



Figure 5.2.4: Flowsheet of Solventextraction/Electrowinning

### 5.2.6 The biggest Copper Leaching Operations

Whereas about one third of the whole copper mine production in the world is located in Chile, for the SX-EW production of copper it is even two third of the production which is based in Chile. Besides the high reserves of oxidic and secondary sulfidic copper, the dry arid climate in most regions in Chile is an important issue for SX-EW.

Nevertheless, the biggest SX/EW plant in the world is the Freeport Mc Roan owned Morenci mine in Arizona, where 2009 about 390.000 t of cathode copper