

When formal systems fail, can locals take the lead?

Lidia and the Tlahuica community have long protected their forests by engaging in reforestation and fire prevention, but over the past decade, Lidia's role has expanded to resolving broader disputes. With training support from the state judiciary's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) office, she now leads the Peace and Dialogue Center for San Juan Atzingo communities.

In San Juan Atzingo, with the support of the Government of Canada, WJP fostered platforms for indigenous mediators like Lidia to share their experiences, insights, and needs. In one peace circle, Tlahuica women expressed concerns about illegal logging, using restorative dialogue to strengthen bonds and collectively strategize.

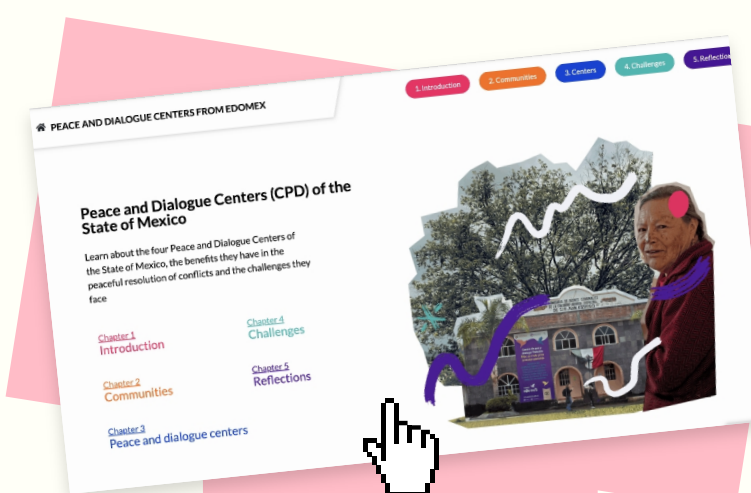
WJP bolsters centers like these through **technical support** and **advocacy initiatives** aimed at helping state ADR offices gain greater recognition and institutional backing. This includes developing strategy recommendations to strengthen ADR offices and facilitating training on data production to account for their work.

Lidia's work combines ADR and traditional justice practices to address land, family, inheritance, and debt issues while overcoming language, distance, and discrimination barriers.

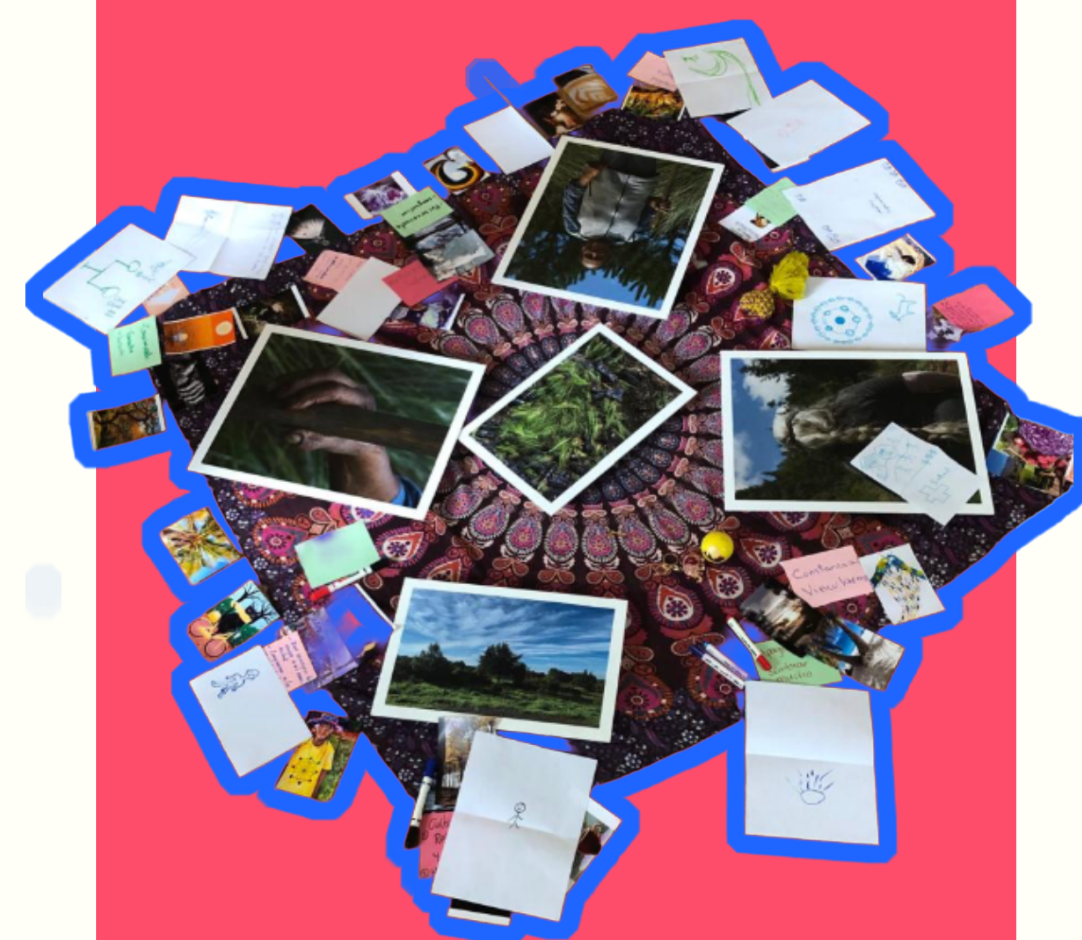


WJP facilitated the Peace Circle to give back to the community while showcasing a restorative justice methodology. Specifically, this highlighted one of WJP's research conclusions - that restorative justice is essential to addressing illegal logging in the San Juan Atzingo forest. However, while restorative mediation can enhance legal empowerment and resolve complex issues, the research also emphasized a need for integrated economic and social strategies to achieve effective solutions.

WJP remains committed to raising awareness of such problems within the formal justice system to promote institutional support and growth.



Learn more on
our website



“
Mi corazón descansó”.
(My “heart was at ease”)

- Peace circle participant