

No protected areas without recognition of rights

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity

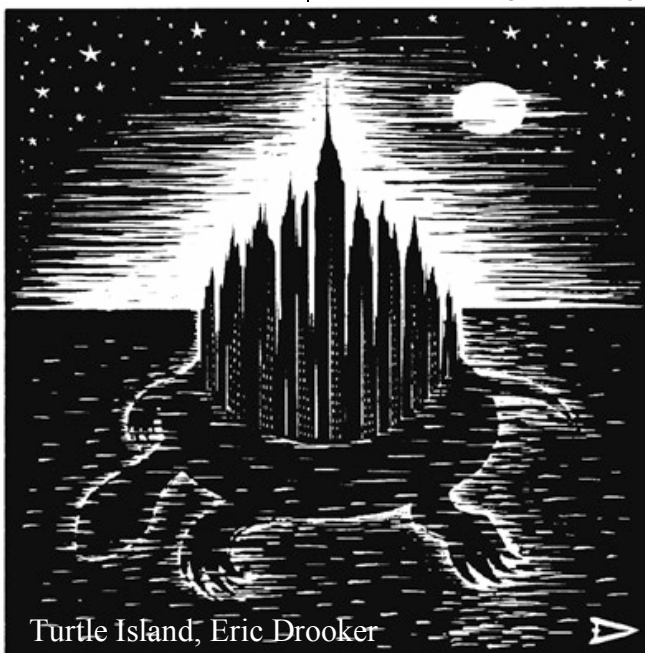
Indigenous peoples have been sustainably using their land, territories and resources for ages. During the past few centuries, they have been protecting biological resources against the onslaught of industrial exploitation. But this has yet to be recognised and supported.

Indigenous peoples are very concerned about the rapid expansion of protected areas since in most cases their rights to land, resources and customary livelihoods are not respected. Indigenous peoples want the recognition of their territories, customary uses, governance systems, and their importance for the maintenance of cultural and biological diversity. COP 9 must take the decision that NO new national protected areas can be established in indigenous lands and territories until the rights to our lands, territories and resources are fully recognized and respected.

On options for mobilizing financial resources for implementation of the Programme of Work on PAs, indigenous peoples continue expressing grave concern that governments are proposing new

market-based mechanisms to finance protected areas that would further affect their lives.

Any initiatives designed to accelerate the Programme of Work's implementation, like the Lifeweb Initiative, must use the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a basis and should focus on the implementation of Programme Element 2 on governance, equity and benefit sharing. In particular, the Free, Prior and Informed Consent and involvement of indigenous peoples in the planning and decision-making must be guaranteed and implemented.



Governments that have taken Indigenous lands and territories for protected areas without free, prior and informed consent should start addressing their past wrongs so that Indigenous peoples can re-establish control over their lives and future. Governments must start focusing action on stopping extractive industries and the merchants of destruction in order to achieve the 2010 target.

Who is afraid of NGOs' proposals? Canada !

While the international community is meeting in Bonn to act and protect biodiversity, the Canadian government delegation has raised twice yesterday the issue of 'Non-Parties' proposing text. The obvious objective of this devious move is to prevent NGOs from making substantive proposals, despite the fact that only Parties will approve the final text in any case. What could be Canada's motivation for being afraid of NGOs' suggestions? Maybe Canada's position is to distract the attention of the international community from Canada's dire record on biodiversity protection. Delegates should be aware of the 2008 Report published in March by the Canadian Commissioner for Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) that illustrates Canada's general failure on the question of biodiversity. The Commissioner is independent from the government and is part of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. You can read Canada's Commissioner for the Environment & Sustainable Development 2008 report at: http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/aud_parl_cesd_200803_e_30125.html

Invasive Alien Species: An Ounce of Prevention

Stas Burgiel, Ph.D., Global Invasive Species Programme

Invasive alien species are commonly recognized as one of the top threats to biodiversity, with impacts on human health, local livelihoods and sustainable economies. Invasive species are one of the top three threats to biodiversity and are the number one cause of species extinctions on islands. Rapid increases in global trade and travel are increasingly enabling more and more animals, plants and diseases to be transported around the world. The economic impacts are already being felt – the estimated damage from invasive species worldwide totals more than \$1.4 trillion, five percent of the global economy. Clearly, prevention is key to stopping the spread of invasive alien species and their impacts.

COP-9 provides a once in a decade opportunity to review all invasive species-related decisions taken to date. However, with only 30+ submissions by governments and other organizations and the fact that the CBD's scientific body (SBSTTA) did not review the issue, Parties will be arriving in Bonn with a new un-discussed text for the draft Decision (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/11).

The draft Decision correctly identifies the critical need for guidance on actual implementation of COP decisions and

acknowledges the need for additional financial resources to support this implementation, but governments in Bonn must also strengthen action on invasive species. COP-9 should:

- call for Parties to renew their implementation efforts, while continuing to identify obstacles and capacity needs.
- recognize the role of regional organizations in catalyzing and supporting national efforts and call for further work to identify opportunities to enhance this work and to share lessons learned across regions;
- specifically address the main pathways for the movement of invasives including aviation, hull fouling, tourism and development assistance; and
- require that proposed biofuel crops be assessed for their risk, and prioritize the use of native and low risk species.

We welcome the efforts of those Parties willing to make a stand and commit to addressing this major threat to biodiversity. They will be our leaders, and we need the rest of the world to follow along if we are to significantly reduce the threat of invasives. Let COP-9 provide us with an ounce of prevention so that we don't have to pay for the cure.

Alternative COP theme Song

Songwriter - Jim Thomas, etc group

If the COP 9 'official' theme song – "I'm a part of it" makes you want to part with your lunch then try this version to the theme of "there was an old lady who swallowed a fly" (for the tune, go to <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/oldlady.htm>)

There once was a planet that used too much oil... if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There once were some folks that tried agrofuels- some silly fools turned crops into fuels. They tried agrofuels cuz they used too much oil.. if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There once was a planet where food ran out .. they started to shout "the foods running out!". The food ran out cuz they tried agrofuels & cuz they used too much oil... if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die

There once were some folks who grew GE trees for fuel - used synthetic biology to turn trees into fuel. They grew GE trees for fuel cuz the food ran out. The food ran out cuz they tried agrofuels. They tried agrofuels because

they used too much oil... if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There once was a planet with the forests destroyed - that's a thing to avoid, all the forests destroyed. The forest was destroyed to grow GE trees for fuel. They grew GE trees for fuel cuz the food ran out. The food ran out cuz they tried agrofuels. They tried agrofuels cuz they used too much oil.. if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There on CO2 - what are we to do with all that CO2? There was more CO2 cuz the forest was destroyed. The forest was destroyed to grow GE trees for fuel. They grew GE trees for fuel cuz the food ran out. The food ran out because they tried agrofuels. They tried agrofuels cuz they used too much oil.. if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There once was some folks who put iron in the ocean - what a crazy notion to add iron to the ocean. They added iron to the ocean to absorb Co2. There was

more CO2 because the forest was destroyed. The forest was destroyed to grow GE trees for fuel. They grew trees for fuel cuz the food ran out. The food ran out cuz they tried agrofuels. They tried agrofuels cuz they used too much oil.. if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There once was a planet where the researchers didn't know what they were doing. They ruined the seas by adding iron to the ocean. They added iron to the ocean to absorb Co2. There was more CO2 cuz the forest was destroyed. The forest was destroyed to grow GE trees for fuel. they grew trees for fuel cuz the food ran out. The food ran out cuz they tried agrofuels. They tried agrofuels cuz they used too much oil... if they used any more the climate would boil - perhaps we'll die.

There once was a planet with no climate, food, forests or seas - now what exactly was the point of the CBD?

Should Parties subsidize business engagement in the CBD process?

Jessica Dempsey and James Rowe

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has been on a charm offensive against the United Nations since the late 1970s. It was during this period that the G-77 came close to achieving a legally binding UN code of conduct for Transnational Corporations. Such a code would have helped equalize the global economy; it would also have raised business costs. This was not to the ICC's liking since their mandate is to ensure the shortest path to profit for their constituents – a path lengthened by binding regulations like the G-77's proposed code, and indeed the CBD itself. The ICC lobbied hard and the code was dropped. Since then they have kept a closer eye on the UN.

ICC and the Executive Secretary

Fast forward to Bonn 2008 and the ICC's mission to marginalize the regulatory agenda at the UN persists. Yesterday in Working Group II the ICC happily noted how enthusiastic CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif has been about more business engagement in the process. The ICC's goal is simple: *facilitate the maximization of profit for their constituents*. Their hope is that more thorough engagement with the CBD can create new profit opportunities, or at least ensure that decisions do not slow rates of commercial activity. This would be fine if transnational corporate activity – oil and mineral extraction, clear-cut logging, industrial fishing and farming, genetic manipulation... -- was not such a burden on biodiversity.

Fortunately both China and the European Commission raised concerns about an increasing role

for business. The EC representative sensibly asked why business engagement should be prioritized over that of other stakeholders? Given transnational capital's environmental record, it is not clear they should even be let past Maritim security!

220,000 USD to Engage Business?

In any case, while it is one thing to tell Parties to engage with business in order to meet the objectives of the Convention (by making them abide by regulations, perhaps), it is another matter to ask Parties to contribute the increasingly scarce CBD secretariat funds to better engage 'business engagement'. The compilation draft decisions (COP/9/1/Add.2 – see page 144-145) request 220,000 USD so that the CBD secretariat can carry out things like - "prepare and disseminate guidance notes for business delegates ahead of Convention meetings" - p 145. But do

we really want to subsidize business participation in Convention meetings, especially when no such guides are prepared for any other observers, such as civil society or Indigenous organizations? Indeed, civil society recently organized and funded its own capacity building day. A guide for new participants to the COP, especially participants from Indigenous communities, southern NGOs, and local communities, would have been a real addition to this event!

- "Develop options, with the Host Government, for the participation of business at the 10th meeting of the COP", p. 145. Again, cannot business organize itself like all other observers? Do they really need "help"? And should the Parties pay for this?

- "Produce and disseminate a synthesis of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook for the business community" - p 145. Is the business community unable to read the same synthesis all the rest of us do? If so why not?

220,000 USD to the South?

The priority actions on business engagement as laid out in the draft decisions, and the budgetary implications are *simply not a responsible use of scarce funds at a time when many G77 countries have trouble financing their own delegations to CBD negotiations*.

Increased participation in CBD processes should be a priority, but the emphasis should be on increasing Southern representation, not making handbooks for already well-resourced businesses!



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The Federal Ministry
for the Environment,
Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Notes from the COP

Golden Chainsaw to... Canada!

Yesterday, Canada was nominated for the Greenpeace Golden Chainsaw Award. Canada intervened twice during Working Group I on the topics of Agrofuels and Forest Biodiversity to make sure that 'non-parties' couldn't make text proposals for Parties to consider. Not only is Canada clear cutting forests, but it is also involved in clear cutting the rights of indigenous peoples and civil society NGO to make a substantive contribution to biodiversity protection.

Agricultural biodiversity

The ritual dance in Working Group 1 on Agricultural Biodiversity involved about 50 Parties and 10 organisations and finished late. The US was not invited, of course. Many Parties emphasised the food emergency and the UN FAO Food Summit in June and most spoke about perverse incentives and agrofuels – land use, competition, [ignore the] precautionary approach [in agriculture, says Brazil]... and oxymoronic "sustainable agrofuels".

Exceptionally, Switzerland, supported by CSOs, called for inclusion of the

UN/World Bank international agriculture assessment IAASTD in the Decision. CSOs called for the realisation of Farmers' Rights, the on-farm conservation of seeds and livestock breeds and a ban on all generations of agrofuels. Indigenous and Local Communities and CSOs referred to the importance of food sovereignty for conserving agricultural biodiversity.

Now the dance is over and real negotiations start tomorrow with a Friends of the Chair group tasked to produce a draft decision. And Canada, ever mindful of its Southern neighbour, ensured the non-party could join in as well.

Quote of the Day

"The precautionary approach should not be applied to agriculture - we hope nobody is suggesting that."

- *Brazilian Delegation in WG1 on Agricultural Biodiversity*

This sentiment likely explains why they are opening up the Amazon to genetically modified crops...

The Quote of 2007

"Capitalism cannot satisfy us. It is a

means that must remain in the service of human development. Not an end in itself. A single example: if we do not vigorously question the dynamic of capitalism, do you believe we will succeed in mastering climate change?"

- *Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization, December 2007.*

Ahoy! Biopirates!

At 1pm today – Wednesday May 21st -- civil society will be awarding prizes to those who either commit biopiracy or fight against biopiracy in the Maritim near WG I. Be there, and keep a close eye on your bullion!



Youth Demands to COP 9

On the occasion of COP9 the German Association for Protection of Nature (NAJU) gathered 60 youth from 30 different countries from North and South between May 14-18, 2008. After collective deliberations on pressing issues concerning biodiversity, youth put forth their demands during the opening plenary session.

1. We urge states to fulfill the main goals of the CBD, which are Conservation, Sustainable use and access and benefit sharing
2. We demand an integration of education for sustainable development into the curricula of all schools.
3. We demand a protocol from the CBD ensuring that countries permanently preserve at least 10 percent of their national area in a natural state and establish a coherent system of marine protected areas.
4. We demand the abolishment of the right to patent living organisms.
5. We demand that the governments adhere to the Precautionary Principle set up at the 1992 Rio Summit and prohibit agro-genetic engineering in all countries.
6. We demand parties should ensure full and effective participation of indigenous people, local communities and civil society organisations in policy processes.
7. We demand parties should put in place long-term-strategies containing tangible, quantifiable targets for the protection of biodiversity. Appropriate instruments for its implementation and mechanisms for independent monitoring are needed.