Experiences of developing a social impact management plan using the SIMP tool

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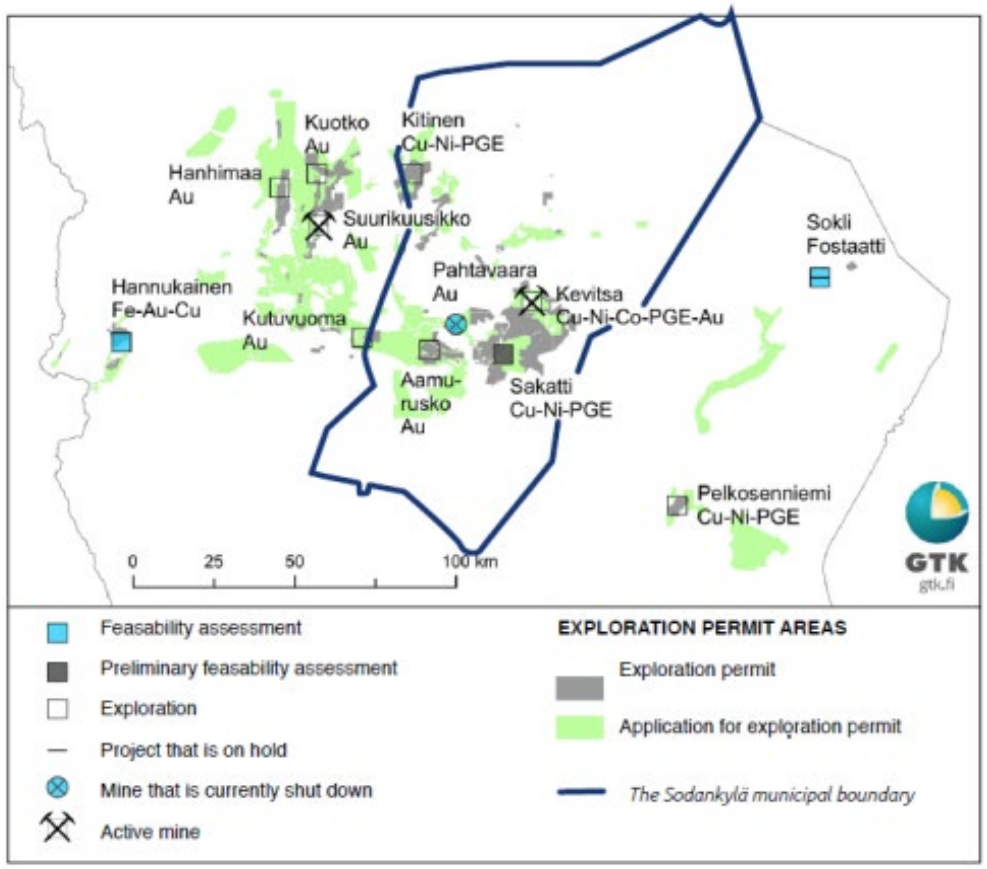
Sodankylä – a municipality of mining boom in Finnish Lapland



Social impact assessments are not enough

- Social impact assessments made in a planning phase as a part of EIA, when there actually isn't any impacts – more like estimations, predictions, modelling possible impacts (Suopajärvi 2013).

- By definition, impacts are expected and *un*expected (Vanclay et al. 2015).

- Cumulative impacts neglected (Franks et al. 2010).

- Social impact assessments *should* be "the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by those interventions". (Vanclay et al. 2015 p.1.)

Social impact management plan

- Social impact management plans are effective strategies to manage social issues.
- They are developed in partnership with regulatory agencies, investors and community.
- SIMPs link assessment to ongoing management and address social and community issues.
- SIMPs clarify responsibilities in the management of impacts, opportunities and risks.
- SIMPs demonstrate a shift to include management as a core component of SIA practice.

Collaborative process in Sodankylä

Social sustainability in Sodankylä Municipality's minging programme

SODANKYLÄ MUNICIPALITY'S MINING PROGRAMME

SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION PLAN 2020, 2023, 2026, 2029

SECTION	GOAL, OBJECTIVE	ACTION PLAN	INDICATOR
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	■ Welfare of people living in the community increases ■ Villages close to mining projects can benefit out of the mining projects ■ The negative impacts and losses are minimized and compensated ■ Local culture has good ability to act and develop ■ Traffic safety increased ■ New residents settling into the community	■ Development of different livelihoods so that there are job and education opportunities for whole families ■ Road and pedestrian way investment and improvement projects ■ Social impacts are evaluated and followed up and problems solved: local mining forum established ■ Housing and accommodation improved ■ Facilitation of "Local Mining Forum" for impact follow-up and problem and possibility solving on municipality level together with stakeholders and industry ■ Support for new inhabitants to settle in Sodankylä ■ Cooperation with national-level networks such as Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining	■ The results of follow up survey for local people, every second year, about the experienced impacts of mining ■ Number of inhabitants, male/female ratio, % of persons working at mine registered in the municipality ■ Traffic safety increased: less accidents and less experienced unsafety ■ Cooperation agreements on voluntary basis with different actors, such as mining forum

And what then?

- Not that much have happened, but in 2023 municipality is planning to update the programme and is also hiring new personnel for mining issues and also for sustainability.
- Lack of monetary and personnel resources in small, rural communities hinders the developmental work.
- There is no ”ownership” for social sustainability as the range of social impacts is very wide.
- A lot of work, less results – but at least something to start with.

Thank you for your attention!

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