

Comparative Stone Quarrying policies in different countries

QUESTION 1:

What is the period of lease that is awarded for stone mining in your country?



BRAZIL

There is no leasing period. Once the miner is commissioned with a Mining Authorization, he can hold the lease as long as its proved reserves allow him. He initially files at ANN a Mining Plan, with a feasibility study indicating the expected monthly production. If we divide the overall approved reserves by the monthly production we will have the mine lifetime. If the miner does not re-evaluate reserves within this period, his lease will end with the exhaustion of the reserves. Sub-lease is allowed for a maximum period of 30 years.



EGYPT

15 years.



FINLAND

In Finland, quarrying of granite and schist is ruled by the Land Extraction Act, and a land extraction permit and an environmental licence is acquired, while the extraction of soapstone and marble is covered by the Mining Act, and a mining permit and an environmental licence is required. The land extraction permit that is awarded for stone quarrying in Finland is 10, 15 or 20 years.



INDIA

20 years + 20 years.



PORTUGAL

Currently there is no limit. According to the new legislation (not yet published) the duration is 50 years.



RUSSIA

5-49 years.

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SPAIN

Depends on the qualification of the resource, which means that small quarries that produce construction materials are authorized until the resource is finished in that area of exploitation or the period estimated in the Project that all that present rock is going to be extracted. After that period can be renewed. In block quarries are granted for 30 years renewable up to 90 years or 75 depending on the area where the quarry is located.



SWEDEN

Between 25-40 years will be granted as concession by the authorities. Contract with landowner signed on same term.



TURKEY

Period of the license is 20 years when first awarded.

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QUESTION 2:

When it comes to renewal of the lease, what is the prevailing policy?



BRAZIL

Since the lease is not subject to renewal, there is no valid policy for that. However, miner cannot stop production without government authorization, needs to file yearly production reports, pay government royalties and follow the environmental plan approved. If he fails to meet these criteria he might get his mining claim canceled.



EGYPT

Renewal is on annual basis. For a 15 years period approval is needed from the Parliament.



FINLAND

Case by case, but usually no problem to get renewal.



INDIA

One needs to apply for renewal, and the process is not very complicated.



PORTUGAL

.In practice it is a new licensing. All documentation is identical to an all-new license.



RUSSIA

In case if you want to prolong the lease you have to start he procedures within 6-12 months before the end of lease.



SPAIN

If the renovation does not affect the land in any way, it is relatively simple. A report from the Facultative Director accrediting the reserves, an exploitation and restoration project and urban certification of the land would be presented. If an extension of the work area is planned, it must be submitted to an Environmental Impact Study and a new Environmental Impact Declaration with the problems that may arise, especially in terms of time.

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QUESTION 2:

When it comes to renewal of the lease, what is the prevailing policy?



SWEDEN

Full application, similar as for a new one. Water impact has to be analysed and measured. Noise and vibration must be determined. Impact for neighbors e.g. noise, transports. Energy source used and pollution from it. Historical and culture value of the area.

After concession to mine is granted it also includes terms for the annual environmental declaration.



TURKEY

After initial period it is renewed every 10 years. It is a natural right of renewal. However, the quarry site is inspected and also documentation needed, the approvals need to be controlled one more time for the renewal.

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QUESTION 3:

What are the royalty rates?



BRAZIL

Miners must pay a royalty for the ore production to the government, varying according to the different items. In Brazil this royalty is named CEFEM. For Natural Stones, CEFEM is 1%, gold is 1.5%, Diamond 2%, Bauxite/Manganese/Niobium 3% ...

Besides, in case the miner did not buy the land where the deposit is located, he must pay the landowner a share in the mining results correspondent to 50% of the CFEM due to the government.



EGYPT

19% of selling price ex-quarry.



FINLAND

In Finland, the landowner owns the stone material, and the quarryier makes an agreement with the landowner and pays a yearly rent for him/her plus royalty per quarried/sold m³.



INDIA

The royalty rates depend from state to state in India. For example, in Tamil Nadu it is Rs 3250/m³ (37,4 €/m³), in Andhra Pradesh it is Rs 2500/m³ (28,8 €/m³), and in Rajasthan it is lower, being volume based.



PORTUGAL

Royalty fees are for mining deposits, not quarries.



RUSSIA

Depends upon the region. From 15 000 rubles/hectare to 150 000 rubles/hectare. The current exchanging rate is about 90 rubles/euro.



SPAIN

There is a mine surface canon that is called, which is around 15 - 17 €/ha, but I think it is only for sections C).



SWEDEN

Up to 5% on blockstone selling price value.



TURKEY

Royalty is %4.5 of the value of marble at the quarry pit.

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QUESTION 4:

Is there any difference in royalty rates if the land used for mining is in the forest or in private hands or in government land?



BRAZIL

No. Royalties are due based on the ore production, regardless of geographic location or land property. Firstly, it is important to note that the 1988 Brazilian Constitution establishes the dichotomy of ground and underground ownership, so that mineral resources, whether mining or not, are distinct properties of the ground, for the purpose of exploration and belong to the Federal Government, which can grant the private individual, through observance of legal dictates, the right to research and exploit, guaranteed to the leaser the ownership of the mining product.



EGYPT

No difference.



FINLAND

No, but often the big forest companies demands 100 % use of the left-over stone.



INDIA

For forest land the royalty is higher. For private and government lands the royalty is the same.



PORTUGAL

No.



RUSSIA

We have no such information.



SPAIN

No.



SWEDEN

Royalty paid to landowner and negotiated individually but no difference depending on ownership, more related to geographical area.



TURKEY

No. Flat rates apply if it is rented from the forestry or the government lands. In the case of private land, negotiation has to be done with the owner. If no agreement is reached, there are procedures which all confiscation by the license holder.

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QUESTION 5:

Are there any further taxes or rebates or concessions for exports of blocks?



BRAZIL

All exports are exempt of duties regularly paid by domestic operations, like VAT (ICMS), Industrialization Tax (IPI). No additional duties are due for the export of blocks.



EGYPT

Export tax is 25 \$ / ton only for blocks. No tax for slabs.



FINLAND

No.



INDIA

No concessions.



PORTUGAL

No.



RUSSIA

No. But we do not pay any additional taxes and fees when export blocks.



SPAIN

No.



SWEDEN

No.



TURKEY

Corporate tax is applied on any domestic companies operating inland.

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QUESTION 6:

What are the environmental issues usually looked into by the authorities? Is there any public hearing?



BRAZIL

Stone quarrying affects primarily deforestation, soil and water contamination, scenic alteration (visual impact) and erosion. Noise might be a secondary issue that could affect nearby communities. As most of the quarries are located in country zones, this issue has minor impacts and have less importance when it's about commissioning by environmental agencies. Stone quarrying is not considered a high potential environmental pollutant, so quarriers apply for a simplified environmental clearance, which does not demand a previous public hearing for approval.



EGYPT

Only applies for protected areas. There is an extra fees.



FINLAND

- Noise, dust, vibration, waters, wastes, left-over stones.
- Public hearing case by case, not often.



INDIA

There is public hearing and usually the authorities ensure that public utilities (residence, schools, etc.) are not in the proximity.



PORTUGAL

Companies with explorations equal or above 15hec, with productions above 200,000 tons / year, and / or with others quarries within 1 km are subject to Environmental Impact Study. Yes, this procedure is subject to public consultation. In this scope of the EIA many aspects are evaluated: landscape, fauna and flora, water resources, noise, dust, vibrations, heritage, soil, socio-economics, etc.



RUSSIA

The quarry owner has to submit Project of sanitary-hygienic zones and recultivation of quarry. Public hearings in case of need according to national legislation.

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What are the environmental issues usually looked into by the authorities? Is there any public hearing?



SPAIN

For an environmental impact study, they ask for reports from the environment, heritage, water authority, territorial studies, environmental associations, city hall and others (for example if it is near the sea or the coast). There is always public exposure for a month.



SWEDEN

Noise, vibrations, water quality and water flow implications is part of the application topics. Also any historical or cultural values are under scrutiny. A hearing take place after an initial application has been issued but normally only different authorities take part not the public. When our initial application is issued, we must however inform neighbours up to 500 metres from the quarry border.



TURKEY

Environmental issues are specific to the individual quarries. Depends on the place where the quarries operate (eg. specific type of forest, lake, historic town, park, etc.). Hearings are independently made for each case if there is a dispute.

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QUESTION 7:

For how long is the environmental clearance valid? How often do you have to submit returns to the authorities?



BRAZIL

It varies depending on the environmental plan, but it goes from a minimum of 4 years and maximum 10 years. In Espirito Santo, where most of the stone production comes from, the environmental clearance is currently valid for 5 years and might be renewed indefinitely, as long as the miner holds the Mining Authorization and follows the guidelines established in the environmental plan. Miners have to file the renewal up to 120 days before the validity of the Clearance.



EGYPT

Environmental clearance is given on yearly basis.



FINLAND

- As long as the land extraction permit.
- Every 1-4 years, depending on the choice of the authority.



INDIA

20 years.



PORTUGAL

The environmental assessment is carried out every 3 years. They also present an annual report. There are also EIA descriptors that can restrict the periodicity of some parameters, but these situations / monitoring are determined on a case-by-case basis.



RUSSIA

Till the end of lease. In case of changings in project of the quarry additions to the environmental clearance should be provided.

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For how long is the environmental clearance valid? How often do you have to submit returns to the authorities?



SPAIN

The duration of the Environmental Impact Statement or the Environmental Report is while the operation is being exploited or the same conditions are maintained as those that were subjected to the Environmental Impact Study. Obviously, if unaltered areas are to be affected, a new environmental authorization must be obtained. Every year, together with the Work Plan, an environmental follow-up report must be presented where the most important aspects of this subject of the quarry and those specific ones ordered in the Environmental Impact Declaration are summarized.



SWEDEN

The concession gives us an environmental clearance to mine which is valid for many years between 25 to 40. Environmental declaration shall be submitted on a yearly base terms are issued when concession is given.



TURKEY

After the first clearance and “environmental effects study“, if it is obtained positively it is checked by the official body regularly.

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QUESTION 8:

On average, how much time does it take to obtain environmental clearance in your country?



BRAZIL

It usually takes between 1-2 years after the Environmental Plan is filed in the government agency.



EGYPT

6 to 8 weeks.



FINLAND

½ - 1 year.



INDIA

Environmental clearances take anywhere between 6 months to one year.



PORTUGAL

In the best case scenario, 5 years.



RUSSIA

6-12 months including all approvals.



SPAIN

The environmental authorization between 6 months and a year if no remedial action has to be taken which in that case could easily double the time. The authorization of a quarry between 3 and 5 years.



SWEDEN

To get a concession between 1 and up to 5 years depending on the case. If limited water implication can be proved the regional authority will decide and time is normally between 1 and 2 years. If water implication is deemed to be more severe the application will be moved to a special court and time will be longer at least 2 years and up to 5 years.



TURKEY

Generally speaking, six months to eighteen months.

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QUESTION 9:

Is there any pollution control clearance required in your country? If so, how are they structured?



BRAZIL

No, in Brazil the only control over pollution are the rules that the company need to abide to, based on the Environmental Plan approved by the agency.



EGYPT

No pollution control.



FINLAND

- Water monitoring (sampling 2-4 times a year, nitrogen the most important parametre), the authority demands it in the permit and the quarrier (with consultant) draws up the plan. The consultant executes the monitoring.
- Noise, dust, vibration if needed, seldom compulsory.



INDIA

Pollution control clearance is required.



PORTUGAL

This type of monitoring is defined in the quarry plan, involving control of air quality (dust), soil and water, which are mandatory (those provided for in point 6).



RUSSIA

All pollutions are under control.



SPAIN

Every year a study of dust and environmental noise should be carried out and between 2 and 4 controls per year of the conditions of the water to be poured should be made.



SWEDEN

Yes, test has to be carried out annually depending on requirement in the concession. We often must take water samples to be tested, noise and vibration from equipment and from blasting must be performed. All test to be inserted in annual environmental declaration.



TURKEY

Pollution control measures are assessed and decided in the “environmental affects study”. Therefore, positive result needs to be achieved through this study so as to get the green light.

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QUESTION 10:

What is the average number of people employed in a quarry in your country?



BRAZIL

Based on Sindirochas, 75 people is the average number of employees in natural stone quarries in Brazil.



EGYPT

Average is 15 to 25 people.



FINLAND

5-10.



INDIA

50 to 100 people.



PORTUGAL

Statistical data: Taking into account that in 2019 there were 2760 employees in 337 establishments, on average there will be 8 employees per quarry. However, it is estimated that between 10 and 15 workers per quarry.



RUSSIA

From 5 workers in a small quarry up to 100 workers on big quarries (like our Vozrozhdenie quarry).



SPAIN

About 8 - 10.



SWEDEN

5 people.



TURKEY

There is no standard. Half dozen to few hundred of employees, depending on the quarry.

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