



Land Ownership

Niugini Nickel respects the land ownership structure of the communities in which we operate.

Wowo Gap is located 200 kilometres east of Port Moresby in a remote area in south east Papua New Guinea only accessible by helicopter or by foot. There are no roads only walking tracks. Infrastructure is extremely limited and there is no electric power transmission, telephone access or water supply.

The Wowo Gap resource is on a slope between 200 and 1300 metres above sea level in Oro Province. The camp is at 800 metres above sea level.

It is located 35 kilometres from the village of Safia near the Musa River and the village of Wanigela situated on Collingwood Bay.

These villages have access to the nearest large town, Popengetta by boat. Access for example from Safia requires traveling down the Musa River then by open sea to the town. The journey usually takes two days.

There are no health clinics in the area with the nearest permanent health centre being located at Popengetta. Neither the national nor provincial government provides active health services to this remote area.

Several of the surrounding villages have very basic airstrips suitable for small aircraft. Schools are just basic shelters with few amenities and earthen floors.

The right to use land for gardening, harvesting trees, trapping, collecting firewood and gathering wild products may be transferred to other families on an item-by-item or activity-by-activity basis. One family may allow another to trap animals in an area of traditional ownership but not allow the collecting of firewood for example.

Some of these rights date back to antiquity but are not fixed and may be transferred through intermarriage, adoption or agreement. Intertribal warfare also resulted in transfers as a result of conquest.

There are no written records of the transfers or claims to land ownership. The rights are recorded in memory and are recanted orally usually by senior tribesmen. Boundaries are not surveyed but reference is often made to significant landmarks as identification of boundary areas.

Exploration or mining companies such as Niugini Nickel seeking to work in the area need to reach agreement through open dialogue with the various village landowner groups. The concept of Mutual Benefit has seen a higher degree of co-operation develop between the parties.

Niugini Nickel believes in the concept of developing a social licence to operate in the region and aims to develop strong relationships with local stakeholders.

Niugini Nickel has an active corporate social responsibility program to improve health, education and employment outcomes for local villagers.