

THE INSPECTION PANEL

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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IPN REQUEST RQ99/7

December 17, 1999

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

Re: Request for Inspection – Ecuador: Mining Development and Environmental Control Technical Assistance Project (Loan No. 3566-EC)

Dear Sir:

On December 13, 1999, the Inspection Panel (“the Panel”) received a Request for Inspection (“the Request”) related to the above referenced Project. The Request was submitted by DECOIN, Defensa y Conservacion Ecologica de Intag (Defense and Ecological Conservation of Intag) - an Ecuadorian non-governmental organization acting for and on behalf of persons in the area known as the Intag area and four representatives of the Asociacion de Caficultores Rio Intag (Association of the Coffee Growers of Rio Intag), all residents in the Imbabura Province, Republic of Ecuador. (“the Requesters.”)

The Requesters claim that the communities they represent are likely to suffer harm as a result of failures and omissions in the design and supervision by the Bank of the Mining Development and Environmental Control Technical Assistance Project in Ecuador. Specifically, they claim that the development of mining activities in the Intag area will prevent local communities from continue to work on their traditional agricultural and cattle breeding activities. The Requesters also claim that the project will have a destructive impact on critical natural habitats, threatening protected natural reserves and endangered species. The Requesters ask, *inter alia*, that the mining information gathered under the project within the natural reserves, their buffer zones and other areas in which there is a conflict involving local communities and mining companies be not disclosed to the public.

The Requesters’ allegations could constitute violations of *inter alia* the following Bank Policies and Procedures:

OD 4.01 on Environmental Assessment;
OPN 11.02 on Wildlands (Now OP/BP 4.04);
OD 4.20 on Indigenous People;

OD 13.05 on Project Supervision.

I am notifying you that I have, on December 17, 1999, which is also the date of the dispatch of this notice, registered this Request in the Inspection Panel Register. Due to the fact that the Panel's "registration" process is often misunderstood, I would like to emphasize that "registration" is an administrative procedure established by the Panel and that it implies no judgment whatsoever concerning the eligibility of the request.

In accordance with paragraph 18 of the Resolution and paragraphs 2 and 8 of the "*Conclusions of the Board's Second Review of the Inspection Panel*", Bank Management has been notified that it must provide the Panel, no later than January 20, 2000, with written evidence that it has complied, or intends to comply with the Bank's relevant policies and procedures in relation to the above-referenced credit. The subject matter the Management must deal with in a response to the Request is set out in paragraph 3 and 4 of the "*Conclusions of the Board's Second Review of the Inspection Panel*."

After receiving the Management response, the Panel will, as provided by paragraph 19 of the Resolution, "determine whether the Request meets the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 and shall make a recommendation to the Executive Directors as to whether the matter should be investigated."

The Request has been assigned IPN Request Number RQ99/7.

Yours sincerely,

Jim MacNeill
Chairman

TO: Ms. Cecilia Alvarez
DECOIN
Defensa y Conservacion Ecologica de Intag
Castilla 144
Otavalo, Imbabura
Ecuador

cc: Mr. James D. Wolfensohn
President
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Room MC12-750

The Executive Directors and Alternates
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development