

The Cane Rive Quarry Zone Community Project

Project Background

The largest concentration of privately held small and medium sized mining operations in Jamaica is known as the Cane River Quarry Zone, which is located seven miles from capital city Kingston, in a designated watershed area along the banks of the Cane River in East Rural St. Andrew. The zone is home to three established and properly licensed limestone aggregate quarries.

These quarries have been operating in the same area continuously for the better part of fifty years each having evolved from pick and shovel operations to stationary mechanized crushing plants complete with primary and secondary crushers, conveyors and vibrating screens.

These three quarries combined when operating at full capacity directly employ forty five persons derived from the immediate or adjoining Kingston communities as labourers, administrative staff, heavy equipment or crushing plant operators.

Dependent on the level of sales of the construction aggregate produced, the quarries combined offer indirect employment to at least another 50 persons daily consisting primarily of haulage contractors, truck operators, sidemen or repair technicians.

The customer base representing the forward linkages to the mining sector include the National Works Agency, large and small, local or international private civil engineering firms, residential housing developers, concrete block manufacturers, as well as producers of agricultural feeds.

The community located at the perimeter of the quarry zone consists of a mixture of commercial / industrial entities with a major Jamaica Public Service owned electricity supply installation, an asphalt plant and a growing low income residential settlement which is a mix of properly titled land owners and informal settlers.

The primary aim of this Return to Work Plan is a combination all of the training subject areas and is focused on resolving the environmental and health issues currently being experienced which accompany squatting such as improper sanitation and illegal dumping as well as the safety of the community as they encroach on the buffer zone for the quarries which if not addressed now will threaten the sustainability of all of the quarries or affiliated businesses in the zone.

The Main Objectives of the RWP:

1. Establishment of multipurpose community /activity area
2. Establishment of Green spaces/ Re-vegetation with indigenous plants enforcing the Buffer Zone
3. Formation of sustainable community group (i.e. self contributory benevolent society)
4. Community education and project feedback through town hall type meeting
5. Signage of Buffer zones, Quarry Zone, Health and Safety oriented signs (i.e. trucks entering or exiting)

Expected Outcomes:

Looking from the end of the project I expect the following outcomes :

1. Physical slowing or cessation of the drift of the informal settlement towards the buffer zone or quarry zone
2. Ending or minimizing the threat of negative impacts of the quarry operations on the community with respect to health and safety issues.
3. Increased awareness and spotlight on the area as one with significant importance to GDP to the political directorate which might ultimately lead to regularization of the informal settlement or resettlement to areas where the relevant sanitation infrastructures are planned for or are already in place.
4. A project of this nature over time will also raise the self esteem of the members of the community and allow them to experience pride in their community.
5. The concretizing of a quarry / mining corporate and social responsibility model which could be replicated in other quarry zones across the country or the Caribbean.

Expected Outputs:

Please describe how you plan to implement the return to work project: (outline key partnerships and collaborations across sectors in your country as well as any joint collaboration with other countries)

The first step in the process would be consultation with the community through identified community leaders and the political directorate namely the sitting Member of Parliament as well as the opposition party's constituency caretaker. It will be essential to ensure community buy in .

The other stakeholders to consult with in order to outline the scope of the potential project would include:

- 1 The other quarry operators in the zone,
- 2 National Water Commission as property owners in the watershed areas
3. National Environmental Protection Agency
4. Office of the Mayor of Kingston
5. Jamaica Football Federation (if this is the final community activity decided on)
6. Other business owners or operators located on either side of the haul road (namely Jamaica Public Service Ltd and the Asphalt producing company).
7. UNDP programme country manager
8. National Works Agency

Following these consultations the next steps in the implementation process would include technical assessments , property survey Identification reports, physical plans and designs to be submitted for approvals, estimates, identification and procurement of funds from the sponsoring agencies as well as contributions from the various quarry operators or the community itself through establishment of a contributory benevolent society, and finally tendering and awards of contracts for the major works.

What indicators of success will you employ? (include indicators of success that go beyond activity-level implementation)

The most vital indicator of success beyond the activity level implementation in my opinion would be the formalization of the lines of communication between the stakeholder entities in the quarry zone, the political directorate and the community on a sub regional basis. It would create a precedent and the willingness of all stakeholders towards peaceful resolution of any future community relations conflict.

Currently the three quarry operators are challenged daily to resolve some of the community relations issues presented namely underwriting of the needs of individuals and the resolution of individual complaints rather than the giving of the resources such as time and money that would equally benefit the wider community and resolve issues being experienced by all.

On a national basis a project like this successfully completed would go a long way towards the elimination of the perception of construction aggregate quarry operations as a necessary evil and will create a more positive profile or perspective of the industry as a first line of defense in nation building.

What other strategic opportunities have you identified that will contribute to the success and sustainability of your project?

(include linkages to sub-regional and regional agenda)

1. The forestry department in Jamaica has a national tree planting programme where the department consults with its customer to suggest the best trees for a specific area and then donates the plants from their nurseries. This is in keeping with Jamaica having signed on to the relevant international environmental agreements which promote the reduction our carbon footprint.

The office of the Commissioner of Mines in association with the Jamaica Bauxite Institute is currently able to do double duty in this regard, while reducing visual intrusion experienced from several former mining areas in Jamaica using plants donated from the forestry department as part of the mining ministry's own national reclamation / restoration project. The indigenous plants needed to create the invisible line for the buffer zone in my project could be sourced from the forestry department adding to the national effort as well as dramatically reducing the potential cost which would have accrued to the project.

2. While the technical aspects of building the community football field or activity court could be covered under contract with a licensed or experienced contractor quite a bit of the other labour intensive aspects of the project could be implemented using the same members of the beneficiary community, such as unemployed men or women in paid part time positions or through a call for volunteerism from school based or community youth groups to plant trees , mix cement , install curb walls or act simply as flag men with heavy equipment on site. This would build community cohesion or morale and ensure a modicum of future attention to the overall project site.

3. Pending the successful approval through to implementation of this project with one of the objectives being the creation of a sports oriented community field or court it is entirely possible that the community with provision of the requisite facility would form a team that would use the court. Ultimately the team could fundraise through competitive matches or other forms of corporate sponsorship to maintain the facility over the long term.

It is also possible that the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture would assume ownership of the field or court through the Social Development Commission with sponsorship of such a team being part of a feeder program for premier league or national team building.

What aspects of the training will be most useful in implementing your project? Explain

Undoubtedly the community relations training would be most useful in the implementation of my project.

As a licensed and duly regulated quarry operator in the Cane River Quarry zone, like my colleague quarry operators I have been focused mostly on the operations within the boundaries of the quarry and my bottom line.

There was recognition of the potential problem existing in the wider community on the edge of the quarry zone such as the illegal dumping of construction waste on our haul roads and but several appeals to the legal owners of the properties we leased to step in with measures that deterred the dumping proved futile. Even more daunting was the perception in the wider community and in some government circles that while bauxite was king, as the poor cousins in Low Value Minerals Mining we were not deserving of the attention we were seeking and our activities were considered a necessary evil rather than the first line of defense in nation building.

That perspective has been changing as bauxite has been declining but as an experienced quarry operator I still did not have access to the skills set which could pull together a cohesive plan with participation all of the identified stakeholders and which would address the underlying conflict issues while still managing daily the challenges of my core business.

The training is timely and opens the lenses of the quarry operator to seek solutions thinking out of the box.

What are your future plans? (Include any additional capacity building needs for your professional development that you have identified during the course of the workshop).

Future Plans would include revamping of the Mining and Quarrying Association with emphasis on building the skills set quarry operators as it relates to community relations. As noted in our training curricula small scale mining operators do not typically do any Environmental Social Impact Assessments prior to actual establishment of our quarries. As a group we do not typically have the skills set or details of international best practices, protocols or procedures for community based conflict resolution.

ACTION PLAN

The project has been given a timeline of approximately 8 months taking into consideration any unforeseen delays with the majority of the planning of the scope of the works to be completed by the fourth month and implementation through to completion with final assessments possible by the seventh month

+ Period Activities	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
Activity 1: Consultation With community stakeholders, quarry operators in zone political directorate National Water Commission as majority land owner Documentatio n of community issues and concerns	Meeting with UNDP country manager to outline actual scope of works	Identification Application and procurement of project funds and small grants from sponsoring agencies	Receipt of project approvals and permits from all relevant agencies	Initiation of major portion of the scope of the works Scheduling of community day / groups to help with the planting in designated buffer zone	Completion of planting of indigenous plants in the buffer zone	

	Statement of quarry operators community health and safety concerns					
Activity 2:	Town Hall meeting to vote on community activity project With proposal for possible community benevolent society	RFQ on project inputs and design subject to approval using govt procurement procedures as template	Submissions to NEPA and office of the mayor for permits project approvals and signs	Assignment of contract to construct community activity field or court	Update UNDP country manager documenting progress or specific challenges in the implementation process	Completion of community activity field or court Installation of curb walls, landscaping and paving of roadways
Activity 3:	Identification of requisite technical skills set for design through to implementation	Receipt of quotes on project inputs and design	Relevant postings of signs or advertisements about project to identify any further objections or issues from community	Employment of unemployed community members to help clear site.	Order approved signs for project, buffer zone and quarry zone	Installation of approved signs in community buffer zone and quarry zone
Activity 4:	Identification of land surveyor to verify authority for use of the proposed site	Meeting with stakeholders concretizing scope of works and budget		Identification and collection of all plants curb walls and tools for the other areas to be addressed		Clean up and removal of heavy equipment from project site
Activity 5:		Town hall meeting with establishment of benevolent society executives		Actual groundbreaking for the project with assistance from political directorate		Schedule of ceremony for hand over to community