

The Truth About Vale S.A. in Minas Gerais

Commitments and Abuses

MARCH 2025



EARTHWORKS



Human Rights, Community Impacts, Environmental Damage

MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL — TWO MAJOR TRAGEDIES AT MINES RUN BY MINING COMPANY VALE S.A.

The 2015 Fundão dam collapse killed 19 people and affected thousands along the Doce River. The 2019 Brumadinho dam failure caused 272 deaths and devastation to the Paraopeba River. Vale's operations in the area continue to have serious risks and violate human rights. Investors have a responsibility to monitor Vale's actions and demand accountability for affected communities.

Vale S.A. is responsible for serious human rights violations in Brazil

Even after knowing its dams might collapse, Vale kept operating in ways that later were found to cause the failures in 2015 and 2019. After the disasters, the company has forced people off their land and away from their communities in traumatic and harmful ways. This includes evacuations in the middle of the night with no warning or chance to return.

Mining-related illnesses and unsafe working conditions are common at Vale's Minas Gerais operations. Local communities report ongoing health problems due to dust and water pollution. Mining is causing deforestation in the Atlantic Forest in Minas Gerais. This

is harming biodiversity and water resources. In spite of these impacts, Vale is proposing new projects that could lead to serious consequences including the violation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, destruction of water sources, and increased child prostitution.

Currently, 20 of Vale's tailings dams are considered high-risk for failure. People are calling for Vale to address these risks and settle reparations agreements while rethinking plans to expand in sensitive areas.

Solutions and accountability

Earthworks recommends that investors and shareholders take the following actions:

- Set up an Independent International Commission to review Vale's environmental and social impacts.
- Create a permanent complaint channel for Vale's operations.
- Request that Vale stop licensing for the dangerous Apolo and Serra da Serpentina Projects which would threaten the drinking water of millions of people.
- Withdraw their investments from Vale if the violations continue.

Investors and shareholders should hold Vale accountable for its actions in Minas Gerais.

They must prioritize active and direct communication with affected communities, Indigenous Peoples, workers, and civil society. They should demand the company act ethically and strictly follow international best practices.

To learn more, a full report about Vale's impacts, *The Truth about Vale S.A. in Minas Gerais: Commitments and Abuses*, is available at: earthworks.org/the-truth-about-vale-sa

