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About Forest Cover

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

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

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Climate march at the climate talks in Warsaw, Poland.
 Photo: WEDO



Ex-Silvis: The CBD limits the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples

By Estebancio Castro, Board member of the Global Forest Coalition, Panama

The unique relationship that Indigenous Peoples have with their land and biodiversity is formally recognised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/8/L.3. Section III, paragraph 6 c)). Similarly, collective rights are recognised and reflected in Article 8(j).

Yet governments often fail to implement these and other provisions relating to Indigenous Peoples, including those in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Convention 169 of the ILO, and other international human rights instruments. This failure to recognise Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and resources — and the need for free, prior and informed consent with respect to those lands and resources — is contributing to the continuing reduction of biodiversity.

It is imperative to establish and implement legal frameworks at the national level, in order to protect and promote Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources effectively. Without this, payments to the wrong people can create perverse incentives that can cause further destruction of forests. Current international initiatives and policies also need to be amended, to ensure that those receiving payments for environmental services are legitimate land users and resource managers.

To this end, Parties must implement the action program of Article 10 with special focus on paragraph (c) as a major component of the Program of Work on Article 8(j), and related provisions of the Convention. Paragraph (c) states that Parties "shall, as far as possible and appropriate...(c) Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements."

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) expressed the importance of using the term 'Indigenous Peoples' in the Convention, during the last Open-ended Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Indigenous representatives have always had this as a key recommendation, and IIFB consistently demands the systematic application of this term, in all its presentations and statements.



SBSTTA-17 Plenary. Photo: Dipti Bathnagar.

However, some 2% of the Parties continue to hinder the adoption of the term 'Indigenous Peoples' within the Convention, and this has led to a lack of alignment between the CBD and many international instruments that have been using the term 'Indigenous People' for over 20 years now. Parties opposing the new use of the term 'Indigenous Peoples' cited legal consequences, Article 29 of the Convention, and contradictions with their constitution. But from our point of view no Party gave a convincing reason for their objection. We believe this is an appropriate time to update the terminology used in the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with current international practice.

Parties, UN agencies and NGOs should understand and recognise the importance of the cultural and spiritual values and practices of our indigenous communities, which play an important role in the conservation, management, protection and customary use of biological diversity; and they should convey this importance to the next generation through their words and actions.



Report from the 17th Meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets

By J. Eli Makagon, *Natural Justice: Lawyers for Communities and the Environment, USA*

From 14-18 October 2013, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held its seventeenth meeting in Montreal, Quebec. Of particular note was the CBD Secretariat's decision to use a new meeting format for SBSTTA 17. The meeting agenda featured two major items: (1) the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Strategic Plan) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Aichi Targets), and (2) the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

New Meeting Format for SBSTTA 17

Much of the attention during SBSTTA 17 was on the new meeting format, which was designed "to provide delegates with more time for scientific and technical discussions and exchanges" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/1/Add.2). This year, the Secretariat did not prepare draft recommendations prior to the meeting, which meant participants arrived without existing text to negotiate. Additionally, unlike previous SBSTTA meetings where agenda items were distributed between two working groups, this year all sessions were held in plenary.

During the first three days of the meeting, speakers and panellists made presentations, followed by interventions by Parties and observers on the topics addressed by those speakers and panellists. After the last plenary session on the third day, Parties and observers began meeting to develop the text of conclusions and draft recommendations, which were negotiated during the remaining days of the meeting.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The major topic of SBSTTA 17 was the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets. Notably, only the first four of the five Strategic Goals of the Strategic Plan were part of the meeting agenda. Left off was Goal E, which deals with enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. This was because the Secretariat feels that other CBD working groups are addressing it (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2 para. 5). Goal E is particularly important, however, as it includes Aichi Target 18 (among others), which calls for respect for and integration of indigenous peoples' and local communities' traditional knowledge and customary use of biological resources in the implementation of the CBD.

The Parties agreed on a draft recommendation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/L.2) that identifies several scientific and technical needs related to implementing the Strategic Plan, including the need for better ways to draw on social sciences to motivate choices consistent with its objectives; and the need to strengthen non-monetary valuation tools for maintaining ecosystem functions (as opposed to "ecosystem services").

Additionally, "indigenous and local communities" (the terminology used in the CBD, which deliberately avoids the term 'indigenous peoples') are referenced at several points in the draft recommendation. For example, the Parties recognised the need for better ways of including traditional knowledge so that it complements scientific knowledge when it comes to implementing the Strategic Plan. They also invited engagement with "indigenous and local communities" on priority needs related to the observation and monitoring of biodiversity; and called for guidance on best practices for appropriate access to and use of traditional knowledge.

In regard to Aichi Target 11, which deals with "protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures," the Parties noted that further efforts to consider what constitutes "other effective area-based conservation measures" for the purpose of reporting progress toward Target 11 would be useful. During a side event held by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the CBD Executive Secretary stated that Target 11 could be reached and exceeded by recognising other area-based conservation measures (which could include, for example, Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs¹).

¹ <http://www.iccaconsortium.org/>

² www.fern.org/sites/fern.org/files/fern-comment/nmmpaper_internet-1.pdf

³ COP 19 Warsaw Wrap-Up: Where Does a Global Climate Deal Stand? <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-jervey/cop-19->



During discussion on implementing the Strategic Plan, many Parties noted that the focus should be on using existing tools rather than developing new ones, and that lack of “guidance” for some Aichi Targets should not prevent their implementation. This discussion seemed to highlight a desire to begin taking action rather than developing additional guidelines and undertaking more studies.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IPBES is a relatively new institution (it held its second plenary meeting from 9-14 December 2013), and it appeared from the discussion during the plenary sessions that there is still some uncertainty regarding its relationship to SBSTTA and the CBD more generally. Nevertheless, the draft recommendation on this agenda item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/L.4) welcomes the draft work programme of IPBES and emphasises the importance of the role of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems in the work of IPBES to complement scientific tools for policymaking.

Global Forest Coalition/Natural Justice Side Event

Natural Justice and the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) co-hosted a side event entitled “Achieving the Aichi Targets: Perverse and Positive Incentives Related to Conserving Biodiversity and the Role of ICCAs.” Simone



Lovera presented a GFC briefing paper that highlights the role of unsustainable livestock farming, which is supported by significant subsidies, as a major driver of biodiversity loss. Rachel Smolker of Biofuelwatch presented a new report by Biofuelwatch and GFC that looks at the impact of wood-based bioenergy — another economic sector that is heavily supported by subsidies and other incentives — on forest biodiversity and communities. J. Eli Makagon of Natural Justice addressed the briefing note being prepared by Ashish Kothari and the ICCA Consortium on the ways in which ICCAs can help to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Taghi Farvar of CENESTA discussed, among other things, the resilience of ICCAs and noted some specific aspects of ICCAs in Iran, which support sustainable livestock farming systems.

Joint side event at SBSTTA17. Photo: Eli Makagon.

Final Thoughts

At the conclusion of the meeting, it seemed that there was no consensus about the new meeting format, which resulted in late nights negotiating text, as well as a lack of time for all participants to make desired interventions. Many Parties expressed their support for the format, but others remained sceptical, and some raised concerns regarding a lack of transparency in choosing the speakers and panel members. The selection of speakers, panellists, and topics for discussion was crucial, as the issues raised and interventions made in response played a major role in shaping the draft recommendations.

One of the issues addressed at several points during the meeting was the use of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to implement the Strategic Plan. At least some of the Parties expressed a commitment to developing their NBSAPs, and this is an issue in which the Executive Secretary seems particularly interested. NBSAPs provide a significant opportunity for civil society to influence national level biodiversity policy and programmes, and the time is ripe to do so, as many are currently being revised with support from the GEF.

The next SBSTTA meeting (SBSTTA 18) will be held in June 2014 in Montreal, back-to-back with the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. It is expected to address, among other things, issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change, and its relationship with IPBES.



Outcomes of UNFCCC's COP 19 — an unknown future for forests and agriculture

By Carmen Capriles, Reacción Climática, Bolivia

The 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Warsaw, Poland, 11 - 22 November. Issues on its agenda included adaptation, loss and damage, sub-national initiatives, new REDD+ rules, technology transfer, efforts on mitigation under the new 'Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action' (ADPs), adaptation, finance, technology, and capacity-building to ensure maximum participation in the legal agreement that will succeed the Kyoto Protocol in 2020.

Expectations rose after the UN climate talks started with a heartfelt and touching speech from the Philippines' chief negotiator, Yeb Sano. He called for urgent action, literally asking the world to "stop this madness" and embarked on a hunger strike in solidarity with the many Philippine victims of Typhoon Haiyan. However, despite civil society members fasting in solidarity under the pledge of #westandwithyou in support of the victims of the Typhoon, hopes were lost as the days passed.

Countries that are already facing climate change cannot wait even longer for political outcomes from these seemingly interminable negotiations. It is already evident that in many

regions of the world different strategies are being put into place to deal with climate change.

However, only a few of these efforts were outlined in the various events that took place during the COP, where most expectations were focused on the actions needed to deal with urgent threats and financial aid. What is clear, however, is that despite the urgency of the situation only a few countries have really implemented a national policy. It is evident that in most countries even urgent measures are still on the waiting list. This is limiting the action that can be taken on the ground to reduce impacts and create resilience.

REDD+ (policies and incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance forest carbon stocks) was one of the trickiest issues being negotiated. There is a marked separation, especially among indigenous peoples, between those who support REDD+ mechanisms as a way to access resources, and those that reject REDD+ on the basis that nature cannot be treated as a commodity. In that sense Bolivia's position has included proposing a Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism as an alternative to REDD+ — one of the few REDD+ alternatives on the table. Still, the final official outcome was a very poor deal on REDD (you can read more at <http://peopleforestsrights.wordpress.com/2013/12/04/a-pathetic-redd-package/>).

Adaptation and mitigation are complementary and should not be addressed as separate issues. Case studies show that addressing both can be a more effective way of developing integrated solutions to climate change, especially in regions where most of the adaptation strategies are based on good forest management that can also generate strong mitigation benefits. This is especially the case in countries that significant areas of tropical forests, and where the population's vulnerability depends on the state of their ecosystems.

Bolivia has also called for a moratorium on the establishment of any new markets under the Convention, saying that carbon markets support the constitution of a new global right — the right to pollute — contradicting environmental integrity and the basic science of climate change.² Forests should not depend on carbon markets



Gender day at UNFCCC's COP19 in Warsaw, Poland. Photo: C. Capriles

² www.fern.org/sites/fern.org/files/fern-comment/nmmpaper_internet-1.pdf



but on the inherent fact that life does not have a price and should be protected as a whole, not simply as a possible source of income.

One of the most important outcomes of the COP was that it approved the provision of a formal framework, safeguards, and funding, with a view to cutting the rate of deforestation.³ However it is not clear under what scheme this will be achieved, meaning that strong country level policies will be needed in order to prevent high rates of deforestation due to land use change and other activities that often conflict with forest conservation, such as agriculture. The same applies to policies that do not take into account the fragility of ecosystems that depend on complex relationships between species.

Furthermore, experiences with agriculture under the new climate 'smart' agriculture scheme have been presented as showing a business-friendly way to address climate change. In that sense we must not forget what the experience of the green revolution taught us in the 1970s: that such 'recipes' do not work, especially in biodiverse countries and in countries where education and other basic needs still need to be met. In the long run, without the necessary technical support, small farmers may be caught in a web of economic disadvantage that barely allows for 'secure' food production or food sovereignty, and ignores traditional ways of life.

In conclusion, the outcomes of COP19 were insufficient, as civil society demonstrated when walking out of the Conference. Instead of forward movement, what we saw was a setback, especially with respect to forests. The need to start implementing real solutions that can make a difference on the ground is being constantly delayed because the proposed mechanisms are not workable and do not have clear funding sources. This means that vulnerable populations will be forced to find solutions on their own, while climate talks keep postponing urgent issues to later conferences.



'Polluters Talk, We Walk', civil society walk out at the UNFCCC's COP19 in Warsaw, Poland. Photo: C. Capriles

Time to respond! — launch of 'No REDD in Africa' Network (NRAN)

By Blessing Karumbidza, Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa

As the world's governments continue to play tricks and games in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, nature and humanity — especially the poor — are literally burning, drowning and freezing as a result of increasingly adverse climatic conditions.

A key problem is that nature is still expected to sustain our run-away economic system. The brains behind the official climate change crusade have proposed a series of fake solutions, one after another, that allow polluters to continue their polluting activities, and make further profits, while giving the impression that something is being done about climate change. But it isn't. There is increasing evidence that these kinds of programmes are

³ COP 19 Warsaw Wrap-Up: Where Does a Global Climate Deal Stand? http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-jervey/cop-19-warsaw-wrapup-where_b_4367857.html



resulting in green land grabbing and the dislocation of communities, leading to more poverty and little if any improvement on the climate change front.

The current focus on the 'green economy' includes solutions that seek to create commercial markets around 'ecosystem services.' This approach has included programmes such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+), which focus on land- and resource-based projects in the developing world. As developing countries try to deal with poverty and high levels of inequality, the promise of carbon funding for development from such programmes is hard to resist. Whether it materialises or not is another matter however.

Armed with information about the potential impacts of REDD+, academics, researchers, community organisations, organised civil society, journalists and others following these developments, together with their development partners, met in Maputo, Mozambique, 26 - 28 August to deliberate on this matter. This gathering led to the launch of the No REDD in Africa Network (NRAN) on 28 August 2013.

The establishment of the No REDD in Africa Network provides a much-needed platform for collective resistance to this renewed imperial onslaught on African land and resources. Corporations and international capital find it easy to acquire land and resources that were previously controlled by peasants, especially in countries where local land policies are often in very rudimentary stages of development.

The NRAN platform will provide a collective voice and bulwark against such land grabbing. NRAN also provides the space for sharing national and regional experiences, research and evidence. In addition it can facilitate increased emphasis on research into the impacts of REDD in Africa and REDD campaigns. It can also support local communities for alternative and sustainable land use projects, including through the coordination of funding efforts to support common activities.

The NRAN meeting drafted the Maputo Declaration on REDD, which clearly states why the 'No REDD' position is critical in terms of justice for Mother Earth. We also acknowledged the fact that African governments have been ambushed with offers and promises of development financing flowing through REDD but have acceded to these proposals uncritically, without making the necessary and required community consultations.

The Maputo Declaration observes that:

1. REDD was basically designed as an escape hatch for polluters in the industrialised countries to enable them to continue to pollute while assuming that their pollution was offset in forests elsewhere.
2. REDD does not reduce emissions and is merely a project for carbon trading.
3. REDD does not halt deforestation but defers, displaces or actually encourages conversion of forests into monoculture tree plantations.
4. REDD and REDD-type projects lead to displacement of forest dependent communities, servitude, killings, repression and other human rights abuses.
5. Much of African land and forests have been targeted for REDD and carbon credit projects or are marked to be auctioned off to private interests.
6. REDD rewards logging companies and agri-business.
7. REDD projects have been rushed on developing country governments with very little opportunity for internal and local consultation with the promise of development funding.
8. REDD represents a major threat to security of land, food and water in Africa as it is a land-grabbing agenda of continental scale.



Africans Unite against new form of Colonization. Photo: No REDD in Africa Platform.



On the basis of the above and other considerations, the workshop declared that:

1. Governments must take steps to protect our forests from deforestation and degradation and do so without expectations of carbon credits.
2. Polluting industries and countries must stop emissions at source and not deflect the burden onto other countries.
3. Demand and over-consumption are major causes of deforestation and must be reduced to sustainable levels.
4. Governments must improve weak and ineffective forest sector governance and ensure that forest-dependent communities are duly consulted and their consent obtained with regard to actions on their forests and forest resources.
5. Governments must facilitate and support a new development pathway not premised on forest conversion.
6. Governments must consider development alternatives that are based on the historical capacities of the local communities and only collaborate with investors on projects designed by those communities, rather than accepting development projects designed elsewhere primarily to meet the interests of others.
7. African governments have a duty to protect the resources of their nations and protect the people and resources in their care from recolonisation.

The Maputo Declaration was signed by the following organizations and individuals: Justiça Ambiental / Friends of the Earth Mozambique, AAAJC (Associação de Assistência e Apoio Jurídico às Comunidades Rurais/ Association for Support and Legal Assistance for Communities), Tete, Mozambique, Calisto André Nais – local farmer from Mabu, Zambézia province, Mozambique, Adolfo Muressama – local farmer from Mabu, Zambézia province, Mozambique, Manito Coutinho – ACODEMUZO and local farmer, Quelimane, Zambézia province, Mozambique, União Provincial de Camponeses (UPC, Provincial Farmers Union) of Niassa province, Mozambique, UPC of Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique, UPC of Nampula province, Mozambique, UPC of Tete province, Mozambique, UPC of Zambezia province, Mozambique, UPC of Sofala province, Mozambique, UPC of Gaza province, Mozambique, UPC of Maputo province, Mozambique, Engenharia sem Fronteira (Engineers without Borders), Maputo, Kutsemba, Matutuine, Maputo province, Mozambique, FONGA (Forum das ONGs de Gaza / Forum of NGOs of Gaza), Gaza province, Mozambique, FBO-Plataforma Inter-Religiosa para Governação Participativa, Boaventura Monjane, Renaldo C. João, Mateus Costa Santos, Mussa Chaleque, Oilwatch International, Oilwatch Africa, Friends of the Earth International, Friends of the Earth Africa, Environmental Rights Action / Friends of the Earth Nigeria, La Via Campesina Africa, La Via Campesina, Brazil, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Nigeria, Indigenous Environmental Network, USA, Global Forest Coalition, Movimento de la Juventude Kuna (Movement of Youth of Kuna), Panama, Earthlife Africa, South Africa, Timberwatch, South Africa, Rainforest Resource and Development Centre (RRDC), Nigeria, The Rules, Kenya / South Africa, World Rainforest Movement, Movimento Sem Terra (MST / Landless Peoples Movement), Brazil, Centre for Civil Society, South Africa, Forum of African Investigative Reporters, South Africa, African Biodiversity Network (ABN), Nairobi, International Political Forum, Juddy Blessol Wambui, Kenya, Cassandra Smithies, Researcher, USA

The International Women's Earth & Climate Summit (IWECl)

By Swati Shresth, Focal Point South and East Asia, Global Forest Coalition, India

The International Women's Earth & Climate Summit was held in New York, on 20-23 September 2013. The Summit brought together 100 global women leaders including grassroots activists, economists, scientists, businesswomen, Indigenous leaders and policy-makers to brainstorm women's climate action agenda. The summit was organised by The Women's Earth & Climate Action Network (formerly IWECl) which is a solutions-based, multi-faceted effort established to engage women worldwide to take action as powerful stakeholders in climate change and sustainability solutions.

The gathering of women with diverse backgrounds, expertise and experiences provided a unique opportunity to interact and learn from one another. There was tremendous camaraderie and commitment to finding solutions to the variety of issues related to climate change. Delegates discussed issues of climate and sustainability, water, food sovereignty and farming, forests and livelihoods, specifically in terms of their impact on women.

Though the summit was geared towards the relationship between women, their natural environments and the impacts of climate change on their well-being, the summit's deliberations and message to the world has relevance for men and women alike. A particularly strong message to the world was the need to acknowledge common but differentiated responsibilities for solving the crisis of global climate change. Since the summit focussed on solutions, a number of suggestions were put forth to meet the challenges of climate change. These



include promoting local and ecologically-sensitive food, alternative energy models and advocating for a rights-based approach to sustainability.

The IWECI Summit was not a one-time event; the organisers plan long-term campaigns and projects to embrace climate solutions and build resilient communities. The summit was a welcome departure from ‘official’ international meetings, which have seldom yielded a consensus. The International Women’s Earth and Climate Summit Declaration exemplifies the commitment and energy exhibited by the women delegates at the IWECI summit — proof that peoples coming from divergent backgrounds can come together to realise a common vision.



Participants to IWECI, Washington, US. Photo: Carmen Capriles

International Women’s Earth and Climate Summit Declaration Women of the World Call for Urgent Action on Climate Change & Sustainability Solutions

We are the mothers and the grandmothers, sisters and daughters, nieces and aunts, who stand together to care for all generations across our professions, affiliations and national identities.

We are teachers and scientists, farmers and fishers, healers and helpers, workers and business peoples, writers and artists, decision-makers and activists, leaders and thinkers. We work in the halls of power, the halls of faith and the halls of our homes.

We are gathering to raise our voices to advocate for an Earth-respecting cultural narrative, one of “restore, respect, replenish” and to replace the narrative of “domination, depletion and destruction” of nature.

We are committed to a transition from a future of peril to a future of promise, to rally the women around the world to join together in action at all levels until the climate crisis is solved.

Preamble

Climate change threatens life as we know it on our one and only home planet. Our children, our grandchildren and all future generations are in danger. Natural systems upon which all living things depend are in jeopardy. The world’s governments have committed to avoiding a global temperature rise of 2.0 C degrees. But emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GhGs) are setting us on a course toward a likely 4.0 C (7.2 degrees F) temperature rise. Scientists repeatedly warn this will cause unprecedented, large-scale disruptions of human and natural systems, food and water insecurity, and untold loss of life. We are experiencing more frequent, extreme weather events, droughts, floods and displacement of millions around the world. International commitments and national responses of governments have not been equivalent to the escalating urgency and local communities are bearing the brunt. Humanity is in a crisis — a dangerous, carbon fuelled, urgent climate crisis. This crisis is not only a scientific reality, but also demands the moral imperative to act. Future generations depend upon our capacity to solve climate change before it is too late. The time is now to usher in a sustainable future.

Among the most severely vulnerable to climate change are women, Indigenous Peoples, and those who live in extreme poverty. Climate disruption, including disasters and their enduring effects, is jeopardizing livelihoods



and well-being around the world. Unsustainable consumption and production reverses development gains in the global North and the global South: Women and men of industrialized nations have a responsibility to educate themselves, examine their worldviews, commit to action, and lead by example. No one person, organization, community, province, region, or nation is capable of solving the challenge of climate change alone. This is a time for collaboration at a global level as never before required. We are coming together to demand a just and necessary transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, to reduce consumption by our families and communities and to actively embrace a high quality-low footprint lifestyle.

We are coming together to embrace a new way of living with each other and the Earth. We have a choice: between a path of continued peril and a path towards climate justice and a safe and clean energy future. We can and must join together as women to take action with common but differentiated responsibilities for achieving sustainability. We must act now for ourselves, for future generations, for all living things on Mother Earth.

Declaration

We are gathering from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

We are gathering from diverse nationalities, faiths, families and professions.

We are gathering in defense of our children, grandchildren, and the generations beyond.

We are gathering in defense of the animals, plants and natural systems that are under siege.

We are gathering and uniting in solidarity to grow the global women's movement for climate action and sustainable solutions.

We are gathering to put the world on notice that women will take action at all levels to avert the trajectory of a 4 degrees C (7.2 degrees F) rise in global temperatures.

We are gathering to ensure that the sovereignty of communities to design and determine their own destinies into a thriving future is respected.

We are gathering to take action and chart a new course.

The science is clear. There is no more debate. The time for action is **NOW**.

We will answer humanity's increased vulnerability with our increased commitment.

We know that while women are among the most negatively impacted by climate disruption, we are also key to creating climate solutions.

We stand together to accelerate a Global Women's Climate Action Movement.

We, the undersigned, call on ourselves, our communities, and our governments to:

Cancel plans for future carbon developments and deforestation and bring atmospheric CO₂ concentrations back below 350 ppm;

Divest from dangerous and dirty fossil fuel developments – coal fired power plants, oil shale fracking, deep-water oil drilling and Tar Sands and rapidly phase out fossil fuel subsidies;

Put a price on carbon and implement carbon-fees and Financial Transaction Taxes;

Call for urgent action prior to 2020, in order to accelerate the phase-out of greenhouse gas pollution and to close the gap between the science and national pledges; action is needed at all levels, from the grassroots to the United Nations;

Negotiate and ratify a binding, international climate treaty of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce carbon emissions;

Prioritize adaptation funding to build community resilience for those most affected by climate change in existing climate funds under the UNFCCC;

Increase available funding for adaptation and ensure that community-based groups, including women's groups, have direct access to those adaptation funds;

Invest in an energy revolution with massive and swift expansion of conservation, energy efficiency, and safe energy by

- implementing radically increased efficiency standards and
- generating 100% of all new electricity from renewables



- incentivizing conservation and reduction of consumption, especially in the Global North;

Recognize that the transition to renewable energy does not justify or require a massive increase in mega hydro dams, biofuels and major monoculture biomass plantations that cause displacement, food insecurity, human rights abuses and deforestation;

Prioritize natural forest protection and increase funding for natural reforestation;

Reject Greenhouse Gas emissions reductions schemes that come from high-risk technologies which create irreversible damage to human and planetary health including tar sands, shale gas, nuclear energy, and geo-engineering;

Embrace and implement common but differentiated responsibilities to solve the climate crisis between the global North and global South;

Implement new economic indicators and structures that encourage sustainability, Buen Vivir (living well), and abandon models for limitless economic growth;

Recognize that the planet's freshwater heritage is under threat and that abuse, over-extraction and displacement of water is a major cause of climate chaos. Essential to the recovery of climate stability is a strong plan to conserve, protect and restore the world's watersheds and rebuild the health of aquatic ecosystems;

Take action to protect one of our essential life support systems – the world's wild oceans – as a start, protect 20% of the world's oceans by 2020 and 40% by 2040 in marine preserves and sanctuaries;

Fulfill existing international agreements on women's equality and climate change by

- ensuring implementation of gender-responsive climate change policy and programs
- ensuring all climate financial mechanisms embrace the internationally agreed principles on gender equality, non-discrimination, human rights and women's empowerment
- recognizing that gender-sensitive climate policy benefits men, women, children and the planet;

Respect and learn from the Traditional Ecological Knowledge, wisdom and experience of the world's Indigenous Peoples;

Respect and implement the Rights of Women, the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Rights of Nature and the Rights of Future Generations;

Take individual action on a daily basis to avert climate chaos and to implement solutions at all levels.

This is the clarion call to the women and men of the world. Please join us by sharing this Declaration and by taking urgent action for climate change and sustainability solutions.

Calendar of Forest-Related Meetings & Events

- 6 – 10 January, 7th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG 7), New York City, USA, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>
- 3 – 7 February, 8th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, New York City, USA, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>
- 10 – 14 February, 3rd World Congress on Agroforestry, New Delhi, India, <http://www.wca2014.org/index.html>
- 24 – 28 February, Open Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group of the Un Forum on Forests on the International Arrangement on Forests, Nairobi Kenya, <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html>
- 24 – 28 February, 3rd [meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing of the Convention on Biodiversity](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html), Gangwon (Kangwon-do), Republic of Korea
- 10 – 14 March, Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action of the Un Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bonn, Germany, http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php
- 9 – 12 April, Second Dialogue Seminar on Scaling up Finance for Biodiversity, Quito, Ecuador, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=DS-FB-02>

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