



NORTH COUNTRY GOLD

Gibson-MacQuoid Project

Corporate and Social Responsibility Action Plan

March 2017

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1.0 COMPANY AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

North Country Gold Corp. is Canadian based mineral exploration company that has been actively investing in mineral exploration within Nunavut Territory over the past 25 years. The company and its predecessors (including Committee Bay Resources Ltd) have conducted more than \$100 million of exploration work within the Committee Bay Region. The company has been fortunate to have received positive results from recent mineral exploration programs and has enjoyed enthusiastic support from the people and communities of Nunavut. Auryn Resources Inc. (AUG) acquired North Country Gold Corp (NCGC) via a share based transaction in September of 2015. NCGC remains the operator of the Gibson-MacQuoid Project, but is now a 100% owned subsidiary of AUG.

NCGC has the following authorizations in place or are currently under application to support staking and exploration activities at the Gibson-MacQuoid Project.

Organization	Description	File/Permit/Licence #
Nunavut Planning Commission	Positive Conformity Determination	148480
Nunavut Impact Review Board	Project Reference Number	17EN029
Kivalliq Inuit Association	Land Use Licence 1	Under Application

2.0 INTRODUCTION

NCGC has developed a series of management plans to describe and document work activities and procedures employed at its Gibson-Macquoid Project within Nunavut Territory, Canada.

This plan has been developed as an overview of NCGC's environmental policies designed to promote responsible environmental and social stewardship. Additional detail can be found within the following supporting management plans:

- NCGC Fuel management plan
- NCGC Spill prevention and contingency plan

3.0 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

NCGC is committed to maintaining high standards in environmental practices. The company appreciates that it conducts its business in remote and relatively pristine areas with sensitive ecosystems and challenging environmental and climatic conditions.

NCGC embraces safe, socially and environmentally responsible and sustainable work practises during all phases of exploration activities within Nunavut. NCGC aims to:

- Conduct all work practises with due regard for the protection of the health and safety of all workers, contractors and the community at large
- Conduct all work practises with due regard for the protection of the environment, flora, fauna and sites of natural, cultural and historical significance
- Conduct all work practises in compliance with all laws, regulations, standards, permits, licences and best practises
- Assess the potential environmental impacts of all work practises and to ensure that effective controls are in place to minimize, mitigate and manage risks
- Take prompt and appropriate corrective actions should unexpected environmental impacts occur
- Ensure effective communication and close liaison is maintained with employees, the public, communities, government agencies, regulators and all stakeholders with regard to health, safety and environmental matters
- Undertake sustainable work practises wherever possible by implementing practises to reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and considering environmental factors in the purchase of supplies and equipment and development of procedures.
- Ensure that all employees and contractors are aware of NCGC's environmental commitments, policies and procedures and that these principles are embraced in all work practises.

4.0 PLANNING

Exploration programs will be carefully planned to minimize disturbance and effectively manage environmental risks.

4.1 Risk Assessment

The activities associated with the proposed exploration program will be assessed for environmental risks and impacts. Variables such as topography, climate, fauna, vegetation and stakeholders will be considered. Procedures and/or processes will be implemented to manage and mitigate the identified environmental risks and impacts.

4.2 Emergency Preparedness

A *Spill Prevention and Response Plan* has been established for exploration programs and remote camp locations. The plan includes contingencies for probable environmental emergencies as a result of natural occurrences and/or as a result of program activities.

4.3 Budget

Activities such as site clearance surveys, environmental training, and rehabilitation will be included in the program budget. These are a genuine program costs and must be treated as such. Good environmental planning and management will minimize environmental damage.

4.4 Due Diligence

The environmental status of land will be reviewed prior to acquisition and any potential environmental liabilities recognized. This may involve discussions with landholders or joint venture partners, on-site inspections, reviewing maps, photographs and previous reports of the area. This process will be continued during the life of the program and will include mapping or photographing of possible sensitive sites.

4.5 Legislative Requirements

All relevant legislation will be known, communicated and complied with.

4.6 Authorizations

Any stakeholders of the land that will be explored will be notified. Relevant approvals from stakeholders and regulatory authorities will be obtained before exploration commences.

NCGC is in the process of acquiring the appropriate authorizations in order to conduct exploration activities at the Gibson-MacQuoid Project. These authorizations are presented in table 1.

Organization	Description	File/Permit/Licence #
Nunavut Planning Commission	Positive Conformity Determination	148480
Nunavut Impact Review Board	Project Reference Number	17EN029
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Table 1 – NCGC Gibson-MacQuoid Project authorizations

The Terms and Conditions of each of these authorizations are the rules that NCGC must abide by when conducting all activities. In addition to these there are a number of Acts,

Regulations, Guidelines and Recommendations that must also be followed. These include (but are not limited to):

- Fisheries Act
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Operational Statements and Guidelines
- Caribou Protection Plan/Caribou Protection Measures
- Keewatin Land Use Plan
- Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act
- Territorial Lands Act
- Territorial Land Use Regulations
- Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Environmental Protection Act
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act
- Species At Risk Act
- Territorial Wildlife Act
- Guide to Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting
- Public Health Act

4.7 Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Environmental responsibilities will be assigned and communicated to all members of the program team. This includes employees, contractors and sub-contractors. Contractor responsibilities will be outlined in the environmental schedule of the contract. The primary responsibility for protecting the environment from impacts related to program activities is assigned to the Project Manager.

4.8 Induction and Training

Field employees and contractors will undergo an environmental induction that includes relevant regulations.

4.9 Contractors

Preference will be given to contractors who display high standards of environmental management and performance.

4.10 Closure Planning

The short term and long term environmental implications of NCGC's activities will be considered and plans developed to eliminate or mitigate impacts upon program closure.

5.0 STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder is an individual or group (i.e. landholder, local group, regulatory authority, community, etc.) concerned with or potentially affected by our exploration activities. Stakeholders will be identified for each program. Regular communication will be maintained with these stakeholders for the duration of the program, and afterwards in some cases. Any agreement made with stakeholders should be documented.

5.1 Cultural and Heritage Issues

Cultural objects, remains and sites of spiritual, archaeological, anthropological or historical significance will be protected. Surveys may be required to identify sites of sacred, heritage and cultural significance. The results of these surveys must be documented. Any additional sites encountered during exploration will be left undisturbed and reported to the appropriate authority. Any discussions with local communities or traditional owners should be documented.

6.0 FLORA AND FAUNA

All reasonable care will be taken to avoid interference with rare or endangered species or native flora or fauna.

6.1 Flora

All reasonable care will be taken to avoid unnecessary impacts to flora and to mitigate required impacts.

6.2 Fauna

Approaching and feeding wildlife is prohibited. Harassment of all wildlife is strictly forbidden by all individuals conducting business on behalf of NCGC.

Field crews will carry wildlife sighting sheets with them in their field books. This information will be collected and provided with annual reports.

6.3 Firearms

In some instances, NCGC may allow appropriately licenced field personnel to carry firearms for safety reasons. Firearms will be handled, transported and stored in accordance with applicable regulations and whilst onsite will be stored within a locked safe or case. Any firearm discharges must be reported to the Project Manager.

6.4 Hunting

The hunting of wildlife by employees and contractors while conducting business on behalf of NCGC is strictly forbidden. There are no exceptions to this rule.

6.5 Aircraft

Low-level helicopter flights will avoid areas where nesting and denning habitats are identified or where concentrations of wildlife have been observed. A pre-screening survey of the area will be conducted prior to any low-level surveys to ensure that there is no wildlife present in the area.

Helicopters will not land in any area where wildlife are present unless under an emergency situation. Should an emergency situation arise this will be documented and reported to the appropriate regulatory agencies and will be noted in the annual report.

6.6 Caribou protection

Special caribou protection measures are required for areas of Nunavut to avoid disturbing calving caribou and migrating herds. NCGC will adopt the following measures to ensure that caribou are not disturbed:

- In the event that any caribou cows (pregnant or with calves) are identified within the project area NCGC will suspend operations until the caribou have moved at least 1 km away from the area.
- In the event of any caribou migration, NCGC will cease all activities that may interfere with migration until caribou have passed.
- NCGC will ensure that activities do not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration.

6.1 Nest sites

NCGC will ensure that eggs or nests are not disturbed by any activities. If nests are encountered and or identified, NCGC will take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (by establishing a buffer around the nests). If active nests of any bird are discovered (with eggs or young) NCGC will avoid these areas until nesting is complete and young have left the nest.

6.2 Den sites

No active den sites are to be disturbed by any activities. If a den site is discovered, the GPS coordinates will be recorded so that the site can be avoided. These coordinates will be provided to the appropriate regulatory authorities.

The following buffers are provided (by the Government of the Northwest Territories) for active dens between the den and all exploration activities between May 1st and July 15th:

Wolves	800 m buffer
Grizzly Bear	300 m buffer
Wolverine	2 km buffer
Fox	150 m buffer

6.1 Nuisance wildlife

NCGC believes that proper food storage and handling will help to prevent problems with wildlife. All wastes will be properly stored and packed out so they can be appropriately disposed of.

Any nuisance wildlife will be reported immediately to the Project Manager (or designated person). This will be reported to the Government of Nunavut Wildlife Biologist and the Kivalliq Inuit Association immediately (See Table 2 – Contacts, at end of document). Any incidents resulting in harm or kills to wildlife will be reported to the Government of Nunavut and the Kivalliq Inuit Association Senior Lands Officer in writing within 48 hours.

6.2 Human Bear Interactions

All human-bear interactions will be reported immediately to the Project Manager (or designated person). The Project Manager (or designated person) will then contact Government of Nunavut Wildlife Biologist and the Kivalliq Inuit Association Senior Lands Officer.

Employees and contractors are given an orientation when they arrive at site which includes information on working safely in bear country.

7.0 AIRBORNE OPERATIONS

NCGC's exploration activities require airborne support due to the remote locations. Additionally, due to the lack of serviceable airstrips in the region, this support involves aircraft equipped for off-strip operations (float planes, helicopters). These types of aircraft have a minimal potential impact upon the environment. The potential impacts include from the use of aircraft may involve petroleum product spill and disturbance of fauna and people from low altitude flying and frequent landings/take-offs.

The likelihood of disturbing or disrupting people is considered low due to the remote locations of the activity. All stakeholders will be contacted prior to the commencement of operations. The requests of all stakeholders will be respected.

7.1 Helipads

Helicopter landings and take-offs have little impact upon the flora or ground surface. However, helicopters require an area clear of obstructions that allows for safe maneuverability of the aircraft. The size of this area is dependent upon the aircraft type.

The vast majority of NCGC's operations to date have been north of the tree line where the clearing of vegetation for landing site preparation is unnecessary. The following measures will be considered during helicopter operations:

- Landing sites will be selected, whenever possible that have a competent ground surface and are naturally free of vegetation or marginally covered.
- Landing sites that are designated for repetitive use which are blanketed by ground cover vegetation will have a helipad constructed.
- Helipads will be constructed in such a way as to minimize surface contact with vegetation.
- When required, helipads will be constructed using dimensional lumber. Where applicable, trees that have been cleared for the landing site may be used to construct helipads.

8.0 LAND DISTURBANCE

NCGC will ensure that all necessary permits and permissions are obtained prior to conducting any activities likely to result in land disturbance. No disturbance will take place in areas of natural, cultural and historical significance.

The vast majority of NCGC's operations to date have been north of the tree line where the clearing of vegetation has largely been unnecessary. NCGC will make all efforts to avoid and minimize the need for land disturbance. Level areas free of vegetation will be selected for fuel caches and helicopter landing pads. Where surface disturbance is unavoidable, it will be carried out in a manner that does not promote rutting and erosion.

8.1 Geochemical Sampling

When taking soil/ till samples, areas naturally free of vegetation (frost boils) will be selected whenever possible. When this is not possible the organic layer and any topsoil should be put to one side and replaced after the sample is collected.

9.0 GRIDDING

NCGC will adopt the following when installing grids to support exploration activities.

- Wooden survey pegs will be used in preference to steel.
- Steel marker posts will only be used as permanent survey points and where possible will be positioned where they will not cause injury to animals or people, or interfere with vehicle movement.
- No pointed stakes that will endanger humans or animals will be left onsite
- Care will be taken to ensure all pegs are removed at the completion of exploration.
- Flagging tape and spray paint will be used sparingly. If possible, biodegradable items will be used.
- Hip-chain line will be broken after crossing a track or trail and care taken to ensure that the line has fallen clear of the right of way.

10.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

During geophysical surveys electrical wires will be monitored during surveys (where practical) to avoid endangering animals or people in the area. If potential exists for other people to be present in the area, warning signs will be erected. At no time are wires or cables to be left unattended.

11.0 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Whenever possible, the use of hazardous materials will be avoided and other methods or non-hazardous substitutes will be employed. The following procedures will be employed to manage the storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials:

- All hazardous materials will be stored in clearly labelled original containers (where possible)
- If a substance is taken from its primary container and placed into a secondary container, the secondary container will be adequately labeled as to its contents.
- Personnel handling hazardous materials will be adequately trained
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to persons handling hazardous materials
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) will be available for all hazardous materials on site.

- All fuels will be stored within secondary containment a minimum distance of 31 metres from the high water mark of any water body

12.0 REHABILITATION

NCGC will take all reasonable steps to rehabilitate, re-vegetate and stabilize disturbed sites during the course of its operations.

NCGC will undertake the following steps at:

- All garbage will be packed out daily
- Where applicable and necessary, disturbed areas will be contoured to match natural drainage
- Where clearing has occurred, the area may be ripped or scarified to enable moisture and seed collection. Preserved topsoil or other surface material (useful for revegetation) may be spread over the disturbed area.
- Cleanup and rehabilitation will be documented. Photographs will be taken during the process.
- Rehabilitated areas should be monitored after exploration is complete either by physical inspection or by contacting the appropriate licensing authority.

13.0 REPORTING

Any significant environmental incident will be promptly reported to the appropriate authorities and adequately investigated.

14.0 WILDLIFE CONTACTS

Name	Position	Office	Contact details	
Bryan Atkinson	Project Manager, NCGC	Edmonton	Phone	780-919-6086
			Email	Bryan.Atkinson@aurynresources.com
Nunavut Department of Environment		Iqaluit	Phone	(867) 975-7700
INAC Manager of Field Operations		Iqaluit	Phone	(867) 975-4295
Nunavut Department of Environment		Baker Lake	Phone	(867) 793-2944
Russell Toolooktook	Conservation Officer II	Baker Lake	Phone	(867) 793-2944
			Email	rtoolooktook@gov.nu.ca
Johanne Coutu-Autut	Conservation Officer II	Rankin Inlet	Phone	(867) 645-8084
			Email	jcoutu-autut@gov.nu.ca
Daniel Kaludjak	Conservation Officer	Rankin Inlet	Phone	(867) 645-8083
			Email	dkaludjak2@gov.nu.ca
Drikus Gissing	Wildlife Director	Iqaluit	Phone	(867) 975-7734
			Email	dgissing@gov.nu.ca
Vicki Sahanatien	Wildlife Deterrent Specialist	Iqaluit	Phone	(867) 975-7724
			Email	vsahanatien@gov.nu.ca
Caryn Smith	Senior Wildlife Advisor	Iqaluit	Phone	
			Email	csmith@gov.nu.ca
Lisa-Marie Leclerc	Regional Wildlife Biologist,	Kugluktuk	Phone	867-982-7444

Name	Position	Office	Contact details	
	GN		Email	lleclerc@gov.nu.ca
Keenan Lindell	Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Technician, GN	Arviat	Phone	867-857-3175
			Email	klindell@gov.nu.ca
Mitch Campbell	Biologist, GN	Arviat	Phone	867-857-2828
			Email	mcampbell1@gov.nu.ca
Luis Manzo	Director of Lands	Rankin Inlet	Phone	867-645-5731
			Email	lmanzo@kivalliqinuit.ca
Brenda Osmond	Lands Administrator	Rankin Inlet	Phone	867-645-5734
			Email	bosmond@kivalliqinuit.ca
Jeff Tulugak	Land Use Inspector	Rankin Inlet	Phone	867-645-5735
			Email	jtulugak@kivalliqinuit.ca
Andy McMullan	Bear wise	Yellowknife	Phone	867-766-4847

Table 2 – Key wildlife contacts

Appendix 1

Wildlife Report Form

Incidental Wildlife Sighting / Sign Form

(please fill in as much information as possible)



(space is provided on the reverse for an illustration of the wildlife's location and activity along with additional space for notes and/or a description of the wildlife "sign" observed)

1. What was sighted?

a. Species sighted: _____
(see Common Species List on reverse)

b. How many in each group?:

Age		Sex	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sub-Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yearling / newborn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		

2. When was the sighting?

a. Date (MM/DD/YY): _____

b. Time (exact or approximate): _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day	Night	Dusk	Dawn

c. Description (e.g. any notes on species, size, color, antlers, etc.): _____

d. Behaviour - Please provide a description of the animals' behaviour. What was it / were they doing? How long? etc.

e. Was the individual / group sighted over a period of time? Yes No If so, for how long? _____

f. Was any action taken? Yes No If so, what? _____

3. Where was the sighting?

a. GPS Coordinates: _____ b. Datum: _____

c. Was sighting within camp? Yes No d. If not, how far from camp boundary? _____

e. Please describe the location (e.g. "on hill next to cook's tent"), as well as the direction the wildlife was traveling:

4. Weather Conditions:

Snowfall <input type="checkbox"/> Light <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy	Rainfall <input type="checkbox"/> Light <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy
Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Breeze <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Strong	Sky <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Sky <input type="checkbox"/> Partly Cloudy <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast

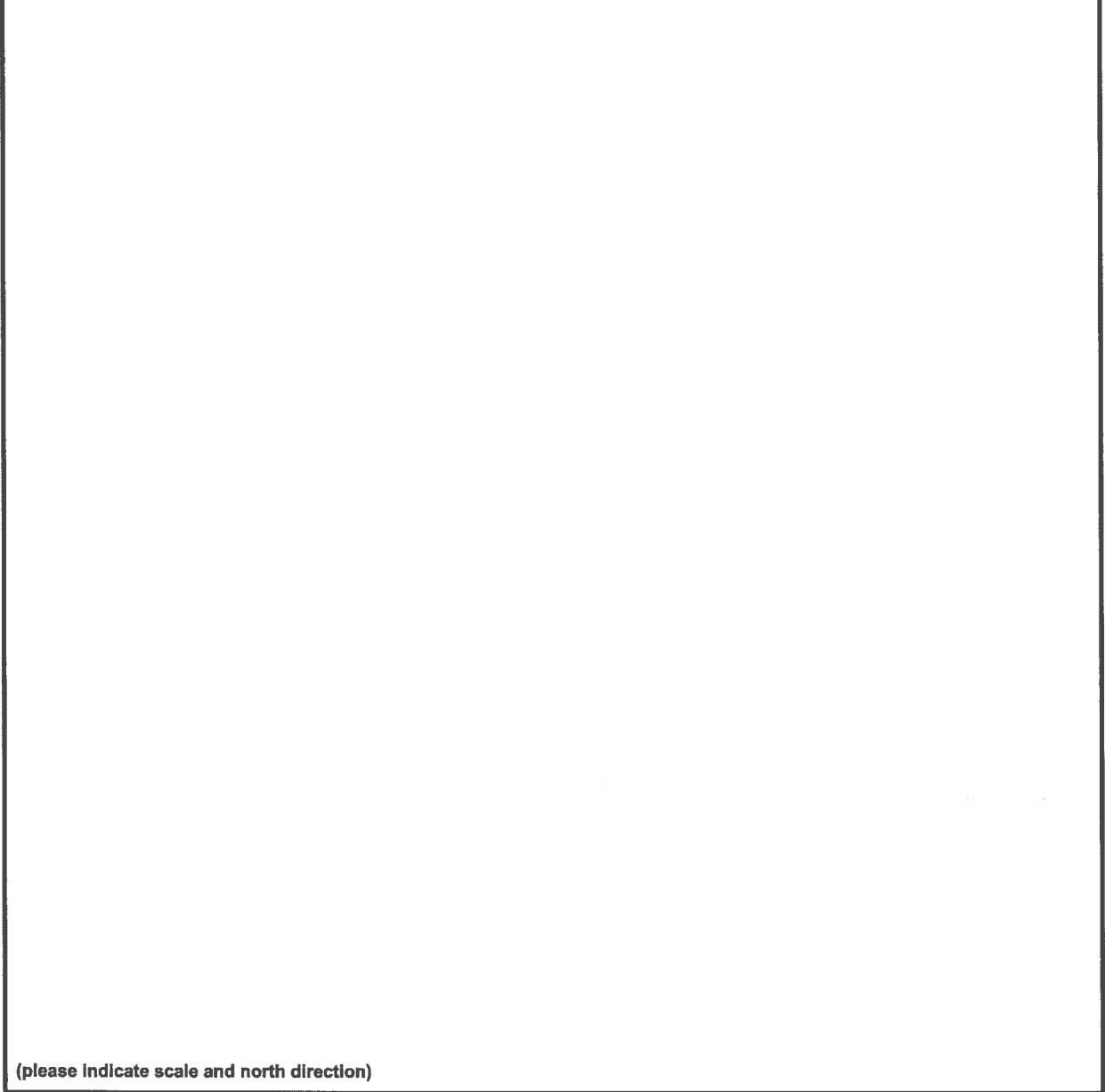
Recent Conditions: _____

f. Was a photo taken? Yes No

Photo (file) name/number: _____

Observed by: _____

Illustration:



(please indicate scale and north direction)

Common Species:

Ptarmigan
Snowy Owl
Falcon/Eagle
Goose
Duck
Loon

Arctic Hare
Sik Sik (Arctic Ground Squirrel)
Lemming

Caribou
Musk Ox

Fox
Wolverine
Arctic Wolf
Bear
(Polar or Barren-lands Grizzly)

Additional Information / Description of Wildlife "Sign": _____

