



CENTER for INTERNATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE  
IS STRONGER  
THAN THE PEOPLE POWER  
IN

**ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**  
2022



CENTER for INTERNATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

## OUR MISSION

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Since 1989, CIEL has used the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society.

## OUR STRATEGY

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### **Promoting Environmental Democracy**

Strengthening environmental democracy — the rights to information, participation, and justice — ensures that people have a meaningful say in environmental decisions that affect them and effective ways to protect their rights.

### **Counter-Balancing Corporate Power**

By counterbalancing corporate power and finding new ways to hold corporations accountable for human rights and environmental harms, we change the incentives that lead to bad behavior and move us toward a more just and sustainable society.

### **Ensuring Finance Serves People and the Planet**

Confronting problems at their financial source and redirecting the money away from harmful investments and towards more positive outcomes for all is a critical way to affect change more rapidly than through policy alone.

### **Strengthening International Environmental and Human Rights Law**

Global challenges demand global solutions. To address them, we must ensure that international law is effective: responding to existing needs, continually adapting to changing realities, and above all, leading to real changes in policy, human behavior, and environmental outcomes.

## KEY RESULT AREAS

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- **Reducing Toxic Risks**
- **Accelerating the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels**
- **Protecting Forests & Intact Ecosystems**
- **Making Trade Safer for People and Environment**
- **Ensuring Human Rights Drive Development**
- **Exposing the Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet**

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**Carroll Muffett**  
President & CEO



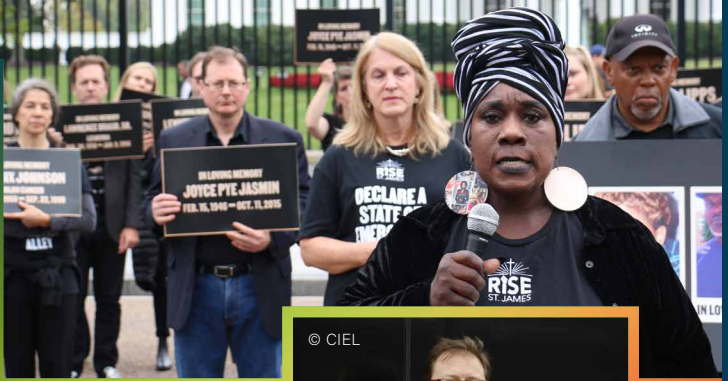
## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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If you want to go far.....

In February, more than 175 nations came together to adopt a mandate to negotiate an ambitious, binding, and comprehensive treaty to confront the toxic pollution created by every stage of the plastics life cycle. As the CIEL team burst into applause along with the hundreds of other delegates in the room, we were celebrating a moment made possible by the collective work of tens of thousands of people in hundreds of organizations in countries around the world. To deliver on the ambition of that mandate, it will take all of those people and more working together and more importantly, working for each other and not just for the treaty. That is the heart and essence of solidarity, and we've seen it play out again and again over the critical moments of the last year.

Indeed, even as delegates in Nairobi were negotiating the plastics resolution, the world was confronted with the horror and outrage of Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine. In the critical hours and days after that invasion, CIEL staff mobilized rapidly to help support a growing and urgent movement in solidarity with the people of Ukraine — from supporting the Stand with Ukraine website that brought together hundreds of organizations calling for an end to Putin's fossil-fueled war, to organizing more than a thousand lawyers and



peacebuilding experts to warn against the profound environmental risks of the invasion and highlight the deep links between the fossil economy and global insecurity.

As I write these words, the struggle to restore Ukraine’s autonomy and, critically, to stop Europe’s race to expand fossil infrastructure to fill the gap left by Russian oil and gas, is ongoing. But endurance and commitment lie at the very heart of solidarity. Nowhere is this clearer than in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)’s vote this July to recognize the fundamental human right to a clean, sustainable, and healthy environment. The UNGA’s decision is the latest historic milestone in a campaign that CIEL and our partners around the world have carried on for more than thirty years. But its success wouldn’t have been possible without the thousands of organizations and more than a million people worldwide who raised their voices together to demand its recognition.

That solidarity, that diversity, that collaboration lies at the heart of power and is always at the leading edge of change. But solidarity brings with it the profound responsibility to stand with partners not only when it’s easy and not only when you’re winning, but also when the choices and challenges are difficult, and the consequences complex.

Because we face significant challenges and real backsliding. Only a month after the world celebrated the recognition of the right to a healthy environment, the US government pushed through a massive law that threatens to compromise that right for environmental justice communities across the country under the ironic guise of climate action.

In the United States and around the world, such communities are at the epicenter of the converging and intersecting planetary crises — climate change, toxic pollution, biodiversity loss. And they are the frontline leaders in our shared fight to confront, halt, and ultimately reverse those crises. Making real progress at the scale and speed needed will demand that we recognize, support, and follow that leadership. Not only in our work against fossil fuels, but also the critical and essential work to transform the entire fossil economy.

For all the progress we’ve made, we have an extraordinary distance still to go and far too little time to travel it. We can only do so together. In partnership. In mutual support. In solidarity.

**Amanda Kistler**  
Vice President



## VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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2022 was a year of expansion, transformation, and evolution – and building on our most powerful tool as a movement: solidarity.

As partners around the globe confronted new challenges and increasing threats to their lives, livelihoods, and environment, the demand for CIEL's expertise, analysis, strategy, and support expanded dramatically. From Colombia to Uganda, Ukraine to the US Gulf Coast, CIEL attorneys and advocates connected movements working at diverse angles of interrelated issues in defending the right to a healthy planet. We provided analysis, crafted arguments, and built cross-movement partnerships whose enduring collaboration far outlasts specific campaign objectives and strengthens our movement for the long haul.

To meet the moment, we expanded our capacity to scale our effort. Together with foundation partners, we helped mobilize funding — not only to support our own work, but also to channel those funds directly to partners on the frontlines, where timely resources enable communities to attend a critical meeting, obtain key technology, and access information in time to mobilize against a new polluting plant nearby. We also grappled with resuming in-person meetings and events, often leading efforts to reclaim and expand participation for civil society and Indigenous partners after the pandemic decreased access to participation. Whether at the international climate talks, the UN Human Rights Council, the World Bank, or





numerous other multilateral institutions, we advocated for expanded digital access to enable meaningful, direct engagement by affected communities for whom travel is not possible.

Outside the halls of power, we used our voices to amplify hard truths and demonstrate our solidarity with frontline partners. We mobilized more than a thousand organizations demanding real solutions to the climate crisis, calling out “net-zero” greenwashing, and exposing dangerous techno-fixes. In September 2021, Carroll and I, with a dozen CIEL colleagues and thousands of others, joined Indigenous leaders and frontline communities leading a week of civil disobedience at the White House. Together, we were arrested as we demanded that the Biden administration honor Indigenous sovereignty, declare a climate emergency, stop pipelines, invest in environmental justice, and build back fossil-free in the wake of the pandemic.

And as CIEL worked for systemic change in 2022, we also invested in the deep, difficult work of examining how our internal systems, structures, and processes need to evolve for CIEL to deliver the greatest impact. We began a strategic planning process — driven by the entire staff and in consultation with movement partners and our board — that will

articulate our collective vision for 2030 and create a four-year plan to deliver and evaluate our impact across key result areas. We grew our staff to scale our campaigns, add expertise, and support the larger CIEL ecosystem so that we protect our staff against burnout and overwork, and avoid replicating the harms of the extractive economy in our own daily labor. With great care, we held a full-staff in-person retreat to dive into strategic planning, invest in ourselves and each other, foster personal connection, and replenish our collective energies for the critical work ahead.

The past year demonstrated once again that solidarity — and justice — is work for the long haul. Systemic change requires holistic strategies and intersectional approaches. As this report highlights, we have made important progress and won landmark victories in 2022. Yet there is much further to go to secure a just, sustainable, and inclusive future for all. We are grateful for your support in that work, and more grateful still that we can count on you to speak up, take action, and be an active partner in the hard work that lies ahead.

**Onwards!**







# "IT IS SO DECIDED"

## Mandate to Negotiate a Plastics Treaty

When CIEL and partners began advocating for a global plastics treaty in 2016, many thought it was ambitious — too ambitious, even impossible. But this year, we celebrated a historic victory that brings our collective vision one step closer to reality. During the resumed fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, Kenya, 175 countries adopted a mandate calling for the development of a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution.



When the gavel dropped and the words “It is so decided” echoed over the microphone, cheers erupted throughout the room and across the globe via streaming video. Negotiators, civil society advocates, and rights-holders alike cried and hugged in celebration. After years of organized advocacy, many long and late-night meetings, and countless bars of chocolate shared across the negotiation table, the CIEL team and our partners succeeded in broadening a previously narrow focus on plastic as an ocean litter issue to one that includes the full polluting life cycle of plastics, from production to consumption to waste and disposal.

But not every moment of the global negotiating process is so electric. CIEL has been at the table since the first whispers of a global response to the plastics crisis, and we’ve helped to build the diverse coalition pushing this work forward. Coordinating this group of over 100 global members requires slow and steady spadework: scheduling meetings across time zones, preparing effective agendas, sharing detailed strategies, aligning diverse positions, juggling live translation, and keeping track of conversations across a multitude of communications platforms. And we supported partners with a steady stream of cutting edge research and analysis. This critical work built the strong, credible, collective platform for the coalition to persuade State delegates. Now, the momentum behind this treaty is palpable, and it is already accelerating action to address the plastics crisis at the local and regional levels.

This plastics treaty mandate is no small feat, and the work toward a plastic-free future is far from over. CIEL and partners are now focused on negotiating a just and effective treaty, and ensuring that public participation, human rights, and social and environmental justice are front and center.

# HISTORIC VICTORY

## Global Recognition of the Right to a Healthy Environment

Thirty-two years ago, the international community was asking itself a critical question: “Is the right to a healthy environment a universal human right?” This year, the world asked again, louder than ever, and the United Nations answered clearly and resoundingly. In a long-awaited vote at the UN General Assembly, 161 countries voted to recognize the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. This historic victory for humanity was more than fifty years in the making, and CIEL has its fingerprints on many of the milestones leading to today,

from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, to the creation of the first UN Independent Expert on human rights and environment, and beyond.

As with all ambitious, system-changing work, the path to secure the right to a healthy environment was long and rarely straightforward. It was a marathon, not a sprint. But by 2020, millions of people had joined the effort, and the pace of this work swiftly accelerated. We coordinated a global call to action that garnered support from more than 1,300 organizations

### 1972

Principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration recognizes the fundamental right to live in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being.

### 1990

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) forms and highlights how their cultures, peoples, and very survival as nations are threatened by climate change. Former Maldives President declares, “Climate change is not just an environmental issue. It is a human rights issue.”



### 1992

UN Rio Principle 1 recognizes that “human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”

### 1995

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognizes the deep intersections between the environment and human rights, and their particular implications for the rights of women.

### 2001

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights recognizes the property rights of the Awas Tingni Indigenous community's traditional lands and illustrates an awakening around human rights violations involving economic, cultural, and social rights.



— representing Indigenous Peoples, trade unions, women, youth, people with disabilities, and more — and this led to the swift adoption of the resolution by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 and the General Assembly in 2022, with overwhelming support from States.

This recognition was only possible because of the persistent advocacy and pressure from civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations who continually held decision makers and leaders accountable to deliver on their commitments, even when support seemed to waver.

The decision comes at a time of intersecting planetary crises — the climate emergency, the collapse of ecosystems, and toxic threats that are pushing us beyond planetary boundaries, with widespread impacts on human rights.

This recognition provides one more tool for communities as they defend their rights and the environment, and opens new opportunities to strengthen accountability and environmental governance in the years ahead. And it represents the breaking of barriers: The recognition of this right means governments can no longer deny they have obligations to protect and respect it.

This victory moves us one step closer to making the law and international legal framework better serve ecosystems and communities. Now, we are pushing institutions, governments, and businesses to mobilize resources and take concrete action to make this right a reality, beginning with protecting environmental defenders and climate-vulnerable communities.

**2004**

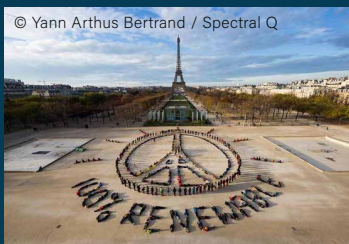
The Inuit Circumpolar Conference files a landmark petition before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights against the United States illustrating the connection between the effects of global warming and Inuit human rights.

**2007**

The Malé Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change codifies the international community's recognition of the fundamental right to an environment capable of supporting human society and the full enjoyment of human rights.

**2008-2009**

The UN Human Rights Council adopts a series of resolutions linking climate change to human rights impacts. Human rights emerge in the climate agenda at negotiations at COP14 in Copenhagen.



**2012**

The UN Human Rights Council establishes an Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment to advance the linkages between human rights and the environment. It selects Professor John Knox, a counselor to CIEL, as its first appointee.

**2015**

The preamble to the Paris Climate Agreement includes States' responsibility to respect, protect, and promote human rights.

**2021**

The UN Human Rights Council recognizes the right to a healthy environment.

**2022**

The UN General Assembly adopts global recognition of the right to a healthy environment.

A photograph showing several large offshore oil and gas drilling rigs in the ocean. The rigs are steel structures with tall derrick towers. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is clear. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach and a small boat on the water.

## STOPPING OIL AND GAS EXPANSION IN FRONTIER REGIONS

Even as the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels becomes clearer, the oil and gas industry continues to expand into new regions around the world. CIEL provides ongoing support to partners who are fighting to protect their communities from being harmed and prevent their countries from being pulled into new or greater dependence on a product that, despite having no future of its own, threatens the future of communities, ecosystems, and humanity as a whole.

In the Caribbean, where new offshore oil and gas projects are putting not only the climate at risk, but also biodiverse coastal and marine environments and the millions of people whose lives and livelihoods depend on them, we are working with local partners to develop a cohesive strategy to fight fossil fuel expansion. In September 2021, we co-convoked civil society partners from eleven countries to collaborate, exchange ideas, and strengthen the movement working to make oceans everywhere off-limits to oil and gas development. Just two months later, thirty-two Caribbean networks and organizations from nine countries, supported by CIEL and more than a dozen international partners, issued a first-of-its-kind declaration

calling for a moratorium on offshore drilling in the Caribbean Sea.

Across the globe in East Africa, we are supporting local organizations working to stop the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The project, which is already causing harm to affected populations, would open up massive new oil fields, unleash millions of tons of greenhouse gases, and threaten communities and biodiverse habitats all along the pipeline route. With international allies, we are warning banks not to finance EACOP, raising concerns with international human rights bodies, and amplifying legal challenges. Our advocacy has helped put a major Japanese bank involved in the project under the spotlight, secured commitments from at least twenty banks and thirteen insurers not to support EACOP, and brought concerns about the pipeline's impacts in Tanzania before the UN Human Rights Committee. These efforts are part of a broader movement building opposition to EACOP and supporting local demands for fossil-free, community-driven alternatives.





## PRECEDENT FOR INDIGENOUS FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT IN PANAMA

Along the remote Atlantic Coast of Panama, the Movement for the Defense of the Territories and Ecosystems of Bocas del Toro (MODETEAB) has been actively organizing to raise Indigenous communities' concerns about a proposed electrical transmission line (Line IV) since 2018. The Line IV project threatens the rights of Indigenous Ngäbe and Buglé communities and could destroy one of the last intact tropical forests in Panama. For years, CIEL has accompanied MODETEAB in engaging with the United Nations and World Bank to highlight the threat the project poses and to demand that Indigenous Peoples' rights be respected before it goes forward.

In June, there was a breakthrough in the case. In response to a complaint the Ngäbe and Buglé communities submitted four years ago, the independent accountability mechanism of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) found that the IFC violated its own sustainability policy when it backed the project. This landmark case is an example of these accountability processes working, and the actions that the IFC committed to take in response represent an important step toward ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights are respected — not just in policy, but

in practice. This investigation confirmed that respect for Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior, and informed consent is a prerequisite for sustainable development. And it sets the critical precedent that development finance actors cannot shirk their responsibilities to Indigenous Peoples with impunity.







## ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PERU'S TIMBER MAFIA

Peru's rainforests are among the most diverse in the world, providing habitat for an array of endemic species and land, water, and livelihoods for half a million people. Both the forest itself and the people and species that depend on it are facing an existential threat from rampant illegal logging, the world's most lucrative environmental crime.

From 2012 to 2016, CIEL Fellow Rolando Navarro Gomez had the support, independence, and autonomy to fight the illegal logging mafia, as the head of the Peruvian Agency for Supervision of Forest Resources and Wildlife (OSINFOR). Forced into exile in 2016, Rolando has continued his work from a new home at CIEL, developing systems to identify illegal timber exports, building capacity for sustainable and legal community forestry, and providing critical information about illegal activities to authorities that has been essential in reducing illegal deforestation.

Rolando's six-year investigation contributed to Peru's largest case on illegal logging and its associated trade, and resulted in the filing of criminal charges. In September 2021, a Special Prosecutor in Loreto, Peru, presented the charges against alleged perpetrators of illegal logging and trade of Amazonian wood intended for export to the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the United States. These charges are a serious blow to the timber mafia and organized crime networks that operate within the forestry and environmental sectors. The cases represent an important step in a near decade-long process to hold dozens of forest regents, concession-



aires, business people, and public officials responsible for their role in illegal logging and its associated trade.

The criminal charges filed in Peru came only weeks after another important advance in September 2021, when Global Plywood and Lumber Trading LLC pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act, which combats illegal trafficking of wildlife, fish, and plants. Global Plywood purchased 85 percent of the wood in a 2015 shipment of illegal timber from Peru to the United States. As a result, the court sentenced the company to pay \$200,000 in restitution to Peru's Ministry of the Environment, along with an additional fine. The charges and guilty plea stem from Operación Amazonas 2015, an investigation of illegal timber in Peru, which was led by OSINFOR under Rolando's leadership, and the Peruvian Customs and Tax authority, in coordination with other national offices, the World Customs Organization, and Interpol. CIEL's publications contributed to the pressure on both the US and Peruvian authorities to continue to pursue the cases.

“While the administration of justice has taken six years, the decision to file criminal charges provides some degree of hope that there will be meaningful accountability. This represents a new chapter in the effort to respond to illegal logging in the Peruvian Amazon and it is one that will dissuade others from engaging in similar activities.”

- *Rolando Navarro Gomez (CIEL)*







## EXPOSING A TOXIC TRIAD: FOSSIL FUELS, PLASTICS, AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Just a few short years ago, the links between plastics and fossil fuels were largely hidden from the public. By exposing those links — that plastics are fossil fuels in another form — CIEL has helped to connect, equip, and mobilize the fossil fuel and plastic movements to confront the rising threat of new plastic production for communities in the United States and around the world. The convergence of these movements is bringing greater attention and resources to frontline communities organizing to stop the plastics crisis and helping climate advocates prevent plastics from further entrenching our dependence on the fossil fuel economy. But the industry is opening still other routes to keep humanity dependent on oil and gas long into the future. Just like plastics, agricultural chemicals are fossil fuels in another form, and the fossil fuel and agrochemical industries are actively exploiting that fact to lock in new and dangerous fossil infrastructure. The intersection of plastics, agrochemicals, and the fossil fuels used to make them forms a toxic triad that represents a new frontier in our efforts to uproot the fossil economy.

CIEL is working to expose the intersection of fossil fuels, plastics, and toxic chemicals,

and their dangerous consequences for human health and the environment. In a new report, *Sowing a Plastic Planet*, CIEL exposed a troubling but little known manifestation of this toxic triad: the deliberate addition of microplastics to coat synthetic fertilizers and pesticides for “controlled release” in industrial agriculture, a critical but completely avoidable source of pollution of our soils. Agrochemicals and microplastics pose numerous threats in their own right, but the use of both in tandem compounds the health and environmental hazards posed by each. This work presents a vital new angle to leverage as we work to protect people and the planet from the human and environmental impacts of the fossil fuel economy.



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## DEBUNKING NET-ZERO FALSE SOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE REAL ZERO

As calls for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions grow stronger and more urgent, corporations and governments alike are reaching for quick fixes that appear to solve the problem while allowing business (and climate change) to continue as usual. Promises of “net-zero” emissions abound, but they often rely on offsets or speculative and risky technologies, like carbon capture and storage (CCS), rather than proven measures to curb emissions, like phasing out fossil fuel production, ramping up renewables, and reducing energy demand. CCS prolongs the operation of polluting facilities on the promise of cutting their emissions, but it has repeatedly failed to deliver or function at scale. Instead, CCS introduces new risks to communities at the fencelines of plants and on the frontlines of carbon dioxide pipelines and storage sites.

Through congressional hearings, community meetings, hard-hitting analysis, and press briefings, CIEL has been working to expose CCS for what it is: life support for the fossil fuel industry, not the planet. Critically, we are standing alongside communities around the world to build a movement rejecting CCS and other false fixes and shifting the public

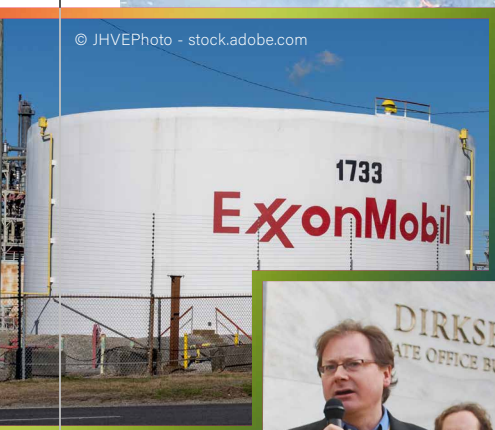
narrative away from “net-zero” greenwashing to “real zero” action. That’s why we organized hundreds of organizations from around the world to call on government leaders to deliver real solutions not net zero at the Glasgow climate talks. With 1.5°C global temperature rise fast approaching, we have extraordinarily limited time and resources to correct the planet’s course — by zeroing out emissions and the fossil fuels that drive them. To avoid catastrophic warming, we must stop money and power from flowing back into the fossil fuel infrastructure and dead-end ideas that got us into this climate emergency in the first place.





## EXXON SUBPOENAED FOR PLASTICS ACCOUNTABILITY

As the impacts of pervasive plastic pollution grow more visible and more severe around the world, public officials have a duty to ask why. In April, amid increasing public pressure to hold plastic producers accountable, California State Attorney General Rob Bonta announced an investigation into the role ExxonMobil and other plastics and petrochemical companies have played in the mounting plastics crisis, citing evidence that the industry intentionally misled consumers and the public about plastics recycling. CIEL's work establishing the legal and evidentiary basis for corporate accountability litigation over the last decade has helped build a strong foundation for investigations like this. So, while California's action may be the first of its kind, it is unlikely to be the last.



## PROTECTING WEST AFRICAN FORESTS

Illegal and unsustainable trade in rosewood species has been devastating West African forests and impacting communities for decades. The crisis has continued even after rosewood was granted protective status under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2017. In response to ongoing advocacy from civil society and demands from States where rosewood grows, the CITES Standing Committee took decisive steps to address this crisis by officially suspending all trade in all rosewood harvested from West Africa since 2017. This was a huge step toward protecting one of the world's most trafficked wild products, not over the course of years, but in a matter of weeks.





## STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Even as we celebrate this year’s historic recognition of the right to a healthy environment, CIEL is actively working to continually open new legal frontiers and pathways. A critical component of that effort is ensuring justice and human rights protections not only for our present generation, but for generations yet to come. For the last six years, CIEL has served on the steering committee and drafting group for the Maastricht IV Principles on the Rights of Future Generations. Much like the Maastricht (III) Principles on the Extraterritorial Obligations of States that came before it, the Maastricht IV process has brought together scores of legal and human rights experts from around the world to help crystallize shared legal principles for intergenerational justice and demonstrate how those principles can and should be operationalized to protect the fundamental rights of future people and peoples. In 2022, we celebrated key milestones in the work as two drafts of the principles were circulated for consultation with experts and stakeholders, in advance of a final launch of the Principles in early 2023.



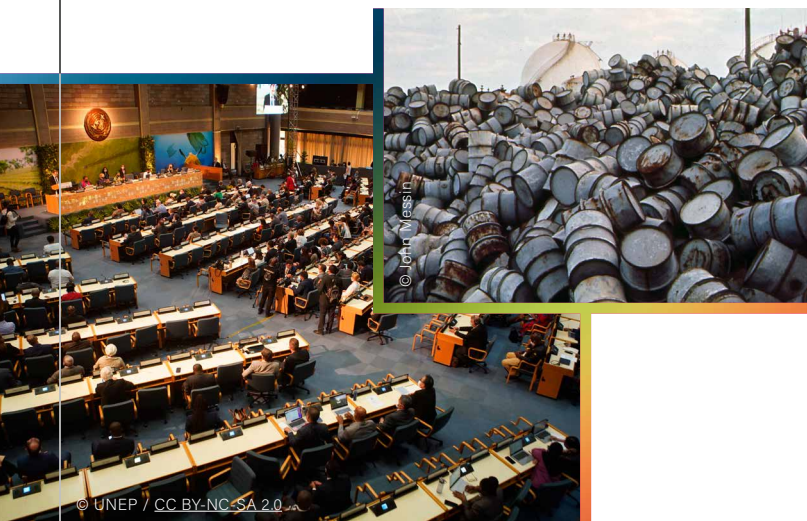
## CO-BUILDING POWER WITH FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

CIEL has always understood that frontline communities are best placed to advocate for their own futures. But sometimes, they lack the resources or external boost necessary to push back against dominant corporate interests. That is why we take our lead from the frontlines and work to enable and support communities in the strategies they choose. That support takes an array of forms, from creating resources for organizers — like a multimedia series exploring the oil, gas, and petrochemical boom in the Permian Basin and a comprehensive web-based toolkit providing detailed, practical advice on how to oppose petrochemical production and expansion — to helping mobilize critically needed financial resources for partners on the frontlines and fencelines, both in the US and in the Global South. Whether we are accompanying Indigenous leaders in seeking accountability at financial institutions, providing legal tools to advocates fighting petrochemical expansion, or expanding the CIEL team to include local campaigners who can support local strategies, the results clearly demonstrate the power and efficacy of equipping frontline leaders to determine their own futures.



## A TOXIC-FREE FUTURE THROUGH GLOBAL CHEMICALS REGULATION

Toxic chemicals are so pervasive in daily life and in ecosystems that they are pushing us past planetary boundaries — the safe limits for the integrity of Earth system processes. But incremental progress is being made every day in global chemicals governance as we work toward a toxic-free future. In March at the UN Environment Assembly, negotiators passed a mandate to establish a Science-Policy Panel on chemicals, waste, and to prevent pollution. This panel presents an opportunity for deeper research into the toxic impacts of chemicals to inform future regulations, although we must also work to ensure that industry interests do not exploit the process to divert resources and delay urgently needed action at the national and global levels. Then in June at the Stockholm Convention's Conference of the Parties, CIEL supported partners' advocacy, which led to a significant victory: States agreed to ban PFHxS — a synthetic “forever” chemical widely used in firefighting foam, carpets, and non-stick cookware, which harms human health and builds up in the environment and the body over time. CIEL remains an active voice in these processes to push for rapid progress on toxic risks and to ensure negotiations are used to promote progress, rather than delay it.



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## PHILIPPINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MARKS NEW ERA IN CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Nearly seven years after initiating its landmark National Inquiry on Climate Change, the Philippines Commission on Human Rights released its final report in May. The original petition asked the Commission to consider the role of the world's largest fossil fuel producing companies — the Carbon Majors — in driving the climate crisis, obstructing climate action, and contributing to resulting climate harms. Over that seven-year period, CIEL supported the petitioners and the Commission with amicus briefs, expert testimony, and documentary evidence. Informed by expert testimony and analysis from an array of civil society organizations, scientists, and communities, the Commission's comprehensive report concluded that the Carbon Majors have contributed to the global climate crisis at a scale that is quantifiable and significant, and they have delayed and derailed climate action through willful obfuscation of climate science. The Commission amassed the largest, most comprehensive body of official, sworn eyewitness and expert testimonies, documentary evidence, and legal analysis publicly available anywhere in the world with respect to the climate responsibilities of Carbon Majors companies. Our rapid legal analysis of the findings helped make this report and the extensive supporting evidence more accessible to journalists and partners alike, and encouraged others to use them as a tool for ongoing accountability efforts.





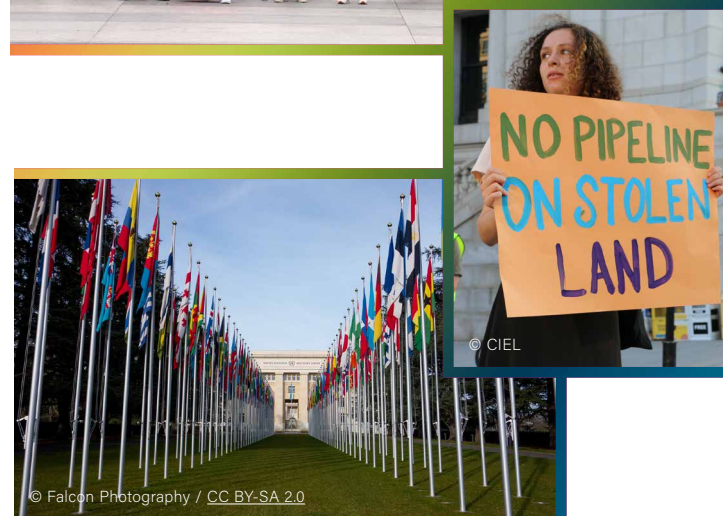
## EXPOSING FORMOSA PLASTIC GROUP'S SERIAL OFFENSES

From Taiwan to Texas and from Cambodia to Cancer Alley, the track record of the Formosa Plastics Group, one of the world's largest producers of petrochemicals and plastics, is riddled with environmental, health, safety, and labor violations, including devastating accidents and persistent pollution. CIEL is an active ally to communities organizing against Formosa Plastics operations around the world, such as in St. James Parish, Louisiana, where the company planned to build one of the world's largest petrochemical complexes. In October, CIEL and partners released a first-of-its-kind report profiling this serial offender to highlight the profound risks that the company — and the entire petrochemicals and plastics industry — poses to human health, human rights, local ecosystems, and the global climate, and to bolster demands for accountability. Thanks to the persistence of frontline defenders and the dogged legal work of our movement partners, permits for the proposed Formosa Plastics complex in St. James Parish have since been suspended or vacated, and the entire project may no longer be feasible!



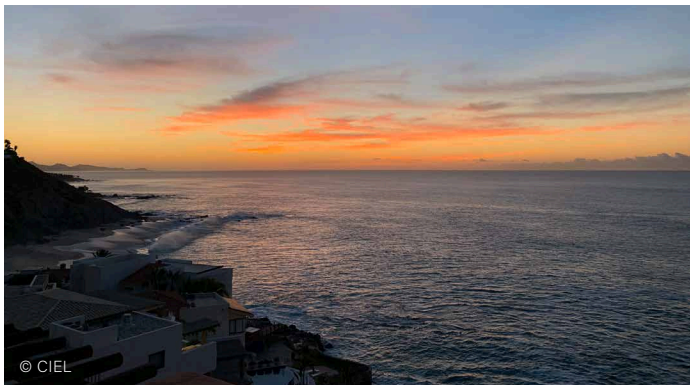
## NEW SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Following more than a decade of advocacy by civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations, in October 2021, the UN Human Rights Council established a Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. This expert position will serve as a focal point for a wide range of issues related to climate change and human rights, and ensure that frontline communities' demands are better reflected in international discussions and negotiations. CIEL worked with diverse partners, Pacific Islands States, and the Climate Vulnerable Forum to call for this position, eventually gaining support from Member States representing every region of the world. Dr. Ian Fry was appointed to the role in April, with the expertise, opportunity, and imperative to promote ambitious, equitable, rights-based climate action.



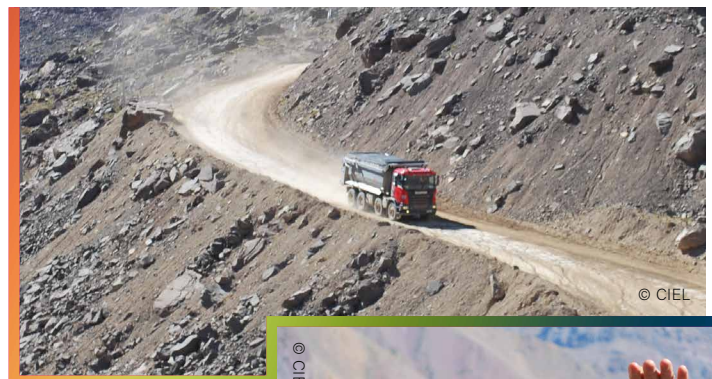
## MEXICAN MINING CASE SHOWCASES AN UNJUST INVESTMENT SYSTEM

Off the coast of Baja California in Mexico, Odyssey Marine Exploration has plans for an undersea mining project that would dredge 91,000 hectares (350+ square miles) of seabed to extract phosphate for fertilizer, with serious impacts on the region's marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and fishing communities. In addition to impacts on marine ecosystems and biodiversity in the region, the underwater phosphate mining operations would have serious consequences on the health and livelihoods of fishing communities. But when the denial of an environmental permit put the project on hold, Odyssey Marine exploited the secretive investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) system to bring legal action against the Mexican government and force the project ahead. For decades, CIEL has worked to reform or, better, dismantle the ISDS system precisely because of such corporate abuses. In October 2021, CIEL supported local fishing cooperative Sociedad Cooperativa de Producción Pesquera Puerto Chale in filing an amicus curiae brief opposing Odyssey's claim and supporting the environmental decision. Though the brief was denied, it garnered support from the Mexican State and one of the arbitrators, who warned that the decision denying input from affected community members would undermine the legitimacy of the arbitration. As CIEL and partners worldwide work to expose the fundamental illegitimacy of the ISDS system, this case demonstrates our critiques are not only justified, but gaining support.



## SEEKING REMEDY, SECURING REFORMS IN CHILE'S MAIPO VALLEY

Since 2015, CIEL has supported communities in Chile working to stop a destructive Hydroelectric project. The Alto Maipo Hydroelectric project bored tunnels through the Andes Mountains to divert three rivers, damaging glaciers and accelerating desertification along the way. Communities in the Maipo Valley took their advocacy to the accountability mechanisms at both the International Finance Corporation and the Inter-American Development Bank, and they have endured long, bureaucratic processes to seek remedy. Now, the cases are coming to an end. Unfortunately, much of the damage is already done, and our partners in the Maipo Valley likely won't see any meaningful resolution. However, their persistence has led to historic reforms at the banks, opening the path for others who come after them. As a result of years of advocacy, the Alto Maipo case has spurred conversations on remedy and responsible exit in international development, and led to accountability reforms, zero-tolerance policies for gender-based violence, and improvements in environmental and human rights due diligence.





# ADVANCING A FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY



Calls to phase out fossil fuels have been growing for years, led by frontline communities and civil society around the world. In 2019, CIEL joined a diverse Steering Committee to launch the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, taking inspiration

from international treaties to ban landmines and nuclear weapons. The treaty aims to defuse the threat of fossil fuels by securing commitments to immediately halt fossil fuel expansion, rapidly and equitably phase out existing production, and accelerate a just transition to a fossil-free, sustainable future. It is an important rallying point for advocates and an emerging element of risk for fossil fuel producers, investors, and nations considering new oil, gas, and coal projects. CIEL has helped strengthen international support for the treaty. In a historic step, at the UN General Assembly in September 2022, Vanuatu became the first nation to call for a binding global treaty to phase out fossil fuels in line with a 1.5° world.

## Momentum in support of the treaty is growing. To date, it includes:



**1,000+** civil society organizations



**2,500+** scientists and academics



**60+** country legislators



**The Vatican** and other faith leaders



**100,000+** doctors and the World Health Organization (WHO)



**101** Nobel Laureates



**60+** cities, including:  
Amsterdam, Barcelona,  
Kolkata, Lima, London,  
Los Angeles, Paris,  
Sydney, and Toronto

# MAPPING CIEL'S GLOBAL REACH

## United States

Supporting efforts to stop oil and gas lease sales off the Gulf Coast, and preventing construction of new polluting petrochemical facilities in Appalachia, Death Alley, and beyond.

## Mexico

Supporting fisherfolk as they fight an undersea phosphate mining project and the investor-state arbitration against Mexico for denying its permits.

## Colombia

Demanding protections for environmental defenders facing new threats and harassment for denouncing the Inter-American Development Bank's Hidroitungo dam.

## Caribbean

Supporting a Caribbean-wide moratorium on oil and gas development and bolstering the global campaign to stop offshore oil development.

## Panama

Supporting Indigenous Ngäbe, Buglé, and Campesino communities defending their rights and forests from the International Finance Corporation-backed electrical transmission line (Line IV).

## Argentina

Supporting Argentine partners as they secured a February 2022 decision prohibiting offshore oil and gas exploration by Equinor, YPF, and Shell.

## Chile

Supporting communities from the Maipo region harmed by the Alto Maipo Hydroelectric Project and sparking crucial conversations about remedy at development finance institutions.





- Sweden**  
 Highlighting the potential risks to Indigenous Sami peoples, we helped block the SCoPEX test flight aiming to use stratospheric aerosol injection, a geoengineering technology.
- Netherlands**  
 Providing legal analysis to Milieudefensie in its climate case against Royal Dutch Shell, which was ordered to cut its emissions by 45 percent by 2030.

- Ukraine**  
 Mobilizing 1,000+ lawyers and peacebuilding experts to warn against the profound environmental risks of Putin's fossil-fueled war and highlight the deep links between the fossil economy and global insecurity.
- Belgium**  
 Supporting and leveraging progress on toxics policy in the EU to reduce toxic risks globally.



- Namibia/Botswana**  
 Protecting human rights and the environment in the Okavango region from oil and gas expansion, including exploratory drilling and seismic survey by ReconAfrica.
- Uganda/Tanzania**  
 Supporting efforts to halt construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, highlighting the reports of harm to human rights defenders, and alerting banks of potential reputational, financial, and legal risks of continuing involvement.

- Philippines**  
 Providing expert testimony and analysis to the National Inquiry on Climate Change, which amassed the largest, most comprehensive body evidence regarding the climate responsibilities of Carbon Majors companies.
- Mozambique**  
 Supporting partners fighting ongoing gas extraction projects in Cabo Delgado, with a report to the UN Centre for Civil and Political Rights regarding gas extraction projects and escalating violence in the area.

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- Jeffrey Wanha** - Chief Financial Officer
- Michelle Williams** - Chief Financial Officer

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- Sébastien Duyck - Senior Attorney / Human Rights & Climate Campaign Manager
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- Hana Heineken - Senior Attorney
- Upasana Khatri - Senior Attorney
- Erika Lennon - Senior Attorney
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## FINANCIALS

### Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year ending June 30th:

<b>Assets:</b>		<b>FY 2022</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	3,580,682
Contributions Receivable	\$	3,943,107
Contracts Receivable	\$	181,823
Miscellaneous Receivables	\$	2,743
Prepaid Expenses	\$	33,398
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,741,753</b>

<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Property & Equipment, Net	\$	45,756
Rental Security Deposits	\$	2,401
Long-Term Investments	\$	1,620,895
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,410,805</b>

<b>Liabilities and Net Assets:</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$	99,518
Accrued Payroll & Benefits Payable	\$	102,378
Deferred Contract Revenue	\$	106,787
Deferred Lease Liability	\$	662
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>309,345</b>

<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$	2,904,186
With Donor Restrictions	\$	6,197,274
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,101,460</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,410,805</b>
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### Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets for Fiscal Year ending June 30th:

<b>Revenue:</b>		<b>FY 2022</b>
Grants	\$	8,618,798
Contracts	\$	1,160,427
Salaries In-Kind	\$	8,539
Contributions	\$	535,277
Interest & Investment Income	\$	(214,028)
Miscellaneous Income	\$	10,638
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,119,651</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Program Services</b>		
Climate & Energy	\$	2,406,258
Environmental Health People, Land, & Resources	\$	1,003,320
IPEN Secretariat and UNEP Funded Projects	\$	677,852
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,813,950</b>

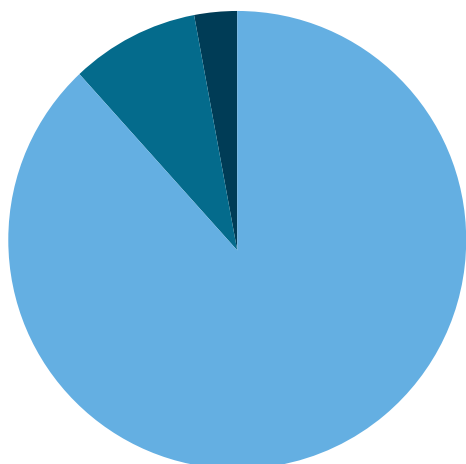
<b>Supporting Services:</b>		
Management & General Fundraising	\$	497,254
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,474,725</b>

<b>Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,644,926</b>
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<b>Beginning Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,456,534</b>
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,101,460</b>

CIEL's audited financial statements and IRS Form 990s are available on our website (ciel.org) or upon request. Auditors/Certified Public Accountants: GRF CPAs & Advisors, 4550 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 800, North Bethesda, Maryland, 20814, USA.

## EXPENSES CHART



- **Fundraising**  
\$ 163,521
- **Management & Administration**  
\$ 497,254
- **Programs**  
\$ 4,813,950



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**Thank you!**



## LOOKING FORWARD

As we look ahead to next year, we know that it is going to be both extraordinary and intense.

We are racing a clock to begin negotiating a strong plastics treaty in earnest and building the global movement and momentum needed to deliver it. We move from working to secure the *recognition* of the right to a healthy environment to *catalyzing* that right into action, decisions, and standards of accountability for governments and corporations alike. We move from laying the *foundations* for the rights of future generations to releasing those principles and, with partners, *mobilizing* a movement to convert them into standards and a global code of conduct.



We also face an intensifying timeline in the race against the climate crisis. It will demand dramatic acceleration and escalation in our efforts to prevent false climate solutions and to stop further expansion of the fossil economy. It demands that we scale our work to confront every facet driving the climate emergency. This requires supporting the expansion of movements like the Caribbean movement for a moratorium against oil and gas, and supporting the emergence of a coordinated global effort to oppose offshore oil and gas drilling in all its forms, and everywhere in the world.





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We must also move beyond confronting the plastics crisis to urgently recognize and address other dimensions of the fossil economy. We will connect communities and advocates who, for decades, have been defending human health and food sovereignty from the toxic impacts of agrochemicals, with the climate and toxics movements fighting the fossil economy that fuels fossil fertilizers and pesticides. And we will work with partners to stop the accelerating petrochemical buildout in countries around the world.

Through it all, we will continue to amplify and support communities on the frontlines and fencelines of these fights and in the Global South, because these polluting plants and projects are disproportionately sited next to communities most impacted by State violence, racial discrimination, and historical marginalization. In the year ahead, we will continue to follow and amplify the leadership of those communities. And we will help mobilize the resources and tools that front-line organizations need to sustain and grow that leadership.

Finally, the events of last year have demonstrated yet again that the fight for a liveable world, human rights, and sustainable democracy are inextricably linked. In the year ahead, we will continue to support activists and advocates in countries around the world who are fighting not only to protect their communities and environments, but their lives, their livelihoods, and their freedom to speak out and speak up.

Support from people like you powers CIEL. Your donation to CIEL is an investment in these efforts and a demonstration of your solidarity with communities around the world who are defending the right to a healthy planet for us all.

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