

Community and NGO stakeholders in mineral-rich rural environments: Why is so complicated to make real corporate social responsibility?, by Hinojosa-Valencia, Leonith

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ABSTRACT

Community and NGO stakeholders in mineral-rich rural environments: Why is so complicated to make real corporate social responsibility?

This paper aims to make a contribution at understanding the relationships between civil society stakeholders and corporations from the mining industry. Based on the study of three Andean countries (Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador), the paper argues that, in the contemporary context of expansion of extractive industries, conflicts over the countryside respond to the ways in which civil society actors challenge that expansion. In their struggles with corporations – and with governments too – community stakeholders interact with NGOs and try to change the terms of national and local debate about sustainability and social justice in the rural area. However, establishing the basis for social justice – and therefore rural citizenship – is in part constrained by overspread poverty in mineral-rich areas of low-income countries, which affects rural communities' negotiation capacities. On the other hand, it is also limited by the different notion that each stakeholder (rural community organizations, urban groups, NGOs, corporations and government in its several layers) has of the role the rural area should play in a national development strategy.

This paper presents research findings of the “Conflict, territory and development in the Andes” research program, hosted by the University of Manchester and developed since 2007. Research methods combine case studies and quantitative spatial analysis. The paper gives insights on how sustainability impact assessment methods matter for producing accountability towards stakeholders. It also derives policy implications in terms of social protection both for the corporate sector and governments.