Chile stops mining project to save penguins



The government of Chile has rejected plans for a billion-dollar mining project because it would disrupt marine life. The area that was threatened with mining is home to 80 per cent of the world's Humboldt penguin. Other creatures that live in the waters include blue whales, fin whales and sea otters. A mining company called Andes Iron had wanted to extract millions of tons of iron and copper in the north of Chile. It also wanted to build a new port to facilitate the mining process. Chile's Environment Minister told reporters: "I firmly believe in development, but it cannot be at the cost of our environmental heritage or cause risk to health, or to unique ecological areas in the world."

Chile's National Mining Society said the decision was bad news for mining and for the country. It said the mining project was essential for the economic development of the region and the country. The controversial mining project would have generated $2.5-billion in revenue. Government ministers said the mining company had not shown the full negative impact of the mining project on the local environment. It also questioned the project's finances. The Environmental Minister said: "There are deficiencies in basic information and insufficiencies in mitigation, compensation, and reparation measures, meaning we believe that the eventual impacts have not been properly taken care of."

Sources: bbc.com / *reuters.com* / *nasdaq.com*

Writing

Penguins are always more important than mining. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

plans / mining / marine life / creatures / penguins / port / development / heritage / decision / essential / region / revenue / negative impact / finances / information / care

True / False

a) The mining project amounted to trillions of dollars of investment. T / F

b) Half of the world's Humboldt penguins live in the proposed mining area. T / F

c) A mining company wanted to mine iron and copper. T / F

d) Chile's Environment Minister does not believe in development. T / F

e) A mining society said Chile's government's decision was bad news. T / F

f) The government said the company hadn't shown the full impact. T / F

g) The government had no problems with the company's finances T / F

h) The government believes the company did not consider the future. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**rejected**	a.	necessary
2.	**disrupt**	b.	enable
3.	**extract**	c.	shortages
4.	**facilitate**	d.	upset
5.	**unique**	e.	income
6.	**essential**	f.	refused
7.	**region**	g.	correctly
8.	**revenue**	h.	distinctive
9.	**deficiencies**	i.	area
10.	**properly**	j.	take out

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) Should more governments put the environment over profits?

c) What do you think of penguins?

d) What damage does mining do to the environment?

e) Should Chile have gone ahead with the economic development?

f) What do you know about Chile?

g) How do you think penguins might feel about this decision?

h) What questions would you like to ask the mining company?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Phrase Match

1. rejected plans
2. it would disrupt
3. home to 80 per cent
4. It also wanted to build
5. at the cost of our environmental
6. essential for the economic development
7. generated
8. the mining company had not shown
9. There are deficiencies in basic
10. the eventual impacts have not

a. of the world's Humboldt penguin
b. a new port
c. $2.5 billion in revenue
d. been properly taken care of
e. information
f. for a billion-dollar mining project
g. heritage
h. of the region
i. marine life
j. the full negative impact

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think of Chile's decision?

b) How good is your country at protecting the environment?

c) How good is the environment for marine life in your country?

d) What do you know about penguins?

e) How important is mining as an industry?

f) What unique ecological areas are there in your country?

g) How important is development?

h) How much of your country's environmental heritage has gone?

Spelling

1. Chile has rteecedj plans
2. it would disrupt ireanm life
3. Other tsraeurce that live in the waters
4. tetxcra millions of tons
5. a new port to tlaeitafic the mining process
6. environmental egtriahe
7. the mining project was iesenalst
8. development of the oeingr
9. The soalctrnreovi mining project
10. questioned the project's nfncesia
11. iesiceecidnf in basic information
12. the utvanele impacts

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Water
You think water conservation is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms of conservation aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): wildlife conservation, marine conservation or soil conservation.

Role B – Wildlife
You think wildlife conservation is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms of conservation aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): water conservation, marine conservation or soil conservation.

Role C – Marine
You think marine conservation is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms of conservation aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): wildlife conservation, water conservation or soil conservation.

Role D – Soil
You think soil conservation is most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their forms of conservation aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): wildlife conservation, marine conservation or water conservation.

Speaking – Conservation

Rank these with your partner. Put the best important conservation issues at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- marine
- habitat
- energy
- soil
- water
- wetland
- wildlife
- architectural

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

LIVEWORKSHEETS