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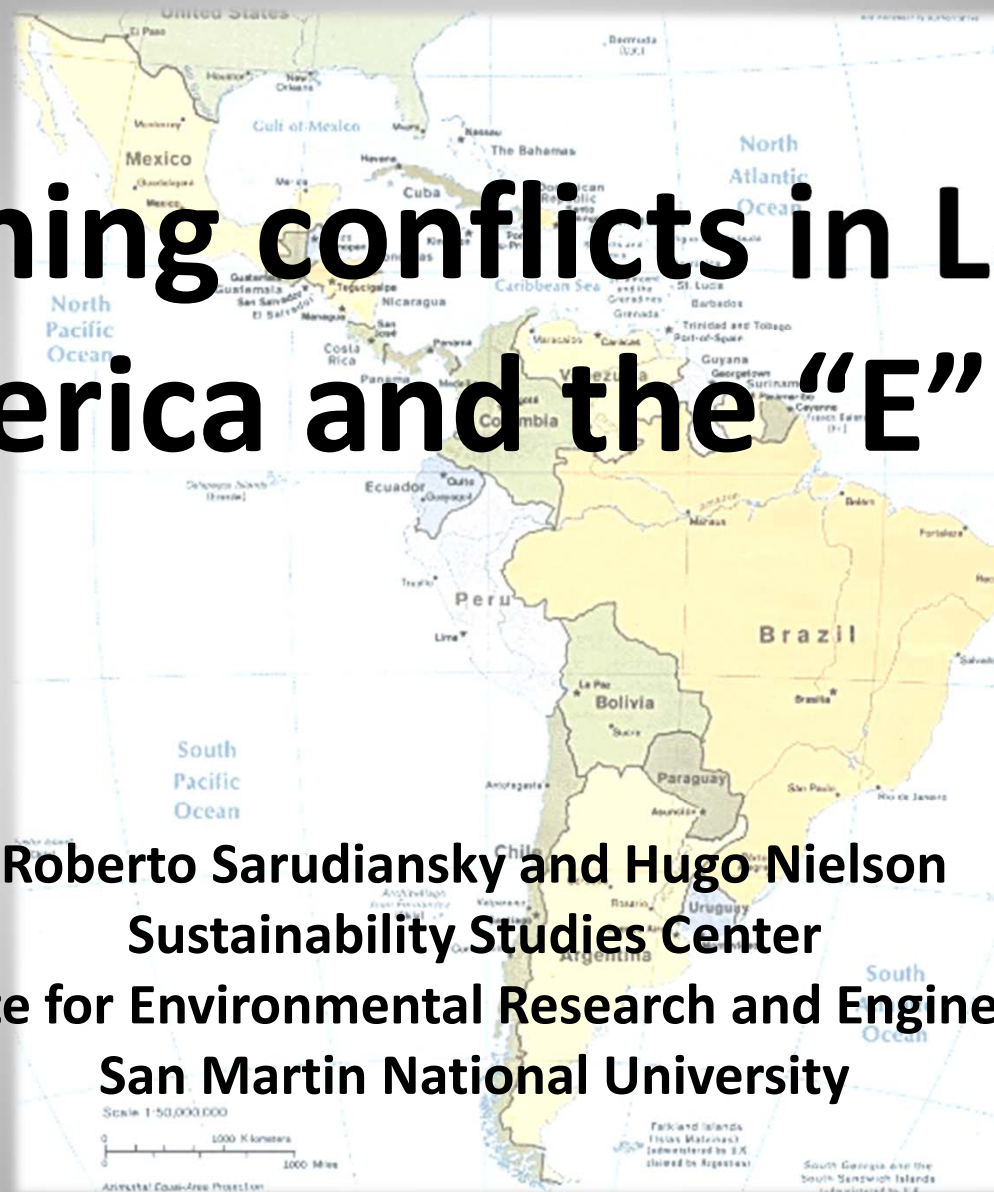
# Mining conflicts in Latin America and the “E” axis

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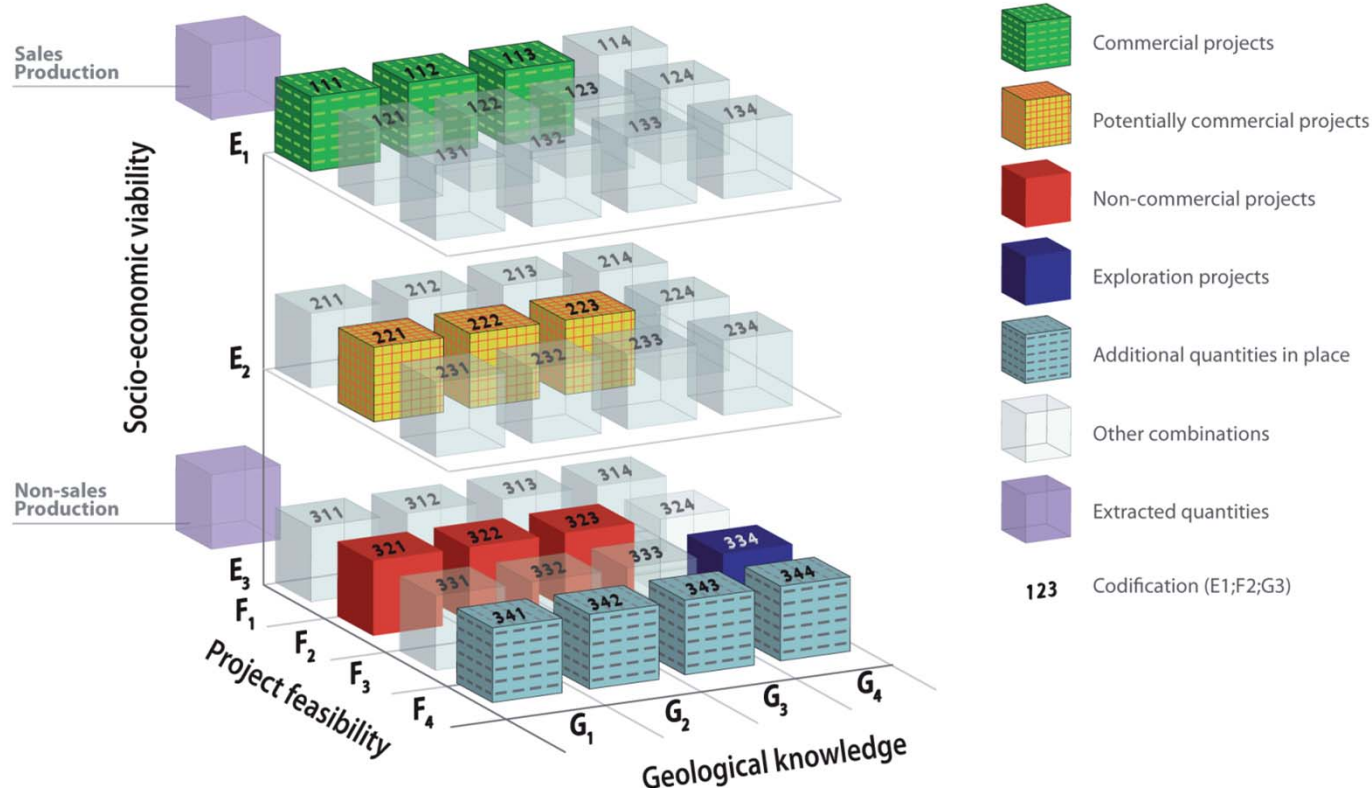


*Interregional IAEA-CYTED-UNECE Workshop on Recent Developments in Evaluation of Uranium and Thorium Resources  
Lisbon, Portugal, 15-18 October 2012*

# UNFC – CLASSIFICATION



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# HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF MINING



- Pre-columbian mining
- Mining during the colonial period
- Mining in the XIXth. Century
- Mining in the XXth. Century
- Mining after the 90s'

# MINING IN LATIN AMERICA



- 15% of the Earth's land surface
- 9% of the world's population
- 8.7% of the GDP
- The region is the world leader in the production of silver, copper, rhenium, nitrates, lithium, iodine and other minerals
- Investments in mining exploration in 2011: US\$ 4,500 million (25% of the global mineral exploration)
- Investments estimation for the development of mining projects during this decade: US\$ 300,000,000,000

# Advert against mining

*Interregional IAEA-CYTED-UNECE Workshop on Recent Developments in Evaluation of Uranium and Thorium Resources*  
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# CONFLICT

- Combat,
- Struggle
- Fight
- Contest
- Hard to solve situation
- Problem, issue
- Disagreement or argument.

# CONFLICTS

- Conflicts are the normal result of human interaction
- They may be constructive as a social change engine
- Their solution should not imply an effort to suppress them but an effort to focus such conflict energy through constructive channels

# CLASSIFICATION OF CONFLICTS



- Social
- Cultural
- Environmental
- Economic
- Labor
- Governability
- Territorial

# CLASSIFICATION OF CONFLICTS



- **Social-Environmental Conflict:** when two or more interdepending stakeholders do not agree on the distribution of certain material or symbolic elements related to control, use and access of natural resources and act based on such perceived incompatibilities.
- **Mining Conflict:** a sub-type of a social-environmental conflict which presents a disagreement over the valuation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of mining activities, and a consequential confrontation among involved players.

# STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN MINING CONFLICTS



- The Government
- Mining Companies
- Communities and indigenous peoples
- Non-Government Organizations
- Academic institutions and professional education centers.
- National and international development and cooperation agencies
- Communication media
- Suppliers of goods and services
- Consumers
- Corporate and professional trade unions
- Military, religious, cultural organizations

# ORIGIN OF CONFLICTS

- Lack of knowledge of rules, policies and procedures
- Lack of knowledge of local cultures, customs and traditions
- Distribution and use of water
- Lack of information and/or of knowledge on projects in direct and indirect influence areas
- Impacts on health
- Competition among the different production activities in a region
- Unsatisfied expectations or unfulfilled promises with regard to the generation and distribution of jobs and other benefits by mining companies to groups of interest

## ORIGIN OF CONFLICTS

- Temporary mass migrations, urban expansion, cultural penetration in indigenous and other communities
- Inflation and scarce demand for local and regional goods and services
- Weak presence or lack of government institutions in control and/o provision of basic social services
- Opposition of original communities or peoples to the development of mining operations
- Resistance to land displacement, relocation and negotiation

# PREVENTION OF MINING CONFLICTS



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- Prevention of conflicts comprises a set of attitudes and actions which allow an adequate relation among the different stakeholders involved in mining activities, during the different cycle phases, from prospection to mine closure
- The intent is to establish trustworthy, credible and respectful relations with the environment and among the different stakeholders
- Prevention of conflicts allows building consensus and good relations among all groups of interest, based on respect and transparent communication

# CONFLICTS IN LATIN AMERICA



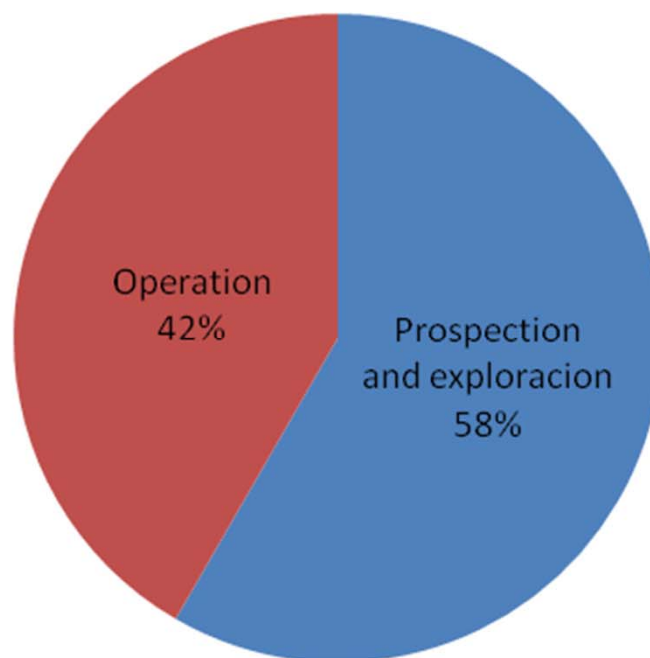
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Argentina	25
Bolivia	6
Brazil	19
Chile	23
Colombia	16
Costa Rica	3
Ecuador	5
El Salvador	2
Guatemala	3
Honduras	3
Mexico	15
Nicaragua	2
Panama	5
Peru	24
Dominican Rep.	3
Trinidad & Tobago	1
Uruguay	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>

Source: OCMAL

# CONFLICT DISTRIBUTION



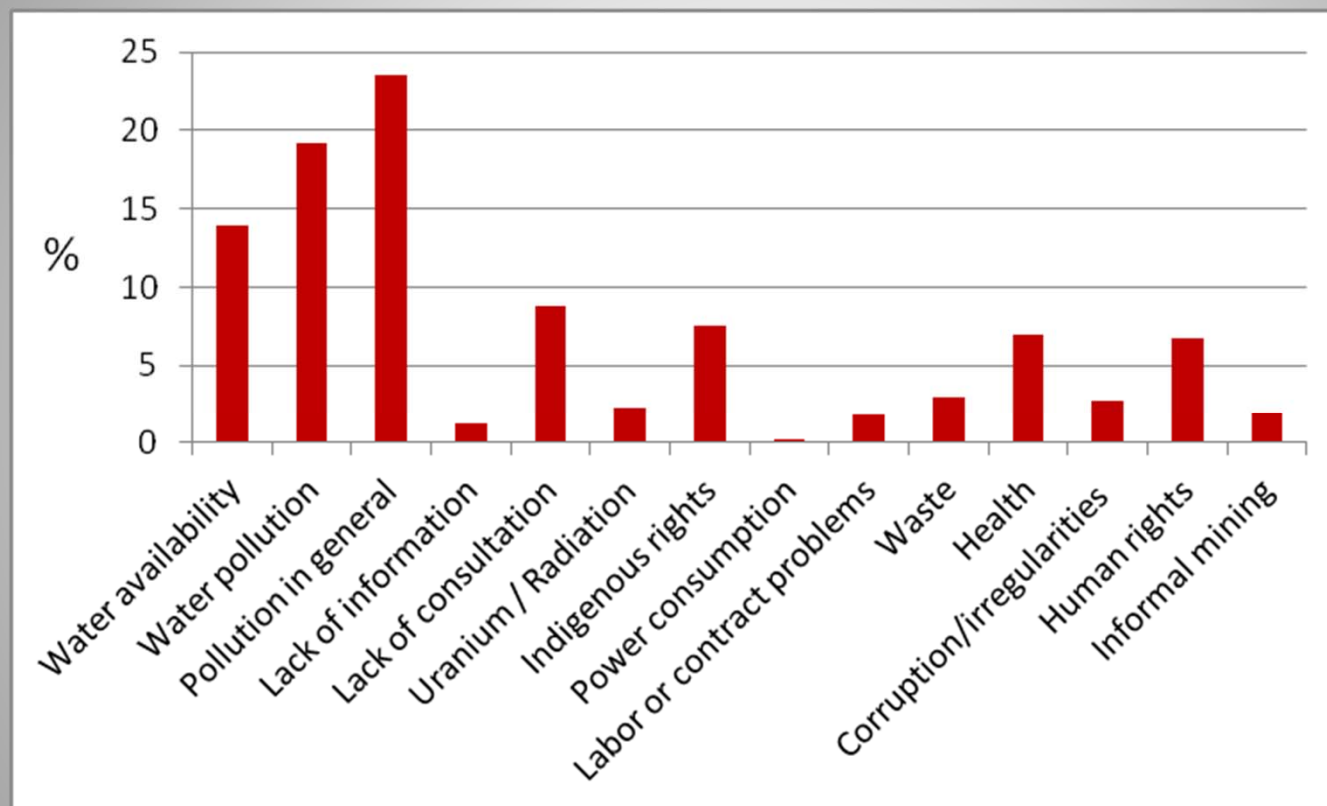
# CAUSES OF ANALYZED CONFLICTS

- Water availability
- Water pollution
- Pollution in general
- Lack of information
- Lack of consultation
- Uranium / Radiation
- Indigenous rights
- Power consumption
- Labor or contract problems
- Waste
- Health
- Corruption/irregularities
- Human rights
- Informal mining

# CAUSES: LATIN AMERICAN OVERVIEW

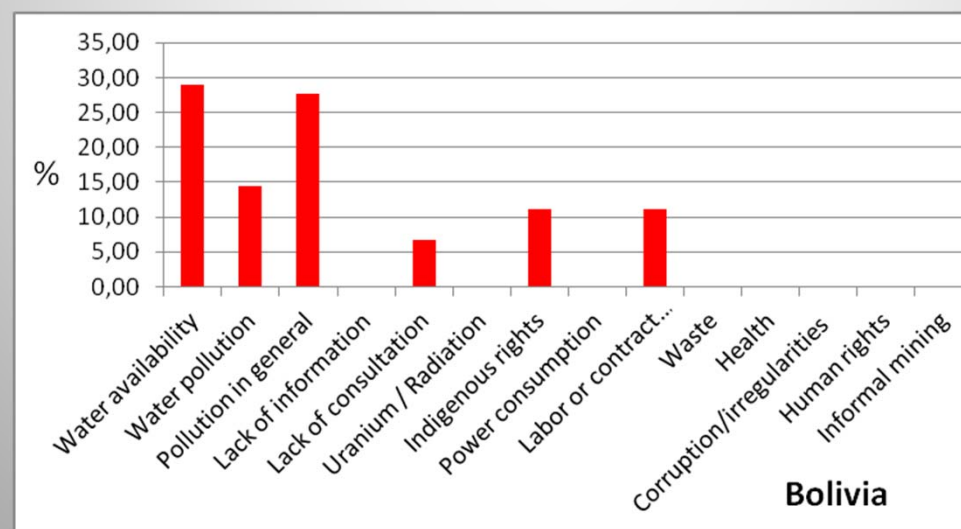
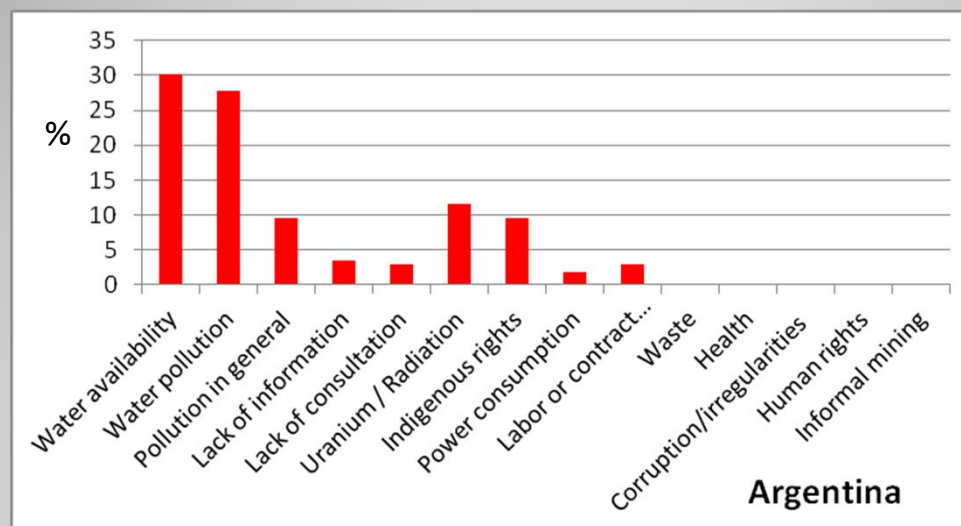


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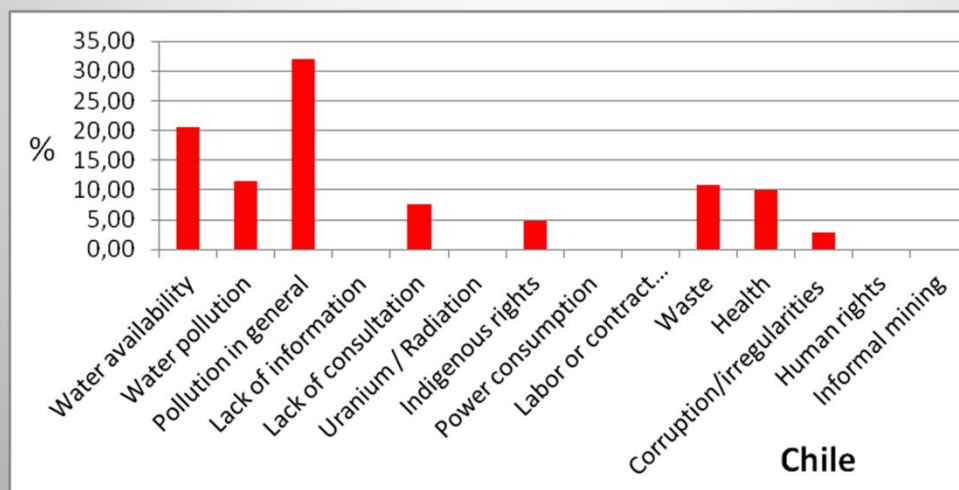
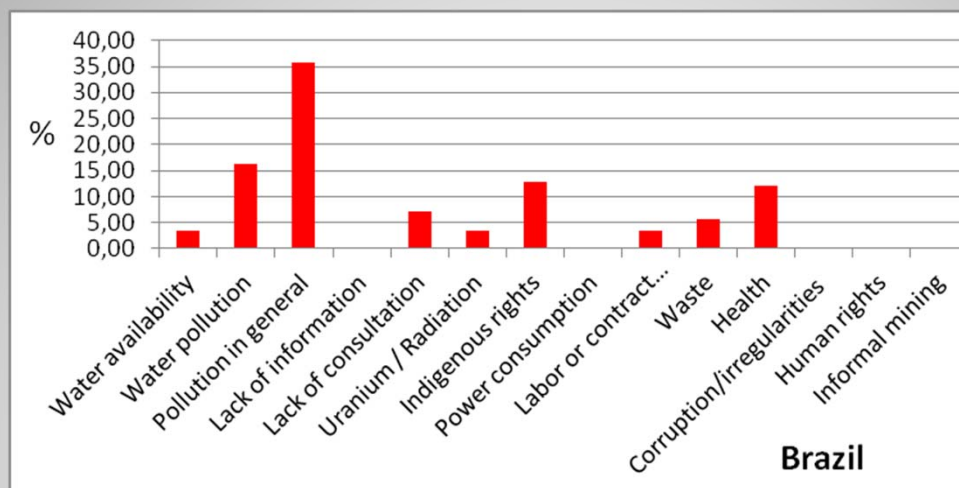
# CAUSES: COUNTRY ANALYSIS





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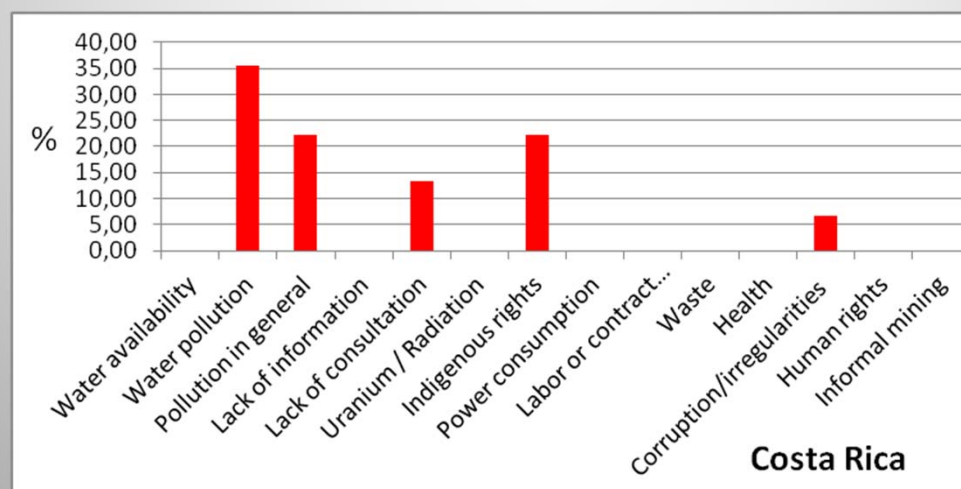
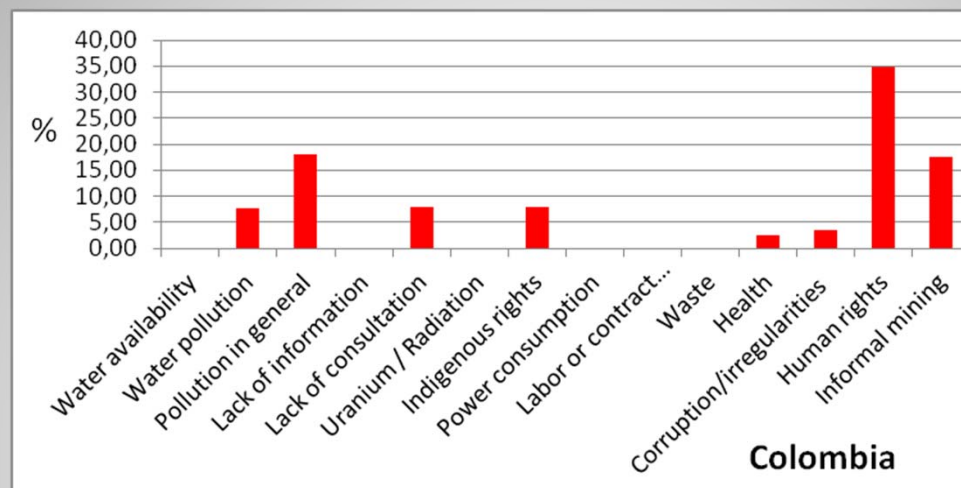
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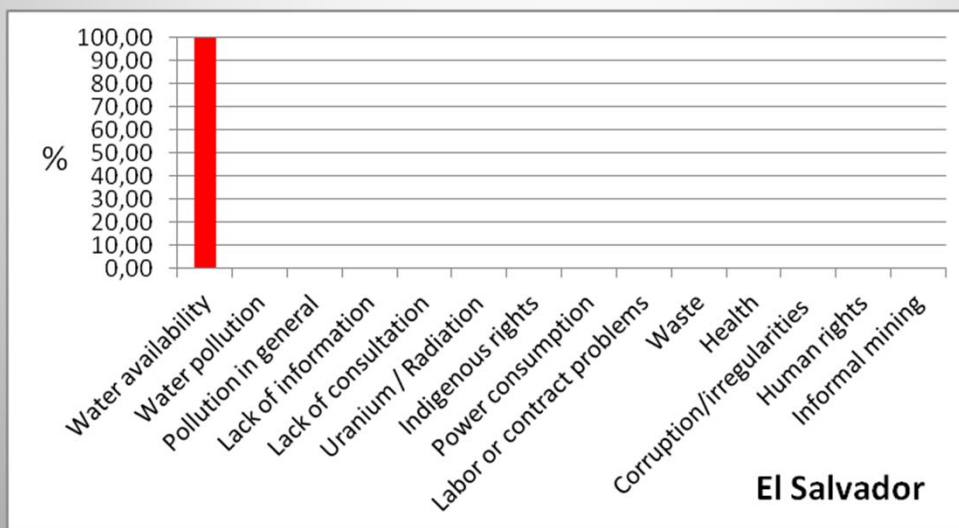
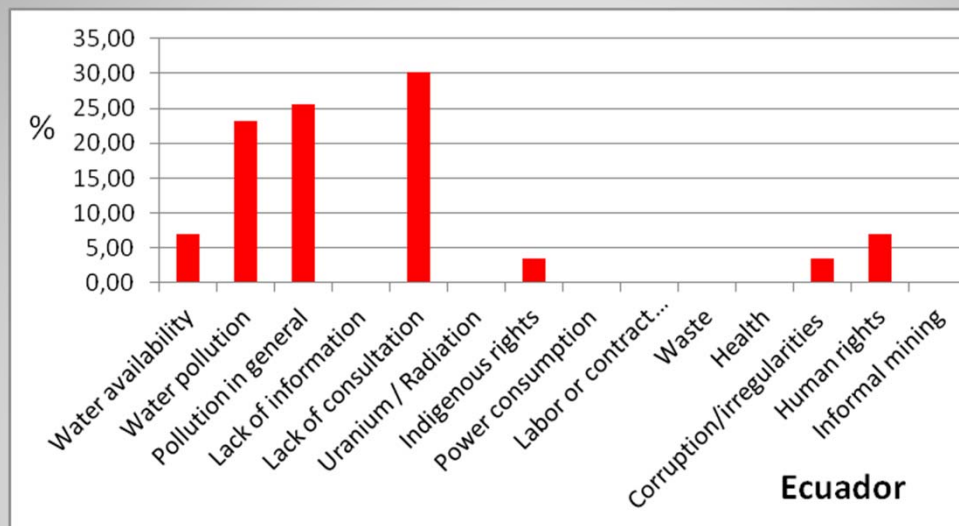
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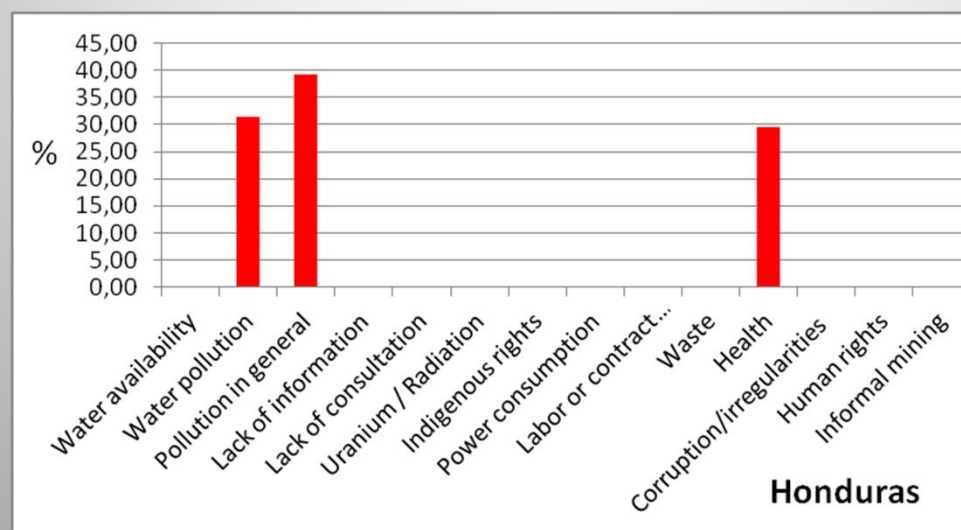
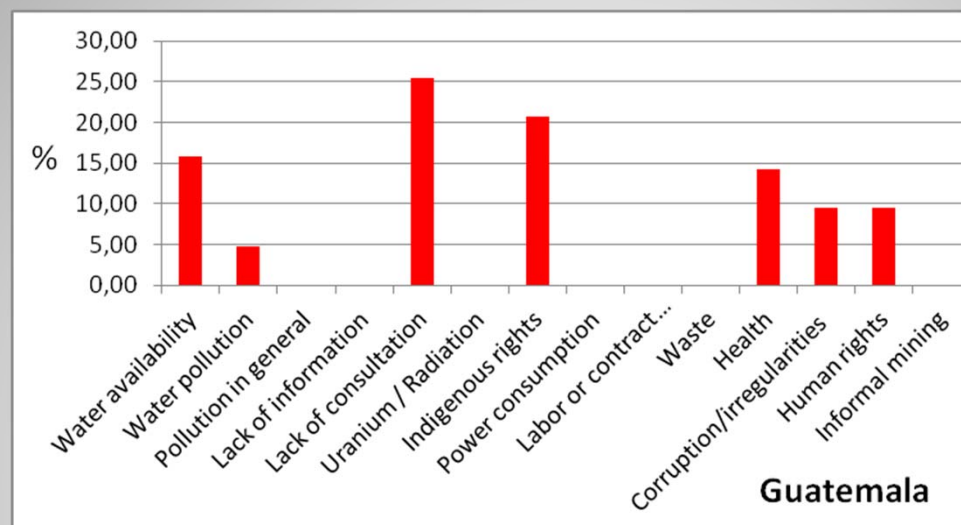
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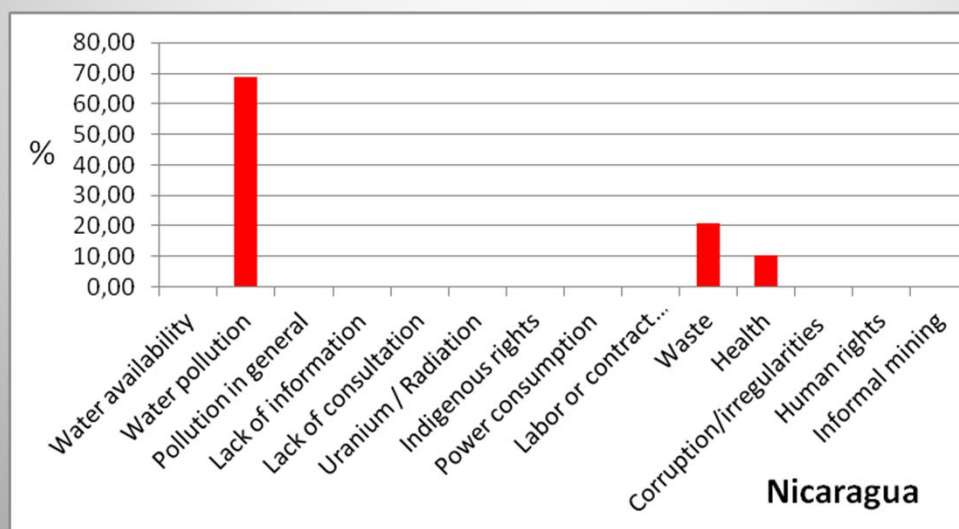
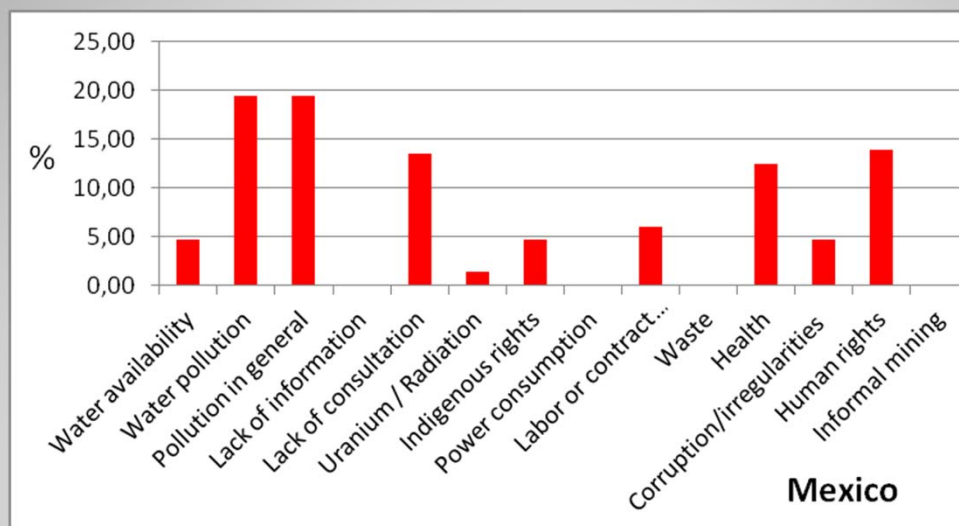
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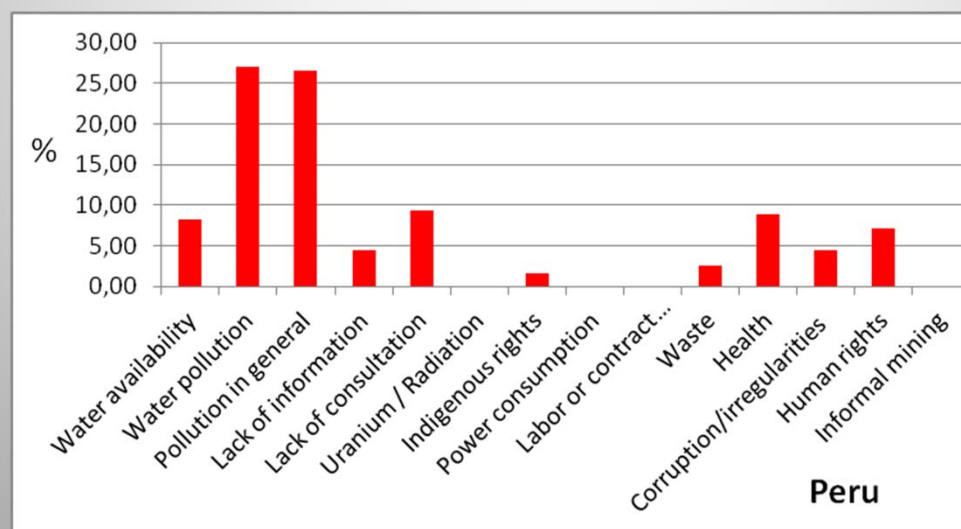
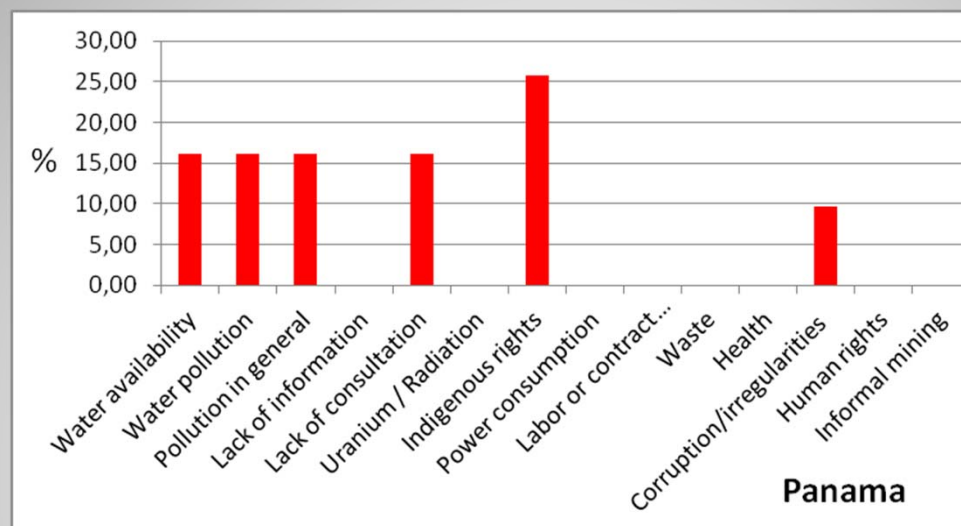
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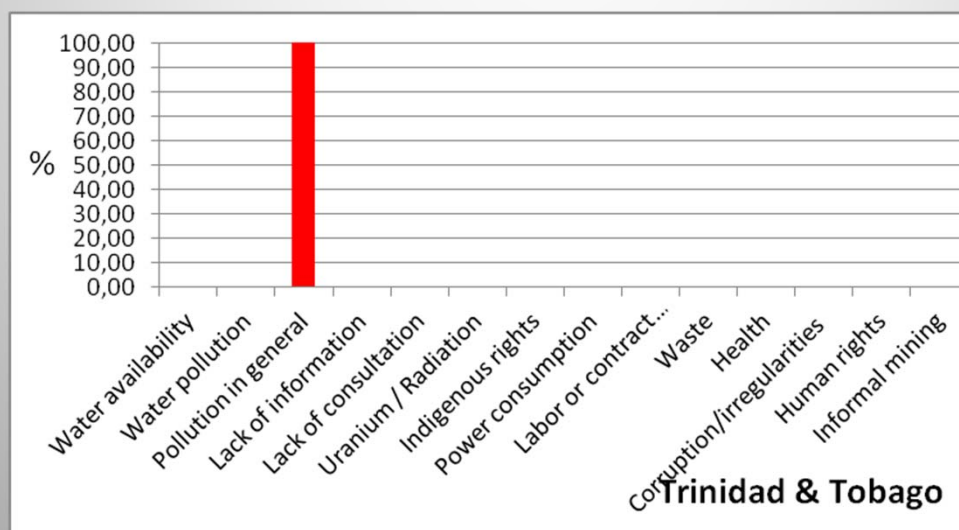
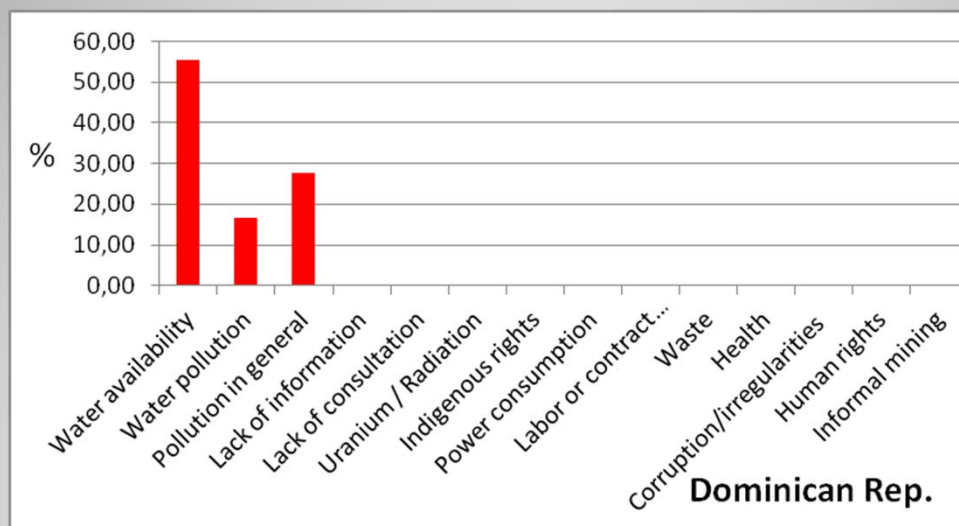
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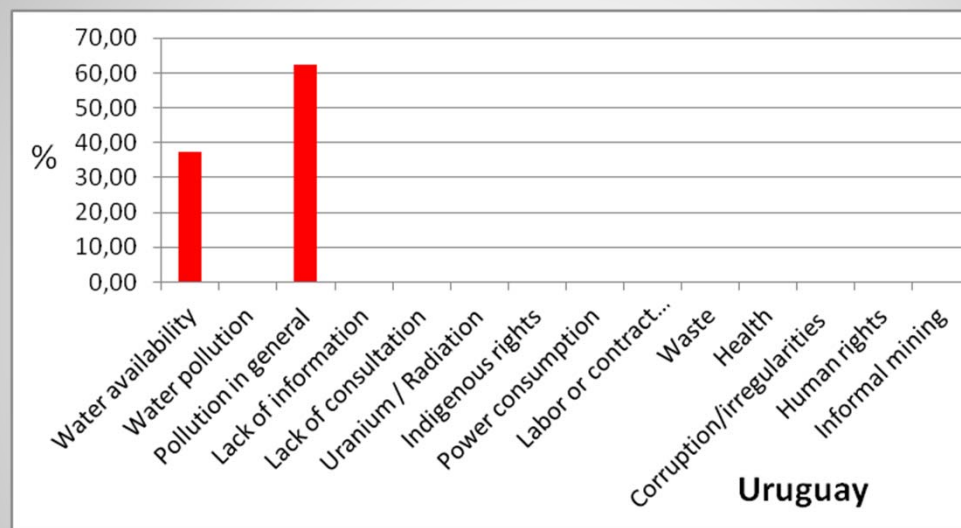


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# CAUSES: COUNTRY ANALYSIS



# CAUSES: COUNTRY ANALYSIS



# COMMUNITY VIEW: MAIN DAMAGES CAUSED BY MINING ACTIVITIES



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Pollution in general	29 %
Environmental destruction/damage	6 %
Water pollution	18 %
Excessive use of water	7 %
Health deterioration of people and workers	8 %
Shortage of supply of natural/mineral resources	2 %
Conflicts / strikes / road blocks	2 %
Loss of jobs when the activities are completed	3 %
Lack of government control	2 %
Little information / lack of information	1 %
Foreign workers	1%
None	15%
Other	8 %

Source: Private survey in mining area

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# URANIUM-RELATED CONFLICTS



- In Argentina
  - Uranium exploration in Tilcara, Province of Jujuy
  - Uranium exploration in Tinogasta, Province of Catamarca
  - Reopening of the uranium mine Sierra Pintada in the Province of Mendoza
- In Brazil:
  - Uranium Fields Caetité, Bahía State

## CONCLUSIONS

- A mining project may be feasible from a technical and economic point of view but not from the social-environmental perspective (E axis)
- Most mining conflicts are related to prospection and exploration activities
- Mining conflicts reflect, based on anti-mining NGOs reports, that they are basically motivated by pollution and the use of water
- The lack of consultation, human and indigenous rights and health come second

## CONCLUSIONS

- In many countries there is an inequitable distribution of economic resources generated by mining activities (centralism)
- It is of concern that distribution of benefits generated by mining activities is not a cause highlighted in conflict reports by anti-mining NGOs.
- Practically all countries in the region have ratified ILO Resolution 169 but very few have regulated it and apply it
- There is in general lack of confidence on the capacity of governments to regulate mining activities

## CONCLUSIONS

- There is little use of territorial planning instruments surveying social skills and preferences on an endogenous development model
- Difficulty in access to public information (for eg.: environmental impact assessments, cadastral records etc.).
- Uranium mining conflicts only exist in Argentina and Brazil

# Thank you