



ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF ORPHANED MINE SITES THROUGH A GREEN GROWTH LENS

Guy Halpern, Policy Analyst, OECD

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The challenges of orphaned/abandoned mine sites

- High cost to rehabilitate
- Information often lacking, making prioritisation difficult
- The scale of the problem...
- The need for technical knowledge



Secondary mining/re-commercialisation of waste



- Some sites may have economically recoverable metals in waste
 - inefficient mining practices by modern standards
 - associated metals were not economically valuable at the time
 - Gold, copper, iron and coal mines are of particular interest
- Reprocessing of waste provides opportunity to bring disposal up to modern standards
- Does not use public funds
- Contributes to green growth



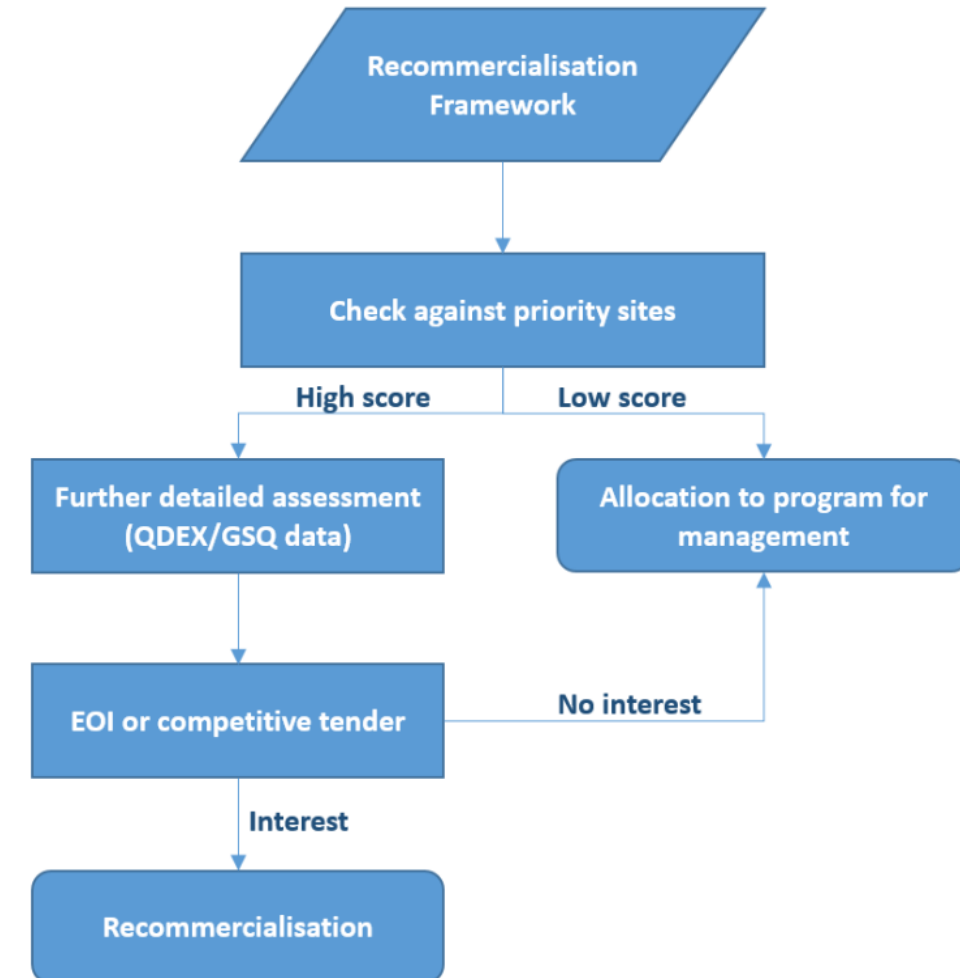
So why isn't this happening more often?

- Lack of publically available, up to date geological information
- Risk perception
 - Concern about environmental liabilities
 - Concern about regulatory stability
- Requires knowledge and expertise to determine if possible
- Profit margins may be too slim based on traditional royalty rates



What can policy makers do?

- Ensure information on mine sites and recoverable metals is publically available and up to date
- Consistent and reliable regulatory framework
- Enabling policies?





Final thoughts

- Not a silver bullet...
 - Many factors determine if secondary mining is economically feasible
 - Will not solve broader problem of abandoned/orphaned mine sites or tailings safety
- However, potential way to incorporate circular economy/green growth principles into mining in the region
- Active steps that governments can take to support it





Thanks!

Guy.Halpern@oecd.org