

COLLECTIVE RIGHTS VIOLATED DURING THE PANDEMIC



PLATFORM REVEALS INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA



BRAZIL

PERU

COLOMBIA

HONDURAS

GUATEMALA

MEXICO

Guatemala's energy sector projects have impacted 223 Indigenous groups in the country



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This is a summary of findings from a platform tracking community rights violations across 6 countries in Latin America, from infrastructure and extractive projects during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A study from a platform tracking [Collective Rights Violations During the Pandemic](#) across Latin America has shown that hydroelectric plants have had wide-ranging impacts on Guatemala's Indigenous Peoples. These impacts include physical violence and intimidation as well as severe effects on traditional livelihoods and access to water.

The platform reveals that 258 communities in Guatemala were harmed by infrastructure, energy and extractive projects during the pandemic. Of these, 223 were affected by the construction of hydroelectric plants in their territories.

The digital platform tracks collective rights violations by industrial projects between 2020 and 2021 in six Latin American countries, and was developed by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) with the support of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT).

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Extent and types of impacts

Guatemala registered a total of 16 projects that impacted Indigenous territories during the pandemic. Of these, 7 belong to the energy sector and 7 to mining. Though both industries registered the same number of projects, the energy industry registered far greater impact, affecting 87% of the communities analyzed in the study. These projects include the following:

1. The Renace Hydroelectric Complex Energuate
2. Oxec I, II and III Hydroelectric Plants
3. Pojom I and II Plants
4. San Andrés Hydroelectric Plants
5. Santa Rita Hydroelectric Plant
6. HidroJuminá Hydroelectric Plant
7. Canbalam Hydroelectric Project

The platform showed that the conflicts between industrial projects and the communities violated the following types of collective rights: the communities' rights to the defense of their ancestral land; their right to collective domain; and the right and to free, prior, and informed consent.

In the mining industry, seven registered projects affected 33 communities altogether. In addition, 22 community rights defenders reported being attacked for protesting the projects. Of these, 11 were attacked during conflicts with the mining industry.

The most common forms of attacks on community rights defenders were invasion of the collective territory and threats and intimidation, observed in 58% of the cases. At least eight activists were murdered during the conflicts.

On the other hand, water pollution and damage to biodiversity were the main environmental impacts recorded during the pandemic, reported in 85% and 46% of cases, respectively. In addition, over half of the communities suffered from changes to their water sources. At least 46% also faced negative impacts on their traditional livelihoods.

For more information, visit the [Collective Rights Violated During the Pandemic platform](#). The platform presents information on projects linked to conflicts with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and Afro-descendant Peoples in six countries: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. It offers a comprehensive regional overview using interactive graphics and statistics tracking the impacts of the mining, hydrocarbon, forestry, agribusiness, and infrastructure sectors in these countries.

