

Catchment Management and Mining Impacts in Arid and Semi-Arid South America

Project Brief 4



Stakeholder Participation at Catchment and National Level – Chile

Introduction

The CAMINAR Project is an initiative co-funded by the European Commission within the 6th Framework Programme. CAMINAR aims to contribute to the establishment of policy options, management strategies and technologies for the sustainable management of ecosystems in river-basins of arid and semi-arid South America which are subject to impacts from mining. Pilot basins have been selected in Bolivia, Perú, and Chile. In the Chilean case, the considered catchment is the Elqui river basin.

Stakeholder Participation

One of the objectives of CAMINAR is to establish forums of dialogue on water management and mining impacts in arid and semi-arid catchments in each participating country, both at catchment and national level.



At catchment level, the aim is to develop a consensual management plan for the basin. At national level, more general aspects such as legislation and policies on the environment and mining are discussed. Stakeholders at both levels include governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and mining companies.

Elqui River Meetings

At catchment level, several discussion forums have been created by Governmental Services in order to treat and discuss water resources issues, such as the water round table (Mesa Regional del Agua), supported by the DGA (Chilean Water Authority), and the Drought commission, supported by the Agricultural Secretary of the Coquimbo Region.

Thus, CAMINAR has coordinated its actions with these activities, in particular with the DGA supported Mesa Regional del Agua, executed by CAZALAC. The objective was to create synergy effects amongst all these initiatives, and to include the issue of water resources in arid zones with mining activities into the discussion.

First Elqui River Working Group Meeting

It was carried out on July 13, 2007, at La Serena University. The CAMINAR project and its objectives were introduced, a review of the pre-existing information about the Elqui Catchment was exposed, and the institutions and organizations involved in integrated catchment management were presented.



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Stakeholder Participation at Catchment and National Level – Chile (cont.)

Elqui River Meetings (cont.)

Second Elqui River Working Group Meeting

Representatives of all the institutions working on the CAMINAR project attended this meeting, carried out on November 6, 2007. The results obtained up to that date in the different tasks of CAMINAR were presented to the stakeholders, and an introduction was given about the Decision Support System for the Elqui catchment that is being developed by the project.



Third Elqui River Working Group Meeting

Held on August 29, and entitled "Participation and planning for water resources protection", its objective was to inform about the results obtained in the Elqui case study during 2008. Issues covered were citizen involvement and participation opportunities in the basin, and closure plans and abandoned mines.



National Meetings

First National Meeting

Held in Santiago on September 25, 2007, it included the participation of several institutions from universities, governmental services, and the private sector. Its objective was to identify key issues and aspects to be considered in order to progress towards a better management of water and natural resources in arid zones with mining activities.



Second National Meeting

Held in Santiago on November 10, 2008, some of the results achieved within the Project were presented, and the Guidelines for Water Management in Arid and Semi-arid Zones with Mining, currently under development, were discussed. Finally, the recently created Water Round Table (Mesa del Agua) of the Coquimbo Region was introduced.



More information:

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