

KENYA



Inspection Checklist for ASM sites during decommissioning

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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAMME 308**
Mine Water & Mine Waste Management



THE CHANGE PROJECT

The **change project** sought to align with the mandates and requirements set forth in both Environmental Management And Coordination Act (EMCA 1999) and the Mining Act, 2016 by aiming to strengthen the inspection and monitoring of mining operations at the decommissioning stage. The work is building on the guidelines developed by Group 1 Kenya during their course. Our journey involved a thorough examination of various aspects of the project's decommissioning phase. We identified key decommissioning phases and the activities that are likely to be undertaken at each phase. This was included in the checklist, and it covered everything from pre-closure considerations to the actual decommissioning activities and post-closure planning.



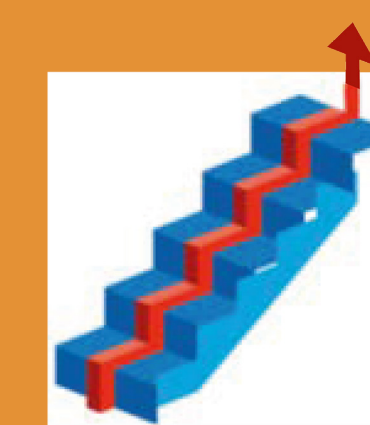
Artisanal Small scale mining site in Kenya.

The checklist's main focus is ensuring the safety and stability of decommissioning sites and paying special attention to securing open pits, stabilizing slopes, re-vegetation, mapping out risk sites and properly managing hazardous materials and wastewater. Including the evaluation of waste rock and tailings management methods that are being used on the project site will help ensure that the site is not only safe but also environmentally responsible and restored to a habitable state. The post-decommissioning phase in the checklist involved setting up a long-term monitoring plan including who is responsible for the implementation of the plan. It also included regular infrastructure inspections by relevant authorities and the proponent and a reporting system to keep regulatory bodies informed.



SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The **project's emphasis** on transparency, communication, and comprehensive stakeholder involvement has not only strengthened the overall effectiveness of the checklist but also contributed to a more harmonious relationship between industry players and the local community. Mine and Environmental inspectors have profited from early exposure to a draft checklist. Mine operators have also benefited by participating in the consultations, sharing insights into practical challenges and operational realities. As a result, their contribution to developing a user-friendly checklist that addresses potential issues relevant to their operations. Local communities got an opportunity to engage in focus groups and discussions, expressing concerns and priorities related to mine closure impacts.



RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The **project has developed** a draft checklist to be used during the decommissioning of ASM mining sites. The checklist encompasses key phases such as pre-closure planning, site stabilization, waste management, re-vegetation, water quality monitoring, and post-closure monitoring. Due to its digital format, the checklist enables customization to various mine types, locations, and regulatory requirements, making it flexible in its application.

To enhance accessibility, the checklist will be freely accessible on the State department for mining and NEMA websites. Moreover, active dissemination strategies will include sharing the checklist with relevant stakeholders through workshops, seminars and training sessions, facilitating widespread utilization and adherence to standardized decommissioning practices.



For the project sustainability efforts, there is need to engage key stakeholders including mining regulatory bodies, environmental authorities and local mining communities including mining associations. Key to the success of this checklist is the positive impacts of the checklist to ensure successful decommissioning of mining sites. Continued feedback and dialogue with stakeholders need to be undertaken to address emerging challenges and ensure project objectives and goals are aligned with new evolving priority needs of all stakeholders.

Recommendation to organization and colleagues:

Key lead agencies such as the Ministry of lands, Interior, civil society and mining groups with interest and commitment to responsible mining and sustainability is to be motivated to build on our project's efforts.



Stakeholder meeting.



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