

Supplemental Social Baseline Sal de Vida

Prepared for:

Galaxy Lithium (Sal de Vida) S.A.

July 2022

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Supplemental Social Baseline

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Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment (Estudio de Impacto Ambiental)
IFC	International Finance Corporation
INAI	National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas)
IP	Indigenous Peoples
HEG	Human Environment Group Ltd.
LC	Lithium Carbonate
PS	Performance Standard
RENACI	National Registry of Indigenous Communities (Registro Nacional de Comunidades Indígenas)
SDV	Sal de Vida
SHM	Salar del Hombre Muerto (Hombre Muerto Salt Flat)
WBG	World Bank Group

1. Introduction

Sal de Vida (SDV) is a greenfield Lithium project located in the Catamarca Province of Argentina. The Project is being developed by Allkem Limited (the "Sponsor"), a new company formed by the merger of Galaxy Resources and Orocobre. Allkem is the fifth-largest lithium producer globally. The SDV deposit lies within the "lithium triangle", an area encompassing Chile, Bolivia and Argentina that contains a significant portion of the world's estimated lithium resources (Figure 1). Catamarca is a proven mining jurisdiction, home to several successful mining operations and development projects such as Livent Corp. and Minera Alumbrera.

The SDV Project is located in the eastern half of the salt flat Salar del Hombre Muerto ("SHM"), in Catamarca province of northwest Argentina. The border with the adjacent Salta province lies along the northern border of the salt flat. The SHM is located within an endorheic basin of approximately 4,000 km² that extends across the border between these two provinces. The SDV Project ("the Project") contains an exploration camp, pilot plant and brine exploration areas. To the south of the existing facilities, the construction of an additional camp, the wellfield, brine distribution system and evaporation ponds are underway, and a production plan is planned. The project will include a construction workforce of up to 380 people and an operations workforce of up to 180 people.

The Project has 31 concessions with its associated mining rights spanning a total of 263 km² in SHM. Most of the project activities are developed on the salt flat itself, with limited impact to natural soils as part of mining or processing activities. All process facilities will be located within the Project tenements in the south-eastern sector of the salt field. The evaporation ponds, wellfields and brine distribution system will be located directly above the eastern sub – basin of the salt field over the salt pan. The production plant will be sited adjacent to the evaporation ponds to the south on colluvial sediment.

The mine will be supplied by small on-site diesel generators (~5MW total capacity), as the closest power line runs 140 km north of the Project. The estimated production rate of the Project is 15K tones per annum of lithium carbonate for approximately 40 years, producing approximately 430 million dry metric tons of saleable product which will be trucked from the Project to the ports of Antofagasta in Chile or to Rosario or Buenos Aires in Argentina, mainly to export to Asian markets. First production is expected by December 2022.

In 2014 the Mining Secretariat of Catamarca (Secretaría de Estado de Minería) approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the exploration phase of the Sal de Vida Project. As per the local regulations bi-annual updates of the assessment were presented with the latest being submitted in 2019. In 2020 Galaxy contracted Vector Argentina to develop the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Production Phase of the Project (Actualización Informe de Impacto Ambiental para la Etapa de Explotación, Proyecto Sal de Vida). The document, finalized in February 2021, considered the Direct Social Area of Influence to be the department of Antofagasta de la

Sierra, mainly the villages of Villa de Antofagasta, El Peñón, Antofalla, Los Nacimientos, Ciénega Redonda and puestos¹ in the department.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is considering funding the Project. As part of the due diligence process, the institution needs to fully understand potential impacts and risks, and ensure those risks are managed in accordance with the requirements of the IFC Performance Standards (PS). During the appraisal process, IFC determined that it was necessary to conduct a social baseline, focused on the immediate region of impact of the project to better understand the characteristics of the population and the potential impacts of the project at the local level.

The Human Environment Group (HEG) was retained to define the direct area of influence of the Project as defined by PS1² and develop a supplemental social baseline with a narrow focus on this area, primarily focused on a 50 km radius around the Project as a basis to assess Project Impacts. A key component of the study was to assess if any of the local population could be characterized as Indigenous Peoples (IP) according to IFC PS7.

HEG prepared a preliminary findings report based on the immediate observations from an initial document review and a field visit to the Project area from June 19th to 25th. This draft report expands on the initial findings in light of a more in-depth analysis of primary data gathered during the site visit, project documentation and publicly available information.

This document is organized in 5 sections as follows:

- Section 1 Introduction: including a brief description of the Sal de Vida project and scope of work.
- Section 2 Scope of Work and Methodology: briefly describes the approach used for the study.
- Section 3 Social Characterization: outlines the main characteristics of the local population including demographics, social services and infrastructure, religion and cultural traditions and economy.
- Section 4 Social Impacts and Local Perception the Project: describes the potential social impacts of the Project, how the community sees potential adverse impacts and the strategy of the company to engage with the local communities
- Section 5 Conclusions and Recommendations: Provides a summary of the main conclusions
 of the local social context and related risks, and recommendations to address and manage
 potential risks.

¹ In the Argentinian context "puesto" is small rural settlement of one or a few buildings occupied by one person or family as a permanent or seasonal residence that is often used as a base for livestock farming.

² "The area likely to be affected by (i) the project and the client's activities and facilities that are directly owned, operated or managed (including by contractors) and that are a component of the project; (ii) impacts from unplanned but predictable developments caused by the project that may occur later or at a different location; or (iii) indirect project impacts on biodiversity or on ecosystem services upon which Affected Communities' livelihoods are dependent."

2. Scope of Work and Methodology

The Human Environment Group (HEG) was commissioned to develop a supplemental social baseline of communities potentially directly affected by the construction and operation activities of Allkem's Sal de Vida project in the Argentinian province of Catamarca. The study establishes the current socio-economic and cultural environmental baseline conditions of the study area which comprises communities and inhabitants of the region in a radius of 50 km of the Project site, including those residing of the bordering province of Salta.

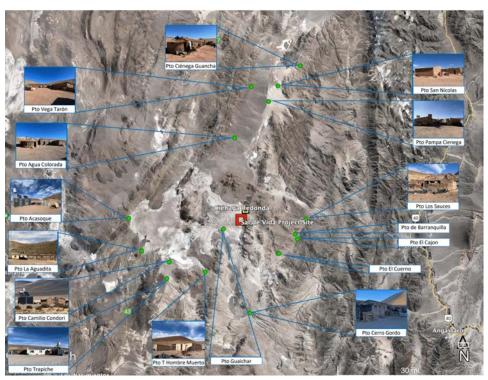
The analysis of the social and cultural conditions was used to assess whether residents in the area are IPs, using the criteria defined in IFC PS7, as distinct social and cultural groups possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees: (i) self-identification and recognition by others as a distinct indigenous cultural group, (ii) collective attachment to a geographically distinct habitat or ancestral territory and its natural resources, (iii) Customary institutions separate from those of the mainstream society, and (iv) a distinct language or dialect different from the official language of the country or region.

The study will be conducted in six stages. For this draft report the first five stages have been completed, with the final report pending review by SDV and IFC and incorporation of clarifications by HEG as needed.

- 1) **Preliminary information:** HEG reviewed information provided by SDV and conducted a web-based search of information related to the social and cultural characteristics of the population of the region where the Project is located. Based on the information provided and the objectives of the study, the research tools were designed including a fieldwork schedule and a semi-structured interview guide (Annex I), and guidelines for the development of participatory mapping (Annex II).
- 2) **Site Visit:** HEG conducted a site visit to the area of the Project from June 19th to 24th. During the site visit HEG meet with SDV representatives, conducted a reconnaissance visit to the Project and surrounding areas and conducted semi-structured household interviews of permanent and seasonal residents in the Project area. A total of 19 interviews were conducted with one or several household members simultaneously. In cases where it was not possible to conduct the interviews in the place of residence of the individual, meetings were held at their place of work at the Allkem facilities or in the city of Salta. The community of Ciénega Redonda, and 12 of the existing 16 puestos within a 50 km radius of the Project were visited. The remaining 4 puestos, used during seasonal rotation have no permanent residents, and were not visited due to logistics constraints and the fact that household representatives were found and interviewed elsewhere. It was not possible to locate household representatives of 3 puestos, despite visiting those locations. According to information provided by other community members, each of these puestos are occupied regularly by one individua. Figure 1 shows the location of the in relation to SDV project.

Annex III provide a detailed schedule of the site visit and a list of stakeholders interviewed. During the interviews, when possible, participants were asked to draw maps of the area identifying their place of residence (Village of Ciénega Redonda or puesto), relevant geographical features, natural resources and land uses, cultural sites, social infrastructure, relevant mining projects, routes and any other feature of the land that they considered relevant or significant. One community participatory map was developed by the residents of Ciénega Redonda and 8 maps were developed by individual household representatives. Photos of the participatory maps are included in Annex IV.





- 3) **Initial Finding Report:** A presentation of the preliminary findings report, based on the immediate observations from the initial document review and site visit, was made remotely to IFC and SDV on July 8.
- 4) **Data Analysis:** Data gathered during through interviews and fieldwork was tabulated and analyzed to characterize the local population directly affected by the Project including population, social organization and dynamics, social infrastructure and services, identity and cultural features and economy.
- 5) **Draft Report:** A draft report was submitted to SDV and IFC on July 19, 2022, providing them with the opportunity to factual check the information presented, comment on findings and conclusions and ask for clarification as needed (this report).

6) Final Report: HEG produced and delivered the final report to SDV and IFC on July 29, after addressing all relevant comments.

3. Social Characterization

This report focuses on the social characteristics of the immediate area of influence of the Project. For general social information on the department of Antofagasta de la Sierra, please refer to the Updated Social Baseline Report (Actualización Reporte Línea Base Social) developed for the Project in 2020. Primary information presented below was gathered through semi-structure household interviews conducted between June 19th to 24th in the Project area and the city of Salta. According to information provided by SDV and corroborated through interviews with the local population there are 22 households living permanently or seasonally within 50 km of the Project site. Representatives of 19 households (86%) were interviewed. Although efforts were made to interview representatives of the remaining 3 households, it was not possible to locate them during the field visit period.

There is one village, Ciénega Redonda (Figure 2), within the study area, located approximately 5 km from SDV facilities. 16 puestos are scattered within a 50 km radius of the project. 11 puestos are occupied more or less permanently while 5 puestos are occupied seasonally as farmers rotate between them to graze their livestock or have other permanent residences.

Police

Health Post

Elementary School

Church

Road to Sal De Vida
Project Site (5 km)
Area

1000 ft

Figure 2: Satellite Image of Village of Ciénega Redonda

3.1. Population

According to municipal data reported in the updated social baseline, the population of Ciénega Redonda was 41 in 2018. According to accounts from the interviewees, the population of the village was close to 80 people some 20 years ago, but many people have left to move to larger towns, mostly in Catamarca and Salta, looking for economic development opportunities and secondary schooling for their children. In the last couple of years, people have begun to return to the area attracted by the job opportunities provided by SDV.

The number of people who live in the area at some point during the year, including Ciénega Redonda and puestos, either permanently or part-time, is about 80 with close to 60 living in the area at any given time. There is high mobility in the population with extended family travelling in and out of the area for work, education and to support family members with economic and domestic activities. The number of people who live year-round in the area is around 40, with another 35 to 40 people either coming to the area for a short period each month, or coming for several months (e.g. students on summer break). Therefore, the average number of people living in the area in any one month varies from about 39 to 58, with June, July and August having the higher numbers, as illustrated in Figure 3.

Average Population on Monthly Basis

60.
45.
30.
15.
0.
E F M A M J J A S O N D

Figure 3: Average Population on Monthly Basis

The population in Ciénega Redonda at the time of the field visit was 22, with an additional 6 people being seasonal residents living with, and supporting, family members during the winter months (Jun-Sep). The population in Ciénega Redonda follows a similar monthly fluctuation in population as the region.

As opposed to the school system in the rest of Argentina where the school year is from February to November allowing for summer holidays, the school period in Ciénega Redonda runs from September to May due to the intense cold weather during the winter months. This contributes to the unusual variation in population for the area, as illustrated in Figure 3.

The combination of varying school breaks and family members coming back to help out in the area, creates the monthly fluctuation shown in the graph. However, it should be noted that although there is a monthly fluctuation in the population each year, the residents in the area consider

themselves to be from Ciénega Redonda or their individual puestos. The strong sense of connection and community that the residents have to the study area was mentioned often during the interviews. This is discussed further in Section 3.3.

The population in the area is also relatively young, with a little over half of the residents who live in the area for at least part of the year, being under the age of 25. The average age of the residents who live fulltime in the area is estimated to be about 36, However the average of many of the non-permanent residents is much lower, as many of the part-time residents are students who return to the area during the school break. As a result, Figure 4 is skewed by these students returning home each year.

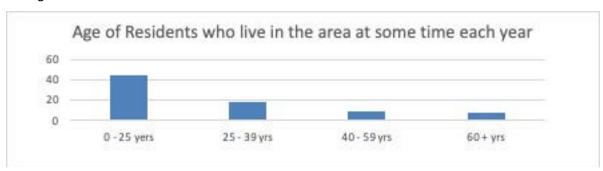


Figure 4: Age of Residents Who Live in the Area at Some Time Each Year

The population is relatively equally split between male and female (Figure 5), with slightly more females, although many of them are students and therefore part time residents. There are 26 females under 25 years of age (32% of the total population) compared to 16 young males (20% of the total population). The larger number of young females, many of whom are students, is important to consider in the recommendations at the end of this report, to ensure issues of gender equality are integrated into training programs and community development activities.





Most of the population in the area has completed, or is attending, primary school, with about 20 residents having complete secondary school and about 8 declared having received some additional training, often just the basic training provided by the mining companies before individuals start working at a mine. About 10 residents did not finish elementary school, almost all of whom are over the age of 60. The base level of education that many of the younger residents have should be leveraged by Allkem when implementing the training and capacity building programs described in the recommendations.

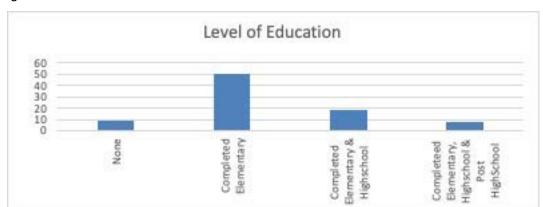


Figure 6: Highest Level of Education

3.2. Social Services and Infrastructure

Social services and infrastructure are very limited in the area. The community of Ciénega Redonda has the only elementary school, church, sports facility and public health facility in the area. There is also a police station in the village. A description of services and infrastructure available in the area is provided below.

Housing

With the exception of one house built by Livent for a household affected by its operations, all other houses are made of a combination of mud and rocks with straw or tin roofs. Four of the puestos also have a shipping container provided by the mining companies in the area that are used for additional living space and storage. On average about 2.5 residents stay in a bedroom that is typically approximately 10 m², although this number fluctuates as the monthly variation in residents changes. The number is probably closer to an average of 3 residents per room during June, July and August and closer to 2 for other months of the year. In some instances, houses have additional rooms to host family members during the periods they are in the region.

Homes were almost all constructed of mud/adobe, with one property being built with bricks and concrete as compensation by a mining company and 3 properties utilizing metal shipping containers for a portion of their homes or for storage.

Electricity and energy

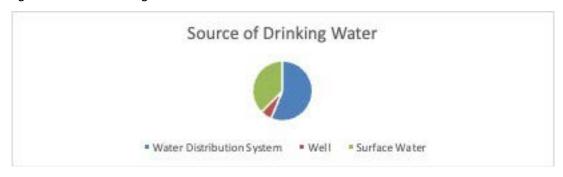
The area does not have a main electrical distribution system. All but 2 of the puestos had solar panels that could power a few lightbulbs and small appliance. In Ciénega Redonda, all houses also depend mostly on solar panels. The police station has a petrol fueled generator that provides electricity to the town occasionally. The generator is only turned on as needed typically two to three times a week for a few hours, with fuel donated by SDV. In Ciénega Redonda SDV also provided a solar water heating system to all housing units.

Firewood from small bushes, gathered in the area, and scrap wood donated by mining companies is the main source of energy for heating and cooking.

Water and Sanitation

Ciénega Redonda has a water distribution system transported by a pipeline from a source approximately 3 km north of the village (Laguna Verde). Bathrooms with sceptic tanks were built by SDV for every house of the village. All the houses that are shown as being connected to a water distribution system in Figure 7, are in Ciénega Redonda. In puestos, people get water for domestic and animal consumption from different surface water sources such as rivers and nearby lagoons. SDV has determined that in general, water in the area does not meet Argentine requirements for human consumption due to its natural mineralization. SDV and other mining companies supply bottled water to some residents of the area; however, many puestos still depend on, and consume, water from local natural sources. Residents claim people have been drinking this water for hundreds of years with no adverse health effects. Most, but not all puestos have rudimentary latrines, built with plywood and tarp. Given the concerns that many residents expressed about water use and potential pollution from mining activities, the implementation of the participatory monitoring program discussed in the recommendations section is important, especially for the puestos.

Figure 7: Source of Drinking Water



Health

There is one health post that was recently built by SDV in Ciénega Redonda; however, the post is not yet staffed. SDV is supporting the community in the process to get the Provincial Government of Catamarca to assign medical personnel to the post. At the time of the field visit, the local population noted that the province conducts mobile clinics in the area for general checkups and vaccination campaigns. Medical visits are sporadic, ranging anywhere from weekly to every two or three months. Mining companies, including SDV, support the local population in medical emergencies, treat some conditions and provide some health checkups. For specialized medical treatment, the local population travels to Antofagasta, San Andres de los Cobres or the city of Salta.

Education

The elementary school in Ciénega Redonda has an adjacent housing unit for the teacher who lives in the community during the school year (September to early June). High school is not available in the area and local children move, by themselves or, with their families to Antofagasta Village, San Andrés de los Cobres or Salta to continue their education.

Protective Services

There is a police station in Ciénega Redonda that is irregularly staffed. According to residents a team of two to three policemen come to the station for periods of a few hours to three days, and it can be anywhere from one week to a couple of months between visits. There is another station in the northwest of SHM, which is more regular staffed by policemen who patrol the area.

Transportation and Communications

The main road in the area is route 43, which runs north-south linking Antofagasta village, approximately 100km (~2 hrs) from Ciénega Redonda and San Antonio de los Cobres about 250 km (~4 hrs) north of the Project area in the province of Salta (route 43 becomes route 17 in Salta). Those two towns are the most frequented by local residents within the province of Catamarca. Residents of the puestos in Salta, visit Santa Rosa de los Pastos Grandes most often, which is approximately 80 km (~2 hours) north via provincial route 129.

There is a fairly extensive network of secondary and mining roads that access most puestos. Some of the puestos are accessible only by foot or pack animal trails.

Most residents visit the towns an average of once a month for buying supplies, visiting family and administrative procedures. There are a few residents that visit nearby towns every couple of weeks and a few others leave the region less than once a year.

Travelling outside of the area is expensive for most people, especially for those who don't have their own vehicles or have someone who supports them with transportation in a regular basis. Only 4 of the 19 households in the area have a truck or car; one a has a motorcycle and 3 have

bicycles, but most rely exclusively on some type of public transportation or transportation provided by mining companies. Hiring a ride to the town can cost between ARS 17,000 and 20,000 (up to 1/5 of the average household income).

With the support of SDV, the residents of Ciénega Redonda now have access to the internet. Most people interviewed have a cellphone; however, only in Ciénega Redonda and areas closer to some of the mining companies have cell signal. Two households in Ciénega Redonda mentioned that they have a television (which they share with other households in the area) but can only be used when the police generator is operating. Five households in the area have access to radio.

3.3. Culture and Identity

The vast majority of local residents were born in the area and can trace their ancestry to the local region. According to interviewees, all household members were born and raised in the province of Catamarca or Salta, and the vast majority are from the area of SHM or the nearby basins of the Salar de Ratones or Salar Centenario, just north of SHM in the neighboring province of Salta.

All interviewees indicated that they or someone in their households can trace their ancestry back at least three generations in the local area. Furthermore, 11 households identify as having Kolla-Atacameño or some type of indigenous ancestry.

Interviewees of the Salta region, north of the project area identify themselves as Kolla people, belonging to the Indigenous Community³ "Comunidad Andina de Santa Rosa de los Pastos Grandes", registered on July 13, 2010. According to information provided by local residents there is a group of people that have applied with the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI) for the registration of another Indigenous Community (Atacameños del Altiplano). Although most of the community have the same roots, they are divided on the formation of Atacameños del Altiplano. Based on information provided by interviewees, in the SHM basin, about 10 community members support the formalization of the Indigenous Community. The people supporting the organization of this community share environmental concerns related to mining, such as water use, contamination and availability, while those who do not support the formation of the new Indigenous community have a more positive view of the mining industry and its economic and social benefits. Most of those not supporting the formalization of the Indigenous Community noted that their lack of support for the new organization was more based on a lack of trust in the leader and his opposition to mining, as opposed to a lack of self-identification as part of an Indigenous Community. The interviewees suggest that there is a general reluctance to self-identify as Indigenous Peoples because of the perceived relation between Indigenous Peoples and opposition to mining in the region, rather than a lack of sense of community, kinship or indigenous ancestry.

³ To gain legal representation, Indigenous Communities need to be registered in National Registry of Indigenous Communities (RENACI) managed by the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs.

Social Organization

In Ciénega Redonda there is a municipal office, and one member of the community is appointed as the representative of the municipal government. This person helps the community with administrative procedures, represents the community in the municipality, and works to secure support for the community through government programs.

The local community is organized into tightly connected kinship groups, with an elder seen as the patriarch/matriarch leading the family. Most people in the SHM are related and family members support each other economically and by performing farming and household activities for each other. People from the community who have emigrated to larger towns to pursue higher education or jobs, often come back to the area to support relatives.

Interviewees in Salta indicated that they do not actively participate in the affairs of the Indigenous community. Again, this lack of participation is based more on the perceived lack of benefit that participation would create, as opposed to a lack of self-identification as an Indigenous person. There appears to be, based on public signs found in the region, a newly formed and registered (2021) Indigenous Community (Comunidad Incahuasi Ratones) in the neighboring basin of the Salal de Ratones and Salal Centenario, where some of the puestos are located. There was confusion among interviewees regarding this organization and the relationship with the Pastos Grandes organization.

As mentioned above, some local residents are seeking to register the Atacameños del Altiplano Community with the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI). If registered, the community will be a legal entity recognized by the government of Argentina. Independent of whether the group is successful at registration, it is a social organization that represents a fraction of the local population.

Religion and Cultural Traditions

All interviewees are catholic and many also honor the Pachamama⁴. There is one church in the region, in the village of Ciénega Redonda. However, services are provided very sporadically. According to interviewees accounts, a priest and several nuns used to come weekly to the community to offer a service before the Covid pandemic. Since the pandemic started there has been no church representatives in Ciénega Redonda. If people are travelling to one of the nearby communities, they will often attend the Sunday service. On average, people participate in church services approximately once every six months, with a few members going every couple of weeks and other attending less than once a year.

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⁴ Pachamama, or Mother Earth was the principal Inca deity, and is still honoured by indigenous peoples in the valleys, foothills and high planes of the Andean Mountains of northwest Argentina and neigbouring countries.

Most people interviewed participate in celebrations of the Pachamama. The Pachamama offering ceremony is an indigenous tradition of Andean peoples rooted in a system of reciprocity where offerings of food, beverages and other objects are buried as gratitude for the help and protection provided by Mother Earth. This is performed mainly on August 1st every year, with some additional offerings made on other occasions throughout the year.

Some local residents move with their livestock between several puestos throughout the year to avoid the harshest weather conditions. The seasonal movement of local family members between larger urban centers and the rural area is mostly based on current economic and social needs, such as obtaining formal education, finding better paying jobs and accessing social services and infrastructure. However, all these migratory practices may also be rooted in the semi-nomadic practices of the Kolla who are driven to the higher elevation to avoid heat and insects during the summer and move to the valleys in the winter months for more favorable conditions for themselves and their livestock.

Recreation

When asked about recreation activities, most people said that in their "free time" they do chores, repairs or improvements around the house or the property. With the recent addition of internet services, one person indicated that they play videogames and makes music during their spare time. In the summer, people from Ciénega Redonda play football (soccer) in the community field and participate in tournaments in Antofagasta. One household mentioned that during the summer, for fun, they visit Río de los Patos to fish or look for gold nuggets in a nearby abandoned mine.

3.4. Economy

There are two main economic activities in the area, mining and livestock farming, with other limited options that supplement their livelihood, such as vegetable gardening during the summer months, gathering of natural resources such as bushes for firewood and some government employment. More recently, in the last 3 years, members of Ciénega Redonda started shearing wild vicuñas in partnership with established cooperatives from other regions. Local people also rely on support from family members that have moved to nearby towns for job opportunities, often are also in the mining industry.

There are no commercial establishments in the area. The nearest marketplace to the settlements in SHM is Antofagasta approximately 100 km south. For the people in the Salta province, just north of the project, the nearest marketplace is in Santa Rosa de los Pastos Grandes, approximately 80 km north. Those, together with San Antonio de los Cobres, are the three towns most frequented by local residents to acquire products. In Salta there was one account of a vendor from Santa Rosa de los Pastos Grandes trading products to the area.

Mining

Mining is by far the main economic activity in the region. About 75% of residents who live in the area at some point during the year, either work for or depend on someone that works in the mining sector. The average wage of people working in the industry in the region is approximately ARS 80,000 monthly (~US\$620 as of July 2022). In addition, mining companies provide benefits such as health care, life insurance and pension contributions.

Mining companies also provide other support to residents of the area, such as regular deliveries of food and bottled water, scrap wood for construction and firewood, and transportation and health services to local residents. The mining companies have also undertaken several community development projects in recent years, including the construction of a school, internet equipment, solar cells, training and education, and support for farming.

Farming

Although mining has become the main economic activity in the region, many people still depend, at least partially, on raising livestock for meat, wool and other products such as milk, cheese and eggs. Most households have anywhere from a few lamas, sheep, goats and/or chickens to large herds of up to several hundred lamas, sheep and goats. Those with smaller numbers of animals consume the meat or occasionally sell their animals, while those with larger herds have small commercial operations producing meat and wool. Reportedly, wool prices are currently very low and it has been very hard to sell any product in the last few months.

Other Activities

At any given time, there is one representative of the municipality, appointed for Ciénega Redonda, who receives a government salary, and a teacher who lives in the village during the school year (September to early June).

Recently the practice of "chaco" has been re-introduced in the area, where wild vicuñas are gathered once a year to be sheard their valuable wool.

Firewood areas were defined in the participatory mapping process. Other resources gathered in the area are construction materials such as rocks, clay and straw for housing.

The Rio de los Patos has been stocked with trout. Some people fish and consume the product, but this activity was reported to be more of a recreational activity than an economic/subsistence activity.

The only economic activity, other than mining that is conducted on the salt flats is the collection of salt. This was a more important activity a few decades ago when people transported and traded salt for other products in the lower valleys. One person mentioned that this activity is still being conducted on rare occasions, and is not affected by the activities of the mining companies.

4. Social Impacts and Local Perception of the Project

4.1. Brief Description of Project Facilities

The Sal de Vida Project is located on the Salar del Hombre Muerto ("SHM") in province of Catamarca Province approximately 1,400km northwest of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Project's facilities will be located in the southeastern sector of the SHM and will have a footprint of approximately 2,000 ha, 0.03% of the surface of the SHM.

Stage 1 includes brine extraction, evaporation and processing operations onsite and will produce 15,000 tpa of high-grade Lithium Carbonate ("LC"). The layout and development plan for the initial phase allows for future expansion for subsequent stages to expand production to 45,000 tpa LC.

The process commences with brine extracted from wells drilled to a depth of up to 280m in the salt flat. Brine is pumped to a series of evaporation ponds, where it will be evaporated and processed at the onsite lithium carbonate plant. Project facilities including wellfield and brine distribution, evaporation ponds, the lithium carbonate plant and discard stockpiles.

The brine will be extracted from two wellfields. The initial stage will have nine wells drilled in the east end of the field. Additional wells will be drilled in the southwest of the lease. The brine distribution system will traverse the salt flats towards the evaporation ponds. The location of the evaporation ponds was determined based on technical and environmental factors. The plant will be located at the center of the evaporation ponds. The salt disposal facility will consist of stockpiles surrounding the facilities. All salt waste is of similar chemistry to the surrounding salt flat and no adverse environmental impacts are expected. Both liquid and solid wastes from the process plant will be mixed in a tank located near the production plant and will be sent as a pulp to the co-disposal area. Some of the material will be stockpiled separately to be used as construction material for future facilities, further reprocessing or sold as a by-product.

The main route to the Project site is from the city of Catamarca via national route 40 to Belen, then provincial route 43 through Antofagasta de la Sierra to the SHM. The road is mostly paved to Antofagasta de la Sierra and continues unpaved for the last 145 km to the Project site. This road is well maintained and also serves other mining operations in the area. Production is expected to be trucked mainly through these routes to a combination of ports in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Chile. The Belgrano railway line is located 100 km to the north of the Project and the use of rail during later Project stages is a possibility.

4.2. Expected Impacts

The main negative social impacts identified in the EIA for the local population are associated with influx of workers to the area and an increase of traffic during the construction and operation phases, as well as the perception of reduction of water for domestic and farming use among the local population. Positive impacts are related to job and economic development opportunities.

SDV is implementing a series of measures to mitigate the negative impacts and increase the benefits of the project for the residents of the immediate area of influence.

Area of Influence

The EIA categorize the social area of influence in three levels: Provincial, departmental and local, where the local area of influence was defined as the human settlements in the area of the Project and those associated due to their functional interactions including Antofagasta Village, Antofalla, EI Peñón, Los Nacimientos, Las Quintas and Ciénega Redonda. During a Project appraisal by the IFC it was observed that other than Ciénega Redonda, which is roughly 5 km from the Project area, all other communities were in fact at considerable distance of the Project (~100 km or more) while some smaller settlements (puestos) located closer were not considered. Based on this Project appraisal by the IFC, the study area is more narrowly focused on a radius of 50 km of the Project.

The immediate area of influence considered for this study includes the entire basin of the SHM where the Project is located and part of the basin of the Salal de Ratones in the neighboring province of Salta. There is one village and 11 puestos in the basin of the SHM and 5 puestos in the southern part of the Salal de Ratones. While most of the impacts are limited to the basin of the SHM, the Salal de Ratones is a short drive and the population there could benefit from the economic development opportunities of the Project.

Local Perception of the Mining Industry and Sal de Vida

In general, there is a positive perception of the mining industry and the SDV Project. There is one group of people who are very concerned about environmental impacts of the mining industry in the area. This is the group making efforts to formalize and register in the INAI as the Indigenous Community of Atacameños del Altiplano. A few years ago, Livent a neighboring lithium mining project in the SHM, constructed a berm on a local creek to create a reservoir for industrial water use. The berm stopped the flow of water in that creek and dried out a meadow downstream near the puesto Trapiche. In part based on that significant negative impact caused by a mining industry, people in the region are concerned that their grazing lands dry out due to water extraction for project use. Other environmental and social concerns identified by community members were dust from increased traffic and impacts to water quality and availability.

However, most community members, including some of the supporters of the formalization of the Indigenous Community expressed their support for the industry and the Project, citing jobs and economic development opportunities as key benefits, along with industries support such as donations of food, water and other products such as scrap wood for construction and firewood, and corporate social responsibility projects. Most people interviewed trust that SDV has the systems in place to develop the Project with no adverse effect for the local environment or local population. This conclusion is in part driven by SDV's information and consultation process including workshops conducted between October and November 2021. The consultation process

included a Public Hearing conducted by the Ministry of Mines in Ciénega Redonda on November 19, 2021.

SDV has been proactively engaging with the people self-identified as part of the community of Atacameños del Altiplano, and although concerns regarding the use of water by the mining industry remain, they have a positive relationship and appear to cautiously support the Project, while opposing the activities of other mining companies operating in the area.

Impacts to Land and Resources Use

Land use by the local population is concentrated mostly in the meadows surrounding the salt flats where livestock grazes and some resources are gathered. Some other areas surrounding the salt flats are also used, to a limited degree, to gather firewood and building materials. Wild vicuñas roam in the fields around that salt flats and are gathered once a year in fenced areas on the edge of Ciénega Redonda, to be sheared. The only activity that the local population do in the salt flat is collecting salt for trading, but that practice is rarely performed nowadays.

During the field work, local people were requested to draw maps of the areas where they live and use resources. This was done to determine land use and identify where are the resources they use are located. Interviewees were asked to draw a map of the territory that they use on a regular basis, seasonally and sporadically, as well as to identify main geographic features, the location of SDV facilities and other mining projects and the places that they use for economic, social and cultural purposes. The guide for the mapping exercise and photos of the maps drawn by local people are attached in Annexes II and IV respectively. The maps are schematic rather than geographically accurate to try to understand the special conception of the population. They show no overlap between Project activities and their land and resource use areas.

The conclusion that there is no overlap between Project activities and resource use areas is also supported by information provided by SDV of a study conducted by an agronomist commissioned by the Company to collect information on agricultural and livestock farming, and identify in satellite images lands that local population use for housing and farming. While SDV facilities are mostly located in the salt flat with the exception of small adjacent areas used for workers accommodations and offices, community land and resource use areas are surrounding the salt flats.

Project documentation indicate that there will be no use of surface water, and groundwater modeling concluded that groundwater extraction for industrial use will have a negligible effect on water availability. SDV ships water for human consumption to the Project area, as the water available in the region does not meet physicochemical parameters for drinking water, described in the local legislation.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Social, Cultural and Economic Context

The local economy was traditionally based on livestock farming with the mining industry taking an increasing role in the last three decades. SDV is now employing a significant number of local residents and opening job possibilities for people that had previously left the region in search of economic development opportunities in nearby cities.

The local area is characterized by a tightly knit community, that is closely connected through kinship and through a common history and bond that forms from living in a relatively harsh environment for many generations and relying on each other on a regular basis. The social structure is a mix of permanent residence and family members who have left the area in search of work or education, but who travel back to the area to visit with and support the family members who live there year-round.

Residents identify with the geographic area where their families have remained for several generations, their tight family relations, and the way of life of which appears to be increasingly related mining.

5.2. Stakeholder Engagement, Social Impacts, and Local Perception of the Project

SDV stakeholder engagement and social development strategies have fostered a good relationship with community members. Based on a stakeholder mapping exercise, SDV has developed and is implementing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and social development projects in the area of direct influence as defined in the EIA which comprises a large area of the department of Antofagasta de la Sierra including the communities of Ciénega Redonda puestos in the SHM, but excludes nearby settlements in the province of Salta.

Although there are some concerns of potential environmental impacts from the mining sector, and the SVD Project in particular, the efforts made by the company to inform local communities have helped create trust with the majority of the local population. The community understands the mitigation efforts the Project is implementing, and population generally trusts that the Project will manage to avoid significant adverse impacts in the environment and the local population.

The EIA indicated that the Project would be able to limit adverse environmental and social impacts through project design and implementation of mitigation measure. The EIA was presented to the community and most residents believe the project will not have significant impacts, although there is a small group of local residents who have significant concerns of impacts to water quantity and quality in the area. SDV is implementing a participatory monitoring program to further address these concerns, but some community members remain skeptical and fear that Project water use will have significant impacts in their natural environment and resources.

SDV needs to continue engaging with the population in the area of influence defined in the EIA and expand its engagement to settlements in the south of the basin of the Salal de Ratones. Strengthening programs already established, such as stakeholder engagement, grievance mechanism, participatory water monitoring, and social investment initiatives to demonstrate that environmental and social impacts are managed adequately will further reduce the risk of social opposition to the project.

5.3. Indigenous Peoples

Based on the criteria of IFC PS7, and as described above, there are Indigenous Peoples in the Project area of influence. They maintain a collective attachment to the distinct habitats and natural resources in where the Project is being developed, and therefore PS7 is applicable.

At least two Indigenous organizations are present in the immediate area of influence, one formally recognized by the government of Argentina as an Indigenous Community and the other seeking to register in the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs. Although the legitimacy and representativeness of local indigenous population in the area needs to be better understood, the organizations are recognized by a segment of the local population and therefore need to be considered and engaged by the Project. There are also indigenous peoples who do not identify or belong to either of those organizations but who also need to be engaged on a continuous basis.

The importance of the Project to the country and the international attention on lithium mining is likely to draw the attention of organizations that advocate for the protection of Indigenous Peoples rights. It will important that the Project establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) throughout the life of the project. Securing the support of local Indigenous Peoples and local Indigenous organizations makes good business sense for SDV and help address the questions international NGOs may ask in the future. Securing the support local Indigenous Peoples and local Indigenous organizations ensures compliance with PS7 and avoids the considerable reputational risk to the Company and financial institutions supporting the project, in particular the IFC. To comply with PS7, SDV needs to assess the capacity of the customary institutions of IPs present in the Project immediate area of influence, and provide access to relevant project information prior to making decisions that may affect them. All concerns and suggestions need to be considered and addressed to achieve mutual benefits. In addition, SDV will need to develop a Community Development Plan outlining actions to be implemented to avoid and minimize adverse impacts, and compensate any residual impact in a culturally appropriate manner, as well as actions to identify opportunities to enhance the positive effects of the project.

Considering the land and resource use of IPs will not be affected by the project, the requirement of obtaining Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) does not apply to the Project.

5.4. Recommendations

Social management of the Sal de Vida project has been successful and mostly adequate. Programs to manage social risks are being successfully implemented. SDV has a successful local hiring program and is training the local population to improve their possibilities to access good paying jobs in the mining industry in the area.

Stakeholder engagement in the immediate area of influence can be strengthened through the implementation of an Informed Consultation and Participation process providing information and consulting in a culturally appropriate way. In order to achieve this level of consultation and participation, SDV should assess the capacity of local organizational structures and support them through capacity development programs. Strong organizations will help establish a meaningful participation and facilitate coordination for mutual benefit.

SDV is encouraged to continue implementing social management programs with a focus on the immediate area of influence, including the population living in the basin of the SHM and Salal de Ratones. Training and supporting the local population to participate in the mining industry is a positive aspect that should be expanded to strengthen other economic development opportunities. Special focus should be placed on gender-based development programs, given the number of young females in the area. Along those lines SDV has started to gather information on local agricultural and farming production. With this baseline information, SDV should develop programs to increase and improve local production, add value to the products produced and commercialize them in neighboring towns. Diversifying the local economy will benefit the local community, the mining industry and the Project. These initiatives and the existing social management programs should be integrated in a Community Development Plan for the immediate area of influence with specific components to address concerns of Indigenous Peoples. The Plan should be developed in a participatory manner and outline all actions to be implemented to avoid and minimize adverse impacts, and compensate any residual impact in a culturally appropriate manner, as well as actions to identify opportunities to enhance the positive effects of the project and support the social and economic development of the local population.

ANNEX I Survey and Semi-Structured Interview Guide

Cuestionario de Línea de Base Social Proyecto Sal de Vida Catamarca / Salta, Argentina

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Familia (d)		La zona			CA,	A/SA				Argentina				Extranjero							
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				Salud								
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Recreación (Actividad, localización y frecuencia)												
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ANNEX II Guidelines for the development of participatory mapping

Mapeo comunitario participativo Proyecto Sal de Vida Catamarca / Salta, Argentina

Los mapas participativos comunitarios son una herramienta de representación visual de información en un contexto geográfico determinado. Se basan en la percepción de los participantes sobre los recursos disponibles y sus usos según las condiciones geográficas físicas, sociales y culturales. También pueden incluir otras características como riesgos generados por estos usos. Representan gráficamente cómo se perciben el entorno socioambiental, y ayudan a entender la relación que tiene la persona/comunidad con su territorio y como aprovecha los recursos disponibles.

Al ser instrumentos visuales, estos mapas permiten recoger y representar información de forma gráfica, ayudando a reconocer relaciones espaciales con el territorio y sus recursos y con actores con quienes los comparten. La representación gráfica de la distribución de recursos naturales, culturales, sociales y económicos proveen una herramienta amigable para conocer como los actores entienden sus territorios y fijan prioridades. Considerando que cada persona tiene perspectivas, usos y relaciones diferentes con el territorio, es importante incluir a diferentes actores con distintos intereses y experiencias, tales como hombres y mujeres, jóvenes y ancianos, y personas con diferentes ocupaciones, para tener así una diversidad de enfoques y una visión más completa sobre el uso de recursos locales, la situación actual y el panorama de desarrollo.

Además de conocer las perspectivas individuales, llevar a cabo el ejercicio en grupo permite, a través del diálogo, que la información que se presenta en el mapa constituya una representación colectiva, negociada entre los actores involucrados.

El ejercicio está concebido para realizar diversos mapas individuales o familiares en puestos del área de influencia del proyecto y en grupos de 6 a 15 personas en la comunidad de Ciénega Redonda donde se concentra la mayor parte de la población.

Proceso:

- 1) Determinar los límites geográficos del territorio local que los participantes utilizan regularmente utilizando como base para ubicación los mapas proporcionados abajo (Figuras 1 y 2). Esto puede incluir áreas de uso rutinario, así como áreas que se utilizan de manera estacional o que fueron utilizadas en el pasado por la persona/comunidad o sus familiares. Si se utilizan áreas fuera de la zona de estudio podrán ser listarlas indicando la dirección y distancia aproximada. (Los participantes podrán agregar notas cuando sea relevante durante todo el proceso)
- 2) Dibujar un esquema básico incluyendo la localización del puesto/comunidad en cuestión, localización de Sal de Vida y características del territorio que sean relevantes para la persona/comunidad. Estas pueden incluir otros proyectos extractivos, vías de acceso, poblados o puestos cercanos, características físicas naturales como ríos, lagos o montañas, edificios importantes como iglesias, escuelas, mercados, sitios culturales relevantes, etc.

- 3) Añadir áreas donde la persona/comunidad hace uso de recursos como fuentes de agua, campos agrícolas, zonas de pastoreo, zonas de caza, zonas de pesca, zonas de recolección, áreas recreativas, lugares de reunión e interacción con otros actores, zonas de importancia cultural o espiritual, etc.
- 4) Añadir zonas de uso y de importancia para otros actores en la zona, ya sean actuales o históricos.
- 5) Anotar cambios relevantes al contexto local en los últimos años, incluyendo cambios históricos y cambios observados desde el inicio del proyecto de Sal de Vida (cambios en la población, cambio de actividades, uso o distribución de recursos, etc.). Los participantes también podrán incluir cambios esperados a raíz del proyecto u otros eventos previstos.



Figura 1: Imagen Satelital de ubicación SDV (Área de Estudio)



Figura 2: Imagen satelital de ubicación SDV (Región)

Los mapas desarrollados y las notas serán analizadas posteriormente, en conjunto, para determinar el contexto socioambiental, características de la población local y potenciales impactos sociales y económicos de actividades en el territorio, incluyendo proyectos extractivos, entre otros.

Se recomienda a Sal de Vida que, una vez concluido el análisis se lleven a cabo talleres para devolver la información a la población local y para estimular discusiones sobre potenciales impactos negativos y medidas de mitigación, así como maneras de potenciar los beneficios del proyecto en el desarrollo local.

ANNEX III Site Visit Schedule

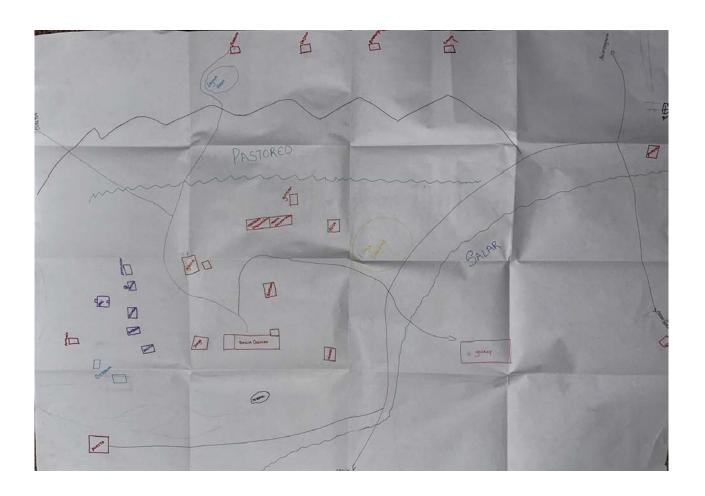
Site Visit Schedule, February 5 – 9, 2018

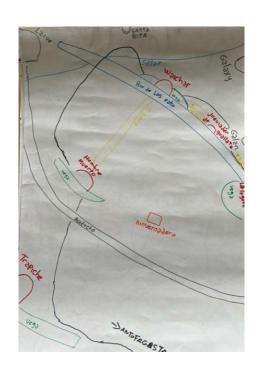
Date	Activities
June 19	 Transfer from the city of Salta to the Project area Kick-off meeting. Discussion of the Project, local context, and field work logistics.
June 20	 Visit and interviews in Puesto Cerro Gordo Visit and interviews in Ciénega Redonda. Participatory Community Mapping exercise Household Interviews.
June 21	 Visit and interview in Puestos San Nicolas Visit and interview in Puesto Agua Caliente Visit and interview in Puesto Vega Tarón Visit and interview in Puesto Cinegoancha Visit and interview in Puesto Pampa Ciénega Interview in SDV facilities
June 22	 Visit and interview Puesto Los Sauces Interview in SDV facilities
June 23	 Visit and interview in Puesto Tumba del Hombre Muerto Visit and interview Puesto Trapiche Visit Puesto La Aguadita Visit Puesto Acasoque Visit Puesto Camilo Condori Interview in SDV facilities
June 24	 Transfer from Project area to the City of Salta Interview in Hostal Rincón del Cielo
Activities were supp	ported by the Sal de Vida social management team:
Martin Rodríguez Luis González Federico Segovia	Manager Community Relations, SDV Community Relations Coordinator, SDV Agronomist, External Consultant to SDV

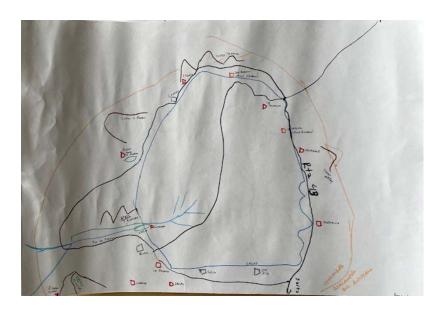
ANNEX IV Photos of the community maps and of a sample of household maps

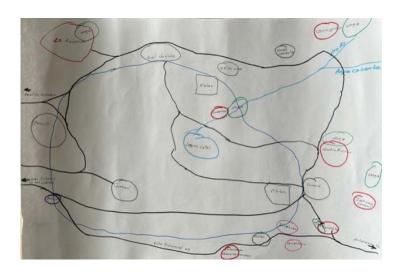
* Individuals' names removed for public distribution of document

Ciénega Redonda

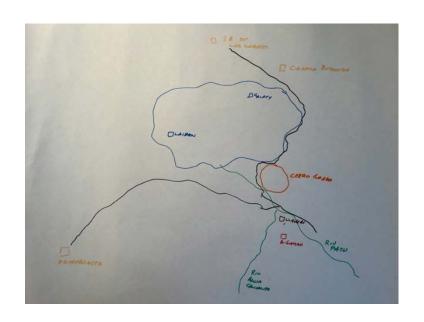


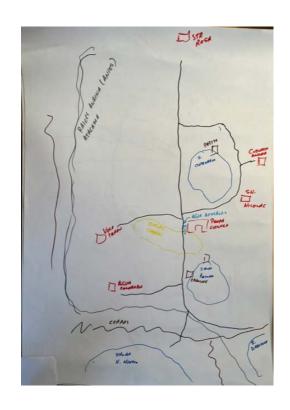


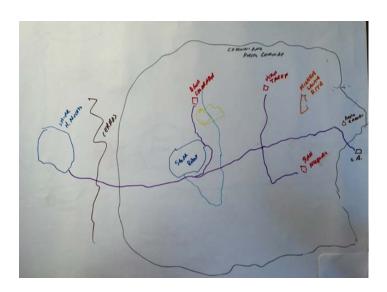


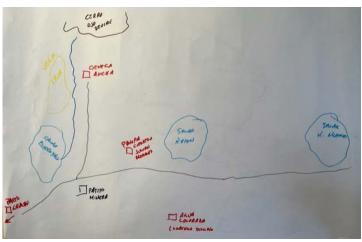












ANNEX V Documents and Records Reviewed

Document / Records	Source / Date
Environmental Impact Assessment for the Production Phase (Actualización del Informe de Impacto Ambiental para la Etapa de Explotación)	Galaxy Lithium (Sal de Vida) S.A / February 2021
Update Social Baseline Report (Actualización Reporte Linea Base Social)	Galaxy Lithium (Sal de Vida) S.A / August 7, 2020
Report of Social Perception Study (Reporte Estudio de Percepción Social)	Galaxy Lithium (Sal de Vida) S.A / August 20, 2020
Land registry information (provided by SDV)	Mining Secretariat of Cajamarca / 2011, 2013
Records of Agronomy Study (SHM and Salta sectors)	SDV / April-May 2022
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	SDV / May 23, 2022
Social investment Management Report (2019-2021) and Perspectives for 2022	SDV / 2022
Stakeholder Mapping – Antofagasta de la Sierra Department	SDV / 2021
Stakeholder Engagement Registry	SDV / 2020, 2021
Socio-Cultural Event Calendar (Antofagasta de la Sierra)	SDV S.A / 2021
Registry of Training for Community Members	SDV / 2021
Community Relations Monthly Reports	SDV / Jan-Apr 2022
Grievance Mechanism Registry	SDV / 2020, 2021
Social Approach: Together We Go Further	Allkem / Jan 2022
Resolution Creating the National Registry of Indigenous Organizations (Resolución 238/2010: Créase el Registro Nacional de Organizaciones de Pueblos Indígenas)	Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indíegnas / 2010