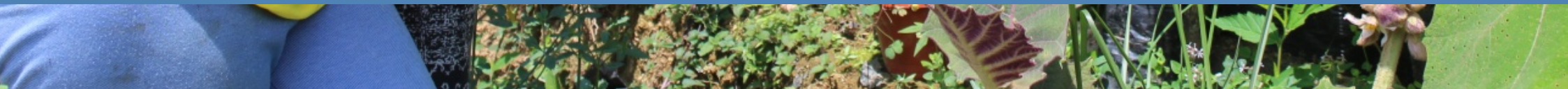
Global Forest Coalition
Annual Report 2020



Women2030 capacity-building project in Kyrgyzstan. **Vlad Ushakov**

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Front cover photo: Women2030 capacity-building project at a tree nursery in Asovivir, Colombia. Photo by Fundaexpresión
Back cover photo: Participants at GFC meetings in Bogor, Indonesia. Photo by Fahmi/WALHI

Who we are

The Global Forest Coalition is a worldwide coalition of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, NGOs and women's rights groups from more than 65 different countries. In 2020 GFC's membership grew from 99 to 114 groups.

Board Members in 2020: Diego Alejandro Cardona (until February 2020, chairperson, CENSAT-Colombia), Anna Kirilienko (chairperson as of February 2020, BIOM-Kyrgyzstan), Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (vice-chairperson, IPACC-Chad), Rachel Smolker (until June 2020, treasurer, Biofuelwatch-USA), Wolfgang Kuhlmann (as of June 2020, treasurer, ARA-Germany), Dil Raj Khanal (secretary, FECOFUN-Nepal), and Aydah Vahia (NIPS-Solomon Islands).

Regional focal points as of December 2020:
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 2020:
Executive Director: Simone Lovera
Vice-director and Gender Programme Coordinator: Jeanette Sequeira
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
Senior Gender Advisor: Juana Vera Delgado
Climate, Biodiversity and Land Use Policy Advisor: Souparna Lahiri
Bioenergy and Plantations Campaigner and Publications Coordinator: Oliver Munnion
Web Designer and IT Specialist: Jake McMurchie
Media Coordinator: Megan Morrissey
Livestock Campaign Assistant: Milena Bernal
Financial Controller: Jeroen Berrens
Administrative Assistant: Evgenia Mamedkhanova

Group photo taken in Bogor, Indonesia. **Fahmi/WALHI**

Message from the Chairperson

2020 was an important milestone for the Global Forest Coalition. The pandemic brought new challenges in almost all areas of our lives, and it was necessary to master new tools not only for communication, but for supporting each other too. We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Coalition's work in 2020. From a handful of founding organizations, in 20 years the Coalition has grown to become an international network of more than 110 organizations and local groups from 70 countries around the world. Behind each of the Coalition's words are thousands more from our members! Today we can say with confidence that physical distance and the challenges of the pandemic have only strengthened our solidarity, allowing us to see the problems of our time more clearly and better understand how to solve them.

2020 showed us once again the significance of the work of the Coalition and its members. The pandemic has exposed the great disparity between rich and poor, between regions, and between men and women. For example, in Kyrgyzstan, where I'm from, the pandemic has caused violence against women to more than double and for the poor to become poorer and more vulnerable. The pandemic itself was the result of a disdainful and exploitative attitude towards humans, ecosystems and the biosphere as a whole. According to UNEP *"the COVID-19 outbreak is associated with the disappearance of barriers between humans and animal carriers of viruses due to changes and destruction of their natural habitats and ecosystems. It is impossible to predict the time and location of the next outbreak. More and more evidence suggests that outbreaks or epidemic diseases may become more frequent as the climate continues to change."*

We are witnessing an unprecedented situation in the history of humankind, where our actions have turned into a geological force that radically changes the face of the Planet. This epoch, now called the "Anthropocene," is causing faster and more profound changes than ever before. At the same time, many decisions that are being

Women2030 capacity-building project in Chile. **Colectivo VientoSur**

Group photo in Bogor, Indonesia. **Fahmi/WALHI**

Women2030 project group photo in Bolivia. **CIPCA**

made at the international level still promote the interests of "big" capital and ruthless economic growth without considering people and the environment. We are witnessing how space for the voices of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and other groups is shrinking in the international arenas of environmental and political processes. Our mission was and still is to ensure that this window of opportunity for creating change is not closed or treated by decision-makers as a mere formality.

Much work was done in 2020 by the Coalition and its members to protect the rights of local communities, Indigenous Peoples and women and to support their traditional practices and sustainable livelihoods such that they can live in harmony with forests and enjoy the human rights they are entitled to. We have big plans for 2021 and beyond, which we look forward to implementing with more and more of our member groups.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Coalition for all of the work that you carried out in this difficult year and for the positive changes that each of you contributed to!

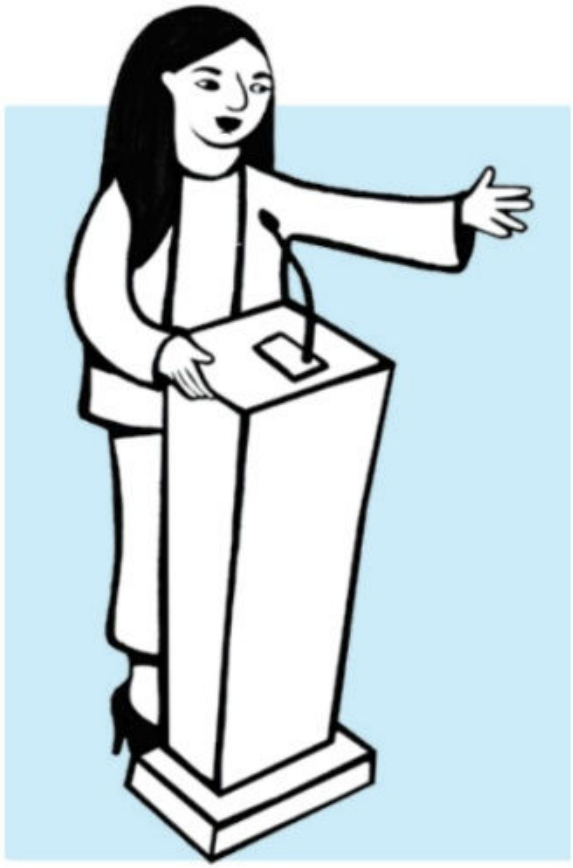
Anna Kirilenko
Chairperson

Anna Kirilenko. **Fahmi/WALHI**

1 Introduction

2020 will be remembered for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought (and continues to bring) unspeakable human misery in terms of its impacts on health, food security, employment and socio-economic security in general. The impacts have been particularly severe for women, who have faced increased levels of domestic violence, job insecurity and the often impossible challenge of combining work with home schooling and other care-related responsibilities.

Many of GFC's member groups have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and actively involved in COVID-related relief efforts, which we have tried to support wherever possible. GFC team members have also been directly affected by numerous impacts of the pandemic, such as concern for family or close friends afflicted with the virus, increased care responsibilities and impacts on mental health. As an organization we have made significant efforts to look after our staff through prioritizing team care and flexibility to help team members to cope with the stress caused by the pandemic.



Promoting environmental education and women's rights in Brazil. **GEASF**

Group photo taken in Bogor, Indonesia. **Fahmi/WALHI**

Participants in Bogor, Indonesia. **Fahmi/WALHI**

Women2030 capacity-building project in Chile. **Colectivo VientoSur**

Despite these challenges, we were able to adapt quickly to the rapidly-changing situation and switch most of our planned activities to virtual formats. We also moved our advocacy campaigns online, focusing on submissions, writing joint letters to international financial institutions and other influential actors and very active social media campaigns.

The Coalition continued to grow slowly but steadily over the course of 2020. It embraced a two-pronged membership development strategy to both deepen engagement with existing members and slowly expand membership, welcoming the following new groups: Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy (ISDS) Public Fund in Kyrgyzstan; Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado (CIPCA) in Bolivia; Navrachna in India; Centro de Capacitación y Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija (CCIMCAT) in Bolivia; Mulheres em Ação no Pantanal (Mupan) in Brazil; Asociación Amazónicos por la Amazonía (AMPA) in Peru; Karaganda Eco-center in Kazakhstan; Aleyne+ in Kyrgyzstan; Green Regions in Georgia; Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de organizaciones para la Defensa de la Naturaleza y el Medio Ambiente (CEDENMA) in Ecuador; Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Ottawa Valley Chapter (CPAWS-OV) in Canada; and Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés (FCPEEP) in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

GFC also saw an important change in leadership in 2020. At a board meeting in February 2020, Diego Cardona of Censat/FoE in Colombia stepped down as chairperson after serving a five-year term, and Anna Kirilenko of BIOM, Kyrgyzstan, was elected as GFC's new chairperson. Johanna Molina of our Chilean member group Colectivo VientoSur was appointed as the new Latin American board member, after being recommended by the members in her region. Rachel Smolker, who had also served a five-year term, stepped down as board member for the North America and Europe region, and members in the region elected Wolfgang Kuhlmann of ARA in Germany as their new board member

2.1 Women's Rights and Empowerment

2020 was the final (full) year of the Women2030 program, which proved to be an exciting and inspiring culmination of collaboration between a diverse range of civil society organizations and women's rights groups. Central to this work were a large number of local-level capacity-building initiatives with women's rights groups, collectives, community-based organizations and forest user groups that GFC's Women2030 partners supported. In total, 33 projects reached 2,543 people (1,210 women, 704 men, 285 girls and 344 boys) in eight countries (Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Colombia, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia and Brazil). The outcomes and lessons learned from these initiatives were publicized through various photo essays and reports throughout 2020, including a photo essay on International Day of Rural Women, a photo essay on initiatives in Kyrgyzstan, and an article in a special edition of Forest Cover on International Day of Biodiversity covering an inspiring initiative by a women's rights group in Ghana to restore forests and defend their food sovereignty.

Community-level gender assessments were also completed in eight countries by GFC member groups involving 14 civil society organizations in Kenya, Nepal, India, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and Paraguay. The assessments involved interviewing a total of 661 women and 378 men in Indigenous and local communities and an analysis of progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a women's rights perspective.

We produced a regional report synthesizing the five assessments that took place in Latin America that was launched a week before the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) where governments had gathered to review the implementation of the SDGs. Our report aimed to highlight the differences between the realities on the ground compared to what governments are (voluntarily) reporting. The key recommendations from our regional gender assessments report included: the need to eradicate all forms of violence against women, girls and Indigenous Peoples, including putting an end to the persecution and murder of environmental leaders; halting megaprojects and the expansion of extractive industries; demilitarizing Indigenous communities and territories; ending subsidies for destructive industries that disproportionately harm women; and pursuing parallel work between superstructures like the UN and communities to address local needs and support the alternative responses that women are championing in order to achieve gender justice.

A Women2030 global report was launched shortly afterwards at a

Discussing women's rights in Bolivia. **CIPCA**

Kpoeta Women's Association tree nursery in Ghana during a Women2030 project. **The Development Institute**

well-attended side event during the HLPF, which brought together all of the work that had taken place throughout the Women2030 program. It provided bottom-up and evidence-based civil society perspectives on struggles for gender equality, and its systemic, feminist and intersectional lens helped to expose the structural barriers and power dynamics that are crucial to understanding the implementation of the SDGs.

An Asia regional meeting brought together GFC Women2030 partners in February 2020 to share experiences of Women2030 activities, including community-level capacity building projects and country-wide gender assessments. The key outcomes identified were: increased women's leadership at the local level, including in local government; successfully influencing policy outcomes at the national level on the SDGs and forest legislation; and strengthening women's roles in community-based forest conservation and restoration.

Alongside this work, the campaign continued to engage in international policy discussions in order to influence discussions involving the CBD, UNFCCC, UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and EU. A key highlight of our CBD-related work was advocacy around the post-2020 CBD Gender Plan of Action, which we carried out with CBD Women's Caucus. At UNEA, we contributed to the Women's Major Group statement on the ongoing coronavirus, climate and biodiversity crises, which called on the UN system and member states to place the environment firmly at the center of sustainable development. At the EU level, amongst other activities we focused on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its impacts on women and forests in exporting countries.

On International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations we launched a report and presented a webinar on "The impacts of tree plantations on women" with GFC's climate campaign, which is described in greater detail below. We also worked with journalists and alternative media outlets to reach broader audiences, such as through our article in MongaBay titled "Gender-based Violence shakes communities in the wake of forest loss," which shed light on the link between extractive industries, deforestation and gender-based violence. On International Women's Day we supported the Women's Global Strike, and on International Day of Rural Women we published a photo essay highlighting the work of our Women2030 partners and the invaluable contributions of women and girls to protecting forests and biodiversity around the world. On International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women we published a blog with Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) highlighting the high incidence of all forms of gender-based violence and advocating for the feminist demands set out in the Women2030 Global Report to address such violence.

Publications and media in 2020

Report: Toward Buen Vivir with Gender Equality and Environmental Justice: Gender Analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals in Five Countries in Latin America
Report: Women2030 Global Shadow Report
Forest Cover 62: The impacts of tree plantations on women, and women-led resistance to monocultures
Photo essay: Women's rights and traditional knowledge are crucial for conserving biodiversity in Kyrgyzstan
Photo essay: On International Day of Rural Women celebrate women-led struggle for gender-justica
UNEA: Women's Major Group on COVID-19 and the environment: support real solutions that respect human rights
Blog: Ending Violence Against Women Requires Systemic Change
Media article: Gender-based violence shakes communities in the wake of forest loss

2.2 Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure (ETI)

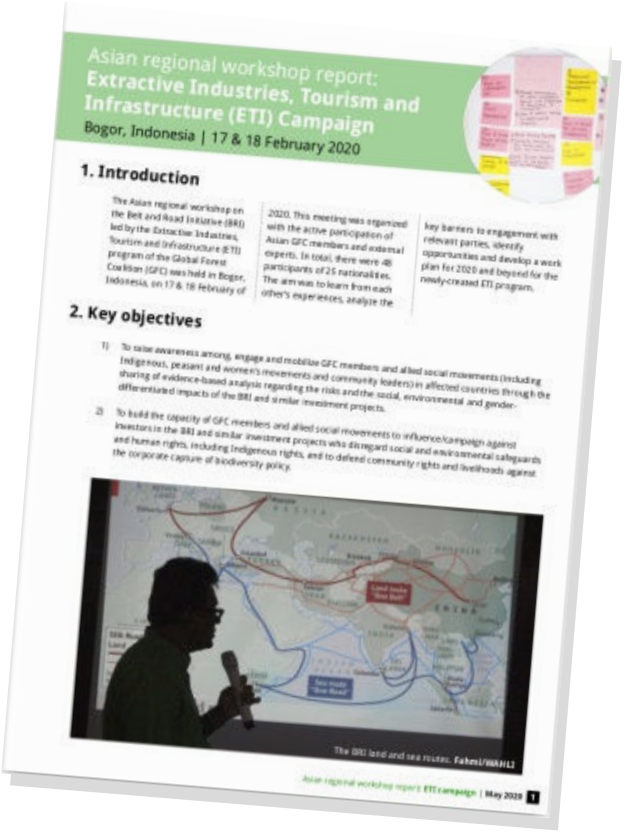
The ETI campaign's main activity in 2020 was a regional skillshare and capacity-building meeting on the gender-specific impacts of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on forests and forest peoples. This was held back-to-back with the ETI campaign Steering Committee's first in-person meeting and other GFC meetings in Bogor, Indonesia, in February.

Around 48 people from 25 countries participated in the skillshare, sharing experiences, lessons learned and views on the impacts of the BRI on forests, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women. Representatives from NGOs, social movements and research institutions in Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Armenia, Cambodia, Iran, Vietnam, India and Russia presented case studies and cross-cutting analysis, and trainings were facilitated by specialists on: monitoring public and private investment flows; using human rights-related policy and legal instruments; conducting gender assessments; and the use of international environmental policy processes to raise awareness and political support for campaign objectives. Following the event we published a detailed report on the discussions that took place and the skillshare's main outcomes.

The ETI campaign also dedicated a significant amount of time during the year to the development of its conceptual framework and medium-term work plan. It used an email list to share news and updates on BRI developments and other relevant projects and regularly provided support to national and local campaigns against ETI-related projects that GFC members and allies were engaged in. Throughout the year the campaign also pushed for a target to be set in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) for phasing out investments that are harmful to biodiversity. The GBF is expected to be agreed upon at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the CBD in Kunming, China, in 2021, which will be a unique opportunity to raise awareness among Chinese policy-makers and other stakeholders on the need to address the impacts of the BRI and its related commodity trade. The campaign also participated actively in the CBD's various virtual preparatory and subsidiary meetings, and our proposals around BRI divestment were incorporated into formal submissions by the CBD Alliance (a network representing NGO CBD observers).

In July 2020 we hosted a webinar on the BRI to build on discussions that had taken place during the regional skillshare and exchange updates on how the pandemic was affecting its implementation. The campaign also began its work on tourism in 2020, which included a survey for GFC members. Responses to the survey then informed the campaign's next webinar on the impacts of tourism on forests and communities and how COVID-19 was affecting community-based tourism, held in October 2020. Seven GFC member groups presented examples of the negative impacts of mass tourism and more positive community-based alternatives.

Towards the end of 2020 the campaign we also began to develop an overview of the gender-differentiated impacts of BRI projects around the world, which was used to inform a discussion on campaign priorities at a virtual ETI campaign strategy meeting in February 2021.


Asian regional workshop report:
Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure (ETI) Campaign
Bogor, Indonesia | 17 & 18 February 2020

1. Introduction

2. Key objectives

2.3 Defending Rights and Supporting Community Conservation

Our advocacy campaigns targeted the negotiations on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the CBD's second Strategic Plan. These negotiations were originally scheduled to include a meeting of the Subsidiary Body of the Convention on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and its Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), as well as two additional meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) that developed the GBF, culminating in a Conference of the Parties that was scheduled to take place in October 2020 in Kunming, China. Aside from a meeting of the OEWG in January and February 2020 that several GFC team members and member groups participated in, all other face-to-face meetings were postponed until 2021. Several virtual events were hosted by the CBD Secretariat though, including two informal preparatory sessions of the SBSTTA and SBI in September and December 2020. GFC team members participated actively in these meetings, contributing to joint interventions by the CBD Alliance and CBD Women's Caucus and preparing independent, complementary interventions in which we highlighted our key campaign messages: the need to respect the rights, roles and needs of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women in biodiversity conservation policies; the need to respect the community conservation initiatives and traditional knowledge of these communities; and the need to redirect and phase out perverse incentives and investments that trigger biodiversity loss.

We published a set of initial reflections and concrete recommendations on the draft GBF that we disseminated prior to and during the OEWG meeting in February, and published an article for ECO and blog for our website highlighting some of the contradictions in the draft GBF. We also contributed to a joint briefing on the "Dos and Don'ts for a successful Global Biodiversity Framework" that was coordinated by Friends of the Earth International in collaboration with a large number of CBD Alliance members, and contributed various other articles to the CBD Alliance's ECO newsletter. In addition, we contributed to a "Peoples' response to the High Level Summit on Biodiversity" and a special edition of ECO that was published during the High Level Summit, which took place entirely virtually in September 2020. Later in the year, we presented at an online dialogue on Nature-based Solutions (NBS) organized by the CBD Alliance.

Publications in 2020

Blog: The Great Contradictions in the Zero Draft
Blog: No more rhetoric: It's time for money to be redirected to a gender-responsive, rights-based ecosystems approach to halt biodiversity lost
Briefing: Dos and Don'ts for a successful Global Biodiversity Framework
Statement: Peoples' response to the High-Level Summit on Biodiversity

A woman and her buffalo in Nepal. **FECOFUN**

2.4 Forests, Trees and Climate Change

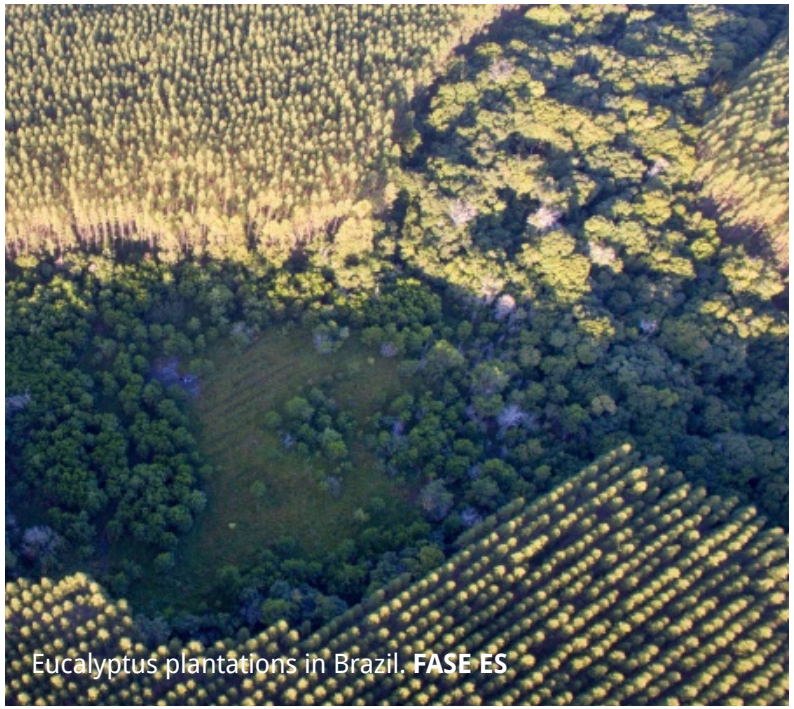
Our climate campaign's two key achievements in 2020 involved the publication of reports on the impacts of monoculture tree plantations and Nature-based Solutions (NBS) as part of our Forest Cover series. The first, "#OurNatureIsNotYour Solution," was launched on International Day for Biological Diversity in response to the CBD's chosen theme for the day: "Our solutions are in nature." The report was written in collaboration with our member groups and highlighted how the hype around NBS is being used as a cover for false solutions. We also published a blog analyzing the links between NBS and the key findings of the FAO "State of the World's Forests" 2020 report, and carried out a successful social media campaign that gained almost half a million impressions.

The second publication looked at the gender injustices inherent to the commercial tree plantation model and how women were organizing to overcome these injustices. "The impacts of tree plantations on women & women-led resistance to monocultures" was produced in collaboration with the Women2030 program and a number of member groups and was launched on International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations. The launch was accompanied by a webinar where member groups presented examples from the report.

We continued to closely monitor the main international climate funds and provided support to member groups to analyze and respond to specific forest-related project proposals. We produced two case studies showing the impacts of Global Environment Facility (GEF) financing for tree plantations and bioenergy: one on Uganda's "Green Charcoal Project," and another looking at the iron and steel industry in Brazil. The case studies were used as a basis for advocacy work including an open letter to the GEF and UNDP to demand an end to climate finance for tree plantations and bioenergy. We also wrote blog articles, presented the case studies in a webinar and developed a targeted social media campaign.

Another international climate funding mechanism we focused on was the Green Climate Fund (GCF), targeting the Arbaro Fund's request for US $25 million to establish 75,000 ha of commercial tree plantations in a number of countries. In addition to a joint formal submission to GCF Board Members, we also published "Why the Green Climate Fund must reject Arbaro's plantations" (co-signed by three of our member groups).

Large amounts of climate finance go into REDD+, but there is still a significant knowledge gap about how the mechanism works and some of its most controversial aspects, partially caused by the


Eucalyptus plantations in Brazil. **FASE ES**

technical language that it often involves. We therefore produced an accessible and clear briefing on REDD+ for newcomers in four languages ahead of the UN General Assembly and Climate Week NYC.

As part of our work to expose the impacts of forest offsets for aviation we produced two short case studies: one focused on offsetting through industrial charcoal production in Brazil, which was published on International Civil Aviation Day, and another on the Valdivia biomass plant in Chile that is based on research undertaken in 2020 but will be published in mid-2021.

Another key activity was campaigning with our European members and allies to oppose attempts by big oil companies to base their mitigation efforts on offsets and other false solutions. We gave a presentation targeting Shell's false solutions as part of "Caught in the Net," a webinar series organized by our member group Biofuelwatch. Coinciding with the online Net Zero Festival, we published an article entitled "Roll up, roll up! The Net Zero Circus is coming to a forest near you" that targeted Net Zero commitments by fossil fuel companies.

Publications and media in 2020

Forest Cover 61: #OurNatureIsNotYourSolution
Forest Cover 62: The impacts of tree plantations on women, and women-led resistance to monocultures
Briefing: Can sustainability and greenhouse gas standards protect the climate, forests and communities from the impacts of wood-based bioenergy?
Report: An investigation into the Global Environment Facility-funded project "Production of sustainable, renewable biomass-based charcoal for the iron and steel industry in Brazil"
Briefing: 15 years of REDD+: Has it been worth the money?
Briefing: Vallourec: junk offset credits through charcoal production for the iron and steel sector in Brazil
Blog: Why the Why the Green Climate Fund must reject Arbaro's plantations
Blog: Our Nature is Not Your Solution – and FAO's Plantations are even less of a Solution!
Blog: Roll up, roll up! The Net Zero Circus is coming to a forest near you
Article: Climate finance for charcoal production in Brazil is fueling conflicts with communities

With our member group Biofuelwatch we published a briefing entitled "Can sustainability and greenhouse gas standards protect the climate, forests, and communities from the impacts of wood-based bioenergy?" We also submitted comments and inputs into a number of different EU consultations involving forest policy.

We continued our engagement and collaboration with different alliances and networks such as Stay-Grounded and the Environmental Paper Network's Biomass Working Group, and we collaborated in joint campaigns like the International Day of Action on Forest Biomass Energy. Other networks we participated in included CLARA, DCJ and the WGC, and through these we worked in particular to strengthen advocacy linking CBD and UNFCCC processes and developed joint submissions on issues such as agriculture, gender and finance.

Other examples of collaboration included working with the CBD Alliance on the "Peoples' response to the High-Level Summit on Biodiversity," and playing an active part in a global coalition of climate justice groups that launched the "Liability Roadmap." We also joined climate justice groups in a five-day online event, "From the Ground Up," organized by the COP26 Coalition and co-hosted an event on forests, bioenergy and monoculture tree plantations called "Resisting our destruction: forests, bioenergy and monoculture tree plantations" on 16 November.

2.5 Addressing Unsustainable Livestock Production and Associated Commodity Trade

In February 2020 the livestock campaign was fortunate to be able to host the last of a series of three in-person regional dialogues on gender-responsive alternatives to unsustainable livestock farming. This Asia dialogue was attended by 32 people and was facilitated by Khadidja Razavi of our member group CENESTA in Iran. The main outcomes from all three dialogues were summarized in "Industrial Meat Production: reshaping the world in its own image" (also available in Spanish), which was launched on 17 April on International Day of Peasant Struggle.

Following the Asia face-to-face dialogue we hosted a series of four regional webinars on alternatives to unsustainable livestock and feedstock production. The webinars looked at the ways in which the pandemic was impacting traditional animal farming and food production systems in general, and the close connection between intensive livestock farming and zoonotic diseases. The final webinar of this series was a global dialogue on "Building Resilient Alternatives to Unsustainable Livestock Farming." It examined the question: "How can consumers, producers, policy-makers and NGOs (both in the Global South and North), support resilient alternatives to unsustainable livestock farming?" The webinar outcomes were also summarized in a blog published on World Food Day.

A second series of webinars on "Fueling agro-industrial livestock production" took place in the final months of 2020 and consisted of four regional sessions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe/North America. It explored how financial support and other incentives in producer and consumer countries are driving the expansion of the industry, and which governments and institutions are the main barriers to a real transformation in food production. Recordings of the webinars can be found on our YouTube channel.

These events helped us create stronger links with key organizations such as GRAIN, FIAN, Friends of the Earth-US, Feedback, Greenpeace, Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) and Sinergia Animal, among others. We used the opportunity of the virtual sessions to make more connections between global and regional networks that focus on food systems, climate change, biodiversity and trade and the informal Global Alliance against Unsustainable Livestock Farming that began in 2014, which gained new members in the process. This provided a good platform for future collaboration.

For instance, we co-authored a blog with GRAIN and co-authored an op-ed with Feedback on factory farming divestment. We also collaborated with Feedback, Sinergia Animal and FoE-US on a broader campaign for divestment from industrial animal

Nomadic pastoralism in Kyrgyzstan. **Anara Alymkulova/ISDS**

A cattle rancher in the Pantanal, Brazil. **João Paulo Guimarães**

Nomadic pastoralism in Chad. **Salma Khalil/ Association En Terre Indigène**

Publications and media in 2020

Forest Cover 63: Circular economy of vicious cycle? How corporate capture of policy-making and perverse incentives are driving deforestation
Report: Industrial meat production: reshaping the world in its own image Perspectives from the Global South and the path to an alternative model of sustainable livestock farming
Action alert: Development banks: Stop investing in industrial animal agriculture
Photo essay: On International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, celebrate pastoralism as an alternative to unsustainable livestock production
Photo essay: Contrasting food production models: forest destruction in Brazil vs forest conservation in Chad
Blog: World Food Day: Lessons from COVID-19 can lead the way to sustainable food systems
Blog: Time to turn the tide on industrial animal farming: path towards post-pandemic sustainable food systems

agriculture. This coalition co-authored a letter to the development banks asking them to stop funding agro-industrial livestock. A full campaign was later launched around a Change.org petition (in four languages) asking development banks to stop investing in industrial animal agriculture. We also joined a week of action against Tyson Foods in early July and were active in supporting sign-on letters with a broader coalition of NGOs to protest the corporate capture of the Biodiversity Summit and the UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September/October 2021.

The campaign continued to be active in a number of alliances and networks including the Women's Caucus of the Civil Society Mechanism to the FAO's Committee on Food Security, the Food Climate Alliance and 50by40. We became an active member of the 50by40 Steering Committee and also participated in their working groups on Peak Livestock, Climate Policy, Divestments, Communications and the Global South.

Despite the challenges of participating in international policy spaces in 2020, the livestock campaign was still able to influence a number of advocacy processes through online submissions and consultations. For example, we made sure that the key points raised during the dialogues on alternatives to unsustainable livestock farming were included in a large number of formal and informal submissions, such as the Women and Gender Constituency submission to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on agriculture and the CLARA submission to the UNFCCC on the Koronivia Joint Work Program.

We also published two photo essays, one focusing on pastoralism in Kyrgyzstan as an alternative to unsustainable livestock production, and another where we contrasted two food production models involving forest destruction in Brazil and forest conservation in Chad.

Our final publication of the year was an issue of Forest Cover launched in English in December and presented at a webinar with seven of the authors in January 2021 (recording available here). The publication, "Circular economy or vicious cycle? How corporate capture of policy-making and perverse incentives are driving deforestation," was translated fully into French, Spanish and Russian, and partially into Portuguese. It contained a number of important campaign articles written by member groups, allies and GFC staff.

3 Quality Management, Planning and Membership Development

GFC's quality management system includes a detailed internal control system, regular reporting by staff, team members and groups that participate actively in GFC campaigns, monthly virtual internal evaluation and planning meetings and an annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning (MEP) meeting 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's board meets once a year to provide a general oversight of GFC's work and institutional structures.

Participants in Bogor, Indonesia. **Fahmi/WALHI**

As already described, we were fortunate to be able to hold a series of meetings in Bogor, Indonesia, in February 2020 just before the pandemic, including Asia and Pacific regional events and our annual MEP and board meetings. The MEP meeting was attended by 12 people in person and three virtually. The meeting began with a session on ensuring a sustainable working environment and resulted in a set of team care principles that were of great value during the pandemic. GFC's main campaigns then reported back on their activities, and an evaluation session was held for each campaign. The evaluation results were turned into concrete action points during subsequent sessions. We also evaluated and refined GFC's external communications work, membership engagement (led by GFC's five regional focal points) and fundraising strategies.

The meeting continued with a report back on the last board meeting in 2019, focusing on the board's recommendations following external evaluation reports that were published in 2018 and 2019. The implementation of these recommendations was reviewed and a number of additional action points were formulated including the decentralization and delegation of responsibilities to campaign coordinators. A training on the financial aspects of MEP, including budgeting, fundraising and financial administration also took place.

The board meeting was held after the MEP process and, as already described, included a change in office bearers, namely a new chairperson and a new board member for Latin America. The board received a report on the MEP meeting and reflected on some of the recommendations, action points and evaluations that had come out of it. The board also reviewed and approved the 2020 workplan and budget with some minor additions, discussed the financial outlook for 2021 and beyond and reviewed and approved the action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the external evaluations.

On 9 June, a virtual meeting was held between board members and GFC's auditor, financial controller and executive director to review and discuss the draft annual accounts for 2019. A couple of questions were clarified and the board approved the audited accounts. The meeting also included further discussion on GFC's financial outlook, the way the pandemic affected the organization as a whole and the work plan for the remainder of the year.

Last but not least, GFC also produced three issues of our internal newsletter for members, Roots, which provides a regular, brief report on key activities and campaign updates.

4 Conclusion

This Annual Report has described the key moments and achievements of our campaigns and collective efforts over what was an extremely challenging year for GFC and our members. Despite the impacts of the pandemic, we were able to end the year on a high note by celebrating the Coalition's 20th anniversary with many of the people who have given so much to our campaigns over the past two decades. The online event marking the occasion was a truly bright light in dark times.

The fact that all UN and other international meetings were canceled, postponed or turned into virtual meetings clearly had significant implications for GFC's work throughout the year. The risk of corporate capture and exclusion of civil society from policy processes significantly increased, and the pandemic also impacted negatively on civic space at the national and local levels. Many member groups reported a worsening situation for environmental defenders, who have faced increased threats, violence and other human rights violations in a growing number of countries.

On a more positive note, virtual meetings like webinars were found to be a more cost-effective and climate-friendly way to involve a large number of GFC members and allies from different countries and continents. The series of regional dialogues on alternatives to unsustainable livestock farming we hosted throughout 2020 were a great success in this respect. The ETI campaign also hosted successful online events on the impacts of China's Belt and Road Initiative on forests and forest peoples and the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector and the consequences for both community-based tourism and mass tourism. Other events included a well-attended webinar launching case studies we published in 2020 on climate finance for tree plantations in Uganda and Brazil.

Woman leaders of community forest groups discussing gender justice in Nepal. **FECOFUN**

#2020 was also a significant year for our Women's Rights and Empowerment campaign, with a huge and diverse range of activities under the Women2030 program being concluded. This culminated with the release of the Women2030 global shadow report "Gender equality on the ground: Feminist findings and recommendations for achieving Agenda 2030" at the High-level Political Forum. It brought together all of the work carried out by Women2030 partners and synthesized outcomes and recommendations into an accessible publication for both policy-makers and the global feminist movement in general. In many ways, the fact that the report was launched during a virtual as opposed to an in-person side event allowed far greater participation and thus made it a much more inspiring event.

Finally, we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to GFC's outgoing board chairperson and treasurer, Diego Cardona and Rachel Smolker, who ended their five-year terms on the board in 2020. We take inspiration from the achievements of 2020 despite the unprecedented challenges, and the courage and determination of local communities in protecting their forests will continue to inspire us over the rest of 2021 and beyond.

5 Summary Financial Report

Overview of expenses	Euros
Small grants and third party assignments	114,385
Staff costs	191,127
Travel expenses	51,569
Publications and other communication	91,241
Administration costs	30,664
Office costs	6,740
Total expenses 2020	**485,726**

Income	
European Union DEVCO	233,996
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation	77,327
Misereor	56,470
A Well-Fed World on behalf of various donors	44,361
The Silicon Valley Community Foundation	35,308
50by40	16,415
American Jewish World Service	12,478
Pivot Point	11,722
JMG Foundation	11,651
The Tides Foundation, Patagonia	6,528
Other donors, including Heinrich Boell Foundation and private donations	4,812
Total income 2020	**486,954**

People, Forests, Rights

Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition of 117 NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations from 70 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 protecting 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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patagonia

50 by 40
TOWARDS A FAIR, HEALTHY AND COMPASSIONATE FOOD SYSTEM

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

MISEREOR
IHR HILFSWERK

SILICON VALLEY community foundation

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE