



The Center for International
Environmental Law



WHAT
YOUR
GIFT
ACHIEVES

For more than two decades, the Center for International Environmental Law has used the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. People and ecosystems need the extraordinary legal skills, tools, and advocacy that CIEL has built over the years.

For the changes that we seek to bring about today, tomorrow, and ten years from now, we need your help. With your donation, you help CIEL...



Create tools to empower communities: In April 2013, CIEL and International Accountability Project launched a first of its kind online Early Warning System (BankOnHumanRights.org) that empowers communities and their partners to track development projects that pose a risk to human rights and the environment, so that they can move proactively to raise their concerns and effectively advocate for their own rights. As the World Bank – the standard-bearer for development finance – undertakes the first comprehensive review of its safeguard policies, CIEL and partners are calling on the Bank not to finance activities likely to cause or contribute to human rights abuses.

Support communities seeking redress for health damage: CIEL has been providing assistance to ASOCHIVIDA – an association of 2,300 former sugarcane workers diagnosed with chronic kidney disease – in their efforts to mobilize against the epidemic. As a result of mediation by the compliance advisor of the International Finance Corporation, ASOCHIVIDA secured benefits close to \$6 million, including: monthly food distribution; micro-finance projects; funds to cover medical and funeral expenses; and ground-breaking research on the disease.



Amplify the voices of the marginalized: CIEL helped Ngäbe indigenous communities in Panama to oppose the Barro Blanco hydroelectric dam threatening to flood their lands. Using Barro Blanco to highlight the serious deficiencies in the Clean Development Mechanism's (CDM) registry, CIEL collected more than 1,000 signatures from supporters like you asking the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to recommend reforms to the CDM to ensure it respects human rights.

Counter-balance corporate power and expose corporate abuse: CIEL used satellite imagery to expose a massive illegal deforestation event occurring in Loreto, Peru – one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet. CIEL visited the area, took photos, and alerted the media. The front-page coverage triggered immediate action by regional authorities, and deforestation of the area halted. The swift action and crackdown by authorities provides a disincentive for future illegal deforestation driven by illegal logging and the rapid expansion of palm oil plantations.



Accelerate the transition from fossil fuels: CIEL is working with partners around the world to develop innovative legal strategies to tackle fossil fuel finance and accelerate the transition to cleaner energy. In July, CIEL and other environmental organizations filed suit against the United States Export Import Bank challenging a \$90 million loan to Xcoal Energy & Resources to export Appalachian coal from ports in Maryland and Virginia. Continued public financing of coal deals violates the United States' obligation to lead the international community in the fight against climate change. We celebrated another milestone in the global campaign to end public finance for coal when the World Bank adopted a new Energy Strategy that pledged to dramatically curtail coal investments.



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Protect children's environmental health: Together with the Swedish Society of Nature Conservation, CIEL launched a report identifying significant gaps in how toxic risks are managed worldwide--leaving thousands of potentially harmful chemicals untested and unregulated. We outlined a better, more comprehensive approach to managing chemical risks at the global level to meet the challenge of a burgeoning chemical industry and to ensure present and future generations enjoy the right to a healthy environment and to toxin-free bodies. We also celebrated important milestones with the adoption of a new global convention to address mercury contamination, and smaller but significant victories on nanotechnologies and endocrine disrupting chemicals.

Protect forest ecosystems: The UN initiative REDD+, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, aims to mitigate climate change while protecting forests. CIEL and partners helped win critical victories by shaping the REDD+ framework to require that countries must demonstrate that social and environmental safeguards are being respected *before* receiving REDD+ money. Simultaneously, we are collaborating with partners in Central America to ensure indigenous leaders understand how to use international law to protect their forests and rights.



Promote access rights: First adopted in 1992, Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration is a set of core values on the rights to access to information, to participation in development decisions, and to justice. In October, 17 nations, representing more than 500 million citizens, adopted a shared vision for implementing Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean. CIEL is working to move these negotiations forward to help secure a binding agreement that will empower communities and strengthen environmental governance and democracy across the region.

Ensure trade agreements do not undermine environmental protections: In July, CIEL testified before Congress regarding the proposed EU-US Free Trade Agreement, which threatens to undermine important protections for human health and the environment. We highlighted the particular risk these trade talks pose for global progress on chemical safety, and the broader risks posed by investor protection provisions which allow private investors to use undemocratic trade bodies to attack legitimate public policy measures. We celebrated a milestone in increasing transparency for these disputes when, after years of advocacy by CIEL and partners, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law adopted new standards for transparency in investor-state arbitrations.



Provide legal and scientific analysis to drive better policy-making: In February, our breakthrough report, "*Driving Innovation: How stronger laws help bring safer chemicals to market*" debunked industry arguments that adopting better regulations to ensure safer chemicals will stifle innovation. Our research demonstrated that stronger laws actually spur the development of safer chemicals and help pull them into the market faster – making good sense both for human health and for industry.

Our partners around the world know that they can count on CIEL. And we know we can count on you. Whatever amount you choose to donate, your gift is an investment in the important work ahead. Your support, your partnership, makes everything we do possible.

Thank you for your gift. We hope it means as much to you as it does to us.

How you can help:

Donate online at <http://www.ciel.org/Giving2013.html>

Mail a gift to: CIEL, Suite 1100, 1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036 USA