

CASE STUDY



Name:
Eugenio Lorenzo

Title:
**Engineer – Minister's
Advisor on EIA of Large
Projects**

Country:
Uruguay

IM4DC Program:
**Mine Closure Study
Tour, Australia, 2012**

Tell us about what you have been doing since you returned to work and the experiences you have had since you attended the program.

I have been coordinating the Environmental Impact Assessment review of a large iron ore mining project (Valentines Project – 18 mtpa). This review is planned to be finished by August this year, including public hearings and other activities for public participation.

As a part of that project, a specialized port terminal is included and the Uruguayan Government has defined a new location for it, different from the one initially proposed by the company, along the Atlantic coastal stretch. Nowadays I am involved in some studies for baseline characterization (physical and biological) and the preliminary layout design in this location.

I have also been partially involved in the proposal of a new law for regulating large scale metal mining in Uruguay. The environmental chapter of this regulation put special attention on mine closure plans and establishes that mine closure activities should be implemented throughout the project lifetime. This proposal has already obtained parliamentary approval from the Chamber of Representatives and it is currently being discussed at the Senate.

To what extent have you been able to implement your return to work project, or skills learned, to your situation?

Partially, because the iron ore project is still in the planning and evaluation stage. Once implemented, more opportunities for applying those skills will appear.

What have been your successes?

None yet.

What have been the challenges involved?

The biggest challenge is to be able to carry out many different activities with a small supporting technical team. Hopefully, new technicians to be incorporated would increase the size of our team.

What are your future plans and the ultimate goal of your project/work?

Collaborate to increase the environmental care and assure the environmental perspective in this kind of large size mining project, in order to prevent large impacts from them.