
Advocacy toolkit case studies

LOBBYING FOR LAND RIGHTS IN PERU

THEME: Environment

ADVOCACY APPROACHES: Government officials: lobbying
Government officials: meeting with

Tearfund partner Paz y Esperanza (Peace and Hope), in coalition with other NGOs and indigenous organisations, wanted the Peruvian congress to pass a law so that indigenous communities would be consulted before any mining activity was approved in their territories. This was important to them because of the potentially negative impact of mining activity on the land and environment.

Over a period of two years they met a variety of organisations, including members of the Congressional Committee on Indigenous Issues, who were responsible for drafting the law, government representatives responsible for amending and voting on the law, a quasi-governmental body responsible for overseeing the government's policies, the International Labour Organization that advises the government on implementing its international obligations, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, who has a monitoring brief and can write reports and give recommendations.

Lobbying these organisations continued over several years, then a law was passed. Unfortunately, it did not contain all the provisions requested by Paz y Esperanza, so they had to continue their lobbying longer than originally envisaged.