

## **Winner of the 2009 Human Development Award for Excellence in Policy Analysis**

### **Bolivia (2008): “*The Other Frontier – Alternative Uses of Natural Resources in Bolivia*”**

The Bolivian report is an excellent example of a report that links environmental issues to human development by highlighting the relationship between economic policies, natural resources, and poverty. Some internal reviewers noted that the link between economic growth and poverty might be over-stated in this report; however, the focus of the report is on natural resources and human development.

Although the subject of the “natural resource curse” described in the Bolivia report is not new, the approach taken by the NHDR team is innovative as the report focuses on the value of developing resources other than primary and extractive; those on which economic growth analyses are most often based. In this report, natural resource alternatives are referred to as “The Other Frontier.”

The strength of this report is in its successful application of human development concepts into the framework of its analysis. This report successfully incorporates the views of many different types of stakeholders (via case studies) into its analysis of managing the development of natural resources. The case study analysis offered by the NHDR team was well done and significantly enhanced the team’s ability to produce an accessible report that was both technically accurate and substantiated with personalized stories.

In addition to the unique conceptualization of the topic, the Bolivian report includes very specific policy recommendations that could easily be implemented by local government officials. Although the “scalability” of the report recommendations and their utility for other countries in with similar circumstances could be doubtful, the specificity of the recommendations is well-suited to the narrow scope of the report.

**Human Development Approach:** This report includes individual perspectives quite well, particularly in data collection and presentation. The NHDR team also highlights the value of Bolivia’s natural resources for a wide variety of individuals, therefore articulating choices and expanding what we know about natural resource use for a diverse group of individuals.

**Data and Policy Analysis:** The NHDR team identified a current and politically relevant issue as the theme of this report. The analysis directly addresses local natural resources, which, for a country as vast and diverse as Bolivia, represents a major accomplishment. The data collection and policy analysis contained in this report was complemented by detailed recommendations with well articulated implications. Although “natural resource use” could be a broad topic, the authors of this report have presented a focused and innovative analysis that is directly linked to the human development.