



Watts, Griffis and McOuat
Since 1902
CONSULTING GEOLOGISTS AND ENGINEERS

Case Study

Technical Assistance to Yemen Mineral Exploration Board

Overview

Working with the World Bank and the Yemen Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Board ("MEB"), Watts, Griffis and McOuat Limited ("WGM") completed an institutional strengthening project in the Republic of Yemen during the period 1990 to 1994. The work was funded by the International Development Agency. WGM's successful completion of the initial scope of work, exploration of the Jabali Pb-Zn deposit, resulted in several extensions designed to increase and strengthen the capabilities of the MEB. This project included training programs in mineral exploration, feasibility studies, departmental administration, the development of mining regulations and investment promotion.

Mentoring

WGM geologists worked closely with small groups of local geologists in a long-term mentoring relationship which resulted in a high degree of skills transfer. Selected exploration programs were designed co-operatively in such a manner as to respect the capabilities and country knowledge of the local geologists while assuring that the projects generated high quality exploration data.

Mining Law

In support of the MEB, WGM reviewed the mining laws and investment regulations of nearly 75 countries. A comprehensive review of the local mining regulations of Yemen formed the basis for WGM's design of clearly worded model agreements which complied with the laws of Yemen, and which were favourable to attracting foreign investment. WGM prepared information brochures for several key projects which presented the main technical data in a clear and concise manner. WGM was also instrumental in assisting mining companies with the signing of five exploration licences and a mining license.

Skills Training

The project also included the design and establishment of the MEB's first computer department, a task which included:

- an assessment of individual computer skill levels;
- an assessment of the MEB's requirements;
- the procurement of computer hardware and software;
- the design of user interfaces;
- software training programs; and,
- the assessment of GIS applications and the implementation of GIS software.



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