

Peru: New Soil Pollution Laws and Remediation Timelines

Peru is mining nation. It is one of the world's top producers of gold, silver, copper and even oil. For decades these extractive industries have operated with little to no environmental regulations leaving behind thousands of contaminated sites in its wake. Peru is beginning to take the necessary steps to ensure its resources boom does not leave the environment and Peruvians with an irreparable toxic legacy. The government recently introduced some of Latin America's first soil quality standards, which will regulate toxic releases from extractive industries and provide a legal framework to begin remediating contaminated sites. #

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| Location | Peru |
| Pollutant | Lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, elemental mercury |
| Source | Mining, mining ore processing, petro-chemical industry, lead smelting |
| Population affected | 30,000,000 |
| Health and environmental impacts | Pollutants from mining and other industrial activities have a wide range of human health impacts (brain, liver, kidney, nervous system damage) and severe degrade the natural environment local communities depend on (i.e. contamination of drinking water and food sources). |
| Intervention | Adopting strict regulations on soil contamination |
| Outcome | To be determined – regulations only recently adopted. |
| Co-benefits | To be determined – regulations only recently adopted |

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