

# An Insight into the Orinoco Mining Arc: its implications for Venezuela and the eastern Caribbean

Environmental and Social Aspects Associated with the various types of mining in the Venezuelan Guayana.

**Lozada, Jose.** *Universidad de Los Andes, Facultad de Ciencias Forestales y Ambientales, Venezuela.*

Exploring the Mining Arc

**Ebus, Bram.** *InfoAmazonia*

Orinoco mining Arc's impact on Venezuela's indigenous people

**Rodriguez, Iokiñe.** *Environment and Development School of International Development (DEV) University of East Anglia*

Deforestation in the Venezuelan Amazon and the advancement of illegal mining

**Amibilia, Juan C.** *PROVITA*

The Orinoco Mining Arc and the Caribbean: possible impacts over marine ecological processes

**Cabada-Blanco, Francoise.** *Universidad Simón Bolívar*

Risk of ecosystem collapse under different scenarios of management as a measure of conservation opportunities and challenges.

**Ferrer-Paris, Jose R.** *Centro de Estudios Botánicos y Agroforestales, IVIC*

Open discussion.

Moron-Zambrano, Vilisa.

This symposium constitutes the first meeting in which different aspects of the Orinoco Mining Arc project will be publicly discussed by scientists. This subject has been highly politicized, which have hindered the dissemination of the environmental and social impacts that the project is, and might, produce well beyond Venezuela's borders, due to mismanagement and lack of enforcement.

The Orinoco Mining Arc (ZDEN-AMO) constitute an international threat to coastal-marine environments as well as to the achievements of Latin America in regards to diminishing deforestation rates. Additionally, the ZDEN-AMO could be compromising the efforts made by various countries to achieve the Aichi targets. The economic dynamic within bordering countries is being influenced by the ZDEN-

AMO, promoting illegal activities and armed groups, which further complicates the implementation of on-ground conservation actions.

Therefore, during the symposium, we will be able to:

1. Present the problem and raise awareness on the regional nature of the ZDEN-AMO impacts.
2. Draft various strategies for more effective conservation work on the area, through the discussion and feeding from the expertise of attendees who might have faced similar scenarios.
3. Launch the English version of a Special Edition magazine, dedicated to the implications of the Mining Arc, that will be freely available online. This Special Edition is a collaborative effort from more than 15 experts and researchers from various institutions, as an initiative of the Venezuelan Ecological Society, made possible with the support of Explora and PROVITA.
4. The symposium will be streamed and reported through the social media accounts associated with the Special Edition and its partners. Thus, it will reach over 4,000 people from various countries in the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean.
5. One of the presenters, Bram Ebus, is a collaborator of Mongabay –one of the most read environmental news digital media in the world-. Bram is currently waiting for a reply from Mongabay to publish a brief summary of the symposium.