

1. Aenda
2. Agrupación de Montanha Augas Limpas
3. Asemblea pola Defensa do medio Rural
4. Asociación Ecoloxista Arco Iris
5. Asociación Treze Catorce
6. Asociación Véspera de Nada
7. Associação Coluna San Fins
8. Associação Socio-Cultural O Iribio
9. Comisión de Asociacións contra as minas na Terra Chá
10. Contraminate, grupo veciñal de Laxe
11. Federación ecoloxista Galega

12. Petón do Lobo
13. Plataforma pola defensa de Corcoesto e Bergantiños
14. Plataforma pola defensa da Serra do Galiñeiro
15. Plataforma veciñal Corno do Monte
16. Ribeira do Miño, asociación naturalista de defensa ambiental.
17. Salva a Selva
18. Santa Comba viva
19. Sindicato Labrego Galego
20. Sos Caurel
21. Sos Groba
22. Verdegaiia



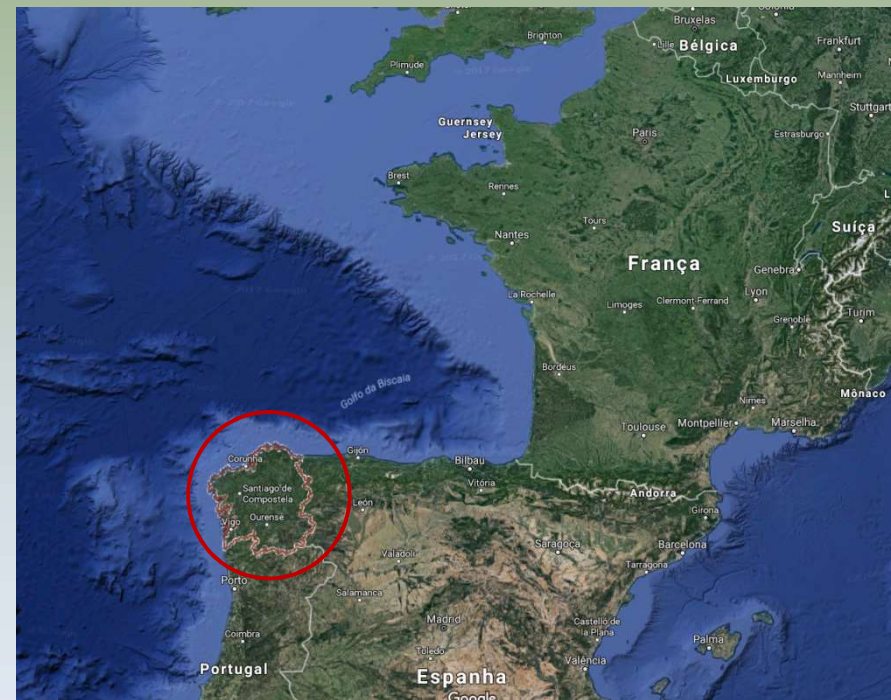
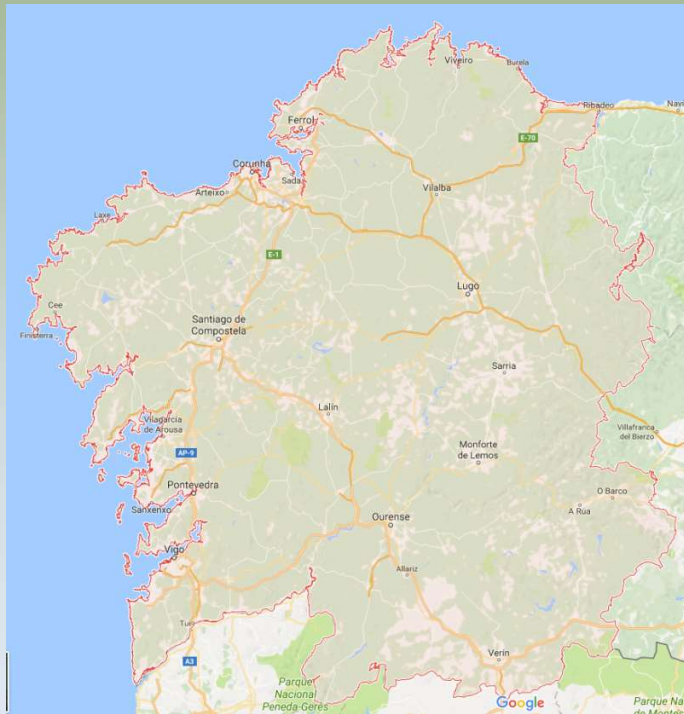
CONTRAMINACIÓN



CONTRAMINACIÓN

Galiza:

- Area: 29.574 km². Population: 2,7M.
- Rural areas account for 88% of the territory and 35% of the population. Density <150 i/Km². Aged population (1/4 > 65 years, average: 49 years).
- Length of coastline: 1.498 Km.



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Galician Census of Mining Rights: <http://www.censomineiro.org>

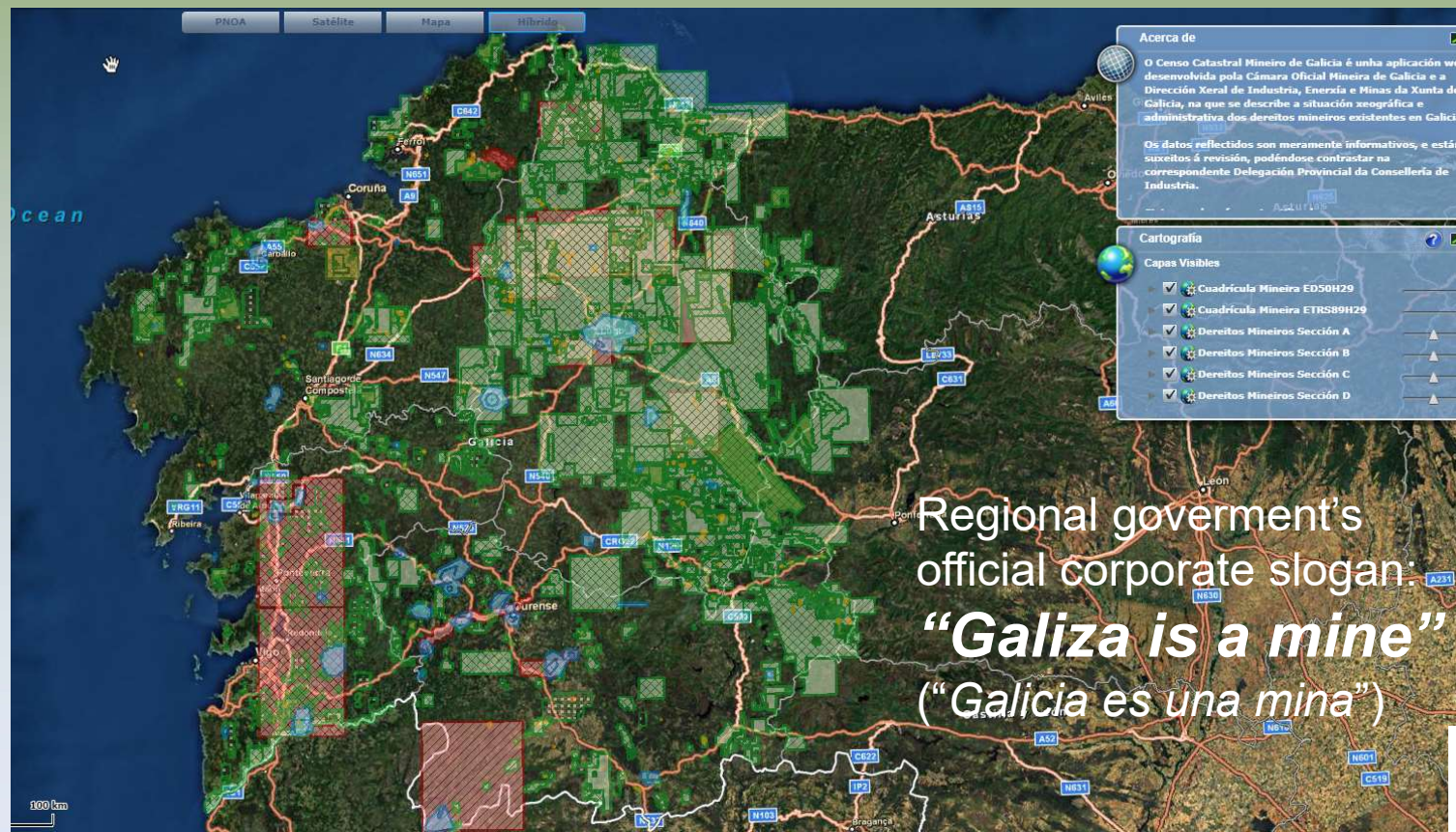
4 types of mining rights (art. 3, Spanish Mining Law nº 22/1973):

Section A: Low value resources and building aggregates.

Section B: Mineral and thermal water resources.

Section C: All other mining resources

Section D: Energy resources (coal, radioactive minerals, geothermal resources, etc).



Regional government's
official corporate slogan:
"Galiza is a mine"
("Galicia es una mina")



CONTRAMINACIÓN

Mining rights system

Art. 2: “All geological resources within the national territory, territorial sea and continental shelf, are public domain assets [public property], whose investigation and use the State may assume directly or relinquish...” (to private operators).

- Section A: This is the only case where the owners of the land have a preferential right to extract the resource.
- Section B, C and D: First-come, first-served basis system of public concessions. Mining rights may be transmitted, leased and encumbered in whole or in part.
- **In all cases the right holder is entitled to carry out forced expropriations and/or temporary terrain occupations.**



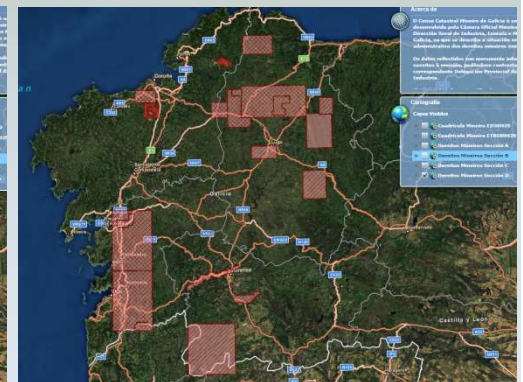
Mining rights: Section A



Section B



Section C



Section D



CONTRAMINACIÓN

Main problems of the mining rights system in place in Galiza

- Extensive and complex mining legal framework with plenty of loopholes in order to facilitate impunity and evasion of responsibilities of mining private operators.
- State intervention (the mining resource is “*public property*”) prevents local communities and owners of the land from participating on decision-making.
- There is a **regional government’s active promotion of the mining sector** through legalisations, reducing red tape, abolition of environmental constrains and direct State aids for mining operators.
- Despite of the flaws of the legal framework, the main problem in many cases is that regulations are not applied due to political-administrative wrongdoing and serious irregularities: **LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLASSES.**

EL PAÍS
ARCHIVO

EDICIÓN IMPRESA
Hemeroteca

PORTADA INTERNACIONAL POLÍTICA

LUNES, 29 de octubre de 2007

Las empresas mineras explotan en Galicia 300 canteras sin licencia

- El sector culpa a la Xunta por colapsar el proceso de legalización de explotaciones
- La nueva ley amplía el tipo de suelos para abrir yacimientos
- Ex alto cargo en la mina

SONIA VIZOSO | Santiago | 29 OCT 2007

Archivado en: VII Legislatura Galicia Política nacional Registro de intereses Impacto ambiental Áridos Consejerías Cargos públicos Minería Finanzas autonómicas Cemento Gobierno autonómico

2007: Mining companies tap 300 quarries without licence in Galiza

La Xunta legalizará todas las minas y abrirá nuevas con el mínimo papeleo

- Industria pone en manos de las empresas la ordenación del caos en el sector
- [Debajo del oro de Corcoesto hay arsénico](#)

SONIA VIZOSO | Santiago | 13 MAY 2013 - 11:11 CET

Archivado en: Xunta Galicia Minería Galicia Administración autonómica España Administración pública Industria Medio ambiente

2013: Galiza’s government will legalise all mines and will open new ones with the minimum red tape.



CONTRAMINACIÓN

Lack of accountability of the political and administrative classes

- Patronage system between the political class and mining operators. Mining rights are free (land taxes are paid by the owners), except from the red carpet burdens, which mostly depends on the decisions of the political and administrative classes.
- Failure to carry out environmental impact assessments.
- Failure to comply with the rules of transparency and access to the information for the citizens.
- Fragmentation of mining projects in order to avoid environmental requirements.
- Unrealistic Restoration Projects and associated financial guarantees.
- Lack of penal and administrative sanctions for private operators in cases of serious pollution or accidents.



Rupture of the mining reservoir in 2014 at “Monte Neme” mining site: 24,000 m³ of AMD were leaked.

0.8 M euros of damages. Indemnisations paid by the rights holder: 6,000 euros.



CONTRAMINACIÓN

Lack of accountability of the political and administrative classes

- Lack of public declaration of the revocation of mining rights when the operators neglect their legal obligations.
- Tolerance of the “wash sale” cycle: “new company” -> public aids -> debts -> bankruptcy -> lack of restoration -> “selling” of the mining rights to a “new” company with the same owners.
- Legal loopholes “on-demand” taking into account the needs of the operators (legalisations, Sectorial Plans, “special compatibilities”, etc):



Sectorial Plan for Extractive Activities in Galiza:

“All the territory of the Autonomous Community of Galiza may be used for mineral resources exploitation”. Sectorial Plan “prevails over municipal planning”. It sets the administrative proceedings for getting the permits for those “extracting activities that lack the appropriate permits”. It empowers the regional Government “to grant mining rights when there are adverse required reports, if needed”.



CONTRAMINACIÓN

Our land is not ours yet



CONSEQUENCES

- Heavy environment impacts are not tackled during decades (pollution caused by AMD, destroyed cultural and heritages sites, abandoned mining sites, abandoned AMD/waste pods, etc).
- Absence of level playing field among mining operators and between mining operators and other sectors, particularly agriculture, shellfish and fishing (threat of expropriation, heavy metals pollution, lack of restoration, priorities for public aid, etc).
- Lack of information and participation in decision-making of local communities. Local unrest and social conflicts between neighbours of divided local communities affected by mining activity. Property rights conflicts.
- Low level of social awareness.
- Pressures over activists and environmental associations.



CONTRAMINACIÓN



A QUARRY IN TRIACASLETA'S MUNICIPALITY:

- Illegal mining that was expanded in 2008 over 5 villages (100 farms).
- No environmental impact assessment. It lacks the necessary permits.
- In 2017 a judicial decision also cancelled the urban authorization.
- Mining rights belong to a Brazilian multinational.

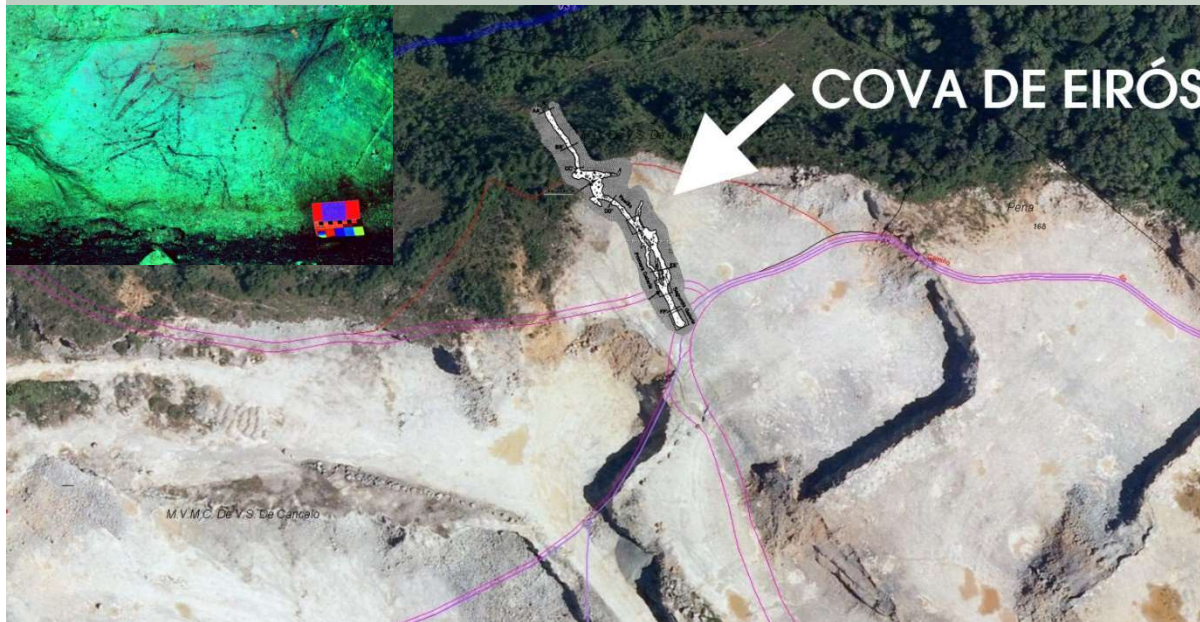


CONTRAMINACIÓN

A QUARRY IN TRIACASLETA'S MUNICIPALITY:

- It invades common land of 3 Communities, who are fighting at the judicial stage for the property recognition.
- **The mining site is placed on an extremely important archaeological site with 5 caves. One of them is the “Cave of EIRÓS”, with archaeological remains from 140,000 years ago, including cave paintings with over 30,000 years. Another was totally destroyed. 3 caves are waiting for being studied.**
- It is placed next to the Way of Santiago, within a protected landscape, legally listed as "*Place of Special Landscape Interest*".
- It is placed within Natura 2000 Network and within habitats with more than 40 protected species of fauna and flora, several of them being endangered species.

Mining operations are still in place.



There is an on-going persecution and threats to activists and opponents.



CONTRAMINACIÓN

A TIN AND TUNGSTEN MINE IN LOUSAME'S MUNICIPALITY:

- <http://www.vidaeria.org>
- The subterranean mine has been reopened in 2009. Forecasted employment: 12.
- **Two mining tailings dams** built in the river course have been abandoned since 1990. They contain at least 40,000 m³ of mining waste with high levels of heavy metals (in particular cadmium, copper and zinc) accumulated during 80 years.
- **Acid mine drainage (AMD)** with cadmium concentration of 12,8 µg/L (on average of 2015/17 samples) has been leaking since 1990 at a rate of more than 45 m³/h reaching nearby marine areas. Tests of the water from the nearby river show concentrations of cadmium, copper and zinc several times over the legal limits 1,5 Km downstream of the tailing dams.
- The mine lacks environmental impact assessment, despite it produces AMD.



← The wall of the tailing dam nº 2 is 50x12,5 m (length x high).

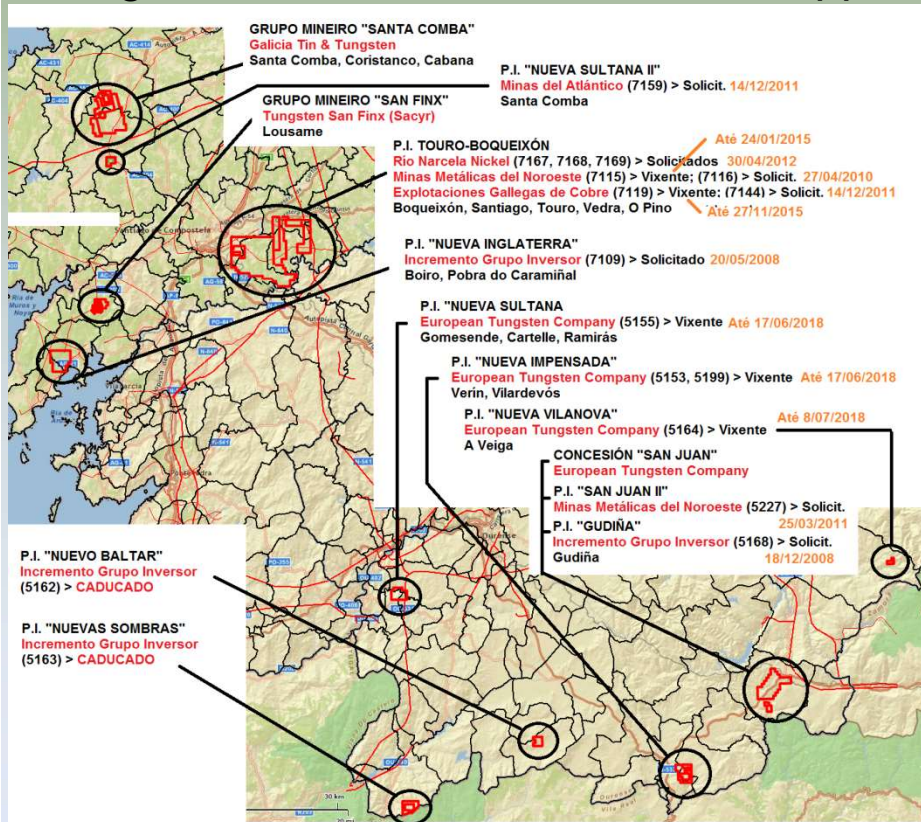
“Vida e ría” campaign demanding solutions for the environmental pollution and an environmental impact assessment.



CONTRAMINACIÓN

A TIN AND TUNGSTEN MINE IN LOUSAME'S MUNICIPALITY:

- Former mine Director became holder of the mining rights in 2008. In 2015, after receiving 2 M euros in State aid, the company went bankrupt and mining rights were auctioned in another “wash sale”. Spanish multinational SACYR entered into the shareholding of a newly created company that currently is the rights holder.
- Financial guarantee has been set in less than 200,000 euros.
- Tailing dams have been left out of the Restoration Project and there is no mention of the AMD pollution on the nearby river.
- AMD and the tailing dams menace the employment of more than 1,350 shellfish-gatherers and domestic water supplies along 9 Km downstream of river.



Lousame's mining rights are the spearhead of Sacyr's movement into the mining business all across Galiza.

PERIGO! CADMIO

As drenaxes ácidas das minas de San Fins presentan valores de cadmio, cobre e cinc en promedio, segundo as análises de 2015 e 2017, que superan en 160, 31 e 17 veces, respectivamente, os límites máximos legais (NCA-MA). O caudal das drenaxes de augas residuais ácidas que actualmente saen das minas sen tratamento activo é de aproximadamente 50.000 litros por hora. Na ponte de Traba, a sete quilómetros río abaixo e a pesar da dilución, os valores de cadmio medidos en 2017 continúan superando o valor da normativa de calidade ambiental das augas (NCA-MA), acumulándose na ría.

Que acontece cos metais pesados?
En 1930 construíronse dúas presas de decantación de residuos mineiros en pleno cauce fluvial, coa intención de reducir os arreses río abaixo. Durante 80 anos as presas combátíronse de lodos e gravas, xunto cos metais pesados precipitados. Outra parte dos metais pesados continuaron río abaixo, depositándose na zona da desembocadura do Traba en Noia.

Cal é o problema coas presas?
En marzo de 2017 a empresa recoñeceu que as presas presentan un importante grao de deterioro. A maior das presas, cun muro de formigón de 30 metros de ancho que acumula, aproximadamente, millóns de metros cúbicos de residuos contaminantes, supón unha grave ameaza para toda a ría.

Que pretende facer a empresa concesionaria?
A empresa pretende desfacerse da súa responsabilidade ambiental e de restauración sobre as presas, dicindo que non son súas. Ademais, está tramitando unha autorización para verter máis dun millón de metros cúbicos de augas residuais ao río, bombeando as augas ácidas que levan anos acumuladas nas plantas inferiores da mina. Frente á ameaza de perda de miles de empregos na ría, as solucións ambientais necesarias crearán empregos adicionais.

Valores de CADMIO nos efluentes de mina
(Análises en poder de Augas de Galicia)

máximo legal NCA-MA	0,08 µg/l
promedio análises 2015 e 2017	12,8 µg/l

Que é o cadmio?
O cadmio está definido legalmente como unha substancia perigosa prioritaria. Ao igual ca outros metais pesados, bioacúmulo nos organismos (células, vexetais, moluscos, etc.) que, unha vez consumidos por humanos, poden provocar doenzas como cánceros, osteoporosa, osteomalacia ou problemas renais derivados da exposición prolongada a este metal.

UNHA RÍA UNIDA!
Vida e ría xorde do sentimento unánime de defensa da ría. Todos os grupos do pleno de Noia, todas as confrarías da ría, concellos como o de Muros, ademais de colectivos ecoloxistas e sociais posicionáronse pola denegación da autorización de verteduras solicitada pola empresa concesionaria das Minas de San Fins. UNETE!

“Vida e ría” campaign demanding solutions for the environmental pollution and an environmental impact assessment.

QUARTZ MINING PROJECTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORDES.

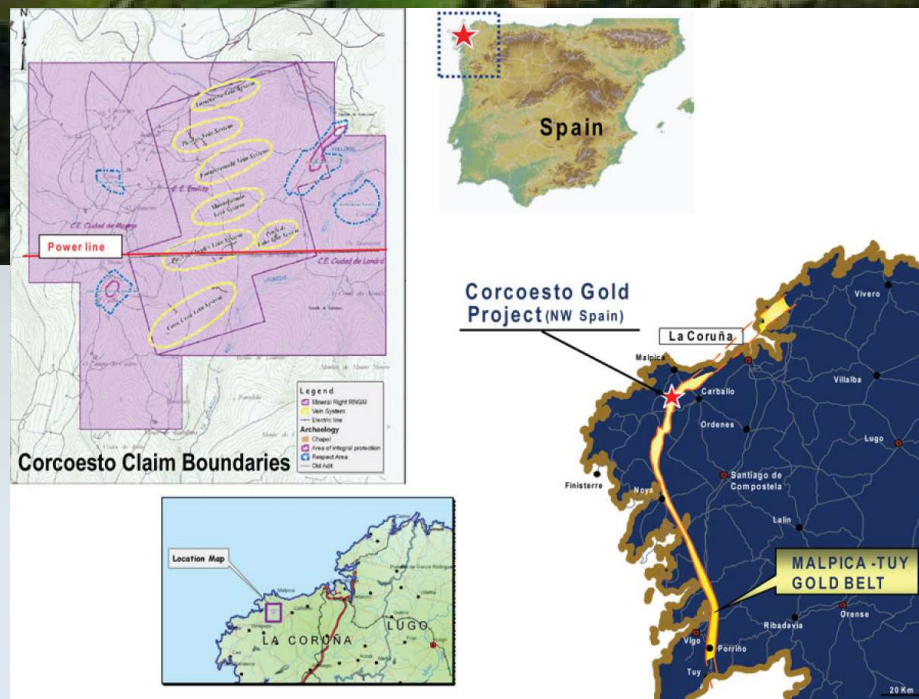
- Mining rights belong to company pertaining to a Norwegian group which, at the same time, is Chinese owned.
- The operator wants to rent the lands to their owners and carry out the open extraction (surface mining) of the quartz to a depth of 2.5 meters, together with a subsequent filling. Nevertheless, lands become useless for farming.
- It affects 65 Km² where there are 200 farms. It affects the terrains of the biggest farm with ecological production of Galiza.
- Projects are currently in the public display phase.



CONTRAMINACIÓN

“CORCOESTO” GOLD MINING PROJECT

- 773 hectares of concession affecting 1,000 farms and hundreds of indirect jobs.
- 95 m depth of mining operations.
- 2 heaps (waste facilities) of 335,961 m² and 1,879,735 m². 650,000 m² toxic sludge reservoir. 64,024 metric tons of material removed per day. 17,080,751 metric tons of waste.
- Due to public contestation the project has been cancelled. The holder of the mining rights was the Canadian multinational Edgewater. Government support was also withdrawn because the Canadian company did not accept a partnership with Sacyr (an Spanish multinational).
In 2016 Spanish Constitutional Court ruled against Edgewater and confirmed the governmental cancellation of its mining rights.



Demonstration againts megamining: 2nd of June, 2013,
Santiago de Compostela, capital of Galiza.



Galiza is not a mine.
Defend the land, defend life.

Merci pour votre attention



CONTRAMINACIÓN