

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

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School/Centre:

School of Civil, Environmental and Mining
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University/Institutions:

University of Western Australia
Latin America Mining Monitoring Program

Key themes:

Community and environmental sustainability
Operational effectiveness

Key countries:

Peru

Completion:

May 2014

Research aims:

This research examined the community experience of mining in Peru with the aim of:

- Understanding the underlying issues which have led to a breakdown in community engagement
- Identifying community recommendations for improvements
- Creating guidelines on best practice

For further information on this action research:

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Mining and Community Engagement in Peru: Communities Telling Their Stories to Inform Future Practice

There is a need for improved community engagement processes in many parts of the world. This report presents an in-depth contextual framework for an understanding of the community experience of mining as a historical process. An extensive literature review and interviews with communities associated with two mine sites in Peru informed the research. The ultimate goal is to facilitate an improvement in community-mine relations in a context that has been characterized by increasing social protest, conflict and violence.

The narratives which are contained in this report reveal a common view that neither the government nor the companies hold any respect for the values, beliefs and needs of community members. Common issues to both mining communities include:

- Flawed communication processes
- Scepticism about community engagement
- Collusion between company and government
- Perception of mining companies
- Violation of human rights

Only a few interviewees believed that mining should cease, however; most wanted a resolution to their problems and made recommendations for future practice and these have been developed into a set of Guiding Principles. Furthermore, the report recommends that further research be carried out with government and mining personnel whereby these Guiding Principles can be implemented at the local level.