



SDNRP- Ministry of Mines PMU



UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT (Date: September / 2012)

<p>Social Issues Progress</p>	<p>Organized Training on Social & Environmental issues for 25 officials of Ministry of Mines:</p> <p>As part of capacity building program for the Ministry officials on social & environmental impacts of mining and their mitigation, a four day training was organized from 23-26th September at AGS for 25 officials from Department of Inspections, Cadastre, Policy, Investment Promotion and Aynak Authority of Ministry of Mines. The issues discussed during the training included Social Policy, Social Impact Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments, Land Acquisition legislation and their proposed amendments, Corporate Social responsibility, Community Development Agreements etc. The purpose of the training was to provide a general picture of all these issues to the participants and make them aware of the negative and positive impacts of mining on the communities and environment. It was also meant to enhance capacity of the participants to look in to these issues during the mine inspections and in facilitating community consultation. The training was meant to create a sense of responsibility among the participants for mitigating the adverse impacts of mining on the communities and environment.</p> <p>This training was conducted by the experts in MoM, MAIL & MoJ. It greatly enhanced the understanding about these important issues among the relevant departments in the Ministry. The training tools included power point presentations and lectures. The participants were given handouts for each of the lectures with presentations and background notes in local language. The participants were also involved in the group work followed by their</p>
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presentations which greatly increased their involvement and interest.

An evaluation of the training program was carried out through feedback forms from the participants.

Overwhelmingly large number of participants found the training very useful and the training tools as very effective and all them would want to have further trainings in land acquisition, CSR and CDAs.

Prepared Guidelines for Social Development in Small & Medium Scale Mining in Afghanistan

The guidelines for social development in small & medium scale mines in Afghanistan were prepared to provide a broad framework for government interventions towards sustainable development in small & medium scale mining in Afghanistan. It also provides guidance for the Government and mining companies to ensure that all necessary social safeguards are appropriately covered under the contracts and that they are properly implemented.

Considering the unorganized nature of these mines, these guidelines provide a broad framework to mitigate social & environmental impacts of these mines. The activities in these mines not only cause substantial environmental damage, but also huge social problems. At the same time, these mines given proper direction & support, can contribute substantively to employment generation & socioeconomic development of the country. The guidelines cover measures to be taken by the Government and mining companies towards community development, labor protection, health and safety of mine workers. It also provides for a grievance redressal mechanism and external evaluation of the efforts made towards social development in the areas of small & medium scale mines. The external evaluation would also aim to study the measures for resettlement, if any, restoration of income, improving living standards and livelihoods of affected persons and make recommendations for planning for policies in the future

These guidelines indicate strong intent of the Government of Afghanistan towards social development in the small & medium scale mining sector. These will guide the process of socio-economic development in these areas to enable long term sustainable community development and benefit sharing. These guidelines will also help government, the mining companies, NGOs etc to direct their policies and programs for social development in these mining areas in a more focused and targeted manner.

Capacity Building of the Inspections Department Team to carry out Impact Assessment of the closure of illegal coal mines in Bamiyan province.

Carried out detailed discussions with H.E. Minister and the team of officials from Inspections Department on the above issue. A detailed questionnaire for the impact assessment of closure of illegal coal mine Ashupushta area in Bamiyan in June 2012 on the employment of mine workers was prepared. A training program for the 6 member team from the Ministry which would be carrying out this assessment was also conducted to facilitate an effective and comprehensive assessment of the situation.

Discussions on Land Acquisition issues at Aynak:

Carried out detailed discussion with Head of Aynak Authority and other officials about the land acquisition and compensation to the affected families at Aynak. Advised the Aynak Authority team to immediately activate the grievance redressal mechanism at Aynak and to document the process of community consultation for land acquisition for the access road at Aynak.

Review of Social Development activities under Qara Zaghan Gold Mining project: Reviewed the activities under the corporate social responsibility of the mining company in the Qara Zakhan mine including establishing a community relations committee, employing and training of local people, refurbishment of wells for the use by the communities, provision of school bus etc and advised them to make these activities more effective and useful for the

	<p>local communities during a presentation held in the Ministry. Also reviewed the commitments of the mining company for social development activities under the contract and their performance based on these commitments.</p> <p>Discussions on issues of Health & Safety of workers at Mine sites with Inspections Department</p> <p>As advised by H.E. Minister, detailed discussions were held with the Inspections Department regarding need to properly inspect health and safety of workers at mine sites, provision of personal safety equipment, availability of first aid at the site etc. Issues related to use of child labor in mines was also discussed and Inspections department was advised to always check use of child labor in mines and that they should immediately prohibit the mining company to not to use children below age of 18 years in the mines as per the Afghan Labor Law.</p>
<p>Mes Aynak Archeological Progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation work continues on total 17 sites, 4 areas are completed and need no further work. • A high percentage of sites in the Lower Town area (see attached image) are now nearing completion, from this area large amounts of digital data are being collected and a comprehensive digital plan of all the archaeological remains in the Red Zone is being carried out (see attached image). • Hand excavation of first terrace near mountain top now well underway. Initial excavations reveal that the archaeological remains may not be as extensive as previously believed. Awaiting return of machinery • Excavation of Peripheral Monastic Sites almost complete, currently undertaking a phase of documentation and survey (see attached image). • 3D scanning team ready to mobilize in 2 weeks, a necessary step before removal of the larger relics can begin. After this removal of stupas and statuary will begin. • Aerial photograph programme due to start in 2 weeks. In addition to this aerial thermal imaging may shed light on the total extent of the archaeological remains and perhaps the extent of ancient underground mine works

<p>Policy Support to Ministry of Mines</p>	<p>Were undertaken at the request of the Deputy Minister.</p> <p>Worked with other members of the Policy and Programs Unit to prepare the Mineral Industry’s statement for the Afghan Policy Framework. This major program is under the direction of the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>Continued review of various training programs at both the executive level and technical skills education. I have been in contact with universities and/or training institutions to provide training to Afghan nationals involved in the minerals industries for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) vocational/technical education, 2.) seminars for the younger administrative staff at the MoM in the technology and economics of the mining industry, 3.) management short course training at the MBA level for the Ministry’s mid- and upper level personnel, 4.) establishment of a formal mining engineering program (4 year college) at one of the local universities. <p>A brief meeting was held with the World Bank office to provide a verbal update of progress.</p> <p>A short paper discussing the pros and cons of establishing a State – Owned exploration company was prepared.</p> <p>I, along with other members of the Policy and Programs Group, prepared a white paper with accompanying questions and answers for the Deputy Minister’s speech at the MENA Mining Conference scheduled to be given in Dubai at the end of October.</p>
<p>Aynak Compliance Monitoring Project</p>	<p>The Ministry of Mines has collaborated with the Ministry of Interior to produce a security plan aimed at restoring secure conditions so that mining company personnel may be re-deployed to the site.</p> <p>Preparation of the Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) continues and has not been affected by the withdrawal of personnel from the mine site. It is now expected that the BFS will be submitted during October 2012, incorporating the Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). The</p>

	<p>Compliance Monitoring team is working with Ministry officials and other consultants to prepare for the BFS & ESIA evaluation and approval process. The World Bank has also committed resources to assist in assembling a team for this exercise.</p> <p>Capacity building in the Ministry of Mines continues with technical training of officials, primarily in topics relevant to evaluation of the Feasibility Study. In September 2012 training was conducted in the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). The module presented was "Introduction to Mining," designed to give NEPA officials a broad understanding of the main activities in mining from exploration to processing, highlighting significant environmental impacts and how they are managed.</p> <p>The Compliance Monitoring team continues to supply the Ministry of Mines with support and advice on all aspects of the Aynak Copper Project.</p>
<p>Environmental Issues Support to NEPA</p>	<p>During this reporting period I have made below progresses and activities in support to NEPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you know, Mr. Vaughan Smith Mining Engineer from GAF has conducted a training program for NEPA Staff on Basics of Mining Activities during September started in 09.09, 2012 and still continuing. I have coordinated and arranged all the official process here in NEPA with relevant departments and officials. I myself also attending all the sessions and assisting. • As you are aware, Mrs. Harjot Kaur Senior Social Advisor in MoM has conducted a training program for MoM employees on Environmental and Social issues. NEPA was officially requested to provide a presentation regarding EIA framework in the country. So based on this, NEPA representative had its presentation in September 24, 2012 in AGS training hall.

I myself as well had a comprehensive presentation regarding Environmental Impacts of Mines on the same date in AGS, and it was very welcomed by most trainees in the session. I attended the last day of this training as well.

- In September 03, 2012 Dr. Dave (Environmental Advisor) in MoM/PMU wanted to have a meeting with NEPA DDG. So here in NEPA, I have coordinated the meeting and we all together have attended and some relevant issues of the project discussed (Training, EIA Review process, documents...).
- Dr. Dave also has drafted a document in slides to know the EIA preparation and specially reviewing process for Aynak project between NEPA, MoM, and MCC... I have received it and it is distributed to EIA department here in NEPA for comments, soon we will have their comments for finalization.
- I have translated the EIA regulation annex for Category 1 and 2 projects, from Dari into English. It is needed by most of the advisors working here in NEPA as well as in MoM or PMU regarding the project's environmental and social issues.
- EIA Board of experts second meeting in NEPA in September 5, 2012: In this reporting period, I have attended EIA Board of Experts second meeting. Two projects' reports reviewed and decisions taken. I have proposed some issues for the improvement of reviewing the reports that finally as a result I will prepare a technical presentation for the members regarding the most critical environmental issues that are to be reviewed and considered. So far I am working to prepare the presentation.
- I have attended a meeting in DDG of NEPA office with GIZ officials to discuss the water quality

	<p>standards between relevant stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was assigned by NEPA to do the translation of some proposals from English to Dari which was needed in the provinces. <p>In September 15, 2012 I have attended the Air Pollution Prevention Higher Commission Meeting. during this meeting many critical issues relevant to air pollution in the country specially in Kabul are discussed</p>
<p>NRRCP “National and Regional Resource Corridor Program”</p>	<p>The overall progress of NRRCP Secretariat from 31st Aug till 31st September, 2012 is as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized, facilitated and delivered four days Training workshop on " Social and Environmental issue of Mining" to 30 MoM employees from Inspection , cadastres, policy and Investment promotion departments , AGS, and Aynak project; • Secretariat mission to Hairatan for Railway Terminal Technical study; • Secretariat mission to Herat (Ghoryan) along with world Bank technical consultant for conducting technical studies of Railway; • Finalized Fit to Purpose Information Piece on livelihoods (with focus on PSD); • Prepared concise Study Tours proposal for NRRCP Secretariat team;