

Tool 3.1: Community-Company Vision Statement

The Community-Company Vision Statement is inspired by the concept of what is called a Community Protocol in Canada, which is typically a document developed by a community that expresses their needs, expectations and lays out how the community sees its future.

MIREU's Community-Company Vision Statement is a lighter version of a Community Protocol and focused more on trying to get communities and companies to meet and start talking. This tool is a template for a short document that shows members of the community and company have met with each other, initiated conversation and established a connection. The Statement is not about gaining consensus or coming to a certain conclusion but rather about documenting expectations and visions, and to find out common points of agreement and disagreements. Ideally, the document would be stored by a neutral third party.

This tool is useful at the beginning phase of a project as expectations between communities and industry will likely be different. It also allows companies to determine whether an area may or may not be suitable for a project, provides companies with written verification that they have made an effort to engage with communities and provides a snapshot in time for where the community is. It is also useful for later phases to see how the vision of a particular community has changed.

This tool is provided as a table below. The first column addresses three Community Vision Topics:

- Company Behaviour
- Community Identity
- Community Well-being

The second column provides guiding questions:

- 1 – the questions a community should ask the company
- 2 & 3 - the questions a company should ask the community

In addition to the examples provided in the Tool, potential discussion topics may include questions related to, for example, jobs, standard of living, economic future, local livelihoods, community identity, environmental concerns, the voice the community wants to have in the mining process and prior experiences with mining.

Community Vision Topics	Questions that should be asked ³	European Examples in Practice ⁴
<p><u>Company Behaviour</u></p> <p>Good Governance Social Responsibility Fairness Respect towards Cultural Norms</p>	<p><u>Community initiates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do we have a role in decision-making? How is the company going to collaborate with us? - We want to be treated in a fair and respectful manner. Is the company going to respect our way of life? - Is the company acting in a socially responsible way; do their policies and actions contribute to the well-being of our community? 	<p>In Talvivaara, nationwide protests led to significant changes in the whole extractives industry in Finland. To improve transparency and to promote better collaboration between different actors, the Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining was established to function as a forum between the mining companies and its stakeholders, including NGOs. The Ministry of the Environment also set an authority working group to deal with topical issues related to environmental safety of mines (KYTU working group).</p> <p>Sakatti's sustainable mining contract between the companies, local stakeholders and municipality is another example of multi-stakeholder governance and willingness to engage in better dialogue.</p> <p>In Gällivare, Sweden, the company works in close collaboration between the Sámi communities. The impact assessment is made in cooperation with reindeer herders. Development projects such as reindeer warning system, GPS project, reducing contorta forests and re-establishment of lichens for reindeer's winter grazing as a rehabilitation method are developed with the local communities.</p>
<p><u>Community Identity</u></p> <p>Economic Development Environmental Awareness Education & Training</p>	<p><u>Company initiates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What kind of a vision do you have for the future development of this region? Is mining part of it? - Do you see mineral exploration as a valuable part of the local economy and development? - What kind of social benefits do you see from the mine? 	<p>Case studies from the UK provide good examples of companies engaging with the local educational institutes. For example, the company operating Woodsmith mine has offered graduate and undergraduate placements in operations, process engineering, commercial, external affairs and geology. They have arranged 56 education outreach events and 50 engineering apprenticeships have been launched. These education outreach events focused on working with disadvantaged young people. The operator of Woodsmith mine in the UK has invited local people to become shareholders in the company. This has given local communities a strong sense of ownership in the project.</p> <p>With a history stretching back to the 8th century, Austria's Erzberg mine is currently the most important employer of the region and the ambassador of the "Styrian Iron Route". The mine is well accepted among the locals. It also creates possibilities for alternative sources of income as it is used as a location for sports events, films and research as well as a touristic hotspot.</p>

³ Boutilier, R. (2017) A Measure of the Social License to Operate for Infrastructure and Extractive Projects.

⁴ MIREU Research

<p><u>Community Wellbeing</u></p> <p>Toxic-free environment Good air and water quality Good quality of life Community cohesion</p>	<p><u>Company initiates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you satisfied with the relationship between the project and your community? - Do you think your voices are being heard by the project management? - How could the project contribute to the well-being of the community? - Are you satisfied with our efforts to minimize negative impacts on the environment? 	<p>Barruecopardo mining project is located within a Natura 2000 protected area (for bird protection) and bordering the Natural Park of Los Arribes in Spain. Considering this, the company works in collaboration with the Territorial Environmental Service of the regional administration. The company has adopted an objective to minimize all the possible secondary effects on birds and the environment in general. With this aim, the company has designed a set of measures to prevent, correct and compensate any possible impact that the project may produce in different areas: fauna, flora, environment and local society. The measures have been agreed with the authorities and environmental agents. In addition, all these measures are and will continue to be monitored throughout the life of the project, as established in the Program of Environmental Monitoring designed by the company.</p> <p>In Sweden, a mining company, country administration and landowners have made a 50-year agreement which guarantees that no activities, other than for the fulfilment of an environmental compensation plan, will be carried out in the area. The company aims to compensate a significantly larger area than its operations have affected by managing and repairing the forest by adding dead wood from affected area, burn-clearing, adding deciduous trees, improving birdlife and improving possibilities for outdoor activities.</p>
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