



## Empowering environmental justice organizations

Conflicts over resource extraction or waste disposal increase in number as the world economy uses more materials and energy. Environmental Justice Organizations (EJOs) are civil society organizations involved in conflicts over resource extraction or waste disposal, focusing on the link between the need for environmental security and the defence of basic human rights. The **EJOLT project** unites an international consortium of 23 academic and civil society organizations across a range of fields (environmental law, environmental health, political ecology, ecological economics) to promote mutual learning and collaboration on aspects of environmental justice.

## Our action plan

The EJOLT project encompasses four thematic pillars (nuclear energy, oil and gas extraction conflicts and climate injustices, biomass conflicts; and mining and ship dismantling [and e-waste] conflicts). The work of these pillars is supported by five crosscutting axes of intervention, which include the building up of a Map of Environmental Conflicts. The EJOs will examine their case studies through capacity -building and best practice sharing workshops involving both EJOs and researchers. Dissemination and training materials will be made available for use of a diverse set of stakeholders including journalists, parliamentarians, business and government representatives.

## Our aim: Improved collaborative research on environmental conflicts

This entails:

- To compile a large database, '**The Map of Environmental Injustice**', covering ecological distribution conflicts around the world, drawing on activist knowledge and linking them with material trade flows among other variables, and providing a platform for communication among EJOs and scientists working on related issues.
- To make available the latest knowledge on indicators for the analysis of the environmental impacts of nuclear energy, oil and gas extraction, biomass extraction, mining and ship breaking and e-waste, **focusing on the whole 'commodity chains'** (from extraction to waste disposal or recovery).
- To unveil some of the **socio-environmental and public health impacts** which are invisible to the consumers in the main resource importing and waste exporting countries, and to empower stakeholders to monitor and understand risks to environmental health.
- To apply methodologies that allow the **study of the valuation languages** deployed in ecological distribution conflicts, particularly related to **environmental liabilities**.
- To improve the basis for EJOs to undertake **legal actions** regarding environmental liabilities or campaign for institutional changes in corporate accountability.
- To develop the basis for EJOs to use notions and methods of **calculation of ecologically unequal exchange and ecological debt**.
- To **hold workshops and develop an online resource library** for EJOs on political ecology and public policies, environmental health (including popular epidemiology), ecologically unequal trade and the ecological debt, and legal redress.
- To **translate project findings into concrete policy proposals** to be communicated to decision makers in European, international institutions and corporate bodies. The emphasis of the recommendations will be on increasing corporate accountability and on legal institutional mechanisms to seek alternatives to and minimize harmful resource extraction and waste disposal.

