



PRESS RELEASE

Panama City, October 13, 2025. The Environmental Advocacy Center (CIAM) rejects the smear campaign of actors who support the reopening of the mining project against our organization, and reaffirms its commitment to defend truth, public participation and sustainable development.

For 18 years, CIAM has been working tirelessly and transparently for the protection of the human right to a healthy environment, using legal actions, public advocacy and the promotion of citizen participation. Since its founding, CIAM has provided free legal assistance to individuals and communities in the defense of the ecosystems on which their livelihoods depend, as well as the promotion of public policies and reforms to strengthen the country's environmental management. Our integrity and permanent work have earned us the credibility and support of the population and various international donors.

Among our most relevant contributions are: the first declaration of nullity of an illegally approved Environmental Impact Study; the declaration of unconstitutionality of the 1997 mining concession contract; the defense of the legality of the Panama Bay protected area; the creation of the Isla Boná protected area; the establishment of the precedent of the requirement of public consultation for environmental decisions; support for the negotiation and adoption of the Escazú Agreement; the drafting of the law for the protection of coral reefs; and the approval of the mining moratorium law; among a long list of concrete results.

These advances have been possible thanks to the support of donors such as the Packard Foundation, whose Oceans and Shorebirds Program supports the thorough work of our staff and the execution of the activities of knowledge, conservation and defense of wetlands and marine-coastal ecosystems, agreed with our donor.

The funding of a prestigious international foundation to promote the protection of vital ecosystems for migratory birds is a recognition of the performance of our organization and the relevance of Panama's ecosystems at a global level. With great effort, multiple civil society associations in Panama continue to obtain the support of international foundations that allow them to maintain their objectivity and independence. Our organization, under no circumstances, interferes in political proselytism or pays activists to demonstrate.

This campaign to discredit the integrity and legitimacy of our work, using a text without responsible signatures, disinformation and false claims, is not an isolated event, but is part of a broader scheme aimed at silencing those who report irregularities and demand accountability from companies and institutions. These attempts to intimidate have intensified in particular on social networks and penetrated the media, but also through unfounded legal actions.

We call on the authorities, who, on behalf of the State, must comply with the obligations of the Escazú Agreement to guarantee a safe environment for human rights defenders in environmental matters. Once again, we request that the national government fulfills its commitment to develop and execute a development strategy free of metal mining at the national level and, in particular, in the districts of Donoso, Omar Torrijos and La Pintada. We also reiterate the call for compliance with the 2023 Supreme Court ruling on the mining contract, the promise of a truly comprehensive audit of the project and the protection of the human rights of the most affected communities.

To the general public, we reiterate our gratitude and commitment to continue exercising our work in defense of ecosystems, biodiversity and the right to a healthy environment.