

FOR THE DEFENSE OF LAND TERRITORY AND ENVIRONMENT



DERECHO
AMBIENTE Y
RECURSOS
NATURALES

Law, Environment and Natural Resources is a civil society organization that, since its inception in 2004, has contributed towards Peru's development through actions related to the management and sustainable use of natural resources and the environmental management in the Amazon region.

DAR is committed to building and strengthening environmental governance and promoting the exercise of human rights.



From a general approach of Rights to a specific approach by Defensores

LAPI provided support to defenders of indigenous Amazonian organizations, through indigenous organizations in the Amazon basin (the Indigenous Forum of Abya Yala - FIAY, the Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin - COICA, the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Jungle - AIDSESP, the Machiguenga Council of the Urubamba River - COMARU and the Central Ashaninka of River Ene - CARE) in the framework of constructing the following important narratives:

- To start with, in 2014: the rights approach allowed to strengthen the Amazonian indigenous peoples in their rights of Prior Consultation, participation and Territorial Rights. This involved multi-level action: at local (indigenous monitoring and promoting its recognition by local governments), national (public policies on consultation and participation) and regional (advocacy targeting IFIs, UN, IACHR) levels. The action also promoted the participation of indigenous women in these processes.
- The Human Rights Defenders approach was socialized in the indigenous agenda, where this approach was analyzed and discussed. The indigenous peoples recognized that what they have been doing is linked to this concept. However, they have their own ways of defending their rights, by starting from the collective community and being represented by leaders, whom they call apus, kurakas, leaders, heads, among others.
- Today, indigenous organizations promote the idea of indigenous defenders, from the construction of this concept to the promotion of the Defenders Program for the Amazon Basin, considering the different expressions of each nation / people.



Why engage in capacity building?

The dynamics and leadership in indigenous organizations are dynamic. Therefore, support and assistance must be continuous, but respecting their autonomy, without imposing agendas

Indigenous defenders

Context

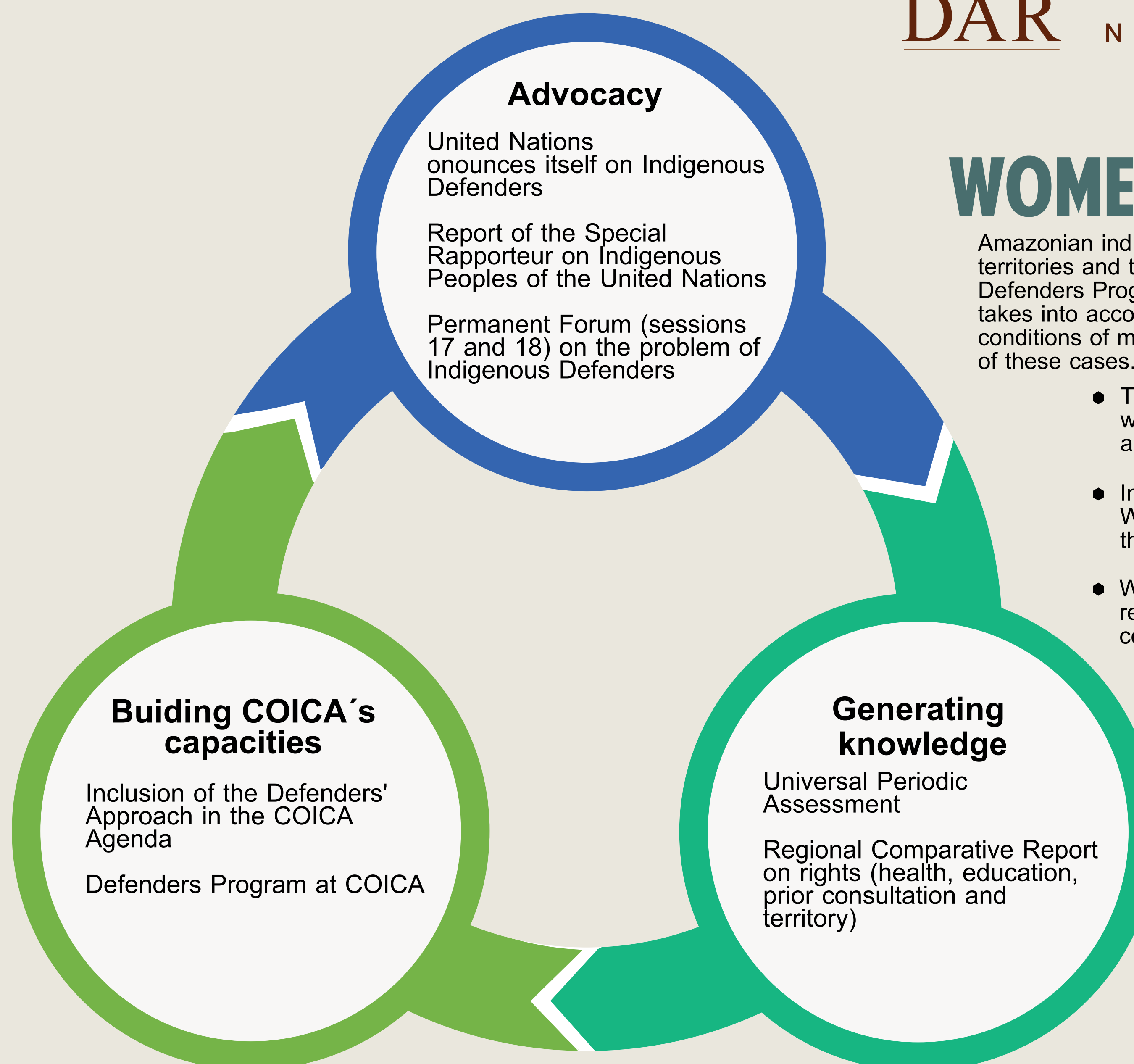
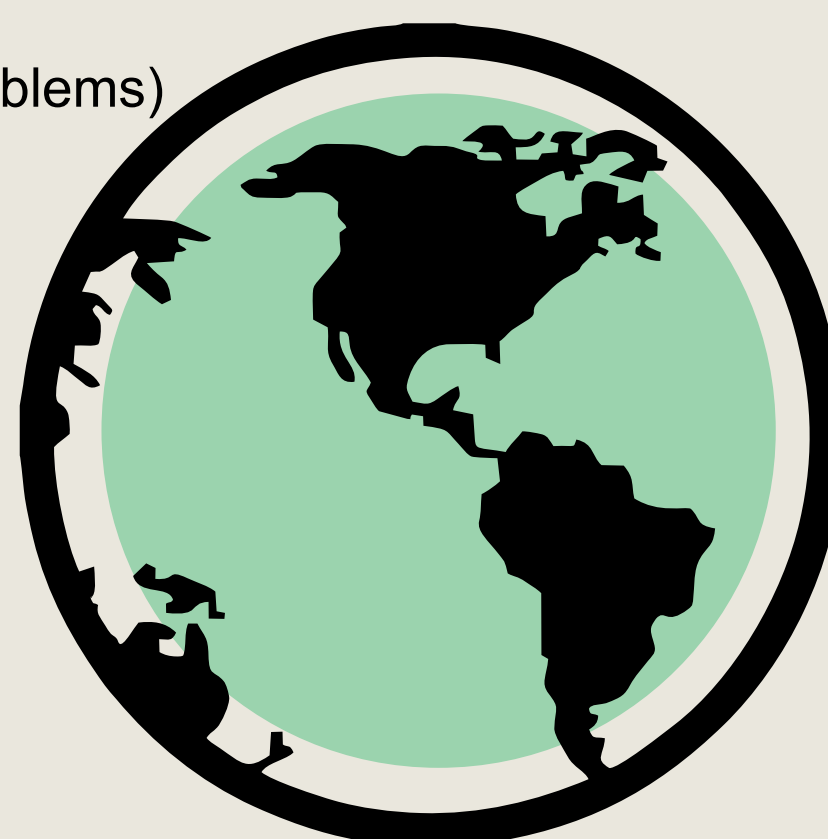
In 2017, 312 human rights defenders were killed (Front Line Defenders, 2018). 67% of these defended land, the rights of indigenous peoples and the environment.

According to the latest report of Global Witness (2018), the most dangerous countries in South America are Colombia, Brazil and Peru.

Assessment for the strengthening of indigenous peoples:

1. Weak States unable to address indigenous rights (privileging extractivism)
2. Restricted access to justice (institutionalization of indigenous justice)
3. Direct relationship of between companies and the violation of human rights
4. Limitations to media access (lack of visibility and dissemination of their problems)
5. Need for institutional strengthening of indigenous organizations

312 human rights defenders were killed



WOMEN DEFENDERS

Amazonian indigenous women are at the forefront of the struggle for the defense of their territories and the environment hereby being exposed to confrontation with companies. The Defenders Program recognizes the differentiated violation of rights. In addition, the Program takes into account intra-group differences when considering the analysis of the roles and conditions of men and women, hereby presenting mechanisms or protocols for the treatment of these cases.



- The entry of extractive and infrastructure projects, in addition to generating differentiated impacts, place women in a critical position in their leadership, which in itself is already not visible. However, these leaderships are made invisible.
- In addition, patriarchal attitudes in communities, organizations and families represent a strong challenge for Women Defenders. The message is not to silence the women defenders, but rather to make women stop involving themselves or assuming leadership.
- When male defenders are imprisoned, persecuted or killed, in addition to seeking justice for them and reorganizing their communities, also the defenders' family responsibilities are taken care of. Defense is collective, but the fall of a made defender defending man generates a greater burden on women.

67%

of the murders were indigenous defenders



Program for the Defense of Indigenous Defenders

In 2017, COICA was assisted in the construction of the Program for the Defense of Indigenous Defenders for the Amazon basin, in order to identify the use of violence and to provide timely attention to the defense of the defenders. This program has two important characteristics:

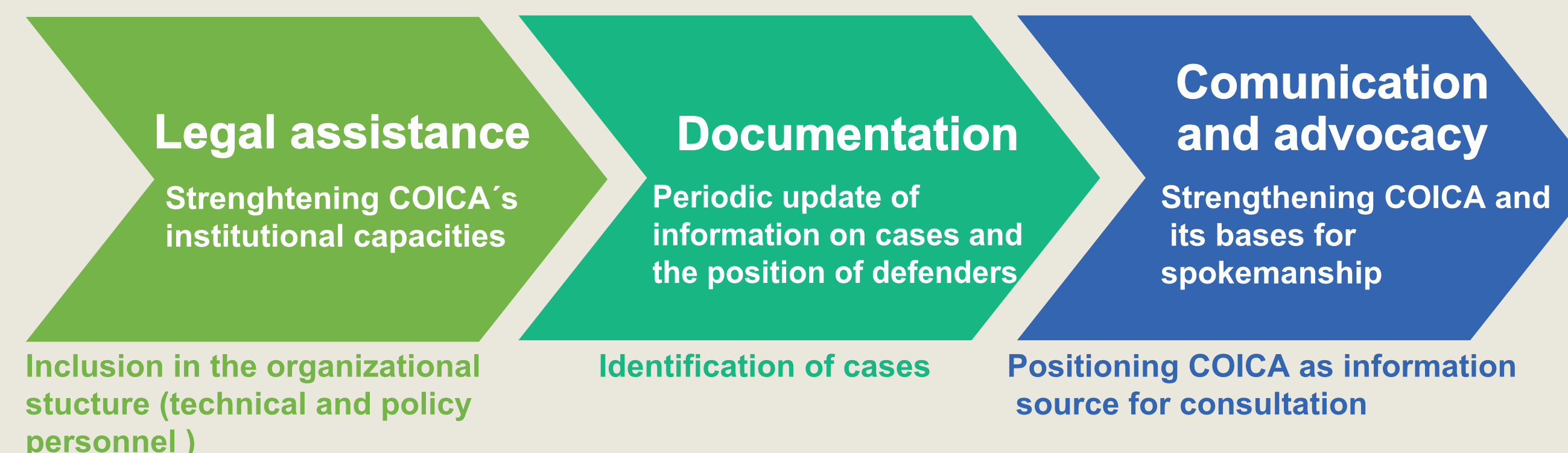
Collective approach: not only identifies subjects, but also indigenous organizations, nations, peoples and communities as Defenders of the territories.

Preventive Character: raises the need for early warning mechanisms, strengthening surveillance mechanisms.

Early warning mechanisms on the entry of agents of violence:

- Illegal economies (drug trafficking, logging, etc.)
- Invaders to their territory
- Activities of formal companies

Specific objectives :



In alliance with:



Supported by:



Foro Indígena de Abya Yala