

# IM4DC

# Action Research Report

## SUMMARY

**Researcher:**

Diana Arbeláez-Ruiz

**School/Centre:**

Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining

**University/Institutions:**

Sustainable Minerals Institute,  
The University of Queensland

**Key themes:**

Governance and Regulation  
Community and Environmental Sustainability

**Key countries:**

Peru and Latin America generally

**Completion:**

June 2015

**Research aims:**

This project examined the role of dialogue and conflict processes in regulatory Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) for mining projects, with the aim to:

- understand the factors that define and contribute to a successful dialogue process
- document the ways in which inclusive dialogue is promoted (e.g. gender, minorities)
- understand the relationship between dialogue and conflict in the approval stage of EIS

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

Contact person: Diana Arbeláez-Ruiz

[d.arbelaezruiz@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.arbelaezruiz@uq.edu.au)

## Dialogue, Conflict and Regulatory Processes in Environmental Impact Studies for Mining Projects: Learning from the Peruvian Experience in the Latin American Context

Mining and its role in the development model of Peru motivate ongoing dynamic debate, with many mining projects at the centre of significant socio-environmental conflicts. One of the project stages where these conflicts are particularly intense is the Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) regulatory approvals stage (and the time immediately before or after). In general, the initial stage of the mining project life-cycle is particularly prone to socio-environmental conflict. During this stage, opposition to mining projects has the most significant chances of influencing project viability and/or design as once the project has been developed, exerting influence becomes harder. Conflicts during the approvals stage are often an expression of underlying conflicts or problems that have not been managed earlier on.

Conflict, together with questions about development, inter-culturality, social inclusion, environmental health, sustainability and economic growth, to name a few, have motivated dialogue initiatives at the project, local, regional and national levels. Some dialogue initiatives seek to transform specific conflicts, including by the creation of agreements between the parties; others seek to build bridges and mutual understandings between parties; others aim to promote a culture and the necessary skills for dialogue; while others seek to support informed debate or to problematize prevalent development models in a constructive way.

This report summarises the main findings of a research and knowledge exchange effort that explored the links between conflict, dialogue and regulatory processes in Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) for mining projects. The emphasis of the exercise was on Peru, with the larger Latin American experience as a reference framework. These activities follow on from an IM4DC Action Research desktop study that explored the same themes, led by the author between 2011 and 2013.

The activities covered in this report include:

- Documenting two workshops where close to 70 specialists from the Americas and Australia examined the links between dialogue, conflict and EIS regulatory processes in the mining sector.
- Interviews with 14 professionals and dialogue practitioners from Peru, exploring the above themes within the Peruvian context.