

## Tool 5.1: Community-Company Environmental Monitoring Plan

Practices regarding community monitoring are considerably different across the world. In Canada, for example, training community members for environmental monitoring is a common practice. Through negotiated agreement, local communities are sometimes funded to effectively implement monitoring processes. These agreements and funding opportunities allow the communities affected by a mining project to be actively involved in shaping and implementing the monitoring programs.<sup>10</sup>

In the European context, implementation of some of the above-mentioned practices, such as community involvement in designing the monitoring program and the transmission of regular reports, are encouraged. The involvement of the community can be more active such as participating in the actual collection of samples and their analysis or more passive such as receiving regular reports from the company on their monitoring activities. However the CCEMP is used, it should involve community members, continue to aid in building relationships based on trust and ensure accountability as well as transparency.

1. If the company decides to develop a CCEMP, they may choose, in collaboration with stakeholders, to focus on how to collect and interpret data both before and after a certain activity, the appropriate actions to take when issues are reported and how to communicate results from the monitoring process to the wider community.
2. Creating a committee for environmental monitoring is a useful practice established in Canada (see [IBA Toolkit](#)). Ideally the **Committee** consists of representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups; industry, local communities, local or regional authorities, NGOs, civil society and/or research institutes. The Committee would then define the goals of the monitoring activities, for example, whether the actual monitoring is to be done in collaboration with community members or if the company will do the actual monitoring and report the results to the Committee and subsequently the community. The benefit of establishing a Committee is not only that it is a vehicle for co-designing a monitoring plan, but that it also is an avenue for knowledge exchange and hence indirectly helps build relationships between members.
3. Finally, the Committee might want to put in place **follow-up measures** in case negative impacts are not being dealt with adequately.
  - Relevant issues could be addressed in a yearly review process which would be conducted jointly by all parties. Within these meetings, the parties would analyse the outcomes of the monitoring process and verify that the CCEMP is being respected, they could identify implementation measures to resolve issues and/or improvements to those implementation measures.
  - Another possible option is to have authorities and the company meet annually with the community to discuss the project and monitoring reports. This provides an opportunity for the community to discuss issues they believe were not dealt with adequately through ongoing monitoring processes. The Committee could also assure the community that reports will be submitted to them, first in person via public meetings and then through either their website, local newspaper or radio and/or through a biannual report of the company's activities.

### Community-Company Environmental Monitoring Plan

<sup>10</sup> Gibson, G., & O'Faircheallaigh, C. (2015). *IBA Community Toolkit: Negotiation and Implementation of Impact and Benefit Agreements*. Toronto: Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation. [iba toolkit 2015 web.pdf](#) ([ccednet-rcdec.ca](#))

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CCEMP could include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participation of key stakeholders in its design.</li><li>- Implementation of a committee.</li><li>- Follow-up measures</li></ul>
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