



*Forest protection
through rights-based
action and advocacy*

Global Forest Coalition
Annual Report 2019



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Editor and design: Oliver Munnion

Cover photo: Participant at a Women2030 project in Kyrgystan. Photo by Vlad Ushakov

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

<http://globalforestcoalition.org/annual-report-2019/>



Women from West Pokot, Marasabit and Narok Counties in Kenya during a Women2030 skill-share. **Lucy Mullenkei**

Who we are

The Global Forest Coalition had 99 member groups in 2019. See our [latest overview of member groups](#).

Board Members in 2019: Diego Alejandro Cardona (Chairperson, CENSAT-Colombia), Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Vice-chairperson, PACC/AFPAT-Chad), Rachel Smolker (Treasurer, Biofuelwatch-USA), Dil Raj Khanal (Secretary, FECOFUN-Nepal), Anna Kirilienko (BIOM-Kyrgyzstan) and Aydah Vahia (NIPS-Solomon Islands)

Regional focal points as of December 2019: Kwami Kpondzo (Friends of the Earth-Togo, regional focal point for Africa), Inés Franceschelli (Heñoi-Paraguay, 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 Hemantha Withanage (Centre for Environmental Justice-Sri Lanka, regional focal point for South and South East Asia and the Pacific)

Overview of the GFC Team in 2019:

Executive Director: Simone Lovera

Vice-director and Gender Programme Coordinator: Jeanette Sequeira

Campaigns Communications Coordinator and

Research Associate: Mary Louise Malig

Livestock Campaign Coordinator and

Senior Gender Advisor: Isis Alvarez

ETI Campaign Coordinator and Membership

Coordinator: Andrey Laletin

Climate Campaign and Social Media Coordinator:

Coraina de la Plaza

Women2030 Programme Assistant: Juana Vera Delgado

Climate and Land Use Policy Advisor: Souparna Lahiri

Bioenergy and Plantations Campaigner and

Publications Coordinator: Oliver Munnion

Web Designer and IT Specialist: Jake McMurchie

Social Media and Web Manager: Muhammad Ikhwan

Media Coordinator: Ruth Nyambura

Indigenous Advisor: Mrinalini Rai

Financial Controllers: Jeroen Berrens and

Dinus de Vries

Administrative Assistants: Astrid Kleefstra, Linde

Berbers and Evgenia Mamedkhanova



Group photo taken at the 2018 Members' Assembly in Montreal. **Oliver Munnion/GFC**

Message from the Chairperson

Like never before, the challenges of the present time have shown the importance of preserving ecosystems, respecting local communities and traditional knowledge, and overcoming inequalities. It is these priorities that underpin the Global Forest Coalition's work, and throughout 2019 our campaigns aimed at preserving the ecosystems that support life on the planet, regulate the climate and provide everything

of women in modern society. Without respect for the vital roles that women play it is impossible to achieve a sustainable future, preserve cultures, protect the environment or grow conscientious new generations of people. GFC prioritises inclusive approaches and strives for gender equality through all of our projects and campaigns. As part of this, we undertake multi-

forests are the foundation of biological regulation on the planet. Two leading causes of forest loss are unsustainable livestock and feedstock production, and conversion to tree plantations. Both replace diverse ecosystems with monocultures that eliminate biodiversity by design. Through our unsustainable



necessary for human societies. We hope you enjoy reading this annual report and the coalition's achievements over another eventful year.

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted inequalities even more clearly, showing the particular vulnerability

sector work to support women in local communities through the Women2030 programme. The project helps to protect the role of women as an invaluable contribution to the preservation of life on this planet.

The loss of forests and other important ecosystems is closely tied to the emergence of new viruses, since

livestock and climate campaigns we have advocated against these drivers of forest loss to decision makers at all levels, from local decision-making bodies to global conventions on climate change, biodiversity and other international spaces.



Tree-planting during a Women2030 project in Kyrgystan. **BIOM**



Peasant women in Colombia selling honey at their local market. **Fundaexpresión**



Teodolina Villalba, coordinator of the National Peasant's Federation, a Women2030 partner in Paraguay. **FNC**

Life is priceless, yet everywhere it is being commodified and exchanged for money. Economies should see ecosystems, human life and the well-being of local communities as being of the highest value, and not reduced to numbers on a spreadsheet where their protection depends on market value and other metrics that have no real-world meaning.

Transnational economic initiatives increasingly pitch communities and ecosystems against the continued commodification of life through infrastructure projects, extractive industries and other so-called "developments". They are insensitive to environmental regulations and prey on weak governance. Through our campaign on extractive industries, tourism and infrastructure (ETI) we are

expanding our own horizons, expert potential and ability to respond to these new threats. Global networking organisations such as GFC have a key role to play in encouraging collaboration and developing solutions that are meaningful for local communities and the environment.

So far in 2020 we have tried to adapt to the new challenges being experienced by so many, and the old injustices that these challenges have worsened. We applaud the on-the-ground work that our members are doing to support communities with the small resources available to them. Despite the physical distance, solidarity within the coalition is now more important than ever.



Anna Kirilenko. **Fahmi/WALHI**

1 Introduction

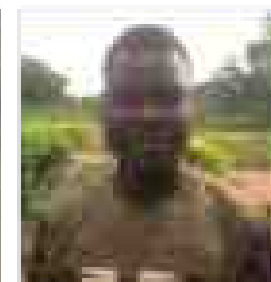
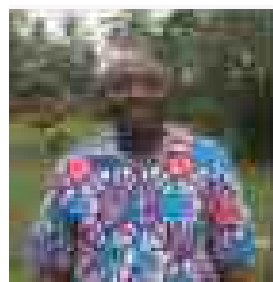
GFC advocates for the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems through rights-based approaches that address the underlying drivers of forest loss. Led by our member groups, our campaigns aim to defend and promote respect for the rights, territories, traditional knowledge and sustainable livelihoods of the Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women that co-exist with forests.

By 31 December 2019, GFC had 99 Indigenous and non-indigenous member groups from 65 different countries (in July 2020 this has grown to 110 members from 67 countries). GFC membership development focuses first and foremost on encouraging the active participation of our members in our global campaigns and programmes. For most of the campaigns, working groups have been established and members are regularly invited to participate in campaign activities such as conducting gender assessments and case studies, writing blogs and photo essays, and contributing to other publications. Whilst we are not a donor organisation ourselves, we always try to respond to calls for outreach and other forms of non-financial support from our member groups and close allies in their forest-related campaigns.

Throughout 2019 our key campaign on [women's rights and empowerment](#), under the [Women2030 banner](#), built upon one of the main conclusions of the five-year [Community Conservation Resilience Initiative \(CCRI\)](#): the need to empower women, respect women's rights and protect and strengthen



Photos from the West African skill-share. **Simone Lovera**



women's role in forest protection, community conservation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Women2030 programme was active throughout the year at the local, national and international levels, and since 2017 an impressive 570 local women's rights groups spanning 14 different countries were supported through capacity-building efforts. On top of this, GFC's Women2030 partners carried out in-depth gender assessments on the implementation of key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in eight countries.

Our women's rights, community conservation and climate campaigns also coalesced in March 2019 in Lomé, Togo, when 32 representatives of local community groups, women's rights groups and NGOs came together to participate in a West African skillshare on gender-sensitive, community-based forest conservation and restoration, and a strategy

meeting on bioenergy generation. The skill-share was hosted by our member group les Amis de la Terre-Togo, and a [press statement](#) was issued by the participants asserting respect for traditional knowledge and the importance of community-led conservation. Five follow-up skill-shares in different countries took the learning and sharing of experiences from the regional to the local levels.

Our campaign against the impacts of [unsustainable livestock production](#) focused on bringing the struggles of our member groups and allies to the international stage, with the publication of a number of [case studies](#) on the incompatibility of large-scale meat production with sustainable food production systems. Parallel to this, the campaign started hosting a series of regional dialogues on alternatives to unsustainable livestock production and consumption, with the aim of increasing Southern participation in advocacy work.



Nelsy Gualdron, Fundaexpresión, speaking in the Women's Tent, Santiago de Chile. **Oliver Munnion**



Climate march in Santiago de Chile. Placard reads: "Monocultures are not forests, no to green deserts". **Simone Lovera**



Women2030 event in the Women's Tent, Santiago de Chile. **Simone Lovera**

GFC's newest campaign on [extractive industries, tourism and infrastructure \(ETI\)](#) published an analysis of the impacts of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on women and forests in an [edition of our magazine Forest Cover](#), and worked towards a campaign meeting that took place in early 2020. Our [climate campaign](#) was also particularly active around the release of the milestone Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change and land, and with allies in the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA) published a [series of case studies](#) on the importance of community conservation in climate mitigation.

Other achievements in 2019 included an advocacy campaign aiming to enshrine rights-based approaches and policies that address the real drivers of biodiversity loss in the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and a successful campaign to derail a

potentially disastrous agreement on carbon trading under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2019 came to a close for our campaigns in both Chile and Spain, where we brought a large number of our member groups and partners to the Peoples' Summit in Santiago de Chile, and also participated in the UN climate negotiations which were re-located to Madrid due to the popular uprising in Chile. Over the course of a week in Santiago we hosted a Latin American event on women, forests and climate change in the Women's Tent, a regional dialogue on alternatives to unsustainable livestock farming and, together with the Environmental Paper Network (EPN), an event on the impacts of bioenergy and monoculture tree plantations on forests and the climate. In Madrid, our climate team and media coordinator worked hard to oppose the continued corporate take-over of climate policy-making.

Throughout 2019 we strengthened our social media presence and other outreach work, and by the end of the year our [facebook page](#) had 3,664 followers, reaching 2,800 views per day in December alone. We also had 4,644 followers on [Twitter](#), 675 on [Instagram](#) and a growing audience on our [YouTube channel](#). Our [photo library](#) continued to grow with powerful images from Women2030 capacity-building projects and photo essays we have published.

Two new regional focal points were also elected in 2019. Hemantha Withanage, representing the Centre for Environmental Justice in Sri Lanka, took up the post of focal point for South and South East Asia and the Pacific, and Ines Franceschelli, representing Heñoi in Paraguay, was elected as the new focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2.1 Defending Rights and Supporting Community Conservation

Defending rights and promoting gender-responsive community forest conservation are cross-cutting issues that are integrated into all campaign areas. In many of the countries where GFC has member groups the human rights of environmental activists and community members continue to be threatened and violated on a regular basis. In particular, 2019 saw attempts to [forcibly relocate huge numbers of forest dwelling communities in India](#), and GFC supported the All India Forum of Forest Movements (AIFFM) in its efforts to protect the rights of people facing eviction from a protected area.

In response, through outreach campaigns and other actions, GFC regularly supports members and allies facing oppression. With support from SSNC we have also established a small fund to provide some modest urgent financial support to member groups that are facing serious forms of oppression or other human rights violations, when such support is needed.

GFC continued to strengthen links with organisations affected by deteriorating civil space and human rights violations against environmental defenders. We participated in the “Claiming Civic Space Together – Joint strategies to ensure development and humanitarian action” conference in March in Copenhagen, which provided a good

opportunity to connect with like-minded groups and gather more information on this rapidly-increasing challenge to environmental activism. A [blog was also published](#) on the key findings of the conference.

The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) formally came to a close in May 2019 on International Day for Biodiversity, when GFC launched the [22nd and final national report](#) carried out through the initiative, in Sri Lanka. Accompanying the launch was a photo essay on the theme of “Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health”. Although the CCRI as a GFC project has now concluded, the vast wealth of experience and learning generated through it greatly influences all of GFC’s campaign priorities, and the lasting links built with member groups and CCRI partners have continued through the Women2030 programme and other campaigns.

Throughout 2019 GFC continued to work alongside other members of the CBD Alliance to oppose the corporate take-over of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its process for negotiating the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). In March, GFC published a [detailed submission](#) with policy recommendations on the post-2020 GBF, which was also disseminated at the meeting of the Subsidiary

Publications in 2019

International Day for Biodiversity photo essay:
[CCRI in Sri Lanka](#)

Submission: [Developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)

Blog: [Claiming Civic Space Together: conference in Copenhagen brings groups together to defend the defenders](#)

Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD in November 2019. The submission highlighted the need to embrace a rights-based approach and fully respect the rights, needs and role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in biodiversity policies.



Traditional snakebite healer in Sri Lanka.
Nirmanee Development Foundation

2.2 Women's Rights and Empowerment

The [Women2030 programme](#) has been the key focus of this campaign over the past three years. Through GFC members, Women2030 has been mobilising and strengthening women's rights groups within indigenous and local communities as the basis for gender-responsive and women-led community action and capacity-building.

Over the course of 2017 to 2019, GFC's Women2030 partners facilitated local level trainings on topics ranging from women's rights to community conservation and food sovereignty reaching a total of 570 community-based organisations in 14 countries (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Kenya, DRC, Tanzania, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Colombia, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia and Brazil). In addition, in 2019, several of the trained community-based organisations including indigenous women's groups and peasant collectives, implemented their own capacity-building initiatives in their communities. In [Kenya](#), indigenous women's groups carried out training on

how women can engage local leadership and influence local and county development agendas. Other initiatives also included trainings on women's rights and land rights with a focus on community land rights as well as a dialogue between women's groups on food sovereignty and engaging local leadership. In [Paraguay](#), community groups of the Federación Nacional Campesina (FNC) and the national coordinating body of Indigenous and Peasant Women (CONAMURI) carried out capacity-building activities related to climate change, biodiversity and food sovereignty, the effect of agrochemicals on human and environmental health, and management of waste. Community-based organisations in several other Women2030 countries have yet to complete their capacity-building initiatives which are due to conclude in 2020.

In 2019 GFC circulated a call for proposals for gender assessments to evaluate the implementation of a number of key SDGs, and

eight partners were selected in Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Chile, Kenya, India and Nepal. The partner groups carried out the assessments throughout the year, and regional and national reports will be published in time for the High Level Political Forum in July 2020.

GFC and its Women2030 partners engaged in multiple UN policy meetings throughout 2019 to advocate for gender-responsive forest conservation and, with allies in other Major Groups, we campaigned against the shrinking space for CSO participation in these meetings. GFC also acted as the alternate co-facilitator of the Women's Major Group (WMG) at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) and a huge success was the adoption of the Women and Environment resolution at the UNEA-4. We also contributed to various civil society statements and actions emphasising women's rights as a crucial element of climate justice.



Women2030 skill-share in Paraguay. [Lisa Meyer](#)



Liliana Marcela Rueda speaking in the Women's Tent, Chile. [Oliver Munnion/GFC](#)



Gender justice and climate change. [WMG](#)

Publications and media in 2019

Forest Cover 60: How is the BRI impacting women and forests?

Forest Cover 59: Impacts of bioenergy on women in West Africa

International Day of Forests: Declaration on gender-responsive, community-driven forest conservation and restoration in West Africa

Photo essay for International Women's Day: Women beekeepers flourish in their love of the land and community conservation in the threatened Páramo de Santurbán area

Photo essay: Land rights and livelihoods key to achieving sustainable development for Kenya's indigenous women

Photo essay: "They are only interested in soy": how peasant and indigenous women in Paraguay are organising to survive the twin

threats of industrial agriculture and climate change

Blog: Forest conservation must address violence against women

Blog: "Gender is not Plan B!" Advancing gender-responsive measures in the CBD's Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

Blog: Feminists at UNEA4 Continue the Call for the Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Interactive map: Women2030 programme partners & their work

Videos for International Day of Rural Women: Women2030 projects in Paraguay and Kenya

Press conference: UNFCCC COP25: Implications of negotiations on Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women



GFC's Women2030 programme helped to host a three-day capacity-building skill-share for 33 representatives of member groups, allies and the communities they work with from six West African countries on gender-responsive, community-driven forest conservation and restoration, which took place in Lomé, Togo, in March 2019. The skill-share featured many presentations on inspiring success stories, as well as the challenges involved in gender-responsive and community-driven forest conservation and restoration in West Africa. On International Day of Forests, the final day of the skill-share, participants issued a [joint declaration and a number of photo testimonies](#) to highlight the contribution of women and local communities to forest conservation and restoration.

As a follow-up to the skill-share, five GFC member groups and allies from Benin, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Togo were supported to host local skill-shares in which more than 250 people participated. The groups also contributed to the [59th issue of Forest](#)

[Cover](#), which was published in September 2019 and focused on the impacts of bioenergy on women and forests in West Africa

Back-to-back with the Peoples' Summit on Climate Change in Santiago de Chile in December, we hosted a Latin American regional Women2030 meeting, which brought together GFC's Women2030 partners as well as a community representative from each of the partner groups that work at the grassroots level. The meeting reviewed the results of the five Latin American local-level gender assessments and provided a space for participants to network, skill-share and build joint strategies. Following the meeting, the participants presented their work at a well-attended public event in the Women's Tent during the People's Summit, that focused on climate justice, gender, the relations between women and nature, and the threats that women face in different countries in the region. A lively discussion was had on the ways in which women are organising to overcome threats such as monoculture

tree plantations, desertification and the loss of traditional knowledge associated with losing access to natural resources. An interactive map was also published in Santiago de Chile showcasing the work and publications of Women2030 partners.

Women2030 partners have reported that progress in addressing patriarchal structures at the community level has met resistance and sometimes been slow, but that positive change is happening nonetheless. A successful strategy that emerged from the Women2030 program in 2019 was supporting a few women to become leaders and role models in their communities, who were then able to work together to empower other women in their communities and further afield. Such efforts change attitudes through challenging entrenched patriarchy and accelerating women's empowerment, and move communities closer towards gender equality.

2.3 Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure (ETI)

Work was undertaken throughout 2019 to lay the foundations for the future development of GFC's newest campaign. An email list was established for campaign working group members in order to share and discuss regular news on the China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and other ETI-related developments. A steering committee for the campaign was established that includes representatives from member groups in China, Sri Lanka, Togo, Georgia, and the Dominican Republic, as well as GFC's senior gender advisors and other team members. The Steering Committee met twice through conference calls in 2019 to develop a strategic plan for the campaign, and to discuss fundraising and preparations for an international skill-share on the BRI's impacts on forests, women

and local communities, which was held in Bogor, Indonesia, in February 2020.

In the second half of 2019 the campaign also undertook analytical work in preparation for the international skill-share. Member groups in Sri Lanka, Russia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan developed case studies on the impacts of BRI projects in their countries, which were published in summary in [Forest Cover 60](#) in December.



Publications in 2019

Forest Cover 60: [How is the Belt and Road Initiative \(BRI\) impacting women and forests?](#)



Logging in the Russian Far East for export to China. **BROC**



Roads, processing facilities and ports all facilitate trade in commodities such as palm oil. **Ryan Woo/CIFOR**



Industrial landscape in Kazakhstan, where there are many BRI investments. **Alex Polezhaev/Flickr**

2.3 Forests, Trees and Climate Change

Our Forests, Trees and Climate Change campaign focuses on the drivers of forest loss and land conversion to monoculture tree plantations. These include bioenergy generation, climate mitigation approaches centred around afforestation/ reforestation and carbon markets, climate finance directed towards commercial tree plantations and a number of cross-cutting issues such as gender justice and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities on the front lines of climate change.

GFC continued to be actively involved in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), focusing on the corporate capture of policy-making and climate finance, and the risks of market-based approaches and other false solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation. We also focused on gender, livestock (through the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture) and climate justice issues, collaborating closely with the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA), Demand Climate Justice, the Food and Climate Alliance (FCA) and the Working Group on Real Solutions.

As part of the Peoples' Summit in Santiago de Chile, taking place alongside the climate Conference of the Parties (COP) in Madrid and in solidarity with the struggles of the Chilean people, the climate campaign co-hosted a number of events including a seminar on the importance of

protecting and restoring natural forests without the use of commercial tree plantations, together with the Environmental Paper Network (EPN). A small team and a number of member groups also participated in the re-located UNFCCC COP 25 in Madrid. GFC was part of two successful campaigns there, firstly to prevent the adoption of a potentially disastrous agreement on carbon trading under the Paris Agreement, and secondly for the adoption of a new five-year Gender Action Plan that contained strong language on protecting rights.

We denounced the role of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in promoting a carbon offset scheme that would mainly benefit airline companies and their seemingly unlimited expansion ambitions, and participated in the Stay Grounded network's members' assembly. We also strongly advocated against the "alignment" of EU climate policy and the rules governing Articles 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement with the ICAO's CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation).

In partnership with the Climate, Land, Ambition, Rights Alliance (CLARA), GFC published a [series of case studies](#) on the importance of community conservation in climate mitigation and resilience, coinciding with the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land. The case studies were based on the findings of the



Marching for gender-justice in Madrid.
Annabelle Avril/WECF

Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI), and were also submitted to the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019 as examples of real solutions to the climate crisis.

GFC staff and member groups also participated in the global gathering of the International Biomass Working Group, which took place back-to-back with the Forest Movement Europe meeting in Slovakia, which formed an excellent opportunity for planning joint campaigns and advocacy work. We also supported an initiative to provide comments on the draft EU Technical Experts Group's report on the EU Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance, which was led by our member group ARA in Germany, and supported several national campaigns by member and allies, including a [campaign by local groups](#) against a new biomass plant in Diemen, Netherlands. Together with our member group Biofuelwatch, we submitted a commentary to the official consultation on the Californian Tropical Forest Standard, and we wrote an [analysis of attempts by corporations in California](#) and elsewhere to create fraudulent schemes to offset their greenhouse gas emissions with tree planting.

In collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, we initiated an analysis of German climate finance and the extent to which it supports monoculture tree plantations and bioenergy generation. Three of our member groups undertook field studies as part of this project, and the first case study was published in November 2019, and looked at the impacts of [eucalyptus plantations for charcoal production in Uganda](#). As part of this analysis, our member group Biofuelwatch also published a [report revealing how climate finance for biomass cookstoves](#) is having no meaningful impact on women's health or reducing wood use.

Through targeted advocacy at key climate finance mechanism meetings we highlighted the need for finance to be redirected from commercial tree plantations to supporting gender-responsive, rights-

based and community-driven approaches to protecting forests and mitigating climate change. In collaboration with our member groups and other networks and allies we advocated against several problematic projects. For example, the 22nd Green Climate Fund board meeting approved the first REDD+ project under the fund, which was a highly controversial \$96.5 million results-based payment to Brazil. Despite strong NGO opposition, GCF approved a similar REDD+ payment to Paraguay in November 2019. In response to these scandals, GFC has stepped-up its work around REDD+ and the corporate capture of climate finance.



Publications and media in 2019

Forest Cover 59: The impacts of bioenergy in West Africa on women and forests

Case studies: Rights-based climate action and the IPCC's Special Report on Land

Case Study: An investigation into the Global Environment Facility-funded Green Charcoal Project in Uganda

Briefing: Risky Biomass Business, the reputational and financial risks of investing in forest biomass energy

Briefing: Real Solutions, Real Zero, How article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement can help pave the way to 1,5

Open letter: The Green Climate Fund must oppose REDD+ results-based payments in Paraguay

Blog: Implications of Katowice: Where human rights were ignored while big business captured the negotiations

Blog: Climate finance developments. REDD+ and the Green Climate Fund: Confirming the Worst Fears

Blog: Derail negotiations on market mechanisms: false solutions will not bring equity and climate justice

Blog: Chile 2019: El Derecho de Vivir en Paz (The Right to Live in Peace)

Blog: Market mechanisms and money: an overview of what's at stake at COP25 in Madrid

Blog: Crocodile tears will not help to put out the Amazon's fires

Blog: Is climate finance for cookstove and charcoal projects helping communities, forests or the climate?

International Day of Action Against Monoculture Tree Plantations blog: Greta Thunberg and the UN Climate Summit should reject monoculture tree plantations as a false solution

Press release: International groups team up with locals in opposition to Nuon Biomass Plant

Press conference: Climate Justice at COP25

2.4 Addressing Unsustainable Livestock Production & related Commodity Trade

Issues around food production have been capturing more and more attention worldwide, including at the international policy level, where unsustainable livestock farming has finally been recognised as a significant source of carbon emissions and the biggest driver of deforestation.

Alliance-building is a central aim of the livestock campaign, and GFC's Global Alliance against Unsustainable Livestock Farming email list currently includes 50 people from nearly every region of the world, and new members continue to join regularly. The campaign has also strengthened links with the [Food and Climate Alliance \(FCA\)](#) and [50by40](#) (aimed at achieving a 50% reduction in animal production by 2040). Both alliances are effective, but strongly driven by US groups, and GFC is actively trying to increase the participation of groups from the Global South in these networks.

At the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in March and the climate negotiations in May 2019, the Food and Climate Alliance (FCA) organised face-to-face meetings in which GFC actively participated. We also ran an exhibition booth with FCA representatives where we had an interactive quiz on 'How to choose a sustainable food future', and presented at five different events that included key actors in the food systems debate including FAO, UNEP and WWF, among others.

Five case studies on the impacts of industrial livestock production and the need for alternatives were developed in Brazil, Chile, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico and Paraguay. Summaries of the five case studies were published in [Forest Cover 58](#), which was launched in May 2019. The four Latin American case studies were subsequently published online and [summarised in a briefing](#) that was launched in December 2019 at the People's Summit in Santiago de Chile.

The campaign also initiated a series of regional dialogues on alternatives to unsustainable livestock farming to raise awareness of the role of livestock and feedstock production as drivers of forest loss, climate change and land grabbing. Back-to-back with the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference (ANAW) in September, we co-organised an [African Regional Dialogue on Unsustainable Livestock](#) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with close to 90 participants representing a diverse range of pastoralist communities, Indigenous Peoples, women's rights groups, environmental activists, animal welfare organisations and UN agencies. The event, which took place over a vegan dinner, was an opportunity for lively debate on different aspects of livestock production and consumption.

The second dialogue took place in December in Santiago de Chile as part of the Peoples' Summit



ICCA guardians in the Bale Mountains, Ethiopia, defend their land from livestock overgrazing and other impacts. **Simone Lovera/GFC**



Isis Alvarez speaking at Chile dialogue. **Oliver Munnion/GFC**

on Climate Change. It was attended by over 35 participants from social movements and organisations representing Indigenous Peoples, women, peasants and environmental activists. Like the dialogue in Africa, the Latin American regional dialogue was chaired by an Indigenous facilitator. Participants addressed the devastating impacts of beef and soy production on forests, climate change and communities, as well as the need for dietary change in Latin America in light of the health impacts of the over-consumption of industrially-produced meat and dairy.

In September 2019 we participated in numerous panel discussions and side events organised by allies at the New York Climate Week and UN Climate Action Summit. Included in this were: the Nature's Climate Hub, where we attended events including the Global Roundtable on Sustainable Beef; a Southern Voices event, organised by Demand Climate Justice, where we gave a presentation on unsustainable livestock production and perverse incentives for deforestation; and a People's Assembly event organised by CLARA on unsustainable livestock and gender. Following this, we participated in the [Reductarian Summit](#) in Washington, which aims to improve human health, protect the environment, and spare intensively-farmed animals from cruelty by reducing consumption of animal products. We also attended 50by40's 2nd strategy meeting, where we presented GFC's unsustainable livestock campaign.

At the international level, various multilateral negotiation spaces have begun to discuss the impacts of meat consumption on the environment, including at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. We have actively participated in it, and we took the lead in [developing a joint submission](#) on it on behalf of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency (WGC). The submission served as the basis for subsequent WGC interventions during Koronivia workshops in 2019.

In June 2019 we participated in the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the Climate Convention in Bonn, Germany, where we hosted a well-attended side event on ["Driving Deforestation: Drifting Away from Real Solutions to Address the Climate Crisis"](#). At the event we re-launched our [briefing paper on perverse incentives](#) for deforestation through livestock production based on

case studies from producer countries, and discussed local perspectives on the impacts of industrial livestock and feedstock production. We discussed alternatives to these industrial production models, such as agroecology and community-led forest restoration. We also ran an exhibit booth throughout the intersessional focused on the same issues as the side-event.

Although resources for our trade-related work were extremely limited in 2019, GFC continued to monitor and participate in international campaigns targeting multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, including the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement, which was signed on 28 June despite strong protests from social movements and NGOs in both continents. We continue to be active participants in international campaigns to convince countries, particularly in the EU, to resist ratifying this highly damaging trade agreement.

For example, during Climate Week in New York in September 2019, we helped to organise a joint event on 'Southern Voices' where we presented the links between deforestation, the Amazon forest fires, the EU-Mercosur FTA and violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We also participated in discussions around the FAO's Committee on Food Security via the Women's Constituency and followed discussions on the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). We contributed to the European Commission's consultation on their new action plan "Deforestation and forest degradation – stepping up EU action", highlighting the importance of redirecting perverse incentives that promote deforestation, including subsidies for the EU livestock and bioenergy industries.



Publications and media in 2019

Forest Cover 58: Large-scale cattle farming and its incompatibility with more sustainable food systems and thriving, healthy forests

Briefing: Agroecological Alternatives to Industrial Livestock Production

World Food Day blog: The fires next time: Mortgaging the future of the planet for meat and dairy

Article: Deforestation, a problem caused by government collusion

Submission: Perverse incentives for agri-business and deforestation: a love affair that must end

Blog: Crocodile tears will not help to put out the Amazon's fires

Blog: Feminists at UNEA4 Continue the Call for the Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Photo essay: "They are only interested in soy"

3 Quality Management and Planning

GFC's quality management system includes regular reporting by staff, team members, and groups that participate actively in GFC campaigns. 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 five regional focal points (elected by GFC members) and senior staff members, and oversees the coalition's day-to-day work. Board members and other member group representatives are welcome to participate in these meetings. GFC' board meets once a year to provide a general oversight of GFC's work and institutional structures.

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 2018, alongside a Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning meeting. As a follow-up to the external evaluations that were performed in 2018, a number of reforms were agreed upon during a board meeting in early 2019. Included in these were: the establishment of staff management and budget management committees for each different campaign, which consist of the relevant campaign coordinator, the executive director, the financial administrator and, in the case of the staff management committee, one board member; the formal appointment of Jeanette Sequeira as GFC's vice-director; the delegation of decision-making on

formal requests from other organisations for GFC to sign statements and letters to the relevant campaign working groups or regions in order to allow the board to focus on management issues; and the phasing-out of all sub-granting to member groups in order to strive for a more horizontal relationship with them.

One of the most important internal achievements in 2019 was that GFC's campaign structure and decision-making was decentralised and strengthened. The coordinators of GFC's four main campaigns (the Women2030 programme; the Forests, Trees and Climate Change campaign; the campaign against Unsustainable Livestock Farming; and the campaign on Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure) have gradually taken over the responsibility for monitoring and reporting on their programme/campaign results and planning future campaign work on the basis of an internal evaluation of those results. A training on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) for campaign coordinators and other senior staff was held in June 2019 in the Netherlands, and provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen PME skills, develop the different campaign plans and explore fundraising opportunities.

GFC also produced three issues of our internal [newsletter for members, Roots](#), which provides a regular, brief report on key activities and campaign updates.

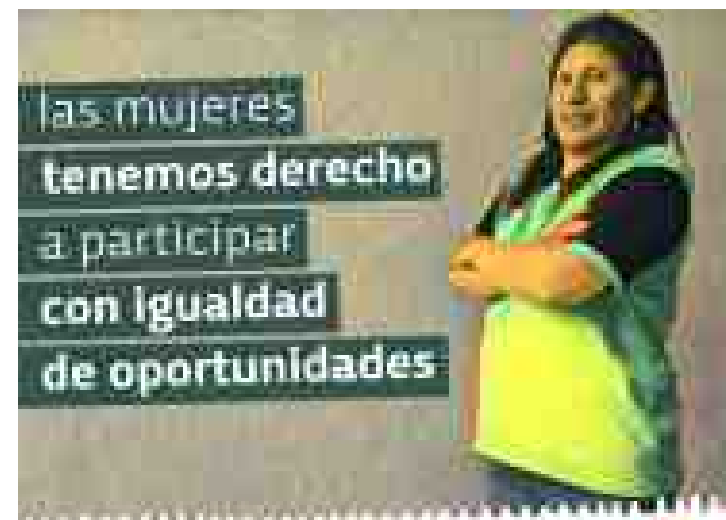
Publications in 2019

Roots December 2019: ¡Unidas somos mas fuertes!

Roots August 2019: Importance of Indigenous Peoples and community conservation finally recognised by IPCC

Roots April 2019: Respect traditional knowledge and promote community-led conservation!

Annual Report 2018: Defending rights and the power of community conservation



4 Conclusion

Our campaigns throughout 2019 aimed to capture the experience, energy and enthusiasm involved in bringing together our member groups to our second ever global members' assembly in Montreal in 2018, and apply it into the work that we do. In close consultation with our members, all of our campaign areas have been developed to reflect and support the struggles that they are engaged in.

In particular, our women's rights and empowerment campaign had its busiest year yet, conducting in-depth gender assessments and local-level capacity-building work with a huge number of partners and communities. The Women2030 programme demonstrates the value of this approach, with tangible results in the struggle for gender-justice, such as women's increased representation in decision-making, changing attitudes to entrenched patriarchy at the local and international levels and increasing acknowledgment of the vital need for forest, climate and biodiversity policy-making to be gender-responsive. Gender-justice and women's rights as cornerstones of GFC's approach have also been mainstreamed throughout our own campaigns, reflected in the fact that GFC is now an explicitly feminist organisation.

As described throughout this report, GFC's key moments in 2019 came in March in Lomé, Togo, during a West African skill-share on gender-responsive forest conservation, and in December



in Santiago de Chile, during the People's Summit and Chilean popular uprising. Being able to bring our member groups and partners together is a great privilege and, be it in person or virtually, we are extremely grateful for the time and enthusiasm that participants dedicate to GFC events. The experience and collaborative spirit that they contribute is what drives the coalition forward.

Despite the reality of ever-worsening climate, biodiversity and social crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the world in early 2020, the vital work that our members engage in serves as an important reminder that transformational change through collective struggle is the only clear path towards forest protection, planetary and human health and respect for the rights, knowledge and practices of forest peoples.

5 Financial Summary Report for 2019

Overview of expenses

Euros

Small grants and third party assignments	154,094
Staff costs	205,106
Travel expenses	63,094
Publications and other communication	70,096
Administration costs	50,795
Office costs	7,010
Total expenses 2019	550,195

Income

Euros

IKI-BMU	70,271
50by40	8,560
EU DEVCO through WECF	321,297
Misereor	32,001
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation	67,126
American Jewish World Service	8,771
Other donors, including Heinrich Böll Foundation, Pivot Point, Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the Tides Foundation/Patagonia	29,9879
Total income 2019	538,014

People, Forests, Rights

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition of NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations 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.

globalforestcoalition.org

globalforestcoalition.org/photography

@globalforestcoalition (Facebook)

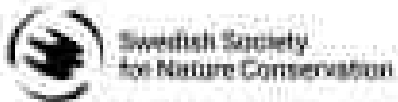
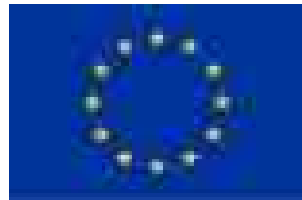
@gfc123 (Twitter) · global.forest (Instagram)



Mapuche seed and local produce exchange in Curarrehue, Chile. **Carolina Lagos**



Ministerio del Medio Ambiente y Planificación Urbana



Swedish Society
for Nature Conservation

MISEREOR
IHR HILFSWERK



TOURNOI PNE MILITARY AID
CORPORATION FOR SYSTEM

