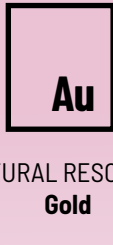
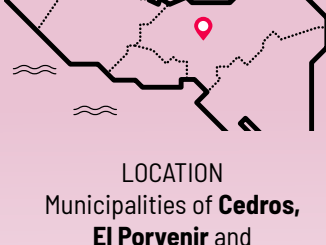


SAN MARTÍN PROJECT

OPEN PIT GOLD MINE, CLOSED 2010



NATURAL RESOURCE
Gold



LOCATION
Municipalities of **Cedros, El Porvenir and San Ignacio**, Francisco Morazán Department



AFFECTED COMMUNITIES
Cedros, El Porvenir and San Ignacio, in the Siria Valley



OWNED BY
Goldcorp, run by subsidiary **Minerales Entre Mares de Honduras**

SAN MARTÍN

Honduras

1963-1982

Military governments.

1982

Transition to civilian government.

1992

Law of Agricultural Modernization that enables the privatisation of land previously owned by cooperatives and increased land concentration.

1996

Canadian company, Mar-West Resources obtains mining concession via its subsidiary, Minerales Entre Mares de Honduras SA (Entremares), for the San Martín mine.

1997

Mar-West Resources reports gold deposits at San Martín project.

1998

Canadian corporation Glamis Gold buys Mar-West Resources.

Honduran General Mining Law enacted in aftermath of Hurricane Mitch to facilitate transnational investment in extractive projects.

1999

Growing concern among Siria Valley communities at environmental impact of mine, including water contamination.

Communities in municipalities of Cedros, San Ignacio and El Porvenir form the **Siria Valley Environmental Committee (CAVS)**.

2000

Open pit heap leaching gold mining enters into operation at San Martín mine, covering 235 hectares in San Ignacio municipality.

CAVS files criminal complaint with the Honduran Environmental Prosecutor. Prosecutor seeks arrest warrants for three Entremares officials, but judge refuses.

CAVS files unsuccessful administrative challenge with the Honduran Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) for illegally granting an environmental permit to Entremares.

2001

First National Encounter of Communities Affected by Mining.

"Pilgrimage for Life" protest to Siria Valley led by Cardenal Rodríguez to demonstrate mass support of CAVS legal action.

2002

CAVS files unsuccessful criminal complaint for pollution impact of mine on Malake River.

Officials test drinking water confirming arsenic contamination, in response to complaints of water poisoning in Nueva Palo Ralo community.

2005

CAVS files complaint with environmental prosecutor against Entremares in relation to shortage of water, displacement of population, and contamination of aquifers with arsenic and heavy metals.

200 mine workers occupy the mine demanding the company recognize their union, provide medical benefits, and stop planned layoffs.

2006

Goldcorp acquires Glamis Gold.

Residents of Siria Valley communities write to Glamis Gold shareholders to highlight negative impact of mining project.

Independent environmental scientist gathers evidence of health impacts, confirming dangerous levels of lead, arsenic, and hexavalent chromium in drinking water.

Constitutional challenge to 1998 Mining law.

A de jure moratorium on new mining concessions begins after Supreme Court declares key provisions of 1998 Mining law unconstitutional.

Civil society organisations start to draft a mining legislation proposal.

2007

Demonstrations around the country against open pit mining, including roadblocks.

Latin American Water Tribunal condemns Honduras and Entre Mares for environmental and health impacts in the Siria Valley.

SERNA fines Entremares for pollution and environmental damage. The company appeals and the courts overturn SERNA's decision.

CAVS files further complaint against Goldcorp.

2008

CAVS files complaint against the Attorney General for obstruction of justice, abuse of authority and violation of obligation to carry out official duties.

Four prosecutors go on hunger strike to protest against government corruption, giving rise to the Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ). MADJ becomes important in the anti-mining movement.

Petition for constitutional protection of the right to medical attention.

Goldcorp announces closure plan for the mine. Exploitation ceases by end of year.

CAFOD-led studies by independent experts from the University of Newcastle show water high levels of heavy metals in Siria Valley rivers. The experts also criticise Goldcorp mine closure plan.

A Latin American Water Tribunal forum warns against open pit mining, citing the negative impact of San Martín mine.

2010

Protest in El Porvenir against implementation of forestry management plan. The incident is later used by prosecutors to fabricate charges and detain 17 local environmental activists, including CAVS leaders. Some are held in detention till their acquittal in 2013.

The case brought against Entre Mares executives for environmental damage is dismissed.

2011

National and international NGOs meet Goldcorp representatives in Toronto to present report on contamination caused by San Martín mine.

National Coalition of Environmental Networks and Organizations (CONROA) and CAVS submit unsuccessful administrative appeal to the Ministry of Health to declare a health emergency in the Siria Valley.

CAVS leaders temporarily detained on spurious criminal charges.

2012

Survey by the Center for the Study of Democracy finds 91% of Hondurans oppose open pit mining.

Independent medical brigade visits El Pedernal in Siria Valley to assess health conditions of residents and mine workers.

2013

New General Mining Law enacted and moratorium officially lifted on new concessions.

Honduran NGO provides testimony on San Martín project at IACHR hearing.

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.

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