longer required for operational activities and that can be made available for concurrent rehabilitation. Additionally, the system must ensure that legal and impact assessment requirements associated with additional land disturbance are adhered to, and where necessary that the stakeholder engagement processes are undertaken.

Managing Land Use Impacts

- 5.4.1 Post-mining land use objectives should be developed and revised at appropriate intervals, in consultation with the host country governments and host communities.
- 5.4.2 A structured rehabilitation program must be developed for each site, taking cognizance of the impact and timing of mining and exploration plans and which methodically assesses and addresses impacts (9) caused by GNCC’s land use activities, in line with the agreed post-mining land use objectives

Information and Reporting

Information related to land use change, disturbance and land rehabilitation activities, including monitoring and performance assessment data, must be retained until the site has been granted an exit certificate, and then handed to the relevant government authorities.

Reporting of land management statistics and rehabilitation performance must be done according to host government and GNCC Capital, Inc. requirements including, but not limited to, progress reports against land management objectives, incident reporting, and relevant GRI environmental indicators.

9. Through activities that cause physical, biological and chemical changes to the environment such as the clearance of vegetation, acidification of water and soils and disturbance of natural habitats as well as adverse socio-economic impacts on communities.

6. GLOSSARY

- 6.1 **Waste storage facilities** refers to all constructed facilities for the storage of waste, including waste rock dumps, tailings storage facilities, spent heap leach pads and landfill sites.
- 6.2 **Operation** refers to a producing mine.
- 6.3 **Project** refers to an exploration project or a new mine expansion.
- 6.4 **Site** is used when referring collectively to gold producing operations and to exploration and expansion projects.
- 6.5 **Mining lifecycle** encapsulates all stages of a mine project, from exploration to operation and closure.
- 6.6 **Land and land resources** refer to the physical landscape, with its inherent and interrelated geological, topographical, biological and hydrological components.
- 6.7 **Permit** is used to denote any environmental approval, authorization or license issued by host government departments and containing legally binding performance requirements.
- 6.8 **Concurrent rehabilitation is the** rehabilitation of redundant facilities and disturbed land during the operational life of a project, without waiting for mine closure and in line with agreed closure objectives, thereby reducing final closure costs.