Top Stories

- October 9, 2014 is the new official deadline for small-scale miners to complete several steps of the formalization process.
- A 300-man police base opened in Madre de Dios in an effort to intensify the government’s crackdown on illegal mining in the region.
- The Washington Post featured a front page article about the illegal mining crisis in Madre de Dios

Formalization Process

- The Ministry of Energy and Mines declared that in order for illegal miners to continue the formalization process, they have until October 9, 2014 to a) enter into the Register of Taxpayers (RUC), b) present authorization to operate within mining concession, c) present authorization of land use, and d) submit an Environmental Management Corrective Instrument (IGAC). This deadline marks 120 working days since the original April 19, 2014 formalization deadline.
- To date, only five small-scale mining companies have successfully completed the formalization process, all of which are in the department of Puno. None have yet to be formalized in Madre de Dios.

Illegal Mining Raids

- Minister of the Interior Daniel Urresti opened a 300-man police base in Mazuco to increase the government’s presence and raid capabilities in Madre de Dios. The base has a large quantity of vehicles, including 50 motorcycles, which are especially important because they can be used to deploy 100 officers simultaneously to remote areas of the jungle that are inaccessible by other vehicles.
- Two of the seven eventual checkpoints to control the flow of fuel into Madre de Dios have been built.
- The Washington Post featured a front page article on August 18 about the illegal mining crisis in Madre de Dios. The article focused mainly on the raids component, and only briefly mentions the formalization process at the end.
- There was another major raid in Madre de Dios, this time along the Madre de Dios River on August 23.
- The High Commissioner of Mining Formalization and Interdiction of Illegal Mining, Augusto Soto, stated that there will be at least 20 more illegal mining raids nation-wide by December. He emphasized that action against illegal mining in Madre de Dios will continue until it is eliminated.
- In the north, Peru and Colombia are coordinating their efforts to combat illegal mining along their common border in areas such as the Putumayo and Amazon Rivers.
**Other**

- Under the direction of the Minister of the Interior Daniel Urresti, the National Police of Peru is conducting background checks on the candidates running for regional or municipal office in the October elections in order to release a public list of those candidates that are linked to illegal mining.\(^{11,12}\)

- Due to the rise in illegal mining, Madre de Dios has become the epicenter of environmental crimes in Peru. Currently, there are 2,868 environmental crime cases under investigation in the region, 317 of which must go to the Supreme Court. There is only one prosecutor in the region to handle all of the cases.\(^{13}\)

- Illegal mining was responsible for $3.4 billion in money laundering between January 2007 and June 2014, according to a study at the First International Seminar on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Mining Sector. This number reflects tax evasion, unrecorded gold production, and human trafficking, and is larger than the amount of money laundering related to drug trafficking.\(^{14,15}\)

- The Ministry of Energy and Mines estimated that gold production will fall by 20% this year and continue declining until 2016, due to the shorter life of large mines and the government’s raids on informal miners.\(^{16}\)

Notes: The ACA Mining News Watch focuses mostly on issues pertaining to the Peruvian Amazon and may not cover issues related to non-Amazonian parts of the country. We would like to credit ProNaturaleza’s “Observatorio Amazonia” as our primary resource for articles related to illegal mining in Peru.

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**References:**