

# MARLIN PROJECT

SUBTERRANEAN AND OPEN PIT GOLD AND SILVER MINE, CLOSED 2017



NATURAL RESOURCE  
Gold & silver



LOCATION  
Municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa, San Marcos Department



AFFECTED COMMUNITIES  
San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa



OWNED BY  
Goldcorp/Newmont, run by subsidiary Montana Exploradora de Guatemala

## MARLIN

Guatemala

1996

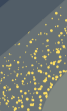
Peace accords end Guatemalan civil war.



Montana Exploradora de Guatemala (MEG) seeks gold exploration licence in Department of San Marcos, Western Highlands.

1997

General Mining Law passed.



1998

MEG discovers gold deposits at Marlin site in the municipalities of San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa, majority indigenous Mayan communities.

1999

MEG begins to buy up land around exploration site using subsidiary, Peridot S.A.

2000

Canadian corporation, Francisco Gold, buys MEG.

2002

Canadian Corporation, Glamis Gold, buys Francisco Gold Corporation.

2003

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approved by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN).

2004

San Marcos Human Rights Ombudsman Office (PDH) starts enquiry into alleged violations of right to healthy environment of residents of San Miguel Ixtahuacán.

Government grants Glamis Gold exploitation licence for silver and gold at Marlin site (85% located in San Miguel Ixtahuacán and 15% in Sipacapa).

2005

Indigenous protestors start a 42-day blockade of Glamis Gold trucks passing through their communities. A month after, in 2005, police and military violently break up the blockade, killing Raul Castro Bocel, a Maya-Kaqchiquel farmer.

2005

Bishop Álvaro Ramazzini leads a Protest for Life, demanding reform of the mining law and an end to mining concessions in San Marcos Department.

2005

San Marcos Human Rights Ombudsman Office issues resolution against Marlin mine and PDH of Guatemala issues report and recommendations on mining.

Marlin mine starts gold and silver production.

2005

Residents of Sipacapa file a complaint with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

2005

Sipacapa municipality holds the first popular consultation on mining in Guatemala, declaring its rejection of the Marlin mine.

2006

Goldcorp buys Glamis Gold, taking over MEG and the Marlin mine.

2007

Colectivo MadreSelva files a constitutional challenge to the government's approval of mining exploitation licences for the Marlin mine.

2008

A group of Goldcorp shareholders visit the Marlin mine.

2008

Sipakapense communities file a complaint with IACHR against the mine and call for precautionary measures to stop the project.

2009

Front in Defence of San Miguel Ixtahuacán (FREDEMI) files request with Canada at the OECD for a review of Goldcorp's conduct in relation to OECD guidelines.

2009

The Latin American Water Tribunal considers Marlin case and issues verdict against the Guatemalan government and MEG.

2010

The International Labour Organization (ILO) calls for government to suspend Marlin project as it issued mining licences without consulting affected indigenous communities in accordance with ILO Convention 169.

2010

Mayan communities file for constitutional protection demanding the immediate suspension of all mining activities taking place on Mayan land, including the Marlin mine.

2010

IACHR issues precautionary measures in favour of Sipakapense community against Marlin mine, requiring the government to suspend the mining licence.

2011

The Ministry of the Environment files a criminal complaint against MEG for discharge of waste waters from the Marlin mine tailing dams.

2011

Members of US Congress write to Guatemalan president to express concern about Marlin mine.

2011

UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People issues critical report resulting from his 2010 country visit.

2011

3,000 people demonstrate in Guatemala City against government attempt to regulate community consultations.

2012

Canadian and Guatemalan NGOs write to Guatemalan president calling for Goldcorp to be sanctioned for violations of human rights.

2012

Two new indigenous women's organizations formed to oppose the Marlin mine.

2012

People's International Health Tribunal holds hearing on Goldcorp operations in Latin America, including Marlin mine.

2012

Representatives from 100 communities in San Marcos file a criminal complaint against the Marlin mine project.

2012

Civil society organizations make public complaint against IACHR decision to revise the precautionary measures.

2014

FREDEMI and the Pluri-Cultural Legal Association of Guatemala (PLURIJUR) file a criminal complaint against the Mayor of San Miguel Ixtahuacán.

2014

Petition to IACHR filed by Council of Mayan and Xinka Peoples regarding systematic violation of indigenous rights, including in reference to Marlin mine.

2017

Communities in San Miguel Ixtahuacán and Sipacapa file complaint with the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) alleging a network of corruption secured mining licences for MEG and Goldcorp.

2017

FREDEMI holds a peaceful rally in Guatemala City against the negative impacts of the Marlin mine.

2017

Presidential Commission for Dialogue confirms damages to homes, water contamination and drying rivers in communities affected by Marlin mine.

2017

San Miguel Ixtahuacán residents strip a government plane on a Marlin mine landing strip to protest at lack of adequate compensation.

2019

Marlin mine ceases production as closure plan is implemented.

2019

US corporation, Newmont, purchases Goldcorp and Montana Exploradora.

2019

Protestors block access to the mine site demanding compensation for damages caused by mine.

2019

Ministry of Energy and Mines requests Montana Exploradora expand environmental closure plan.

2019

Indigenous authorities call on congressional commission to ensure compliance with the guarantees for potable water mandated by the IACHR.

2021

Meeting in Congress to question officials on compliance with IACHR measures.

2021

September 2021

September 2021

This timeline forms part of **The Juridification of Resource Conflicts** project at the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, in partnership with Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS), Mexico.

This project is funded by The British Academy's Sustainable Development Programme, supported under the UK Government's Global Challenges Research Fund.

