

Presentation CATAPA

CATAPA 'Comité Académico Técnico de Asesoramiento a Problemas Ambientales', is a social and environmental movement, created in 2005, working from an integrated approach around (other) globalization and sustainable development. We focus on the problems caused by modern open pit mining (ecological disasters, human rights violations, etc.) in Latin America. Specifically, we support local communities threatened by mining multinationals in Guatemala, Peru and Bolivia.

We do this in practice by raising awareness and advocacy in the North, technical and legal support of the local communities in the South and by providing alternatives to North and South for responsible extraction, production and consumption of metals and minerals.

CATAPA has two goals:

1. conflict mediation and facilitation for local communities in Latin America affected by mining activities.
2. social mobilization and raising awareness in Flanders on issues of globalization and development in Latin America.

Operation of CATAPA in Peru

The Working Group of Peru of CATAPA support local communities in northern Peru in cooperation with a local NGO VIMA 'Vicaría del Medio Ambiente'. The Working Group of Peru focus on the internationalization of awareness and lobbying against the planned mining district in the north of Peru, the Río Blanco project of Monterrico Metals. With the Río Blanco project the business wants to open one of the largest open pit mines of Peru in an environmentally very sensitive area which will make agriculture impossible in a very large area, so many communities will no longer be able to provide their livelihood.

The Working Group of Peru is following the developments in Peru on foot and is in close communication with the partner(s). Volunteers are sent to Peru, speakerstours to Europe with representatives of the partners are set up, etc.

Volunteers Marijke Deleu and Thomas Quirynen in Peru

Marijke and Thomas had as mission the development and documentation of the international part of the operation of VIMA and its partners on the mining issue. This means among other the systematizing of the questions and needs of the local communities and the provision of objective information to CATAPA so CATAPA could develop in an informed manner his operation in Peru.

