

Global Processes



The challenges of mining in a sustainable development framework

Some stakeholders must resort to protest in order to be heard



Policy making in consultation with interested parties

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LATIN AMERICA

Complex Trade-offs Between the Potential and the Viable

by Cristina Echavarría

Latin American countries are responsible for more than 20% of metals and minerals global production.¹ Bearing in mind that in the short term global patterns of consumption will not diminish, especially so in view of China's growing demand and investment in the metals and minerals sector, we can expect that in the coming decades production and exports will continue to increase in this region. In this context, it is more important than ever for Latin American societies to ensure that the exploitation of their mineral riches results in an increased well-being and equity.

However, in spite of significant isolated advances, the persistence of old behaviour patterns in the region's mining industry has been increasing the political risk of operations and even impeding companies' access to deposits. Thus we have seen recent conflicts in Tambogrande, Peru, and Esquel in Argentinean Patagonia, and we are witnessing a rapid strengthening of organisations representing communities and municipalities affected by mining. Some say that given conditions of good governance and equity clearly mineral extraction could provide an essential base for the generation of equitable development and well-being. In the meantime, they say, it is better to leave the minerals in the ground.

So we are facing a great dilemma. Many developing countries are rich in minerals, the prices of which are currently rising. This represents a significant economic opportunity for governments in need of foreign currency and, at the same time, needing to fulfill their social investment obligations to fight against growing poverty and inequity in the region. How then can we

bring about a situation in which mining contributes to the sustainable and equitable development of mining regions and countries? Can our countries wait until conditions of good governance and technical capacity exist or should we harness mining as one means of generating such conditions? Companies, governments and social organisations have in recent years been asking themselves these questions amongst others.

At the end of the nineties, the world's biggest mining companies saw that competitiveness not only consists of productivity and profits for shareholders but that it is also related with their reputation in regard to social and environmental performance, the generation of sustainable local development processes, respect for human rights and the capacity to generate a transparent dialogue with diverse stakeholders at a local, national, regional and global level.

During the run-up to the Rio +10 Summit, in Johannesburg 2002, some visionary leaders of the mining industry decided that it was necessary to establish a global mining industry position in the face of that summit and initiate a change in the way that it thought about and implemented mining operations. With this aim they launched the Global Mining Initiative, a part of which was the well known Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development project.

At the same time, environmental and human rights movements accused the World Bank of causing a deterioration in living conditions and increased poverty amongst communities affected by their investments in extractive industries: oil, gas, and mining. In response to this chal-

lenge from NGOs, the Bank set in motion the Extractive Industries Review process, with the intention of reformulating future Bank policy and in particular the role of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment guarantee agency MIGA and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in providing support for extractive industries.

Faced with these strong movements arising within the industry and multilateral organisations, governments also took action and created an intergovernmental forum, the Global Dialogue of Governments on Mining, Metals and Sustainable Development, an initiative stemming from commitments made at governmental level in Johannesburg.

For us in the mining sector there is no doubt that an unprecedented transformation is taking place, triggered by the convergence of three factors: a concern in large companies for the reputation of mining, the increasing resistance of some communities to allow mining operations in their localities and the imperative of sustainable development as the new paradigm.

Those initiatives, and others that have arisen in different groups and organisations and in partnerships between them, have highlighted the main challenges that mining has to face in contributing to the transition to sustainable development. At the same time, they have generated ac-

 follows in p. 5

1. MMSD South America team, 2002, *Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development in South America*, Published by CIPMA-MPRI/IDRC, Santiago.



Mining and Sustainability

Por María Laura Barreto *

From the seventies, the concept of sustainable development has undergone various changes and more recently has begun to be understood as a development model that should be implemented on a global scale and that will affect all economic sectors and all dimensions of society. In other words, to achieve a sustainable society it is necessary to rethink the model that we are currently using to build society.

For the mineral sector this means answering the following questions: How can sectors that use resources designated as non-renewable be integrated in a society that seeks sustainable development? Is the exploitation of resources designated as non-renewable non-sustainable? Is a sustainable development policy for mining possible?

To provide well founded answers to these questions would require an in depth discussion that is beyond the scope of this article. Nevertheless, it is important to understand here that there is a great paradoxical ambiguity in the social need for metals and minerals side by side with a sustainable development model.

In the mineral sector there is also a conceptual ambiguity resulting from the vagueness of non-renewability as a concept and its confusion with the notion of resource extinction. This ambiguity has to be addressed urgently because it has had important implications for both the

public and private management of these resources. An illustrative example of such implications for policy making is the absence of an express reference to mineral resources in Program 21, approved at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

It is important to remember that Program 21 is one of the main international programmatical instruments that sets out an Action Plan to be implemented at a global, national and local level. The program is reviewed and up dated every five years at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held under the auspices of the United Nations.

More than a decade has passed since the Earth Summit and two reviews have been carried out on Pro-

gram 21. In the latest, in 2002, due to pressure from civil society, the growing awareness of some governments, corporate initiatives such as the Global Mining Initiative (GMI) and the activities of forums such as the Annual Conference of Mining Ministries of the Americas (CAMMA),¹ the mineral sector was included in the Plan of Implementation for decisions made at the WSSD held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Initially, the proposal to include the mineral sector in this Implementation Plan was quite controversial, probably due to its conceptual ambiguity, and was even received with a certain surprise on account of the “boldness” of including this sector in a global sustainable development program. After difficult debates and negotiations in the context of preparatory meetings for the World Summit, the proposal met with success and was formulated as Paragraph 46 of the Plan of Implementation.

An additional outcome of these negotiations was that Canada and South Africa launched the “Global Dialogue of Governments on Mining, Metals and Sustainable Develop-

WSSD Plan of Implementation (Paragraph 46)

46. Mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of many countries. Minerals are essential for modern living. Enhancing the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

- a) Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including workers' health and safety, and use a range of partnerships, furthering existing activities at the national and international levels, among interested Governments, intergovernmental organizations, mining companies and workers, and other stakeholders, to promote transparency and accountability for sustainable mining and minerals development;
- b) Enhance the participation of stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and women, to play an active role in minerals, metals and mining development throughout the life cycles of mining operations, including after closure for rehabilitation purposes, in accordance with national regulations and taking into account significant transboundary impacts;
- c) Foster sustainable mining practices through the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the mining and processing of minerals, including small-scale mining, and, where possible and appropriate, improve value-added processing, upgrade scientific and technological information, and reclaim and rehabilitate degraded sites.²

* Brazilian researcher, international consultant in mining and environmental policy and legislation, university professor in Brazil and other countries with more than 40 national and international publications, she has worked for the governments of Brazil and Mozambique. She currently lives in Canada.



The minerals sector was integrated into the global sustainable development plan at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. (Source: UN)

ment”, acknowledged as a Type II Partnership.³

It is to be hoped that these recent victories, which have been largely symbolic, provide a basis for the first stage of more concrete and irreversible measures directed at establishing policies, regulations and practices for sustainable mining that will generate deep and radical changes in the mineral sector, for example:

- in the list of necessary metals and minerals the exploitation of which is considered to be sustainable over time;
- in the type of resources used: changing from virgin resources to non-virgin ones, which, through re-use and recycling, will result in a

drastic reduction in virgin mineral resource extraction;

- in the location and form of extraction, processing and industrial use of minerals and metals;
- in the decision making process.

These changes will create the conditions for a sustainable development policy in the sector that should be supported by the following pillars:

- The elimination or prevention of negative environmental and social impacts resulting from extraction, processing and industrial operations;
- The efficient use of energy and water per product or material produced:

- An absolute reduction in the use of materials per capita;
- An increased rate of minerals and metals retrieval in existing mines and processing plants;
- An increase in product efficiency through improved conception, design and manufacturing processes that take account of the material’s life cycle;
- An increase in the re-use and recycling of materials in the post-consumption stage.

In the first place this requires the integration of mineral policy into a wider materials policy in order to deal with problems where previously, and without much success, attempts have been made to introduce control through “end of pipe” policies and regulations.

Last but not least:

- This new vision of minerals and metals extraction will require a restructuring of the sector, industry, government and organized civil society, in order for them to assume the new functions and roles that will emerge in relation to the governance and management of these important resources.

In this process of change all interested parties, including governments, mining companies and civil society, are called upon to make a contribution, and it will only come to fruition if all stakeholders commit themselves to the transformation. ■

1. Intergovernmental forum created in 1996 comprising 23 countries of the Americas.
2. Chapter IV, Paragraph 46 of the Plan of Implementation for World Summit on Sustainable Development decisions, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26th August to 4th September 2002.
3. Type II partnerships are specific commitments between several parties that aim to reinforce implementation of the results of intergovernmental negotiations at the WSSD (the Implementation Plan and Political Declaration) and to continue the implementation of Program 21.

↩ comes from p. 3

cumulative learning processes in which all of us involved stakeholders have developed an increased capacity for dialogue and have also enriched our knowledge of the complexities involved in mining development.

What is the real impact that these processes and discussions are having on the environmental and social performance of companies? What new instruments for management and monitoring are being developed? Have controls been augmented and has transparency increased? How are these changes being reported? Which issues are NGOs addressing? How are governments working to meet these challenges? What new initiatives have been created for increasing access to information on taxes and mineral rent paid by companies to governments? How much progress

is the financial sector making in strengthening social and environmental safeguards in their investment and loan policies?

In this instalment we have invited commentators from different sectors to address these questions and we have gathered information and resources on the most significant global and regional processes that are indicative of the changes taking place in the global mining industry. We also offer short descriptions of, and links to, projects and initiatives that reflect these changes and the efforts that are being made to transform mining. As always we have endeavoured to reflect different outlooks and processes and provide an up to date view of them, seeking to offer the reader help with going deeper into them in accordance with his or her own interest. ■



The Revolution in the Global Mining Industry

by Jim Cooney*

During the past six years the global mining industry has undergone a radical transformation. Leading international mining companies have fundamentally changed their understanding not only of the social and political context in which they operate but also of themselves. Corporate priorities are different; corporate values have evolved; and corporations have changed the way they build and operate mines. In fact, so dramatic has been this transformation that we can correctly call it a revolution.

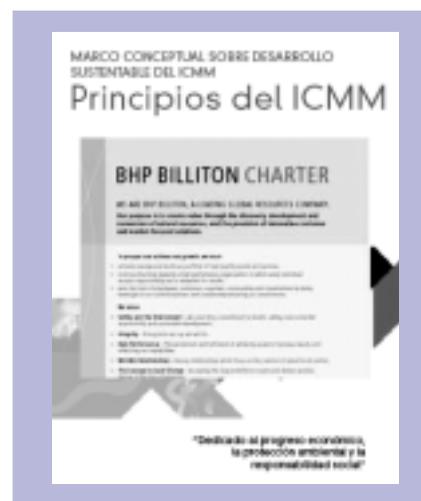
In 1998, a process of fundamental change started in the mining industry, with all the relevant institutional actors getting involved: individual mining companies, such as Placer Dome and later many others; industry associations such as the ICME (International Council on Metals and the Environment), and later the GMI (Global Mining Initiative), MMSD Project, ICMM (International Council on Mining and Metals) and many national associations; numerous non-governmental organizations, many of which were challenged to switch at least temporarily from criticism to consultation; and public sector institutions, such as the World Bank, UN agencies and national governments, particularly Canada.

As with all revolutions, there were many doubters at the beginning. Some industry people accused the companies that advocated sustainable development of creating a “Trojan Horse” that would bring the enemy within the camp and weaken the mining industry’s ability to fight its adversaries. The engagement of ICMM

with the World Conservation Union has prompted a number of mining industry people to complain that these “self-styled leading companies” are negotiating away the industry’s land base. What is clearly progress for the leading companies looks like capitulation to some others.

Some people in mining companies and the investor community perceive sustainable development to be a public relations instrument, new terminology that is useful for projecting a positive image of the mining industry’s best practices in community development and environmental protection. To those committed to sustainable development, however, it has quickly become apparent that if this public relations tool is to be effective, certain inconsistencies between the vision and the actual performance of some mines will have to be addressed. Thus sustainable development has actually become a driver of continuous social and environment improvement in the mining industry. As companies begin to report against a consistent template, as is being developed by ICMM and the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative), further peer comparisons of performance can be expected to accelerate progressive improvements across the industry.

The business case for sustainable development in the mining industry is intuitively apparent but difficult to demonstrate in any quantitative sense. Certainly, sustainable development provides mining companies with a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the social, environmental and political risks that con-



Associations of the largest companies in the sector produce guidelines in accordance with sustainability principles. (Source: ICMM)

front this industry everywhere. On the other hand, mining investors, with the exception of ethical funds, do not yet differentiate much among companies on the basis of their sustainable development commitment and performance. This indifference in the financial markets may evolve, however, as ethical funds become a larger share of equity financing and as regulators require mutual funds to disclose whether they consider the environmental and social performance of companies whose shares they hold. The recent adoption of the Equator Principles by major international banks can also be expected to create a business case for sustainable development in any mining company that seeks project loan financing.

In the final analysis the business case for sustainable development in mining may be more subtle. An important aspect of sustainable devel-

* General Manager, Strategic Issues, for Placer Dome Inc.; since 1982, he works in strategic planning, government relations and issues management; he has lived and worked in North Africa, South and East Asia; involved in projects in many countries in Latin America, South-east Asia, Central Asia and Africa.



opment is that it expresses and reflects the personal values of many employees who work in mining companies. As some Placer Dome employees have said: "Our sustainability policy describes who we are". To attract and motivate high-minded and intelligent individuals is certainly essential to the growth and success of this industry. It is also questionable how long an enlightened public, whatever their need for metals and minerals, will tolerate a mining industry that does not integrate sustainable development into all its operations. The ultimate business case for sustainable development in mining, therefore, is the long-term survival of the industry.

Sustainable development started in 1998 as a voluntary initiative for change on the part of leading mining companies. During the last two years, however, this voluntary initiative has been overtaken by a program of change driven by the public sector. The World Bank's two year Extractive Industries Review, which concluded in January of 2004, is driving the formation of demanding environmental and social performance standards, which are initially focused on the activities of any oil, gas or mining project in which the World Bank Group is involved, but which will ultimately be applicable to any industrial project with World Bank Group involvement, and through the Equator Principles to most commercially financed major industrial projects. The World Bank Group social and environmental standards will eventually be approved by the Bank's Board, made up of all developing and donor nations. In effect, a new era of global environmental and social regulation has dawned.

The global mining industry by virtue of its efforts over the past six years to implement sustainable development is well prepared for this new era of global regulation, but it is no longer in control of the agenda. The World Bank Group's social and environmental performance standards will in effect be government imposed regulations, albeit without a global government to enforce

EXPERIENCES

The Challenges of Transition

The changes initiated in 1998 in the mining and metals sector triggered a transition process with the explicit objective of bringing the industry and its stakeholders to a sustainable development perspective. This process was full of challenges and uncertainties that still persist.

In 1998, the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME), an association of 30 international mining and metals companies, decided to review its Environment Charter, with the aim of creating a Sustainable Development Charter, and to become involved with external stakeholders, including NGOs, with a view to building up a wide support base for this initiative.

Parallel with this, the leaders of nine top companies attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January 1998, perceived a need for the industry to participate in the fast evolving interna-

tional agenda and so launched the Global Mining Initiative (GMI) with the aim of discerning the role of the industry in the transition to sustainable development and providing it with guidance.

That same year, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) created the Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI) to support applied and participatory research in mining and sustainable development issues, with an emphasis on cooperation between multiple stakeholders. MPRI was later responsible, to-

➔ follows in p. 10

them. So significant questions remain to be addressed: How will compliance with the new environmental and social performance standards be verified? What sanctions will be imposed for non-compliance? How will disputes be adjudicated or arbitrated? At least the industry through ICMM is engaged with the World Bank Group in designing these global standards and addressing the issues of implementation.

Thus the exploratory steps of a few companies and institutions six years ago have profoundly transformed the global mining industry, both the companies themselves and the context in which they do busi-

ness. The revolution, however, is still unfolding. The distance between leaders and laggards in the industry has extended considerably. Some of the weaker companies with respect to sustainable development may see this agenda as an effort to put them out of business, and that may indeed occur, though it is not the motivation for these changes. Excel or fail, adapt or perish, is the challenge facing mining companies. The mining industry today is scarcely recognizable compared to what it was a decade ago. It is safe to say that ten years hence its resemblance to the mining industry of today will be equally remote. ■



Breaking the Straitjacket of the Neo-liberal Model

by CONACAMI*

Communities demand the right to consultation and the freedom to determine their own development model. (Source: CONACAMI)



In Peru the nineties were marked by a mining-boom, an explosive growth of private investment in large-scale mining resulting from the pro-mining reforms implemented by Fujimori's government with the support of the World Bank. These reforms turned mining into a privileged sector, designated as being in the national interest, and provided it with a stable legal and taxation framework.

At the same time, conflicts between mining companies and communities multiplied, as did the violation of several human rights. For example the right to life and health of thousands of children in La Oroya, El Callao, San Mateo de Huanchor and Choropampa, who became affected by lead and mercury contamination. The right to property ownership, identity and territorial rights and the right to a sustainable source of livelihood for hundreds of communities thrown off their lands with the threat of imposing mining easements (rights of way) on them, which would permit the expropriation of their lands.

In spite of having ratified ILO Agreement 169, the Peruvian State persisted in denying the right of communities and peoples to be consulted and their freedom to determine their own development model. The mining industry did not fulfil its development promises: here we are thinking particularly of Cajamarca which, after ten years of exploitation in Latin America's biggest gold mine, had slipped from being the fourth poorest department in Peru to being the second poorest.

All over the country complaints, demands and accusations were heard from communities, each one trying to find solutions on its own, hammering against a wall of indifference and unequal power relations and addressing in vain a Ministry of Energy and Mines that promoted private investment but did not police it.

During this process, we began to meet each other and share our experiences and problems. In 1999, after several regional congresses and a national congress, we saw the birth of CONACAMI PERU, the National Coordinating Committee (now the National Confederation) of Peruvian Communities Affected by Mining, a body formed to defend the rights of affected communities and peoples. Our organization links hundreds of communities and peoples affected by mining in the North, Centre and South of the country and has formed into 14 Regional Coordinating Committees or CORECAMIs.

From the beginning, CONACAMI's work has been multi-faceted and has included information and training provision for communities, community environmental vigilance, legal proposals, reporting of infringements, social mobilization and dialogue facilitation. We also seek new mechanisms of participation such as for example in Tambogrande where, in a referendum, the community massively rejected the mining exploitation of its fertile agricultural valley.

But the government continues to deny this reality thereby contributing to the generation of new conflicts. We got the government to sign an agreement with us to resolve problems through dialogue, but it did not prosper due to a lack of political will. Rather, the response of the State and the mining sector to our demands has been a sterile discourse on social responsibility and voluntary behaviour

codes, and in addition the slander and persecution of our leaders.

So, we realised that we should not expect substantial changes from an establishment that submits to the straitjacket of a neo-liberal model and regards communities, indigenous peoples and their ways of life as obstacles to the country's development. This is why we sought justice outside the country through the Inter American Commission for Human Rights.

International solidarity enabled us to open a Round Table Dialogue with BHP Billiton Tintaya to remedy social and environmental damage caused in the communities of Espinar. We have learned that it is important to influence global policies, and so we participated in formulating the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples project and in the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review. We also questioned the signing of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States because it threatens our territories and our identity.

In all of this process, we have been articulating with other communities in the continent affected by extractive industries and we have participated in the Social Forums, contributing proposals that seek sustainable alternatives and respect the rights and identity of our peoples.

* National organisation of communities affected by mining, comprising 1135 representatives of rural and urban communities from 13 departments in Peru (<http://www.conacami.org>)



The MMSD Project

As a result of an unprecedented consultation and research process on mining and minerals, the conclusions and recommendations of the MMSD project laid the foundations and set out the conditions for the sector's entry into the new sustainable development paradigm.

The Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development project (MMSD) was a two year process of consultation with multiple interested parties and of independent research. Its aim was to analyse, and propose a way of maximizing, the contribution of the mining and metals sector to sustainable development on a global, regional and local level.

From April 2000 the project was coordinated by IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development, UK), with a brief to produce a final report and other working papers, as well as to generate a dialogue process and implementation mechanisms with a reach beyond that of the project.

The Sponsors Group, comprising 25 of the largest mining companies in the world, governments, international institutions, NGOs, universities and foundations, had no influence on the project's conclusions. An independent Assurance Group, made up of key stakeholders from diverse areas of the sector, advised and guided the work team.

MMSD was the first to organize workshops on mining and metals sector issues with the participation of companies and unions, NGOs, research and academic institutions, community groups and international organisations from all over the world.

Simultaneous with the production of the global report, processes of regional consultation and research were undertaken in Southern Africa, North and South America and Australia.

An Agenda for Change

MMSD grouped its general recommendations into four broad categories

of actions in support of sustainable development for the minerals sector:

I. Understanding Sustainable Development

Proposals for the fields of education and research:

- Incorporate sustainable development into curricula for mineral professionals
- Policies for transparency and rigour for research
- Establish research priorities
- Undertake research
- Fund integrative research

Proposals for practical tools:

- Quality assurance for decision tools
- Development of specific tools
- Survey of government decision-making tools

Proposals for improving professional practice and knowledge:

- Meetings at the international level
- Meetings at the national level
- Meetings focused on the role and concerns of labour

II. Creating Organizational Policies and Management Systems

Key actions proposed for this objective are:

- Policy review and development
- Coordination among government agencies to implement sustainable development policies
- NGO policies to deliver developmental services for companies
- World Bank Extractive Industries Review
- End-of Life Planning
- Identifying gaps in government capacity

- Systems for assuring quality of information

III. Achieving Cooperation Among Those With Similar Interests

Included in this category are proposals for actions at different levels:

i) With existing associations and networks: policy review and development; sharing information and capacity building among members.

ii) Forming associations and networks: national and international networks for small-scale and artisanal miners; National and international networks of local governments and community organizations; and an international indigenous peoples organization.

iii) Protocols and Statements of Principle: a global industry Declaration and Sustainable Development Protocol; national and regional industry codes; regional governmental statements of principle; and NGO statements of principles.

iv) Preventing and Responding to Emergencies: Emergency Response Facility.

IV. Building Capacity for Effective Actions at All Levels

Proposed key actions at the Community Level: Community engagement; Integrated impact assessment (IIA); and Community Sustainable Development Plans (CSDP).

Actions at other levels: Integrated planning for closure; Labour-management agreement for sustainable development; Disputes and conflict resolution mechanisms; Cooperation between large companies and artisanal and small-scale miners. ■



↳ comes from p. 7

gether with CIPMA from Chile, for implementing the MMSD project in South America and for producing its report.

In September 1999, the World Bank called a meeting between ICME members and the main interested parties with the purpose of identifying principles to be included in the ICME Sustainable Development Charter, which was finally approved in October 2000. The mining industry was thus the first big industrial sector to collectively proclaim its commitment to sustainable development, backed with very specific objectives and commitments.

After three years of consultations and the carrying out of several global studies, in May 2002 at the Resourcing the Future conference in Canada, GMI came to an end with the Toronto Declaration, a set of commitments assumed by leading companies, which would change their way of addressing mining in the future.

After the Toronto meeting and in accordance with the MMSD project recommendations, ICME's successor, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), took on the mission of promoting the participation of the industry in sustainability issues in cooperation with organisations such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the World Bank, UN bodies and diverse non-governmental organisations.

In 2001, after much criticism of its policies, the World Bank instigated the Extractive Industries Review (EIR), thus beginning an independent process of consultation with multiple stakeholders on the future role of this sector. The EIR was directed by Emil Salim, ex Environment Minister of Indonesia, and concluded in 2004 with a call for the Bank to withdraw all investment in oil and coal projects for a period of five years.

In the following months, declarations for and against this conclusion followed one after another. In

June 2004, the Bank's Board of Directors rejected this EIR proposal but made a commitment that future investments in the sector would be accompanied by a greater emphasis on the needs of local communities, good governance and sustainable environmental and social development.

NGOs that participated in the EIR process indicated that the Bank's final decision was a watered down version of Salim's recommendations. "Expansive rhetoric but limited commitment", commented Steve Kretzmann, from the Institute of Policy Studies in Washington, while Jeremy Hobbs of Oxfam welcomed the declaration that the bank will only back projects that have wide support from affected communities.

In June 2003, ten international banks subscribed to the Equator Principles, a new conceptual framework for environmental and social risk management in project financing. Since then, 11 more banks have adopted these principles. These 21 banks, with headquarters in 11 countries and operating in some 100 more, were responsible for around 80% of global project funding provided that year.

So the Equator Principles are becoming the rule for the bank project loans market and, according to the banks, their application will result in improved information and a common framework for measuring project impact. Nevertheless, in June 2004, a report from the NGO Bank Track stated that the great majority of signatories to the principles are far from putting them into practice and denounced a lack of transparency in their application.

Between September 2004 and February 2005, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector loans branch of the World Bank, is offering for public consideration a review of its policies, in force since 1998, regarding social and environmental safeguards, and disclosure (access to information previously restricted) for extractive sector projects. ■

Books

■ Breaking New Ground (MMSD Project Final Report)

The English version, accompanied by a CD-Rom with documentation of the four regional processes, activities in 16 countries and over 200 pieces of requested research, and the Executive Summary can be ordered from Earthscan (www.earthscan.co.uk). The digital version of the book and ES is available at: www.iied.org/mmsd/finalreport/index.html

■ Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development in South America

Regional Report of the MMSD Project - South America. Printed copies of the book in Spanish and of its Executive Summary in Spanish, English and Portuguese can be ordered from MPRI. Corresponding digital versions are available at: www.iipm-mpri.org/biblioteca/

Websites

■ Global Mining Campaign (GMC)

A network of NGOs, community organisations and activists seeking to make mining companies take responsibility for their actions and their effect on social, economic and cultural rights, human rights and other areas. They also seek to promote better materials policy and practice. <http://www.globalminingcampaign.org/theminingnews/espanol.html>



■ “No Dirty Gold” Campaign

Launched in the United States by Oxfam America and Earthworks/Mineral Policy Center, it denounces this industry’s social and environmental irresponsibility. It includes the “Dirty metals: mining, community and environment” report.

<http://nodirtygold.org/noDirtyGoldSpanish/home.cfm> and www.iipm-mpri.org/noticias/

■ Global Dialogue of Governments

A high level forum for governments with similar perspectives on the mining, minerals and metals sector, sponsored by Canada and South Africa during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

<http://www.globaldialogue.info/>

■ Enduring Value

In October 2004 Australia’s Minerals Council launched the first global framework for applying sustainable development principles to the operation of Australian mining industry sites. The Enduring Value Framework and its history are available on:

www.minerals.org.au/enduringvalue

■ Global Mining Initiative (GMI)

The Global Mining Initiative (GMI) worked on creating an industry association (ICMM), a study of key issues for the industry (MMSD Project) and the organisation of a global conference (Toronto, 2002), focusing on defining the sector’s role in the context of sustainable development. See the documentation from this process on:

www.icmm.com/gmi.php

■ Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

GRI is a multi-stakeholder process with the objective of developing and disseminating global Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. The Guidelines are accompanied by specific supplements for individual industrial sectors. The Mining and Metals Supplement was jointly convened by GRI and ICMM. Results are available on: www.globalreporting.org/ or www.icmm.com/

■ Global Witness

A campaign aimed at changing the relationship between natural resource exploitation and human rights abuses, particularly where resources such as wood, diamonds and oil are used to fund and perpetuate conflict and corruption.

<http://www.globalwitness.org/>

■ Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

<http://www2.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/extractiveindustries.asp>

■ Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO)

The CAO of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MINGA) provides those directly impacted by IFC or MINGA projects with the necessary information to lodge a complaint.

<http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/index-spanish.htm>

■ Post-Mining Alliance

A multi-stakeholder cooperation initiative seeking solutions for mining legacy problems, integral closure planning and mining site rehabilitation, as well as promoting discussion

with consumers on the future role of mining.
<http://www.edenproject.com/postmining/>

■ Equator Principles

<http://www.equator-principles.com/>

■ Publish What You Pay

This campaign aims to help citizens of developing countries rich in natural resources to hold their governments accountable for the destiny of revenues derived from the oil, gas and mineral industries.

<http://www.publishwhatyoupay.org/>

■ World Bank Extractive Industries Review

EIR official documents can be found on: www.worldbank.org/ogmc and on ifcln1.ifc.org/ifcext/eir.nsf/Content/Home, and the independent review directed by E. Salim on: www.eireview.org/ The position of Indigenous Peoples Organisations can be found on the FPP (Forest Peoples Programme) website: www.forestpeoples.org/briefings.htm and the Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education) website: www.tebtebba.org/

■ The Global Mercury Project (GMP)

This project promotes the adoption of better practices and preventive measures by artisan and small-scale mining to avoid mercury contamination of water. Participants in GMP: Brazil, Laos, Indonesia, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
http://www.unites.uqam.ca/gmf/intranet/gmp/index_gmp.htm

“For us in the mining sector there is no doubt that an unprecedented transformation is taking place, triggered by the convergence of three factors: a concern in large companies for the reputation of mining, the increasing resistance of some communities to allow mining operations in their localities and the imperative of sustainable development as the new paradigm.”

Cristina Echavarría, MPRI / IDRC



**International Development
Research Centre (IDRC, Canada)**



MPRI/IIPM

**Mining Policy Research
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