LaRutadelClima

MEMORIES OF HARM AND THE FIGHT FOR REPARATION:

ANALYSIS FOR HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR,AND GUATEMALA

OXFAM

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Their work has been essential in strengthening local capacities and making visible the realities of communities facing the most severe impacts of the climate crisis.

We also wish to recognize and honor the community leaders who, through their commitment, knowledge, and dedication, sustain processes in the territories and make it possible to move toward more just and sustainable actions.

Their daily work, often silent, is fundamental to the defense of the environment, human rights, and the well-being of their communities. Thank you for inspiring us, guiding us, and reminding us that transformation is born within the territory.

Thanks to the experience, dedication, and collaboration of all the organizations and leaders involved in the process, it was possible to establish participatory monitoringç systems that not only generate valuable data but also recognize the voices, practices, and knowledge of the communities as a fundamental part of climate knowledge.

This collective effort contributes to making the stories, impacts, and demands of the territories an active part of the regional and international conversation on climate justice and reparations..

Content

Glossary

ASEDE: Asociación para la educación y el desarrollo [Association for Education and Development]

ASONOG: Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Honduras [Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of Honduras]

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

CADC: Central American Dry Corridor

ICJ: International Court of Justice

ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

IACHR: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LRC: La Ruta del Clima

UNES: Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña [Salvadoran Ecological Unit]

ITCZ: Intertropical Convergence Zone

Introduction

Central America is confronting a profound climate crisis that impacts historically marginalized communities. This document is motivated by the urgent need to identify and highlight the loss and damage faced by communities in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras—not as a series of isolated events, but as part of a history of structural inequalities, extractivism, and systematic human rights violations—as well as to affirm the right to fair climate reparations in these territories, so that historical harm is recognized, halted, and not repeated.

This report seeks to document these impacts and, more importantly, the voices and experiences of survival that emerge from the territories, demanding justice.

From a community-based, intersectional, and rights-centered perspective, this report argues that discussing loss and damage goes beyond counting lost hectares or destroyed homes; it also involves recognizing the suffering, dispossession, breakdown of social cohesion, and the cultural, spiritual, and ecological losses experienced by the communities.

Climate justice, understood as a process of reparation, participation, and structural transformation, can only be built by listening to and recognizing those who live in the most vulnerable areas of the continent.

This document aims to generate evidence based on fieldwork conducted with communities in the three countries; contribute to the regional visibility of demands for climate justice and reparations; and provide tools to strengthen the influence of organizations and social movements in decision-making spaces, both nationally and internationally.

Above all, it aims to amplify the voices of communities engaged in ongoing processes of reconstruction, adaptation, and recovery, through the application of the information system developed by La Ruta del Clima and its partner organizations in each country, not only to systematize data but also to recover the stories and testimonies of those who face environmental inequality daily and strive to transform their reality.

Conceptual Framework

This project is grounded in various concepts that help chart a clear path toward accessing climate justice, understood as the ability of all people—especially the most vulnerable—to participate in climate policy decision-making, access resources and mechanisms that protect their rights (both individual and collective), and claim reparations for the damages caused by climate change.

Human Rights and Climate Change

In the context of a climate crisis that threatens multiple aspects of life, States have human rights obligations to people both within and beyond their borders. Their actions or omissions in causing climate change and its adverse effects constitute violations of the full enjoyment of people's rights.

The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) notes that the adverse effects of climate change, including, but not limited to, impacts on people's health and livelihoods from events such as sea level rise, drought, shifts in rainfall patterns, and natural disasters, can significantly undermine the enjoyment of human rights.[1].

Moreover, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) recognizes that the right to a healthy environment, which is directly affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, is a fundamental right both individually and collectively, and is closely linked to other rights, such as health, culture, and quality of life[2].

These statements underscore the direct connection between climate change and human rights, establishing that protecting the climate system is inseparable from the obligation to ensure decent living conditions.

Recognizing this interdependence is essential if States are to adopt effective and urgent measures to address the climate crisis, in compliance with their international obligations.

Loss and Damage

Within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), damages are understood as impacts with consequences that are "reversible through risk reduction initiatives, repair, or restoration," while losses refer to impacts that are "irreversible, in the sense that they cannot be restored or repaired." [3].

Loss and damage result from internationally wrongful acts by Global North countries that disproportionately affect communities in the Global South. This damage further affects communities that were historically oppressed under a colonial system, deepening inequalities and unequally impacting their lives, bodies, and ecosystems.

Recognizing loss and damage as a direct consequence of both historical and current responsibilities is fundamental for advancing restorative climate justice. It is not only about addressing material impacts but also about responding to the accumulated suffering of systematically marginalized communities and making a genuine commitment to dismantling the colonial structures that perpetuate climate injustice.

Reparations

The ICJ's advisory opinion on the obligations of States with respect to climate change comes at a decisive moment for Central America, a region marked by structural inequality, violence against those who defend the territory, and the devastating impacts of global warming.

Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador share a reality in which climate crises are intertwined with profound social and historical injustices: crop loss, displacement due to extreme events, food insecurity, and the erosion of traditional ways of life are all part of the same fabric of vulnerability and state neglect.

In these three countries, the impacts of climate change—prolonged droughts, more intense hurricanes, floods, and environmental degradation—are not isolated natural phenomena but direct consequences of an international system that has allowed the accumulation of benefits for a few at the expense of the degradation of the territories of many. The region's rural, Indigenous, and coastal communities are experiencing firsthand not only material losses but also the cultural, spiritual, and identity losses that accompany each extreme event. These losses are the clearest reflection of the climate debt owed by the most polluting nations to the Global South.

1 International Court of Justice, Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change (Request for Advisory Opinion, Case No 187) (adopted 23 July 2025) https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20250723-adv-01-00-en.pdf

2 Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Advisory Opinion AO-32/25, Series A No 32: Climate Emergency and Human Rights (of May 29, 2025; requested by the Republic of Chile and the Republic of Colombia) https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/seriea_32_esp.pdf

3 UNFCCC. (2013). Decision 2/CP.19: Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. Conference of the Parties, 19th session. https://unfccc.int/documents/8102

Both the International Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have affirmed that States have international obligations to prevent, mitigate, and remedy environmental damage, including damage linked to climate change.

In its Advisory Opinion on the obligations of States regarding climate change, the ICJ affirmed that States must exercise heightened due diligence to prevent significant harm and are legally obligated to provide full reparation when such harm occurs[4].

Similarly, in Advisory Opinion AO-32/23, the Inter-American Court held that States are responsible for preventing, mitigating, and repairing environmental damage that affects human rights, and that such reparation must be adequate, proportionate, and comprehensive, encompassing restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, and guarantees of non-repetition[5].

The Court has been clear: States have international legal obligations not only to prevent and mitigate damage but also to provide adequate reparation when it occurs.

This recognition changes the political framework of the debate: climate reparations are neither a favor nor an act of solidarity, but a duty under international law. In the context of Central America, this means that communities experiencing drought, land loss, forced displacement, and violations of their environmental rights have the right to claim full reparation for the damages they have suffered.

This reparation cannot be limited to economic transfers or conditional funds. In countries such as Guatemala, where unequal access to water and the criminalization of water defenders are pervasive; in Honduras, where hurricanes and structural violence have made climate displacement a humanitarian crisis; and in El Salvador, where coastal erosion and the loss of fertile soils are displacing entire communities, reparations must be comprehensive, transformative, and centered on the people affected.

This implies restoring ecosystems, guaranteeing rights, strengthening territorial sovereignty, and ensuring dignified conditions to remain in their places of origin.

The ICJ's Advisory Opinion also underscores the role of civil society and organized communities in demanding justice. In Central America, communities have documented the damage, raised their voices, and preserved the memory of their loss.

Community tools such as the P51 application, developed by La Ruta del Clima, make the impacts visible and generate evidence from within these territories, strengthening the legitimacy of the demands for reparations.

Each report, each story, each impact map is also a form of justice: a record that the damage occurred, that there are responsible parties, and that reparation is a right.

From a political perspective, climate reparations should be understood as a process of reconstructing historical justice in the region.

It is not only about financing recovery after disasters but also In Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, where the lives of environmental defenders remain under threat and environmental rights are violated daily, climate reparations must begin with acknowledging the damage, effectively protecting defenders, restoring collective land and water rights, and establishing national and regional mechanisms to guarantee non-repetition.

The ICJ has laid the legal foundations; it is now up to the States to assume their responsibility and for the international community to consistently support the principles of equity and justice.

From Central America, the people have spoken clearly: repairing the damage is an act of justice, and climate justice cannot be delayed.

Participation

Participation is the process of involving diverse stakeholders in decision-making, research, advocacy, and access to resources that affect their lives and communities[6]

Ideally, the process should seek to generate transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in decisions and/or actions.

In this project, participation is a key concept that informs the data used to spotlight community experiences of loss and damage and access to reparations, thereby demonstrating the potential to contribute to scientific progress and decision-making.

The voices of youth, women, local communities, Indigenous peoples, and others on the frontlines of the climate crisis must be included from the earliest stages of decision making to ensure that the design of any action is relevant to the needs of those affected[7]

4 Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change (International Court of Justice, 2025).

5 Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Advisory Opinion AO-32/23, Environment and Human Rights (2024)

6 SINAC, Participación: Es un proceso generador de democratización... (Participation: A process that fosters democratization... definition based on Esquivel and León, 2007) https://www.sinac.go.cr/es/partciudygober/paginas/default.aspx

7 Ibid 2.Párrafo 533-538

Methodology. Climate Impact Information System-La Ruta del Clima (SIIC LRC). Module 1 Implementation.

From La Ruta del Clima (LRC), the Climate Impact Information System (SIIC-LRC) was conceived as a tool for generating multisectoral and multiscale data on the climate impacts faced by communities in Latin America.

Through participatory methodologies and the use of its own quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis tools, the system seeks to strengthen political and social advocacy processes across various decision-making spaces, guided by approaches grounded in climate justice, human rights, community-based adaptation, intersectional gender, interculturality, and intergenerational perspectives.

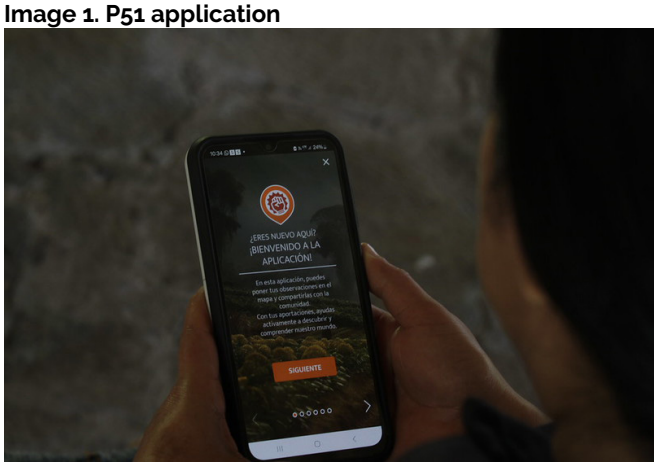
In 2025, SIIC-LRC Module I was implemented in communities in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, integrating training processes and fostering community ownership of the use of the P51 application.

The system's initial phase aims to collect, capture, and organize data from various sources and sectors, where data is understood as the essential raw material to produce socially relevant and politically useful information.

The P51 application, developed by La Ruta del Clima, is a community science tool designed to document the impacts of climate change through the voices of Latin American communities. Its purpose is to generate knowledge based on local experience, enabling individuals to record how climate events affect their livelihoods, territories, cultural identities, and rights.

Currently, communities in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are being trained to use the application, reporting both recent and historical events that have caused significant damage.

Image 1. P51 application



Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Barra de Santiago, 2025

P51 allows users to record incidents related to infrastructure, health, environment, culture, and human rights, even in areas with limited connectivity, as it can operate offline and will upload data once access is restored.

Two key methodological tools were developed as part of the implementation process:

1. Interview guide aimed at collecting qualitative and testimonial data on loss and damage.

2. Community-based methodology focused on building local capacities around climate change, human rights, and climate justice.

The project included nine participatory workshops and 20 in-depth interviews, which strengthened and documented community experiences of loss and damage caused by climate change.

These activities not only gathered testimonies but also helped make local perceptions visible, strengthen collective memory, and promote processes of community led reflection and advocacy.

Table 1. Methodological tools implemented by country

Country	Number of workshops	Number of interviews
El Salvador	3	6
Guatemala	4	8
Honduras	2	6

Prepared by the authors. La Ruta del Clima 2025

For this report, the analysis centers on cases reported in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, where hydrometeorological phenomena account for the majority of recorded events. The most frequent impacts include droughts, floods, shifts in rainfall patterns, and cyclones, highlighting the magnitude and diversity of the climate effects affecting the region.

Additionally, droughts have posed a persistent threat to the economic and social stability of Central America, particularly affecting the Central American Dry Corridor (CADC). This territory has experienced the growing degradation of livelihoods linked to primary activities, such as agriculture and livestock farming.

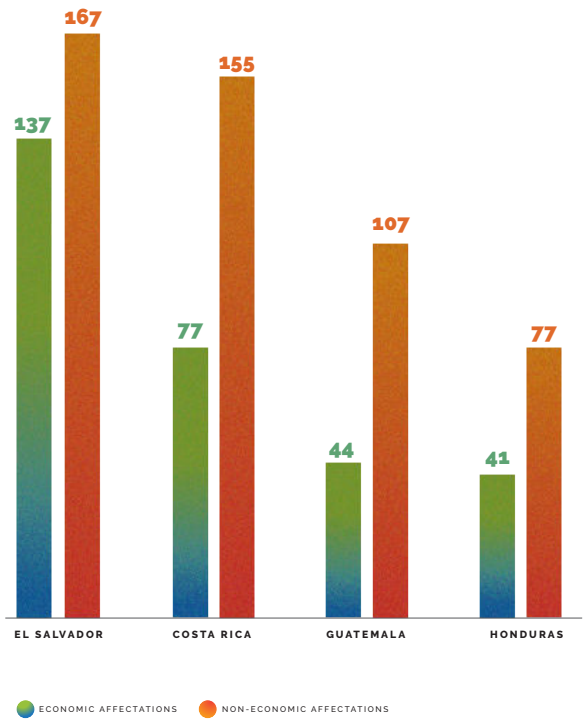
These tools have strengthened community understanding of climate impacts and responsibilities, while supporting the collective generation of data presented in the following sections of the report.
The 2025 pilot directly impacted approximately 135 people, 95% of whom were women. Not only did the methodological process facilitate capacity building and reinforce community monitoring and reporting, but it also enabled the collection of qualitative information

drawn from participants' climate memory. P51 contains data from community reports in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras that reveal a greater number of non-economic impacts related to community unity, health, well-being, and nature.

This part of the story becomes especially relevant given the tendency of international climate finance and reporting mechanisms to focus solely on economic losses. The data collected by the communities through P51 shows that the impacts of climate change go far beyond material damage: they affect social relationships, mental and physical health, connections to the natural environment, and the collective capacity to resist and adapt.

Bringing these impacts to light expands the understanding of what "repairing harm" truly entails and underscores the importance of including community voices and experiences in decisions on climate justice and reparations.

Graph 1. Economic and non-economic impacts reported by countries in the P51 app



Prepared by the authors. La Ruta del Clima 2025

The following section presents a triangulation of data with available sources, enabling the validation and visibility of community experiences of loss and damage, as well as their connections to other variables.

Moreover, it presents a historical and territorial overview of climate impacts in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, based on cases reported through the P51 application from 2024 to the present, complemented by other sources that help contextualize the situation of these communities.

This analysis aims to strengthen understanding of the regional climate context and provide evidence to support climate adaptation and reparation actions grounded in justice and human rights.

Data Analysis with Additional Sources

Context of Central America

Central America is one of the regions facing the highest risk of extreme weather events due to its geographic location[8].

Socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental conditions influence vulnerability to climate impacts in different ways. Life in these communities is defined by the struggle to survive rather than live, as a result of multiple intersecting forms of inequality that deepen the gaps in facing the impacts of climate change.

This places communities with specific characteristics and marginalized groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, within higher percentages of vulnerability. Some of the issues that currently contribute most to the vulnerability of the communities where the project operates include:

Extractivism

Extractivism is part of the environmental challenges of global climate change and is closely tied to the economic sphere, representing an unsustainable and predatory practice[9]. that increases vulnerability and risk. Latin America has experienced some of its highest economic growth rates in the past decade, driven in part by the development of extractive industries amid rising international commodity prices,[10] but in whose hands does this economic growth actually reside? .

Central America presents an environmental paradox: although it possesses great natural wealth, its resources and territories are being unsustainably overexploited.

8 Programa Estado de la Nación, Desastres en Centroamérica: amenazas múltiples agudizan vulnerabilidad [Disasters in Central America: Multiple threats heighten vulnerability] (blog, May 9, 2022) https://estadonacion.or.cr/desastres-en-centroamerica-amenazas-multiples-agudizan vulnerabilidad/

9 Elizabeth Gabriela Aguilar García, El extractivismo en América Latina y su dimensión teológica desde un enfoque decolonial [Extractivism in Latin America and its theological dimension from a decolonial perspective] (Revista PRAXIS No 79, 2019) 1–17 https://www.revistas.una.ac.cr/index.php/praxis/article/view/11841/16043

10 Mauricio Álvarez, El extractivismo en América Central [Extractivism in Central America] (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Central America Office, [nd]) https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/fesamcentral/11626.pdf

Foreign companies fail to recognize the impacts of extractive activities on food security, water, soil, and air, and consequently the direct violation of human rights, thereby perpetuating a colonial system and a new phase of systematic human rights violations.

Inequality

Economic inequality is a persistent problem in Central America, with marked differences in the distribution of wealth and access to opportunities among different population groups. According to data from ECLAC, more than 35% of the Central American population lives in poverty, and income inequality remains among the highest on the continent,[11] hereby limiting community access to a number of opportunities.

On this issue, the IACHR indicates that historical and current patterns of inequality, rooted in governance structures, socioeconomic development models, marginalization, and processes of colonialism, deepen the exposure and fragility of communities and ecosystems to climate impacts.

These structural conditions not only amplify existing risks but also limit the capacity of the territories to respond and adapt, producing disproportionate effects on groups that are already facing exclusion.

Thus, the Court demonstrates that the climate crisis does not act in isolation but rather interacts with pre-existing inequalities, which must be addressed through comprehensive environmental and social justice measures[12].

Political Situation

Three decades after the pacification of Central America, outcomes in terms of community well being remain insufficient across the region. In recent years, Central America has experienced political and institutional setbacks that have eroded or even nullified freedoms, rights, and guarantees essential to democratic coexistence in the countries of the region.

Threats to freedom of the press, human rights violations, and growing political and partisan polarization have become increasingly widespread. This situation hinders the strengthening of democracy, limits informed public debate, and shrinks the civic space necessary to demand social and climate justice in Central America[13].

Climate Impacts

Central America is highly exposed, vulnerable, and severely impacted by climate change. In recent years, Central America has faced a persistent, growing wave of extreme weather eventss[14].

The impacts of climate change affect the communities, deepening their exposure to risk and the conditions of social and environmental fragility, such as those of the Central American Dry Corridor, generating greater vulnerability. In terms of climate impacts, IPCC scenario projections indicate that changes in precipitation and temperature, along with more frequent extreme events, will affect the region[15].

The room for maneuver that countries have to address these dynamics is increasingly limited and difficult to access, resulting in losses in their role as key economic actors for food security, biodiversity, and regional culture. The losses and damage caused by climate change in the most vulnerable communities encompass both economic and non-economic dimensions. In other words, beyond damage to infrastructure or housing, the climate crisis threatens and undermines culture, traditions, biodiversity, and more. The impacts of climate change affect and violate the human rights of the affected communities.

Extreme Weather Events (hailstorms, hurricanes, intense rainfall, droughts, etc.)

Centro Clima is a regional portal that consolidates climate information provided by the meteorological institutes of the region and the Dominican Republic. Climate change projections based on the IPCC's SSP5-8.5 scenario indicate the significant regional temperature increase of between 2˚C and 4 ˚C[16].

According to the State of the Region report, the proportion of hyper-arid, arid, and semi-arid municipalities is projected to increase dramatically: from 15% in the Dominican Republic and 0% in other countries during 2020-2030, to 63% in Nicaragua, 59% in the Dominican Republic, and 26% in Honduras by 2079-2099. In terms of extreme events that are becoming increasingly apparent in the communities, we see changes in rainfall patterns, longer and more intense droughts, and the increasing frequency and intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes.

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11 1Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), América Latina y el Caribe ante las trampas del desarrollo: transformaciones indispensables y cómo gestionarlas – Síntesis [Development Traps in Latin America and the Caribbean: Vital Transformations and How to Manage Them. Summary] (ECLAC, Santiago, [nd]) https://repository.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b47d0172-5948-467c-804e 083de2968fe9/content

12 Ibid 2.Párrafo 261

13 Consejo Nacional de Rectores (Costa Rica), Programa Estado de la Nación, Séptimo Informe Estado de la Región (2024): Volumen III – Sinopsis del informe: retos y oportunidades de la adaptación al cambio climático [Seventh State of the Region Report (2024): Volume III - Report Synopsis: Challenges and opportunities for climate change adaptation] (San José, CONARE-PEN, 2024) https://repository.conare.ac.cr/items/40076253-e39a-41fd-9b2c-03cff1c56845

14 La Ruta del Clima, Informe DP Centro América: Pan por el mundo [Loss and Damage Central America Report: Bread around the world] (No. 240214, May 2024) https://larutadelclima.org/wp content/uploads/2024/05/240214-Informe-DP-Centro-America_Pan-por-el-mundo.pdf

15 Ibid 11

16 Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos (CRRH), Visor de Escenarios de Cambio Climático Centroamérica [Central America Climate Change Scenario Viewer] (Centro Clima, 2023) https://centroclima.org/visor-de-escenarios-de-cambio-climatico-centroamerica/

El Salvador

Image 2. El Salvador, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Guaymango

El Salvador is highly exposed and vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its geographic location and socioeconomic conditions. Due to its location within the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), El Salvador has a tropical climate with pronounced wet and dry seasons[17].

El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America, combining high exposure to natural hazards with intense pressure on its land.

Soil degradation, deforestation, and uncontrolled urban sprawl have increased susceptibility to flooding, landslides, and coastal erosion. Its geographical position makes it especially vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes that intensify with global warming. In turn, rainfall variability affects water security and agricultural production, while rising sea levels threaten entire coastal communities and fragile ecosystems, such as mangroves and estuaries.

In the political and social sphere, the country faces the challenge of responding to the climate crisis in a context of inequality and limited institutional capacity.

Although national climate change policies have been adopted, their implementation is limited by scarce resources and weak intersectoral coordination. Rural and coastal communities, dependent on agriculture and artisanal fishing, are the most affected, and in many cases lack access to adaptation or social protection programs.

Image 3. El Salvador, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Guaymango

From a human rights perspective, environmental and land defenders face increasing risks. While levels of violence against defenders may be lower than in Honduras or Guatemala, threats, criminalization, and restrictions on the right to participate remain. Environmental degradation and the loss of ecosystems also impact fundamental rights, such as health, work, and housing.

In terms of loss and damage, El Salvador is experiencing significant impacts in both rural and urban areas. Extreme rains and recurrent landslides destroy infrastructure and homes, while coastal erosion displaces entire communities and reduces the livelihoods of artisanal fishermen. These impacts represent not only material losses but also the loss of cultural practices connected to the sea and the land. Internal and external migration becomes a survival strategy in response to environmental degradation, highlighting the close link between the climate crisis, inequality, and human mobility.

17 Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Plan Nacional de Cambio Climático 2022 – 2026 [National Climate Change Plan 2022 - 2026] (San Salvador, El Salvador: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 2022) 208 pp https://bibliotecaambiental.ambiente.gob.sv/documentos/plan nacional-de-cambio-climatico-2022-<2026/.

Over the past two years, UNES has collaborated with working groups in El Salvador in the communities of Guaymango, San Francisco Menéndez, Metalío, and Garita Palmera in the department of Ahuachapán on the 2024-2025 Loss and Damage Monitoring Project.

These communities report that the three main manifestations of climate variability identified from 2024 to 2025 are rising temperatures (events such as drought), changes in rainfall patterns (alterations in frequency and amount), and sea-level rise (events such as storm surges and high seas). The DesInventar platform provides data up to 2015, offering numerical insight into certain aspects of loss and damage mentioned by the communities in their reports. (Appendix 1)

Droughts

According to data from El Salvador's Climate Change Plan, in 2018, a meteorological drought was recorded with up to 40 consecutive dry days, disproportionately affecting the eastern region and coastal zone and leading to the declaration of a red alert in 143 municipalities, primarily due to impacts on crops[18]. For the communities of El Salvador, droughts entail direct damage to food security.

According to data reported on the DesInventar platform through 2015, crop losses due to drought amount to approximately 66,204.13 hectares[19].

This number does not include the experiences of other means such as fishing. This reality demonstrates not only that their economic livelihoods are increasingly diminished but also that their means of subsistence are affected.

In communities like Metalío, the older population recounts how, in previous decades, they could fish both to eat and to sell. Today, however, the rivers and mangroves have weaker currents and fewer fish, reducing economic sustenance as well as the cultural and food practices tied to community life.

> "When I arrived in Metalío, we used to go fishing and would make a fire, eat, and whatever was left over, we would sell... we were happy. Over time, from 2000 to now, we've seen the difference. The rivers no longer have the current they once had, and when we go fishing, there is little or no fish to catch".

These extreme weather conditions have direct consequences on ecosystems. Decreased rainfall and higher temperatures have affected the recharge capacity of aquifers, degrading agricultural soils and diminishing both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Freshwater sources are increasingly polluted or dry, and drought-related forest fires aggravate the loss of vegetation cover, affecting the ecological balance of vulnerable regions.

This environmental deterioration is closely linked to community health. Food insecurity is exacerbated by the loss of traditional crops and manifests in various forms of malnutrition, particularly among children and the elderly.

Additionally, potable water shortages and inadequate storage lead to outbreaks of gastrointestinal diseases, while dry environmental conditions promote respiratory infections. In parallel, emotional stress from the loss of livelihoods, climate uncertainty, and prolonged impoverishment negatively impact mental health, especially in women, youth, and communities already facing other forms of exclusion.

Droughts not only threaten biological life but also erode social cohesion. Competition for resources such as water, land, or access to assistance programs can fragment the social fabric, weakening the mutual support networks that have historically been essential for resilience in rural contexts.

Forced migration in search of alternative livelihoods also contributes to the fragmentation of communities and threatens the continuity of traditional knowledge and organizational practices.In this context, the possibility of living a dignified life is seriously compromised.

Communities, particularly those already facing structural inequalities, such as rural and coastal communities, require not only immediate humanitarian assistance but also climate adaptation strategies that recognize their knowledge, ensure their participation, and strengthen their capacities.

Changes in rainfall patterns

According to the rainfall records in El Salvador's Climate Change Plan, the country was impacted by 31 events from 1969 to 2020. Between 1960 and 1970, only one event per decade was recorded; in the 1980s, the number increased to two events per decade, four in the 1990s, and five in the first decade of the 2000s. Moreover, it notes that since 2009, accumulated rainfall has exceeded historical records, in some cases occurring during months that typically fall within the dry season[20].

18 Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Plan Nacional de Cambio Climático 2022 – 2026 [National Climate Change Plan 2022 - 2026] (San Salvador, El Salvador: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 2022) 208 pp https://bibliotecaambiental.ambiente.gob.sv/documentos/plan nacional-de-cambio-climatico-2022-<2026/

19 UNDRR/UNISDR and LA RED, DesInventar Sendai: Disaster Information Management System (DesInventar, open-access platform) https://www.desinventar.net/DesInventar

20 Ibid 15

> "In the past, the rains would start in May, it rained throughout the month, but lightly. Today, we have a rain gauge, and I have seen the reality of the last few years. Even on April 19 and May 3, we had a storm that brought as much rain as usually falls in a month. On April 19 alone, 50 mm of rain fell, which is what normally falls over two months, so these are very serious impacts that we experience as communities."[21]

This climatic irregularity has a direct impact on local ecosystems: sudden excessive precipitation causes soil erosion and contamination, and alters the dynamics of rivers and wetlands, while out of-season accumulation also hinders the gradual recharge of aquifers, generating imbalances in water availability and natural biodiversity.

This impacts both the flora and fauna as well as community livelihoods. In the case of rural mountain communities, crop loss due to heavy rains and storms, as well as damage to roads, housing, and supply systems, directly compromise food security and local mobility.

These effects have accumulated over time, limiting economic opportunities, worsening living conditions, and deepening the challenges of sustaining production systems and ensuring community well-being.

At the social level, these conditions strain social cohesion. The flooding of arable lands, occasional displacement, and constant risk put families under prolonged pressure. Cultural practices, such as communal farming or artisanal fishing, which once nourished not only the body but also memory, identity, and solidarity, are disappearing. Competition for state aid deepens social fractures, especially in contexts of extreme poverty.

Image 4. El Salvador, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Guaymango

In terms of health, extreme weather events are associated with an increase in infectious diseases caused by contaminated water, the proliferation of vectors, and the incidence of respiratory problems related to flooding.

Psychosocial stress due to uncertainty about the weather and the loss of homes or livelihoods also has palpable effects on collective well-being, especially among women, the elderly, and youth, who report worry, anxiety, and stress in these situations.

During the fieldwork conducted in El Salvador, the project collected valuable accounts from the communities documenting significant impacts associated with climate change, particularly those linked to extreme precipitation events, flooding, and the gradual loss of livelihoods such as fishing.

These testimonies reflect direct effects on livelihoods, the availability of natural resources, and community dynamics, as well as the local response and adaptation strategies that communities have implemented in response to these events.

21 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Caracterización sobre vulnerabilidades y efectos del cambio climático y la degradación ambiental en distritos priorizados de El Salvador y su relación con la movilidad humana [Characterization of vulnerabilities and the effects of climate change and environmental degradation in prioritized districts of El Salvador and their relationship to human mobility] (IOM El Salvador, La Libertad, 2024) https://programamesocaribe.iom.int/sites/default/files/estudio_caracterizacion_vulnerabilidades_cambio_climatico_y_movilidad_humana_-_sv_oim.pdf

"Look, I see climate change as a disease that has come to affect us all, not just us—the entire world. Practically speaking, the community where I live used to be rich in everything, in all its resources, and everything has declined due to climate change."

José Francisco Pineda, comunidad Barra de Santiago

"For us, climate change means loss and damage in our communities. Look, when I first arrived in Metalío, it made me happy because my husband and I only had two children. We would go fishing, make a fire under the trees, and cook the food. We would feed the children and then continue fishing. But from the year 2000 onward, we began to see the difference—when we went fishing, there was no fish to bring back. If we don't work to protect the environment, we will be left with nothing. Above all, without life itself."

Teresita Jesús García, comunidad playa Metalío

"In the past, the rains would start in May, and on May 3rd, we had a storm that brought as much rain as usually falls in a month, because during the storm on April 19th, 50 mm of rain fell, which is what normally falls over two months."

Blanca Noemí Meléndez García, comunidad playa Metalío

Guatemala

Guatemala has enormous potential to generate wealth for its population. The country is rich in natural resources, is one of the world's megadiverse countries, and possesses vast cultural wealth. It is characterized by an abundance of water resources distributed across three main basins: the Pacific, the Atlantic (Caribbean), and the Gulf of Mexico. However, this natural wealth is marked by profound territorial inequalities.

The Pacific basin concentrates more than half of the country's population but holds only one-fifth of the surface water resources, while the Gulf of Mexico is home to a much smaller share of the population yet contains nearly half of the national total.

In addition, only a quarter of the territory has high groundwater potential, leaving vast regions with limited reserves and a high vulnerability to drought.

These conditions place the country in a context of increasing water stress and unequal distribution ofi water resources, exacerbated by deforestation, industrial pollution, and the expansion of the agricultural frontier.

Images 4 and 5. Guatemala, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Xesiguan and Baja Verapaz

The World Bank indicates that Guatemala is the largest economy in Central America in terms of population size and economic activity; nevertheless, in 2024, 57.3% of Guatemalans were reported to be living in poverty, with an average daily income of $6.85, reflecting high levels of social exclusion and vast geographic disparities[22].

In addition, frequent disasters and natural hazards further exacerbate the high levels of vulnerability among the population, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities.

On the political and social level, Guatemala faces historical inequality regarding access to land and water, along with weak environmental institutions.

Socio environmental conflicts over watershed management and the installation of extractive or hydroelectric projects have been frequent, especially in Indigenous and rural territories.

These dynamics amplify the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change, as many of them depend directly on subsistence agriculture and water availability for survival. Political instability and limited state capacity to respond to climate emergencies or implement adaptation measures create a gap between territorial needs and national policies.

From a human rights perspective, Guatemala is facing a critical situation for environmental and territorial defenders. Reports by Global Witness and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights document numerous cases of criminalization, harassment, and even assassinations of community leaders who defend their natural assets against extractive projects or illegal land occupation.

These acts of aggression violate fundamental rights, such as life, participation, autonomy, and access to environmental justice.

Loss and damage in Guatemala are increasingly visible: prolonged droughts affecting basic crops across the Dry Corridor; recurrent floods and landslides in mountainous areas; windstorms and hailstorms; and the degradation of ecosystems that report events linked to changes in rainfall patterns and the increased frequency and duration of droughts and storms.

Many Indigenous communities in these regions were severely affected during the internal armed conflict (1960–1996). In Baja Verapaz, the 1978 Panzós massacre is one of the most documented cases of state repression against Indigenous populations demanding respect for their ancestral lands in the face of advancing agro-industrial and mining projects (CEH, 1999).

22 World Bank, Guatemala: Panorama general [Overview] (updated as of April 17, 2025) https://www.bancomundial.org/es/country/guatemala/overview.

In Huehuetenango, the communities of the Northern Transversal Strip suffered forced displacement, militarization, and territorial control as part of a state counterinsurgency strategy that criminalized Indigenous community life (CICIG, 2012).

Although the 1996 Peace Accords included the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the effective implementation of these rights has been limited.

Despite the formal recognition of Indigenous peoples as subjects of collective rights, institutional exclusion, lack of prior consultation, and criminalization of community leaders persist, increasing the vulnerability of these communities (CALDH, 2021).

Despite the foregoing, the Indigenous peoples and communities of Huehuetenango and Baja Verapaz still live according to an ancestral worldview deeply linked to respect for natural cycles and the community management and stewardship of resources for their own subsistence.

However, these practices and bodies of knowledge have historically been set aside due to the need for dignified living conditions.

Faced with shortages of basic means of subsistence, many community members have adopted practices contrary to their teachings as a survival strategy.

One example was discussed in Xesiguan, where it was mentioned that members of the community themselves cut down trees in their territories to obtain income to meet basic needs.

Droughts and changes in rainfall patterns

The Fifth State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean Report confirms that Guatemala experienced shorter rainy seasons and prolonged maximum temperatures in 2022 and 2023, which have intensified water stress in traditional crops[23].

In the department of Huehuetenango, approximately 82% of populated areas grow corn, and 8% grow beans, mostly for subsistence on smallholdings[24].

However, the loss of agricultural biodiversity is increasing: at least 47 local corn varieties have been documented in the area, many of which are now at risk of disappearance due to their replacement with commercial hybrid seeds promoted by productivity-oriented agricultural programs[25].

Image 6. Guatemala, Loss and Damage Workshoprdidas

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Xesiguan

In Baja Verapaz, in the heart of the Central American Dry Corridor, native crops, such as cassava, squash, chayote, and drought resistant creole corn varieties, have likewise been abandoned as a result of the challenges associated with their cultivation, undermining not only food security but also the sovereignty of local communities.

Testimonies indicate that the communities no longer know when to plant, and when they do, they do so with the fear that either drought or torrential rainfall will cause the total or partial loss of their crops.

23 World Meteorological Organization (WMO). (2023). Estado del clima en América Latina y el Caribe 2023 [State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2023]. https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=22235

24 Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH), Caracterización morfológica de 32 materiales de maíz en el municipio de Concepción Huista, Huehuetenango, Guatemala [Morphological characterization of 32 maize varieties in the municipality of Concepción Huista, Huehuetenango, Guatemala] (ASOCUCH 2020) https://www.asocuch.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Caracterizacion 32-Variedades-Maiz-CH_GUA.pdf.

25 FAO, 'Diversidad de maíz en el mundo' (2002) <http://www.fao.org/4/y3841s/y3841s07.htm>

Images 7 and 8. Guatemala, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Tuixcox

Recurrent droughts and unseasonal heavy rains not only reduce productivity but also affect the direct livelihoods of thousands of families who depend on subsistence agriculture. Water shortages and crop losses drive both internal and cross-boarder climate migration processes. In Guatemala, thousands of people migrate each year from the Dry Corridor to urban areas or to Mexico and the United States in search of alternative livelihoods[26].

This mobility is often forced, unplanned, and highly risky, especially for women, children, and the elderly.

In addition, the loss of ancestral territory weakens cultural identity and community ties, deteriorating the continuity of indigenous knowledge about landscape management and agricultural adaptability.

Image 9. Guatemala, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Pino Solo

These impacts are also reflected in health outcomes. Malnutrition resulting from reduced production of staple foods (corn and beans), an increase in waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea and infections, and respiratory problems linked to temperature fluctuations during droughts or storms are all sources of concern within communities.

Climate stress and uncertainty about life place pressure on the emotional and mental resilience of rural communities.

In Guatemala, the community accounts collected during fieldwork reflect a combination of impacts associated with both extreme weather events and slow-onset climate change processes.

These effects have a direct impact on agricultural production, access to water, and socioeconomic conditions, especially in rural and indigenous communities, deepening situations of structural vulnerability and accelerating the loss of traditions, ancestral knowledge, and cultural practices.

26 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), La movilidad humana derivada de desastres y el cambio climático en Centroamérica [Human mobility derived from disasters and climate change in Central America] (ECLAC/FAO, nd) https://repository.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/bc49b2cc-87a5-4def-a7d0- 535875260b5f/content

"Climate change means a lot of heat, sometimes cold, sometimes a lot of wind, sometimes a lot of sun. And when it rains, it's an extreme amount of water, hail, sometimes even dry hail."

Dolores Marilena Zúñiga, Pinosolo, Aldea Choca.

"Yes, before it was like that, especially for our ancestors. They used to say, 'on this date we are going to plant,' because they knew when it would rain. But that's no longer the case; everything has changed. Now we no longer know for sure when it will rain in order to plant. So the crops are lost."

Virginia Martínez Pastor, Pinosolo, Aldea Choca.

"...as the community of Tuixcox, we focus a lot on planting corn and beans... Since we are part of the Dry Corridor, we cannot plant other seeds outside corn or beans. Many people migrate outside the village, outside the municipality, you know, to look for a way to support themselves. Because I can't stay here my whole life, I can't stay—how? ...So, I have to find a way to support my family...
And that's the biggest problem that exists, because when I speak about myself, if I migrate to another place, I have to adapt to other traditions, other customs that have nothing to do with my own. So mine are left behind; I'm going to start losing them."

David Mendoza, Aldea Tuixcox

Honduras

Honduras is among the poorest and most unequal countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The daily income is estimated to be approximately $6.85 per capita in 2024.

In addition, poverty below the $2.15 per capita per day threshold remained high, affecting 12.4% of the population in 2024[27].

Images 10 and 11. Honduras, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Quebrachal and El Palenque

Honduras' recent history reveals a strong interplay between socioeconomic development, the environment, and natural hazards, both extreme and slow-onset. Events such as Hurricane Mitch and storms Iota and Eta had an impact on diverse areas of society and are among the events that are most engraved in the memory of the communities.

In 2019, the Global Climate Risk Index ranked Honduras as the second most severely affected country in the world by extreme weather events between 1998 and 2017, highlighting its high vulnerability to climate change-related events[28]. Its geography exposes it to hurricanes, tropical storms, and coastal flooding, while inland areas face prolonged droughts.

Climate variability and rising sea surface temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of these events. The northern and western regions have suffered devastating losses from floods and landslides, while the southern areas and the Dry Corridor are experiencing severe water shortages that undermine agricultural and livestock production.

In Honduras, impacts are primarily driven by excess rainfall (flooding), tropical cyclones (windstorms), and droughts; with rising temperatures, their frequency and severity will likely increase as a result of climate change. Between 1919 and 2012, the natural hazards responsible for the greatest economic losses were floods, followed by droughts[29].

Image 12. Honduras, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Quebrachal

These conditions are interlaced with a political and social context characterized by elevated levels of poverty, inequality, and weak environmental governance. Rural communities, dependent on agriculture and natural resources, face a double burden: on the one hand, environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods; on the other, pressure from extractive projects, mining, and hydroelectric concessions that threaten their territories. This has generated persistent socio-environmental conflicts, criminalization of protest, and forced displacement.

27 World Bank, Honduras: Panorama general [Honduras: Overview] (updated in 2025) https://www.bancomundial.org/es/country/honduras/overview

28 Germanwatch e.V., Índice de Riesgo Climático Global 2019 - Resumen [Global Climate Risk Index 2019 - Summary] (Germanwatch e.V., Bonn, 2019) https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Indice%20de%20Riesgo%20Climatico%20Global%20 2019%20-%20Resumen_0.pdf

29 World Bank Group, Honduras: Country Climate and Development Report (World Bank Group, January 18, 2023) (Publication No. 39820) (Open Knowledge Repository) https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreams/761f49d0-61dd-4807-bc02-af7cbf40c545/download

In terms of human rights, Honduras has a pattern of systematic violence against those who defend the environment. Notable cases such as the assassination of Berta Cáceres and Juan López demonstrate the extreme risk faced by territorial defenders. Impunity, the lack of effective protection mechanisms, and the coexistence of economic interests and political structures perpetuate this crisis.

Additionally, insecurity and economic deterioration are driving increased climate-related human mobility, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes due to crop losses, disasters, and a lack of economic alternatives.

The loss and damage in Honduras are multidimensional. Storms and hurricanes like Eta and Iota left millions of dollars in losses in infrastructure, housing, and crops, as well as intangible damage, such as disruption of communities, loss of agricultural traditions, and increased psychosocial vulnerability.

The combined effects of climate change and structural violence make Honduras a country in which climate impacts rapidly escalate into humanitarian and human rights crises.

The climate monitoring project collaborated closely with ASONOG in Choluteca in the communities of El Quebrachal and El Palenque, which report events linked to changes in rainfall patterns that directly affect their livelihoods.

Image 12. Honduras, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in El Palenque

Droughts

Among the impacts of climate change, the El Niño phenomenon has been particularly significant, with notable effects during the 1982-1983, 1997-1998, 2015-2016, and 2017-2018 periods, as well as during the most recent cycle that began in June 2023 and is expected to continue into 2024.

The consequences include major crop losses. For example, in 2022, reports indicate significant losses in the production of beans, corn, and sorghum, as well as a reduction in water flows from water sources, an increase in the number of forest fires and vector-borne diseases, and significant food insecurity, which places Honduras as the country with the highest prevalence of undernourishment in Mesoamerica, with 18.7% of the population affected by hunger between 2020 and 2022.

Changes in rainfall patterns

Changes in rainfall patterns have generated frequent flooding in areas such as Quebrachal and El Palenque, affecting homes and agricultural activities, and causing internal displacement. Extreme rainfall events have increased in frequency (by approximately 1.2% per decade since the 1960s) and occur off-season, complicating community water and land management[30].

The impacts are not only climatic but also profoundly social. Rural communities face the loss of livelihoods, including crops, fisheries, and agricultural production, as well as the degradation of ecosystems such as watersheds and wetlands that once served as natural flood barriers. Public health is also deteriorating with malnutrition, gastrointestinal diseases from contaminated water, respiratory conditions after floods, and strong impacts on mental health.

Lastly, forced human mobility is deeply linked to these climate phenomena. Families migrate within the country or across borders in search of security and means of subsistence, which erodes community cohesion and jeopardizes the transmission of ancestral knowledge.

In Honduras, fieldwork documented testimonies indicating high exposure to extreme weather events, such as rising sea levels and droughts, as well as their cumulative impacts. The communities report recurrent damage to housing, infrastructure, and livelihoods, as well as impacts on community dynamics, highlighting the need to strengthen adaptation and risk management measures at the local level.

30 United Nations Environment Program, Interactive Country Fiches: Climate change – Honduras (UNEP GRID-DICF, accessed on August 4, 2025) https://dicf.unepgrid.ch/honduras/climate change?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

"Here in 2025, we have lost all the hotels and all the restaurants where we used to do tourism, and we're very worried because by losing tourism and losing the restaurants, we have been left unemployed, and the children and some parents have traveled, they have migrated to other countries in search of a better life or a way to feed their families, because here we have no other source of work."

Rafael Montoya, comunidad Cedeño.

"For me, climate change is all the abnormal behavior we can observe in nature. Before, it could rain here for 15 days and we would not flood, because there was a lot of vegetation, a lot of trees, and nothing happened. Today it rains for just one night and we flood. And in the summer, for example, there have been strong heat waves that we feel ourselves, to the point that sometimes we have to sleep in the corridors because the heat inside the homes is unbearable."

Enemías Velázquez, comunidad de Namasigüe

Community Voices

In the territories of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, the communities interviewed recognize the impacts of climate change not only as extreme events or one-time losses but also as a sustained erosion of their livelihoods, their relationship with the environment, and their most basic rights.

People speak of what has been broken: the balance of natural cycles, food security, and the possibility of remaining in their communities. Many testimonies point to the same reality: there is no support. And in this absence, communities experience profound harm that is not only material but also social and spiritual.

For these communities, to speak of reparations is not to ask for something extraordinary, but rather to demand the minimum for a dignified life: water, food, fertile soil, a healthy environment, the right to make decisions for their own territories.

"I used to think how amazing that when my children grow up, they will see all of this... now they won't"

Said a Salvadoran mother who has watched crops, forests, and fish disappear, and with them, a part of hope. This phrase captures a shared feeling: what was once thought of as an inheritance is now experienced as a loss.

Image 13. Honduras, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in El Palenque

The stories we have heard are marked by injustice, but also by memory and resistance. In the face of every loss, there are also ways of sustaining life: vegetable gardens, community networks, ancestral practices that adapt to survive this crisis. One person in Metalío summed it up clearly:

"All the gallery forests were lost ... when hurricanes come, they directly impact the mangroves because there is nothing to defend them anymore."

This image speaks not only of the landscape, it speaks of state abandonment and of the defense that once existed, both natural and communal, that today are at risk of disappearing if these territories are not recognized as priorities for climate justice. In the midst of it all, there are those who insist on sowing the future:

"If we don't work for the environment, we will be left with nothing, most of all without life, because the air is life, the earth is our mother, and if we don't take care of it, what will we have?

> Our grandchildren will not see what I saw. And I would like to leave a legacy to my grandchildren, that they say: my Gran used to do this, and I'm going to continue it."

This desire for legacy is not individual; it is collective. It is the urgency of sustaining life as an act of resistance.

Image 14. El Salvador, Loss and Damage Workshop

Photograph by La Ruta del Clima-Workshop in Garita Palmera

From the accounts collected, we identified key dimensions recurring across all countries: the loss of livelihoods, primarily due to disruptions in planting cycles, declining harvests, and the collapse of artisanal fishing. The impact on emotional and physical health is also very real, particularly among women, children, and the elderly who experience distress as a result of climate uncertainty.

This is compounded by institutional neglect: the absence of real public policies, the lack of consultation, and, in many cases, the criminalization of those who defend water and territory. And in response, clear demands emerge: technical support, environmental restoration, community infrastructure, food sovereignty, and mechanisms for real participation in decisions that affect their lives and their environment.

Taken together, the accounts from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras are not only diagnoses of suffering; they are also maps of demands, knowledge, and alternatives.

They are territories that resist with memory and dignity. Hearing these voices is not a symbolic gesture; it is an ethical process towards genuine transformation, in which climate policies serve life rather than capital, and communities are recognized not only as victims but as protagonists of solutions, with access to the reparations needed to live with dignity.

Climate Justice Begins in the Territories

Central America today is experiencing the outcome of a history marked by inequality, violence, and dispossession, but also by the resistance and dignity of its people. In Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, climate change is not a distant or abstract phenomenon—it is a daily experience that erodes rights, territories, bodies, and lives.

Droughts, hurricanes, floods, and the loss of ecosystems are interlaced with structural violence, poverty, and the lack of political recognition of those who defend the environment. In this context, to speak of climate reparations is to speak of justice, memory, and historical responsibility.

The Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice has clearly established that States have the obligation to prevent, mitigate, and remedy climate-related damage. This legal principle must now be translated into a political imperative: to recognize that communities in the Global South are not asking for favors, but for the fulfillment of a right.

Climate reparations are not limited to financing; they entail restoring rights and ecosystems, guaranteeing dignified conditions to remain in these territories, and transforming the structures that have enabled the crisis to occur.

In this context, Central America is at a crossroads: either it continues to be the human face of loss and damage, or it becomes an example of transformation and justice.

The communities have shown that they are not passive victims, but rather political actors with knowledge, proposals, and adaptation practices that can guide the course of global climate action. From community science to territorial defense, the communities are generating knowledge, caring for life, and sustaining the future.

As such, reparation is not only a legal obligation; it is also a political and moral act. It means recognizing that the climate crisis has responsible parties, but also solutions that come from the affected territories. It means building partnerships based on equity and co-responsibility, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and ensuring that climate justice is not an aspiration, but a living practice.

La Ruta del Clima reaffirms that reparation begins when those who experience the damage are heard and acknowledged. From the Central American territories, this is the demand that resonates most strongly: that the damage be repaired, that dignity be restored, and that it be guaranteed that never again will communities pay with their lives and their land the price for the development of others. Reparation is justice, and climate justice begins—and must be fulfilled—in the territories.

We invite individuals and communities to submit their reports through the app, which can be downloaded via the QR code below:

Download App P51

This tool enables systematic documentation of climate change-related impacts from within the territories, strengthening data generation based on community evidence.

Likewise, to further explore the experiences, accounts, and impacts that communities face in the context of the climate crisis, informational podcasts are available that compile testimonies and analysis from a territorial and social perspective. This content can be accessed through the following links or QR codes:

Podcast El Salvador

Podcast Honduras

Podcast Guatemala

Podcast Costa Rica

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