

ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

Jiri Nezhyba Czech Republic

Jiri helps communities in the Czech Republic address the negative impacts of globalization by holding multinational corporations accountable. He practices law at the Brno office of Ekologiky Právni Servis (www.eps.cz). Through the GARDE program (Global Alliance for Responsibility, Democracy and Equity) Jiri is working on cases involving LG. Philips Displays, Toyota Peugeot Citroën, and Hyundai. He is also working to protect the North Bohemian villages of Horní Jiretín and Cernice from a devastating coal mine.



Manolo Ivan Morales Ecuador

Manolo is Executive Director of ECOLEX, a non-profit organization working to promote sustainable management of Ecuador's natural resources (www.ecolex-ec.org). He is also President of the largest umbrella group of environmental organizations in Ecuador (CEDENMA). Manolo pioneered the concept of training community paralegals in Ecuador, empowering indigenous and other marginalized communities to use the law to protect human rights and natural resources.



Mara Bocaletti Guatemala

Mara works at the Center for Environmental and Social Legal Action (www.calas.org.gt) in Guatemala City, where she helps CALAS train indigenous peoples, the judiciary, and government employees in charge of administering protected areas. Mara is on the faculty at Rafael Landívar University and also teaches environmental law at the University Del Valle School of Law and Environmental Sciences.



Clarisa Vega Honduras

Clarisa is a former environmental prosecutor who left government to establish the Environmental Law Institute of Honduras (IDAMHO). She provides vital legal support to stop deforestation, protect marine resources and coastal watersheds, and defend citizens' rights. Clarisa is an authoritative, clear voice for the disenfranchised in Honduras. She is working with ELAW colleagues in the region to protect the Mesoamerican Reef.



Ritwick Dutta India

Ritwick coordinates Lawyers Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), which provides legal support for grassroots groups across India. He challenges destructive activities in national parks and sanctuaries and has taken such cases to the Supreme Court and the High Court. Ritwick provides environmental law training to enforcement agencies, NGOs, and communities. He has authored several books on environmental law, including "The Supreme Court on Forest Conservation" and "The Citizen's Guide for Participation in Environmental Decision Making." Ritwick is legal advisor to the Wildlife Trust of India and the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation.



P.B. Sahasranaman India

P.B. is a private attorney based in Kerala (www.elaw.in). He has won many cases protecting the environment and public health in India, including protecting rivers from excessive sand mining and halting construction of a hydroelectric plant that would have submerged more than 140 hectares of forest and destroyed Kerala's Athirapally Waterfall. Following an outbreak of the mosquito-borne virus, chikungunya fever, P.B. was assigned to inspect Kerala State's dump sites. His subsequent report resulted in court orders to clean up Kerala State's waste management system. P.B. has written several books on environmental law. He won the Bhoomi Mitra Award for his outstanding environmental work.



Windu Kisworo Indonesia

Windu is on leave from the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (www.icel.or.id) while he pursues a graduate law degree at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Windu managed ICEL's Environmental Law and Enforcement Training Program which collaborated with the Supreme Court of Indonesia to train more than 1,500 judges, police officers, prosecutors, Ministry of the Environment staff, and others. Windu has worked with ELAW Staff Scientist Mark Chernaik to understand the environmental impacts of dumping mining wastes at sea. Although marine tailings disposal is prohibited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, multinational mining companies in Indonesia continue this hazardous practice.



Tamar Gannot Israel

Tamar is a staff attorney at the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (www.iued.org.il). IUED pursues a vigorous agenda of strategically focused projects in four areas: air pollution, drinking water safety, solid waste management, and accessible open spaces. Tamar has brought administrative law cases, civil law suits, and criminal cases concerning protection from non-ionizing radiation, freedom of information, environmental pollution, environmental justice, and more.



Diana McCauley Jamaica

Diana is founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Jamaica Environment Trust (www.jamentrust.org). JET is working to keep Jamaica's vital ecosystems intact and prevent developers from turning the island's coastline into another Cancun. JET is also opposing bauxite mining in Cockpit Country, an internationally recognized biodiversity hotspot. JET coordinates with six 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 ELAW are working together to protect biodiversity in the insular Caribbean with funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



Danielle Andrade Jamaica

Danielle is the Legal Director of the Jamaica Environment Trust (www.jamentrust.org). She administers JET's environmental law and advocacy program, which monitors the regulation of coastal developments, captive dolphin facilities, and mining in important natural resource areas.



Maurice Odhiambo Makoloo Kenya

Maurice is a co-founder of the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG), a nonprofit public interest environmental law organization based in Nairobi. He is a practicing attorney and has drawn support from ELAW on a number of environmental cases in Kenya, and collaborates with ELAW on climate change issues. He holds a masters degree in environmental law and is pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental law at the University of Nairobi.



Collins Odote Oloo Kenya

Collins is co-founder of the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG), a public interest environmental law organization based in Nairobi. Collins has a masters degree in law and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental law at the University of Nairobi. He teaches at the University of Nairobi's Institute of Diplomatic Studies.



Benson Owuor Ochieng Kenya

Benson is a lawyer and an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, with research interests in law, policy, and institutional mechanisms for environmental management and sustainable development. He has worked and published on a range of issues including environment, trade, land tenure, property rights, conflicts, governance, infrastructure development, and public interest litigation. He is a senior partner at the Nairobi-based law firm, Ochieng Ochieng and Company Advocates. He is a director at the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG) and previously worked as legal officer and senior researcher at the African Centre for Technology Studies. Ochieng holds a masters degree in law from the University of Nairobi.



Raquel Gutierrez Najera Mexico

Raquel 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. 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 mentored many law students as they pursue careers in public interest law, including her son Pedro.



Carla Garcia Zendejas Mexico

Carla is based in Tijuana, Mexico, where she works

