

South American Silver Corp.
Critical Path Forward:
Alternatives to Preserve the Viability of the Malku Khota Project

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Executive Summary

The Malku Khota project has reached a critical inflection point. Despite significant investments in exploration, community engagement, and infrastructure, recent events have created a volatile situation that threatens the project's viability. Last weekend, violence erupted during negotiations for the release of five Bolivian employees taken hostage by dissenting peasant farmers. The tragic incident resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries. This crisis demands the Company's immediate and decisive response to safeguard the project and protect investments.

While the local government and the majority of communities surrounding Malku Khota support the project, the escalating tension and negative media coverage have amplified the risks. There is growing concern that President Evo Morales' government may move to nationalize the project. Such an outcome could result in partial or complete loss of our investments, significantly impacting the Company's position. Without urgent action, the situation may further deteriorate, and in the next few days the stock market could react negatively, leading to a decline in our share price.

This document outlines the project's current challenges and provides concrete, actionable alternatives to address the crisis. These strategies aim to stabilize the situation, rebuild stakeholder trust, and protect shareholder value. The Board's decision will be critical in determining the future of Malku Khota and our broader corporate objectives.

Background

South American Silver Corporation (SASC) is a Canadian mineral exploration company focused on discovering and developing world-class mining projects in South America (South American Silver Corp., n.d.). Established with a vision to explore valuable mineral resources responsibly, the Company has expanded its portfolio to include high-potential sites such as Malku Khota in Bolivia. SASC acquired the rights to Malku Khota in 2003 through a concession agreement with the Bolivian government based on its promising deposits of silver and indium (Andean Information Network, 2012). The project is considered one of the largest undeveloped silver and indium -- a rare metal used in flat-screen LCD televisions (Jamasmie, 2012) -- resources in the world, with significant potential to benefit local communities through job creation and infrastructure development (South American Silver Corp., n.d.).

It is important to emphasize that SASC operates under a governance structure prioritizing sustainable development and shareholder value. The Company's Board of directors comprises experienced professionals in mining, finance, and environmental stewardship, ensuring that decisions align with both corporate objectives and ethical standards (South American Silver Corp., n.d.). SASC has invested significantly in exploration, community outreach, and environmental assessments to establish the project's viability. By 2012, the Company had allocated millions of dollars to the site, including geotechnical studies, workforce training, and local infrastructure improvements (South American Silver Corp., 2011). These investments reflect SASC's commitment to creating a world-class operation that not only delivers economic returns but also contributes positively to the surrounding

communities through responsible resource development and transparent governance practices.

However, this vision has encountered challenges in balancing economic goals with the social and environmental concerns of the indigenous communities. Over the years, tensions have escalated between SASC and certain indigenous groups in the Mallku Khota region, despite efforts to promote dialogue and engage with stakeholders (Garces, 2012). Initial resistance stemmed from concerns about environmental impacts, particularly the project's effects on water resources in an already arid region. SASC has made strides in working with local communities to address these issues, offering employment opportunities, support for agricultural projects, and infrastructure investments. While some groups have welcomed these initiatives, others remain opposed, citing inadequate consultation and cultural preservation concerns. The situation worsened in recent months, with opposition leaders organizing protests and detaining a few Company employees (BBC, 2012). Although most of the local ayllus ("ayllus" means a clan or a network of families that live in a specific area, in an Inca society) supported the project's economic potential, disagreements among factions have created a volatile environment, compounded by external influences amplifying dissent (The Associated Press, 2012).

This document considers facts that happened until Saturday, July 7, 2012, when the project was at a critical juncture. In the previous week, violence erupted at the Malku Khota site as five SASC's employees were detained by a faction of peasant farmers and Bolivian authorities had started negotiating their release. Tragically, the conflict resulted in the death of one community member and at least a dozen injuries. These events underscore the urgent need for a decisive response.

The escalating violence risks not only the safety of SASC's personnel but also the future of the project. As the Company faces this complex and highly sensitive issue, it is imperative to strengthen its commitment to dialogue, prioritize safety, and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to find a sustainable solution that respects the rights of local communities while advancing the economic benefits of Malku Khota.

Challenges and risks

The Malku Khota project faces significant risks and challenges that could impact the Company's operations:

1. Personnel and Local Stakeholders' Safety

Safety concerns have escalated at Malku Khota, with violence threatening personnel, operations, and community trust. Addressing security issues is critical to protecting lives.

2. Project Delays due to Escalating Local Tensions

The Malku Khota project faces strong indigenous opposition due to environmental and cultural concerns, creating deep mistrust. Addressing these tensions is vital to avoid disruptions.

3. Project Suspension due to Governmental Expropriation

Bolivia's history of nationalizing industries poses a risk to Malku Khota. Escalating tensions could prompt government intervention, jeopardizing SASC's control and finances.

4. Rising Costs amid Environmental Impact Criticism

Environmental concerns over water depletion and contamination fuel

opposition to Malku Khota. Without a transparent strategy, SASC risks losing credibility.

5. Threats to Future Investment Opportunities

Ongoing conflicts at Malku Khota risk a total project write-off, jeopardizing SASC's investments and future funding prospects.

6. Risks to Organizational Reputation

The project's conflicts and criticisms might damage SASC's reputation, risking investor confidence and future ventures. Trust is essential to align corporate responsibility and sustainability expectations.

This memo will exploit each challenge in more detail.

1. Personnel and Local Stakeholders' Safety

Safety has become a pressing concern due to the escalation of violence in recent weeks. The recent hostage situation, which resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries, underscores the precarious security environment at Malku Khota.

SASC employees, contractors, and even local residents who support the project face potential threats from opposition factions. The volatile situation not only endangers lives but also hampers the Company's ability to maintain consistent operations on the ground. Additionally, the lack of trust between local communities and government authorities further complicates negotiations and increases the risk of further violent incidents.

Without an immediate and effective response to address the lack of security, SASC may find it increasingly difficult to safeguard its personnel and maintain community relationships.

2. Project Delays due to Escalating Local Tensions

The Malku Khota project has faced mounting resistance from indigenous communities in the region, leading to increased tension and hostility. While South American Silver has made efforts to engage local stakeholders through outreach programs and economic incentives, a portion of the indigenous population remains adamantly opposed to the project. This opposition stems from fears of environmental degradation, cultural loss, and perceived exclusion from the decision-making process.

The detainment of SASC employees and local officials, as well as violent confrontations (Chávez, 2012), reflect the deep mistrust between certain groups and the Company.

Managing these tensions is critical to ensure the project's success, as prolonged disputes can disrupt operations and attract negative attention from both local and international observers.

3. Project Suspension due to Governmental Expropriation

The Bolivian government's history of nationalizing extractive industries presents a significant risk to the Malku Khota project. In recent years, Bolivia has increased its control over key natural resources, often citing the protection of indigenous rights and national sovereignty as justification.

The escalating tensions at Malku Khota, coupled with increasing local and international scrutiny, could prompt the government to intervene in the project.

Nationalization would result in the loss of operational control for SASC, potentially leading to financial losses and legal disputes over compensation.

Navigating this political landscape will require careful diplomacy and alignment with government policies to reduce the risk of unilateral state actions.

4. Rising Costs amid Environmental Impact Criticism

Environmental concerns have been a central issue in the opposition to the Malku Khota project. Critics, including local communities and environmental organizations, have raised alarms about the potential depletion and contamination of water resources in the already arid region. The Malku Khota area includes watersheds that are vital not only to the local population but also to the broader Amazonian basin.

The lack of a comprehensive social-environmental baseline study has further fueled skepticism about the project's environmental management. While SASC has communicated its commitment to sustainable practices, these assurances have yet to alleviate concerns sufficiently.

Without a robust and transparent environmental strategy, the Company risks losing credibility and further alienating key stakeholders.

5. Threats to Future Investment Opportunities

The financial implications of ongoing conflicts and potential project failure are substantial. Since acquiring the rights to Malku Khota, SASC has invested millions of dollars in exploration, infrastructure, and stakeholder engagement.

However, the escalating disputes and lack of resolution could lead to a total project write-off if operations are aborted. Such a decision would not only mean the loss of past investments but could also impact the Company's ability to attract future funding and partnerships.

Balancing the cost of continued engagement with the risks of project abandonment is a critical challenge for SASC's leadership.

6. Risks to Organizational Reputation

The Malku Khota project has drawn significant attention, not only within Bolivia but also internationally, due to the conflicts and allegations surrounding its development. Violent incidents, environmental criticism, and accusations of inadequate consultation with indigenous groups have placed SASC in a negative light.

This reputational damage extends beyond the immediate project, potentially affecting the Company's broader operations and stakeholder relationships. Investors, NGOs, and local governments are increasingly prioritizing corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability, making it imperative for SASC to rebuild its reputation. Failure to do so could result in diminished market confidence and greater scrutiny in future ventures.

Opportunities and alternatives

To address these challenges, South American Silver Corp must take a multi-faceted approach emphasizing collaboration, transparency, and sustainability, as well as engaging with local communities.

Table 1 provides an overview of seven alternatives, each of which will be explained in detail.

Table 1: Alternatives

Alternative	Pros	Cons	Effectiveness	Cost (Time)	Cost (\$)
1. Maintaining the Status Quo	Minimizes immediate costs and disruption; contained bad press initially.	Risk of escalating violence; loss of narrative control; fails to resolve root issues.	Low, as root causes are not addressed and risks are high.	Low	Low
2. Community Investment in Immediate Benefits	Demonstrates commitment to local welfare; can soften opposition and build goodwill.	High costs; risks dependency and favoritism; may not address deeper concerns.	Moderate, effective for immediate concerns but limited in deeper impact.	Moderate	Moderate
3. Community Investment in Long-Term Development	Strengthens community ties; aligns project with developmental goals and shifts narrative.	High costs and delayed impact; does not resolve immediate tensions.	Moderate, long-term benefits but slow to materialize.	High	High
4. Emergency Plan to Address Key Opponents	Mitigates immediate resistance; isolates opposition and fosters broader support.	Perceived favoritism; could alienate other stakeholders; no guarantee of resolving opposition.	Moderate, addresses key concerns but risks alienating others.	Moderate	Moderate
5. Strengthening Community Governance	Promotes accountability; aligns governance with project goals; reduces resistance.	Perception of 'buying' support; creates uneven power dynamics; risks instability with leadership.	Moderate to high, depending on leader influence and implementation quality.	Moderate	Moderate
6. Increased Lobbying with National Politicians	Secures stronger guarantees; aligns project with national priorities; navigates challenges.	May not address local opposition; risks reputation damage and political dependency.	Moderate, effective for national risks but limited for local issues.	Moderate	Moderate
7. Proactive Communication with Financial Stakeholders	Stabilizes investor confidence; emphasizes proactive conflict resolution and collaboration.	Limited to external perceptions and does not directly address conflicts on the ground.	Moderate: supports investor confidence; limited impact on operational challenges.	Very Low	Very Low

1. Maintaining the Status Quo

One alternative is to maintain the status quo by relying on existing structures such as police intervention, government commitments to enforce contracts, and the assumption that dissenting leaders will cease opposition to the project. This approach minimizes immediate costs and disruption, as the conflict is portrayed as an internal dispute among Indigenous community members.

The Company has successfully contained bad press thus far, but recent incidents, such as the detention of engineers on June 28, have forced SASC to publicly denounce these activities. However, this strategy carries significant risks, including the potential for violence to escalate and the loss of control over public narratives.

2. Community Investment in Immediate Benefits

Investing in immediate, tangible benefits for the local communities presents an opportunity to shift public opinion. Infrastructure development, such as new roads, electricity, and internet access, can provide immediate value to the region, showcasing the Company's commitment to improving local living standards.

These visible benefits could soften opposition and demonstrate SASC's willingness to contribute to the well-being of local stakeholders. By directly addressing the pressing needs of a poverty-stricken area, the Company may build goodwill among neutral or undecided factions within the community.

Otherwise, investing in community benefits can strain budgets with no guarantee of resolving opposition, as deeper concerns may persist. It also risks

raising long-term expectations, creating dependency, or sparking perceptions of favoritism.

3. Community Investment in Long-Term Development

A longer-term approach involves creating and promoting plans for sustained development, such as building schools and improving educational opportunities. This strategy can strengthen ties with the community by demonstrating a lasting commitment to their future.

Highlighting these initiatives can also align the project with broader developmental goals, appealing to both local stakeholders and international observers concerned with social responsibility. Long-term investment may also shift the narrative from one of extraction to one of partnership and mutual growth.

This alternative has notable cons, including high costs, as long-term investments like building schools demand substantial financial and time resources. Additionally, benefits may take years to materialize, leaving immediate tensions unresolved.

4. Emergency Plan to Address Key Opponents

To address immediate resistance, the Company could implement a targeted emergency plan to benefit the small number of opposing communities. This focused approach might include tailored infrastructure projects, direct economic support, or employment opportunities.

Such efforts could mitigate hostility by addressing the specific concerns of dissenting groups, reducing their capacity to disrupt the project further. While

resource-intensive, this approach isolates opposition and fosters conditions for broader support.

As cons, this alternative has the risk of perceived favoritism: supporting opposing groups could alienate other stakeholders or fuel resentment within neutral communities. Besides that, there's no guarantee that concessions will fully address opposition or prevent future disruptions.

5. Strengthening Community Governance

Strengthening community governance structures could incentivize local leaders to support the project. This involves fostering partnerships with influential figures and providing resources that enhance their authority.

Though this may appear as "buying" support, it could effectively align local governance with project goals. Empowering community leaders to manage localized benefits can promote accountability and reduce resistance within the communities, ensuring smoother project operations.

6. Increased Lobbying with National Politicians

Enhancing lobbying efforts with national politicians offers a way to mitigate risks for the Malku Khota project. By aligning objectives with national development priorities, the Company can frame the project as a valuable national asset, potentially securing guarantees against nationalization and improving government responsiveness to conflicts. Political allies motivated by the project's economic contributions could provide crucial support, helping navigate regulatory challenges and strengthening the project's position.

However, this approach has drawbacks. Lobbying can be costly and may not address local opposition, risking further tensions with communities. Perceptions of favoritism or undue influence could harm the Company's reputation among local stakeholders and international observers. Additionally, Bolivia's political instability poses a challenge, as shifts in power or policy priorities could undermine guarantees or alliances.

7. Proactive Communication with Canadian Financial Stakeholders

Managing perceptions among Canadian financial stakeholders is vital to protecting SASC's share value and ensuring continued investor confidence (Reuters, 2012). Ongoing conflicts at the Malku Khota project have the potential to create uncertainty in the market, leading to devaluation if concerns are not addressed. Issuing a well-crafted press release can help reassure investors by emphasizing the Company's proactive efforts to resolve disputes and maintain stability. The statement should highlight SASC's ongoing collaboration with Bolivian government authorities and frame the conflicts as isolated incidents rather than widespread opposition, as previously communicated.

Additionally, providing clear and transparent updates on progress and measures being taken to address challenges will demonstrate the Company's commitment to resolving issues effectively.

Recommendations

1. Increase Lobbying Efforts with National Politicians

Given the high risk of project nationalization and the fact that this decision could be made at any time, our first recommendation is to intensify lobbying efforts with national politicians. The Bolivian government has a history of nationalizing extractive projects under the guise of protecting national sovereignty and indigenous rights. The Malku Khota project's growing visibility, coupled with ongoing community conflicts, increases the likelihood of such intervention. Establishing more robust relationships with key government figures and aligning the project with Bolivia's broader economic and developmental goals could mitigate this risk.

Justice and Corporate Accountability Project (2016) states that Canadian businesses must comply with local and international laws, avoid bribery, and engage transparently with stakeholders. For South American Silver Corp., this means focusing on ethical practices, rejecting any actions undermining governance, and fostering cooperation through lawful and transparent approaches that align with global corporate responsibility standards.

By positioning Malku Khota as a critical project that benefits the national economy and local communities, we can encourage government officials to view it as an asset rather than a liability.

Lobbying efforts should emphasize the project's potential to contribute to national infrastructure, generate jobs, and support Bolivia's position as a global mining leader. Additionally, fostering alliances with influential politicians and policymakers can ensure that our efforts to resolve community disputes receive

government backing. This strategy prioritizes national political stability while providing a buffer against sudden policy changes that could jeopardize the project.

2. Develop an Emergency Plan to Address Dissenting Communities

Considering the recent conflicts and the rising tensions, a second key recommendation is to implement an emergency plan focused on addressing the concerns of the few dissenting communities opposing the project. While most of the communities around Malku Khota are either neutral or supportive, the opposition from a small but vocal minority poses significant risks to operations. Directly addressing their grievances through targeted initiatives can help diffuse tensions and create an environment conducive to continued project development.

The emergency plan should involve direct consultations with these communities to identify their specific concerns and needs. Tailored solutions could include infrastructure improvements, resource access, or other economic benefits designed to address their priorities. This approach demonstrates SASC's willingness to engage constructively and may reduce opposition by fostering goodwill. By addressing dissenting communities separately, we isolate the opposition, prevent broader mobilization against the project, and secure the overall stability of the region.

3. Invest in Community Development to Build Long-Term Support

Our final recommendation is to deepen community investments to build long-term support and reduce opposition. While addressing dissenting communities is a short-term priority, broader investments in infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, and internet access, can quickly improve living conditions and public

perception. Long-term initiatives, including schools, healthcare, and local enterprise development, will align the project with regional growth aspirations, enhancing SASC's reputation and fostering lasting trust. Transparent communication and visible progress are essential to ensuring these efforts are recognized and valued.

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The South American Silver Corp. (SASC) website provides detailed information about this Vancouver-based mining company specializing in exploring and developing mineral resources in the Americas.

The website showcases the Company's strategic focus on leveraging its expertise to develop high-potential mineral properties while maintaining a commitment to sustainable and ethical practices.

One of the standout features of the website is its discussion of the Company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, which reflects its commitment to addressing the economic, environmental, and social impacts of its operations. The CSR framework emphasizes active engagement with local communities to ensure that their concerns and needs are addressed. For example, the Company aims to create long-term benefits for communities near its mining sites through collaborative projects and open communication. The policy also includes firm commitments to environmental stewardship, ensuring that mining activities are conducted responsibly and in compliance with strict environmental regulations. These initiatives highlight how the Company integrates sustainable practices into its operations, making it a valuable case study for discussions about corporate responsibility in resource-intensive industries.

The website also features the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which outlines clear standards for employee and executive behaviour.

A significant aspect of this code is its reference to "Dealings with Officials," which strictly prohibits bribery or improper payments to government officials, even if such actions might advance the Company's business interests. This prohibition aligns with international anti-corruption standards and demonstrates SASC's commitment to ethical business practices. This is particularly relevant in the global mining industry, where companies often operate in regions where corruption and unethical behaviour are common risks.

The website's discussion of the Malku Khota Project in Bolivia further enhances its relevance as a reference. The project, one of the world's largest undeveloped silver and indium resources, presents both significant opportunities and complex challenges. Located in a region with Indigenous populations, the project raises important social and ethical considerations. Balancing the project's economic potential with the need to respect Indigenous rights and address community concerns is a key challenge for SASC, illustrating the broader complexities of operating in resource-rich but socially sensitive regions.

Overall, the South American Silver Corp. website offers a wealth of information on the Company's operations, governance, and ethical practices. It provides real-world examples of how a mining company can navigate the challenges of balancing profitability, sustainability, and ethical considerations. The detailed descriptions of its CSR policy, Code of Business Conduct, and governance structures make it a valuable resource for studying corporate governance and responsible business practices. Additionally, the insights into the Malku Khota Project highlight the complexities of resource development in

sensitive areas, offering lessons in ethical leadership and stakeholder engagement. This comprehensive resource is valuable for analyzing the challenges and opportunities of operating responsibly in the global mining industry.

South American Silver Corp. (2011). *Preliminary economic assessment update:*

Technical Report for the Malku Khota Project. Prepared by Allan Armitage, Pierre Desautels, Gordon Zurowski, William Pennstrom, Felipe Malbran, and Ralph Fitch.

The Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) document provides a detailed technical and economic analysis of the Malku Khota Project, a large-scale mining initiative in Bolivia's Potosí Department. The report evaluates the feasibility of developing the project into a producing mine. Malku Khota is notable for its significant silver and indium reserves, positioning it as one of the world's largest undeveloped resources. Mining in this region is not new; it dates back to Spanish colonial times, pre-1800, reflecting the area's rich mining history. The PEA includes information on projected outputs, local engagement strategies, and environmental considerations, making it a vital reference for exploring the intersection of mining, community engagement, and sustainable resource management. The insights into the project's technical, economic, and social aspects provide valuable lessons for understanding global mining operations.

One important aspect highlighted in the document is the scale of the mining operation. The PEA estimates that approximately 200 million tonnes of leach material will be mined over a 15-year life, with production focusing on silver,

indium, and other valuable by-products. Site construction is expected to take about 18 months, during which the construction workforce will peak at over 1,000 people. Once the mine becomes operational, it will provide direct employment for over 400 people, most of whom will be hired from the surrounding communities. This demonstrates the project's potential to significantly impact local employment and economic development in the region. Given that Malku Khota is located in a relatively remote area, these employment opportunities are crucial for the local economy.

The document also discusses land and water use in the project. Surface rights in the region are owned by local indigenous communities, and the project developer, Compañía Minera Malku Khota (CMMK), negotiates agreements with these communities to gain access to their land. This may involve leasing land, purchasing land, or expropriating land from other landowners if required. Additionally, mining titles grant the project the right to use water within the perimeter of the mining property, an essential factor in an arid highland region like Malku Khota. These agreements highlight the importance of collaboration with local stakeholders and the careful management of resources, making the PEA an insightful resource for examining the complexities of land and water rights in large-scale mining projects.

Labor considerations are another key topic in the PEA. While there are no restrictions on expatriates working in Bolivia, regulations require that foreigners cannot make up more than 15% of a company's workforce, ensuring that most jobs go to local workers. This regulation aligns with the project's commitment to employing primarily local people, particularly those from the five communal districts (ayllus) surrounding the mine. The PEA

emphasizes that agreements with these communities are crucial for securing local support, as they offer economic opportunities in an area where few other options for employment exist. This underscores the project's role in fostering local economic development while adhering to national labor laws. In summary, this document examines the Malku Khota Project, addressing its economic potential, social impact, and operational challenges. Its detailed insights into land use, labor practices, and community engagement make it an invaluable reference on sustainable resource management, corporate social responsibility, and the economic impacts of large-scale mining projects.

Garces, C. (2012). *A briefing on South American Silver's actions in Bolivia. Socialist Project: The Bullet – E-Bulletin No. 646.* <https://perma.cc/RL86-2B8C>

This article explains the socio-political conflict involving the South American Silver Corporation's (SASC) mining project in Mallku Khota, Bolivia. Published on June 5, 2012, shortly after initial clashes, including a violent police raid on May 5, 2012, the document outlines the growing tensions between the indigenous Mallku Khota community, nearby groups, and the mining company. The perspective is distinctly left-leaning, strongly critical of corporate activities and the state's alignment with foreign mining interests. Despite this bias, the report will primarily be used as a source to extract factual information about the events, stakeholders, and community responses.

The text presents the escalation of events leading to widespread protests against the mining project. It details violent confrontations, including police repression, the detention of community leaders, and organized indigenous

resistance. The article also describes the community's collaborative efforts to reject the project, including their demands for the cancellation of mining concessions and national support through the indigenous organization CONAMAQ. These events culminated in the IX March, where indigenous groups united to defend sacred sites, advocate for constitutional pre-consultation rights, and challenge the ongoing environmental and social threats posed by extractive projects.

South American silver is described as a "junior league corporation," heavily reliant on shareholder investments and speculative financial strategies. The article criticizes the Company for leveraging community conflicts to delay opposition and proceed with project approvals. It accuses SASC of prioritizing corporate gains over environmental sustainability and community well-being, portraying its operations as exploitative. The perspective highlights how the Company's actions perpetuate local discord and fail to address fundamental environmental and social concerns, reflecting a dismissive approach to indigenous rights and ecological preservation.

While the article adopts a critical and left-sided stance, it underscores the legitimate concerns of the Mallku Khota community. It notes that SASC failed to complete a baseline social-environmental study and dismisses corporate promises of local job creation as limited to precarious, low-security labour. The community's resolution to reject the project focuses on protecting water resources, preserving the Amazon watershed, and securing their social well-being. These actions exemplify the Indigenous groups' determination to safeguard their territory from exploitative and environmentally damaging projects. Despite the author's clear bias, this source can be used to retrieve

factual details about the events, stakeholder positions, and the broader implications of the Mallku Khota conflict.

Appendix - Draft Media Release

South American Silver Announces Strategic Measures to Address Challenges at Malku Khota Project

Vancouver, Canada – July 9, 2012 – South American Silver Corp. (TSX: SAC) ("the Company") provides an update on recent developments concerning its Malku Khota silver-indium project in Bolivia and outlines strategic measures to address ongoing challenges and ensure the project's long-term success.

The Company acknowledges the complexities surrounding the project and the importance of proactive, collaborative actions to ensure long-term success. Recent incidents, including acts of violence and the detention of employees, highlight the urgency of fostering stability while advancing the project.

The Company is emphasizing transparency and proactive conflict resolution. As part of these efforts, it is creating formal communication channels with Bolivian authorities to collaboratively address local concerns. This approach aims to align the project's goals with Bolivia's broader national interests, reinforcing mutual benefits for all stakeholders.

"South American Silver remains committed to responsibly advancing the Malku Khota project while respecting the rights and aspirations of local communities," said Greg Johnson, CEO of South American Silver. "We believe these measures represent a balanced approach to address immediate challenges and build a foundation for long-term success."

In addition, the Company continues its focus on community development, prioritizing initiatives that contribute to local infrastructure, education, and economic opportunities. These investments reflect South American Silver's broader vision of aligning its operations with sustainable practices and meaningful community engagement.

South American Silver will provide timely updates as progress is made, reaffirming its commitment to fostering transparency and collaboration with all stakeholders.