

Thank you again
for your support.
Happy Holidays!
Carrick

December 24, 2012

Dear Supporter

As I finish this letter, CIEL and more than 30 partners around the world are calling on the President of Guatemala to strengthen that country's laws to protect environmental and human rights defenders after a series of escalating attacks across the country against people working to defend the rights of indigenous peoples and the right to a healthy environment.

When Kenya's Lamu people requested assistance to protect their communities and a globally important World Heritage site from a massive new port linked to an oil pipeline, CIEL partnered with local NGOs and lawyers to file legal briefs on behalf of the community with Kenya's Supreme Court.

And when communities from Papua New Guinea and Newtok, Alaska faced relocation due to severe climate impacts, CIEL organized a workshop with the communities' leaders for them to share experiences with relocation and develop strategies to ensure long-term sustainability and cultural resilience.

And by the time you read this letter, members of CIEL's climate team will be starting their holiday season the way they've started many others—heading off to another round of negotiations on a global climate agreement, even as we seek new ways to accelerate action on climate change.

From Kenya to Alaska, from Guatemala to Papua New Guinea, from community dialogues to global negotiations, the need for CIEL's legal expertise has never been greater. And our need for your support has never been more urgent.

For more than two decades, the Center for International Environmental Law has been in the vanguard of efforts to use the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights and ensure a just and sustainable society. The law, the economy, the social landscape and the Earth itself have changed dramatically over that time, and the pace of change continues to accelerate. People, the land, and ecosystems need the extraordinary legal skills, tools, and advocacy that CIEL has been building for more than two decades.

In the face of these needs, and the threats that drive them, it is easy to ask: "How can a small organization like CIEL truly make a difference?" Over the past year, we invested in a strategic planning process to ask ourselves the same question. We came away with a clear answer and with a **clear and compelling new vision for CIEL** and its role in a quickly changing world.

Throughout its history, CIEL has worked not only to support communities and defend the environment in the face of looming threats, but to **change the system** that gives rise to those threats. When we are at our best, we **bring cases and build new legal tools** that can be used not only for the communities and partners we're working with, but for communities and causes far beyond CIEL's reach. **Creating these legal levers for systemic change** is what CIEL does best. And it's what the world needs most from us right now.

Often, the change we seek comes quickly. Sometimes, it takes years. This spring, we celebrated the adoption of a historic resolution at the UN Human Rights Council, creating the first-ever Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment—the culmination of more than a decade's work by CIEL and its partners.

As you'll see in the materials that follow, this is only one among many achievements we celebrated this year. In typical CIEL fashion, we have not slowed down as we have taken time to look forward. But we know that we can accomplish even more. **We know what we are capable of—and what the world needs and expects from us. All we need now is your support to help make it happen.**

In the year ahead, we will redouble our efforts to create a stronger international legal system and empower communities to use that system to protect their rights, their health, their families and their environment. We will build on our two decades of success confronting the World Bank to tackle new sources of international finance for destructive mines, coal plants and logging operations. And we will find—or create—new ways to counterbalance the rising power of multinational corporations, and to hold companies accountable for the harms they cause—wherever they cause them.

But for the change that we seek to bring about today, tomorrow, and ten years from now, we need your support. With your donation, you will ...

- Help us lead efforts to strengthen controls on nanotechnologies and endocrine disrupting chemicals, and to bring outdated U.S. toxics laws into the 21st century, to protect the health of children and families.
- Help us add CIEL's voice, and its legal expertise, to the global movement to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels, like coal, to cleaner energy sources.
- Help us confront unsustainable, socially destructive mines in the Americas and beyond.
- And help us will safeguard biodiversity, human rights and the climate by reducing threats to the world's forests and forest-dependent communities.

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.

With our thanks and warmest wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Carroll', written in a cursive style.

Carroll

P.S. However you choose to donate to CIEL, please give as generously as you can. A check in the mail or an online donation at http://www.ciel.org/Support_CIEL/Donate_Online.html will be put to good use immediately. Thank you.