



Resilience Based Organizing

In traditional campaign-based organizing, communities identify a problem/issue and then target a political figure with decision-making power to change rules or implement regulations in order to address that problem. This type of organizing is absolutely essential, and often wins incremental gains and reforms that make the difference in the lives of countless everyday people. And yet, a different (for many of us) strategic approach to organizing is growing among communities deeply steeped in ecological consciousness.

Using **Resilience-Based Organizing**, or RBO, we use our **collective labor** to meet our **collective needs**, in such a way as to publicly **expose illegitimate laws/power**, and instead **assert our right to self-govern**. Rather than asking a corporation or government official to act, we use our own labor do whatever we need to do to survive as a people and a planet, knowing that our actions conflict with legal and political structures set up to serve the interests of the powerful. This forces the question of whether we have the ability to take right action in our collective interests. We call this **creating a crisis of jurisdiction**, or a crisis of governance.

There are three core ingredients that make Resilience-Based Organizing effective:

1. Lead With Vision.

"People will not go someplace we have not first traveled to in our minds."

Our actions must paint for people an irresistible vision of the future - one based not on our fear of the worst, but rather a bold vision of a future (the *buen vivir*) worth fighting for.

2. Reclaim Our Labor.

"What the hands do, the heart learns."

If ecological collapse is rooted in the exploitation of our labor, the first rule of ecological restoration is to restore our labor: to put it back to use serving our communities, not the concentration of wealth.

3. Contest for Power, Create a Crisis of Governance.

"If it's the right thing to do, we have every right to do it."

Our actions must assert a new right - the right to directly and democratically meet our own needs, the right to self-govern – and in doing so, expose and denounce the existing laws and structures set up to concentrate power and wealth in the hands of the few at the expense of the collective needs of the many.