



Forest Cover

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About Forest Cover

Welcome to the thirty-seventh issue of Forest Cover, newsletter of the Global Forest Coalition (GFC). GFC is a world-wide coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs). GFC promotes rights-based, socially just and effective forest policies at international and national level, including through building the capacity of NGOs and IPOs in all regions to influence global forest policy.

Forest Cover is published four times a year. It features reports on important intergovernmental meetings by different NGOs and IPOs and a calendar of future meetings. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Global Forest Coalition, its donors or the editors.

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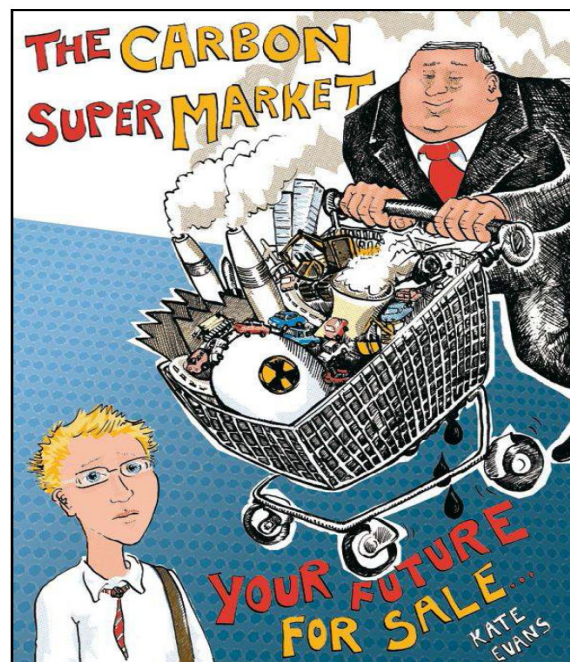
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Don't know about carbon trading? Don't care? Here, have a copy of my latest comic. You will. www.cartoonkate.co.uk



Ex Silvis: The Ugly Shade of the “Green Economy”

Fiu Mata’ese Elisara, O le Siosiomaga Society, Samoa and GFC Chairperson

2011 should be an important year for forests, as the United Nations General Assembly has declared it as the International Year of Forests. The full title of the theme is “Forests for People, celebrating the central role of people in sustainable forest management”. In principle, this is something we should all be able to embrace. But the problem with these nice-sounding words is that we do not know what they mean. The definition of forests used by the United Nations continues to include monoculture tree plantations. As a result “sustainable forest management” does not necessarily imply managing a forest ecosystem in a manner that conserves and/or restores its ecological integrity. A tree plantation company that covers up to 80% of its land with Eucalyptus trees that destroy the soil and undergrowth can still claim to practice “sustainable forest management”, as long as it keeps a small part of its land as a “biodiversity reserve”. Such land can still be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



Tree plantation in Brazil. Photo: Camila Moreno

As a result, a recent media release about a special Forest Year event in Geneva, promoted by the UN Economic Commission for Europe, could happily claim that forest cover continues to grow in Europe, despite booming demand for woody biomass for energy generation. During the meeting it was conceded that some “trade-offs” with biodiversity might be needed. This is the perhaps the euphemism of the year. It is very clear that increased wood production in Europe can only be achieved by dramatically turning the clock back on ecologically sound forms of forest management: So, once again, old forests are being replaced by rapid-growing monocultures, the wood litter that forms a valuable source of nutrients for forest soils is being removed and, in some countries, companies are even turning back to clear-cutting practices, as the most ‘efficient’ manner to remove all dead and live wood from an area.

The forestry sector claims that any forest loss will be compensated for by “new forests”. Yet, any new “forest”, even when it is not a monoculture, represents only a fraction of the biological diversity and carbon storage capacity of a long-established or primary forest. It takes decades, if not centuries, for “new forests” to replace old forests. And, as far as carbon storage is concerned, we simply do not have that time: if woody biomass only becomes carbon neutral after 30 years or more we should do our best to avoid it, as we cannot postpone climate action for 30 years.

Yet, this is exactly what the proponents of the “green economy” are proposing. This term is becoming increasingly popular, also as it has been chosen as a central theme for the 2012 Rio+20 Summit. The forestry community loves this term, as Eucalyptus green can seem just as green as rainforest green. So “forestry” is enthusiastically promoted as a promising source of “green” jobs, providing “green” products like bio-energy and timber. Did you spend half your life recycling paper and saving energy? Its no longer necessary. According to the forestry sector using more virgin white paper and turning up the air-co a bit will only provide more “green” jobs for the forestry sector. Of course, what they do not explain is that this kind of “green” production not only destroys biodiversity, it also destroys land that could have been used for food production – not a total luxury in times when rocketing food prices are bringing hunger and starvation, and unrest and violence, all over the world.

If there is one thing the tragic nuclear crisis currently unravelling in Japan can teach us, it is that we should not simply support any form of “renewable” energy just because it is an alternative to harmful fossil fuels. If “bio-energy” is green, it is a very ugly shade of green.



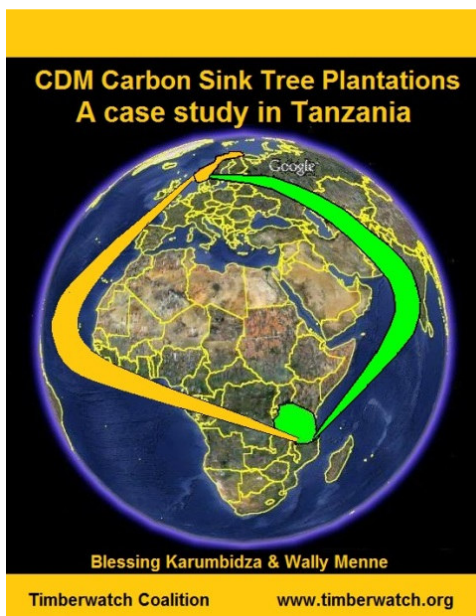
When the Climate Circus Comes to South Africa Blessing Karumbidza, Timberwatch, South Africa

From 6 to 11 February, the tenth World Social Forum took place, in Dakar, Senegal. One of the most important themes on the overloaded agenda was climate justice, and Climate Justice Now! used the opportunity to organise a meeting to discuss strategies to mobilise around the next Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17).



South Africa hosts the COP17 in Durban in November-December this year, and preparatory negotiation sessions start as soon as April 3rd, in Bangkok. There is a lot riding on COP17 as the parties seeking to finalize an agreement based on the Copenhagen Accord subsequently pushed through an agreement at Cancun that has led to a document that, in some quarters, is jokingly referred to as 'Cancun-hagen'. Many civil society groups (with the open support of the government of Bolivia) are pushing to subvert the document that will be negotiated by introducing many of the ideas contained in the Cochabamba Peoples Agreement. The battle lines between the principles of Copenhagen and those of Cochabamba can be crudely defined as the market solutions versus earth-friendly solutions. It is important for the people of the South to understand these issues clearly, as the market solutions will have direct impacts on their land, and access to and use of it. This is why in Cancun, the discussions around the Land-Use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) were so critical.

Our work at Timberwatch (www.timberwatch.org) has shown beyond a doubt that the monoculture plantation model is a disastrous path for community development. The downstream benefits are small and the impacts on the environment are huge. This poses burning questions about the value of proposals for a tree plantation based Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and for using industrial tree plantings and agriculture to claim Carbon Credits (as envisioned for REDD and REDD+, REDD++). These projects primarily exist to shield Annex1 countries from the burden of reducing emissions in line with their Kyoto commitments and serve to facilitate a renewed land grab. As the climate change circus comes to South Africa, it is time to reflect on what we already know about the monoculture plantation land-use model and why it will not be part of the solution to resolve the effects of adverse climate change for rural poor communities.



A new Timberwatch report, based on a case study in Tanzania, provides insights into the commercial and industrial activities of the Norwegian owned company Green Resources Ltd (GRL), and associated issues, in the Mufindi district of Iringa Province in southern Tanzania. It shows clearly how tree plantations will not be part of the solution, but instead will lead to more environmental damage and increase climate change. The report investigates the sustainability and viability of plantations of alien and invasive trees being used as carbon emission offset projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol (KP). The report describes the proposed, though already partially planted, CDM tree plantation project at Idete, from which GRL had hoped to earn Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). The company intended to sell carbon credits from establishing alien pine and eucalyptus plantations on biodiverse grasslands described by GRL as 'degraded' to the government of Norway. To earn CERs under the CDM, they need to show that the project would not be financially viable without income from the sale of CDM carbon credits. Our report challenges the assumptions used to justify claims that the project will be a net carbon sink over its lifetime, and shows that the opposite is more likely to be the case.



It is worth noting the close connections between the government of Norway and the Norwegian company that owns the project. There is a clear renewal of the state-business links of the original colonial state and the concessionaire companies, only this time around they are more complex and are sanctioned by multilateral funding agencies such as the IMF and the World Bank. The Nordic block has been very creative in the development of multiple funding mechanisms aimed at appeasing critics of the involvement of the World Bank in climate change finance. There are also clear and interesting contradictions in the role of the government of Norway. Through Statoil, it is a major oil producer and exporter, contributing substantially to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, yet it also intends financing an environmentally destructive plantation carbon sink project. It has entered into an agreement with GRL to purchase 400,000 carbon credits, subject to the Idete plantations receiving CDM temporary CERs. Norwegian public funds have also been invested in Green Resources Ltd.

Norway also wishes to occupy high moral ground and seeks to align itself with progressive policies in social, environmental, human rights and other development issues. In view of the need to address climate change, Norway has committed itself to mitigation projects around the world, seeking to buy more than 6 million carbon credits, and the GRL plantations represent an important political investment for the Norwegian government.



Food gardens to feed the family and more



Could this really be a 'climate friendly' forest?

Timberwatch has studied the social, cultural, political and economic impacts of industrial tree plantations in South Africa and Swaziland, and concluded that monoculture tree plantations are unsustainable from many points of view, even with market-based conservation measures such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in place. This research revealed major problems with land local communities being alienated and displaced, poor working conditions, the destruction of biodiversity resources upon which communities depend, reduced water availability and many other direct and indirect effects that impact negatively on local livelihoods. The industrial tree plantation model is designed to support corporate financial accumulation through 'economies of scale' but it ignores the negative effects especially those of heavy water use and biodiversity loss. Large-scale tree plantations often cause the economic and social marginalisation of local communities. In our case study the governments of Norway (via GRL) and Tanzania do not appear to have ensured meaningful involvement of affected communities in the decision-making process. Despite institutional mechanisms intended to facilitate such participation, in reality they served little purpose beyond a green wash. Full free prior informed consent (FPIC) processes do not appear to have been followed.

As is so often is the case, the good intentions in the project planning documents were not implemented on the ground. This does not necessarily worry the governments or the company involved as it also means larger profits. It is clear that the government of Tanzania lacks the capacity to protect the affected communities from abuse and exploitation during the course of the project. It seems that the government of Tanzania might have agreed to this project in the hope of receiving benefits from short term foreign investment, whilst ignoring the long term social and environmental impacts.

Another concern is that governments of developing countries do not give a high priority to ensuring the equitable distribution of income from foreign investment projects. Very rarely do taxes and benefits accruing from a project, sanctioned and coordinated at the national level, find their way to the local communities affected



by the activity. This is true of many African countries besides Tanzania and strengthens the case for community self-determination and community management of business relations. Where this is not possible, mechanisms could be put in place to ensure that a substantial percentage of the income from a project is invested at the local level. There is a fundamental problem in developing countries such as Tanzania in that opportunities for resource exploitation, in combination with large tracts of relatively cheap land, are being grabbed by Northern corporations and their local agents. Such 'investments' can bring a host of new problems, including contagious diseases, especially those transmitted via sexual activity. HIV-AIDS is increasing, reaching deeper into previously unaffected communities. This has devastating effects on local communities, who may already be experiencing the destruction, degradation or pollution of the natural landscape and its resources. This helps and serves to perpetuate poverty on a national scale.

So as we head towards COP17 it is clear that one of the major missing links in the process is the African voice and indigenous knowledge of environmental stewardship. The UNFCCC deliberations on climate change and the responses to it are viewed from within the framework of western science to the exclusion of knowledge and understanding from other parts of the world. There is a need to mobilise community voices and to ensure that the COP circus hears about community based mitigation methods and adaptation to adverse climate change.

See final the report for more information: **CDM Carbon Sink Tree Plantations - A case study in Tanzania** by Blessing Karumbidza and Wally Menne, with a section by the ENVIROCARE NGO (Dar es Salaam)
[http://timberwatch.org/uploads/TW%20Tanzania%20CDM%20plantations%20report%20low%20res%20\(1\).pdf](http://timberwatch.org/uploads/TW%20Tanzania%20CDM%20plantations%20report%20low%20res%20(1).pdf)

Rio+20, the “Green Economy” and the Real Priorities

By Helena Paul, Econexus, United Kingdom

At the recent preparatory conference for Rio+20 in New York (7-8th March) it became clear that the “green economy” concept is complicating an already difficult process. Definitions of sustainable development have been argued over for years; now we are invited instead to see everything in terms of a “green economy”. UNEP, which produced its massive economics-dominated report shortly before the prepcom/conference, defines the “green economy” as one that results in improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. Thus the biodiversity and ecosystem resilience on which we all depend are reduced to “risks” and “scarcities”. Even though it is clear that the “green economy” means very different things to different interests, many parties simply parroted the phrase over and over; Bolivia was one of the few that commented critically, noting that there is not a shared vision of what the green economy might be.

The Stakeholder Forum meeting on Sunday 6th March took up time and resources that groups could have possibly better used to prepare and develop strategies amongst themselves. NGOs particularly need of some kind of process to coordinate their views and responses. There is a risk that the Stakeholder Forum will by default establish itself as the voice of civil society, movements, indigenous people, local communities and the rest. Even its Secretariat noted how easy it was to confuse the Stakeholder Forum website with official UN websites. The Forum has its uses, but not as a representative of civil society.



In addition, the division of civil society into the “major groups”¹ as established in Agenda 21 is not helpful. It means that business and industry participate on equal terms with the rest of society. Once again, Bolivia commented, noting that the private sector should not be defined as a part of civil society, and the indigenous people went further saying that the Rio process has been thwarted by corporate dominance. The Stakeholder Forum appears to support the idea of a framework convention on corporate accountability, based on the International Organisation for Standardisation’s ISO 26000. However, this is entirely about social responsibility and many see corporate social responsibility as more of a public relations exercise than anything else; something that does nothing to curb corporate power.

¹ Business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous people, local authorities, NGOs, scientific and technological community, women, and workers and trade unions.



What about REDD in the context of the “green economy”? The proposal from UNEP is to turn REDD into part of a multi-layer Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme that could cover all Rio-related instruments. The UNEP summary for policymakers says that PES (“carbon sequestration, watershed protection, biodiversity benefits and landscape beauty”) “holds wider promise not only for climate regulation and biodiversity conservation services, but also to scale up significant resources to communities who are stewards at the landscape level.”² We can see the landscape approach set out here, reflecting the Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU) approaches preferred by the World Bank: approaches that reduce landscapes, including forests, to a range of services provided, some of which may be preferred over others by potential investors.

This conflicts with the fact that a resilient ecosystem is a complex whole, composed of interconnected elements that cannot safely be prioritised over others and some of which, of course, we do not yet understand. Fragmenting such wholes or making a hierarchy of their parts will inevitably degrade them. Fragmentation of ecosystems including forests, is already a major problem that the “green economy” looks likely to enhance.

Thus the Munden Project’s paper REDD and Forest Carbon: Market-Based Critique and Recommendations³ is timely, making points which forest campaigners, movements, local communities and indigenous peoples have long made about market mechanisms:

We therefore conclude that REDD is unlikely to generate expected impact at the producer level. That is, the bulk of benefits from forest carbon will not go to REDD projects, the communities that live within them or the countries where they are located, and those projects that are able to operate will come under intense pressure to cut costs due to monopsony buying power.

The Munden report suggests that the main beneficiaries under the present rules would be intermediaries (60% of the benefits) and that the income to the projects might be as little as 3% of the total (hypothetical) funding. However, instead of advocating abandoning carbon markets for REDD, the report proposes ways to fix the problems. Others argue that the whole idea is irretrievably flawed and should be abandoned.

So we face a paradox: the proposals coming to Rio+20 to stop the global economy from breaching the planet’s ecological limits are – economic. It involves putting forests and all other terrestrial ecosystems on a balance sheet and calculating potential returns for investment. But this is just the way of thinking that has created these problems. And, as Einstein noted, solving problems needs a different way of thinking.

And we have such thinking to hand: beyond the central focus on the “green economy” there are many vital and hard-won principles and instruments, including the Precautionary Principle, the Polluter Pays Principle, Free Prior and Informed Consent and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In addition we have two new protocols: The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Then there is Principle 10 of the original Rio Declaration, concerning public access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. There was also mention in New York of the need to extend the reach of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The systematic assessment of new and emerging technologies is something we should develop and apply, not only to geoeengineering and synthetic biology, but as an ongoing process of public assessment of all new technologies. We should pursue the implementation of the rights and principles that have already been established after long years of struggle. Together they provide a powerful means to critique the proposals for a “green economy” and the basis for an alternative approach to addressing our twin crises of thought and action.



A lack of mechanisms to assess and monitor the impacts of REDD+ on ILC livelihoods Photo: Yolanda Sikking, GFC

² Pages 33 and 31 of the summary for Policymakers.

³ <http://www.redd-monitor.org/2011/03/22/munden-project-report-on-redd-and-forest-carbon-forest-carbon-trading-is-unworkable-as-currently-constructed/>



REDD+, Biodiversity Safeguards and Indigenous Rights in Asia and the Pacific **Isis Alvarez, Global Forest Coalition, Colombia & Fiu Mataese Elisara, OLSSI, Samoa**

The Asia-Pacific regional consultation and capacity-building workshop on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) including relevant biodiversity safeguards was held in Singapore from 15 to 18 March 2011. The workshop was designed to provide a space for participants to share and learn from each other, rather than for negotiating.

Acknowledging that socio-economic, ecological and other conditions vary amongst the countries that are involved, or in the process of engaging, in REDD+ pilot and demonstration activities, the workshop gave space for working groups to share their views, experiences and expectations about REDD+ safeguards and the monitoring and assessment of REDD+ co-benefits in the region.

Most participants, including NGOs as well as country and institutional representatives recognise that safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities (ILCs) should consider people's rights and grant them full participation at every stage of the REDD+ process. Paradoxically, only two representatives from indigenous organisations in the region were invited to participate: Ms Grace Tauli Balawag from Tebtebba in the Philippines and Fiu Mataese Elisara from Samoa. Chief Mr Kenn Mondiai of Partners with Melanesians from PNG represented the NGOs.

Although the UN-REDD programme contains draft social and environmental principles and criteria for reducing the risks from REDD+ activities and tackling other concerns over biodiversity safeguards, there is still a lack of indicators to monitor these criteria. Furthermore, several countries expressed concern over the obstacles yet to be overcome in order to reach realistic biodiversity safeguards. At the moment, these safeguards seem to be rather weak. The obstacles include: a lack of mechanisms to assess and monitor the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and ILC livelihoods; a lack of monitoring capacity; pressure from rising populations, poverty and unemployment; conflicting interests; governance and national land use policies that support economic plantations, such as eucalyptus, rubber and other mono-crops.

Picking up on the focus of the workshop on safeguards for biodiversity Fiu Mataese Elisara asked how this can be achieved in the light of ongoing plantation development that favours monocultures, the use of genetically engineered trees and pays no regard to the impacts of invasive alien species. She also challenged the absence of any discussion about safeguards for indigenous peoples and local communities. Discussing and safeguarding these rights is a prerequisite for the success of REDD+ since the maintenance of biodiversity is dependant on protecting ILCs' rights. It must not be forgotten that ILCs have been the guardians of nature for centuries and they need to be recognised as genuine partners with significant roles.

While REDD+ implementation is still at an early stage, there is no guarantee that the results from the pilots being carried out will give a realistic picture of what the impacts will be either on ILCs or biodiversity itself. During the Forest Stewardship Council's presentation, an Indian representative asked 'what is it that local people want and what will allow them to conserve forests?' Yet the answer showed a lack of understanding of REDD+ and its likely impacts. If the rights of ILCs and biodiversity safeguards are at the core of REDD+ one needs to ask why it is more appealing for businesses than local people to engage with REDD+ projects? Indigenous peoples continue to advocate for climate justice and reject market based solutions that commoditise their forests. Such solutions clearly ignore the requirements of the UNDRIP and the need to equitably share the benefits, as agreed in the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing⁴.

See for more information: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/>

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/abs/>



Successful Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the UNFF9 Session

Andrey Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia and Hubertus Samangun, ICTI, Indonesia

The ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF9) took place in New York between January 24 and February 4, 2011. This session, focused on social issues, had the official title: "Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication". The previous session (UNFF8) in 2009 focused on environmental issues and the next session (UNFF10) in 2013 will focus on economic issues. Ways of implementing sustainable forest management is a crosscutting issue for all these UNFF sessions.

More than 700 people participated at the Forum, although there were only around 10 civil society representatives. Representatives from the following Major Groups (MG) participated in the UNFF9: women; youth and children; science and technology; farmers and local communities; environmental NGOs and Indigenous Peoples. The first two groups were represented by the authors of this paper. For the first time in the history of UNFF, representatives of the MGs prepared joint papers for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD). Three papers provided the basis for these MSD discussions: "Social development and indigenous and other local and forest dependent communities, and forest land tenure", "Forests and culture", and "The Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Nepal: an example of excellence in community-based forest management". These papers were prepared on the basis of a meeting in July 2010, held in Ghana, where 70 representatives of the civil society met together to prepare for the UNFF9 session (see more in our joint paper in FC 35 "UNFF Major Groups Initiative Workshop Strengthened Multi-Stakeholder approach").

We found that the MSD during UNFF9 was more productive and useful than ever before. Alexander Buck, Executive Director of the International Union of Forests Research Organisations (IUFRO, one of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests) did a good job of moderating the dialogue. In his opening speech he noted that the work of the MGs during UNFF9 provided a useful model for overcoming differences over interests and goals and acting in concert. As the report of the Secretary General on "Key challenges for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication" states, "for forests to be people-centred, it is paramount that policy makers and managers listen to people, so as to determine what they want and need from forests".

The joint discussion papers were given as PowerPoint presentations by four MG representatives. Ms Abidah Billah Setyowati (Women Organising for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management - WOCAN) presented the joint contribution on social development. Mr. Joseph Cobbinah (Forestry Network of Sub-Saharan Africa) gave the presentation on forests and culture. Mr. Ghan Shyam Pandey (Global Alliance of Community Forestry) presented the paper on Nepal's CFP. Mr. Lambert Okrah - the Coordinator of Major Group Initiative, gave a presentation summarising the results of the MG-led initiative held in Accra and argued the case for increasing the role of the MGs in implementing UNFF decisions.

The discussions following these presentations were very useful. All the speakers congratulated and welcomed the MG's presentations and gave examples of social issues in forest sector from their countries. In concluding the MSD, Alexander Buck noted that the Major Groups bring a lot to the table, and their preparations for the Ninth Session were particularly productive and well-coordinated. The Accra workshop played an important part in allowing the MGs to make such a successful contribution. However, initiatives such as the Ghana workshop critically depend on the availability of resources. Governments are strongly encouraged to continue to support these efforts in the future, and to provide financial support for Major Group-led initiatives.

Unfortunately it was not possible for any of the MG representatives (apart from Mr. Lambert Okrah) to stay in New York for the second week of UNFF. But we continued to stay in touch with events through him and through the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB Vol. 13 No. 176- Ninth Session of the UN Forum on Forests - Summary & Analysis).

There were two noteworthy events during the second week of the UNFF9. Both these events took place in February 2-4 during the High Level Segment of the meeting. First, there was the official announcement of 2011 as the International Year of Forests. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon sent a video message to the UNFF9 delegates and Mr. Sha Zukang, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, officially made the announcement. Four Round Tables were also organised, with participation of many Ministers and other high



level officials. These Round Tables discussed the following topics: “Forests for people”, “Finance for forest-dependent communities”, “Forests+: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach”, and “Forests and Rio+20”.

At the end of the session, UNFF9 adopted a Ministerial Declaration and an “Omnibus Resolution” on the main issue of the session: “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”. This Resolution, in the chapter on Enhanced Cooperation, noted that the UNFF invites member states to support Major Group initiatives. Texts of the Resolution and Ministerial Declaration can be viewed at the UNFF website <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>. During the morning plenary on February 4, the Head of the Delegation from Brazil highlighted the contributions of Major Group representatives to UNFF9, and announced that Brasil will host a Major Groups’ workshop in Rio de Janeiro, back-to-back with the Rio+20 Conference in early June 2012. During the final plenary on February 4, the Head of the Delegation from Turkey offered to host the UNFF10 session (in early 2013) in Istanbul. This offer was endorsed by delegation of Zambia. A final decision will be taken by the ECOSOC. GFC prepared two press releases concerning UNFF9 session. They can be found at the GFC website <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org>.



Camila Moreno protesting to halt the continuing privatization and commodification of forests through forest carbon offsets and other false solutions to climate change at the UN Forum on Forests in New York. Photo: Mary Lou Malig.



Calendar of Forest-Related Meetings

More information on these and other intergovernmental meetings can be found at: www.iisd.ca

2011 has been declared International Year of Forests. *For more information please visit:* <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/2011/2011.html>. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) is part of the International Year of Forests and will be held on 22 May. The theme in 2011 is Forest Biodiversity. *For more information visit:* <http://www.cbd.int/ldb/2011/>

The 16th UNFCCC-AWG-KP, 14th AWG-LCA and workshops pursuant to the Cancun Agreements will take place 3 to 8 April in Bangkok, Thailand. *For more information visit:* http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/...

The 10th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held 16 to 27 May in New York, U.S.A. *For more information visit:* <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>

The World Environment Day will be held 5 June 2011 and will focus on Forests: Nature at Your Service. *For more information visit:* <http://www.unep.org/wed/>

The 34th session of the UNFCCC Convention Subsidiary Bodies will take place 6 to 17 June in Bonn, Germany. *For more information visit:* <http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/2654.php>

The 6th Forest Europe Ministerial Conference is organized in the framework of the pan-European policy process for the sustainable management of the continent's forests, 14 to 16 June in Oslo, Norway. *For more information visit:* <http://www.foresteurope.org/eng/Events/>

The conference - Counting on the Environment: The Contribution of Forests to Rural Livelihoods - will take place 15 June in London, United Kingdom. *For more information visit:* <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/pen/ref/london-conference>

The 10th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held in Changwon City, Republic of Korea. *For more information visit:* <http://www.unccd.int/>

The 17th session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 17) and the 7th session of the Meeting of the Parties (COP 7) to the Kyoto Protocol will take place 28 November to 9 December in Durban, South Africa. *For more information visit:* http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2011

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