

Bettercoal Colombia Working Group Work Plan 2022

Background

Bettercoal is working towards a global responsible coal supply chain. We were established by a group of major coal buyers to promote the continuous improvement of sustainability performance in their coal supply chain. We do this by independently assessing the performance of coal mining operations against the twelve principles of the Bettercoal Code through the Producer Assessment Process. The independent assessments results in a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) on any possible findings, which need to be actioned in specified timeframes.

Bettercoal has been working with Colombian coal companies since the inception of the organisation, working with two¹ of the three large coal exporters in the country. One of the aims of the Colombian Working Group (CWG) is to foster better relationships with all stakeholders involved in this complex environment, from business to government, to local and international organisations, NGOs and local communities. The CWG is formed of Bettercoal Members EnBW, Enel, ESB, RWE, Vattenfall, Fortum, and chaired by Uniper.

The CWG has detailed its purpose in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Key objectives for 2022

Despite the challenges experienced in 2020 and 2021, the CWG continued to deliver on activities and engaged with many stakeholders virtually. A report on the progress made in 2021 can be found [here](#).

CWG objectives have been set for 2022, based on the Group's experience since it was formed in 2018, stakeholder feedback during the annual engagement programmes, and the core activities of Bettercoal.

1. Monitoring of the Continuous Improvement Plans of Bettercoal Colombian Producers (Drummond Ltd and Cerrejón).
2. Develop and implement actions on prioritised contextual issues.
3. Engagement with Colombian stakeholders.

¹ Prodeco relinquished its mining licences in 2021 and will be disassociated from Bettercoal in 2022

Priority Work Area	Background and Objectives	Activities
<p>Monitoring of Continuous Improvement Plans</p>	<p>To ensure active engagement and progress in the Colombian Bettercoal Producer’s Continuous Improvement Plans</p>	<p>Engagement with Producers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombian Producers will be included in the CWG’s in-person/virtual engagement programme. <p>CIP Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat will provide CIP updates on Colombian Producers to CWG in at least three meetings in 2022. <p>CIP Webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinar to be held with CWG Members and Lead Assessors to provide updates on CIP progress for Colombian Producers.
<p>Develop and implement actions on prioritised contextual issues</p> <p><i>In 2022, the CWG will continue to focus on the three prioritised contextual issues, which have been a focus over the past two years.</i></p>	<p>Fostering increased dialogue in the peace building process</p> <p>To support the peace building process in the mining regions, the CWG has defined the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to building trust amongst relevant stakeholders (as a precondition for dialogue) in mining regions. Contribute to truth finding by encouraging mining companies to engage with the Truth Commission. Support mining companies and victims to create a shared vision of how to reconstruct 	<p>Promoting dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the publication of the Truth Commission report in mid-2022, explore how the CWG can contribute to a continuation of the dialogue to promote peace. Explore options for a third-party to specifically support dialogue between mining companies and victims of the past armed conflict in Colombia. <p>CREER project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the CREER trust building initiative.

	<p>the social fabric and contribute to peacebuilding in the Cesar mining region.</p>	
	<p>Access to clean water</p> <p>Some mining areas in Colombia, such as La Guajira, have a semi-arid and arid weather where water is a scarce resource. Combined with this, activities such as mining operations and development have been made accountable for making the problem more acute. This has been an ongoing issue between communities and mining companies. The CWG believes that a holistic approach to water management would be beneficial and is exploring projects to enhance the sustainability of water as a shared resource.</p>	<p>Water Stewardship Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to explore opportunities for Water Stewardship projects in the region of La Guajira, which would bring together the main stakeholders affected to address the issue of future water security in this region. • Bettercoal Members to explore opportunities to support specific projects.
	<p>Mine closure</p> <p>Responsible mine closure and economic diversification have grown in significance, not least because of the Prodeco relinquishment, which highlighted the consequences of sudden, unplanned cessation of operations.</p> <p>The CWG will explore knowledge sharing activities on responsible closure planning – a new standalone principle in the Bettercoal Code 2.0 – and how it can collaborate with other stakeholders to support economic diversification in regions reliant on coal mining.</p>	<p>Webinars on responsible closure and economic diversification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a number of webinars to support knowledge sharing on planning for future mine closure and supporting economic diversification. The webinars will be global in focus. <p>Supporting projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CWG has identified a project – ‘Transition to a Diversified Economy’ – that is exploring how to support an inclusive, sustainable and just development approach for coal mining regions in Colombia. The project is funded by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency and a number of utilities,

		<p>including Bettercoal Members. This project aims to support the transition in Colombian mining regions from coal mining dominance towards a more diversified local economy. The CWG will review how to support this project as it moves to phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CWG will also explore opportunities to support and engage in other projects and activities on responsible closure and economic diversification <p>Bettercoal and the Just Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through knowledge-sharing and stakeholder engagement, the CWG will support the development of Bettercoal’s wider role and position on the Just Transition.
<p>Engagement programme with Colombian Stakeholders</p>	<p>To enhance Bettercoal’s understanding of the contextual issues in Colombia, to get feedback from stakeholders on our activities and to widen knowledge and understanding of the work of Bettercoal.</p>	<p>Engagement programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CWG will plan for an engagement programme in 2022 – preferably in-person. This will build on the 2020 and 2021 virtual engagement programmes. The group will plan to meet not only Bettercoal Colombian Producers but also with Governmental organisations, dialogue institutions, international organisations, community groups, civil society and labour organisations. During these meetings, the group will cover specific agenda topics tailored to each stakeholder around the defined prioritised issues, identifying opportunities for developing specific actions where Bettercoal could add value and have an impact.