

# MINING CERTIFICATION EVALUATION PROJECT

## INTRODUCTION

This is the first of a series of regular updates on the Mining Certification Evaluation Project (MCEP).

The MCEP is a joint R&D exercise with participation from the mining industry, NGOs, labour, government agencies, the financial and accounting sector and research institutions. It aims to evaluate whether independent third party certification of environmental and social performance can be applied to the mining sector, by undertaking a policy research project in the Australian context.

The MCEP has secured the financial and in-kind support of BHP Billiton, CSIRO, Newmont, Placer Dome, WMC Resources and WWF for this project.

## PROJECT PROGRESS

The project formally commenced in late August 2002. The project team of Michael Rae, Andrew Rouse and Fiona Solomon are based in WWF's Melbourne office.

A Working Group for the project has been formed by invitation, and one or two more members are being sought:

### MCEP Working Group at December 2002:

Andrew Minns	Newmont
Andrew Rouse	WWF
Arthur Hood	Placer Dome
Fiona Solomon	CSIRO
Francis Grey	Sustainable Asset Management
Gordon Drake	WMC Resources
Ian Wood	BHP Billiton
Margaret Donaldson	On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner
Libby Rankin	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Malcolm Forbes	Environment Australia (Commonwealth department)
Martha Macintyre	School of Social Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies, and the Centre for the Study of Health and Society, The University of Melbourne
Melanie Stutsel	Minerals Council of Australia
Michael Rae	WWF
Peter Colley	Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union

# THE CANARY

The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 19 December, 2002 in Melbourne. This meeting brought together participants for the first time, to share expectations and understanding about the project, and to commence discussion about 'principles' for well-managed mine sites.

At least six meetings of the Working Group are planned over the 18 months of the project, to cover the following steps:

## MCEP Project Steps

1. Develop principles for environmental and social performance.
2. Reach agreement on principles for environmental and social performance.
3. Develop performance standards
4. Reach agreement on performance standards
5. Site trials and discussion of emerging issues
6. Final project report, review and recommendations.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Over the last few months, a number of documents have been developed by the project team:

- ✍ Fact Sheet for the Project (emailed with this Update).
- ✍ Short report for publication in Australian Journal of Environmental Management (in press).
- ✍ Terms of Reference for Working Group.
- ✍ Draft Options Paper 1 for discussion at the first Working Group meeting.

These documents will shortly be available on a web site – details soon.

## CONTACT

To be put on the mailing list for future updates via The Canary, or for any other information, please contact Fiona Solomon at [fsolomon@wwf.org.au](mailto:fsolomon@wwf.org.au)