



COP16
CALI · COLOMBIA
Naturaleza



Valentina Figuera
Martinez

Silvia Ribera

Pilarina Jodit

Global Forest Coalition
Annual Report 2024



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Who we are | 3 |
| Message from the Policy Director | 4 |
| 1. Introduction | 6 |
| 2. Campaigns in 2024 | |
| 2.1 Gender Justice and Forests | 9 |
| 2.2 Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure | 12 |
| 2.3 Forests and Climate Change | 15 |
| 2.4 Unsustainable Livestock Production | 18 |
| 3. Quality Management and Planning | 22 |
| 4. Conclusion | 23 |
| 5. List of Abbreviations | 24 |
| 6. Statement of Income and Expenses | 25 |

Front cover photo: Side event during CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia. *Global Forest Coalition*

Inside cover photo: Stall at a market in Cali, Colombia. *Global Forest Coalition*

Back cover photo: Group photo taken during CBD COP16. *Global Forest Coalition*

Who we are

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is a feminist and international coalition of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, NGOs, and women's rights groups defending social justice and the rights of forest peoples in forest policies. As of 31 December 2024, GFC had 134 members from 74 countries. The following is a list of key positions within GFC in 2024.

Board Members in 2024:

- Anna Kirilienko (Chairperson, BIOM, Kyrgyzstan)
- Dil Raj Khanal (Secretary, FECOFUN, Nepal),
- Lucy Mulenkei, (IIN, Kenya)
- Christine Von Weizsaecker (Ecoropa, Germany)
- Johanna Molina (Colectivo VientoSur, Chile)
- Aydah Vahia (NIPS, Solomon Islands)

Regional focal points as of December 2024:

- Kwami Kpondzo (Centre for Environmental Justice -Togo) Middle East & Africa
- Elena Kreuzberg (CPAWS, Canada) Europe & North America
- Andrey Laletin (Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia) North & Central Asia & Eastern Europe

Overview of the GFC team in 2024:

- **Policy Director:** Mary Lou Malig
- **Director of Operations & Finance:** Vivien de Laak
- **Unsustainable Livestock Campaign Coordinator:** Andrea Echeverri
- **ETI Campaign Coordinator:** Kwami Kpondzo
- **Membership Development Coordinator:** Andrey Laletin
- **Forests and Climate Change Campaign Coordinator:** Gadir Lavadenz
- **Gender Justice and Forests Campaign Coordinator:** Valentina Figuera Martínez
- **Senior Gender Advisor:** Juana Vera Delgado
- **Senior Climate and Biodiversity Policy Advisor:** Souparna Lahiri
- **Strategic Communications Advisor:** Ismail Wolff
- **Communications Coordinator:** Chithira Vijayakumar
- **Social Media Coordinator:** Allie Constantine
- **Communications and Language Justice Advisor:** Megan Morrissey
- **Controller:** Jeroen Berrens



Message from the Policy Director

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends of the Global Forest Coalition,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with both urgency and gratitude. The challenges we face in safeguarding our planet's forests and biodiversity have only intensified, yet our collective resolve remains unshaken.

century ago, GFC was founded to challenge the root causes of deforestation and to defend the rights of forest peoples. Today, as we celebrate this milestone, our coalition has grown in size and strength, standing ready to continue protecting forests and the communities that depend on them.

regions of the world, both in person and online, in an inspiring gathering that allowed us to strategise together and forge a clear path forward for the coalition. This moment of connection strengthened our solidarity and renewed our shared commitment.



In 2024, we witnessed the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss escalate, affecting the most vulnerable communities, particularly Indigenous Peoples and women in all their diversity.

This year is especially significant: 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the Global Forest Coalition. A quarter

The fight is as vital now as it was in 2000, as we resist false and dangerous “solutions” to the climate and biodiversity crises that further threaten forests, peoples’ rights, and the integrity of our ecosystems.

A highlight of 2024 was holding our first post-pandemic hybrid Members’ Assembly on the sidelines of CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia. Members joined from all

Throughout the year, our advocacy at major policy spaces—including CBD COP16 in Cali and UNFCCC COP29 in Baku—emphasised the urgent need for gender-just, rights-based, and community-led solutions. Despite systemic challenges and the growing influence of corporations in climate and biodiversity negotiations, we amplified the voices of those most affected and worked closely with allies to demand real action.

Our campaigns continue to be the backbone of this work:

- **Climate Change and Forests:** We exposed the dangers of false solutions such as REDD+, biodiversity offsets, and carbon markets, publishing major reports that challenged these mechanisms while advocating for real, community-driven alternatives. With members and allies, we launched the “Real Solutions” campaign to redirect public finance away from harmful schemes and towards just, rights-based, and gender-responsive approaches.
- **Gender Justice and Forests:** We advanced gender as a crosscutting priority in biodiversity and climate policy spaces, actively engaging in CBD COP16 negotiations and the CBD Women’s Caucus. From publishing a gender analysis of biodiversity offsets to facilitating women’s participation at national and global levels, our campaign highlighted the leadership of Indigenous, rural, and Afro-descendant women as essential for biodiversity protection.
- **Unsustainable Livestock:** We challenged industrial livestock production as a major driver of deforestation and biodiversity loss. Through reports, case studies, and international advocacy, we exposed harmful financing by development banks and promoted agroecological and agroforestry alternatives. Our Just Food Transition

initiative mapped out a roadmap for equitable, sustainable food systems, amplifying the voices of farmers, women, youth, and Indigenous communities.

- **Extractive Industries, Tourism, and Infrastructure (ETI):** We stood with communities resisting destructive mining, fossil fuel extraction, and mass tourism projects, while promoting Indigenous knowledge and community-based conservation. At international gatherings—including C20 in Rio and CBD COP16—we issued calls to action against extractivism, corporate impunity, and biodiversity offsets, demanding real solutions grounded in justice and people’s rights.

Together, we also launched a new campaign declaration to prevent the irreversible loss of tropical forests in the Amazon, Congo, and Indonesia. Our commitment to community-led solutions and the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples is more critical than ever.

As we celebrate 25 years of the Global Forest Coalition, I want to thank each of you—our members, allies, funders, and supporters—for your unwavering solidarity and dedication to our shared vision. It is only through your tireless commitment that we can continue this fight for forests, rights, and justice. Together, we will forge a path toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

With gratitude,



Mary Louise Malig
Policy Director



1 Introduction

Since its inception in 2000, the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) has been steadfast in its mission to promote rights-based and ecosystem-centred approaches to address the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation. What began as an informal coalition of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, social movements, and NGOs has evolved into a global network that prioritises collaboration and alliance-building among diverse rights-holders and stakeholder groups. By working closely with our member groups across the globe to interrogate the main drivers of forest loss and question forest policy from a rights perspective, GFC continues to advocate for sustainable forest governance while addressing structural barriers such as colonialism, imperialism, patriarchy and gender inequality, which remain deeply embedded in forest policies and governance systems.

Despite progress, the global context in 2024 presented significant challenges. The ongoing war in Ukraine, the genocide in Gaza, the militarisation in the mining sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other countries, and violent extremism in other parts of the world have exacerbated global instability, diverting critical resources away from climate mitigation and civil society-centred development. Simultaneously, the rise of neoliberal and right-wing political ideologies in many countries, particularly in the Global North, has further constrained the political space for advancing rights-based and gender-just forest policies. These shifts have underscored the urgent need for GFC and its

allies to strategise and adapt, ensuring that the rights of Indigenous Peoples, frontline communities, and women in all their diversities remain central to global efforts to protect forests, biodiversity, and the climate.

The increasing corporate capture of international policy processes, particularly in climate, food and biodiversity negotiations, has further complicated efforts to implement equitable and effective forest-

related policies. Corporations continue to promote market-based solutions, such as biodiversity offsets and carbon trading, which fail to address the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation and deepen existing social injustices. GFC remains resolute in challenging these false solutions, advocating instead for community-led, rights-based approaches that prioritise the well-being of people and the planet.





Through its campaigns and initiatives, GFC has made significant strides in advancing its mission to conserve and restore forest ecosystems. Programs such as the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) and the Women2030 program have been instrumental in raising awareness among policymakers about the critical role of community-led conservation efforts. These initiatives have highlighted the importance of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women in preserving forests and biodiversity, demonstrating that their traditional knowledge and sustainable practices

are essential to addressing the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

GFC also plays a crucial role in amplifying the voices of historically underrepresented communities, particularly Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women, in global policy dialogues. As a coalition of grassroots organisations and networks spanning 74 countries, GFC provides a platform for these often underrepresented groups to share their perspectives and advocate for their rights in international decision-making spaces.

However, systemic inequalities and power imbalances continue to marginalise these voices, making GFC's work to bridge the gap between grassroots realities and international policy frameworks more critical than ever.

One of GFC's unique strengths lies in its ability to connect the lived experiences of communities on the ground with global policy discussions. By fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge across its network, GFC ensures that international policies are informed by the realities of those directly impacted by

deforestation, environmental degradation, and climate change. Through advocacy, capacity-building initiatives, and collaborative campaigns, GFC empowers its members to influence policy discussions and shape decisions that affect their communities and territories.

In 2024, GFC organised a wide range of activities to support its campaigns and amplify the voices of its members. These included eight side events across its four main campaigns—Gender Justice and Forests, Unsustainable Livestock, Forests and Climate Change, and Extractive Industries, Tourism, and Infrastructure. Additionally, GFC hosted 11 press conferences and 12 webinars to challenge false solutions, highlight their gender-differentiated impacts, and build the capacity of member groups to engage in these critical areas at national, regional, and global levels.

The coalition also continued to amplify the work of its members through joint publications, advocacy campaigns, and social media outreach. Events were held to showcase successful examples of community-led and gender-just forest conservation and restoration, providing a platform for member organisations to share their work and advocate for transformative solutions. For example, GFC’s participation in the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) in Cali, Colombia, and the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, highlighted the coalition’s commitment to promoting rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity and climate policy.

However, the challenges of 2024 also underscored the need for GFC to adapt and innovate. The coalition recognised the importance of addressing the growing

influence of right-wing governments and corporate interests, which threaten to undermine progress on forest conservation and climate justice. To this end, GFC has committed to working closely with its members to develop strategies that respond to these challenges while continuing to advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women.

Looking ahead, GFC remains committed to its vision of a world where forests flourish, biodiversity thrives, and communities live in harmony as part of nature. By fostering collaboration, amplifying the voices of impoverished groups, and challenging systemic injustices, GFC will continue to advocate for transformative solutions to the interconnected crises of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

Demonstration at UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. **Global Forest Coalition**



2.1 Gender Justice and Forests

Understanding the influence of gender roles and relations on the use, management and protection of forests is fundamental to accelerating inclusive forest protection and women's rights, as well as coordinating efficient global actions to fight deforestation and forest degradation. Stark gender differences are evident in access to and control over land, in decision-making power and impacts on climate change and biodiversity loss. Hence, any urgent policy action to efficiently address the root causes of forest loss must necessarily coordinate actions to mainstream gender in all aspects of forest protection.

In 2024, GFC continued working to include gender not just as a complementary action, but as a crosscutting issue that must include continuous capacity-building and efficient coordination with allies and relevant actors in international policy processes. Throughout 2024, the Gender Justice and Forests (GJ&F) Campaign continued collaborating closely with GFC's other campaigns and members to support and demand the recognition of the rights of women in all their diversity, the redistribution of resources to enhance their resilience to climate change and biodiversity loss, women's representation in decision-making processes, and the reparation for the colonial legacies of historic injustices.

We continued to advocate for the rights of women, girls, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in forest governance in local, national, and global

policy spaces. A key policy event in 2024 was CBD COP16. GFC participated actively in the COP, where we co-coordinated advocacy efforts to ensure that gender justice was recognised as a cross-cutting priority.

GFC represented the CBD Women's Caucus in a Pre-COP16 "National Meeting of Women Caregivers of Territory and Life," organised by the Colombian government in Barranquilla, Colombia, to strengthen the participation of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, peasant and rural women in the conservation of biological diversity. GFC also facilitated a working

group on forest and women's rights and presented on the relevance of mobilising women's demands through global civil society platforms.

In close coordination with the CBD Women's Caucus and the CBD Alliance, GFC actively engaged in policy discussions, co-leading the Caucus's Task Force on Resource Mobilisation, [co-authoring policy analysis](#), and [facilitating workshops](#) to support capacity building of women's groups and civil society organisations participating in the Biodiversity COP16.



In line with GFC's continuous effort to advocate for women's rights, denounce harmful distractions as well as the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, we continued co-leading [advocacy efforts](#) during the CBD COP16 to denounce the corporate lobby behind biodiversity offsets and market-based approaches. GFC released a gender [analysis on biodiversity offsets](#), highlighting the deep flaws of these mechanisms, which allow corporations to profit while ecosystems and communities are destroyed.

GFC also joined a global campaign [against biodiversity offsets and credits](#), with allies endorsing a [joint statement by civil society organisations](#) to demand an end to the promotion, development and use of biodiversity offsetting and crediting schemes. Additionally, GFC contributed to a [biodiversity market report](#) with an article on the gender and human rights dimension of this flawed mechanism.

High-level advocacy efforts continued during COP16 with a [side event](#) on Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC)-led biodiversity conservation in tropical forests, highlighting the need to ensure policy action and best practices for integrating human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches, as part of our commitments within the [Green Livelihoods Alliance \(GLA\)](#).

Outside the negotiation corridors, GFC had a strong presence in the COP16's civil society space, the green

zone, [advocating for a gender-responsive and Rights-based Approach to Halt Biodiversity Loss](#), as well as participating in a [COP30 Peoples' Summit meeting](#) together with members and allies.

Halting biodiversity loss in an equitable and gender-responsive manner, while demanding that Global North countries stop subsidising export-oriented economies in the Global South, was another of GFC's key demands



in Cali. GFC staff [co-authored an op-ed](#) during the biodiversity negotiations to continue denouncing the lack of ambition and inaction of parties to the Convention and corporations.

GFC staff also [co-authored an op-ed](#) during the biodiversity COP16 to voice the concerns of Indigenous women as primary guardians of biodiversity and

ecosystems. This advocacy effort was particularly relevant because in the current landscape of predatory and patriarchal late-stage capitalism, Indigenous women remain [primary targets](#) of [systemic exploitation](#) and marginalisation.

Over 2024, the gender justice movement saw significant strides with hundreds of women's organisations mobilising to demand recognition and access to decision-making during CBD COP16. Nevertheless, the outcomes of the negotiations didn't bring significant decisions to recognise gender justice as a cross-cutting priority, and GFC's gender program was at the forefront of relevant policy and social movements' actions to demand urgent action.

During the 4th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI4) and the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD (SBSTTA 26), GFC continued demanding real solutions and the mobilisation of resources in a gender responsive manner. Two [side events on "Mainstreaming, resource mobilization and policy coherence for implementation"](#) and

["Will biodiversity offsets and credits help us achieve the global biodiversity targets?"](#) were co-organized together with the CBD Alliance, as well as other side events co-sponsored in collaboration the Women's Caucus, including ["Enhancing Gender Responsiveness in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans \(NBSAPs\)"](#), and ["Ensuring Gender Responsive Monitoring Framework"](#).



Direct access to funding for women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, local and Afro-descendant communities on the territories has been another top demand of the campaign in biodiversity-related policy processes. An [article published in ECO Issue](#), the CBD Alliance’s main publication during the negotiations, was released to highlight asymmetries in the mobilisation of resources to halt biodiversity loss, particularly for women in all their diversity.

Other relevant publications and advocacy actions to demand the recognition of women’s rights include the featured article [“A River’s Rights: Indigenous Kukama](#)

[Women Lead the Way with Landmark Legal Victory”](#), [“Advancing Gender Equity in Biodiversity: Insights from the GLA Gender Hub”](#), a tribute to celebrate the [“International Mother Earth Day 2024: An Ode to Mother Earth”](#), and the webinars [“Guardians of the Earth: Indigenous Women at the Forefront of Biodiversity Conservation”](#) and [“Water as a Living Entity: A Conversation with Juana Vera Delgado - More than Human Series Episode 2”](#).

GFC closely followed the discussions and resolutions of the Sixth Session of the UNited Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6), with a critical approach to the

proposed theme of addressing the interlinkages of the three planetary crises. We joined a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and coordinated efforts with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Women’s Major Group to demand women’s representation in decision-making processes and denounce false solutions. Key insights and analysis were shared during the webinar [“UNEA-6 Outcomes”](#), organised by the BRICS Policy Centre and the Plataforma Socioambiental.

In 2024, GFC also worked to support capacity strengthening of members, community organisations, women’s groups and their work related to gender justice and strategic regional and local priorities.

As part of the GLA activities, GFC, as a strategic partner of Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), supports the mainstreaming of gender and intersectionality on inclusive forest governance in six GLA countries: Colombia, Bolivia, Liberia, Ghana, the Philippines, and Vietnam. GFC works closely with its GLA gender technical partners and consultants to implement mentoring, monitoring, coaching, and capacity-building activities, providing tools and guideline materials to reduce gender gaps in the context of inclusive forest protection. GFC is part of two global policy dossiers working groups of the GLA: CBD-UNFCCC and EU Deforestation Regulation, supporting six GLA alliance members, namely, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Tropenbos Bos, Milieu Defensie, GAIA-Amazon, the Sustainable Development Institute, and Non-Tropical Forest Products (NTFP)). Additionally, the campaign supports the gender and forest-related activities of two partners in Paraguay and one in Bolivia.

2.2 Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure (ETI)

Under the Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure (ETI) Campaign, GFC continued efforts to protect forests and the rights of communities affected by harmful projects, including mining, infrastructure, and mass tourism.

The Campaign was focused on addressing the devastating impacts of extractive industries in the Global South. Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), oil and gas extraction in Nigeria, and monoculture plantations in Indonesia were identified as critically harmful projects and a concern for communities. These projects share striking similarities with the impacts of [China's Belt and Road Initiative \(BRI\) projects](#), which GFC has been following closely over recent years. The negative impacts of those projects include water pollution, land and forest grabbing, and forest and biodiversity loss. Women and children were disproportionately affected by these issues, facing heightened vulnerability due to environmental degradation and resource displacement.

In November 2024, the Civil 20 (C20) gathering, held alongside the Rio G20 summit, provided a platform for GFC to strengthen alliances and strategies against extractivism. Representatives from

Indonesia, Africa, and Latin America, including Brazil and Bolivia, shared testimonies and experiences about the shared challenges they face. These challenges include mining, fossil fuel extraction, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and monoculture plantations—issues often linked to investments from China.

This gathering was instrumental in raising awareness, building capacity, and issuing a call to



action to prevent reaching the tipping point of tropical forest destruction in the Amazon, the Republic of Congo, and Indonesia. The People's mobilisation for territories and nature in Rio demanded real solutions to the climate crisis, including freeing territories from fossil fuels, mining, and agribusiness. Participants promoted

agroecology and community-based forest conservation, grounded in Indigenous knowledge and practices, as more effective solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Forest fires were also a central topic of discussion, as they continue to destroy tropical forests at alarming rates. The urgency to address and prevent these fires was emphasised. For further details, please refer to the [Rio People's Summit Declaration](#), which was drafted and organised by GFC, members, and allies.

This gathering was made possible through the collective efforts of GFC allies, including the Global Amazon Assembly, People's Mobilisation for the Earth and Climate, WALHI (Indonesia), Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ – Togo), Nacionalidad Waorani del Ecuador (NAWE), Movimento Sem Terra (MST – Brazil), and several others.

During the CBD COP16 in October 2024, GFC released its latest report, "[Tourism's Impact on Communities in East Africa: Integrating Biocultural Protocols in Tourism and Biodiversity Policies](#)," targeting the discussion on Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Tourism can have deeply adverse impacts on Indigenous communities and ecosystems. In East Africa, the Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania have experienced firsthand the negative consequences of tourism development on their ancestral lands and have been systematically displaced, their cultural heritage commodified, and their role as stewards of biodiversity largely disregarded.

The paper explores the complex relationship between tourism, biodiversity, and Indigenous rights, using the case of the Maasai community to highlight broader issues faced by IPLCs globally. It examines how the influx of mass tourism, often under the guise of ecotourism and conservation, has led to the erosion of land rights, traditional knowledge, and cultural identity.

It also proposes that the use of biocultural community protocols can help to bridge the gap between Indigenous customs and formal legal systems, ensuring that IPLCs' rights and knowledge systems are respected and safeguarded in dealings with external actors.

Through this report and other activities, GFC continued to call for comprehensive impact assessments, gender-responsive policies, and inclusive decision-making processes to address these disparities and advocate for decisions that prioritise the well-being of affected communities and the environment.

Capacity building for GFC members is an ongoing process within the coalition. Regular information on initiatives like the BRI and other detrimental extractive and infrastructure projects is shared via GFC listservs to increase awareness and knowledge about ongoing developments. By checking in with member groups



Small-sale livestock farmer in Africa.
John Musgrove

regularly, we are also able to actively oppose harmful projects being implemented in various countries.

The role of Indigenous Peoples, women, and local communities, who depend on forests for their livelihoods, is critical in monitoring and addressing destructive development in their territories. One emerging driver of forest loss is mass tourism and the associated infrastructure development. In Uganda, for instance, tourism development in Kasese has led to

airstrip construction, community displacement, and land grabbing to facilitate tourism and fossil fuel extraction. Similarly, in Kenya, Maasai communities have developed community protocols to resist the destructive impacts of mass tourism and protect their forests.

To address these issues, a capacity-building and skill-sharing workshop was held in Nairobi in March 2024 for GFC members and partner communities. The workshop focused on the impacts of mass tourism on forest-



dependent communities, their rights, and the importance of biocultural community protocols. Participants from Uganda, South Africa, Togo, and Kenya benefited from the policy brief developed by GFC and the Indigenous Information Network (IIN): [Tourism's Impact on Communities – Integrating Biocultural Protocols in Tourism and Biodiversity Policies](#).

Corporate activities remain a major driver of human rights violations, environmental destruction, and the loss of livelihoods for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Extractive industries, mass tourism, and infrastructure development lead to land grabbing, pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, with

significant consequences for food security and local economies.

In August 2024, a major gathering was held in Maputo, Mozambique, to challenge corporate impunity and advocate for human rights and climate justice. The event brought together social movements, grassroots communities, lawyers, academics, and GFC member groups from across Africa. Participants called for the establishment of a strong and effective UN Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights to hold corporations accountable for their crimes. They also rejected false solutions to the climate crisis, including carbon markets, REDD (Reducing Emissions

from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), offsets, geoengineering, net zero, and industrial plantations, while demanding the protection of land and forest rights.

The CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, held in October 2024, was another pivotal moment for GFC's advocacy efforts. GFC raised awareness about harmful investments in the Global South, including mining and mass tourism projects, and the impacts of BRI and offsetting projects on communities. Publications and joint statements, such as the COP 16 Joint Statement "[Real Solutions, Not False Promises](#)," were used to highlight the perverse incentives fueling biodiversity loss. GFC also conducted numerous other activities during the COP16, as documented in the [Roots Newsletter – December 2024](#).

In June 2024, GFC participated in the Forest Movement Europe gathering in Slovenia. Discussions centred on analysing and assessing the impact of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) on deforestation and human rights violations. GFC's participation was instrumental in shaping strategies to address these challenges.

GFC has been at the forefront of efforts to combat extractivism, protect forests and biodiversity, and promote climate justice. Their work in 2024 highlighted the importance of grassroots mobilisation, Indigenous knowledge, and community-driven solutions. By addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss and advocating for systemic change, GFC continues to play a critical role in the global struggle for ecological and social justice.

2.3 Forests and Climate Change

The Forests and Climate Change campaign adopted a strategic approach to challenge false climate solutions and promote real, community-driven alternatives. In 2024, we launched a campaign to redirect public finance from false solutions to genuine climate action.

A key focus of the campaign was to follow up on the divestment from false solutions call, which was initiated through the [publication of a briefer during the Bonn Climate Intersessional in 2023](#), and develop a campaign for redirecting public finance for real solutions over a timeline of 2025–2026. As a methodology, the climate change programme initiated consultations and calls with GFC members and allies to jointly expose, denounce and resist false solutions, and develop a consultative process to begin with a broader campaign on Real Solutions.

To this end, we continued our work in key climate policy forums, including the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB59) in June 2024 and UNFCCC COP29 in Baku in November 2024. GFC published two reports exposing the REDD+ mechanism as a false solution that is not contributing to the halt in deforestation. [“Who Really Benefits? How REDD+ Fails Forests and Those Who Protect Them”](#) was released in June 2024 during the Bonn Climate Intersessional. [“The Great REDD+ Climate Illusion: A flawed equation for forests, people, and planet”](#) was released in November 2024 during COP29 in Baku. GFC also provided inputs into the Green

Climate Fund’s (GCF) pilot REDD+ Results-Based Payments programme as part of collective CSO inputs. GFC, along with other allies, held two side events and two press conferences on Real Solutions in both the Bonn Climate Intersessional in June 2024 and in COP29 in Baku in November 2024.

In the run up to and during COP16 in Colombia in October 2024, GFC worked to expose false solutions like biodiversity offsets, Nature-based solutions (NbS), and against the financialisation of

nature and the corporate capture of climate and biodiversity policies. We also stood alongside GFC members and allies for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, women in all their diversity, youth and local communities.

On the eve of CBD COP16, we released the report [“Biodiversity offsetting: A corporate social license to perpetuate biodiversity destruction and gender inequality,”](#) which was followed up with two related side events and a press conference during COP16. GFC members and leaders also held a number of



Demonstration at UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. **Global Forest Coalition**

press conferences at COP16, highlighting the need for countries to focus on real, community-led solutions to the biodiversity crisis and resist corporate lobbying and the commodification of nature.

Another press conference with GFC's biodiversity experts and members, including Indigenous community representatives, and climate campaigners, [provided an overview of the biodiversity negotiations](#) in Cali, demanding policymakers ensure that commitments translate into meaningful action on the ground with gender-responsive approaches to halt biodiversity loss.

GFC also participated in an online dialogue on Real Solutions organised by Bread for the World and facilitated a conversation and presentation on real solutions. This online dialogue of a series of webinars was attended by several Southeast Asian organisations.

As a component of the real solutions campaign, GFC, in collaboration with [Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance \(CLARA\)](#), has been involved in pushing for non-market approaches and Mother Earth-centric actions across UNFCCC under the implementation of Article 6.8 and CBD in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework, calling for synergy between climate and biodiversity policy-making.

In collaboration with members and allies, we also documented and voiced our concerns about the impacts of wood-based bioenergy, monoculture and commercial tree plantations, REDD+ and forest carbon offsets and market based false solutions, corporate capture, NbS, geoengineering and other false solutions on forests, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women, especially in the Global South.





other efforts coordinated with GFC members and allies. Core elements of GFC’s public advocacy efforts are to raise the voices of GFC member groups and impacted communities, mainly across the Global South. GFC also continued to seek private and direct advocacy opportunities, including targeted advocacy towards funding institutions and key policymakers.

Our work to expose, denounce, and resist false solutions, financing of false solutions, calling for redirection of public finance to promote real solutions and the call for gender-just, rights-based and community-governed real solutions is a broad and comprehensive outreach strategy for a national to global political campaign on Real Solutions led by the Indigenous Peoples, women in all diversity, vulnerable and marginalised communities affected by climate change, youth and the workers. Our campaign and advocacy outreach involves GFC members across various countries and continents, regional groups and allies and global civil society organisations, using every available space, including the UN and other international spaces and opportunities.

GFC members play a significant role in national arenas, engaging in struggles and movements and with their governments to mobilise public opinion against false solutions while documenting community-led real solutions practised on the ground. Their voices and concerns on monoculture tree plantations, forest carbon offsets and REDD+, energy plantations and burning of biomass, industrial scale bioenergy

generation, techno fixes are amplified at regional and global platforms through our work with allies like the [Global Campaign to Demand for Climate Justice \(DCJ\)](#), [CLARA](#), [HOME Alliance](#), and the [Biomass Action Network \(BAN\)](#). GFC enjoys prominent representation in these alliances to drive home the political struggle against false solutions, corporate capture of climate and biodiversity policy making, financing of false solutions and carving out alternative strategies to promote Real Solutions as real climate and biodiversity actions.

Over recent years, GFC has played an important role in galvanising civil society organisations and climate justice movements to talk more, converse more and focus more on Real Solutions. This is evident in climate justice spaces, regional meetings such as in Latin America, Africa, and Asia and UNFCCC and CBD spaces.

In 2024, GFC also continued to participate in advocacy work in the Global South on behalf of BAN, particularly through the coordination of the Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific biomass working groups. The work done under this group includes organising activities for the International Day of Action against [#BigBadBiomass](#), campaigns against bioenergy developments, energy plantations and deforestation, co-firing of coal plants with biomass, subsidies provided to bioenergy generators and import of wood pellets by UK, Japan, South Korea from the US, Canada, Indonesia, Vietnam for generation of bioenergy, also in the UNFCCC and CBD spaces.

GFC continued advocating for gender-just, rights-based, socially-just forest and climate policies and strategies at different governance levels and denouncing false solutions to the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and climate change in collaboration with member groups, networks and international alliances. In 2024, GFC published three op-eds, held 11 press conferences and released 21 media releases, open letters and statements. We also held ten side events and joined numerous joint statements, open letters, and

2.4 Unsustainable Livestock Production

In 2024, GFC intensified its efforts to address the environmental and social impacts of industrial livestock production through its Unsustainable Livestock Campaign. The campaign aims to challenge industrial animal agriculture whilst also promoting agroecological and agroforestry alternatives that align with sustainable and equitable food systems. Recognising the urgent need for transformative change in the global agro-food system, GFC collaborated with member organisations, including Mocase and La Via Campesina in Argentina, to highlight holistic and gender-just initiatives that care for forests and communities.

A significant output of this collaborative effort was the launch of the case study "[Galaxias Unicam: Agroecological Shelters for Positive Being](#)," alongside a photo essay series, "[Guardians of Earth Tomorrow](#)," which showcased stories of three visionary organisations actively shaping utopias today: [The seed Fairs of Heñoi \(Paraguay\)](#), the [Tree Box Project](#), of Armenian Forests (Armenia), and [Agromandala \(Colombia\)](#). These initiatives illustrate the potential of agroecological and agroforestry practices and creative commercialisation and the role of women to foster resilience and sustainability in local communities while challenging the dominant capitalist, colonialist, and patriarchal systems that often dictate agricultural practices concentrated around industrial livestock production.

Throughout the year, GFC produced over 20 articles, case studies, and policy papers that critically analysed the global food systems and the livestock industry as key drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss. A notable collaboration with GRAIN led to the Latin American Gathering, where activists from various organisations, including Slow Food (Chile) and Yucatán sin Granjas Industriales

(Mexico), the Tsáchila Indigenous nationality, CEDENMA and Acción Ecológica (Ecuador), Heñoi (Paraguay), CIPCA (Bolivia), convened to discuss strategies against meat extractivism. This gathering resulted in a joint statement, a video, and a collaborative work plan aimed at addressing the challenges posed by industrial livestock production.

Stop Financing Factory Farming campaign at CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia. **Global Forest Coalition**





Protest during COP16 in Cali against development finance for industrial livestock production. **Sinergia Animal**

In March, GFC released the report, "[Examining 'Sustainable' Livestock Intensification and Financing: A Critical Analysis of the Hacienda San José Case in Colombia](#)," co-authored by Corporación Claretiana Norman Pérez Bello and Tejido Únuma, a network of CSOs, peasants and Indigenous people from the Orinoquia region, and held a webinar, Unveiling Colombia's Livestock Nexus: Political Power & its Ecological Fallout, to promote its findings alongside GFC US member Brighter Green.

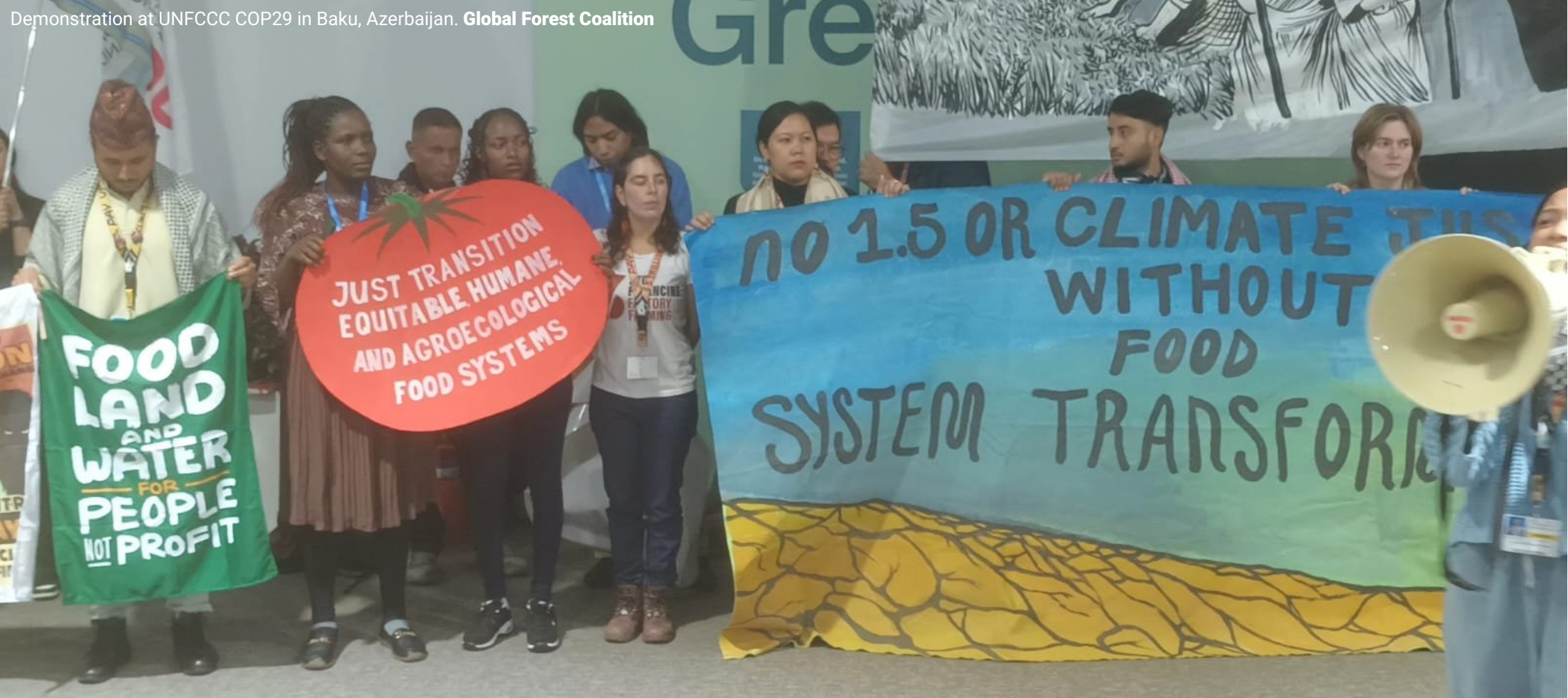
The report garnered significant attention from Colombian authorities, leading to direct communication with the Ministry of Environment during COP29, where the Minister expressed interest in the findings. The report was also shared with the National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund, prompting discussions about the need for a review of related projects, as they sent the report to the funders of this project. A meeting with the Independent Redress

Mechanism of the Green Climate Fund, to explore the possibilities of a formal complaint, was also held.

GFC's advocacy efforts extended to the international arena, where the campaign organised two webinars in May and September 2024, aimed at raising awareness about the impacts of multilateral development bank (MDB)-financed industrial livestock production. These webinars, which featured live interpretation in four languages, attracted participants from various organisations, inspiring them to join the Stop Financing Factory Farming (S3F) Campaign. The [first webinar](#) registered 109 attendees, while the [second focused on Latin American groups](#) and had 38 participants.

GFC's presence at significant events, such as the XI Panamazonian Social Forum in Bolivia, further emphasised the role of unsustainable livestock as a primary driver of deforestation and forest degradation. GFC co-led the Agriculture Working Group, delivering presentations and coordinating discussions that highlighted the need for public finance reform concerning livestock expansion, as well as taking part in public protests.

GFC also joined the [Critical Research on Industrial Livestock Systems \(CRILS\) Network](#), which brings together academics and civil society "to understand the trade-offs of large-scale, industrial livestock systems and to use available evidence to advocate for just and sustainable food systems, especially in the Global South." GFC participated in three workshops that strengthened our alliances and deepened our analysis regarding unsustainable livestock production.



In October, GFC attended the S3F Steering Committee Meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico. GFC co-organised a collaborative mapping workshop on factory farming during the Global Gathering for Climate and Life in Oaxaca, attended by civil society organisations from over 40 countries. The workshop aimed to identify patterns and challenges associated with industrial livestock production, fostering a collective understanding of the issues at hand.

A pivotal aspect of the campaign was the ongoing work towards a Just Transition away from Industrial Animal Production. In collaboration with Brighter Green, World Animal Protection, and other partners, GFC engaged in extensive consultations with diverse stakeholders, including youth, women, farmers, and Indigenous communities. This process culminated in the launch of the [Just Food Transition](#) microsite, featuring a comprehensive white paper that outlines a roadmap for transitioning to equitable, humane, and sustainable food systems, which is featured in four languages. We aim to

localise the White Paper in different countries and push for a growing movement around Just Transition in Food Systems.

As part of the S3F Campaign, GFC also raised concerns about problematic investments in unsustainable livestock and feed crop farming projects, targeting MDBs and other financial institutions. In the lead-up to the World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2024, the campaign launched a [citizen petition](#) that garnered support from over 160,000 individuals across 131

countries, alongside an [open letter signed by 280 civil society organisations](#). This mobilisation highlighted the widespread demand for accountability and change in the financing of industrial livestock production.

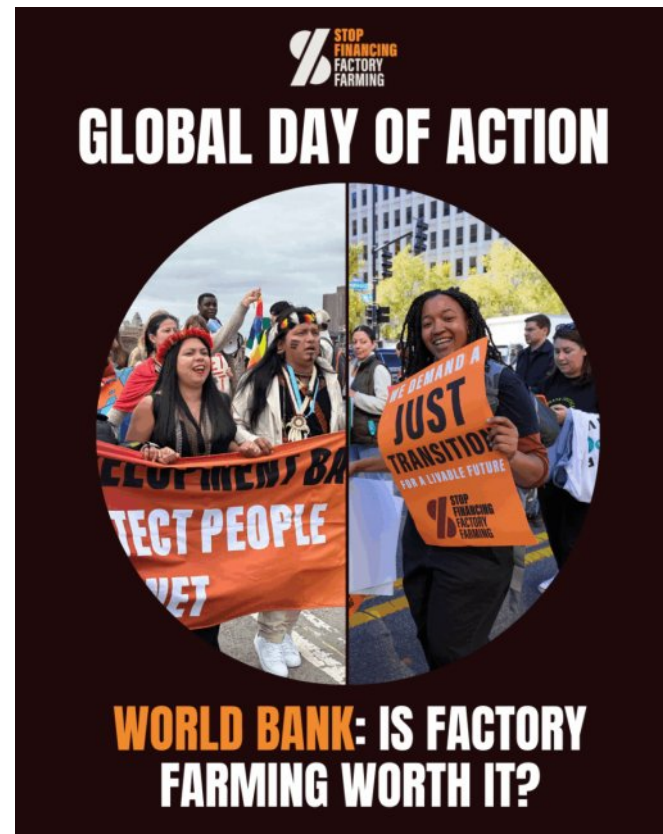
GFC also advanced its advocacy efforts by addressing specific cases of corporate accountability. In collaboration with CEDENMA (the Ecuadorian Coordinator of Organisations for the Defence of Nature and the Environment), the campaign sought to hold meat giant Pronaca accountable for its impacts on the Indigenous Tsáchila communities in Ecuador through a formal complaint to the Inter-American Development Bank Invest (IDB)'s independent accountability mechanism. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding a \$40 million loan to Samuda Ltd for soybean crushing in Bangladesh, prompting direct communication with the Global Head of Agribusiness at the International Finance Corporation.

Engagement with UNFCCC agencies was a critical component of the campaign's strategy. At CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, GFC organised protests and side events to advocate for the cessation of MDB financing for industrial livestock. The campaign also participated in the SB60 and COP29 events, where it co-organised actions and press conferences that emphasised the need for food system transformation as a pathway to climate justice.

In collaboration with the DCJ Food and Agriculture Working Group we developed actions during SB-60 and COP 29, where we organised the [Action 'No 1.5 C or Climate Justice without Food System Transformation'](#), The Press Conference "Financing a Just Transition to Equitable, Humane and Agroecological Food System"

and Delivered an intervention at the SSJW (Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security).

As a result of continued work in leading that WG, as was included in the project, we have amplified the voices of



Pesticide Action Network (Indonesia), ANGRY (Bangladesh) and other partners, who have been increasingly participating in the WG.

During COP 29 we co-organized with World Animal Protection a round table in the Food Hub on Phasing out of industrial animal agriculture towards an Equitable, Humane and Sustainable Food Systems as a pathway to 1.5°C and Food Justice. The roundtable featured the voices from Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resources Centre) and Youth in Agroecology and Restoration network -YARN- Nigeria, alongside those of representatives from Colombia (specifically the coordinator of the GFC Unsustainable Livestock Campaign), Brazil, UK and France.

During CDB COP 16, with S3F Steering Committee Member Sinergia Animal, we held a protest in the Green Zone and one in the Blue Zone, and held on October 28th a side event, called "Por qué los bancos deben dejar de financiar la ganadería industrial" (Why MDBS should Stop Financing Factory Farming) with spokespersons that included Xananine Ramírez, an Indigenous ngiwa young woman from Mexico portraying the impacts of factory farming in their communities.

The collective efforts of the Unsustainable Livestock Campaign in 2024 raised significant awareness about the detrimental impacts of industrial livestock production and fostered a growing movement advocating for sustainable, community-led alternatives. By amplifying the voices of affected communities and challenging harmful practices, GFC continues to play a vital role in the global struggle for ecological and social justice, paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

3 Quality Management and Planning

In 2024, GFC implemented a series of strategy meetings to enhance collaboration and communication among members. We focused on strengthening our internal processes and ensuring that our activities align with our organisational goals. In addition to its advocacy efforts, GFC has strengthened its internal processes to better support its members and campaigns. The establishment of a new management team, led by Policy Director Mary Louise Malig and Director of Operations and Finance Vivien de Laak, has improved communication, decision-making, and operational efficiency within the coalition. These changes have enabled GFC to better navigate the complex and rapidly changing global context, ensuring that its work remains impactful and aligned with its mission.

Auditing and controls are essential parts of GFC. We passed internal financial controls as well as strict external controls. We met the demanding requirements for financial reporting, narrative reporting and controlling from funders and external auditors.

GFC is led by a Policy Director and a Director of Operations and Finance who work closely together with a Financial Controller to implement the organisation's routines of financial systems comprised of strict controls on payments with a structured approval process to prevent errors, fraud, and duplicate payments while keeping financial

records accurate, financial reporting, the use of professional accounting program (Exact) and advanced Excel, consistent monitoring of the budget and cash flow, internal audits of the campaigns, detailed financial reports of grants to funders, implementation of routines of procurement, yearly financial audits by at least three different external auditors, and yearly internal fraud assessment self analysis.

Key outcomes included:

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Planning (MEP) Meeting:** Held during CBD COP16, this meeting facilitated discussions on priorities for the upcoming year.
- **Improved Reporting Systems:** We enhanced our reporting and invoicing systems to increase transparency and accountability.

For the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Planning (MEP), it was decided to hold the meeting face-to-face with the Policy Director, campaign coordinators, and members present in Cali, as well as those joining online, in Colombia in October 2024. This decision was made because many GFC members were already planning to travel to Colombia to attend activities both inside and outside the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali.

All the key campaigns were represented to ensure that the MEP meeting included not only campaigners but also members. Participation was supported by providing simultaneous translation into the key languages of English, Spanish, and French.

In person, almost all regions of the GFC membership were represented, with members from Asia, Central Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America, and Africa. There was also some virtual participation, made possible by offering interpretation in all languages via Zoom for members unable to travel to Colombia. However, due to time zone differences, virtual participation from Asia and the Pacific was not possible.

In the lead-up to the face-to-face meeting in October, several Zoom calls with translation were held to prepare the agenda and allow substantive discussions on a number of issues, particularly urgent matters related to biodiversity, climate change, and forest fires.

The event was successful and marked the beginning of renewed engagement among members. The rich discussions also informed the development of the 2025–2026 work plan.

4 Conclusion

The 2024 Annual Report reflects GFC's commitment to advocating for the rights of forest-dependent communities and addressing the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Our campaigns have made significant strides in amplifying the voices of marginalised groups and promoting gender-just, rights-based solutions.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to strengthening our alliances and fostering collaboration among our members. Together, we will continue to challenge the systemic injustices that threaten our forests and communities.

In 2024, we welcomed seven new members to the coalition, increasing [overall membership to 134 members across 74 countries](#).

We remain deeply appreciative of the collective force of our members and are proud of all that we have been able to achieve together as a team, on international, national as well as regional platforms. Together as a coalition, we stand united in the face of continued threats faced by Indigenous Peoples, environmental defenders, and custodians of our forests and Mother Earth, especially women in all their diversities.

We are incredibly grateful to all the individuals, funders, organisations and communities that support our work, and we look forward to persevering together for a gender-just, ecologically secure future for the planet as a whole.



Group photo taken during COP30 in Baku. **Global Forest Coalition**

GFC's work and that of its members would not have been possible without the generous support from private donations and the following donors:

- American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
- Bread for the World (BftW)
- Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- Environmental Paper Network (EPN)
- Friends of the Earth US
- Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA, through WECF)
- Siempuu (through Indigenous Information Network/IIN)
- Misereor
- Patagonia Foundation (through CEF)
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- Tiny Beam Fund (through Brighter Green)
- Corporate Accountability
- Grassroot International
- ActionAid

5 List of Abbreviations

AFR100 - African Forest Restoration Initiative

BRI - Belt and Road Initiative

CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity

CBDA - Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance

CLARA - Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance

COP - Conference of the Parties

CORSIA - Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation

DCJ - Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice

ETI - Extractive Industries, Tourism and Infrastructure

FARN - Natural Resources and Environment Foundation

FECOFUN - Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal

GBF - Global Biodiversity Framework

GCF - Green Climate Fund

GFC - Global Forest Coalition

GJ&F - Gender Justice and Forests

GLA - Green Livelihoods Alliance

GTP - Gender Technical Partner

HLPF - High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

IIN - Indigenous Information Network

IPLCs - Indigenous Peoples and local communities

LAC - Latin America and the Caribbean

MDBs - Multilateral Development Banks

MEP - Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning

NbS - Nature-based solutions

NGO - Non-governmental organisation

SSJW - Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security

S3F - Stop Financing Factory Farming Coalition

SBI - Subsidiary Body for Implementation

TNCs - Transnational corporations

UN-CBD - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

UNEA - United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WECF - Women Engage for a Common Future

6 Statement of Income and Expenses

Grants

| | 2024 (€) | Budget (€) | 2023 (€) |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Green Livelihoods Alliance through WECF (<i>contribution to Forests for a Just Future program and Gender Justice campaign</i>) | 364 | 354 | 363 |
| Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (<i>core funding</i>) | 70 | 69 | 69 |
| Bread for the World (<i>raising awareness and demystifying false climate solutions and their impacts</i>) | 46 | 49 | 22 |
| Misereor (<i>contribution to campaigns against unsustainable livestock farming</i>) | 25 | 30 | 43 |
| Grassroots International (<i>contribution to debunk REDD+ as a solution to deforestation and climate change</i>) | 23 | 23 | 0 |
| American Jewish World Service (<i>contribution to skillshare on China's BRI Impact on Forests</i>) | 22 | 19 | 19 |
| Friends of the Earth (<i>support the Stop Financing Factory Farming campaign</i>) | 15 | 14 | 0 |
| Environmental Paper Network's Biomass Action Network (<i>contribution to climate campaign and biomass working groups</i>) | 12 | 22 | 17 |
| Action Aid (<i>contribution to collaboration with the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance</i>) | 6 | 13 | 17 |
| Indigenous Information Network (<i>contribution to Tourism and Biocultural Community Rights project</i>) | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (<i>strengthening Conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</i>) | 3 | 0 | 70 |
| Divest Factory Farming (<i>contribution to industrial livestock farming campaign</i>) | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Oxfam (<i>Redirecting Climate Finance away from False Climate Solutions</i>) | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Agroecology Fund AF (<i>Increasing Global South Engagement in the Stop Financing Factory Farming campaign</i>) | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Urgent Action Fund (<i>indigenous peoples and women in forest and climate-related policy making</i>) | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Pivot Point (<i>contribution to the carbon conspiracy project</i>) | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Other (<i>including Heinrich Boell Foundation, Patagonia and private donations</i>) | 13 | 52 | 13 |
| | 603 | 602 | 691 |

Expenses

| | 2024 (€) | Budget (€) | 2023 (€) |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Third party assignments | 251 | 189 | 134 |
| Staff costs | 100 | 167 | 279 |
| Travel expenses | 51 | 48 | 55 |
| Publications and other communication | 169 | 169 | 192 |
| Administration costs | 23 | 18 | 21 |
| Office costs | 8 | 13 | 9 |
| | 603 | 602 | 690 |



People, Forests, Rights

Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition of 134 NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations from 74 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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