

Predatory mining in the Atrato



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Predatory mining is a type of gold or mineral extraction that causes serious harm to people, communities, and the environment.

This is common in some regions of Colombia, such as Chocó and the lower Cauca of Antioquia. The armed groups use threats of violence to remove communities from their homes and have caused mass displacements in regions like Chocó.

It is big business for criminal networks because of weak laws and limited state control in these areas. Criminal networks find ways to 'legalise' selling the gold using false documents and fake companies. The extracted gold is sold locally then makes its way to big cities like Medellín and Bogotá before being exported internationally.

SIEMBRA is one of SCIAF's partners in this region who are taking on the issue of predatory mining.



Spanish	English
oro	gold
minería depredadora / ilegal	predatory/illegal mining
ogrupos armados	armed groups
redes criminales	criminal networks
destrucción ambiental	environmental destruction
daños ambientales	environmental damage
la cuenca del río	the river basin
contaminación del agua	water contamination
contaminación por mercurio	mercury contamination
afectadas por la minería	affected by mining
sostenibilidad	sustainability
conflictos sociales	conflict
tierras indígenas	indigenous lands
capturas masivas	mass arrests
procesos penales	criminal proceedings
el primer eslabón de la cadena	the first link in the chain
actores	actors (as in anyone who plays a role in the mining system i.e. illegal miners, investors, armed groups)
inversionistas que operan bajo la sombra	investors operating in the shadows
empresas fachada	illegal fake/shell companies
los pequeños mineros	small-scale miners
justicia ambiental	environmental justice
¿Quién se quiere hacer millonario con la minería depredadora?	Who wants to become a millionaire with predatory mining?
La respuesta correcta es...	The correct answer is...
¿Por qué es un problema?	Why is it a problem?
RUCOM (Registro Único de Comercializadores de Minerales)	Single Registry of Mineral Traders
¿cómo crees que se debería contrarrestar la minería depredadora en esta región?	How do you think predatory mining should be stopped in the area?
...los actores que intervienen (mineros ilegales, inversionistas, funcionarios corruptos, entre otros.)	...the actors involved (illegal miners, investors, corrupt officials, among others).
...casos de corrupción en torno a la minería ilegal	...corruption cases around illegal mining
Entonces, ¿es posible pensar que hay complicidad entre el Estado y la minería depredadora?	So, is it possible to think that the state is complicit in allowing predatory mining?

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

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