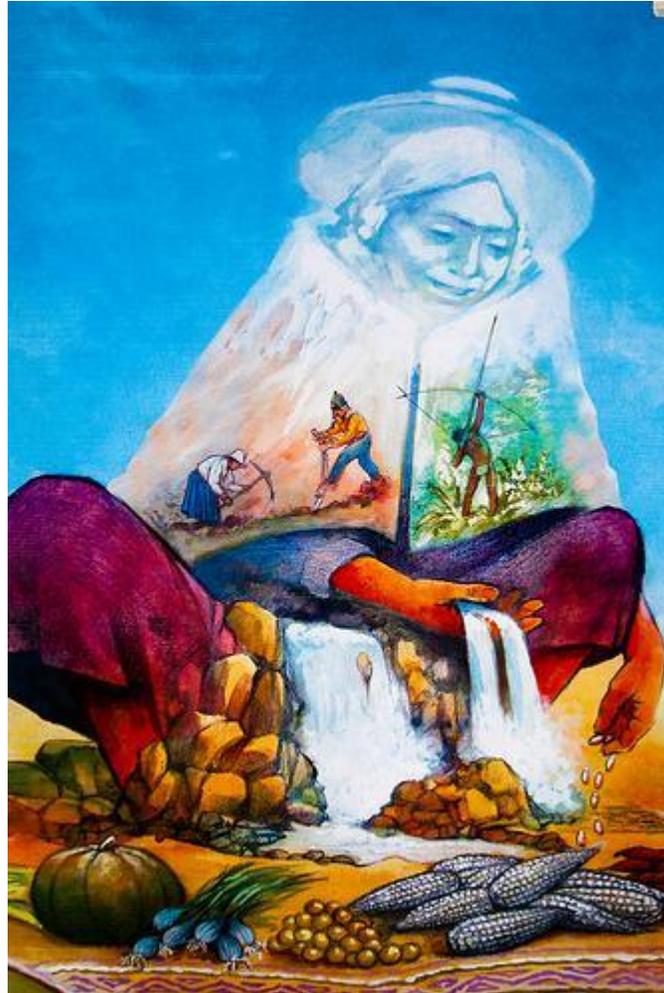


## Contemporary Environmental Realities & Struggles:

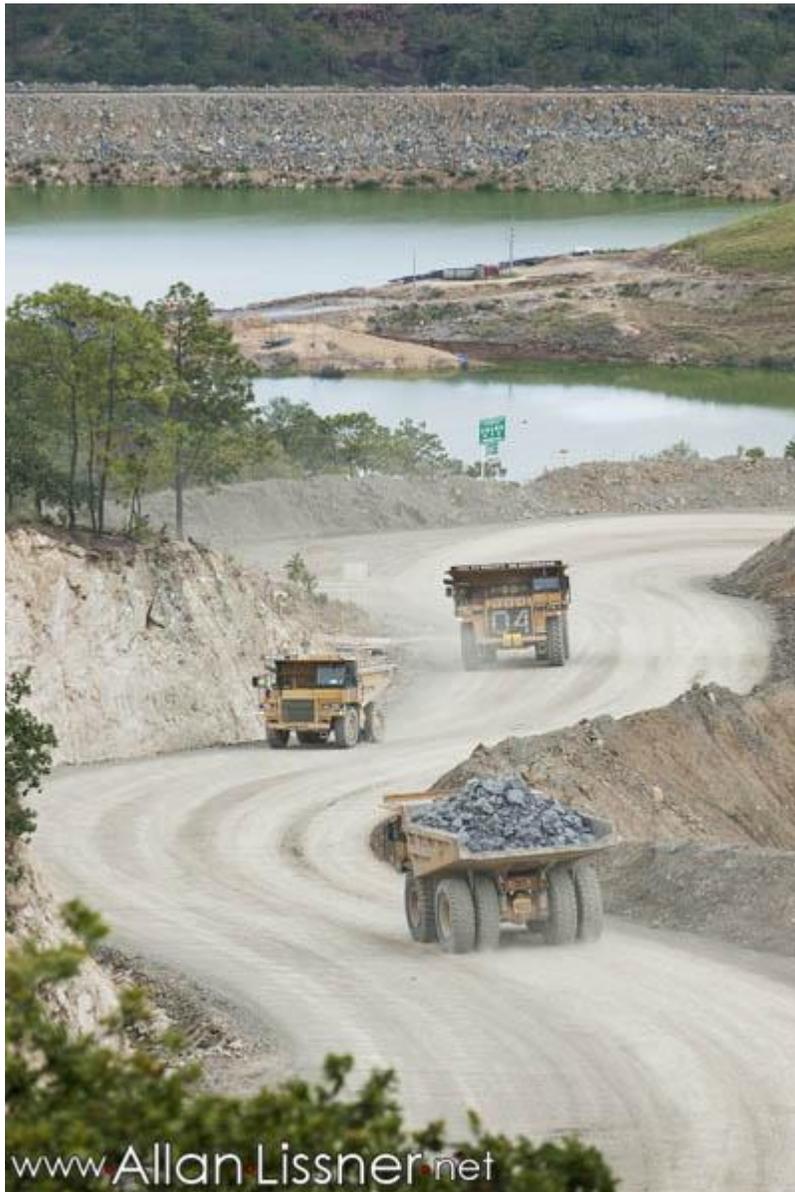


[Photo by Kris Krug](#)

## Climate Change, Food Sovereignty, Environmental Migration, and Mining

### A Bibliographic Guide

## Introduction



***The aggression towards Mother Earth and the repeated assaults and violations against our soils, air, forests, rivers, lakes, biodiversity, and the cosmos are assaults against us***

[Indigenous People's Declaration. World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth. Cochabamba, Bolivia. April 2010.](#)

Contemporary questions of poverty, inequality, and development have increasingly become intertwined with environmental questions. Livelihood concerns have become articulated through demands for, for example, “climate justice” and the “rights of mother earth”. Undoubtedly, much of present-day environmental awareness has been the direct result of the actions and demands of political actors who have become **forcefully** implicated in the environmental devastation caused by the massive exploitation of natural resources for profit.

Drastic changes in weather (such as floods or droughts), natural disasters, soil erosion, water shortages, disease, oil spills, and pollution are currently (re)structuring people’s living conditions and in many cases forcing them to migrate.

In Brazil the construction of over 2,000 dams has led to the eviction of over 1 million people from their lands and it is expected that another 1,443 dams will be built over the next 20 years (1). In El Salvador heavy rains left 15, 000 homeless and 239 millions dollars in losses and damages (2). In 2008 tropical storm Nargis left 140, 000 people dead in Burma (Myanmar) (3). Hurricane Katrina left over a million people temporarily displaced in the Gulf Coast of the United States in 2005 (4). The most recent floods in Pakistan have affected more than 17 million Pakistanis (5). Globally, the number of “environmental migrants” or “climate refugees” is rapidly growing.

The drastic consequences of environmental damage around the world have considerably deepened already existing economic inequalities and disproportionately impacted women. “Droughts, floods and natural disasters leave women uniquely vulnerable to livelihood loss, disease, violence and even death.”(6) In the 2004 Tsunami, for example, between 70-80% of all deaths were women and during the Hurricane Katrina in 2005 those who faced the greatest survival obstacles were also women (7).

Present environmental struggles are articulated around at least four basic interrelated issues: climate change, food sovereignty, the rights of environmental migrants/refugees, and mining. It is important to highlight that these are closely related problems and cannot be understood in isolation from each other.