

Defending Community Rights in Forest Policy

Global Forest Coalition · Annual Report 2015



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About the cover

Chalk protest drawings cover a pavement near the Civil Society Alternative Program (CSAP) in Durban, during the World Forestry Congress. The GFC Members Assembly took place prior to CSAP, and GFC members participated in many of the events and demonstrations that took place at CSAP.

Photo by Ronnie Hall/CIC

Author: Swati Shresth

Design & layout: Oliver Munnion

The online version of this report and all onward links to documents and other media can be found at:

<http://globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GFC-annual-report-2015.pdf>

Photo taken at the Fair of Native Seeds, Paraguay. **Nadia López**

Who we are

Board of the Foundation GFC in 2015:

Diego Alejandro Cardona (Chairperson, Colombia), Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Vice-chairperson, Chad), Rachel Smolker (Treasurer, US), Fiu Mata'ese Elisara-La'ulu (Samoa), Anna Kirilienko (Kyrgyzstan), Dil Raj Khanal (Nepal)

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Executive Director: Simone Lovera

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Financial Administration Assistant: Astrid Kleefstra

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Photo taken during Kenya CCRI process. Simone Lovera

TAKE CARE OF A TREE
TAKE CARE OF LIFE

Message by the Chair

2015 was a year of challenges for all those who are concerned about the fate of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, their territories and their natural and cultural heritage. It has strengthened our collective resolve to defend forests, and to resist policies and narratives that tend to simplify the complex relationships that these communities have with their natural environments.

Of course, GFC, and our collaborators and allies share these concerns and we worked together in a dedicated way to meet these challenges.

One of the most relevant moments during this period was the GFC's Members Assembly, the first in our history. It was an excellent opportunity for groups and organisations from all regions of the globe to meet each other, and to reaffirm our principles of diversity. The Assembly re-invigorated the coalition and resulted in a consolidated work plan until 2020.

During 2015, the coalition focused on four major campaigns: Defending the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Women in Forest Policy, Building Respect for Community Conservation, and addressing

Unsustainable Livestock Farming and Bioenergy as drivers of forest loss. We also continued to oppose the Commercialisation of Life through Market-based Approaches.

The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) is generating potentially transformative outcomes. Communities are making real and effective efforts to protect their environment and livelihoods and this is reflected in the results of CCRI assessments to date, in ten countries in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and Central and South America.



Fostering Community Conservation Conference 2015 group photo. **Ronnie Hall/CIC**

"Red Lines" demonstration at the COP 21 summit in Paris.
Mary Louise Malig



So far 31 local communities and Indigenous Peoples have taken part. Valuable proposals, recommendations and demands have emerged, and are being fed into the next phase of the CCRI: proposing solutions and advocating for appropriate legal, economical and political support for community conservation initiatives at both the national and international levels.

Initial results of these assessments have been very encouraging. For example, some countries like Iran, the Solomon Islands and Russia have established constructive dialogues with local government and others engaged in or promoting community management initiatives; and Chile is finally progressing towards dismantling subsidies for monoculture tree plantations, a situation identified by Indigenous Peoples in that country as one of the main causes of loss of local ecosystems, biodiversity, sovereignty and culture.

Unsustainable livestock farming has been identified as another relevant cause of forest loss, degradation and environmental conflicts by local communities and Indigenous Peoples, mainly in the Global South. Our new unsustainable livestock farming campaign involves groups and allies in more than 20 countries. With Brighter Green's support, we produced critical materials analysing the financing and impacts of unsustainable livestock production and consumption, as well as identifying key actors.

These analyses have enabled us to influence relevant processes and institutions including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Secondly, but no less important, they allowed us to produce public materials including presentations and radio programmes, to help mobilise resistance to large scale unsustainable livestock farming.

At the same time, we continued with our bioenergy campaign. In the run up to the Paris Climate Summit in December this campaign turned out to be highly relevant as the large-scale production of wood and other biomass is being falsely promoted as a climate-friendly alternative to using fossil fuels. These practices were introduced without considering potential social, environmental, economic and cultural impacts. In particular studies have shown that bioenergy production is a direct and underlying cause of environmental degradation and ecosystem loss. We published and disseminated a wide range of campaign materials, including at the World Social Forum (WSF) in Tunis, and in international fora such as the the United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFCCC and the World Forestry Congress (WFC) in order to influence policy makers.

Throughout 2015 GFC also made concerted efforts to mainstream gender concerns in our campaigns and across our coalition. A specific gender toolkit was developed for the CCRI to guarantee that each CCRI assessment includes and promotes women,

especially with respect to identifying the rights, roles and needs of women.

We also participated in the Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development, promoting the participation of women from local processes and communities in order to contribute to achieving the goals of the newly formulated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A significant body of work—including research, analysis and policy advocacy tools—was produced in 2015, all of which is available online at GFC's website: www.globalforestcoalition.org. We invite you to consult and use the different materials. These have been designed not just for our members, but for everyone who is interested in forests and the communities that live in these territories.

Diego Alejandro Cardona,
Chairperson GFC



1. Introduction

Global Forest Coalition is a worldwide coalition of 73 Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 49 countries. Since its inception in 2000, the coalition members and partners have promoted socially just and effective forest policy that recognises and strengthens the rights of Indigenous and other forest peoples. As an active and experienced participant in several international networks, GFC is strategically positioned to advocate and disseminate the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and other rights holders in international policy processes, and the sharing of information about these processes to communities and other rights holders on the ground.

2015 was a very important year for GFC. Our first Members' Assembly was held in September in Durban. It was a great moment for all our members, allowing us to meet and re-affirm our solidarity. This year we were also delighted to expand the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI). One of the distinguishing characteristics of GFC has always been that our work is done by groups in the countries themselves and not by external experts. The CCRI in particular, with its bottom-up methodology, is designed to empower Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in their

conservation initiatives, and epitomises GFC's efforts to empower local groups and communities in forming their own research and action agendas.

GFC continued its focus on collaborating with members and allies to critique the underlying causes of forest biodiversity loss with our work on Unsustainable Livestock Farming and Bioenergy and Green Land Grabbing campaigns. Both these campaigns have strengthened our international collaboration with our partners and allies to effectively resist the current trend towards financial incentives encouraging unsustainable livestock farming and allowing large scale plantations in the name of controlling deforestation.

The year 2015 was marked by a number of important high-level meetings in the field of sustainable development. Through an active engagement in intergovernmental policy processes such as the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Forestry Congress, and the Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 process, GFC has offered and demonstrated the efficacy of non-market based, holistic community-based approaches to conserving forests and other ecosystems and sustainable food systems while respecting forest peoples' rights.

**Global Forest
Coalition**

Global Forest Coalition banner at a demonstration in Paris during the COP 21 summit. **Pablo Solón**

2. Main Campaigns in 2015



**Community Conservation
Resilience Initiative**



**Defending Women's Rights and
Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in
Forest Policy**



**Unsustainable Livestock
Farming**



**Large-scale Wood-based Bioenergy
Production and Other Forms of
Green Land Grabbing**

Forest cleared for soybean plantation in Paraguay. Wanqing Zhou

2.1 Defending the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Women in Forest Policy and Building and Promoting Respect and Appropriate Support for Community Conservation

2.1.1. Community Conservation Resilience Initiative

The aim of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) is to perform a bottom-up assessment of the resilience of the initiatives and biocultural approaches of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to conserve and restore biodiversity, and to undertake advocacy strategies to secure the community-defined legal, political, socio-economic, cultural, financial, technical, and capacity-building support to sustain and strengthen these initiatives and approaches. The objective for the period 2014-2015 was to perform the assessment in at least ten countries, involving at least 30 communities.

In 2015, 31 participatory assessments were performed in ten different countries; Samoa, Solomon Islands, Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, South Africa, Uganda, Paraguay, Panama and Chile. In most of the countries, three different communities participated (in Paraguay four communities undertook the assessment). The assessments were facilitated by ten IPOs and NGOs, which supported the Indigenous Peoples and local communities to assess the resilience of their biocultural approaches and biodiversity conservation and restoration initiatives.



Abolhassani women of the Abolhassani Indigenous Nomadic Tribal Confederacy from Iran showing where important sites and resources in their Community Conserved Area (ICCA) are on a map. The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative assessment was carried out by three communities in Iran. Through the use of community inspired methodologies, the assessments helped to establish a baseline for communities to review and assess how their initiatives have worked, in terms of improving their resilience with respect to coping with environmental shocks. The assessments resulted in a set of recommendations by the communities on the specific policy interventions required to strengthen rights-based conservation.

Maedeh Salimi, Cenesta



Beekeeping is popular with the Udege, Russia
CCRI. Yuki Mikami, Taiga Forum



CCRI in Vaiusu community mangrove
plantation, Samoa. OLSSI/CIC



CENSAT presentation at Durban CCRI conference. Ronnie Hall/CIC

In each assessment, a gender analysis was conducted using the gender toolkit developed for the CCRI in order to assess the distinctive rights, roles and needs of women and to facilitate their active participation and empowerment in community conservation initiatives. The preliminary findings of the community conservation resilience assessment processes in each of the countries were documented in ten country reports. Moreover, CCRI processes were initiated in Malaysia, India and Colombia, which will be continued in 2016 and 2017, together with no less than ten additional country processes. A number of national capacity building workshops were conducted in several countries including the Solomon Islands, Panama, Russia, Paraguay, South Africa, Uganda, Iran, Chile and Samoa. These workshops built the capacity of local community representatives to use the CCRI methodology as well as to advocate for their own recommendations regarding effective forms of support for their biocultural approaches and conservation initiatives.

A global conference on Fostering Community Conservation was organised from 31 August to 4 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. It featured presentations on the national assessments and the preliminary results of the CCRI as well as some presentations by representatives of governments, UN agencies, Indigenous Peoples Organisations and scientific institutions. More than 105 people participated, representing Indigenous Peoples, local communities, NGOs, intergovernmental organisations, funding agencies, governments and research organisations. The recommendations that

were formulated at the conference were presented during the 14th World Forestry Congress and other international policy processes including COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development held in New York 26 June to 8 July; and the preparatory meetings for the World Conservation Congress and COP 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2016.

The main findings of the CCRI assessments and the global multi-stakeholder conference were summarised in a global overview report, which was launched at the meetings of the CBD in November 2015.

An active outreach campaign was implemented to disseminate information on the CCRI and the preliminary findings of the assessments. Information is being sent on a daily basis to social media. An online photo archive with images produced by the ten CCRI processes has been established by Critical Information Collective (CIC) and this is regularly used for exhibitions, powerpoint presentations and other visual communication tools. The

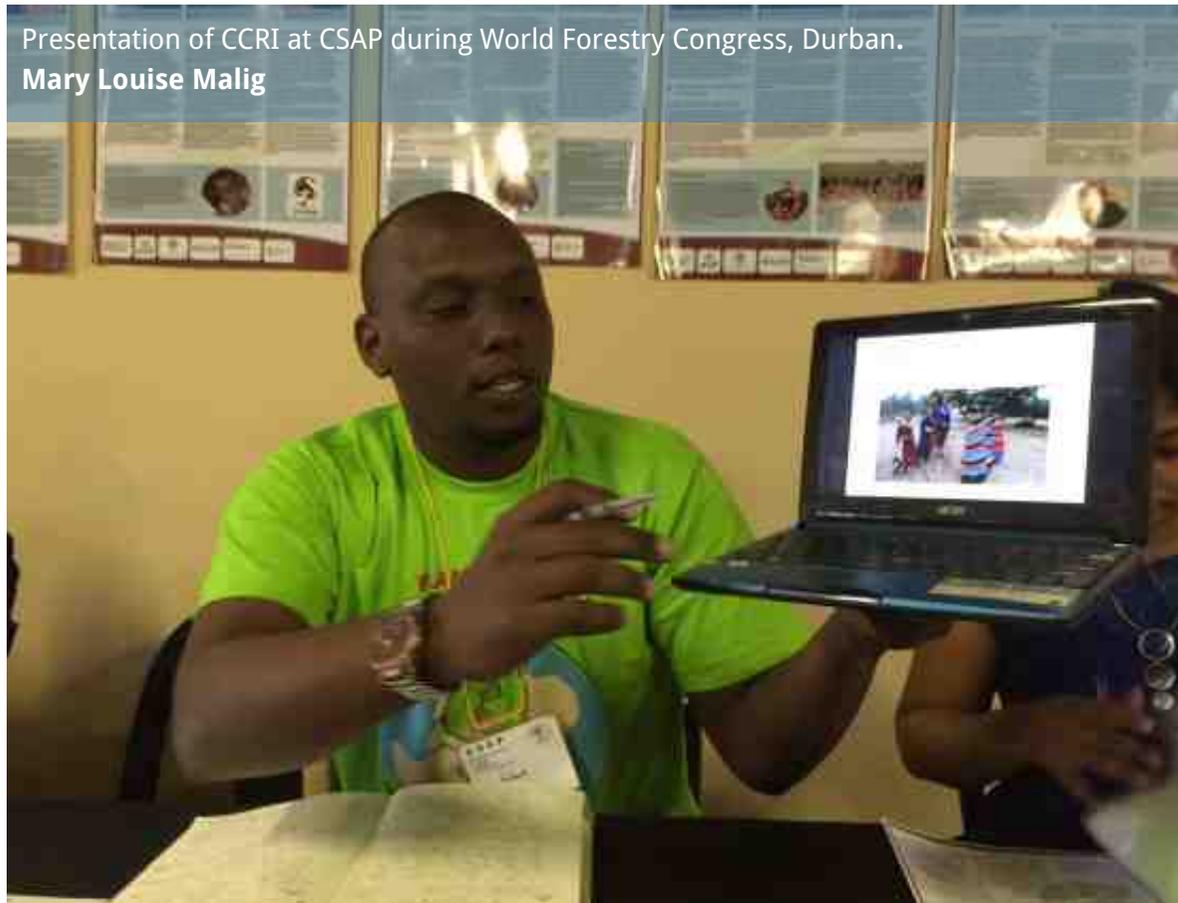
outcomes of the CCRI assessments were produced in the form of short colourful leaflets to make them more accessible for community representatives. Global Forest Coalition (GFC) also collaborated with Deutsche Welle, which produced a TV-documentary on the CCRI process in Paraguay.

The most valuable result of the initiative so far is that the 31 Indigenous Peoples and local communities

involved in it have received a significant moral boost for their biocultural approaches and conservation initiatives, as well as analytical and technical support. The communities' increased enthusiasm for their own conservation initiatives is one of the key assets to enhancing the resilience of their conservation practices. The advocacy campaigns of the CCRI also resulted in increased recognition of the importance of community conservation and related traditional

knowledge amongst international and national policy makers, including policy-makers involved in the CBD, UNFCCC, and the HLPF.

An important lesson learned was that the empowerment and full participation of women is extremely important in an initiative like this. However, it requires a lot of effort and cultural sensitivity. Whilst there has been a positive impact on the position of women within the participating communities and networks thus far, the participation of women was not always as effective as we had hoped. It was decided to apply renewed and enhanced efforts into this aspect during the coming years.



Publications

The publication of written, visual and audio materials is an essential component of Global Forest Coalition's campaign communication strategy. In 2015, these materials ranged from a training toolkit designed for community use, a CCRI global report, full country reports, and blogs and press releases through to radio interviews and TV documentaries.

1. Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) training toolkit available [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish.
2. Evaluación de resiliencia en Conservación Comunitaria—Chile: by Eduardo Giessen and Carolina Lagos, published in September 2015, available [here](#).
3. Summary report of preliminary findings in Ethiopia: by Tesfaye Tolla and Cath Traynor, published in September 2015, available [here](#).
4. CCRI among Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran: by Taghi Farvar and Swati Shresth, published in September 2015 available [here](#).
5. Iniciativa de Conservación Comunitaria en Guna Yala, Panamá: by Coraina de la Plaza published in September 2015 available [here](#).
6. Evaluación Resiliencia de la Conservación comunitaria en Paraguay: by Ines Franceschelli and Miguel Lovera, published in September 2015, available [here](#).
7. CCRI, Summary Report on Preliminary Findings for the Russian Far East Assessment: by Anatoly Lebedev, published in September 2015 available [here](#).
8. The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative in Samoa: by Sapa Saifaleupolu, published in September 2015 available [here](#).
9. Presentation on the Summary of CCRA preliminary findings in Solomon Islands: by Aydah Vahia and James Meimana, published in September 2015, available [here](#).
10. CCRI South Africa: by Philip Owen published in September 2015 available [here](#).
11. CCRA in Uganda: by Paul Kanyinke Sena and David Kureeba, published in September 2015, available [here](#).
12. Fostering Community Conservation Conference report, 31 August- 4 September 2015, Durban, South Africa: by Holly Jonas, Cath Traynor, Coraina de la Plaza, Swati Shresth, Anatoly Lebedev and Anu Nettar, published in October 2015 available [here](#).
13. Full Report on the CCRI in South Africa: by Philip Owen, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
14. Full Report on the CCRI in Paraguay: by Miguel H. Lovera Rivas and Inés Franceschelli, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
15. Full Report on the CCRI in Chile: by Carolina Lagos, Eduardo Giesen, and Johanna Molin published in November 2015 available [here](#).
16. Full Report on the CCRI in Panama: by Coraina de la Plaza, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
17. Full Report on the CCRI in Russia: by Anatoly Lebedev, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
18. Full Report on the CCRI in Uganda: by Kanyinke Sena, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
19. Report of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI): by: Ronnie Hall, Yolanda Sikking, Swati Shresth and Michael Braverman-Scult published in November 2015 available [here](#).
20. Forest Cover 48: Community Conservation Special Edition, published in October 2015 available [here](#).
21. Full report on the CCRI in the Solomon Islands: by Aydah Gwaena Akao and James Meimana, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
22. Full Report on the CCRI in Samoa: by Telei'ai Dr Sapa Saifaleupolu, published in November 2015 available [here](#).
23. Full Report on the CCRI in Ethiopia: by Tesfaye Tolla & Cath Traynor, published in November 2015 available [here](#).

Blogs

1. A volunteer's introduction to the CCRI: by Jan Carl Matysiak, published on 7 October, 2015 available [here](#).
2. We are the Real Forest Heroes Message to the XIV World Forestry Congress from the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: by Souparna Lahiri, published on 23 September, 2015 available [here](#).
3. CCRI's power to bring forest and biodiversity friends together: by Kureeba David, published on 21 September 2015 available [here](#).
4. A congress in which the trees vanquish the forest: by Miguel Lovera, published on 17 September 2015 available [here](#).
5. South Africa: Community Takes Conservation into Their Hands in Spirit of Ubuntu: by Ashlesha Khadse, published on 3 September 2015 available [here](#).
6. Building autonomous and sustainable territories: spaces for international dialogue and local advocacy for the promotion of responsible governance: by Isis Alvarez, published on 23 July 2015 available [here](#).
7. FPIC and TK Repatriation in the Pacific Context: by Sapa Saifaleupolu, published on 2 December, 2015 available [here](#).
8. Smooth Operators of Biodiversity Conservation: by Simone Lovera, published on 2 November, 2015 available [here](#).
9. CBD's Technical Workshop on Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction: by Isis Alvarez, published 31 October 2015 available [here](#).
10. Solomon Islands' National CCRI Workshop Highlights Impacts of Sea Level Rise and Community Plans to Revitalise Customary Decision-making Systems: by Holly Jonas, published 18 August 2015 available [here](#).
11. A volunteer's introduction to the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative: by Jan Carl Matysiak, published 7 October 2015, available [here](#).
12. Improving Cooperation at the Regional Level: by Andrey Laletin, published 5 October 2015, available [here](#).

Press Releases

[Community Conservation Conference Brings Real Forest Heroes Together](#)
[Support Communities to Conserve Real Forests, Stop Industry's Fake Forests](#)

Indigenous and Local Communities launch crucial report to help governments appropriately recognize and support community conservation: published on 2 November 2015 available [here](#).

Radio

[Radio Chile](#)

TV Documentaries

Documentary Film: [Biodiversity in Paraguay: Subsistence farming in the shadow of soy plantations](#) and in Spanish

Print

Highway Mail, South Africa: [Conservation conference brings forest communities together](#)

2.1.2. Defending Women's Rights and Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Forest Policy

The Women's Major Group (WMG) was created at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where governments recognised Women as one of the nine important groups in society for achieving sustainable development. [1] The WMG is an official participant in the United Nations processes on Sustainable Development. Other processes use the major group or similar systems, with the WMG active in the processes of the United Nations Environment Programme since 1996. The Women's Major Group has the responsibility to facilitate women's civil society active participation, information sharing and input into the policy space provided by the United Nations (e.g., participation, speaking, submission of proposals, access to documents, development of sessions). [2]

The Women's Major Group (WMG) for Sustainable Development (SD) is the focal point for UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, for all UN Sustainable Development policies. The mandate of the WMG for Sustainable Development covers Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (formerly post-2015), including the Sustainable Development Goals and

Indicators, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the High Level Political Forum (a key space for follow-up and review).

The Global Forest Coalition was elected for a second term (2015-2016) as one of the Global Organizing Partners (OP) of the Women's Major Group (WMG) in Sustainable Development. As part of a team of six regional OPs and one other Global OP, we have complied with different roles and functions that include coordination of the WMG activities; planning and leadership in different activities including Strategy Meetings before any major events around the SDGs and Agenda 2030; regular phone calls; preparing position papers; preparing side event proposals as well as funding proposals; selecting WMG candidates to attend the different related events having in mind regional and thematic balance; meeting with Member States and attending all sorts of related meetings with potential funders, UN Agencies as well as allies; and other coordination, advocacy and networking activities, among others. Thus, we have been closely following the whole SDGs/post2015 process since its very beginning and its conclusion last year in September during the UN's General Assembly where the full Agenda including

SDGs were adopted. GFC has been very active in advocating for gender equality and women's rights and has been leading in areas of its expertise such as gender, and forests and biodiversity, namely SDG 15, among others.

Overall, we have contributed in encouraging participation in these venues of grassroots women who can bring their perspective to the negotiations; in this regard, new comers have also been welcomed and, together with WEDO and IWHC, we held a preparatory meeting to new comers prior to one of the sessions (IGN). Furthermore, GFC helped identify women who could bring specific expertise to the different sessions and recommended new potential participants, especially on the environmental front. We provided support to other lead OPs and worked together closely including by providing comments and inputs to the different statements. In fact, GFC served as lead OP for two different sessions.

During the final sessions of the post-2015 negotiations, we advocated intensively on Goal 15 Target 15.2 related to halting deforestation by 2020 vs. proposals for delaying action until 2030. We were happy to claim a small victory as the final document

[1] <http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/>

[2] Please visit <http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/resources/> for diverse and informative resource material on gender and environment

adopted the 2020 target. We held a very successful campaign with coloured handkerchiefs and the green one represented the Goal on Forests which helped us spread our message of concern towards delayed action on halting deforestation.

At the same time, elections held in 2015 for the UNEP's WMG appointed us for a second term as one of the co-facilitators. Since UNEA-2 would be held in 2016, discussions and preparations started already in 2015 together with the Major Groups Facilitating

Committee (MGFC). Activities included regular calls, planning of activities, coordinating members and liaising with the WMG on sustainable development. Overall, we also work very closely with other constituencies from different Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) such as the Women and Gender Constituency (UNFCCC), the Women's Caucus (CBD), etc. and we aim at synergising our work on different fronts.

In addition, GFC members participated in several important meetings in 2015. These include the SDG meeting on Sustainable Development Goals and Targets in March; SDG meeting on Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development which included the organisation of a side event on non-financial means of implementation; SDG Meetings on Follow up and Review in May; the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which took place from the 24th June to the 8th July; the SDG Meetings on Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Outcome Document in July; and the UN Summit for Adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda in September. In addition, Isis Alvarez, Gender Advisor of GFC was invited as one of the authors for the first Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO) to be launched during the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi.

Our work on women's rights will be further strengthened in the course of 2016. In December 2015 GFC received the good news that it will receive



Women preparing to down go to their gardens, Hageulu, Solomon Islands. Aydah Akao/CIC.

funding for the Women2030 global project from the European Commission's International Cooperation arm (DEVCO). This five-year strategic project on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is coordinated by coalition of five global and regional women's networks: WECF International, Global Forest Coalition, Gender and Water Alliance, Women Environmental Program and Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. Together they represent over 200 organisations in more than 52 countries that will directly engage in the project, as well as a network of over 900 member organisations in over 100 countries. The project aims to build the capacity of women's civil society organisations to advance local and regional equitable,

inclusive and environmentally sustainable development (including the 2030 Agenda and climate change processes) through participation in policy development and monitoring, mobilising citizen's support and demonstrating best practices. The project period will run from May 2016 to November 2020.

GFC's involvement with WMG is a reflection of its core beliefs: that forest conservation policies that ignore the rights, needs and role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women violate fundamental human rights. Women are often the main victims of projects and policies that exclude and ignore forest-dependent people. And their rights, needs and

fundamental role in forest conservation and restoration should be one of the cornerstones of rights-based forest policies.

GFC Press Releases

[UN Postpones Action to Halt Deforestation by 10 Years under Pressure from Industry](#)
[Historic Deforestation Target in UN's Sustainable Development Goals Requires Real Transformation](#)

Press coverage

[Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 presents a bold vision for women, girls](#)
[Sol—Cimeira ambiental da ONU. Objetivos requerem 'transformação' real e rápida, avisam ativistas](#)

2.2 Addressing the Key Direct and Underlying Causes of Forest Loss

2.2.1 Unsustainable Livestock Farming

The main goal of the project Unsustainable Livestock Farming is to highlight and reduce the negative impacts of unsustainable livestock production through establishing an active international alliance of social movements and civil society organisations from producer and consumer countries campaigning against unsustainable forms and levels of livestock production. The project intends to facilitate the development of a global coalition of social movements and NGOs, to challenge unsustainable practices of the global livestock sector, raise public awareness and urge appropriate policy responses at international, regional, and national levels, as well as consumer action.

Some of the key activities of this project included the mobilisation of environmental activists and other social movements, especially peasant, pastoralist, forest peoples' and women's movements, around the key strategic objectives of the campaign, in particular during the FAO Committee on Food Security in October 2015 and during the CBD COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. Three international strategy meetings were held with representatives of key stakeholder and rightsholders' movements (including peasant



movements, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, research institutions, social and environmental NGOs, women's movements and pastoralist movements) to evaluate initial campaign strategies, support national advocacy campaigns and build a common movement around them. The international strategy meetings were held at the GFC Members Assembly in September 2015, parallel to the FAO Committee on Food Security in October 2015 and parallel to COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. The campaign is getting stronger—members of Confederation Paysanne, KRRS and other La Via Campesina chapters have joined the alliance listserve and have agreed to a close collaboration with GFC and Brighter Green on the campaign against unsustainable livestock production in France, India and in general on the international level. Our listserve has also been growing in terms of substance and critical updates being shared, providing its members with information from sources from all around the world. There are articles in English, Spanish, German, Russian and others, which helps to have a more thorough picture of the situation in the world.

Through the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative participatory assessments of the threats

to the resilience of community conservation initiatives were performed by four indigenous and non-indigenous communities in Paraguay. Unsustainable livestock and feedstock production were identified as major threats to these conservation initiatives. An important conclusion was that the co-existence of sustainable and unsustainable models of livestock production and agriculture, which is promoted by institutions like the FAO, is not possible in reality as the sustainable initiatives suffer from too many negative impacts from unsustainable production models.

In addition to these activities, a number of presentations were made by GFC and its partners including on the theme of unsustainable and sustainable models of livestock production at a side event on the risks of fake land use accounting, which was organised by GFC at the climate talks in Bonn in June 2015. Presentations on the impacts of unsustainable livestock farming were made at the side event at the UNFCCC COP 21, co-organised by Brighter Green (BG), Chatham House, Humane Society International and others. Presentations were made at the “Struggle against industrial livestock and feedstock production;

Support for small farmer agroecology” event at the Peoples Summit in Paris last December 2015, which was co-organised with Brighter Green, La Via Campesina, Confederation Paysanne and others. It was a well-attended event filling the auditorium with at least 200 participants and had simultaneous translation in English and French.



GFC Executive Director Simone Lovera speaks at a Climate Space press conference at COP 21 in Paris. **Mary Louise Malig**

GFC and BG staff and members wrote blogs that were published on the GFC website and were re-published and shared by other organisations on their websites and social media outlets; also by social media outlets like Rappler, and mainstream media like the

Guardian. GFC hosted and co-organised a well-attended press conference together with the Climate Space at the COP 21 media centre in Paris last December 2015 where the impact of unsustainable livestock production and the risks of using carbon accounting approaches to address this problem were highlighted. Both GFC and BG have actively posted on

social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram on the issue of unsustainable livestock and feedstock production. GFC and BG were cited in a post-COP 21 radio program in Bolivia, La Cucaracha.

The global alliance against unsustainable livestock production that was formed in November 2014 in Asunción continues to grow and members are collaborating more and more around different campaigns. More than 35 groups from more than 20 different countries are currently connected through the alliance.

The information and views shared during campaign strategy meetings and the presentations during the public events organised in Bonn in June and in Paris in December 2015 have contributed significantly to the overall analysis as well. The analysis has also

benefited from a participatory assessment of the resilience of community conservation initiatives by Indigenous and non-indigenous communities in Paraguay, which formed part of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative.

A consumer campaign has been initiated in Russia, and is currently being developed in collaboration with other members of the Russian Socio-Ecological Union. The influence of genetically modified (GM) feedstock products and related pesticides on human health and the environment was also considered in detail in the Russian livestock campaign. The Paraguayan members of the Global Alliance have developed an active consumer campaign to raise the awareness of Paraguayan consumers of the use of GM feedstock for the production of regular meat and

dairy products and the need to distinguish these products through mandatory labelling. Additional consumer and awareness raising campaigns are currently being elaborated in Brazil, India, France and Bolivia. Other members of the alliance continue to implement consumer campaigns in Austria, the Netherlands, the US, China and the UK amongst others. GFC and BG publications were translated into Spanish, French and Russian and were distributed at the FAO Committee on Food Security last October 2015, inside the venue of the climate talks in Bonn in June 2015, at UNFCCC COP 21, and at the Peoples' Summit in Paris in December 2015.

Along with its partners, GFC intends to strengthen its resistance to industrial, unsustainable livestock production, raise public awareness and urge

appropriate policy responses at international, regional, and national levels, as well as consumer action. The analytical work on the impacts of unsustainable forms of livestock farming on forests, forest-dependent communities, women, climate change, health, and animal welfare, the role of corporate actors and corporate-led trade liberalisation in promoting these trends, and alternative models proposed by social movements and local communities is ongoing; the final report of the analysis will be published in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Publications

1. [International Strategy Meeting Summary Report: Impacts of Unsustainable Livestock and Feed Production and Threats to Community Conservation in Paraguay, April 2015.](#)
2. [Viande produite par une terre menacée: Témoignages sur les impacts de l'élevage non durable et de la production de soja au Paraguay, January 2015.](#)

GFC Press Releases

[Activists Denounce Agribusiness Take-Over of UN Food Body](#)

Radio

[Vatican Radio—interview with Miguel Lovera on Paraguay and impact of agribusiness model on communities](#)

2.2.2 Large-scale Wood-based Bioenergy Production and Other Forms of Green Land Grabbing

Even though there is a rapidly increasing awareness of its potential negative impacts, bioenergy is still seen by many policy-makers and other stakeholders as a supposedly viable alternative to the fossil fuel dependence of industrialised governments and corporations. Bioenergy is being presented as a solution to the climate crisis as it replaces fossil fuels and other dirty energies with a supposedly renewable alternative. Due to the contested assumption that wood and other plant material that is being burned for bioenergy will automatically grow back, bioenergy production continues to play a central role in the so-called 'net zero' approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that were, partly successfully, promoted at the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015.

For that reason, Global Forest Coalition decided to further strengthen its awareness-raising and advocacy campaign, building on its initial analysis of the potential environmental and social impacts of large-scale wood-based bioenergy production and the report "A Global Overview of Wood Based Bioenergy: Production, Consumption, Trends and Impacts" that resulted from its November 2014 international bioenergy strategy meeting. Throughout the project period, we regularly disseminated copies of the report and other information on the potential risks and impacts of wood-based bioenergy expansion, including at key meetings of forest and climate policy-makers like the UN Forum on Forests, the World Forestry Congress, and the meetings of the UNFCCC.

On the basis of the results of the international strategy meeting in November 2014 we compiled and issued, in collaboration with Biofuelwatch, a special Forest Cover on Wood-based Bioenergy. Forest Cover Issue no.47 was newly redesigned, with a magazine layout in print and, for the first time, individual articles that could be read online as the issue was sent out in Mail Chimp format via listserves. The issue was distributed widely at the World Social Forum in Tunis, the UN Forum on Forests and the climate talks in June 2015, with copies going out in English, Spanish and French.

We organised presentations at the World Social Forum at several events: "Gender and the Post-2015 Development Agenda" with the Women's Major

Communities excluded from land they would have grazed animals on. **Carbon Violence**



Logging operations at an Arauco tree plantation in Chile. **Simone Lovera**



A biomass plant in South Africa. **Mathias Rittgerott/Rainforest Rescue**

Group; “Cheating Mother Earth: Carbon Markets, Geoengineering, Destructive Bioenergy and other False Solutions to Climate Change” with the Climate Space and ETC Group; and were a key speaker at “Trading the Climate: The threats of Free Trade Agreements and the WTO” and at “Systemic Alternatives” all of which were well attended, despite some logistical challenges as expected at big spaces.

As co-facilitator of the Climate Space, we co-organised the World Social Forum Assembly on Climate Change. On behalf of the Climate Space, we presented the Climate Space statement at the Climate Assembly. As part of our overall strategic preparations for the Paris Climate Summit an additional briefing paper on the impact of carbon accounting methodologies for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) was prepared, entitled “Land, Forests and Hot Air”, for a comprehensive, holistic, rights based approach to land-use. The briefing paper was launched a few weeks before the Paris Climate Summit and widely disseminated, with summaries in Spanish and French. Drafts were disseminated for review and information purposes to the GFC members and allies at the World Forestry Congress, and in October 2015. The preliminary results of our

analysis, and copies of Forest Cover 47, were presented at a high-level event organised by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies parallel to the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2015.

We also had a powerful all-women panel present at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in



A re-planted pine plantation in an area currently experiencing conflict between communities and plantation owners in Chile. **Carolina Lagos/CIC**

June 2015 in Bonn. The side event, entitled “Hot Air, Fake Renewables and Forest Destruction: How Bioenergy Undermines the Paris Agreement” drew a good sized audience despite being in the evening.

Questions came both from youth environmentalists and policy decision-makers who wanted to know more about the impacts of large-scale bioenergy.

Together with Biofuelwatch, GFC presented a poster at the World Forestry Congress which was prominently placed inside the well-visited exposition venue. We also, together with Timberwatch and many

other organisations, organised a public seminar on bioenergy at the Civil Society Alternative Platform (CSAP) parallel to the World Forestry Congress talks. Moreover, some of the initial findings of our research were presented during the first thematic plenary of the World Forestry Congress, where one of the GFC representatives was invited as a panelist.

We also used the opportunity of the CSAP gatherings, and the GFC Members Assembly that took place the week before the World Forestry Congress, to organise two strategy meetings, one on bioenergy, and one on the preparations for and possible implications of the Paris

climate summit. The draft of the above-mentioned briefing paper on the implication of carbon accounting methodologies for land use change was shared and discussed by GFC members and allies.

The meetings were very successful in terms of building the basis for a consensus amongst GFC members, not only on climate and land use change, but also on the potential results of the Paris climate summit in general. The latter was reflected amongst others in a widely read blog on “The Coming Tragedy of Paris” which was published the first week of October.

Building on the initial analysis a more analytical briefing paper “Biomyths—the Costly Carbon Scam of Bioenergy” was elaborated, which was launched at a well-attended civil society event at the Paris climate summit. This paper looked in particular at some of the carbon accounting assumptions of bioenergy, as it was realised these played a particularly important role in the negotiations for the Paris Agreement. We widely disseminated the press release around the

launch: “Biomyths: Bioenergy carbon neutrality myth is a time bomb under climate deal.”

The different publications were launched with media alerts that were sent to a rapidly growing media list, and presented at two exhibitions at the climate talks in Bonn and Paris, a poster presentation at the World Forestry Congress, and various side events and well-attended seminars at civil society gatherings in places like Tunis, Durban and Paris.

Aside from having launched and disseminated our release and copies of the study inside the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015 in Paris, we also held, together with our Climate Space allies and other organisations, a public seminar on bioenergy at the People’s Camp in Montreuil, Paris. It was very well attended especially

by the youth who had come to Paris on bicycles, buses and trains.

We were very active in spreading our briefing paper, analysis, actions and events on social media including Twitter and Facebook, and also by connecting with other social movement radios and platforms.

While it is as yet too early to identify very specific results of the campaign, there is a clearly increased awareness of the negative impacts of large-scale bioenergy production, and related accounting rules, amongst both policy-makers and civil society groups. The latter is indicated, for example, by the fact that no less than 132 civil society groups signed up to a recent request to the EU to remove biomass from its Renewable Energy Directive.

Publications

1. Report: “[Biomyths, the Costly Carbon Scam of Bioenergy](#)”, December 2015
2. [Bioenergy Out: Why bioenergy should not be included in the next EU Renewable Energy Directive](#), September 2015
3. [Forest Cover 47: Bioenergy Special Edition](#), published in March 2015

GFC Press Releases

[FAO's new optimistic assessment on reduced deforestation is totally misplaced say forest activists](#)

[International coalition of green groups speaks out against renewable energy subsidies being spent on biofuels and burning wood](#)

[New briefing paper highlights dangers of a fraudulent accounting framework on land use to potential climate agreement](#)

Radio

SABC radio: Global day of action against fake forests in Durban
Interview challenging FAO's global forest assessment
Channel Africa Interview on World Forestry Congress in Durban
SABC news: Keeping Forests Grounded

Blogs

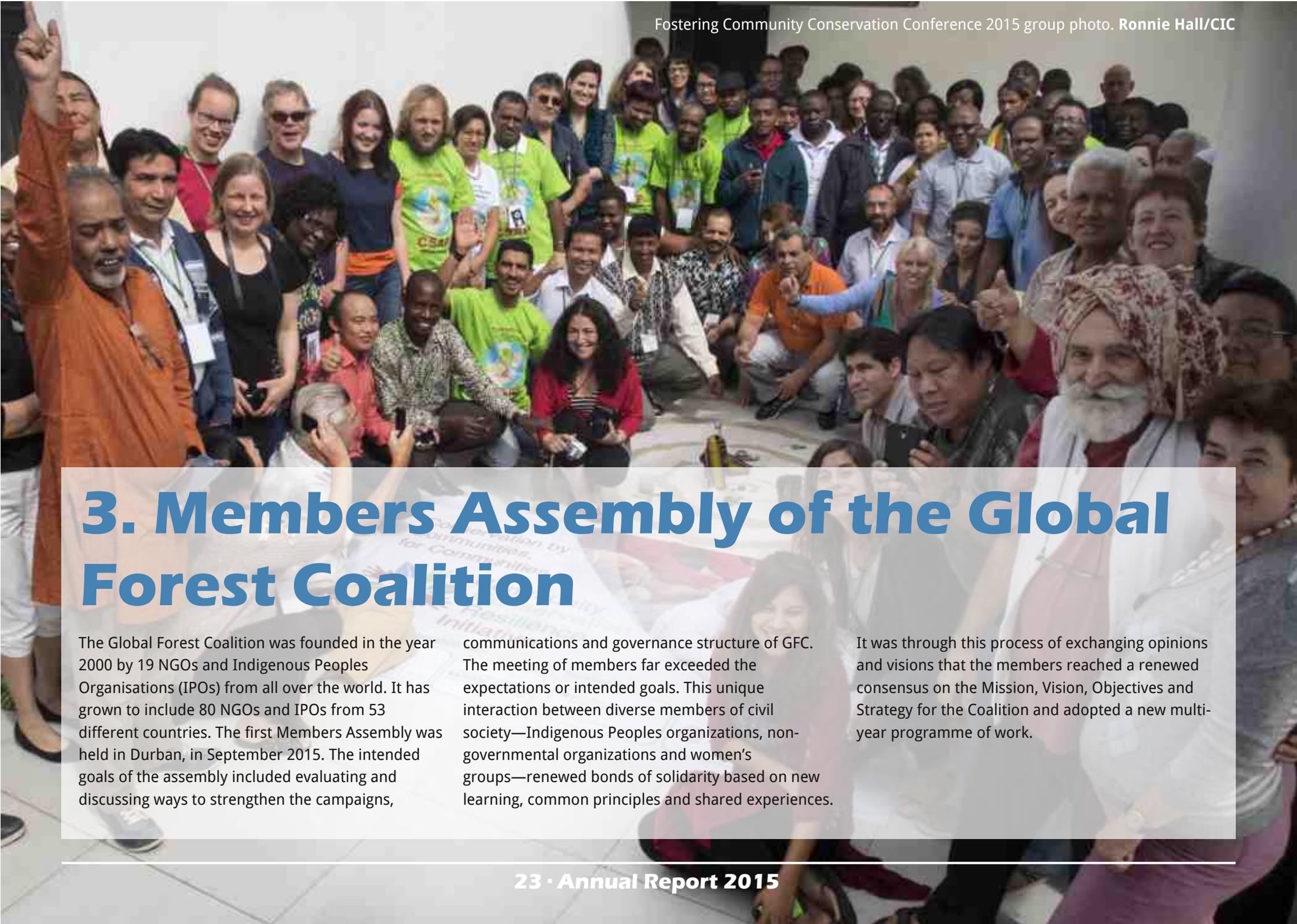
7. Forests and IMFP's: Impressions from Durban: By Philip Owen, published on 12 October 2015, available [here](#).
8. We are the Real Forest Heroes Message to the XIV World Forestry Congress from the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: by Souparna Lahiri, published on 23 September 2015 available [here](#).
9. CCRI's power to bring forest and biodiversity friends together: by Kureeba David, published on 21 September 2015 available [here](#).

Print media

Bloomberg: Activists Challenge FAO Claim That Pace of Deforestation Slowing
Mail & Guardian Africa: Kissing livelihoods and ecosystems goodbye—the very real threat of 'fake forests' in Africa
Deutsche Welle: Trees alone don't make a forest
The Guardian: Olympic organisers destroy 'sacred' South Korean forest to create ski run
Hindustan Times: From the village to the world, MP tribal conservationist Uljiyaro Bai to address UN Forestry meet
SABC: Say no to fake forest
Forest Investment Program (FIP)
Comunidades y organizaciones responsabilizan de actual crisis a modelo extractivista y emplazan a Estado Chileno

Some coverage from COP 21

The Ecologist and Counterpunch Is the Paris Climate Conference Designed to Fail?
Rappler- A disastrous climate deal that will see the planet burn



3. Members Assembly of the Global Forest Coalition

The Global Forest Coalition was founded in the year 2000 by 19 NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) from all over the world. It has grown to include 80 NGOs and IPOs from 53 different countries. The first Members Assembly was held in Durban, in September 2015. The intended goals of the assembly included evaluating and discussing ways to strengthen the campaigns,

communications and governance structure of GFC. The meeting of members far exceeded the expectations or intended goals. This unique interaction between diverse members of civil society—Indigenous Peoples organizations, non-governmental organizations and women's groups—renewed bonds of solidarity based on new learning, common principles and shared experiences.

It was through this process of exchanging opinions and visions that the members reached a renewed consensus on the Mission, Vision, Objectives and Strategy for the Coalition and adopted a new multi-year programme of work.

Vision

The Global Forest Coalition's vision has been updated by unanimous decision. It states:

- Real forests with and for people! Sustainable co-existence of forest eco-systems, Indigenous Peoples and local communities for saving forests as roots of life, taking into account the specific rights, roles, needs and aspirations of women.
- The rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are fully respected and complied with in all forest-related policies. Customary systems of forest governance and conservation, and the land and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, are fully respected.
- Governments comply with the historical agreement to halt deforestation and forest biodiversity loss, at the latest by 2020. The privatisation, commercialisation and deterioration of public policy, including through public-private partnerships, is halted and governments guarantee the protection of human rights, including in particular the human rights of vulnerable groups.
- Plantations are not forests. In line with international definitions, forest conservation includes the preservation, the sustainable use and the restoration of forests with indigenous species.
- Forests are not for trade, forests are for life. Lowering consumption of wood and other products that threaten forests is a very important world task.
- Forests are at the heart of climate regulation, saving biodiversity and halting desertification. Without saving forests it is impossible to get any progress in any of the three Rio conventions.
- Cultural diversity and cultural dialogues are guaranteed to save biodiversity. The world must help Indigenous People and local communities, the main players for saving forest eco-systems, to save cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, taking into account the crucial role of the youth and intergenerational dialogue.

Mission

GFC's mission has been amended by unanimous decision to state:

The mission of GFC is the observation and restoration of forest eco-systems and traditional knowledge, to defend and promote respect for the rights and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, through promoting sustainable livelihoods that secure the co-existence of people and forests for a sustainable quality of life of existing and future generations.

Objectives

The objectives of the Global Forest Coalition are to:

- Ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are defended and guaranteed at the territorial level and in national, regional and international policies on forests and other related topics, such as biodiversity and climate change.
- Ensure community conservation and restoration initiatives receive appropriate organisational capacity, and legal, political, technical and financial support.
- Increase public and political awareness of the importance of combating the real, direct and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and the capacity of local communities, Indigenous Peoples, social movements and women's groups to analyse and address the social and environmental impacts of market-based conservation schemes, including in particular the false solutions that are being promoted within the framework of climate mitigation policies.
- Facilitate and support regional and international alliances between processes and communities working to defend forests and territories.
- Support the restoration of and learn from customary systems of forest governance, conservation and traditional knowledge, to ensure the integrity and biodiversity of forests and their governance by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Apply the lessons learned to strategy and action.

Campaigns

Global Forest Coalition's Campaigns Coordinator informed the members of recent and continuing campaigns such as the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative, Women's rights, Bioenergy and Unsustainable Livestock campaigns. In addition to suggestions on these, members also identified areas where GFC can develop more campaigns. These include: The issue of free trade and free trade agreements including the World Trade Organization and their impacts on biodiversity and peoples, sea bed mining, forest restoration, indicators on SDGs, mining in culturally and ecologically sensitive areas, implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), public private partnerships and agroindustry.

Structure

One of the most important discussions was on the future decision-making structure of Global Forest Coalition. Global Forest Coalition was established in 2005 as a foundation under Dutch law. This means it has a nominated Board, which formally appoints its own new members if old members step down. It also formally has an advisory council, and until November 2014 this advisory council consisted of a coordination group of regional and indigenous focal points, who were nominated in consultation with the members in the relevant region. However, it was felt that two parallel decision-making structures might lead to confusion and possible conflict so the Board and coordination group decided in November 2014 to discontinue the coordination group and develop a draft proposal, to be discussed at the first GFC Members Assembly, for an improved decision-making structure consisting of a Board and an Advisory Council with regional representatives.

The GFC Board proposed the following structure to enhance members' representation in GFC's decision-making. This proposal is in line with the Statutory Terms of the Foundation Global Forest Coalition, and Dutch law.

Proposal 1: New Board members appointed in consultation with members in the relevant regions

- New Board members are appointed by the existing Board in consultation with the members of the relevant region. The future Board will consist of six members, one from each of the major regions: 1) Africa, 2) Latin American and the Caribbean, 3) South and South East Asia, 4) the Pacific, 5) North America and Europe, 6) North, Central and East Asia.
- The Board aims to take decisions by consensus. If consensus is not possible, decisions are taken by ordinary vote. In case of a tight vote, the chairperson will have two votes.
- In selecting a candidate for Board nomination, the members in the regions are requested to strive for greater balance, with at least two out of six representatives being women, and two out of six being indigenous. If no suitable candidates can be found, the Board can decide by majority vote to allow an exception.

Proposal 2: Regional representatives in the Advisory Council

- The Advisory Council consists of one representative per region, 1) Africa, 2) Latin America and the Caribbean, 3) South and South East Asia, 4) the Pacific, 5) North America and Europe, 6) North, Central and East Asia, and senior staff members.
- The regional representatives are elected bi-annually by the GFC members in the relevant regions. They will aim to represent the views in their region.
- The Advisory Council provides regular advice to the Secretariat and Board of GFC. It is consulted by means of an email listserve.

This proposal was accepted with the amendment that the members were free to choose the most appropriate candidate for the Board and Advisory Council, regardless of gender balance and indigenous balance.

In addition to these important decisions, the multi-year programme of work was accepted by the members.

Janet Bastian, GFC Controller, presented the 2014 Annual Report, the 2015 budget, and the financial prospects for the coming years, which were adopted by the members as well.

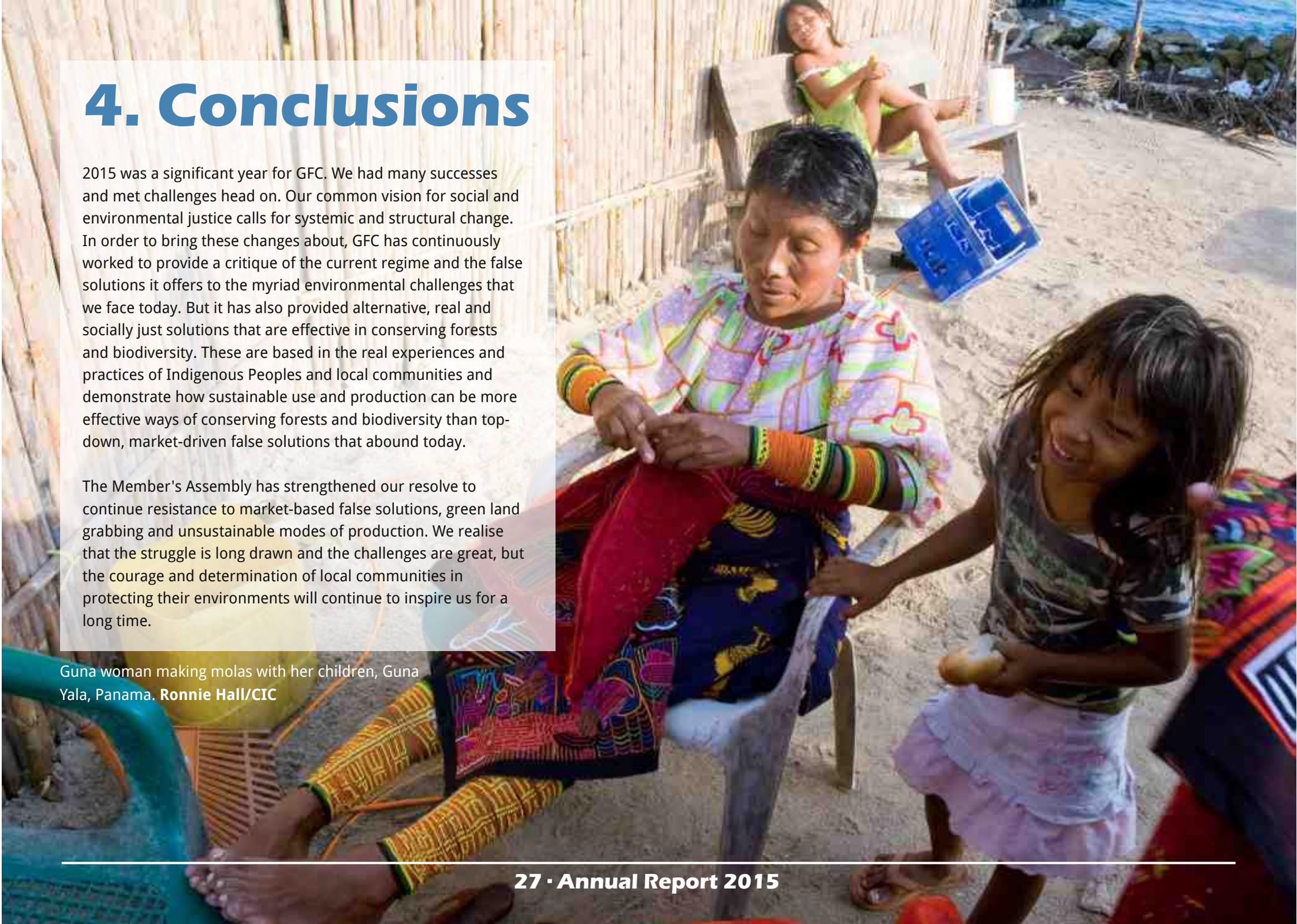
The Members Assembly was a watershed in the history of the Global Forest Coalition. It was inspiring and framed the agenda and vision of its members in a collaborative and consensual spirit. It demonstrated the diversity of the coalition and showed how diverse groups can come together to form common and consensual visions. But perhaps, most importantly it highlighted the importance of personal interactions in brainstorming, debating and strengthening political agendas—which often get lost in purely electronic exchanges.

4. Conclusions

2015 was a significant year for GFC. We had many successes and met challenges head on. Our common vision for social and environmental justice calls for systemic and structural change. In order to bring these changes about, GFC has continuously worked to provide a critique of the current regime and the false solutions it offers to the myriad environmental challenges that we face today. But it has also provided alternative, real and socially just solutions that are effective in conserving forests and biodiversity. These are based in the real experiences and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and demonstrate how sustainable use and production can be more effective ways of conserving forests and biodiversity than top-down, market-driven false solutions that abound today.

The Member's Assembly has strengthened our resolve to continue resistance to market-based false solutions, green land grabbing and unsustainable modes of production. We realise that the struggle is long drawn and the challenges are great, but the courage and determination of local communities in protecting their environments will continue to inspire us for a long time.

Guna woman making molas with her children, Guna Yala, Panama. **Ronnie Hall/CIC**



8. Financial Summary

The Financial Statements for 2015 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			
<i>Note 1. Cash</i>	2015	2014	
	€	€	
ING	<u>75.510</u>	<u>40.032</u>	
<i>Note 2. Accrued Receivables</i>			
Grant Natural Justice	18.867	18.931	
Grant Miseroor	0	20.830	
WEDO	10.197	0	
Other	<u>1.468</u>	<u>0</u>	
Amount as at 31 December	<u>30.532</u>	<u>39.761</u>	
<i>Note 3. Capital</i>			
Amount as at 1 January	11.587	-24.024	
Result for the year	<u>6.455</u>	<u>35.611</u>	
Amount as at 31 December	<u>18.042</u>	<u>11.587</u>	
			<i>Note 4. Accounts Payable</i>
			2015
			€
			2014
			€
			Small grants and third party assignments
			4.650
			8.500
			Staff costs and external services
			42.452
			5.446
			Travel costs
			4.164
			580
			International workshops and other events
			-2.755
			17.564
			Publications and other communication
			20.273
			0
			Administration costs
			13.877
			0
			Other
			0
			8.450
			<u>82.661</u>
			<u>40.540</u>
			<i>Note 5. Advanced Receivables</i>
			Prepayment of project grant Siemanspuu Foundation
			0
			27.666
			<u>0</u>
			<u>27.666</u>
			STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
			<i>Note 6. Expenses</i>
			2015
			Budget
			2014
			€
			€
			€
			Small grants and third party assignments
			57.350
			54.166
			20.817
			Staff costs and external services
			299.757
			286.980
			66.663
			Travel expenses
			50.551
			182.472
			39.148
			International workshops and events
			231.267
			258.830
			40.734
			Publications and other communication
			170.542
			39.700
			52.163
			Administration costs
			45.241
			37.554
			10.692
			<u>854.708</u>
			<u>859.702</u>
			<u>230.217</u>
			Staff costs include costs related to coordination, fundraising and administration.

Statement of income and expenses

	Notes	2015		Budget		2014	
		€	€	€	€	€	€
GRANTS							
BMUB Germany		694.409		694.409		0	
Natural Justice		10.636		8.000		62.115	
The Christensen Fund		47.103		43.150		57.641	
Siemenpuu Foundation		41.666		41.666		41.668	
Isvara Foundation/World Development Movement		0		0		4.552	
SSNC		0		0		0	
SSNC		18.229		17.000		9.756	
Misereor		25.000		37.500		39.169	
Other		24.120		18.000		50.927	
			861.163		859.725		265.828
EXPENSES	6		854.708		859.702		230.217
RESULT FOR THE YEAR			<u>6.455</u>		<u>23</u>		<u>35.611</u>

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 funders: the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Siemenpuu Foundation, the Christensen Fund, Natural Justice, Misereor, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Women in Europe for a Common Future and the Women's Environment and Development Organisation. 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