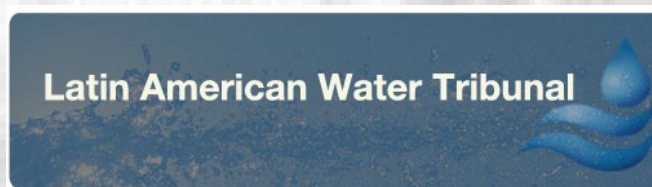


**2011 and 2012
Activity Report**
**Tribunal Latinoamericano
del Agua**
(Latin American Water Tribunal)



Forum: Water in Mexico: Problems, conflicts and perspectives.

23th February and on Thursday 24th February of 2011. Cuernavaca, México

On Wednesday 23th February and on Thursday 24th February, Latin American Water Court carried out an international Forum in the Auditorio of Regional Center Multidisciplinary Research, of the Autonomous Mexico University (UNAM) in Cuernavaca, Morelos. Ones of the objectives of this encounter was to deepen in the knowledge of water situation in México. Others objectives were to understand the causes of some of the main water conflicts that exists in the country and to analyze the main proposals to solve them.



From Left to Right: Gustavo Paz, member of Water National Coordination, Raúl García Barrios and Ana María Chávez, members of CRIM- UNAM and Javier Bogantes, president of TLA.

Prominent academic and researchers of UNAM, social organizations representatives affected by water problems, public authorities and decision makers participated in the forum. Totally, 84 people (38 women and 45 men) attended this activity the first day, and 92 people (47 women and 45 men) attended it the second day. The first table was integrated by Raúl García Barrios, member of the CRIM, Gustavo Paz, representant of Water National Commission (CONAGUA) and Javier Bogantes, president of Latin American Water Court. They presented water situation in México, governmental plans in the Water Agenda of 2030 and Mexican International Agenda in COP 16, as well as their experience in international processes of water justice.

In the second table, a space to discuss and analyze 10 cases submitted in Latin American Water Court was opened. This space was part of the monitoring process to of cases submitted in the TLA and it was focus in knowing the legal progress of them.

Among the cases raised in this space were the contamination of Santiago River, expounded by María González, member of IMDEC, the water dispossession of Cutzamala system approached by Santiago Pérez from Mazahua Movement, the ecological recuperation of Acuitlapilco Lake exposed by Héctor Joseph, member of Gurla, water pollution of Atoyac River put forward by Alejandra Méndez from “Fray Julián García” Human Rights Centre; La Parota hidroelectrical project expounded by Rodolfo Chávez from CECOP; San Javier hill and opencast mining problem in México, expounded by Mario Martínez, member of the Broad Opposition Front to San Javier Mine, etc.



Later, four experts from UNAM talked and argued about water situation in Mexico from a scientific approach. Dr. Luís Marin, academic from the Geophysical Institute of UNAM, with the issue “Scientific Knowledge of Water in Mexico”; Dra.Patricia Ávila, from the Ecosystems Research Centre of UNAM expounded the issue: “Water governance in Mexico”, sir. Rodrigo Gutiérrez from the Legal Research Institute of UNAM expounded an approach to the water laws and human rights in Mexico, and Fernanda Paz, from the Multidisciplinary Research Regional Centre talked about water conflicts in México.

In this context, TLA proposed to several groups submit their cases in the institution. These cases were about water pollution, wetland damage, opencast mining, industrial waste pollution, water transfers, etc. Totally, 21 new cases were identified. These cases will be analyzed by the Legal Area of the Water Court.

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Forum: Water Conflicts in Costa Rica: Exigency of the ethic to achieve possible solutions.

5th of April and 6th of April . Auditory of the Supreme Court of Elections, San José, Costa Rica.

This forum had the goal of propitiate a collective reflection about water conflicts in Costa Rica and their possible solutions. Totally, 159 people (72 women and 87 men) attended this activity the first day, and 83 people (41 women and 42 men) attended it the second day.

During this activity important public institutions, academic professionals and social organizations dealt with several issues related to water as real estate development, tourism, monoculture, health, indigenous territories water situation and water basins. Some of the institutions that participated with Alajuela Municipality, Escazú Municipality, San José Municipality, AyA, Comptroller General's Office, State of the Nation, National Irrigation and Drainage (SENARA), The National Center for High Technology (CENAT), Costa Rica Tourism Institute (ICT), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Costa Rica Electricity Institute (ICE), Tropical Agricultural Research and Education (CATIE), Ministry of Public Education (MEP), University of Costa Rica (UCR), National University (UNA), Technological Institute of Costa Rica (ITCR), Association of Organic Producers of Talamanca (UCANEHU) IRET / UNA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAE), the Foundation for Peace and Democracy (FUNPADEM), advisors of the Legislative Assembly deputies, University of Education Distance (UNED), Centre for Climate, Swiss Travel, Interdisciplinary Research Program of UNAM (México), etc.



The forum was composed by 6 panel discussion. The first one dealt about monoculture and pollution and was integrated by Nelson Brizuela, expert in National Water Service for Irrigation and Cleaning (SENARA), Clemens Ruepert, academic from the IRET-UNA; Carlos Acevedo who represented industrial pineapple sector and Laura Arias, who talked in representation affected populations a cause of monoculture expansion.

In next panel discussion, Hector Feoli, from Water and Sewage (AyA), presented the results of a research conducted by the institution. Isabel Rivera and Pablo Sibar, terraba community leaders, also talked about the impact in their communities that could have the hydro-electrical project El Diquis promoted by the ICE. This panel discussion was moderated by the anthropologist Ruben Chacon.



Photo: Panel discussion about monoculture.

In the third table, focussed on “Water and real state development”. On it, Jorge Lobo and Freddy Pacheco, biologist of the UCR, talked about tourism development in South Pacific Coast and about the water storage and waste problems in Central Valley.

Next day, the panel discussion “Water and Health” was conducted by Jorine Muiser and María Teresa Acuña, who showed important data that proved the relationship between water cleaning and illness. Francisco Angulo, representant of the enterprise of public services Heredia S.A (ESPH) remarked some details about the “Ecological Cleaning Project” that they have developed in the region.



Pablo Sibar. Panel discussion about Water in indigenous territories.

Incidence tour in Argentina. Monitoring of La Pampa y González Catán cases.

From 28th of August to 15th of Septiembre.

The incidence tour of TLA in Argentina had different goals. One of them was to make progress with logistical aspects related to Public Audience, planned to 2012 in Buenos Aires. So, members and collaborators of TLA arranged press and institutional contacts, members of the Jury, and budget issues. To this goal, Members of TLA had meetings with Esteban Castro from Water Lat, the journalist Guido Baistrochi, representatives of the Ecumenic Regional Centre of Advice and Service (CREAS), Earth Friends; Alejandro Gómez, representative of the Treasury Secretary of Faculty of Law- University of Buenos Aires; Ana Carolina Herrero, director of Urban Ecological Career of the University of Gral, the NGO Water Space, etc.



Juan Pablo Morisoli, Water Resources Secretary of La Pampa and Javier Bogantes, President of the TLA.

Other goal of the incidence tour was to make progress with the proves of the cases submitted to the Court. In order to recommend how to improve on it, TLA carried out an ocular inspection of the Atuel River. So, 29th of August, Javier Bogantes, president of TLA; members of CHADILEUVÚ Foundation; Juan Pablo Morisoli, Water Resources Secretary of La Pampa; the intendent Juan Alberto Corbalán; researchers and journalists, (From Página 12 and La Arena) made a big tour in the Atuel Basin. This tour started from Santa Isabel village to Santa Rosa and Algarrobo del Aguila. In this point, the delegation took an helicopter to flight over Río Atuel-La Puntilla, East branch of Atuel river, the Algarrobo pass, the province limits with Mendoza and the Uncal Lake. In this tour, TLA realized of the high content of salinity of the La Pampa ground, as well as the depressed economic activities and the lost of animal and vegetal life.

This tour concluded in the Corner of the Indian (Rincon del Indio) in Mendoza. In this place is based the water infrastructure that cut partially the water supply to La Pampa. In this point, was very contrasting the rich life style of Mendoza, with vineyard and fruit growing.



Sampling in Atuel River to make an chemical analyze

During this tour, Javier Bogantes answered several media interviews and the visit has a big impact in the regional and national media.



María Comelli Sociologue, Coordinateur TLA Argentina, Javier Bogantes (TLA) and Rocío Magnani (Pagina 12)



Forum “Unilateral cutting of Atuel river by the province of Mendoza and impact in the province of La Pampa”

On 31th of August, the TLA carried out a Forum and a workshop in the Municipality Centre of Santa Rosa, La Pampa.



Workshop in Santa Rosa, La Pampa

In the workshop, 15 people deliberated about how to submit the case to the Court.



Public of the Forum in the Municipality Centre of Santa Rosa, La Pampa.

The Forum was inaugurated by Hector Gómez, president of CHADILEUVÚ Foundation and Javier Bogantes, president of TLA. For more than four hours, several experts talked about the geological, historic, economical and sociocultural features of this case. Some proposals to solve the main conflicts in the basin were also expounded.



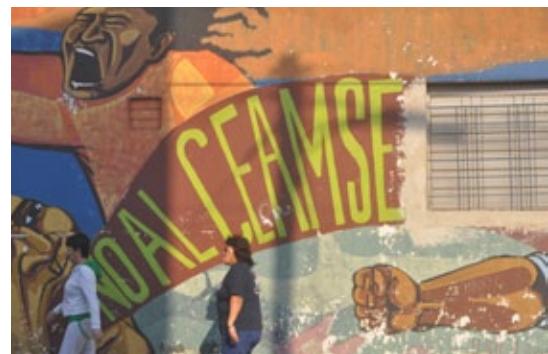
Hector Gómez, president of CHADILEUVÚ Foundation and Javier Bogantes, president of TLA.

Forum: “Contamination of drinking water by the garbage dump “CEAMSE” in Gonzalez Catan”

On 3th September, the platform of neighbors and residents of González Catan against the CEAMSE organized a forum in the Public School number 129. In this forum, different issues related to the case submitted in the Corut as proves, researchs and documentaries were attended by the dozens of participants.



Public of the Forum in González Catan



Earth Friends and representants of Gonzalez Catan neighbors with Javier Bogantes, President of TLA.



Publication of the book: Wrong Strategies and violation of water systems in Latin America
(Estrategias erróneas y la vulneración de los sistemas Hídricos en América Latina)



This document is part of a campaign to raise public awareness about water issues. It was written by Javier Bogantes and Jorine Muiser. It starts with a philosophical and ethical approach to water and later on, it focuses on the crisis of public health in Latin America, and its relation with water cleaning coverage. It also talks about human right to water and environmental thoughts systems. This publication finishes with a remembrance of the experiences and cases submitted at the Latin American Water Court, born 11 years ago.

International Forum “The human right to water challenge: Authority and policies for an inclusive water management”
 30th of November-1st of December Lima Perú

From 30th of November to 1 of December, the president of Latin American Water Court attended the forum “The human right to water challenge: Authority and policies for an inclusive water”- The forum was organized by ALTERNATIVA Research and Popular Education Centre, an organization that has promoted integral human development for more than 33 years. The final goal of this activity was to achieve a social convergence about the policies, strategies and instruments to warrant human right to water. In order to get this goal, water authorities, congress members, labor unions representants and civil society organizations met in the forum.

In this context, TLA expounded the importance of the protection of ethical principles of water. The participation was focussed on the development strategies that has a negative impact in water ecosystems.

In this tour, a preliminary Public Hearing of Peruvian cases took place. In this activity, six denounces of water damages were submitted: the over exploitation of water in Huancavelica and Ica caused by the production of hidroelectrical energy; the petrol extraction in Andoas, the hidroelectrical projects in Paron Lake and in Inambari River, Opencast mining in Chinchaycocha Lake and in La Conga, etc.



Javier Bogantes, president of TLA, had a meeting with Hugo Cabieses, Environmental vice-minister of Perú and with members of Water C Asociation. In this meeting, TLA made an approach about the concept of water in Peru and the consequences that the utilitarian waste of it has in the irrigation systems. Environmental vice-minister made a short exposition about the strategies of MINAM in different water challenges as climate change, green economy and natural resources management. Sr. Bogantes talked about the water experience in the region, and also about the future projects of the institution.

Forum and workshop “Wrong strategies: impact in water Systems and water availability in Centroamérica and México”

13th- 14th of December. San José, Costa Rica.

In this meeting, we have monitorized some of the wrong strategies that cause negative impacts in water availability and water ecosystems. As a part, of the campaign to raise awareness about water concerns, TLA organized a workshop and a forum, that summoned centroamerican and Mexico representatives. Every representative expounded the water situation in his country and a process to strengthen alternative strategies to get water conservation was initiated.



This event was held at the Hotel La Condesa, in the mountains of Heredia. It launched on Tuesday 13 December and ended on day 14 in the afternoon. To this activity attended: Salvador Montenegro and Melvin Wallace from Nicaragua; Raul Garcia Barrios, Andres Barreda and Otero Ariosto from Mexico; Jorge Cabrera and Nicolas Pelicó from Guatemala; Rafael Cartagena from El Salvador; Iris Zavala from Honduras and Irina Katchan, Gustavo Gutierrez, Eliecer Araya, Hernan Paniagua, Leonardo Hidalgo, Gilberto Lopes, Catharina Wesseling, Pedro Arroyo and Jorine Muiser Garro from Costa Rica. All these people represented organizations of their countries, involved in water and environment.



Second panel discussion, from left to right: Rafael Cartagena from El Salvador, Salvador Montenegro from Nicaragua, Ariosto Otero from México, Javier Bogantes from Tribunal Latinoamericano del Agua and Andrés Barreda from México.

They exposed the environmental conditions experienced by their countrymen: legislation, major issues, government policies, social mobilization, etc.. On the second day TLA developed a dynamic work in groups to discuss issues of economy, politics, health and social conflicts related to water.



Open panel discussion of the Forum: In the podium, the diputie Carmen Granados. In the panel discussion Raúl Barrios, Melvin Wallace, Iris Zabala y Jorge Cabrera.

On Thursday afternoon was held a forum that took place at the premises of the Legislative Assembly in the Hall of Ex-presidents. As of 6:00 pm and for more than 3 hours the participants debated with the public about the main wrong strategies that are developed in their countries. In this way, we dealt with the distressing ecological reality the mexicans are living after signing the FTA with the U.S. and Canada, with the opencast mining conflicts in Honduras, the water supply infraestructure problems in Salvador or the negative impact of the frontier road.



This forum brought together more than 80 people interested in better understanding the phenomenology of these situations of legal crisis and impunity. As a result of this activity were published 4 press releases in media such as El Nuevo Diario de Nicaragua or El Pais, Costa Rica.

During the **Forum and workshop “Wrong strategies”**, the Mexican muralist Ariosto Otero submitted the paper “Muralism for the water justice in Latin America”. This muralist has a broad trajectory in his country: he has painted 27 murals and has received a lot of awards and recognitions.

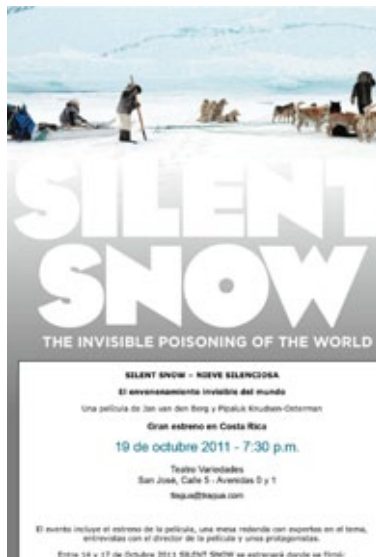


Muralist Ariosto Otero masterpieces



Latin American Water Court support the launching of: ‘SILENT SNOW’ in Costa Rica

Silent Snow, the invisible poisoning of the world is a documentary project investigating, together with the people who are affected the most, what turns out to be a structural pollution of the entire global environmental system. The Silent Snow project aims to raise awareness of this problem and consists of both a short and a feature length documentary by Jan van den Berg, educational material for schools and this website. In the short film the subject is introduced by following two young girls in Greenland and the way in which they are confronted with the pollution of their environment.



The feature length documentary continues where the short film has left off. It's time to go all around the world and find out what is causing this quiet disaster. In the seemingly pure plains of the Arctic a group of experienced Inuit starts out on a dangerous dog-sledge expedition through their barren land. But while the global warming and disappearing icebergs are problems they can perceive directly, the pollution of their land remains a hard to imagine threat. One of the countries that the main featured of the film, Pipaluk, visit India, Tanzania, Uganda and finally e Costa Rica, where he interviews Timoteo Jackson, indigenous ecologist from Talamanca.

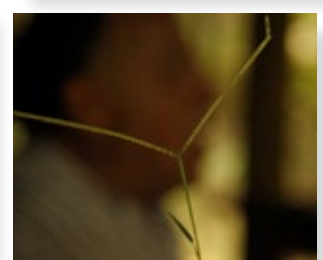
More info: <http://www.silentsnow.org>

Workshop: Health alternatives in El Caribe 25th -27th of May 2012, Talamanca, Costa Rica

In Costa Rica there are 10,000 to 12,000 plants and the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica is the region where we find more biodiversity, but the people only use 300 plants in there. In other countries, as El Salvador or Nicaragua, with less biodiversity, people have preserved their traditional knowledge and use more their plants. The goal of this workshop was to bring new tools and knowledge to local people and organizations interested in the natural use of plants. This could permit to develop new economic projects, and a more sustainable life style and healthy.



Over three days, Hernan Rodriguez Navas explained in a workshop medicinal, cosmetic and pesticides uses of the plants. The workshop included a theoretic part and a practice part. It included fabrication of soaps and a tour on the forest. In this tour, the attendees could identify around 80 medical plants. Some of them can be found in the book "The usefulness of medicinal plants in Costa Rica", published by the Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica. The workshop was attended by 20 people.



Forum: Water Situation in indigenous territories in Costa Rica

6th and 7th of June, 2012 , Suretka, Talamanca, Costa Rica

This forum was intended to discuss strategies to promote adequate water policy in the ecosystems and indigenous people of Costa Rica. Its aim was to deepen and to propose solutions to the water vulnerabilities of populations Bribri, Cabecar, Maleku, Boruca and Terrabas; such as the use of agrochemicals, climate change, the expansion of monoculture, the deficiencies and challenges of water supply and sanitation in their territories or the different diseases that are transmitted through water. These problems were dealt in six panel discussions: Environmental situation in the Talamanca region and its effects on water systems, the water situation of the population Bribri-Cabecar water Boruca Maleku populations, and Terraba Huetar, state policies Costa Rica and its effects on indigenous lands and water in Costa Rica indigenous cultures as well as the conference "The impact of mining activities in Panama".

The institutional response can be considered very satisfactory. The many entities involved were the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (Minaet), the National Meteorological Institute, Water and Sewer (AyA), the National Commission of Indian Affairs, the National Women's Institute, the Municipality of Talamanca, the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock (MAG), the National Indigenous representatives sustainable Development Program of Sixaola river Binational Basin, etc..



The municipality of Talamanca committed itself to provide an environmental centre in the municipality, to promote recycling and bioenergy projects. The municipality also showed his willingness to expedite process to construct of sewer systems that ensure the human right to water for the populations of Upper and Lower Talamanca. Water and Sewers (AyA) also had a positive response to carry out as soon as possible the building of aqueducts in cabecar territory.

There was also presence of international organizations like UNESCO and academic institutions as the Institute for Studies on Toxic Substances of the Universidad Nacional (IRET). Among the Attendees were also international organizations and observers, representatives community boards and representatives of over 30 indigenous communities and organizations, researchers, activists, teachers, environmental educators, community journalist, etc. Totally, this forum was attended by 104 people WAS (women 31 and men 73) the first day and 95 people (with a total of 50 men and 45 women) the second day.



At the end of the Forum, representatives of indigenous organizations (Ucanehu, the Association of Small Producers of Talamanca, Integral Development Associations of Bribri and Cabecar villages, the Association of Small Producers of Talamanca Indigenous Development Centre Boruca, the women Association Hand of Tigre, the North coordinator Tierra y Libertad, the Group of 12, the Association of Indigenous Development Boruca, etc) met to further the agreements and lines of action that may arise in the future. They were interested in knowing how to submit a case in the TLA.



This forum allowed to put on the political and media agenda water issues in indigenous territories of Costa Rica, build alliances, share knowledge and awareness do work to increase awareness of the need to protect water ecosystems. It also allowed a deeper understanding of possible cases of injustice water in the region.

Forum: “Water Security, climate change and governability in the Indigenous People in Alta Verapaz”

21st of June, 2012, San Cristobal, Guatemala

This forum was designed to follow up the case of Laguna Chichoj, submitted in the Public Hearing-Guatemala 2008 by the Association Verapaz (Asoverapaz) and the Center for Environmental and Social Legal Action of Guatemala (CALAS). Solutions to Chichoj pollution have advanced substantially since then, after the agreements between the municipality of San Cristobal Verapaz, Alta Verapaz department and Association Verapaz (ASOVERAPAZ).



In the meeting were Romeo Suram, Mayor of San Cristobal Verapaz; Jorge Mario Vasquez Solano, representing the governor of Alta Verapaz; Lesvia Mus Asoverapaz representative, engineer Henry Sep, representing the Ministry of Environment and Rodrigo Sanchez, government Auditor Environmental Unit of the Comptroller General's Office, which showed a report on environmental performance irregularities found in San Cristobal Verapaz, and undertook to provide information in the future on this case; Rafael Maldonado, a lawyer from Legal Action and Social Environment of Guatemala (CALAS) and, of course, the Latin American Water Tribunal.



During the activity the Latin American Water Tribunal also opened a space to know several cases of great importance for their impact on water systems, such the case of the hydroelectric plant in the municipality Entre Rios Lanquin, mining activities planned in Alta Verapaz or the expansion of palm monoculture in Polochic. In the meeting America Program on Poverty and Inequality of IBIS also underlined the effects of climate change at regional and national levels.



The forum was attended by a total 110 people (79 men, 31 women). Among the public were indigenous peasants of the surrounding communities, members of civil society organizations, institutions and various levels of government programs (local, regional and national), international observers, researchers, activists, teachers, environmental educators, journalists and community journalists.

Forum “Conservation and protection of water sources and headwaters”, 8th-11th of June 2012. Lima, Perú.

During this period, TLA has also attended the forum “Conservation and protection of areas producing water and headers Basin”, organized by the PAS ANDINO and the RED MUQUI in partnership with the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering UNALM, and performed in Lima, Peru. This has allowed some mechanism of dialogue with organizations in the Andean region who requested mediation in some conflictive cases of great importance as, for example, the expansion of opencast mining in the region of Cajamarca, also known as Case Conga. Among the organizations with which meetings were held and with which we are currently working include the Institute for the Promotion of Water Management (IPROGA), the only Union of Workers of Potable Water and Sewer Lima (Sutesal) Grufides, COOPERATION, Agronoticias magazine, the Peruvian government environmental institutions, etc. In this tour, The Latin-American Water Court has realized the urgent necessity of promoting water governability in the andean country, that could permit the coexistence between productive processes and nature conservancy in a more armonical way.

In all these forums and meetings, has distributed the book: “Water and water conflicts in Latin America, Latin American Water Tribunal”, a publication that has been well received and has received numerous comments from decision makers and different actors academic and civil society.



FORO INTERNACIONAL
(BOLIVIA - ECUADOR - PERU)

**CONSERVACION Y PROTECCIÓN
DE ZONAS PRODUCTORAS DE
AGUA y CABECERAS DE CUENCA**



10, 11, 12, DE JULIO DEL 2012

UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AGRARIA LA MOLINA
LIMA PERU