UN Environment’s Environmental Rights Initiative

Session 11: Multi-actor Dialogue  Leaving No one Behind: Community Rights and Biodiversity Conservation Post-2020

Andreas Obrecht, Law Division, UN Environment (Nairobi, Kenya)
• Already in 2018, around 50 defenders have lost their lives while protecting their community’s environment and natural resources
• Around 40% of those killed, harassed and intimidated are from indigenous and local communities from around the world
• This rising death toll is likely to continue if governments and businesses fail to act
UN Environment’s Policy on Environmental Defenders

• **Objective:** To promote greater protection for people defending their environmental rights, and identify solutions to mitigate the abuse of environmental rights which affects a growing number of people in many parts of the world

• Developed in response to growing severity of environmental rights problems and shrinking civil society space

• Three-pronged approach: 1) **Speaking Out** (Rapid Response Mechanism – statements, letters, social media); 2) **Legal Assistance**; 3) **Scaling up Partnerships**
Three-pronged approach:

1) Speaking Out (Rapid Response Mechanism – statements, letters, social media);
2) Legal Assistance; and
3) Scaling up Partnerships
Promote, Protect, Respect Environmental Rights

1. Support environmental defenders
2. Engage governments (and other legal stakeholders)
3. Collaborate with media
4. Engage with businesses

BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NEARER TO THE PEOPLE

UN Environment Rights Initiative
Outreach: Communicating your work to a global audience and to decision-makers. Provide us with your links for important materials for www.environmentalrightsinitiative.org

Rapid Response Mechanism: eyes and ears on the ground...intelligence on emerging threats and actual incidents; unenvironment-defenders@un.org

Civil society unit contact: unepcivilsociety@un.org
# Further Resources