

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXTERNAL PROJECT EVALUATION



PROJECT:

*Defending land,
territory and
the environment:*

*promoting the work
of defenders in
Latin America.*

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promoting the work of defenders in Latin America*



Implemented by: CALDH, CINEP and CAFOD



Financed by: European Union's EIDHR

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Period evaluated: 1 April 2019 - 30 June 2022

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CINEP [Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular - Centre for research and grassroots development], CALDH [Centro para la acción legal en derechos humanos - Centre for human rights legal support] and CAFOD [Catholic Agency for Overseas Development] carried out an external evaluation of the *Defending land, territory and the environment: promoting the work of defenders in Latin America* regional project. It was funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The project was implemented in Guatemala and Colombia from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2022 and involved other organisations with which CAFOD works in other Latin American countries.

The consultants, Corpoindes, conducted their evaluation from July to October 2022. The main aim was to evaluate the effectiveness of the objectives, outcomes, impact and potential future impact of the multi-country project, to see how these contributed to protecting, respecting and exercising the individual and collective human rights of indigenous people, of Afro-descendants and of rural communities in the prioritised countries and territories, to defend their rights to land, territory and a healthy environment.

Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, the evaluation took account of Project Cycle Management, and adopted a human rights and gender-based approach for evaluating social projects in its methodology. Based on this approach, the process sought to analyse critically all activities and their outcomes to determine the relevance of the methods used, the validity of the objectives set, how efficiently resources were used and the impact on those involved in the activities. The methodology included face-to-face and virtual focus groups and semi-structured interviews.

The primary data came from 102 people: human rights defenders (HRDs) from organisations supported by CINEP and CALDH in Colombia and Guatemala, representatives of participating organisations in third countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Peru and Nicaragua) supported by CAFOD, and members of CALDH, CINEP and CAFOD's technical teams. 32.7 per cent of the participants were from Colombia, 54.5 per cent from Guatemala and the remaining 12.9 per cent from third countries. 58 per cent of the participants in the evaluation were women and 42 per cent were men.





 **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**



The project methodology aimed to link activities sequentially and transversally in order to relate them to the three intended outcomes. Thus, training was linked to the documentation, analysis and systematisation of human rights violations, to:

- increase knowledge and use of mechanisms to defend and protect land, territory and the environment from a gender and intercultural standpoint (Outcome 1)
- produce useful information for communications and advocacy (Outcome 3)
- provide key material to report and pursue complaints (Outcome 2)
- improve individual and collective prevention and protection strategies to address threats, criminalisation and stigmatisation faced by HRDs and male and female leaders (Outcome 2).

Activities ran in seven countries and involved indigenous, Afro-descendant and small-scale farmers' communities, especially women and young people, as well as CAFOD partner organisations in the region. The main focus of the activity took place in Colombia and Guatemala during the three years of the project. In Colombia, the project was implemented in three regions: southern Guajira, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (SNSM) and Bajo Atrato. In Guatemala, it was implemented in four regions: Alta Verapaz, Huhuetenango, Quiché and Izabal. As part of Third Party Financial Support (TPFS), seven CAFOD partner organisations from six countries in the region were also involved: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru. TPFS aimed to:

- improve knowledge and the ability to defend human rights, territory and the environment
- provide access to tools, resources and inputs to sustain actions
- improve coordination and protection measures
- document and highlight collective rights and cases of abuse, pollution, criminalisation, and lawlessness, and
- carry out activities to claim political, legal and advocacy rights.

In addition to the objectives set for each of the countries in which the project operated, activities increased their regional impact through three exchanges of experiences between the organisations and HRDs from the participating countries. The project promoted joint regional action to raise awareness of common issues affecting the right to land, territory, a healthy environment, and the protection of HRDs across the region. The exchanges increased knowledge and facilitated learning about strategies for resistance and resilience, protection, strategic legal action, advocacy and communication. They also helped coordinate participation in advocacy opportunities with subject specialists, researchers, the European Union, other governments, and several UN Special Rapporteurs, in particular the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor. CAFOD's regional report *Protecting Our Common Home* documented lessons learned and identified useful recommendations for multi-level advocacy and awareness raising in six countries, contributing to some of the ten international/regional advocacy initiatives carried out with CAFOD partners.

Five macro cases, three in Colombia and two in Guatemala, were used to focus activities and help define strategies for advocacy, communication, training, and the defence and protection of HRDs. In addition, 16 cases to enforce rights were prosecuted in these two countries using legal and administrative mechanisms. Eight test cases of national and/or international importance were supported by CAFOD's partner organisations in five countries: Bolivia (1), Brazil (2), Colombia (2), Honduras (1) and Peru (2).



Two of the three years of the project took place in the context of COVID-19, so that in both countries the project had to adjust its methodologies and timings because of conditions caused by the pandemic that restricted mobility and group meetings, the increase in danger and attacks against HRDs and the humanitarian crisis where the project was being implemented. In addition, the worsening of security conditions in Colombia due to the armed conflict, the declaration of a state of siege in Guatemala, and elections in both countries, affected activities and/or required adjustments to them. Additional challenges that affected people's ability to respond in the areas involved, were low internet connectivity or not knowing how to use virtual platforms. These conditions particularly affected face-to-face training courses and meetings planned for the first two years.

The project did, however, manage to adapt and adjust part of its activities in each country, as well as regionally and internationally. It is worth highlighting the allocation of resources to support the humanitarian crisis caused by the pandemic through humanitarian aid (humanitarian kits), care and support for emergency HRD cases, and psychosocial support in the communities where the project was operating. In addition, virtual communication allowed activities to be promoted regionally and internationally, such as the second exchange of experiences, visits and advocacy.

On the other hand, in Colombia as well as in Guatemala, training, sharing experience and advocacy needed to be adapted to the spirituality and worldview of indigenous and Afro-descendant participants in the project. In Guatemala, the project was linked to CALDH's institutional commitment to defend human rights and protect land, territory and the environment through the recovery of ancestral practices and culture, rituals and Mayan justice. In Colombia, the test-case strategy behind the three macro cases incorporated this spiritual factor and the world vision of the Wayuu and Afro-descendant communities in the south of La Guajira, the communities of Bajo Atrato and Urabá Antioqueño, and the Wiwa, Kogui, Kankuamo and Arhuaco indigenous peoples of the SNSM. This also facilitated a broader understanding of self-protection for defenders, the concept of rights and justice, and the concept of territorial protection itself. It also implied design challenges that impacted the implementation schedule and scope of activities, and the ability to translate this into indicators. This was reflected in the design of teaching materials, working methods and subject focus that met the needs and priorities of communities and took on board their own understanding of land and territory.



ACHIEVED OUTCOMES



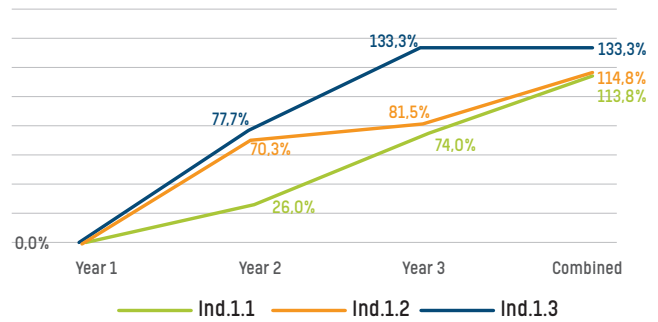
The first project outcome (*Outcome 1. Human rights defenders and organisations improve and promote processes that promote and defend the right to land, territory, and a healthy environment*) related to **improving local processes**.

To measure the achievement of this outcome, the indicator defined was: 'Number of HRD organisations that increase instances where they claim human rights stressing the right to land, territory, reparation and care for the environment nationally, regionally and internationally'. A target of 24 organisations was set and, by the end of the project, 33 organisations had reached and surpassed this target, representing 137.5 per cent of the original target.

The project aimed for 65 per cent of participating HRDs and leaders to increase their knowledge of human rights mechanisms and guidelines for the protection, enjoyment and defence of the right to land, territory and a healthy environment, and of reporting human rights violations. At the end of the project, 74 per cent was achieved, which corresponds to 113.8 per cent of the target. In addition, the project set a target of at least 27 organisations increasing their use of HR mechanisms to defend and promote the right to land, territory and the environment from a gender and intercultural standpoint. By the end, 31 organisations were recorded, corresponding to 114.8 per cent of the target. Finally, it was hoped the project would encourage human rights organisations to promote 9 local, national and international initiatives defending human rights. With 12 initiatives supported by the end, 133.3 per cent of the goal was achieved, as shown in the following graph.

Impact indicator 1

Strengthening processes to promote and defend the right to land, territory and environment



The second outcome (*Outcome 2. Protection of HRDs: Human rights defenders and their organisations improve their individual and collective prevention and protection strategies and have resources and means to deal with threats, criminalisation, and stigmatisation*) aimed to **protect human rights defenders and their organisations** by improving individual and collective prevention and protection strategies, and access to resources and means to deal with threats, criminalisation and stigmatisation.

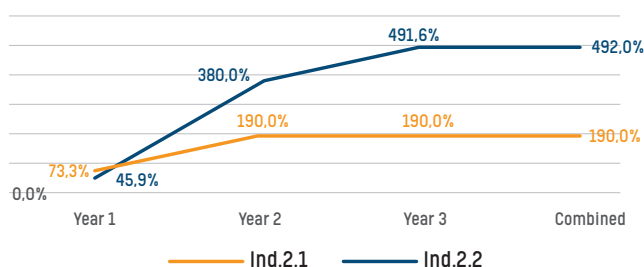
This outcome was measured by two indicators. The first established a target of 36 HRD-led individual and collective prevention and protection strategies from a gender and intercultural perspective. This was exceeded by the end of the project, achieving 177 strategies, which were recorded by region, focus and scope, meeting 491.6 per cent of the target set. In addition, the outcome was measured based



on the number of legal and administrative cases that were supported to promote and defend human rights on national and international stages. Of the target of 15 cases, 21 had been supported by the close of the project, representing 190 per cent of the goal, as shown in the following graph.

Impact Indicator 2

Protection of HRDs and their organisations

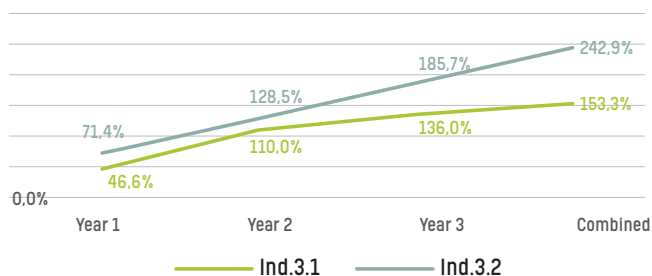


The third outcome (*Outcome 3. Human rights defenders, local and national organisations extend cooperation with other networks in decision-making bodies and their interaction with state, non-state and intergovernmental entities and public opinion, on the right to land, territory, reparation and care for the environment nationally, regionally and internationally to deal with threats, criminalisation and stigmatisation*) was aimed at **improving organisations' abilities in advocacy and communications.**

The project used two indicators to measure this outcome. The first counted the number of advocacy and communications activities on the right to land, territory, reparation and care for the environment that were promoted jointly by human rights organisations and international networks in national, regional and international decision-making bodies. The target was 30; 46 were recorded by the end of the project, representing 153.3 per cent of the target. For the second indicator the proposal was to measure how many cases to claim rights, access to justice and the stigmatisation of their work were positioned in national and international public opinion, with a target of seven. By the close of the project this had been exceeded, with 17 cases positioned, corresponding to 242.9 per cent of the target, as shown in the following graph.

Impact indicator 3

Advocacy and communications





EVALUATION CONCEPTS



Pertinence/relevance



The general and specific project goal, as well as the outcomes, remained valid throughout the implementation period and continue to be relevant and pertinent today, given that the context has remained the same and has become even more precarious for HRDs in political, economic and security terms. The scope of the project was relevant as regards improving the technical and political capacity of organisations, leaders, HRDs and communities to sustain action to defend territories, land and the right to a healthy environment; as well as in developing capacity in prevention and individual and collective protection against dangers that persisted and, in some cases, increased.

There is still a need to increase the opportunities for communities and territorial organisations to participate in promoting and defending the right to land, territory and the environment in the areas prioritised by the project activities. It is also important to motivate and ensure women participate in such spheres.

The project's performance and achievements have demonstrated its relevance, and a solid social and organisational base has been established in each country. This ensures the impacts can be maintained and will continue to respond to political changes (each country's legal context), and therefore in civil society's monitoring and social control in each area of implementation.

Problems relating to the environment and to guaranteeing the right to remain in the territories expressed by those involved and consulted coincide in large part with the description of the context of the project's intervention. This shows that, in its design, the project accurately interpreted its information, and that it addressed the problems prioritised in its strategy and outcomes. Throughout the project duration, adjustments were made to respond to emerging challenges and changing conditions, and some of the proposed outcomes were adapted according to the problems stated in the context description and to specific conditions in the territories.

Efficiency



In terms of the use of resources, the project implemented specific programme and budgetary monitoring initiatives, facilitating timely decision making relating to scheduled activities in each period. The budget was executed in accordance with the annual plan and in compliance with legal accounting regulations and EU requirements. During implementation, there were some transfers between line items, with the donor's prior authorisation, which responded to changes in the implementation strategy, especially during lockdown, and also in response to humanitarian situations that arose in the most vulnerable communities during peaks in COVID-19 infection.

At its close, the project had used 100 per cent of its resources, recovering from the underspend that occurred especially during 2020 and 2021 because of the changes enforced by the pandemic. This 100 per cent usage met the action plan and the specific needs and requirements of national processes. Obviously, given the scope of this type of proposal, additional effort will always be required to manage complementary resources that extend national activities supported by the project. The project contributed a significant number of resources that reinforced local initiatives financed through TPFS, thanks to the financial management of one of the co-applicant organisations, as well as the use of the technical and financial resources of the three implementing organisations in improving project implementation.



Effectiveness



In assessing whether the project achieved its specific outcome: *'To improve the resilience of human rights defenders, and the organisations of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and rural communities in defending human rights and their strategic participation in decision-making bodies'*, and taking the intended outcome indicators as a measure, we find positive performance in each case.

As suggested by the positive effect of the three indicators measuring how well this specific project outcome was achieved, the combined strategies and activities strengthened organisational capacity. On the one hand, they successfully maintained legal and social action to claim rights throughout the project, as shown by the progress of the macro cases around which the project was implemented. On the other, organisational training and strengthening took place. This allowed organisations to continue operating and maintain their agendas, and respond, increasingly successfully and pre-emptively, to the challenges and dangers arising in different contexts. It is clear that, although the type of strengthening differed in each organisation and territorial process, the project managed to influence the organisational, community and policy dimensions of each of the processes supported. These are not minor achievements, especially if one considers the major difficulties, both economic and political, that organisations and communities had to face during this period, which in other cases led many organisations to reduce their activities and in others even led to their closure. This was, in turn, accompanied by an increase in threats to environmental leaders. In other words, the project played a major role in protecting the processes it supported and helped them keep going, in a context that was much more difficult than expected at the planning stage.

Sustainability



As mentioned throughout this document, the project, *Defending land, territory and the environment: promoting the work of human rights defenders in Latin America*, leaves a legacy of learning and increased capacity for organisations that were part of the implementation consortium, as well as local organisations, territorial processes and initiatives supported in third countries. This knowledge and the capacity that was engendered are a major element of sustainability coming out of the project activities. It is clear that the HRDs, organisations and territorial processes involved in the project have a long road ahead of them, although strengthened by the project. They respond to political commitments and strategic action of greater magnitude that are being supported in advance. These are processes in which supporting organisations will continue to act once the project and the financial support under this agreement end: the activities promoted by the project form part of the institutional commitments defined by assemblies and management bodies and are contained in the strategic plans of the partner organisations involved in this project.

Continuing to strengthen organisational capacity is central to the sustainability of this work, since, as the organisations mention, being strong technically, politically and administratively, they will be better placed to secure new resources and alliances to ensure the work continues. Politically, the relevance of the local agenda of defending natural resources and the right to remain in ancestral lands, which is part of each process's goal, and which, at the regional level, could be built into a collective and unified agenda, represent a guarantee of the long-term commitment to promoting land rights, territory and a safe environment. This is against a background of the progress some national governments are making towards signing international treaties; the Escazú Agreement, for example, being a case in point. Here, the active participation of communities and organisations that have been putting up resistance in the territories is central. In financial terms, the key to financial sustainability was the ability to leverage additional resources, which, in CAFOD's case, came from its own budget and from other donors, ensuring that landmark processes supported in regions such as the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta will continue.





GOOD PRACTICES



The project's principal good practices identified as part of the evaluation are:

- **Using macro cases as a hook** for activities and a guide for defining advocacy, communication and training strategies.
- **Flexible interpretation of territorial realities and the context of the pandemic:** incorporating specific protection measures and emergency funds, virtual support and awareness raising and advocacy to meet increased risk.
- **Promoting opportunities for exchanging experiences and knowledge** in order to share successful action and strategies to defend land, territory and a healthy environment and to build a common analysis of trends, beyond the national context.
- **Coordination with other interventions and projects** to combine efforts, complement and improve action. The project responded to and was incorporated into organisations' strategic plans and linked the work of different areas and teams in each organisation.
- **Systematic documentation processes and key information:** the detailed recording and documentation of activities, significant experiences and resultant changes.
- The project gave an **important place to the contribution of world views** (indigenous justice system, protection, defence of territory, collective measures, production of content in local languages), rituals and spirituality.
- Developing **specific materials to enable replication:** training included the provision of materials to replicate the knowledge acquired. This facilitated the work of HRDs in their grassroots organisations and communities.
- Incorporating a **gender-based approach** through: linking indigenous women's organisations; meetings between women defenders; a wellbeing grant to promote women's participation; using an Emergency Protection Fund for the Wayuu Women's Force organisation (supporting the femicide case); preparing and submitting the *Women: Bodies and territories dispossessed in Bajo Atrato* report to the JEP [*Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz* - special jurisdiction for peace]; the Kankuama and Wiwa Women's Commission documenting violence against women; prosecuting the Juana Raymundo case and the verdict achieved; developing gender-based self-protection strategies; women leaders participating in opportunities to be spokespeople and advocate; and the link developed between violence against women and protection and self-protection strategies for women defenders.
- **Coordinating advocacy**, with outstanding support from CAFOD, who played an important role in managing and facilitating opportunities. More opportunities and time were possibly needed to define and coordinate the follow-up to achievements produced by these activities.





· Legal action and advocacy grew out of and were expanded by participatory documentation processes, where **the voices of communities played a key role, not only as beneficiaries but also as central characters in cases** and voices authorised to speak and document as a political memory exercise.



· Incorporating innovative techniques and mechanisms to document and analyse HRD violations; this boosted knowledge growth.



· Using emergency funds and the ability to mobilise humanitarian response resources during the pandemic; this contributed to protecting those HRDs and their families most affected in the areas involved and was a positive unanticipated outcome.



· The process of applying the emergency fund involved communities themselves in coordinating the purchase of food, transport and direct delivery to people. This contributed to improving their coordination capacity, collective alliances in the territories and even local economies.

· Having territorial links between communities themselves, who supported and facilitated the project implementation and developed specific support in line with their expertise and training.





**PROJECT IMPACTS, AND
EVALUATION FINDINGS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Outcome	Impacts	Findings	Recommendations
<p>1. Human rights defenders and organisations improve and promote processes that promote and defend the right to land, territory and a healthy environment and denounce violations of HRDs, applying frameworks and guidelines on HRDs.</p>	<p>33 HR organisations increase their actions to exert their rights.</p> <p>74% of defenders increase their knowledge of human rights mechanisms and guidelines, developing greater technical, political and methodological capacities to exert their rights around situations of abuse, contamination, criminalisation and impunity, in the framework of the defence of territories.</p> <p>More than 1,500 defenders and leaders participated in and benefited directly from the project, belonging to 100 organisations and communities accompanied in Colombia, Guatemala and other countries in the region.</p> <p>12 local human rights initiatives provided with technical and legal support through the project.</p> <p>5 macro cases, three in Colombia and two in Guatemala, with significant progress in information gathering (documentation and gathering of evidence by the organisations), reconstruction of memories, and legal actions for access to justice for the duration of the project.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The methodology (training - research - action) applied to strengthen knowledge and organisational processes was successful in guaranteeing effective participation of the communities and in generating their own knowledge. 2. The use of the macro cases as the focus of the action generated a common sense and vision for the of the different activities and enabled strategies and synergies to be identified. 3. The knowledge exchange was confirmed as an important mechanism for strengthening local processes with a regional perspective that defined the intercultural and gender perspective. 4. The exchange of experiences extended the perspective beyond a local one, and the relationships established enables subsequent activities to take place in which information was exchanged, at the same time as generating a positive environment for undertaking joint initiatives. 5. The participation of leaders and HR defenders in national and international organisational scenarios strengthened capacity and local spokespeople and provided evidence for using these scenarios to defend rights. The project also enabled leadership to be strengthened and renewed, as was the case for women and young people in some scenarios. 6. It was noted that the processes in the region are dynamic, and continue to make progress towards autonomy and the definition of work agendas. In the various areas visited there is a demand for greater accompaniment especially for processes at territorial level, especially in those areas where risks and threats are faced constantly. 7. In the context of the pandemic, the marked gap became evident, especially in regions with less access to connectivity, which is key when there are movement restrictions. This can lead to a better use of digital tools for collaborative work that were developed, such as the digital platforms that were used for exchanging audiovisual materials, which took place in particular during the second year of the project, making the most of and and strengthening the channels and means of communication used by the organisations. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate progress with regard to specific activities, through assessment/evaluation exercises with participants or other mechanisms which will enable permanent feedback from key players in the territories to be received. This will lead to greater participation and ownership from participating communities, HRDs and leaders. 2. For future projects, greater communication and dissemination of each macro case with everyone in the territory is recommended. Where legal action is involved, review the action-without-harm aspect to identify the risks that communities may face as a result of these actions, given the prevailing conditions in each context. 3. Develop a follow-up strategy or a mechanism that facilitates communication and exchange following encounters, such as a virtual tool, for example a shared blog or a platform for building communities and collaborative work (custom-built) to facilitate this interaction and a sustained exchange of content and experience, which can lead to developing joint action, for example regional and international advocacy. 4. In future activities, define a strategy for working with and accompanying local authorities, so that these become strategic allies in strengthening leadership in women who encounter internal barriers within their own authorities. 5. In future projects, earmark specific resources to sustain HRDs' livelihoods, as well as to strengthen community action at local level. This will also lead to reinforcing these processes through grassroots organisations' activities. 6. Address the challenges of the digital divide from the project's design stage. This means including a diagnosis of the ability to use different platforms and availability of technological resources, and undertaking action to overcome this gap, taking the specific needs of women and the facilitating role young people play in communities into account.



Outcome	Impacts	Findings	Recommendations
<p>2. Protection of HR defenders/HR organisations improve their individual and collective prevention and protection strategies and have resources and measures in place to address threats, criminalisation and stigmatisation.</p>	<p>7 community processes of healing and reconstruction of the social fabric, recovery of their own protection practices, received accompaniment and material benefits that supported their coordination with the use of human rights mechanisms, legal and juridical actions, including the strategic litigation methodology.</p> <p>21 cases accompanied in Colombia and Guatemala, in which legal and administrative mechanisms were implemented to defend communities and their territories.</p> <p>Two (2) emblematic sentences (conviction and dignified reparation) in the Ixil region (Guatemala), a case of femicide and violence against a young indigenous Mayan woman, Juana Raymundo, a defender in a rural community, in which jurisprudence was achieved.</p> <p>Participating organisations improved their capacity to respond to the risks associated with their work to defend territory and common goods.</p> <p>Through emergency funds and protection protocols, cases of imminent risk were dealt with, thus preventing violence against defenders under threat.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The thematic areas of intervention, each and in their interaction (land, territory, environment, protection of HRDs) were relevant to the different regions in which the project intervened and were adapted to the specific contexts by identifying concrete problems. The methodological approaches were adapted and favoured synergies between activities and outcomes. In terms of the intercultural/cultural approach, the effort to keep activities and work strategies contextualised and updated according to the dynamic changes of the context is noteworthy. With regard to the environmental approach, the project evolves to achieve, through legal action, a comprehensive and complementary perspective of the rights-based approach. The progress made in terms of the specific cases that were monitored provides sufficient elements to produce a product that documents the process. The focus for the advocacy work enabled coordination of activities at different levels (national, international and local), alongside working as a network as different kinds of organisations, including developing capacities for local spokespeople, including female defenders and leaders. Identifying and developing individual and collective self-protection strategies based on territorial approaches and in some cases on gender (Chocó, La Guajira and Guatemala) strengthened the actions of the communities and their understanding of protection, extending beyond the cosmovisions of the indigenous communities, their own spirituality and rituals as a protection factor. In Guatemala in particular, work was done on linking protection and self-protection actions with the right to a life free of violence for women, connecting violence and additional risks and barriers to women's leadership. The capacity to monitor and dialogue with the institutions responsible for implementing protection measures for HRDs was strengthened. Alternatives were proposed that are more appropriate to the specific context and situation of threats, which was especially valuable in a context with the closing of democratic spaces, states of emergency, and increased aggressions and stigmatisation of defenders during the pandemic. The capacity for collective and community resistance was strengthened through the use of legal mechanisms (El Rocio and the Community of Nuevo Chicoyou, where evictions were prevented). A comprehensive litigation strategy was generated for the Cocolatú macro case, using administrative, judicial and transitional justice mechanisms, that coordinates the defence of land, territory and a healthy environment and the protection of defenders; and for the Juana Raymundo Rivera macro case, achieving a 62-year prison sentence for the femicide and rape of the indigenous defender, as well as a sentence of dignified reparation for the family and her community, creating an important precedent in public and community debate of non-tolerance of violence against women. The proposed strategy made it possible to clearly link the national and international spheres in the defence of land, territory and a healthy environment when violations are committed by companies that manage extractive projects, using administrative, judicial, legislative (Congress), international (OECD) and multilateral (UN) mechanisms. The importance of the protection work of indigenous communities from their spirituality and ancestral knowledge was highlighted (SNSM and Mayan communities in Guatemala). It is essential to promote and coordinate joint work between communities and accompanying organisations for developing protection and self-protection actions, taking advantage of the expertise and knowledge of each party to strengthen strategies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Although gender and intercultural aspects were included in all project documentation (proposal, reports and communications), in the case of Colombia and regional action, they need to be more explicitly evidenced in the work methodologies, tools and strategies employed. Develop training and awareness-raising aimed at the authorities of some indigenous communities, with an explicit emphasis on women's participation, recognising and strengthening their leadership and prevention of male violence. Continue training leaders and defenders on topics such as new concepts of masculinity, demonstrating connections between this issue and defending and caring for land and territory, and the defence and care of life in every aspect. Through the perspective of dialogue, document territorial defence processes used by the indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities involved, as sufficient material exists to enable this kind of documentation exercise to identify differences and similarities in approach. In future projects, exchanges at the project monitoring and evaluation team level, and at administrative and territorial coordination levels could be better defined with regard to objectives, scope, activities and budget, and involving HRDs representing the various participating communities. For future action, allow for spaces for consortium organisations to exchange methodologies and approaches in terms of strategies and ways of working in training processes, demanding rights, accompanying defenders and communities and strategic litigation. In advocacy, review the value of working with local institutions (or defining clearly when it is undesirable or impossible), as a key element for sustained action to defend the right to land, territory, a healthy environment and the protection of HRDs. Although, in terms of risk analysis and building protection and self-protection strategies the project aimed to include a gender perspective, it is recommended that, in future action, practical opportunities for self-care for HRDs be incorporated, understanding one's body as the first territory. This in turn would allow for meaningful dialogue on gender-based violence, how that impacts female and male defenders and leaders differently, how to change this violence together and position the first territory's right to a life free from violence as a fundamental requirement to progress comprehensively and coherently in defending the territory (of the "common home"). It will be important to continue reinforcing psychosocial support for HRDs and communities given legal advice or representation, i.e. strengthen the legal-psychosocial support, making the most of approaches such as those of CALDH in self-healing and holistic therapeutic care, and the ritual and spirituality of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

Outcome	Impacts	Findings	Recommendations
<p>3. Local and national organisations extend their cooperation with networks in decision-making spaces and their interaction with state and non-state actors, intergovernmental entities and public opinion around land rights, territory, reparations and environmental care at national, regional and international levels to deal with threats, criminalisation and stigmatisation.</p>	<p>46 communication and public advocacy actions that resulted in a greater capacity for coordination between organisations to report and to influence public opinion.</p> <p>17 emblematic cases carried out advocacy to position them in public opinion and spaces for conversation with decisionmakers (national government officials, in the United States and Europe, the UN, European Union dependencies, Inter-American System).</p> <p>The exchanges of experiences at Latin American, sub-regional and national levels allowed peer-to-peer learning processes on protection, resistance, advocacy and strategic litigation strategies.</p> <p>Wide dissemination through specialised reports and other communication products on five (5) emblematic macro cases in Colombia and Guatemala and twelve (12) additional relevant cases in the seven countries of the Latin American region involved in the project.</p> <p>Drafting and dissemination of the "Protecting Our Common Home" regional report, a key tool for local, regional and international advocacy through which five (5) cases in the region were positioned.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Third Party Financial Support strategy not only produced results at the level of the organisations and processes supported by the project, but also resulted in the involvement of organisations and countries other than the main areas of work in Colombia and Guatemala, creating excellent conditions for regional coordination and an approach that involves diverse views on issues related to the protection of natural resources, and the challenges community processes of resistance and defence of the territory face today. Networking between local and international organisations multiplied the spaces for advocacy (Congress, British Parliament, EU, OECD, UN), taking advantage of the favourable conditions generated by the priority given to virtual communication during the pandemic. Advocacy actions opened up opportunities for direct dialogue, as in the case of the UN Special Rapporteur, which facilitated the dialogue in local processes on central issues such as the protection of territory and the criminalisation of communities. Specifically, this action highlighted other emblematic cases that are being strengthened through CAFOD's partner organisations in Honduras and Brazil. Within the framework of the project, a positive synergy was observed between information produced by or with the participation of the communities and the definition of communications messages and the use of products for advocacy, while also strengthening defenders' capacities to take ownership of direct dialogue in various national and international arenas. The project made it possible to mobilise a broad communications strategy and to involve public opinion (press, radio, TV, webinars, press conferences, communications, use of social networks), which made it possible to position cases such as those of El Cerrejón, #1500Latidos (SNSM), #ChicoyougüitoEsNuestro, Juana Raymundo, the criminalisation of Journalist Ernesto Choc and the Nuevo Chicoyou community. Both the communications and the advocacy strategies were coordinated with the outcomes of the training processes, using the products generated (reports) and the central issues identified by the communities. This strengthened community spokespersons and leaders and HRDs, generating internal recognition in their communities and organisations, as well as in the eyes of external actors. It enabled cases to be positioned with outstanding support from CAFOD and in strategic coordination with ABColombia: Cerrejón macro case, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta case, COCOLATU macro-case, Cajamarca case, Defensoras del Norte del Cauca case, Valle del Tambo criminalised defenders' case. In light of the trends, lessons learned from local and regional experiences, and joint action as a consortium, the advocacy actions leave a legacy for the organisations and strengthened their strategic litigation capacities in cases relating to the defence of land, territory, and the environment. At the international level, having held a dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur, Mary Lawlor, the strategy contributed to raising awareness of the situation of vulnerability of defenders accompanied in the project throughout the region. This initiative has led to regular dialogue with the Rapporteur's office and the planning of follow-up actions on each of the issues raised. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Despite observing the excellent use of different media to carry out the communications strategy: radio, written press, TV/interviews/social networks, developing communications pieces, exhibitions, photography and videos, it is necessary to further develop the use of local media, such as community radio stations and local newspapers, by new leaders and spokespeople who are making themselves known at local level, as well as in building and disseminating educational content and communications in their own languages via WhatsApp and social networks. In future action it would be interesting to incorporate communications development and the use of new technologies to serve local processes, which would strengthen their local advocacy agendas and increase their knowledge of how to use communication tools, produce content and use audiovisual, press and digital resources, etc. Continue follow-up that took place after significant advocacy events such as verification visits, international tours, meetings with the British and Irish parliaments, regional meetings of peer organisations; these can support building a regional action agenda for longer term advocacy (such as the IACHR [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights], Follow-up Group to the Escazú Agreement). Monitoring advocacy could be facilitated through a web platform (for internal use), with regular updates on emblematic cases and collective challenges identified in regional meetings. This would also facilitate exchanging documentation and information produced in the territories. Create periodic internal opportunities to take stock of advocacy and communication activities, ensuring, among other aspects, balanced support and promotion by CAFOD of the advocacy conducted in each country.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXTERNAL PROJECT EVALUATION



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea



DEFENDIENDO LA
TIERRA, EL TERRITORIO
Y EL MEDIO AMBIENTE:
PROMOVIENDO EL
TRABAJO DE DEFENSORAS
Y DEFENSORES EN
AMÉRICA LATINA

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Prepared by:

