

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WITH ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI AUSTRALIA GREENFIELDS EXPLORATION AND NEW PROJECTS

Most people associate environmental management in the resource sector with minimising the impact of mining activities, but AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd (AGAA) believes its environmental obligations begin long before mining even becomes a possibility.

This means environmental protection and management are integrated into exploration activities from the moment pegging of the ground starts and before field work is initiated.

AGAA's approach has been applied at the remote Tropicana Joint Venture in Western Australia, and led to the company being asked to make a submission for consideration in the Western Australian Golden Gecko Awards. The AGAA Greenfield Exploration Integrated Management System (IMS) is also one of only a few exploration-based management systems to receive ISO14001 certification.

The company recognises that exploration is a temporary land use, which is why a proactive, phased approach to exploration has been adopted which limits on-ground impacts and reduces the area requiring



rehabilitation. All on-ground exploration is designed to consider environmental and heritage knowledge, while taking into account safety and community values and requirements.

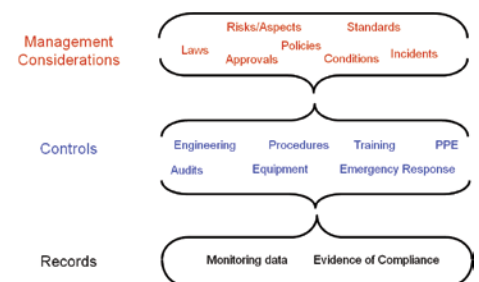
Due diligence is carried out at the pegging phase to look at the underlying land use, environmental and heritage values, and any historic exploration work.

The Greenfield Exploration Team utilises Geographic Information System (GIS) databases to seek specific information on elements such as flora and fauna, sand dunes, salt lakes and drainage systems. Where information is missing, work such as heritage and environmental surveys and field inspections will be carried out to expand the knowledge base. All of this information feeds into the company's GIS and is considered when planning access to the exploration area and exploration activities on the ground. It also feeds into inductions and ongoing communication to staff and contractors who will be working on the exploration programs.

Every activity is subject to the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) Programme of Works approval, that has been granted for each exploration area. Activities are monitored against the DMP approval, to ensure compliance.

The IMS is a critical part of the AGAA Greenfield Exploration Team's work. The IMS combines the requirements of environmental, community, safety and quality standards, removing duplication and improving efficiency, which ultimately leads to reduced management costs. The IMS works on the "plan, do, check, act" cycle with the aim of achieving continuous improvement. Whilst originally developed to meet AngloGold Ashanti's global corporate requirement for ISO14001 certification, the IMS also ensures that the company maintains its social licence to operate.

The multi-element IMS contains policies and procedures for a wide range of activities such as exploration drilling, land clearing and drill site preparation and track management. It also incorporates software including InControl, InTuition, LeaseControl, DataShed, MapInfo and Compass Enterprise.



The IMS approach has also proved valuable for AGAA in its exploration within Gazetted and Proposed Reserves, where companies are required to provide an Exploration Environmental Management Plan (EEMP). The EEMPs developed in-house for the Viking Project Area (100% AGAA) at the southern end of the Tropicana Belt, are now being used as a template for other companies to follow.

AGAA takes a lifecycle approach to integrating environmental values into its day-to-day business for exploration, an approach that is based on proactive planning rather than being reactive. The company believes its obligations to carry out exploration with a minimum footprint begin from day one, and go well beyond compliance with the Mining Act.

It is not just about managing and protecting environmental and heritage values, it is also good business. 🌱



RC Drilling at Tropicana



Thorny Devil (*Moloch horridus*)



Dragon Lizard



Preparing exploration tracks post environmental inspection

ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI AUSTRALIA

AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd (AGAA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of global gold company AngloGold Ashanti Ltd, which has 21 operations located in 10 countries. It is actively exploring across five continents. In 2009 AngloGold Ashanti produced 4.6 million ounces, generating US\$3.8 billion in revenue.

In Australia the company operates the Sunrise Dam mine, near Laverton in Western Australia, and has 70% of the Tropicana Gold Project, 330 kilometres east-northeast of Kalgoorlie in WA. The company also has an extensive exploration portfolio comprising the Tropicana Joint Venture (70% stake) and Viking Areas located on the eastern edge of the Yilgarn Craton.

The company employs approximately 300 people directly, as well as 400 contractors in Australia. The Sunrise Dam mine is fully certified under the International Cyanide Management Code and the mine, along with AGAA's Greenfield Exploration Group, has ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certification.

TROPICANA GOLD PROJECT

The Tropicana Gold Project (TGP) is located 330 kilometres east-northeast of Kalgoorlie on the edge of Western Australia's Great Victoria Desert. The TGP is part of a joint venture between AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd (70% and manager) and Independence Group NL (30%).

The Tropicana Joint Venture covers more than 15,000km² of tenements, stretched along more than 300 km of the ancient collision zone

between the Yilgarn Craton and the Albany-Fraser Province. It is a geological setting not historically thought to be prospective for gold.

With a current resource base of 5 million ounces, Tropicana, at the northern end of the leases, represents the most significant gold discovery in Australia for a decade. The discovery holes were drilled in 2005.

Development of the Tropicana Gold Project was approved by the Joint Venture Partners in November 2010. Construction will begin in the June quarter of 2011 with first gold scheduled for the December quarter of 2013. Capital expenditure is estimated at A\$690-A\$740 million and in the first three years the mine will produce 470,000-490,000 ounces per annum.

The TGP lies within a remote and biologically unique environment at the junction of three biogeographic regions: the Great Victoria Desert, the Murchison and the Nullabor.

AGAA recognised at the start of exploration in 2002 that the region lacked detailed environmental and heritage information, and adopted a broad and holistic approach to baseline surveys to ensure environmental and heritage values were identified and an appropriate level of local and regional information was obtained for the environmental impact assessment.

This survey work has resulted in a significant increase in scientific knowledge for the region and has contributed to developing and designing a project infrastructure footprint that will avoid and/or minimise impacts on identified significant environmental and heritage values.

The latest information about the TGP and documents relating to the approvals process can be accessed on www.tropicanaajv.com.au