

Posters

The Consultation Process as a Central Component of an Environmental Impact Assessment for a Seismic Programme in the Peruvian Rainforest
Poster Presentation.

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Large reserves of gas and natural gas liquids were discovered in the rainforest of south eastern Peru. Existing seismic coverage is insufficient to adequately define the structural leads identified on the original seismic surveys performed in the past. Shell Prospecting and Development Peru B.V. (SPDP) is interested in undertaking a 2D seismic data acquisition programme in the area. SPDP has contracted Environmental Resources Management Peru SA (ERM) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed seismic programme.

As well as fulfilling formal permitting requirements of Peruvian law, the EIA process is seen as a fundamental building block for the overall environmental management of the project. The EIA forms the hub around which seismic project design, stakeholder consultations, impact assessment and development of mitigation measures revolve.

Baseline (ie present environmental and social conditions) data collection began by drawing together existing physical, biological and social data. A key aspect of describing the existing environmental conditions is to identify those components of the local ecosystems (including human activities) which are most susceptible to impacts by planned seismic survey activities. Socio-cultural and socio-economic characterisation (ie social baseline data) were conducted with the participation of the communities directly affected by the seismic survey.

An extensive programme of public consultation is a central part of this seismic EIA. The objective of the programme is to inform the local communities about a proposed programme, provide for meaningful co-operation and advice in relevant decision making processes and assist in the implementation of the project in an environmentally sensitive and socially responsible manner. It is also conducted to allow the local inhabitants to influence the outcome of the EIA process and the management and implementation of

the programme itself, ensuring that feedback from the consultation process is included in the project.

In depth knowledge about natural resource use by the communities constitutes a fundamental baseline information which allows a comprehensive design and planning of the project activities in such a way to avoid negative impacts on the livelihood of the local people. The poster shows a summary of the main subsistence activities performed by the local native population. This information, obtained through a participatory process, will help monitor the project and implement proper mitigation measures.