

POLICY BRIEF

JOINT VISION FOR THE INCLUSION OF ASM COPPER IN RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS IN PERU



ALLIANCE FOR
RESPONSIBLE MINING

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Context and objectives



This document is the result of the work carried out in the first half of 2025 with different actors in the Peruvian copper supply chain and seeks to contribute to the construction of a joint vision for the inclusion of responsible ASM of copper, positively influencing a process of sustainable and equitable development in Peru. The document will serve as a guide for consultative and guiding processes for different stakeholders seeking to advance in this global challenge.

The proposal is part of the project **"Transforming Artisanal and Small-scale Copper Mining in Peru: Towards Responsible Copper Supply Chains"** 2024–2026, which aims to create greater articulation of the copper supply chain, encouraging the creation of a common vision for the sector.

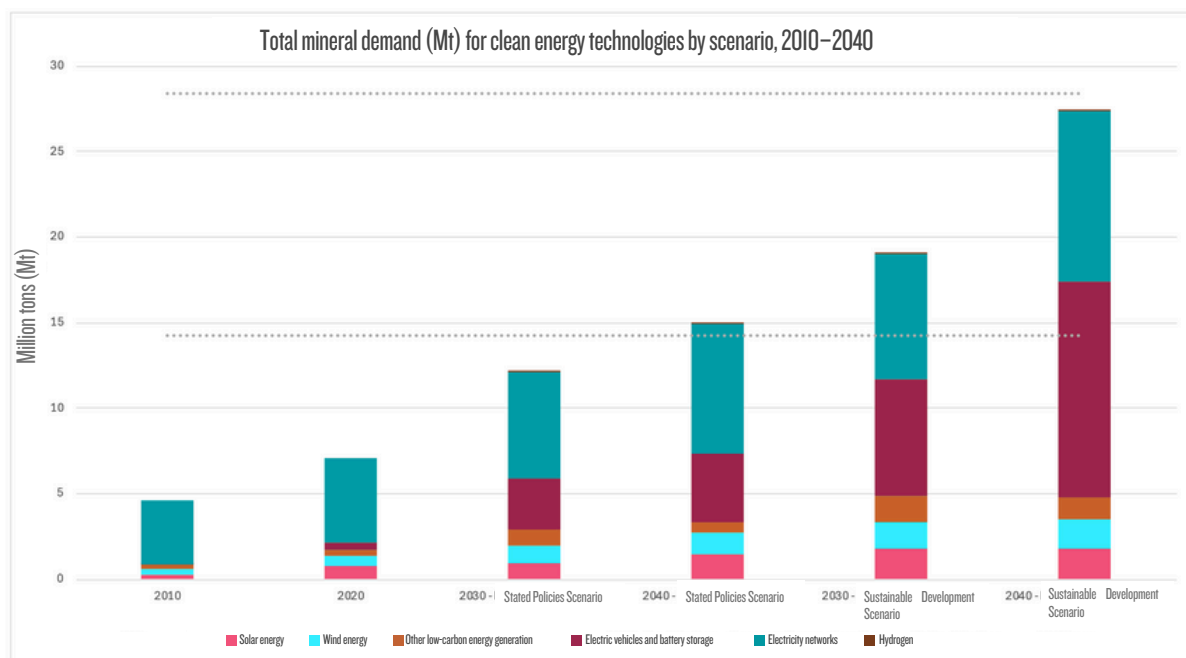
This initiative is funded by the **European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM)**, and is implemented by the **Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)** together with its partners **The Copper Mark, the Economic and Social Council of the Netherlands, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and Sunrock Investments V.B.**

In this effort, ARM consulted more than 60 stakeholders from the public and private sectors, mining representatives, sector specialists and civil society through bilateral meetings and two multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions during the first half of 2025. As a result of these consultations and spaces for dialogue, the present document is a compilation of the inputs for the participatory construction of a vision to guide policies and actions that will allow the effective inclusion of artisanal and small-scale copper mining (ASM) in responsible, sustainable and traceable supply chains in Peru.

Introduction

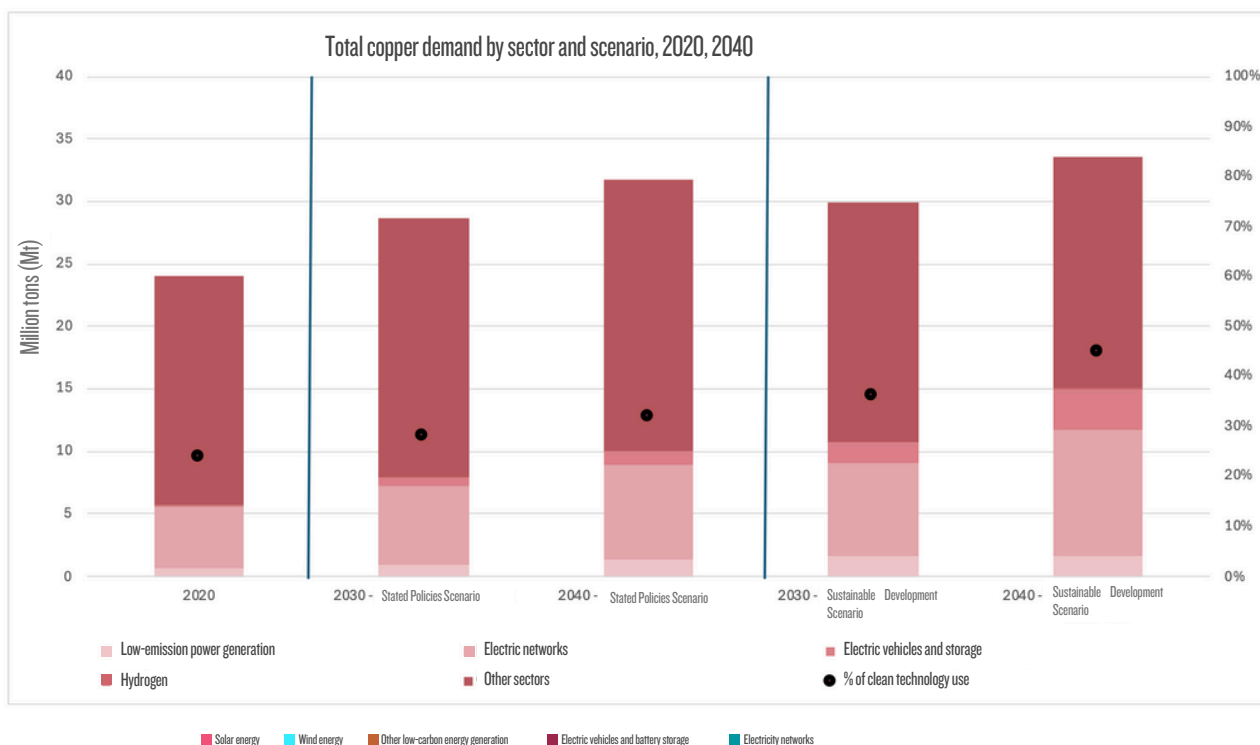
Copper is one of the metals most used by society and its role is crucial for different economic sectors such as energy transport and distribution, infrastructure construction or the manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment. Its demand is expected to multiply by 1.7 times by 2050^[i]. according to BHP, mainly driven by the change in the energy matrix.

The rapid development of low-carbon and clean energy technologies as part of the energy transition implies a significant increase in the demand for this and other strategic minerals, according to data from the International Energy Agency^[ii].



Total mineral demand for clean energy technologies by scenario, 2010-2040 (data: IEA).

Within this trend of increased consumption of strategic minerals, the specific demand for copper leads the projections, driven by the production of renewable energies and low-carbon technologies, from contributing 24% in 2020 to 45% in 2040 in the most ambitious scenario (Illustration 2). The importance of copper is particularly reflected in its use for power generation and low-carbon transportation; a total of 8 tons of copper are needed to generate one megawatt of offshore wind power and 50kg to manufacture an electric vehicle^[iii].



Total copper demand by sector and scenario, 2020-2040 (data: IEA).

On the other hand, to meet this demand, the main copper-producing countries are Chile, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Peru^[iv], Latin America being the region with the most active copper mines. Copper production and its contribution to Peru's economic growth has historically been driven by the Antamina effect between 2001 and 2005, being one of the top 10 copper mines in the world by production volume, as well as by the most recent "copper boom" between 2013 and 2016, with the materialization of several projects such as Antapaccay, Las Bambas and the expansion of Cerro Verde^[v].

In addition, the accelerated growth in demand has pushed the emergence of hotspots of tension around large-scale mining and its complex interaction^[vi] with rural communities and artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM). Moreover, copper ASM has been growing in parallel, although it has gone unnoticed in the eyes of the sector. In Peru, there are between 100,000 and 120,000 artisanal copper miners, of which 50,000 are exclusively copper miners, and the rest combine gold and copper mining^[vii]. This mostly Quechua-speaking population represents 10% of the REINFO (data prior to its purging in June 2025) and is mainly concentrated in the south of the country; in the departments of Ica, Huancaavelica, Arequipa, Apurimac and Ayacucho.



About the methodology

Territorial analysis, governance of natural resources and multi-stakeholder interaction are fundamental axes of this document.

For the implementing partners of the initiative "Transforming Artisanal and Small-scale Copper Mining in Peru: Towards Responsible Copper Supply Chains", effective advocacy must start at the grassroots, incorporating the diverse voices and perspectives of all the actors involved in the sector. Only in this way will it be possible to move towards truly inclusive and sustainable artisanal and small-scale copper mining (ASM).

Within this framework, the implementing team developed a systematic consultation process with the main stakeholders in the sector. The sample included government representatives, civil society organizations, private sector companies and people directly involved in mining activities throughout the production cycle.

The methodological strategy combined two complementary instruments: semi-structured interviews and multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces. The interviews, conducted in hybrid mode (face-to-face and virtual), made it possible to gather perceptions from different links in the supply chain, with special emphasis on the demand for the mineral by the private sector, as well as on the contributions of organized civil society.

The dialogue spaces were structured using the Café de Gobernanza methodology, a participatory tool designed to facilitate collective reflection in large groups. This methodology is based on discussion rounds guided by key questions that allow participants to debate, identify critical points and build common priorities. Its central purpose is to foster the shared construction of territorial development visions aimed at ASM sustainability.

During the Governance Cafés, proposals for action plans were identified at the local level, as well as voluntary commitments by participants to provide resources, capacities, information and technical support mechanisms. These spaces not only made it possible to map challenges and opportunities, but also to lay the foundations for a more solid articulation between key actors in the sector.

Results

As a result of the consultative process, four strategic areas were identified and prioritized to guide the construction of this common vision for the sector:

- 1.** Regulatory and institutional strengthening to ensure a clear, viable and enabling regulatory environment for copper ASM;
- 2.** Technical, organizational and commercial accompaniment to artisanal miners to facilitate their formalization and progressive strengthening;
- 3.** Creation of incentives and value propositions that promote a more equitable and beneficial participation in the market.
- 4.** Promotion of good environmental and social practices that ensure responsible activity aligned with national and international standards. These areas reflect the main challenges and opportunities identified by the stakeholders consulted and constitute key pillars for advancing towards a structural transformation of the sector.



1.

Regulatory and institutional strengthening

Objective

To adapt the regulatory framework and strengthen public institutions to recognize and promote copper ASM as an integral part of national mining.

Include in the current draft ASM Law provisions that reflect the reality of copper and other minerals, considering the differences in productive capacity and the linguistic reality of the mining territories.

Purge the Integral Mining Formalization Registry (REINFO) and streamline formalization procedures so that registered miners can complete their formalization process within the stipulated timeframe.

Develop a mining census that generates a true picture of the current sector.

Implement interoperable systems between public entities for traceability, control and access to services appropriate to the reality and implementation capabilities of ASM operators.

Ensure greater state presence in the territory and institutional ownership of copper ASM.

Encourage multilevel collaboration (local and national governments) for the extension of public policies.

Evaluate the feasibility of a state-owned company to dynamize access to services and markets (e.g. Empresa Nacional de Minería - Chile).



2.

Accompaniment of artisanal miners

Objective

Strengthen the operational, organizational, technical and social capacities of the miners, with special emphasis on the territorial and gender approach.

Control of the execution of exploitation contracts with abusive clauses by the authorities.

Establish seed capital schemes for operational and safety improvements in operations.

Develop ongoing technical assistance and training programs in occupational health and safety and environmental management.

Implement strategies for communication and socialization of good practices.

Facilitate access to financial services, learning from successful cases in ASM gold.

Promote the entrepreneurial development of women miners.

3.

Incentives and value propositions

Objective

Create attractive conditions for the involvement of public and private actors in the development of responsible artisanal copper chains.

Design economic incentives for compliance with environmental and social standards.
Design incentives for direct investment to ASM miners.

Allow progressive access to the Mining Fund for miners in the process of formalization once the REINFO has been purged.

Strengthen the economic integration of municipalities with ASM presence through greater coordination in decentralized incentive systems.

Promote innovative market models that allow better remuneration for responsible artisanal operations.

Improve product positioning strategies for artisanal and small-scale copper with final copper consuming companies.

Deepen the analysis of the value chain, with emphasis on upstream actors such as family and community ASM operators and intermediaries (marketers, transporters, processing plants and billers).

Deepen multisectoral dialogues that open the door to value proposals with ASM.



4.

Good environmental and social practices

Objective

Ensure environmentally responsible and socially just practices, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Promote environmental training adapted to the type of ecosystem and territory.

Evaluate and mitigate specific risks of copper extraction in the ecosystem.

Streamline environmental control and supervision processes to avoid duplication.

Visibilize and strengthen the role of women in ASM. Incorporate a cross-cutting gender approach in the accompaniment of the sector.

Promote principles of shared responsibility and economic, social and environmental sustainability between the mine owner and operator.

Reflections and next steps



The ASM sector has played a fundamental role in the economic development of rural areas in Peru, and its relevance continues to increase in a context of growing economic interconnectedness on a global scale.

Copper ASM is now an economic, social and cultural reality that requires greater recognition by the State and actors in the value chain.



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Turning this reality into an opportunity for a fairer and more inclusive energy transition depends on the collective commitment of all sectors involved. Recognizing and strengthening the role of copper ASM is key to building supply chains that promote local development and territorial equity.

On this path, constructive dialogue and the joint creation of mechanisms for continuous improvement and effective inclusion in responsible chains are essential elements for moving towards a fairer, more transparent and sustainable model for the country. Along these lines, the project is articulating three working groups focused on key issues: gender, access to remediation mechanisms and protection of rights, and environmental due diligence, and will continue to approach the different actors in the sector to implement this joint vision.

References

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About this document

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