

# To Save the Environment: Sustainability at the Expense of the Sales

By Xine Straw

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## SUMMARY

-Countries in the lithium triangle have allowed and encouraged mining operations despite the protests of the indigenous communities living there

-Mining operations in the lithium triangle increasingly threaten the environment, the economic well-being of indigenous communities in mining territories, and in turn the culture of said indigenous peoples





is also harming the geotourism market, as the salares are losing the aesthetic beauty that attracts so many tourists. This loss of tourism threatens the economy of the region, and despite promises from governments and mining companies alike, revenue has not made its way back into the mining community (Rentier et. al, 2024).

## Community Degradation Across the Lithium Triangle

The population of indigenous peoples in the lithium triangle is threatened with the loss of its land, resources, and way of life by lithium mining. Mining companies take land from the indigenous communities to perform their mining operations, and though the International Labor Organization (ILO) specifies that indigenous communities must be consulted and give consent before any operation is performed on their land, this has been discouraged in Argentina and not followed by [redacted] (e)5 (l)33 (n)- nfollowed bollamthis has boon [(e)5n



Table 1: Environmental, Economic, and Community Degradation Across Countries

Degradation	Argentina	Chile	Bolivia
Environmental Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Excessive water usage</li> <li>-Harm of livestock and agriculture in Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Excessive water usage</li> <li>-Harm of livestock and agriculture in Indigenous communities</li> <li>-Sinking of the Salar de Atacama</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Excessive water usage</li> <li>-Harm of livestock and agriculture in Indigenous communities</li> <li>-Groundwater becoming increasingly contaminated</li> </ul>
Economic Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Loss of tourism due to loss of water and land aesthetic</li> <li>-Lack of adequate compensation for revenue from mining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Loss of tourism due to loss of water and land aesthetic</li> <li>-Lack of adequate compensation for revenue from mining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Loss of tourism due to loss of water and land aesthetic</li> <li>-Lack of adequate compensation for revenue from mining</li> </ul>
Community Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land being taken from Indigenous peoples</li> <li>-Toxins leaking into the environment</li> <li>-Violations of international law damage autonomy of Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Land being taken from Indigenous peoples</li> <li>-Toxins leaking into the environment making area uninhabitable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land being taken from Indigenous peoples</li> <li>-Toxins leaking into the environment</li> <li>-Contamination of salt loses revenue and support for local communities</li> </ul>





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Xine Straw is an International Relations and Language

