

A world map showing the global distribution of environmental justice conflicts. The map is overlaid with numerous small, multi-colored dots (red, blue, green, orange, black) representing individual conflict sites. The continents are labeled: NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AFRICA, ASIA, and AUSTRALIA. Major oceans are also labeled: Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific Ocean. The title text is overlaid on the map.

# Environmental Justice Atlas (EJAtlas)

## Ecological Distribution Conflicts

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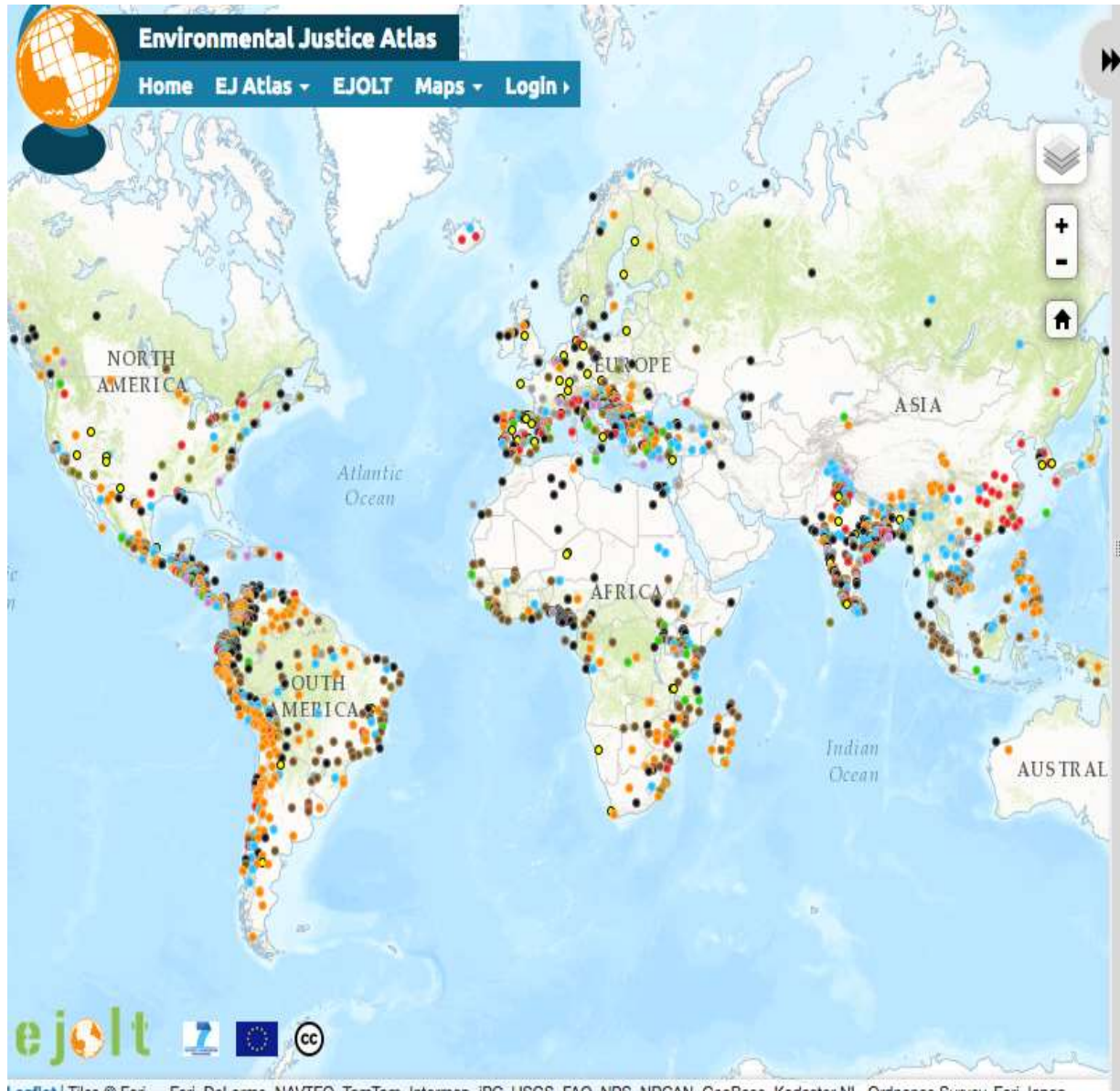
La Bergerie de Villarceaux  
September 2017

# Ecological Distribution Conflicts (EDCs)

- EDCs are social conflicts born from the **unfair access to natural resources and the unjust burdens of pollution**. Environmental benefits and costs are distributed in a way that causes conflicts
- Unfair ecological distribution is inherent to capitalism through “**externalities**” or “cost-shifting successes” (K.W. Kapp)
- There are local as well as global distribution conflicts; whilst many of them occur between the global South and the global North (a Canadian or Chinese mining company operating in Peru, climate change), many are local conflicts within a short commodity chain (e.g. on local sand and gravel extraction for a nearby cement factory)







## World Map



1839 cases reported

You can contribute to EJ Atlas and / or fill out our survey.

- > Legend
- > Filter
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### A PLANET IN DANGER: the world of CHEVRON

Chevron is well known around the world as a company that systematically applies the "Polluter does not Pay Principle". This scholar-activist collaborative mapping project shows stories of communities reclaiming justice.

#DíaAntiChevron

### Climate Debt

The overconsumption of the available capacity of the Earth's atmosphere and climate system to absorb greenhouse gases by the developed countries has run up a climate debt to developing countries and Mother Earth.



**DISMANTLE  
CORPORATE  
POWER**

**Permanent Peoples Tribunal  
Hearing on Corporate Human Rights  
Violations and Peoples Access to  
Justice**

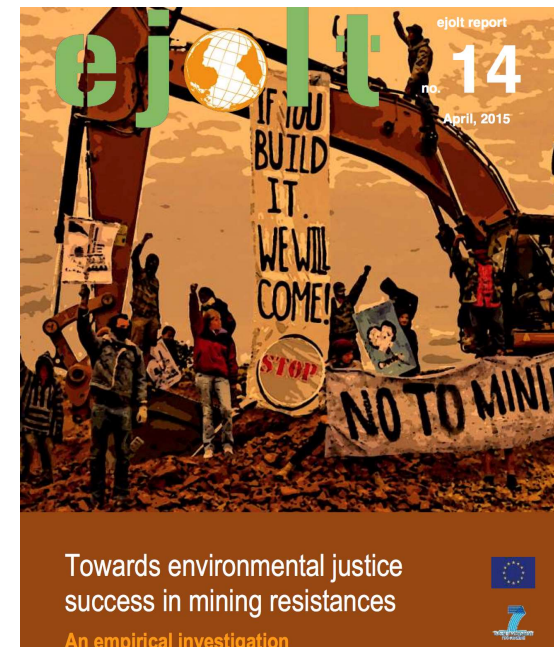
# EJAtlas – how?

- Born from the EJOLT project (EU funded)
- Directed at ICTA UAB Barcelona and > 100 outside collaborators (academics and activists) over the years.
- Launched in March 2014 with 920 cases reaching 2200 cases in August 2017.
- Currently funded by a European Research Council Advanced Grant 2016-21 [www.envjustice.org](http://www.envjustice.org)
- Each case contains 6 pages of information, including sources. Many coded variables

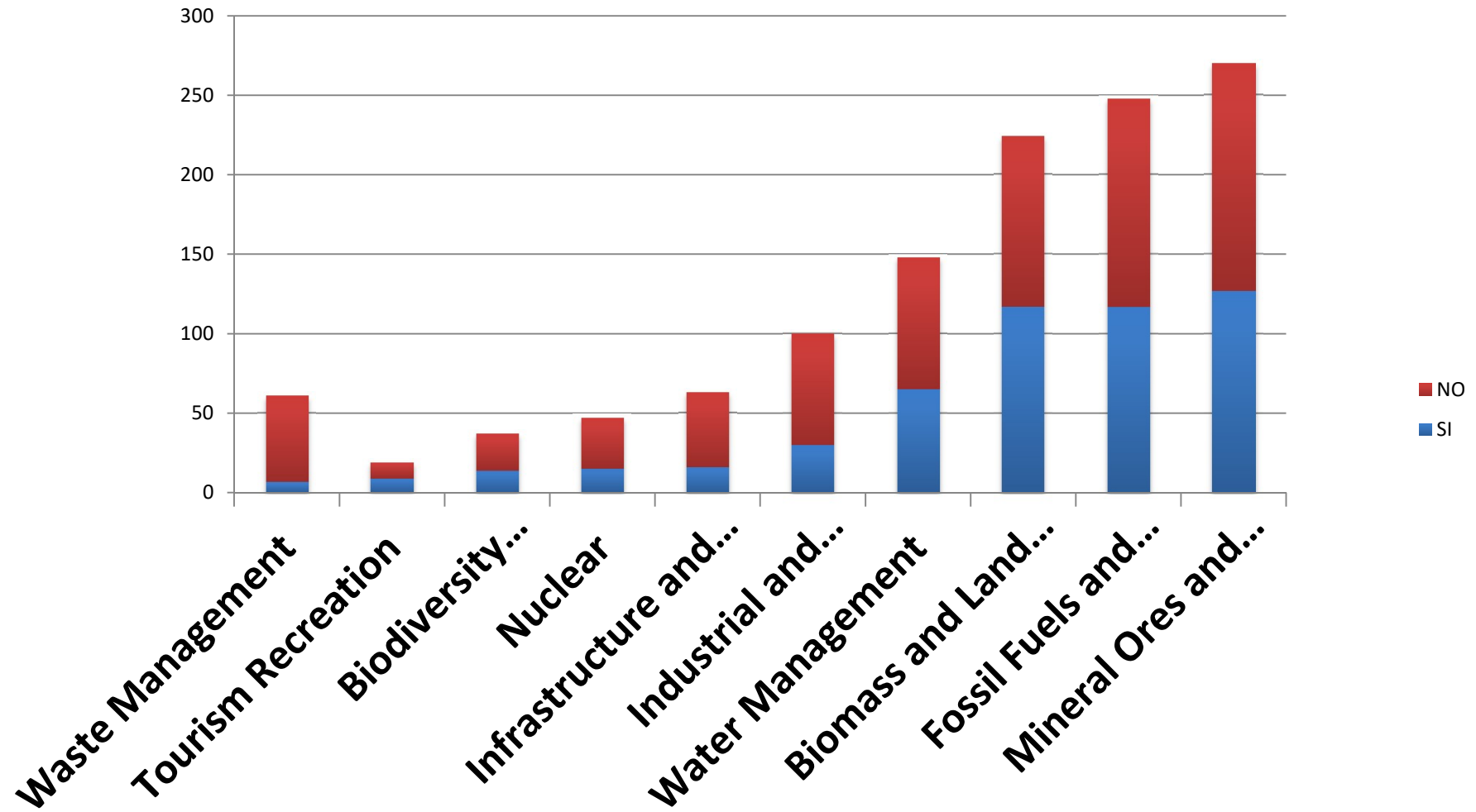
# EJAtlas – some results

- In about 18% of cases environmental justice is said to be achieved
- In about 14% of cases, one of the outcomes is deaths of environmental defenders.
- Groups that mobilise more are neighbours, communities (72%), followed local EJ organisations (69%), farmers (56%)
- Environmental impacts reported water pollution (45%), loss of landscape (44%), soil contamination (41%)

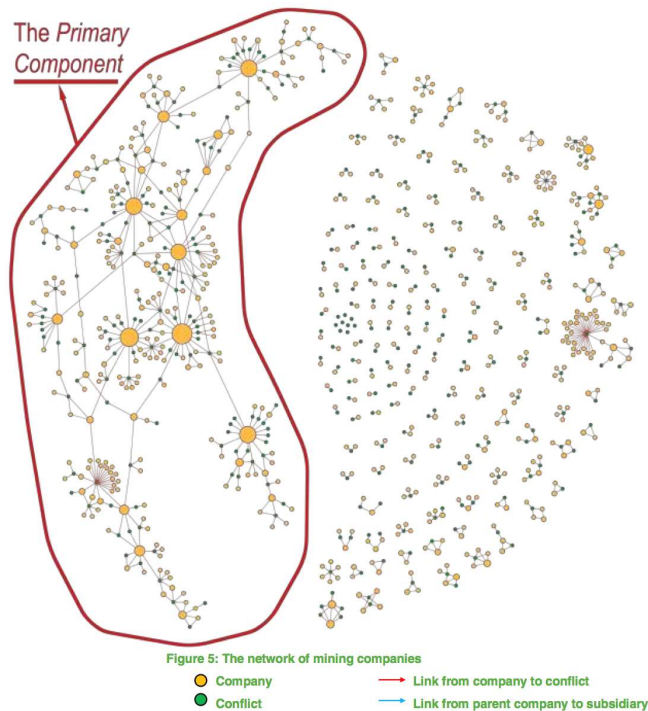
EJOLT Report No. 14. Towards environmental justice success in mining resistance



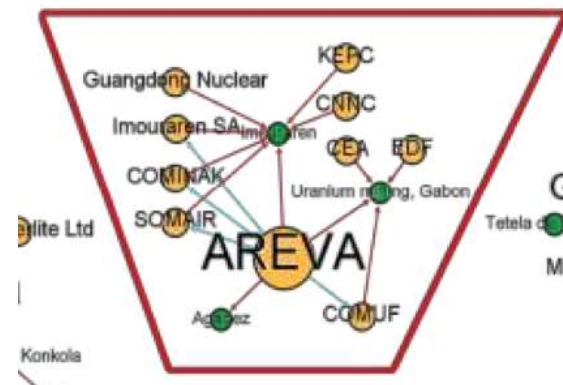
# Indigenous presence by conflict type



# Network of mining companies



- Primary component: most important companies are well connected among themselves and national companies
- Isolated companies like AREVA have small mining network and their own sphere of influence





# Mining resistance network

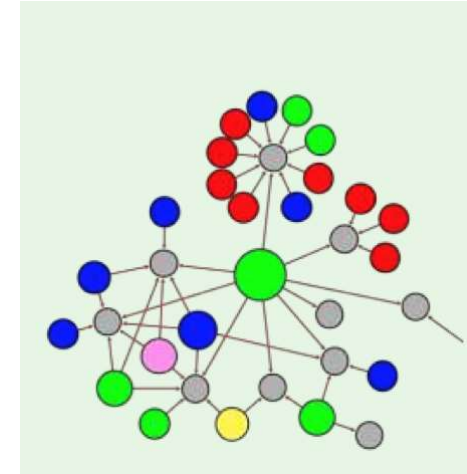
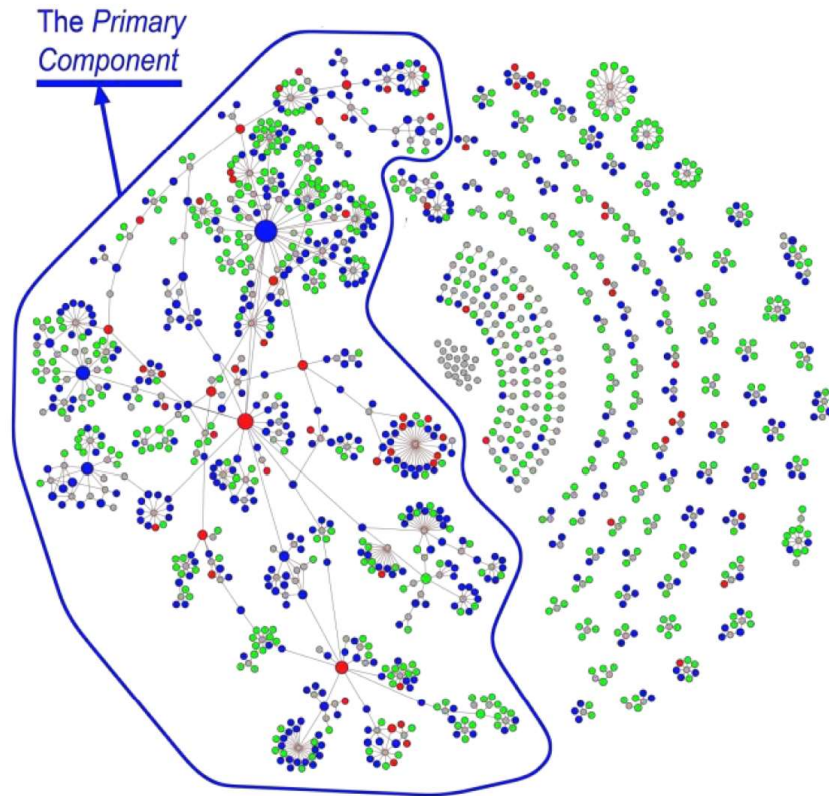


Figure 9: The mining resistance network by scale of operation



Strong resilient network:

- Cooperation with different type of organisations
- Organisation working on more than one conflicts
- Many still isolated organisations
- Importance of 1) national organisations bringing regional movements. 2) international organisations to create the primary component

# Strategies:

## Alliances between activists and experts

- Co-produce new knowledge to challenge that of the mining companies.
- Local groups get legitimised and visibilised
- Example: alliance between Bruno Chareyron, CRIIRAD with local organisations in Niger and Namibia



Please share with me your experience!!



## Goals of the project EJAtlas, 2016-21

- Expand the EJAtlas, improving geographical coverage reaching 3000 cases by 2020. Update some old cases. Carry out country based and transversal studies of comparative, statistical Political Ecology.
- Link resistance movements, share strategies.
- Collect manifestations of EJ in the world (banners, videos, songs...).
- Analyze the alliance between the Global Environmental Justice Movement and the Degrowth (*Décroissance*, *Post-Wachstum*, Prosperity without Growth) movement in Europe.

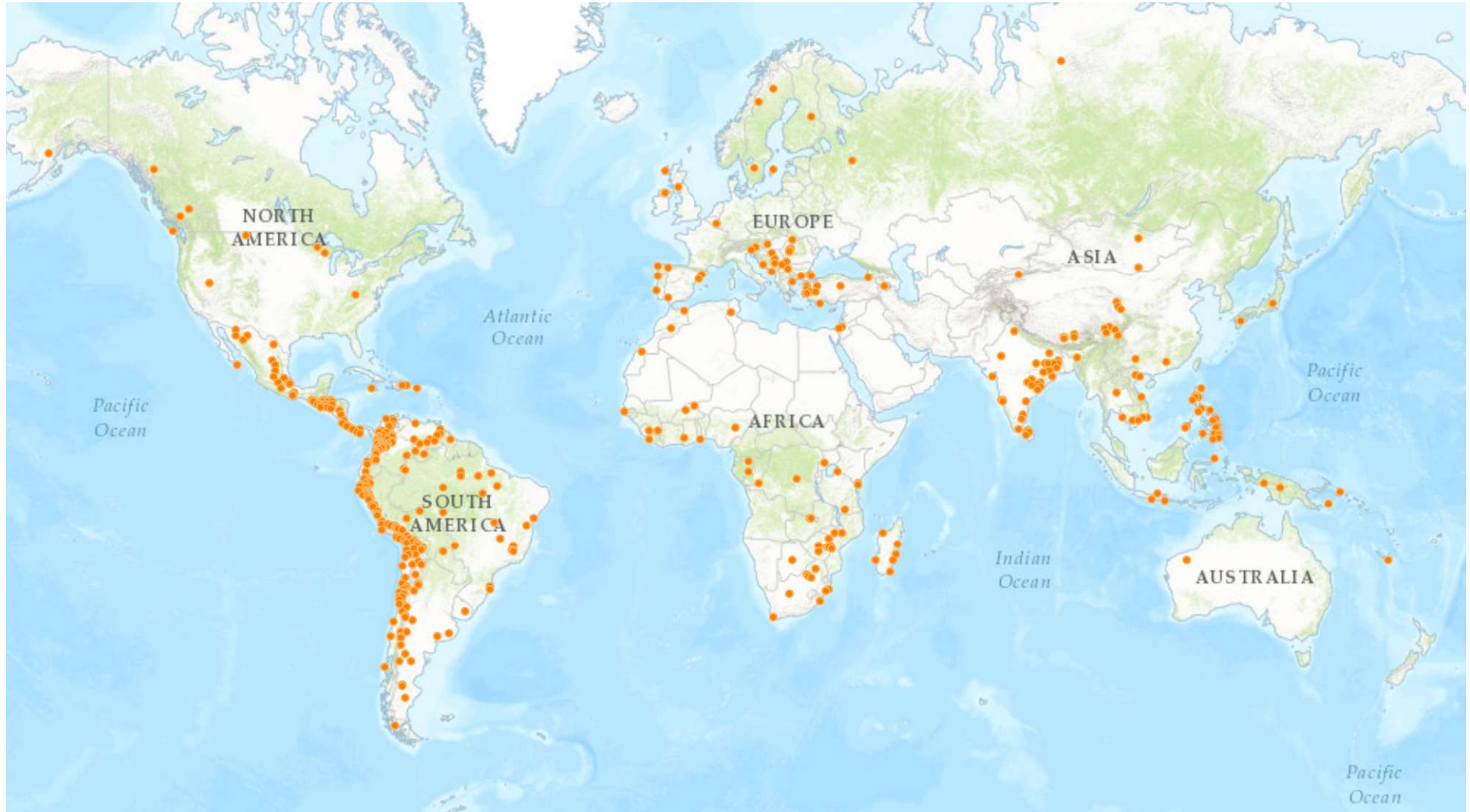
# Your conflict can also be part of the EJAtlas

Contact Daniela del Bene and me:

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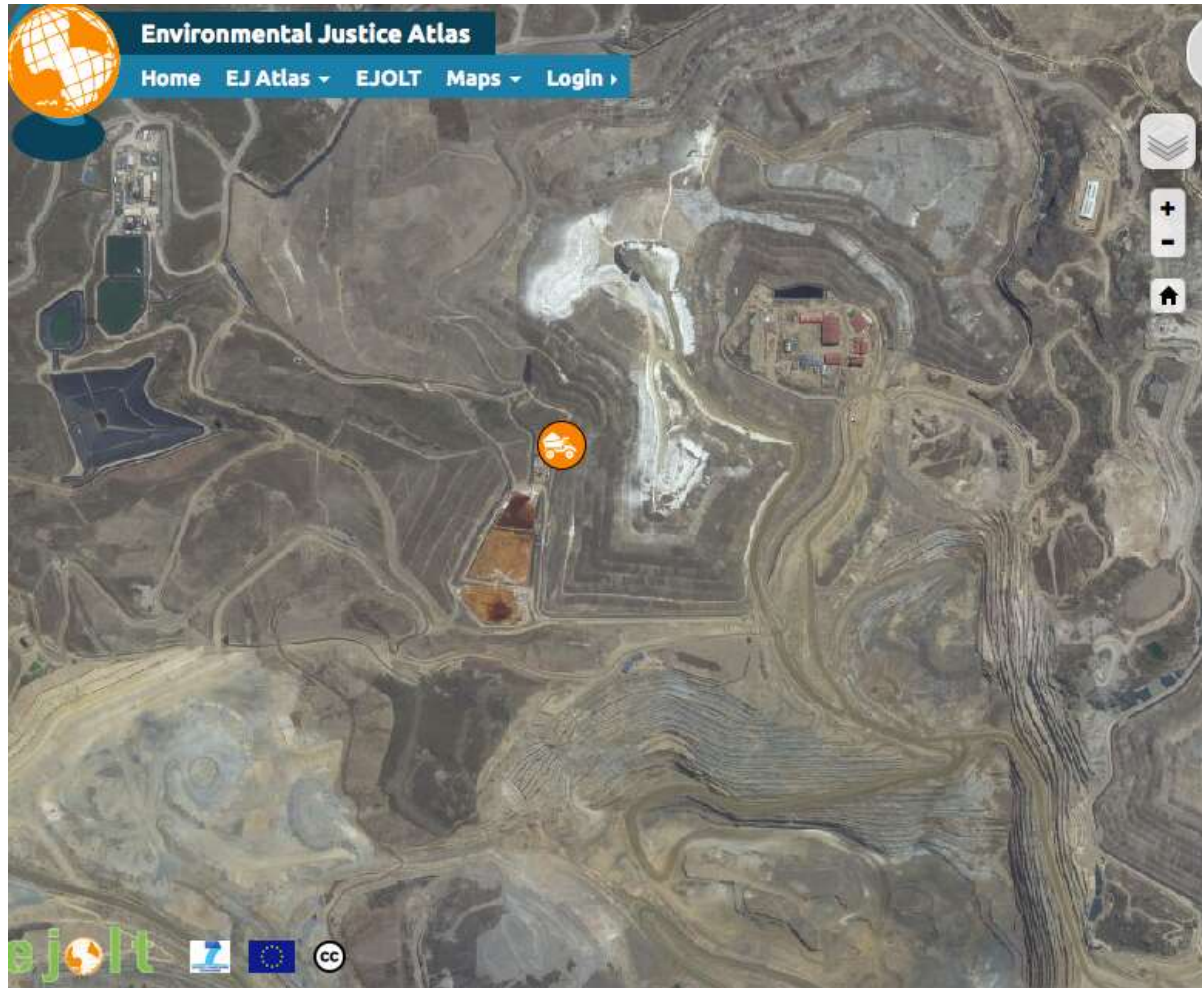
[mcondep@gmail.com](mailto:mcondep@gmail.com)

# Mining conflicts





# Yanacocha Mine, Peru



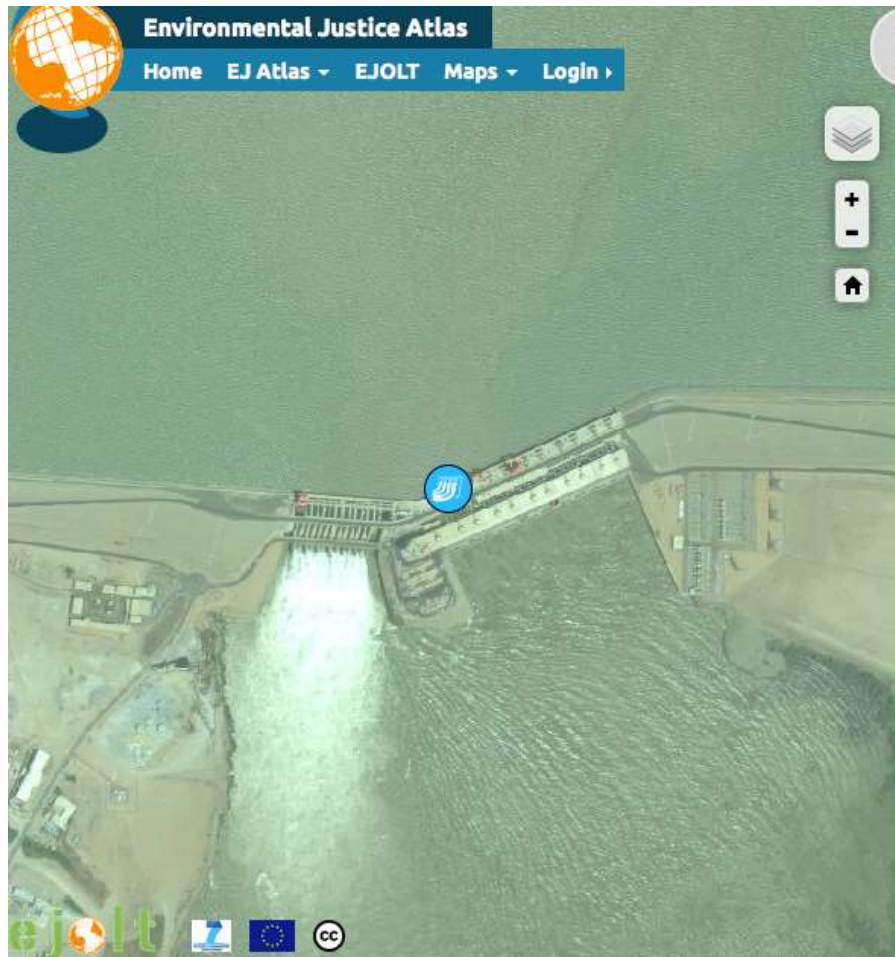
## Yanacocha Mine, Peru



### ▼ Description

Yanacocha is an open-pit, cyanide gold mine located 3,900 metres above sea level in Cajamarca. The site is operated by American multinational Newmont Mining Corporation, Peruvian company Minas Buenaventura (part of the Benavides group) and the World Bank International Finance Corporation (IFC). Local residents complained against land grabbing and water pollution from the beginning of operations in Bambamarca and other communities. Accidents included a large mercury spill in Choropampa. Expansion of mining to the Cerro Quilish was stopped. In 2012, a big conflict with several deaths has exploded over a nearby project owned by the same company in Conga. Cajamarca remains one of Peru's poorest areas.

# Merowe Dam , Sudan



## Merowe Dam, Sudan



*A huge plant on the Nile river for massive energy generation and a criminal complaint against Lahmeyer International for corruption. Read the story of the largest dam in North Sudan*

### ▼ Description

The Merowe Dam in Northern Sudan is one of the world's most destructive hydropower projects. Built on the Nile's fourth cataract between 2003 and 2009, and inaugurated in March 2009, the dam created a reservoir of a length of 174 kilometers. With a capacity of 1,250 megawatts, the project doubled Sudan's electricity generation. It displaced more than 50,000 people from the fertile Nile Valley to arid desert locations, because of the consequent reduction of water flowing downstream. Thousands of people who refused to leave their homes were flushed out by the rising waters of the reservoir. Next in line are the Kajbar and Dal dams, who add to energy generation potential but also displaced some thousands more people.

[See more...](#)



## 2) Chirano gold mine in Western Ghana

- Long running compensation claim between farmers since 2004. Several court cases. Those that accepted the initial compensation were paid the difference, the rest is waiting.
- This is not isolated: in 2008, a Human Rights Commission for (CHRAJ) said a total of 82 rivers and streams in five mining communities had either been polluted, destroyed or diverted



## The key questions asked in the project:

- Is there a Global Movement for Environmental Justice helping to push society and economy towards environmental sustainability?
- What are the links from the growth and the changes in the Social Metabolism to Ecological Distribution Conflicts, to Movements for Environmental Justice, and then to Sustainability? (next slide)

The industrial economy is not circular, it is entropic. But the transitions to sustainability would mean changes in the social metabolism, i.e. in the size, composition, distribution of the sources and sinks of energy, materials and waste

## Social Metabolism

The growth and changes in social metabolism (flows of energy and materials) redistribute the environmental benefits and cause damages. These are not seen as externalities or market failures but as "cost-shifting successes" that sometimes create conflicts.

## Transitions to Sustainability

Do the collective actions for environmental justice help to move to less unsustainable economies and societies? Which valuation languages are deployed in such actions? Is economic compensation always a demand (in a framework of "weak sustainability")?

## Movements for Environmental Justice

How, when and where do the socio-environmental conflicts result in collective actions? Forms of mobilization? Social actors, alliances, at which scales? Conservationism vs. the Environmentalism of the Poor and the Indigenous?

## Ecological Distribution Conflicts

*A. Scheidel, L. Temper, F. Demaria, J. Martinez-Alier. EnvJustice. ICTA-UAB. 2017*



## Four mining conflicts cases from the EJAtlas

- 1) Rosia Montana. For the last 14 years Alburnus Maior has been successful not only in blocking the mining project but also in developing the most enduring and the largest socio-environmental movement in Romania with intense transnational networking.

### 3) Death of Gloria Capitan, Philippines

She opposed the construction of coal stockpile facilities and a CFPP as leader of the local anti-coal movement in Mariveles, 60 km from Manila, member of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice. She was a grandmother, she was shot on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

