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.

Researchers:
Rita Armstrong, Caroline Baillie
Andy Fourie and Glevys Rondon

School/Centre:
School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering

University/Institutions:
University of Western Australia
Latin America Mining Monitoring Program

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Community and environmental sustainability
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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:
Contact person: Caroline Baillie
caroline.baillie@uwa.edu.au