

United Assembly of Cotacachi Canton
Council of Development and Management
CDG

WITH ONE SINGLE VOICE: NO TO MINING

Cotacachi, April 2005

Citizens, legitimate representatives of the communities, organizations, and public entities of the Canton of Cotacachi, Imbabura Province, Ecuador, it is with finality that we write the present document, making it to the entire world, and particularly to the national and transnational mining interests, our unequivocal decision to NOT PERMIT MINING in the Canton of Cotacachi.

To the mining interests who try to ruin our natural resources and destroy our communities, violate our rights, social peace, and environment, knowing that we have always supported the decision of the communities of the Intag Zone in their rejection of mining activities.

The organized civil society and the Intag and Cotacachi authorities have opted definitively for sustainable development, marked by solidarity, reciprocity, democratic principals and citizen participation, respecting human rights, treating individuals like a collective, and the right of the communities to create and enjoy their appropriate type of development, and to say NO to projects that threaten their natural and socio-cultural well-being.

Therefore, we are requesting Ascendant Exploration S.A., Ascendant Holdings Limited, and their subsidiaries and representatives, to leave our Canton within a period of 30 days. Ascendant Exploration has never consulted or solicited the consent of the closest part of the communities potentially affected by the mining project in order to carry out their projects.

In equal manner, the company has not consulted or minimally informed the Cotacachi Municipality of their plans and activities or solicited the respective municipal authorization. That which has been created is an ill-fated climate in which reins the violation of our rights, the intent to divide us, threats, intimidations and judgements of every type against the communities and the local newspaper.

In order to prevent more sustained problems of our environment we are requesting the following to the Central Government, through the Minister of Energy and mines:

- 1) Respect the independence and autonomy of the local governments of the Canton of Cotacachi.

- 2) Abstain from violating the human rights consecrated in the political Constitution of Ecuador and especially those that guarantee us the right to question in turn the exploitation of our unrenewable natural resources and the fact that this can affect our environmental and social rights.
- 3) Respect the rights of the citizens to live in an environment that is free of contamination and ecologically balanced, as it is guaranteed by various indices of article 86 of the Constitution.
- 4) Definitively abstain from granting mining concessions inside the Canton of Cotacachi, and revoke those which were not ceded with the authorization of the municipality of Cotacachi and the consent of the communities which will be affected by the mining activities, including exploration.

“One single voice, one single thought, one single heart: NO TO MINING, YES TO LIFE”

Five Signatures