

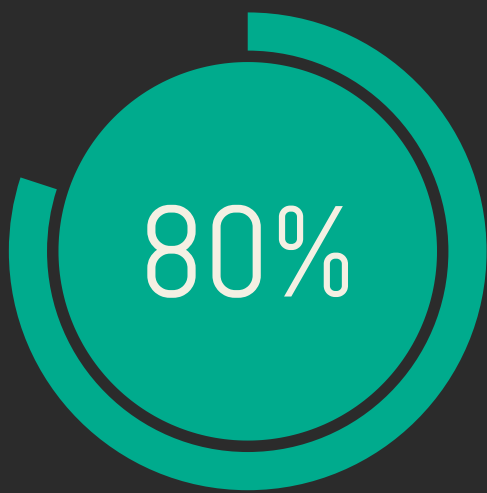
UNITING FORCES: A TOOLKIT FOR  
**YOUTH AND WOMEN  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS**

Strengthening Collective Voices  
Against Environmental Crimes

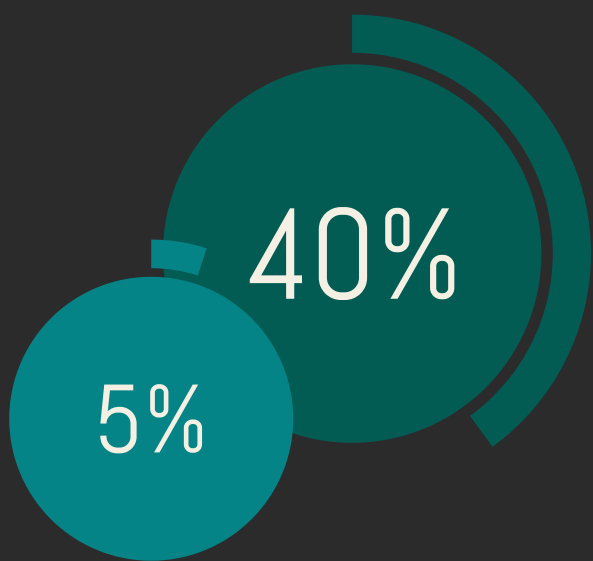


**The coalition will strengthen their voices collectively, enhance knowledge on environmental crimes. This will garner support, bringing changes at policy and educational level, enable gender inclusivity in youth groups.**

# IMPORTANT FACTS



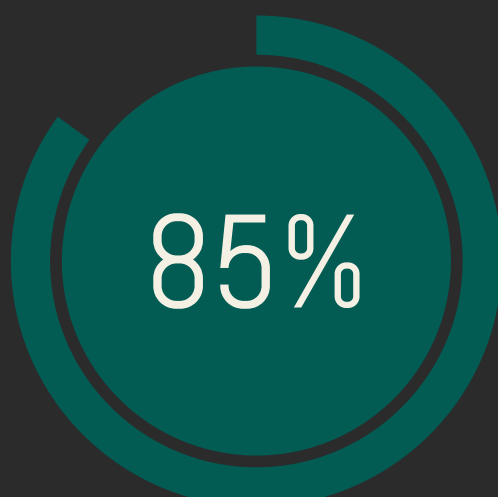
**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PROTECT 80% OF BIODIVERSITY, FACING HIGH RISKS FROM MINING, OIL, AGRIBUSINESS, AND PALM OIL.**



**INDIGENOUS GROUPS REPRESENT 5% OF THE POPULATION BUT MAKE UP 40% OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS KILLED (GLOBAL WITNESS, 2020).**



**MOST DEFENDER KILLINGS ARE LINKED TO MINING; IN LATIN AMERICA, 50% OF THESE CRIMES ARE MINING-RELATED.**



**IN ASIA, 85% OF DEFENDER DEATHS ARE TIED TO AGRIBUSINESS.**



# IMPORTANT FACTS



**WED FACE FREQUENT,  
OFTEN UNHEARD  
THREATS, WITH RISKS  
OFTEN UNDERREPORTED  
OR OVERLOOKED.**



**SLOW VIOLENCE, LIKE  
FORCED LAND LOSS, AND  
ECOCIDE IMPACT  
COMMUNITIES.**



**LIMITED DATA ON  
CRIMES SPECIFICALLY  
AFFECTING WEDS.**



**UNITING YOUTH AND  
WED OFFERS STRONGER,  
GENERATIONAL DEFENSE  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.**

# Why a YOUTH-WED coalition is needed

By 2030, the youth population aged 15-24 will reach 1.3 billion globally (United Nations). Youth are already actively advocating for environmental and human rights and have pushed governments for policy changes. A coalition between youth and Women Environmental Defenders (WED) can amplify these efforts, creating stronger, gender-inclusive strategies against environmental crimes.

## First steps to building the coalition:

- Identify existing youth groups and understand their origins.
- Evaluate their agendas and alignment with environmental protection goals.
- Promote gender inclusivity by assessing if women are fairly represented, and, if not, explore ways to increase their participation.

Following these steps, the next phase is to gain a deeper understanding of WED's experiences, challenges, and the unique threats they face.





# Key Actions

## Better understanding of environmental crimes



### Objective:

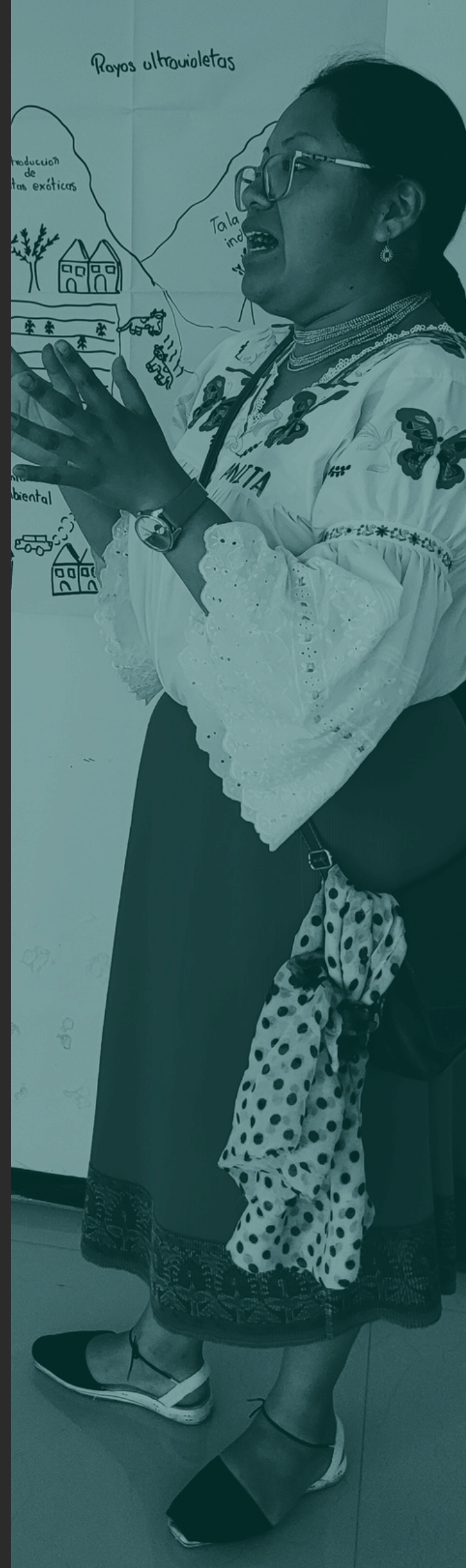
**Build youth understanding of local environmental crimes through the guidance of Women Environmental Defenders (WED)**

- Learning from WED: Youth learn directly from WED about threats to land and culture, such as displacement from hydro projects, and are informed about legal rights and protections.
- Interactive knowledge transfer: WED engage youth through storytelling, drama, and role-play, fostering deeper awareness and encouraging action.
- Developing campaigns: Using insights from WED, youth create digital and social campaigns, press releases, and speak at global forums.



### Outcome:

*Increased understanding of environmental issues, a sense of ownership, and youth-driven campaigns for awareness and advocacy*





# Collect community data



## Objective:

Strengthen youth groups to collect valuable data from local households on issues like gender-based violence linked to wildlife crime

- Door-to-Door Surveys: Youth engage directly with community members, gathering data that provides new insights into local challenges.
- Focused Questions: Surveys address specific issues, such as connections between gender-based violence and environmental crime.



## Outcome:

*Actionable data that supports policy changes and informs media and stakeholders.*



# Integrate awareness into schools



## Objective:

Encourage shifts in school curriculums to include local environmental issues, fostering informed decision-making in future generations.

- Curriculum Assessment: Youth, guided by WED, assess if and how environmental crimes are discussed in schools.
- Engagement and Strategy: Through school clubs and peer interactions, youth identify knowledge gaps and strategize ways to raise awareness.



## Outcome:

*Increased awareness among students, with proposed curriculum changes submitted to authorities*

# Impact Assessment



**HIGHER INCLUSIVITY  
OF WOMEN IN  
YOUTH GROUP**



**SHARING  
VIEWERSHIP DATA  
IN MEDIA**



**SURVEY IN SCHOOL  
TO ANALYZE CHANGED  
PERCEPTIONS POST  
INTERACTIONS**



**EVIDENCE OF  
OUTREACH TO  
STAKEHOLDERS**

## Resources

[Nature Sustainability](#)

[Policy Matters](#)

[Unwomen.org](#)

[Geneva Environment Network](#)

[Impact of biodiversity loss  
and environmental crime on women  
from rural and indigenous communities](#)