

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) FOR THE SUKKARI PROJECT, 2007



The Egyptian Geological Mining Authority had granted Centamin Egypt the concession of gold exploration in Sukari area of the Eastern Desert. The Sukari Gold project comprises both mining and processing, and operates two sites: one in the desert, about 20 km west of the Red Sea, and the other on the coast. The first site includes the mine and processing plant, while the coastal site includes a water intake and a road from the site to the mine. The Sukari Project includes several components: mining operations; processing plant; post processing and waste management facilities; support facilities namely workshops, stores, offices, laboratories, emergency facilities, and employees' settlement, as well as infrastructure. Centamin Egypt commissioned Environics to prepare the ESIA for this project, according to the IFC requirements.

The ESIA included comprehensive baseline studies of the physical and biological environments, as well as extensive social impact assessment that involved public consultation, scoping and disclosure meetings. The ESIA was made accessible to public, and included a detailed EMP that addressed the impacts and risks. The ESIA also comprised community support projects that were to lay the basis for a detailed community development plan.

During the construction phase, which included both onshore and offshore works, Environics provided technical support to the company to implement its HSEMS and the EMP. This included site audits and follow-up on construction activities to ensure sound HSE performance, in addition to the development of: procedures and systems; waste management schemes; HSE section of the contractor's contract; incident investigation system, and various awareness materials. The technical support phase also entailed follow-up on the construction plan to include



mitigation measures in construction activities and practices and providing continuous training and awareness for the employees.

A study aiming at optimizing management of the archeological ruins of the area was carried out separately from the ESIA to investigate the potential for relocating these ruins. The scope of the study was to address the historical and touristic importance of the ruins as well as the legislation, regulations and management issues pertaining to the archeology of the area. The study determined the potential scope of management of the ruins, including the possibility of transferring them to another location following the governing procedures and regulations.