In a “sustainability paradox”, the US environmental movement advocates incremental reform within the country’s borders... while the US uses its political power to oppress other regions and extract their resources, driving ecological destruction. This aspect is largely unknown, ignored or unchallenged.

I worked with grassroots org Kabataan Alliance on their Defend Lumad Struggles campaign, which addresses this issue in the context of the Indigenous Lumad people of the Philippines, a US neocolony.

Research Question: How to align the US environmental movement with global south struggles for ecological sovereignty?

| Assessing Enviro-Political Ideologies (How do people view stuff now?) |
| Creating Educational/Motivational Strategies (How can they learn and use new ideas?) |
| Research |

Existing ‘Camps’ of US Environmental Groups:

- **Individualized**: understand pollution as an issue but unclear on solutions
- **Anti-Corporate**: identify extractive industry as main antagonist, governments less so
- **Anti-Racist**: connect environmental and political struggles in a local/US context

Application

- investigated local environmental groups’ political analyses of environmental issues and solutions
- synthesized research, positions of environmental groups, artistic tradition of progressive Filipino movement

Research Elements of effective motivational content:

- **Format**: comic-like panels encourage interaction with material.
- **Message**: reveal that goals are achievable.
- **Narrative**: show characters exercising agency.

Existing ‘Camps’ of US Environmental Groups:

- **Educational references to the extractive system of global capitalism, and explicit calls to challenge it**
- **Showing parallels between Black/Indigenous US environmentalism and the Lumad**

Resulting Deliverable:

**Takeaway**: a promising strategy for expanding the analysis of US environmental groups is to connect their own experiences to global issues using creative and accessible formats.

**Broader Implications**: how can this become a first step towards taking action?