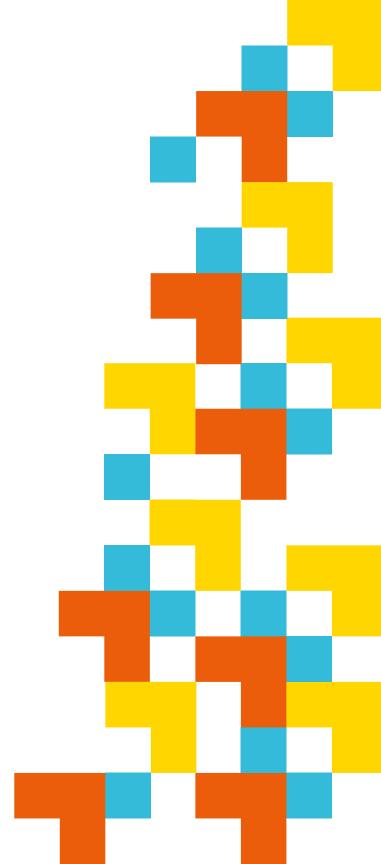
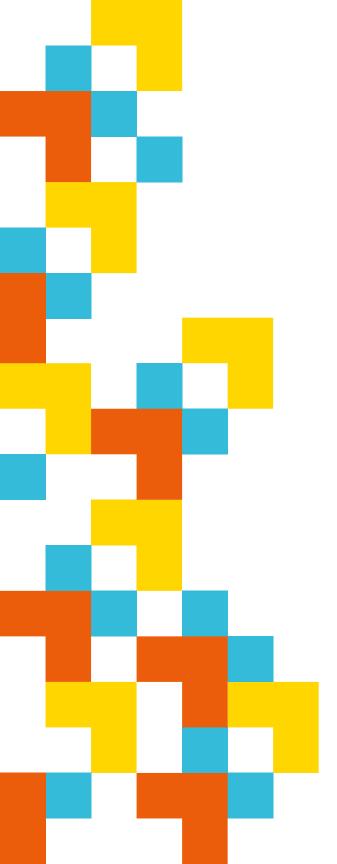


# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2022





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# ABOUT THIS REPORT

#### GRI 102-50, 102-51, 102-52, 102-53, 102-54, 102-56 LPMR 101

This is an updated Elevar Resources Sustainability Report prepared following the GRI Standards. The report is based on those principles for the definition of its content and quality. It covers the economic, social, and environmental management of the company from January 1 to December 31, 2022, and is within the operations framework of the Cerro Blanco Project in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa, Guatemala.

With this, Elevar Resources reaffirms its commitment to present its sustainability reports annually to its stakeholders.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

### Santiago Correa Ocampo

Senior Manager info@elevar.gt

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

#### GRI 102-14

This was a challenging year in which delays to the permit amendment and increased social pressure from groups out of El Salvador, have pushed out project timelines. This caused us to reduce activities at site and downsize our workforce. These decisions were extremely difficult; our employees and communities are always a top priority and an essential part of our business.

We remain committed to transparent communication, and constructive dialogue. Social acceptance is one of the most important aspects of developing natural resources responsibly and is integral to the Company's approach.

In 2022, the Company interacted with more than 4,000 stakeholders that ranged from authorities, community groups, social organizations, students, NGOs, and the media. Examples of our community communication programs include project tours, panel discussions on local radio, visitor centre information sessions, door to door campaigns, mining education courses, workshops, and attendance at community events.

The environmental permit amendment application was submitted to national authorities in 2021. The amendment application is a comprehensive document that covers all aspects of the project in detail, building on the historical data and the previously approved 2007 EIA, to incorporate the new surface mining method. We continued to advance the permit amendment throughout the year.

Prior to reducing activities at site, the Company had announced a partnership with a nationally accredited Guatemalan institution and recognized leader in job skills training. The Company had initiated a training program for over 500 individuals from the local communities to develop a local workforce.

In addition to job skills training, an Adult Education Program was initiated working with the national government and local educational institutions. The program was aimed at enhancing the social and economic conditions of the communities within the project's area of influence to improve eligibility for future employment and/or entrepreneurship. These skills were aimed at increasing literacy and education levels to meet entry requirements for job skills training programs. Unfortunately, many of these initiatives have had to stop until we are able to restart project readiness activities, which we hope to do in the future, once the permit amendment is received.

The Company is dedicated to demonstrating responsible mining practices and social acceptance to continue advancing the project. Responsible mining delivers socioeconomic benefits that transform communities through employment, economic opportunity, and development. We remain committed to transparency and building positive relationships with our neighbouring communities and stakeholders as we work toward amending our environmental license.

### **Peter Hemstead**

President and CEO Bluestone Resources Inc.





# THIS IS Elevar resources

### GRI 102-1, 102-2, 102-3, 102-4

Elevar Resources is a natural resources company focused on the development of the Cerro Blanco mining project. Previously, the company was called Entre Mares de Guatemala and it operated in the country for 15 years under that name. In 2017 the project was acquired by the Lundin Group through Bluestone Resources and the company changed its name to Elevar Resources in October 2021.

## LUNDINGROUP

Bluestone Resources is part of the Lundin Group of Companies, which comprises 11 publicly traded companies operating in 25 countries around the world. The Lundin Group prides itself on discovering, developing natural resources, and building responsible, world-class operations.

More information at: https://thelundingroup.com/about-us/

### > CERRO BLANCO PROJECT

### GRI 102-2, 102-4, 102-6, 102-10 LPMR 101

Cerro Blanco is a high-grade gold project located in southeastern Guatemala 157 km from Guatemala City and 7 km from the Municipality of Asunción Mita, in the department of Jutiapa.

Recently, a comprehensive engineering and technical study was completed describing the new development strategy for the project. Considering this new information and taking advantage of the work that was conducted previously, the new company management decided to change the mining method: from underground to surface operations.

In November 2021, an Updated Environmental Management Plan (UEMP) was completed and submitted to the authorities; many of the plan's assumptions were improved with the new technical study. Once approved and with additional funding secured, construction of the mine could commence. Construction will take approximately two years.

### >MINING METHOD

Technically, moving from underground mining to surface mining makes the project much simpler and safer, as it allows for stricter control of waste management, water sources, and ecosystems. In terms of industrial safety, the work teams face fewer risks compared to underground mining, such as exposure to gases or possible failures in support structures. Furthermore, general conditions are more favorable, as there is natural ventilation throughout the shift and there's no need for artificial lighting, which translates into energy savings. In addition, the change in the mining method will bring better results for all stakeholders, as there will be an increase in opportunities for the generation of local employment and greater contribution to the Guatemalan economy through taxes and royalties.

### > ELEVAR RESOURCES

#### GRI 102-16

Elevar Resources seeks to provide the knowledge, the technology, and the best practices from the companies of the Lundin Group to promote the progress and development of neighbouring communities. We are a company with responsible and committed professionals who value inclusion and diversity while being very conscious of the need to care for and protect the environment.

At Elevar Resources we believe in dialogue and teamwork as the most efficient vehicle to achieve positive results for all. Our company values are summarized in the following statement:

We behave in a responsible and sustainable manner, working together and showing respect for our people and the community.

### **> ELEVAR IN FIGURES**

GRI 102-7



### **>** PROJECTIONS

### GRI 401 LPMR 101

The Cerro Blanco Project is a high-grade, near-surface gold deposit with the following features:

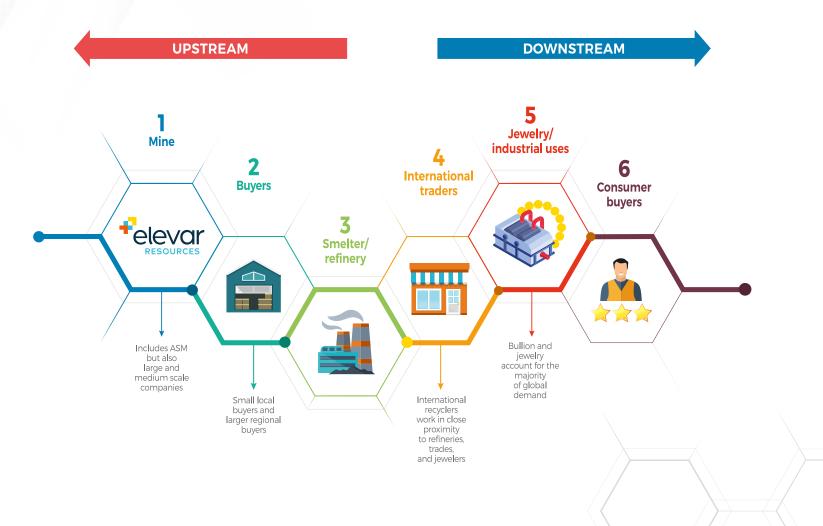
- Proven and probable reserves of 2.8 million ounces of gold and of 12.6 million ounces of silver (53.9 million tonnes at 1.6 g/t Au and 7.3 g/t Ag)
- 2.6 million ounces of gold and 10.6 million ounces of silver recovered over an initial mine life of 14 years.
- Peak production of 347,000 ounces and average annual production of **241,000 ounces** of gold during the first ten years of operation.
- It is estimated that, during production, the project will contribute USD \$160 million annually to the Guatemalan economy and approximately USD \$1.8 billion over the

life of the mine through employee salaries, consumables, taxes, and royalties.

- In taxes and royalties alone, the project is expected to generate payments to the government of approximately USD \$300 million.
- During the construction stage, it is estimated that direct employment and contracting employment will peak at approximately 1,100 persons. During the operations stage, employment is estimated to range between 400 and 500 people. The project will also generate several thousand additional indirect jobs to support mine operations.
- The project is expected to improve local and regional infrastructure, advance existing community investment programs, and promote the development of small businesses and other economic diversification activities.
- Initial capital (CAPEX) of USD \$572 million, with a payback period of 2.2 years.



GRI 102-9



### SUPPORT FOR EXTERNAL INITIATIVES AND AFFILIATIONS

### GRI 102-12, 102-13

Elevar Resources actively participates with the following Guatemalan industry associations:















We also contribute to the Mining Association of Canada through our collaboration with the Lundin Foundation.



• In addition, the Company subscribes to and supports the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI).



# **2022 SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- ) US\$10,404,446 was the economic value that was generated and distributed. This figure includes salaries and benefits to employees, tax payments to the government, purchases from suppliers, and community investments.
- **Zero** corruption case allegations or investigations.
- US\$ 752,431 was paid to the government in taxes.
- **96% of our employees** and contractors are **Guatemalan nationals**, and 48% come from direct and indirect **areas of influence** of the Cerro Blanco Project.
- We completed **8,261 training hours** on different technical and skills development courses for employees and for people from the neighboring communities.
- We trained **100% of our employees and contractors** in our Human Rights Policy, Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, and anti-corruption procedures.
- ) Medical care and a **life insurance policy for 100%** of workers.
- ) During 2022 we completed the SARS-CoV-2 staff vaccine scheme for 83 workers who received their third dose.

## We recorded **356,860 working hours** and **four lost time incidents**.

- We identified 157 different flora and fauna species within the direct and direct influence of the project.
- We donated **17,000 trees** to different public and private reforestation initiatives.
- ) **131 guided mine visits to the mine** with the participation of people from the communities and public and private entities.
- We invested **US\$ 90,244.00 (Q 624,289)** in social and development programs for the communities within the area of influence.
- We made purchases worth of Q57 million, of which Q43.7 million (77%) corresponded to Guatemalan businesses and Q10.4 million (18%) to companies in Jutiapa. Of the latter, Q9.2 million (89%) corresponded to the Cerro Blanco Project's area of influence.

# OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

We strive to monitor and manage the social, the environmental, and the economic impacts, risks, and opportunities associated with our business. We also meet and strive to exceed local regulations, as well as to implement sustainability management systems according to international standards and the industry's best practices.

Our Sustainability Policy sets out our commitments to:

- Prioritize worker health and industrial safety.
- Engage stakeholders with honesty and integrity.
- Respect the human rights of our employees and external stakeholders.
- Contribute to the wellbeing of the community and to respect local history and customs.
- Provide local employment and procurement opportunities.

- Maximize stakeholder benefits.
- Develop sound emergency response plans.
- Manage water, biodiversity, land, and natural resources responsibly.

To reinforce these commitments, we adhere to the guidelines set forth by the United Nations Global Compact and the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability. In addition, we are taking the first steps to integrate relevant standards into our operations, such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and The Mining Local Procurement Reporting Mechanism (LPRM).

Our sustainability approach and performance are strengthened thanks to the support and accompaniment of the Lundin Foundation.



The Lundin Foundation is a not-for-profit organization based in Canada who plays a key role in strengthening our approach to sustainability. The Foundation helps Lundin Group companies to improve their environmental, social, and governance performance and supports our company in areas related to sustainability strategy, management systems, international standards, communications, and reporting, as well as capacity building, local employment, procurement, and local partnerships with international organizations.



### **> RESPONSIBLE MINING**

#### GRI 102-11

Modern mining makes intensive use of technology to generate more efficient production processes with less impact on the environment. International standards are very strict in the monitoring, prevention, control, and mitigation of environmental events. Elevar Resources uses technology, systems, and procedures for first-class environmental management. Operational safety is another fundamental element for the responsible, sustainable, and innovative development of the company. We apply risk management with a focus on environmental precaution and prioritize people; which is why we invest in our workers, their families, and neighboring communities.



#### GRI 102-42, 102-43

Our definition of stakeholders is based on global standards that define them as groups of people, organizations, or institutions that may be affected directly or indirectly by our operations or that may influence the performance of our business strategy or sustainability priorities, which have been formulated considering their expectations. Our engagement with stakeholders is based on systematic, friendly, respectful, and transparent dialogue that promotes mutual growth and responsible operations. We map communication channels, analyze the impact of our activities on stakeholders and align our objectives with their expectations.

#### GRI 102-40, 102-44

Stakeholders	Actors	Participation mechanisms	Key issues or concerns
Communities	<ul> <li>Residents in the influence area (IA)</li> <li>Community authorities</li> <li>Women's groups</li> <li>Student groups</li> <li>Farmers' associations</li> <li>Opponents and activists</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Information meetings</li> <li>Guided tours</li> <li>Complaints mechanism</li> <li>Educational sessions</li> <li>Socialization events</li> <li>COVID-19 vaccination sessions</li> <li>INTECAP Program</li> <li>PRONEA Program</li> <li>Invitation to specific events</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Local employment</li> <li>Social investment</li> <li>Management of the project's social and environmental impacts</li> <li>Education and training programs</li> <li>Strengthening of the local economy</li> </ul>
Government	<ul> <li>Local authorities</li> <li>Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance</li> <li>Ministry of Education</li> <li>Central government branches and delegations</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Joint work groups</li><li>Generation of alliances</li><li>Guided tours</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Social investment</li> <li>Local employment</li> <li>Management of the project's social and environmental impacts</li> <li>Local economic development</li> <li>Community programs and projects</li> </ul>
Environmental Authorities	<ul> <li>Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)</li> <li>Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM)</li> <li>National Forests Institute (INAB)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Formal dialogue</li> <li>Project visits</li> <li>Inspections</li> <li>Compliance reports</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Management of the project's environmental impact</li> <li>Land use</li> <li>Programs and management plans</li> <li>Water quality</li> </ul>
Non- government institutions	<ul> <li>Catarineca Fraternity</li> <li>FUNDAZÚCAR</li> <li>AMAR Association</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Joint work groups</li><li>Generation of alliances</li><li>Health workshops</li></ul>	<ul><li>Community development programs</li><li>Public health</li></ul>

Stakeholders	Actors	Participation mechanisms	Key issues or concerns
Employees	• Employees from different departments	<ul> <li>Staff Development Program</li> <li>Formal Education Program</li> <li>INTECAP Training Program</li> <li>Youth Mineralogical Club (employees' children)</li> <li>COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Inclusion and equality</li> <li>Workers' rights</li> <li>Stability and professional growth within the organization</li> <li>Technical training and development programs</li> </ul>
Contractors	<ul><li> Project contractors</li><li> Contractors' staff</li></ul>	<ul><li>Annual Governance Framework</li><li>Governance Induction</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Compliance with corporate policies and standards</li> <li>Industrial health and safety</li> </ul>
Suppliers	<ul><li>Local suppliers</li><li>National suppliers</li><li>International suppliers</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Supplier Development Program-NEXO</li> <li>Information seminars</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Local purchasing</li> <li>Education and training programs</li> <li>Strengthening of local economy</li> </ul>
Shareholders	<ul><li>Shareholders</li><li>Investors</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Financial and sustainability reports</li> <li>Board of Directors</li> <li>Website</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Transparency</li> <li>ESG performance</li> <li>Risk management</li> </ul>

### > MATERIALITY ANALYSIS

#### GRI 102-46, 102-47

As part of the engagement exercise, and with the support of the Lundin Foundation, a materiality analysis was conducted in 2021; a new assessment was not completed for 2022. The analysis consists of the application of a method to determine priority sustainability matters based on the effects that each issue has within the organization and its stakeholders. This analysis remains valid in 2022 and represents an input for strategy, resource allocation, and management systems as it allows us to communicate and demonstrate compliance and leadership regarding the most relevant issues for sustainable management to our stakeholders.

We conducted this analysis per the cycle proposed by GRI Standards:

- 1. **Identification**: Draft of a list of potentially important issues for Elevar Resources, the sector, and the environment.
- Prioritization: Identification of the relevant issues for our business, considering peer and industry benchmarking, regulation, stakeholder expectations, and corporate strategy.
- 3. **Validation**: Confirmation of prioritized issues with senior management.

4. Review: Evaluation of the Sustainability Report and the matters contained therein.

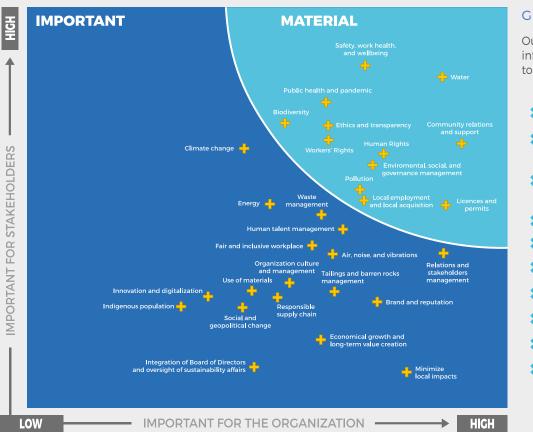
The process was based on the analysis of data obtained through the Datamaran artificial intelligence platform; the following data was incorporated:

- Benchmarking against 112 companies
- 1,085 mandatory regulations •
- 658 voluntary regulations •
- 12.187 news articles .
- 515.206.510 mentions in social networks

This analysis was complemented with the vision of external and internal stakeholders. We held interviews

with the mayor, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Technical Institute of Training and Productivity (INTECAP), and the Ministry of Education; we integrated the perceptions gathered within the social baseline process.

Simultaneously, we achieved great internal involvement through an employee survey with a workforce rate of participation of 82%. We also developed a focus group with the Bluestone Resources management team and with the Elevar Resources management team where a correlation was conducted regarding corporate risks.



MATERIALITY MATRIX

#### GRI 102-46

Our material topics are listed below: information is provided for each topic in the following chapters.

- Water
- Industrial safety, occupational health, and wellbeing
- Community relations and support
- > Public health and pandemic
- Licencing and permitting
- Human rights
- Ethics and transparency
- > Workers' rights
- Biodiversity
- Environmental, social, and governance risk management

### **> ECONOMIC VALUE CREATION**

### GRI 201

The Cerro Blanco Project will bring substantial economic benefits to Guatemala, both locally and nationally. This will be one of the largest foreign direct investments in the country since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product. The following are the most important benefits:

- It is estimated that, during the production stage, the project will contribute with about \$160 million annually to the Guatemalan economy and approximately \$1.8 billion over the life of the mine through employee salaries, consumables, taxes, and royalties.
- In taxes and royalties alone, the project is expected to generate payments to the government of approximately \$300 million.
- During the construction stage, it is estimated that direct and contractor employment will peak at approximately 1,100 persons. During the operations stage, direct and contractor employment is estimated to range between 400 and 500 people. This stage will also generate several thousand additional indirect jobs to support mine operations.

 The project is expected to improve local and regional infrastructure, advance existing community investment programs, and promote small business development and other economic diversification activities.

### GRI 201-1

In 2022, the economic value generated and distributed by Elevar Resources was of **US\$ 10,110,820**; below is a breakdown of this value.

Creation of Economic Value	<b>Total 2022</b> Figures in USD			
Economic Value Generated (EVG)				
Income	\$ 122,343			
Distributed Economic Value (DEV)				
Operating costs	\$ 5,777,920			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 3,612,569			
Payments to capital providers	-			
Payments to the government	\$ 752,431			
Community investments	\$ 90,244			
Economic value generated and distributed	\$ 10,110,820			

# **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS**

### **> GOVERNMENT BODIES**

### GRI 102-18

Bluestone Resources is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange and is governed by strict corporate governance standards set forth by the Government of Canada. Bluestone Resources has developed corporate policies, a Board of Directors Charter, and Committee Mandates with the objective of promoting the highest moral, legal, ethical, and conduct standards within the company.

### **Board of Directors**

Peter Hemstead – CEO, President & Director William Lamb - Chairman Zara Boldt, CPA, CGA – Director Jamie Beck, P.Eng., MBA – Director Dave Dicaire – Director Leo Hathaway, P. Geo -Director Jack Lundin – Director

Bluestone Resources' Board of Directors has a Health, Safety, Environment and Sustainability (HSES) Committee, which meets quarterly to oversee the company's performance, sustainability strategy, and risk management.

At Elevar Resources, there is a team of senior managers with country and site-level responsibilities for different aspects of sustainability, including health, safety, environment and corporate social responsibility. In addition, there is an executive committee where senior managers monitor the company's environmental, social, and governance management on a monthly basis.





### **> VALUES AND POLICIES**

### GRI 102-16

We are proud to run a highly ethical company. All our decisions and actions are reflected in our corporate values and policies.

### VALUES

### WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

We strive to achieve our goals and honour our commitments.

### WE SHOW RESPECT

We recognize, accept, appreciate, and value the qualities and rights of others.

### WE WORK TOGETHER

We collaborate and build fruitful relationships based on trust and shared goals.

### **CORPORATE POLICIES**

- Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics
  - Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy
    - Whistleblower Policy
    - Conflict of Interest Policy
      - Privacy Policy
      - Human Rights Policy
    - Diversity and Inclusion Policy
      - Sustainability Policy

See policies in: https://bluestoneresources.ca/about-us/corporate- governance/

### TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

### GRI 205

Our values and policies promote accountability for the benefit of all social actors. We are committed to guaranteeing honest and transparent conduct in our business practices and to fighting corruption in our work as a company, as we are aware that corruption generates enormous damage to the economy and society as a whole.

That is why we are constantly reviewing and updating our policies and practices: to ensure that our standards comply both with the applicable regulations in Guatemala and Canada, as well as with our Governance Framework. Every two months, all of our employees receive specific training on this topic; we maintain open whistleblower channels to report any violations.

#### GRI 205-2 LPMR 402 403

**Communication and training.** The Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy is disseminated to all employees and its compliance is mandatory for those who engage in relationships with Elevar Resources. During 2022, 100% of employees and contractors were trained in this policy and its procedures.

**Complaints.** At Elevar Resources, we support and encourage a culture of free-flow information, and this is why we have a Whistleblower Policy that allows individuals to disclose information about any activity that is considered illegal or that violates Bluestone Resources' policies or values. The Policy provides security to the whistleblower by allowing them to file complaints anonymously and confidentially, and by ensuring that

they are not subject to retaliation. Complaints may be investigated quicklier by an Audit Committee if they warrant so. An outsourced company without ties to the company oversees complaint submissions to our company's President.



### GRI 205-3

**Corruption cases.** There were no corruption complaints or case investigations 2022.



### > DUE DILIGENCE

### **LPRM 401**

To reinforce our commitment to ethics and transparency, we apply procedures and controls to our contractors and suppliers, who are required to know and abide by the corporate policies of Bluestone Resources and Elevar Resources in the execution of contracts. All of them are obliged to comply with the requirements stipulated in the following contractual documents:

- Labor Manual aligned with the Labor Code and other labor regulations
- Social and environmental standards of the IFC
- Suitability for the job
- Work permit
- Occupational health and safety regulations
- Up-to-date records for all workers

We distribute the anti-corruption policy and procedures to **100%** of contractors, who in turn, authorize Elevar



Resources to conduct the necessary audits during the term of the contract to ensure compliance with their obligations.

### FISCAL STRATEGY

### GRI 207

Attention to tax issues has increased and it is a priority for the Senior Management and Board of Directors of Elevar Resources. Our tax strategy is based on adherence to the jurisdictional laws and guidelines of the country where we operate, fiscal responsibility, tax efficiency, transparency, and risk minimization.

The company's administrative and financial departments are responsible for tax compliance. We apply responsible tax policies and are committed to the tax authorities, as well as reporting payments and other obligations publicly.

For this reason, we are promoters, reporters, and participants of:

- The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a global standard that promotes open and responsible management of oil, gas, and mineral resources. We contribute to the Initiative by reporting about our activities in Guatemala and are a supporters of EITI through our contributions to the Lundin Foundation.
- The **Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (ESTMA)** of the government of Canada, which seeks to detect corruption in the extractive sector. All companies that are active in Canada must publicly and annually disclose payments made to governments in Canada and abroad.

Every year, Bluestone Resources files the Cerro Blanco Project figures to comply with Canadian regulation.

To demonstrate our commitment to transparency and public accountability in relation to the payments we make to the government, we present the breakdown of these payments during 2022:

Тах Туре	<b>Total 2022</b> Figures in USD	
Income tax -employees	\$ 72,336	
Income tax -suppliers	\$ 52,985	
Income tax-foreign	\$ 85,903	
Social security payments	\$ 320,591	
Income tax on interest	\$ 0.00	
Property tax	\$ 19,263	
Annual vehicle tax	\$ 3,553	
VAT withholdings-special invoices	\$ 70,088	
VAT on imports	\$ 0.00	
VAT on land acquisitions	\$ 127,712	
Total payments to the government	\$ 752,431	





# **OUR PEOPLE**

One of the fundamental pillars of Elevar Resources is its people. It is through the richness of our talent that we reach our purpose as a company and, as such, we invest in people and work hard to enable each one to reach their full potential. We forge a culture of respect and a management style that commits to, listens, and supports employees while promoting and providing a healthy, productive, and beneficial work environment for all.

We passionately believe that communication and trust are key to the good performance of work teams, the motivation of each of its members, and the sense of belonging in the company. Our goal is to create a challenging environment where people can grow and develop personally and professionally while contributing to reaching the company's objectives.

We want our organizational culture to define us with our employees and other stakeholders; it is through our values and actions that we demonstrate how we are changing the way mining is done in Guatemala.

During the year, Elevar Resources reduced activities at site and downsized our workforce. These decisions were extremely difficult, our employees and communities are always a top priority and an essential part of our business.

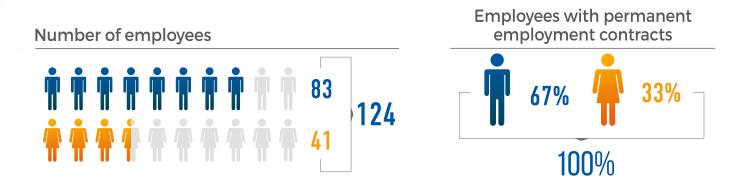


### **Composition of our workforce**

GRI 102-8 LPRM 101

Due to a reduction in activities during the year, our workforce was unfortunately reduced

### January 01 to May 31, 2022

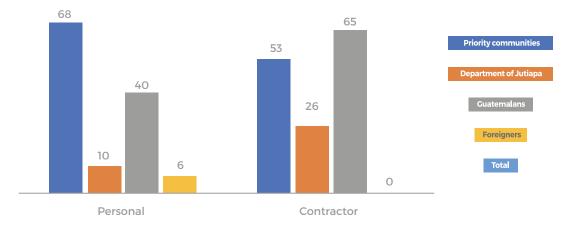


**June 01 to December 31, 2022** 



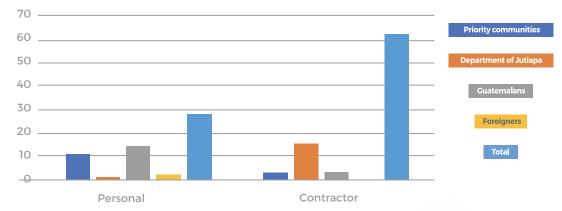


### Staff by place of origin:



January 01 to May 31, 2022

### June 01 to December 31, 2022







## LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

#### **GRI 401**

In 2022 there were 17 new hires and 80 terminations; all of which were conducted in adherence to the legal rights and safety of employees. In addition, senior management held meetings to inform employees about future temporary suspensions.

The dismissals took place in two occasions. In the month of June, company representatives together with staff at all levels held three open-dialogue sessions to announce the termination dates; this allowed for staff to discuss the situation with their families and to evaluate their financial prospects. An emotional and psychological support channel was made available to staff, this channel allowed for planning for the time of dismissal.

In November, the second phase of dismissals was conducted, and for both instances, the exercise of open dialogue between the staff and management was reiterated. During this dialogue exercise, not only the working conditions and benefits were guaranteed, but also the freedom to express concerns and gratitude for the time that the employment lasted.

Local employment is one of our priorities since it contributes to the development of the area of influence and improves our relationship with the communities where we operate. In addition to our commitment to hiring local people, we develop training programs that promote employability and job placement in our company, in another industry or economic sector, or in other types of entrepreneurship.

In this sense, we have developed a training program with an area directly related to employment opportunities for the construction and operations stages of the project. This program gives priority to people from the communities closest to the project. The registration and selection processes for accessing a training scholarship -which are handled by INTECAP- are clear, transparent, and ensure equal opportunities for all participants.

The construction phase is the stage that will require the largest number of workers; therefore, the number of jobs could grow significantly during this time. Once construction is completed, the number of jobs will decrease and will remain stable for the duration of the operations stage.

As of December 31, 2022, Elevar Resources has a total of **28 employees and 20 contractors**, of which **96%** are Guatemalan and **48%** come from the direct and indirect areas of influence of the Cerro Blanco Project.



## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

### **GRI 404**

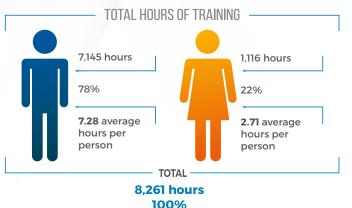
It is of utmost importance for our company to employ trained personnel who can perform adequately in this challenging industry. For this reason, 2022 saw an increase in employee training and development actitivies. At the end of the year, we completed more than **8,000 hours worth of training** in different technical and skills development topics.

### GRI 404-2

Training courses provided by the company in 2022 include:

Technical training	Skills development	Corporate policies	Other training
<ul> <li>All Hazard disaster response</li> <li>Bleeding control</li> <li>ICS</li> <li>Communication and important messages</li> <li>Industrial safety induction</li> <li>First aid kit use and contents</li> <li>Defensive driving</li> <li>Centrifugal pump maintenance</li> <li>Flotation cell and thickening maintenance</li> <li>Mill maintenance</li> <li>Actors' matrix handling and use</li> <li>Firetruck operation</li> <li>End of year accident prevention</li> <li>Safety stop: use of PPE</li> <li>Q&amp;A for the social engagement department</li> <li>Formal adult education program</li> <li>Forest fruit and seed collection</li> <li>Accounting and purchasing system (SAP)</li> <li>Incident Control System</li> <li>Operations supervision</li> <li>Basic forest fires techniques</li> <li>Door-to-door data collection and interaction</li> <li>Breathalyzer use and handling</li> <li>Use and handling of fire extinguishers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>How to give instructions</li> <li>Assertive communication</li> <li>Industrial hygiene certificate</li> <li>Personal goal setting</li> <li>Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights</li> <li>Company ambassador program</li> <li>Safety Leadership Workshop for staff with leadership responsibilities</li> <li>Conscious business workshop</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Corporate Governance Annual Course 2022</li> <li>Governance update</li> <li>2022 General Induction</li> <li>Conflict of Interest Policy</li> <li>Confidentiality Policy</li> <li>Diversity and Inclusion Policy</li> <li>Information Security Policy</li> <li>Sustainability Policy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Formal high school and diversified education</li> </ul>

#### **GRI 404-1**



### **High School Graduation**

In association with the Ministry of Education and the **Sagrada Familia School**, 115 students from different communities concluded their senior high school studies with a science and literature certificate focused on entrepreunership and productivity. Fifty students graduated in February and 65 in December 2022.



### **Junior Mineralogical Club**

In association with Women in Mining (WIM) Central America, six one-hour virtual bimonthly sessions were conducted with the participation of various mining companies from the entire continent which presented topics related to the role of minerals in daily life and their importance.

Additionally, the first Junior Mineralogic Club Camp took place with the participation of 26 children aged between 8 and 13 years who had the opportunity to learn about minerals, end of year festivity safety, and care for the environment as well the opportunity to interact with reptiles. The Camp lasted for a week with four hours of daily instruction.

## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

In terms of employee compensation, our main objective is to achieve and maintain internal balance, competitiveness, and performance. To this end, Elevar Resources offers compensation that exceeds legal labor benefits in Guatemala and has a salary structure based on the International Position Evaluation (IPE) methodology by Mercer, a renowned international firm specializing in Human Resources, in whose annually salary surveys we participate.

We also have a benefits program that includes group medical policy coverage for employees and their immediate families, and an annual medical checkup plan, and life insurance. These benefits focus on health and prevention and are covered 100% by the company.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### GRI 412 LPRM 402

According to our Human Rights Policy, these rights are fundamental values and an inherent part of ethical business conduct and corporate social responsibility. Our commitment is to respect and promote human rights and labor standards based on the International Bill of Human Rights and the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and implies that, as a company:

- We ensure a work culture free of all forms of discrimination and harassment.
- We respect the freedom of association and right to collective bargaining.
- We guarantee the right to equal pay for equal work.
- We condemn all forms of child exploitation, forced labor, or any form of modern slavery.
- We understand and ensure respect for the cultural heritage, rights, and norms of our local communities.
- We identify opportunities to engage the government constructively on human rights issues.

To honour this commitment, which extends to our supply chain and partners, we assess the human rights situation related to our business and project; perform due diligence for contractors and external service providers; and require that human rights terms and conditions and compliance with applicable labor laws are included in contracts.

In addition, as part of our Governance Framework, we communicate our Policy constantly and provide training on human rights and codes of conduct to 100% of our employees and contractors. A total 283 hours worth of training have been completed within our governance and ethics framework.

#### GRI 412-2, 410-1

### – Human Rights Training -

In 2022, in addition to training on our Human Rights Policy, we imparted specific human rights training to our staff:

- 23 employees participated in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights imparted by CENTRARSE, in which 23 middle management staff and 100% of the security team participated.
- The Security and Human Rights Practical guide was drafted with the support of CENTRARSE.

#### GRI 407-1, 102-41

To maintain a tight-knit work atmosphere, resolve conflicts, and address employee needs, we maintain open channels of communication and hold town hall meetings on a quarterly basis. Although Elevar Resources does not have a union or collective bargaining currently, it guarantees this fundamental right to employees and ensures that its operations or supply chain are not at risk.









# HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELLBEING

### **GRI 403**

The health and the safety of our employees are top priorities for the company. We strive to keep all employees healthy and injury-free; we work to assess, mitigate, and minimize those risks associated with mining activities and to improve our emergency response.

We believe that health and safety is everyone's shared responsibility: management, employees, contractors, and subcontractors. As a company, we have put in place the necessary systems, procedures, equipment, and training to protect people from occupational hazards, ensure that they can perform their work safely and efficiently, and to forge a culture of safety within the organization.

Our commitment to health and safety includes:

- Compliance with legal requirements related to Industrial Safety and Occupational Health (ISOH).
- Identification and evaluation of risks and hazards. Establishment of operational controls.
- Implementation of a participative and visible safety culture at all levels of the organization.
- Continuous improvement of ISOH performance.
- Always preserving life above any economic or productive interest.

To achieve this, we focus on:

- Maintaining visible leadership focused on worker safety.
- Ensuring that under no operational circumstances should a worker be exposed to uncontrolled risks that endanger his or her health.
- Implementing emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.
- Requesting commitment from all interested parties applicable to industrial safety and occupational health that is demonstrated by daily actions.
- Maintaining dependable, clear, and timely communication and information at all levels of the organization, including our contractors and communities.
- Applying, in a standardized manner, the health and safety management system criteria at all our work sites.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

#### GRI 403-1, 403-7, 403-8

During this year we continued the implementation of a management system based on Governmental Agreement 229-2014 and its 2016 amendments. This agreement sets forth that all companies must have an Industrial Safety and Occupational Health Plan and fulfill other requirements of the Republic of Guatemala. This plan is the cornerstone of the Elevar Resources' Industrial Safety and Occupational Health Management System (SOHMS) and the main tool we have to establish goals and performance requirements for the project.

One of the main objectives of the SOHMS is to train leaders to implement the health and safety strategy at the project successfully and to serve as a guide in the allocation of adequate resources to prepare our workers.

The SOHMS also sets the foundation for assessing potential risks and planning the necessary measures to mitigate them in a coordinated manner. The stablished procedures and standards are applicable to all work areas, including off-site facilities managed by Elevar Resources. These cover **100% of direct workers, contractors, and subcontractors**.

A total of **268 people** from January to May and a total of **49 people** from June to December 2022 were covered by this system.

.Of these, from January to May, 124 Elevar Resources workers (46%) and 144 contractors (54%) were covered, and from June to December, 28 Elevar Resources workers (57%) and 21 contractors (43%) were covered.

With the above figures and the progress of the SOHMS implementation process, we have paved the way for the development of a positive health and safety culture, which will go on to drive the continuous improvement of our results throughout the development of the project.

Under this framework, we have designed an Industrial Safety and Occupational Health Policy, which establishes that no work can be performed if risk conditions are not controlled. Therefore, we encourage the worker to start work only when it can be performed safely. We also have an accident investigation procedure that includes the steps to report, investigate, obtain results, and implement corrective actions to prevent the recurrence of the incident.

Since safety is everyone's responsibility, we involve our leaders to make visible the company's commitment to making this issue a priority. Likewise, we encourage all employees to promote health and safety at work and to immediately report any unsafe behavior or condition they notice so the possibility of occurrence is minimised.

### GRI 403-2

As mentionated, SOHMS also lays the foundation for evaluating potential risks and for planning the necessary measures to mitigate them in a coordinated manner. For this purpose, we have a matrix for hazard identification, risk assessment, and controls which is developed in accordance with Guatemalan Technical Regulation 13001. Through the safe work analysis, the risks associated with non-routine and high-risk tasks are evaluated, and work authorizations are prepared, such as:

Our 5-point card system is a tool through which the worker answers five safety questions related to order and cleanliness, knowledge, condition of tools, personal protection elements, and health. The card is handed out before the work begins and, if one of the answers does not fulfill safety standards, immediate correction follows. We also use interaction cards, through which leaders approach workers to improve their safety conditions.



All of the above is recorded, documented, and an action-correction plan is drafted. To strengthen this process, we hired a specialized consulting firm to help us update the hazard matrices with the participation of each worker.

## EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION

The participation and opinion of our workers are essential to build a solid culture of industrial safety that responds to the challenges involved in the development of the mining project.

Per the stipulations of Governmental Agreements 229-2014, 33-2016, and 23-2017 and the requirements of the Guatemalan Ministry of Labour, we have an Industrial Safety and Occupational Health Committee made up of representatives of the company and workers. This committee meets on a monthly basis to evaluate the results of the activities implemented within the operation and to record the topics discussed during such meetings and the activities that took place.



The main functions of the committee are:

- Identify hazardous conditions, conduct risk assessments, and propose controls and training that correct specific opportunity areas.
- Conduct periodic inspections at work areas to strengthen preventive management for health and safety.
- Participate in the investigation of incidents, accidents, or occupational diseases.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

### GRI 403-3

During 2022 we strengthened the measures against the spread of contagious respiratory diseases caused by the influenza virus by administering 83 doses against the H1N1 influenza virus for our staff.

We continue motivating our staff to adopt a healthy lifestyle, for example, by implementing routines that consist of warm-up and stretching exercises prior to the start of their shifts to promote physical wellbeing and making wellbeing a priority in the lives of our workers.



## COVID-19 Management

During 2022, we continued strengthening measures against the spread of the COVID-19 virus by increasing employee training so that they gain greater knowledge and awareness of the different risk situations that may arise at the workplace.

#### GRI 403-6

### **Medical services**

In 2022 we provided primary and general medical services to our staff. Staff and their families have medical care coverage through the collective medical expenses policy, whose scope covers outpatient medical care, accidents and emergencies, medications, and diagnostic and laboratory tests.

We completed the vaccination scheme for our staff against COVID-19 by applying a third dose to 83 workers.

# **>**OSH Training

### GRI 403-5

During 2022 our workers received internal and external training in different industrial safety and occupational health topics. Internally, Elevar Resources set aside the first five minutes prior to daily shifts to provide training on specific topics or on high-risk tasks that take place the within the organization such as: working at heights, confined spaces, working in hot environments, load lifting, handling of chemical substances, safe driving, vegetation clearing, order and cleanliness, and electrical safety among others. These training sessions were attended by more than 95% of employees.

On the other hand, the company identified the need to strengthen staff training in certain topics, therefore, with the support of third parties, it provided specialized, high-quality training. The first external certifications for employees have been achieved. These were:

- Training managers to familiarise themselves and use the Industrial Safety Rules of Gold.
- Training of 22 brigade members in the operation and maintenance of the firetruck for fighting structural and forest fires.
- Industrial hygiene certificate. Toxicology module for the training of occupational health staff.
- Year-end festivities accident prevention for all staff imparted by *Humana de Seguros* and MAPFRE insurers.

Considering that one of the main risks for our operation is the driving of vehicles, the company has established a series of requirements for drivers that include the following:

- 1. Guatemalan drivers license verification
- 2. Defensive driving course

- 3. Written test
- 4. Road test

The training process was designed to involve all employees who have leadership duties within the operations and administration departments of the organization.

# **OSH Performance**

### GRI 403-9, 403-10

During 2022, two LTI incidents and two incidents with medical treatment were recorded. According to annual statistics, the Cerro Blanco Project reached an accumulated 356,860 work hours.

	Total 2022
Fatalities resulting from an accidental work- related injury	0
Work-related injuries with major consequences	0
Recordable occupational accident injuries	4
Worked hours*	356,860
Deaths resulting from an occupational disease or illness	0
Cases of recordable occupational diseases and illnesses	0

**Source:** Industrial Safety Department. \*Rates calculated per 200,000 worked hours.

OHS statistics during 2022.

In all matters related to occupational health and safety, the figures apply to direct workers, contractors, and subcontractors. No workers have been excluded from the calculation.

We believe that reaching zero incidents is a duty and a responsibility that requires everyone's commitment; 2022 is a testimony of the efforts applied to reach that goal.





# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### GRI 303, 304, 305, 306, 307

For Elevar Resources, environmental impact management is essential to our business. Not only because it represents one of the most recurrent concerns of our stakeholders, but also because it is part of our vision, values, and corporate policies. We are committed to operating sustainably and keeping our environmental footprint as small as possible. This includes the efficient use and care of water, soil and biodiversity protection, air quality monitoring, and proper waste disposal.

Our Environmental Management Plan seeks to avoid, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts in the surrounding areas of the Cerro Blanco Project. The plan adheres to national legislation and international standards such as: the IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability, the World Bank Group's (WBG) General Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHS- 2007), and the WBG Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines for the Mining Sector (2007).

In addition, we seek to promote an environmental culture and awareness with our employees, contractors, and communities through our Sustainability Policy. In this manner, we seek to extend our commitment to our value chain and areas of influence.



### GRI 303-1, 303-2

At Elevar Resources we value water and its great importance as a resource for the community and for the operation. That is why we invest time and effort in making efficient use of hydric resources and preventing contamination of water sources.

Water quality monitoring has been conducted at the project for more than 15 years. In addition to complying with government regulations, we have an extensive monitoring program in place to ensure that water quality meets -and sometimes exceeds- the required standards. All water used at site is sent to our treatment plant where it is filtered to meet national quality and safety standards before being discharged. We also work together with the government institutions responsible for conducting environmental monitoring and supervision activities and audits at the project's operations and facilities.

### GRI 303-3

During 2022, total water extracted at the Cerro Blanco Project was **227,153 m<sup>3</sup>**. This water came from the Cerro Blanco aquifer, inside the underground mine.

WATER EXTRACTION	<b>TOTAL 2022</b>			
Surface water	-			
Underground water	227,153 m <sup>3</sup>			
Sea water	-			
Produced water	-			
Third-party water	55 m³			
Total water extraction	227,208 m <sup>3</sup>			
WATER EXTRACTION BREAKDOWN TOTAL				
Fresh water (total dissolved solids ≤ 1000 mg/l)	55 m³			
Other water (total dissolved solids > 1000 mg/l)	227,153 m³			

### GRI 303-4

Total water discharge during 2022 was **168,974** m<sup>3</sup>. This water was discharged at the El Tempisque Creek.



WATER DISCHARGE BREAKDOWN TOTAL			
Fresh water			
(total dissolved solids ≤ 1000 mg/l)	-		
Other water	168 974 m3		
(total dissolved solids > 1000 mg/l)			

WATER DISCHARGE	<b>TOTAL 2022</b>	
Surface water	168,974 m3	
Underground water	-	
Sea water	-	
Produced water	-	
Third-party water	-	
Total water discharge	168,974 m3	

Water quality criteria for discharge into receiving bodies are stipulated in Government Agreement 236-2006 and they relate to quality, the approved EIA Permit, and the Technical Water Study. Additional criteria may be included during the operations stage such as the IFC guidelines for mining effluents and the International Cyanide Code guidelines and standards for effluents.

### GRI 303-5

Total water consumption at Cerro Blanco during 2022 was **59,338 m<sup>3</sup>**. The main uses for water were for mining equipment and for basic staff use. We did not consume water from areas that are considered areas of hydric stress.

WATER CONSUMPTION 2022		
Total water consumption	59,338 m <sup>3</sup>	

# LICENSING AND PERMITS

### GRI 307-1

The Cerro Blanco Project currently has the necessary environmental licenses and permits issued by the Guatemalan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. It also holds forestry licenses to conduct forest management plans and activities. The project did not receive **any environmental fines** or sanctions from the authorities during 2022.

# BIODIVERSITY

### **GRI 304**

To fulfill our commitment of protecting local biodiversity and adjacent ecosystems, we developed and implemented flora and fauna rescue and protection plans as well as biodiversity conservation plans even though it is not expected that these areas will be affected. We monitor and manage this aspect through:

- Annual biological monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity.
- Environmental monitoring programs.
- Environmental education for employees, communities, and contractors.
- Reforestation and donation of native forest species.
- Forest fire control and prevention.
- Relocation of species to private conservation areas.

The project site has two conservation areas that are monitored continuously and, as of December 2022, we have altered **15 hectares** of land for road widening; these roads have yet to be rehabilitated. We have also identified **157 different species** of flora and fauna within the project's direct and indirect areas of influence. We are committed to the rescue, conservation, and relocation of these species in adherence to our environmental permit, licensing requirements, and international standards.

### **Voluntary reforestation**

Through our Voluntary Reforestation Program, we have donated more than **200,000 trees** of dry forest species as of 2022 to support different Institutions within the department of Jutiapa. In 2022, 17,000 trees were donated for the different reforestation initiatives of public and private entities.

We also reforested 5.75 ha as part of the *Sembrando Huella* program of the National Forests Institute (INAB); by 2022, an accumulated 6.75 ha were reforested by involving landowners, school children, teachers, neighbors, and community authorities from the Los Llanitos village. The reforestation activities included an environmental education component to raise environmental conservation awareness.

### GRI 304-4

According to the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the species whose habitats are found within the areas of influence of our operation are (by risk level):

IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES			
i. critically endangered	0		
ii. endangered	4	<ul> <li>Capsicum lanceolatum - Wild chilli</li> <li>Dalbergia congestiflora - Camotillo rosewood</li> <li>Dalbergia melanocardium</li> <li>Swietenia humilis Zuccarini</li> </ul>	
iii. vulnerable	4	<ul> <li>Handroanthus chrysanthus - Golden trumpet tree</li> <li>Caesalpinia ebano H. Karst.</li> <li>Cedrela odorata - Spanish cedar</li> <li>Eupsittula canicularis - Orange-fronted parakeet</li> </ul>	
iv. near threatened			
v. least concern	268		

Four endangered species declared by the IUCN were found during the reporting period, all of them are flora species. These species are widely distributed within the direct and indirect area of the Cerro Blanco project where more intense sampling was conducted.

Once the mine operation has concluded, we will focus our efforts on closure, decommissioning, and site remediation. This process includes initiatives to restore ecosystems by conducting reforestation with native flora species.

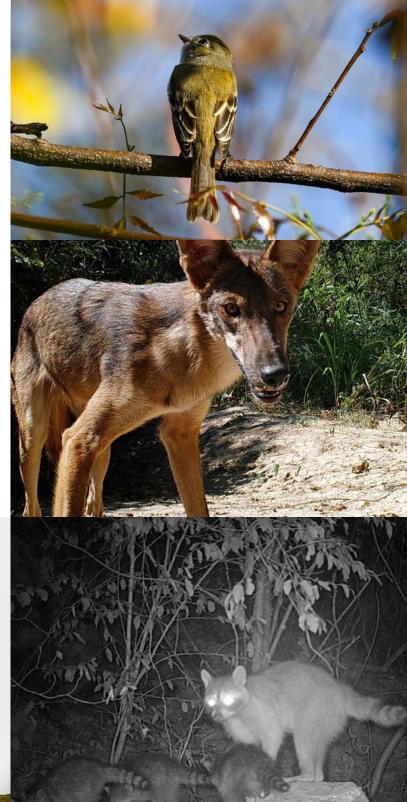


# BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM

Our environmental department has launched the Biological Monitoring Program, which seeks to monitor the different animal species inhabiting the area through pictures and videos obtained through a network of special cameras that are placed strategically.

This technology has managed to capture photographs of coyote (*Canis latrans*) and species jaguarundi (*Puma Jaguarundi*) species, both apex predators of the ecosystem. Likewise, skunks, gray foxes, porcupines, squirrels, weasels, turtles, iguanas, snakes, and other species that inhabit the dry forest have been recorded.

Another important component of the program are the terrestrial and aquatic biology studies that we conduct both during the dry and rainy seasons at the project. These studies identify and evaluate different groups of habitat diversity, as well as the spatial and temporal distribution of species, including information on which management strategies for long-term conservation can be based.







# ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

The scope of our environmental monitoring efforts extends to emissions to keep our operation within legal parameters and to respond to our stakeholders' concerns regarding issues related to pollution.

To this end, in addition to the 20 existing water monitoring stations, there are six air quality monitoring stations and six noise measurement stations located at the four cardinal points of the project; these stations are also monitored periodically. We compare these results with IFC and EPA standard guidelines for domestic and industrial receivers. The monitoring results under our Environmental Management Plan are shared with the authorities through a monthly report.

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### GRI 302-1

Our energy consumption during 2022 was **14,714,353 megajoules**. This figure corresponds to the consumption of electricity. The company does not consume fuels from renewable sources currently, only from its own electricity generation.

ENERGY CONS	UMPTION 2022
Fuel consumption from non-renewable sources (diesel)	14,714,353 MJ

\*One gallon of diesel equals 146.52 MJ

#### GRI 305-1

With respect to our direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2022, these were in the order of **3,118 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> e**, compared to 4,967 tons generated in 2021. The chosen base year is 2020 given the status of the project. Gasses included in the calculation are  $CO_2$ , CH4, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF<sub>6</sub>. We do not generate emissions of ozone depleting substances (ODS).

DIRECT GHG EMISSIONS-SCOPE 1			
Gross value of direct GHG emissions during 2022 (Scope 1)	3,118 t CO <sub>2</sub> e		
Emissions during the base year (2020)	6,340 t CO <sub>2</sub> e		

The emission reduction reflected/during the period is due to changes in activity levels.

**Scope 2 GHG emissions.** Scope 2 GHG emissions were not included in the 2022 fiscal year because the Cerro Blanco Project does not consume energy from external sources.

# RESIDUES

#### GRI 306, 306-2

We have waste management plans to ensure the proper disposal of hydraulic oils, motor oils, rags and objects contaminated by hydrocarbons, gasoline, motor oil filters, hydraulic oil filters, dielectric and diesel oil, regular garbage, plastics, and metal and non-metal scraps among others.

Among the processes that we employ to classify waste, there are ten waste sorting stations located within the area of the project plus a collection area. Final extraction and disposal of hazardous and regular waste is conducted by Ecoreprocesos, who holds current permits and licenses, and implements incineration, recycling, and landfill processes. Our contractors keep a record of the final weights by waste type and a consolidated total of the materials with their respective final disposal management. In addition, this company issues final waste disposal certificates by waste type.

#### GRI 306-3

During 2022, **14.08 tons** of hazardous waste and **85.40** of non-hazardous waste were disposed. This waste was treated outside the mining project facilities.

### WASTE DISPOSED IN 2022

Total weight of hazardous waste for disposal and breakdown by disposal method:	14.08 t
Incineration (with energy recovery)	0.79
Incineration (without energy recovery)	12.59
Transfer to landfill	-
Other disposal operations	0.70
Total weight of non-hazardous waste for disposal and breakdown by disposal method:	85.40 t
Incineration (with energy recovery)	-
Incineration (without energy recovery)	85.40
Transfer to landfill	-
Other disposal operations	-





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

### GRI 413

At the Cerro Blanco mining project, in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa, we maintain community relations based on a dialogue model focused on the rights of the stakeholders. The objectives of our social management model during 2022 were to communicate the status of the project, to establish a work model with the communities, and to clarify concerns related to the mining model that we will implement.

In addition, the model includes maintaining relationships based on communication and trust with the communities and institutions within the area of influence.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### GRI 413-1

Our Community Relations Plan integrates the socialization of the mining project's progress and the social investment programs, which allows us to have a constant, coordinated, and a two-way communication with the community's stakeholders. We also have a complaints response mechanism in place which deals with any claim related to our operation. For the design and implementation of social projects, we start with the characterization of residents using the social baseline study, which yielded an accurate interpretation of our area of influence: the communities of Cerro Blanco, San Rafael Cerro Blanco, El Cerrón, La Lima, El Tule, Trapiche Vargas, Las Ánimas, and part of the urban core of Asunción Mita. The information gathered in this study allows us to direct the projects towards the communities' priorities so we can improve their conditions as we advance our engagement with them, and to impact them in a positive manner per municipal development indicators.

### GETTING TO KNOW THE CERRO BLANCO PROJECT

GRI 413-2

# **>** GUIDED VISITS TO THE MINE

For Elevar Resources, 2022 was a year full of opportunities to continue managing the awareness of a project that seeks construction under a responsible mining model.

The site visit program continued to inform about project operations in a transparent manner as well as to discuss the way and model in which the project will operate during its construction and operation stages. From March to May, 131 people from communities within the area of influence, high-school and university students, people from government offices, and a delegation from the Human Rights Ombudsperson of the central and departmental headquarters participated in these tours.





# **SOCIALIZATION ACTIVITIES**

In 2022 promotional kiosks were organised in communities within the area of influence in consideration of those neighbours who did not receive the information during the pandemic. In addition, door-to-door visits were conducted to provide information related to the Cerro Blanco project to those residents that had not received it.

For the second semester of 2022, a program was developed to reach those audiences that had not received the responsible mining model message, especially those communities outside the area of influence of the Cerro Blanco Project. The results were positive for the industry and for the Cerro Blanco Project because those residents that did not know about mining and had any incorrect information had a chance to ask questions and find out how mining activities develop.

The proposed activities were conducted through a relational and educational communications strategy, and included:

- ✓ Delivery of the pertinent and timely messages that succeeded in spreading project information and knowledge to Asunción Mita residents.
- ✓ Information for local and departmental actors regarding mining activities as well as the socioeconomic benefits that mining will bring to the municipality of Asunción Mita.
- ✓ Questions from residents of Asunción Mita regarding mining activities were answered and clarified, especially those questions related to the misinformation that is sometimes spread nationally and internationally. Answers were provided considering that mining activities are quite new and unknown in Guatemala.

The results from this plan were systematized to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the residents of Asunción Mita as the location of those that did not have first-hand information yet. The results were used to make decisions and propose new and better communication strategies tailored to the culture of Asunción Mita.

It was possible to reach different neighborhoods and communities in the municipality, the satisfactory results follow:

- 4,634 door-to-door visits were conducted where the average number of residents per household is six persons.
- Visits were made to a total of 467 adults in 38 of the 39 neighborhoods within municipality's urban area.
- 38 outdoor information kiosks within the area of influence, especially in rural areas (207).
- Cafecitos which are smaller meetings inside family homes or with neighbours interested in obtaining first-hand information. 31 activities (443 adults).
- Events aimed at high school students where educational documentaries were projected and information about the project was disseminated (561 youth from Asunción Mita schools).
- 17 meetings with local leaders such as protestant pastors, professionals, and journalists with high influence in the area.
- In addition, four virtual meetings were held with people from of Asunción Mita who live in the United States

## <u>COMPLAINTS HANDLING</u>

The handling of complaints at Elevar Resources is regulated under the procedures established since 2021 and its purpose is to address and resolve community complaints that arise in relation to Elevar Resources activities.

An environment of trust and genuine collaboration is created through dialogue and by including stakeholders in the complaint resolution process. Through this procedure, responses are made in a consistent and effective manner, even when a final solution is not possible due to external factors. Complaints can be filed directly or anonymously and are handled confidentially. Complaints can serve as an early warning that allows us to act to prevent community conflicts, contribute to strengthening a culture of peaceful conflict resolution, and prioritize a problem-solving approach and preventive risk management.

During 2022, 10 complaints were received and filed to satisfaction.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

After having established the baseline of social conditions in 2021, work groups were organized at four of the seven communities within the area of influence so that, according to their way of life, they could establish their priorities. The relationship with the mining project arises based on these priorities, and jointly, potential common work areas when the mining project starts were identified.

A relationship model was built for all the communities within the area of influence based on dialogue and by placing the project as one more neighbour that works together with the other actors in the area and thus maintaining open channels of communication.

For the first half of the year, some social investment projects components related to education and health issues were implemented, such as:

School transportation. The company supports the educational community by providing school transportation to ensure children attend school; we strive to reduce absenteeism and dropouts because the educational needs of the area are not available within the communities. 265 students have been benefited from this initiative.

- ✓ Institutional strengthening of schools. To guarantee the involvement of the authority in the proposed activities, a diagnosis of the basic needs of the schools within the area of influence was conducted to identify possible lines of joint support in the future. Support was provided to the school in the village of Cerro Blanco and school supplies were delivered to schools and students within the area of influence. These materials contributed to the start of school activities to mitigate the multiple challenges brought by the pandemic. Sanitizing gel, masks, and didactic materials were delivered.
- ✓ COVID-19 vaccination. As a complement to the vaccination campaigns conducted during the previous year, in 2022 the third dose was applied to residents of the area of influence; 426 people benefited from this initiative. Support was provided with door-to-door registration, transportation, and facilities so the Guatemalan Welfare Institute could apply the vaccinations properly.
- Dental campaign. Although Elevar Resources is still in the process of updating its license to operate, activities related to the most urgent needs were conducted together with other actors in the area. A dental campaign was conducted where free dental health services for the benefit of certain vulnerable population groups in Asunción Mita were provided. Basic curative and preventive services were included to contribute to the improvement of oral health in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa.

In this manner, in conjunction with the *Juntos por Mita* Association, VIMEDICA, and the University of San Carlos de Guatemala, nearly 200 residents that were characterised and identified by Elevar Resources received assistance.

- ✓ Support during times of crisis. As part of management community relations management, risks that can potentially render residents vulnerable have been considered. During the month of June, storm Celia had strong impacts in Asunción Mita, leaving many communities uncommunicated due to the collapse of the El Tule bridge. Elevar Resources quickly managed resources to deliver groceries to the affected villages so that they could face the crisis while the solutions from the authorities materialized.
- Community health and water services. The following works were conducted considering the priorities of the communities that focus on issues that coincide with the social conditions' baseline. These works contribute to the improvement of water management within the area of influence.
  - o After several years of planning and construction, El Tule and La Lima received a deep well, an extraction system, piping, and tank infrastructure for a guaranteed water supply within the community. This work was conducted jointly with the community of La Lima, the municipal authority, the related national authority, and Elevar Resources.
  - To improve the drainage system at Las Ánimas, we donated pipes for diverting wastewater as well as pipes for homes within the area closest to the community school. The construction and installation works were conducted jointly with the community and the local authority, who, from their perspective, prepared the areas to start said works.
  - o At El Cerrón, a water tank was planned together with the community and the school authorities

of the village. Elevar Resources donated the water tank and construction work so the village school could have water availability for the benefit of the school children.

Support to forest brigades. During the summer of 2022, support was given to the forest fire brigade of the Department of Jutiapa to extinguish the fire that burned within the protected area. Support was given in the form of transportation, water, and food for the brigade members who worked during the days that the fire lasted.

### **Technical Training**

During the month of January 2022, 257 full scholarships were awarded to residents in the area for different INTECAP certifications. The courses were divided into two main areas: technical courses focused on trades (industrial and residential electrician, industrial and metal structures welding, bricklaying/ masonry and gray masonry) and technical degrees focused on economic diversification for entrepreneurs (gastronomy, dressmaking, and agriculture).

In June 2022, the scholarship program with INTECAP was suspended; however, 90 students from the different areas of influence were able to continue their studies to obtain their certification thanks to the subsequent scholarships granted by INTECAP.

### **Education Program for Adults**

With the aim of strengthening local employability, the company sponsored the Formal Education Program, which began in July 2021. This program is aimed at people from neighboring communities who were unable to complete their elementary, junior highschool and highschool studies. This program is endorsed by the Ministry of Education as part of the alternative education programs for adults. During 2022, a total of 145 students continued with their study programs; of these, 65 students graduated in December. At the end of the year, 115 students have graduated since the start of the program in 2021, changing the quality of life of their families.

COMMUNITY	Hours taught	Number of students
Las Ánimas	2,032	35
San Rafael Cerro Blanco	1,378	25
Cerro Blanco	1,910	32
Trapiche Vargas	1,594	31
La Lima- El Tule	1,122	22
Total	8,036	145

## GENERATION OF LOCAL INCOME

### GRI 204 LPRM 201, 203, 301

Elevar Resources is committed to local purchasing of goods and services as long as they meet the requirements of the operation. We give priority to entrepreneurs and local businesses within the direct area of influence of the Cerro Blanco Project as long as they comply with the standards for the acquisition of local goods and services.

Our Local Procurement Policy seeks to catalyze longterm economic development through local business growth and employment benefits in our neighboring communities and in alignment with priorities of local development. This policy applies to all operations, contractors, subsidiaries, and activities regardless of the stage of the project life and the value of the activities to be contracted.

To maximize creation of local value, we apply the following decreasing-priority levelling when contracting:

- Company or community association that is owned and operated by Guatemalans and/or residents.
- International supplier in a joint venture with a company or community association owned by Guatemalans and/or residents.
- International supplier that has an agency agreement with a company or community association owned by Guatemalans and/or residents.
- International supplier registered in Guatemala.

### LPRM 507

With the aim of promoting employment and employment benefits in neighboring communities, we give priority to local businesses that employ a significant number of residents as a proportion of the total number of employees included in the contract. Additionally, to promote inclusion, we give preference to local businesses owned by women or that involve vulnerable groups or other historically marginalized sectors of society.

### Mining Local Procurement Reporting Mechanism - LPRM

As part of our commitment to local development, at Elevar Resources we continue to implement the Mining Local Procurement Reporting Mechanism (LPRM), which is an initiative called Mining Shared Value from Canada's Engineering Without Borders. This initiative seeks to standardize the way in which the mining industry and host countries assess and refer the local purchases of goods and services.

Thanks to the support of the Lundin Foundation, we continue to align our internal management with the LPRM hoping to promote income generation at the local level; provide practical information that helps suppliers, governments and communities that collaborate with the mine; and avoiding corrupt practices. within purchasing processes.

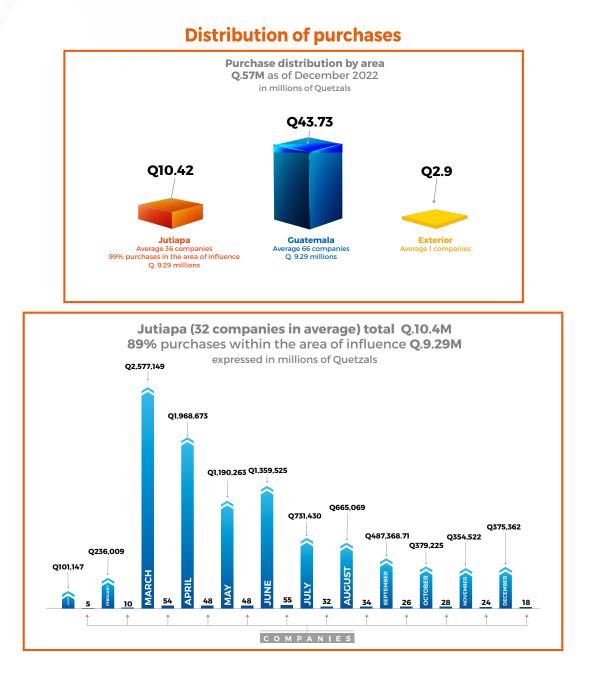
### For more information: https://miningsharedvalue.org/mininglprm/



### GRI 204-1

In 2022, Elevar Resources made purchases for a total of **Q 57 million**, of which **Q 43.7 million** (77%) corresponded to businesses in Guatemala and **Q 10.4 million (18%) to companies in Jutiapa**. Of the latter, **Q 9.2 million (89%)** were made within the area of influence of the Cerro Blanco mining project.

#### **LPRM 302**



### Local Supplier Development Program

**NEXO** is the capacity building program created by the Lundin Foundation and Elevar Resources. Its purpose is to support local companies and entrepreneurs to become more competitive and achieve the standards required to participate in the bidding processes of the mining project. By promoting their development, the program gives them the chance to access new markets, grow, and diversify their businesses.

Specifically, the program focuses on:

- Identify the main opportunities for improvement within the companies in terms of their business model, alignment with local regulations, and standards required by the Elevar Resources supply chain department.
- Provide tailored technical assistance to support the process of closing the identified gaps.
- Stimulate the local economy by lifting local organizations to a higher level in the development of their businesses.

During 2022, the NEXO program was developed together with a diverse group of entrepreneurs

registered within the area of influence of the Cerro Blanco mining project. The learning obtained from the pilot program developed in the fourth quarter of 2021 was considered.

The invitation to participate in the NEXO program during 2022 was extended to 22 local entrepreneurs. After completing the due diligence that Elevar Resources conducted through a known Guatemalan firm and the execution of the technical assistance program (1,300 hours) and professional advice (2,500 hours) applied in three groups throughout the year, 20 entrepreneurs completed the program successfully.

The six categories selected for the program were: carpentry, hardware, aggregates, electrical services, construction companies, and staff transportation.

The selected companies had to represent groups of interested communities, particularly those in vulnerable conditions; have the investment capacity required to grow according to the needs of the organization; and have the potential for direct positive economic impact within the local community.

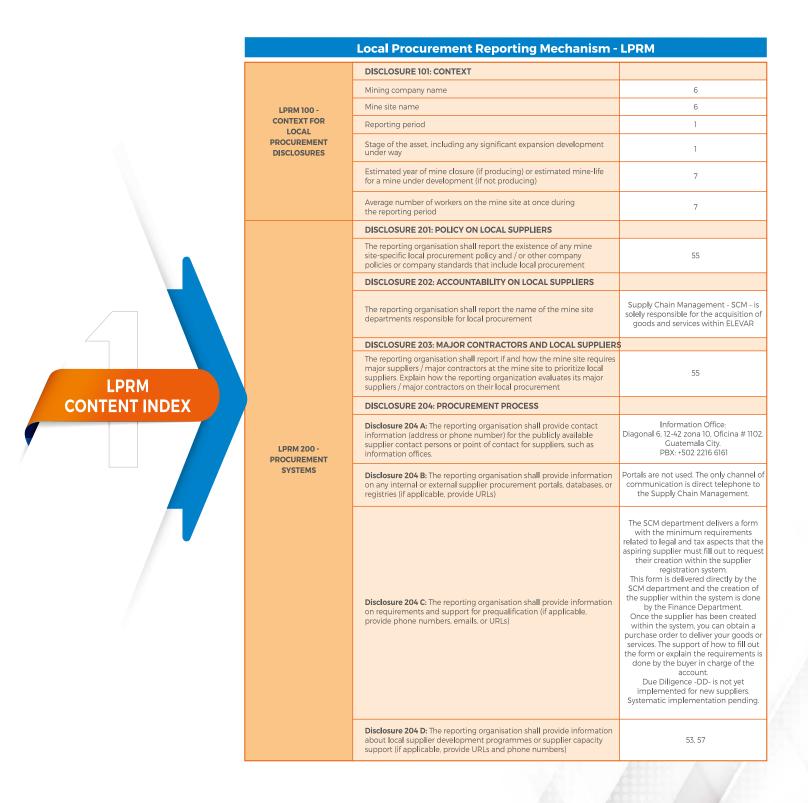
<b>GRI Standard</b>	Disclosure	Page number / URL	Omissio
	Organizational profile		
	102-1 Name of the organization	5	
	102-2 Activities, brands, products, and services	6	
	102-3 Location of headquarters	Elevar Resources main offices are located at: Diagonal 6 12-42 zona 10, Edificio Design Center, Torre 1 / Nivel 11 / Oficina 1102 - Guatemala City	
	102-4 Location of operations	6	
	102-5 Ownership and legal form	As of December 31, 2021, the main shareholders of Elevar Resources are: 35% - Institutions 27% - Lundin family 21% - Retail 11% - CD Capital 4% - Administration 2% - Newmont	
	102-6 Markets served	6	
	102-7 Scale of the organization	7	
	102-8 Information on employees and other workers	24	
	102-9 Supply chain	8	
	102-10 Significant changes to the organization and its supply chain	6	
	102-11 Precautionary Principle or approach	13	
	102-12 External initiatives	9	
	102-13 Membership of associations	9	
	Strategy		
	102-14 Statement from senior decision-maker	2	
	Ethics and integrity		
	102-16 Values, principles, standards, and norms of behavior	6, 19	
GRI 102:	Governance		
General	102-18 Governance structure	18	
Disclosures	Stakeholder engagemer	nt	1
2016	102-40 List of stakeholder groups	14	
	102-41 Collective bargaining agreements	30	
	102-42 Identifying and selecting stakeholders	14	
	102-43 Approach to stakeholder engagement	14	
	102-44 Key topics and concerns raised	14	
	Reporting practice 102-45 Entities included in the consolidated financial statements	This Report includes information from Elevar Resources and the results of the management of the Cerro Blanco Project in Guatemala.	
	102-46 Defining report content and topic Boundaries	1, 15	
	102-47 List of material topics	16	
	102-48 Restatements of information	No restatements of information are presented in this Report.	
	102-49 Changes in reporting	This is the second Sustainability Report of Elevar Resources, but the first prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards.	
	102-50 Reporting period	1	
	102-51 Date of most recent report	January 2021	
	102-52 Reporting cycle	1	
	102-53 Contact point for questions regarding the report	1	
	102-54 Claims of reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards	1	
	102-55 GRI content index	58	
		This Report is not subject to an	
	102-56 External assurance	external verification process.	

# GRI CONTENT INDEX

CDI Chandrad	Disala	Demo municipation / LIDI	Quitai
GRI Standard	Disclosure	Page number / URL	Omission
	Economic Performance	1	
GRI 103:	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries		
Management Approach 2016	103-2 The management approach and its components	17	
GRI 201:	103-3 Evaluation of the management approach		
Economic Performance 2016	201-1 Direct economic value generated and distributed	17	
	Procurement Practices	1	-
GRI 103:	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries		
Management Approach 2016	103-2 The management approach and its components	55	
CDI 20/	103-3 Evaluation of the management approach		
GRI 204: Procurement Practices 2016	204-1 Proportion of spending on local suppliers	56	
	Anti-corruption		
	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries		
GRI 103: Management Approach 2016	103-2 The management approach and its components	20	
Management Approach 2010	103-3 Evaluation of the management approach		
	205-2 Communication and training about anti-corruption	20	
GRI 205: Anti-corruption 2016	205-2 policies and procedures	20	
	205-3 Confirmed incidents of corruption and actions taken	20	
	Тах		
			Contents 207-1 a
	207-1 Approach to tax		207-3 are partia
GRI 103: Management Approach 2019	207-2 Tax governance, control, and risk management	21	reported. Information
Munugement Approach 2013	207-3 Stakeholder engagement and management of concerns		regarding conte
	related to tax		207-2 is not repor
		Elevar Resources presents its financial and fiscal reports	
GRI 207: Tax 2019	207-4 Country-by-country reporting	in Canada, under the regulation of that country, considering standards such as EITI and ESTMA.	
	Energy	considering standards such as ETT and ESTIMA.	1
	Litergy	Elevar Resources does not currently have a	
GRI 103:	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries	management approach for energy. It only	
Management Approach 2016	103-2 The management approach and its components	monitors energy consumption within the	
	103-3 Evaluation of the management approach	organization associated with electricity generated with diesel.	
GRI 302: Energy 2016	302-1 Energy consumption within the organization	47	
	Water and Effluents	1	
	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries		
GRI 103:	103-2 The management approach and its components	39, 40	
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	303-3 Water withdrawal	40	
GRI 303: Water and Effluents 2018	303-4 Water discharge	40	
water and Emuents 2018	303-5 Water consumption	41	
	Biodiversity	1	
	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries		
GRI 103: Management Approach 2016	103-2 The management approach and its components	39, 43	
management Approach 2010	103-3 Evaluation of the management approach		
GRI 304:	ZOG 6 IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species		
Biodiversity 2016	304-4 with habitats in areas affected by operations	42	
	Emissions		
GRI 103:	103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries	70.46	
Management Approach 2016	103-2 The management approach and its components 103-3 Evaluation of the management approach	39, 46	
GRI 305: Emissions 2016	305-1 Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	47	
SRI 505. Emissions 2010	Waste	+/	I
	waste		
GRI 103:	306-1 Waste generation and significant waste-related impacts	39, 47	
GRI 103: Management Approach 2020	306-1Waste generation and significant waste-related impacts306-2Management of significant wasterelated impacts	39, 47	

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		Environmental Compliance		
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	GRI 307: Environmental Compliance 2016	307-1 Non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations	41	
		Employment		
	GRI 103: Management Approach 2016	<ul><li>103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundaries</li><li>103-2 The management approach and its components</li><li>103-3 Evaluation of the management approach</li></ul>	25, 26	
	GRI 401: Employment 2016	401-1 New employee hires and employee turnover	Image: Part of the second state of	
	CRUE     CRUE     Kinggement Approach 200     To Production of the model processor and the Boundaries     To Proceedings and the management approach 201     To Proceedings and the management approach 201     To Proceedings and 201     To Proceeding and 20			
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		403-9 Work-related injuries	37	
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		association and collective bargaining may be at risk	30	
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		103-2 The management approach and its components	29	
		410-1 Security personnel trained in human rights policies	30	
		Human Rights Assessment		
		103-2 The management approach and its components	29	
		412-2 Employee training on human rights policies or procedures	30	
		Local Communities		
		103-2 The management approach and its components	49, 50	
	CDI 413-	/17-1 Operations with local community engagement, impact	49	
	Local Communities 2016	(17.2) Operations with significant actual and potential negative	50	



	1			
	LPRM 300 - LOCAL PROCURE- MENT SPENDING BY CATEGORY	DISCLOSURE 301: CATEGORISING SUPPLIERS		
36 1 3		The reporting organisation shall report how the mine site categorises suppliers based on:		
		• Geographic location, such as proximity to the site	55	
		<ul> <li>Level of participation, including level of ownership and/ or employment by local individuals or particular groups (Indigenous people, vulnerable groups, etc.)</li> </ul>		
		Level of value addition		
		DISCLOSURE 302: BREAKDOWN OF PROCUREMENT SPEND		
		The reporting organisation shall report the breakdown of procurement spend for each category of supplier provided in Disclosure 301:		
		Categorising suppliers, including international suppliers		
		<ul> <li>Reporting shall provide a breakdown by amount (in relevant currency) and by percentage of total spend</li> </ul>	56	
		<ul> <li>If possible, reporting shall provide a breakdown of spending by major spend families</li> </ul>		
	LPRM 400 - LOCAL PROCURE- MENT DUE	DISCLOSURE 401: DUE DILIGENCE PROCESSES		
		The reporting organisation shall report the supplier due diligence processes used at the mine site to avoid purchasing from suppliers with problematic behaviour	20, 21, 29	
		DISCLOSURE 402: ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY		
		The reporting organisation shall report the existence and location of any anti-corruption policy it has and / or any policies that are intended to prevent corruption in their procurement processes and in their suppliers	20	
	DILIGENCE	DISCLOSURE 403: TRAINING AND GUIDANCE FOR SUPPLIERS		
		The reporting organisation shall report information and training provided to suppliers on best practices related to due diligence processes	20	
	LPRM 500 - METHODS TO	DISCLOSURE 505: SUPPORTING SUPPLIERS TO UNDERSTAND THE TENDER PROCESS		
		The reporting organisation should describe activities or support that the mine site provides to local suppliers navigating the tendering and prequalification processes	Not reported	
		DISCLOSURE 506: SPECIAL PAYMENT PROCEDURES FOR LOCAL SUPPLIERS		
	INCENTIVISE LOCAL PROCUREMENT	The reporting organisation should describe special payment procedures that the mine site uses to assist local suppliers	Not reported	
	LPRM 600 -	DISCLOSURE 507: ENCOURAGING PROCUREMENT FROM PARTICULAR GROUPS		
		The reporting organisation should describe efforts that proactively encourage suppliers to include and support particular groups, such as women, visible minorities, youth, and Indigenous communities	55	
		DISCLOSURE 601: REGULATIONS		
		The reporting organisation should detail regulations for local procurement or procurement from specific types of local suppliers, or any specific contract provisions between the mine site and the host country government	Not reported	
	EXTERNAL COMMITMENTS AND	DISCLOSURE 602: OTHER AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTSt		
	COMMITMENTS AND OBLICATIONS	The reporting organisation should detail memoranda of understand- ing, impact benefit agreements (IBAs), or other types of community benefit agreements that the mine site is subject to from specific local stakeholder groups, and that require action towards procurement from specific types of host country suppliers	Not reported	





#### CANADA

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### GUATEMALA

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