



NOTICE

**REQUIREMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO GUIDE
MINING AND QUARRY OPERATIONS**

Background

Pursuant to the provisions of the following legal instruments governing the conduct of mining and quarrying activities:

- Law N° 48/2018 on environment, especially on articles 42 (1°- 4°, 12° & 16°), 47 (3°), and 49 (4° & 5°);
- Ministerial order N° 007/16.01 of 15/07/2010 determining the length of land on shores of lakes and rivers transferred to public property, especially on article 6;
- Law N° 49/2018 determining the use and management of water resources in Rwanda, especially on articles 21 & 28;
- Law N° 47bis/2013 that determines the management and utilization of forests in Rwanda especially on article 52;
- Law N° 58/2018 on mining and quarry operations and especially on article 40; which makes it mandatory to the mining and quarry companies to have approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) with Environmental management plan (EMP), water use permit and forest resources exploitation permit, for the purpose of overall environmental management and its protection from adverse impacts by the continuous implementation of approved and recommended mitigation measures. Inspections are being conducted on mining companies and quarries across the country to ensure that they comply with the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

In this framework, the management of Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) informs some of the key aspects to be respected by mining and quarries companies and that will continue to be monitored throughout mining and

environmental inspections. In order to better manage the environment, all mining companies, cooperatives and quarries are requested to pay close attention to the following points:

1. Each Company or cooperative involved in mining or quarrying activities is required to have a 'life of mine/quarry plan', including plans for water management, waste management and landscape rehabilitation plan.

- The life of mine/quarry plan must include the mining and quarry companies' objectives on safeguarding environmental values from the exploration stage through to closure.

2. It is prohibited to carry out mining/quarrying activities in less than 20, 10 and 5 meters from wetlands, main rivers and small river banks respectively:

- There should not be any presence of shafts, stockpiles, decantation basins or tailings in less than 20 meters from wetlands, 10 meters from main river banks or 5 meters from small river banks.

3. It is prohibited to dump tailings and stockpiles, to discharge untreated wastewater, or washing minerals in rivers or wetlands and their established buffer zones:

- Mining companies, cooperatives and quarries should have a safe space to pile waste rocks, overburden and tailings after mining activities.
- There should be a tailing pond system to wash minerals and purify wastewater before being discharged into the environment.
- Mining companies, cooperatives and quarries are advised to recycle and reuse clear water.

4. Each exhausted/abandoned tunnel and open pits and shafts must be rehabilitated:

- Mining and quarrying companies should refill boreholes and excavated sites with waste rock, tailings or tailing paste.
- There should be an afforestation plan for abandoned pits based on their environmental impact assessment.

5. It is prohibited to harvest or cut forest trees without prior authorization.

- Before clearing or harvesting a forest, a forest harvesting authorization is required. This authorization is given by the authority in charge of forest management.

6. Each company or cooperative's environmentalist and mining Engineer are responsible for implementing and reporting their activities on compliance with the ESIA, mine design and mine plan.

- a) The main responsibilities of the environmentalist are but not limited to:
- Implementation of ESIA/EMP at the mining site. At the mining site, the environmentalist must have a copy of ESIA that acts as a daily guiding tool on the implementation of the mitigation measures of identified impacts related to the mining activities.
 - Submitting quarterly reports indicating the activities conducted and the plan of activities to be conducted for environmental management at the mining site. Those reports should be submitted at RMB not later than the last day of the month ending each quarter of the year.
- b) The main responsibilities of the mining engineer are but not limited to:
- To ensure that mining activities are conducted in a professional manner following the mine design and mine plan that must be available at the office at the mine site.
 - To assist the company to conduct mining and quarry activities taking into account the provisions of the booklet of mining safety standards available at:
https://www.rmb.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/Rwanda_Mines_Petroleum_and_Gas_Board_Kiny_booklet_A5_.pdf
 - Submitting quarterly reports indicating the activities conducted and the plan of activities to be conducted considering the mine plan and the provisions of the booklet of mining safety standards. Those reports should be submitted at RMB not later than the last day of the month ending each quarter of the year.

7. Every mining/quarrying company or cooperative should follow established protocols against noise pollution.

- All the employees exposed to the source of noise or who are operating noise emitting equipment must always wear noise protection equipment
- Every mining company, cooperative and quarry must get an authorization from the minister in charge of internal security prior to using explosives in mining and quarry operations.

8. Minimum infrastructure and documents that each mining/quarrying entity site must have on-site.

- A well maintained access road to the mining sites and offices;
- An office equipped with tables, chairs, paper filing folders, mine design and mine plan, first aid kits and other office equipment;
- All the documents including the mining license, approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), mine design and mine plan, water use permit, contracts of all employees, payroll, tax payment proof, employees' insurance proof, land ownership or expropriation contracts must be onsite at the offices;
- A rehabilitation plan, written and approved by authorities involved,
- Toilets and changing rooms respecting gender balance;
- A shelter/hangar for avoiding manpower's exposure to the sun or the rain;
- Tailing Storage Facility (TSF);
- Drinking clean water for employees;
- Health and safety equipment worn by all onsite employees;
- Wastewater settling ponds.

Done at Kigali, on.....22 FEB 2022.....

RMB MANAGEMENT

