

# IM4DC

# Action Research Report

## SUMMARY

**Researchers:**

Andrea Garzon – Masters student

**School/Centre:**

Institute of Environmental Studies

**University/Institutions:**

University of New South Wales

**Key themes:**

Community and Environmental Sustainability  
Operational effectiveness

**Key countries:**

Colombia

**Completion:**

July 2014

**Research aims:**

The objective was to identify, describe and analyse a variety of management tools used in the mining industry at the political, environmental, social, technological, economic and legal levels in Colombia and Australia and suggest recommendations for their effective application to the bio diverse and culturally unique region of Chocó-Manabí Corridor.

**For further information on this action research:**

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## Australian Mining Management Tools and their Applicability Towards the Sustainable Development of Chocó-Colombia

This investigation, part of a Masters of Environmental Management, sought to show how management tools used in mining can achieve sustainable development in a global market by balancing human health and safety, environmental sustainability and the socio-economic effectiveness of mining operations, in particular artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). The research was undertaken in the Colombian region of the Chocó-Manabí Corridor, which incorporates “Los Katios”, area declared by the UNESCO as world heritage status and under threat.

The investigation was undertaken from January to June 2014 through a series of semi-structured interviews with the different and main stakeholders and by analysis of other relevant information.

The main findings related to the following areas:

- Better government policy and enforcement, including better communication between the Mining and Environment ministries
- Exploration companies can have a role to act between community, government and big mining companies, improving foreign investment
- Sharing/partnering between ASM and large scale mining (LSM); for example two mining titles covering a mining operation, with ASM miners working the alluvial deposit and LSMs working the bedrock
- LSM including local miners in their projects by employing them on the project or partnering with them
- LSMs organising meetings where they show the community the processes they are going to undertake before any activity commences
- The need to educate the public and companies in responsible mining.
- Prior Consultation is a way of bringing personnel from the government and the companies together with members of the community
- Processing plants where there is no use of mercury located in an area where many ASMs can bring their ore to be processed would be ideal
- Educate the educators/trainers in the real issues for small, medium and large scale mining; not only the engineers, geologists, economists, but also people with experience in living at a minesite
- Develop a national strategy for monitoring Colombian biodiversity; the main cause of loss of biodiversity is the decreasing quality and quantity of available habitats and lack of local biodiversity data