Why mining conflicts?

- Mining is widely regarded as an environmentally and socially disruptive activity
- Conflicts arise not only from physical impacts or distributional concerns, but also because of:
  - lack of recognition of rights
  - lack of recognition of communities as a legitimate partner
- Transformative politics?
  - Two cases: Mount Ida, Turkey and Intag, Ecuador

The case of Ida Mountain

- Gold explorations on the northern skirts of Mount Ida ongoing since the early 1990's; intensified since 2004 (MAP)
- Some projects at an advanced stage
- Agriculture of high value-added products: olives, vegetables and fruits; forestry; eco-tourism
- Resistance mobilized to put pressure on the government – call to stop explorations and not to give operation permits
14 companies; 7 of them subsidiaries of multinationals, held permits.

- 3 projects of Canadian joint-venture (Teck Cominco&Fronteer) at an advanced stage, most likely to proceed.

Mining and Domestic/National Strategic Interests

- Economic growth is a necessary step towards sustainable development
- The mining industry offer new opportunities for both local and national development, generating jobs and incomes
  - Increasing exports
  - Increasing government revenue
  - Prestige of large scale mining in the country
  - Attracting foreign direct investment

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF PROTEST

- Demonstrations and street protests
- Blockages in roads
- Creation of alternative reports and knowledge
- Science led activism
- Awareness campaigns
- Workshops and panels
- Judicial activism
- Local ordinance limiting/banning mines
- Hunger strikes
- Networking with international NGOs
- Community consultation or referendum
Common methods of pressure

- Arresting activists (La Colosa, San Xavier, Cerro Blanco);
- Assassination of activists (El Dorado, San Xavier, India Sand Mining);
- Intimidation of activists, threats (San Cristóbal, La Angostura, San Xavier, Cantelé, Adapte, Enquest);
- Kidnapping activists (El Dorado, Cerro Blanco);
- Raising community representatives; false accusations (Los Pelambres, Intag);
- Violent repression of the protests (India Sand Mining, Conga, Marín);
- Limiting public involvement (Mount Isa, Enquest);
- Sexual harassment (Marín);
- Torture (Conga, El Dorado).

Languages of opposition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position vs.-vs. mining</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Against</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National development</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local development</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why against?</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative impact on</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>source of income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative impact on</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>way of life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exploitation of</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative impact on</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>environmental quality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Threat to public health</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you accept any compensation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money compensation for income loss</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation to another place of respondent's choice</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National (private or public), ownership of the mine</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of the mining site</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary compensation in case of health damage</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Valley de Intag

- Provincia Imbabura
- Canton Cotacachi
- Valley de Intag: zona sub-tropical del canton

Copper Mining in Intag

- Early 1990s with Bishi Metals (Japan), then Ascendant Copper (Canada) in 2004-2008
- Direct action by community members to stop the mining activities
- Increased confrontations after the arrival of Ascendant copper: human rights violations, smear campaign against opposition leaders
- Alternative development projects, community forest and water protection schemes
- Pro-mining position of Correa: project reactivated (with possible involvement of CODELCO-Chile)

Valley de Intag: Socio-economic structure

- Border, disperse settlements
- Poor road infrastructure.
- Agriculture
- Forestry (legal and illegal)
- Alternative projects:
  - ecotourism,
  - handicraft production,
  - agro-ecology
Languages of opposition in Intag

- Autonomous social relations
- Being able to produce their own food
- Not facing the threat of living in misery
- Having control over their own time
- Not being at the mercy of the bosses
- Notion of dignity
- Close connection and mutual respect with the environment
- Importance of alternative imaginaries; alternative development projects

Key issues - Discussion

- Conflicts with an ‘economic’ or ‘technical’ focus;
  - room for monetary valuation / monetary compensation
- Conflicts of ‘non-technical’ and ‘non-monetary’ nature
  - more than purely technical considerations or monetary compensation

Key issues - Discussion

In mining conflicts, claims of communities are broad and diverse: distributional concerns, recognition of rights and participatory claims.

Strategic decision of the opposition movement and of decision-makers:

- Which dimension(s) of justice is more relevant in a particular case or at a particular time
- Whose liabilities? of what type?
- Are there damages already done?

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLAIMS

Demands of the global environmental justice movement are actually threefold:

(i) equity in the distribution of environmental burdens and risk,
(ii) recognition of the diversity of the participants and experiences in affected communities, and
(iii) participation in policy-making
(I) EQUITY IN DISTRIBUTION OF BURDENS AND RISKS

- Actual (short-medium term) or potential physical (or long-term) impacts
- Adverse health effects and risks related to air and water contamination, cyanide use and uranium extraction
- Water related problems: access to water, water pollution and water depletion

(II) DIMENSIONS OF RECOGNITION

- Fundamental rights – human rights
- Health related rights
- Rights to nature
- Rights to livelihood security
- Rights of nature and sacred pieces

(III) PARTICIPATION DIMENSION

- Problem with imposition of an external development model
- Lack of consultation of the communities; lack of involvement in decision making
- Lack of transparency in the projects
- Rights of the free, prior, informed consent

Right-based claims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension of recognition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental rights</td>
<td>Human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health-related rights</td>
<td>Access to healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights to nature</td>
<td>Right to clean water, clean air and ecosystem integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights to culture</td>
<td>Right to development, work and livelihood</td>
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<td>Right to consultation, information and participation</td>
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