

Case of Study: Mapping the impact of mining activities to biodiversity

Introduction

By and large, encounters between indigenous peoples and the mining industry result in loss of sovereignty for traditional landholders and multidimensional creation of new forms of poverty imposed upon already poor people. This new poverty is created by a failure to avoid or mitigate impoverishment risks that accompany mining development. Indigenous peoples are suffering a loss of land, short and long-term health risks, loss of access to common resources, homelessness, loss of income, social disarticulation, food insecurity, loss traditional knowledge, etc.

The case

The Indigenous Women Council of Ecuarrunari indigenous organization, during the last two year has focused its work in order to strengthen traditional practice called “Warmi Chasqui” and Territory Management. This process was oriented in order to evaluate how mining concession is impacting natural resources include biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

“Warmi Chasqui” methodology has allowed national organization to visit in situ to local women organization, and how the traditional knowledge and biodiversity are affected by mining activities. The information of the visit was emptied into maps, and they have identified genetic resource affected, ecological corridors fragmented, and plants have been lost due to the decrease in river flow.

The maps and the analysis prepared were presented to the Vice President of Ecuador and the Comptroller General, in order to request an on-site audit of the mining concessions, in order to identify measures that will diminish the impacts of the mining activities.

The Comptroller General of the State has carried out a special audit examination of the Loma Larga mining project in Quinsacocha, Azuay province in February 2018. This audit has the challenge to adopt a set of recommendations. Loma Larga mining is currently at an exploration phase.

Focal point of this case:

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