

Mining Certification Evaluation Project (MCEP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

As a new project, it is not surprising that there are many questions about the MCEP, along with a few misunderstandings. Here are the most common ones.

☞Is the MCEP certifying or accrediting mines?

No. The MCEP is a policy research project using a multi-stakeholder process to evaluate whether independent third-party certification of performance is applicable to the mining sector. It must be stressed that this project will not certify or accredit mine sites, nor is it in the process of establishing a certification institution.

☞Is WWF going to set up a certification scheme?

No. Because the MCEP is taking place in the Australian context, any outputs would be only the starting point of a broader international dialogue about certification. A wide range of stakeholders would need to be involved in developing this dialogue and bringing any institution into effect. WWF is participating in the MCEP to evaluate the concept of certification for the mining sector.

☞Can I be part of the Working Group?

The Working Group was formed in November 2002 to bring perspectives from a range of sectors and experiences to guide the MCEP. It is not currently seeking any further members. However, we invite all those interested in the project to become part of the MCEP Contact List. Membership of this list will provide opportunities for input into Working Papers when they are released for public consultation.

☞How are local communities involved in certification?

The MCEP will carry out a number of field trials to see whether local and regional issues are being captured in the Working Paper discussions. There will be local consultation during these visits to gather stakeholder perspectives.

In certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), local perspectives are taken into account in the certification assessment. The FSC has rigorous appeal processes to which community groups have recourse should they disagree with the certification outcomes.

Please contact fsolomon@wwf.org.au if you have any other questions.

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