



# OECD Mining Regions: building a network to enhance productivity and well-being

5th and 6th October 2017  
Antofagasta - Chile

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Universidad Católica del Norte

# Natural resource management and working with communities – the view from the OECD



## The challenge

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- Mining and extractive activities generate environmental impacts and externalities- impacts on local air and water quality, and competition between different sectors for the use of water (residents and agricultural producers)
- For some mining regions past mining and extractive activities have left legacy costs which are costly to ameliorate and can contribute to long term public health issues
- Traditional settlement or reservation areas, within which indigenous communities have defined rights, result in different forms of engagement, regulatory approval, and social license for mining operations
- **Policy challenge** = how to effectively engage with communities to mitigate the local environmental impacts of mining and extractive activities, and achieve “social license to operate”



# Indigenous communities and mining

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- The **reproduction of indigenous livelihoods, languages and culture** is often tied to particular **uses of land and water resources**
- Recognised in **international treaties and declarations** – legal frameworks vary between countries - indigenous people can be owners or designated users of land, there may also be uncertainty about land tenure and use
- Importance of **developing frameworks and practices** that allow for informed decision-making, negotiation about benefits that empower indigenous communities, and flexibility and transparency in process and outcomes
- For example, **Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Australia** facilitate agreement regarding native title matters and provide certainty for development proponents



# Corporate social responsibility

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- Integration of **social and environmental concerns** into business operations and interactions with their stakeholders
- **Complementary (not a substitute)** to regulatory frameworks, public investment and services
- Includes strategies such as implementing **capacity building and training** projects in partnership with local communities, and incorporating **social criteria into investment and procurement policies**
- **Integration between CSR and regional development policies** potentially an important part of future work on this topic



# Policy implications

Key issues	Potential action areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addressing environmental risks and externalities (water, soil, air and noise pollution)</li><li>• Managing competition/conflicts between mining and other land/water users</li><li>• Seeking consent and negotiating with indigenous communities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategic land use and infrastructure planning</li><li>• Environmental management frameworks at a sub-national level</li><li>• Data and monitoring arrangements related to land and natural resources at a sub-national level</li><li>• Social license and working with communities</li><li>• Linking corporate social responsibility with local and regional development strategies</li></ul>





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