

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Defending territories, forests and communities

Communities protecting forests are paying the price for false climate solutions



Indigenous Peoples and forest communities safeguard forests, rivers and generations of ecological knowledge. They are the least responsible for the climate crisis, yet among the first to suffer the costs of false climate solutions.

Meanwhile, public development banks...



- Hold **\$23 trillion** in assets
- Provided a record **\$137 billion** in climate finance in 2025
- Continue financing projects without communities' knowledge, consent or benefit



This kind of development is not development, but rather the death and destruction of the people and the immensely rich space they inhabit, with its traditional communities, ancestral sites, and native species that are being lost.

Ana Laide, Movimento Xingu Vivo para Sempre (Altamira, Pará, Brazil), Coalition partners resisting the Belo Monte Dam and Belo Sun Gold Mine

Across the world, so-called “green” projects are causing harm



BRAZIL: Quilombola communities in Vale do Jequitinhonha are resisting water-intensive eucalyptus monocultures and large-scale lithium mining projects funded by development banks, that are being promoted under the banner of the energy transition.



PAKISTAN: The Indigenous Torwali people have opposed a World Bank-funded hydropower project on the Swat River for years, one of at least 18 such schemes planned for the region, warning that a previous dam in the area left riverbeds dry and unravelled the livelihoods of riverside communities.



CAMEROON: Communities affected by the World Bank-financed Nachtigal dam have filed a complaint to the bank's accountability mechanism over hundreds of hectares of rainforest loss and impacts on food and livelihoods.

A recurring pattern

Top-down “green” projects often lead to:

Displacement

Loss of livelihood



Reprisals and silencing of dissent

Ecosystem destruction



The **Coalition for Human Rights in Development** is a Global South-led network of 120+ organizations and community groups in 50+ countries working to ensure that development is community-led and respects human rights. Our 2026–2030 priorities include advancing just energy and economic transformation and defending civic space and human rights defenders.



Coalition's Members Gathering in Kenya (July 2025)

How we work

Community-led development



We support communities to resist harmful development projects and build community-led alternatives by:

- Connecting with allies and resources
- Facilitating learning exchanges between communities
- Accessing small grants
- Organising collective action
- Amplifying their voices

Indigenous peoples, women, migrant workers, and rural communities are the ones who feel the impacts of human rights violations the most. But they are rarely consulted from the beginning.

Fatrisia Ain, Buol Plasma Peasants Forum, Indonesia

In Aceh and South Sulawesi, Indonesia, communities whose lands were converted to palm oil monocultures are rebuilding food sovereignty and fighting for the return of their territories.

Movement-building and advocacy



We bring communities together to influence development banks and global forums, pushing for:

- Stronger safeguards
- Transparent accountability
- Ecosystem protection
- Better livelihoods and community-defined solutions



Advocacy spaces

Regional development banks:

Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and InterAmerican Development Bank.

International fora: COPs, G20, Finance in Common & the Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels.

Protecting civic space



We support land and environmental defenders by:

- Responding to threats and reprisals
- Providing case support
- Coordinating collective advocacy
- Documenting abuses and holding financiers accountable

In the DRC, we are piloting a locally-led emergency fund for environmental and human rights defenders.

In 2025, members and communities from Africa, Asia and LAC came together to develop collective demands to Public Development Banks on Community-Led Development in the framework of the Just Energy Transition.

Our impact

Led and supported campaigns that **halted or substantially modified scores of harmful projects**, securing remedy for affected communities.

Secured **zero-tolerance policies on reprisals** against communities and defenders at the world's largest public development banks.

Beyond individual campaigns, we have built a **global network of 120+ organizations** across 50+ countries, united by a collective vision outlined in our 2026–2030 Manifesto.



Following months of mobilisation, in 2026 communities and civil society in Uganda halted a government development project that would have destroyed 150 acres of Uganda's Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Coalition's climate justice work:

