

What Information Does your Community Need?

Under international law, your community has a right to be consulted. Your community should be informed and involved in decisions about mining in the area. Practically, this means that the mining company should inform a community about the impact of the mine with accurate information in Creole. It is also helpful to seek out outside information sources such as community organizations, lawyers, universities, or scientists.

Some questions you can ask Mining Companies and Government Officials

Exactly what are you doing and when? What is the size of the project and for how long will you work? For what groups of people or for whom specifically will mining activity serve? Whose land will the company use? Who is the head of the company? Does the company have a government-issued permit? What exactly does the permit allow the company to do? Where will the company send people who are evicted due to activity?

Some questions your community can ask about the Impact of Mining in Your Community

- Where can we get information in Kreyòl about the impacts of mining on the land, water, and agriculture?
- How will this project impact our lives?
- What sort of danger or risks does mining activity present to our community?
- How many and what type of jobs will the company offer our community?
- How much money will the communities and the government get?
- Where does the company get permission to extract riches from our community?

What Can You Do?

There are a few things you can do today to begin to protect your community:

- Make your ears big like a trumpet and listen to everything said about mining in your community and in Haiti in general
- Open your eyes wide like the moon to closely watch everything related to mining in your community; share what you learn with others
- Gather people in your community to discuss, learn, and then to mobilize to define and defend your community's interests
- Ask company and government authorities for the information you need to make decisions about mining in your community
- Search for quality information about how mining activity will affect you and your community
- Share and spread the news – via newspapers, radio shows, community meetings, in churches and spiritual ceremonies, however you can to ensure that others access quality information.

The Justice in Mining Collective is a platform that works with communities to defend their interests against mining companies. The Collective is following mining activity in Haiti and has contacts in affected communities. If you want to participate in the movement to protect your community or if you have any questions, contact _____ in your region or call this number to reach the Collective in Port-au-Prince at _____.



Your Rights to Defend your Community



Is a Mining Company Operating in your Area or Community?

Is a Mining Company working your land?

Who's Gold? What a Company Permit Means for You

The government regulates gold mining in Haiti, but this does not mean that a company with a permit to mine has permission to use your land without your agreement/consent.

The Haitian Constitution and Haitian law state that it is the Haitian State that owns the mineral wealth under the earth and under the sea – meaning gold too. It is the Haitian State that decides what company can do what type of mining activity. Even though in 2013 Parliament voted to suspend mining activities, many companies have permits to explore and exploit gold. They may recommence mining activity at any time. In addition, the government is currently working to reform the mining law. The information circulating today is that the new law will aim to attract more companies come to Haiti to explore and exploit minerals.

Land Agreements and Mining

It is true that the Government grants permits to companies to allow them to mine, but a company still must have an agreement with the individual who lives on or works the land before the company begins to use it. Before a company begins to use the land, a company must make a land agreement with you: it is you who give a company the right to use the land or conduct any sort of activity; if you allow the company to use your land they should pay you

or give you another benefit. This agreement is called a “land agreement” and you have a right to refuse to sign it. If you do not accept it, the government may decide a sum of money for the company to give you in return for using your land.

Why must a company pay? They should pay to use your land, to repair any damage they caused to your land or your products, and to return the land to its original state when they finish.



You may negotiate with the mining company to ask for a greater sum of money. For example, if a company offers you a certain quantity of money and you don't think it is sufficient, you may refuse and ask them to give you more.

Some questions you can ask concerning a land use agreement:

What land will they use?

For how long will they perform the activity?

May I use my land while the company is using it?

What type of damage may this activity cause to my land? Who will pay for the damage or repair the land?

Who do I call if I have a problem?

When will the company pay me?

What can I do if the company fails to pay me what it promised?