



# Jesuits for Climate Justice

*Time for Transition...*



With the current situation in the Middle East, it is important to look at our reliance on fossil fuels and start taking meaningful steps to transition away to cleaner energy sources.

Jesuit Missions has conducted interviews with several organisations in Colombia about transitioning away from fossil fuels and what this means for the country's industry and economy.

# Why is there a need to transition away from fossil fuels?

Following talks at COP30, it was decided that a dedicated summit on the issue of **fossil fuel use** was needed.



Environmental impact



Limited supply



Non-renewable



Participants will look to identify **legal, economic, and social pathways** to the phasing out of fossil fuels.



The conference will provide a platform to discuss the move away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy use, with the hope of creating **sustainable societies and economies**. [Find out more here.](#)



# Jesuit Missions Volunteer: Diana Ospina



*Diana, a Sustainability, Innovation and Business Consultant at the Colombian Foreign Ministry, TERN & Skylight Ventures, has conducted interviews with key persons in Colombia gathering their thoughts about the transition away from fossil fuels.*

The choices we make every day are closely connected to the extraction of minerals and fossil fuels in places suffering social and environmental damage across the world.

For decades, fossil fuels have powered the planet. In Colombia, the region of La Guajira has endured 45 years of continuous coal mining, suffering serious environmental and social consequences at the hands of one of the world's most powerful mining companies, Glencore. What is most striking is that despite this exploitation, of the land and of the people, all the coal is taken elsewhere, and local communities receive no benefit from the resources extracted from beneath their feet.

That image of inequality, and the abandonment of places like La Guajira, still moves me. Many of us have assumed that the answer lies in transitioning to alternative energy sources. But it was enormously valuable to learn that every form of extraction carries its own impact, and that energy transitions are temporary solutions rather than long-term answers.

This led me to ask: what paths do we actually have? I find myself thinking that we have no real

alternative other than to choose to reduce our appetite for excessive consumption. I am more conscious today than ever that we need to find a balance, to remain in a state of constant reflection.

So that the next time we switch on a light at home, or consider adding another device to our lives, we pause and ask: Where does this energy come from that I have the privilege of using? What minerals are inside my phone?

Becoming aware of how communities in Colombia have suffered and have even faced violence for defending their land against further extraction, puts me in a state of mindful attention. It makes me want to take greater care with that scarce energy, knowing that people thousands of kilometres away are fighting to protect it.

I realise we are facing a problem of enormous scale, one that most of the world has yet to truly see. Even so, as with all great challenges, I see within it a powerful opportunity: to return to our roots as human beings, to reconnect with nature and with one another, rather than with the forces that pull our attention towards consuming ever more.



## Interviews on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels



**Jenny Paola Ortiz, Mobilisation,  
Human Rights and Interculturality  
Programme Coordinator at CINEP**

**Christian Torres Salcedo, Mining  
Conflicts Area Coordinator at  
CENSAT Agua Viva**



**Rosa Peña Lizarazo, Senior  
Attorney and Area Coordinator,  
Human Rights and Environment  
Programme at AIDA**

**Rosa María Mateus Parra,  
Coordinator of the Working Group on  
Defence of the Territory and the  
Fight against the Climate Crisis at  
CAJAR**





More information  
about these **social  
justice** organisations

**CINEP (Centro de Investigacion y Educacion Popular Programa Por la Paz)**: social project of the Society of Jesus and national organisation supporting historically vulnerable communities.

**CENSAT Agua Viva**: environmental organisation which focuses on securing environmental justice.

**AIDA (Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense)**: environmental legal experts working across Latin America.

**CAJAR (Colectivo de Abogados 'José Alvear Restrepo')**: defenders of human rights, the environment and territories.





## 'Hope in the Heat': Jules Gibson



*Jules is the Community Engagement Manager at Jesuit Missions, which works with marginalised communities across the world, some of which are affected by fossil fuel extraction*

The global transition away from fossil fuels is not only an environmental necessity, but also a moral imperative that goes to the heart of our mission as Jesuit partners in the work of justice and reconciliation.

The pollution, instability, and climate disruption resulting from a fossil-fuel-driven world are not distant or theoretical. They are lived daily by those who have contributed least to the crisis.

The Global South continues to bear the brunt of environmental degradation while often being sidelined from the economic benefits that fossil fuel economies generate elsewhere.

In the projects supported by Jesuit Missions, we witness how climate impacts strain already fragile health systems, threatens food security, and erodes opportunities for young people.

Yet amid these challenges, we see the extraordinary resilience and wisdom of our partners. Their commitment to caring for creation, which is rooted in dignity and hope.

For Jesuit Missions, this moment calls us to renewed accompaniment and advocacy: supporting locally led adaptation and resilience, upholding the rights of affected communities, and challenging systems that value profit over people and planet.

It should also call us to examine our own choices. Every flight, every meeting, every organisational decision becomes part of a larger discernment: am I contributing positively to the world I want to see, and to the world I want to leave for future generations?

As the Santa Marta conference approaches, we pray that the conversations in Colombia do not remain only words. May they inspire action so that the transition away from fossil fuels becomes a journey we walk together, guided by faith and solidarity. Let us hope that we can, together, imagine pathways that centre the poor, respect local wisdom, and foster a hopeful, life-giving future.

## 'The Road Ahead Calls Us All to Action': Daniela Alba



*Daniela Alba is originally from Colombia (muysca territory) and serves as the advocacy coordinator at the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) of the Society of Jesus in Rome.*

Safeguarding our future requires meaningful dialogue. The key lies not in eliminating conflict of ideas or approaches, but in separating them from harm—channeling them into justice-affirming concessions rather than stalling processes that create further harm.

Climate impacts are more widespread and severe than expected, and half the world's population faces severe water scarcity for at least one month each year. Vital ecological sites face existential threats. Fossil fuels drive the climate crisis, therefore any 1.5°C-compatible pathway demands rapid, deep, and equitable cuts to coal, oil, and gas, paired with a just transition for workers and communities.

This is why the Santa Marta Conference is an imperative. It seeks to foster dialogue with intentional inclusion and amplification of long-silenced voices: Indigenous peoples, civil society, the scientific community, and frontline territories. As Indigenous groups worldwide

emphasise, "listening to the territory" is no romantic ideal—it's a practical acknowledgment that humans are part of life's web, not its masters.

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, ancestral home of the Wiwa and Arhuaco peoples, exemplifies this truth. Its sacred "Black Line" boundary erodes under mining, infrastructure, and climate degradation, threatening ecological and cultural survival. Across Colombia, the 115 surviving Indigenous communities mobilise through mingas—traditional collective gatherings rooted in dialogue, shared listening, and communal agreements—to resist dispossession and forge viable alternatives through collaboration and negotiation.

In this decisive moment, our faith propels us. This critical moment calls us to discern amid chaos: to find God in all things, contemplate our common home, and act with ever greater generosity. The road ahead is a long one—let us take every step carefully, answering with consistent courage and unity.

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