

# No one ever called me a hero before.



**AFRICA**

Silas Kpanan'Ayoung Siakor  
Liberia

At great personal risk, Siakor exposed evidence that former Liberia President Charles Taylor used profits of unchecked, rampant logging to pay the costs of a brutal 14-year war. The information led the United Nations to ban the export of Liberian timber, part of wider trade sanctions that remain in place today.



**ASIA**

Yu Xiaogang  
China

Yu created groundbreaking watershed management programs while documenting the socio-economic impact of dams on Chinese communities. His reports are a primary reason that the central government paid restitution to villagers displaced by dams and now considers social impact assessments for major dam development projects.



**EUROPE**

Olya Melen  
Ukraine

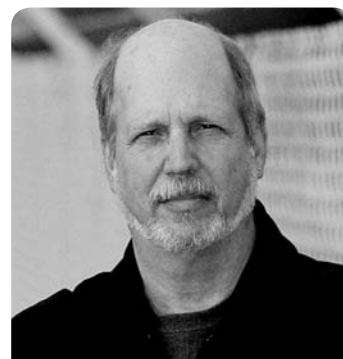
Melen, a lawyer, used legal channels to temporarily halt construction of a massive canal that would have cut through the heart of the Danube Delta, one of the world's most valuable wetlands. For her efforts, she was denounced by the notoriously corrupt and lawless pre-Orange Revolution government.



**ISLANDS AND ISLAND NATIONS**

Anne Kajir  
Papua New Guinea

Kajir uncovered evidence of widespread corruption in the Papua New Guinea government which allowed rampant, illegal logging in the largest remaining block of tropical forest in the Asia Pacific region. An attorney, she won a precedent-setting Supreme Court case that forced logging interests to pay damages to indigenous landowners.



**NORTH AMERICA**

Craig E. Williams  
United States

Williams convinced the Pentagon to stop plans to incinerate chemical weapons stockpiled around the United States and to adopt safe disposal solutions. He also co-founded the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, which won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its international campaign to ban landmines.



**SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA**

Tarcísio Feitosa da Silva  
Brazil

Feitosa led efforts to create the world's largest group of protected tropical forest regions in a remote, lawless area of northern Brazil threatened by illegal logging. Despite death threats, Feitosa worked with local organizations to create protected lands and exposed illegal logging activities to the Brazilian government.

The Goldman Environmental Prize is the world's largest prize for grassroots environmentalists. Awarded annually since 1990, the Prize has been presented to 113 people from 67 countries. Each of the winners, chosen from the planet's six inhabited continental regions, receives \$125,000. These individuals demonstrate exceptional courage and commitment, often working at great risk to protect our environment and, ultimately, life on Earth. In the process, they inspire the rest of us to do the same.

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