



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CENTER for INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



President's Letter

As I write this letter, frontline communities in the Gulf Coast have begun once again the slow process of rebuilding after yet another climate-fueled storm—Hurricane Laura, the most powerful hurricane to hit Southwestern Louisiana in 180 years. For residents in Lake Charles, they are cleaning up not only from the hurricane, but from a massive chemical fire the hurricane unleashed from the region's petrochemical industry. It's a story we've seen again and again—with Katrina in Louisiana, Harvey in Houston, Yolanda in the Philippines.

But this year, the cleanup is compounded by the simultaneous impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which fall disproportionately on communities of color in the US and marginalized communities around the world. In so doing, it has exposed how systemic racism is shaping every aspect of our environment, including the climate crisis and our response to a global pandemic. It's a year in which that systemic racism has pushed communities on

the front lines to face even greater threats and criminalization as they attempt to take their fights for justice even one more step forward. Above all, it's a year that has laid bare how deeply interconnected these seemingly disparate crises are and forced us to recognize that racial justice and environmental justice are indispensable requisites for climate justice—in the United States and around the world.

We are living through a moment like none we have experienced—a moment that demands solidarity in the midst of isolation; staying at home, except when justice demands that we march in the streets. When our duty and commitment demands that we follow—that we take the lead from those who have been fighting these fights for justice for decades, often with little attention and still fewer resources standing up for their human rights to speak, to demand equality and justice, as well as the right to a healthy environment. From communities in the US Gulf Coast fighting to stop the massive buildout of petrochemical infrastructure that threatens their lives, their health, and their climate, to partners in Guyana working to end the oil curse in that country before it begins. From partners fighting to defend their communities and their rights from hydropower projects in Chile and Colombia, whose struggle for survival has been made even more desperate and challenging in the face of the pandemic, to colleagues in the Philippines simultaneously fighting for a safe climate, a zero-waste world, and the right to speak out without fear of criminalization or assassination.

And above all, it's a moment that demands we recognize that to fight for our environment means to fight for democracy, for public participation, for true racial and social justice, and against a colonial mindset that still pervades legal and economic models that apply around the world. Because the issues, their causes, and ultimately their solutions are fundamentally interwoven.

Yet even in the face of profound challenges, recent months have created unprecedented opportunities to reshape our system. The pandemic has exposed the fundamental and growing weakness of the oil, gas, and petrochemical companies that drive the fossil economy, the climate crisis, and many of the most pervasive risks to human health and the environment. It has created new obstacles to public participation in decision-making, while simultaneously exposing why existing systems for citizen engagement can and must be transformed. And it has spurred massive governmental investments that could go to rebuilding a new, cleaner economy, or be squandered trying to salvage the failing economic models of the past.

In short, 2020 has opened the door to a profound transformation of our economy, our culture and our society—if we have the courage to walk through together. In the pages that follow, we offer a snapshot of how CIEL is working to respond to this moment as part of the growing and interconnected movement that says we must and will change.

— Carroll Muffett, President & CEO

Uprooting the Fossil Fuel Economy

Almost thirty years ago, a video produced by BP for schoolchildren predicted that climate change would leave communities around the globe defenseless. The narrator calmly described specific areas that will be most affected, including coastal Bangladesh. By August 2020—halfway through monsoon season—deadly storms in Bangladesh had washed away entire villages, destroyed the Sundarbans, and displaced millions of people. BP's forecast was devastatingly accurate.

CIEL worked with a Dutch researcher to publicize this unearthed video, contextualizing it within a growing body of evidence proving that BP and the other oil majors, such as Exxon, Shell, and Chevron, knew about the impacts of their products on the global climate and the dangers posed by climate change while they impeded action to address it. Since our groundbreaking



2016 *Smoke & Fumes* research, CIEL has been on the vanguard of an accelerating global movement to hold Big Oil accountable for its role in the climate crisis. We are now watching as communities around the world build legal cases to take on the industry, and consistently, they are citing CIEL's research.

All the while, the oil and gas industry continues to expand its business, rushing into new, more dangerous areas of exploration and extraction and reaching into new markets such as plastic. CIEL has been front and center, warning that fossil fuel expansion and financial growth are not infinite.

It's a business model that has long valued corporate profits over human rights, health, and the environment. The emergence of COVID-19 this year marked the beginning of yet another chapter.

The pandemic crisis has accelerated the long-term decline of the fossil fuel industry, slashing demand for oil, gas, and petrochemicals and exposing the financial frailty of an industry operating on borrowed money and borrowed time. Oil, gas, and plastics companies have sought to exploit the crisis, lobbying to secure regulatory rollbacks, suspend the enforcement of environmental laws, undermine protections for workers, criminalize environmental protests, and obtain direct government bailouts.

In response, CIEL is working to confront the fossil fuel economy at its roots.

We're sounding the alarm, fighting back against industry profiteering during the pandemic.

We're demanding that lawmakers direct funds to the communities and workers who are most in need so that countries can build back better, rather than reverse what progress we have already made to hold corporations accountable for dangerous behavior that harms human rights and the environment.

We're exposing the connections between fossil fuels and plastic: that plastic is oil and gas in another form, and these polluting companies aim to ensure plastic keeps us dependent on fossil fuels. We're calling out the industry that is trying to drum up demand for plastic at the same time the world is moving towards a phase-out of fossil fuels.

And we're building broad coalitions to make sure we're not alone. From the Global Gas and Oil Network, advocating for a managed decline of oil and gas production, to the Stop the Money Pipeline coalition, urging financial institutions to divest from fossil fuel companies, and the Break Free From Plastic movement, envisioning a world free from plastic pollution, CIEL is working to ensure that fossil fuels are a thing of the past.

LITIGATION SPOTLIGHT

Holding Corporate Actors Accountable for Climate Change

One hundred companies are responsible for 71% of global carbon emissions, and this year, the Philippines Commission on Human Rights found that these Carbon Majors have a clear responsibility to protect human rights in the context of climate change.

Four years after the case was announced, the Commission summarized key conclusions from its groundbreaking investigation in December. It's the first case of its kind to undertake a serious examination of how the world's fossil fuel producers have contributed to human rights violations. The findings?

- Climate change is an emergency, and it demands urgent action.
- Carbon Majors have played a clear role in anthropogenic climate change and its impacts.
- Carbon Majors can be held morally and legally liable for human rights violations that result from climate change.
- And where companies engaged in obstruction, deception, or fraud, the relevant criminal intent may exist to hold them accountable under civil and criminal laws.

Throughout the process, CIEL has been a vital partner. We testified at hearings, submitted documentary evidence, and drafted amicus briefs to support the inquiry. We helped to generate attention from the media and partners, culminating in a press conference at the UN climate negotiations in Madrid in 2019, where the Commission announced its findings and recommendations.

Beyond the results, the extensive body of scientific data, documentary evidence, and legal analysis that the Commission amassed during the inquiry—unparalleled in its depth and scope—will be an asset to courts and human rights bodies around the world as they undertake investigations of their own. And it's clear that they should. The Philippines has shown that human rights institutions can—and must—step up their mandates to hold corporations accountable for the human rights impacts of climate change.





CASE STUDY

Pushing Back Against New Frontiers: Guyana

Thanks to its dense tropical forests, Guyana is one of the few countries in the world that is a net carbon sink. But massive oil discoveries off the Guyanese coast threaten to transform the country into a carbon bomb, spelling disaster for the climate. International oil giant, ExxonMobil, is leading a consortium of companies angling to extract the more than eight billion barrels of recoverable oil it has discovered 120 miles offshore.

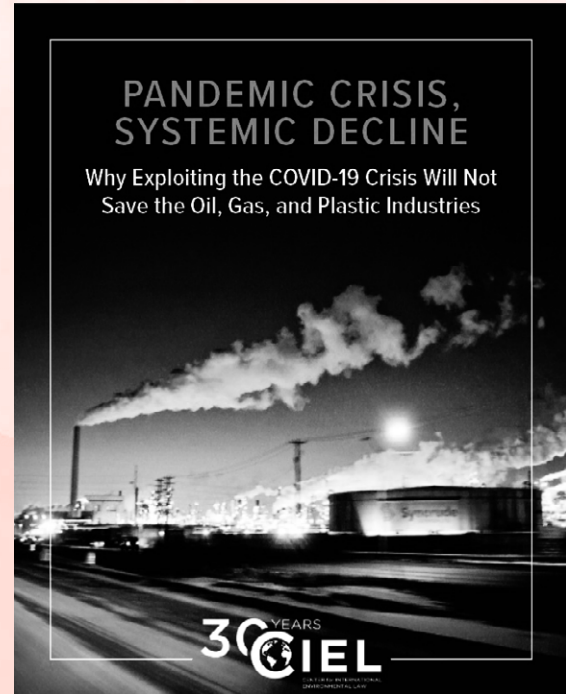
As the oil and gas industry falters globally, concerns have mounted in Guyana that the companies are offering false promises of wealth in exchange for drilling rights. A group of Guyanese citizens have united under the banner of A Fair Deal for Guyana, A Fair Deal for the Planet, to sound the alarm about the dangers that oil extraction poses to the global climate and the local environment. CIEL is working closely with Fair Deal, supporting its efforts to compel the Guyanese government to uphold its obligations under human rights and environmental law. Together, we are actively spotlighting what's at stake, both within Guyana and internationally.

And it's paying off. The tide is turning against the buildout. When excessive gas flaring from the offshore site in May turned Guyana into one of the top ten sources of methane emissions overnight, we worked together to help explain the health and environmental impacts to the Guyanese press, earning front page national coverage. In June, CIEL lawyers and our Guyanese partners submitted a report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee outlining the human rights implications of the oil expansion in Guyana. In response, the Committee issued its first-ever public statement questioning the compatibility of a country's human rights obligations with large-scale oil extraction.

Offshore Guyana is among the largest oil discoveries in recent years, but it is by no means the only site of major new fossil fuel extraction. CIEL is working to support a growing legal movement on the frontiers of oil and gas expansion around the world to counter the threats such expansion poses to human rights, the local environment, and the global climate. In the years ahead, CIEL will be supporting partners to challenge the buildouts and stop this dangerous expansion before it is too late. The global climate emergency demands nothing less of us.

PUBLICATION

Exposing Pandemic Profiteering



During the first days of 2020, stories began to appear in the press asking if the oil and gas sector had become toxic to investors. By late summer, reporters were boldly declaring that the end of oil was near.

This decline, accelerated by the global divestment movement, has been a long time coming. Renewables are now a more significant share of the market, plastic consumption isn't growing as fast as industry planned, and billion-dollar gambles like fracking have never turned a profit.

With COVID-19, fossil fuel companies saw an opportunity to use the crisis for their own gain. While people and communities desperately requested money and PPE, Big Oil aggressively lobbied for government bailouts and looked for ways to not only regain footing, but expand their foothold.

CIEL produced a series of reports exposing the industry's profiteering. *Pandemic Crisis, Systemic Decline: Why Exploiting the COVID-19 Crisis Will Not Save the Oil, Gas, and Plastic Industries* provided stark warnings to public officials, investors, and asset managers that investing in the industry is "like

throwing money down a hole." We detailed the long-term decline of the oil and gas industry, the financial rollercoaster to come, and the lengths to which the industry is willing to go to protect its profits.

The analysis has gained media coverage in the environmental, financial, and oil-industry press. Months later, the reports continue to set the tone for the conversation. "No fossil fuel bailouts" has turned into a rallying cry for movement partners as the industry continues to deploy desperate efforts to prevent the inevitable: the end of the era of fossil fuels.





STAFF PROFILE

Expanding Our Reach

Oil, gas, and petrochemical facilities dot the Gulf Coast of the United States like a rash. These plants promise jobs, but their costs continue to outweigh limited employment benefits. They are notorious for polluting the air, land, and water, and have brought a litany of environmental and human rights disasters. Surrounding communities—particularly low-income populations and people of color—bear the brunt of these impacts. Residents in frontline and fenceline communities face shorter lifespans, higher rates of premature births and complications during pregnancy, and increased incidences of diseases caused or exacerbated by pollution.

Over the coming decade, the industry is planning to pour billions of dollars into building and expanding petrochemical and plastic production facilities, particularly in the US Gulf Coast and Ohio River Valley, adding new threats to communities, food systems, and freshwater sources.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Cancer Alley, an 85-mile-stretch of the Mississippi River lined with high-polluting plants where communities experience the country's highest cancer rates. A local coalition has renamed Cancer Alley "Death Alley."

In September 2019, Jane Patton joined CIEL as a Senior Campaigner, working to shift global policy to address the full lifecycle of plastic, from the extraction of oil and gas and production of the petrochemical derivatives that are used to make plastic, to the distribution and consumption of plastic products and disposal of plastic waste. A lifelong Louisiana resident and advocate, Jane's work on petrochemicals enhances CIEL's capacity to support frontline fights, such as those being mounted by communities along the Gulf Coast—including Cancer Alley. She has been instrumental in supporting the movement to stop the petrochemical buildout in the United States before it advances, including the Formosa Plastics mega-plant slated for construction in St. James Parish, Louisiana.

Ushering in a New Generation of Law to Protect People and the Planet

Paddling a boat through vast canyons of plastic waste that crowd Indonesia's Ci Liung River, organizer and lawyer Tiza Mafira tells a film crew that she can remember a time when the waterway was pristine. Now, her daughter will never have the memory of going to the shore to collect seashells. She says, "I want my daughter to be aware of why her world is the way it is... and that it could be better."

Tiza is one of the dozens of activists from around the world who spoke of plastic's impact on the environment and communities' health in the documentary *The Story of Plastic*, which premiered late 2019. From extraction to refining, production, distribution, consumption, and disposal, every step of the plastic lifecycle brings with it health and environmental risks. In January, CIEL hosted a screening of the documentary at the United States Capitol, and we spoke to lawmakers and congressional staff about the urgent need for action—both at the



national and international levels. Later, we facilitated virtual screenings across our entire network and a discussion with community leaders in Louisiana and Texas, fielding questions directly from and for communities on the frontlines of the plastic industry.

The Story of Plastic is just one part of the growing global movement to reimagine a plastic-free future. CIEL is working with grassroots and grasstops groups from around the world, seeking to build understanding of the impact that plastic has on communities. In connecting disparate movements and actors, we are able to translate community demands into actionable legal frameworks, and vice versa. The result is a rich movement that is incorporating perspectives that might otherwise be sidelined.

In the plastic context, one example of this "tomorrow law" is our work with partners to create a new international treaty to confront the plastic crisis. CIEL has supported Break Free From Plastic movement members in pursuit of a new global treaty. Our coalition has produced analyses, held pivotal discussions with policymakers, and provided direct support to country delegates. It is a massive undertaking, but we have built incredible momentum in a very short period of time.

Whereas five years ago, plastic policy focused narrowly on marine litter and oceans, our work is expanding the global

conversation on plastic to address its full lifecycle impacts. And the movement is growing—communities, countries, entire regions, and increasingly, global institutions are adopting this frame and pushing for a global plastic treaty. Even as our advocacy has shifted to be entirely virtual and long-distance, more than 125 countries from Africa, Europe, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean have expressed support for a new global policy framework to address the plastic crisis.

And while CIEL works within existing law- and policy-making processes to make them stronger and work better for people and the planet, we are also reimagining and building new systems that work for everyone. We are using existing laws in innovative new ways, and where they don't yet exist, we are creating new laws and treaties to build a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Our current financial and legal systems protect and uplift some at the expense of others, the legacies of five centuries of colonization, imperialism, extraction, and oppression. The catastrophic impacts of these structural inequities are borne by communities that have experienced centuries of systemic violence and racism. In far too many ways, the existing system perpetuates this injustice, making it fundamentally incompatible with human rights. That's why, while we work to improve existing laws and policies, we are also helping to build new systems, new laws, and new movements that guarantee justice and equity—for all.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Codifying Protections for Defenders

Six months after CIEL helped the Nicaraguan community of Santa Cruz de la India get the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) to divest from the nearby La India gold mine, police descended on Olman Salazar's home. Dressed in full riot gear, they assaulted members of the environmental defender's family and confiscated business and personal belongings. It was the latest attack in a multi-year campaign designed to intimidate Olman and other leaders in the Community Movement of Santa Cruz de la India into silence.

La India gold mine is a project owned by UK-based Condor Gold, and—if constructed—it would destroy local ecosystems, limit access to drinking water in communities that are already experiencing water shortages, force the relocation of residents, and impact the livelihoods of many in the area. Since exploration began in 2011, local residents have been subject to escalating criminalization, harassment, surveillance, and threats.

If mine proponents had their way, they would force people like Olman into quiet submission. But for many environmental defenders, activism isn't a choice.

Their work to protect the environment is as critical as defending the lives and livelihoods of their families and communities. Across the globe, efforts to silence or subdue environmental defenders take many forms. And it's not just one company or individual—it is multiple, deeply intertwined actors benefitting from power, payoffs, and systemic impunity that seek to intimidate people into submission.

A record number of environmental defenders were killed in 2019, and reprisals against them included threats, harassment, intimidation, financial and business repercussions, surveillance, criminalization, and violence. CIEL worked with partners to raise awareness around Olman's experience at the IFC and the Inter-American Development Bank. By highlighting his and others' experiences at these and other banks, we achieved an historic victory in securing policies at development banks that are designed to prevent and respond to reprisals. For environmental defenders, these policies may save lives.





CASE STUDY

Pushing New Boundaries of the Law

By day, trash pickers roam the vast mountains of toxic electronic waste that accumulate at alarming rates. By night, the air is thick with toxic fumes coming from burning trash heaps. Ghana's Agbogbloshie is notorious as one of the largest dumpsites in all of Africa. Studies show that the surrounding area is saturated with chemicals. Lead, mercury, arsenic, and dioxins have seeped into the ground and have permeated the nearby lagoon.

Communities like Agbogbloshie don't happen by accident: they are the result of years of Western nations exporting their waste to dump sites in the Global South.

For thirty years, CIEL has worked on the Basel Convention, an international treaty designed to tackle the problems that arise when developed nations transport their hazardous waste to less developed countries. As the world has changed, the Convention has adopted new amendments intended to adapt to emerging waste problems.

In 2019, with the support of CIEL and partners, parties to the Basel Convention unanimously adopted a new amendment that empowers low- and middle-income countries to stop plastic waste dumping at their shores. From the beginning, plastic industry representatives and the United States—which isn't even a party to the Basel Convention—attempted to undermine the amendment at every turn. One of those efforts was seeking an exception for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—a consortium of some of the most developed nations in the world. Such an exclusion would have spelled disaster for the amendment.

CIEL leveraged its network of partners to express powerful global support for the amendment and to ensure implementation when the new rules enter into force in 2021. Legal measures like the amendment must be translated into practical terms, and they must carry real-world weight. CIEL is working to make sure that international law protects the human rights of all communities and does not bend to the loudest (often most well-funded) voice in the room.

PUBLICATION

Integrating Human Rights and Climate

In 2019, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty Philip Alston issued a stark warning: without rapid, ambitious, and equitable action for climate justice, the unfolding climate emergency will lead to “climate apartheid,” where a privileged few are able to escape while the vast majority cannot. For many, Alston’s warning has already come true; climate change is magnifying inequalities across the globe and exacerbating food insecurity and threats to health and livelihood facing people living in poverty.

The intersection of human rights and the environment is a part of CIEL’s DNA. For far too long, however, conversations have treated human rights and the environment as two separate issues. In order to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of all people, the two must be interconnected. This year marked a watershed moment in our efforts to bridge that divide.

Throughout 2019, we continued our work to build the capacity of UN human rights institutions to address states’ legal obligations to protect communities

from climate impacts. Building on this greater understanding of these linkages, five UN human rights institutions adopted a first-of-its-kind collective statement that confirmed countries have legally binding obligations under international human rights treaties to prevent foreseeable harm resulting from climate change and to regulate private actors accordingly. This explicit, collective statement on climate matters is unprecedented.

We know that for climate action to be truly effective, it must protect the rights of people who are living on the frontlines and who are most vulnerable to the crisis.

In the months that followed, CIEL issued a series of publications aimed at demanding a human rights-based approach to climate action. We worked with Indigenous Peoples and partners in the disability rights community to highlight the unique experiences and needs that their communities bring to the conversation.



Widening the Aperture of Public Participation

In September, four activists pinned signs declaring “Salvemos Los Ríos de Cajón del Maipo” to the front of a Mack Truck winding its way up the road that leads from Santiago to the Maipo River Valley in Chile. Then they sat in the middle of the road, blocking its delivery route. This truck was part of a convoy carrying massive concrete pillars destined for Alto Maipo, a hydroelectric project that is registered as a “clean development” even though it threatens the water supply for over seven million Chileans and will have devastating long-term environmental impacts.

Three months later, those same organizers were part of Chilean civil society groups planning to invite the global community to bear witness to their experiences during the UN Climate Conference (COP), set to be held in Santiago. But just five weeks before the event, Chilean President Piñera pulled the plug, citing “civil unrest,” and the COP negotiations were moved across the Atlantic to Madrid.

The switch was a blow: the COP was supposed to include negotiations for the final set of rules to implement the Paris Agreement. And the Alto Maipo project is a stark reminder that the new rules must ensure that climate action respects human rights.



When the COP wouldn’t come to Chile, CIEL worked to bring Chileans to the COP. We invited our Chilean partners to travel to Madrid, helping elevate their voices throughout the conference. Marcela Mella, leading voice of the Coordinadora Ciudadana “No Alto Maipo” and Juan Pablo Orrego of Ecosistemas spoke to climate leaders, UN Special Rapporteurs, and crowds of climate activists about how Alto Maipo—supposedly an example of “clean development”—is contributing to increased desertification in a region that is known for rushing rapids and towering glaciers. Their voices served as a stark reminder to negotiators: preventing future projects like Alto Maipo is critical. Ultimately, their message played a central role in preventing COP negotiators from rushing to adopt rules that would open the door to future human rights abuses.

CIEL is serving as a key bridge in translating the demands of grassroots organizations into international legal frameworks, forcing global bodies to incorporate perspectives from the local communities who are most directly affected. Our work is about inclusiveness and empowerment, even at a time when there is increased pressure to contract public participation in the context of the pandemic.

PARTNER PROFILE

Defending Environmental Democracy with Indigenous Partners in Panama

For many, Panama's Atlantic Coast is a pristine, untouched land, rich with the possibility of industrial development, extractive industries, and a booming tourist economy. But for the Indigenous Ngäbe-Bugle Peoples and campesinos, that same land is where their ancestors have lived for centuries, and where their communities continue to live in harmony with Panama's last intact tropical forest. Their entire way of life is centered around the preservation of these ancestral lands.

Right now, the country is eyeing the construction of Power Line IV, a project that would likely pave the way for other large projects along the coastline. If the 330-kilometer-long powerline proceeds, the project and accompanying infrastructure would cut across Indigenous Ngäbe-Bugle territories, threatening their economic, social, and cultural survival.

Despite these threats to Indigenous Peoples in Panama, the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) is supporting the project, without ensuring that its own safeguard policies are respected. These policies, including the guarantee of Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior, and

informed consent on projects that would affect them, are as strong as they are only because of decades of advocacy by CIEL and partners demanding better protections for people and the planet. In this case, the Ngäbe, Bugle, and Campesino communities were consulted haphazardly: only some of the affected communities were identified, presentations were not translated into the languages of the affected Indigenous Peoples, and basic questions about the project and its impacts were left unanswered.

Excluding Indigenous Peoples from the decision-making process is a systemic issue in Panama and beyond. In the case of Power Line IV, nothing has been constructed—yet. CIEL is supporting Indigenous partners to navigate a deeply unfamiliar system, seeking to ensure this project does not move forward without including their voices and decisions. We are supporting partners as they seek redress using the IFC's own accountability system—another feature of the institution that has benefitted from decades of CIEL's advocacy as we have pushed for remedy for communities impacted by development finance.





ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

Advancing Global Chemical Safety

Rubber ducks, teething rings, and rattles are built to be pliable toys for infants and toddlers. The same softening chemicals that makes them pliable—phthalates—can, however, even in minute doses, disrupt hormonal balances and create lifelong impacts. Phthalates are just one of a multitude of toxic substances that hide in our household products, food, and environments and to which we are exposed daily.

For decades, CIEL has been at the forefront of advocating for reducing toxic exposures to the most hazardous chemicals, including endocrine disruptors, phthalates, and more. We know that many of these are “forever” chemicals; they never degrade and will never go away. These chemicals cause irreparable, permanent damage to health and the environment. Even in minute concentrations, many have life-altering effects.

This is why it was alarming when European Commission officials originally listed chemical management policy as an “innovation” and not a problem that needs to be addressed immediately.

CIEL seized the opportunity to work with members of the European Parliament to push for actionable and meaningful toxics management in policies as they were developed. Knowing that each chemical on the market is produced and consumed in different ways, we advocated for differentiated policies rather than a “one-size-fits-all” approach. We also made sure that legislation prevented loopholes that would make it easy for the European Union to export its toxic problems to other nations or substitute one form of pollution for another.

The result is the European Union’s Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability: a ground-breaking policy that regulates endocrine-disrupting chemicals. It is a pivotal step on the road to successfully elevating toxic risks to the level of international law, and it sets a high bar for other countries to emulate in the years to come.



Taking to the Streets

While CIEL works to strengthen laws, create new policies, and hold actors accountable within existing systems, we also know that real power and change comes from the outside—when people use their collective voice and direct action to put their bodies on the line, marching, protesting, disrupting business as usual, and demanding justice. Organized action is instrumental and foundational to transformative change. Throughout CIEL's history, we've joined (and sometimes organized) these actions, rallying in the streets and demonstrating alongside thousands of friends, colleagues, and movement leaders.

This year, more than ever, it is clear that the biggest issues of our time are deeply interconnected: climate justice is racial justice. Using human rights and justice as our throughline, CIEL has worked with partners worldwide to connect intersecting issues, find common cause, and build diverse coalitions. We started the year taking to the streets to join youth climate marches, including Fridays for Future, and later, Fire Drill Fridays. In the spring, those coalitions shifted to respond to the new challenges of COVID-19, while doubling down on commitments to support the Black Lives Matter movement and end police brutality.

As the year unfolded, time and time again we were reminded of the deep interlinkages between movements, and we worked to show how these fights for justice, health, and equality are one and the same. In fighting for the right to a healthy planet, we are fighting for justice, for all.



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**On staff through July 2019
**On staff beginning May 2020*

INTERNS

Trevor Adkins
Chiara Arena
Suzanne Astic
Benjamin Canellys
Nicholas Cross
Corentin David
Bianca De Paulis
Gillian Diebold
Killian Dumont
Kayla Frederick
Elena Gartner
Louis Gilbert
Tim Hirschel-Burns
Gonzalo Iglesias
Lisa Kadel
Sima Majnooni
Ekaterina Mikhaylova
Nina Pušić
Virginia Raffaeli
Aaron Raubvogel
Hope de Rooy-Underhill
Andrea Scarpello
Adele Shraiman
Sarah Street
Owen Torrey

FINANCIAL REPORTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For Fiscal Years Ending June 30th

Assets: FY 2020	
Current Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$2,191,501
Contributions Receivable	1,691,499
Contracts Receivable	47,562
Miscellaneous Receivables	6,669
Prepaid Expenses	27,343
Total Current Assets	\$3,964,574
Other Assets	
Property & Equipment, Net	43,977
Rental Security Deposits	2,401
Long-Term Investments	158,040
Total Assets	\$4,168,992
Liabilities and Net Assets:	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$429,367
Accrued Payroll & Benefits Payable	73,105
Deferred Contract Revenue	122,641
Deferred Lease Liability	10,709
Total Liabilities	\$635,822
Long-Term Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt & Financing	\$327,955
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,125,261
With Donor Restrictions	2,079,954
Total Net Assets	\$3,205,215
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,168,992

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

For Fiscal Years Ending June 30th

Revenue: FY 2020	
Grants	\$3,198,820
Contracts	1,013,333
Salaries In-Kind	150,298
Contributions	127,133
Interest & Investment Income	15,474
Miscellaneous Income	21,490
Total Revenue	\$4,526,548
Expenses:	
Program Services:	
Climate and Energy	\$1,127,519
Environmental Health	1,077,855
People, Land And Resources	514,330
IPEN Secretariat and UNEP Funded Projects	563,691
Total Program Services	\$3,283,395
Supporting Services:	
Management & General	\$260,156
Fundraising	104,080
Total Expenses	\$3,647,631
Changes in Net Assets	\$878,917
Beginning Net Assets	\$2,326,298
Ending Net Assets	\$3,205,215

CIEL's audited financial statements and IRS Form 990s are available on our website (CIEL.ORG) or upon request.

Auditors/Certified Public Accountants:
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Bethesda, Maryland 20814

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Looking Forward

2020 is a year marked by profound challenges. The intensification of the climate crisis. A global pandemic. Toxic chemical disasters. And racialized police violence that spurred daily Black Lives Matter demonstrations across the United States and around the globe.

The intersections of these crises exacerbate the profound inequities in our society, disproportionately harming Indigenous Peoples, people of color, low-income communities, and families living on the frontlines and fencelines of polluting industries. And at the same time, 2020 has demonstrated with unprecedented clarity the importance of international solidarity and the power of working in common cause across diverse movements to build a more just and sustainable future.

Because the greatest challenges facing people and the planet share the same roots: systemic racism and colonialism. A just future requires us to transform these underlying systems. This is the work ahead of all of us.

The path to that just future is long, and it can feel bleak. But even amid profound uncertainty, CIEL will continue its fight to defend everyone's right to a healthy environment. As the stakes continue to rise, we will rise to the challenge, together.

In the year ahead, we will continue to build connections between movements and align them to be stronger and more strategic. From Nicaragua to Uganda, Guyana to the Philippines – and far beyond, we will continue to leverage the law to protect and amplify the voices and actions of our partners on the frontlines. We will continue to equip human rights and environmental defenders with tools, analysis, and arguments to participate in decision making and protect their rights. And we will continue to employ innovative legal strategies to ensure that rebuilding in the wake of 2020 centers human rights and the environment.

Reimagining and building a just world requires a new, more ambitious, and more inclusive vision. It means taking on corporate power. It means addressing the role of financial flows in these intersecting crises. It means protecting the right to speak out and engage in decision making. And it means making the law stronger and more just, for everyone, everywhere.

This work is for the long haul, and we need you in it. Take care of yourself, your family, and your community. And join us. Together, we will change the system to protect us all. Please consider making a meaningful tax-deductible donation to CIEL as an investment in a more just and sustainable future.



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