

Forest Conservation, For and By People



Global Forest Coalition Annual Report 2009



About the cover:

Dense community controlled and governed forest in Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh, north-east India.
Photo: Souparna Lahiri.

Three-day event 'People and their Forests', prior to the 13th World Forestry Congress, Buenos Aires.
Photo: Simone Lovera, GFC.

Community consultation on REDD, Indigenous rights and biodiversity in Mukono, Uganda.
Photo: National Association of Professional Environmentalists.

Large scale plantations in Brazil.
Photo: Camila Moreno, NAT-Friends of the Earth Brazil.



Transnational corporation owned pine-apple plantations have caused water pollution and biodiversity loss, in the southern region of Costa Rica. Photo: Alejandra Porras, COECOCEIBA.

Who we are:

Board of the Foundation GFC in 2009:

Marta Zogbi, Longgena Ginting, Sander van Bennekom

Overview of the GFC Focal points and Staff in 2009:

- 🌀 Focal point English-speaking IPOs: Hubertus Samangun, ICTI Tanimbar, Indonesia
- 🌀 Focal point Spanish-speaking IPOs, Marcial Arias, Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Panama
- 🌀 Focal point South and East Asia: Swati Shresth, Centre for Grassroots Development, India
- 🌀 Focal point Latin America and the Caribbean: Diego Alejandro Cardona, Censat Agua Viva/Amigos de la Tierra, Colombia
- 🌀 Focal point Oceania: Sandy Gauntlett, Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition, Aotearoa/New Zealand
- 🌀 Focal point Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia: Andrey Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia
- 🌀 Focal point Africa: Wally Menne, Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa
- 🌀 Focal point North America: Anne Petermann, Global Justice Ecology Project, USA
- 🌀 Focal point Europe: Almuth Ernsting and Deepak Rughani, Biofuelwatch, UK

Managing coordinator: Simone Lovera

Underlying Causes Initiative coordinator: Andrey Laletin

Communications manager: Yolanda Sikking

Media coordinator: Orin Langelles/Janneke Romijn

Senior Campaign Advisor: Ronnie Hall

Financial administrator: Ioanet ten Voorde-Araceli

Management assistant: Juan Carlos Araujo

Message by the chair

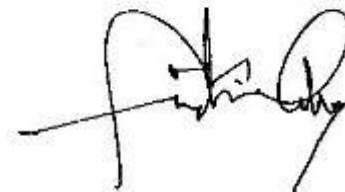
By fighting poverty and defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent peoples, we all have a lot to gain. The year 2009 was marked by a hectic negotiation process leading up to the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in December. Policies and incentives to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Developing countries (REDD) was one of the agenda items that received most public attention. REDD has also started to dominate the international forest policy agenda in general, and is leading to a shift in regular funding streams to the forest sector: these are increasingly being used to fund the preparation of national REDD policies and strategies.

As REDD was still a relatively new and unknown issue in early 2009, GFC received a lot of requests for more information and capacity-building on REDD from its Indigenous and non-Indigenous members and partners. For that reason, GFC organized many public outreach meetings on REDD and related issues at large international gatherings like the World Social Forum in Belem, Brazil, and the Klimaforum in Copenhagen.

GFC and its partners organized 43 local, national, regional and international seminars, workshops and consultation meetings on REDD and related issues such as the potential impacts of genetically engineered trees and analyzing the real underlying causes of forest loss in 2009. GFC representatives also participated actively in the REDD negotiations themselves, and related meetings like the World Bank Forest Investment Program's design meetings.

An important collaborative result of GFC's campaigns to raise awareness about the potential risks of REDD policies is that the formal draft outcomes of the FCCC negotiations on REDD, and other policies such as the World Bank Forest Investment Program's design document, include a number of important safeguards on Indigenous rights and biodiversity.

GFC has also put significant effort into strengthening the capacity of national NGOs and IPOs, so that they can follow national REDD policy development processes and ensure these (draft) safeguards are translated into national safeguards as well.



Fiu Mata'ese Elisara-La'ulu
Chairperson Global Forest Coalition (since May 2010)

Promoting Coherence between REDD, Indigenous Rights and Biodiversity

Capacity building on the Road to Copenhagen

In 2009, 9 NGOs and IPOs in 9 different developing countries received a small grant that enabled them to monitor the development and implementation of national REDD policies. The following national groups were supported: COECOCEIBA in Costa Rica, CENSAT Agua Viva in Colombia, the Dorobo Trust in Kenya, Asociacion Indigena Ambiental in Panama, Equations in India, Forest Watch Indonesia in Indonesia, the National Association of Professional Environmentalists in Uganda, Friends of the Earth-Ghana, and Justiça Ambiental in Mozambique.

The national groups financially or otherwise supported by GFC implemented a public outreach and advocacy campaign to raise the awareness of policy-makers, social movements, local communities and the public in general, about the need for coherence between policies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), UNDRIPs and the CBD forest PoW.

Each group produced a brief report. These reports were used, amongst others, for the national public and political awareness raising campaigns of the respective groups, enabling them to advocate for more coherence between relevant policies at the national level.

The summaries of the national reports formed the basis for a collective report entitled *"REDD Realities, How strategies to*

*reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation could impact on biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples in developing countries"*¹.

"The project was timely not only for FOE-Ghana and the staff, but also to our community groups, forest communities, our allied NGOs and the media. It helped built capacity within FOE-Ghana in particular to understand the REDD issues critically. It also enhanced our participation in the National REDD process, enabling us to match the national policy makers boot for boot. We are in a position to lead and influence the next stages of REDD preparation in the country and to bring the much needed changes to the process. Friends of the Earth-Ghana are a member of the Ghana National Climate Change Committee. We are using the experience of this project to influence the Committee as it about to embark on the development of National Climate Change Policy."

George Awudi, FoE-Ghana

¹ <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/img/userpics/File/publications/REDD-Realities.pdf>

International and regional workshops and seminars

Four REDD-related capacity-building events were organized at the World Social Forum that took place in January-February 2009 in Belém, Brazil. The first three seminars dealt with REDD, Plantations and Privatization; Plantations, Genetically Modified Trees and Agrofuels; and IIRSA (the Initiative on Infrastructure Reform in South America), REDD and International Financial Institutions. Additionally, a dialogue of NGOs, social movements and IPOs on climate justice was organized. GFC also supported the organization of two other events on the expansion of Eucalypt plantations and water rights, where the risks of tree plantations, especially GE tree plantations, were highlighted. Over 280 people participated in these events.

On 23 May 2009, parallel to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, GFC, in cooperation with the Indigenous Environmental Network and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests organized a training for Indigenous Peoples' Organizations on the technical and political aspects of REDD, and the risks of (GE) tree plantations. 34 representatives of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and other organizations participated in this event, which featured the launch of a short explanatory paper on "Forests and Climate Change." GFC also participated in and supported a full-day workshop organized by the Indigenous Environmental Network on REDD and Indigenous rights, in which 250 people participated.

From 16 to 18 October, a three-day capacity-building event on the impacts of tree plantations was organized prior to the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The event was co-organized with Friends of the Earth International and La Via Campesina Argentina. More than 150 representatives of Indigenous organizations, farmers' movements and NGOs participated in this event. GFC also participated in a panel briefing on REDD for 75 developing country journalists, organized by Panos.

Four events related to REDD, LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry), Indigenous rights, agrofuels and the impact of (GE) tree plantations were organized at the Klimaforum in December 2009 in Copenhagen, parallel to FCCC COP-15. On 10 December, a seminar "Indigenous Perspectives on Forests and Climate Change" was organized, in cooperation with the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. This event was followed by an event organized by Global Justice Ecology Project and Indigenous Environmental Network and co-sponsored by GFC: "Indigenous Speak-out on Climate Change." On 11 December, a major event was organized on Food and Energy Sovereignty and Climate Justice, which included several presentations on REDD. The event was co-organized by Friends of the Earth International, La Via Campesina and the World March of Women. On 14 December, the Taiga Rescue Network and GFC organized an event on the role of Boreal Forests in Climate Change. Together, more than 614 people participated in these Klimaforum events. GFC also participated in the panel of an event on REDD organized by the Climate Change Media Partnership, in which 55 journalists participated.

Local and national campaigns and workshops

The national groups financially or otherwise supported by GFC implemented a public outreach and advocacy campaign to raise the awareness of policy-makers, social movements, local communities and the public in general, about the need for coherence between policies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, UNDRIPs and the CBD forest PoW. While the organization of national workshops was not mandatory due to the modest amount of funding available per group, the groups funded by GFC organized a total of 18 local and national consultation and awareness-raising workshops on REDD, with a total participation of more than 900 people.

International side events

Side events on the potential impacts of REDD on Indigenous Peoples' rights and biodiversity, and on the risks of GE tree plantations, were organized on 3 June, at the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the FCCC in Bonn; on 4 November, at the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Groups on Long-term Cooperative Action and the Kyoto Protocol in Barcelona; and on 8 December, at FCCC COP 15. The side event in June was co-organized with Friends of the Earth International and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest. The side event in November was co-organized with the International Alliance; and the side event in Copenhagen was co-organized with the Global Justice Ecology Project. All events were very successful: together they attracted more than 264 participants.

Regional multi-stakeholder workshops

GFC regional focal points organized 6 regional multi-stakeholder workshops in:

- North and Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in June).
- Oceania (Nuku'alofa, Tonga in July).
- Latin America (Bogota, Colombia in September).
- Africa (Nanyuki, Kenya in September).
- South and South East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand in September).

These workshops focused on discussing the importance of the effective implementation of the CBD forest PoW and UNDRIPs for REDD policies. A total of 207 representatives of governmental policy-makers, NGOs, IPOs and other important actors participated in these workshops. The invitees included the NGOs and IPOs who have implemented an independent monitoring project on the implementation of the CBD forest PoW in their country.

Additionally, GFC and the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples organized a European seminar on the impact of REDD and agrofuels on Indigenous Peoples (Amsterdam in May).

Advocacy materials and campaigns

GFC focal points and other GFC members and partners were actively involved in important international policy processes, including in particular the six negotiation rounds that took place within the framework of the Climate Change Convention; the Indigenous Summit on Climate Change; the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the UN Forum on Forests; the Forest Dialogue; meetings on the World Bank Forest Investment Program; meetings of UN-REDD; and the World Forestry Congress.

GFC participants in these meetings advocated for improved coherence between different legally binding and non-legally binding instruments related to forests, the rights of forest peoples, and recognition of the Convention on Biodiversity as the most important legally binding forest conservation policy instrument. They also alerted policy-makers and NGOs and IPOs attending these meetings about the risks of genetically engineered and conventional tree plantations, the risks of large-scale agrofuel and wood-based bio-energy production, and the risks of other geo-engineering strategies such as large-scale biochar.

GFC also contributed to reports on Trade and Climate Change by the Our World is Not for Sale (OWINFS) network and the "Indigenous Peoples' Guide to the False Solutions to Climate Change" published by the Indigenous Environmental Network and allies. GFC also distributed a statement against the inclusion of monoculture tree plantations in REDD, which was supported by over 65 groups.

Underlying Causes Initiative

GFC continued its micro-grants facility on the underlying causes of forest loss and degradation. National workshops on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation were organized by national NGOs in Colombia, Bulgaria, Togo, El Salvador, Ghana and Ukraine. It was decided to postpone several of the projects planned to 2010, so that they could be integrated with an initiative to look at the "underlying causes of forest conservation and forest restoration," that is, an initiative to analyze the incentives and other factors that have prompted local communities to conserve and restore their forests instead of destroying them. It is hoped that the outcome of this analysis will contribute to the elaboration of appropriate incentive systems to reduce deforestation and forest degradation on national and global levels.

For full reports and summaries of all the national underlying causes workshops undertaken in 2009 go to:

<http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/reports/national/115/#UnderLying>



Workshops on the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Georgia. Photo: Vasil Gulisahvili Forest Institute.

Stop Genetically Engineered Trees and Agrofuels

In 2009, GFC continued its campaign to raise awareness about the ecological, social and climatological risks and impacts of genetically engineered trees and second-generation (cellulose-based) agrofuels. GFC also expanded this work to look at the larger risks associated with wood-based bioenergy. Both wood-based liquid fuels and wood-based electricity generation are driving the development of genetically engineered trees.

The campaign on agrofuels and GE trees was particularly active in the US, and included presentations at the Earth, Land and Water Conference, and a national strategy meeting on GMOs, for a total of 60 people. Highlights over 2009 included a sign on letter that comprehensively criticized agrofuels and discussed alternatives that provide real solutions to climate change. The letter was distributed widely to the media and more than 20 organizations signed on.

During the World Social Forum in Belém, Brazil, North American Focal Point and Campaign Coordinator Anne Petermann participated in numerous panels to expose the risks of GE trees and wood-based agrofuels, especially those to forest dependent peoples and forests.

Following the World Social Forum, the coordinators of the campaign traveled to Paraguay to meet with allies about building the Latin America campaign against GE trees and wood-based agrofuels. They met with several representatives from prominent environmental and human rights groups based in Asunción, Paraguay.

The coordinators also presented on the risks of GE trees and agrofuels at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen and Klimaforum--the alternative climate forum in Copenhagen.



The main tree species being genetically engineered include eucalyptus, poplar and pine. The main purposes for which the trees are being developed include liquid agrofuels, paper and wood-based bioenergy. Photos: Langelles/GJEP-GFC

Raising awareness through media work

In cooperation with the "New Voices on Climate Change" project of Global Justice Ecology Project, GFC also implemented a very active media campaign, especially around the World Social Forum, the Indigenous Summit on Climate Change in April 2009, and the UNFCCC negotiations.

Media coverage, especially in Southern and more progressive media has been impressive, and includes two live interviews with Al Jazeera, various live interviews with Democracy Now!, the Guardian, the Independence, the Washington Post, and various national radio programs in countries as varied as the US, Ireland and Jamaica.

During the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change, in April in Alaska, GFC coordinated media for the Indigenous Environmental Network. This led to extensive media coverage. A few of the major media hits: CBC News, ABC News, Associated Press, HuntingtonNews.net (HNN), IPS News, Portland radio and Los Angeles radio, LA Times.

At the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December, GFC organized a press conference and issued two press releases. This resulted in at least 25 media hits that included IPS, Democracy Now!, Huntington News, The Nation, Alternet and the Huffington Post.

Additionally, many national partner groups also implemented successful media campaigns in countries like Panama (where local member groups manage a weekly national radio program), Uganda and Kyrgyzstan.

Dutch media and outreach work was further intensified in 2009 through the active cooperation with, amongst others, the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples and a number of

other Indigenous support groups in the Netherlands. Campaigns supported by GFC around the movie Birdwatchers and the impact of agrofuels on Indigenous Peoples in general led to coverage in *de Volkskrant*, *het Agrarisch Dagblad*, *de Pers* and *Nieuwsbank*.

The Dutch youth campaign had a great start in 2009. Cooperation with the van Hall Larenstein Hogeschool resulted in the involvement of a total of 22 young volunteers in communication and outreach activities around the Climate Summit in Copenhagen. Additional volunteers assisted with outreach activities in the Netherlands. GFC also started a private donation facility in 2009, including for Dutch donors.



Estebancio Castro Díaz, (IA), Kuna Yala Nation (Panama), expert dialogue on biofuels and REDD, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 2009.

Photo: Yolanda Sikking, GFC.

Quality Management and Organizational Improvements

As part of GFC's Quality Management System (QMS), the annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting was held in January 2009, prior to the World Social Forum in Belém. The meeting reviewed the activities and results of 2008 and GFC's structure and internal procedures. As GFC is a relatively young organization that experienced significant growth in past years, it was decided to perform an internal evaluation of the organizational structure and procedures, using the standards normally used for ISO certification. The evaluation was performed by an experienced ISO certifier and concluded that GFC's internal procedures and organizational structures were almost all in line with ISO standards. The main recommendation for further improvement, the elaboration of a formal quality policy, is currently being implemented. Other organizational improvements included the formal adoption of the Wijffels Code by the GFC Board. The quality of GFC's work was also regularly assessed through the other elements of GFC's QMS system: the bi-monthly reports that are published in the internal newsletter *Roots*, the half-yearly reports by the focal points, and the annual reports of the partner groups. Most of this information has been published on the Digital Performance system of GFC.²

The economic crisis has led to a severe strain on funding resources for the entire NGO and IPO community, which has in turn led to increased competition between groups for significantly fewer donor resources. While GFC and its focal points sent out more than 14 fundraising proposals for GFC activities, of which 9 were successful, the contributions were often very small, and the decisions on two major grants that had been informally

confirmed were unexpectedly postponed to 2010. However, by organizing workshops at major events, combining activities and active cooperation with many other organizations and networks GFC has still managed to implement the activities planned, with results that are significantly better than predicted in the original targets of the multi-year program of work.



One of the participants of the African regional workshop on REDD, UNDRIPs and CBD coherence, Nanyuki, Kenya, 23 - 25 September 2009. Photo: Dorobo Trust

² <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/paginas/view/120>

Main results 2009

12 national NGOs and IPOs have been enabled financially or otherwise to monitor the coherence between national REDD policies, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD forest PoW).

9 national reports on the coherence between REDD and other national forest and forest peoples' policies have been produced. They were published, together with links to 3 additional reports, in a report entitled "REDD Realities, the potential impact of REDD on Indigenous rights and biodiversity in developing countries", which was launched at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the FCCC.



Community consultation on REDD, Indigenous rights and biodiversity in Mukono, Uganda. Photo: NAPE.



Three-day event 'People and their Forests', prior to the 13th World Forestry Congress, Buenos Aires. Photo: Simone Lovera, GFC.

3 international workshops/side events on the need for coherence between different policies to reduce deforestation and respect forest peoples' rights have been organized. More than 260 people participated in these events.

An active advocacy campaign to promote coherence between policies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, UNDRIPs and the CBD forest PoW has been implemented at the international level and in 12 different countries.



Ngobe women proclaiming the approval of the Law of Autonomy of Indigenous Peoples, Colombia. Photo: Alejandra Porras.



Marcial Arias, International Alliance, photo GFC

6 regional multi-stakeholder workshops were organized in Tonga, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Thailand, Kenya and the Netherlands to discuss the importance of the effective implementation of the CBD expanded program of work on forest biodiversity and UNDRIPs, for policies to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Almost 250 people participated in these events.

6 national workshops on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation were organized by national NGOs in Colombia, Bulgaria, Togo, El Salvador, Ghana and Ukraine. Together they attracted more than 290 participants.



Indigenous Peoples from the Amazon participated in the World Social Forum, Brazil. Photo: Yolanda Sikking, GFC.



National Policy on Climate Change supports heavily the expansion of tree plantations in Brazil. Photo: Camila Moreno, NAT- Friends of the Earth Brazil.

Direct and indirect outcomes of GFC's work

As a worldwide Coalition with member and partner groups in over 35 countries and strong links with many other global networks and fora including the International Indigenous Forum on Climate Change, Climate Justice Now!, the Accra Caucus on forests and climate change, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, La Via Campesina, the GenderCC network, Friends of the Earth International, and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy's Task Force on REDD and Communities, GFC is strategically positioned to raise awareness of the potential impacts of REDD, GE trees and agrofuels amongst a large number of NGOs, IPOs, social movements, and community groups. The influence of GFC thus goes way beyond the direct influence its members and partners have on policy-makers.

During the past years, GFC has clearly positioned itself as an opinion leader on issues like agrofuels and REDD. And in the same way that GFC's early alert on the potential direct and indirect impact of biofuels is now echoed by a large number of actors, including influential scientific institutions and policy-makers, its concerns about the potential impacts of REDD on Indigenous Peoples, women and biodiversity are gradually being echoed by many influential policy-makers, including key donors to REDD processes. Especially the series of seminars and trainings for and by Indigenous Peoples' representatives on REDD that GFC initiated in 2006 has had a tremendous spin-off effect, as these Indigenous Peoples' representatives themselves have subsequently influenced hundreds of other IPOs and, through them, key policy makers.

As a result of the advocacy work of these IPOs, the UN-REDD program has now accepted the principle of Free Prior Informed

Consent by Indigenous Peoples as a basis for its work, and elaborated a number of useful guidelines on how to implement this principle in national REDD programs. In countries including Paraguay, Panama and Kenya, these guidelines have already helped IPOs in their national campaigns to influence their national UN-REDD programs.

The World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is also considering strengthening its safeguards on Indigenous rights; and partly as a result of the direct interventions of GFC members, the World Bank's Forest Investment Program (FIP) has now adopted a safeguard that is almost as strong as the FPIC principle (a direct reference to FPIC was vetoed by the US).

The draft negotiation text on REDD within the FCCC process itself, which remains in brackets due to the chaotic end of the 15th Conference of the Parties in December, also includes a number of important safeguards regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to participate fully and effectively in REDD policy development and implementation. There is even a clear reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the draft text on REDD, despite vehement opposition from, especially, the US. The US also played a negative role in Copenhagen regarding the biodiversity safeguards in the REDD text, an attitude that has since been widely denounced by GFC in the US media, including through interviews with Democracy Now! and the Nation. Even so, the latest draft texts on biodiversity were considered quite unthinkable when the REDD negotiations started in Bali in 2007. It should also be noted that the draft REDD text includes many references to other issues GFC has been advocating for over many years, like the need to address gender considerations, land tenure issues and other drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

In most countries the increased capacity of the national partner

group and their many Indigenous and civil society allies has significantly strengthened the participation of these sectors in REDD policy development. Many of the national campaigns by the national groups have had a significant direct or indirect influence on REDD policy development in their country. For example, in many of the countries GFC partner groups have highlighted the need to address gender considerations, and to fully involve women in REDD consultations. Moreover, several of the underlying causes workshops organized this year also discussed REDD.

The underlying causes workshops organized in Bulgaria and Ukraine also had a significant influence on national forest policy. Part of the recommendations of these workshops were incorporated into, respectively, the new Bulgarian forest law and the Ukrainian New Program on Forests.

The emphasis GFC has placed, since 2006, on the need to take into account the indirect impacts of agrofuels has helped to trigger a significant amount of research into these indirect impacts. This has resulted in the publication of several reports by international and national policy-making bodies like the UN, the European Commission and the Dutch Commission on Biomass and Sustainability. In the US, the Energy Independence and Security Act was revised to include mandatory assessments of the indirect impacts of agrofuels. As a result, there are clear indications that the enthusiasm for agrofuels is now diminishing, not only in consumer countries, but also in some Asian countries and countries like Tanzania, where the government has placed a moratorium on new land leases for agrofuel crops.

GFC and its North American focal point Global Justice Ecology Project (GJEP) have also taken the lead, since 2007, in a worldwide campaign to alert policy-makers and the public about the potential risks of genetically engineered trees. These trees are being promoted, amongst other things, as a potential source

of bio-energy. After a successful campaign coordinated by GJEP in which 17,500 people submitted comments, the US Department on Agriculture was forced to redo their environmental assessment of the impacts of GE Eucalypt.

As stated above, it should be emphasized that these results are collaborative and therefore, by definition, not only attributable to GFC. But they are indeed the indirect result of GFC's intensive interactions with other international and national networks and movements, and of GFC's direct and indirect interactions with key policy-makers.



Bulgarian forest. Photo: Vanya Ratarova, Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/ BirdLife Bulgaria.

REDD Realities

Under the proposals for REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation), countries and other stakeholders and rightsholders would be able to receive money to protect a forest. However, according to a report by the Global Forest Coalition, **REDD Realities**, which was launched at a side event in Copenhagen, national legislation in many countries is too weak to ensure these financial flows will actually benefit forests and forest communities. This will be a particularly serious problem if the US and other countries persist in their plans to finance REDD through carbon offset markets, as corporations will be able to ignore basic human rights and environmental norms.

The GFC report features case studies from 12 different countries on the current status of REDD plans and their coherence with biodiversity and human rights legislation. The report finds amongst others that in many countries there has been little if any serious consultation with Indigenous Peoples on REDD strategies, and their rights are still violated in many different ways.

The report also points out that women's rights and needs are still ignored in national REDD policies.

Moreover, it concludes that the inclusion of "sustainable forest management" in REDD schemes could lead to the expansion of monoculture tree plantations and logging in pristine forest areas. Under the current definitions used by the climate convention, no distinction is made between natural forests and plantations. This means that forestry companies can be paid to convert naturally grown forests into monoculture tree plantations, which will lead to huge biodiversity loss and cause a tragedy for forest communities. In addition to destroying biodiversity and displacing forest dependent communities, this activity also releases huge amounts of carbon from vegetation and the soil, exacerbating climate change.

Summary financial report

The multi-year work programme of the Stichting Global Forest Coalition is divided into two cross-cutting intervention strategies and three modules. The intervention strategies are to build the capacity of NGOs and IPOs to influence forest policy, and to advocate for rights-based forest policy.

The three modules are to monitor the implementation of international forest policy (independent monitoring, Module 1) to address the underlying causes of forest loss (underlying causes, Module 2), and to promote rights-based and socially just forest policies (Module 3). The expenses are divided amongst these modules and intervention strategies, and the Quality Management System. The Financial Statements for 2009 are in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 "Not-for-profit organizations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board and approved by Stolkwijk Registeraccountant, De Meern, the Netherlands.

Balance sheet as at 31 december

	Notes	2009		2008	
		€	€	€	€
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash	1	221.048		257.030	
Accrued receivables	2	8.391		0	
Prepaid expenses	3	0		9.337	
TOTAL			229.439		266.367
LIABILITIES					
Advanced Receivables	4	237.800		234.596	
Accounts Payable	5	66.940		67.582	
Unfunded result	6	-75.301		-35.810	
TOTAL			229.439		266.367

The work of the Global Forest Coalition depends on contributions from public donors and individuals. ***We would like to thank the following donors for their support to the programs, projects, campaigns and other activities of the Global Forest Coalition and its focal points:***

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Biodiversity Centre (Swedbio), the Harris and Frances Block Foundation, the Ben and Jerry Foundation, the New Visions Foundation, the Firedoll Foundation, the Cornerstone Campaign, IUCN, and the many organizations and private individuals that provided small contributions to specific activities of the Coalition. In order to maintain our independence, the Global Forest Coalition does not accept money from private corporations.

Statement of income and expenses

	Notes	2009		Budget		2008	
		€	€	€	€	€	€
GRANTS							
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Netherlands)	7	428.094		508.950		540.974	
Swedbio (Sweden)		80.789		110.000		106.745	
Other		61.909		70.000		3.080	
			570.792		688.950		650.799
EXPENSES							
Intervention Strategy 1.	8	169.326		250.350		340.998	
Intervention Strategy 2.	9	402.016		400.600		276.494	
Quality Management System	10	34.878		38.000		33.307	
Legal expenses	11	4.063		0		0	
			610.283		688.950		650.799
UNFUNDED RESULT			-39.491		0		0

Current Assets

<i>Note 1. Cash</i>	2009	2008
	€	€
Prethbank	<u>221.048</u>	<u>257.030</u>

Note 2. Accrued Receivables

Support Copenhagen event	<u>8.391</u>	<u>0</u>
--------------------------	--------------	----------

This relates to grants of 2009 that are received during the first months of 2010.

Note 3. Prepaid expenses

WSF meeting 2009	0	8.640
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>697</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>9.337</u>

Note 4. Advanced Receivables

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (grant 2007-2010)	<u>237.800</u>	<u>234.595</u>
---	----------------	----------------

Notes

<i>Note 5. Accounts Payable</i>	2009	2008
	€	€
Translations	5.538	0
Life as commerce	0	10.849
Staff costs	39.472	11.930
Travel costs staff	12.384	10.169
Other	<u>9.546</u>	<u>34.634</u>
	<u>66.940</u>	<u>67.582</u>

Note 6. Unfunded Result

Unfunded result 2003-2006	-35.810	-35.810
Unfunded result 2009	<u>-39.491</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>-75.301</u>	<u>-35.810</u>

The unfunded result 2003-2006 will be reclaimed from private and other donors.

The unfunded result 2009 relates to the fact that the contribution by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is maximized to 75% of the total grants in 2009.

DIRECTOR

The director received during 2009 a total remuneration of € 28.800 on a free-lance basis, this amount does not exceed the maximum remuneration as mentioned in the Wijffels Code.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**Note 7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (The Netherlands)**

According to the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 29 September 2006 they will pay a maximum amount of € 2.022.240 of MSF subsidy to Stichting Global Forest Coalition for the period 2007-2010.

Note 8. Intervention Strategy 1.

	2009	Budget	2008
	€	€	€
Independent Monitoring	30.381	25.350	86.843
Underlying causes	89.535	158.150	105.883
Rights based and socially just forest conservation	<u>49.410</u>	<u>66.850</u>	<u>148.272</u>
	<u>169.326</u>	<u>250.350</u>	<u>340.998</u>

Note 9. Intervention Strategy 2.

	2009	Budget	2008
	€	€	€
Independent Monitoring	194.183	203.650	91.867
Underlying causes	<u>46.845</u>	<u>73.310</u>	<u>41.779</u>
Rights based and socially just forest conservation	<u>160.988</u>	<u>123.640</u>	<u>142.848</u>
	<u>402.016</u>	<u>400.600</u>	<u>276.494</u>

Note 10. Quality Management System

	2009	Budget	2008
	€	€	€
QMS Meetings	31.684	35.000	31.407
Other	<u>3.194</u>	<u>3.000</u>	<u>1.900</u>
	<u>34.878</u>	<u>38.000</u>	<u>33.307</u>

Note 11. Legal expenses

These expenses relate to legal proceedings against Forest Peoples Programme. According to information provided by the Managing Coordinator these expenses are not been covered by grants of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but by private donations and the administration costs of other grants.

EMPLOYEES

During 2009 Global Forest Coalition employed on average 1 employee.



www.globalforestcoalition.org

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition, which was founded in the year 2000 by NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) from around the world. Its objectives are to facilitate the informed participation of NGOs and IPOs in international forest policy meetings and to organize joint advocacy campaigns on issues like Indigenous Peoples' rights, the need for socially-just forest policy and the need to address the underlying causes of forest loss.

People, Forests, Rights

