

# COMMUNITY AND NGO STAKEHOLDERS IN MINERAL-RICH RURAL ENVIRONMENTS: WHY IS SO COMPLICATED TO MAKE “RESPONSIBLE MINING” REAL?

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# Expansion of extractive industries in a broader perspective of rural development

- “Conflicts over the countryside: Civil society and the political ecology of rural development in the Andean region” (2007-2009)
- RQ: 1) To what extent and under what conditions do civil society actors challenge and contribute to the geographies of neo-liberal development?  
2) Under what conditions are civil society actors able to change the terms of national and local debate on the types of rural economy that ought to be promoted in the region?

# Where mining happens



# The impact of mining



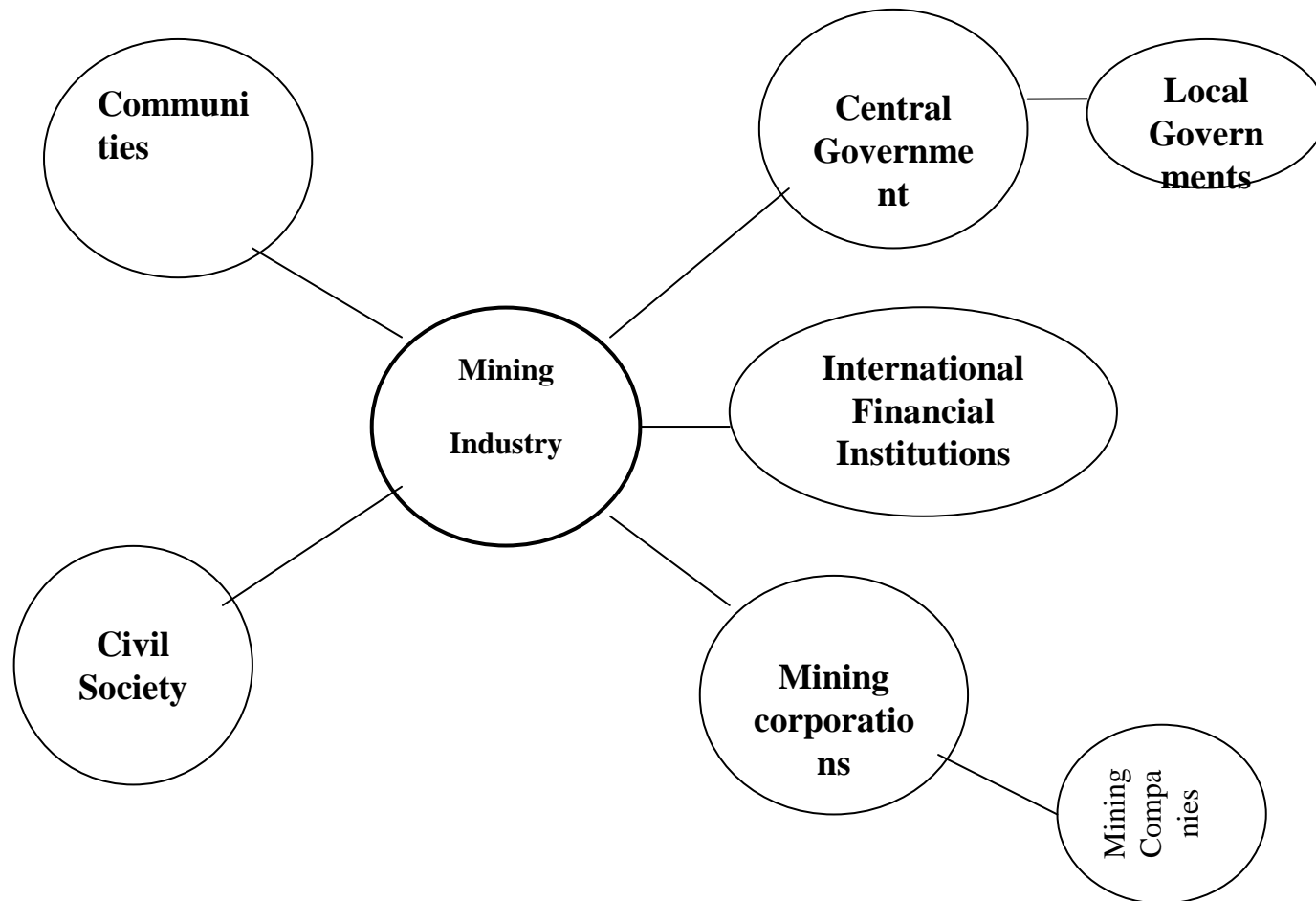


# Issues concerning the expansion of extractive industries & the emergence of socio-environmental conflicts

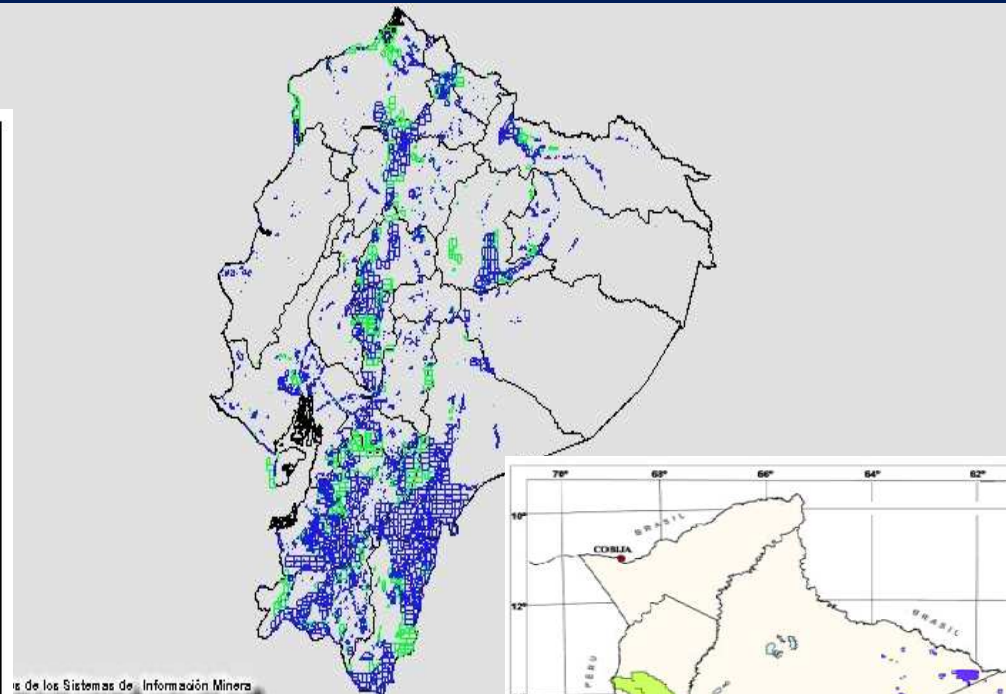
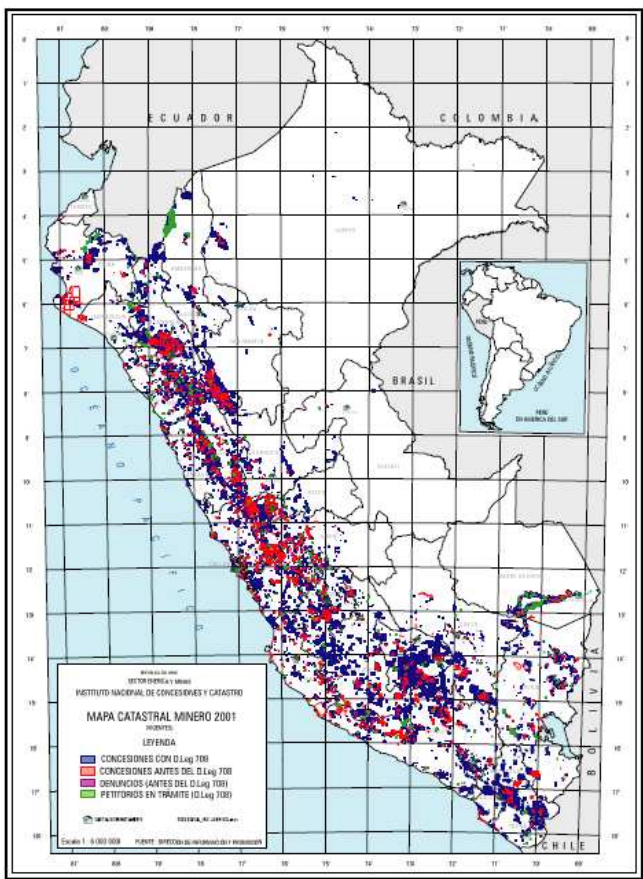
- The political dynamics of social protest and elite response around extractive industries
- Fiscal systems and human welfare in contexts characterized by a strong presence of extractive industries
- Resource conflicts between extractive enterprises and indigenous peoples

# Main stakeholders in the mining industry

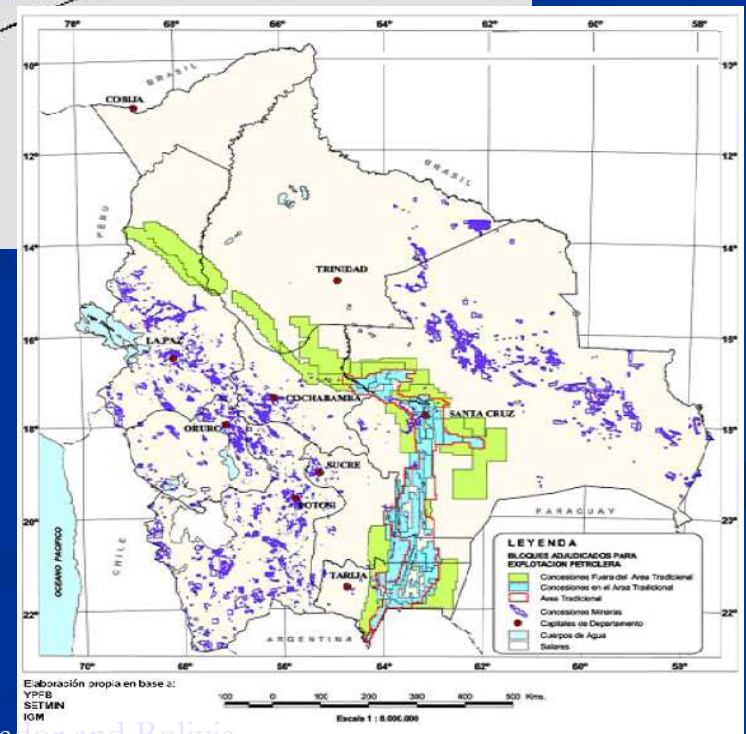
Main stakeholders in the mining industry



# The expansion of EI in the Andes



de los Sistemas de Información Minera



# The social protest





# What research can inform: Issues around the expansion of EI

## 1. Context and structure

- Expansion has happened in a context of neoliberal policies and prices boom
- Civil society groups articulate social movements against large-scale mining
- The strength of response (protest or support) depends on the country's EI history
- Mismatches in the linkages between political parties and social movements
- Structural factors underlying conflicts (land issues, HR and environmental characteristics)
- Dividing role of companies (cooption, discredit, criminalization)
- Governments' responses have been more pro-companies than pro-citizens

## 2. Governments' and Mining Companies' views on the expansion of EI

- Mineral resources not as “a curse” but “an endowment”
- Minerals play an important development role in MRCs (countercyclical funds, social policies, CSR)
- The solution to non-sustainability is technology.
- Almost everything can be compensated, negotiated, or bought

### (3) Communities' & CSO's views on the expansion of EI

- Environmental effects (water, land, biodiversity)
- Indigenous territories and local communities are affected by mineral development
- No rock science, but popular knowledge ... and understandings... and feelings

NB:

- > not unanimous responses (protest and adaptation happen at the same time)
- > Interplay between (neoliberal & post-neoliberal) reform, institutional change and social responses

## Towards elements for SE/SIA: basic elements

- Dilemmas and contradictions around EI expansion
- Companies overlook cultural aspects of water management.
- The history of state building counts for success
- Reproduction of the “resource curse” at local scale: controversies around decentralization of min. resources
- Efforts at institution building require better understanding of interactions between companies and communities
- Success of an EI-based strategy depends on how broad are the effects on growth and employment



## Towards elements for SE/SIA: the big picture

- Growth is not enough
- A need for impacts on poverty reduction
- State weaknesses can be exacerbated by EI expansion.
- Final impact of EIs is a matter of governance at both the national and the local levels

# Thanks

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