

Equity and Ecosystems: Global Patrimony and Local Justice

Introduction

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I would like to ask each of our three panelists to focus on how they relate their lives and their activities with the theme of this panel: equity and ecosystems: global patrimony and local justice.

Recently, in one of the countries of my region in the Andes, the government was negotiating with indigenous communities about oil exploration. The government, oil companies' repre-

sentatives, indigenous peoples, and non-governmental organizations all met together in the Amazon. When the whole technical discussion began, complete with scientific data, the leaders of the indigenous groups reacted and said, "We are talking about the blood of Mother Earth. How can you expect us to live in a world that has no blood?" All the negotiations ended there.