Women, Environmental Governance, and Peacebuilding in Chocó

Supporting the peacebuilding process in Colombia by strengthening women’s engagement in natural resources governance

a pilot project by
Main issues that determine the socioenvironmental context in Chocó

- Economic, social, institutional, and environmental vulnerabilities
- Rainforest ‘achipelago’
- Cultural and natural resources richness
The project identified two main challenges to work on:

1. Ruling no. T-622 (2016), recognizing the Atrato River as a subject to rights.

2. Women environmental defenders not included in decision-making spaces.
The project aims at achieving **territorial peace** through women’s empowerment in natural resources governance.
The process – initiatives

Capacity building with 25 Atrato ‘Guardians’

Guardians analyze socioenvironmental conflicts in their communities

Women environmental defenders from several parts in Colombia exchange experiences

Women receive training on self-protection and Human Rights

Guardians develop initiatives to tackle those conflicts with feasible solutions

Women environmental defenders participate in natural resources decision-making spaces

Best practices and lessons learned are documented and disseminated

Main process

Complementary activities
The process – actors involved

National level NGOs

National Government

UN System

Involving women from several civil society organizations in Chocó
Lessons learned

✓ Socioenvironmental issues in Chocó go beyond mining issues and are multifaceted

✓ Territorial peace needs inclusive environmental governance

✓ Women are key players in natural resource decision-making and peacebuilding

✓ The Atrato ruling is an entry point for advancing on women’s empowerment and environmental conservation in Chocó
Thank you

javier.blanco@unwomen.org