

## Minera Limata co-operative: from mine to refining at Valcambi



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Located at 4600m above sea-level in the Chaquiminas area of the Ananea district of San Antonio de Putina in the Department of Puno, South Peru, lies concession AFC 12 of the Minera Limata co-operative (LIMATA AFC12).

Owned and developed by the Limata community, the cooperative takes pride in being the first small mining cooperative to be formalised in Peru, in 2013.

Mining has become an important source of income for a community whose principal livelihood relied for decades on breeding alpacas.

LIMATA AFC 12 employs 31 working members of the cooperative and 12 workers who live in the Limata community their ancestors are from. The mining operation starts at the open pit. From there, dump trucks transport the ore to the washing units where the gold is segregated through gravimetric process.

Throughout the years, the miners have been working hard to formalise and to develop more effective and responsible mining practices. With the support of Fairtrade, the mine recently reached the Fairtrade certification.

As this work was under way, Valcambi had the privilege in October 2017 to receive the visit of Mr Bernardo Flores Ramos, President of Minera Limata Co-operative; Tomas Darwin Teves Mamani, Legal Advisor; Efrain Flores Mara, Member, and Marcelino Ramos Ochochoque, Member, along with the Fairtrade project leads.



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Minera Limata cooperative visits Valcambi

The parties opened their 'books' to each other on a long, insightful and rewarding day. Valcambi introduced the miners to the world of refining through an extensive visit of the production and laboratory. The team took its Peruvian guests through its artisanal and small-scale mining sourcing approach, emphasizing the importance of due diligence processes, procedures and traceability, not only at the mine but throughout the entire value chain.

In turn, the miners presented their mining operations, and discussions progressed on to the various options a business relationship could take.

"This exchange on a personal level is an important first step to develop a strong long-term business relationship," commented Markus Staub, Senior Project Manager International Cooperation, at Fairtrade Max Havelaar Switzerland.

Only three months later, after conducting its due diligence process, Valcambi received its first shipment from LIMATA AFC12. The company is proud to sell the refined gold to the high-end jewellery industry.



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Minera LIMATA AFC12 Gold

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