



UNIVERSIDADE
FEDERAL DE
OURO PRETO



COLUMBIA | SIPA
Economic and Political Development

October 2022

WORKSHOP IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE
Preliminary Terms of Reference
Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

[subject to further client review]

Project Title: The Business and Human Rights Agenda of Remediation:
The Case of Renova Foundation

Client/Host Agency: Renova Foundation (Brazil)
<https://www.fundacaorenova.org/en/the-foundation/>

Client Contact: Ms. Christiana de Moraes Freitas
Phone: 55-31-971663502
Email: Christiana.freitas@fundacaorenova.org

Background: The Renova Foundation (Fundação Renova) is the entity responsible for the mobilization of the remediation of the damages caused by the collapse of the Fundão dam in Mariana in Minas Gerais, Brazil. It is a non-profit organization, the result of a legal commitment called Transaction and Conduct Adjustment Term (TTAC). TTAC defines the scope of action of the Renova Foundation, which includes

42 programs that take the form of many on-the-ground projects that are being implemented across the 670 kilometers of impacted area along the Doce River and its tributaries. The ongoing actions, in areas such as resettlement, housing, and sanitation, are long-term and expected to take up to 10 years.

By establishing an organization dedicated exclusively to the remediation process, a robust governance model was also created, with more than 70 participating entities. The answers to each challenge are arrived at jointly, and no party involved has exclusive control over the decision. In addition, the Foundation follows the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in one of the largest efforts internationally to implement such principles since they were enunciated.

The Renova Foundation brings together technicians and specialists from different areas of knowledge, dozens of environmental entities and scientific knowledge from Brazil and other part of the world, totaling around 6,000 people (including its own employees and partners) working in the remediation process, from the city of Mariana, Minas Gerais to the Doce River mouth.

This project builds on the foundation of eight different projects dating back to 2007 in which, jointly, Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Universidade de São Paulo (USP) teams have conducted similar projects for different Brazilian or multinational corporations, operating in several Brazilian states and on diverse related issues of community relations and corporate social responsibility in both the extractive and agricultural sectors as well as manufacturing. The Columbia Global Center in Rio de Janeiro will serve as a local partner to facilitate in-country research.

Objective:

The Columbia/SIPA students who are Masters degree candidates in their second year, working as a team and with in-person assistance from a student team led by Prof. João Paulo Veiga of USP, would conduct a document review and assessment of aspects of the Renova Foundation model, particularly focused on the resettlement process, the roles of key stakeholders, and related housing, sanitation, and other aspects of physical and social infrastructure. The review and assessment would be set against the wider context of Renova Foundation as a good practice case study in terms of remediation and business and human rights considered in light of relevant international experiences and principles.

Tasks:

The Columbia/SIPA team would be tasked with developing the frameworks used to assess Renova Foundation's ongoing resettlement process, in light of the the remediation agenda of the business and human rights framework.

Methodology:	The Columbia/SIPA team would employ a mixed methods approach (combining document review with semi-structured interviews with key informants from relevant stakeholders, community members and/or spokespersons, as well as program staff).
Deliverables:	<p>The expected deliverables for the project include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A detailed fieldwork plan (to be established by the team by early December as part of the methodology course taught by Prof. Eugenia McGill and in consultation with faculty adviser Prof. Scott B. Martin); (2) Draft report outline (to be established by end-February 2023); (3) Draft report (to be completed by mid-April 2023); (4) Presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations to Renova Foundation (late April 2023); (5) Public presentation of overview of project and findings in annual end-of-year presentations by all Columbia/SIPA workshop teams, tentatively scheduled for April 27-28 (in-person and with hybrid access for project clients and those outside of Columbia campus); and (6) Final written report (to be completed by early May 2023).
Student Requirements:	<p>The Columbia/SIPA workshop team (including around six members) should have the following skills, experience and interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency in Portuguese or Spanish (for at least half of the team); • Familiarity with qualitative methodology and quantitative data collection software and apps; • Prior knowledge or work experience on relevant issues such as business and human rights, corporate social responsibility, community relations in the mining sector, and rural development; and • Ability to work effectively in a team.
Logistics and Cost Sharing:	The Columbia/SIPA student team will conduct desk research and informational interviews from New York City beginning in November 2022. Subject to further consultation with Renova Foundation, the team is expected to conduct meetings and interviews in Brazil in January and/or March 2023. Renova Foundation will arrange for the team to receive relevant background documents and information, will provide guidance and feedback on draft deliverables, and will provide logistical support for the team's country visits

Columbia/SIPA would cover the cost of international airfare, as well as appropriate insurance (covering medical emergencies and evacuation; all students have University-approved health insurance, which covers expenses regardless of location). Renova Foundation would provide logistical support at in-country and local levels (including transportation, lodging and meals) covering two study travel periods: 7-10 days in the first half of January and/or 10 days in March coinciding the Columbia/SIPA spring break of March 13-17.

Additional details to be specified in a separate document would include: 1) non-disclosure of confidential information provided by Renova Foundation to the Columbia/SIPA team; and 2) respect for anonymity of informants interviewed for the project.