

Alon Tal Israel

Alon Tal founded the Israel Union for Environmental Defense in 1990 and has been working in public interest advocacy ever since. In 1996, he founded the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, an advanced academic center where Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian, and international students study together. Alon was the Chairman of Life and Environment, Israel's umbrella group for 80 environmental NGOs between 1998-2004. He has taught environmental law at Tel Aviv University for 15 years and was recently appointed professor of environmental policy at Ben Gurion University in Israel and a visiting professor of Law at Otago University in New Zealand. He has a small private practice where he offers pro bono representation for environmental NGOs. Alon enjoys running, tennis, playing in a bluegrass band and trying to keep up with his three daughters.



Tamar Gannot Israel

Tamar Gannot is a staff attorney at the Israel Union for Environmental Defense. IUED pursues a vigorous agenda of strategically focused projects in four key areas: air pollution prevention, drinking water safety, solid waste management, and accessible open spaces. Tamar has brought administrative law cases, civil law suits, and criminal cases. She has argued before the Supreme Court of Israel and participated in the legislative creation of several of Israel's environmental laws.



Diana McCaulay Jamaica

Diana McCaulay is founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Jamaica Environment Trust. JET is leading efforts to oppose the taking of bottlenose dolphins from Caribbean waters to supply swim-with-the-dolphin tourist attractions. JET coordinates with 14 other non-profit environmental groups to operate Jamaica's largest environmental education program. The Schools Environment Program reaches over 250,000 students in 200 schools. JET and E-LAW U.S. have recently launched a three-year project to protect biodiversity in the insular Caribbean. This project is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



Candis Hamilton Jamaica

Candis Hamilton is an attorney based in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. She serves on the board of the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) and is helping to develop JET's environmental law program. Candis received an undergraduate degree from Howard University, a law degree from the University of Miami School of Law, and a masters degree in Latin American and Caribbean studies from New York University. She spent three years with the Washington D.C.-based International Human Rights Law Group, where she helped develop a capacity-building project on communal lands advocacy for indigenous and Afro-Caribbean communities of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua.



Alfred Lahai Brownell Liberia

Alfred Lahai Brownell is the President and founder of the Association of Environmental Lawyers (Green Advocates), Liberia's only public interest environmental law organization. The war-torn nation of Liberia is richly endowed with tropical rainforests, iron ore, diamonds, and gold. The abusive exploitation of these natural resources has helped fuel Liberia's continuing civil conflict. Undeterred by civil unrest, Alfred and his colleagues at Green Advocates helped put in place Liberia's first framework law for environmental protection and sustainable management of Liberia's natural



resources. Green Advocates has also been instrumental in pushing forward protected area status for nearly 3.7 million acres of mostly old growth rainforest.

Jerome J. Verdier, Sr. Liberia

Jerome Verdier is a leading human rights and environmental lawyer at the Association of Environmental Lawyers (Green Advocates), Liberia's only public interest environmental law organization. He is currently working pro bono to ensure the indictment and prosecution of former Liberia president, Charles Taylor, by the International Criminal Tribunal for Sierra Leone. Taylor is being indicted for crimes against humanity, as well as the plunder of Sierra Leone's natural resources. Jerome is the Director of Liberia Democracy Watch and has worked for years to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance in Liberia.



Raquel Gutierrez Najera Mexico

Raquel Gutierrez Najera is the founder and Executive Director of the Instituto de Derecho Ambiental (IDEA), a non-governmental organization that helps Mexican communities exercise their democratic rights and protect the environment through law. In 2001, Raquel received the Ecological Merit Award from Mexico's Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources for her unflagging efforts to protect Mexico's fragile ecosystems. Raquel has worked for many years to protect Lake Chapala, the largest natural lake in Mexico, from pollution, diversion for irrigation, and a proposed dam. Raquel and IDEA filed petitions with the Commission on Environmental Cooperation objecting to the Mexican government's failure to enforce environmental laws to protect the lake. Raquel has conducted research and taught environmental law at the University of Guadalajara since 1986.



Fernando Ochoa Pineda Mexico

Fernando Ochoa Pineda is the Executive Director and founder of Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste, a non-profit organization working to protect the natural environment of northwest Mexico. Defensa is currently collaborating with communities in Bahia de Los Angeles to challenge a proposed marina that would have dire consequences for the region. Fernando serves as legal advisor for Pronatura Noroeste, a nonprofit organization working to protect the priority ecosystems of northwest Mexico. He has collaborated in the creation of several private reserves.



Patricio Martin Sanchez Mexico

Patricio Martin Sanchez is the Coordinator of the Cancun office of the Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, where he works to insure that the Mexican government complies with environmental regulations. At first glance, Cancun is a model success story. The Mexican government and private investors took an expensive risk 40 years ago and turned this quiet strip of beach into a leading tourist destination. But Cancun draws hundreds of thousands of tourists from the U.S. and Europe, and these visitors threaten the very resource that draws them. Patricio is currently working together with E-LAW U.S. to protect the biologically rich Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.



Carla Garcia Zendejas Mexico

Carla Garcia Zendejas is based in Tijuana, Mexico, where she works with U.S. and Mexican non-governmental organizations on cross border issues such as water monitoring, sustainable power plants, and law reform. She was featured on Lehrer News Hour for her work challenging ill-advised power plants in Mexico



designed to serve U.S. energy needs, and recently returned from a speaking tour in Portland where she discussed proposed liquified natural gas plants and environmental injustice across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Prakash Mani Sharma Nepal

Prakash Mani Sharma pioneered public interest litigation in Nepal. In 1991, he founded Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public), a non-governmental organization that has brought dozens of successful lawsuits protecting Nepal's environment and cultural heritage. Prakash's most notable achievement was convincing the Supreme Court of Nepal that Nepal's constitution guarantees each citizen the right to a healthy environment. Pro Public has helped ban the import of polluting vehicles, worked to eliminate leaded gasoline, and helped set emission standards for Kathmandu's major polluting industries. Pro Public has also worked to protect rivers, challenging government plans to dump garbage along the banks of the Bagmati River, a waterway that winds through Kathmandu.



Simon Amaduobogha Nigeria

Simon Amaduobogha was born in the village of Torugbene, in what has now become Africa's largest oil-producing area — the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. While Nigeria earns some \$10 billion/year from joint ventures with Shell, Exxon, Mobil, Chevron, Agip, Elf, and Texaco, most people in Simon's village continue to live in poverty. Ironically, most of the country's oil is located in or near villages like Torugbene. "I drank from rivers polluted by oil. By the grace of God I'm alive," says Simon, who is currently pursuing a masters degree in environmental law at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. Simon is a senior partner at the law firm of (Oronto) Douglas, Chuks and Amaduobogha, and has co-founded a new organization, the Community Defence Law Foundation. CDLF will become Nigeria's only non-profit organization filing lawsuits on behalf of communities against oil companies.



Brenda Rocha Chacon Nicaragua

Brenda Rocha Chacon works for the Center for Justice and Human Rights of the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. The Center works to educate Nicaragua's indigenous and ethnic communities about territorial rights and protection of natural resources. Nicaraguan and transnational companies have economic interests in indigenous lands. The Center educates communities about their legal rights and how to defend themselves from political and other threats. Brenda says, "I have witnessed the power of 'access to justice' for indigenous peoples and this inspires my work."



Lily La Torre Peru

In 1999, Lily La Torre published "All We Want is to Live in Peace," sharing lessons she learned over 15 years working with the Achuar and other indigenous communities in Peru seeking to protect their lands from polluting oil companies. A community member told Lily, "We are not enemies of the companies. We do not even know them...we want to be respected as owners of our territories, to keep our culture alive...to hunt and fish in our rivers, without illness or trouble." Lily was born in the Peruvian Amazon and received her law degree from the Catholic University of Peru. She serves as legal advisor to the Legal Defense Program of Amazon Indigenous Organizations and the Interethnic Association for Development of the Peruvian Jungle. In 1995, she co-founded Racimos de Ungurahui, a non-governmental organization promoting the rights of indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon.

