

COLLECTIVE RIGHTS VIOLATED DURING THE PANDEMIC



PLATFORM REVEALS INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS BY INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA



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Peru: During the pandemic, 798 communities in Peru faced threats from extractive infrastructure projects



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This is a summary of findings from a platform tracking community rights violations across 6 countries in Latin America, from infrastructure and extractive projects during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The collective rights of 798 Indigenous and peasant communities in Peru were threatened by extractive and infrastructure projects during the pandemic. It is the largest number of communities to be affected by such projects across the region. Most of the communities are in the Amazonas, Huánuco and Loreto.

These findings were revealed by a digital platform tracking collective rights violated during the pandemic by active extractive and infrastructure projects' activities in six countries in Latin America. The platform is a free to access online tool developed by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and the Amazon Conservation Team.

Out of the 798 communities, 457 were threatened by infrastructure projects and 205 by mining. The rest were affected by projects in gas or oil (111); agribusiness (19); and forestry (6).

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Forty-two projects generated a multidimensional impact in communities in the regions of Loreto, Ucayali and Amazonas, violating a series of collective rights at the same time.

According to the platform, the rights that were most frequently violated include: the right to a healthy environment (26); to the collective domain of the territory (23); and to the defense of the ancestral land (21).

Other violated rights included the communities' right to determine their own development priorities (20); the rights to physical and moral integrity (16); to water (12); and to practice traditional livelihoods (8).

In addition, the projects also violated the communities' rights to free, prior and informed consent (13); to life (9); to freedom of speech (6); and freedom of assembly and association (4).

A multitude of social and environmental impacts

The projects had a series of serious social impacts on the communities, ranging from affecting their traditional livelihoods (22) to causing health problems (16) and affecting their water sources (13). It should be noted that 69% of health problems in Peru have been caused by mining activities.

Community rights defenders frequently faced attacks from industrial and government actors as well while defending their territories. The most frequent attacks were invasion of collective territory (19); physical aggression (13) and stigmatization (12).

On the other hand, the most common types of environmental impacts on the communities were contamination of water (22); soil (22); and biodiversity (22).

Through an interactive map of Peru and easy-to-understand statistical tables, the platform allows users to explore all 42 projects examined in this country. Three projects stand out for committing serious violations of community rights: Las Bambas mining project, the Norperuano de Loreto pipeline and the Amazon Waterway.



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The Amazon Waterway has made 14 Indigenous Peoples of the Peruvian Amazon wait for three years for a prior consultation that will allow them to decide on the future of a project that could change their lives. The project, which is promoted by the Government and seeks to allow the navigation of larger vessels to facilitate river transport and trade in the Amazon, will affect about 400 communities in Loreto.

It is to be noted that due to oil extraction activities in Block 192, 27 Indigenous communities in Loreto have already faced environmental and social impacts from oil spills and the rationing of water and energy.

The greatest concern about the Amazon Waterway, which has not yet begun construction, is the dredging of the rivers that would involve removing arsenic and nickel as well as residues in areas from oil shipments.

There has been little research to show how dredging will affect the dynamics of rivers, fish and other related ecosystems.

"Although the project has not been started yet, it is still in force," says Apu Berlin Diques, president of the Aidesep Ucayali Regional Organization (ORAU).

The Indigenous leader hopes that the project will not go forward, and that the Government will take Indigenous Peoples into account in deciding its future development plans.

"We deserve to be part of any development plan for the country and want the current government to ensure the full participation of Indigenous Peoples through their representative organizations," he added.

For more information, visit the [Collective Rights Violated During the Pandemic](#) platform. The platform presents information on projects linked to conflicts with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and Afro-descendant Peoples in six countries: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. It offers a comprehensive regional overview using interactive graphics and statistics tracking the impacts of the mining, hydrocarbon, forestry, agribusiness, and infrastructure sectors in these countries.

