

New interactive report highlights efforts of small-scale miners in Latin America to formalise

An alliance of civil society organisations from Latin America and the UK has compiled the stories of a group of artisanal and small-scale miners from Brazil, Colombia and Peru to highlight their experiences, challenges and their vision for development.

This multimedia special entitled [‘The path towards responsible gold’](#) brings together stories from six female and male small-scale miners from these countries and features video, maps, text and photos describing their search for a type of development that is compatible with a safe and healthy environment.

The report is the result of a process that began in August 2018 when the miners convened in Madre Dios, a region of Peru that is notorious for illegal mining, to share experiences and expectations around the future of their mining activities.

This ‘encounter’, entitled “Artisanal and small-scale mining: building a dialogue process in the Amazon Basin”, involved a series of in-depth discussions on a range of issues around the challenges of informal mining. The long-overdue formalisation of the sector was one of the most widely discussed topics.

Luisa Ríos of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA) emphasised how the encounter had highlighted the miners’ genuine desire to commit to formalisation. ‘This represents an important opportunity to build innovative solutions to tackle the problem of informality’ said Ríos.

The event was supported by the [Alliance for Responsible Mining](#) (ARM) from Colombia, the [Sustainable Amazon Foundation](#) (FAS) from Brazil, the [Peruvian Society for Environmental Law](#) (SPDA), and the [UK’s International Institute for Environment and Development](#) (IIED).

According to Gabriela Sampaio of FAS ‘One important observation from the encounter is how the miners are organising in our respective countries. As a result of the event many miners are looking into good practices they could adopt, particularly around better technology’.

Likewise, Marcin Persiak of ARM, is also positive about this opportunity: ‘The great thing about these encounters is that they motivate people. You can see that there are ways forward. Miners begin to think about their sustainable future, which involves many issues and means they have to consider different market factors as well as the need for training.’