



Global Forest Coalition

Defending real forests, social justice and the rights of forest people

Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition of 86 NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations from 58 countries defending social justice and the rights of forest peoples in forest policies. **We believe in forest conservation by and for people, and the sustainable co-existence of forest ecosystems, Indigenous Peoples and local communities as a way of saving forests.**

To this end, we promote the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems and traditional knowledge, defending and promoting respect for the rights and territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and highlighting the specific rights, roles, needs and aspirations of women in particular.

We support community conservation and sustainable livelihoods that secure the co-existence and resilience of people and forests, creating a sustainable quality of life for existing and future generations. At the same time we organise joint advocacy campaigns at the national, regional and international levels, to ensure that

the rights, roles, needs and customary systems of forest governance of Indigenous Peoples, women and local communities are respected in all forest-related policies.

GFC: current campaigns and programmes

Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI)

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and other community conservation initiatives cover at least 22% of the earth's terrestrial surface. There is convincing evidence that ICCAs and other community conservation initiatives sustain many unique cultures and livelihoods, whilst being much more effective than conventional protected areas in terms of forest conservation and restoration. We aim to sustain and strengthen the resilience of community conservation practices with respect to both

external and internal threats. Together with other groups we are supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities to assess the resilience of their conservation and restoration initiatives and to identify what forms of support—legal, political, socio-economic, financial, technical, etc—they need to strengthen them. This includes analysing and promoting respect for the specific rights, roles and needs of women. We are currently half way through our programme of at least 60 assessments by communities in more than 20 countries.



Livestock is very important to peasant families in India. Ashlesha Khadse



Large-scale dairy farming in India. Ashlesha Khadse



Livestock can play an important role in agro-ecology. Simone Lovera

Women2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

Women2030 is a programme that aims to achieve gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by engaging women and gender-focussed organisations and movements around the globe. It is led by Women Engage for a Common Future, Global Forest Coalition, Women Environmental Programme, Gender and Water Alliance, and Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. Women2030 includes a programme of media and gender trainings for all participating organisations and their members

around the world, led by GFC, which are designed to help participants tell more powerful stories through mainstream, social and visual media. A free downloadable Media Training Toolkit has also been published, to help civil society organisations and movements in their outreach, advocacy and campaigning work. With this, they can effectively advocate for gender equality and women's priorities and positions, including by learning to create and use visual imagery more effectively.

Other programme areas include our Life as Commerce campaign, which focuses on raising awareness of the impacts of market solutions to the direct and underlying causes of forest loss, which include large-scale wood-based bioenergy production and



CCRI workshop in Tanzania. David Kureeba/GFC



Communities in Paraguay are threatened by GMO soy. Vicki Hird/GFC



Beekeeping is important to the Udege community in Russia. Yuki Mikami/GFC

Industrial livestock, forests and climate change

Industrial livestock farming is a major contributor to forest and biodiversity loss, and to climate change (contributing some 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions). It also poses a major threat to the world's small-scale food producers and the availability of healthy and nutritious food for all. Changing the way we produce meat and dairy products, and how much of them we eat, could provide relatively easy to achieve but far-reaching win-win-win impacts for people, including farmers, Indigenous Peoples and women, for forests and biodiversity, for animals and for our

climate. We have been actively researching and raising the alarm about this overlooked sector and promoting sustainable and feasible alternatives, including in the UN's Committee on Food Security, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We continue to research and publish our findings about impacts in different countries around the world. And we have hosted key international strategy meetings, helping to found the informal Global Alliance against Unsustainable Livestock Farming, in 2014.



Women farmers in the Solomon Islands. James Meimana/GFC



Effective advocacy strengthens campaigns! Victor Barro/CIC



Woman and children making traditional clothes, Panama. Ronnie Hall/CIC

market-based conservation schemes on women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We also campaign for real and the direct and indirect replacement of forests by monoculture tree plantations.

It is critical to achieve zero deforestation by 2020, as agreed by governments in Target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, if we are to address climate change and biodiversity loss. Zero deforestation does not mean that forests cannot be used sustainably by local communities, including for traditional sustainable grazing, hunting or shifting cultivation systems for community needs. Rather, zero deforestation means that the direct and underlying causes of forest loss, including monoculture tree plantations, and the unsustainable export-oriented production of and international trade in food crops, bioenergy, feedstock and livestock all have to be addressed, including by reducing demand and consumption.

Forests are for life, not trade. The current trend for market-oriented solutions that leverage private finance—including the privatisation and commercialisation of forests, carbon markets, bioenergy,

genetically engineered trees and the financialisation of nature—are taking us in the wrong direction. These approaches threaten real forests and the people dependent upon them, and are counterproductive.

Plantations are not forests. Monoculture tree plantations destroy biodiversity and community livelihoods, and should not be defined as ‘forests’. Our forests are the roots of life, not only for the people that live in

them, but for all of us. They provide food, shelter and medicines; they are home to most of the world’s biodiversity; and they are at the heart of climate regulation.

Real solutions are needed now. There are many practical production alternatives including agroecology, agroforestry, and other traditional practices that enhance forest conservation and traditional farming techniques. Protecting cultural diversity and traditional knowledge are essential to saving biodiversity, taking into account the crucial roles of young people and intergenerational dialogue.

Essential complementary policy alternatives include regulatory and fiscal reforms to reduce wasteful demand for the world’s natural resources, stronger protections for human rights, especially for vulnerable groups, and the redirection of perverse subsidies, especially in the energy, agriculture, livestock and forestry sectors.



Ronnie Hall/CIC

Our Board Members, staff and collaborators are scattered around the world in 16 countries: Paraguay and the Netherlands, where our offices are based, and Bolivia, Chad, Colombia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Portugal, Russia, Samoa, Thailand, Uganda, the UK and the US.

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