

WORK REPORT 2018

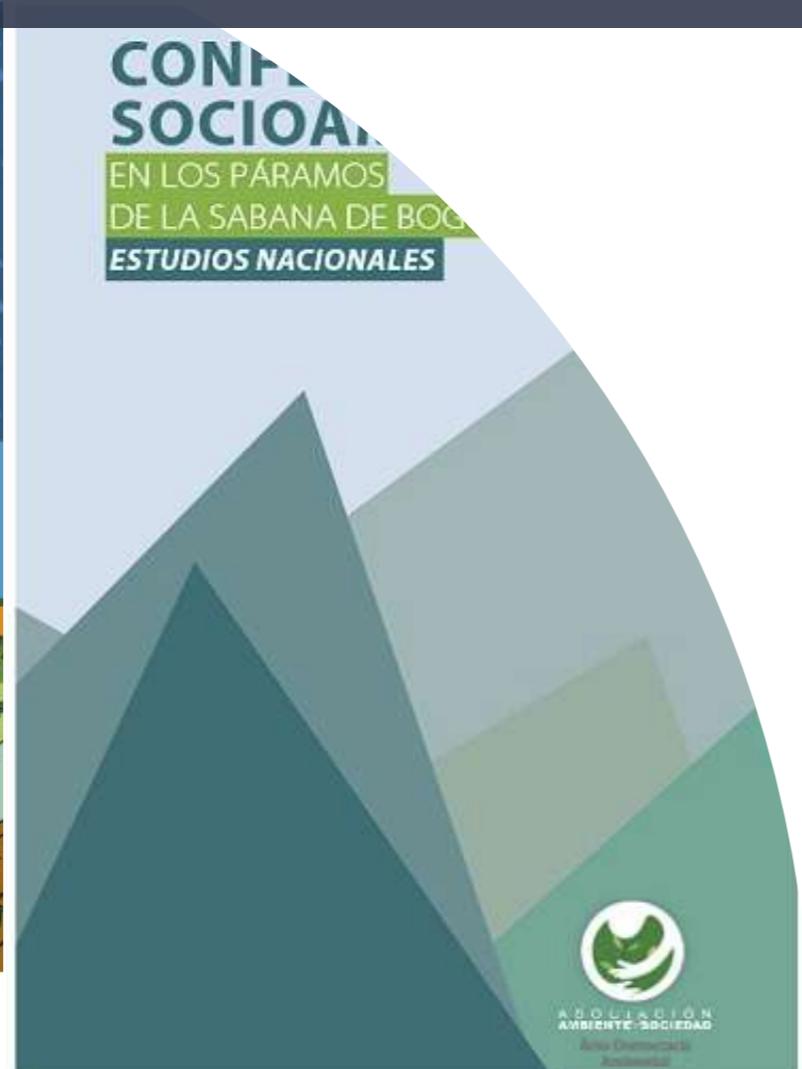
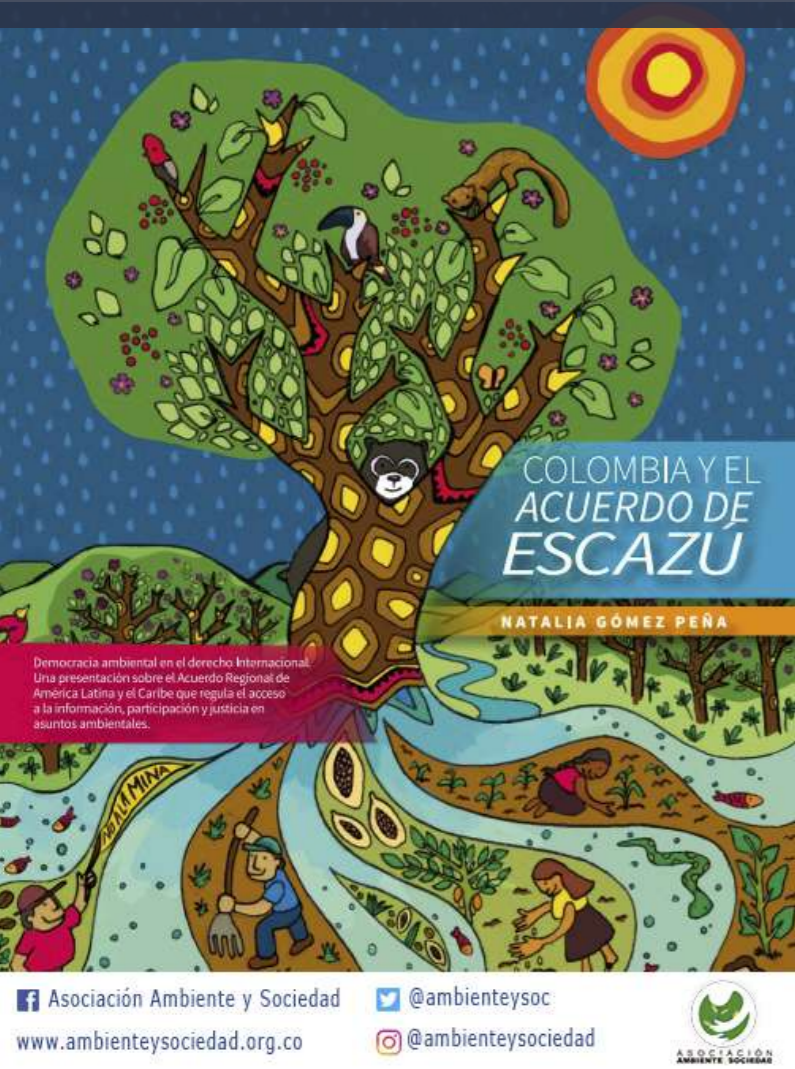


ASOCIACIÓN
AMBIENTE Y SOCIEDAD



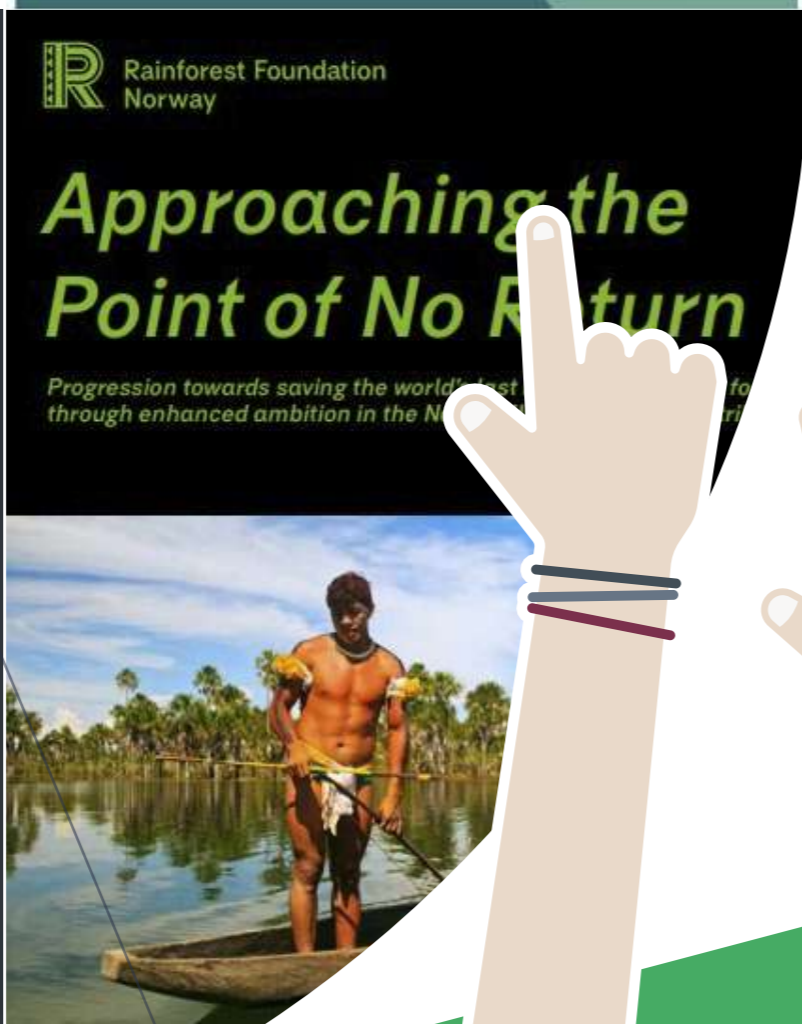
ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

Ambiente y Sociedad is an organization that looks to **generate positive changes** in environmental regulations, policies, decision making, and practices **promoting a full application of the rights** to participation, access to information for civil society, and **transparency** from public and private entities. These efforts are mainly focused on affected communities and groups of youth and women.



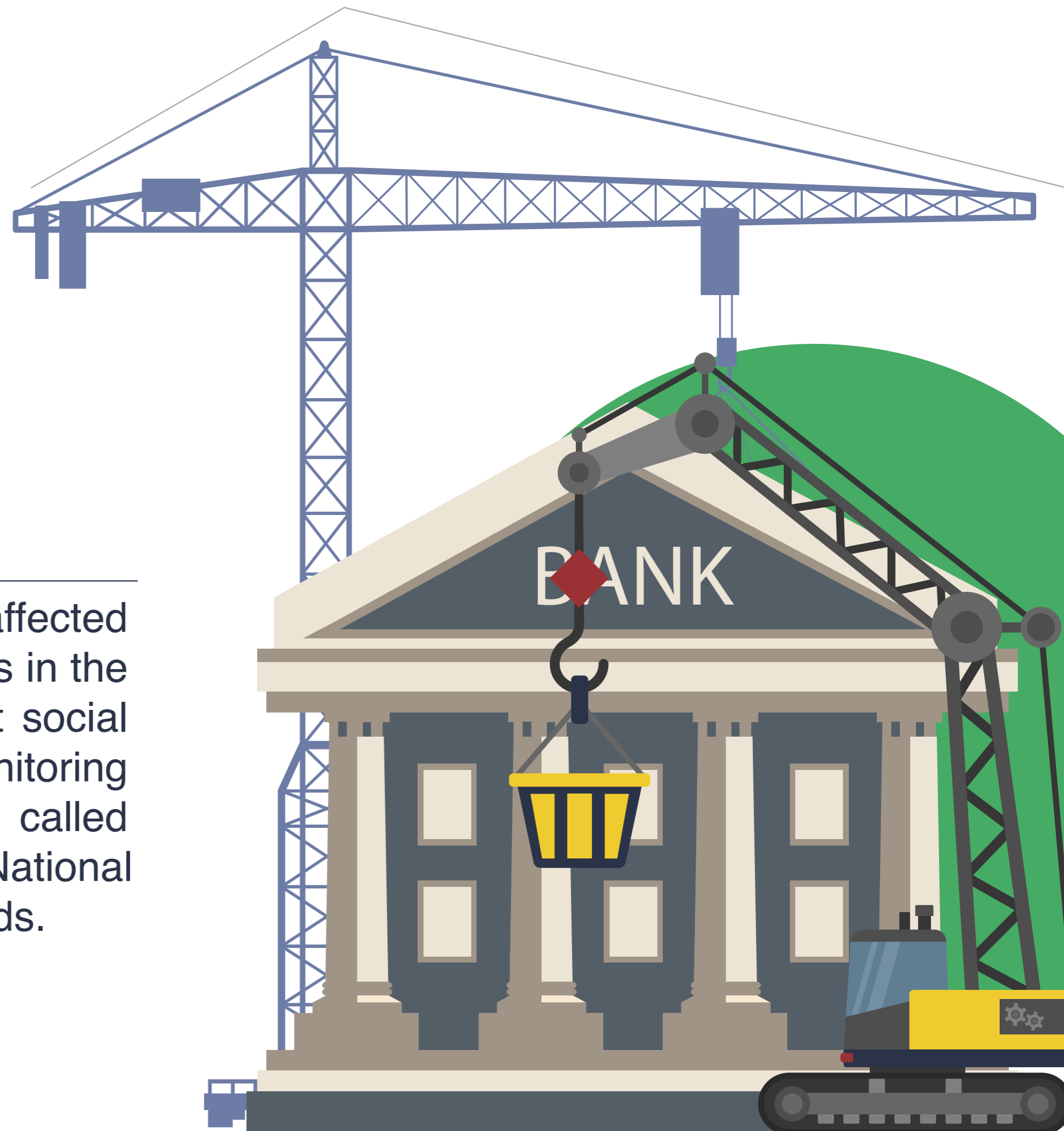
ACHIEVEMENTS, ADVANCES AND ACTIONS IN 2018

This section describes 2018's achievements, advances, and actions in relation to four areas: Finance and social-environmental rights, territory and environmental democracy, climate justice, and strategic communication for sustainable development.



FINANCE AND SOCIAL-ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

This area looks to support communities affected by infrastructure and hydrocarbon projects in the territories, identifying probable or current social and environmental impacts through monitoring and with advocacy before what is called International Financial Institutions (IFIs), National Development Banks, and climate funds.



ACHIEVEMENTS

The United Nations selected the **2018 UPR Report: human rights violations against the indigenous peoples of the amazon river basin** to be included in the final report of the Universal Periodic Review of China-UPR. This document was written in coordination with members organizations of the Coalición Regional por la Transparencia y Participación and with the Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA).



ACTIONS AND ADVANCES:



1 Knowledge sharing and dialogue with international experts, organizations, academia, social leaders, and communities to design an advocacy roadmap for infrastructure projects in the Amazon river basin, making it possible to join efforts and respond to arising challenges.

- Co-organization and participation in a strategic dialogue space about responsible investments and infrastructure, in the context of the G20. *Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 2018.*

- Co-organization and participation in the workshop *Support for participation on the regional management of investments, human rights, and environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

Quito, Ecuador, June 2018.

- *International seminary Advances, Challenges, and Proposals related to the Social and Environmental Management of Infrastructure in the Amazon River basin. The seminary brought together over 60 leaders and indigenous experts from Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia.*

Bogotá, Colombia, October 2018.

- Participation in meetings to present the Banco Nacional de Desarrollo de Brasil/BNDES's new social and environmental policy through position papers to improve transparency regarding information on BNDES operations.

Brasilia, Brazil, November of 2018.

2 Research and production of reports, analysis and research documents on the role of finance and social-environmental conflicts.

•Document ***Comparative analysis of the environmental, social, and access to information regulatory framework regarding the traditional, emerging, and Chinese financial institutions present in Latin America***, regarding the five thematic areas: risk evaluation and environmental and social impacts, access to information, participation, indigenous peoples, and cross-cutting elements. It was published in July 2018 in coordination with the Grupo Regional sobre Financiamiento e Infraestructura (GREFI).



•Report ***The World Bank and Colombia's Territorial Finance Development Policy Financing: Whose land is it, anyway?*** Published in April 2018, in collaboration with the Bank Information Center (BIC)



3

Implementation of dissemination strategies using internet platforms, communications pieces, and educational materials such as info graphs, handbooks, and newsletters about the role of banks and social-environmental conflicts.

- Updating the platform on Chinese investment projects in Latin America and their impacts.

The platform is:

www.chinaenmaericalatina.info

- Consolidation of a space in the opinion columns of the newspaper *El Espectador*, dedicated to issues related to infrastructure, finance, Chinese investments, IFIs, human rights, and social-environmental conflicts in Latin America.

This space is:

<http://blogs.elespectador.com/author/impacto-socioambiental>

- Creation of an online course *Defensa del territorio. Herramientas del marco del derecho internacional y de la normativa de las IFIs* (Territorial Defense. Tools in the International Law Framework and the IFI Regulations). This space looked to strengthen the participant's knowledge on international law and the environmental and social regulatory frameworks of the main international and Chinese financial institutions present in Latin America and the Caribbean, and tools for the defense of the territory in the face of extractive and infrastructure projects.



TERRITORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY

This area's objective is to guarantee the legal security and social-environmental rights of communities that live in strategic ecosystems, in relation to the impact of development projects in their territories.





ACHIEVEMENTS:

Ambiente y Sociedad contributed as representative from the public in the negotiation of the Regional Convention on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters, whose secretariat is the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). A result of this agenda was the March 2018 approval of the **Escazú Agreement**, the region's first treaty on the environment and human rights and the first binding tool in the world, which recognizes the role of environmental defenders.



ACTIONS AND ADVANCES:

1. Accompaniment and creation of dialogue spaces with small-scale farmer communities in the Savannah of Bogotá affected by the El Dorado II Airport mega-project and the North-Chivor II power lines project.

- Support for the communities' group of advisers in municipal participation spaces.

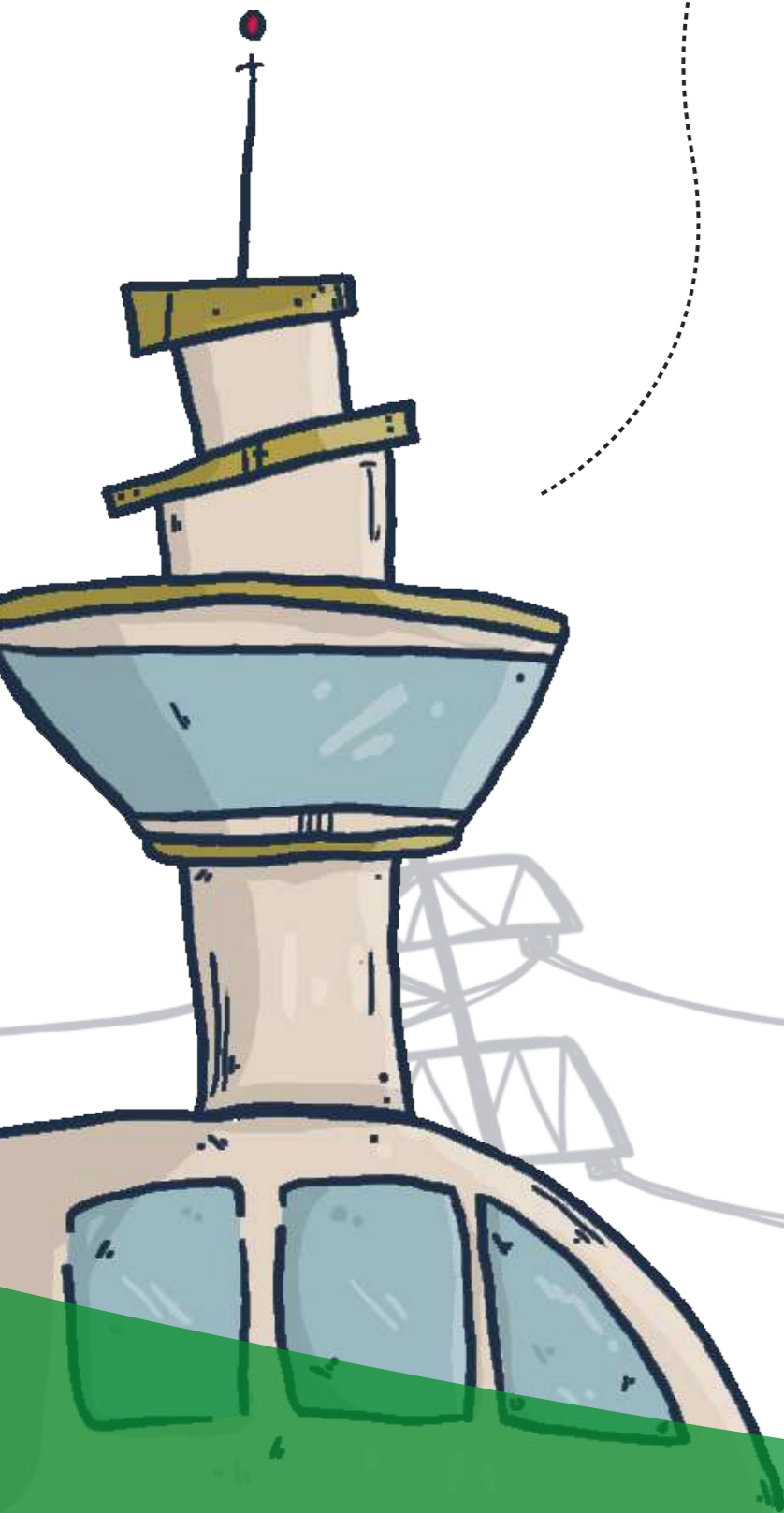
- Creation of a map of interested economic actors and actors who are in opposition to the El Dorado II Airport project in Bogotá.

- Participation in informational meetings and work with the communities and local groups, as well as at public hearings for the North-Chivor II power lines project in the department of Cundinamarca.

- Accompaniment with legal mechanisms to demand effective decision making spaces and to protect the wetlands in the Savannah of Bogotá.

- Diagnosis of environmental and organizational issues to construct, in a participatory manner, proposals and strategies for the prevention and/or resolution of social-environmental conflicts.

- Analysis of an imposition of legal easements for the passage of the power line infrastructure and design of info graphs to facilitate access to information for the communities affected by the mega-projects.



- Implementation of a digital course “**Una mirada alternativa a la gestión del riesgo de desastres**” (An Alternative Perspective on Disaster Risk Management), focused on presenting a risk management proposal where the territorial vision and a rights-based approach become the foundation to define practical strategies that make possible a participatory and constructive intervention regarding the effects and causes of disasters.

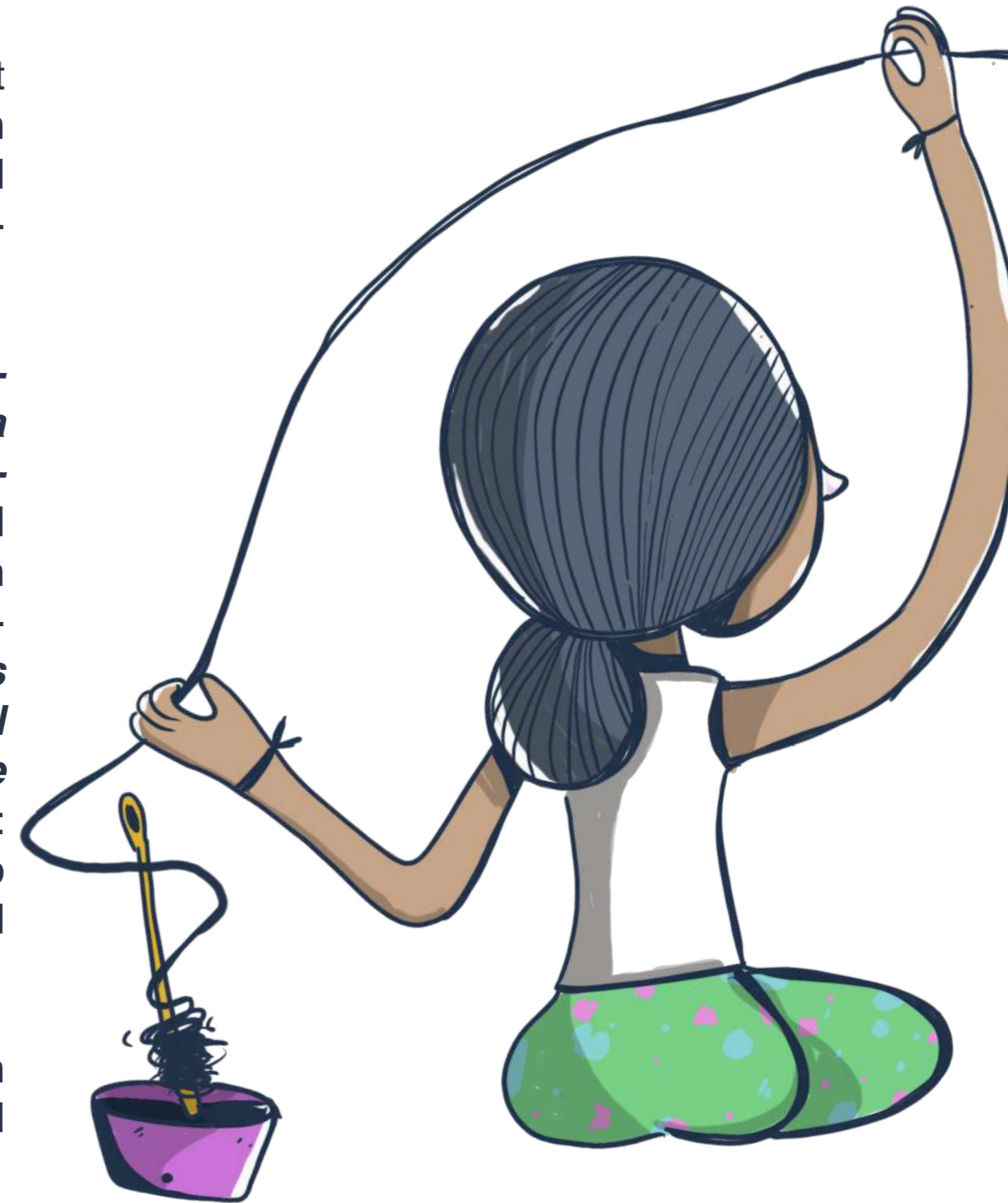
- New citizen education dynamics with the Asociación Mujeres Tejedoras de Vida, in the department of Putumayo. The association has 60 grassroots organizations.

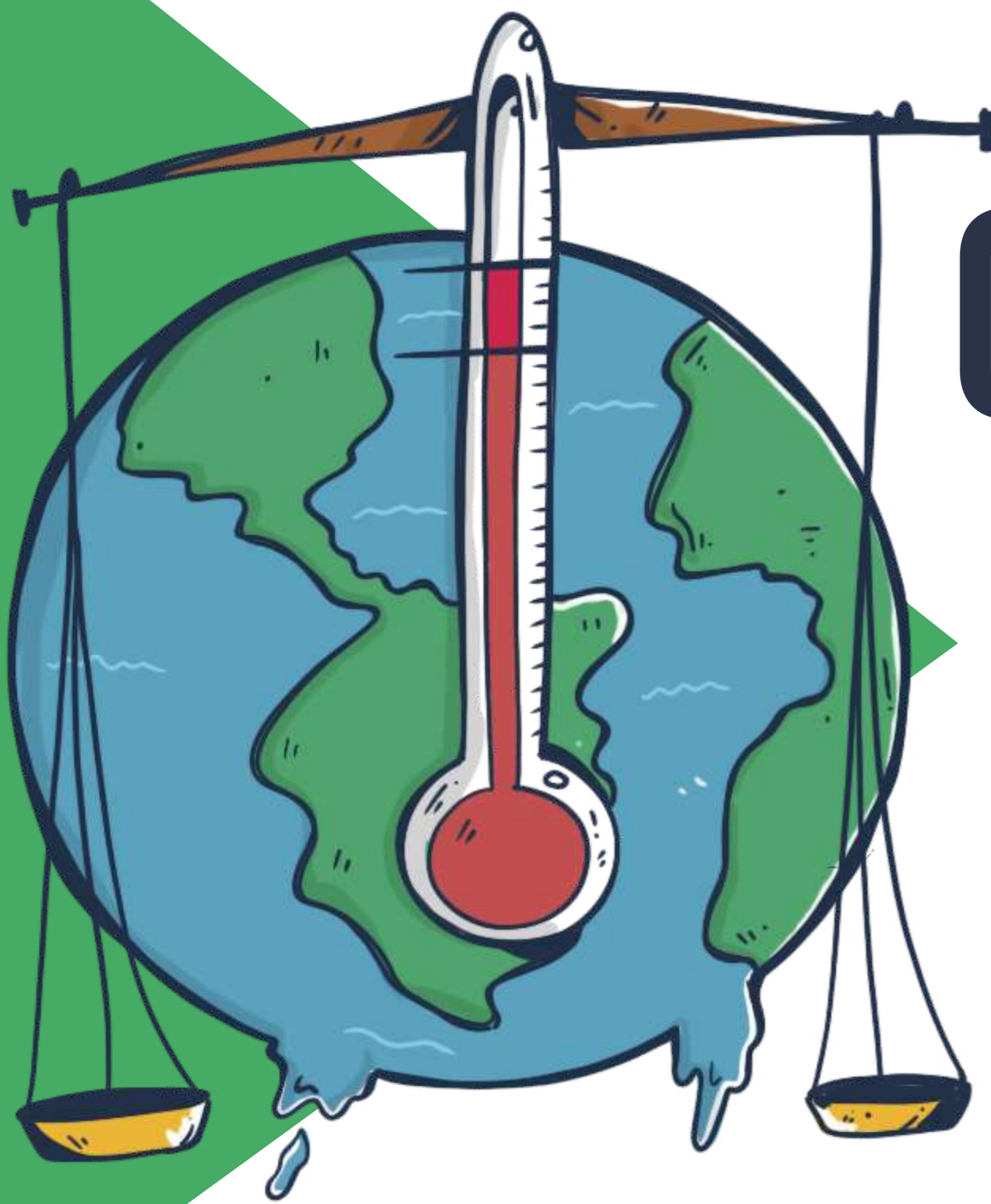
- Creation and socialization of **two technical studies** on territorial, participatory, economic, and environmental

regulations. These are regulations that are being implemented in the Amazon region and some of them could affect the rights of indigenous communities and the region's ecosystems.

The documents are titled: **Ordenamiento territorial y ambiental de la Amazonía colombiana en el post-conflicto** (Environmental and Land Use in the Post-conflict Colombian Amazon) and **En la Amazonía colombiana: los derechos de los pueblos indígenas a la consulta previa y al consentimiento libre, previo e informado** (In the Colombian Amazon: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Prior Consultation and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent).

- Writing and dissemination of opinion columns about environmental and land use regulations in Colombian Amazon.





CLIMATE JUSTICE

This work area looks to expand knowledge on the impacts of climate change and promote transparency on climate financing focused on mitigation and adaptation actions, in accordance with the national commitments acquired in the Paris Agreement.

ACHIEVEMENTS



- Recognition of *Ambiente y Sociedad* as a civil society observer for the Green Climate Fund.
- Inclusion of black communities as subjects of rights in the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) policy on Indigenous peoples. This means that the rights of black communities must be guaranteed when, for example, companies want to undertake projects that affect their territories and the environment. This inclusion was achieved in coordination with the *Proceso de Comunidades Negras* (PCN) in Colombia.

ACTIONS AND ADVANCES:



• Participation as a civil society observer at the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 24 and at the Convention's inter-session meetings.

In particular it looked at the issues of land use, the role of natural forests, and the protection of human rights. It focused on the existing guarantees for the participation of indigenous peoples, black communities, and small-scale farmers, as well as on financing allocated to actions associated with climate change and transparency in resource management.

• Participation in the July 2018 High-level Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, that took place in New York. The organization spoke at the question session for Civil Society before the Colombian Government, during the presentation of the voluntary national

report on the sustainable development goals and at the event on the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 15 (life in terrestrial ecosystems).

• Contribution of the Colombia chapter *¿Qué tan lejos o qué tan cerca está Colombia de cumplir con los ODS?* For the Social Global Watch report on advances and challenges of the SDG.

• Writing of the Colombia chapter for the document *Approaching the point of no return*, published by the Rainforest Foundation Norway-RFN, about the true state and ambitions of the intended nationally determined contributions (NDC) for five countries with tropical jungles. The official presentation of this report was made at the COP 24, in Poland.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Our work in this area consists of mobilizing opinion and promoting access to information initiatives within the public opinion by means of strategic channels and tools that are in the vanguard of communications. This has allowed ***Ambiente y Sociedad*** to position itself as an opinion leader in the national arena and to be consulted by national and international media outlets.

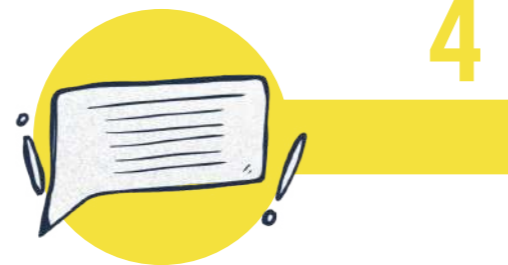
1. JOURNALISTIC COMMUNICATIONS:



50 mentions in media outlets and national and international journalistic platforms (*Semana Sostenible, El Espectador, La Silla Vacía, El País*, of Spain).



20 interviews by media outlets.



Four consolidated opinion spaces.



A forum about the Amazon at Risk, in alliance with the media and the Coalición para la promoción de los derechos territoriales de pueblos indígenas amazónicos.



1000 participants at the festival/march on climate (Septimazo Climático) which was promoted by Ambiente y Sociedad and 350.Org in the context of the international campaign RiseForClimate.

2. DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS



90 k

Active users on the web page.



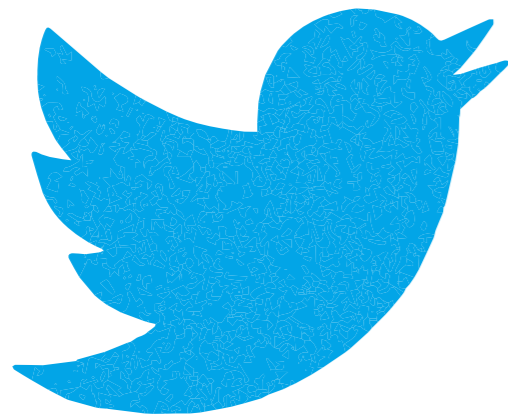
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visits to the web page during 2018.



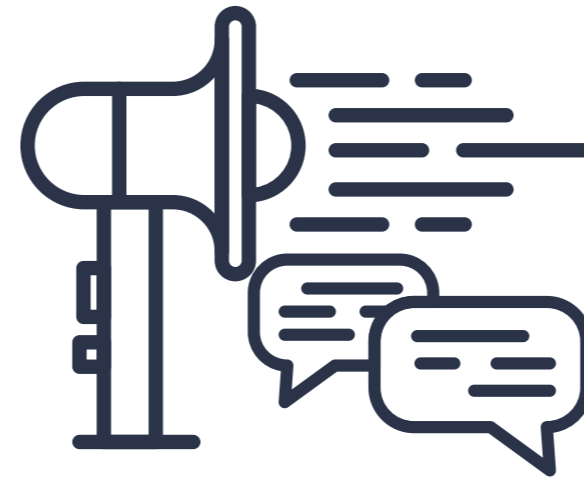
33 k

followers on social media
(Facebook: 13 k; Twitter: 17 k;
Instagram: 2.9 k)



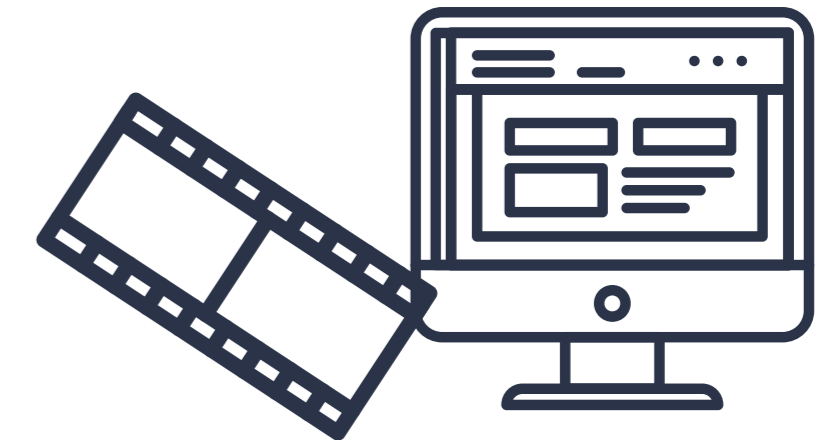
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interactions on twitter.



4

communications campaigns
(#FirmaXEIAmbiente
#ChinaRespetamMisDerechos
#AmazoniaEnRiesgo #ChinaBajoLaLupa)



70

communications pieces shared on web platforms and social media
(banners/gifs/infographs/videos/)

THANKS



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