

Addressing the Real Drivers of Forest Loss and Forest Land Grabbing

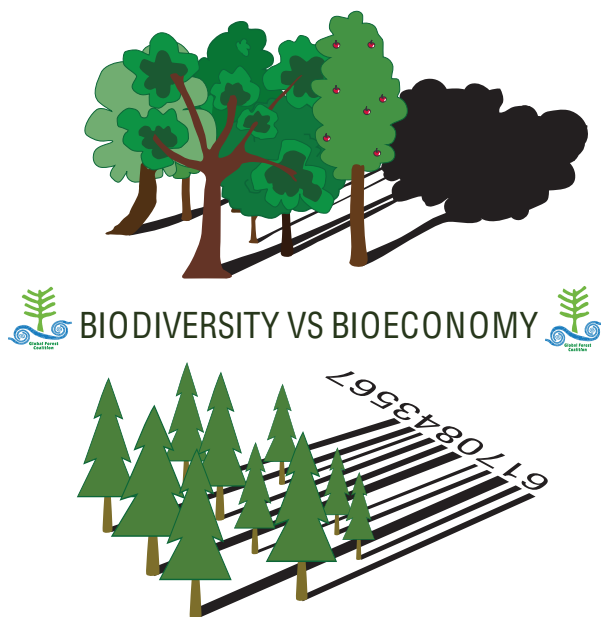
**Global Forest Coalition
Annual Report 2012**



About the cover

Monoculture tree plantations in Colombia.

Photo: CENSAT Agua Viva







Who we are:

Board of the Foundation GFC in 2012 - 2013:

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

Overview of the GFC Focal points and Staff in 2012:

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-  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: Tatiana Roa and Diego Cardona, Censat Agua Viva/Amigos de la Tierra, Colombia
-  NGO Focal points Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia: Anna Laletina, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia and Ilya Domashov, BIOM, Kyrgyzstan
-  NGO Focal point Africa: Wally Menne, Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa
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Message by the chair: The Future We Do NOT Want

A 'Green Economy' marked by thousands of hectares of fresh new monoculture tree plantations producing raw material for the 'bioeconomy' and a drastic expansion of 'natural capital' markets. That was the future hard-core foresters and other policy-makers were trying to sell to the world in the run-up to the "Rio+20" UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which marked the year 2012. Glossy reports on the value of 'ecosystem services' were published to convince policy-makers that climate change and other global crises could easily be solved through business as usual, provided we incorporated forests and other 'natural capital' in global markets for 'environmental products and services'. A little bit of green paint was assumed to be sufficient to color the grey economy into an engine of unlimited 'green' economic growth and nature protection.

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and like-minded social and environmental movements mobilized massively prior to and at the Rio+20 Conference to reject these false solutions. At the Rio Peoples' Summit, which took place parallel to the official conference, 50.000 people denounced the 'green economy' as follows: *"At Rio+20 we have seen the repetition of the failed script of false solutions proposed by the very same actors who have caused the global crisis. As this crisis deepens, corporations continue to advance in a growing attack on the rights of the peoples, democracy and nature, seizing control over the commons of humanity to save the economic-financial system..... Capitalism further leads to the loss of social, democratic and community control over natural resources and strategic services, which continue being privatized, turning rights into merchandise and limiting people's access to the goods and services needed for survival."*

Happily, these movements were not alone in their market-scepticism: inside the negotiations developing countries voiced strong opposition to terms like 'environmental services', claiming it formed an instrument to privatize and commodify the world's commons. They also criticized the term 'green economy' itself, which received only luke-warm support in the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want", despite vehement attempts by especially the UN Environment Program to turn it into the central rallying point for the conference.

Increasing scepticism regarding market-based and other corporate-driven approaches to forest and biodiversity conservation marked other 2012 events as well. The 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) of the Biodiversity Convention in Hyderabad, India in October strongly emphasized the need for public policies and public funding to be prioritized over 'innovative' market-based financial mechanisms, and at the Climate COP18 one month later, - collapsed carbon markets and the lack of clarity about future finance stalled negotiations on corporate-driven schemes to reduce emissions from forest loss (REDD+).

GFC and its allies have been warning since 2004 that turning forests and other ecosystems into commerce will harm Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women. Let us hope that our new analysis that the bioeconomy will cause significant harm will take less than 9 years to be heard. Life is Not for Sale!

Andrey Laletin, Chairperson, Global Forest Coalition

1. Introduction: Addressing the 'green' bioeconomy as a driver of forest loss and forest land grabbing

Three complementary campaigns formed the heart of GFC's work in 2012: A campaign to address the underlying causes of forest loss, a campaign to oppose the 'green' bioeconomy as a driver of the privatization and commodification of forests, and a campaign to address resulting forest land grabbing amongst Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women.

Throughout the year, testimonies, case studies and other information on the impacts of the bioeconomy and other drivers of forest loss and forest land grabbing on local communities, Indigenous Peoples and women were gathered and disseminated through the GFC website and social media, and relevant listserves. Concrete activities that were implemented included the publication of [a report on the social and environmental risks of the bio-economy](#), which was launched on the same day as Barack Obama launched his new bioeconomy strategy. The report was presented during various side events, workshops and exhibitions that were organized at the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Biodiversity Convention and the Climate Convention in May and June 2012, Rio+20, the Conferences of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention and Climate Convention in October and December 2012 and other relevant events.

The report and other materials demonstrating the impacts of green land grabbing and other drivers were also widely disseminated amongst social movements and international networks of Indigenous Peoples and other forest peoples, NGOs and women's groups. [A short leaflet](#) was produced which included a summary of the main findings and weblinks to the GFC report as well as other

reports on different aspects of the bioeconomy by allied groups like Biofuelwatch, Global Justice Ecology Group, ETC group and Friends of the Earth International. The leaflet was widely disseminated at Biodiversity and Climate Conferences of the Parties as well.



*GFC representatives during the Women's March at the Rio+20 Summit. Photo
Isis Alvarez*

GFC also supported several campaigns against forest destruction and green land grabbing initiated by its member groups, including Protect the Forest-Sweden, Biofuelwatch and the Cordillera's Peoples' Alliance. In November 2012 GFC launched a [comprehensive repository featuring close to 40 videos of cases from](#)

[around the world](#) where people and the environment resulted affected from the commodification of forests.

These campaigns have contributed significantly to increased awareness of the social and environmental risks of the bioeconomy and other drivers of forest loss and green land grabbing amongst social movements, women's groups and policy-makers. In particular, there is a sharply increased awareness of the risks of industrial wood-based bioenergy production, which is a core element of the bioeconomy. As a result, many biodiversity and other policy-makers are now openly opposing industrial bioenergy. The campaigns highlighting the risks of policies to reduce emissions from forest loss and forest carbon offsets (REDD+) have been highly successful as well. Southern governments strongly criticized REDD+ and other environmental services markets at Rio+20 and the Biodiversity negotiations, and at the climate talks in December 2012 the negotiations on REDD+ basically stalled. There is increasing interest in these countries for alternatives to REDD+ and other market-based approaches.

2. National Campaigns on Addressing the Underlying Causes of Forest Loss

The aim of the underlying causes campaign is to analyse the underlying causes of forest biodiversity loss in 5 important forest countries (Uganda, Tanzania, India, Colombia and Brazil) and to integrate the results of this analysis into national processes to develop strategies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and other relevant forest conservation policies. The project is being

implemented in cooperation with a large number GFC members and allies, including members of the CBD Alliance, the ICCA Consortium and the Women's Major Group for Rio+20, of which GFC is a core member.

5 national NGOs in 5 different countries (India, Uganda, Tanzania, Brazil and Colombia) have been enabled to actively monitor the development of national REDD strategies and other forest policies and to analyze the underlying causes of forest loss. The groups implemented an advocacy and awareness raising campaign on the basis of the results of their analysis.

In India, in-depth action research including an 11-day field visit was undertaken culminating in a regional strategy meeting to analyze issues around community forest governance and the Green India Mission, India's forest and climate change strategy. In Uganda, activities included the organization of a workshop on the impacts of biofuels on community rights and traditional forest-related knowledge, and a strategy meeting, radio show and video presentations on REDD+.

Work in Tanzania focused on monitoring REDD+ policy development and forest carbon offset projects, and sharing the information amongst members of a newly established East African NGO forest network. In Colombia, aside from monitoring and disseminating information on REDD+ development, the partner group organized 7 public events and published various reports and policy documents in the run up for the Rio+20 conference, addressing the links between REDD+ and the "green economy".



Kureeba David presenting on progress of REDD+ in Uganda during a meeting held at Kenya school of monetary studies. Photo: NAPE

They also produced a video on the impact of large-scale tree plantations.

In Brazil, the national group was actively involved in the advocacy campaigns targeting the new Forest Code. Activities included the co-organization of and/or participation in more than 9 workshops, strategy meetings, hearings and other events to raise the awareness of policy-makers, social movements, NGOs, IPOs and the public at large on the ineffectiveness of the new forest policy proposals as far as addressing the drivers of forest loss is concerned. The Brazilian partner group Nucleo Amigos da Terra-Brazil (NAT) also took the lead in organizing a well attended capacity-building event on REDD+ at the Peoples' Summit that took place parallel to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

At the international level, an active advocacy campaign was implemented to further raise the awareness of policy-makers on the need to address the real drivers of forest loss, on the need for effective support for Indigenous Territories and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), and on the inherent risks of REDD+ in this respect. The campaign specifically targeted meetings of UN-REDD and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (March, Asuncion), the Dialogue Seminar on Scaling Up Biodiversity Finance (March, Quito), the meetings of the Convention on Biodiversity in May (CBD SBSTTA, Montreal) and October (CBD COP11, Hyderabad), the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May, New York), the meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in June (Bonn), August (Bangkok) and November/December (Doha), and the Rio+20 Summit in June and its preparatory meetings. GFC (co-) organized a total of 5 side events on REDD+, the drivers of forest loss and the need to support alternatives like ICCAs at these meetings. We also made a formal submission to the UNFCCC on the underlying causes of forest loss.

In April, the report on the bio-economy as a driver of forest loss and land grabbing was launched. A short leaflet with links to this report and various other reports by members and allies on the impacts of the bioeconomy on forests and biodiversity was published in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese. An exhibition with these and other campaign materials, including GFC's newsletter Forest Cover, and the compilation of the recommendations of the workshops the 5 national groups organized in 2011, "Southern Voices on REDD+, Climate Change and the Drivers of Forest Loss", was organized at the UNFCCC meetings in Bonn and Doha. Throughout the year, a media and public outreach campaign was implemented, including through facebook, twitter and the GFC website and blog.

3. Organization of international workshops and seminars

As a result of the significant strengthening of its gender program, and as the NGO Major Group for the Rio+20 Summit was very divided, GFC decided to collaborate closely with the Women's Major Group in its advocacy campaigns targeting Rio+20. GFC has become member of the core group and helped organizing several capacity-building activities for women's groups on REDD+ and the concept of the green economy as a driver of forest loss.

From 19 to 22 april we participated in the International Congress of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), where we organized a workshop on the bioeconomy and the financialization of nature as an underlying cause of forest loss. The workshop was co-organized in collaboration with our partner group NAT which gave a presentation at the workshop, and the World Rainforest Movement.

GFC helped organizing several workshops at the Peoples' Summit that took place parallel to the Rio+20 Summit itself. The Brazilian partner group NAT took the lead, in cooperation with GFC and a large number of national and international allies in the organization of a well attended capacity-building event on REDD+ and the financialization of nature. Over 100 people participated in the event, which included presentations on REDD+ project from many different countries, as well as a presentation of a portuguese translation of the video documentary "[A Darker Shade of Green, REDD and the Future of the Forest](#)". The results of the workshop were fed into the Convergence Assembly and the subsequent final declaration of the Summit.



Women's strategy meeting at the Peoples' Summit. Photo Isis Alvarez

GFC collaborated closely with the International Consortium on Indigenous territories and Community Conserved Areas in Rio, which organized 4 different events to show the important role of ICCAs in fostering sustainable livelihoods and conserving precious ecosystems like forests. GFC also participated in the various strategy meetings and other events organized by the ICCA Consortium parallel to the 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity.

Other events co-organized included a strategy meeting of an international network of NGOs and IPOs working on REDD+ and a skill-share of women's groups working inside and outside the negotiations on campaign strategies around Rio+20. Indigenous representatives of GFC also participated actively in the different

Indigenous Peoples' Summits that were organized parallel to the Rio+20 summit.



GFC speaking at ICCA Consortium event during CBD's COP11, Hyderabad, India. Photo: Isis Alvarez

The different seminars and workshops (co-)organized by GFC and its partner groups were attended by more than 1000 people and contributed significantly to the increased awareness of especially women's groups and social movements working on REDD+ of the need to address the real underlying causes of forest loss, including the expansion of industrial bioenergy which is promoted through so-called bioeconomy policies.

4. Publication of reports, briefing papers and other information materials

Throughout the year, GFC disseminated information about the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and

REDD, through its website, listserves, blog, and social media. This included the publication of a number of reports on specific drivers.

The report on the seminar on appropriate ways to support ICCAs that was organized by GFC in collaboration with the ICCA Consortium and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy in 2011 was published in March 2012. GFC participated actively in events organized by the ICCA Consortium at the Peoples' Summit, the Rio+20 meeting and CBD COP11, highlighting the importance of legal and political support to ICCAs as an alternative to REDD+. Various staff members and member groups of GFC also participated actively in the review of policies and laws supporting ICCAs that was coordinated by Natural Justice. It was felt that this ongoing analytical work on how to support and replicate drivers of forest *conservation* forms an important complement to the campaign to highlight and resist the drivers of forest loss.

The promotion of a rapid increase in the consumption of wood and biomass commodities that require significant amounts of land through policies promoting the 'bioeconomy' was identified as one of the drivers of forest loss that could potentially most easily be influenced, as this driver of forest loss is heavily supported by subsidies and other incentives. In April, a report on the social and environmental risks of the bio-economy was launched. A short leaflet with links to this report and various other reports by members and allies on the impacts of the bioeconomy on forests and biodiversity was subsequently published at the 11th Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese.

GFC also contributed to, provided translation support for and/or helped disseminating a number of specific briefing papers on different drivers of forest loss and REDD+ by its member groups. As

mentioned above, Censat and NAT published reports and articles on the 'green economy' and how it may become a driver of forest loss rather than forest conservation. Biofuelwatch published a number of briefing papers on wood-based industrial bioenergy (see for example '[Sustainable Biomass: A Modern Myth](#)'), which is a rapidly growing driver of forest loss and the role the [Sustainable Energy for All Initiative](#) is playing in promoting large-scale wood-based bioenergy. It also continued its analytical work on the risks of biochar.



Monoculture tree plantations in the Czech Republic providing biomass for the Bioeconomy. Photo: Simone Lovera

Global Justice Ecology Project with help of GFC's outreach and communication officer, took the lead in publishing a [new briefing](#)

[paper on the risks of Genetically Engineered trees in Latin America](#).

GFC also participated in the production of [a compilation of civil society views on new and innovative financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation](#), which was coordinated by the CBD Alliance. This compilation was disseminated, amongst others, at the Dialogue Seminar on Scaling Up Finance for Biodiversity, which was organized by the CBD Secretariat and the Governments of Sweden, Ecuador, Norway, India and Japan in Quito, Ecuador, in March.

Together with the CBD Alliance GFC volunteered to coordinate civil society input related to biodiversity for the Rio+20 process. In March 2012 it coordinated the compilation of a large number of concrete text suggestions related to biodiversity for the proposed Rio+20 Outcome document. These text suggestions were sent by the CBD Alliance to the key negotiators in the Rio20 Summit. During the negotiations for the Rio+20 Summit and the Summit itself, regular updates on the negotiations were sent to the listserve of the CBD Alliance.

Moreover, GFC staff and various of its members contributed actively to the different briefing papers on the most important agenda items of the 11th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biodiversity.

In November and December GFC contributed to the compilation of a position paper by the Women's Major Group, of which GFC is a core member, on the post Rio+20 agenda. This position paper will be published in July 2013 as a contribution to the discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 Agenda.

Last but not least, three issues of [Forest Cover](#), the regular GFC newsletter on international forest policy in English and Spanish,

were published. Exhibitions with these and other campaign materials were organized at the UNFCCC meetings in Bonn and Doha.

5. International Advocacy Campaign and Side Events



GFC members and allies at CBD COP11. Photo: Isis Alvarez

An active international advocacy campaign was implemented to further raise the awareness of policy-makers on the need to address the real drivers of forest loss, on the need for effective support for Indigenous Territories and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and on the inherent risks of REDD+ in this respect. While the original travel budget was limited, GFC representatives were able to participate in a large number of different meetings thanks to the travel support of the Women's Major Group for Rio+20, of which GFC is a core group member, the CBD Alliance, the UN Forum on Forests, The Christensen Fund or other donors. GFC staff and focal points participated actively in the following meetings:

- the meetings of UN-REDD and the Forest Carbon

- Partnership Facility (March, Asuncion)
- the dialogue seminar on Scaling Up Biodiversity Finance (March, Quito)
- the preparatory negotiations for the Rio+ 20 Summit (March, New York)
- the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May, New York)
- the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biodiversity in (May, Montreal)
- the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (June, Bonn)
- the meetings of the ad hoc working groups on long-term cooperative action and the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC (August, Bangkok)
- the Rio+20 Summit (June, Rio de Janeiro) and parallel events
- the 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity (October, Hyderabad)
- the 18th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (November/December, Doha)

Partner group representatives attended various intergovernmental meetings related to forests as well, including in particular the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention (CBD COP11), where the annual monitoring, evaluation and planning meeting and a planning meeting for the Community Conservation Resilience Assessment were organized.

GFC (co-) organized a total of 5 side events on REDD+, the drivers of forest loss and the need to support alternatives like ICCAs at these meetings.



Member group representatives from Uganda and Tanzania and GFC's new chair Andrey Laletin at CBD COP11. Photo: Isis Alvarez

- On 3 May, lunchtime, at the meeting of the CBD SBSTTA in Montreal, a side event entitled 'Bioeconomy versus Biodiversity' was organized, where the report on the risks and negative impacts of the expansion of markets in biomass-based products and services was presented. The event specifically addressed the negative impacts on biological and cultural diversity and the rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples and women.
- On the evening of the same day at the CBD SBSTTA meeting a side event on Climate Change and the Do's and Don'ts of supporting Indigenous and Community Initiatives to

Conserve and Restore Forests was organized, which included speakers from Indigenous Peoples, fisherfolk movements and scientific organizations presenting their ICCAs and what initiatives should be taken to support them

- On 17 May, at the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC meeting in Bonn, a side event was organized on "Contradictions in the Bioeconomy: REDD+, Bioenergy and alternative biocultural approaches." The event included a presentation of the report on the impacts of the bioeconomy as a driver of forest loss, and a presentation of the paper on appropriate support mechanisms for ICCAs, as an alternative approach to forest conservation.
- On 8 October, at the 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity, a side event was organized on "the New Bioeconomy, Innovative Financial Mechanisms, Payments for Environmental Services, REDD+ and the Financialization of Biodiversity". The event was organized by a broad coalition of organizations: Global Forest Coalition, the ICCA Consortium, Unnayan Onneshan, CBD Alliance, Econexus, Friends of the Earth International and Friends of the Siberian Forests. The event specifically discussed the potential 'green land grabbing' that might be triggered by these new trends and mechanisms in countries like India, and the impacts this might have on Indian forest communities.
- On 28 November, at the 18th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC GFC, in collaboration with CENESTA and the ICCA Consortium organized a side event on "The Bioeconomy: Blessing or Curse for Climate Change Mitigation?" The event did not only discuss the possible impacts of the bioeconomy on women and Indigenous

Peoples, but also include a presentation on the latest state of negotiations on agriculture and REDD+ within the UNFCCC and how possible outcomes would further incentivize the bioeconomy.



Side event co-organized by GFC, CBD Alliance and others at CBD COP11. Photo: Isis Alvarez

Aside from these events, GFC staff and focal points were also invited to speak at various other side events, including several events organized by the ICCA Consortium, where the paper on appropriate ways to support ICCAs was presented, and side events at Rio+20 and other events organized by - core group members of – the Women’s Major Group, where the specific impacts of the bioeconomy on women was highlighted. At the 18th COP of the UNFCCC GFC was invited to speak at a side event on Biomass for

climate-smart energy: opportunity or risk? Organized by the European Economic and Social Committee.

In February 2012, in response to a call for submissions on the drivers of forest loss by the UNFCCC secretariat, GFC formally submitted the summary of the report on the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation that it had produced in 2010. GFC also delivered several formal interventions to the UNFCCC and CBD meetings, including on behalf of larger groupings like Climate Justice Now!

6. Media & Outreach Campaigns

Media and outreach remains an important strategy for GFC, even though the capacity of the organization in terms of formal media work is very limited at the moment. But despite the lack of a full-time or even part-time media officer, no less than 13 press releases were disseminated in 2012, especially on the risks of the bioeconomy and other drivers of forest loss. Three radio interviews were given as well.

The outreach on social media was even larger. Throughout the year the GFC communication and outreach officer posted a broad variety of updates on new GFC publications and activities, and campaigns and activities by like-minded Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups on the GFC twitter and facebook sites, which have an increasing number of followers.

Lastly, another important communication and outreach activity was the launch, in November 2012, of a web-based repository of video testimonies on the impacts of REDD+ and the drivers of deforestation. This repository includes short summaries of and weblinks to a large number of videos by like-minded groups that include testimonies by community representatives on the impacts of

REDD+, bioenergy, and deforestation. It thus aims to provide a practical guides to some of the best video material on these issues that is publicly available on the web.



Radio Talk Show by NAPE in Uganda. Photo: NAPE

Formal press releases were disseminated on 26 April, 12 June, 19 June (2 releases), 19 June, 21 June, 21 September, 2 October, 7 October, 19 October, 13 November, 27 November and 6 December. A large number of online-media reported on these releases, including outlets for relevant policy institutes like CIFOR and EESC.

7. Results of Our Activities

The year 2012 saw an important shift in thinking on REDD+ and other market-based or market-oriented forest conservation policies.

An increasing number of policy-makers is closely aware of the need to address the underlying causes of forest loss, as indicated by their submissions on this issue to the UNFCCC secretariat and their interventions at the in-session workshop on financial support for REDD+ and other forest policies at the climate talks in August in Bangkok. Regretfully, REDD+ negotiations themselves were overtaken by the concern about medium-term and long-term financial support for REDD+, so the actual discussions on the drivers of forest loss were postponed until 2013. However, specific drivers, like the direct and indirect impacts of large-scale bioenergy, are subject to tense policy discussions within countries and regions like the European Union. The corporate interests in these drivers are fighting back vehemently, though, so significant continued campaign work is needed to ensure effective policy measures are taken to address them.

There are also clear indications that policy-makers, especially in Southern countries, are becoming more aware of the risks of market-based conservation mechanisms. At the Dialogue Seminar on Scaling Up Biodiversity Finance in Quito, representatives of Southern governments expressed strong cautions about using market-based mechanisms as funding sources for biodiversity conservation. While especially West European governments continued to push for pro-industry, market-based approaches like markets in environmental services during the Rio+20 negotiations, the G77, which was acting as a block, expressed strong reservations and even requested the removal of the term "environmental services" from the entire negotiation text.

At the UNFCCC in-session workshop on funding sources for REDD+ and other forest policies like the joint mitigation and adaptation mechanism proposed by Bolivia, the Least Developed Countries and other Parties expressed their doubts about carbon markets, and called for public funding as the main source of REDD finance instead.

Meanwhile, increasing numbers of policy-makers are becoming critical about REDD+ itself. At the Rio+20 Summit, a reference to REDD+ in the text was almost removed, only Norway insisted openly that the reference be maintained. At the CBD Conference of the Parties countries like Brazil emphasized that they saw REDD as just one of many forest policies. At the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties itself, REDD+ negotiations stalled over a lack of willingness by donor countries to commit significant additional funding to REDD+.

The lack of progress at the climate talks on the drivers of forest loss was partly compensated for by significant progress at the Biodiversity Conference of the Parties. While stiff opposition by a minority of States resulted in some texts to be watered down, the CBD COP produced a clear recommendation to redirect perverse incentives that might lead to biodiversity loss, including in the field of biofuels. The CBD COP can be seen as a success in terms of expressing support for Indigenous territories and community conserved areas as well. Thanks to an intense advocacy campaign by the ICCA Consortium, in which GFC staff and members participated actively, there are multiple references to the need to recognize and support ICCAs in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The challenge in the coming years will be to ensure these recommendations are effectively implemented.

The project has significantly contributed to the capacity of the 5 national partner groups to monitor developments related to REDD+ in their countries and to analyze the drivers of forest loss. This has

resulted in successful public awareness raising campaigns on the need to address the real underlying causes of forest loss and the short-comings of the REDD+ proposal in this respect, and the risks of the 'green economy' discourse of which REDD+ is an integrated part.



Demonstration at the Rio+20 Summit. Photo: Isis Alvarez

Especially in Brazil and Colombia the groups made use of their existing analysis and campaign materials to further elaborate and consolidate a critical analytical approach towards the 'green economy' as one of the central discourses of the Rio+20 Summit. In both countries the national partner groups played a central role in the consolidation of joint declarations by a large number of social

movements, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations on these issues.

In Uganda, the project showed that concrete results from the capacity-building and awareness-raising activities were possible: Once communities are empowered they can influence their leaders from an informed point of view. Such communities can resist and influence decisions about the drivers of forest loss. An example are the ongoing attempts by Ugandan government to give away the biologically rich Mabira forest for sugarcane growing. As our member group NAPE reported, communities resisted these attempts openly 'without fear, fever or intimidation'. Information makes communities stronger and bolder. Especially video documentaries are more easily understood and interpreted by community members than publications.

An important concrete result in Colombia was the documentation of the conflicts generated by monoculture tree plantations in the Cauca department. The direct and indirect replacement of forests by monoculture tree plantations is widely seen as a major cause of forest biodiversity loss. In fact, many groups have identified this replacement as the single most threatening driver of forest biodiversity loss in the 21st century.

Last but not least it should be emphasized that GFC always works in very close cooperation with other networks and organizations, including the already mentioned ICCA Consortium, the CBD Alliance, the Women's Major Group for Rio+20, Climate Justice Now! and of course its own members and partner groups. As such, none of the results mentioned above is attributable to GFC alone, they are all attributable to these different networks and organizations too.

8. Difficulties, shortcomings and possible remedies

Now that governments are becoming more and more skeptic about the future of REDD+, especially but not only in the light of the uncertainty over future financing for REDD+, there is a stronger need than ever to promote alternative forest conservation policies. The legal recognition of ICCAs, and the redirection of perverse incentives form clear example of pro-active, positive policy approaches that do not require massive amounts of financial support. However, it is a significant challenge to bring these solutions under the attention of climate policy makers, which decided to focus most of their work for the coming year on the question how to fund REDD+ rather than the question how to address the drivers of forest loss. It is hoped that the emphasis by Bolivia and other countries on alternatives to REDD+ will lead to a stronger interest in the very feasible policy options recommended by the CBD Conference of the Parties. But corporate and other stakeholder interests in drivers of forest loss like bioenergy, and REDD+, have proven to be extremely strong.

A related challenge is that resources for critical groups continue to decline, which means that there are less and less groups that have the capacity to follow international negotiation processes. Thanks to efforts by the CBD Alliance, the ICCA Consortium and many other organizations, including GFC (which organized its annual evaluation meeting in Hyderabad) there was a significant crowd of like-minded organisations at the Biodiversity Summit in October. Very few like-minded groups were able to attend the Climate Summit in Doha, though, and as GFC's own resources are limited, it was extremely difficult to organize any large campaigns at this meeting. An additional challenge is that the UNFCCC meetings are becoming more and more inaccessible for NGOs and other major groups.

The GFC annual evaluation meeting in October 2012 noted once again that the ambition level of the campaigns was very high as compared to the budget, especially in a year with several important international events. The work pressure on GFC staff remains high, although happily there was a possibility to slightly expand staff capacity thanks to some additional financial contributions by, especially, the Isvara and Siemenpuu Foundations.

The main obstacles reported by the national groups included the lack of transparency by authorities on REDD+ policy development. In countries like Colombia and Uganda there is a clear lack of up-to-date, unbiased, official information on REDD+ policies. Due to this lack of information at the community level, communities can easily be cheated into false forest carbon offset contracts and unrealistic REDD+ proposals that do not address drivers of forest loss. A related challenge is the small budget available in light of the challenges faced. There is an overall lack of capacity amongst critical civil society organizations to monitor and resist drivers of forest biodiversity loss like the expansion of tree monocultures or agrofuels, also because many groups are facing serious oppression and the dire consequences of the decline in donor support. Groups also reported that there was a need for more information on alternatives to REDD, as local communities are confronted with a lack of income, and REDD+ is often the only type of support that is promised to them. Especially in Uganda the government is promising huge benefits of REDD+ to communities, and it is not yet ascertained what could be the alternative for these communities.

In response to these challenges, GFC is in process of developing two complementary initiatives. One is a major initiative to perform a bottom-up, participatory assessment of the resilience of community conservation and the most appropriate forms of support to enhance this resilience in more than 20 different countries. This Community Conservation Resilience Assessment initiative aims to strengthen

the capacity of communities to analyze their own conservation approaches and sustainable development aspirations and to formulate their own, endogenous aspirations for outside support, for example in the form of a biocultural community protocol. This process also forms an important tool for sound Free Prior Informed Consent procedures, as it allows communities to formulate their own alternatives to the REDD+ and other support proposals developed by outsiders. With support from The Christensen Fund, a first series of planning meetings for this Community Conservation Resilience Assessment (CCRA) was organized parallel to the Biodiversity Conference of the Parties in October.



Indigenous interim steering committee members of the CCRA initiative at the planning meeting in Hyderabad. Photo: Isis Alvarez

provide a tool for communities to properly analyze REDD and potential alternatives, including proposals that might result from the above-mentioned community conservation resilience assessment and Biocultural Community Protocol processes.

The other, closely related response, which resulted from the Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting organized in October 2012, is a new campaign on alternatives to REDD and other forms of green land grabbing. A manual on alternatives to REDD and green land grabbing will be produced which will

Quality Management

The quality management system of GFC includes a regular project monitoring and reporting system, an annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting and a regular external evaluation of its work and structure. The last external evaluation took place in 2010. All staff, focal points and partner groups, including the partner groups in the underlying causes project, are expected to submit brief three-monthly reports on their activities and lessons learned, which is compiled in an internal newsletter *Roots*. The newsletter is disseminated amongst all staff and partner groups of GFC. All partner groups of GFC submit an annual report on their activities, which is reviewed before new annual contracts are closed.

The annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting took place on 10 and 14 October, parallel to the CBD COP in Hyderabad, and back to back to a series of planning meetings for the Community Conservation Resilience Assessment initiative. Thanks to the fact that these meetings were held back to back, almost all coordination group members who had expressed interest to attend and almost all partner groups in the Reducing Deforestation through Addressing the Underlying Causes campaign could join the meeting in person. GFC's North American focal point and the Colombian partner group/Latin American NGO focal point Censat joined via skype. The meeting was very fruitful and productive, and succeeded to address the entire agenda proposed. It also formed a good opportunity for the different coordination group members to link up with each other, including with new coordination group members like our new Oceania focal point: Don Marahare from the Network of Indigenous Peoples of the Solomon Islands.

Quality Management *(continued)*

Just prior and after the coordination group meeting a meeting of the Board of the Foundation GFC was held, to discuss financial and institutional issues and formally review and approve the decisions of the coordination group. Andrey Laletin from Russia was elected as the new chairperson of the Board of the Foundation GFC.



Staff members of GFC's Indian partner group Equations at the annual evaluation meeting in Hyderabad. Photo: Isis Alvarez

9. Summary Financial Report

The Financial Statements for 2012 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 Swedish Biodiversity Centre (Swedbio), the Isvara Foundation, the Christensen Fund, the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), the Siemenpuu Foundation, and the many organizations and private individuals that provided small contributions to specific activities of the Coalition.

Balance sheet as at 31 december

	Notes	2012		2011	
		€	€	€	€
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash	1	769		3.003	
Accrued receivables	2	<u>0</u>		<u>4.300</u>	
TOTAL			<u><u>769</u></u>		<u><u>7.303</u></u>
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	3	26.771		42.307	
Unfunded result	4	<u>-26.002</u>		<u>-35.004</u>	
TOTAL			<u><u>769</u></u>		<u><u>7.303</u></u>



La Via Campesina-India at the People’s Biodiversity Festival, Hyderabad, October 2012.

Statement of income and expenses

	Notes	2012		Budget		2011	
		€	€	€	€	€	€
GRANTS							
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Netherlands)	5	0		0		42.944	
Swedbio (Sweden)		56.583		56.583		55.720	
Other		<u>49.180</u>		<u>20.915</u>		<u>46.705</u>	
			105.763		77.498		145.369
EXPENSES							
	6		96.761		77.498		101.619
			<u>9.002</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>43.750</u>
RESULT FOR THE YEAR							

A large, stylized green tree graphic with a thick trunk and several branches, serving as a background for the text.

[*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

A blue graphic at the bottom of the page featuring a wave on the left and a spiral on the right.