Handout 2

Water pollution caused by Mining.

Degradation of aquatic ecosystems and receiving water bodies, often involving substantial reductions in water quality, can be among the most severe potential impacts of metal extraction. Pollution of water bodies results from three primary factors: sedimentation, acid drainage, and metals deposits.

Mining companies sometimes dump mining waste directly into rivers or other bodies of water as a method of disposal. This is perhaps the worst water pollution offence.

The figure below shows the tailings pipes from the Mar copper mine in Marinduque entering the sea at Calancan Bay, Philippines

The photo below shows the Rosia Montana gold mine in Romania.

Photos by Catherine Coumans, Mining Watch, Canada