

## 10.0 CONCLUSION

Newmont Golden Ridge Limited (the Company), a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont), proposes to develop the Akyem gold mine (the Project) in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The Company has followed the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process by submitting an EIA application, completing the Scoping process (including Public Hearings and developing Terms of Reference), conducting various environmental and social baseline studies, analyzing the data and preparing this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Appropriate consultations have been held with the public (including two public hearings) and with government institutions to solicit input on issues or concerns they may have with respect to the proposed Project. Technical specialists have analyzed the data to characterize impacts to the environment and social conditions in light of the issues and concerns expressed by stakeholders. Finally, mitigatory actions have been identified to address the identified issues and concerns and the Company is committed to implementing such mitigations.

The Company has been active in continuing dialogue with Project-affected people since 2003, keeping them abreast of Project activities and engaging them in designing programmes that would be instituted to mitigate impacts on them personally and as communities. In addition, the Company briefed members of several government institutions on the state of the Project and is committed to maintaining an active discourse with these agencies going forward to gain their views on Project design, operation and monitoring through mine closure.

Environmental impacts associated with development of the Project can be minimised or eliminated with the proposed mitigations. The Company would develop a Land Rehabilitation Plan within the first 18 months following issuance of the Environmental Permit. The process of preparing this plan would involve participation by a variety of stakeholders in developing a document that reflects many creative ideas. This document will be used to serve as the basis for broader planning that will be conducted in preparing the Closure and Decommissioning Plan. The process associated with developing this plan will likewise include consultations with a variety of stakeholders to solicit input regarding post-mine land use, use of Project infrastructure for post-mine purposes, reclamation strategies and small business creation plans.

The most substantial long-term environmental effect of the Project would be the presence of an open pit measuring approximately 1920 metres long by 900 metres wide by 480 metres deep at the end of mining. The Company is proposing to place waste rock in the open pit to fill approximately half of this void (eastern portion) along its long axis, resulting in a remaining exposed pit that is less than one kilometre long. This action would be completed only if the Company can demonstrate the safety of area residents and workers and the integrity of the environment are not compromised. The remaining open pit would fill with water after mining ceases, recovering relatively rapidly at first, but likely requiring approximately 200 years to achieve equilibrium to what is now the pre-mine groundwater elevation. The water in the pit is predicted to be of suitable quality for many applications, including hosting a fishery. The Company believes that the water source in the pit could be

developed into an asset, if creative thought is applied to how such a source of water can be used in a post-mine environment. Discussions have been initiated with relevant institutional stakeholders to identify viable options for productively using this water source.

Prior to emplacement of waste rock into the open pit following active operations, development of the Project would have removed approximately 74 hectares from the southern end of the Ajenjua Bepo Forest Reserve. Following emplacement of waste rock into the western mine pit and reclamation of the surface, the area of the Forest Reserve impacted by the open pit would be reduced by approximately 35 hectares. Several investigators have determined that the forest in this portion of the Forest Reserve is degraded with relatively low floral diversity. The Company is committed to work with relevant agencies to identify and develop a reforestation programme and to replant 3 trees for each merchantable timber-quality tree removed from the Ajenjua Bepo Forest Reserve area impacted by the open pit. This reforestation programme would be conducted in consultation with several Governmental and Non-governmental Organisations using the Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme process, a method the Company, along with several partners, is actively applying at the Akyem Gold Mining Project as a pilot program.

Social impacts associated with the Project include the relocation of 242 households, primarily centred on the community of Yayaaso and the loss of 1,752 hectares, currently used as farm land. The Company has engaged Project-affected people in designing various mitigations for these impacts, including programmes to compensate them for property, crops and their livelihoods. Relocation settlements would be constructed to accommodate these individuals and several programmes have been developed to ease this transition and provide for their well-being.

The broader impact of the Project is anticipated to be beneficial to the economy of the local area, the Eastern Region and the country of Ghana. The Project would afford many employment opportunities directly and indirectly and, through royalties and tax payments, the government of Ghana would benefit substantially. Mitigations to combat the inevitable negative effects of mine development have been developed and would be implemented as the Project is initiated.

Newmont is a global leader in gold mine development, having operations in Ghana, the United States, Australia, Peru, Indonesia, Bolivia, New Zealand and Mexico. The Company has developed and abides by several principles that guide its behaviour throughout the world – the foremost of which address the Company's intent to minimise its impact on people and the environment, to the extent possible, while providing as many opportunities as practical for people to better their lives – collectively and individually. The Company has operated the Ahafo Mine in the Brong Ahafo Region, a mine similar to that proposed at Akyem, since 2006. The Company believes its record at Ahafo is reflective of how it intends to operate the Akyem Gold Mining Project and provides a sound basis for stakeholders to judge its actions with respect to conduct and accountability.

In consideration of the information, data and analyses presented in this document, the Company requests that EPA deem this Final EIS acceptable as one component of the EIA process ultimately leading to issuance of an Environmental Permit for the Project.