

GLOBAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021 FROM OTROS MUNDOS A.C.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

In 2021, Mexico experienced one of the most critical moments in its recent history. The post-COVID recovery, the violence unleashed throughout the national territory, the migration crisis, elections, mining conflicts as well as those generated by megaprojects, among other events. However, the social movement and the people continue their resistance and their defense of the urban, peasant and indigenous territories; and also the organizational, family and body territories threatened by this appalling capitalism. In the midst of this situation, Otros Mundos AC continues to look for ways to resist and to look for solutions and alternatives, as well as to keep hopes up that other worlds are possible.

DEFENSE OF THE LAND AND TERRITORY AREA

We carried out three Modules of the [Ejidal and Communal Popular School](#). The **first Module** had the participation of **51 people**, indigenous and farmers, *ejidatarios* and *comuneros*, from **6 Regions** of the state and from **18 Municipalities** and **14 Agrarian Nuclei**. Participants of the School wrote the statement [Zoque, Tseltal and Tzotzil representatives from agrarian nuclei in Chiapas reject Megaprojects in their original territories](#).

The **second Module** counted with the presence of **25 representatives** from **15 agrarian nuclei** where they met to analyze the situation of the megaprojects, map their territories, learn about the agrarian law and define collective strategies for resistance. The topics analyzed were the Ejidal Assembly, its mechanisms and operation; authorities such as the Agrarian Prosecutor's Office, and the Unitary Agrarian Tribunal; the merger or expropriation of ejido and communal lands, and finally prevention strategies against megaprojects.





The **third module** was carried out exclusively with **37 women**, some of who were ejido or communal authorities from more than **20 agrarian groups**, and had the aim of delving deeper into the rights of women in the defense of land and territory and with special guests from Oaxaca, Michoacán and Coahuila.

Together with Salva La Selva/Rettet den Regenwald e.V., the Latin American Network against Tree Monocultures (RECOMA), the World Rainforest Movement (WRM), and with the participation of Acción Ecológica from Ecuador, we made a joint call for the [Mesoamerican Meeting against Palm Oil](#) with the participation of people from organizations, networks, members and representatives of groups from **5 countries**: Uruguay, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico (from the states of Tabasco and Chiapas). The meeting culminated with an important [Declaration](#) and with the decision to create the **Mesoamerican Network against Palm Oil**. Key to this meeting was the participation of [women](#), who did their own act of resistance and a video of the [Poem “A Cry for Life”](#), a composition that emerged during this meeting.



We convened two Assemblies of the **Movement in Defense of the Free Determination of Indigenous Peoples** together with indigenous organizations and communities from the region, in order to define the principles and basic elements of the movement. People from ten municipalities of the Highland, North and Jungle Regions participated.



The **Energy Justice School** is made up of people and communities from Guatemala and Chiapas that resist the capitalistic energy model and are threatened by energy production projects (called renewable or non-renewable). The school met in order to delve into the energy model, and later an **exchange of experiences** was held around energetic alternatives from the people in

Puebla with the cooperative Onergia, aiming at learning about the different dimensions of photovoltaic energy and to learn about community experiences that enrich the information search for energy autonomy in Chiapas and Guatemala.



As part of the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining (**REMA**), we carried out a training and capacity building workshop in Chiapas for **30 Journalists** from the *Periodistas de a Pie* Network from various national, state, local and electronic media coming from the states of Yucatán, Campeche, Tabasco, Chiapas, Veracruz, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla and Mexico City. The goal was to provide research tools and a political framework for analyzing the extractive model.



We also supported another training for journalists in coordination with the Raichali journalists' network, with the participation of **20 journalists** from the states of Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Sonora and Coahuila. As REMA acting members, we helped to carry out the assembly of the "**REMA National Links Meeting**" in Guanajuato; as we also

supported in making possible the monitoring, advising and resisting against mining and the extractive model in Colima, Oaxaca, Zacatecas, Sonora, San Luis Potosí, Chihuahua. We facilitated information workshops on the logic of prevention against the extractive mining model in various communities of the **Zoque Region** and the support and monitoring of the resistance process of the Popular Front in Defense of Soconusco June 20 of the **Coastal Region**.

We participated in an action for the wetlands of San Cristóbal and, together with several organizations, we created a [statement](#) in defense of the wetland territories that are being devastated in the city.



We organized the ceremony of the [2021 Environmental Defense in Chiapas "Mariano Abarca" Award](#), which was awarded to the Civil Society Organization Las Abejas de Acteal on November 27th in the midst of a grand ceremony and more than 500 guests, including representatives of the 25 member communities of Las Abejas; as well as local, national and international social organizations, including some convening members of this award, and organizations from Guerrero, Oaxaca and various municipalities in Chiapas, and Mariano Abarca's widow and her family. With music, celebrations, and more than a million signatures of solidarity against the recent assassination of one of its leaders, Simón Pedro, and many messages of solidarity, this celebration was held in a year where Las Abejas sheltered hundreds



of families from their organization and other communities that fled the violence of organized crime in the region. We also accompanied the **return of the displaced** from Las Abejas to the community of Los Chorros in the midst of great tension caused by the violence..

We supported the promotion of the **Itinerant University Program (UNIR, for its Creole acronym)** in **Haiti** in order to strengthen the resistance of the Haitian movement against mining megaprojects, through capacity building, meetings and Spanish classes, in order to facilitate the link of the Haitian movement of resistance and defense of the territories with the movements in Latin America.



UNIVERSIDAD ITINERANTE DE RESISTENCIA EN HAITÍ
INIVÈSITE ITINERAN REZISTANS AN AYITI
ITINERANT UNIVERSITY OF RESISTANCE IN HAITI

Declaración sobre la Crisis en Haití, 13 de julio, 2021
Declaration on the Crisis in Haiti, July 13, 2021 (English follows)

Regarding the case of the legal process in the Court of Canada for the delineation of responsibilities in the murder of **Mariano Abarca**, we held virtual meetings with teams of lawyers and other Canadian organizations, which culminated with a Hearing in the Court of Canada. Otros Mundos AC is part of the plaintiffs along with other organizations.

ÁREA DE ALTER NATOS COMUNITARIO

The experience of the [Biodigester Users Network](#) in Chiapas has moved us all, particularly the user families, for being such an important contribution in the generation of energy converted into biogas (CH₄), biofertilizer for crops and waste



treatment (at small farms and toilets), so that a network of users of biodigesters has been generated within the region.

This process began with political education and technical training workshops on the use of biodigesters, reflecting on how to obtain energy for household activities that generally women, girls and boys are in charge of by obtaining firewood or other types of material for cooking. Open stoves cause serious damage to health and with the COVID-19 pandemic this problem is exacerbated. Regarding the production of crops, chemical fertilizers are increasingly used, polluting the soil and affecting biodiversity. Thus, biodigesters were born as a response to such difficulties, to strengthen the autonomy of the peoples, and continue seeking energy sovereignty so that the community organization can be defended.



This year we were able to install 18 biodigesters in 10 communities in 6 municipalities in the Highland regions: Tsotsil-Tzeltal and Meseta Comiteca Tojolabal in the state of Chiapas. A total of 83 people, minors, youth and adults were directly benefited. Every 28 days, 1,024.8 tons of (CO₂) were not

emitted into the environment, with a **7.5% decline** in the use of firewood. For the families using biodigesters, it was necessary to carry out political education and technical training workshops for their maintenance.





In the **Urban Alter Natos** program, the "[One Square Meter Garden](#)" process was promoted with the aim of sharing with families from different neighborhoods of San Cristóbal de Las Casas about agroecological production processes for the household supply of medicinal plants or fresh vegetables. More than **35 workshops** were held with the participation of around 120 people who

started/renovated/expanded around **90 small gardens in the neighborhoods** of: Cuxtitali, Once Cuartos, Ciudad Real, 31 de Marzo, La Garita, Santa Lucia, Tlaxcala. This process was shared with members of other groups and associations, such as the Plan Bioma Collective, the Women and Maize Collective, a group of families from Amatenango del Valle, Tierra Roja AC, and the K'in al Antsetik Training Center for Women AC (CEFOCAM). There was also the participation of teachers, students, mothers and fathers from the 31 de Marzo school, through the "Basket of Experiences Project", the Tele High School 297 Juan Bosco Occhiena and the University Garden at the Faculty of Social Sciences.



Los The topics that were addressed were: analysis on the origin of foodstuffs that are consumed daily, their origin and form of production, design of gardens, preparation of fertilizers and substrates, seeds and seedbeds, cultural practices against pests and the establishment of gardens in various containers. We

reflected on the relationship between food quality and health, as well as the importance of vindicating peasant agriculture against the industrial production model.



Alternatives were analyzed and proposed for various urban production challenges such as: limited spaces, cement floors that have replaced gardens, available water, containers and substrates, among other aspects. The need/urgency and importance of having good quality agroecological seeds were addressed and two workshops were held in this regard. For the first workshop [Semillas Colibrí](#) from Jalisco was invited, as



they have extensive experience in the production of agroecological seeds; and in the second workshop, facilitated by Otros Mundos, in addition to addressing the production and



conservation of seeds, we hosted an analysis meeting and exchange of experiences with the families that participated in the process of the square meter garden, and groups and people who promote various agroecology proposals and orchards in urban areas of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

We also participated in the radio show "El Escaramujo" to talk about ["urban agriculture, cultivating in the neighborhoods of San Cristóbal de Las Casas"](#) where we presented two agroecological experiences in the city: the nursery and the orchard at UNACH's Faculty of Social Sciences.



On the other hand, together with various local groups and organizations, [the Corn Festival](#) was convened, a celebration that takes place annually for the defense of native corn. This festival included activities such as: a gastronomic exhibition of corn products, an information table on the diversity of Mexican corn, and a conference where topics such as the spirituality and worldview of corn and the resistance of native varieties against GMOs were addressed.



[The Great Maize Party](#) was held at the farmers' market in Comitán Chiapas, with a beautiful celebration in honor of those who plant, consume and guard the native corn that feeds the people.

Within the framework of the **Solidarity Economy**, the network of the "Túmin" community currency was intensified and reached more than **300 partners** in the city, among producers and service providers that strengthen the economy of the neighborhoods in San Cristóbal de Las

Casas, Chiapas. There were **12 Tianguis** as well as various coordination meetings to improve operations; the first [Assembly of the Túmin San Cristóbal](#) was held and was supported by the publication of the Túmin book that recollects the experience of 10 years of the community currency.



As part of the search for community “alternatos”, we held many meetings and workshops in the neighborhoods of San Cristóbal de Las Casas to explore decentralized ways of **managing organic waste**, in order to recycle, reduce the use of firewood and coal, reduce deforestation and the problems associated with lack of access to water or floods.

In coordination with the organization El Puente SC, we supported the construction of a 50,000-liter **water tank** in the community of **Acteal** to increase the capacity to house the hundreds of families seeking refuge in times of violence as marked by the year 2021. Similarly, we channeled humanitarian aid to the **Civil Society organization Las Abejas de Acteal** in order to strengthen their resistance and support families who fled the violence of organized crime groups in the region.

ALTER NATOS CENTER AREA

During this period, work continued in the Alter Natos Ecological Center, chiefly maintenance. Within these activities the main areas were: hydraulic and lighting systems, building infrastructure, sanitation and gardening.



En In the **hydraulic** field, pipes and distribution systems of conduction networks were improved; water tanks and ferro-cement containers were washed; generally every 15 days tree leaves that fall into the water cisterns were collected; in addition to cleaning and chlorinating the biological and activated carbon filters. The **power** grid was given maintenance to, particularly the photovoltaic solar panels used to power small submersible pumps that recirculate water from the three catchment ponds. Regarding path lighting, motion sensors were relocated, staircase switches were also connected; rearrangement of sockets and general maintenance of lamps, switches and contacts was done.



En As for **infrastructure**, work was done on bamboo rings with “endless” clamps of different sizes, washers were changed, walls and rearrangements were made on tire-trails. With our volunteer program we always had the support of one person for six months. Regarding **sanitation**, the waste containers generated by the dry toilets were relocated. Among the main activities this year was the varnishing of the wooden floors of 4 structures within the Alter Natos ecological center, including the shelter, domes 1 and 2, and the small house, work that lasted 4 months. Special attention was also given to organizing warehouses, trails and parking areas.

Despite the pandemic, we had the opportunity to receive groups for the modules of the "Energy Justice School", the "Workshop for local seeds production", the "Ejidal Women's School", two groups of spiritual worshipping youth, and a "bocashi elaboration workshop", among other visits inside the Alter Natos ecological center.



COMMUNICATION AND ANALYSIS AREA

The Communication Area is dedicated to producing and publishing informative written and audiovisual materials on the organization's website and social networks, as well as positioning the information handled or produced by the organization in local, national or international media. This area also organizes talks and film-debates in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, the host city of the organization. These three lines of action have a single objective: to increase the informative and media impact of Otros Mundos A.C. on the defense of the territory and the creation of alternatives that contribute to the change of consciousness, social change and the strengthening of defense processes in Chiapas.

We managed to increase traffic on the Otros Mundos A.C. website with **87,242 visitors** and **942,673 visits** between January to December 2021. We expanded our audience on social networks, with **12,685 followers and 12,609 Likes** on Facebook; we have **3,936 followers** on Twitter (+423) and **111 subscribers** on our new Telegram channel. Our monthly newsletter currently reaches **266 people**, since after the migration to the new server many of the previous addresses were lost. However, we are already working to recover and increase the number of subscribers. And the invitations to our "[Permanent Seminar on Sustainability](#)" reach **423 people**.

We continue with our rhythm of **1 to 2 publications** per day on the website and sharing them on our social media platforms. We always post communications from our sister networks such as the **REMA**, the **MAR**, the **M4 Movement**, **ATI** and **ATALC** as well as important reports on matters of defense of the territory, impacts of megaprojects and construction of alternatives.



We have improved our relations with the local, national and international media, and our list of contacts in the press increased from 149 contacts to 202, of which 51 are international.



We continue to support the *Popular Front in Defense of Soconusco "June 20" (FPDS)* in its fight against mining. We celebrate together with them and from a distance their 6th anniversary of struggle with a [statement](#). Together with members of the Platform for the Human Right to Water in Chiapas, we have started a

process with young people to create a strategic communication campaign [#YoPrefieroAguaYSalud](#) (#IpreferWaterandHealth) with the aim of discouraging the consumption of sugary drinks and promoting spaces free of them. We also accompanied all the processes of the various working areas by documenting them with photographs and videos.



Within the framework of the **Energy Justice School**, the Mexico-Guatemala Meeting was held: *Energy for the people and from the people* in Cuetzalan, Puebla; where energy self-management experiences were collected and will be shared through videos and infographics the following year. Together with the Area for the Defense of the Land and the Territory, the

[Mesoamerican Meeting against Palm Oil](#) was held, and within this meeting, a video of the [Poem A Cry for Life](#) was produced, a composition that emerged during this meeting.



It is being considered to make a video about this meeting. Likewise, the [III edition of the “Mariano Abarca” 2021 Environmental Defense Award](#) was organized, carried out and covered, and the award delivered to Las Abejas de Acteal Civil Society.



Se The Popular Handbook [Mayan Train: not a train, nor Mayan](#)” was published, which explains the alleged devastation of this megaproject and its logic within the framework of capital accumulation. [The “Popular Agrarian Dictionary”](#) was also published as a tool for the people who live in agrarian communities to better understand the framework that regulates them, based on the defense of their territories. From the Analysis Series [“El Escaramujo”](#) we published 4 investigations: [“The Epistemicide of Capital”](#), [“The Governors of Chiapas”](#), [“The Foreign Mining Devastation 2021”](#) and the [“Popular Agrarian Dictionary”](#). We also elaborated the material [The Time Line of the Capitalist System](#).





The online radio program "El Escaramujo" has had [9 shows](#) broadcasted through Facebook Live, where topics such as waste in San Cristóbal de Las Casas; bicycles and roads in the city; urban gardens;



#JusticiaParaBerta; crisis in Honduras and Haiti, among others; and also the [Barrio Biciclero](#) radio show had a total of 9 sessions.

The "[Permanent Seminar on Sustainability](#)" is an important vector of information about the extractive model. In these events we have the interventions of colleagues from other organizations and universities. With the gradual return to activities, the monthly cinema-debates returned, addressing different topics such as the humanitarian crisis and violence in Honduras; the process of searching justice for Berta Cáceres; the high consumption of sugary drinks and the over-exploitation of aquifers by soft drinks; energy self-management processes; the defense of bees and others. This year 9 cinema-debates were held; all taking sanitary measures into account. Each seminar attracted between 10 and 25 participants of all ages, mainly students, researchers, members of civil organizations and tourists. Our list of participants who receive our invitations now is 423 contacts.





We also supported, from the communication side, the demand for justice of the **Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH)** for the murder of its coordinator Berta Cáceres on March 2nd, 2016. We shared 23 [informative notes](#) and reports on the subject and published a [statement](#) on the global action day in Commemoration for Berta. We organized a [commemorative event](#) 5 years after her murder in the Plaza de La Paz in San Cristóbal de Las Casas. We have followed and shared information about the trial against David Castillo in the search for #JusticeForBerta and the ruling of the trial; and we have also joined the demand for a [speedy sentence for David Castillo](#), after being found guilty as the mastermind. We screened the video "[Berta did not die, she multiplied](#)".

De In general, we seek in our communications to vindicate our feminist vision and contribute to the dismantling of patriarchy, so we participated and covered the **March 8** feminist rally in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, accompanied with a [statement](#).



Together with **International Rivers** we reactivated the social networks of the **Latin American Network against Dams (Redlar)** and created a space for information and communication through

mailing lists, Twitter, [website](#), Facebook. In the framework of the International Congress on Hydroelectricity, together with organizations from Costa Rica, we convened the campaign [Global Move for Rivers and People](#) and organized and participated in a [webinar](#) to debate about Latin America's energy model. Messages, testimonies and adhesions were collected around the statement prepared in order to denounce the extractive model that is occurring on the world's rivers.



We supported actions and campaigns against **dams** within the framework of **March 14th, International Day Against Dams**, in coordination with allied organizations, including the Civil Society Organization Las Abejas de Acteal. We commemorated the 5th Anniversary of the tragic murder of Berta Cáceres and we were invited to participate in the “**SUNLA**” mechanism called by the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (OFRANEH) to demand that the disappeared appear alive. In the case of mining, we supported the preparation and publication of various REMA communiqués throughout the year.

We participated on **interviews** with different media such as [Cooperacha](#), Radio Mundo Real, and other independent media on various topics about the reality in Chiapas and on the process of achieving justice for Berta Cáceres. We also participated in **webinars and seminars** with the University of Valencia and Alicante in Spain, EntrePueblos in Catalonia, Friends of the Earth in La Rioja, the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, the University of San Luis Potosí and the National Center for the Arts of Mexico, and Bielefeld University of Germany, among others, on issues such as dams, mining, the energy model, the criminalization of human rights and environmental defenders, etc. We facilitated around twenty analysis and information **workshops** with women and indigenous communities groups and organizations from municipalities such as Yajalón, Chenalhó, Pantelhó, San Cristóbal de Las Casas, San Andrés, Zinacantán, Chapultenango, among others, about the reality we live in the state and within the framework of the current federal administration regarding megaprojects, defense of the land and the territory, among other topics.