being the
CHANGE

Center for International Environmental Law
2012 Annual Impact Report
Being the Change

The law, economy, social landscape, and Earth itself have changed dramatically since the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) was founded in 1989, and the pace of change continues to accelerate. Environmental realities are more sobering and urgent than any humankind has ever confronted. Climate change is no longer a distant threat, but an immediate reality. A world once dominated by a few Western actors is now emphatically multi-polar. International financial institutions like the World Bank that once dominated development finance now compete with a profusion of bilateral and private capital sources that are not governed by the same safeguards and accountability mechanisms. And the power and influence of multinational corporations has continued to grow and jeopardize environmental and human rights policies.

In this changing landscape, CIEL has not only identified new opportunities for advocacy, but created them: we have experimented, innovated, and adapted as new circumstances emerged and openings presented themselves. 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 very system that gives rise to those threats. From Kenya to Alaska, from community dialogues to global negotiations, the need for CIEL’s agile legal expertise has never been greater.

Our new reality is one in which no community, no organization and, indeed, no country can address on its own. This is why we work creatively to build the legal levers for change that will be effective not only for CIEL and its partners, but for others for beyond CIEL’s reach. In so doing, we work to shape a changing world, not just be shaped by it.
The past year has been one of renewal and change at CIEL.

The report that follows focuses on change. It celebrates the change we have achieved, including a landmark resolution on human rights and environment at the United Nations, and global action on harmful chemicals in consumer products. It explores changes in our work, from tackling coal projects supported by international financial organizations to shining the light of international attention on mining practices in Central America.

But this year’s report is not just about the change we seek in the world. To transform the world, we have been transforming CIEL itself—being the change. 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. As the world around us changes, CIEL must change as well—finding new ways to be more strategic, more innovative, more efficient and more effective. These are hallmarks of CIEL’s new Strategic Plan: “Changing the World in a Changing World: Legal Pathways to Systemic Transformation.”

Our work this year embodies this period of transition and renewal, as we reflected on our successes and our failures, assessed the road ahead of us, experimented with new tools, and began integrating our existing strategies with new ways of thinking and working from Washington to Geneva, from Nicaragua to Kosovo, from Alaska to Papua New Guinea.

These stories find CIEL doing what we do best, creating new tools for change, putting them in the hands of those who need them most and constantly searching for the next revolutionary idea. This year, we focused that search not only on the world around us, but on ourselves. At this moment, the world needs nothing less from us. We are creating a new path and envisioning a new future—not just hoping for change, but being the change we want to see.

Sincerely,

Carroll Muffett
President and CEO

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PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO A SAFE CLIMATE

On the Rise

Newtok is a Yup’ik Eskimo village located on the western coast of Alaska. Situated on the banks of the Ninglick River, this hunting and fishing community is only accessible by air and water and, as a result, is largely disconnected from the outside world. But permafrost thaw, severe storms, and resulting coastal erosion and flooding—all products of those not-so-distant outsiders—are forcing these villagers from their homes.

Across the Pacific, a chain of tiny coral atolls northeast of Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea—the Carteret Islands—sit at mere 1.5 meters above sea level. Home to a population of about 1,700 islanders, the Carterets, like Newtok, are isolated yet vulnerable to the ways of distant populations. Coastal erosion and salt water inundation caused by rising sea levels have made the Carteret Islands uninhabitable. These very different villages in very different parts of the world are facing a very universal threat: relocation in the face of global climate change.

In September, 2012, the Center for International Environmental Law brought leaders from these two villages together on Bougainville Island to open lines of communication and build capacity amidst this fight for cultural survival. Newtok and the Carterets are among the first in the world to choose relocation as the best means of adaptation. CIEL is working with partner organizations to build on and integrate the lessons learned during this first meeting into a larger initiative that will protect the rights of peoples and communities facing similar challenges.

Despite the devastating effects climate change is already having on coastal and island communities around the world, the stories of Newtok and the Carteret Islands are not about climate “victims” or “refugees”, but rather about problem solvers. They are about leadership in the face of extreme challenges and threats to one’s cultural heritage and survival. They are about overcoming these challenges using local and traditional knowledge and making their own decisions as to when and how to relocate. And they are about the strength and resilience of two communities working to ensure their long-term sustainability in a changing world.

Coal: Recent Victories and Future Battles

“The Real Cost of Coal,” a feature in our 2011 Annual Report, outlined CIEL’s efforts as a partner in the campaign to stop energy giant Eskom from building a 4,800 MW coal-fired power plant in South Africa. In early 2010, the World Bank approved a $3.75 billion construction loan to finance the coal plant and three other small-scale projects. Local community members in South Africa submitted a complaint to the World Bank’s accountability mechanism, the Inspection Panel, raising concerns about the environmental and social impacts of the coal plant. CIEL’s independent analysis determined that the Bank had not complied with its own policies during the approval process, based on the fact that it failed to adequately consider important environmental and social costs associated with the project. Earlier this year, in response to the complaint, the Inspection Panel confirmed that the Bank had violated its policies by failing to evaluate the costs to water scarcity and quality, air pollution, and local livelihoods.

This ruling fueled CIEL’s 2012 efforts to help communities stop a destructive energy project in Kosovo, where a proposed 600 MW coal-fired power plant and associated mine threaten the rights of residents in Prishtina and nearby Obiliq. We submitted complaints to the Inspection Panel and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) on behalf of communities that are concerned with the environmental and health impacts of the coal plant and the privatization of the energy sector in their country. As a result, the CAO issued a decision in April 2012 to audit the Bank’s involvement in the Kosovo project.

“[These communities have lived for decades in the shadow of coal],” said Niranjali Amerasinghe, CIEL Climate Change Program Director, “Now they are speaking out for a cleaner energy future.”

ACTION TIMELINE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>APRIL 2010</th>
<th>JULY 2010</th>
<th>NOVEMBER 2011</th>
<th>MAY 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for Inspection Submitted and Registered</td>
<td>Investigation Initiated</td>
<td>Investigation Report Completed</td>
<td>Action Plan Approved by World Bank Executives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Keystone XL Permit Rejected

In January 2012, following massive protests from citizens across the country, President Obama denied a permit for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. This 1,700-mile heavy synthetic crude oil carrier, proposed by the Calgary-based TransCanada Corporation, would connect the tar sands fields of northern Alberta to oil refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

An environmental hazard of monumental proportions, the Keystone XL pipeline would threaten human health and natural resources on both sides of the border and around the world. Air pollution, water contamination, threats to wildlife, and ecosystem destruction are all potential consequences related to construction of the pipeline itself. If approved, this project would also stunt exploration into clean energy alternatives and increase greenhouse gas emissions of the largest historical emitter (the United States).

“[CIEL applauds this decision as a victory for the environment and those who defend it everywhere],” Carroll Muffett announced shortly after hearing the President’s decision. As expected, TransCanada renewed its application to build the pipeline, the fight continues, and “NO KEYSTONE XL” has become a powerful rallying cry for a climate movement that grows stronger every day.
Lungs of the Planet

One of CIEL’s most treasured values is the interconnectedness of life on our planet. Each living organism and each ecosystem is bound together in a vast, diverse, and deeply interwoven web of life. Nowhere is that diversity more pronounced than in Peru’s northernmost region, deep in the Amazon Rainforest, in the vast, ecologically sensitive state of Loreto.

Widely recognized as one of the most biodiverse places on Earth, and with its carbon-rich rainforests largely intact, Loreto offers a vital refuge for species increasingly threatened by climate change. Scientists, including CIEL’s Matt Finner, recently discovered that the amphibian, bird, mammal, and plant communities of the Amazon simultaneously reach their greatest diversity in this region. Due to its remote location, Loreto is also home to some of the planet’s last uncontacted indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation.

Through our “Sustainable Loreto” project, CIEL is working to defend this region from emerging threats, such as roads, oil extraction, mining, dams, oil spills, and other development, that could have catastrophic impacts on the unique species and cultures found there. This project will help build the knowledge and forums needed for local communities, civil society, and the regional government to contribute to development decisions that protect the biodiversity of this exceptional area.

CHANGE IN ACTION

Raina Gambao proudly shows the front-page story of her trip from Honduras to Timmins, Ontario to demand Goldcorp address the acid mine drainage left behind by the company’s San Martin mine that is affecting her community.

REFORMING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW

World Bank Clouds Lending

With support from members of Congress, CIEL and a number of civil society organizations led efforts to monitor and revise the World Bank’s new approach to lending. For decades the World Bank has maintained safeguard policies that were designed to protect indigenous peoples, communities, and the environment. The World Bank, though, will not apply these policies to its new lending instrument, known as “Program for Results” (P4R).

Borrowers who receive World Bank funding through the P4R program are not required to identify the specific projects or policies financed by the loan. The extensive protection provided by the Bank’s safeguard policies was reduced to six paragraphs, leaving communities and the environment vulnerable.

CIEL secured commitments and limitations on P4R lending:
- a cap of no more than 5% of lending for two years
- will not be used for risky projects
- thorough review of P4R in 2014

Update: El Salvador vs Pacific Rim

In our 2011 Annual Report, we introduced readers to an ongoing legal battle between Pacific Rim, a Canadian mining company, and the citizens and government of El Salvador. The proposed gold mine carried significant environmental and civil threats, so Salvadorans, with help from CIEL, successfully rejected the initial permit. Pac Rim retaliated by citing a U.S. Trade Agreement with the Central American country.

In March, the Center for International Environmental Law defended El Salvador and several of its civil society groups by filing a “friend of the court” brief with the international tribunal in charge of the case. The brief argued that Pac Rim abused the process and has no real connection to the United States. On June 1, the trade panel reached a similar conclusion and rejected Pac Rim’s claims related to the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

CIEL continues to monitor the situation closely.

Transparency Guides Legal Standards

CIEL remains closely engaged in legal reforms to democratize international dispute settlement that will ensure equality and fairness in future global trade agreements. In October 2012, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) convened in Vienna to consider legal standards for transparency in treaty-based Investor-State arbitration. While UNCITRAL embarks in this revolutionary step in arbitration history, CIEL continues to lend its expertise by preparing analysis of textual options and proposing content for rules on transparency. Visibility and clarity have long been priorities for CIEL and, we continue to push that agenda with UNCITRAL.
CHARTING A PATH TO A TOXICS FREE FUTURE

U.S. Chemicals Reform: Moving Forward

CIEL's Chemicals Program is on the front lines in the fight for public health. The current U.S. law, the U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), was adopted in 1976. A lot has changed in 36 years. Since TSCA’s enactment, the chemical industry has tripled in size, and is projected to increase another 50 percent by 2020. Synthetic chemicals have increasingly become a part of our everyday lives, whether the exposure is through air, food, water, household dust, or everyday products. Toxic chemicals are linked to a wide range of diseases, including many cancers.

Many of the chemicals discovered to be hazardous were presumed safe and grandfathered in to commerce under the 1976 law. The law’s procedures for ensuring that “new” chemicals are safe for their intended use have also exposed people and wildlife to hazardous chemicals.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, CIEL helped to establish the Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families Coalition to effect meaningful, comprehensive reform of outdated U.S. policies on toxic chemicals. This broad-based coalition of over 400 public health and environmental organizations and businesses has built increasing momentum around Senator Lautenberg’s 2011 Safe Chemicals Act, the strongest TSCA reform proposal ever introduced in the U.S. Congress. If passed, this legislation would allow the U.S. to ratify a key international treaty on some of the worst chemicals, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which CIEL helped to develop, and is actively engaged. But, more importantly, the 2010 Safe Chemicals Act would reform an outdated law, enabling the United States to be a leader at the global level when it comes to protecting human health and the environment from dangerous chemicals.

CIEL testified in Congress, analyzed legislative proposals, educated policymakers, and actively participated in formal stakeholder dialogues. Despite the chemical industry’s best efforts to stymie progress, CIEL, Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, and Senator Lautenberg were rewarded with approval by the U.S. Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee in 2012, paving the way for the next steps towards the long-overdue overhaul of TSCA.

Is International Regulation Keeping Up?

As the manufacture and use of chemicals has increasingly spread to the developing world, a cluster of treaties has been developed to protect people, wildlife, and the environment from associated risks. During this time, our scientific understanding of the range of adverse effects linked to toxic chemicals and how they affect organisms has grown. International law has not kept up with these developments, including the urgent need to eliminate hormone or endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

EDCs interfere with hormone signaling. Tests show their presence in everything from personal-care products like cosmetics and sunscreen, to food, to clothing, to children’s products including toys, to building materials, to furniture, and more, including people and wildlife. Studies demonstrate that there is no safe dose for these chemicals, particularly for children during critical pre- and post-natal windows of development. EDCs have been linked to many permanent diseases that manifest later in life, such as various cancers, reproductive abnormalities, diabetes and obesity, neurobehavioral outcomes, and thyroid and immune system dysfunction.

In September of 2012, CIEL helped to secure the strongest consensus statement by the international community on EDCs, in which governments, industry, and international institutions all recognized “the potential adverse effects of endocrine disruptors on human health and the environment [… and] the need to protect humans, ecosystems and their constituent parts that are especially vulnerable.” CIEL is now working to ensure adequate steps are taken around the world through our ongoing work to further develop the European Union’s chemicals regulations, known as REACH, to reform the U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act, and to advance global efforts on EDCs under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Nanotechnology

Touted as the worldwide benchmark for chemical regulation, the European Union’s REACH directive is designed to protect people, wildlife, and the environment from hazardous chemicals we encounter every day. But a relatively new class of materials is emerging that threatens our health and environment. These substances are tens of thousands of times thinner than a strand of hair. The potential market for these particles is in the billions of dollars, and they are widely used in consumer products such as: cosmetics, textiles, electronics, building materials, even the food we eat. Welcome to the world of nanotechnology.

“Three years ago, it was declared that REACH theoretically covered nanomaterials, but these substances continue to enter the EU market with little or no information on their potential risks,” explained David Azoulay, Managing Attorney at CIEL’s Geneva office. “The problem is that REACH’s regulation contains legal gaps that render it completely ineffective for nanomaterials.”

As advocates and leaders in the field, CIEL’s Chemicals Team responded with “Just Out of REACH,” a comprehensive report that proposes a stand-alone regulation to address four key loopholes in REACH that allow nanomaterials to continue to enter the market with insufficient information. The report is earning significant attention both within and beyond Europe, and key findings are being translated into French, and Japanese.

“Flexibility must be a critical characteristic of any effort to regulate nanomaterials,” says Azoulay. “Existing data and overall knowledge is still very limited; it will evolve, and our legal responses must be ready to do so as well.”
United Nations Introduces New Expert

CIEL celebrated a landmark victory in April of this year, when the United Nations established an Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment. For more than 15 years, CIEL has been calling on the international community to include human rights in the global environmental justice conversation. The call was finally answered.

CIEL worked closely with Earthjustice, the Maldives, Costa Rica, Switzerland, and many NGO partners to earn this historic victory. “The newly appointed Independent Expert will play a key role in building consensus for the global recognition of the right to a healthy environment,” explained Marco Orellana, Director of CIEL’s Human Rights and Environment Program. This new position represents progress and hope for future human rights campaigns.

Professor John Knox, a Counsellor to CIEL on Human Rights and Environment for many years, was appointed to the position. Professor Knox is a leading figure in the field, whose experience and broad expertise makes him an excellent choice for this critical role. Knox will discontinue his role with CIEL in order to exercise his mandate in total independence.

The new Independent Expert is tasked with clarifying the legal obligations of States with respect to a healthy environment. The Independent Expert will also be looking at good practices relating to human rights and environmental protection, as well as the human rights dimensions of the follow-up of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. “We are excited to continue working with John in this new capacity and to support him in the successful fulfillment of this vital mandate,” said David Azoulay.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Acknowledged

The Maastricht Principles on the Extra-Territorial Obligations (ETO) of States in the area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights have been adopted. This is yet another victory for CIEL’s Human Rights and Environment Program, which was instrumental in drafting these principles that clarify the human rights obligations of States beyond their own borders.

For several years CIEL has engaged the process leading to the adoption of the Maastricht Principles on ETOs. The Maastricht Principles constitute the outcome of the deliberations of a group of 40 distinguished experts in international law and human rights from all regions of the world. The expert group includes present and former members of international human rights treaty bodies; present and former special procedures mandate holders of the United Nations Human Rights Council; and leading academic and civil society legal experts. The experts considered legal analysis conducted over a period of four years by the ETO Consortium, consisting of academic, civil society, and other independent experts on economic, social, and cultural rights.

The People of Guatemala Have Spoken

The price of gold was $1,800 an ounce. Profits were up 1,671%. A modern-day gold rush was underway in Guatemala, and international mining companies seized on this Central American country with reckless abandon. Disregarding his people, and the hundreds of thousands of votes they cast in public referenda against mining, Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina introduced controversial reforms and lifted the moratorium to allow new exploration and extraction.

“International law protects the rights of indigenous peoples to be consulted over legislation that affects their territories,” said Kris Genovese, a Senior Attorney at CIEL. To assert that right, the Western Peoples Council (CPO) filed a lawsuit in Guatemala’s Constitutional Court seeking to nullify the current mining law. After years of human rights violations, violent attacks, and widespread corporate greed, the indigenous peoples of Guatemala are armed with a powerful weapon, a collective voice. And that voice was echoed by an international People’s Health Tribunal: “We find Goldcorp, for its activities in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, which we find to be seriously damaging to the health and the quality of life, the quality of environment, and the right to self determination.” The Tribunal was a landmark moment for communities in Guatemala, and across Latin America where mining activity threatens human rights, including the right to health.

But CIEL didn’t stop there. With coalition and community partners, CIEL presented a shareholder resolution at Goldcorp’s Annual Shareholder meeting in Ontario so that local communities wouldn’t be stuck paying for clean up when Goldcorp closes the Marlin Mine, on estimated $49 million. CIEL’s Law and Communities Program together, with Amnesty International, collected and delivered over 5,000 “proxy votes” at the meeting, asking that the amount of the bond be increased from $1 million to $49 million to cover the mine closure. Goldcorp’s General Counsel committed to increase funding for these expenses to $27 million.
Champion Profile: Delphine Djiraibe

Born a leader, raised a believer, schooled in Law and trained in advocacy, Delphine Djiraibe is an international champion of human rights and a loyal guardian of her African homeland. With a history of political instability and poverty, her native Chad has endured decades of humanitarian and environmental crises and consistently ranks as one of the world’s most corrupt nations. Delphine has dedicated her life to saving its land and people.

A law fellow in CIEL’s Washington, D.C. office in 2000, Delphine now serves on the Board of Trustees as a visionary of environmental human rights. For more than 15 years she has worked tirelessly and at great personal risk to implement international environmental law. “Law is strong, fair, and universal,” Delphine said. “It regulates human behavior and our relationships with each other. It is the way to avoid violence, resolve conflicts, and promote peace.”

After Delphine began speaking out against the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project in 1997, she was referred to as an “enemy of the Chadian people” by President Déby’s government and even received death threats. She was publicly ridiculed on the radio and television until finally, in 1999, as threats against her escalated, she left the country under advice by international colleagues.

Tensions slowly eased and Delphine returned to Africa, now with more organizing experience and legal training, to defend her fundamental belief: “all human kind has the right to live in a clean and safe environment.” She founded the Chadian Association for Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, and coordinated the Chadian Civil Society Advocacy Network, a coalition of human rights and development NGOs (including women, farmers, and trade unions) seeking sustainable development for Chad.

Delphine’s advocacy work continues today at the Public Interest Law Center (PILC). “I am working to provide access to justice for the poorest people on a grassroots level. Part of this project is to train women as paralegals so they can provide legal aid to community members.” PILC also focuses on the ways extractive companies and governments can be held accountable for their human rights and environment violations. “I believe that everyone must commit him – or herself to do some little thing to help protect the environment,” she said, “and this, by all means, is the most important action to guarantee life.”

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. People, the land, and ecosystems need the extraordinary legal skills, tools, and advocacy of CIEL. However, the political and economic landscape, and the Earth itself, have been changing rapidly and dramatically.

Over the past year, we invested in a strategic planning process which resulted in the development of CIEL’s new Strategic Plan: “Changing the World in a Changing World: Legal Pathways to Systemic Transformation.” We came away with a clear, compelling new vision for CIEL and its role in a rapidly shifting landscape.

In the Plan, we commit to four cross-cutting legal approaches that provide the greatest impact and can be used by communities and causes far beyond CIEL’s reach to enable systemic change:

- Strengthening international law and systems to protect the environment and human rights;
- Empowering communities to use international law to defend their rights;
- Ensuring international financial flows safeguard human rights and the environment; and
- Counterbalancing corporate power and increasing transboundary corporate accountability.

To make ourselves more effective and accountable our work will concentrate on four areas: accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels; slowing the expansion of mineral mining in Latin America and beyond; safeguarding forests and forest biodiversity; and protecting children and families from toxic risks.

In typical CIEL fashion, we have not slowed down as we have taken time to look forward. With our Strategic Plan, we will confront the challenges posed by this transforming landscape as we continue to evaluate, adopt, and be the change we want to see.
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For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012

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Cash & Cash Equivalents $1,006,954
Foundation Pledges Receivable, Current 640,350
Other Grants and Contracts Receivable 53,621
Prepaid Expenses 9,543
Total Current Assets $1,728,827

Other Assets
Property & Equipment, Net 47,690
Deposits 20,445
Long-Term Investments 12,341
Total Assets $1,809,403

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:

Current Liabilities
Accounts Payable $29,608
Accrued Employee Benefits Payable 25,791
Deferred Revenue from Contracts 12,678
Deferred Lease Liability 119,858
Total Liabilities $187,935

Net Assets
Unrestricted Net Assets $145,652
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 1,475,816
Total Net Assets $1,621,468

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $1,809,403

Comparative Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

REVENUE:
Foundation Grants and Contracts $2,929,075
International Government Grants & Contracts 76,480
Other Grants and Contracts 541,379
Salaries InKind 161,697
Misc. Contributions 71,305
Interest & Investment Income 2,636
Miscellaneous Income 42,717
Total Revenue $3,825,489

EXPENSES:
Program Services: Protecting the Global Environment & Human Health:
Climate Change Program $355,722
Chemicals Program 660,629
IPEN Secretariat 286,946
Biodiversity and Wildlife Program 882,629
Reforming International Economic Law, Policy & Institutions:
Trade and Sustainable Development Program 39,402
International Financial Institutions Program 391,459
Promoting Human Rights and Environmental Justice:
Human Rights Program 230,726
Law and Communities Program 168,283
Strengthening Expertise & Capacities in Environmental Law:
Miscellaneous Projects 68,524
Total Program Services $3,082,320
Supporting Services:
General and Administrative $190,711
Fundraising 111,129
Total Expenses $3,384,160

Changes in Net Assets $441,339
Beginning Net Assets $1,180,139
Ending Net Assets $1,621,468

AWARDS

2012 International Environmental Law Award
Judge Christopher Weernaarmy

CIEL is proud to present Judge Christopher Weernaarmy with our International Environmental Law Award for 2012. This award is given in recognition of Judge Weernaarmy’s profound contributions to the progressive development of international law generally and to international environmental law in particular.

Judge Weernaarmy’s dissenting opinions in the Nuclear Weapons cases and his separate opinion in the Gabon-Krav interior case have contributed immensely to the recognition of human well-being and ecological integrity as guiding principles in the interpretation of international law. These opinions continue to resonate to this day, both in CIEL’s own work and in the decisions of international tribunals.

PHOTOS

The map images appearing on the cover and throughout the report display biodiversity patterns across South America and indicate that Loreto, Peru is one of the richest zones in the world. Map created by Clinton Jenkins, a research scientist at North Carolina State University and partner on the Loreto project.

Cover: During the workshop on community-based relocation held in Papua New Guinea, Stanley Sam from Newtok, Alaska shows pictures of his community to local children. Photo by Alyssa Joh.

Pg 1: Indigenous MayaAm community leader points to the area where Goldcorp has broken ground for a new mine pit as part of the expansion plans for the Marlin mine in San Marcos, Guatemala. Photo by Amanda Kister.

Pg 3: Nearby the now-closed Goldcorp San Marlin mine site in Valle de Siria, Honduras, Rodolfo shows the laboratory results which prove his blood is contaminated with dangerous levels of heavy metals. Photo by Amanda Kister.

Pg 4: Forced to leave their atoll homes due to sea level rise and increased storms surge, Basil Pato of Tolele Pasi gives a tour of the Carteret Islanders’ relocation site on Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea. The agro-plantation provides the relocated community with a source of income and food security, as each family is given one hectare on which to grow taro, bananas, papayas, breadfruit, and cocoa.

Pg 6: Top: CIEL staff attorney for the Sustainable Loreto Project, Melissa Blue Sky, in the Peruvian Amazon.

Bottom: Melissa Blue Sky, Matt Finer, Anne Perrottet and Clinton Jenkins, the Sustainable Loreto team. Photo by Clinton Jenkins.
TRIBUTES

Sebia Hawkins, 1953–2012

Truly one of the great activists of our time, Sebia Hawkins was a pillar of human rights and environmental justice for communities around the globe. From New York to New Mexico, the Pacific Islands to Nigeria, Sebia was a dedicated humanitarian; she stood strong and proud for truth and equality as few have done before her.

Sebia was a Board Member and devoted advocate of the Center for International Environmental Law for many years and was instrumental in forming the organization during the early 1990’s. As a staff member at Greenpeace, Sebia organized worldwide protests in defense of Fiji, Tahiti, and other Pacific Islands exposed to controversial nuclear testing by the French government. She continued to fight for indigenous groups at the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, where she contested Uranium mining that exposed Native American communities to lethal levels of radiation.

Sebia was revolutionary in her vision for fairness and equality on the international landscape, and her spirit lives on in all of us who answer the call for universal justice.

Harry Barnes, 1926–2012

Carrying the torch of democracy to nations around the world, Harry G. Barnes, Jr. was an American diplomat dedicated to the principle of universal human rights. The world knew him as a great humanitarian; we knew him as a beloved member of the Center for International Environmental Law family.

Known for his role in helping bring an end to Chile’s dictatorship, Harry served as U.S. Ambassador to Chile from 1985–1988. Armed with personal and professional courage, Barnes delivered an unequivocal message to the repressive Chilean regime heeded by Augusto Pinochet with a clear directive: “The ills of democracy can be cured only with more democracy.” Barnes’ principles took hold across borders as his dedication to the Foreign Service continued, serving as Ambassador to India and Chile.

His values, professionalism, and keen ability to listen guided the Center for International Environmental Law in our infancy; Barnes served honorably on the Board of Trustees from 1991–2010, always displaying his profound commitment to governance by the rule of law. We will miss him as a champion of democracy, a lifelong defender of human rights, and a dear friend of everyone at CIEL.

YOU CAN BE THE CHANGE

The people and places featured on these pages represent the interconnection between humans and the environment. It’s a dynamic relationship, a delicate balance, and is sustained by common principles set forth by the international community. As stewards of this relationship and the policies that shape it, CIEL defines and defends international environmental law to ensure a healthy, sustainable future.

At the forefront of the environmental law community, we assume the responsibility of creating a pathway to that future. With more than twenty years of experience and a renewed clarity of vision and mission, we have the guidance, the tools, and the sense of common purpose to lead the way.

We understand the breadth and depth of the challenges we face, and we see the entire legal and ecological landscape to address those challenges. We don’t just patch problems; we get on the ground, get to the root of the problem, and make sure laws are created or enforced to prevent further injustice.

As a relatively small organization taking on big challenges, we need your help. Your engagement makes a profound difference in the future of CIEL and, more importantly, it makes a difference for the communities and campaigns that need us.

Help us change the world. Invest in the future and make a donation today.

(Do you have questions about your donation to CIEL? Please call Melissa Hippler at +202.742.5829 or email her at mhippler@ciel.org)