



EARTHRIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

Group 1

Outline

- ▶ General Information about The EarthRights
- ▶ Projects and Achievements
- ▶ Success and Failure Stories
- ▶ Current Situation
- ▶ Similar NGO's Worldwide

General Information about The EarthRights

- ▶ EarthRights International (ERI) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization that combines the **power of law** and the **power of people** in defense of **human rights** and the **environment**.

- ▶ **Human Rights + Environment = EarthRights**

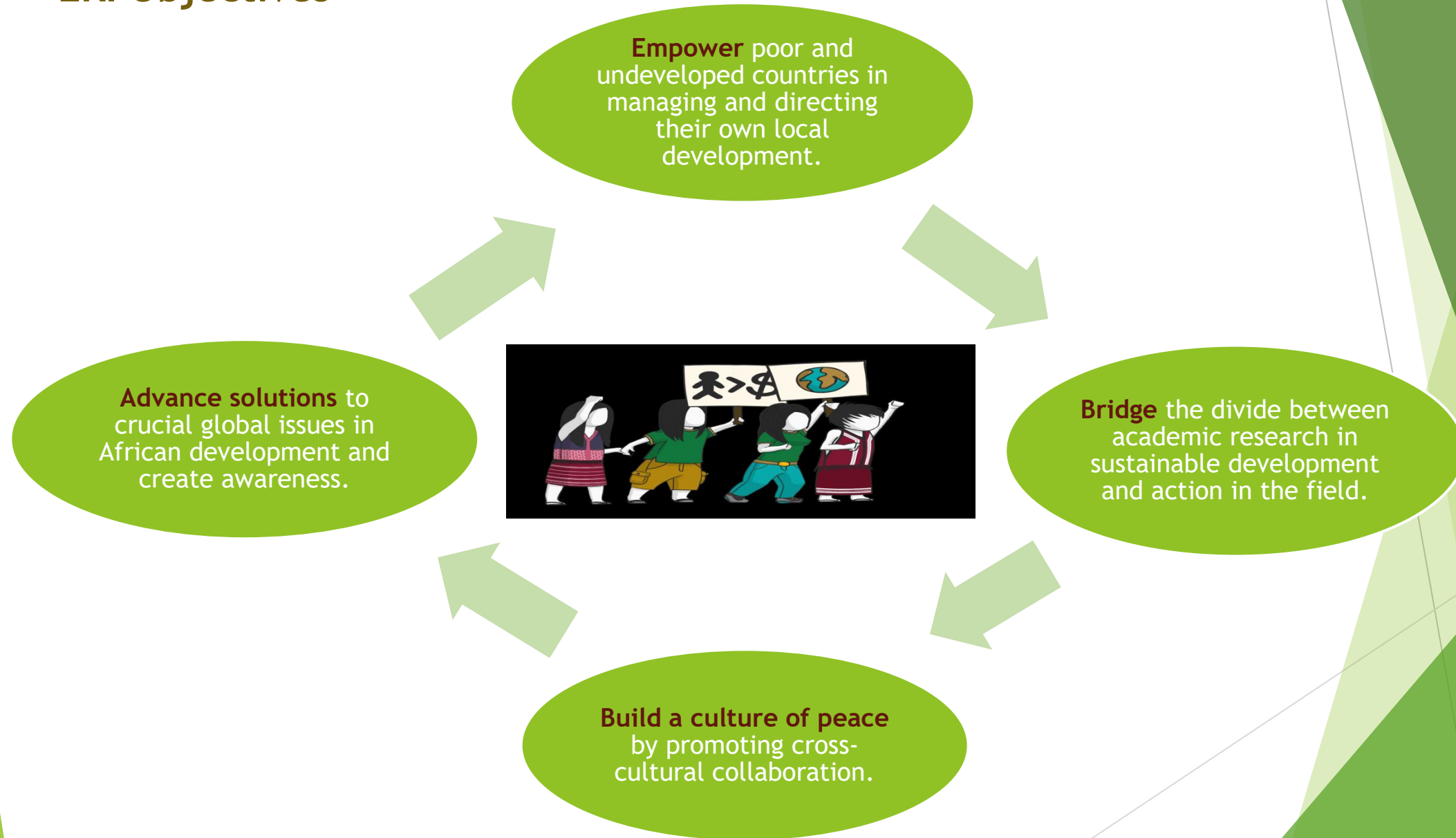
- ▶ ERI **specialize in**;
 - Fact-finding
 - Legal actions against perpetrators of earth right abuses
 - Training grassroots and community leaders
 - Advocacy campaigns

- ▶ ERI was founded by Alanna Hartzok and Annie Goeke in 2002.
- ▶ ERI offices are in Pennsylvania and California and its major partners are in Senegal and Ivory Coast.
- ▶ ERI has created to **take an innovative approach** to education, advocacy and building sustainable communities in the **world's poorest regions**.

- ▶ A model of development → **Re-localization of development**
- ▶ ERI believes that in order to empower communities to **MANAGE** and **DIRECT THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT**, strategies and expert knowledge must be conceived **LOCALLY**.



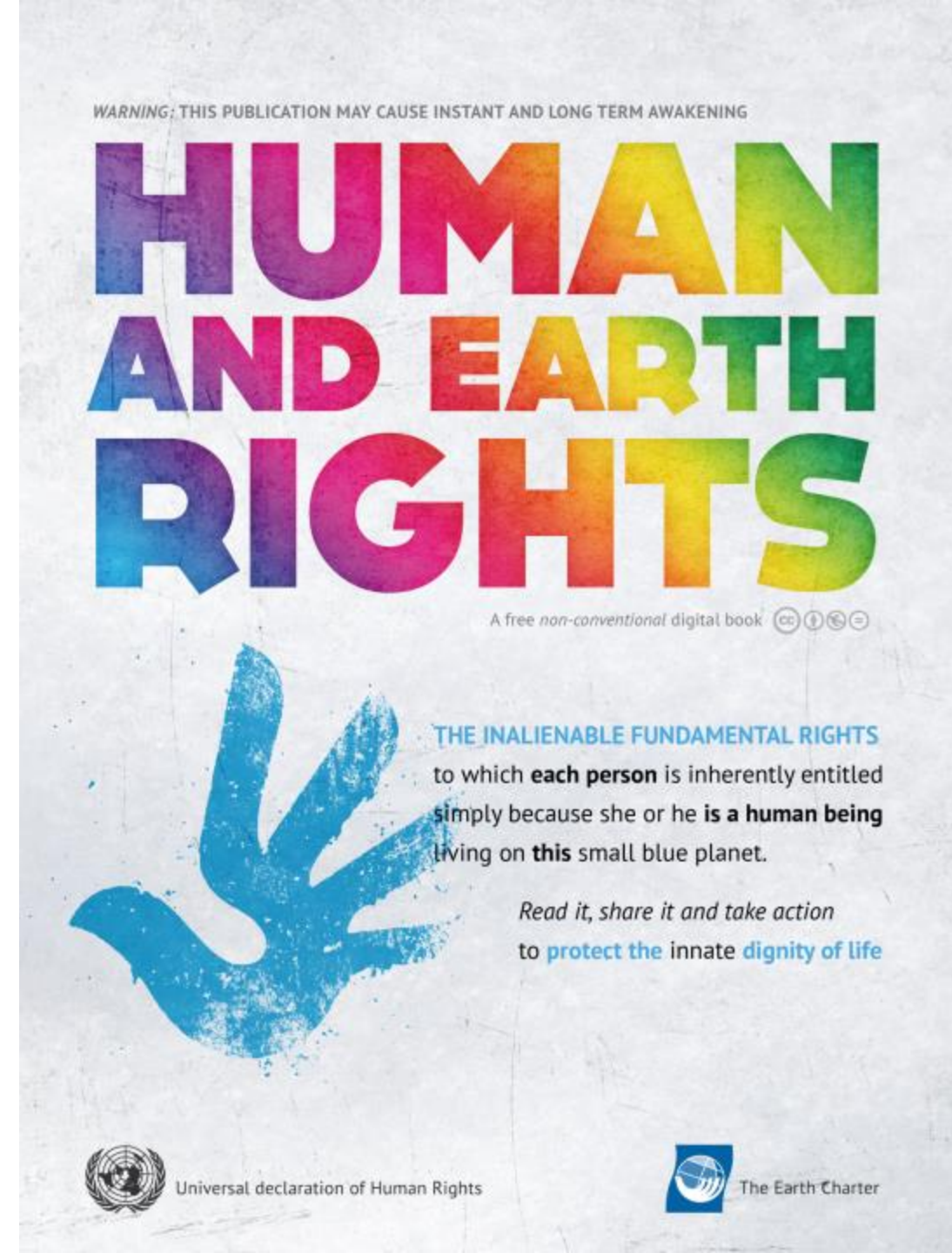
ERI Objectives



Projects and Achievements

Main Projects:

- 1) Accountability & Transparency in the Extractive Industries
- 2) Land Rights and Clean Environments for Vulnerable Communities
- 3) Large Scale Infrastructure Projects
- 4) Corporate Accountability
- 5) Rights and Security of Earth Rights Defenders
- 6) Climate Change & Climate Justice



1) Accountability & Transparency in the Extraxtive Industries

- ▶ ERI defends *fair distribution of revenue* in extraxtive industries such as gas, oil and other non-renewable natural resources.
- ▶ ERI believes that the conuntries that are rich in resources work so much to extract these resoruces by facing *many environmental and human rights violation*, however they see *benefits. few tangible*
- ▶ ERI works for justifying this kind of inequalities by establishing accountability and transparency in extractive industries.
- ▶ ERI takes an approach that includes providing legal advocacy, raising awareness and educating.



American Petroleum Institute vs. SEC: Revenue Transparency Litigation

- ▶ In 2012 American Petroleum Institute(API) sued US Securities and Exchange Commission(SEC) for a transparency law.
- ▶ SEC required a transparency law that requires extractive industries to **report their revenue values transparently** which will **prevent corruptions**.
- ▶ API sued SEC to strike this law down entirely. API members: BP, Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil etc.
- ▶ **ERI supported transparency** with legal advocacy and the campaigns for paying attention to fair distribution of revenues.
- ▶ SEC won the transparency litigation in 2015 and during these 3 years ERI supported the case in the court and in the field.

2) Land Rights and Clean Environments for Vulnerable Communities

- ▶ Under this subject, ERI fights against all kinds of **pollution** and **environmental abuses** especially in vulnerable communities.
- ▶ Powerful countries like US, commonly use undeveloped countries for cheap production, resource extraction, building etc.
- ▶ Developed countries use poor countries' cheap labor force extremely in inhumane conditions and while running their business they damage this vulnerable areas.
- ▶ As an example achievement, ERI has been helping victims of bophal disaster legally and humanely.



3) Large Scale Infrastructure Projects

Preventing environmental damages in large scale infrastructure projects.

4) Corporate Accountability

Every year ERI publish Congressional Report Card on corporate accountability. Purpose is promoting transparency and responsible business practices and holding corporations accountable for their actions.

5) Rights and Security of Earth Rights Defenders

6) Climate Change & Climate Justice

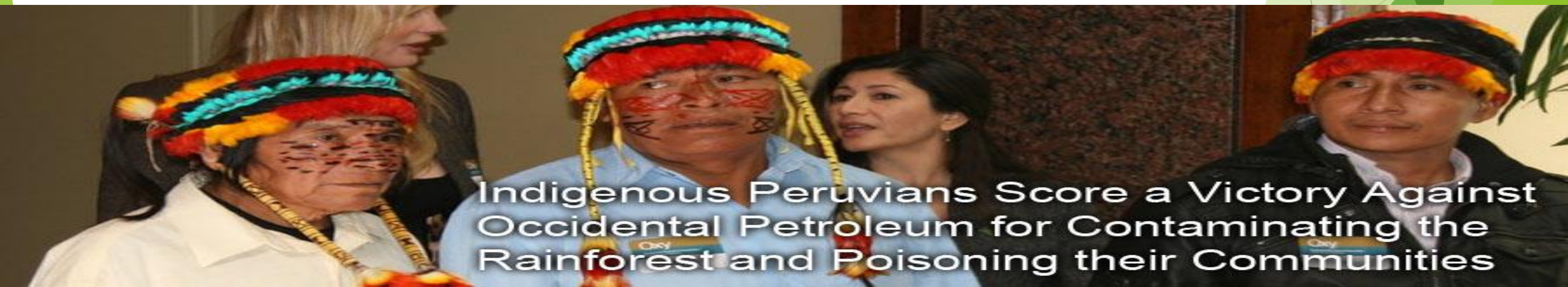
Taking attention and raising awareness to climate change and global warming.

The logo for Earth Rights Institute (ERI) features the letters 'ERI' in a large, white, serif font. The letters are set against a dark green rectangular background. This background is part of a larger graphic on the right side of the slide, which includes abstract, overlapping shapes in various shades of green and brown, suggesting a natural or environmental theme.

Amazon tribe turns oil spills into payday after 7 year legal battle

- ▶ **Occidental Petroleum** which is one of the largest U.S. oil and gas companies
- ▶ caused pollution ➡ premature deaths, birth defects and damaged the habitat in Peru
- ▶ EarthRights International helped the **Peru's Achuar tribe** to sue the company. The suit claimed that several children died from drinking contaminated water from the river
- ▶ Members of the tribe announced they **reached a settlement with the company**, which agreed to pay an unspecified amount for health, education and nutrition projects over the next several years
- ▶ **It is the first time** a company from the United States has been sued in a U.S. court for pollution it caused in another country
- ▶ After, a similar case happened with Pluspetrol company, which is concluded lawsuit against the company and demanding the company to pay compensation

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/05/indigenous-peruvians-amazon-pollution-settlement-us-oil-occidental>



Indigenous Peruvians Score a Victory Against Occidental Petroleum for Contaminating the Rainforest and Poisoning their Communities



Koh Kong Sugar Plantation , Cambodia

- ▶ In 2006, about 4000 villagers' **land was illegally confiscated by brutal force** to make way for sugar plantation in Sre Ambel, Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.
- ▶ In 2007, the villagers filed a complaint against Koh Kong Sugar Industry in Koh Kong Provincial Court ➡ **cancellation of the contract.**
- ▶ In 2010, villagers filed a complaint to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) with the support of EarthRights International (ERI).
- ▶ In 2015, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand released a report in which it recognises that the **human rights violations had occurred at the site of the sugar plantation.**
- ▶ The communities have spent eight years pursuing the return of their land
- ▶ The report sends a clear message to companies that they must abide by Cambodian laws and international human rights standards in their investments



Wiwa v. Shell Case

- ▶ In the 1990s **Shell Oil** partnered with the Nigerian government in a **violent crackdown on environmental activists, culminating in the torture and executions of nine Ogoni leaders** who were working for human rights, including internationally-acclaimed writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa.
- ▶ Ogoni people in Nigeria with the help of ERI took Shell to court.
- ▶ In 2009, **Shell agreed to a settlement** of all lawsuits filed against it with the plaintiffs.
- ▶ The settlement, whose terms are public, provided a total of \$15.5 million to compensate the plaintiffs, establish a trust for the benefit of the Ogoni people, and cover some of the legal costs and fees associated with the case.



Unocal Case

- ▶ **Unocal** is Union Oil Company of California
- ▶ The plaintiffs were **Burmese peasants** who suffered a variety of violations at the hands of Burmese army units that were securing the pipeline route
- ▶ Plaintiffs in this case sought redress for the human rights abuses associated with the Unocal pipeline project in Burma
- ▶ Unocal has agreed to settle the claims **compensate the villagers** who sued the firm for complicity in forced labor, rape, and murder.



Current Situation

- ▶ According to annual report in 2014,
- ▶ NGO **has expanded** from a single-room, one-computer office in Thailand, to four offices in the U.S., Peru, Thailand, and Myanmar, housing a team of sixty worldwide.
- ▶ Over the course of the next five years, they plan to build on the past 20 years of accomplishments while advancing their mission to protect and promote earth rights globally through combining training, legal, and campaigns
- ▶ Also recently, they are working on **HEART program**, which trained students from the Thai/Myanmar border to work for the protection of the environment, human rights and health within their communities.



 **EARTHRIGHTS INTERNATIONAL**

Shifting the Balance of Power in the Global Eco...

CAMBODIA LAOS VIETNAM TIBET

\$24,582
OF \$20,000 RAISED

0 DAYS REMAINING
THIS CAMPAIGN WILL END ON 8/19/13 AT 12:00 AM

Make a Donation

We've reached our Goal!
Thank you to all of our supporters, and please stay tuned for updates on the project.

Power of Law. Power of People:
Using film to amplify local voices to expose the truth behind environmental and human rights abuses.

Corporations often get involved in projects that lead to human rights abuses in far off corners of the world because they think no one is watching. — ERI Legal Director, Marco Simons

We all know corporations spend huge sums of money cultivating their image. But of course, when they're responsible for destroying the environment or complicit in human rights abuses we rarely hear a peep out of them.

We've been working to defend the human and environmental rights of communities around the world for almost 20 years. For many of us at EarthRights International, hearing the stories directly from the people who have witnessed and suffered these abuses — the clients in our court cases, the students at our schools, our partners on the ground — is what motivates us to do this work.

Create a Fundraising Page

Search for a fundraiser or team...

Fundraisers	Teams
 Gillian Caldwell Raised \$10062	 Karin Bradford Raised \$7500
 Michelle Harvau Raised \$2520	 Maggie Schupp Raised \$1285
 Marissa Vanhoan Raised \$650	 Patrick Boyle Raised \$600
 Marco Simons Raised \$400	 Dan Patton Raised \$250
 Monica By	 Brad Wicket

Similar NGO's Worldwide



- ▶ EarthRights International's distinctive feature is that it defends both human rights and environmental rights.
- ▶ Also, ERI has a different approach because they are working in three main ways ,
 - In the classroom
 - In the field
 - In the courtroom



- ▶ Similar NGO's defending **human rights**:

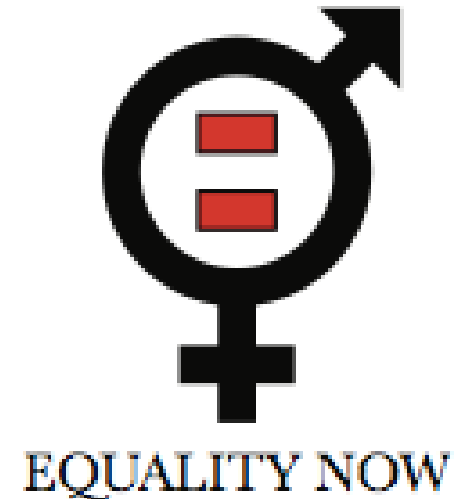
Global Rights, Human Life International, Equality Now, Free the Slaves, International Partnership for Human Rights

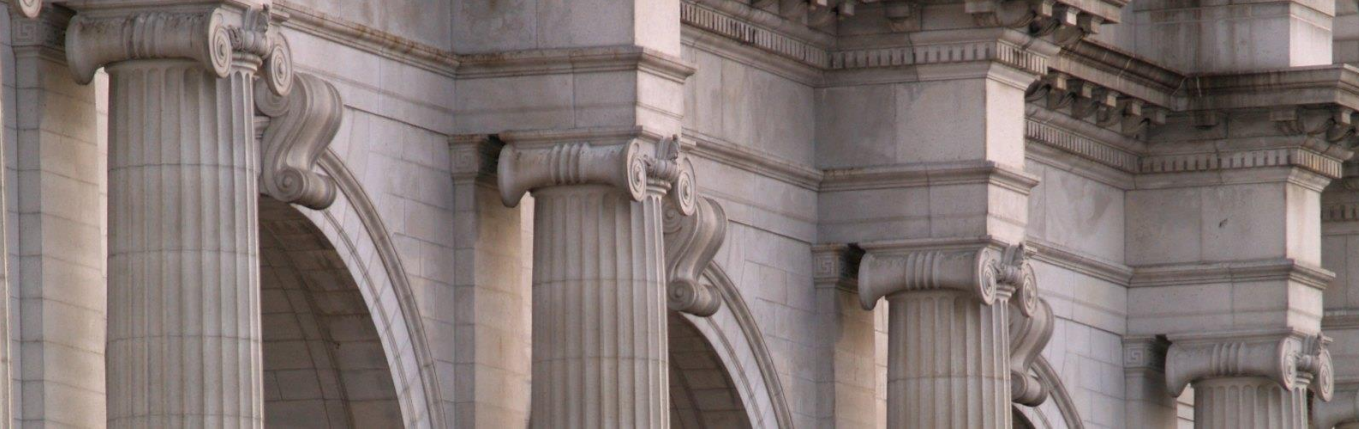
- ▶ Similar NGO's defending **environmental rights**:

NatureServe, Project AWARE, Earthwatch, Anti-Nuclear Movement, Greenpeace



Partners for Justice





- ▶ Earthrights International corporates with the Alien Tort Statute (ATS). The Alien Tort Statute(ATS) allows victims of human rights abuses committed abroad to sue those responsible in U.S. Federal courts.
- ▶ ATS enables victims of international violations such as terrorism, war crimes, killings to claim their rights on U.S. Courts.
- ▶ Just like ERI, **The Humpty Dumpty Institute, Karthiyeka Gramodvog Shikshan Sanstan (KGSS), The Center for Justice Accountability (CJA), International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF)** are other NGOs which also corporate with the ATS.



- ▶ Earthrights International **promises to be a source of transparency** to the exposures of human rights and environmental problems.
- ▶ ERI and NGO's like **Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Greenpeace** play an important role in uncovering and publicizing activities to people.



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**





- ▶ Earthrights International **provides education** in order to train leaders to defend their rights and homelands from abuses.
- ▶ Other similar NGOs that give education; **Education Without Borders, Pratham, Tostan, CARE Education**



► ERI also **makes collaborations** in order to work more effectively .
International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) is an example of one of the coalitions that ERI made. NGO's like **ERI, Human Rights Watch Human Rights First and Global Witness** made a collaboration in order to harness the power of the human rights community to defend existing laws, policies and legal precedents.

Some other coalitions which ERI is in:

- Mekong Legal Network
- Publish What You Pay
- Burma Environmental Working Group (BEWG)
- Save the Mekong
- The True Cost of Chevron





**THANK
YOU**

for

LISTENING

ANY QUESTIONS?