



Inclusive  
Development  
International

# THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT





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Inclusive Development International supports communities around the world to **defend their rights and resources** in the face of harmful corporate activities and internationally financed development projects, and we fight for a more just and equitable global economy.

We are working toward a world in ecological balance, in which **communities and individuals determine their own development paths,** and businesses respect their human rights and environmental responsibilities.





# WITH HOPE, WE PERSIST

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

Holding deep-pocketed corporations accountable for human rights abuses and environmental destruction is hard.

To win against the mining, energy and agribusiness behemoths we are up against takes effective community organizing, a smart strategy and, most of all, tenacity. These battles take years and almost always include setbacks that can, at times, make us question whether success is even possible. But when justice is delivered in one of our cases, and we witness the deep joy of our community partners, it creates a wellspring of hope that helps us stay the course for other communities in their continuing struggles for accountability.

We felt that joy on a rain-soaked Friday afternoon in Guinea last September, when executives of the mining giant AngloGold Ashanti finally agreed to a fair financial settlement with the “Area One” community.



↑ Celebrating the historic settlement with AngloGold Ashanti.





Nearly a decade earlier, the 363 Area One families had been forced off their land and out of their homes to make way for the company’s Siguiri gold mine. They had been fighting for justice ever since.

As the community’s leader Balla Camara said:

**“WHEN WE STARTED THIS STRUGGLE, NOBODY BELIEVED WE WOULD EVER GET ONE FRANC FROM THIS COMPANY, BUT WE PERSISTED.”**

After six years of advocacy and mediations alongside our Guinean partners, underpinned by Inclusive Development International’s Follow the Money strategy, community representatives secured a landmark agreement. Not only had the company agreed to financial payments to families for their individual losses and a multi-million-dollar fund for community-led development projects, but they also committed to never again resettling Guinean communities without their consent and fair compensation. As Balla explained, this fight was about more than money:

**“TODAY WE CAN HOLD OUR HEADS HIGH AGAIN.”**

The Area One families’ victory shows what is possible when a community is supported to stay the course. This has always been at the core of Inclusive Development International’s approach: We accompany communities through years of innovative advocacy and hard-nosed negotiations and we refuse to let companies off the hook until justice is delivered. The last two years were no exception. In this impact report, we are proud to share our team’s many achievements in 2023-2024.

As we look toward a new year and new challenges ahead, we are grateful for your continued support and partnership. Even as we are clear-eyed about the devastating setback for human rights and climate action posed by the new U.S. administration, we are holding onto hope and readying ourselves for the fight, because we know that another world is possible when we persist in the pursuit of justice.

David and Natalie



# INCREASING THE COST OF CORPORATE MISCONDUCT

## HOW WE WORK

Corporations that refuse to account for the negative impacts of their business operations on people and the planet are profiting from human suffering, whether they know it or not. We seek to increase the financial, reputational and material price they pay for doing this.



### RESEARCH

Our approach starts with investigative research to expose the web of actors behind harmful projects—the investors, financiers, and supply chain actors that make these projects possible and profit from them. We conduct this research at the request of community advocates and then we work with them to develop strategies based on this information to further their advocacy goals.

[Read more about our investigations.](#)



### CASEWORK

In cases where our ongoing support can be most useful, we work alongside these partners over the long term to implement multi-pronged advocacy strategies to prevent harm and secure redress. This can include pursuing legal action and other avenues of recourse to hold corporate actors and their financial backers accountable.

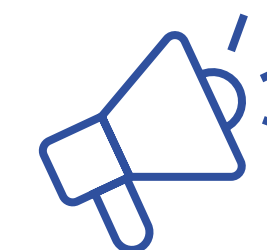
[Read more about our casework.](#)



### TOOLS AND TRAINING

We train and provide resources directly to grassroots advocates and frontline human rights defenders doing this work themselves.

[Read more about our tools and training.](#)



### POLICY ADVOCACY

We advocate for systemic reforms and policies to prevent corporate abuse and impunity in the first place.

[Read more about our policy advocacy.](#)



# 2023-2024 IN REVIEW

## OUR IMPACT

138

Harmful projects investigated using  
Follow the Money methods

301

New advocacy opportunities  
identified through investigations  
by our research team and  
Follow The Money trainees

243

Investment and supply chain  
actors engaged

62

Communities accompanied with  
advocacy and legal support

10,423

Individuals helped to  
secure redress

7

Institutions adopted policy  
changes to strengthen human  
rights protections as a result  
of our advocacy

506

Advocates and grassroots  
human rights defenders trained



● Countries where Inclusive Development International investigated the investment or supply chains of harmful projects (or supported partners acting on prior investigation findings).





● Countries where Inclusive Development International is accompanying local partners and communities in ongoing advocacy and legal efforts.

**Guinea**

We are accompanying affected communities to secure fair benefits and remediate harms from bauxite mining in Guinea's Boké region. We are also working with communities displaced by commercial gold mining in the Siguiri region, who in 2024 reached a groundbreaking agreement with the mining company AngloGold Ashanti, including financial compensation for the harms they experienced and safeguards to prevent harm to other communities.

**Liberia**

We are working with communities devastated by Bea Mountain Mining Corporation's gold mining operations in Liberia to seek redress from the company and its international financiers.

**Kenya**

We are assisting survivors of sexual abuse at World Bank-funded schools to engage with and seek redress through the bank's accountability mechanism.

**Uganda and Tanzania**

We are collaborating with local, regional and international partners on a global campaign to stop the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

**Cambodia**

We are working with communities in Cambodia's Ratanakiri and Oddar Meanchey provinces to secure redress for land grabbing by multinational agribusiness companies. We have also supported communities in Koh Kong province with research and legal advocacy to secure redress from UK-based Tate & Lyle Sugars, and in 2023 these communities were finally compensated by the company.

**Philippines**

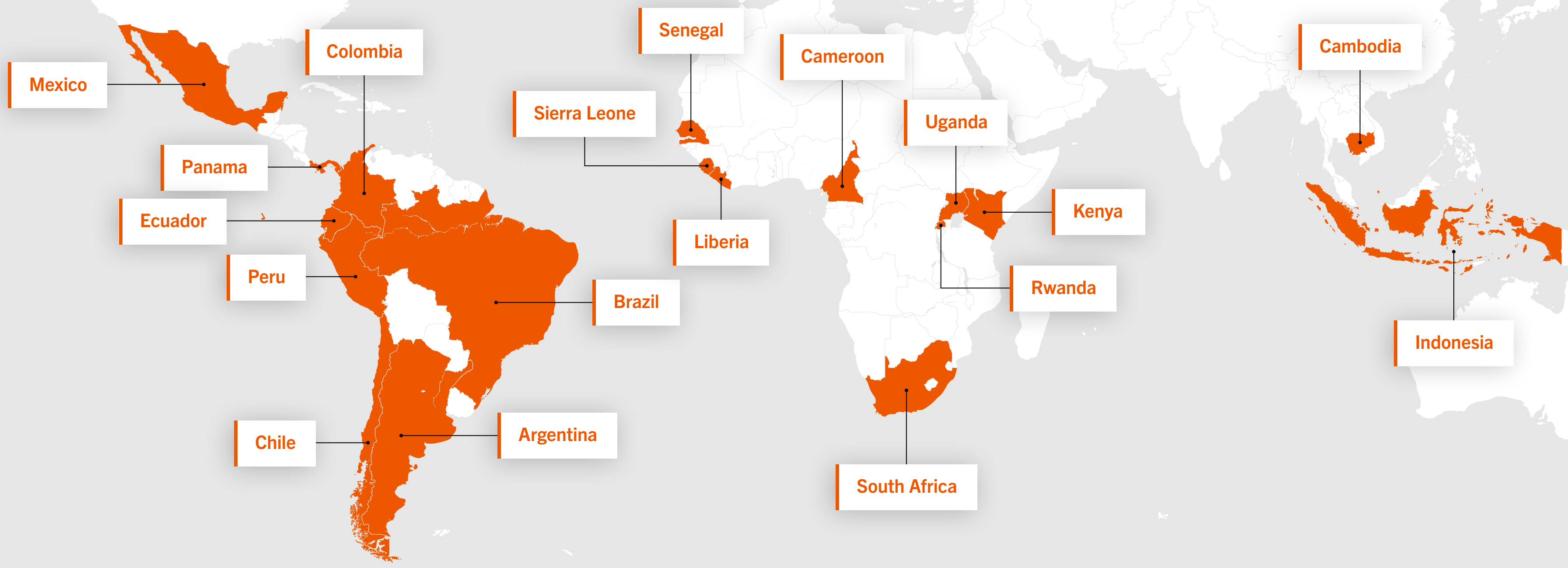
We are working with partners to hold the International Finance Corporation accountable for bankrolling the country's coal boom, which has had devastating impacts on people and the environment.

**Indonesia**

We are working with communities in Indonesia's Central Java and North Sumatra provinces to stop planned limestone and zinc mining operations that threaten their livelihoods, health and safety. We are also supporting communities in Banten Province to prevent and redress harms associated with construction of the Java 9 & 10 coal plants.



● Locations of organizations that participated in Follow the Money training programs and/or received ongoing strategic support stemming from prior training.






# FOLLOWING THE MONEY TO JUSTICE

## OUR INVESTIGATIONS

In 2023-2024, we investigated 77 harmful projects at the request of community advocates, using Follow the Money methods to map investment and supply chains and identify related advocacy opportunities. Advocates who participated in our Follow the Money training conducted at least 61 additional investigations on their own. [Read more about our Follow the Money training.](#)

Together, we uncovered at least 300 new advocacy opportunities for community advocates to pursue, including identifying new pressure points—such as corporate or financial actors with the ability to influence project developers—and opportunities to access transnational, independent accountability mechanisms.

In line with our strategic focus on ensuring that the transition to clean energy is both rapid and just, we began prioritizing investigations to further this goal. This included numerous investigations into new coal and oil and gas development, to support efforts to cut off the flow of capital to fossil fuels. It has also included many investigations into “transition” mineral mining projects, to support communities advocating for human rights protections throughout the clean energy supply chain.



You can explore our investigations using this [interactive map](#).



“IDI’S INVESTMENT CHAIN RESEARCH... ENABLED THE COMMUNITY TO COME UP WITH AN ORGANIZED APPROACH TO ADVOCACY, WHICH IS CONTINUING THE CAMPAIGN AT THE MOMENT.”

Daniel Muoti of the Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education, part of the Save Lamu campaign







### Supporting Indigenous communities threatened by lithium mining in Chile’s Maricunga salt flat

Chile’s Maricunga salt flat is home to some of the highest lithium concentrations in the world. Chile’s National Lithium Strategy this year opened the salt flat to lithium mining, putting local communities and the environment at risk.

At the request of a Chilean civil society organization supporting Indigenous communities in that area, we investigated three lithium mines in and near the salt flat, uncovering new advocacy pressure points they could pursue. These include opportunities to engage some of the world’s largest car companies, which plan to source lithium from the mines to make batteries for their electric vehicles.



### Enabling community monitoring of palm oil supply chains

As a result of our investigation of an oil palm plantation in Indonesia, the Talang Mamak Indigenous community filed a complaint with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, which in September [ruled](#) that the plantation’s operator had breached its guidelines. Among other outcomes, the operator must now conduct participatory mapping of local land with the community and create a grievance mechanism to resolve community complaints.

This positive outcome inspired the [development](#) of a cutting-edge global initiative on community monitoring of palm oil supply chains. Rights and Resources International, which is supporting the Talang Mamak community, has rolled out the approach to other parts of Indonesia, Liberia, the DRC, Colombia and Ecuador, where communities are using it to monitor

palm oil supply chains, document their social and environmental impacts, and leverage this information for advocacy or negotiations with corporations. Key consumer brands have [endorsed](#) the idea and are [developing tools](#) to integrate community sourced data into their decision making.



### Bolstering Fair Steel Coalition advocacy

To support the Fair Steel Coalition, we conducted investment and supply chain research focused on the global steel and iron ore companies ArcelorMittal and Ternium. The research revealed new leverage points for the Coalition’s advocacy, including the commercial banks that were financing both companies.

Our findings helped inform the Coalition’s European advocacy tour following the release of their report, [The Real Co\\$t of Steel](#), documenting the human rights and climate impacts of the companies’ subsidiaries in Brazil, Mexico, Liberia and South Africa. That tour included meetings with the companies’ financiers and culminated in their participation at ArcelorMittal’s Annual General Meeting in Luxembourg. Affected communities are now using the research to inform their future advocacy and litigation strategies.



# ACCOMPANYING COMMUNITIES IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

## OUR CASEWORK

In 2023-2024, we provided ongoing intensive support to community advocates in 11 separate cases and campaigns.

They included partnerships with groups in East Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines that are working to stop new fossil fuel projects and to secure remedy for the devastating impacts of past and current coal and other



fossil fuel development. We are also working with communities in Guinea, Liberia and Indonesia to prevent and secure remedy for life-altering impacts of major mining projects, including the extraction of metals and minerals deemed critical to the clean energy transition. And we have continued our long-term accompaniment of thousands of families in Cambodia that are struggling for justice after being displaced by multinational agribusiness companies.

Together, we achieved significant results, even up against some of the most powerful corporations in the world.





## FEATURE

### Resounding victory for mining-affected communities in Siguiri, Guinea

In September 2024, the “Area One” community in Guinea, which was forcibly displaced for the expansion of AngloGold Ashanti’s Siguiri gold mine in 2015-2016, [reached a groundbreaking agreement](#) with the company. It included financial payments to individual affected families, a trust fund to support community-led development and livelihood restoration projects, and a commitment from the company to deliver all previously agreed infrastructure improvements—to the school, health center, roads, and market—at the resettlement site. Critically, the company also committed to align any future resettlement processes with the International Finance Corporation’s Performance Standards and the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. In effect, it agreed to never again resettle anyone without their consent and fair compensation.

The settlement concluded a six-year mediation process, which was set in motion after Inclusive Development International

[followed the money](#), uncovering ties between the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank’s private sector lending arm, and one of AngloGold’s key financiers. This enabled the community, with the support of our team and our Guinean partners [CECIDE](#) and [MDT](#), to file a successful complaint to the IFC’s Compliance Advisor Ombudsman, which then facilitated the dispute resolution process. Investor advocacy, also informed by our follow the money research, had brought the company to the table and held their feet to the fire.

Together with interim agreements reached over the years on a range of issues, from access to water to security & human rights, the final settlement agreement amounts to a comprehensive remediation package—something all too rare for communities harmed by extractive industry projects around the world. It is a powerful example of what can be achieved when a well-organized and tenacious community has the support and the resources it needs to follow the money and stay the course.

[Read more](#)





# SECURING JUSTICE FOR FORCED DISPLACEMENT FROM THE SIGUIRI GOLD MINE





FEATURE

# Supreme court victory for mining-affected communities in Indonesia

Alongside partners in Indonesia, we [reached a breakthrough](#) in the fight to stop the Dairi Prima Mineral zinc mine, which is planned for construction in one of the world’s most earthquake prone regions. In a case brought by local community representatives who we have supported since 2019, Indonesia’s Supreme Court ruled that an environmental permit granted for the project, including crucial government approval for the current design of its toxic tailings dam, should be revoked.

After years of fighting to stop the mine, this was a major strategic win for communities threatened by the project as it impacts the practical viability of crucial mine infrastructure. While the company has pledged to apply for a judicial review of the ruling and said it will continue the project despite the decision, backing from the Supreme Court underscores the strength of the communities’ case against the developer and provides a path forward.

The ruling is also a positive sign for mining-affected and threatened communities across Indonesia, which has been positioning itself as a global hub for mineral mining and production to fuel a global transition to renewable energy. As Inclusive Development International’s Senior Legal and Policy Director Natalie Bugalski said, “We must rapidly transition to renewable energy sources and we need access to the metals and minerals to do so—but in some cases, mining operations are simply too reckless to proceed.”

Read more

## This case in the news:

The Guardian

Indonesian government accused of putting lives at risk with zinc mine permit

In an area prone to natural disasters, residents claim a new mining project has damaged homes and livelihoods and left them fearing for their safety



MONGABAY

‘Stop the stupidity’: Indonesia’s top court orders end to mine in quake zone

HANS NICHOLAS JONG  
5 SEP 2024 ASIA

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THE INTELLIGENT MINER

SPOTLIGHT: MINING NEEDS A MAKEOVER. OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

Despite the mining industry’s enhanced focus on responsible tailings management, high-risk projects are still being advanced. It’s time we all took a greater interest in how transition minerals are produced, writes Dr David Williams

BY DR DAVID JOHN WILLIAMS  
27TH SEPTEMBER 2024

COMMENTS 2

RESOURCE LEADERSHIP REIMAGINED 69





## FEATURE

### Holding off the East African Crude Oil Pipeline for another year

Alongside our coalition partners in Uganda, Tanzania and around the world, we helped block financing for TotalEnergies' East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) for a fifth straight year.

Our work with local community partners and human rights and environmental justice advocates around the world as part of the #StopEACOP alliance has convinced over 30 financial institutions and nearly 30 major international insurance companies to commit not to support the project. According to our coalition partner BankTrack, which specializes in campaigning and engagement with commercial banks, the extent of the banking sector's rejection of this project is [unprecedented](#) in the oil and gas industry. News reports suggest the project developers [have turned to Chinese and Middle Eastern banks and insurers for rescue](#), but due in part to local and regional advocacy targeting those actors, their

expected decisions have been delayed for more than a year now and no deal has been made.

Since the StopEACOP campaign was launched, the project costs have reportedly increased by \$2.3 billion due to its perceived risks by the financial sector. This has forced the project developers TotalEnergies and CNOOC to make [adjustments to the project's financing structure](#) and all but ensured that it will face further delays.

[Read more](#)



[↑ Back to top](#)



## FEATURE

## Seeking remedy and accountability for survivors of sexual abuse at World Bank-backed schools in Kenya

The World Bank’s private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), invested over \$13 million between 2013-2022 in the global for-profit school chain Bridge International Academies. As part of its cost-cutting model, Bridge employed unlicensed teachers and ran unregistered schools with few child protection safeguards in place. After receiving complaints about labor abuses and other issues at Bridge schools in Kenya, investigators from IFC’s internal watchdog, the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) went to Nairobi, where they uncovered allegations of child sexual abuse by Bridge teachers. Shockingly, IFC management reportedly conspired with Bridge to [cover up the allegations](#) and delay CAO’s investigation report while the company was seeking to raise private equity funding.

Over the past two years, Inclusive Development International has worked to

expose this corrupt behavior, to support survivors in Kenya to demand meaningful redress, and to hold World Bank leadership to account. We helped secure high-profile media coverage and letters from U.S. policy makers scrutinizing the bank’s actions, and we joined other civil society organizations to demand action from the board of directors and president Ajay Banga. In response to this pressure, the CAO report was finally released, and president Banga issued an apology, committing to support survivors and agreeing to launch an independent investigation into the alleged cover-up.

Alongside international and local partners, we are also directly supporting four former Bridge pupils in Kenya who filed complaints to the CAO and the accountability office of the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (also a Bridge investor) regarding sexual abuse at the schools. We are helping them navigate the complex complaints handling process, providing information they need to engage in the process with agency, and supporting them to communicate their expectations for remedy to Bank leadership.

[Read more](#)


### This case in the news:

[Kenya’s Sex Abuse Scandal Puts World Bank in Spotlight](#) (Foreign Policy)

[US DFC calls for probe of Bridge schools investment](#) (Devex)

[Investigation Finds World Bank Failed to Police Abuse at Kenyan Schools](#) (The New York Times)

[World Bank unit faces pressure to compensate alleged abuse victims](#) (Financial Times)



## Explore our other cases



### Guinea — Bauxite Mine

Communities in Guinea’s Boké region, who we are supporting in a dispute resolution process with the Rio Tinto-Alcoa joint venture Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée, have managed to secure recognition of their customary land rights and tangible improvements in their daily life, including access to clean water.

[Read more.](#)



### Liberia — Gold Mine

Liberian communities we are supporting to seek redress for the devastating impacts of Bea Mountain Mining Corporation’s gold mining operations reached interim agreements with the company this year on water and community engagement issues.

[Read more.](#)



### Indonesia — Limestone Mine

We continue to work with communities in the Kendeng Mountains in Central Java to take on Heidelberg Materials—one of the world’s largest cement producers—in a fight to preserve their livelihoods, natural environment and unique way of life.

[Read more.](#)



### Indonesia — Coal Plants

After securing commitments from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to remedy harmful impacts of the Philippines’ coal boom, which it helped bankroll in the 2010s, we are working with partners to ensure effective implementation of the development bank’s management action plan.

[Read more.](#)



### Cambodia — Rubber Plantations

Twelve Indigenous villages we have been supporting for over a decade in Cambodia’s Ratanakiri province signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnamese agribusiness giant HAGL Agrico, putting them on the precipice of resolving a decade-long dispute and mediation process.

[Read More.](#)



### Philippines — Coal Plants

The IFC’s Compliance Advisor Ombudsman launched an investigation into the development bank’s support for the Java 9 & 10 coal projects in Indonesia’s Banten Province, responding to a complaint that we helped affected communities file.

[Read more.](#)



### Cambodia — Sugarcane Plantations

Hundreds of Cambodian families, who we helped to file a class action lawsuit against Thai sugar giant Mitr Phol, are closer than ever to securing redress, as we entered into direct settlement negotiations with the company before the case proceeds to trial.

[Read more.](#)



### Cambodia — Sugarcane Plantations

Two hundred Cambodian families we assisted in filing a lawsuit against Tate & Lyle Sugars for unjust enrichment from land grabbing reached a financial settlement with the company last year.

[Read more.](#)



# BUILDING A MORE POWERFUL AND RESILIENT MOVEMENT FOR CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

## OUR TOOLS AND TRAINING

Over the years, demand for our research and advocacy support has outstripped what our team can provide on its own. We have also recognized that achieving our long-term goals depends on resourcing advocates who are from and who are working in frontline communities directly impacted by harmful development.

With this in mind, we have increasingly invested in training and resource-sharing with partners that are working locally and regionally so that they can undertake Follow the Money investigations and related advocacy strategies independently, and help

spread our approach to grassroots organizations around the globe.

We do this through conducting in-person and online workshops, and by maintaining a suite of educational resources and research tools on our Follow the Money website ([www.followingthemoney.org](http://www.followingthemoney.org)).

These tools are intended to walk advocates through our approach step-by-step and, to the extent possible, give them easy access to the financial information and records we most often use in our investment and supply chain research.



**“IN THE PAST [INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL] HELPED ME WITH INVESTMENT CHAIN MAPPING FOR DIFFERENT CASES. BUT NOW I THINK I CAN DO [THEM] BY MYSELF TOO.”**

**Prabin**, a participant in the Follow the Money training for Asia-based advocates



## FEATURE

### Seeding our “Follow the Money” approaches where they are needed most

Through weeks-long intensive training courses, we are embedding “Follow the Money” research and advocacy skills in local civil society organizations across the globe. In 2023-2024, we trained dozens of advocates from Latin America and the Asia Pacific region. We also provided ongoing support and mentoring to them—and to advocates who participated in previous trainings in Africa and Asia—as they executed research and advocacy strategies developed during the course.

Many groups’ efforts are linked to the defining human rights challenge of our time: the climate crisis. Some are targeting actors behind new fossil fuel development, while others work to protect communities threatened by the mining and processing of energy “transition” minerals, including nickel. Still others are working to combat the community and environmental impacts of geothermal, hydropower and palm oil projects.

Drawing on new Follow the Money skills and resources, these groups have identified a wide range of investment and supply chain actors, presenting opportunities to engage electric vehicle makers and other materials end-users, work with investigative journalists to spotlight harms, pursue strategic litigation against parent companies, and more.

**“THE SKILLS THAT WERE TAUGHT TO US WERE INVALUABLE.”**

**Maya**, a participant in the Follow the Money training for Asia-based advocates



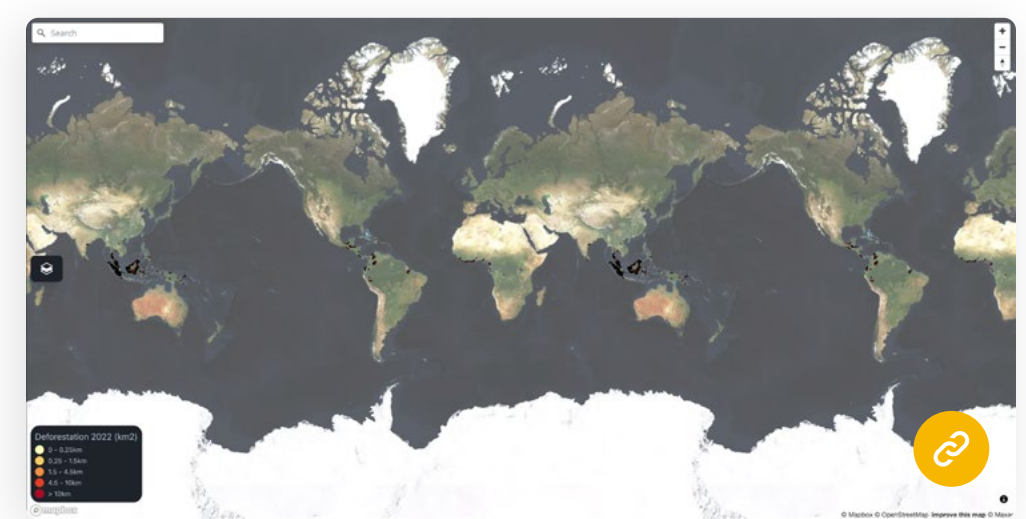




## FEATURE

### Mapping the ground level impacts of palm oil cultivation and use

In March, we launched [PalmWatch](#), a first-of-its-kind digital tool that traces the global palm oil supply chains of 13 consumer brands that are the largest users of the vegetable oil. PalmWatch connects the supply chains of these brands—including Nestlé and Unilever—to the plantation level, where the social and environmental impacts of oil palm cultivation occur. Using a Google Earth-style interface and advanced data science techniques, PalmWatch overlays 20 years of deforestation data on these supply chains. PalmWatch has received more than 20,000 visits since its launch and is being used by hundreds of civil society organizations, journalists and researchers.



#### PalmWatch in the news:

[PalmWatch platform pushes for farm-to-fork traceability of palm oil](#) (Mongabay)

[Your favorite brands likely contribute to massive deforestation. This map shows where](#) (Fast Company)



You can access PalmWatch and explore all of our open-access data tools [here](#).



# PURSuing SYSTEMIC CHANGE

## OUR POLICY ADVOCACY

Driven by our experiences supporting communities impacted by corporate abuse and development-related harm, we advocate for structural changes to dismantle the systems that perpetuate injustice and that create barriers for those seeking redress.

In 2023-2024, our advocacy helped expose risks and secure meaningful policy changes at numerous multinational corporations, commercial and development banks and other institutions.







## FEATURE

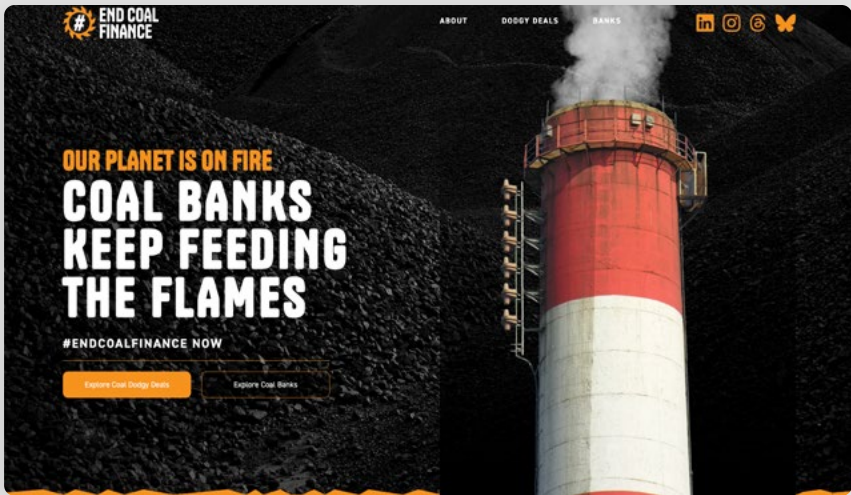
### Stopping financing for new coal development in Asia

In solidarity with coal-affected communities, including those we work with in the [Philippines](#) and [Indonesia](#), Inclusive Development International is collaborating with international and regional partners to disrupt the flow of finance to new coal projects in Asia, where new coal development is now concentrated. In 2023-2024, we investigated and published a series of exposes on the public and private financial institutions that continue backing new coal in the region.

In [Blowing Smoke: How Coal Finance is Flowing through the IFC's Paris Alignment Loopholes](#), we revealed that the World Bank Group was providing back-door support to dozens of new coal projects in China, Indonesia and Cambodia. In [Smog and Mirrors](#), we documented how a \$600 million Asian Development Bank loan earmarked for “sustainable” development can be used to fund Indonesia’s national energy plan, including dozens of planned coal plants. And in [Coal for Climate](#) we identified

the commercial banks most likely to finance new coal projects that have either been proposed or planned in the region. The 98 banks we identified, based on their relationships with the project developers and history of funding coal in the region, are now the target of a new [campaign website](#) launched with partners in November 2024.

[Read more](#)



↑ We joined coalition partners to launch the End Coal Finance website in November 2024.



FEATURE

# Protecting human rights in aluminum supply chains

Drawing on our experience working with communities affected by bauxite mining in Guinea, we continue working to improve human rights protection and due diligence mechanisms in the aluminum supply chain.



For years we have been pushing the Aluminum Stewardship Initiative to improve its approach to mine auditing and certification to prevent greenwashing. This engagement has yielded results, including requirements that all audits include, at a bare minimum, interviews with affected people. But the scheme remains deeply flawed, as evidenced by its audit and certification of the

Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée mine last year, which [ignored and downplayed community experiences](#).

In the absence of an effective industry-led initiative, we are working directly with aluminum buyers to help shape their due diligence efforts—supporting automakers to engage directly with mining companies and mining-affected communities in Guinea to address human rights issues, including land and water management. We are also working with a coalition of German companies subject to new supply chain due diligence laws to find and develop more effective approaches to compliance.

[Read more](#)



↑ Signs co-branded by the Aluminum Stewardship Initiative and the mining company made it difficult to trust in the impartiality of the audit process.



FEATURE

# Advocating for community agency in transition mineral mining

If the energy transition, and the extraction of minerals and metals to support new energy technologies, is to be truly just, we need a new approach to mining.

We have been working with partners to lay a foundation for this new approach. In April 2024, we helped launch the [Dublin Declaration on Fair and Equitable Land Access \(FELA\)](#). The Declaration proposes principles for negotiating land use and access when extractive and other development projects threaten to displace communities. At the core of these principles is ensuring that affected communities have a genuine role in decision-making, including about whether and on what terms a project proceeds.

At the launch and in subsequent [commentary](#), we have explored concrete ways these principles can be operationalized. For example, by providing communities with the technical and legal support they need to make informed decisions about mining projects, and where they choose to, support to

engage in intensive community-company mediations—the sort typically pursued only to repair harm after it’s done—from the outset. These would allow all parties to agree on the terms of land access before projects begin. We have also promoted options for making these agreements legally binding and enforceable, including through human rights-compliant international arbitration, so communities can hold developers accountable if terms are breached.

Read more

Voices from Salinas Grandes

Lithium mining

Voices of impacted communities  
for the UNSG Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals



Photo by Trend Asia

In April 2024, the UN Secretary-General launched a **Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals**, bringing together governments, intergovernmental and international organisations, industry and civil society. The Panel is tasked with developing a set of global common and voluntary principles to safeguard environmental and social standards across the minerals value chain and embed justice in the energy transition. After a series of meetings, it will submit a report to the UN General Assembly in late September 2024.

However, there is one critical stakeholder group missing from the Panel: **The communities who are directly impacted by mining and processing of critical transition minerals**. These are the people who experience the impacts of ‘green extractivism’ every day, who see their land, livelihoods, health and rights taken in the name of tackling the climate crisis, and who rarely derive their fair share of benefits from these projects. The views of these frontline communities—about the environmental and social standards that affect them, and about what constitutes a just and sustainable energy transition—are vital if the panel is to meet its objective of “*leaving no one and no place behind*”.

This briefing provides a snapshot of the concerns of community members affected by transition minerals in **Argentina, Indonesia and Guinea**. We urge the Panel members to centre these and other crucial voices of affected communities in their deliberations, and ensure they are reflected in the principles and report to the UN General Assembly.

↑ We drew from our work with mining-affected communities to [provide input](#) to the UN Secretary General’s panel on critical energy transition minerals in August.



## FEATURE

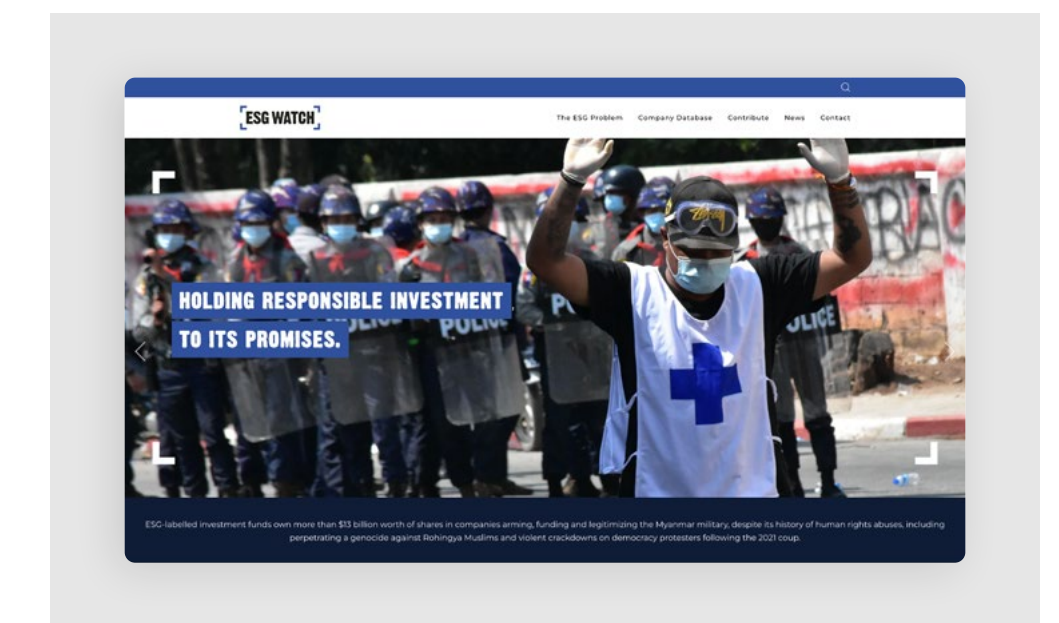
### Advocating for accountability in ESG investing

For several years, we have been [calling for regulation and reform](#) to ensure that investment products marketed as “responsible” or “ESG”-focused (i.e., guided by Environmental, Social and Governance concerns) meet the consumer expectations set by those labels. Such products should at minimum be designed to rule out investment in companies that are violating international human rights standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct.

In February 2024, [we filed complaints](#) against the leading ESG investment index providers for violating the OECD Guidelines by green-lighting companies for ESG-labeled investment despite those companies’ links to gross human rights violations in Myanmar. These were the first complaints ever filed with OECD national contact points against investment index providers. They were featured in coverage

from high-profile media, including the [Financial Times](#), helping put a spotlight on the role these firms play in “ESG washing” harmful companies. [Read more.](#)

We have also been building a website and database of companies benefitting from “ESG washing,” to serve as a tool to support advocacy for corporate accountability and more truly responsible investing options. The site will launch in early 2025.



- ↑ The ESG Watch website, to be launched in early 2025, will illustrate problems and opportunities to improve ESG and other “responsible” investing approaches.





FEATURE

# Strengthening OECD’s National Contact Point system for corporate accountability

Each OECD member state has a National Contact Point (NCP) that promotes the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct and handles allegations against companies for breaching them. Despite many flaws, NCPs serve as one of few access points for communities seeking remedy for corporate abuse.

We have been advocating for a stronger NCP system for over a decade and in February 2023, our Senior Legal and Policy Director Natalie Bugalski was invited to serve as an expert speaker at a once-in-a-decade OECD Ministerial Meeting on Responsible Business Conduct. Natalie gave powerful testimony on using the Australian NCP in the [precedent-setting ANZ case](#) and emphasized the crucial features required in the NCP system to make it an effective avenue for corporate accountability and redress. Many of

the more than 50 states present for her remarks made statements committing to increasing the resources available to their NCPs to make them more effective.

We also continued participating in the ongoing public consultation period for the Guidelines revision throughout 2023, calling for reforms to address key weaknesses in NCP processes, including lack of transparency and accountability for companies that violate the Guidelines.

The updated Guidelines were released in June 2023 and we welcomed improvements that promote greater transparency in complaint processes and that reinforce NCPs’ ability to hold companies to the recommendations and agreements that are reached in mediation processes stemming from complaints. Unfortunately, the revised NCP Procedures still fail to ensure that these mechanisms will operate effectively and deliver remedy to communities, so we and our civil society partners around the world continue to advocate for reform, including at specific NCP offices.

[Read more](#)



## FEATURE

## Advancing the right to redress in development finance

Throughout 2023-2024, we made waves at the highest levels of the World Bank Group, forcing leadership to reckon with the institution's responsibilities to communities that have been harmed by its investment projects.

We continued pushing the World Bank's private sector arms, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), to strengthen their proposed "Approach to Remedial Action," a new institutional approach to addressing potential or actual harm that may arise in the development process. As part of the public consultation process on an initial draft released in February 2023, we made a [detailed submission](#) outlining our concerns and recommendations, while underscoring the draft's failure to commit to contributing to remedy where the institutions have contributed to harm.

We also joined with civil society partners to campaign for a much more comprehensive and systematic approach that aligns

with international standards on human rights and responsible business conduct. Together, we engaged directly with IFC management and the World Bank Group Board on this issue and we organized panel events to further the campaign during the World Bank's Spring and Annual Meetings. To complement this direct engagement, we secured [high-profile news coverage](#), [op-ed placements](#) and [public interventions from influential U.S. policy makers](#) to put a spotlight on the bank's past and current failure to remedy harm from its investments.

In parallel, we continued engaging with the bank regarding specific complaints we have submitted on behalf of communities seeking remedy for harms resulting from IFC-backed projects in Cambodia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya and the Philippines. This advocacy resulted in concrete commitments from the IFC to contribute directly to remedial actions in three of our cases. These are among the first times that the institution has done this, and our hope is that they will provide key pilot practices that will help advance the policy discussion.

[Read more](#)





## FEATURE

## Strengthening a new Chinese-led accountability mechanism for the mining sector

In May 2023, the Responsible Critical Mineral Initiative (RCI) and the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters (CCC MC), launched a new grievance mechanism for the mining sector. As part of the public consultation process, Inclusive Development International and Accountability Counsel submitted recommendations for improvements to ensure the new mechanism is an effective avenue for mining-affected communities. We then held a series of experience-sharing workshops for RCI and CCC MC as they prepared to pilot the mechanism, where we discussed our experience and insights into the effective implementation of such alternative dispute resolution processes. We also collaborated on [a guide](#) for mining-affected communities to explain the Mechanism's procedures and help other civil society organizations and community advocates better understand how it works and how it can be used.



# HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

## OUR PEOPLE



↑ Part of the Inclusive Development International team gathered in Istanbul for our 2024 annual planning retreat.



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**Director:** Jon Schneider

**Director:** Lalanath de Silva

*For security reasons, we do not disclose the names of certain team members based outside the United States.*



IN MEMORIAM

# GEORGE WILLIAM COOPER



We were deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved friend, colleague and mentor, George William Cooper, who passed away at his home in Phnom Penh on November 30, 2023.

George had served as our Senior Attorney in the Southeast Asia region since 2016, but was an informal advisor to our team from the start, and a mentor and inspiration to our founders even before Inclusive Development International began. Having made it his life’s work to secure the land and housing rights of Indigenous, rural and urban poor communities in Hawaii, Cambodia and beyond, he was an inspiration to us all.

We miss George dearly, but his memory and his legacy remain at Inclusive Development International as we continue fighting for justice for people on the margins of the global economy.

Read our full tribute to George



# SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Inclusive Development International is deeply grateful for the support of the foundations, partner organizations and committed individuals who make our work possible.



### Foundations and Partner Grants:

11th Hour Project, Accountability Accelerator, Bread for the World, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Israelson Family Foundation, Oxfam Novib, Partners for Equity, Planet Wheeler Foundation, The Ripple Foundation, Schneider Family Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Anonymous funders (5).

### Individuals and Businesses:

Joanne Bauer, Chaim Bugalski, Mary Burns, Jean du Plessis, Edwin Harris, David Hunter and Margaret Bowman, Richard Jaffe, Leron Katsir, Jake Lynch, Bernard Meijfroidt, Sudhir Parekh, Lisa Pred-Sosa, Susanna Price, James Ross, Bert Scott, Bruce Shoemaker, Margaret Wachenfeld, Anonymous (6).



## Make a donation

We are a nimble organization that operates with very minimal overhead costs. The donations we receive go a long way toward increasing our capacity to serve more communities and realize more lasting change.

**To make your donation head to:**  
[www.inclusivedevelopment.net/donate](http://www.inclusivedevelopment.net/donate)

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 82 Patton Avenue Suite 210,  
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