



Connecting Communities
Protecting the Planet

Oil Development in the Peruvian Amazon Indigenous Communities Speaking Out

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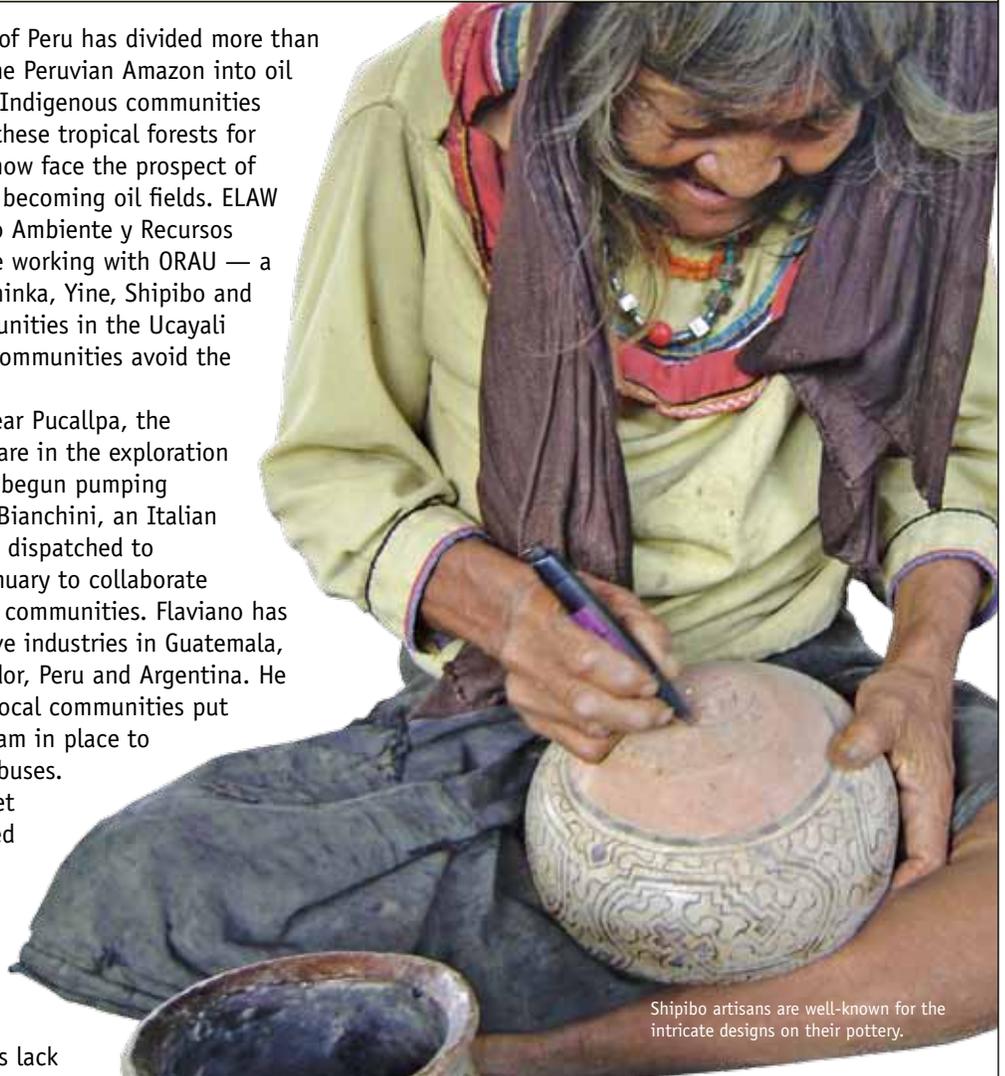
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The Government of Peru has divided more than three quarters of the Peruvian Amazon into oil block concessions. Indigenous communities that have lived in these tropical forests for hundreds of years now face the prospect of their ancient lands becoming oil fields. ELAW partners at Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR) are working with ORAU — a federation of Ashaninka, Yine, Shipibo and other ethnic communities in the Ucayali region — to help communities avoid the “oil curse.”

“Two oil fields near Pucallpa, the capital of Ucayali, are in the exploration phase and one has begun pumping oil,” says Flaviano Bianchini, an Italian scientist who ELAW dispatched to Pucallpa in late January to collaborate with DAR and local communities. Flaviano has monitored extractive industries in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Peru and Argentina. He will help DAR and local communities put a monitoring program in place to track oil industry abuses.

“The goal is to set up community based monitoring, with easy indicators, so that residents can monitor what is happening, by themselves. Too often, communities lack baseline information about what is actually lost in the search for oil,” says Flaviano, who is spending two months in Ucayali.

“Monitoring does not necessarily require sophisticated scientific equipment,” says Meche Lu, ELAW Environmental Research Scientist. “For example, communities can take note of dump sites, sewers, poaching, leaking pipe lines, and the impacts of increased traffic and human conflicts on the Ucayali River.”



Shipibo artisans are well-known for the intricate designs on their pottery.

“Working with DAR and ELAW this past two years has helped native communities understand what’s going on and their rights to respond.”

Felix Roja Silvano, head of ORAU

Many indigenous communities live along the Ucayali River, which flows through Codillera Azul National Park and connects with the Marañón River to form the Amazon

River, the longest and largest river in the world.

“People are concerned about the impacts of extractive industries. There is a lot of tension due to a lack of public participation in decisions being made. The aim is to help communities protect waterways, rainforests, and ancient ways of life, before it’s too late,” says Meche.



Peru’s oil concessions (in green).

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The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) helps communities speak out for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. We are a global alliance of attorneys, scientists and other advocates collaborating across borders to promote grassroots efforts to build a sustainable, just future.

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Victories Around the World



UKRAINE

Court orders industry to inform citizens about air pollution

In January, ELAW partners in Ukraine celebrated a high court ruling ordering a subsidiary of France’s Lafarge Cement to release information on plans to expand kiln capacity by switching fuels from natural gas to coal and used tires! This victory for clean air ends a three year dispute between Environment-People-Law (EPL) and JSC Mykolaivcement (Lafarge Group).

Emissions from cement kilns that burn coal and used tires pose a serious health risk to communities. EPL tried for three years to gain access to what should have been public documents outlining details of the scheme.

“ELAW provided enormously helpful scientific analysis,” says Olena Kravchenko, EPL Executive

Director. “Liza Aleksyeyeva, our staff attorney on this case, was an ELAW Fellow in 2006. Her time with ELAW helped her build confidence and take the next step to winning justice.” Olena is now an ELAW Fellow herself, working one-on-one with ELAW staff and studying English at the University of Oregon’s American English Institute.

EPL is working to ensure that Lafarge’s proposed expansion plans comply with Ukraine’s environmental regulations and do not pose hazards to residents. This high court ruling is the first of its kind and sets a good precedent in Ukraine for the public’s right to information about potentially polluting industrial activities.

Olena is the Executive Director at Environment-People-Law (EPL), Ukraine’s leading grassroots environmental law organization. Olena is in Eugene for ten weeks to collaborate with ELAW staff on EPL’s work protecting communities and the environment. Many thanks to the Trust for Mutual Understanding and the American English Institute for making Olena’s Fellowship possible.

“This is a final ruling, which acknowledges the violation of fundamental rights through air pollution and noise . . . I am thrilled!”

Gines Ruiz

SPAIN

Air and noise pollution must stop

Years of hard work have paid off! Residents of Murcia, in southeast Spain, have suffered for years – pungent emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from an asphalt roof manufacturing plant were making them sick. In January, Murcia’s High Court ruled that the ASSA plant must clean up its act!

ELAW partner Gines Ruiz, wrote: “This is a final ruling, which acknowledges the violation of fundamental rights through air pollution and noise . . . I’m thrilled!”

Gines is an attorney with AJA (Association for Environmental Justice), based in Murcia, in a fertile agricultural region on the Segura River known for oranges, lemons, and vineyards.

ELAW scientists worked with Gines to design air quality tests for benzene and other carcinogenic VOCs in the vicinity of the plant. Meche Lu, ELAW Environmental Research Scientist, prepared reports and an affidavit about the health impacts for local communities.

Congratulations to Gines and everyone at AJA for persevering and winning!



Award Winning Partners



Ritwick Dutta, India

Ritwick Dutta received a “Greenies” eco award from NDTV-Toyota in recognition of his environmental leadership and skill finding innovative solutions to environmental challenges. President Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented a cash prize and Greenies trophy and said: “These awards are recognition of the environmental consciousness shown by individuals, institutions, organizations and businesses. I want to congratulate all the award winners which include legendary figures who are working with deep commitment to follow green ethics.” ELAW has collaborated with Ritwick since 2003.



Calvin Sandborn, Canada

The Victoria City Council awarded Calvin Sandborn “Honorary Citizen” in recognition of his contributions, with the University of Victoria Environmental Law Clinic, to Victoria and the Capital Region. The Mayor of Victoria presented the award on December 16, 2010, citing the Clinic’s role in protecting 2,350 hectares of ocean front, canyon and forests near Victoria; reforming regional storm water management; advocacy on numerous other environmental issues; and its mission of training Canada’s next generation of public interest lawyers. Calvin is ELC’s Legal Director. ELAW has collaborated with Calvin since 2007.



Wang Canfa, China

China Central Television awarded Wang Canfa “Hero of the Rule of Law,” recognizing his work over the last ten years. This work includes drafting China’s Clean Water Act and China’s Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Law. Canfa is Director of the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV) and a law professor at China University of Political Science and Law. CLAPV provides free legal consultation and has helped more than 100 environmental pollution victims bring their cases to court. ELAW has collaborated with Canfa since 2007.

ARGENTINA
 BANGLADESH
 BRAZIL
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 BOLIVIA
 CAMEROON
 CHINA
 CHILE
 COLOMBIA
 COSTA RICA
 CZECH REPUBLIC
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
 ECUADOR
 ESTONIA
 GEORGIA
 GERMANY
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 HAITI
 HONDURAS
 HUNGARY
 INDIA
 INDONESIA
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 POLAND
 RUSSIA
 SLOVAK REPUBLIC
 SOUTH AFRICA
 SWAZILAND
 SRI LANKA
 TANZANIA
 THAILAND
 UGANDA
 UNITED KINGDOM
 UKRAINE
 URUGUAY
 ZAMBIA
 ZIMBABWE

ELAW Fellowship Program:

ELAW Fellows come to Eugene, Oregon, to gain skills that will help them protect communities and prevent environmental abuses. These visitors bring valuable, diverse perspectives. ELAW has hosted more than 150 environmental professionals from 50 countries around the world. ELAW Fellows are law students, young lawyers, experienced lawyers, and other professionals who help the world's most disadvantaged communities protect the environment through law.

ELAW tailors each Fellowship so that the Fellow can work with attorneys and scientists on their priority projects and be more effective when they return home.

ELAW Fellows have gone on to do outstanding work and become respected leaders. Four ELAW Fellows later won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, including 2009 Goldman Prize winner Rizwana Hasan from Bangladesh.



Fellowships can include:

- One-on-one work with ELAW staff lawyers, scientists, and development professionals
- Collaboration with organizations working on similar issues in the Pacific Northwest
- Meeting with government agencies and attending court sessions and public hearings
- Intensive English study at the University of Oregon's American English Institute
- Participating in environmental law and other classes at the University of Oregon
- Public presentations and press interviews

"My visit to ELAW was a very positive experience. I took advantage of the opportunity to meet lawyers, judges, NGO leaders and law professors, and to reach a higher language proficiency level and to learn how to launch a public interest environmental clinic. When I return to China, I will accelerate the development of our existing legal clinic and incorporate environmental law into it; establish a website, and hold a conference for training environmental lawyers."

Cai Cianfeng, China



"One does not need to be told why you need to protect the environment, in May, here in Eugene. Nature says it all! You must see it yourself! Whenever you are in touch with the ELAW-US people you will not miss home. They are ready to help you with phone cards, umbrellas, car rides, cinemas, shopping, laws, computers, cases and what not. It has been wonderful being with them – it truly is a resource bank – valuwes, intellectually and humanly. I loved being here and look forward to pay back or pay it forward!!!"

Rizwana Hasan, Bangladesh

Strengthening leadership around the globe



"My stay at ELAW was a huge learning experience. It created opportunities to acquire technical and critical thinking skills needed to face growing environmental challenges across the world. I leave with a memory treasured for life."

Francis Colee, Liberia

"We help promising grassroots leaders make real strides at home while sharing lessons learned with the international ELAW network."

Laurie Prosser, ELAW Supporter

For more information about how you can support the ELAW Fellowship Program, please contact our Donor Liaison,

Michele Kuhnle,
541-687-8454 ext. 14
or michele@elaw.org

We need your help!

Many promising environmental advocates want ELAW Fellowships. We have 20 potential ELAW Fellows for 2011, but have only secured funding for a small number of them. We need more resources to bring these advocates here. Some prospective ELAW Fellows include:



Maria-Goreti Waiqalicaki is a lawyer working with the newly formed Environmental Law Association of Fiji. Currently, the Association is working closely with communities to educate citizens about their right to participate in decisions about the environment. Fiji is an island archipelago with a growing population and Maria has been working to protect the environment by improving waste management.



Montana Daungprapa is a lawyer working with the group EnLAW to assist communities affected by environmental pollution in Thailand. She works to ensure that plans to build power plants and industrial complexes do not harm rural areas and agricultural lands. She has helped establish a Pollution Control Area surrounding the largest industrial complex in Rayong.

With more resources from ELAW supporters, we can host more Fellows and help them protect communities and wild lands around the world. A one-time gift will help us today, or you can sign up to make a monthly donation. Some supporters may choose to sponsor a named Fellowship.

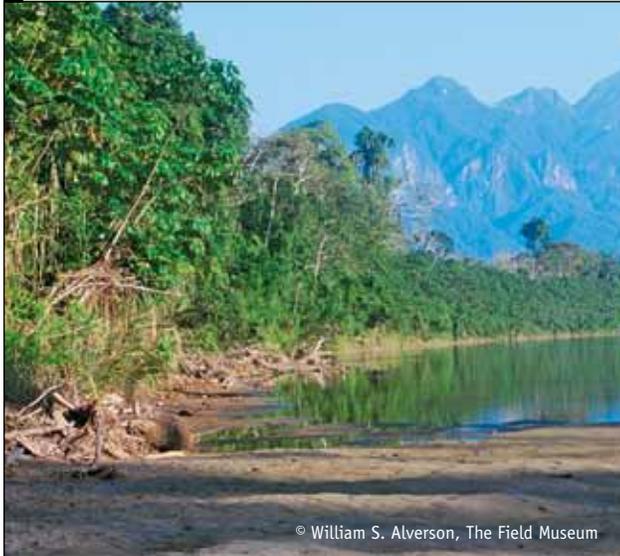
When thinking about ways to help ELAW achieve lasting progress, Laurie Prosser and Xiaoli Jiang embraced the ELAW Fellowship Program. Laurie says: "We help promising grassroots leaders make real strides at home while sharing lessons learned with the international ELAW network." Each year, the Laurie Prosser and Xiaoli Jiang Fellowship brings a lawyer, activist, or student to Eugene to gain critical skills and resources. These Fellows return home equipped to make a lasting, positive difference for the environment.

We thank Laurie and Xiaoli for their generous support. We hope that you too will consider making a contribution to this high impact program.

Oil Development (CONTINUED)

“The aim is to help communities protect waterways, rainforests, and ancient ways of life, before it’s too late.”

Meche Lu
ELAW Environmental
Research Scientist



© William S. Alverson, The Field Museum

Cordillera Azul National Park includes pristine tropical forests with dramatic rock escarpments, mountain ridges, lowland valleys, high-altitude lakes, and marshlands. The Peruvian Amazon is the world’s second largest tropical forest, next to the Brazilian rainforest.

Meche traveled to Pucallpa last year to participate in workshops with indigenous leaders. She also reviewed environmental impact assessments for proposed oil projects and environmental quality reports from ongoing oil exploration.

“Workshop participants are now the eyes and the ears of their communities,” says María del Rosario Sevillano, a lawyer with DAR’s indigenous rights program. “They look out for oil spills and health problems in their own communities.”

Felix Roja Silvano, head of ORAU, is worried about the prospect of oil development in the region. “Working with DAR and ELAW this past two years has helped native communities understand what’s going on and their rights to respond. In the coming year we will put a monitoring program in place to protect human rights and the environment of this region.”

Paralegal training for members of indigenous communities in Ecuador has shown promise in preventing environmental abuse from multinational oil companies. Silvana Rivandiera from ECOLEX

in Ecuador traveled to Pucallpa last year to meet with ORAU and share lessons learned training paralegals from indigenous communities in the Ecuadorean Amazon. A representative from ORAU will travel to Ecuador in February to visit communities and see the paralegal program first hand.

Many thanks to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for making this work possible.

Flaviano Bianchini and staff from DAR: (left to right) María del Rosario Sevillano Arevalo, Flaviano Bianchini, Heidy Flores Pacheco, Asunta Santillan Batra, Irene Ramos Urrutia.

Big Oil on the Move

The oil industry is looking under every rock and reef for more gas and petroleum. National parks, UN World Heritage sites, pristine forests, coral reefs . . . everything is on the table. ELAW is working with grassroots leaders around the world to help communities speak out about oil development at home. A few examples of this work:

Uganda & Ghana: U.K.-based Tullow oil is prospecting for oil in Uganda’s Queen Elizabeth National Park and has struck oil off Ghana’s coast.

Peru: The Government of Peru has awarded oil concessions covering most of the Peruvian Amazon.

Belize: Oil exploration is proposed for Sarstoon Temash National Park.

Nicaragua: Oil companies see this nation as “high-risk high-reward” for oil development.

Philippines: Pitkin Petroleum is exploring for oil off Mindoro.

Bangladesh: Oil prospecting is proposed for a protected area.

Trinidad & Tobago: Oil exploration is approved for offshore Tobago.

Israel: Newly discovered gas and oil deposits have been found in the Mediterranean.



Inside ELAW



Colleagues working together across borders in a virtual world need to come together periodically to work face-to-face. ELAW Annual Meetings provide an opportunity for ELAW advocates to build the bonds that make the ELAW network strong. Distant colleagues become trusted friends as environmental leaders share lessons with colleagues from around the world and collaborate on new strategies.

The 2010 ELAW Annual Meeting in Costa Rica was a tremendous success, bringing together more than 60 leaders from 28 countries. Eager to make the

most of their time together, ELAW partners worked long days and late into the nights. Participants included environmental professionals from Asia, Africa, North America, Latin America, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

Ocean Foundation President Mark Spalding participated in Costa Rica 2010 and gave ELAW partners good advice about building sustainable organizations. Many thanks to the Seattle International Foundation and the C.S. Mott Foundation for supporting this inspired gathering of the world's leading grassroots defenders.



Welcome Michele

ELAW welcomes Michele Kuhnle, our new Donor Liaison. Michele graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A. in Critical Social Thought, a self-designed interdisciplinary major that allowed her to combine courses in environmental studies, politics, and economics. Prior to joining the ELAW team, Michele worked with the Western Environmental Law Center in Eugene.

2010 ELAW Volunteers

ELAW Volunteers come from all walks of life. They include law students, local community members, legal professionals, and scientific experts. They all share an interest in protecting our air, water, and soil for generations to come. In 2010 our volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours of services. Many thanks to the following volunteers:

Jake Abrahams, Licia Aldana, Casey Billings, Erika Bisocchi, Kate Blackstone, JJ Bondurant, Leigh Brissenden, Jesse Byers, Andrea Chen, Chu (Cassie) Chen, Lacy Clark, Natasha Compton, Joey Corcoran, Taylor Coronel, Bret Cypel, Giulia D'Agostino, Fangdian (Dian) Du, Natalie Elliott, Alex Epperly,

Nate Garrett, Kelsey Gerry, Casey Gifford, Taylor Harrington, James Heun-Weaver, Laura Hofer, Nicole Hsieh, Ed Jewell, Harper Johnson, Tatum Johnson, Chloe Jones, Laura Knopp, Jeannette Kranick, Melanie LaDuca, Phoebe Moriarty Lev, Sarah Libby, Xiaochen Liu, Addie Maguire, Melissa McGlensey, Tad Merrell, Earvin Narvasa, Victor Palma, Vittal Patel, Apurva Pawashe, Shali Peng, Bethany Peshek, Popo Pi, Jessica Picucci, Sherwood Reese, Katie Robinson, Amanda Ryan, Noelle Said, Rita Santibanez, Danny Schotz, Annie Sept, Rebecca Sher, Lindsay Short, Ian Steele, Nick Sugai, Sarah Sultani, Laura Syron, Siqi Tian, Annie Thompson, Stephanie Wonsor, and Analesa Zimmerman.



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Fernando Ochoa, a prospective ELAW Fellow, lives and works in Ensenada, Mexico. His organization protects critical whale habitat from tourism development schemes and other abuses.

Fernando is eager to travel to Eugene for an ELAW Fellowship: “I could work side by side with ELAW staff lawyers and scientists to analyze environmental impact assessments for projects proposed for the Gulf of California and the Baja California Peninsula. I could also explore how international law might advance work we are doing locally to protect our coastlines.”

ELAW seeks support to bring Fernando Ochoa and other promising environmental advocates to Eugene for ELAW Fellowships.

Will you help?

See pages 4 and 5 for more information.

Fernand Ochoa
Executive Director
Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste

THINK GLOBALLY. ACT GLOBALLY.

Please visit www.elaw.org/give to make a secure, online donation.

ELAW invites you to become an **Environmental Hero** by making a donation to ELAW. Please send a check or credit card donation in the enclosed envelope. Or, you can make a charitable gift by gifting a security. Consult with your tax and investment advisors about the amount and types of securities you wish to give and then call ELAW at 541-687-8454.