

# Defending Community Rights in Forest Policy at Local, National and Global Levels

## Global Forest Coalition **Annual Report 2016**





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

<http://globalforestcoalition.org/annual-report-2016/>

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A farmer in Tajikistan. Simone Lovera/GFC



# Who we are

## Board of the Foundation GFC in 2016:

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)

## Overview of GFC Team in 2016:

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**Campaigns and Communications Coordinator**

**and Research Associate:** Mary Louise Malig

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**Indigenous and Gender Advisor:** Mrinalini Rai

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**Climate and Land Use Policy Advisor:** Simon Fischer

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Students at Eor-Ewuaso Primary School in Narok County, Kenya, have put up signs throughout the school grounds to remind the community to conserve and protect the environment. Jeanette Sequeira/GFC





# Message by the Chair

In 2016 we sought to realise the vision and purpose we agreed in 2015, especially in relation to women and their indispensable role in taking care of territories, transforming environmental conflicts and maintaining life in all its forms. Our coalition has a commitment to women and other sectors of the population that are often segregated or marginalised by the patriarchal system. We offer our deepest recognition and appreciation for their guidance,

the Global Forest Coalition repeatedly highlighted the role of women and women's rights, as well as those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We have also taken a leading role in launching the new [#women2030](#) network, which spans 52 countries around the world, seeking to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are met in a gender-equitable and climate just way.

2016 was also a year that left deep scars: wars, migrations, and increased numbers of refugees, many of whom had to abandon territories that they helped to protect which are now disputed. However, it is also a year of fond memories for the Global Forest Coalition, because it brought new expectations and responsibilities with regard to defending



inspiration, lessons and contributions to reaffirming our commitment to forests, diversity, and the cultures and peoples that make their home in forests.

During the year, in settings such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Of course, there is still a long way to go for these rights to be made effective at the local, national, regional and international levels. It is not just about a gender 'perspective', nor even obtaining recognition of women's rights, visions and actions. It is about actually giving women the place they deserve in all decision-making processes.

forests and the rights of those who inhabit them or rely upon them. Our thanks to all those who have believed in our initiatives and supported us: donors, allies, social movements, and especially those who inspire our efforts—the peoples and local communities of the forests.

During the year we have had the opportunity to work more closely with peoples, communities and their organisations, not only in the initiative on community conservation resilience, which has now reached 22 countries, but also in other campaigns such as unsustainable livestock production, which gained new members. We also continued to follow a path of action and influence together with sister organisations with which we share common commitments, for example by demanding that the FAO modify its harmful definition of forests and by proposing a concept that is more suitable both for discourse and practice, emphasising new proposals and solutions.

Still, the threats we all face require us to be more insistent and creative in our resistance. For example, we need to stand firm against the proposal to simply integrate biodiversity conservation into existing productive sectors, which are precisely those responsible for the greatest share of the destruction of natural patrimony and the violations of the rights of peoples. It is our conviction that the management of territories and forests should be in the hands of the peoples and communities themselves, and that their protection should be determined by values, not by prices imposed by the market. The values of the forest for local peoples are rooted in culture, use and spirituality, going beyond the reductionism of market prices for carbon, wood, or payments for environmental services.

In the face of all this, our achievements serve as stimulus to carry on and expand our efforts, to continue being a 'Global Forest Coalition.'

**Diego Alejandro Cardona**  
**Chairperson**





# 1. Introduction

2016 was an exciting and productive year for the Global Forest Coalition. As of May 2017, we have grown to 86 members—NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organisations—from 58 countries, enabling GFC to reaffirm and promote its unswerving defence of social justice and the rights of forest peoples ever more effectively. 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. This overarching principle has always been reflected in GFC's campaigns, programmes and collaborations with allies.

During the year, together with our many allies, we succeeded in ensuring that the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women, and their central role in conserving and restoring this planet, were recognised by policy makers as being at the heart of sustainable development. For example, the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD COP 13) include many explicit references to the importance of community conservation and the rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples and women. On the ground, we are now supporting community conservation

resilience assessments in 22 different countries. These allow communities to assess the importance of their conservation practices, and the challenges they need to overcome to strengthen them. It is the efforts of women and men in communities such as these that form the foundation of our global coalition.

These communities and their rights and needs are at the heart of GFC's campaigns at the global level, which all focus on the need to achieve zero deforestation by 2020 as agreed by governments in Target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. For GFC, '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, livestock and feedstocks all have to be addressed, including by reducing demand and consumption.

For example, in the campaigns against industrial livestock and feedstock production, GFC, together with our many allies, contributed to raising the visibility of this overlooked sector, by publishing research and country case studies and bringing the results to different fora, highlighting the impact of

industrial livestock and feedstock production on forests, and also on communities, climate change, biodiversity, food and health. We also emphasised the need for governments to redirect perverse subsidies and incentives to support policies promoting sustainable alternatives instead.

We were successful in many of our objectives for the year, but the challenges are themselves advancing rapidly, as 2016 also saw a wave of fascism, racism, sexism, religious extremism and intolerance engulf many countries. Thus struggles for social justice are intensifying, and these are intrinsically linked to our own demands for stronger protections for human rights, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Reflecting on 2016, as we write this Report, we draw renewed strength, determination and inspiration to fight even harder, not only to defend but to propose, to imagine, to create and to build new ways of relating to nature, forests, communities and each other. The defence of our forests is the defence of the roots of life, and in this struggle we will continue together, onward.

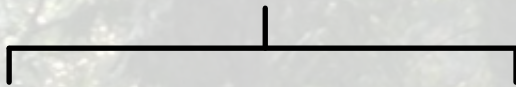
View of the Great Rift Valley, Kenya. Jeanette Sequeira/GFC



## 2. Main Campaigns in 2016



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



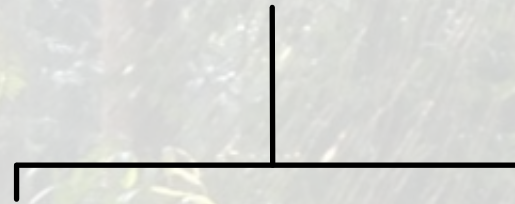
**Community Conservation Resilience Initiative**



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



**Addressing Key Direct and Underlying Causes of Forest Loss**



**Unsustainable Livestock Farming**



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



## 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

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 they sustain many unique cultures and livelihoods, whilst being much more effective than conventional protected areas in terms of forest conservation and restoration.

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.

The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative is an informal alliance of national and international Indigenous Peoples' organisations, non-governmental organisations and social movements that includes Natural Justice, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee and the ICCA Consortium. The initiative uses the



Group photo of the women's consultation meeting at Olulunga community, Narok County, Kenya. **Jeanette Sequeira/GFC**



Participants at the women's consultation meeting, Kenya. **Jeanette Sequeira/GFC**



Students at Eor-Ewuaso Primary School in Narok County, Kenya, performing a song and dance about the importance of protecting water and trees. **Jeanette Sequeira/GFC**

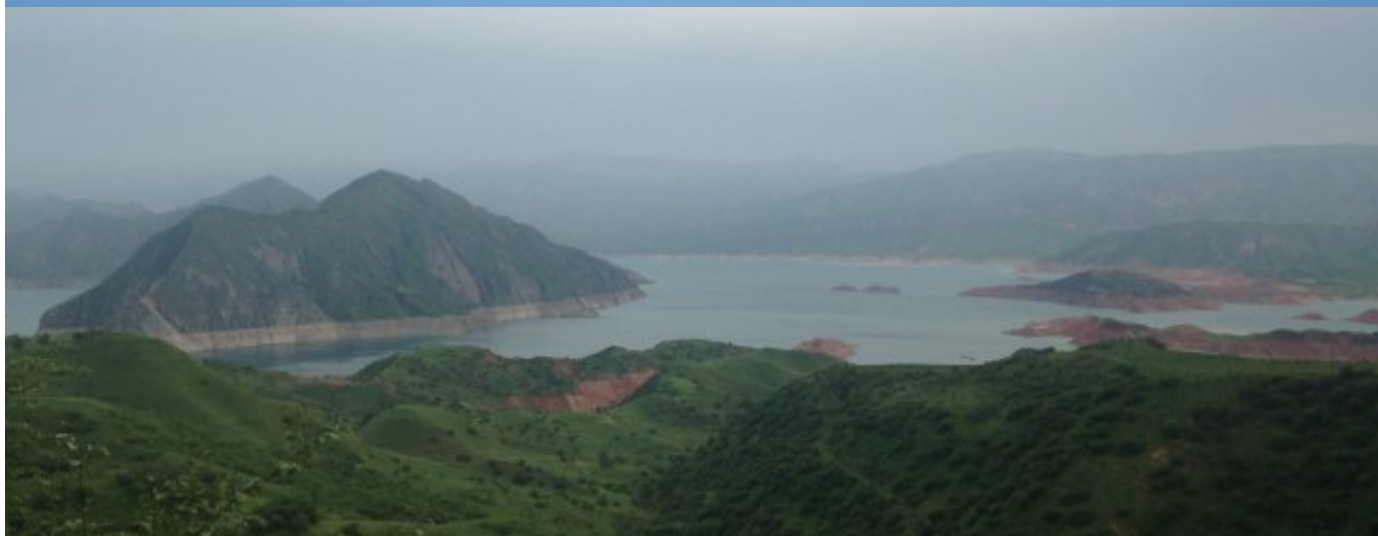


A farmer near Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. **Simone Lovera/GFC**



Sales women at a local market. **Simone Lovera/GFC**

A reservoir created by one of Tajikistan's many hydro-electric dams. **Simone Lovera/GFC**



findings of the community assessments for national and international advocacy campaigns that promote policies that provide effective and appropriate forms of support to local traditional biocultural approaches to biodiversity conservation and restoration implemented

by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including ICCAs.

The year 2016 was marked by a number of important conferences in the field of biodiversity conservation,

including the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) which took place back to back to the 20th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada; the 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC-6) in Hawai'i, USA; the 2nd UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in Nairobi, Kenya; and the 13th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Cancun, Mexico (CBD COP 13), which focused on biodiversity mainstreaming. The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and other partners in the CCRI participated actively in all these meetings, advocating for greater recognition of the importance of community conservation.

Our advocacy was based on the outcomes of the 33 community conservation resilience assessments organised in 2015 in Iran, Russia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Uganda, South Africa, Ethiopia, Panama, Chile and Paraguay. It was elaborated in the form of concrete policy proposals in position papers and other advocacy materials, as well as a large number of other communications tools including posters, videos, newsletters and leaflets.

In 2016 new community conservation resilience assessments were also initiated with communities in 12 different countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia and Colombia. Capacity-building workshops on the CCRI methodology were organised in Tajikistan, Kenya, Nepal, Malaysia, Colombia, and India (with others scheduled for the first half of 2017). In 2016 these capacity-building workshops strengthened the capacity



of more than 270 community members to apply the CCRI participatory assessment methodology and to advocate effectively for the recommendations they subsequently formulated.

A training was also organised in Cancun to enable CCRI participants to advocate for community conservation at CBD COP 13, which benefited more than 24 Indigenous Peoples' and community representatives and others, enabling them to advocate more effectively for the outcomes of the CCRI processes in the CBD negotiations.

These collaborative advocacy campaigns have been highly successful. As a result of the efforts of the Global Forest Coalition, together with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Women's Caucus, the CBD Alliance and allied networks like the ICCA Consortium, in which CCRI partners and other GFC members participated actively, the decisions of CBD COP 13 include more than 270 references to the role, rights and/or participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in biodiversity conservation and related policies. They also include a large number of decisions highlighting the importance of providing effective and appropriate support for community conservation. At least five governments (including Bolivia, Russia, the Philippines, Costa Rica and Guatemala) explicitly supported our interventions, and numerous government interventions included references to key demands.

An interim evaluation of the CCRI initiative was performed in the course of 2016 by an independent evaluator, and her report was discussed at a steering committee meeting in Cancun. The evaluation concluded that the initiatives had many strengths, especially in



Rava community handicrafts, in the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal, India. **Simone Lovera/GFC**



Banner welcoming participants to CCRI workshops. **Simone Lovera/GFC**



Women CCRI participants from the Rava community. **Simone Lovera/GFC**

terms of embracing a genuinely participatory methodology and linking local, national and international groups and campaigns. Some suggestions to further improve the structure and activities of the initiative were made, which are currently being

implemented. The CCRI is clearly leading to more recognition and understanding by policy-makers and the wider public of the importance and resilience of community conservation and related Indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices.



# Publications, Media Coverage, Opinion Pieces, Blogs, and Press Releases

## PUBLICATIONS

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and the Resilience of Community Conservation: A Briefing Paper

Global Forest Coalition position paper, recommendations on community conservation, SBSTTA-20

Global Forest Coalition position paper, recommendations on SBI-1 Agenda Items

Joint Position Paper of the ICCA Consortium, Global Forest Coalition and Community Conservation Resilience Initiative on the Draft Decisions CBD COP13

Climate Finance, Results-based Payments and Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

SDG Policy Brief: Biodiversity Conservation

Forest Cover 50 - The SDGs and forests: threat, or opportunity of a lifetime?

## OPINION PIECES, BLOGS, ARTICLES

Intercontinental cry: Protected areas as a threat to sustainable development goals

India-Opinion piece on threats to community conservation by harmful laws – Campa has greed written all over it

The cynical 17%: Why we should conserve biodiversity for people and by people instead of protecting it from people

Tajikistan organized the first CCRI national workshop among GFC groups in 2016

Chile – Piece on impacts on community conservation by harmful laws (**Spanish version / English version**)

## RADIO AND TV

Telesur report on CCRI report: Indigenous communities sit at the heart of protecting biodiversity

Colombia: CCRI-Radio and Print

<http://www.contagioradio.com/comunidades-fortalecen-sus-estrategias-para-conservar-los-bosques-colombianos-articulo-29502/>

<http://radiomundoreal.fm/9326-la-comunidad-defiende>

<http://www.contagioradio.com/comunidades-fortalecen-sus-estrategias-para-conservar-los-bosques-colombianos-articulo-29502/>

Armed Conservation in Congo (in Spanish)

**Radio at COP 13 Cancun**

**Qfm.com.mx: Isis Alvarez interview-community conservation**

Cimac: Irla from Mexico and Juanavera Delgado from Peru interview-women and indigenous communities in conservation

**TV at COP 13 Biodiversity Cancun**

Canal 22: Aydah from Solomon islands interview- community conservation

Canal 22: Ines Franchescelli, Paraguay - livestock and community conservation

Tele la Verdad: Isis Alvarez- women and indigenous communities in conservation

## Narok country TV reports

<http://youtu.be/oTBI7rXz5aw>

<http://youtu.be/UdG-XJOo8Mo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPkk53IpPLE>

<http://ntv.nation.co.ke/news/national/-/2725528/3229308/-/k5v4h2z/-/index.html>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/r-all-we-ask-is-for-is-our-land-back-ugandas-bugala-island-farmers-2016-6?IR=T>

## PRESS RELEASES

Grassroots Communities' conservation practices in Kenya receive award on World Environment Day

Indigenous peoples and communities are key to mainstreaming biodiversity, highlights new report on Earth Day



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

The Global Forest Coalition has actively participated in the defence of women's rights and the promotion of gender mainstreaming in forests, biodiversity and climate policy.

Up until February 2017, GFC was an Organizing Partner for the Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development (WMG-SD), and co-facilitator of the

Women's Major Group to the United Nations Environment (WMG-UNE).

With the finalisation of negotiations around Agenda 2030, the work of the Women's Major Group focused on the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), held for the first time 11-20 July 2016 in New York. Preparations for this included a Women's Major Group Organizing

Partners' meeting to plan for 2016; and a general Women's Major Group Strategy Meeting to assess the next steps on the High Level Political Forum with members. These meetings were held back-to-back with the Commission on the Status on Women (CSW), in March 2016. An important highlight of this meeting of the Commission was the outrage voiced—at the UN and across the world—about the murder of environmental activist Berta Cáceres: We attended the demonstration in front of the Honduran UN Mission demanding justice for Berta.

The Women's Major Group was active throughout the two weeks of the High Level Political Forum, including by organising a side event on the UN Environment Programme's new Global Gender and Environment Outlook assessment, and national and local tools for gender responsive SDG implementation. A GFC staff member participated as a contributing author to the Forests Chapter in this first Global Gender and Environment Outlook, which was officially launched earlier in the year during the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2). A series of policy briefs around HLPF's 2016 theme 'Leave no one behind' was also published.

With WMG-UNE, we focused our coordination efforts around UNEA-2, 23-27 May 2016, in Nairobi, including at the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) which was held two days before UNEA-2. Our strategic and coordinated efforts bore fruit, especially in relation to UNEA resolutions on education and on



Women's Major Group at the United Nations Environmental Programme. Women's Major Group



chemicals. It is important to highlight a productive meeting we held with Mrs. Amina Mohammed who at the time served as Nigeria's Minister of Environment, and has recently been named Deputy Secretary General to the UN. A side event on the 'Roles, Rights and Needs of Women in Community Conservation and How to Enhance them within the SDG Framework', held by some of the WMG members, including GFC, sparked an important in-depth discussion on the invisibility of women's roles in conservation and the need to strengthen that visibility, especially within the current sustainable development framework.

During the year, GFC also embarked on the Women2030 programme, together with Women Engage for a Common Future, Women Environmental Programme, Gender and Water Alliance and Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. Women2030 is a programme that aims to achieve gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs by engaging women and gender-focused organisations and movements around the globe, and it is funded by the European Commission's Development Cooperation arm. Through Women2030 GFC has begun working with our member groups and partners in 15 countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Chile and Paraguay.

As part of Women2030, GFC organised numerous community consultations and other initiatives around women's empowerment and their rights and roles in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation at the community level. These consultations included workshops around legal and policy provisions for women's access to land and forest resources and highlighted women's concerns and needs in the community such as



Women2030 gender expert from Ñamoseke Monstanto, Paraguay, being interviewed in Cancun.  
**Ashlesha Khadse/GFC**



Women2030 gender expert from Network of Indigenous Peoples, Solomon Islands, being interviewed in Cancun.  
**Ashlesha Khadse/GFC**



Radio interview on gender and biodiversity, Cancun.  
**Ashlesha Khadse /GFC**





Global Gender and Environment Outlook launch, Nairobi. **Women's Major Group**

lack of land rights, water pollution and access and participation in managing natural resources. These consultations brought women in the communities together to discuss alternative, gender-sensitive strategies for addressing these issues and encouraged solidarity and action. In many cases Women2030 supported smaller women-led initiatives, including creating small women's solidarity groups in Ghana, women's conferences with women in tribal and forest-dependent communities in India, women-led livelihood projects on chicken-breeding and community rice fields in DRC and tree-planting in Tanzania. In total GFC

Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13). A total of 13 gender experts from across the world participated in the training of trainers, along with others. There was also a separate day for Latin American partners to network and receive further regionally-focused capacity building, and all participants received additional training introducing the CBD policy forum (which included and analysing and monitoring national reports to the CBD, outlining the CBD's gender action plan and key gender-related decisions, and analysing the gender-sensitivity of national biodiversity planning and reporting).

and our Women2030 partners reached 1,749 community members (including 1,095 women and 654 men) in 48 communities in the first year of the programme (May 2016-May 2017).

In addition to these community consultations we also held a gender training of trainers and Latin American regional network start-up meeting for Women2030 partners 29 November-1 December 2016, in Cancun, Mexico, just before the 13th

In addition, GFC facilitated the participation of nine participants from women and gender CSOs at CBD COP 13, including from Kyrgyzstan, the Solomon Islands, Kenya, Mexico, Tajikistan, Paraguay, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. At the COP, all participants engaged in advocacy through the women's caucus, which led to an active campaign to raise delegates' awareness about the CBD gender action plan and the importance of gender mainstreaming in the CBD. They also participated in actions to put the rights and roles of women in biodiversity conservation on the CBD's agenda in a more substantial and comprehensive manner. Ultimately, governments agreed [several decisions](#) related to emphasising and mainstreaming gender in the CBD.

Women2030 also includes a programme of media and gender trainings for all participating organisations and their members around the world, which is being led by GFC's communications team. These trainings 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.



# Publications, Media Coverage, Opinion Pieces, Blogs, and Press Releases

## PUBLICATIONS

Women2030 Media Training Toolkit available in **English**, **Spanish**, and **Russian**

**Forest Cover 51 – Mainstreaming biodiversity? Mainstream equity and justice**

## OPINION PIECES, BLOGS, ARTICLES

**Milestone gender and environment report from UNEP shows gender should be at heart of sustainable development**

**Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity Loss: A Gender Perspective**

## RADIO AND TV

**Isis Alvarez interviewed in Quintana Roo, Mexico, about gender and biodiversity and the CBD COP 13 on 2 December 2016 by QFM 104.3/ Acústica 95.3 FM**

Cimac - Irla from Mexico and Juanavera Delgado from Peru interview – women and indigenous communities in conservation

## PRINT MEDIA

**How Women Are Going From Climate Victims to Climate Leaders**

**Presentan en COP13 inclusión de mujeres al CDB**

Empresa contamina 80 por ciento de agua de indígenas en Perú (1 / 2)

## PRESS RELEASES

**Women Ignored by United Nations Biodiversity Summit, Denounce Activists**

**Women warn UN High Level Political Forum could become futile if it does not address systemic obstacles to SDGs**



## 2.2 Addressing the Key Direct and Underlying Causes of Forest Loss

### 2.2.1 Unsustainable Livestock Farming

Throughout 2016 GFC and other members of the informal International Alliance on Unsustainable Livestock Farming continued to highlight the importance of addressing unsustainable livestock production and redirecting the perverse incentives that support such production, at key intergovernmental meetings, including the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal in April and May 2016, the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn in May 2016, the meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi in May 2016, and the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Marrakesh in November 2016.

We continue to be an active member of the Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on Food Security, which has provided a large number of inputs concerning the report of the High Level Panel of Experts on 'Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?'. GFC also organised a successful side event during the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn in May, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goal 15.2. This goal includes a formal commitment by countries to zero deforestation by 2020, biodiversity conservation and enhancing "reforestation and afforestation". At this event we highlighted the potential conflicts between this SDG and the Paris

Agreement on climate change, the impacts of unsustainable livestock production on forests, and the role of community conservation.

GFC also actively participated in the mobilisation of social movements and civil society organisations in the "Healthy food, Sovereign people" events in Asuncion, Paraguay in May 2016, which included the Native Seeds and Criollas "Heñoi Jey Paraguay" Fair and the International Seminar "Seeds and sovereignty of our peoples". The successful seminar and mobilisation focused on the negative impacts of GM soy feedstock production primarily for export on local communities and biodiversity in Paraguay. It had the participation of producers and seed producers, farmers and Indigenous Peoples around Paraguay who denounced



A broiler chicken facility near New Delhi. Sangamithra Iyer/Brighter Green

large-scale industrial feedstock and livestock production and highlighted the importance of seed conservation as an act of resistance.



GFC and members of the international alliance also participated in the World Social Forum in Montreal, Quebec, in August 2016, co-organising workshops and strategy sessions on the issues of livestock farming, agroecology, deforestation, women, climate change and using photography as a powerful tool for livestock and other campaigning. We co-organised these events together with the Climate Space, La Via Campesina, Fundacion Solón, Women's Earth, Climate Action Network, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance and Critical Information Collective. We were a co-convenor, along with organisations from around the world, of the convergence assemblies around People and the Planet before Profit, highlighting social movements' struggles against corporate power, free trade, and extractivism.

We also supported a touring exhibition from Critical Information Collective, which has been exhibited in Paris (during UNFCCC COP 21), and Buffalo USA. The touring exhibition, 'Climate Change: Realities and Resistance', included a new panel on livestock and climate change, with images from Global Forest Coalition, Brighter Green and others.

In October, GFC and members of the international alliance actively participated in and supported the People's Assembly and the International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague. The Monsanto Tribunal is an international civil society initiative aimed at holding Monsanto to account for human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and ecocide. The People's

Assembly, held parallel to the Monsanto Tribunal, included workshops and discussions aimed at countering the problems caused by industrial agriculture.

GFC and other members of the international sustainable livestock alliance were also part of the 'Week of Peoples Mobilisation in Geneva: Dismantle Corporate Power', also in October. We participated in the Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity. This was linked to the Second Session of the Open Ended Inter-Governmental Working Group (OEIGWG) at the Human Rights Council, which is mandated to negotiate a Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, which took place in Geneva from 24-28 October.

Global Forest Coalition was present and active in the meeting of the UN Committee on Food Security that took place at the FAO premises in Rome on 17-21 October. The meeting adopted a report by the High Level Expert Panel on Sustainable Agriculture Development for Food Security and Nutrition, which contains some watered down yet still useful recommendations to address the impacts of unsustainable



Monsanto Tribunal/Flickr



People's Assembly at the Monsanto Tribunal. Monsanto Tribunal/Flickr



livestock farming. We published a press release critiquing the recommendations of the report and collaborated closely with other members of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), including in campaigns to draw attention to the impact of corporate mergers in the food sector on food security and sustainable agriculture. Together with the CSM, GFC has also provided inputs to the report from the High Level Panel of Experts on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, and the draft report on Nutrition and Food Systems, which are both expected early next year.

Looking to the future, with the aim of building and strengthening joint efforts to address unsustainable livestock production, GFC held an international strategy meeting in Cancun on 2 December 2016. The meeting was attended by representatives of GFC, our members, and allies such as La Via Campesina, FASE Brazil and others. We discussed proposals and ideas for potential joint actions in 2017.

A large number of GFC representatives attended CBD COP 13, and representatives from various sectors presented testimonies at our side event, including photographic evidence from different countries highlighting how unsustainable livestock and feedstock production are undermining Aichi Target 7. Panelists discussed proposals on reforming incentives, including preventing perverse incentives for deforestation. At the same time GFC launched a major new report "What's at steak? the real cost of meat", which received a significant amount of media coverage, both within and outside Mexico.



Hog confinement. US EPA/Flickr



Cattle ranching in the Chaco, Paraguay.  
Miguel Lovera/CIC



Livestock is an integral part of life for peasant families, India. Ashlesha Khadse



# Publications, Media Coverage, Opinion Pieces, Blogs, and Press Releases

## PUBLICATIONS

Forest Cover 49 - Meat as a driver of deforestation

Meat as a Driver of Deforestation: Forests, communities and Indigenous Peoples: victims of the industrial livestock and feedstock industry

What's at steak? The real cost of meat

## OPINION PIECES, BLOGS, ARTICLES

What's at Steak? Impacts of the industrial livestock and feedstock sector on forests, biodiversity, farmers and communities

China raises alarm over Argentine Beef

UN recognizes meat production's impact on deforestation and land grabbing

La ONU Reconoce el Impacto de la Producción de Carne sobre la Deforestación y el Acaparamiento de Tierras

## PRINT MEDIA

<http://yucataninforma.org/2016/12/06/industria-de-la-carne-y-los-lacteos-destruye-bosques-y-biodiversidad/>

<http://www.posta.com.mx/finanzas/carne-y-lacteos-industrias-que-mas-danan-los-bosques>

<http://www.sinembargo.mx/05-12-2016/3122132>

<http://www.miprv.com/la-industria-de-carnes-y-lacteos-destruye-bosques-y-la-biodiversidad/>

<http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2016/12/06/politica/004n2pol>

<http://102vertice.com/industria-de-carne-y-lacteos-de-las-mayores-destructoras-de-bosques/>

<http://mundoejecutivo.com.mx/economia-negocios/2016/12/05/industria-carnes-lacteos-que-mas-destruyen-bosques>

<https://www.lajornadamaya.mx/2016-12-06/Consumo-de-carne--culpable-de-cambio-climatico>

[http://www.biodiversidadla.org/Principal/Secciones/Noticias/Industria\\_de\\_la\\_carne\\_y\\_los\\_lacteos\\_destruye\\_bosques\\_y\\_biodiversidad](http://www.biodiversidadla.org/Principal/Secciones/Noticias/Industria_de_la_carne_y_los_lacteos_destruye_bosques_y_biodiversidad)

<http://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/economia/se-consumiran-71-mas-animales-para-2050.html>

<http://www.miambiente.com.mx/en-ambiente/imparable-crecimiento-en-emisiones-y-consumo-ganadero-global>

<http://informativoturquesa.com/venta-de-carnicos-y-lacteos-principal-factor-del-cambio-climatico/>

<http://www.capitalquintanaroo.com.mx/quintana-roo/atenta-contr-entorno-industria-de-carne-y-lacteos/>

## PRESS RELEASES

Meat and Dairy industry destroying forests and biodiversity



## 2.2.2 Large-scale Wood-based Bioenergy Production, Market-based Conservation Schemes and Other Forms of Green Land Grabbing

Despite financial constraints, GFC continued to be actively engaged in campaigning against large-scale industrial wood-based bioenergy during 2016. Our campaign has two over-arching goals.

The first goal is to influence global, regional and national policies related to wood-based bioenergy and the bioeconomy, so that they do not have a negative impact on forest communities and biodiversity, including through bioenergy plantations and carbon offset plantations. We attended the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Talks 2016 held in May, in Bonn, Germany, and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in November 2016 in Marrakech, for example, where we advocated against the use of funds to promote large-scale monoculture tree plantations, including through our GFC side-event, press conferences, and joint statements. We also engaged with other observers and in outreach and advocacy, and participated in the elaboration of statements delivered by Demand Climate Justice and the Women and Gender Caucus.

Early on in the year we attended EU bioenergy-focused meetings in Brussels, including a seminar on 'Opportunities and threats: EU land and forests in the climate and energy framework for 2030' in the European Parliament in Brussels, and the 'Big Bioenergy' NGO meeting, also in Brussels. GFC and its members such as Biofuelwatch are actively tracking the EU's latest developments in land use policy, which is particularly relevant for the Paris Agreement and

countries' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The second goal is to convince intergovernmental climate policy-makers to refrain from investing in monoculture tree plantations, and provide effective and appropriate legal, political, and, if necessary, non-market based financial support for forest conservation and restoration initiatives by women, local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

We oppose the corporate take-over of climate finance through blended finance instruments and public private partnerships, and work to expose conflicts of interests and perverse institutional incentives. We are working to raise awareness amongst climate policy-makers of the risks, limitations and negative impacts of results-based payments for reducing deforestation, forest degradation and tree planting,

Tree plantations in Chile have caused serious conflicts with local communities. **Simone Lovera**



land use carbon accounting approaches and carbon offsets. To this end in 2016 we contributed papers and other submissions, and implemented and participated in a number of actions, to and around meetings of the



Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Forest Investment Program (FIP), and of other climate policy-makers.

This included attendance at the FIP Pilot Country and the CIF Trust Fund Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings held 12-17 June in Oaxaca, Mexico, as the FIP Northern CSO Observer. At this meeting, we engaged with other CIF observers and actively participated in

the discussions on future approval of FIP countries' Investment Plans and other FIP funded projects, to try to avoid the further promotion and expansion of monoculture tree plantations. As a follow up we also participated online in the CIF Trust Fund Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings held in December 2016. In addition, through the year, relevant FIP-related information about potential projects and programmes has been disseminated.

We also followed and tracked developments and new policies/projects under other climate-related international fund mechanisms to monitor and discourage potential funding of monoculture tree plantations and promote community conservation and women's rights. This included contributing to a joint CSO submission to the GCF Secretariat. We participated in the GEF's 50th Council Meeting held in June, in Washington where we again engaged with the CSO network, provided inputs for submissions and delivered a statement outlining the issues above.

We are also actively supporting the advocacy and outreach campaigns of communities, social movements and local NGOs resisting climate-finance related tree plantation investments in at least five countries, including Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, India, and Chile, partly through our Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (see above).

Destructive logging practices in Chile. **Simone Lovera**



This pellet plant in Southeastern USA turns biodiverse wetland forests into wood pellets that are burned in European power stations. **Dogwood Alliance**



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





# Publications, Media Coverage, Opinion Pieces, Blogs, and Press Releases

## PUBLICATIONS

Climate Finance, Results-based Payments and Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

## OPINION PIECES, BLOGS, ARTICLES

Rappler.com - In the aftermath of Paris Agreement, nature and humanity lose

New Internationalist: Post-Paris Climate Talks: implementation at any price

The Forest Investment Program: Recent Developments, Funding Constraints and Monoculture Tree Plantations

The Green Climate Fund 12th Meeting of the Board: Main Outcomes and Controversies

Update from Brussels: debates on land use and bioenergy run high

## PRINT MEDIA

Svenska Dagbladet (about Swedish Energy initiative in Uganda)

Forest Investment Program (FIP) CIFs Monitor 13

## PRESS RELEASES

UN institutions must comply with target to halt deforestation by 2020, say forest groups on International Day for Biological Diversity

Call for cancellation of Swedish carbon credit purchase in Uganda

Post-Paris Plantations Will Devastate the Environment, Warn Activists on International Day Against Monoculture Plantations



# 3. Quality Management

In 2016, the Global Forest Coalition continued implementing its Quality Management System. This includes regular reporting and an annual evaluation covering all GFC's projects and campaigns to maximise our ability to deliver effective campaigns.

In April 2016, in Canada, GFC also convened the CCRI Steering Committee. The overall objective of the meeting was to review and evaluate the CCRI projects that took place in 2015 and to assess the opportunities and challenges encountered. We addressed strategies to further strengthen activities and approaches with the next CCRI project partners in 2016-2017, taking into consideration the ongoing challenge of continuing the CCRI after the current funding ceases. There was also a discussion on the campaign and communications strategy, and recommendations were shared on ways to take the outcomes of the CCRI to national, regional and international processes including, but not limited to the CBD, the UNFCCC, UNEA and the 2030 Development Agenda. One of the challenges identified was the lack of attention to gender in some of the CCRI assessments in 2016, and this was consequently highlighted as a key area to be addressed and monitored in subsequent phases of the programme.

Staff development in 2016 included an in-depth hands-on media training in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in August, which focused on mainstream and social media work, and a photography training, showing both the technical and ethical aspects of activist photography.

Another key improvement that was strengthened and nurtured in 2016 was GFC's communications work. There was a mandate from the Members' Assembly to use the different communication tools in order to make the work and campaigns of GFC and its members much more visible. Another goal of the communications work was to use various platforms and communications tools to reach different target audiences – policymakers, decision-makers, civil society, young people and the sympathetic public. We also employed a vigorous mainstream media strategy, issuing timely and newsworthy press releases, fostering links with journalists covering GFC's issues, launching publications on all our media platforms, and publishing regular opinion editorials by GFC members or campaigners.

These efforts have resulted in significant improvements in our website and social media presence, especially in terms of increasing the number of people that we are reaching, including our public audience and policy-makers, and the ways in

which we are reaching them (which include Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). We are building our Youtube channel and a new photo library, and campaign-related photos, videos and live updates from events have all generated a lively response on our social media sites. After a significant redesign of our website in 2015, we are also maintaining it with new and fresh content on a regular basis, including new publications, media releases, blog posts, event information etc.



Global Forest Coalition's gender advisor on Tele la Verdad, Mexico.  
**Ashlesha Khadse**



# 3. Conclusions

The year 2016 was a productive and fruitful year for the Global Forest Coalition. We made progress in our different campaigns and programme areas, including advances that enabled women, Indigenous Peoples and communities to assess their own situation, in terms of their contributions to forest conservation and their resilience, and to voice their proposals to decision-makers locally, nationally and internationally.

In particular, we highlight the advances we have made with our allies in the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative which, amongst other achievements, included the 270+ references to the roles and rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in biodiversity conservation and related policies in the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 13. The importance of providing effective and appropriate support for community conservation was also reflected throughout the decisions made at COP13.

We are similarly encouraged by the reach achieved by the Women2030 programme in 2016, at 1,749 community members (including 1,095 women and 654 men) in 48 communities. Good progress was also made in our campaign focusing on unsustainable livestock and feedstock production. We succeeded in growing alliances as well as producing important case studies and research on the various impacts on forests, communities and health. Our campaigns on large-scale industrial wood-based bioenergy production, plantations and climate finance also progressed well throughout the year.

Our substantial efforts to improve our communications work through various tools and platforms have increased the visibility and accessibility of our campaigns greatly, and allowed us to spread these important messages widely. The alliances we have helped to build through our campaigns have improved significantly—there is strength in solidarity and the intersectionality of struggles. Together we have been able to move forward, defend territories and build alternatives for the future.

We take heart and inspiration from the achievements of 2016, as we take on new challenges in 2017.

A forest in Paraguay. **Stella Haller for Global2000/CIC**



# 8. Financial Summary

We are grateful to the following donors who have provided support to our work in 2016: The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Siemenpuu Foundation through NAPE, the Christensen Fund, Misereor, Women in Europe for a Common Future and the Women's Environment and Development Organisation, and The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

## Balance sheet as at 31 december

|   | Notes | 2016          |                      | 2015          |                       |
|---|-------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|   |       | €             | €                    | €             | €                     |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                     |       |               |                      |               |                       |
| Cash                                      | 1     | 59.172        |                      | 75.510        |                       |
| Accrued receivables                       | 2     | <u>4.007</u>  |                      | <u>30.532</u> |                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |       |               | <u><u>63.179</u></u> |               | <u><u>106.042</u></u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                        |       |               |                      |               |                       |
| Capital                                   | 3     | 8.928         |                      | 18.042        |                       |
| Accounts Payable                          | 4     | 18.281        |                      | 82.661        |                       |
| Reservation holiday allowance and pension |       | 5.780         |                      | 5.339         |                       |
| Advanced Receivables                      | 5     | <u>30.190</u> |                      | <u>0</u>      |                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |       |               | <u><u>63.179</u></u> |               | <u><u>106.042</u></u> |



## Statement of income and expenses

|                            | Notes | 2016    |               | Budget  |                | 2015    |              |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|                            |       | €       | €             | €       | €              | €       | €            |
| <b>GRANTS</b>              |       |         |               |         |                |         |              |
| BMUB Germany               |       | 478.719 |               | 478.719 |                | 694.409 |              |
| Natural Justice            |       | 0       |               | 0       |                | 10.636  |              |
| The Christensen Fund       |       | 43.000  |               | 45.126  |                | 47.103  |              |
| Nape                       |       | 20.000  |               | 25.000  |                | 41.666  |              |
| WECF/ Women2030            |       | 113.579 |               | 141.548 |                | 0       |              |
|                            |       | 0       |               |         |                | 0       |              |
| SSNC                       |       | 0       |               | 0       |                | 18.229  |              |
| Misereor                   |       | 50.000  |               | 64.840  |                | 25.000  |              |
| Other                      |       | 11.927  |               | 22.728  |                | 24.120  |              |
|                            |       |         | 717.225       |         | 777.961        |         | 861.163      |
|                            |       |         |               |         |                |         |              |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>            | 6     |         | 726.339       |         | 805.562        |         | 854.708      |
|                            |       |         |               |         |                |         |              |
| <b>RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b> |       |         | <u>-9.114</u> |         | <u>-27.601</u> |         | <u>6.455</u> |



# People, Forests, Rights

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, role, 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.

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.

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