



# Mineral extraction and communities for just energy transitions in Latin America

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International  
Geoscience  
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**Earth Materials for a Sustainable and Thriving Society**

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# Mineral Production to Soar as Demand for Clean Energy Increases

*The more ambitious climate targets,*

*the more minerals needed for a clean energy transition*

**WASHINGTON, May 11, 2020** — A new [World Bank Group report](#) finds that the production of minerals, such as graphite, lithium and cobalt, could increase by nearly 500% by 2050, to meet the growing demand for clean energy technologies. It estimates that over 3 billion tons of minerals and metals will be needed to deploy wind, solar and geothermal power, as well as energy storage, required for achieving a below 2°C future.

The report **“Minerals for Climate Action: The Mineral Intensity of the Clean Energy Transition”** also finds that even though clean energy technologies will require more minerals, the carbon footprint of their production—from extraction to end use—will account for only 6% of the

## RELATED

### WORLD BANK

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Article | [Open Access](#) | Published: 01 September 2020

# Renewable energy production will exacerbate mining threats to biodiversity

Laura J. Sonter [✉](#), Marie C. Dade, James E. M. Watson & Rick K. Valenta

*Nature Communications* **11**, Article number: 4174 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

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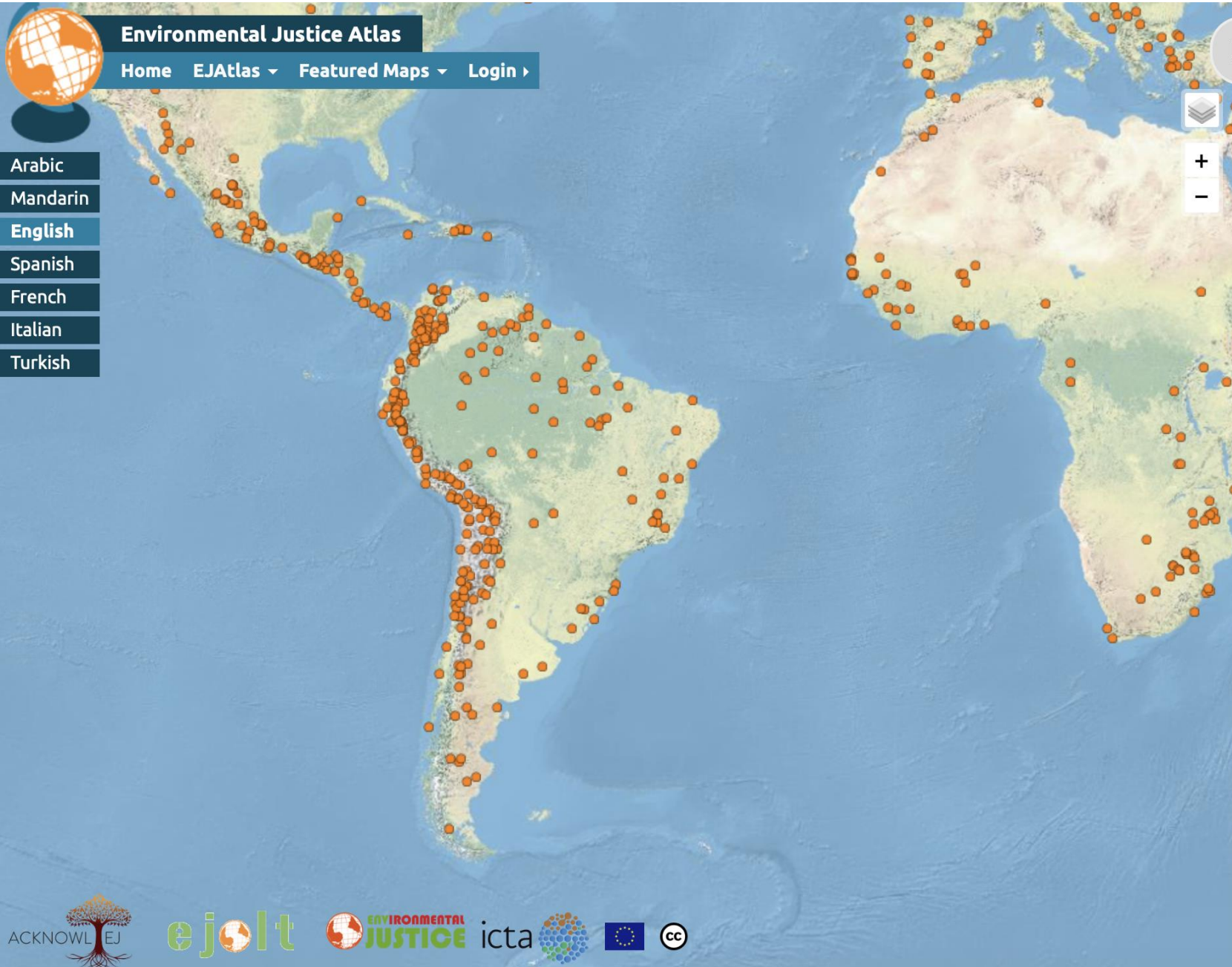
## Abstract

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Renewable energy production is necessary to halt climate change and reverse associated biodiversity losses. However, generating the required technologies and infrastructure will drive an increase in the production of many metals, creating new mining threats for biodiversity. Here, we map mining areas and assess their spatial coincidence with biodiversity conservation sites and priorities. Mining potentially influences 50 million km<sup>2</sup> of Earth's land surface, with 8% coinciding with Protected Areas, 7% with Key Biodiversity Areas, and 16% with Remaining Wilderness. Most mining areas (82%) target materials needed for renewable energy production, and areas that overlap with Protected Areas and Remaining Wilderness contain a greater density of mines (our indicator of threat severity) compared to the overlapping mining areas that target other materials. Mining threats to biodiversity will increase as more mines target materials for renewable energy production and, without strategic planning, these new threats to biodiversity may surpass those averted by climate change mitigation.



- Arabic
- Mandarin
- English**
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# EJAtlas - Global Atlas of Environmental Justice



653 cases filtered

You can [register here](#) and add a new case into EJ Atlas or fill out our survey.

### Legend

### Filter

- Basic Data
- Category
- Project

### Commodity

- Level Of Investment
- Company
- Country Of Company
- Financial Institution
- Government Actors
- Project Details

- Conflict Resistance
- Impacts
- Outcomes
- Meta

- Cement
- Charcoal
- Chemical products
- Coal
- Coffee
- Copper
- Corn/Maize
- Cotton
- Crude oil
- Cut flowers
- Diamonds
- Domestic municipal waste

Apply Clear

**Category: Mineral Ores and Building Materials Extraction**

Please pick from the fields on the left and drag the options to the panel on the right. You can use the logical boxes below to create complex filters.

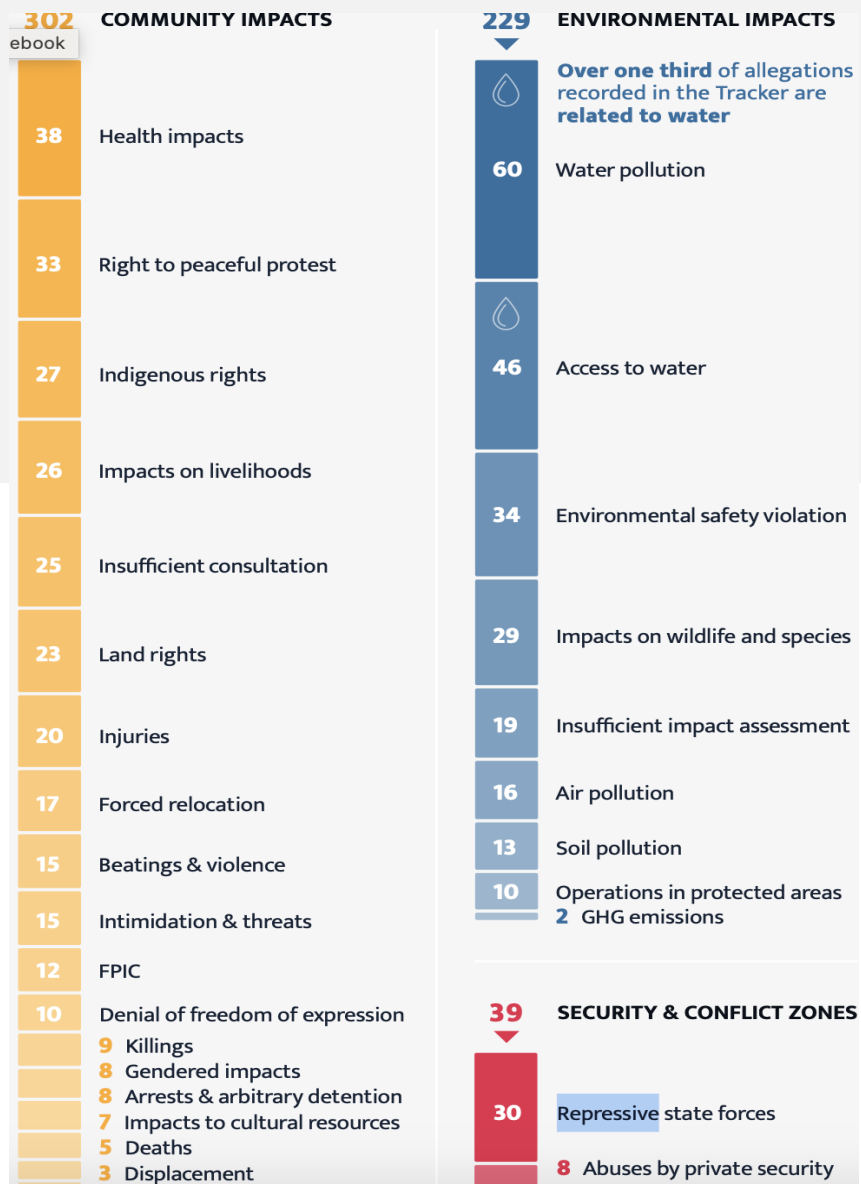
AND

OR

NOT



## Business and Human Rights Resource Centre's Transition Minerals Tracker



## Silencing community dissent

According to our Tracker data, the highest number of allegations involve impacts and attacks on local communities, civil society organisations and their leaders (125 allegations). This correlates with findings from our [Human Rights Defenders \(HRD\) database](#) which shows over a third (36%) of all HRD attacks relate to the extractive sector. In 33 cases (one in eight or 12%) communities responded through protests, marches, strikes or blockades against a mine, indicating the high level of frustration within communities. **Community consultation and consent is vital to ensuring that renewable energy projects that facilitate the urgent energy transition to address the climate crisis benefit both the global and local populations, yet the Tracker shows that one in eight human rights abuses recorded in transition minerals features a community protesting.** The lack of consent adversely affects Indigenous communities, who are on the front lines of both the climate crisis as well as the abuse and encroachment of their land by extractives and renewable energy companies. **One in 10 (10%) allegations recorded in the Tracker relate to Indigenous rights.**

## Nickel

### USE IN LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGY

Nickel is used in wind turbines, solar panels and in electric vehicles.



have allegations related to their nickel mining operation



have a human rights policy in place

### TOP 5 COMPANIES

● Policy or commitment in place

COMPANY	HQ LOCATION	COUNTRIES OF NICKEL OPERATIONS	HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY	ICMM* MEMBER	VP** MEMBER	ALLEGATIONS RELATED TO NICKEL (NUMBER)
Anglo American	UK	Brazil	●	●	●	0
BHP Billiton	Australia	Australia	●	●	●	0
Glencore	Switzerland	Australia, Canada, New Caledonia	●	●	●	1
Norilsk Nickel (Nornickel)	Russia	Russia, South Africa	●	○	○	4
Vale	Brazil	Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, New Caledonia	●	●	●	9

\*ICMM: International Council on Mining & Metals \*\*VP: Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights

**NOTE:** Some companies that don't have allegations specifically related to their nickel mining operations, have other human rights allegations recorded on the Resource Centre's database

# SEAT TOOLBOX

READ

Socio-Economic Assessment Toolbox  
Version 3



UN-Guiding-Principles-on-Business-and-  
Human-Rights

## PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS



## Understanding Company–Community Relations Toolkit (2015)

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The '*Understanding Company–Community Relations Toolkit*' provides a structured approach for companies to understand the basis for community support and how to measure perceptions of support. It enables companies to identify the reasons why community support may be lacking at a project or operation and develop targeted approaches for improving company-community relationships.

[Download PDF](#) [Descargar PDF](#) [Télécharger le PDF](#)

### Summary

- Building and maintaining positive relationships with local communities is vital to the success of mining and metals operations.
- The Toolkit is designed to help companies understand the nature of their relationships with communities; irrespective of whether these are supportive or otherwise. Ultimately the emphasis is on helping companies achieve relationships that are supportive.
- It aims to help companies understand the factors that influence community support and measure the level of community support at a particular project or operation.

## Good Practice Guide: Indigenous Peoples and mining (2015)

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*This guidance aims to support mining and metals companies build strong and mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous Peoples. It provides a range of practical tools and case studies around engagement and Indigenous participation, managing impacts, agreements and dealing with grievances.*

- ICMM member companies commit to implementing ICMM's position statement on Indigenous Peoples, including the commitment to work to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected indigenous communities.
- This Guide presents an updated version of ICMM's 2010 Indigenous Peoples and mining Good Practice Guide. Like the earlier version of the Guide, it is intended as a good practice resource for mining companies and others with an interest in ensuring that mining projects bring long-term mutual benefits to companies and host communities.
- In many respects, what constitutes good practice in relation to Indigenous Peoples is the same as for non-Indigenous Peoples. Regardless of where they operate, responsible companies aim to avoid impacting negatively on communities and seek to leave a positive legacy, particularly in relation to local social and economic development.
- However, Indigenous Peoples have distinct rights and interests, and there are growing expectations that these will be respected by responsible companies.
- Indigenous Peoples often also have a special relationship to land, territories and resources which can create specific obligations for companies, as well as presenting a range of unique challenges (and sometimes opportunities) that need to be understood and addressed.
- The focus of the Guide is on mining-related activities that take place in remote locations, but it is recognized that some mines are located close to large urban centres that contain substantial Indigenous populations.
- It contains a series of 13 tools, developed to give practical effect to the good practice principles covered in the Guide, and 26 case studies of how these principles have been applied at member operations.





# Anglo American responds to Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples and Amazon Watch letter

Download attachment ↓

[W]e continue to uphold our 2003 commitment to neither explore nor develop new mines in World Heritage sites. We also respect legally designated protected areas, in line with the International Council on Mining and Metals' (ICMM) Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas. Second, we will always adhere to local laws and international standards when engaging with Indigenous Peoples and we will seek to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples prior to conducting activities that require access to Indigenous Peoples' lands and/or impact Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods or cultural heritage during all stages of exploration. Anglo American also respects the right of indigenous communities to oppose mining-related activities on their land and will refrain from undertaking any activities if consent is withheld.

Third, our overarching approach seeks to protect the rights of indigenous communities and to ensure that where consent is given, it is maintained through continuous engagement. Finally, when legislative change is considered that could affect Indigenous Peoples, we advocate that it is done in consultation with the relevant communities and that their consent is secured.

... In the letter of 22 December 2020, the APIB and Amazon Watch claim that as of 10 November 2020, 27 permits had been granted by the Agência Nacional de Mineração (Brazil's National Mining Agency – ANM) for Anglo American to prospect copper within Indigenous Lands in the states of Mato Grosso and Pará. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify that neither Anglo American Brazil nor any of its subsidiaries hold any exploration permits on Indigenous Lands in Brazil.

✓ This is a response to

**Brazil: NGO report alleges that international financial institutions are enabling violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the Amazon**

**Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.**

# Questions and dilemmas

- How is consent secured/obtained?
- Voices of Human Rights defenders during consent process?
- Going beyond Human Rights:
  - What impacts has the campaign to secure consent/social licence had on pre-existing community cohesion?
  - What policies around ethical conduct do you have for workers and suppliers? During periods of environmental/social licencing or consent?
  - What to do in territories of declared autonomy where leaders refuse to engage in any consent/consultations regarding extraction projects e.g. Wampis in Peru?
  - Communities with referendums results opposing mining project?

# Concluding remarks

- Clean energy transition = soaring demand to extract minerals (copper, nickel, cobalt and lithium).
- Latin American home to most socio-environmental justice conflicts.
- Treat each community as different - Local Context is king.
- Have different policies in place for how to address mining in communities where local opposition significant; where locals wish to engage with mining.
- Work with a Human Rights mindset (e.g. UNGPs as largest miners already doing).
- But do this throughout the organization. Make it a priority (despite how contrarian this may feel – times are truly changing).
  - If not you may risk human and ecological harms as well as serious reputational crises.

# Concluding remarks – beyond community relations



Develop new technologies to minimize use and waste of water.



Mine from waste in line with circular economy thinking – avoid community impacts.