

Beyond Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Global Forest Coalition
Annual Report 2011



About the cover:

Indigenous Woman with children in the Lacandón Jungle, Chiapas, México.
Photo: Orin Langelie, Global Justice Ecology Project, U.S.A



GFC's REDD Fairy Tales Campaign. Design: Vanessa Cardenas, Colombia.

Who we are:

Board of the Foundation GFC in 2011 - 2012:

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

Overview of the GFC Focal points and Staff in 2011:

- 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 Albachir, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee, Kenya/Niger
- NGO Focal point South and East Asia: Swati Shresth, Centre for Grassroots Development, India
- NGO Focal points Latin America and the Caribbean: Diego Rodriguez, 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: Graham Vahia (R.I.P), Network of the Indigenous Peoples Solomons, Solomon Islands
- Focal point North America: Anne Petermann, Global Justice Ecology Project, USA
- Focal point Europe: Almuth Ernstring, Biofuelwatch, UK

Executive director: Simone Lovera, Sobrevivencia, GFC Southern office, Paraguay

Underlying Causes Initiative coordinator: Andrey Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia

Media Coordinator: Jeff Conant, Global Justice Ecology Project, U.S.

Communications manager: Yolanda Sikking, GFC Secretariat, Netherlands

Outreach Officer: Isis Alvarez, GFC, Colombia

Senior Campaign Advisor: Ronnie Hall, UK

Financial administrator: Ioanet ten Voorde-Araceli, GFC Secretariat, Netherlands

Management assistant: Juan Carlos Araujo, GFC Southern office, Paraguay

Message by the chair

In this annual report, I wish to say a few departing words, as I intend to step down at the end of 2012 as Chair of the GFC Board. This year, 2011, has been another challenging year for our global, regional and national work in terms of the on-going and drastic reduction in financial resources. I continue to believe that our success has been our own worst enemy: the work of the GFC network continues to be principled and to maintain the integrity that we are all so proud of, despite the issue of resulting resources.

Indeed, the GFC network, including regional focal points, members, allies, and friends around the world, needs to be congratulated! It is undoubtedly your individual efforts in the respective countries and regions that you work in that have collectively made GFC the respected organisation that it is today. Together, we have challenged many donors, because of our sincere desire to voice issues that are integral to the survival of our Planet Earth and the lives of its habitants and limited natural resources - our forests, our biodiversity, our oceans, our waters, the atmosphere, the air we breathe, the rights of our indigenous peoples and local communities. We are determined to push for better alternatives to the current false mitigation solutions that are being developed and implemented. Some have even risked their lives in their bid to speak the truth to the governments of the world. This is no mean feat!

Nevertheless, even in these challenging times we have succeeded in implementing a range of activities that demonstrate precisely

what GFC stands for and what it can achieve. I say again, this is because of the hard, often voluntary, work of all the members, allies and focal points of GFC. In 2011, our organisation has shown itself to be a coalition that thrives on the passion, commitment, and dedication by its focal points, members and allies. Whilst finances and institutional structures are important you never let shortages in these areas affect your work! I salute you all for that and for being great champions for GFC.

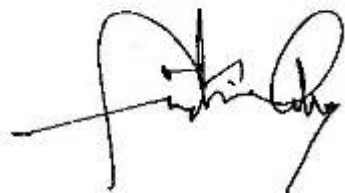
And with that, I particularly wish to recognise the sheer dedication and ultimate commitment of our GFC Coordinator, Simone Lovera and her small team of staff, who have guided GFC through thick and thin over the last year. They continue to lead our work globally, and the work that they have shared with us has been nothing but the best. The technical competence of the GFC team, in terms of issue analysis, securing the wisdom of the experts of members of the network to comment and advise on issues, sharing information and recommendations, and simply being an amazingly efficient secretariat, is something that I am proud to have been associated with the short tenure as Chair of GFC Board.

With respect to our collective effort, I must say that our main campaigns over the last year – focusing on the importance of properly analysing how to effectively support forest conservation and restoration initiatives by indigenous peoples and local communities; monitoring REDD on the ground; denouncing REDD

Fairy Tales; exposing false corporate-driven solutions to climate change like industrial bio-energy production and forest carbon offsets; and many other activities that we have worked on with other partners and allies – speak volumes about how much we have achieved despite the challenges we have faced.

So I leave the position of chair by apologising that whilst GFC has not been able to help provide more financial support to its focal points, members, and allies, who are often facing very hard economic times as well, I still depart with a sense of satisfaction, and proud that the Board of GFC has, with the help of you all, continued to make GFC relevant in the world today. GFC is needed! It is bigger than each one of us, and much more than all of us together. Let us continue to help GFC in whatever way we can, to continue its critical work into the future. To my Board members, I wish to thank you all for your support and hope that we can continue to be part of GFC in moving it forward.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remember my good friend and a colleague of you all, Grammie Vahia who we selected as the GFC focal point for the Pacific, but was taken from us in untimely passing. May he rest in peace.



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

In Memoriam

Graham Vahia has shocked many of us through his untimely death at the young age of 37 in his Pacific home town of Honiara Solomon Islands on Friday July 6, 2012. He was an indigenous leader even at his young age and a committed fighter and defender for indigenous peoples' and cultural rights all his life. He dedicated much to serving his peoples and local communities in the Solomons and the Pacific region.



Graham had served GFC for a number of years and very briefly as the Oceania focal point for GFC. He has represented the Pacific Indigenous Peoples in meetings held in Philippines (indicators), Brisbane Australia (Pacific meetings), Xacaret Mexico (climate change), Bonn Germany (climate change), Tonga (GFC/REDD), Panama (FCPF) and continued to be committed to this cause when he was called from this world.

Graham will be sorely missed by his young wife Ayda and three children (daughter 8, son 6, son 1) and all of us who knew him. Whilst many of us in GFC have not had the opportunity to meet him in person, his writings and articulate communication shared with all of us is testament to his skills, spirit, and commitment to the GFC cause.

Graham offered to host Fiu Elisara, chairman of the GFC Board, in his Honiara home during his visit to deliver a paper on "Cultural Rights and Trade" on invitation by UNESCO during a WIPO/UNESCO/SPC three days of Cultural Symposium held in Honiara during the two weeks of activities for the Pacific Cultural Festival also in Honiara Solomon Islands. The passing of Graham was devastating news to Fiu when he learned of his friend's passing whilst enroute to meet him in Honiara. He dedicated his 11 July 2012 presentation to Graham as one of the Pacific fighters for cultural and indigenous peoples rights. MAY HE REST IN PEACE...

Introduction

In 2011, the Global Forest Coalition proved to be a coalition that is driven primarily by the passion and dedication of its member groups, and the many individuals who are sustaining these groups, often voluntarily, in the absence of financial resources. Despite a significantly reduced budget, the coalition was still able to implement a variety of campaigns to defend the rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent peoples, including women in particular.

The campaigns and projects implemented by GFC and its members and allies contributed to mitigating climate change and biodiversity conservation by supporting rights-based forest conservation and restoration, and challenging false corporate-driven solutions to climate change. We raised the awareness of a large number of social movements and policy-makers, and the public at large, especially with respect to the negative social and environmental impacts of false solutions to climate change like REDD+, industrial bio-energy, biochar and Genetically Engineered trees (GE Trees) also called GM trees, GMO trees or transgenic trees.

Together with our allies in the International Consortium on Indigenous Territories and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and members of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, we also highlighted the important role that these territories and areas play in forest conservation, and the need to elaborate appropriate policies and incentive mechanisms for these initiatives, which do not disrespect or otherwise undermine traditional governance structures, value systems, and knowledge.

I. Activities report:

1) Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation through Addressing the Underlying Causes

The aim of this project is to analyse the underlying causes of forest biodiversity loss in five important forest countries (Uganda, Tanzania, India, Colombia and Brazil) and to promote rights-based, socially just and culturally appropriate forest conservation policies and incentive schemes that address these underlying causes.

As part of this project, five members and partners of GFC (Equations, the National Association of Professional Environmentalists/Friends of the Earth-Uganda, the Timberwatch Coalition, Nucleo Amigos da Terra Brazil and CENSAT Agua Viva/Friends of the Earth-Colombia) actively monitored the development of national strategies to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and enhance forest carbon stocks (REDD+) and other forest-related policies. The groups also performed an in-depth analysis of the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and their relevance to REDD+ policy development, and implemented an advocacy and awareness raising campaign on the basis of the results of this analysis.

The 5 groups organised or co-organised no less than 23 local, national, and regional multi-stakeholder workshops and similar events on REDD+ and the drivers of forest loss. The Brazilian and Colombian groups in particular (co-)organised a large number of seminars, making creative use of other major events and available

co-funding. Additionally, NAPE, the partner group in Uganda, and NFFPFW and Equations in India produced a video on REDD+ and the drivers of forest loss. CENSAT, the partner group in Colombia, also produced a regular newsletter on REDD+.

A compilation of some of the main conclusions and recommendations from these multi-stakeholder workshops, "Southern Voices on REDD+, Climate Change and the Drivers of Forest Loss" was produced and presented by representatives of the national partner groups at a side event and media conference at the 17th Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17) (see *below for further details of GFC activities at COP17, Durban*).



Bwindi impenetrable forest, Uganda. Photo: NAPE, Uganda.

2) Countering the Push for Forest Carbon Offsets, Bio-energy, GE trees, Biochar and other False Market-oriented Climate Solutions

This campaign was implemented in close cooperation with GFC members and allies, including La Via Campesina, Indigenous Environmental Network, Biofuelwatch, Global Justice Ecology Project, and other members of Climate Justice Now! and the No REDD Coalition.

As part of the campaign, more than 20 video testimonies by community members impacted by REDD+ and biofuels from 9 different countries were gathered and compiled in a 28 minute long video, which was shown at a well-attended side event at the Durban Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2011 and at a REDD+ training at the parallel Civil Society Space. A 3-minute [trailer](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) of the video 'A Darker Shade of Green: REDD Alert and the Future of Forests' - developed in collaboration with Global Justice Ecology Project - was uploaded on youtube (the full version is available in [English](#) & [Spanish](#) and both have been viewed nearly 8,000 times). Other activities focused on the production and dissemination of a publication consisting of a set of REDD Fairy Tales during the UNFCCC negotiations at COP17 in Durban, South Africa.

GFC and its member groups also organised various capacity-building seminars and strategy meetings at the parallel Civil Society Forum on REDD+ and the risks of soil carbon offset markets and monoculture tree plantations. On Sunday 5 December, parallel to

the pro-REDD+ Forest Day that is organised annually by the Centre for International Forestry Research and other UN agencies, South African member group Timberwatch Coalition organised a "[Fake Forest Day](#)", to highlight the risks of monoculture tree plantations. There was a particularly strong participation of African peasants and other social movements in these meetings.

A particularly inspiring global strategy meeting with representatives of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, peasant movements, women's groups, climate justice activists and other social movements entitled "Beyond REDD+" was organised on 6 December. One of the conclusions of the strategy meeting was that there was a need to become actively engaged in the Rio+20 process, as organisations like UNEP and the Brazilian host Government are trying to use this process as a vehicle to promote REDD+ and other 'bio-economy' schemes.

GFC staff and members also participated in other international meetings and events, such as the World Social Forum; the regional preparatory meetings for the Rio+20 Summit; the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biodiversity; a Scoping Dialogue on Genetically Modified Trees organised by The Forest Dialogue; and several REDD+ related meetings and conferences. In May 2011, GFC representatives took part in an international fact-finding mission exploring the potential impacts of a massive biofuel production project in the north of the Philippines. GFC's Asian Indigenous focal point and alternate NGO focal point for North and Central Asia, who are also major group focal points in the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), participated in

UNFF meetings celebrating the year of forests, including in particular the Major Groups-led Initiative organised in July 2011 and the UNFF meeting on the 'Green Economy' held in October 2011, highlighting concerns about the possible impact of the proposed green economy on Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Global Justice Ecology Project, the North American focal point of GFC, continued to take the lead in the global Stop GE Trees Campaign. Some of its main activities included: the development of inter-connected regional campaign plans including media, outreach and materials for specifically affected regions and countries like the US, Europe, Latin America and Africa; grassroots mobilising and support; mapping of institutions, corporations and universities involved in the process of research, production and commercialisation of agrofuels, bio-energy and GE trees; dissemination of information with other networks; and campaigns to strengthen international policy decisions against GE trees and bio-energy. GJEP also undertook two field visits, to Chiapas in Mexico and Acre in Brazil, to analyse the impact of REDD projects and Jatropha and other bioenergy plantations. These field visits formed the basis for the above-mentioned 'A Darker Shade of Green' REDD video.

With support from ICCO, through GFC's member organisation Iniciativa Amatocodie, GFC also published a report on the potential impacts of REDD+ on Indigenous Peoples in the Gran Chaco in the heart of South America.

The campaign also promoted people-centred alternatives to neoliberal climate change policies, by promoting Indigenous

territories and community conserved areas (ICCAs) as an alternative to corporate-driven REDD+ schemes, and disseminating the results of a seminar on appropriate ways to support such people-centered alternatives to conserve and restore forests. A clear recommendation from this [seminar](#) was that more support is needed for campaigns by Indigenous peoples and local communities to help enable them to defend their territories against corporate destruction.

3) Campaigning at the UNFCCC COP-17

The campaign included the publication of five 'REDD Fairy Tales', linking popular and traditional fairy tales with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)-backed scheme to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and enhance forest carbon stocks (REDD+). We chose two African fairy tales: [Ananse](#) the wicked spider from Ghana and [Kaggen the trickster](#) from South Africa, and three European ones: [Snow-white and the poisoned apple](#), the [Emperor's New Clothes](#), and [Rumpelstiltskin](#). At the exhibition space, during the first week of the COP, we also shared other campaign materials.

Side events featuring testimonies by Indigenous peoples and social movements on the impact of REDD+ and other false solutions were organised at the October climate talks in Panama and the Durban Climate COP. The side event in Panama focused on the experiences of our member group *Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena*, an organization of Guna Indigenous People from an area that is under severe pressure from REDD+ promoters,

despite the fact that the Guna Congress has rejected REDD+ until now.

At our side event at the Durban COP, co-organised with our member groups and allies GJEP (US), CENESTA (Iran) and Natural Justice (South Africa), we also hosted the ["Muddled Moose Award" for the most preposterous REDD fairy tale](#). The winner of the Muddled Moose was the myth that 'REDD will support Indigenous Peoples'. At the same time, GFC supported the organisation of an additional side event at the Rio Pavilion, together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity, and Natural Justice. Moreover, GFC member group Econexus organised a well-attended side event on the risks of including agriculture and soils in carbon markets, highlighting the risks of REDD+ and tree plantations, and the fairy tale that such markets would benefit forests.



GFC representatives at side event on land and carbon markets organised by GFC member group Econexus in Durban. Photo: Simone Lovera.

4) Promoting Appropriate Support for Indigenous Territories and Community Conservation

Despite the fact that there is a broad consensus amongst policy-makers that forest conservation and restoration initiatives by Indigenous peoples and local communities play a key role in rights-based, socially just strategies to reduce forest loss, there has been remarkably little analysis of appropriate ways of promoting such initiatives. For this reason, the Global Forest Coalition and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)'s REDD and Communities Task Force¹ initiated a joint investigation into the 'do's and don'ts' of supporting forest conservation and restoration initiatives by indigenous peoples and local communities.



International Alliance of Indigenous People against REDD at COP17. Photo: Hortencia Hidalgo, Consejo Autónomo Aymara.

This work builds on previous analysis of the 'do's and don'ts' of supporting Indigenous Conserved Territories and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) conducted by the ICCA Consortium;² and a preliminary analysis of key factors that have contributed to the success of community and indigenous peoples' initiatives to conserve and restore forests, which the Global Forest Coalition conducted in 2010. The results of these projects and a series of initial interviews with indigenous community representatives were summarised in a discussion paper. This paper formed the basis for an interactive, open seminar with representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples, which took place on 29 November 2011 in Durban, South Africa. The workshop was attended by over 35 representatives of indigenous peoples, peasant movements, women's groups, trade unions and NGOs, especially from Africa.

The resulting report on the '*Do's and Don'ts of Supporting forest conservation and restoration initiatives by local communities and indigenous peoples*'³ reflects the suggestions, recommendations and other views on appropriate ways of support their initiatives to conserve and restore forests which were put forward by the representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities themselves. Often, discussions about REDD+ and other forest policy mechanisms are dominated by national and international NGOs, governments, researchers and international financial institutions that come with their own pre-set ideas about what kind of support is needed. As noted during the workshop, this was one of

² <http://www.iccaforum.org>

³ <http://globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/final-report-dos-and-donts.pdf>

the few opportunities where representatives of movements of local people could present their own views on what kind of support they actually want.

The results of the seminar and an analysis were published in English and Spanish and presented at several side events and other gatherings. They were also presented through a poster session at CIFOR Forest Day 5 and at the exhibition GFC organised at the Climate Conference of the Parties in Durban.

II. Media & Outreach Campaigns

An active media outreach campaign has been implemented to further increase the awareness of policy-makers and the public at large about the need to address drivers of forest loss like bio-energy and green land grabbing, which are being promoted in the name of climate change. GFC drafted and helped to disseminate a No REDD Coalition letter supported by over 200 organisations, denouncing the diversion of forest and development funding to REDD+. We also organised a well-attended media conference to present the letter at the climate negotiations in Durban. GFC and its members participated actively in public actions organised by the new Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on Climate Change against REDD+, and the massive civil obedience actions that took place the last days of the COP.

Media campaigns were also organised around the handing out of the Muddled Moose Award for the Most Preposterous REDD Fairy , and the publication of the results of the seminar on the 'do's and

don'ts of supporting forest conservation and restoration initiatives by Indigenous Peoples and local communities'.



Mobilisation at COP11, Durban. Photo: Hortencia Hidalgo, Consejo Autónomo Aymara.

An exhibition with briefing papers and other materials on REDD+ and the drivers of forest loss, especially as they relate to the expansion of industrial bioenergy and biochar, was organised at the Climate Convention's Subsidiary Body meetings in June 2011 and the Durban Climate COP. The exhibition in Durban also featured a poster presenting the results of the seminar on appropriate ways to support Indigenous peoples' and community initiatives.

Furthermore, GFC has intensified its outreach through social media like Facebook and Twitter. We continued the publication of our

quarterly newsletter on international forest policy, 'Forest Cover', which is published in English and Spanish and widely disseminated amongst members, allies and governmental policy-makers.

III. Results of Our Activities

As GFC always aims to implement campaigns in close cooperation with its members and other close allies, the results and outcomes of GFC's campaigns are, by definition, the results of the activities of a large number of other organisations and movements as well. Direct and indirect outcomes of these campaigns include:

- Increased capacity of five national partner groups in terms of monitoring developments related to REDD+ in their countries and analysing the drivers of forest loss.
- Increased awareness of a large number of social movements, policy-makers, wider public and other actors about the potential risks of REDD+, industrial bio-energy, biochar, GE trees, and green capitalism in general, at the international level and in the five countries involved. The critique on these false solutions to climate change has been echoed by many policy makers, researchers, and media outlets, and several countries have started to withdraw or reconsider subsidies for bioenergy production and REDD+ programs.
- Enhanced relationships and alliances with members and like-minded NGOs, IPOs, women's groups and social movements.
- Greater in-depth analysis of existing and/or already proposed actions to reduce forest loss, and the identification of additional actions or remedies,, including campaigns to address the expansion of monocultures for agrofuel production, and improved support structures for community forest management.
- Approximately 200 representatives of Governments, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, NGOs and other institutions participated in the side events (co-) organised by GFC in 2011. The events provided a space for representatives of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and networks, peasant movements, women's groups and NGOs to present an in-depth analysis of some of the latest policy developments related to forests and climate change.
- Our media campaign led to press coverage in, amongst others, US national public radio, Inter Press Service, L'Agence France-Presse, Reuters, Democracy Now, AllAfrica, Alternet and the Mercury (one of South Africa's main newspapers). GFC also has a rapidly increasing number of followers on Facebook and Twitter.
- Despite strong pressure from large conservation groups, corporate actors and a broad coalition of governments, the climate Conference of the Parties decided to postpone the decision about the possible inclusion of REDD+ and agricultural monocultures in mandatory carbon market mechanisms for at least one year. While there is a continuing threat that REDD+ and agriculture will be included through future decisions, even forest carbon market

proponents are now stating that “[Few observers expect to see a REDD+ market emerge this side of 2020](#)”. As voluntary forest carbon offset markets were primarily driven by the speculation that the UN would recognise them, these low expectations for a formal market will have significant impacts on the voluntary market as well.

- Just before this annual report went to print we received the good news that the bio-ethanol production project in Isabela Province in the Philippines, which was expected to trigger massive land grabbing and industrial pollution, was halted. This success was primarily the result of the Philippine peasant movements and NGOs that led the campaign against this project, but GFC is proud to have participated in one of the campaign activities, the International Fact Finding Mission in May 2011.



International Fact Finding Mission to analyse impacts agrofuel project in Isabela Province, Philippines. Photo: Simone Lovera.

I. Quality Management

Despite the limited resources available, GFC was able to organise its annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting, making use of the fact that many regional focal points and Board members attended the 17th Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa. The meetings were held on 30 November and 1 December, and attended by coordination group members, Board members and representatives of other national partner groups that were in Durban. The meetings were very productive and analysed the strengths and weaknesses of the coalition, and the challenges it faced in light of the new funding situation. The subsequent meeting of the Board of the Global Forest Coalition developed a number of concrete recommendations in this respect.

Other elements of the internal Quality Management System include a regular internal newsletter ‘Roots’, which includes reports by staff, focal points and partner groups on their activities, and the Digital Performance System, which is accessible to all GFC members, allies and partners via the GFC website <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org>

IV. Difficulties, shortcomings and possible remedies

Early in 2011, the new, rightwing Government of the Netherlands decided that it would not continue its financial support to the Global Forest Coalition and a large number of other NGOs and NGO

networks. As a result, GFC's core funding decreased by 80% between 2010 and 2011. While other, more progressive donors like the Isvara Foundation and Lush Foundation have started to contribute to GFC's work, and while Swedbio renewed its much-appreciated support to the '*Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation through Addressing the Underlying Causes*' project, financial resources were very constrained in 2011. This meant, amongst other things, that a modest financial contribution per year could only be provided to the five national partner groups. It was pointed out during the annual evaluation meeting that this is a very small amount in light of the significant challenges faced, especially when it concerns popular education in large countries like Brazil.

Despite this limited financial contribution, however, the national groups successfully implemented an impressive amount of activities, principally as a result of generous contributions in volunteer staff time and, especially in the case of the local project in Brazil, significant amounts of co-funding from other donors for the activities that were jointly organised with other NGOs. The active involvement of GFC in international processes triggered welcome additional pressure to support these national campaigns.

The GFC annual evaluation meeting in December 2011 identified one of the main challenges as being the overall level of ambition of the coalition, especially with respect to the '*Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation through Addressing the Underlying Causes*' project; these levels of ambition are very high when compared to the available budget. Due to the fact that GFC's core funding decreased significantly, its paid staff capacity is very limited. Thanks to a large number of in-kind contributions in (often volunteer) staff



**Sandra Viviana Cuellar former
GFC NGO focal point for Latin
America and the Caribbean.
Photo: CENSAT-Agua Viva.**

time and travel costs by GFC members, many of the different projects and campaigns were still implemented as planned, but it led to an unsustainable work burden for some of the staff and member groups.

One of the main challenges reported by GFC's national partner groups was their governments' strong support for REDD+ as a market-oriented conservation strategy. REDD+ has given a boost to green capitalism and created financial expectations amongst many sectors of society,

including a large number of communities, which has triggered confusion about the supposed benefits of these projects, and created divisions and conflicts. There is still a significant lack of knowledge and understanding of the impacts of such projects and strategies amongst communities and environmental activists.

A further specific challenge in Colombia is the ongoing military political conflict, which triggers intimidation of communities and human rights violations impacting communities as well as staff of environmental organisations. In February 2011, former GFC focal point Sandra Cuellar went missing, and it is feared her disappearance might be retaliation for her environmental activism.

Summary financial report

The Financial Statements for 2011 are in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 "Not-for-profit organisations" 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 programmes, projects, campaigns and other activities of the Global Forest Coalition and its focal points: the Swedish Biodiversity Centre (Swedbio), the Isvara Foundation, the Lush Foundation, IUCN CEESP and the many organisations and private individuals that provided small contributions to specific activities of the Coalition.

Statement of income and expenses

	Notes	2011		Budget		2010	
		€	€	€	€	€	€
GRANTS							
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Netherlands)	5	42.944		0		377.458	
Swedbio (Sweden)		55.720		55.720		52.188	
Other		<u>46.705</u>		<u>36.928</u>		<u>129.166</u>	
		145.369		92.648		558.812	
EXPENSES							
	6	101.619		92.648		562.265	
RESULT FOR THE YEAR							
		<u>43.750</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>-3.453</u>	

Balance sheet as at 31 december

	Notes	2011		2010	
		€	€	€	€
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash	1	3.003		393	
Accrued receivables	2	<u>4.300</u>		<u>11.754</u>	
TOTAL			<u>7.303</u>		<u>12.147</u>
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	3	42.307		90.901	
Unfunded result	4	<u>-35.004</u>		<u>-78.754</u>	
TOTAL			<u>7.303</u>		<u>12.147</u>



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 to strive for rights-based, socially just and effective forest conservation policies. 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