ACA Peru Mining News Watch
Report #9
July 18 – August 12, 2014

Top Stories
- New SPDA report presents detailed information about status of formalization process in Madre de Dios. Most notably, of the 5,500 miners that started the process, none have yet to finish the process and be legalized.
- In Independence Day address to the nation, President Humala stressed that illegal mining has been reduced 70% in Madre de Dios.
- Government set to intensify its permanent presence in Madre de Dios with the installation of a major police base and numerous fuel/mercury checkpoints.

Formalization Process
- The Peruvian environmental organization SPDA recently published a report detailing the history and current scenario of illegal mining policy in Madre de Dios. Notably, it provides new data specific to Madre de Dios regarding the progress for each of the six steps that make the official formalization process that began in 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Declaration of commitment</td>
<td>Submit document stating mining is occurring in a legal zone.</td>
<td>5,500 submitted 4,893 recognized as valid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ownership of mining concession or agreement with concessionaire</td>
<td>Present documentation proving ownership of concession or formal agreement with concessionaire</td>
<td>1,827 accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Entitlement to use of the land</td>
<td>Submit documentation proving concession does not overlap with other concessions such as agriculture or forestry.</td>
<td>1,116 overlap other concessions 711 on state land 0 appear resolved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Authorization of water use</td>
<td>Follows the same procedure as step 5.</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Environmental Management Corrective Instrument (IGAC)</td>
<td>Submit IGAC with details on measures to prevent, control, and remediate negative environmental impacts.</td>
<td>278 IGACs evaluated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Authorization to begin mining activity</td>
<td>Successful completion of steps 1-5.</td>
<td>0 authorized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- As shown in the table, of the 5,500 miners that started the process, none have yet to finish the process and be legalized. The main obstacles are steps 2 and 3, largely because there are no clear procedures established for the miners to resolve conflicts with mining concessions (step 2) and other overlapping land rights (step 3).
- Across all of Peru, only five miners have successfully completed the formalization process, all in Puno department. This number will likely slightly increase soon since 22 IGACs have been approved.
• There has been little additional news lately about the formalization process, but this will likely change in October. Recall that the post-formalization process, known as saneamiento, began on April 20. Starting on this date, the government has 120 working days, or until October 7 according to our calculations, to approve reforms to the flawed formalization process.

**Illegal Mining Raids**

• In his Peruvian Independence Day (July 28) address to the nation, President Ollanta Humala stressed that illegal mining has been reduced 70% in Madre de Dios. It was one of the only references to environmental issues in the entire speech.

• There was another major raid involving 500 police officers in the La Pampa zone of Madre de Dios, an illegal mining hotspot within the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve. There was a similar raid in the same area last month, but some of the miners returned. According to authorities, of the 30,000 illegal miners that started the year in Madre de Dios, only 500 remain.

• The government is set to intensify its permanent presence in Madre de Dios with the installation of a 300-man police base in Mazuko. The officers will patrol on a daily basis areas previously cleared by the raids to ensure illegal miners do not return. In addition, the government will also establish seven checkpoints along the Interoceanic highway in Madre de Dios to control the flow of fuel (and mercury?).

We would like to credit ProNaturaleza’s “**Observatorio Amazonia**” as our primary resource for articles related to illegal mining in Peru.

**ACA contact for Comments/Questions:** Rachel Tennant rtennant@amazonconservation.org

**References:**

1. [http://www.actualidadambiental.pe/?p=24003](http://www.actualidadambiental.pe/?p=24003)