ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS AND THE ROLE OF THE IUCN

BACKGROUND

In September 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) held its World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France. The Congress takes place every four years between leaders and decision-makers from governments, Indigenous communities, the private sector and civil society, with the aim of setting conservation priorities for the following four years.[1]

It was in Marseille that the IUCN Congress adopted its Nature 2030 programme and a number of policy resolutions that address the most pressing conservation challenges.[2] IUCN Members also adopted the Marseille Manifesto, calling for urgent, systemic reforms to jointly address the climate, biodiversity, and post-COVID-19 crises.[3]

Resolution 115: "*Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers"* was adopted in Marseille against a background of escalating global violence against environmental defenders, and a continuing recognition that conservation itself must explicitly safeguard human rights defenders. The resolution:[4]

- **Mandates the IUCN to develop a policy and action plan** to protect defenders, in collaboration with them.
- **Requests the IUCN to collect and share data** on threats and attacks, and report progress in annual reports.
- **Calls for engagement with states and other actors** to promote legal and policy reforms that protect defenders.
- **Emphasises Indigenous Peoples and local communities** as particularly vulnerable and central to conservation outcomes.

Recognising threats and attacks against environmental defenders within the conservation sector is not new within the IUCN. However, the international body has been criticised in the past for a reactive rather than a proactive position.[5] Resolution 115, therefore, presented an opportunity to establish a vital human rights-based framework for conservation through its own policy and action plan, recognising defenders as crucial change agents in protecting wildlife, and demonstrating leadership and a shift in approach within the conservation community.

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[1] 'IUCN World Conservation Congress', IUCN https://iucn.org/our-union/iucn-world-conservation-congress

[2] 'Nature 2030: A Union in action' IUCN https://iucn.org/nature-2030

[3] 'Overview of outcomes from the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Contributions to the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework', IUCN https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/outcomes-of-marseille-wcc.pdf

[4] WCC-2020-Res-115-EN Protecting environmental human and peoples' rights defenders and whistleblowers https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2020_RES_115_EN.pdf

[5] 'Environmental defenders, human rights and the growing role of IUCN policy: retired, red-tagged or red-listed?', Larsen, P.B., & Balsiger, J., Policy Matters. Special Edition on Environmental Defenders. Volume 1. IUCN https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/Policy-Matters-Issue-22-vol3.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER ATTACK GLOBALLY

For years, environmental and human rights defenders have led the global fight against the causes and impacts of climate breakdown and wildlife destruction, challenging irresponsible businesses operating unhampered through forests, wetlands, oceans and biodiversity hotspots.[6]

As the urgency and concerns over the environment have intensified over the past decade, so too have the levels of global environmental activism, and with it increased awareness of defenders' struggle to safeguard their land and environment. Since 2012, 2,253 defenders have been killed trying to protect their land and resources: an average of one defender killed approximately every two days over twelve years.[7] The latest figures show that, on average, around three people were killed or disappeared each week throughout 2024.[8] Such lethal attacks are almost certainly an underestimate. Conflict, restrictions on a free press and civil society, and lack of independent monitoring of attacks on defenders can all lead to underreporting.

Environmental and human rights defenders across Africa

Between 2019 and 2023, *Global Witness* recorded 43 killings of environmental and human rights defenders across the African continent.[9] *Frontline Defenders* recorded 74 human rights defenders killed in Africa between 2020 and 2024, with environmental and human rights defenders one of the groups most at risk.[10] In its ten year analysis on human rights defenders, the *Business and Human Rights Resource Centre* recorded 583 instances of non-lethal attacks against human rights defenders, with close to a third of these occurring in Uganda.[11]

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[6] 'Land and Environmental Defenders', Global Witness https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/

[7] 'Roots of Resistance: Documenting the global struggles of defenders protecting land and environmental rights', Global Witness, 17 September 2025 https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/roots-of-resistance/

[8] 'Roots of Resistance: Documenting the global struggles of defenders protecting land and environmental rights', Global Witness, 17 September 2025 https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/roots-of-resistance/

[9] Global Witness open data on killings of land and environmental defenders https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/in-numbers-lethal-attacks-against-defenders-since-2012/

[10] 'Global Analysis 2020', Frontline Defenders https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/fld_global_analysis_2020.pdf ; 'Dispatches: Annual Report 2021', Frontline Defenders https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/final_annual_report_2021.pdf ; 'Global Analysis 2022', Frontline Defenders https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-2022 ; 'Global Analysis 2023/24', Frontline Defenders https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-202324

[11] 'Human Rights Defenders and Business: 10 Year Analysis', Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 21 May 2025 https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/from-us/briefings/human-rights-defenders-and-business-10-year-analysis/

Yet robust and systematic data on the threats to and killings of environmental defenders is lacking across Africa, resulting in underreporting and consequently a lack of understanding of the severity of threats faced by people resisting the flourish of extractive and large-scale land investments including for notorious carbon credit and biodiversity offset projects.

Alongside killings, environmental and human rights defenders face land evictions, harassment and violence, with a worrying rise in criminalisation hitting environmental activists across the continent, mirroring the situation worldwide. Threats and attacks against environmental defenders in particular are reported to be increasing, with Africa being one of the hotspots. One of the projects associated with the highest number of attacks over the past decade has been the Lake Albert oil extraction and development project (which includes the East African Crude Oil Pipeline) which spans Uganda and Tanzania.[12]

Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs)

Historically, women have led the charge in struggles for justice and equality, including climate activism and movements to protect their lands and livelihoods and the rights inherently linked to these. Likewise, the critical role and contributions of Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs) in safeguarding and expanding environmental democracy are recognised and codified in many multilateral agreements and resolutions, including UNGA Resolution 68/182 on the protection of women human rights defenders and UNGA Resolution 40/11 on the contribution of EHRDs to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development.

Yet due to existing gender inequalities, emergency situations and pandemic levels of gender-based violence and femicide, women defenders face specific vulnerabilities to climate change, extractivism and environmental degradation. This occurs because they already lack access rights and bear the burden of care and unpaid labour, which is regularly linked to land and environmental resources. WEHRDs – particularly those who are Indigenous, with disabilities[13], racialized, minority, poor, or living in rural communities – face serious threats for seeking environmental justice and are often victims of gender-based violence, displacement, repression, criminalisation, and nonlethal attacks.[14]

The gendered nature of violence

Although the spotlight tends to shine on male land and environmental defenders due to the reported number that are murdered, women defenders themselves are targets of numerous forms of gendered violence, not just for defending their land and livelihoods, but also due to disrupting deep-rooted patriarchal norms in their families, communities, and workplace. Powerful state and non-state actors with vested economic and political interests have historically used violence against women in an attempt to incite fear and silence them.

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[12] 'Human Rights Defenders and Business: 10 Year Analysis', Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 21 May 2025 https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/from-us/briefings/human-rights-defenders-and-business-10-year-analysis/

[13] CRPD General Comment 3 and IOM case study Fiji https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1411/files/documents/PRP%20Briefs_Women%20and%20Disability-RD-final_19052022.pdf

[14] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-023-01126-4 A global analysis of violence against women defenders in environmental conflicts; Dalena Tran & Ksenija Hanaček; Nature Sustainability volume 6, 2023

Women defenders in particular carry huge roles, often juggling being a spouse, mother, and housewife, as well as their role as an environmental defender. Yet defenders across high-risk countries such as Kenya, DRC, Uganda and Tanzania all speak of both the social and cultural stigmatization women face for speaking up and speaking out in what remain patriarchal societies[15]. In simple terms "women in African society are not expected to be involved in governance or public affairs."[16] In some communities, women are banned from speaking and being heard at the community level. When they do speak out, stigmatization and misogynistic defamation is common with women defenders labelled "prostitutes" – an attempt to shame and coerce them into being submissive and quiet.

Whilst all defenders are increasingly victims of digital surveillance and online repression, women and LGBTQ+ defenders are disproportionately targeted by doxxing, smear campaigns, and gendered digital abuse, facing targeted online harassment. In DRC, defenders speak of how women are threatened by male perpetrators with threats of sexual violence and/or threats to publish sexually explicit photos of them online, accompanied by attempts at blackmail.

Women defenders also face gendered threats and intimidation: perpetrators frequently threaten their children and husbands in an attempt to weaken their resolve and drive family tensions.

When women do speak out they're often threatened and criminalized, often through serious trumped-up charges. They also face serious physical abuse - attacked by military officials during protests, or taken to cells and raped in cases of incarceration.

Reporting and redress mechanisms for gender-based violence remain weak or inaccessible, and women defenders risk self-censoring or operating in isolation due to a lack of networks to discuss their experiences and get support, often living in fear for their lives. In remote areas in particular, women face a lack of avenues to make complaints or make their voices heard with many simply not knowing who to report to. Allies express the difficulty in organising a protest due to the general lack of support for women defenders whilst journalists often do not want to cover stories of women defenders for fear of reprisal themselves.

To effectively respond to the unique challenges faced by WEHRDs, the IUCN and its members must take concrete measures that recognise their contributions, strengthen support for their work, and address their specific needs at local, regional and international levels.

PROGRESS MADE BY THE IUCN UNDER RESOLUTION 115

In the context of sustained attacks against environmental and human rights defenders, one of the most notable commitments from the IUCN under Resolution 115 was the development of an IUCN policy and action plan on environmental human rights defenders and whistleblowers, 'in collaboration with defenders and whistleblowers and their organisations'. This was an important commitment from the IUCN: environmental defenders, including Indigenous Peoples, and local communities are often the frontline guardians of biodiversity.

[15] Interviews between the consultants and multiple national and regional civil society groups operating across Africa
[16] Interview with Kenyan representative of Defend Defenders coalition

Without their safety and ability to act, conservation projects are at risk of failing. What's more, a global policy signals that the IUCN recognises this link and acknowledges defender protection as integral to conservation, not optional. And whilst threats and attacks against defenders vary in levels and types across different countries and regions, the problem is global in scope: a policy and action plan would ensure that the IUCN responds consistently, with standards and procedures that apply across all programmes, regions, and members. Yet there is no evidence of a global action plan or policy under the IUCN itself as of yet, suggesting that it is still under development but with little information as to why its adoption has been delayed.

Whilst the IUCN's commissions and members do report on supporting activities under the resolution, there are notably few projects that have been implemented in its support with seven reports globally having been submitted between 2022 and 2024.[17] VOCES is one of the more significant IUCN-led initiatives in Latin America specifically targeting the protection, capacity building, and empowerment of environmental defenders to prevent and address threats to their territories through a rights-based and gender-inclusive approach.[18] It is a relatively large project, with a budget of about USD $6 million, and due to its size and the collaboration across multiple stakeholders - Indigenous organisations, regional IUCN memberships, and IUCN commissions - it has the potential to influence both national and regional policy through the Escazú Agreement.[19]

In Nepal, the RESIST project aims to tackle gender-based violence faced by women environmental and human rights defenders in community forestry landscapes. Community forest user groups, local governments, traditional leaders, and security forces are taught about environmental legal frameworks, and human rights instruments related to gender-based violence; the project engages "male champions" to include men as allies and shift harmful gender norms within forest communities, and time is put into increasing knowledge of and access to legal services and institutions in order that those under threat have better support and recourse. The project has so far reached several hundred stakeholders and has the potential to create a more inclusive, safer environment for women environmental defenders in forest communities, so that they are able to exercise their roles without fear.[20]

Both the VOCES and RESIST projects demonstrate what can be done by IUCN members when the most immediate line of defence against deforestation, illegal mining, land grabs, and other threats is strengthened. Yet beyond general awareness-raising, there are few other projects of note, with progress report notes citing a lack of resources and capacity, as well as IUCN restructuring and a lack of strategy as the main challenges. Notably, there are no projects in Africa.

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[17] WCC 2020 Res 115, IUCN Library System https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49787
[18] 'WCC 2020 Res 115 - Progress Report', IUCN Library System https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/50862
[19] 'WCC 2020 Res 115 - Progress Report', IUCN Library System https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/50862 ; 'IUCN Members and Commissions from Latin America and the Caribbean consolidate their contributions to the Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters', IUCN, 22 January 2024
[20] WCC 2020 Res 115 - Activity Report, IUCN Library System https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/52123 ; 'RESIST: Empowering Forest Communities to Combat Gender-based Violence', DanChurchAid https://www.danchurchaid.org/resist-empowering-forest-communities-to-combat-gender-based-violence

Without a clear action plan or strategy under the IUCN, it's not clear what decision-making process is guiding supporting projects and dedicated resources and funding. More robust reporting post-implementation would also help with assessing the impacts of projects on the protection of defenders and ability to assert their rights.

SYMBOLISM vs IMPACT

Since the adoption of the Marseille Manifesto, the IUCN has continued to put out statements on human rights abuses in conservation and condemning threats and violence against Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as gender-based violence and inequality.[21] It has also published statements in reaction to attacks on individual environmental defenders and groups of defenders. In June 2022, the IUCN released a statement expressing its concern over 'reports of violence by security forces against the Maasai Indigenous Peoples in the Loliondo Ngorongoro District, in northern Tanzania'. At the time of release, at least one defender had been reported as killed. It urged the Tanzanian government to stop the violations and to adhere to the 2018 injunction from the East African Court of Justice.[22]

Such statements are important: many threats to defenders happen in remote or politically marginalised areas. When a global institution such as the IUCN makes such statements in support of defenders, it signals to governments, companies, and the public that these lives and struggles matter and are being watched internationally - increasing the political and reputational costs of repression and making it harder for governments or corporations to ignore abuses. It also helps frame environmental defenders' protection as central to global conservation policy and not as a side issue. This is important in countries where raising environmental concerns is considered acceptable, but asserting human rights claims is not.[23]

However, in the absence of systematic reporting on the Resolution's implementation processes, little is known about the impact of such letters. Statements alone do not change the structural drivers of violence such as corruption, land grabbing, weak rule of law, or corporate abuse of power. Without a clear strategy to proactively – rather than reactively – address such structural issues, and without concrete support measures for defenders at risk, such as legal aid or funding, statements risk being seen as little more than ad-hoc lip-service.

THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN LAW ACROSS AFRICA

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[21] 'Statement on human rights abuses in conservation', IUCN, 28 June 2022 https://iucn.org/story/202206/statement-human-rights-abuses-conservation ; 'IUCN President and Director General's Statement on International Women's Day', IUCN, 8 March 2024 https://iucn.org/iucn-statement/202403/iucn-president-and-director-generals-statement-international-womens-day

[22] 'IUCN Statement on human rights violations in Loliondo, Tanzania', IUCN, 19 June 2022 https://iucn.org/news/secretariat/202206/iucn-statement-human-rights-violations-loliondo-tanzania

[23] 'Environmental defenders, human rights and the growing role of IUCN policy: retired, red-tagged or red-listed?', Larsen, P.B., & Balsiger, J., Policy Matters. Special Edition on Environmental Defenders. Volume 1. IUCN https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/Policy-Matters-Issue-22-vol3.pdf

Beyond killings, many defenders also experience attempts to silence them and interfere with their work through the misuse of existing or new laws. Governments systematically use laws and legal systems as tools to restrict, intimidate, or punish defenders. Under Resolution 115, the IUCN committed to urge '*states to adopt and uphold laws aimed at the protection of defenders and whistleblowers, and to put in place holistic protection measures for, and in consultation with, defenders and whistleblowers*'.

Since the adoption of the Marseille Manifesto in 2020, a small but meaningful set of IUCN African member states have adopted new national laws on the protection of human rights defenders, most notably, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic.[24] Whilst not formally a law, Côte d'Ivoire created an inter-ministerial protection mechanism in 2021.[25] These are important legal advances; however, without public reporting it is not known whether the IUCN carried out behind-the-scenes advocacy with relevant government Ministries and/or facilitated consultation of the law with any of its members or commissions.

By contrast, across multiple IUCN African member States, defenders continue to face criminalization and legal harassment. For example, in Uganda, an investigation by Global Witness revealed how the government has pursued an 'aggressive campaign of criminalisation, harassment and intimidation of defenders' working to oppose the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline. At the time of the investigation, at least 47 defenders challenging the project or oil extraction had been detained or arrested in Uganda by the government since September 2020.[26]

Vague protest laws citing charges such as 'incitement', 'unlawful assembly' and 'terrorism' are used to target peaceful activists. Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) - though not always formally defined - are increasingly used by companies to drain resources and intimidate defenders. In South Africa, six environmental activists were targeted in 2021 by an Australian mining company, and its South African subsidiary, Minerals Commodities Limited (MRC). The activists had raised valid concerns over environmental destruction and legal non-compliance by the company at its Tormin mine on the West Coast. In retaliation, they faced three defamation lawsuits, designed to intimidate, exhaust, and silence them.[27]

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[24] The Democratic Republic of Congo adopted a national law to protect and promote human rights defenders in October 2023, becoming the first Central African country to do so. The new law also grants specific protection to women human rights defenders. The Central African Republic followed at the end of 2024 through its adoption of Law on Promotion & Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Source: 'DRC adopts national law to protect, promote rights of defenders', International Service for Human Rights, 23 October 2023 https://ishr.ch/latest-updates/the-drc-adopts-a-national-law-to-protect-and-promote-the-rights-of-human-rights-defenders/ **;** 'Central African Republic: Independent Expert welcomes adoption of law on protection of human rights defenders

[25] 'Côte d'Ivoire: Inter-Ministerial Order Creating a Protection Mechanism for HRDs', FOCUS https://www.focus-obs.org/documents/cote-divoire-inter-ministerial-order-creating-a-protection-mechanism-for-hrds/

[26] 'Climate of Fear. TotalEnergies implicated in repression of land and environmental defenders in East Africa', Global Witness, 4 December 2023 https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/eacop/#ugandas-oil-a-dictators-pet-project

[27] 'S. Africa: Court slams mining giant for attempting to use a SLAPP suit to silence criticism and environmental activism', Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 10 February 2021

Activists and journalists also face online harassment, hacking, and prosecution under cybercrime laws, with women and LGBTQ+ defenders disproportionately targeted by smear campaigns, and gendered digital abuse.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

As a global conservation union, IUCN's legitimacy and effectiveness depends on protecting the people on the frontlines of nature conservation. Its unique combination of scientific authority, diverse and multi-stakeholder membership, and global convening power gives it exceptional leverage to protect environmental defenders but that leverage must be matched by a clear policy, predictable funding, operational systems, and careful, consent-based engagement with defenders. This needs to be clearly articulated in the 2026-2029 programme of work, with scaled up efforts in Africa, and measurable outcomes ahead of the next IUCN World Congress.

At this year's World Congress, the IUCN and its membership is urged to:

- **Acknowledge the ongoing plight of land and environmental defenders,** and recognise the urgent need for IUCN Secretariat and members to take immediate steps to mitigate the scourge fueled by both the extractive industry and many 'so called' conservation practices.
- **Recommit to fulfilling the Marseille Manifesto, Resolution 115,** compelling the IUCN Director General, Commissions, state and non-state members, and the Secretariat to take urgent steps including prioritising the following:

1. **Adopt a clear Global Policy on Environmental Human Rights Defenders** Adopt and publish a Global Policy that establishes IUCN obligations for members (prevention, protection, rapid response, remediation) and requires consent-based engagement with defenders.

2. **Develop and implement a Global Action Plan** Adopt and implement an action plan with prevention, monitoring, rapid response, legal support, emergency funding, capacity building, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation strands**.** Publish the policy in all IUCN member languages and make it easily accessible to members and partners.

3. **Create a dedicated Rapid Response & Emergency Support Mechanism** Establish a centralised Rapid Response fund and emergency protocol with clear eligibility, safeguarding, and confidentiality criteria.

4. **Build long-term legal and psychosocial support partnerships** Formalize partnerships with legal aid organisations, psychosocial service providers, and regional and

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https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/s-africa-court-slams-mining-giant-for-attempting-to-use-a-slapp-suit-to-silence-criticism-and-environmental-activism/ ; 'When corporate bullies try to silence environmental defenders', Greenpeace, 23 June 2025 https://www.greenpeace.org/africa/en/blog/57847/when-corporate-bullies-try-to-silence-environmental-defenders/

international defender networks including frontline protection services. Support legal empowerment training for defenders.

5. **Systematically identify, document and analyse attacks on environmental and human rights defenders** Build a secure, survivor-centred database to record incidents (with strict confidentiality, consent and data protection standards). Publish an annual IUCN report on EHRDs' threats (aggregate and anonymised) and IUCN's responses. Advocate for States to systematically document attacks, and their motivations in order to enable them to improve existing laws and mechanisms to protect defenders. Data gathering must be transparent, responsible and participatory.

6. **Prioritise gender, Indigenous, youth and intersectional approaches** Mainstream gender and Indigenous rights into all protection programming; fund targeted support for women and Indigenous defenders; include youth engagement strategies. Ensure Indigenous protocols and FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) guide engagement.

7. **Proactively leverage IUCN's convening power for advocacy** Advocate for the legal recognition and protection of human rights defenders by States. Advocate for laws that guarantee the land rights of rural communities and Indigenous Peoples through comprehensive land reforms that redistribute land and promote fairer land ownership. This should involve all government and business projects securing the free, prior and informed consent of affected Indigenous and traditional communities through meaningful consultation.

   Advocate for States to repeal or revise any existing laws that allow for the criminalisation of defenders or organisations working to protect human, land or environmental rights. This includes repealing or revising laws related to terrorism, sedition, defamation or public order that are commonly misused against defenders. Existing laws that protect defenders must be enforced. Where such laws do not exist, new frameworks must be established.

8. **Promote funding streams and sustained financing for defender protection** Create a multi-donor pooled fund or seek donor agreement to allocate a fixed % of conservation grants to defender protection and emergency response. Encourage project budgets to include a line for defender protection measures.

9. **Pilot regional protection models and scale successful approaches** Run pilots in high-risk regions (e.g. Latin America, Africa, South Asia) combining prevention, legal support, emergency funds and advocacy, document lessons and scale.

10. **Commit to transparency, independent evaluation and learning** Commission periodic, independent evaluations of the Policy/Action Plan and Rapid Response outcomes; publish executive summaries and lessons learned. Facilitate survivor-led evaluations where safe and appropriate.

This policy brief was initiated by Natural Justice and the African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance, and endorsed by the following 80 plus global organisations/networks/ associations:

1. CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK ZIMBABWE

2. Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD (ფერმერთა უფლებების დაცვის ასოციაცია)
3. Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth Switzerland
4. Ecojustice Ireland
5. South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE)
6. Climate Clock DRC
7. Plataforma de Defensores y Defensoras de la Tierra - ILC LAC
8. ONG FIMA
9. Forum Civil Bignona
10. Friends of Franbarnie International (FOFI)
11. Ulinzi Africa Foundation
12. Justice And Prosperity For All (JP4A)
13. Terra Lex Africa
14. Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement, CVPD
15. Cultura Ecológica
16. Shifting Ground Foundation
17. Biakwan light Green Initiative
18. Environmental Justice Foundation
19. Nature Talk Africa (NaTA)
20. ARTICLE 19
21. Namati
22. Indigenous Peoples Rights International-IPRI
23. Fundación Escazú Ahora
24. Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment &Management (CECIC)
25. Porgera Red Wara (River) Women's Association Incorporated (PRWWA INC.)
26. Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)
27. CEF-JDD
28. Good Health Community Programmes
29. Program for the Heritage of Ogiek and Mother Earth
30. Environmental Defenders Network (EDEN)
31. Earthrise Collective
32. Strategic Response on Environmental Conservation (STREC)
33. Resilient40
34. World Action
35. GreenFaith Africa
36. Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)
37. KKAKKA COMMUNITY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION
38. DISABILITY PEOPLES FORUM UGANDA
39. DUKINGIRE ISI YACU (DIY)
40. Green leaf Advocacy and Empowerment Center
41. Access Africa for Rights and Development Initiative
42. Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN)
43. Just Share
44. Indigenous people Forum Org
45. Women4Biodiversity
46. CHRISTIAN PARTNERS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
47. Rivers & Rights
48. Women for Equal Chances-Congo
49. Build Peace and Development
50. CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES FORMATION EN DROITS HUMAINS ET DÉVELOPPEMENT EN SIGLE CIFDH/D
51. EMERGENCE ONGD RDC

52. Transparency International
53. Groupe Académia RDC
54. Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC
55. African Initiative on Food Security and Environment (AIFE)
56. SOS-Forêts
57. COMMUNITY ACTION FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
58. Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation-BGF
59. Activists for climate justice initiative A4C
60. Tipping Point North South
61. AJEMALEBU SELF HELP
62. World's Youth for Climate Justice
63. Emonyo Yefwe International
64. SantiagoEcoAmigas
65. RFEDI: Réveil des Femmes pour le Développement Intégré
66. Somali Awareness and Social Development Organization (SASDO)
67. Somali Greenpeace Association(SOGPA)
68. The Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms"
69. Association of Women of Southern Europe AFEM
70. KOTHOWAIN (Vulnerable Peoples Development Organization)
71. Sukaar Welfare Organization
72. Global Greengrants Fund UK
73. Centre for Science and Technology Innovations (CSTI)
74. Environmental Rights Africa (ERA) initiative/MRU CSO Platform
75. ORRA
76. International Rivers
77. ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
78. Youth for Green Communities (YGC)
79. Bureau d'Etudes Scientifiques et Techniques (BEST asbl)
80. Oxfam
81. Village Farmers Initiative (VFI)