

Afro-descendant Peoples Seek Climate Justice on the Global Stage

José Luis Rengifo

José Luis Rengifo, coordinator of territory and natural resources for Colombia's Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN), discusses Afro-descendant communities' relationship with nature and the need for multilateral institutions to recognize their contributions to climate mitigation in order to achieve climate justice.

[José Luis Rengifo, a Black Afrocolombian man wearing a white shirt]

JOSÉ LUIS RENGIFO: Territory, for us, is not a physical space but rather a cultural space. We never engage in an activity that completely depletes a resource. That is why all these activities are both socially sustainable and economically viable, as well as environmentally sustainable to ensure that all these activities go on from one generation to the next.

Climate justice is about how, inside our territory, we defend and conserve; but we also need those who have contributed to its deterioration to help improve it. However, in multilateral institutions we are not recognized. It was only last year at the COP on biodiversity that Afro-descendant groups gained recognition. That is important because it gives visibility and also the ability to have legal arguments and tools for the protection of both natural resources and peoples at the international level.

[The Ford Foundation logo is stacked in a bold black serif font, then transforms into a single letter "F" set inside a black circle.]

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