

local, departmental and national levels. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation lies with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Environment (MDSMA).

The existing mining operations will be forced to undertake an environmental audit, then submit their plan of environmental adequacy in order to obtain their Environmental Permit (DAA).

The new projects of investment will require an initial environmental impact study (EIS), and a plan of action and control, in order to obtain their Environmental Permit (DIA).

To initiate environmental legal processes, the promoters of new projects must submit a "Ficha Ambiental" (FA) which is a technical document outlining the scope of the project, identifying key impacts and possible mitigation measures for adverse impacts.

The draft document is based on World Bank guidelines.

There are many companies registered in Bolivia in the mining environmental consulting sector, most of them local. The international firms operating in Bolivia are: A.D.I. Environmental Management Inc. (Canada); Dames & Moore (U.S.A.); Environ-Environmental Resources (U.K.); Golder Associates (Canada); International Mining Consultants Ltd. (U.K.); Knight Piesold & Partners (U.K.); and, Woodward-Clyde (Australia).