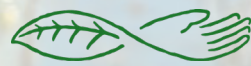


2020 ANNUAL REPORT

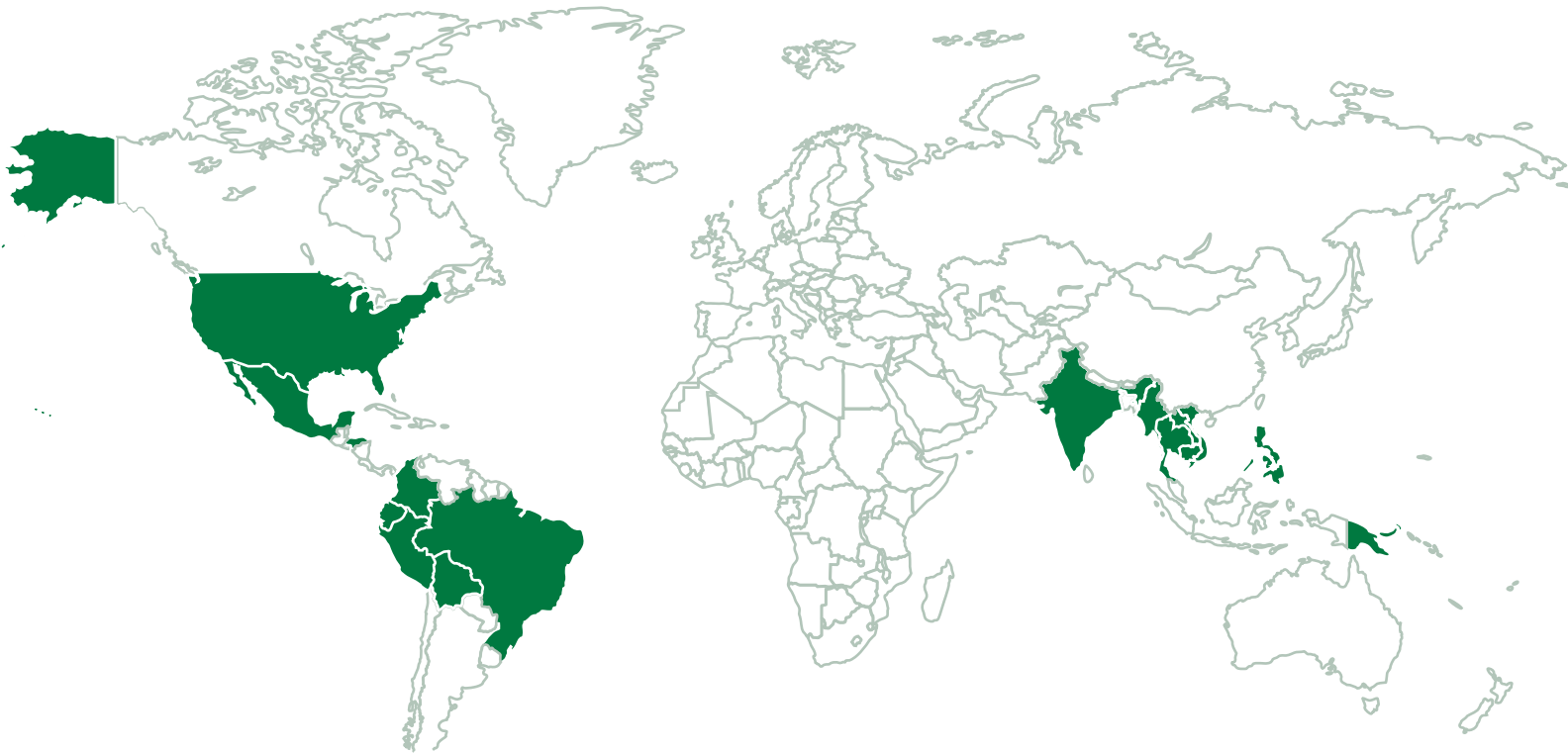


EARTHRIGHTS INTERNATIONAL



EARTHRIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



EarthRights International is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that combines the power of law and the power of people in defense of human rights and the environment, which we define as “earth rights.” We specialize in fact-finding, legal actions against perpetrators of earth rights abuses, training grassroots and community leaders, and advocacy campaigns. Through these strategies, EarthRights seeks to end earth rights abuses, to provide real solutions for real people, and to promote and protect human rights and the environment in the communities where we work.

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A portrait of Ka Hsaw Wa, the Executive Director, smiling. She has long dark hair and is wearing a grey top. The background is a blurred green foliage.

Photo by Jessie Adler

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KA HSAW WA

Dear Friend,

2020 was a year of global challenges unmatched in recent memory. Communities worldwide faced political repression as civic spaces shrunk, wildfires blazed in several countries as the effects of the climate crisis intensified, and civil unrest fomented worldwide—all while a deadly pandemic claimed millions of lives.

But despite all this, communities worldwide, particularly those facing human rights abuses and environmental harms, displayed remarkable resilience, continuing their vital work to protect their communities and our shared natural resources from exploitation while sharing stories of their struggles and triumphs.

For the first time in EarthRights history, we halted our community outreach work and trainings, recalled our teams from the field, and asked everyone to work from home. Soon, emergency decrees popped up in the countries where we work, and borders closed across the world,

severely limiting movement within communities and our engagement with stakeholders.

Even as we temporarily transitioned to telework, EarthRights was proud to move forward in 2020, ensuring that communities are protected and defenders could continue to fight for their rights, all while making progress towards fulfilling the goals outlined in our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. Later in the year, we re-opened the Mitharsuu Center for trainings in Thailand, but this only lasted a few months before a new wave of COVID-19 hit.

Our attorneys took corporate accountability and climate justice cases to virtual courtrooms. Our Training teams adapted lesson plans for online courses. Our storytellers amplified the voices of those who experienced even greater threats during the pandemic. Finally, our campaigners fought to prevent corporate and government actors from using the pandemic as an excuse to further crackdown on earth rights defenders, even as some governments swiftly acted to restrict civil liberties.

If 2020 taught us anything, it's that we can and will forge ahead. Like the communities with whom we proudly partner, who inspire us every day, EarthRights is highly resilient. We remain unwavering in our conviction that through leveraging the power of law and the power of people, we can challenge corporate and government abuse, help communities fight for their lives and livelihoods, avoid the worst effects of the climate crisis, and secure earth rights for current and future generations.

Whether you've stood by us for years or you've just joined our community, we are grateful to all our donors, partners, staff, board members, and alumni who have supported us throughout these challenges. We could not have done without you. Thank you so much.

In Solidarity,
Ka Hsaw Wa

PROGRAM UPDATES



Photo by Chalefun Ditphudee

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The climate crisis presents one of the greatest global threats to human rights the world has ever faced, and communities worldwide are already experiencing significant repercussions. Fossil fuel corporations are disproportionately contributing to the climate crisis. EarthRights is working to ensure that fossil fuel companies and governments respect frontline communities' rights and are held accountable for climate-related damages inflicted upon them.

LATIN AMERICA

- In Peru, EarthRights led efforts to present a lawsuit against the oil company Geopark on behalf of the Wampís Nation, a community from the Amazon rainforest. This legal action was part of a broader campaign led by allies to pressure Geopark to withdraw its bid, which resulted in a victory for the Wampís when the oil company agreed to abandon its plans to drill in the area.
- EarthRights also supported the territorial defense efforts of Colombia's U'wa people before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Their case aims to strengthen the U'wa's ability to protect their lands from extractive development. In a victory for the U'wa, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights sent the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in October after finding the State of Colombia responsible for violating the U'wa's rights to collective property, culture, freedom of thought and expression, participation in government, fair trial, and judicial protection as enshrined in the American Convention on Human Rights.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- In Tigyit, Myanmar, we supported communities, civil society organizations, and members of the Parliament to halt the permitting renewal process for a coal-fired power plant. We also launched a cost analysis to assess the impact of coal mining on local communities. The report identified many serious financial flaws and raised questions about how future coal projects will affect the country economically. The information provided in this analysis will support communities in their campaigns to advocate against this harmful development.
- In Chiang Mai, Thailand, we joined over 500 concerned community members for a public panel and forest ordination at the proposed site of the Omkoi coal mine in February. Community members, activists, academics, and partners discussed the effects of mining and community legal rights under Thai law. Through EarthRights' and partners' training and technical support, communities now have a better understanding of mining laws, the Environmental Impact Assessment process, rights to information and participation, and how to collect natural resource and community data to dispute Environmental Impact Assessments.
- The Omkoi community demonstrated its strengthened capacity when members presented results of their natural resources mapping to approximately 80 members of their community, along with representatives from civil society organizations, non-government organizations, academia, the media, and other civil society actors in a seminar held at the Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at Chiang Mai University in December.
- Our Mekong team concluded 2020 by kicking off its first in-person training since the beginning of the pandemic. In December, the team convened campaigners, community leaders, and activists from across Thailand at the Mitharsuu Center for Leadership and Justice for a four-week training session on the effects of climate change on frontline communities while exploring sustainable solutions to energy needs.
- We then joined over 50 community leaders, activists, lawyers, and supporters from Thailand to find the best ways to support community-led campaigns and engage in joint advocacy for inclusive and sustainable energy planning in Thailand and worldwide. Together, we discussed how to use the law to influence policies on fossil fuels and the climate crisis. We were joined by representatives from the Swedish International Development Agency, the Center for Protection and Revival of Community Rights, and the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights.



UNITED STATES

- EarthRights earned a significant victory with a decision in our case *Boulder v. Suncor*, which seeks to hold Exxon and Suncor accountable for climate-related damages to three communities in Colorado. We won our argument for the case to be tried in a local, rather than federal, court. This was the first time that a climate litigation case proceeded to a hearing on the merits in state court. While legal developments in federal courts on other climate litigation cases are expected to affect this case, we look forward to seeking justice for these three communities.
- In November, EarthRights joined with partners to support and amplify a climate sanctions bill introduced by Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass) and a companion bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas) and Rep. Nydia M. Valazquez (D-New York). The Targeting Environmental and Climate Recklessness Act would allow the U.S. government to impose sanctions on companies and individuals that recklessly harm the climate.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Around the world, corporations are gaining power—at the expense of people and the planet. Corporate power has seized substantial control of governments in many countries, severely limiting the voices of those whose interests might diverge from those of the elites. EarthRights works alongside communities to use their power and the power of the law to end abusive policies and practices that threaten human dignity and natural resources. When corporations, governments, and financial institutions get a blank check to violate human and environmental rights, we all pay the price. EarthRights and our partners are actively working to put an end to corporate abuse.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- In Myanmar, EarthRights won a landmark victory with the Dawei Probono Lawyers Network against a mining company whose practices severely damaged a betel nut farm. This was the first time that a company in Myanmar had been forced to pay compensation to a community due to development-related harms. The mining company appealed the decision, and a regional court once again sided with the community.
- Also in Myanmar, EarthRights supported over 20 farmers and their lawyers in filing a request for an appeal at the Myanmar Supreme Court after they were convicted of criminal trespass for defending their land rights simply for continuing to cultivate the land they had farmed for generations. EarthRights will continue supporting these farmers and their lawyers as their legal case evolves.
- Our Myanmar legal team was also busy in 2020, supporting communities harmed by land grabs. Farmers around the Thilawa Special Economic Zone fought to maintain control of their farmland or obtain fair compensation for lost agricultural land and livelihoods after a military-owned company fenced off

their land. Our legal team supported 11 farmers after the company filed criminal charges in June 2020 against them for continuing to farm their lands. The complaint was dropped in August.

- EarthRights supported local lawyers representing farmers in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady region evicted from their land by the Myanmar Bamboo Loves Association. The company's owner has long-standing connections with former military generals. After farmers staged a "plough protest" by planting their land with rice, the owner and his associates filed multiple trespass and criminal defamation complaints. Dozens of farmers

are on trial, and others have been convicted and are appealing. Lawyers from EarthRights shared trial experience and best practices with the community's legal team.

- In August, a civil court in Thailand ruled that 700 Cambodian families can move ahead with their class-action lawsuit against Thai sugar giant Mitr Phol, which forcibly displaced them from their lands. The communities are represented by Sor.Rattanamane Polkla who is the founder of the Community Resource Centre Foundation and the Chair of our Mekong Legal Network.

UNITED STATES

- In Washington, D.C., our landmark case, *Jam v. IFC*, moved forward in federal court, bolstered by 2019's Supreme Court decision that the IFC—the private lending arm of the World Bank group—can be held legally responsible for damage inflicted on a fishing community in India by a coal-fired power plant it funded. But in August, a federal court disagreed with the U.S. Supreme Court. EarthRights and our clients appealed this claim.
- EarthRights lawyers supported a second U.S. Supreme Court case in the Fall of 2020, submitting an amicus brief on behalf of allies who brought a lawsuit against Nestlé and Cargill for their role in allegedly supporting child slave labor on cocoa plantations in West Africa. The case was heard in December, and in June of this year, the court issued a decision favoring Nestlé and Cargill. This legal work was bolstered by our Cancel Corporate Abuse campaign, which is calling on the U.S. Congress to stop corporate human rights abuses in light of the Supreme Court's inaction.

Photo by Kate Fried



EARTH RIGHTS DEFENDERS

As democratic norms retreat and corrupt corporate interests become increasingly dominant, global civic space is shrinking worldwide. An earth rights defender is someone who, individually or collectively, promotes human and environmental rights — “earth rights.” These include our right to food and clean water and our right to a healthy and safe environment. Threats against earth rights defenders come in many forms, but they are often driven by corporations and financial institutions seeking to control land and natural resources. EarthRights works with frontline communities, providing legal defense to earth rights defenders who have been criminalized, physically attacked, abused, or otherwise prevented from protecting their communities. Through the global school also trains frontline leaders defend human rights and the environment.

LATIN AMERICA

- EarthRights worked around the clock in 2020 to ensure the safety of earth rights defenders and to amplify their personal stories during the COVID-19 pandemic. We featured the experience of Yoni, a defender from Honduras, who faced a new set of security threats due to the pandemic, and we called on the governments of Honduras, Colombia, and Peru to adopt all measures necessary to guarantee the human rights of defenders, social leaders, and communities in the Amazon and worldwide.
- Our lawyers in the Amazon region helped the legal defense team representing nineteen defenders from the Cotabambas region criminalized for speaking out against the Las Bambas mine in Peru. EarthRights presented critical information outlining how Peru’s private security agreements between the police and extractive companies are unconstitutional. The defenders were absolved of all charges.
- In July, EarthRights convened an online panel discussion to unveil our report on the criminalization of earth rights defenders in Peru. Michael Forst, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, was a featured speaker. He was joined by defenders from Peru, Colombia, Chile, and the Mekong region who discussed how criminalization works and to highlight the challenges and threats defenders face worldwide. EarthRights and our partners are now using the report for advocacy.
- A second EarthRights case, this one supporting Bolivia’s Isiboro Sécure National Park and Indigenous Territory Indigenous peoples (TIPNIS) in Bolivia, was also accepted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Some sixty-four Indigenous communities denounced the Bolivian state for violating their territorial rights in connection with the development of a highway that crosses the heart of TIPNIS territory.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Recognizing the increasing risks faced by EarthRights Defenders in the Mekong, EarthRights has been developing resources for defenders to help minimize security risks and respond appropriately to threats and emergencies. We developed a manual, *Criminalization and Judicial Harassment of Earth Rights Defenders in Cambodia*, for earth rights defenders, civil society organizations, and legal advocates. It explores how defenders are criminalized and harassed, and provides practical information for them to recognize, plan, and prepare themselves, their communities, or their organizations against threats.
- The Mekong team developed a toolkit for trainers to enhance the understanding and capacity of individuals, communities, and organizations defending land and environmental rights in the Mekong region. It features content on security strategies, risk assessments, digital security, criminalization, judicial harassment, physical security, wellbeing, and sustainable activism. The toolkit is available in print and digital versions and features action-oriented tools and exercises.
- The EarthRights School also revised its curriculum with new lessons on security, wellbeing, gender, climate justice, and land rights. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time in the school's history, EarthRights called for applications, ran interviews, and recruited students online. While the 2020 school had to be postponed as the pandemic continued, we conducted online sessions to engage and network students and to build their capacity on physical and digital security, English language, and human and environmental rights. We are planning a five-and-a-half-month school session in 2021. EarthRights is also developing our first virtual courses to increase the accessibility of our training materials and to reach new audiences.

UNITED STATES

- EarthRights Senior Attorney Marissa Vahlsing was a featured speaker at two screenings of Claudia Sparrow's documentary film *Maxima*, about defender and EarthRights client Máxima Acuña-Atalaya. Marissa spoke at the 2020 Oslo Film Festival and the Human Rights Watch film festival, sharing Máxima's story with new audiences.



Photo by Chalefun Ditphudee

A photograph of Paul Sein Twa, a man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a red traditional Karen garment with white trim. He is standing in a lush forest, leaning against a moss-covered tree trunk. The background is filled with green foliage and tree branches.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Photo Credit: Goldman Environmental Prize

PAUL SEIN TWA AND THE SALWEEN PEACE PARK

In December, Paul Sein Twa joined the ranks of defenders to receive the prestigious Goldman Environmental Award. Paul is co-founder of the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), a community-based, non-governmental, non-profit organization that protects the rights of Indigenous people in the Karen State of Myanmar. Paul and his team of community leaders have been invaluable allies to EarthRights—sharing our vision of lifting up the voices of land defenders in Myanmar.

In the wake of February's military coup, KESAN's contributions to the earth rights movement are more valuable than ever. Indigenous communities in Myanmar, particularly the Karen people, have long faced persecution and environmental injustice. These days, logging, mining, agribusiness,

dams, and rubber extraction are on the rise in Myanmar. In 1998, the Burmese government proposed the \$2.6 billion, 1,360-megawatt Hatgyi dam (a project EarthRights has mobilized communities to resist) in the southern Salween basin—the heart of Karen territory.

As human and environmental rights fall increasingly under attack, Paul and KESAN have been instrumental in uplifting frontline community voices and protecting earth rights for all in Myanmar. A native of Mutraw, Paul has spent more than two decades supporting communities and their visions for a peaceful life in harmony with nature.

Two years ago, Paul and KESAN mobilized to establish a 1.35 million-acre peace park in the Salween River

basin. Situated on land roughly the same size as Delaware, the park is a major victory for the Karen people and represents a unique approach to community-based conversation.

Peace parks—also known as transboundary protected areas—seek to preserve zones of biodiversity and cultural heritage using conservation to promote peacebuilding. The park had originally been the idea of Paul's lifelong friend, Saw O Moo, who was tragically killed by government troops in 2018. Following Saw O Moo's death, Paul knew he had to make his friend's vision a reality.

Paul and KESAN worked with Karen civil society and the local government to mobilize Karen community support, holding public consultations, seminars, and educational meetings with 348

villages representing some 68,000 people. He worked with government agencies to replace colonial forestry principles with traditional practices, documenting the area's vast biodiversity along the way.

The park was officially created in December of 2018. It is managed by the local Karen communities and includes community forests and wildlife sanctuaries designed to protect the area's endangered species—tigers, Sunda pangolins, black and sun bears, gaur, and hoolock gibbons—from extractive industries and development projects. It also protects plants that local communities use for medicinal purposes. In an effort to stop destructive megaprojects and counteract the climate crisis, the borders of the park were drawn to include several proposed dam sites—including the Hatgyi dam.

But now, the future of the park and all it stands for are under threat. Following February's military coup, the Burmese military dictatorship began launching deadly airstrikes on Day Bu Noh and surrounding villages in the heart of the Salween Peace Park. The military carried out aerial bombing attacks, killing 19 people and injuring at least 27 more. Homes were destroyed and buildings were damaged. More than 3,000 Karen peoples attempted to flee across the border into Thailand, while at least 20,000 villagers remain internally displaced in the Salween Peace Park, hiding for their lives in the mountain forests.

Despite these threats, peace park community leaders are doing their best to continue their stewardship activities. From the 2nd General Assembly in late 2020, the people's representatives asked the General

Assembly to expand the peace park boundary to include more community territories.

For the local communities, the Salween Peace Park is not just a conservation project—it is an example of the vital role that Indigenous communities and ethnic minority groups play in promoting global sustainability and ending conflict. It offers a way to build true peace, reconciliation, and a shared future, a vision that is now tragically undermined by the violence and political instability in the region.

Photo Credit: Goldman Environmental Prize





Photo by Pablo Lasansky

WAMPIS NATION

In 2016, the Peruvian government approved the oil and gas company, GeoPark, to extract crude oil in the heart of the Peruvian region of the Amazon rainforest, which is known as the lungs of the world.

The proposed oil lot was located just outside the Indigenous territory of the Wampís Nation. For the Wampís, their territory, or Iña Wampísti Nunkeis, is a sacred space. Unfortunately, defending their land from extractive oil and mining corporations, and the ever-threatening responses of the Peruvian government, is not new for them.

Just ten months earlier, Peru's state-owned pipeline burst, spilling 3,000 barrels of oil into the Chiriaco river, near the Wampís' territory. People became sick, fish were poisoned, and the oil leaked into their land and killed their crops.

The Wampís Nation partnered with EarthRights to resist GeoPark's proposed plan. Together, we enacted EarthRights' strategy of combining "the power of the law and the power of the people." We represented them in legal cases, built communication and

advocacy tactics, and followed their lead on strategic campaigns to protect their land from destruction.

In 2018, the Wampís Nation became the first Indigenous group in Peru to be accepted as an interested third-party in the process of approving an Environmental Impact Study—a precedent-setting win for Indigenous groups worldwide.

Shapion Noningo, the Technical Secretary of the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampís Nation pointed out, "they [oil companies] have been exploiting oil in Indigenous territories for more than 40 years, violating the rights of Indigenous peoples, damaging the environment, and we are the historical protectors of the environment."

After challenging the Environmental Impact Study and disseminating information on the risk of construction during the COVID-19 pandemic, GeoPark halted the construction of the oil lot. In July 2020, Geopark officially announced plans to withdraw irrevocably from the area and the Wampís Nation declared victory.

But the fight is not over. The lot is still at risk of exploitation by other oil companies. We remain committed and vigilant to defend and recognize the rights of the Wampís Nation.

The Wampís Nation is just one Indigenous group that stands between corrupt oil and gas corporations and their profit from extraction. To force a massive shift away from fossil fuels, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we need to support and follow the lead of Indigenous people—like the forest defenders of the Wampís Nation, who summed it up best:

"We will be vigilant, rejecting everything that the State wants to do to implement this activity, we will disagree against any agreement that wants to implement Block 64 [the oil lot], why? Because we are defending this territory, which is not only for us but for the world."

-Wrays Pérez, President of the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampís Nation.



BOARD PROFILE

JASPER TEULINGS, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC LITIGATION, CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION

Jasper Teulings knows that climate change potentially overshadows all other threats to humans, and he believes that litigation can play a powerful role in addressing it. In fact, Jasper has spent over 27 years litigating on behalf of journalists, storytellers, and activists with an increasing focus on environmental issues. After spending a decade representing journalists in private practice and over 17 years developing strategic litigation as the General Counsel for Greenpeace International, Jasper is now Director of Strategic Litigation for climate programs for the Children's Investment Fund Foundation. He also sees that court systems have a key—and growing—role to play in holding governments and corporations accountable for climate damages. His passion for environmental and human rights, and using litigation to fight for these rights, led him to serve as a Board Member for EarthRights.

"I [was] struck by EarthRights' innovative approaches in holding big corporations

accountable for human rights violations committed in the Global South," says Jasper. "This innovative approach is now being used in the context of climate change, where oil companies are now being compelled by courts to become aligned with the Paris Climate Accord. In order for that to happen successfully, the environmental movement needs to collaborate with the human rights movement – a synergetic approach that EarthRights spearheaded."

Jasper brings unparalleled litigation and legal experience to the Board, providing expert advice to EarthRights' legal teams around the world. Jasper's services on the Board have also led to strong collaborations with others in the environmental and human rights field, not just on climate litigation and corporate accountability, but also on defending activism and activists. According to Jasper, "EarthRights' support for the Protect the Protest platform, for instance, has been instrumental in boosting the resilience among activist groups against corporate bullying."

But it's not just litigation that impresses Jasper. He sees the work in the Mekong region, building a generation of activists who can fight for their communities against harmful development projects, as "truly visionary."

"But their work, over many, many years, at the Mitharsuu Center for Leadership and Justice, training up activists and lawyers in the EarthRights School is dearest to my heart. It has empowered countless communities impacted by environmental destruction to take action and seek justice. This is perhaps EarthRights' biggest legacy," he said.

EarthRights is so grateful for the leadership, expertise, and trust Jasper brings to our Board. We're proud to be fighting for climate justice together.

REPORTS

EarthRights developed and published a number of research reports in 2020 that bring new details and light to the challenges facing frontline communities experiencing abuse at the hands of corporations, governments, and financial institutions and the intensifying climate crisis. They are available to read on our website, www.earthrights.org.

- [*Cambio Climático y los Derechos de Mujeres, Pueblos Indígenas y Comunidades Rurales en las Américas*](#)
- [*Criminalization of Earth Rights Defenders in Peru: Highlights from the Report*](#) (also available [en Español](#))
- [*Speak Without Fear — U.S. Embassy Report*](#)
- [*White Paper: How The United States Can Lead On Business And Human Rights*](#)

PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2020, EarthRights unveiled our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which presents our vision of a world in which the worst impacts of climate change are averted, earth rights defenders are able to effectively carry out their work, and corporations are held accountable for the harms they cause to communities and the environment. Here are the steps we took in 2020 towards realizing these goals.

GUARANTEEING GENDER JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

EarthRights values diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) while recognizing the need for continual learning and improvement. In 2020, the organization had an external evaluator perform a cultural assessment and make recommendations. This included an internal review to assess the complex dynamics driving our internal culture, including visible and invisible power dynamics. The assessment process led to a series of conversations and listening groups with staff, as well as the formation of a DEI team, composed of staff volunteers across all regions that we work within. Through this process, we are examining barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion—why they exist, and how we can address them in order to align internal culture and practices with our mission and values.

IMPROVING PHYSICAL AND CYBER SECURITY

In some locations and situations, the nature of EarthRights' work can endanger the physical security of our staff, students, and partners. These risks are exacerbated by growing cyber threats from spyware and other technologies that are employed to surveil and threaten activists. In 2020, we conducted an external physical and digital security audit that resulted in actionable recommendations and a security framework that we are implementing in 2021.

MEASURING IMPACT THROUGH MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

At the end of 2020, EarthRights took steps to improve our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) processes. The purpose of our MEL work is to ensure that our activities are aligned across program areas and regions to meet the goals and outcomes outlined in our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. This took place through a series of planning meetings that allowed teams to take stock of activities, successes, challenges, and lessons learned from 2020 and determine clear plans, outcomes, and goals for 2021.

With the data provided by this process, EarthRights will ensure that we're making the most of our internal resources and our global network while developing systems to report our overall impact and better serve communities experiencing the worst consequences of the climate crisis and corporate abuse. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

INCREASING OUR RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVOCACY CAPACITY

In 2020, we initiated several research and advocacy projects aimed at changing the laws and policies that lead to corporate abuse and attacks on environmental defenders. This included a series of baseline studies on poverty and security in countries where we work in Latin America, as well as a study on gaps in U.S. law that allow corporations to commit overseas abuses with impunity. EarthRights partnered with the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED) to examine the track record of governments and companies in respecting the rights of defenders and encourage the uptake of stronger policies.

SECURING OUR FUTURE BY EXCEEDING OUR FUNDRAISING GOALS

The EarthRights Development team took great steps towards ensuring our long-term financial health in 2020. The team closed out the year with grants from nearly 40 different institutional funders and over 1,110 individual donors, a 250 percent increase over 2019. Some highlights from 2020 include securing six new foundation donors and a generous increase in grant size from current funders.

We are proud to deepen our partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency with a five-year renewal of support to our Mekong Regional Program and an additional grant to our global defenders and Amazon Program. This transformational support totals \$6.2 million during the period of the Strategic Plan (2020-2024).

ENSURING EQUITY THROUGH INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND DECISION- MAKING

As EarthRights hires more staff and our global reach expands, the role of internal communications becomes even more important to ensuring that we are meeting the needs of staff and granting equitable access to information. In 2020, we moved towards greater language equity by providing translation for staff meetings, internal documents, and institutional policies. We also continued to integrate an internal communications platform into our workflows in order to keep staff members apprised of key organizational victories and developments.

FINANCIALS

Photo by Chalefun Ditphudee

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenue and Other Support			
Foundation Grants	\$ 275,558	\$ 4,065,159	\$ 4,340,717
Individual Contributions	526,000	5,623,806	6,149,806
Contracts	20,475	-	20,475
Net Investment Income	643,824	33,945	677,769
Other	6,591	-	6,591
Net Assets Released from Restrictions			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	4,062,888	(4,062,888)	-
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$ 5,535,336	\$ 5,660,022	\$ 11,195,358
Expenses			
Program Expenses			
Legal	\$ 2,187,535	\$ -	\$ 2,187,535
Advocacy and Campaigns	660,753	-	660,753
EarthRights Schools	474,723	-	474,723
International Cross-Cutting	681,386	-	681,386
Total Program Expenses	4,004,397	-	4,004,397
Management and General	478,805	-	478,805
Development	426,093	-	426,093
Total Expenses	4,909,295	-	4,909,295
Change in Net Assets	626,041	5,660,022	6,286,063
Net Assets, beginning of year	5,037,344	4,513,562	9,550,906
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 5,663,385	\$ 10,173,584	\$ 15,836,969

DONORS

EarthRights is grateful to the following donors for their generous and sustaining support of our mission and vision. We also thank all donors who give anonymously. We could not do this work without you.

11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family Foundation
American Jewish World Service
Arca Foundation
Bay and Paul Foundations
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Flora Family Foundation
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World Resources Institute
Foundation for International Law and the Environment and Blue Ocean Law
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Trocaire

True Costs Initiative
Underdog Fund
United Nations Environment Programme
Urban Movement Incubator Fund
Wallace Global Fund
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Individuals \$2,000+

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Individuals \$500 - \$1,999

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Gillian Caldwell and Louis Spitzer
Daniela Cammack and David Grewal
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Kevin Dargie
Lynn Dimmick

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