Defending rights and the power of community conservation

Global Forest Coalition **Annual Report 2018**

CCRI process, La Alsacia Community Council in Colombia. **Jeanne Lieberman and Censat Agua Viva/GFC**

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Editor and design: Oliver Munnion
Cover photo: Participants at the GFC Member's Assembly. Oliver Munnion

The online version of this report and all onward links to documents and other media can be found at: http://globalforestcoalition.org/annual-report-2018/

Who we are

The Global Forest Coalition grew from 92 to 99 members in 2018. See our latest overview of member groups.

Board Members in 2018: Diego Alejandro Cardona (Chairperson-Colombia), Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Vice-chairperson-Chad), Rachel Smolker (Treasurer-USA), Dil Raj Khanal (Secretary-Nepal), Anna Kirilienko (Kyrgyzstan) and Aydah Vahia (Solomon Islands)

Regional focal points as of August 2018: Kwami Kpondzo (Friends of the Earth-Togo, regional focal point for Africa), Carolina Lagos (Colectivo VientoSur-Chile, regional focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean), Almuth Ernsting (Biofuelwatch-UK, regional focal point for Europe and North America), Andrey Laletin (Friends of the Siberian Forests-Russia, regional focal point for North and Central Asia and Eastern Europe) and Mrinalini Rai (regional focal point for South and South East Asia and the Pacific)

Overview of the GFC Team in 2018:
Executive Director: Simone Lovera
Campaigns Communications Coordinator & Research Associate: Mary Louise Malig
Livestock Campaign Coordinator & Senior Gender Advisor: Isis Alvarez
Gender Programme Coordinator: Jeanette Sequeira
Indigenous Advisor: Mrinalini Rai
Media Coordinator: Ashlesha Khadse
Membership Coordinator: Andrey Laletin
Communications Manager & Lead Editor: Ronnie Hall
Editor: Michael Braverman
Social Media and Web Manager: Muhammad Ikhwan
Web Designer and IT Specialist: Jake McMurchie
Bioenergy Advisor & Graphic Designer: Oliver Munnion
Climate & Land Use Policy Advisor: Souparna Lahiri
Climate Finance & Human Rights Advisor: Coraina de la Plaza
Coordinator of Legal Team: Holly Jonas
Financial Controllers: Janet Bastian and Dinus de Vries
Financial Administration Assistant: Astrid Kleefstra
Interns: Natasa Ivanovic and Linde Berbers
Volunteer: Simon Fischer

Members' Assembly group photo. **Oliver Munnion/GFC**

Message from the Chairperson

Once again, we are pleased to have the opportunity to share with you a summary of the work performed by the Global Forest Coalition in 2018, this time not only with the satisfaction of having been able to compile the results and see the size and importance of what was achieved, but also with the certainty that we have the greatest unity and that we are growing, and thus so is the impact of our work.

When we speak of growth, we are referring not only to our diverse member organisations around the globe, which in 2018 reached nearly 100 with the inclusion of groups in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean, whom we are pleased to have with us. We have also grown in terms of the number of people and organisations who receive our communications, networks, and materials. This means that, in addition to our increased following on social networks, there has also been increased use and consultation of our reflections, publications, strategies, and campaigns, which represent the opinions, needs, and thoughts of the multiplicity of inhabitants of jungles and forests, as well as the member groups that work together with them for the survival of their territories and cultures.

This means that our impact has grown, along with our constant interest in ensuring that this influence is the most relevant possible.

It is of vital importance to us to remain increasingly close to forest peoples, to listen to their voices and wisdom, and to ensure that they are listened to by others, including policymakers and decision-makers, which is essential. 2018 was a year in which there were clear shifts in political trends in numerous countries around the world, with conservative positions emerging with greater force, closing spaces for dialogue and joint construction. This scenario entails incursions by traditional threats to forests and the rights of their inhabitants, as well as the greater impetus of threats that are less well known and understood, such as those that seek to conserve and protect nature through its financialisation.

The Coalition maintained its focus on understanding, supporting, and seeking to provide needed support, in different arenas and at different levels, for community conservation initiatives: revealing and advocating to halt the direct and underlying causes of deforestation, hence our campaigns related to false solutions such as

Women2030 project in Colombia. **Fundaexpresión**

Kaliban Women's Community Forestry group, Makwanpur District, Nepal. **FECOFUN**

Women2030 project in Ghana. **The Development Institute**

bioenergy, large-scale livestock production, and plantations. A special effort was made to analyse and present the links between trade, forest loss and degradation, and the undermining of the rights of millions of people, especially those who live in forests or rely on them. However, the dominant economic model exerts so much pressure on our forests that our members prioritised the creation of a new campaign that addresses extractive industries, infrastructure, and tourism, industries that, despite presenting themselves as "green" and committed to addressing climate change, are steadily deepening the environmental, climate, and food crises.

In view of this scenario, the Global Forest Coalition proposes to continue working in 2019 with the strength, contributions, and knowledge of a considerable group of member organisations—99 in total—as well as the inspiration and guidance of the diverse Indigenous Peoples and local communities with which we work and maintain relations through this ever more diverse and representative group.

The challenges we must face are not insignificant, among them the fact that we have lost individuals who were part of our team for many years, for various reasons, such as financing for some of the projects and processes they supported. Maintaining their valuable contributions, strength, and energy will be our priority and reason to continue working. This time, our thanks and recognition go to this group of people who contributed significantly to consolidating the Global Forest Coalition, which will always continue to belong to all of you.

Diego Alejandro Cardona
Chairperson

1 Introduction

The highlight of 2018 was seeing so many of our members, allies and communities we work with represented at our Members' Assembly and the second Fostering Community Conservation Conference, in Montreal in July. If much of the first half of the year was spent mobilising and organising towards these important events (amongst many other things!), the second half was sustained by the inspiration and ideas that came out of them.

Over 60 members participated in our second ever global Members' Assembly, which shared powerful stories of struggle from across our membership. Key outcomes from the assembly included renewed support for the continuation of our Supporting Community Conservation and Women2030 programmes, as well as developing campaigns that address three important drivers of forest loss: unsustainable livestock production and consumption; bioenergy, monoculture tree plantations and other false solutions to climate change; and extractive industries, tourism and related infrastructure. On the latter point, GFC member groups created the new Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure campaign, in response to the many threats these issues present to the forests and communities our members try to defend. Towards the end of the year in November, our Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting then provided a good opportunity for campaign working groups to meet and develop more concrete plans for campaigns and events.

A key focus for us in 2018 was our cross-cutting campaign to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women, and to promote respect for community conservation through the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI). The CCRI has facilitated participatory assessments of the resilience of community conservation initiatives in 68 communities in 22 different countries. The results of this three-year-long process have been used to show how vitally important it is that community conservation is given appropriate support.

In June 2018, ahead of the second Fostering Community Conservation Conference and UN Biodiversity Convention meetings, we launched the second global summary report of the results of the CCRI assessments and used it, and the outcomes of the conference, to formulate recommendations for biodiversity policy-makers. November 2018 was also an important milestone for the CCRI, with a successful advocacy campaign at the UN Conference of the Parties of the Biodiversity Convention (CBD COP14), where we highlighted the need to respect

Mistica at Fostering Community Conservation Conference led by African participants. **Oliver Munnion**

Mistica led by Latin American participants. **Oliver Munnion**

Mistica led by Latin American participants. **Oliver Munnion**

Mistica led by Asian participants. **Oliver Munnion**

CCRI in Kyrgyzstan. **BIOM**

Regional meeting at the Members' Assembly. **Oliver Munnion**

CCRI meeting in Banni Grasslands, India. **Sahjeevan/GFC**

the rights and roles of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in biodiversity policies, and to address perverse incentives and other real drivers of forest loss. A large number of formal decisions taken at the COP reflected this, showing the positive results that the CCRI has had on policy-making at this level.

One of the largest programmes of GFC, the Women2030 programme, has built upon one of the main conclusions of the CCRI assessments, which was that there is a need to empower women, respect women's rights and strengthen the role of women in community conservation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general. The Women2030 programme is currently supporting capacity-building and advocacy activities of community-based women's groups in 13 countries. A key moment for this campaign in 2018 was the skill-share in Africa, which strengthened the capacity of regional GFC member groups and Women2030 partners in the field of community conservation, gender, and media and communications.

Another significant achievement in 2018 was the "Addressing the big four drivers of deforestation" workshop, which took place in Bonn in April. This workshop brought together our livestock, climate and trade campaigns, and highlighted how deforestation globally is being driven by the international trade in four key commodities: Meat, soy, palm oil and wood.

The results of the workshop in Bonn, the CCRI and other analytical work were used for a number of powerful outreach and advocacy campaigns that targeted, amongst others, policy-makers gathering at the meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which met in July to review the implementation of SDG 15 on forests and other SDGs. The campaigns also highlighted the difference between forests and monoculture tree plantations, and the multiple negative impacts of wood-based bioenergy for forests, the climate and women and men. We also published a number of briefing papers on the underlying causes of forest loss, including trade liberalisation, plantations expansion and perverse incentives.

Throughout 2018 our social media presence continued to improve and steadily grow. By the end of the year our Facebook page had over 3,000 followers, reaching 543 views a day, and on Twitter we had almost 3,800 followers and 3,322 impressions a day. Our relatively more recent presence on Instagram and Youtube also continued to grow, with almost 500 followers on Instagram and 1,000 Youtube impressions. Our photo library is also packed with fantastic images, particularly from the 22 different CCRI reports and the photo essays we have published.

GFC welcomed seven new member groups to the coalition in 2018: the Legal Rights Centre (LRC/Philippines), the Community Entrepreneur and Natural Development Institute (CENDI/Vietnam), the China Environmental Paper Network, Karen Evergreen (Myanmar), the Global Initiative for Environment and Reconciliation (GER/Rwanda), Afros RD (Dominican Republic) and NOAH (Friends of the Earth Denmark). We now have 99 members from 65 countries.

2.1 Defending Rights

The human rights situation of environmental activists in several of the countries where GFC is active has deteriorated significantly, including in particular in Colombia, the Philippines and Brazil. In July 2018, a community leader who had been involved in the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative in Colombia was assassinated. Several Indigenous leaders of GFC's member group Cordillera's Peoples Alliance in the Philippines were also accused of terrorism by the Duterte regime, which has created a highly dangerous situation for them in light of the human rights violations that the regime has been responsible for.

GFC's Defending Rights campaign is a cross-cutting issue that is integrated into all campaign areas. GFC also seeks to support member groups that are experiencing repression and under threat from the state and other actors. GFC has a small "solidarity fund" that members can apply to at short notice where their ability to carry out their work is in jeopardy. In 2018 a donation was made to Cordillera's Peoples Alliance to support their important work.

Together with other members of the Women's Major Group, GFC also organised a protest action against human rights violations affecting environmental activists in Colombia and other countries parallel to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.

Colombian activists protest outside UN headquarters in New York. **Women's Major Group**

2.2 Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure

This newest GFC campaign aims to protect biodiversity and the rights of communities through advocacy around relevant mining, infrastructure and mass tourism mega-projects. It came about due to common concerns from many GFC member groups about the impact of extractive industries and tourism and associated infrastructure projects, in particular those financed through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI and other projects in, for example, Central and South-East Asia put increased pressures on forests and biodiversity, and the people dependent on them.

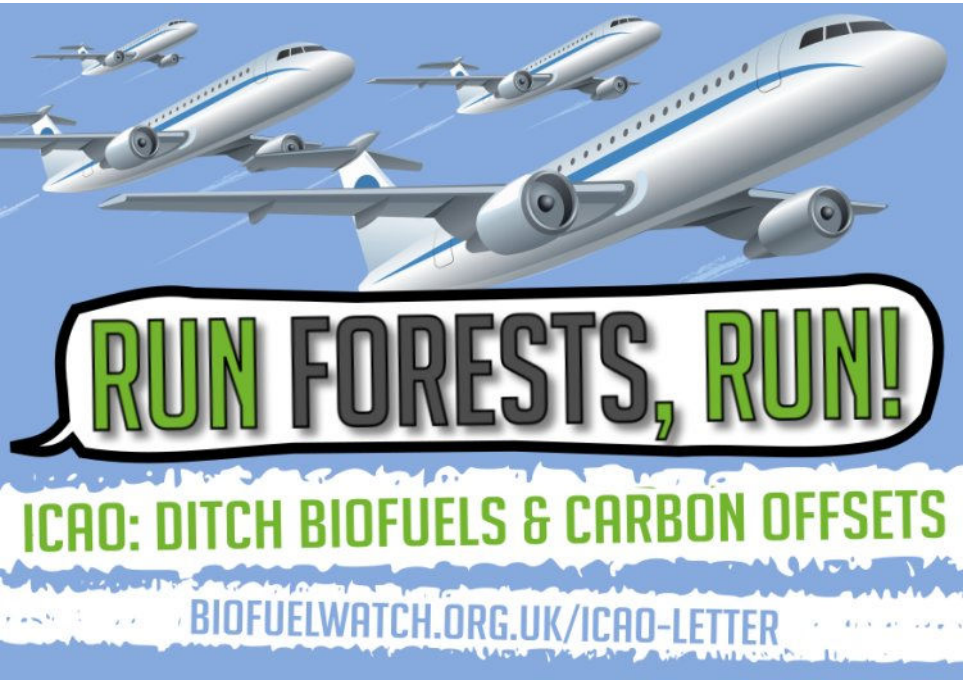
Capacity is currently being directed towards fundraising and organising a workshop for GFC members and allies in Indonesia on the BRI, to take place in late 2019 or early 2020.

2.3 Forests, Trees and Climate Change

Our Forests, Trees and Climate Change campaign focuses on land conversion to monoculture and other commercial tree plantations as a driver of forest loss, including those that have arisen from the post-Paris climate mitigation context. This includes: bioenergy generation to meet renewable energy targets and as an alternative to phasing out fossil fuels; climate mitigation approaches centred around afforestation and carbon markets, including REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing forest climate stocks); and climate finance that is increasingly led by the private sector and directed towards commercial tree plantations. These three key areas of work tie together the vital struggles that our member groups are engaged in locally, with the national and international-level advocacy that we engage in with our allies as a coalition.

In collaboration with allies in the International Biomass Working Group we continued to campaign against subsidies and other forms of government support for large-scale industrial bioenergy. We produced several op-eds, media releases and other campaign materials during this period and joined a worldwide campaign to denounce the initiative of the Biofuture Platform, which promotes the so-called "bioeconomy". We also participated in the "Biomass Delusion" joint statement, signed by over 120 organisations against large-scale bioenergy. Aviation was another important focus for the campaign, and we participated in an open letter to the International Civil Aviation Organisation against CORSIA, which promotes carbon offsets and replacing conventional jet fuel with biofuels, instead of significantly reducing flying. We also lobbied EU member states to reject attempts for CORSIA to be rolled-out across the EU.

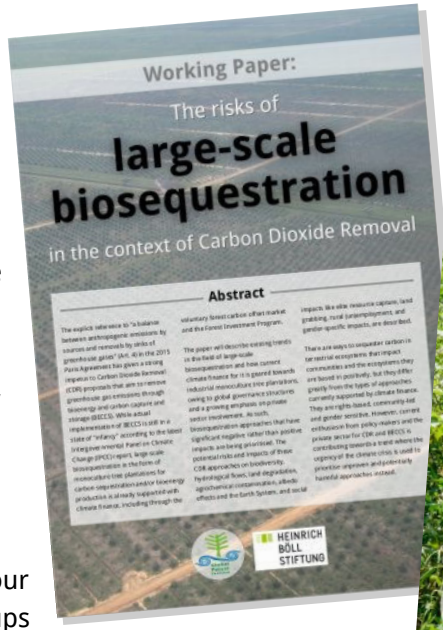
Throughout 2018 we participated in targeted advocacy campaigns aimed at multilateral climate finance mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Forest Investment Program (FIP), including at the GCF board meeting in October in Bahrain (summarised in this blog). We worked with our member groups to share information on GCF project proposals, and gathered feedback that we subsequently presented to GCF board members, which resulted in numerous adjustments to and conditions being placed on funding for project proposals. The withdrawal of a controversial GCF bioenergy project in Fiji which we had campaigned actively against in close collaboration with a large group of allies was the first time a GCF project has been definitely halted, and was an important victory. We also succeeded in delaying the approval of PROEZA, another project that could have financed bioenergy plantations, in Paraguay. PROEZA was eventually



approved, but it was heavily amended from its original form and is currently undergoing a profound environmental impact assessment.

As part of this campaign's work on climate finance, we carried out a project in partnership with Biofuelwatch and the Heinrich Böll Foundation to analyse the support that German climate finance is directing towards tree plantations and bioenergy. A number of projects were exposed for their harmful impacts, and two case studies were commissioned in India and Paraguay to provide a deeper analysis. The results were shared with German policy makers and published in two articles on the German climate finance website.

A GFC delegation participated in the three key UNFCCC climate negotiations that took place in 2018 (in Bonn in May, Bangkok in September, and Katowice in December), where we denounced the corporate take-over of climate policy and climate funds. We highlighted the need to redirect subsidies and other financial flows away from false climate solutions like carbon offset markets, bioenergy and intensive livestock farming, and towards real climate solutions. We also asked for more recognition of the rights of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and peasants. Together with our member groups we hosted a side event at COP24 entitled "1.5°C from a community perspective" to present the results of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative in general. GFC was also one of the groups that delivered the Peoples Demands to the UNFCCC Secretariat staff.



Publications included: a paper on the risks of using tree plantations to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which was presented at the Negative Emissions Conference in Gothenburg; a special Forest Cover on community responses to the IPCC's latest report, titled "1.5°C from a community perspective"; an infographic and poster exhibition at the UNFCCC meetings; and a photo essay on International Day Against Monoculture Tree Plantations titled "Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and peasant farmers resist "green deserts" in Brazil" which demonstrated the devastating social and environmental impacts of tree plantations and the resistance to them.

Finally, we also campaigned around the launch of the IPCC report on the impacts of 1.5°C of warming, participated in the FAO's World Forest Week in Rome, and provided support to local and national campaigns against tree plantations, for example in India.

More from this campaign in 2018...

Press releases

- Green Climate Fund Supports Deforestation in Paraguay
- Climate Talks in Bonn must Target the Big Four Drivers of Deforestation – Beef, Soy, Palm Oil, Wood, say Forest Activists

Photo essays

- Day of real forests

Op-eds/media

- Fire and Plantations in Portugal
- The forests are in crisis but biotechnology is not the solution
- Geoengineering worsen climate and hurts Paris Agreement
- Negative emissions: Scientists meet in Sweden for first international conference
- UN Climate Action Studio interviews Coraina de la Plaza
- Greenwash': oil giant under fire over plan to protect tropical forest
- "Forests cannot be treated as an offset" press conference

Blogs

- A gloomy future for climate finance at COP24
- From Bangkok to Katowice: In whose interests are the climate negotiations?
- The dangerous drifting shift of the GCF towards bioenergy

2.4 Supporting Community Conservation

2018 was an important year for the CCRI. 12 more country reports reflecting 35 community conservation resilience assessments were launched one by one throughout the course of 2018 and early 2019 with a social media and public awareness raising campaign that included short videos and photo essays (Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Malaysia, Nepal, Georgia, India, and Sri Lanka). Summary reports were launched as part of the 2nd Global Report on Community Conservation Resilience, in June 2018. The report was published in English, Spanish, French and Russian and was widely disseminated, including amongst the participants in the official meetings of the CBD in July and November 2018. All of the CCRI documentation, including reports, photographs and videos, was made available on an interactive page on our website.

Participants at the Fostering Community Conservation Conference. **Oliver Munnion**

The 2nd Fostering Community Conservation Conference took place 4-8 July in Montreal, back-to-back with the 22nd meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-22), and gathered more than 120 representatives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women's groups, peasant movements, NGOs, governments, and research institutions. The programme included presentations by community representatives and CCRI project partners, and panel discussions on the participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and reports. A "Peoples' Pathway for Biodiversity" with recommendations for the post-2020 CBD Strategic Plan was developed. The conference was closed by a panel of experts deeply involved in the CBD negotiations, including Prof. Hamdallah Zedan, national focal point for the host country of CBD COP14, Dr. Mundita Lim, CBD SBSTTA Chairperson, and representatives of the CBD Secretariat, UN Environment and SwedBio. There was good coverage of the event on our social media channels and in the mainstream media, and we also produced a visual report of the conference.

Key findings from the 68 participatory CCRI assessments conducted in 22 countries were reflected in policy recommendations (in English and French) that were disseminated prior to SBSTTA-22 and the 2nd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-2) of the CBD, in July 2018. CCRI partners also collaboratively drafted interventions to the CBD meetings conveying CCRI recommendations on seven different agenda items, and CCRI findings were presented at four SBSTTA-22 and SBI-2 side events, which were well attended and featured presentations by government representatives, the CBD Secretariat, Indigenous Peoples, women's groups, local communities and NGOs.

Later in the year, the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (CBD COP14, 17-29 November 2018, Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt), was another key moment for the CCRI and our campaign to support community conservation. It was our opportunity to make sure that community-level voices from the CCRI process were input into this global policy forum. A policy paper with concrete recommendations for CBD

decision-makers was produced and widely disseminated, and GFC played a lead role in the CBD Women's Caucus, which successfully campaigned for a strengthening of the CBD Gender Action Plan. We also hosted a side event at the COP, and an event at the CBD Communication, Education and Public Awareness raising (CEPA) fair, to highlight the importance of participatory community conservation resilience assessments in biodiversity education and awareness raising. In addition, GFC representatives and other CCRI partners participated and presented in various other events, including the Nature and Culture Summit, and contributed a number of articles to "ECO", the CBD Alliance's newsletter.

GFC also hosted a regional skill-share on community conservation initiatives and women's empowerment in Africa in February 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. It included a presentation on the CCRI processes in Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. It was attended by almost 60 representatives of governments, NGOs, IPOs and women's groups from more than 20 different countries. The meeting was followed by a media and communications skill-share that helped communities and their support groups to communicate information about the value of their community conservation initiatives to the wider public.

On International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, we produced a photo essay to honor the important role that Indigenous Peoples play in protecting Mother Earth. In September 2018, we published the 56th issue of Forest Cover, highlighting community conservation in Africa, which was disseminated widely in English and French.

Finally, on 5 December, parallel to the Climate COP, GFC launched the results of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative in India together with a photo essay demonstrating the importance of recognising the forest governance rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities in policies to mitigate climate change.

More from this campaign in 2018...

Press releases

- Indigenous communities urge governments to support their biodiversity conservation initiatives
- Indigenous and local communities' conservation practices need policy support, says new global report
- Indigenous and community leaders demand support for their own conservation efforts and a halt to people-less conservation
- Local communities' unique conservation practices need policy support in Georgia, says new report

Photo essays

- Community conservation is vital to biodiversity, security for Indigenous Peoples of Kenya
- Peasants and Afro-Descendants Preserve Mother Earth in Colombia

Op-eds/media

- Do We Really Have the Time and the Tools to Fix Climate Change?
- Saving tigers, killing people
- Radio Canada International
- Community conservation in Paraguay and Dominican Republic
- La defensa de los bosques "pasa por la recuperación de los territorios" Mapuches
- Iniciativas de comunidades para conservación de territorios en el Norte y el Sur, dificultades y logros
- Fostering community conservation II conference – conservation with a social emphasis
- Worldwide environmental leaders tackle conservation threats at Montreal conference

2.5 Trade, Unsustainable Livestock Production and Other Underlying Causes of Forest Loss

A selection of images from "The Chaco under attack" photo essay.
Fernando Franceschelli

International trade in commodities such as beef, soy, wood and palm oil is a major driver of forest loss, land grabbing and climate change, and free trade agreements fuel the trade in these big drivers of deforestation. We work to halt and reverse these trade agreements, and to remove agriculture and forests from the control of the World Trade Organization (WTO), through advocacy campaigns with our member groups and social movement allies, and through promoting just and feasible alternatives to free trade.

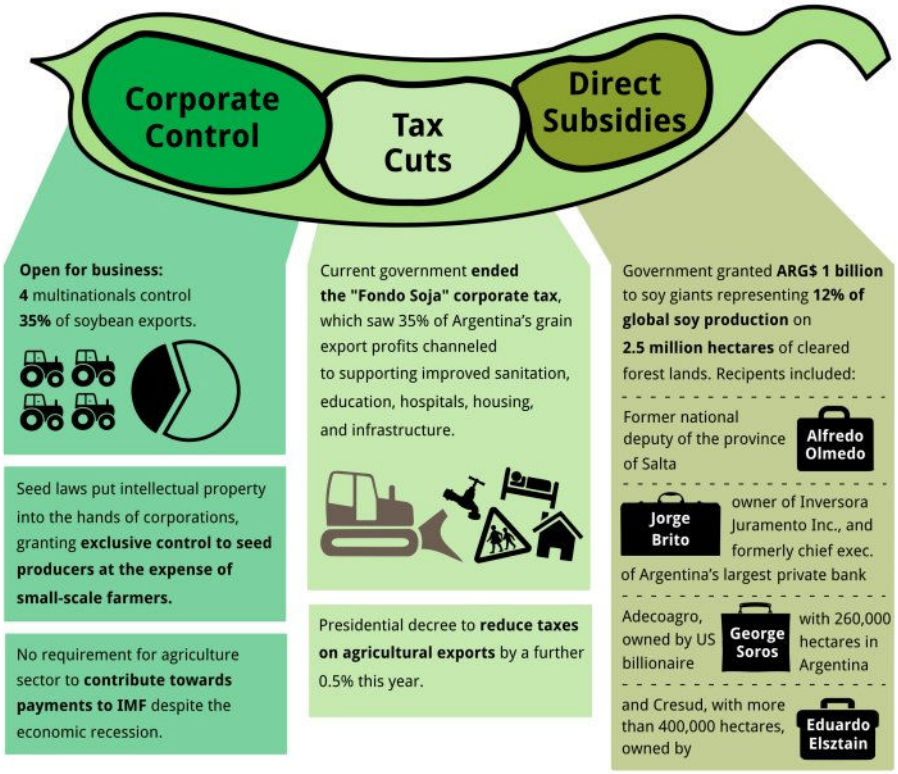
2018 saw the revival of the EU-Mercosur trade deal, which was being negotiated behind closed-doors. We campaigned for the deal to be abandoned, and our briefing paper on it, "The Whole of Mercosur in Exchange for a Plate of Beef", gives important insights into how this trade deal will continue to drive deforestation and ecosystem loss, harm communities and Indigenous Peoples, and exacerbate animal suffering in key South American countries. It describes how weak governance and the willingness of leaders to trade away the sovereignty of Mercosur countries will only benefit corporations, at the expense of people and the environment. The paper was published in English and Spanish and it was presented at workshops at the World Social Forum, at the EU-Mercosur dialogue in Brazil and at a session on EU-Mercosur in the European Parliament.

GFC continued to play an active role throughout the year in campaigns on the political, social, economic and environmental impacts and consequences of the WTO and other FTA negotiations, and to protect forest peoples, small farmers, peasants, workers, and women from them. We co-organised two events at the World Social Forum, which created space for a diversity of southern voices and perspectives.

We were also invited by the Transnational Institute to participate in the negotiations to agree a Legally Binding International Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights. This treaty, which is supported by a worldwide campaign, is expected to play a key role in holding transnational corporations accountable for crimes against people and their environment. Thanks to the strong campaign by the international network GFC is part of, there is still a formal proposal to initiate such negotiations, despite vicious opposition from the EU and the US in particular.

In May 2018, back-to-back with the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) session in Bonn, we hosted a two-day workshop on "Addressing the Big four Drivers of Deforestation". It brought together more than 50 GFC members and allies with representation from both southern and northern NGOs, IPOs and social movements. The workshop dealt with the trade in and over-consumption of the four main drivers of forest loss: beef, soy, palm oil and wood. It was an important opportunity to strengthen the Global Alliance Against Unsustainable Livestock Farming, which used break-out groups to strategise on the key priorities for the year.

Ahead of the workshop, we produced Forest Cover 55, titled "The Big four Drivers of Deforestation: Beef, Soy, Wood and Palm Oil", with an editorial pointing out the relationship between increasing livestock numbers and deforestation rates in Latin America, and two articles focusing on



Infographic from "Incentivising deforestation for livestock products" showing support for industrial agriculture in Argentina.

unsustainable livestock and feedstock production, and the global trade in these commodities.

Two photo essays published on World Food Sovereignty Day with our Paraguayan member group Heñoi demonstrated the link between corporate-driven trade liberalisation in agricultural commodities and deforestation, and the impact that this has on rural and Indigenous women. "Chaco under attack", a photo essay about indigenous communities in the Chaco region of Paraguay, described their existence in a landscape under threat by agribusiness and international trade policies. It highlighted the plight of indigenous communities living in the shadow of toxic agribusiness, with their territories polluted and their resources extracted and exported abroad. "Guahory women fight for the earth" depicted the hardships that Guahory women are confronted with in Paraguay as the country continues to strengthen its agri-business model at the expense of the territories and livelihoods of indigenous and peasant communities.

Finally, we published "Incentivising deforestation for livestock products", a briefing paper with infographics on how support in the form of subsidies and perverse incentives for the livestock sector in the EU and Mercosur countries is subsidising forest destruction. It was widely disseminated at CBD COP14 and UNFCCC COP24, with discussions on the elimination of perverse incentives being highly relevant to the negotiations. The briefing looked at subsidies and support for the livestock sector in key producer countries, and how forests and other biodiverse ecosystems are being harmed because of them. Beef and soy production are by far the main drivers of forest loss in the continent with the highest deforestation rates on the planet, Latin America, and Aichi Target 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) states that subsidies and incentives that are harmful to biodiversity must be phased out or reformed by 2020.

More from this campaign in 2018...

Press releases

- Climate Talks in Bonn must Target the Big Four Drivers of Deforestation – Beef, Soy, Palm Oil, Wood, say Forest Activists
- Ending subsidies for meat and soy sector is key to halting deforestation, shows new paper

Op-eds/media

- NGOs Call for Disinvestments in Biodiversity Destruction
- Carne de res: culpable de la deforestación en América Latina
- Palma y Ganado: los motores de deforestación que tienen en jaque los bosques

2.6 Women's Rights and Empowerment

The Women2030 programme, which we implement in partnership with four other women's organsations, has been the key focus of this campaign over the past two years. Through GFC member groups, Women2030 has been engaging and supporting local forest communities and community-based organisations on sustainable development and women's rights and gender justice. Over the course of 2017 and 2018, 13 member groups reached a total of 2008 community members, including 1305 women and 703 men, and 455 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in 12 countries.

Many groups are working on mobilising, strengthening and facilitating the creation of women's groups within indigenous and local communities, as the basis for community action and struggle. Many of these communities are resisting harmful development projects and policies, unsustainable industries, failing local governance, and state discrimination, which are threatening their territories, biodiversity, forests, food sovereignty and livelihoods. In Sri Lanka, for example, women's groups and communities are organising to tackle harmful sugarcane plantations, irrigation projects and other development disasters that threaten their land rights and livelihoods.

Local groups have been gathering at events and meetings facilitated by GFC members to develop women and community-led solutions, action plans and strategies to address the threats and inequalities that they face. The communities in Chile, for example, are developing visual media campaigns which have included a cultural show, where Indigenous Peoples and local communities offer their agrochemical-free products directly to the consumer. They highlight the need for local economies that value food sovereignty, traditional knowledge and biodiversity conservation.

Young women from a remote mountainous area of Tajikistan display traditional foods at an event on the International Day for Biological Diversity. **Noosfera**

Peasant women cooking for a community meal in Paraguay. "We can and we want to provide healthy, chemical free food for our children and families." **Fernando Franceschelli**

Back-to-back to with the regional skill-share on community conservation initiatives in Africa, GFC held the fourth and final Women2030 Media Training, 28 February to 2 March, in Nairobi. The goal of the meeting was to provide a regional platform for Women2030 partners, interested groups and communities to participate in capacity building on outreach and advocacy and to share their skills and experiences with each other. The media training focused on improving our collective media strategies and methods for

advocacy, looking at strategies and techniques relating to social media, mainstream media, and activist photography and videography.

GFC also continued to collaborate closely with other members of the Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development and the Women and Gender Constituency at a number of international fora. For example, in July 2018 we co-organised a side event at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) called Defend the Defenders - from high destruction to fast transformation. This side event was organised with three other women's organisations and focused on the threats faced by women human rights environmental defenders and on women-led alternatives and conservation initiatives. Also at the HLPF, we produced a photo exhibition on the difference between tree plantations and forest restoration, which was co-organised with the Women Environmental Program and Indigenous Information Network. In the run-up to the HLPF we also published four shadow reports on the implementation of SDG 15.2 from a gender perspective in Armenia, Benin, Colombia and Paraguay.

Further still, we were actively engaged in policy advocacy work in women's networks at the CBD COP14 and UNFCCC COP24. In particular, GFC led the CBD Women's Caucus efforts in November 2018, and we produced an overview of the work done towards advancing gender equality at the CBD for our members. We participated in the work of the Women and Gender Constituency in the lead up to and during UNFCCC COP24, giving key inputs related to forests, agriculture, Indigenous Peoples rights, community rights and biodiversity conservation.

Along with other GFC campaigns we published a number of women and gender-related photo essays, including Indigenous and Rural Women Conserve Mother Earth and Empower Their Communities, which was published on International Women's Day on the key role that women play in the conservation of biodiversity and forests, and Guahory women fight for the earth, published on World Food Sovereignty Day on the impacts of toxic agribusiness on women in Paraguay. Also, on International Day of Rural Women we led a social media campaign with Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) that had a reach of almost 100,000.

Finally, gender has been an important focus in our advocacy work around climate finance, where we have highlighted gender considerations in many of our contributions to the Green Climate Fund Board and Forest Investment Program meetings and submitted inputs into the development of the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility gender action plans.

More from this campaign in 2018...

Photo essays

- Community conservation is vital to biodiversity, security for Indigenous Peoples of Kenya
- Peasants and Afro-Descendants Preserve Mother Earth in Colombia
- The rights of Indigenous Peoples are key to saving our global ecosystems
- Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and peasant farmers resist "green deserts" in Brazil
- The Chaco under attack

Media coverage

- Assessing SDGs implementation in Nigeria
- Safeguard women against development -led disasters – Withanage

3 Quality Management, Planning and Membership Development

GFC's quality management system includes regular reporting by staff, team members, and groups receiving financial support. We have developed a detailed Internal Control System, and organise annual monitoring, evaluation and planning meetings for GFC's Advisory Council. The Advisory Council consists of 5 regional focal points elected by the members of GFC and senior staff members, and oversees the daily implementation of the work of GFC. Board members and other member group representatives are welcome to participate in these meetings. To save flight-related emissions and financial resources the meetings of the Advisory Council are normally combined with Board meetings and other internal meetings, and are often held back-to-back with other important international meetings.

In light of the preparations for and follow-up to the second Members' Assembly, two Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meetings of the Advisory Council took place in 2018. The first Advisory Council and Board meetings in 2018 took place in Bonn, Germany, in April, back-to-back with the UN climate negotiations and our own workshop on the drivers of deforestation. The Advisory Council and Board meetings focused organising towards the Members' Assembly and Fostering Community Conservation conference, and membership development following a questionnaire that our membership coordinator had encouraged member groups to fill out. The Board of GFC met again just prior to the Members' Assembly to discuss final preparations and some other institutional and organisational matters. Summary reports of the Board meetings are available upon request. The Advisory Council met again in November 2018 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, just prior to the CBD COP, to evaluate the outcomes of the Members' Assembly and Fostering Community Conservation Conference and further concretise some of the campaign plans for 2019 and beyond.

Our quality management system also includes a regular external evaluation, which takes place every three or four years. An external evaluation of both the CCRI and GFC as a whole was initiated in November, alongside the Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting that took place, the results of which were discussed by the Board in early 2019.

This photo taken from our "Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and peasant farmers resist "green deserts" in Brazil" photo essay shows the lengths that plantation companies will go to greenwash their image. **Simone Lovera**

4 Conclusion

This Annual Report has described the key moments and achievements of our campaigns over what was an extremely busy year for GFC and our members. The high point came in the middle of it when we were able to bring together over 120 representatives of our member groups, allies, indigenous organisations and local communities for our events in Montreal. The energy and shared purpose nurtured there has fueled our coalition since.

In close consultation with our members we have been able to develop our campaigns so that they best reflect and support the struggles they are engaged in. We are particularly excited so see the new Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure campaign take-off, and our campaigns on unsustainable livestock production and other key drivers of deforestation have benefited greatly from the direction and input that they have received from our membership and close allies.

Although the CCRI as a project is now coming to a close, the narrative that it developed, along with the vast amount of documentation, policy recommendations and numerous other outputs it produced, underpins the work carried out as part of our other campaigns. The Women2030 programme in particular works directly to support and increase the capacity of women and women's organisations to protect forests, biodiversity and the roles and livelihoods of women, and is a logical next step in terms of implementing what has been learned through the CCRI process.

Mistica led by African participants at the Members' Assembly. **Oliver Munnion**

Consequently, the CCRI's key aim to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and women, and to promote respect for community conservation is fundamental to all of the work that we carry out, and everything that has been achieved by the CCRI over the past few years provides a solid foundation for our future advocacy.

Over 2018 our collective struggle has brought the vision of a truly transformative conservation model, one based on respect for the rights, knowledge and practices of forest peoples, a few steps closer to reality.

5 Financial Summary Report

Overview of expenses	Euros
Personnel costs	
General coordination	44414
coordinator gender program	35683
campaigns coordinator and research associate	37139
senior campaign advisor	21983
senior controller	41934
administration staff	11286
Staff training costs	1905
Objective 1, Analysis	
Activity 1.1, livestock analysis and gathering testimonies	4740
Activity 1.2, bioenergy analysis	4635
Activity 1.3, trade analysis and testimonies	1480
Activity 1.4, analysis of corporate take-over and other direct and underlying drivers	4592
Objective 2, membership involvement and alliance building	
Activity 2.1, establish and facilitate GFC working groups	3472
Activity 2.2, strengthen international alliances	3360
a) Travel to international meetings	51050
Activity 2.3, denounce false solutions and develop alternatives	194495
Objective 3, awareness raising campaigns	
Activity 3.1, social media and mainstream media campaigns	55209
Activity 3.2, advocacy campaigns targeting trade agreements	1140
Activity 3.3, advocacy campaigns targeting UN meetings	33705
a) International representation	29735
b) Printing costs advocacy materials	12241
Objective 4, Promote gender-responsive sustainable development	
Activity 4.1, support trainings and capacity-building	
a) Regional capacity-building meetings	110037
b) Printing costs training materials	3785
Activity 4.2, support community projects	60232
Activity 4.3, advocacy campaigns targeting UN meetings	
a) International representation incl. travel costs partners	11020
Activity 4.4, Support gender assessments	
a) Local transport	10530
6. Quality Management System	
Activity 6.1, Monitor progress	2400
Activity 6.2, Internal monitoring, evaluation and planning meetings	42172
Audit costs	15340
Overhead costs	
Overhead costs	34901
Total expenses 2018	**884615**

Income	
IKI-BMU Germany	551983
EU DEVCO through WECF	216232
Misereor	37999
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation	57361
Isvara Foundation	15137
Other donors, including Heinrich Boell Foundation	5082
Total income 2018	**883794**

People, Forests, Rights

Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition of 99 NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations from 65 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. We would like to express our gratitude to our members and all other institutions, donors, communities, groups and individuals that help us realise our campaign objectives.

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