

BUILDING SOLIDARITY: A TOOLKIT FOR

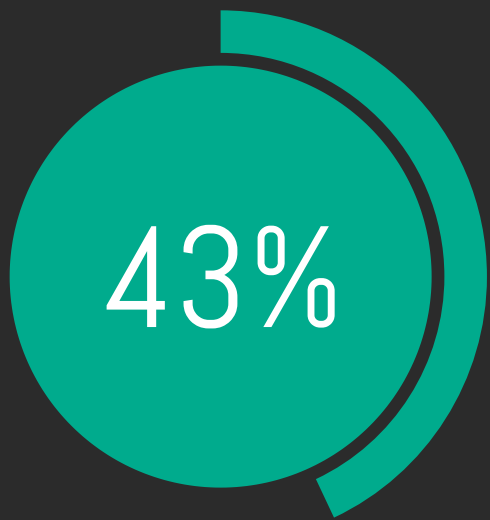
WOMEN'S RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS

Tackling biodiversity loss, environmental crimes, and their impact on girls and women



The campaigns will address the impacts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes on the security and health of girls and women. They will also provide tools to prevent violence and guide policymakers in designing protective measures.

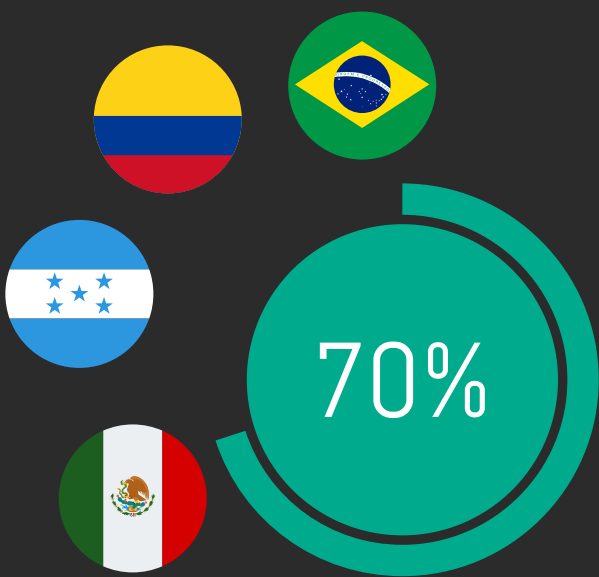
IMPORTANT FACTS



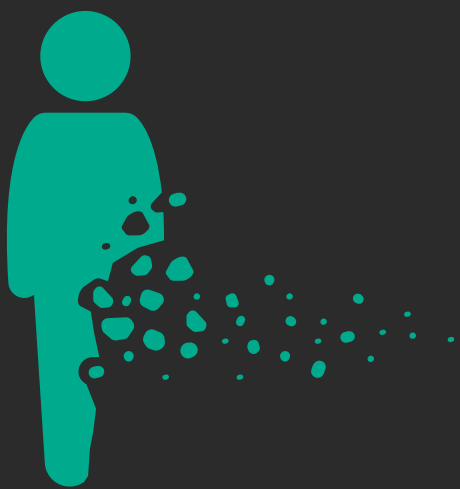
IN 2023, 196 PEOPLE WERE MURDERED FOR DEFENDING THE ENVIRONMENT, 43% OF WHOM WERE INDIGENOUS, AND 12% WERE WOMEN.



LATIN AMERICA CONSISTENTLY RECORDS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED MURDERS OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS, ACCOUNTING FOR 85% OF CASES IN 2023.



LETHAL ATTACKS ON DEFENDERS ARE CONCENTRATED IN FOUR KEY COUNTRIES THAT ACCOUNTED FOR MORE THAN 70% OF MURDERS: BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, HONDURAS, AND MEXICO. COLOMBIA ALONE ACCOUNTS FOR 40% OF THE CASES.



ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES ARE A FORM OF ASSAULT AGAINST DEFENDERS.

IMPORTANT FACTS



IN ASIA, ABDUCTIONS ARE USED TO SILENCE AND INTIMIDATE THOSE WHO SPEAK OUT AGAINST CORPORATE HARM.



CRIMINALIZATION IS A COMMON TACTIC USED GLOBALLY TO SILENCE DEFENDERS.

THE MOST COMMON THREATS FACED BY WOMEN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDE:



- **ARBITRARY ARRESTS (17.8%)**
- **LEGAL ACTION (16.2%)**
- **PHYSICAL ATTACKS (9.2%)**
- **SURVEILLANCE (8.6%)**
- **DEATH THREATS (7%)**

Why women's rights campaigns are needed

Women make up 50% of the global population. However, in many countries, they lack rights and are dependent on men. Biodiversity loss and environmental crimes disproportionately affect women, exposing them to higher levels of violence in various forms: sexual assault, human trafficking, coercion, gender norms that limit their autonomy, domestic violence, and the denial of their rights. Moreover, as environmental defenders, women face greater dangers. Building solidarity among grassroots organizations may help create a safer environment for them.

First steps to promote women's rights and build grassroots solidarity:

- Identify existing groups and understand their origins and actions.
- Evaluate their tactics and the outcomes of their actions. Develop lessons learned from their experiences.
- Promote solidarity among groups from different regions.
- Discover tools to strengthen women's rights in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes.

Following these steps, the next phase is to gain a deeper understanding of women's experiences, challenges, and the unique threats they face in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes.



Key Actions

Better understanding of the impact of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes on girls and women



Objective:

Understand and promote women's rights in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes to create a safer, more inclusive future.

- **Knowledge Transfer:** Using both successful and tragic stories from girls and women can help raise awareness about the dangers they face.
- **Promoting Solidarity:** Use stakeholder networks to empower girls and women and encourage collective action to defend their rights. Solidarity can amplify voices and make it more difficult to threaten or attack women involved in defending their rights.
- **Outcome:** Increase understanding of the impact of biodiversity loss and environmental issues on girls and women. Create stakeholder networks to advocate for girls' and women's rights.



Launch women's rights campaigns at the local level



Objective:

Raise awareness about the dangers women face in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes.

- **Developing Campaigns:** Use insights from grassroots groups to create digital and social campaigns about the impact of biodiversity loss and environmental crime on girls' and women's lives.
- **Community-Level Campaigns:** Women-led groups with successful stories can engage communities directly.
- **Global awareness impulse:** speak at global forums to raise awareness about the impact of biodiversity loss and environmental crime on girls' and women's lives and the dangers they face while promoting their rights.



Outcome:

Impact girls and women in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes, and connect them with peers.



Integrate awareness at the decision-making level



Objective:

Encourage decision-makers to prioritize girls' and women's rights in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes in their agendas.

- **Produce Memos for Decision-Makers:** Provide concise pieces that help decision-makers understand the risks girls and women face regarding their health and safety.
- **Impact and Engage:** Promote high-impact campaigns that involve decision-makers and ensure the protection of women's rights in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes.
- **Reach the Media:** Use mass media to elevate the issue and place it on the political agenda. Create pressure from civil society.



Outcome:

Add women's rights in contexts of biodiversity loss and environmental crimes to the political agenda and contribute to the development of policies that will protect them.



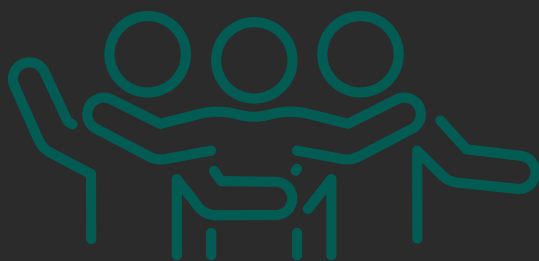
Impact Assessment



IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGERS GIRLS AND WOMEN FACE IN CONTEXTS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES.



INCREASED AWARENESS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.



BUILD SOLIDARITY AMONG GRASSROOTS GROUPS BY CREATING NETWORKS.



ADD WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CONTEXTS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES TO THE DECISION-MAKERS' AGENDA.

Resources

[Frontline Defenders \(2023\) "Frontline defender global analysis 2023/24"](#)

[Global Witnesses \(2024\) "Missing voices: the violent erasure of land and environmental defenders" September 10th, 2024.](#)

[ONU Mujeres \(2022\) "Las mujeres tienen un rol clave en la defensa del medioambiente"](#)

[UNEP "Meet seven women defending the planet"](#)