

# Forest Conservation, For and By People

## Global Forest Coalition Annual Report 2010



## About the cover:

Indigenous Women in Kuna Yala, Panama.

Photo: Marcial Arias, Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Panama



Fragmented forest surrounded by pineapple monocultures in the mountains of Santander, Colombia. Photo: Isis Alvarez, GFC-Colombia.

## Who we are:

### Board of the Foundation GFC in 2010 - 2011:

Fiu Mata'ese Elisara, Mary Louise Malig and Estebancio Castro

### Overview of the GFC Focal points and Staff in 2010:

- 🌀 Indigenous Peoples' Focal point Asia: Hubertus Samangun, ICTI Tanimbar, Indonesia
- 🌀 Indigenous Peoples' Focal point Latin America, Marcial Arias, Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Panama
- 🌀 Indigenous Peoples' Focal Points Africa: Jennifer Koinante and Sada Abachir, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee, Kenya/Niger
- 🌀 NGO Focal point South and East Asia: Swati Shresth, Centre for Grassroots Development, India
- 🌀 NGO Focal point Latin America and the Caribbean: Tatiana Roa and Diego Rodrigues Censat Agua Viva/Amigos de la Tierra, Colombia
- 🌀 NGO Focal point Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia: Anna Laletina, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia
- 🌀 NGO Focal point Africa: Wally Menne, Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa
- 🌀 Focal point Oceania: Sandy Gauntlett, Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition, Aotearoa/New Zealand
- 🌀 Focal point North America: Anne Petermann, Global Justice Ecology Project, USA
- 🌀 Focal point Europe: Almuth Ernsting, Biofuelwatch, UK

**Executive director:** Simone Lovera

**Underlying Causes Initiative coordinator:** Andrey Laletin

**Communications manager:** Yolanda Sikking

**Media coordinator:** Janneke Romijn

**Senior Campaign Advisor:** Ronnie Hall

**Financial administrator:** Ioanet ten Voorde-Araceli

**Management assistant:** Juan Carlos Araujo

## Message by the chair

I am happy to present this 2010 report as the first in my capacity as Chairman of the GFC Board. The Executive Director, her small staff in the Amsterdam Secretariat, the Regional Focal Points, as well as members around the 7 regions of the world have been committed to the task of forest conservation and protection amidst very powerful challenges faced in the past and especially this year on international forest policy. The challenges that GFC continues to face within the framework of the global climate regime, were made even more poignant as a result of the political outcomes that emanated from the UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun in December 2010. There is now an urgent and increased focus on market-driven forest-related false-solutions to mitigate climate change promoted in REDD+, bio-fuels, and bio-energy amongst a number of these, especially causing enormous concern to GFC and our members.

GFC in the past has always tried to be the embryo of the future challenging all levels of distorted forest policies, campaigning against elite resource capture and property rights claims over large lands and forest areas that are home to indigenous peoples and local communities, getting to the root and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, ascertaining the real drivers of forest loss, and ensuring that the albeit insufficient non-binding safeguards that were part of the Cancun outcomes are taken on board as interim and integral part of decision making in regards to the impacts of these forest policies affecting indigenous peoples, local communities, women and biodiversity.

History has been a cemetery of forest exploitation, biodiversity devastation, and oppressed people who have been persecuted under manipulative forest policies at all levels until they vanish into historical oblivion. GFC in solidarity with other social movements, and partners like Biofuelwatch and Global Justice Ecology Project, have galvanized to influence the thinking of

forestry policy makers around the world to take note of these concerns. Engendering solidarity at all levels, in our system of governance with the countries and peoples we serve, among our staff and focal points, is a necessary imperative.

GFC is using this 2010 annual report to highlight some of its activities - campaigning on bio-energy and genetically engineered trees, alternatives to REDD campaigns, give account on its broad awareness raising and capacity building activities, and on many of its advocacy work throughout the year. The summary on outcomes achieved in 2010 will enable readers to obtain a quick overview and appreciation of what GFC achieved during last year. The section that reports on problems faced by our Executive Director, secretariat staff, regional focal points, and especially in resource cuts is an attempt to give clarity on the integral nature of the challenges, and a reality check on what GFC faces annually in the discourse between its laudable mandate, and linking this to how best the staff and members have delivered activities in the face of huge financial shortfalls.

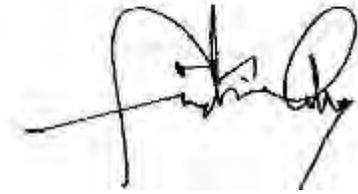
Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank our existing donors for your ongoing support to our work last year. Our success has been possible thanks to the trust and resources that you invested in our work. Let me also encourage past and future donor partners to consider seriously the inherent value of GFC's work and through this report, we hope that you will verify what we do and also serve as a merit for you to join us and align your forest visions to ours as we continue to advocate for saving our forests and defending the rights of those who depend on them.

To the focal points, staff, and Executive Director, your collective work underpins what GFC is all about. Unfortunately, GFC found itself part of the unreasonable cuts by some of our donor partners last year. This meant

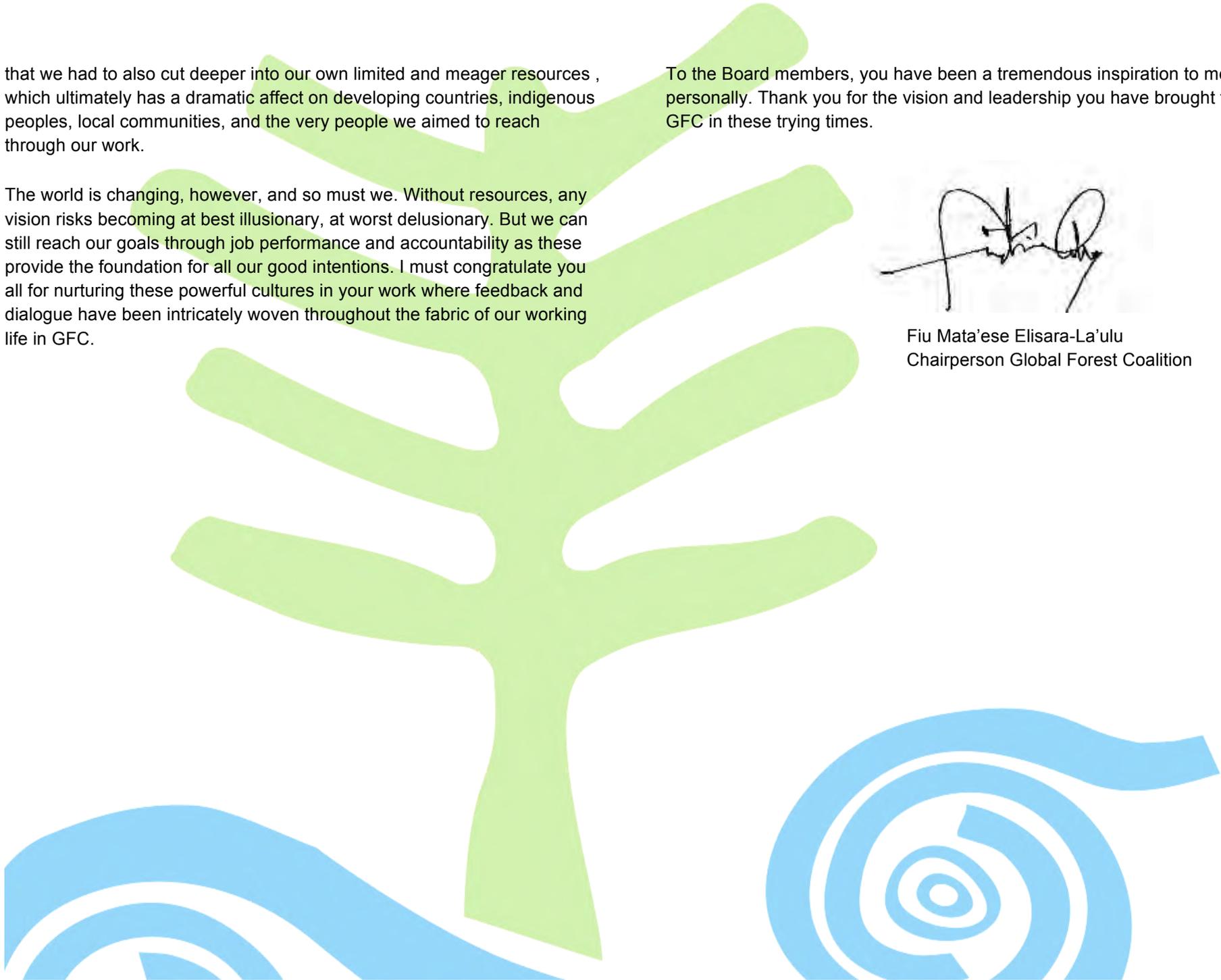
that we had to also cut deeper into our own limited and meager resources , which ultimately has a dramatic affect on developing countries, indigenous peoples, local communities, and the very people we aimed to reach through our work.

The world is changing, however, and so must we. Without resources, any vision risks becoming at best illusionary, at worst delusionary. But we can still reach our goals through job performance and accountability as these provide the foundation for all our good intentions. I must congratulate you all for nurturing these powerful cultures in your work where feedback and dialogue have been intricately woven throughout the fabric of our working life in GFC.

To the Board members, you have been a tremendous inspiration to me personally. Thank you for the vision and leadership you have brought to GFC in these trying times.



Fiu Mata'ese Elisara-La'ulu  
Chairperson Global Forest Coalition



## Introduction

The year 2010 was a significant year for international forest policy, as it was the year in which forests were definitely handed over to the Climate Convention. While the international forest regime is still formally composed of a myriad of institutions that try to cooperate within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, it has become clear that the political momentum is increasingly focusing on policies and incentives to “reduce deforestation and forest degradation and enhance forest carbon stocks” (REDD+) that are developed within the framework of the climate regime. The outcomes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2010 in Cancun included a clear recommendation to elaborate REDD+ policies at the national level.

The Global Forest Coalition shares the concern of many social movements, Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations, and other stakeholders in the forest sector that the dominance of the climate regime in overall forest policy making will lead to distorted forest policies. The obvious focus on the carbon sequestration values of forest implies a challenge to ensure other forest values are given equal attention. Moreover, the strong emphasis on national and international payment for environmental services schemes in REDD policies brings with it an inherent risk of elite resource capture, as actors with well-defined property rights over large areas of land will per definition be in a better position to claim such payments than Indigenous Peoples, women, small peasants and marginalized communities that possess fewer or less well-defined land titles. For that reason, GFC and its members and allies have dedicated a

significant amount of time and effort in 2010 and previous years to raising the awareness of policy-makers and other stakeholders in the REDD+ debate with respect to the potential negative impacts of REDD+.

As part of the Cancun REDD+ decision, a number of safeguards were adopted that are intended to avoid some of these negative consequences. While these safeguards are non-binding and otherwise insufficient, they are nevertheless a very important indicator of the strongly increased awareness amongst decision-makers that REDD+ might have negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and biodiversity. The safeguards also highlight the fact that the drivers of forest loss need to be addressed, a point GFC and its predecessors have been making since 1995. The “Getting to the Roots” report, which was launched by GFC at the 16<sup>th</sup> Climate COP, reemphasized the need to analyze and address the drivers of forest loss, and contributed to this process by summarizing the results of the national workshops on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation that were organized by GFC’s national partner organizations in over 23 countries between 2006 and 2010.

Two important drivers of forest loss that have been identified are growing demand for land and wood, which have a common underlying cause: increasing demand for bio-energy. GFC, its current European focal point Biofuelwatch, and its North American focal point Global Justice Ecology Project, were amongst the first NGOs to sound the alarm about the potential direct and indirect impacts agrofuels would have on forests, forest peoples, and food security. GFC and Biofuelwatch were also amongst the first to warn

that the use of non-food biomass for bio-energy production is not a solution. Our report, “Wood-based Bio-energy, the Green Lie” which was launched with a series of seminars in different European capitals in May 2010, received significant media attention and wide support from other NGOs and IPOs. A large number of groups signed up to a declaration calling for the removal of subsidies and other incentives for the expansion of industrial, wood-based bio-energy. It is hoped these awareness-raising campaigns convince governments supporting these risky climate mitigation strategies to undertake a profound analysis of their direct and indirect impacts on forests and land use change in general. In particular, continuing with two forest-related policies under the climate regime that are inherently contradictory (REDD and wood-based bio-energy) is certainly not an option.

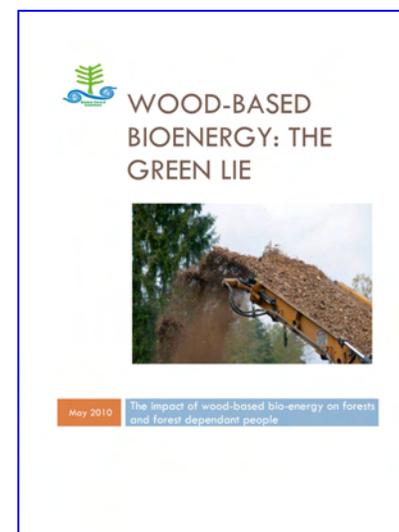
## Activity report:

### 1) The Bioenergy and GE Trees Campaign

A report on the potential impacts of the expansion of wood-based bio-energy entitled “[Wood-based Energy, the Green Lie](#)” was published with a media campaign and series of 4 seminars in different European capitals. More than 123 policy-makers, and representatives of business, small forest holders, scientific institutions and social movements participated in these events.

The report was compiled from analytical papers that were contributed by different experts within the GFC community from different parts of the world. It was presented at seminars that took

place in The Hague, on 26 May; in London, on 28 May; in Bonn, as a side event to the meeting of the subsidiary bodies to the Climate Convention, on 2 June; and in Brussels, at the European Parliament, on 3 June. The media launch was very successful and led to coverage in, amongst others, Reuters, IPS, World Energy Media, Sustainable Business, The Bioenergy Site, Renewable Energy focus, and other media specifically targeting the renewable energy industry. A special exhibition was prepared which was presented at the climate negotiations in June in Bonn, and at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Climate Convention in December. A joint declaration calling for the removal of financial support for the expansion of industrial wood-based bio-energy was published, and supported by over 60 NGOs and IPOs from all over the world. The report was widely disseminated and presented at subsequent meetings, including the Commonwealth Forestry Congress, the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention, and the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention.



An active campaign to raise awareness of the potential impacts of genetically modified trees was implemented. Concrete activities included the organization of an international strategy meeting on GE trees on 29 May in London and a follow up strategy meeting on the

30<sup>th</sup> in Oxford; and the filing of a lawsuit by GJEP, the North America focal point of GFC, together with the Sierra Club, the Center for Food Safety, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Dogwood Alliance, against the US Department of Agriculture, to challenge their decision to approve the planting of 260,000 GE cold-tolerant eucalyptus trees on 330 acres across seven states in the U.S. South. The impacts of GE trees were also highlighted at several of the seminars and side events mentioned above. The campaign against GE eucalyptus led to the USDA turning down GE tree company ArborGen's request to commercially release GE eucalyptus trees. The lawsuit about the large-scale test plot is still under way.

## 2) The Alternatives to REDD Campaign

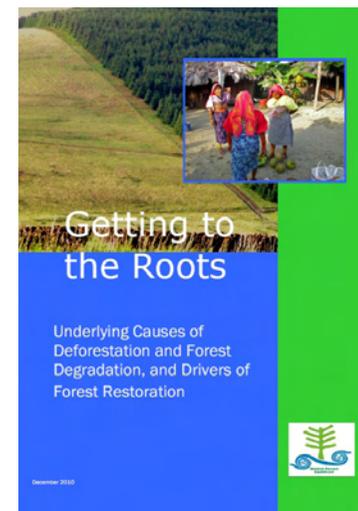
Within the framework of this campaign, 7 national NGOs and IPOs have been enabled to analyze and monitor the coherence between national REDD+ policies, UNDRIPs, the MDGs and the CBD: Censat in Colombia, Asociación Indígena Ambiental in Panama, Equations and the National Federation of Forest Peoples and Forest Workers in India, the National Association of Professional Environmentalists in Uganda, Lawyer's Environmental Action Team in Tanzania, the Federation of Community Forestry Users in Nepal, and Nucleo Amigos da Terra in Brazil

Despite the limited budget available to them, the seven groups mentioned above succeeded in organizing a total of 17 national and local workshops and consultations on the underlying causes of forest loss, the drivers of community-based forest conservation and

restoration initiatives, and REDD+. More than 509 community-representatives and other people participated in these events. The events addressed both the potential impacts of REDD+ on Indigenous Peoples, women, local communities and biodiversity, and the success factors underlying community-driven forest conservation and restoration.

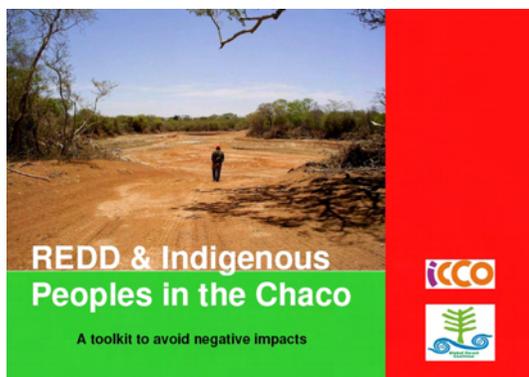
A key report summarizing the underlying causes of forest loss, and the root causes and incentive systems that motivate communities to conserve and restore their forests has been published.

The report ["Getting to the Roots", Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Drivers of Forest Restoration](#) was launched with an extensive media campaign at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun, Mexico. A flyer with the weblink and main conclusions of the report was also produced in English, Spanish and French and widely disseminated. Media coverage included Democracy Now, the National Geographic, Oneworld UK, the Huffington Post, and national newspapers in countries such as the Netherlands (the NRC) and India. The report was also presented at a side event co-organized with the Accra Caucus, in which almost 200 climate negotiators and other policy-makers participated.



A toolkit to address the potential negative impacts of REDD+ on Indigenous Peoples, and a guide for journalists on the impact of carbon trading in forests, soils, farmlands and grasslands were published. One regional and seven national policy papers were also produced highlighting the potential impact of REDD+ and other forest-related climate agreements on forest peoples and biodiversity.

The [“Toolkit on the Potential Negative Impacts of REDD+ on Indigenous Peoples”](#) was produced for review in Spanish and English at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2010. The final version was refined to focus specifically on Indigenous



Peoples in the Gran Chaco, in the heart of South America and included an analysis of REDD+ policies in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. It was published in October 2010.

European focal point Biofuelwatch took the lead in elaborating a “Guide for Journalists to Proposals on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry and carbon trading for COP16”, which was launched in November 2010 and widely disseminated amongst journalists and other people interested in knowing more about the often hard to comprehend LULUCF proposals, which are highly relevant for REDD too.

Biofuelwatch also took the lead in elaborating a GFC response to the EU Green Paper on Forests and Climate Change, and submitted to the European Commission in June: <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Response%20to%20EU%20Green%20Paper.pdf>

Additionally, the national groups involved in the REDD+ Monitoring project each produced at least one set of policy recommendations regarding REDD+ policy development in their country. These recommendations were submitted to the relevant governmental authorities.

### 3) Awareness raising and capacity-building activities

4 side events on REDD+, the MDGs, indigenous rights, biodiversity, and the need to address the root causes of forest loss and restoration have been organized. Side events on the potential impacts of REDD+ on Indigenous rights and biodiversity and the need to address underlying causes of forest loss and restoration were (co-) organized by GFC and its members on 13 May, at the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD in Nairobi; on 2 June at the meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies to the FCCC; and on 1 and 2 December, at FCCC COP 16. Together they attracted more than 272 participants.

Ten international seminars and workshops that contributed to

raising the awareness and building the capacity of NGOs, IPOs and social movements on the potential impact of REDD+ on biodiversity, Indigenous rights and the MDGs were (co-) organized. At least 413 people participated in these events. An additional estimated 2,000 people participated in additional events where GFC representatives presented information on the potential impacts of REDD+ and the need to address the real drivers of forest loss, including in particular wood-based bio-energy expansion, and forest restoration.



International Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Alternatives and Solutions to the Climate Crisis, Baguio, Philippines

Regional or global workshops were (co-) organized at the World Peoples' Summit on Climate Change (19-21 May, Cochabamba, Bolivia); the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biodiversity (15 May, Nairobi, Kenya); the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

(24 May, New York, USA); and the Climate Camp organized parallel to the Subsidiary Bodies to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (1 June, Bonn, Germany). Furthermore, two workshops were organized at the North American Social Forum (20-26 June, Detroit, USA), and two workshops were co-organized at the Social Forum of the Americas (Asuncion, Paraguay, 12 August).

GFC contributed to the organization of the International Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Alternatives and Solutions to the Climate Crisis (4-9 November, Baguio, Philippines); and co-organized a specific workshop on REDD at this event. Together with its North American ally Indigenous Environmental Network, GFC also co-organized a training session on REDD, rights, biodiversity and MDGs at the Mexican Dialogue Space on Climate Justice (6 December, Cancun, Mexico). These events were organized in close cooperation with allied networks and movements. On top of this GFC also participated in three side events and assisted in the organization of other CBD Alliance events around the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention (11-22 October, Nagoya, Japan); the Klimaforum Germany in June; the Swedish Climate Camp in August; and the Taiga Rescue Network Biannual conference in Sweden in November.

#### 4) Advocacy campaigns

An active advocacy campaign to promote policy changes that protect the rights and needs of forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women; conserve forest biodiversity; and address the root causes of forest loss including

large-scale bio-energy expansion, has been implemented at the international level (including within the framework of the Convention on Biodiversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change and at other relevant meetings), and in seven different countries.



National workshop on REDD Realities in New Delhi, India.  
Photo: Equations

Despite the relatively limited travel budget that was available in 2010, GFC representatives participated actively in all the negotiating sessions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change that took place in 2010. These included: the sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Groups on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) that took place from 9-11 April, parallel to the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the subsidiary bodies to the FCCC from 31 May to 11 June, and from 2 to 6 August (all in Bonn, Germany); the AWG session that took place in Tianjin, China 4-9 October, and the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the FCCC itself. Both at the Subsidiary Bodies' meetings and at the FCCC COP, GFC also organized an exhibition of publications and other

materials highlighting the risks of REDD and the need to address drivers of forest loss such as industrial wood-based bio-energy. The European focal point and the Latin American Indigenous focal point were particularly active at these meetings, highlighting the need to address root causes of forest, the risks of bio-energy and genetically engineered trees, and the need to respect Indigenous rights.

The Latin American Indigenous focal point also attended meetings of the World Bank Forest Investment Program (15-17 March, Manila, the Philippines), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (19-30 April, New York, USA); the REDD+ Partnership meeting (27 May, Oslo, Norway); the GEF Council meeting (29 June-1 July, Washington DC); the Workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralisation and REDD in Latin America (30 August-3 September, Mexico City, Mexico); and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (15-17 September, Washington DC). He also participated in meetings to establish the so-called G3, a unique collaboration between the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal People of Tropical Forests, the Global Alliance of Community Forestry, and the International Family Forestry Alliance.

The coordinator of the Underlying Causes Initiative and the Asian Indigenous focal point participated in the strategically important inter-sessional meetings of the UN Forum on Forests on major groups (26-30 July, Accra, Ghana) and forest finance (13-17 September, Nairobi, Kenya). The coordinator of the Underlying Causes Initiative also participated in the World Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (23-29 August, Seoul, Republic of Korea). The African NGO focal point

represented GFC in the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice of the Convention on Biodiversity (10-21 May, Nairobi, Kenya); and the 18<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Forestry Conference (28 June-2 July, Edinburgh, Scotland), which focused on forest restoration.

The North American, Asian NGO and African Indigenous focal points and executive director of GFC together with a representative of the Brazilian partner group NAT/FoE-Brazil participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (18-29 October, Nagoya, Japan), where they worked with other CBD Alliance members to successfully advocate for COP decisions that highlighted the potential risks of REDD and market-based conservation mechanisms in general, bio-energy and genetically engineered trees and called for safeguards and regulations at the national and international level to address these risks.

GFC actively contributed to the publication of the 'Top10 for COP10' briefing papers of the CBD Alliance, which are broadly seen as having been very instrumental in some of the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.

Last but not least, more than 14 members of GFC participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Cancun in December, and parallel events, including the caravan and camp organized by La Via Campesina, one of GFC's close allies.

At all these occasions, GFC cooperated with like-minded groups, networks, fora and caucuses to:

- advocate for respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and women
- promote the conservation of biodiversity and halt incentives for large-scale monoculture tree plantations
- analyze and address the underlying causes of forest loss
- raise awareness of the expansion of industrial wood-based bio-energy as a major driver of forest loss
- raise awareness of the ecological and social risks of genetically modified trees, and
- ensure that incentive systems for forest conservation and restoration promote initiatives by communities and Indigenous Peoples and protect their livelihoods.



Manifestation organized by GFC focal points in cooperation with the Youth, Women's, and Indigenous caucus and Climate Justice Now! in Cancun. Photo: Langle/GJEP

## **I. Quality Management and Organizational Improvements**

Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting took place from 29 January to 6 February 2010 in Porvenir, in the Indigenous territory of Kuna Yala, Panama. The internal evaluation meeting was combined with a 2,5 day external evaluation meeting organized by the independent evaluators, Kaisha Atakhanova and Jamila Assanova. The meeting was attended by 24 people including all members of the coordination group except the Oceania focal point (who could not attend for health reasons).

The external evaluation meeting concluded that, amongst other things, GFC has professional and updated information on forest issues and the ability to distribute that information to members in accessible languages. It was also noted that GFC members are present in different countries, regions, continents, but that there are limited horizontal connections between GFC members. It was recommended that we should organize more capacity-building events for GFC members. Additionally the external evaluation recommended strengthening the role of the coordination group in strategic decision-making, and concentrating operational management at the international secretariat. The external evaluation meeting was complemented by a large number of bilateral interviews with members, partners, staff and contributors to GFC. The results of the evaluation were published in August 2010.

The internal evaluation meeting evaluated the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities of the activities and structure of GFC. The concrete results of the campaigns and programs, which are far more abundant than originally expected, were welcomed.

The Panama meeting also consolidated the medium-term program of work for the period 2011-2015, elaborated the draft workplan for 2010, and decided upon a clear common position and message regarding REDD. It was decided to merge the program with the Underlying Causes Initiative and the Forest Restoration Program, as these issues were closely linked to the REDD debate. The meeting also took some decisions regarding the structure of GFC, including greater autonomy for the focal points.

In response to the internal evaluation the MEP meeting in January/February produced a renewed communications strategy and recommendations for an improved decision-making structure in GFC. It also produced a workplan for 2010, and suggestions for new Board members as the old Board had to resign. As of May 2010, the new Board of GFC consists of Fiu Mataese Elisara from Samoa, Estebancio Castro from Panama, and Mary Lou Malig from the Philippines.

The renewed communications strategy, which was implemented in the course of 2010 included a strong focus on social media, including Facebook and Twitter, and a brand new lay out and structure for the GFC website.

GFC also continued with the publication of its quarterly newsletter on international forest policy, "Forest Cover", and the publication of an internal newsletter, "Roots". Both Roots and the Digital Performance System that was established in 2009 are cornerstones of the overall quality management system of GFC, which includes annual reporting by all partner groups through a mandatory reporting format as well.

A second meeting of the coordination group of GFC took place at the extended GFC Board meeting in December 2010 in Cancun. The meeting evaluated the work performed in 2010, the financial situation and the new structural arrangements. The meeting also agreed upon the workplan for 2011.

The expanded Board meeting in December 2010 took a number of concrete decisions to follow-up on the recommendations in the external evaluation report that was published in August 2010. This includes the decision to establish two standing working groups of the GFC Coordination Group, one on fundraising and campaigns, and one on communications and public outreach. These working groups will enhance more effective participation of Coordination Group members in the strategic decision-making of the coalition.

Last but not least, on the basis of an evaluation of the reports and other information submitted through the quality management system, the 2010 Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting developed the following objectives for the medium-term program of work 2011-2015:

- To support those Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities who are struggling to understand and address the potential impacts of REDD and other urgent threats to their rights, ecosystems and livelihoods.
- To analyze the underlying causes of forest loss and what motivates Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities to conserve and restore their forest ecosystems, and to promote forest policies based on this analysis.
- To link this approach to a broader analysis of REDD and its threats to people and biodiversity. We are not against reducing deforestation and forest degradation, but against a REDD policy that focuses on carbon emissions purely as a means of generating profit: forest policy should be about people living in forests and forests as ecosystems.
- To build pressure for alternatives to the commodification of forests through REDD, at the local, national and international levels.



*The new GFC Board: Fiu Mataese Elisara, Mary Lou Malig and Estebancio Castro*

### III. Outcomes Achieved

As the Global Forest Coalition is a worldwide network of NGOs and IPOs that works closely with numerous other NGOs and IPOs in a large number of networks, alliances, caucuses and fora, the results of GFC's work are per definition not attributable to GFC alone. We would not be conducting our work properly if we were the only organization advocating for a certain policy objective.

Also, a successful advocacy campaign implies convincing policy-makers and other stakeholders so that they themselves become the main advocates for the issues we want to raise. So many of the policy achievements below are the direct result of the active interventions of policy-makers who were inspired by the interventions of GFC members and partners at events such as the

Cochabamba World Peoples' Summit on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth.

Direct and indirect outcomes of our activities include:

- More than 900 representatives of NGOs, IPOs, farmers' movements and other social movements and 272 policy-makers have gathered more understanding of REDD+ and its potential impacts on biodiversity, Indigenous rights and MDG implementation, and the need for appropriate incentive systems for community-driven forest conservation and restoration.
- Concrete indicators of the success of these awareness-raising campaigns are the declarations and statements that were produced by these gatherings, including the final declaration of the Social Forum of the Americas, the final declaration of the Indigenous Peoples' conference in the Philippines, and the final declaration of the Mexican Dialogue Space. Generally increased awareness amongst social movements and NGOs about the potential risks of REDD+ and bio-energy is also indicated by the declaration of the recently held World Social Forum 2011 in Dakar.
- Representatives of research institutions (e.g. CIFOR) and UN institutions (e.g. the UN Forum on Forests) have started to express concerns about the potential impacts of REDD+ that are very much in line with the concerns voiced by GFC and its allies since 2005.
- While flawed in many aspects, the outcomes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC with respect to REDD+ did incorporate a number of important safeguards

that focus on protecting Indigenous rights and biodiversity, and promoting coherence between REDD+ and poverty reduction strategies. The COP outcomes also highlight the need to address the drivers of forest loss, gender aspects, and the need to ensure the full participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, its Forest Investment Program and UN-REDD have adopted safeguards and principles that aim to avoid the negative impacts of REDD+ on Indigenous Peoples, biodiversity, and women. These safeguards and principles can be seen as a clear indicator of the increased awareness amongst REDD+ policy makers that REDD+ might have serious negative impacts on forest governance, the rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women, and biodiversity, and that these risks need to be addressed



GFC representatives at the media launch of the Getting to the Roots report in Cancun

- Many policy-makers, research institutions and other stakeholders have recognized the direct and indirect negative impacts that agrofuels production will have on forests and forest peoples, as highlighted by GFC and others in 2006 and 2007. There is also a rapidly increasing awareness of the potential impacts of wood-based bio-energy. The campaigns of European focal point Biofuelwatch are expected to have delayed the introduction of wood-based bioenergy by at least two years. As a result of the campaigns of GFC's UK partners, agrofuel power station development in the UK has also been delayed for around three years so far (with just one power plant operating at present, which does not use vegetable oil according to the company). Moreover, the UK government decided not to guarantee long-term subsidies for electricity from agrofuels ('bioliquids') and not to subsidize them for heating for the time being. The UK government also decided to limit biogas heating subsidies to biogas from waste, not from 'energy crops'. This campaign has close links to the strong anti-biomass campaign in North America, where Europe hopes to source many of its wood pellets from.
- The outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CBD clearly recognize the potential negative impacts of REDD+ and bio-energy, and urge countries to avoid such impacts, including by avoiding afforestation and reforestation initiatives with alien species. They also recognize the role of Indigenous territories and community conserved areas.
- Statements by various Parties at the CBD Conference of the Parties also showed a strongly increased awareness of the

potential risks of market-based conservation mechanisms, an issue GFC has been raising since 2006.

It should be noted that some of these outcomes are the result of earlier GFC campaigns on, for example, the risks of market-based conservation mechanisms. It is expected that most outcomes of the 2010 activities will be known in a few years only, when, for example, the UNFCCC will formally discuss the inclusion of REDD+ in carbon markets. It should also be emphasized again that very few of these outcomes can be attributed exclusively to GFC, as GFC is a worldwide coalition of individual member groups that cooperate actively with a broad range of international movements, alliances, networks, caucuses, fora and *ad hoc* coalitions. It is our strategy to involve as many other allies in our campaigns as possible, and the results of our work are as much the result of the efforts of these allies as they are the result of our own contributions.

## Difficulties, shortcomings and possible remedies

During the national workshops, strategy and training sessions, especially in Brazil, social movements have constantly emphasized their lack of capacity to monitor fast-moving REDD developments at the international level, which requires knowledge of the English language and the technical capacity to follow the climate and forest debate. There also is a lack of capacity to follow the debate at the national level, due to a lack of technical expert knowledge, and time and resources to travel to the (federal) capital where national policy is lobbied, decided and voted upon. Even the capacity to exchange views and share information via the internet is limited due to scarce internet connections in, for example, most of the Amazon and most rural areas in Africa and Asia.



Participants during the Hoima workshop  
Organized by NAPE in Uganda



NAPE coordinator of REDD+ project highlighting the workshop objectives and expected results

Groups also identified a significant lack in capacity when it comes to monitoring on-site activities and accessing up to date information about new actors and economic interests engaging in land deals related to REDD projects (specially with Indigenous Peoples). Even with this information they were unsure how these developments might increase ongoing rural violence and land conflicts at agricultural frontiers. As the Tanzanian partner group stated: the “sudden increased interest in forest and forest land and the possibility that forests will generate millions of dollars through carbon trade, is a threat to forest communities’ rights..... Investor nations and private entities, including big environmental NGOs will want to buy up large tracks of land for forest plantations and, eventually, carbon market. Therefore forest communities need to move quickly to secure their territorial rights before it is too late.”

Especially in Colombia it was feared that many communities still lacked the information necessary to recognize the risks of market-based conservation approaches. It was considered a major challenge to oppose the trend towards market-based conservation approaches, as these approaches were promoted amongst local communities as a source of income. Too few people are aware that this trend is undermining a long time struggle for a rights-based approach and appropriate public budget and comprehensive public policy for community forest management and agroforestry. The consolidation of the national coalition that signed the “Belem Letter” in Brazil, and the stronger alliances with social movements in countries like Colombia, were seen as an important steps to counteract these trends.

It was pointed out, by GFC’s Panamanian partner group for example, that REDD+ strategies still paid hardly any attention to the rights and needs of women. While several workshops and activities in Panama were implemented that specifically targeted women, gender balance could not always be assured in the workshops in other countries, especially when it concerned community meetings.

It was also noted that organizations and social movements still have a long way to go in terms of understanding the REDD debate and make it ‘organic’ to their constituencies - that is, internalized, translated into normal language (not jargon) and conveyed in a way that people on the ground can have ownership of it. REDD is identified mainly as a ‘foreign’ agenda, an ‘external debate’ that was brought into the communities and territories as a ‘fast imposition’. Movements, unions and organizations are pressed to take a political position without having had the time to develop an understanding of all its potential implications. As the Nepalese partner group stated “Since REDD+, UNDRIP and climate change concepts are newly coined terms, it is really difficult to raise awareness and educate rural communities including IPs and local stakeholders about their rights and responsibilities in an effective manner.”



Participants during a workshop on the potential impacts of REDD+ implementation in Buikwe- Mukono, Uganda

Overall, the continuation of the monitoring project and the strengthening of the alliances, civil society forums and other cooperative structures that were formed or supported by the REDD monitoring project was seen as essential, if a critical mass of community and Indigenous representatives is to be made aware of their rights and responsibilities regarding forests and climate change and the potential impact REDD might have.

The fact that the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties adopted the significantly flawed Cancun Agreement, which does not include the necessary legally binding commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is seen by many social movements and NGOs as a

major defeat. While the REDD+ safeguards are a clear indicator of the increased awareness of the risks of REDD+, they are not binding. Another major negative result of the Cancun COP was that Parties failed to revisit the flawed definition of forests used under the Kyoto Protocol, which means that REDD+ programs will be able to provide subsidies to large-scale monoculture tree plantations. Moreover, there is still a possibility that REDD+ will be included in carbon markets in the near future. This creates significant risks at the national level, where REDD+ will be implemented, and where weak laws and regulations and failing law enforcement might lead to serious negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, biodiversity, and social development. Thus it is going to be even more difficult to avoid some of these negative impacts in the coming years, and a sustained response will be necessary.

Meanwhile, the campaign against large-scale bio-energy production remains an uphill struggle, as a large number of very diverse corporate sectors stand to gain from bio-energy. Corporate interests include not only large agro-industrial corporations, the car and aviation industry, and oil companies (which can easily adapt their infrastructure to biofuel production) but also the forestry sector itself, which stands to gain significant profits from the expansion of wood-based bio-energy. For that reason, it will be a significant challenge to redirect this climate change mitigation policy, which was already baptized “IEDD” (Increasing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) by the NGO community.

## Summary financial report

The multi-year work program 2007 – 2010 of the Stichting Global Forest Coalition is divided into two cross-cutting intervention strategies and three modules. The intervention strategies are to build the capacity of NGOs and IPOs to influence forest policy, and to advocate for rights-based forest policy. The three modules are to monitor the implementation of international forest policy, to address the underlying causes of forest loss, and to promote rights-based and socially just forest policies. The Financial Statements for 2010 are in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 “Not-for-profit organizations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board and approved by Stolwijk Registeraccountant, De Meern, the Netherlands.

The work of the Global Forest Coalition depends on contributions from public donors and individuals. We would like to thank the following donors for their support to the programs, projects, campaigns and other activities of the Global Forest Coalition and its focal points: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Biodiversity Centre (Swedbio), the Harris and Frances Block Foundation, the Ben and Jerry Foundation, the New Visions Foundation, the Firedoll Foundation, the Cornerstone Campaign, and the many organizations and private individuals that provided small contributions to specific activities of the Coalition. In order to maintain our independence, the Global Forest Coalition does not accept money from private corporations.

### Balance sheet as at 31 december

	Notes	2010		2009	
		€	€	€	€
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash	1	393		221.048	
Accrued receivables	2	11.754		8.391	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<u>12.147</u>		<u>229.439</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Advanced Receivables	3	0		237.800	
Accounts Payable	4	90.901		66.940	
Unfunded result	5	-78.754		-75.301	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<u>12.147</u>		<u>229.439</u>

### Statement of income and expenses

	Notes	2010		Budget		2009	
		€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>GRANTS</b>							
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Netherlands)	6	377.458		499.800		428.094	
Swedbio (Sweden)		52.188		110.000		80.789	
Other		129.166		70.000		61.909	
			558.812		679.800		570.792
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Intervention Strategy 1.	7	174.188		227.700		169.326	
Intervention Strategy 2.	8	339.069		410.100		402.016	
Quality Management System	9	46.648		42.000		34.878	
Legal expenses	10	2.360		0		4.063	
			562.265		679.800		610.283
<b>RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>			<u>-3.453</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>-39.491</u>



[www.globalforestcoalition.org](http://www.globalforestcoalition.org)

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition, which was founded in the year 2000 by NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) from all over the world. Its objectives are to facilitate the informed participation of NGOs and IPOs in international forest policy meetings and to organize joint advocacy campaigns on issues like Indigenous Peoples' rights, the need for socially-just forest policy and the need to address the underlying causes of forest loss.



# People, Forests, Rights