

RWANDA



Mine Closure Checklist for Rwanda

Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board

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INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 308
Mine Water & Mine Waste Management



THE CHANGE PROJECT

The project develops a mine closure checklist as a step in improving mine closure practices in Rwanda. The project aims to provide a detailed and systematic guide to be used during all phases of mine closure, from mine planning stages to post-closure monitoring of mine sites. The checklist addresses water pollution, soil contamination and physical hazards impacting people and the environment.

The checklist will support Rwanda Mines Petroleum and Gas Board in maintaining compliance, protecting local ecosystem and promoting sustainable practices throughout the mine closure process. The goal and the long-term vision of this project is to develop a mine closure checklist that will be acceptable and used at a national level when assessing mine closure compliance.



Open cast mining in Rwanda.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

There are an estimated 500 or more abandoned mines in Rwanda. Mines that are not properly closed cause a whole spectrum of issues to the community nearby and the environment. Mine closure is an essential stage in mining activities. In Rwanda most of licensed mining companies leave the site without doing proper mine closure as presented in the planning stages. There is a big gap between planning and execution at the end of mining projects.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Developing a draft checklist included research and assessment, data collection, stakeholder engagement at communities, mining companies and at Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA). Drafting, reviewing and testing the checklist are steps taken towards seeking approval from RMB for a final and implemented checklist. The development of the mine closure checklist was made possible through the contributions of various stakeholders, including regulatory authorities such as RMB, REMA, environmental experts, mining companies, and local communities.

This project has successfully laid the foundation for sustainable mine closure by helping companies comply with environmental regulations, restore land for future use and mitigate long term environmental and social impacts.



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Once a final checklist is approved, RMB will determine how to incorporate the draft checklist or its refined versions into the standard mine inspection procedures. Until approval the checklist will be further tried and tested in the field and refined by consultation with stakeholders. To optimize mine closure planning, mining companies will use a checklist with standards aligned with best mining practices and regulatory requirements. Updates and stakeholder input will be incorporated to reflect established social and environmental considerations.