



# Defending Community Rights in Forest Policy

Global Forest Coalition · Annual Report 2014



## About the cover:

Indigenous communities in Sabah, Malaysia, tend to have agricultural areas, forested areas for hunting and medicinal plants, and coastal areas and rivers for fishing. Community mapping has been a particularly effective participatory tool to explicitly identify and certify areas that need to be carefully monitored such as community forests, Community Conservation Areas and Sacred Natural Sites. Various types of community mapping can be used. These include two and three dimensional maps, sketch mapping and ecolendars.

*Photo: Sabah Malaysia, 2014, PACOS Trust.*

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## Who we are:

### Board of the Foundation GFC in 2014-2015:

Diego Alejandro Cardona, Hindou Oumarou, Fiu Mata'ese Elisara, Estebancio Castro and Rachel Smolker

### Overview of the GFC Focal Points and staff in 2014:

**Indigenous Peoples' Focal Point Asia:** Hubertus Samangun, ICTI Tanimbar, Indonesia

**Indigenous Peoples' Focal Point Latin America:** Marcial Arias, Asociación Indígena Ambiental, 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:** Kureeba David, NAPE, Uganda. **Alternate focal point:** Abdallah Mkindi, TABIO, Tanzania

**Focal Point Oceania:** Aydah Vahia, Network of Indigenous Peoples of the Solomon Islands

**Focal Points North America:** Anne Petermann and Orin Langelie, Global Justice Ecology Project, USA

**Focal Point Europe:** Almuth Ernsting/Deepak Rughani, Biofuelwatch, UK

**Executive Director:** Simone Lovera

**Outreach Officer and Gender Advisor:** Isis Alvarez

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**French Translator:** Katy Pacheco



# Message from the Chair

It is with great satisfaction that we provide all those who are interested in forests and the peoples who inhabit them with our annual report for 2014. During the year, Global Forest Coalition continued its focus on preventing forest loss by promoting a deeper and more widely shared understanding of the underlying causes of deforestation, and the failings of 'false solutions', which are intended to generate profitable opportunities for business and have not proved effective in stopping forest loss or combating climate change so far. At the same time we started to implement a new and innovative area

of work focusing on Community Conservation Resilience Initiatives which offer new hope for reversing current forest and climate crises effectively. In all these efforts we worked closely with the local people living in and around the forests, who know their territories best and understand the natural wealth contained within them.

The solutions we highlight are real and effective precisely because they come from Indigenous Peoples and forest communities who have a deep commitment to and understanding about

the need to conserve the biodiversity of the forests. Their own heritage, as well as their livelihoods, is inextricably wrapped up in the fate of the forests. They do not require external actors to come and teach them how to 'conserve' the forests, but what they do need is support to resist and external threats to the forests and their territories, and a stop to 'green land grabbing'.

Forest peoples need governments, economists and industry to stop putting false prices on forests and their environmental functions. Forests already have a value, they have been highly



*Child thinking during one of the schools of monitoring of biodiversity in a community reserve located in Santa Cruz de la Colina-Santander, Colombia.*



*School of monitoring of biodiversity. Young people and children studying birds as an indicator of biodiversity in one of the community reserves in Colombia.*



*Community reserve "Los Maklenkes". This is one of the reserves managed by farmers and communities in the northeast of Colombia.*

prized across the world since time immemorial, for their cultural and spiritual wealth, as well as for practical livelihood reasons. This long-held respect is being actively undermined by the notion of emissions reduction certificates that can be traded on stock exchanges, an unwanted financialisation of nature.

It is also important to realise that traditional life in the forest—including community forest management, family farming, and community reserves—are not ‘alternatives’ to climate change. They are part of the solution, since they are based on sustainable living and livelihoods that help to conserve the forest. These are critical forms of resilience.

In 2014 GFC actively worked to promote the protection of forests, the promotion of forest peoples' rights and community conservation issues through the following programmes and campaigns: defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples and women in forest-related policy processes; promoting the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and other sustainable livelihood approaches to conserving forests and other ecosystems; addressing underlying causes of forest loss like bioenergy and unsustainable livestock farming; and disseminating information about current policy processes and alternative approaches to

communities across the world, through active participation in key gatherings of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and in our newsletter [Forest Cover](#). GFC is also actively engaged in UN discussions about sustainable development, especially from a gender perspective, including negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Post-2015 process, and United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA).

We invite you to visit our website to read our research and publications, and share them with your networks and organisations, and in policy and community processes. In 2014 they included: '[A global overview of wood-based bioenergy: production, consumption, trends and impacts](#)'; a case study '[The impacts of livestock and soy production in Paraguay](#)'; a [methodology](#), a simple guiding framework for Indigenous Peoples and local communities on community conservation resilience; and various briefing papers '[What can Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women expect from Global Climate and Forests Funds in terms of their rights?](#)', '[Redirection of perverse incentives for unsustainable livestock production](#)', '[The importance of ICCAs for biodiversity conservation](#)', and a series of [briefing papers](#) by the CBD Alliance on the different agenda items of the 12th Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention.

All our work is inspired by the people who live, know, love and conserve forests and woodlands, to whom we dedicate our results. They would be impossible without them. Also a special thanks to the individuals, organisations and others who value and support this effort by funding us.

Finally this message of thanks is addressed to the GFC team—managers, focal points, members in different continents, Board members, and team support—highlighting the importance and meaning of their work and encouraging them to continue to persevere with GFC's efforts to transform concepts, positions and decisions in favour of forest heritage and forest peoples. This is what we are—a Global Forest Coalition.

**Diego Alejandro Cardona,**  
Chairperson GFC



# 1. Introduction

Global Forest Coalition is a worldwide coalition of 79 Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 47 countries. GFC promotes socially just and effective forest policy, which respects the rights of Indigenous and other forest peoples. As an active participant in several other international networks and movements, GFC is strategically positioned to facilitate both the dissemination of views and experiences of communities and other rightsholders on the ground in international policy processes, and the sharing of information about these policy processes to communities and other rightsholders on the ground.

It is essential that forest policies are both effective and equitable. GFC looks to the long-term, seeking real, fair and lasting solutions to forest loss. Our key concern is that many of the market-oriented mechanisms currently being proposed and implemented by governments serve as false solutions. They come with severe negative social impacts, particularly for rural women, but do nothing to address the real underlying causes of forest and biodiversity loss. Our approach focuses on promoting a better understanding of what those drivers are, and how they vary between regions and countries. To this

end, in 2014, GFC continued its focus on collaborating with members and allies to analyse the underlying causes of forest biodiversity loss. This was not without challenges, especially in light of the difficult financial situation that many civil society organisations are now faced with, and the ongoing challenges threatening forest peoples, but we are happy to report that we saw some promising early results in 2014. Through active **engagement** in intergovernmental policy processes such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 process, GFC representatives presented concrete alternatives, promoting non-market based, holistic approaches to conserving forests and other ecosystems and sustainable food systems while respecting forest peoples rights.



## 2. National Advocacy

Persuading governments to acknowledge and address the specific underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation operating in their respective national contexts is vital to real and effective progress. In 2014, member and partner groups contributed actively to GFC's analysis by implementing critical national advocacy and awareness raising campaigns about the need to address the real drivers of forest loss in a socially just, rights-based manner.

For example, in the **Solomon Islands**, the members of the Network of the Indigenous Peoples-Solomons (NIPS) continued to address the issues of interest to and challenging Indigenous people as owners of lands, territories and resources in the Solomon Islands, as provided for in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. NIPS continued to be involved in provincial and national elections with a political party called Our Party to focus on Indigenous rights in the November election. NIPS is currently organising a team in its preparation to carry out the Community Conservation Resilience Assessment in Solomon Islands as part of the CCRI.

**Community conservation resilience assessments** were organized in 10 countries:

Uganda, Samoa, Ethiopia, Russia, Iran, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, Panama, Chile and South Africa. The Resilience e-course was tested and turned out to be a very useful capacity-building tool for representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and NGOs that will facilitate a national community conservation resilience assessment in their countries, and for the technical advisors that will accompany these processes. An evaluation session was organized as part of the global training on the CCRI participatory methodology.

In the **UK**, Biofuelwatch continued to oppose subsidies for biomass electricity and against Green Investment Bank funding for this sector. The UK is the biggest importer of wood pellets within the EU and worldwide. The UK government has announced that, from April 2015, all subsidised wood-based bioenergy will have to meet sustainability and greenhouse gas standards, and launched a 'biomass carbon calculator'. However, Biofuelwatch has highlighted that these standards are not fit for purpose. They will classify biomass as 'low carbon' even if it is associated with greater

carbon emissions than coal when looked at over a period of 40 years or longer.

Biofuelwatch has also continued to provide support, including briefings on public health impacts, to **French campaigners** against E.On's planned biomass power station in Gardanne, which poses a major new threat to forests in southern France.

In **India**, the All India Forum of Forest Movements organised two consultation meetings,



Campaign against subsidies for biomass. Photo: Almuth Ernsting, Biofuelwatch.

in Kolaberi forest village of the Darjeeling district in West Bengal and in Pali block of the Korba district in Chhattisgarh, to raise awareness amongst forest villagers about the impact of plantations and REDD+, and introducing the concept of 'green land grabbing'. Key underlying causes discussed included the destruction of huge tracts of India's forests for developmental projects; forest lands being replaced by plantations in the push for biofuels; and illegal land grabbing by project developers and the forest department in the name of compensatory afforestation. A key conclusion was that biodiversity offsets and REDD+ initiatives are

violating the rights of the forest communities that have been the main stewards of forests in India until now. A presentation on the critique of the draft REDD+ policy was given at the Executive Committee meeting of AIFM in Darjeeling, and a presentation on the current situation and India's REDD+ policy was made at a meeting of the Carbon Market Watch and Nature Code.

Other examples of national advocacy include trainings and meetings organised by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) in **Uganda**. NAPE conducted a community assessment in Kihagya western

Uganda to look at the strength, opportunities, setting and community organisation, using the CCRI methodology. NAPE also organised a training meeting for partners to discuss their strategies for further engagement with policy makers with respect to translating conventions and policies—like the CBD's Aichi targets and Nagoya Protocol—into domestic policies.

Key issues in Uganda include government plans to degazette some forests and award concessions to investors, and to implement voluntary forest carbon offset and other REDD+ initiatives, triggering 'green land grabbing'.

Other underlying causes of forest loss that were identified include increasing demand for firewood, inefficient charcoal burning and the replacement of forests by monoculture tree plantations. Meanwhile, those communities that already conserve their natural forests are not being given any incentives to continue to do so.

Through the organisation of an international seminar on the negative impacts of unsustainable livestock and feedstock production, GFC also contributed to the campaigns of NGOs, Indigenous Peoples and social movements in **Paraguay**, who are challenging the expansion of soy monocultures and cattle ranching. The Chaco region in Paraguay currently faces one of the highest deforestation rates on earth, mainly due to cattle ranching. The overwhelming majority of Paraguayan meat and soy is exported to other countries.

The initial report on the [impacts of unsustainable livestock farming and soy production in Paraguay](#) has already inspired members of the Social Ecological Union in Russia, the main export market for Paraguayan beef, to initiate an awareness raising campaign amongst the members of the Social Ecological Union, concerning the need to avoid Paraguayan beef. With more than 200 local member groups, the Social Ecological Union is by far the largest coalition of Russian environmental NGOs.



*Meeting NAPE communities in Kihagya following up on the assessment and sharing lessons learnt from COP 12. Photo: Kureeba David, NAPE.*

# 3. International Collaboration

One of the key goals of GFC is to ensure that the rights of Indigenous and forest peoples - with a special look at gender concerns- are defended and guaranteed in intergovernmental policies about forests and other related topics, such as biodiversity and climate change. GFC does this by campaigning internationally through its broad membership and also in coordination with other alliances and networks. In these collaborations, GFC consistently brings the views, positions and proposals of Indigenous Peoples, forest peoples, local communities and women's groups to the forefront. GFC supports this strategy with publications, materials, workshops, side events, and a wide diversity of other campaign and communication tools.

In 2014, we were also at the forefront of efforts to defend **community rights** against forest carbon offsets, industrial bioenergy and other forms of 'green land grabbing' by promoting alternatives including the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and other sustainable livelihood approaches.

GFC has built up significant expertise in the field of REDD+ (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) and other supposed forest conservation schemes. Through its analysis, especially of REDD+ policies in developing countries themselves, GFC has realised that it is crucial to not only critique REDD+ and other top-down conservation models that often trigger green land grabbing, but to also

promote alternative bottom-up support systems that enhance community conservation.

Through social media, our regular newsletter Forest Cover, blogs, email reports and publications, we informed a broad constituency of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations and social movements about the **risks of carbon offsets, industrial bioenergy and other forms of**

**'green' land grabbing through a gender**

**perspective.** We also shared our information and analysis through active participation in key gatherings of Indigenous Peoples and local communities like the COICA Summit of Amazon Indigenous Peoples, the organisation of numerous international and local capacity building meetings (in countries such as India and the Democratic Republic of Congo), radio programmes and a poster exhibition. We translated our toolkit on defending community lands against green land grabbing into Bahasa Indonesia and Hindi. Reports and information materials published and disseminated included a comprehensive report on wood-based bioenergy including case studies in both southern and northern countries, and a comparative analysis of



*Mrinalini Rai, the new Indigenous Peoples and Gender advisor of GFC from Nepal, and Hindou Oumarou from the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee in Chad, one of GFC's new Board members (r) at the GFC booth at UNFCCC COP 20. Photo: Isis Alvarez*



**safeguards and participation mechanisms in climate and forest funds.** An official launch of the **wood-based bioenergy** report was organised during a side event on 'Climate Traps', attended by more than 100 social movement and civil society representatives. This took place at the People's Climate Summit held in parallel to the UNFCCC's COP 20 in Lima, Peru.

GFC and its member groups also continue to be actively involved in the global **Stop Genetically Engineered Trees campaign**, which is coordinated by GFC's member group [Global Justice Ecology Project](#).

Through active engagement in intergovernmental policy processes, GFC representatives brought the critical views of Indigenous peoples, local communities and women's groups—regarding processes that trigger green land grabbing, such as forest carbon offsets and industrial bioenergy production—to the attention of international policy makers and other key decision makers (see Section 4 for details). We presented concrete alternatives by promoting the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and other non-market based, holistic approaches to conserving forests and other ecosystems. During the different sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development, and as part of the Women's Major Group, GFC took the lead in promoting such initiatives together with other

likeminded groups and organizations advocating on the different goals, and Goal 15 on Forests & Biodiversity specifically.

In addition, GFC intensified its campaigning to increase political awareness and will to address one of the key drivers of forest loss and climate change, **unsustainable livestock farming**. GFC worked to look into all its dimensions and to analyse and promote more sustainable forms of livestock farming and food production in general at local, national, and global levels. Unsustainable livestock farming is a key issue for GFC. It is by far the main cause of forest loss in Latin America, the continent with the highest deforestation rates on Earth. In our initial studies, we have identified that unsustainable forms of livestock production have significant negative social impacts as well. For Indigenous peoples and local communities, the loss of forests and lands due to livestock and feedstock production threatens both their cultures and their livelihoods. We published a case study on unsustainable livestock farming and soy production in Paraguay, and our work in this area contributed to



*Global Stakeholders' Dialogues in Lima, Peru. Photo: Marcial Arias, Asociación Indígena Ambiental.*

strengthening community struggles on the ground in countries like Paraguay and Colombia, enabling them to defend their forests against land grabbing more effectively, and implement forest restoration initiatives.

The project has also contributed to an initial consumer awareness raising and advocacy campaign in China, the world's biggest consumer of livestock products, and the main importer of Latin American soy. This included a series of workshops and video screenings about the impacts of unsustainable livestock farming in different Chinese cities, and to the presentation of a policy paper on the impacts of unsustainable

livestock farming at a major conference of the [Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption](#) in Shanghai.

GFC also strengthened its **Gender Programme** by playing a critical role as Organising Partner (OP) in the Women's Major Group (WMG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 process, and as facilitator of the Women's Major Group to UNEP. Partly as a result of GFC's inputs the WMG has become one of the most outspoken advocates for systemic change, sustainable livelihoods and community rights, despite the fact that it represents a very broad constituency of over 240 women's groups from all continents.

At the end of 2013 GFC, together with key allies, launched an exciting new initiative called the **Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI)**. The CCRI is a bottom-up assessment of the resilience of existing initiatives and bio-cultural approaches of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with respect to conserving and restoring biodiversity. This assessment will help to inform the case for legal, political, socio-economic, financial, technical, and capacity-building support to sustain and strengthen these critical initiatives and approaches in the future.

The overall aim of CCRI, which will run until 2019, is to contribute to the implementation of the CBD's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi

Targets by providing policy advice on effective and appropriate forms of support for community conservation. The results of the assessments will be widely disseminated and fed into the deliberations of the CBD and related international policy processes through an active outreach and advocacy campaign.

Overall, the project will document and review the findings of bottom-up, participatory assessments in at least 20 countries, assessing the resilience of community conservation initiatives in different countries and the specific support that needs to be provided to strengthen these initiatives.

The CCRI project's objective for the period 2014-2015 is to perform the assessment in at least 10 countries, involving at least 30 communities (including Samoa, Solomon Islands, Russia, Iran, Uganda, South Africa, Ethiopia, Panama, Chile and Paraguay). Our first steps in 2013 and 2014 involved launching a pilot period to develop a participatory assessment [methodology](#) that can be replicated elsewhere in future years. We also initiated a number of CCRI projects, and the initial results have been inspiring, teaching us a great deal about the best ways to design, develop and implement further CCRI projects.

A series of important **trainings, seminars and workshops** was organised in November 2014 in Paraguay. It included the first global wood-based bioenergy strategy meeting, an international

seminar on the impacts of unsustainable livestock and feedstock farming on communities and community conservation, and a training on the use of the participatory Community Conservation Resilience Assessment methodology.

For example, the scoping paper from the collected case studies and research on wood-based bioenergy was discussed during the international meeting in Asunción, Paraguay. This was the very first international strategy meeting on bioenergy in which NGO and IPO activists from seven continents participated reaching a regionally balanced group and getting a far more diverse perspective on the different aspects of wood-based bioenergy.

This allowed for the development of joint campaign strategies in order to raise the awareness of policy-makers, institutions, NGOs and social movements about the potential impacts of increased production and consumption of wood-based bioenergy, and facilitated further analysis of other forest-related aspects of the so-called 'bioeconomy', including genetically modified trees. The gathering challenged the notion that all renewable energies should automatically be pursued in the climate and development agendas.

# 4. International Advocacy including Side Events

Global Forest Coalition members and staff endeavour to bring local communities' and Indigenous People's Organisations' views to key intergovernmental negotiations that impact on forests and forest peoples' rights. We do this through side events, formal submissions, exhibitions, and direct discussions with negotiators. We managed to continue this work in 2014 in spite of limited finances.

GFC's members and staff actively participated in many different events in 2014, including: the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meeting of the Biodiversity Convention (CBD) In Montreal; the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP 12) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea; the Committee on Forestry in Rome; the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi, Kenya; the UNFCCC Climate talks in Bonn and in Lima; the Climate Summit in New York City; and the different negotiation sessions of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An active international advocacy campaign was implemented to raise the awareness of policy-makers with respect to the **drivers of unsustainable livestock farming, climate and forest loss**. This advocacy work included exhibitions and actions at UNEA, the Open Working Groups on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to climate change and forests and biodiversity in 2014; the organisation of two side events, at the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC in June 2014 in Bonn, Germany, and at the CBD SBSTTA meeting also in June 2014 in Montreal, Canada; and advocacy work in a number of selected countries.

These activities contributed to greater awareness amongst NGOs and social movements participating in these events. For example, there has been a significantly increased awareness of the negative impacts of unsustainable livestock farming

amongst the 500 members of the Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development, a worldwide network involved in the Post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations.



*Maria Schultz during a presentation on the principles of resilience thinking at the Global Training on the participatory assessment methodology. Photo: Mrinalini Rai.*



# 5. Publications, Reports, and other Communications Materials

The publication of written, visual and audio materials is an essential component of GFC's campaign communications strategy. In 2014, these materials ranged from research publications targeted at policy makers through to a handbook and toolkits designed for community use, and training in the use of photography for campaign purposes.

As a result of the regime on REDD+ adopted by the UNFCCC, several relatively new global funds or financial windows have been established to finance forest-related initiatives from a climate perspective. Our focus on rights-based forest policy included the publication of the briefing paper '[What can Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women expect from Global Climate and Forests Funds in terms of their rights?](#)'. The purpose of this paper was to make a comparative analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the fund's rules and safeguards, specifically with respect to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, women and local

communities, including their participation rights. Although the briefing paper explores and compares a number of global funds, it placed more emphasis on the Green Climate Fund, since it has recently emerged as the main multilateral finance mechanism within the international climate arena, with separate windows for forest-related adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

To raise public awareness about the importance of addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation we published a case study on the [Impacts of livestock and soy production in Paraguay](#) in April. Most of the land in Paraguay is privately controlled and devoted to the production of these commodities. Hence, most of the negative environmental impacts derive from these productive activities. Control is exerted by a combination of an oligarchy and transnational interests.

The briefing paper on [Redirection of perverse incentives for unsustainable livestock production](#) was coproduced with Brighter Green and launched in May. International commodities like beef, soy, palm oil, and wood have been recognised as some of the most important drivers of forest and biodiversity loss. Policies to make these commodity chains more sustainable in terms of quality and quantity cannot be the responsibility of the producing countries only. Measures to reduce deforestation triggered by commodity trade in one country will almost by definition lead to transboundary 'leakage' of emissions if no measures are taken to address the levels of consumption of those products. The briefing paper presents recommendations for reforming harmful incentives and redirecting subsidies and other forms of economic support for unsustainable livestock production, in line with the CBD's Aichi Targets.

A CCRI methodology has been developed, which is a simple guiding framework that takes into

account gender concerns and that can be adapted to the reality of a country/community in order to develop advocacy tools. The [methodology](#) was launched in May and followed by presentations of different CCRI partner groups, staff and technical advisors at a global training workshop, which was organised in November 2014 in Asunción, Paraguay.

GFC also contributed actively to information materials published by broader networks, including a [briefing paper on the importance of ICCAs for biodiversity conservation](#), and a series of [briefing papers](#) by the CBD Alliance on the different agenda items of the CBD's COP 12.

A report '[A Global Overview of Wood-based Bioenergy: Production, Consumption, Trends and Impacts](#)', on the impacts of the expansion of large-scale wood-based bioenergy production on forest communities and biodiversity was launched at the Peoples' Climate Summit during the climate negotiations in Lima, Perú in December (UNFCCC COP20). The report includes case studies elaborated by NGOs from Paraguay, Tanzania, Uganda, Chile, Sweden, the UK, the US, Brazil and Russia. We also used the results as part of an advocacy campaign and awareness raising amongst civil society groups at the UNFCCC's COP 20.

Other information materials produced included a special poster exhibition on the impacts of Green Land Grabbing on community rights, and a special issue of [Forest Cover](#) in three languages which included reports on the climate talks, the biodiversity negotiations and other important processes.



*A Maya family in the hamlet of Patzutzun, Guatemala, 1993. Photo: John Isaac, UNEP-WCMC Internal Resources.*

# 6. Quality Management and Structural Changes

The ongoing Quality Management System of the Global Forest Coalition includes regular reporting and an annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning (MEP) meeting. At this yearly event all GFC's projects and campaigns are reviewed, and future plans are elaborated on the basis of that review.

GFC's annual **Board and Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning (MEP) meetings** took place back to back to the seminars and trainings organised in Asunción, Paraguay, in November 2014. The meeting included a report on the implementation of the project, and an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the green land grabbing and community rights campaign. 15 representatives of staff together with members groups from 13 different countries participated in the meeting, including eight coordination group members.

In these MEP meetings we analysed our work over the last year and planned our priorities for

the future. The main change concerned the streamlining of the decision-making structure of the organisation through the integration of the Coordination Group and the Board of the Foundation of GFC. The expanded Board has become the sole decision-making body of the organisation, but structures are being elaborated to further strengthen its accountability to the overall membership. The Board will be assisted by an Advisory Council that consists of senior staff and campaign coordinators.

Another important development concerned the strengthening of a communications team that will further improve and strengthen the implementation of the overall GFC communications

strategy. Regarding staff, a new financial administrator joined us in 2014 as well as a new

## Quality Management

The Quality Management System of GFC consists of:

- 1) Regular reports by all staff and partner groups that are mutually shared through the internal newsletter *Roots*, which is published three times a year.
- 2) Annual or bi-annual project reports by all project partners.
- 3) An annual Monitoring Evaluation and Planning meeting in which all GFC members and staff are invited to participate.

Once every four years an external evaluation of the work of the organisation takes place. The next external evaluation is planned for late 2015.

The 2014 Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting took place 23-24 November in Asunción, Paraguay.





*Community Map of area in Bale Zone. Photo: MELCA-Ethiopia.*

Campaigns Coordinator and an Indigenous Peoples and Gender Advisor.

The work related to women's rights and the Women's Major Group on sustainable development was strongly supported by the participants in the MEP meeting; the re-election of GFC as Organizing Partner was welcomed by the organization. It was emphasised that there was a need to further strengthen the work on Indigenous rights and the relationship with some of the main Indigenous networks. The work of the

new Indigenous and Gender Advisor will enable GFC to significantly strengthen the campaigns on Indigenous rights as well.

It was highlighted that the CCRI provided an important opportunity to further strengthen information sharing and advocacy campaigns related to Indigenous rights and women's rights. It was suggested that the international advocacy strategies to promote the outcomes of the CCRI should be fully integrated into broader international advocacy strategies by allied organisations working on

Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs). Moreover we decided to prioritise more collaborative work with GFC members on unsustainable livestock and feedstock farming, and will continue the wood-based bioenergy campaign within the framework of our overall campaign against the so-called 'bio-economy'.

Some of the main observations were that the project 'Community rights and 'Buen Vivir' as alternatives to green land grabbing' has

contributed significantly to enhancing the two-way stream of information about the impacts of green land grabbing from the local, grassroots level to the international level and vice versa.

But there are still some communication challenges to overcome, for example in relation to regular reporting by some of the focal points. Especially the campaigns around bioenergy were considered very important, as there is still so little awareness of the impacts of large-scale wood-based bioenergy production amongst NGOs, including NGOs working on agrofuels. The bioenergy campaign has a very strong grassroots basis in some of the countries that are most affected by large-scale industrial bioenergy production.

It was pointed out that it was a positive development that GFC started to use more visual materials like photo exhibitions as information materials, as long documents are difficult to translate and disseminate amongst grassroots groups. Powerful images and short texts often work more effectively as information material.

It should be noted that while GFC aims to collaborate with like-minded allies, many groups that are critical of REDD+ have lost the capacity to follow intergovernmental processes due to the funding crisis of the past few years, and the redirection of existing funds for forest

conservation to REDD+. There is a great need for groups like GFC to continue to be engaged in international processes to disseminate the voice and concerns of Indigenous peoples, local communities and women, and resist increasing corporate control over the climate and biodiversity negotiations. Such participation is also necessary to seize opportunities to promote non-market based approaches to addressing climate change and forest and biodiversity loss, which are now formally on the intergovernmental political agenda and increasingly supported by additional governments.

Moreover, it was highlighted that the CCRI provided an important opportunity to further strengthen information sharing and advocacy campaigns related to indigenous rights as well as women's rights. It was recognised that some groups would require more time to implement a national CCRI process than was available between late 2014 and the end of 2015, for example due to the size of the country involved. So it was decided to postpone those processes to the project period 2016 – 2018.

***Finally, it was recommended to:***

- Elaborate more case studies, as CCRI is such a multi-faceted phenomenon.
- Focus more actively on policy processes dominated by the forestry sector like the UN Forum on Forests and the World Forestry Congress, as the forestry sector is a key promoter of wood-based bioenergy and the bioeconomy in general.
- Campaign even more actively for quantitative measures including an end to all bioenergy support schemes, and to maintain a broad focus on the bioeconomy in general.
- Produce more peer-reviewed articles to influence policy-making debates, building on the ample academic expertise of some of GFC's staff and members.
- Further strengthen the work on indigenous rights and the relationship with some of the main Indigenous networks.
- Collaborate with the CBD Alliance in the production of information materials on the CBD process, and ensure that IPO and NGO representatives that participate in international meetings are able to properly prepare themselves prior to the meeting.
- Further enhance the gender work of the organization.

# 7. Conclusions

GFC's goals are ambitious and long-term as it seeks deep change, lasting solutions and a systemic departure from business as usual. We aim to bring to the forefront the proposals and alternatives of Indigenous peoples, forest peoples, women, and local communities—many of which are already being implemented and have been proven to conserve forests and ecosystems more effectively.

The concept of sustainable livelihoods, once dismissed as an idealistic theory, has gained more support from policymakers and governments, as its value in terms of acknowledging the many ways in which people relate to nature is increasingly recognised.

Together with our members, allies and partners, we strive for that change. We continue to work for social and environmental justice, always keeping in mind that while the goals are long-term, the realities are urgent, as Indigenous peoples, forest peoples, women and local communities are at the forefront of the negative impacts of forest, ecosystem and biodiversity loss, and climate change.

The challenges are great but we take inspiration from the courage and determination of communities resisting green land grabbing, implementing community conservation, and building alternatives to unsustainable livestock and feedstock farming through agroecology and other sustainable food systems.



# 8. Summary Financial Report

The Financial Statements for 2014 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.

## BALANCE SHEET

### Current Assets

#### Note 1. Cash

	2014	2013
	€	€
ING	<u>40.032</u>	<u>16.128</u>

#### Note 2. Accrued Receivables

Grant Natural Justice	18.931	0
Grant Misereor	<u>20.830</u>	<u>3.571</u>
Amount as at 31 December	<u>39.761</u>	<u>3.571</u>

#### Note 3. Capital

Amount as at 1 January	-24.024	-26.002
Result for the year	<u>35.611</u>	<u>1.978</u>
Amount as at 31 December	<u>11.587</u>	<u>-24.024</u>

## Notes

### Note 4. Accounts Payable

	2014	2013
	€	€
Small grants	8.500	6.258
Staff costs	5.446	619
Travel costs staff	580	404
International workshops, events and publications	17.564	1.015
Other	<u>8.450</u>	<u>3.800</u>
	<u>40.540</u>	<u>12.096</u>

It is expected that the accounts payable can be paid with existing and confirmed grants.

### Note 5. Advanced Receivables

Prepayment of project grant The Christensen Fund	0	18.293
Prepayment of project grant Siemenpuu Foundation	<u>27.666</u>	<u>13.334</u>
	<u>27.666</u>	<u>31.627</u>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

### Note 6. Expenses.

	2014	Budget	2013
	€	€	€
Grants to third parties	20.817	45.200	14.728
Staff costs	66.663	87.275	42.544
Travel expenses	39.148	50.765	33.817
International workshops and events	40.734	0	0
Publications and other communication	52.163	14.300	29.275
Administration costs	<u>10.692</u>	<u>4.500</u>	<u>7.718</u>
	<u>230.217</u>	<u>202.040</u>	<u>128.082</u>

Staff costs include costs related to coordination, fundraising and administration.

# People, Forests, Rights



The Global Forest Coalition depends for its activities on the financial and in-kind support of a large number of members, volunteers and allies, including the following donors: the Siemenpuu Foundation, the Christensen Foundation, Natural Justice, Misereor, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and several individual and other donors. We wholeheartedly thank all who have generously contributed their time and resources to supporting our campaigns and activities.

The Global Forest Coalition is an international coalition, which was founded in the year 2000 by NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (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 organise 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.

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