

## GWJ UN Representative Report from CSW66

**Date:** 22. 3. 2022; 13:00-14:30 CET; Parallel Event

**Attended by:** Elisabeth Francis

**Title:** Climate Justice for Women and Girls: Approaches to combating Ecocide

**Organizers:** NGO CSW Vienna; NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, Vienna; Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

### Summary

This event explored how women's civil society organizations can bring perpetrators of ecocide to justice; protect grassroots environmental actors; hold governments accountable for implementing existing conventions; and provide women and girls with knowledge and tools to contribute to healthy, sustainable environments. It discussed what the NGO community can do to support global efforts to combat crimes that affect the environment.

This was an impactful Parallel event, which highlighted the work women are doing to protect the environment, the important results that can be achieved – but also the costs, in terms of women environmental activists being oppressed and killed.

Please follow the **recording** of the event via this link:

<https://iadllaw.org/2022/03/video-climate-justice-for-women-and-girls-approaches-to-combating-ecocide>

The panel speakers were:

**Jojo Mehta**, Co-founder and Executive Director of Stop Ecocide and convener for the definition of Ecocide. 'Stop Ecocide' is a collaborative women-led movement and is the driving force behind the growing global movement to establish ecocide as an international crime. ***"Ecocide"** is defined as unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.*

<https://www.stopecocide.earth/>

**Steven R. Donziger**, New York lawyer, journalist and Human Rights activist who talked about the extended legal case between Ecuador and Texaco/Chevron.

**Diana Siller**, Executive Director of the NGO Environmental Justice and Human Rights organization JADE, Mexico, who described the experiences of women active in defence of the environment, describing several powerful examples. Women activists are confronted with rejection, threats and dangers to their lives, the impunity of those responsible, corruption, lack of law enforcement and access to justice.

**Patricia Madrigal Cordeiro**, former Vice Minister of Environment, Costa Rica who talked about the Escazú Agreement, the first regional environmental treaty for Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in 2018 on the birthday of Berta Cáceres, an Environmentalist who was assassinated in 2016 for her defense of the Lenca indigenous people and opposition to hydroelectric projects in Honduras. The treaty aims to improve access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

<https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>

**Emily J. Yozell**, Attorney, moderated the session.

**Refers to SDG No.:** All

**Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:** UN Resolution 76/185, Escazú Agreement, UNEP



Event flyer



Left - JoJo Mehta; right - screenshot from Diana Siller's presentation on Mexico



Screenshots

