

[REDACTED]

Subject: Complaint re UNDP Colombia

Colleagues from the UNDP Social and Environmental Compliance Unit -

With this email, we would like to request the initiation of a compliance review related to UNDP Colombia's project agreement with GeoPark, the Chile-based oil company. We believe that the implementation of the UNDP private sector due diligence process was inadequate, given the host of environmental and human rights allegations against GeoPark in the Colombian department of Putumayo. We also believe, given the gravity of the situation, that this process should move straight to the compliance review phase, skipping the prospective mediation phase.

We learned of the UNDP Colombia / GeoPark collaboration via UNDP Colombia's social media, specifically via Twitter (see screenshot below). Previously the UNDP Colombia Facebook page featured a video of the April 21st program launch for the "United for Territorial Reactivation" project, which has since been removed.

Two community processes in Putumayo - the Siona Indigenous Reservation of Buenavista and the Association for Holistic Sustainable Development of the Amazon Pearl (ADISPA) - denounced the collaboration via the Monday, April 26th Joint Public Denunciation (Spanish original attached and [here](#), English translation [here](#)).

Community leaders and non-governmental organizations that accompany them held a phone call with the UNDP Colombia team on Thursday, April 29th. The UNDP Colombia team included [REDACTED] among numerous others. The community message was unequivocally that UNDP must sever ties with GeoPark, not only for the Putumayo section of their initiative but for the entire collaboration.

Worth noting: Both community processes are recipients of funding channeled through UNDP via an initiative titled Sustainable Amazon Program for Peace. I believe this is financed by the GEF / World Bank. This accounts for the accusation of a lack of coherence between different programs that the UNDP is supporting or implementing.

Other sectors of the United Nations have received the community denunciation, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia, the UN Working Group on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations, and various UN Special Rapporteurs.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues included an expression of concern in the final report from their recent session in New York City: "The Permanent Forum is concerned about reports of UNDP entering into a strategic partnership with the oil company GeoPark, a private entity that has been accused by Indigenous communities of disregarding their rights, to carry out economic development activities in Colombia without the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Indigenous communities that will be impacted. This contradicts UNDP's own Social and Environmental Standard 6,

and the Forum urges UNDP to suspend all related partnership activities until a proper FPIC process can be carried out."

Threats from the Amerisur oil company (acquired by GeoPark in 2019) and now GeoPark to those communities and their precarious situations are public knowledge. Here is some initial documents that may be of utility:

(1) Siona Reserve of Buenavista:

- * Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Precautionary Measures (27 July 2018) [here](#)
- * Series in The Guardian about Siona resistance to Amerisur oil company:
 - ['The war goes on': one tribe caught up in Colombia's armed conflict](#) (27 June 2018)
 - [Colombian tribe calls for action on alleged effects of UK oil firm](#) (22 February 2019)
 - ['Defending our existence': Colombian tribe stands in way of oil exploration](#) (2 April 2019)
- * [Public Statement of Warning to Oil Company GeoPark](#) (19 December 2019)

(2) La Perla Peasant Reserve Zone / Association for Holistic Sustainable Development of the Amazon Pearl (ADISPA)

- * Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Precautionary Measures (3 December 2018) [here](#)
- * [Petrolera extranjera habría pagado a grupo armado para asegurar su operación en el Putumayo](#) (Infobae, December 24, 2020)
- * [Petrolera habría pagado a grupo armado para asegurar su operación extractiva](#) (Justicia y Paz, 23 December 2020)
- * [Paramilitares ordenan disolver la Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica](#) (Justicia y Paz, 10 February 2021)
- * [Acción Urgente – Debe protegerse a una organización de Derechos Humanos en peligro](#) (Justicia y Paz, 17 February 2021)
- * [Nuevas amenazas contra la integridad de lideresa Jani Silva](#) (Justicia y Paz, 24 April 2021)

In terms of confidentiality, [REDACTED]

Amazon Watch is submitting this request in our capacity as a partner to a number of the Colombian and international groups that are directly accompanying the Siona of Buenavista (principally Amazon Frontlines) and the Perla Amazónica / ADISPA (primarily Justicia y Paz). This submission is being made with the knowledge and approval of the accompanying organizations.

We hope this is sufficient information to initiate your admissibility process. Of course, don't hesitate to reply with further questions, we would be happy to provide whatever information we have at our disposal.

Sincerely, Andrew



Andrew E. Miller, Advocacy Director



PNUD Colombia @PnudColombia · Apr 20



Nos unimos a Geopark para trabajar en la reactivación territorial de Casanare, Meta y Putumayo e impactar positivamente en la calidad de vida de los habitantes de estos departamentos.

Conéctate mañana a las 11 am al evento de lanzamiento a través de nuestra cuenta de Facebook



Javier Pérez Burgos and 5 others

