This is a brief intro to the practice of community consultations.

In Guatemala, the first community that was affected by mining was... Minera La Estrella is a project that has been in operation since 1969. In 1992, the community of La Libertad decided to resist this mining project, and a consultation was held to determine whether or not the community was affected by the project.

In some cases, consultations have been part of successful strategies to stop the construction of a project before it began (like the hydroelectric project in San Pedro, San Marcos) and temporarily suspend a fully operating project (like the silver mine in San Rafael Las Flores, San Marcos).

In order to ensure a more stable climate and water resources in the Western People’s Council (CEP), a consultation was held to determine the rights and obligations of the Western People’s Council (CEP) to co-opt consultations.

Lucas Jorge, an indigenous leader, explained: “In my community, we already held a consultation but the hydroelectric company doesn’t respect it. They have invaded our territory, occupied by the Army and the police. The presence of security forces opens old wounds from what we lived through during the Internal Armed Conflict.”