

THE ISTHMUS IS NOT A TERRITORY OF DISPOSSESSION, ENERGY COLONIALISM OR BUSINESS SPECULATION

Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, México, June 2026

The Helax-CIP project threatens our territory

In the context of the implementation of industrial activities related to the Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in 2023 the company *Helax Istmo*, a subsidiary of the Danish investment fund *Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP)*, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (CIIT)* and the *Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR)* for a "green" hydrogen and ammonia production project, with a planned investment of US\$10 billion.

This project has been promoted since its inception by the company and Mexican authorities as key to the development of the Isthmus region, due to the large investment, and the contribution it allegedly makes to the fight against climate change due to the production of a "green" fuel. **This greenwashing narrative seeks to hide the environmental, territorial and social impacts of this megaproject, while presenting a deeply extractive model as sustainable.**

A complex industrial project with obvious consequences

The [Helax-CIP project](#) is a gigantic undertaking that is not limited to the industrial zone of Ciudad Ixtepec (PODEBI, a special economic zone created by the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador), where the hydrogen plant was intended to be built. It covers a much larger territory with effects on the entire Isthmus region. Large-scale hydrogen production requires large amounts of electricity and water to perform electrolysis, the process by which oxygen and hydrogen are separated from water molecules.

To supply these needs, the project foresees the construction of a **photovoltaic (solar) park with almost 3 million panels (1,674 MW) on 5,000 hectares of agricultural land** and low deciduous thorny forest in the *ejido* (communal land) of Asunción Ixtaltepec. It also includes new **wind farms with the installation of 190 wind turbines (855 MW) on 25,000 hectares of communal and ejidal lands in Ciudad Ixtepec, Chivela, and Santiago Ixtaltepec**. This represents a serious threat to this area, which is composed of hills, communal lands, and which is vital for groundwater recharge.¹

The project also foresees the construction of a **desalinization plant in Salina Cruz and an underground well to feed electrolysis**, which could generate problems of ocean pollution and impact on springs and traditional wells. It also involves the **construction of another plant for the transformation of hydrogen into ammonia, which is planned near Rincón Moreno, as well as pipelines between the**

¹ See the article [Wind project on mining deposit puts Ixtepec at risk](#)

two plants and the port of Salina Cruz, with all the industrial risks related to the production and transport of dangerous gases like hydrogen and ammonia.²

Insufficient public information, opacity and uncertainty

Despite this long list of possible related impacts, and the existing uncertainty about these technologies, **the Helax-CIP project has moved forward in a context of complete opacity and lack of information for the communities of the region.** So far, the project has been presented in an overly general and fragmented way. The little public information that has been presented by the company's representatives and government authorities has been limited to highlighting the supposed economic and energy benefits of the project, and has systematically hidden potential related impacts.

There is no official public documentation that allows us to know in detail the real characteristics of the project and that allows the population to analyze and evaluate the possible impacts. There is even less information about the cumulative impacts of this project at the regional level that takes its different components into account. The company has not submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to Mexico's environmental authority (SEMARNAT) for the different components of the project.

The company submitted two Social Impact Assessments (EVIS) to the Secretariat of Energy (SENER) for the photovoltaic and wind project. The information in these documents was reserved for a period of two years.³ Subsequently, after new requests for access to information, public versions of the EVIS were released, but the technical and location information of the project was redacted on the grounds of being *confidential* and an industrial *and commercial secret*⁴. Consequently, the released documents are of no real use in terms of understanding in more detail the photovoltaic and wind projects and their social impacts.

Nor are there public documents that specify the total volume of water the hydrogen plant would require to operate, or disclose what proportion would come from the desalination plant and what volume will come from the groundwater well. There is no information available on the possible location for drilling a potential deep well, nor on its technical characteristics (depth). The company does not have a groundwater use permit approved by Mexico's water management authority (CONAGUA), according to the review of the Public Registry of Water Rights (REPDA).

The same forms of dispossession, once again

Despite the absence of information and permits that allow the population to analyze and evaluate the impacts of the project, business and government boosters have sought to make progress in signing agreements with communities for the rental of land for different components of the project.

² To learn more about the components of the project and their impacts, you can consult the GeoComunes report: [Analysis of the possible impacts of the Helax Isthmus hydrogen and ammonia production project in the context of the Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.](#)

³ See response to request for information by transparency folio 330026124000211

⁴ See response to request for information by transparency folio 340026100024726

This negotiation process has reproduced the same irregularities and mechanisms of pressure, manipulation and community fragmentation as those used more than a decade ago during the expansion of wind farms: direct talks with some agrarian representatives and not with the assembly as a whole; use of local operators to coerce and pressure; the dissemination of the supposed economic benefits such as jobs or payments for land rent without mention of risks, and the systematic concealment of the impacts of these projects.⁵

Opacity violates the right of peoples to decide on territory

Similarly, project proponents have initiated an alleged Indigenous consultation in seven communities in the region (Ciudad Ixtepec, Chivela, El Mezquite, El Morrito, Mena Nizanda, Santa Rosa, Santiago Ixtaltepec) without additional public information on its development. The CIIT and the Secretariat of the Navy have refused to disseminate information about the minutes of the meetings, arguing that the information is restricted because it *compromises social peace*.⁶

The absence of public information is a clear sign that this process is not guaranteeing the right of peoples and communities to real, informed and transparent participation in a project that could generate serious effects on the environment, territory and ways of life in the region. The lack of sufficient, accessible, and timely information prevents communities from fully understanding the scope of the project, evaluating its possible impacts, and effectively influencing discussions or decisions related to its implementation.

It is clear to us that this consultation functions mainly as a bureaucratic procedure aimed at giving certainty to investors, and is not a real mechanism to guarantee the collective rights of Indigenous peoples. **It cannot be considered prior consultation, because the project and the territorial negotiations are already advancing; it is not free because there are pressures, misinformation and asymmetries in access to information; and it is not informed because public information is insufficient, fragmented and restricted.**

These consultations are, therefore, an exercise in manipulation and instrumentalization that do not respect our self-determination as Indigenous peoples or our traditional governance systems regarding forms of deliberation and consultation in our communities.

Scope and impacts of a reconfigured project

As part of this same disinformation process, through a new request for information⁷ it was discovered in December 2025 that Helax Istmo informed the CIIT of the following: ***"Derived from a strategic reconfiguration process of the Helax Project, originally conceived as a green hydrogen initiative, it has been transformed into an electricity generation project"*** due to a *"a global context marked by relevant geopolitical changes, which have led to the cancellation or postponement of various*

⁵ See Avispa Midia's article: [Construction of Mexico's largest solar project in the Isthmus hides impacts](#)

⁶ See response to request for information by transparency folio 34245990000125

⁷ See response to request for information by transparency folio 342459900004226

international funds for the transition to green hydrogen economies, as well as technological delays associated with the maturation of these solutions." The company also **notified the government that it is discontinuing involvement with the direct award of the PODEBI concession in Ciudad Ixtepec**, where the hydrogen was intended to be produced.

So far, neither Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners nor the Mexican government have publicly reported on this change. This deepens the opacity of the project and opens new questions about its true scope, its speculative nature, and the impacts it could continue to generate in the Isthmus.

For now, no progress is being made on the proposal for the production of hydrogen and green ammonia. This may limit certain impacts (related to water consumption and the industrial risks that these gases entail). Even so, we believe it is important to state the following regarding this decision and the current status of the project:

Planned electricity generation projects would entail serious impacts such as the modification of vegetation cover, land and land use, surface and groundwater flows, it would affect local fauna and flora, restrict the way we travel in the territory and impact our traditional activities. The installation of 30 wind farms in the region has already provided a clear sign that these projects do not generate well-being or development for the peoples of the region, rather they have enriched the few and reinforced processes of social and economic inequality, torn the social fabric, and led to the privatization of land, the erosion of our community practices, and an increase in violence. **For these reasons, we continue to oppose the Helax (CIP) project, regardless of the fact that for now it is limited to generating electricity and not producing hydrogen or ammonia.** It is clear to us that industrial electricity generation in the Isthmus does not benefit us. These projects seek to guarantee energy for industry and private capital while the peoples of the region suffer from increasingly deficient and unfair access to basic electricity, experiencing frequent blackouts and excessive electricity rates.

We oppose the private companies that, with the complicity of the Mexican authorities, speculate and play games with our territories and our lives based on economic and political interests. The business strategy of reconfiguring the project due to the current uncertainty regarding the global hydrogen and ammonia market shows that these actors intend to make decisions about our territories based on foreign elements outside of our control, like the current state of consumer markets in the global north or the consequences of energy wars waged by the few. **We reiterate that we are sovereign decisionmakers with regard to our territories, and that our lives, bodies, common and communal goods are not toys for neocolonial practices and business speculation.**

We demand that Mexican authorities and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) publicly inform us about any planned changes in the project. For example, if the project officially ceases to be part of the Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (CIIT)—to date it has always been promoted as such by the CIIT and different levels of government (federal, state and municipal). Regarding the planned electricity projects, we demand that SENER report on the mechanism envisaged for electricity generation (a private project or a mixed investment with the National Electricity Commission) and what the intended use and destination of this electricity would be.

The Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is not a development proposal for the region, it is a process designed to promote our dispossession from our territories and common goods. The unfortunate derailment of the Trans-Isthmus Railway at the end of 2025, the multiple impacts that its construction has generated, the processes of criminalization and the current situation of generalized violence throughout the region are clear signs of the corruption, negligence, imposition, and dispossession that this project entails. What compromises social peace in the region is not informing communities, it is the continued promotion of projects that do not respond to our needs, and that turn the Isthmus into a battlefield between different actors of macro-crime networks.

Our vision: The Isthmus we want

In this sense, and because of the above, we reaffirm that we do not want more energy projects, transport infrastructure, or industrial projects aimed at meeting the needs of big capital and the actors that sustain it. We want to maintain our community life, our festivals, our meals, our hills, our forests, our lakes, and our rivers. We want to continue taking care of our community practices, our cultures, our languages, our tranquility and the ways of life that we have historically built in the Isthmus. Faced with a project that is moving forward with opacity, a lack of public information and without disclosing possible social, environmental, territorial and cultural impacts, we consider it important to inform, alert and open a process of regional articulation that allows us to build alliances and solidarity between communities, organizations and people concerned about the future of our territory.

We call for regional, national, and international solidarity and support to raise awareness about and denounce this project and the financial institutions that make it possible, including the CIP fund in Europe. We make a special appeal to human rights bodies within the UN and Inter-American systems, and civil society organizations in Denmark and other countries where CIP operates to demand respect for human rights and environmental standards in their investments. Our statement aims to highlight the fact that investment decisions made outside the region have concrete, negative impacts on communities, communal goods, and ways of life in the Isthmus.

Signed:

1. Comité Ixtepecano en Defensa de la Vida y el Territorio
2. GeoComunes
3. Observatorio Ciudadano Comunitario del Agua Oaxaca (OCCAMA)
4. The Collaborative Research Center for Resilience (CRCR)
5. Unión de Comunidades Indígenas de la Zona Norte del Istmo (UCIZONI)
6. CECACI Juntos en el Camino, Zanatepec, Oaxaca
7. Preparatoria Comunitaria José Martí
8. Centro de Derechos Humanos Tepeyac del Istmo de Tehuantepec A.C.
9. Observatorio Comunitario al Cuidado de los Bienes Comunes del Istmo de Tehuantepec
10. Tequio Jurídico A.C
11. Foro Oaxaqueño del Agua

12. Mujeres Defensoras de la Madre Tierra las Meñas, Ixtepec
13. Centro Promotor de Tecnologías Alternativas Bibaani A.C.
14. Centro de Apoyo al Movimiento Popular Oaxaqueño (CAMPO)
15. Red Mexicana de Afectadas/os por la Minería (REMA)
16. Rizoma Entreteniendo la Defensa de los Bienes Comunes A.C
17. Otros Mundos Chiapas
18. Bios Iguana A.C., Colima
19. Frente Popular en Defensa del Soconusco "20 de Junio" (FPDS), Chiapas
20. Centro de Apoyo al Movimiento Popular Oaxaqueño A.C.
21. Centro de derechos humanos de los pueblos del Sur de Veracruz Bety Cariño
22. Proceso de articulación de la sierra de santa marta
23. Asamblea General de la Comunidad Indígena Binniza de Puente Madera
24. Asamblea General de la Comunidad Indígena Chontal El Coyul
25. Asamblea General del Aguaje de la Comunidad Indígena de Jalapa del Marqués
26. Asamblea de los Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio (APIIDTT)
27. Centro de Documentación Regional El Istmo que Queremos
28. Escuela Textil de Ixtaltepec Ra ridiibá
29. Radio comunitaria Zacatepec.
30. Red de mujeres lesbianas, nguiu' y personas sexodisidentes del Istmo de Tehuantepec.
31. Grupo de Reflexión y Autoformación en Transiciones Ecosociales (Grate), Argentina.
32. Asociación Jalisciense de Apoyo a los Grupos Indígenas, AC.
33. Betyren Lagunak!, Euskal Herria (País Vasco)
34. Iniciativas para el Desarrollo de la Mujer Oaxaqueña (IDEMO)
35. Engenera AC
36. Naciones MX
37. Iniciativa Internacionalista Espejos del Sur Global | Mirrors of Global South
38. Observatorio Petrolero Sur (OPSUR), Argentina
39. Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales OLCA (Chile)
40. Radio Nanj nĩ'in, Chicahuaxtla Putla Oaxaca.
41. Tierra Nuestra
42. Grupo de Trabajo Fronteras, Regionalización y Globalización/CLACSO
43. Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC)
44. Consorcio para el diálogo parlamentario y la equidad Oaxaca A.C.
45. Coordinadora de Pueblos y Organizaciones del Oriente del Estado de México en Defensa de la Tierra, el Agua y su Cultura (CPOOEM)
46. Región Autónoma Inmaterial Zoocialista (RAÍZ)
47. Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales (OLCA), Chile.
48. Colectivo LGBT+ en Alerta Nacional (México).
49. Consejo Tiyat Tlali de la Sierra Norte de Puebla
50. Fundar Centro de Análisis e Investigación
51. Yunhiz Espacio Alternativa
52. Universidad comunal de Matias Romero.
53. Colectivo èjts tiks ats San Juan guichicovi
54. Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste A.C
55. Comité Nacional para la Defensa y Conservación de Los Chimalapas

56. Movimiento El Istmo es Nuestro
57. Mexicali Resiste,
58. Colectivo Mujeres Tierra.
59. Comunidad Indígena Otomí residente en la CDMX
60. UPREZ Benito Juárez
61. Café “Zapata Vive”
62. MAREA, A.C. - Mar y Educación Ambiental
63. Unión de Pueblos y Fraccionamientos en contra del basurero y en defensa del agua de la región Cholulteca y de los volcanes.
64. Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra y el Agua Morelos, Puebla, Tlaxcala.
65. Movimiento Agrario Indígena Zapatista
66. Colectiva Zurciendo el planeta
67. Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación y Desarrollo Alternativo U Yich Lu’um
68. Contraloría Autónoma del Agua de Yucatán
69. Consejo Ciudadano por el Agua de Yucatán
70. Kolectivo Gráfika, La Bestia Grafika
71. Empalabrando ,colectivo de la palabra viva, Querétaro
72. Reentramados para la vida, defendiendo territorios
73. Geo-Graffías Comunitarias
74. Grupo de Trabajo Ecologías Políticas desde el Sur Abya-Yala de CLACSO
75. Colectivo ViDAS
76. Grupo Intercolegiado de Investigación en Ramón Martí ez Coria Ecología Política de la Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México (GIEP-UACM).
77. Red Futuros Indígenas
78. Red Psicología Liberación y Pensamiento Nuestroamericano
79. Colectivo de Historia Pública de los pueblos mayas, *K’ajlay*
80. ONG Sustentarse - Chile
81. Servicios para una Educación Alternativa AC EDUCA
82. IDEAS Comunitarias, A. C.
83. CORAL, A.C.
84. Servicios del Pueblo Mixe A.C.
85. Colectivo Solidaridad Directa, Suiza
86. Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas AC.
87. Asociación Ecológica Santo Tomás, A.C.
88. Asociación Francia América Latina (Francia)
89. Associació Action and Research for Environmental Justice (Catalunya, España)
90. Atlas Global de Justicia Ambiental (EJAtlas)
91. Movimiento en Defensa de la Vida y del Territorio (Modevite), región sacun palma municipio de chilón Chiapas
92. Mexicogruppen del Foro Internacional (Dinamarca)
93. Paysandú soberano UPM 2 NO. (Uruguay)
94. Desarrollo Económico y Social de los Mexicanos Indígenas A. C. (DESMI)
95. Nosotras y el Mar
96. Tejiendo Redes Infancia#SalvemosLaVida
97. Fundación Acue, Puerto Natales (Magallanes, Chile)

98. Asamblea Popular por el Agua (Mendoza, Argentina)
99. Bajo Tierra Museo del Agua de Querétaro
100. Movimiento Agroecológico Nacional Q'anil (MANQ)
101. Fundación CAUCE: Cultura Ambiental, Causa Ecologista (Entre Ríos, Argentina)
102. Artículo 39 (Oaxaca, México)
103. Cooperación Comunitaria México
104. Red de comunidades inter-ancestrales de América Latina
105. Enlace Comunicación y Capacitación A.C.
106. Centro de Investigación y Capacitación Rural (CEDICAR)
107. CartoCrítica, A.C.
108. Universidad Autónoma Comunal de Oaxaca- CUC IXTEPEC
109. Conexiones Climáticas
110. CORASON Defensa del Territorio
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115. Proyecto sobre Organización, Desarrollo, Educación e Investigación
116. PODER)Mujeres y maíz
117. Colectivo de Académicos Sudcalifornianos A. C.
118. Acción Ecológica A.C.
119. Colectiva México Tóxico
120. Fronteras Comunes, A.C.
121. Coalición de Organizaciones Mexicanas por el Derecho al Agua (COMDA)
122. Colectivo Agua es Vida - (Tacuarembó -Uruguay)
123. Colectivo académico comunitario Bicheeche Diidxa. Pasa La Voz.Ecologistas en
124. (España)
125. Bienestar Comunitario Cicacalco, Zacatecas
126. Canoas, defensa del territorio, Colima
127. Sociedad Cooperativa Chac Lol, Yucatán
128. Barrio Mapache
129. Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
130. Centro Calpulli A.C.
131. Colectivo Agua es Vida, Tacuarembó, Uruguay
132. Unión de Movimientos por la Regulación Empresarial en Defensa de los Derechos Humanos

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- Gabriela De Gyves Montes - Investigadora comunitaria. Fundadora del colectivo Ridi' banu guendanazaaca
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