INDIGENOUS
Information Network

Nomadic News

ISSUE 07/12

ISSN 1605-2102

Are our lives for sale?

Indigenous Peoples and the stressed environment

UN 8 International Womens Day Celebrations, Isiolo 2007

Events and actions during World Women's Day 8th March 2007

CHIEF EDITOR
Lucy Mulenkei

EDITORIAL BOARD
Rhoda Rotini
Lucy Mulenkei
Orie Segelan
Mercy Kirou

GEUST EDITORS
Minam Winkel
Ann Richard -Mcgill University
Katherine Williams -Mcgill University
Kristen Mcneil -Mcgill University

LAYOUT
Lucy Mulenkei
Tracy Mugyiri

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING
Bann Printers & Stationers
P.O Box 29276, Nairobi
225236, 214348 / 0722 811 705

PHOTOS
IIN Library

DISTRIBUTION
Network Members
IIN Team

SPONSORED BY
International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs - IWGIA, Denmark

SUBSCRIPTION
Nomadic News (Issue 12)
(Inclusive of Postage)
Institution/Organization US $20
Individual US $18
Students US$ 10

Payable to Indigenous Information Network
Nomadic News
Duplex Apartments, Apartment No. 28
Upper Hill
Tel. 254-20-2723958
Fax 254-20-2729607
mobile: 254 722 914614
254 733 894080
Email:iin@iin.co.ke
Website:www.indigenous-info-kenya.org

Promote, Protect, Empower and Build Capacity of Indigenous Peoples

table of contents

Editorial 2
Indigenous Peoples & the Environment. Agenda 2005. 4
Report of the International Experts Seminar on Indicators relevant to Indigenous peoples 7
Outcome of the International Experts Seminar 13
G 8 to Increase Efforts to Achieve 2010 Biodiversity Target 14
UN Convention on Climate Change 15
Statement of the International Indigenous Forum on Climate change 21
Statement by African Non- Governmental at the 12th Conference of Parties 22
Drought in Central and Horn of Africa Regions 23
Merigo women Group 26
ENERGY: FOSSIL FUELS And Impacts on Indigenous Peoples. 28
The Medicine Man 31
Let's plant Seeds of Peace and Hope, not seeds of conflict 32
Gains and Losses for the African Continent 33
Forest Cover: **Ex Silvis:** *The Stench of Carbon Trade* 38
Forests within food sovereignty 44
Declaration of NYÉLÉNI 45
The 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples 47
The Presence of Refugees in Garissa district and their impact 48
The energy Crisis and a bad solution 50
who does the Biofuel benefit? 52
The Dying Lakes of Africa, a dark future for the continent 54
Celebrating the International Day of Biological Diversity 57
Mainstreaming culture and Tradition in the Management of Africa's Lakes 58
Global Warming: The Vicious Circle 59
Benefiting from our African Lakes 61
Gender Discrimination and Violence 64
Samburu Women Advocacy Network- Empowering Samburu Women 66
Fighting the Traditional and giving up the blade 67
Message from the International Human Rights 68
Women's Day 2007 focus on the rights of Women in Isiolo, Kenya 69
Regional Sensitization Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous populations in Central Africa 72
African Regional Workshop on Sustainable Use 74
Large Scale biofuels: Good for power bad for the people and climate 75
Samburu Handicapped Education and Rehabilitation Programme 76
Sorta Sopon, Promoting traditional knowledge and conserving biodiversity 77
Indigenous Women Peace and Conflict Resolution 78
Potential Policy approaches and Positive Incentives to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation in developing countries 79
No Clinic in the Forests: Healthcare in Pygmy communities 82
Indigenous People coordinating committee meet and focus on environment
NGO statement at CSD 85
Melting the Ice on Mt. Kenya and Kilimanjaro 86
Dangers of Climate change 88

Editorial

Welcome to the Nomadic News. This edition will focus on the Environment and Indigenous Peoples. The title ***"Are our lands and lives for sale"?*** were words spoken by Mzee John Rhubaga an indigenous leader and Elder from the Batwa Community, while attending the 12th Conference of parties of the United Nation's framework on Climate Change. This was just after the training and preparatory meeting to the conference. To Mr. Rhubaga it was an experience which he never wanted to see repeated. He and his community have suffered tremendously after being forcibly removed from their land but this time he was going to be completely eliminated. His concern is not new or strange to those of us who have spent most of our time at the community level, training and creating awareness about the need for communities to become more concerned about environmental problems and to making sure they act as watch dogs for what is happening to their environment.

The planet's temperature has climbed to levels not seen in thousands of years, warming that has begun to affect people, plants and animals. The Earth has been warming at a rate of 0.36 degree Fahrenheit per decade for the last 30 years, according to the research team led by James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York.

That brings the overall temperature to the warmest in the current interglacial period, which began about 12,000 years ago. Researchers noted in a report in the Journal & Nature that 1,700 plant, animal and insect species have moved pole ward at an average rate of about 4 miles per decade in the last half of the 20th century.

The warming has been stronger in the far north, where melting ice and snow expose the darker land and rocks beneath, allowing more warmth from the sun to be absorbed, and more over land than water. Water changes temperature more slowly than land because of its great capacity to hold heat, but the researchers noted that the warming has been marked in the Indian and western Pacific Oceans. Those oceans have a major effect on climate and warming which could lead to more El Nino episodes affecting the weather.

"This evidence implies that we are getting close to dangerous levels of human-made pollution," Hansen said in a statement. Few scientists doubt that the planet has warmed, though some question the causes of the change. Hansen, who first warned of the danger of climate change decades ago, said that human-made greenhouse gases have become the dominant climate change factor.

The study said that the recent warming has brought global temperature to a level within about one degree Celsius - 1.8 degree Fahrenheit - of the maximum temperature of the past million years. "If further global warming reaches 2 or 3 degrees Celsius, we will likely see changes that make Earth a different planet than the one we know. The last time it was that warm was in the middle Pliocene, about 3 million years ago, when sea level was estimated to have been about 25 meters (80 feet) higher than today." A worrying report indeed, as we read in this issue of Nomadic News. Further worries come from the recently released report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has proved further to us that climate change is real, you can find the report on www.unfcc.org

In his message on the International Day for Biological Diversity, the UN secretary general Ban Ki- Moon said ***"Rapid environmental change is all around us. The most obvious example is climate change, which will be one of the top priorities as secretary – general. But that is not only threat. Many other clouds are on the horizon, including water shortages, degradation land and loss of biodiversity. This assault on the global environment risks undermining the many advances human society has made in recent decades. It is undercutting our flight against poverty. It could even jeopardize international peace and security."*** This message proves to us what will happen soon and for much of the population in the continent of Africa, especially those in semi

arid lands have seen the many problems existing and can predict what is ahead. Conflict will likely increase over scarce resources like water and grazing fields. There will be need for continued food aid, which already has been an issue for many humanitarian organizations. The lives of many may be in danger, desperation and stress will be the order of the day in many Indigenous peoples communities and other vulnerable groups. There is no other subject that has occupied the agenda of the environment in the recent past like the subject on climate change.

This edition includes many articles which will take you to a world of desperation, and maybe sometimes of hope, when you read about the so called activities for the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, but these strategies do not include the most vulnerable populations.

As we talk about climate change, we cannot isolate ourselves from the other environmental problems that have been affecting our planet. Forest issues are but a few. In the past many have not really seen the need to focus on the issues of forests, but as the forest cover of many countries continues to cause concern due to logging and other destructions, there arises a need to have a focus and a strategy to save the remaining forest cover. In 2006, the UN forum on forest agreed on four Global Objectives on Forests, a significant milestone in the international commitment to sustainable forest management. Member states agreed to work to archive these objectives, both globally and nationally, by 2015. The *Global objectives on Forest are* .

- Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.
- Enhance forest based economic, social and environmental benefits including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependant people
- Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably manged forests
- Reverse the decline in the official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Nomadic News has some information on the forest cover which will actually prove why there is need to look after the forest cover. The trees we cut affect the climate and cause problems for the communities who depends on them.. Awareness is critical and some of us have been very happy with the interesting outcomes of civil society actions worldwide in trying to save the forests. One good example was one of the recent activities for awareness of civil society and the public in Uganda in trying to stop the sale of Mabira forest. The media did their best to cover the events and to create more awareness on the plan to sell the important resource that keeps the country green and healthy. As we talk about the problems of climate change lets all look at the root causes. Our organization is collaborating with other partners like the Global Forest Coalition and others to ensure that the messages reach a wider audience as much as possible. Other environmental news in this edition leaves you wondering where we are heading to. If the environmental destruction continues and if Governments continue formulating Policies that are not participatory then we will face difficult times ahead. We also hope that the targets given by our Governments and the United Nations of making sure we reduce the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 and ensure that communities are at the centre of implementation strategies hopefully by 2015 targets are implemented, can really be a reality.

In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. This target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly and was incorporated as a new target under the Millennium Development Goals. It is all our wish and prayer that this can be achieved.

As we continue bringing to you the News we would be glad to have your contributions and comments. We would be happy to have you comment on the local initiatives shared in this edition.

Lucy Mulenkei

Indigenous Peoples & the Environment Agenda 2006

by International alliance Secretariat & the Indigenous Information Network

The year 2006 was a year with many activities and the environment agenda was full of very interesting events. Those of you attending and following the convention on biological diversity started off as early as January with the meeting of 8j and related provision and then the access benefitiaries held in Granada Spain in preparation for COP8, and thereafter followed by many other meetings on various subjects.

Indigenous Peoples, through the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), have actively participated at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' concerns are adequately addressed both at the policy and implementation levels. The Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8) was no exception.

The Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8) was held at the Expo Trade in Curitiba, Brazil from 20-31 March 2006. Approximately 3900 delegates, including representatives of governments, UN agencies, non-governmental, intergovernmental, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities organizations; industry and academia participated in the meeting. At this COP the IIFB was able to participate and contribute to most of the official agenda items that were relevant to them, and also put more emphasis on some key agenda items, such as island biodiversity, Access and benefit-sharing, article 8(j) and related provisions, communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).

The overall objective of Indigenous Peoples participation in COP-8 was to enable and ensure full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives in the deliberations of the Conference of Parties. The key outcomes that IIFB aimed to achieve at this conference were as follows:

Summary of Decision VIII/5 of COP-8

VIII/5 A. COP-8 decides that the 5th meeting of the WG8J be organized prior to the COP-9. The Executive Secretary was requested to 1) provide a report at the 5th meeting of the WG8J on the implementation progress on Article 8(j); 2) provide a report at the 5th meeting of the WG8J on progress achieved in the integration of relevant tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) into the thematic programmes; and 3) prepare a statistical report based on the national reports submissions, and thereon identify, inter alia, participation in different bodies of the CBD. On the other hand, the WG8J was requested to 1) address, as a priority, the timeframe to initiate work on the remaining tasks of the programme of work at its next meeting; and 2) analyse work initiated and/or advanced on related provisions and provide advice as to how they may be further advanced and implemented.

VIII/5 BI. Composite Report: The mandate of the advisory group was renewed and it will continue advising on the development of phase two of the composite report (causes of decline). The Executive Secretary was requested to 1) explore the possibility of developing technical guidelines for recording and documenting traditional knowledge and the potential threats of such documentation, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities; 2) research and prepare a report on possible measures to ensure respect for the rights of unprotected and voluntarily isolated communities, taking into account their traditional knowledge and the development of access and benefit-sharing regimes; and 3) to further research the impacts of climate change and accelerated threats to traditional knowledge on highly vulnerable indigenous and local communities, focusing on causes and solutions, and to have it available for the 5th meeting of the WG8J.

VIII/5 BII. Elements of a plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge: The Executive Secretary was requested to 1) report progress made on the development of elements of the plan of action at the 5th meeting of the WG8J; 2) continue gathering and analysing information to further develop the plan of action and report on this task at the 5th meeting of the WG8J; and 3) collaborate with Parties in convening, regional and sub regional workshops to assist indigenous and local communities in capacity-building, education and training, with particular emphasis on the participation of women from indigenous and local communities.

VIII/5 C. International regime on ABS: The WG8J was requested to provide its views on the elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing relevant to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with genetic resources and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and for the Executive Secretary to make them available for the 6th meeting WGABS. The Executive Secretary was requested to provide administrative support to representatives from indigenous and local communities through practical measures (i.e. meeting rooms, access to documentation, and computer and photocopying facilities). The 5th

meeting of the WG8J will be back-to back with 6th meeting of the WGABS.

VIII/5 DI. Mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities: Adopts the mechanism to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings held under the Convention by adopting the criteria for the operation of the voluntary funding mechanism. An Advisory Selection Committee composed of 7 Indigenous and local communities representatives need to be established

Some of the African delegates meet with the CBD executive Director - Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf

VIII/5 D II. Role of the thematic Focal Point under Clearing House Mechanism: The Executive Secretary was requested to 1) organize regional workshops on new information and web based technologies to assist Indigenous and local communities in their use and to facilitate the establishment of communication networks; and 2) launch pilot projects in developing countries relating to enhancing the role of the national clearing-house mechanism in providing information to Indigenous and local communities.

VIII/5 E. Further develop and identify priority elements of sui generis systems: The Executive Secretary was requested to 1) continue gathering and analyzing information to further develop, as a priority issue, the possible elements for consideration by the 5th meeting of the WG8J; 2) compile views of the Parties and Governments, indigenous and local communities, and non-governmental organizations on 'definitions'; and 3) the WG8J is to identify priority elements of sui generis systems.

VIII/5 F. To further develop draft elements of an ethical code of conduct: The Executive Secretary was requested to compile views and comments provided by interested parties and make the compilation as well as a revised draft on elements of an ethical code of conduct, available at least three months prior to the 5th meeting of the WG8J; and the WG8J was requested to further develop the draft elements of an ethical code of conduct and submit these to the COP-9 for consideration and possible adoption.

VIII/5 G. Indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices: The Executive Secretary was requested to organize in partnership with International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) Working Group on Indicators – an international expert seminar on Indicators with the aim of supporting the work of the 5th meeting of the WG8J, the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the 2010 target, and the Millennium Development Goals.

Capacity Building for Indigenous Advocacy

A total of 92 participants were supported (both full and partial support) to attend the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity preparatory meeting in Curitiba, Brazil and subsequently to attend the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These participants were from 47 countries and representing 8 regions, namely North America, Arctic, Russia, Asia, Meso America, South America, Africa and Pacific. The list of supported participants is provided as *annex II* to the report.

Out of these participants, one third were considered new to the CBD processes. This was, therefore, a good opportunity for this group to learn and become familiar with the CBD and its related processes. This was done through an IIFB preparatory meeting on 18-19 March 2006 and a special orientation session planned for all newcomers with Fred Fortier as head of the Orientation Team. However this orientation session did not materialize due to the workload of each thematic team in preparation for COP-8. In addition, the new participants also had opportunities to participate in daily indigenous caucus and various side events throughout the whole two weeks. It is expected that these participants will share the experiences gained from this event with their communities upon returning to their home countries.

In addition to the benefits gained by the new participants, participation was also worthwhile for thos who had previously attended CBD meetings due to the improved lobbying skills they acquired. Indeed, it is in the actual practice of policy advocacy in such fora as these that Indigenous Peoples increase their capacity and effectiveness in influencing decisions.

Strengthen Solidarity among Indigenous Peoples

The CBD process has been one of many venues Indigenous Peoples, through the IIFB, have used to show unity in raising their concerns regarding the sustainable use of natural resources. It is also a venue for building greater unity amongst the diverse points of view that exist in the Indigenous Movement. At COP-8 of the CBD, Indigenous Peoples made statements addressing almost all of the agenda items. Some of the agenda items proved to be contentious

and difficult for Indigenous Peoples to address, but, negotiations took place until acceptable positions on the issues were reached. For agenda items that proved to be too difficult for a consensus to be reached, the IIFB did not make a common statement. Instead, indigenous organizations were allowed the option of presenting their own interventions. This is respecting self-determination in practice.

IV. Obstacles and lessons learnt

As the IIFB gains more experience in the field of coordinating Indigenous participation in the CBD processes, it is also meeting stumbling blocks which need to be addressed systematically.

Lack of feedback

All the participants supported through the IIFB were requested to do a self-assessment for their participation in COP-8 by using questionnaire prepared by the International Alliance. This was meant to gauge many aspects, including the effectiveness of the IIFB, information and knowledge gained, areas of interest which maybe followed-up, etc. Unfortunately, only a few have completed and returned the questionnaire back to the International Alliance. Without this information, it is hard to determine or evaluate the level of knowledge and understanding of participants.

Language barriers

The working languages of the UN, including those of the CBD, are in fact a barrier for greater involvement of many Indigenous Peoples. It must be kept in mind that for many Indigenous Peoples, the languages of the colonizers are usually not their mother tongue – and these languages are the very same UN languages. However, many Indigenous participants have the desire to be involved in the CBD process and bring information back to their communities and people.

Even within the IIFB this issue is a major stumbling bloc. Discussions on text for the IIFB statements drag on unnecessarily because of language differences. It would do well to remember this difficulty in upcoming events and to factor in interpretation/translation into languages other than the usual French, Spanish and English. In this instance Portuguese and Russian were also needed.

Indigenous Peoples Participation Mechanism

The working model and representation of IIFB members was again brought up for discussion at the COP-8. The non-formal, non-binding, open nature of the IIFB is seen to be more inclusive and participatory but it also hampers the decision making process, especially when decisions are needed urgently. Even the consensual decision making process is problematic in instances where there is very little time to arrive at a consensus, and it is often that the IIFB would rather not take a position on a very crucial matter if there is a dissenting voice.

In Curitiba, two different views were proposed. One proposed to formalize the structure and functions of the IIFB, while the other one did not want to do this and would maintain the status quo.

This aspect needs more discussion amongst the IIFB members and it would be to the benefit of all if other experiences with international policy advocacy would also be brought into the picture. For example, the drafting experience of the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples would be useful to consider. This should be seen as an urgent issue that needs to be resolved prior to COP-9.

Local Hosting

A glaring weakness in this particular COP is the relative weakness of the local host organization to host this type of meeting. While the IIFB will do well to maintain the practice of utilizing a local Indigenous Peoples organization as local host, care should also be taken to ensure that other aspects are not left out, i.e. language facility and existing organizational structure to assist in the technical preparations. Perhaps collaboration with local NGO's would also help, but the leadership of an indigenous organization, is necessary for a solution.

V. Next Steps

IIFB Evaluation Workshop

Without doubt, the IIFB can add COP-8 amongst its success stories. To be able to bring almost 100 indigenous representatives together and make an impact in an international conference is very significant, especially given all the obstacles. However, the IIFB needs to hold an evaluation and preparation workshop for COP-9. Such a workshop is necessary to assess what IIFB has achieved and how and where it wishes to go. This workshop should be held very soon.

In the interim period, the IIFB should continue to monitor very closely the key decisions made at COP-8.

Dissemination of information to IPOs

The International Alliance will translate the final narrative report of the IIFB participation in COP-8 into five languages and share it widely with the IIFB members and other interested organisations. In addition, the Alliance will also publish a booklet of case studies and disseminate it to interested organizations for reference and use.

Other than the case studies, it is also proposed that copies of the major decisions reached by the COP and the IIFB be made available to as many indigenous organizations as possible.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Request for a full report from International Alliance @ or visit website www.internationalalliance.org or www.biodiv.org

Report of the International Experts Seminar on Indicators relevant to Indigenous Peoples , the convention on Biological diversity (CBD) and the Millennium development Goals(MDGs)

By Joji Carino, Tebtebba Foundation

At COP6, the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a Strategic Plan as well as the 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. COP7 in Decision VII/30 adopted a framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target which covered seven focal areas, goals, targets and the identification of provisional indicators. The comprising indicators were used immediate testing and as possible indicators for development.

One focal area is to 'protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices'. Goal 9 of the 2010 Target is to ***Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.*** With two targets the relevant indicators these are to be developed by the Open-ended Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions.

- Target 9. 1 to "Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices" and
- Target 9.2 to "Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing"

With regards to traditional knowledge an indicator on the status and trends in linguistic diversity and speakers of indigenous languages was included as an indicator for immediate testing. In paragraph 7 of decision VII/30, the Conference of Parties requested the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions this was in order to explore the need and possible options for indicators for the protection of innovations, knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities, and to report the results to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

During the 4th meeting of the CBD's Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions (held in January 2006 in Granada, Spain,) Indigenous Peoples organizations formed the IIFB Working Group on Indicators. This was to respond to the immediate need to identify and test indicators relevant for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and its framework for monitoring achievement of the 2010 target. The IIFB Working Group on Indicators proposed the convening of an International Expert Seminar, to consider in an holistic and integrated way, the development of a limited number of meaningful indicators, in the following thematic areas:

- Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices
- Customary sustainable use (Article 10c)
- Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being (Biodiversity and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals)
- Effective participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the CBD processes at national, regional and international levels

Decision VIII/5 G at COP8, recognized the need for a structured technical process to guide further work in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(J) and Related Provisions on further development of a limited number of meaningful and practical indicators for assessing the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Decision VIII/5 G also welcomed the initiative of the IIFB Working Group on Indicators to organize an International Expert Seminar on Indicators in support of this work.

In accordance with these decisions, the IIFB Working Group on Indicators convened a number of preparatory regional and thematic workshops and an International Expert Seminar on Indicators Relevant to Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals. Financial support for this initiative was provided by the Spanish government's Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI), the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway and the Swedish Biodiversity Programme (Swedbio).

The international seminar, was held in Banaue, Ifugao province, Philippines, from 5 to 9 March 2007, organized by the IIFB and Tebtebba Foundation in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and sponsored by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-PAWB) of the Philippines, the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation), the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, and the Swedish National Biodiversity Programme (SwedBio). It was hosted by the government of the Philippines and the local government of the municipality of Banaue.

The participants were drawn from within and outside Indigenous communities from all geographic regions, and a range of governmental, non-governmental

and intergovernmental organizations. All were selected on the basis of their engagement in development of indicators and their expertise on customary sustainable use, food security, traditional knowledge, indicators and statistics, and other issues relevant to the CBD and the MDGs.

The opening ritual was performed by a practicing elder of the Ifugao people, Apo Kitalad who chanted the *gapah* welcoming the participants and the *ufu-ub chi chanum*, praying that whatever they drank during their stay would be pleasant and good for them.

The governor of the province of Ifugao, Mr Glen Prudenciano, welcomed the participants and informed them about the history of the Cordillera region, of which Ifugao is a part. He spoke of the efforts of the peoples of the Cordillera to assert their rights to their ancestral domain and pursue their aspirations for autonomy. He also spoke of their knowledge of their ecosystem and the rice terraces, which UNESCO has declared a World Heritage Site.

The Mayor of Banaue, Mr Jerry Dalipog, welcomed the guests and participants and expressed his support for the aims of the seminar. He said that hosting this international seminar would make local people aware of international developments related to indigenous peoples' rights. He also informed the participants about the geography and climate of Banaue, and sites of interest.

The Assistant Director DENR-PAWB, spoke on behalf of the Philippine government as co-host of the seminar. He pointed out that the Philippines has a megadiversity of species and is a biodiversity hotspot. Conserving biological diversity, he said, means sustaining traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. He called on the participants to work together in the task of preserving life. He welcomed them to the Philippines and wished them an enjoyable stay and a meaningful seminar.

The Ambassador of Norway, Mr Ståle Torstein Risa remarked that the organizers had found a most appropriate setting for the seminar among the rice terraces of Ifugao, and compared the loss of diversity witnessed by the Ifugao people with the experience of the Saami in Norway. He explained that Norway was supporting the seminar because of its important contribution to the issue of traditional knowledge and Indigenous peoples, which are among its priorities in the CBD. He concluded by recalling that the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly had deferred consideration of the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights to allow time for further consultation. The declaration, he said, is the result of a thorough negotiating process and is the best compromise that can be reached, so the concerns raised by some states should be addressed through informal means rather than by opening a new formal process.

The General Coordinator of AECI-Philippine Office, Mr Jesus Molina said that the priorities of AECI include combating poverty and supporting Indigenous peoples in coordinating their own social, political and economic development processes. He explained that Spain had adopted a Strategy for Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in 2006 and is a co-sponsor of the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Spain has also adopted Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization, and has a programme for incorporating it into the practice of the Spanish government.

The Program Director of SwedBio, Ms Maria Berlekom, spoke of the similarities between indicators and welcome speeches. Both provide an opportunity to communicate important messages that can influence political change, but at the same time they must be meaningful, relevant and brief. She said participants could expect to work hard at the seminar, but that it would also be an opportunity to make new friends and share experiences.

The Program Officer for Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at the CBD Secretariat, Mr John Scott, delivered a message on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat, Dr Ahmed Djoghlaf. The Executive Director's message recalled the need to recognize fully the contribution of traditional knowledge to the three pillars of the CBD: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from biological diversity. It stressed the importance of protecting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples,

Group shot of participants attending the indicators workshop

and of developing indicators to measure progress in doing this. It also noted the two-way beneficial link between the CBD and the MDGs, and the need to find better ways to communicate the importance of biological diversity for the MDGs.

Mr John Scott explained the objectives and operation of the CBD, with particular emphasis on its programme of work on Article 8(j) of the convention. This article commits the parties to preserving traditional knowledge and promoting its wider application. It is reflected in the CBD 2010 Target and its monitoring framework in Goal 9: maintain the socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities. The seminar is expected to make an important contribution to the programme of work on Article 8(j) by developing indicators to measure progress towards that goal. The presentation concluded with an outline of the mechanisms for indigenous and local communities' participation in the work of the CBD.

The Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, emphasized the importance of data collection and data disaggregation for making visible to the world community the reality that Indigenous peoples face. The biggest challenge, she said, would be to ensure that indicators relevant to Indigenous peoples were used to evaluate implementation of the MDGs.

Ms Joji Cariño, the Coordinator of the IIFB Working Group on Indicators, said the work of the seminar would be strategic for Indigenous Peoples, for exercising the right to self-determination and for understanding their own situation. She thanked the local government units for hosting the conference, and the funders for sponsoring the meeting. She recalled support from many governments at COPVIII for the development of indicators relevant to Indigenous Peoples at the CBD.

Joji Cariño described the global network of Indigenous Peoples working on indicators and reported on the activities of the IIFB, which is collaborating with a range of other indicators processes. These include the development of indicators for Indigenous peoples' well-being led by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as processes led by the CBD Secretariat, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (focusing on cultural indicators of food security), and the Arctic Social Indicators Process. The IIFB has also learned from other global processes for developing and using indicators, such as the human rights-based approach adopted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, the human poverty indicators developed for the MDGs, and the social and cultural dimensions of protection of biological diversity emphasized by the CBD.

The presentation concluded with a summary of core themes and issues identified by the regional and thematic workshops organized by the IIFB and other bodies to consider indicators relevant to the CBD and the MDGs:

1. Security of rights to territories, lands and natural resources
2. Integrity of indigenous cultural heritage
3. Gender dimensions
4. Respect for identity and non-discrimination
5. Fate control
6. Culturally-appropriate education
7. Health
8. Full, informed and effective participation
9. Access to infrastructure and basic services
10. Extent of external threats
11. Material well-being
12. Demographic patterns of indigenous peoples

Reports from regional and thematic workshops

Mr Adrian Bannie Lasimbang of the PACOS Trust, Malaysia, reported on the Asian Regional Workshop on Indicators organized by the IIFB and held in Calapan City, Mindoro, Philippines, on November 7-10, 2006. Participants in the workshop included Indigenous peoples' representatives from 10 Asian countries, as well as technical experts. The programme began with a community visit, followed by presentations on global work to develop indicators, country situations, and experience of indicators work in the Philippines and India. The participants divided into regional groups (South Asia, Southeast Asia, Mekong Region and the Philippines) to identify key issues facing Indigenous peoples, and then to develop indicators to address those issues. These were later classified into two categories: those relevant to the CBD, and those relevant to the MDGs.

The Asian regional workshop recommended that pilot studies should be conducted to collect statistical data disaggregated for indigenous peoples. It also noted the need for guidelines to ensure the use of culturally sensitive, objective and neutral survey instruments, and proposed the creation of an index of Indigenous peoples' well-being.

Dr Naomi Kipuri of the Arid Lands Institute, Kenya, reported on the African Regional Workshop on Indicators organized by the IIFB and the Arid Lands Institute, and held in Nairobi, Kenya on November 26-28, 2006. The workshop participants were drawn from five regions in Africa (West, South, East, Central and the Horn). They

represented both pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities. To develop indicators, they first agreed on a set of key issues, then developed goals to address the issues, and finally devised indicators to measure progress towards the goals. The issues were clustered into six categories: social/cultural, educational, cultural, political/legal, economic and environmental.

The African regional workshop recommended the use of the indicators by all relevant UN agencies, and for these agencies to recognize and include Indigenous peoples' representatives in their monitoring work. The workshop also proposed the creation of an Africa-wide Indigenous forum and Indigenous parliamentary caucuses at national and regional levels. It called for a follow-up forum on African Indigenous peoples' indicators to be held by November 2008.

Ms Yolanda Teran of Andes Chincasuyo, Ecuador, reported on two indicators workshops in Bolivia (one in the highlands and one in the lowlands) and a regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Quito, Ecuador, on December 11-13, 2006. The participants in the Bolivian workshops came from grassroots communities. The workshop in the highlands developed indicators for education, language, health, indigenous spirituality, medicine, land and territory, production, and natural indicators. The lowlands workshop developed elements for indicators on education, health, medicine and production.

For the regional workshop, part of the process was a three-week electronic forum with 200 people taking part. The workshop proper had 48 indigenous and non-indigenous experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, and four from North America. After discussion of traditional knowledge and the uses of indicators, three working groups were formed. Each group considered one set of issues: (1) lands, territories and sacred sites, (2) education, communication, language and culture, and (3) health and traditional medicine. They developed structural, process and outcome indicators.

In addition to developing the indicators, the regional workshop recommended the creation and adoption of a protocol to protect information coming from indigenous peoples. It also called for a follow-up workshop and further work on indicators for culture and communication.

Ms Gunn-Britt Retter of the Saami Council, Norway, reported on the work on indicators carried out under the auspices of the Arctic Council, which is a high-level forum of eight countries that have territory in the Arctic.1 The presentation focused on the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA), the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) and the Arctic Social Indicators project. All three initiatives include the participation of Indigenous peoples, through the six Indigenous peoples' organizations that are Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. Although these initiatives focus on living conditions and well-being, rather than on biological diversity, the processes of the Arctic Council and the CBD support each other and can enhance the overall development of indicators relevant for Indigenous Peoples.

The process of developing indicators in the Arctic started with SLiCA which has developed questionnaires for interviews among the Indigenous peoples of the region. The steering committee of the ADHR felt it would be premature to define indicators, and agreed to focus on trends instead. It identified three major trends in the region – (1) fate control or the ability to guide one's own destiny, (2) cultural integrity or belonging to a viable local culture and (3) contact with nature. The researchers involved in the report initiated the Arctic Social Indicators project to "devise a limited set of indicators that reflect key aspects of human development in the Arctic". It is working on six domains: the three trends identified by the ADHR and the three used by the United Nations Development Programme to construct the Human Development Index (education, demography and health, and material well-being).

Mr Vladimir Bochamikov of RAIPON, Russia, reported on indicators work in Russia. Although there was no regional workshop on indicators in Russia, RAIPON has been working on data collection for the past four or five years. As part of this work, the organization is collaborating with the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests (IAITPTF) in the Indigenous Peoples' Network for Change (IPNC). RAIPON's role has been to make information available to Indigenous peoples about CBD processes. The IPNC website gives information about this work.

RAIPON conducted a major survey in the north of Russia, and after receiving responses from 10 regions put the results on the website to start a discussion. RAIPON has good relations with the Russian Academy of Sciences, which enables them to combine good scientific data with data from the Indigenous peoples. The All-Russia census of 2000 yielded data about Indigenous peoples, which RAIPON used to develop its work on indicators. This work has focused on two main areas: traditional knowledge and the role of Indigenous peoples in the ecosystem. RAIPON uses maps to make the data easier to understand. Using the framework developed with the IPNC, they have started developing indicators on the role of Indigenous peoples in conservation.

There are good possibilities for pilot projects on indicators in the north of Russia.

Mr Les Malezer of FAIRA, Australia, reported on key issues for Indigenous peoples and the work done to develop indicators in the Pacific region. A regional workshop on indicators was due to be held in the week after the expert seminar. The Pacific is a region of great cultural and biological diversity. Many of its people live in small islands and depend largely on the marine environment, so it is not only land but also the waters that are key for the sustainability of livelihoods. The Pacific also has a great influence on the climate of much of the world. However, information about biodiversity and climate change does not reach communities in the region.

The governments of Australia and New Zealand have devised indicators and collected statistics, but the results have not been disseminated to Indigenous peoples. A group in New Zealand is developing a Maori Statistics Framework, based on the concept of development as a process of enabling people to improve their lives and live as they wish. *Mention disconnect between government and academic work on indicators and community work and understanding of indicators*

Mr Maurizio Ferrari of the Forest Peoples' Programme, Ms Caroline De Jong on behalf of the Association of Village Leaders in Suriname and Mr Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir of the Institute of Bangladesh Studies reported on the thematic workshop on Customary Sustainable Use (Article 10 (c) of the CBD). The workshop was held in the UK on September 19-21 with participation of indigenous representatives and experts Asia, Pacific, Latin America and Russia NGO representatives (from Bangladesh, Cameroon, the Netherlands and the UK), a representative of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and two representatives of donor agencies.

The basis forthe discussion of indicators was a set of case studies from research into the implementation of Article 10 (c) in Indigenous communities in six countries (Bangladesh, Cameroon, Guyana, Suriname, Thailand and Venezuela) and an additional presentation from Russia. From this, a synthesis of the main issues was drawn together. After presentations on the CBD monitoring framework, indigenous peoples and the MDGs, and the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the participants discussed what indicators were and how they could be developed. They then divided into smaller working groups to develop indicators and relate them to the CBD framework of goals, targets and indicators.

The participants noted that the Article 10 (c) case studies highlighted many issues in addition to sustainable use, so the indicators they proposed addressed more than one goal of the CBD and indeed went beyond the CBD framework. In addition to Goal 4 of the 2010 Target (promote sustainable use and consumption), they also addressed goals relating to the conservation of biodiversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes (Goal 1), threats to biodiversity (Goals 5, 6 and 7) and participation (Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan). These indicators should contribute to the development of a wider framework of indicators relevant to Indigenous peoples.

Ms Andrea Carmen of the IITC reported on the Second Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples. The presentation started with a song of the Lakota nation: 'Creator, we want to live. Help us, our people want to live. The earth wants to live.' When indigenous peoples talk about indicators, recommendations and rights, they are talking about the lives of their the rights of the natural world, the rights of future generations, and the health of their communities. For Indigenous Peoples it is food sovereignty, rather than simply food security, that is important. Traditional food has cultural and spiritual significance.

Indigenous Peoples have used indicators before and they use them now. It is not some foreign subject being imposed on them. Indigenous peoples are the experts on their situation and that is the foundation of self determination and free, prior, informed consent.

The Declaration of Attilan of April 2002 remains the basic statement of the definition, criteria and issues of food security for Indigenous peoples, and the impediments to it. At the Second Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples, in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte, Nicaragua on September 7-9, a set of cultural indicators of food security were finalized. They addressed eight general issues as well as resiliency, adaptation to change and transmission of traditional knowledge.

Experts' papers

Dr Lourdes Cruz of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, discussed an effort to elaborate socio-cultural development indicators for the Aytas in Morong, Bataan, Philippines. The need for indicators arose when the Ayta community in Morong expressed concern that a development project might damage their cultural integrity. Because conventional development indices lack cultural indicators and the standard economic indicators do not apply to a non-monetary economy, a local index had to be devised. Workshops and consultations with the community were used to identify issues. The resulting socio-cultural development index has four components: culture, education,

earnings from employment and livelihood, and health. It assigns numerical ratings to the indicators, and to the four components, and these are calculated on the basis of a weighted average to give a score on the index.

Dr Harriet Kuhnlein of the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), Montreal, described the centre's research on food diversity among indigenous peoples. CINE is conducting 12 international case studies with rural Indigenous communities in 12 areas around the world, to provide evidence to policy leaders that local food resources protect health. By documenting traditional foods, their nutrient content and how they were used, the case studies showed the vast diversity of local food systems, and the quality and cost of traditional foods compared with those of imported foods. Interviews with community members revealed the cultural importance of traditional food for total well-being.

Dr. Harishwar Dayal of the Institute of Human Development, India, showed how official statistics could shed light on the discrimination experienced by Indigenous peoples. Dr Dayal and other researchers at the Institute analysed data on Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes from official surveys and censuses. They concluded that while the caste system discriminates against the poorest caste – the *Dalits* – the level of poverty among Schedule Tribes is deeper, despite the constitutional rights that uniquely apply to them. They also found that while poverty among the general population had declined between 1993-1994 and 1999-2000, there had been little change in poverty levels among Indigenous peoples.

Mr Bernabe Almirol of the Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines, discussed the experience of a pilot project on data disaggregation for Indigenous peoples in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines. The project gathered data on socio-economic conditions, cultural integrity and political participation, using village level administrative data and interviews with key informants. It also generated some important lessons for Indigenous communities on data collection. First, village level administrative data, such as lists of households, was found to be a reliable source of information to complement the formal census, despite some variation in collection systems. Second, ethnic identity is a sensitive issue that requires careful design of survey questionnaires.

Participants take time off in the field

Ms Yolanda Teran described a project to revitalize cultural values in the town of Canton Cotacachi in Ecuador, working with 200 Indigenous and non-indigenous schoolchildren. The project had the participation of national and provincial institutions, as well as teachers, parents, spiritual leaders and elders in the town. The children were introduced to ancestral agricultural methods, traditional foods and traditional spirituality, with emphasis on their ecological dimensions. Finally, the project induced a revival and adaptation of the Inti Raymi or sun ceremony. This festival, which dates back more than 500 years, includes a ritualized battle, but for the children it was adapted so that at the end they would shake hands rather than fighting. Inti Raymi is a traditional festival that has been adapted over the past 40 years to include women as participants and not simply as observers. It has become a national intercultural festival celebrated by Ecuadoreans inside the country and abroad.

Mr Jay Lambert from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Canada, described a First Nations approach to health indicator development. The AFN initiated the work on health indicators to measure progress in meeting the ten-year plan to 'close the gap' in quality of life between First Nations and other Canadians. To help identify the key issues and challenges, the AFN commissioned literature reviews. Many of the findings in the literature had not been validated by communities, but there was also a lack of capacity among First Nations to collect, manage and analyze data. The principles that guided health indicator development were that the health reporting framework would focus on First Nations; it would be based on the concept of reciprocal accountability; it would be a practical tool used for community planning that would also allow for reporting to federal, provincial and territorial governments; and that it would allow for comparison with Canadian data. The AFN health indicators addressed four domains: individual health, environmental health, community health, and social/cultural health.

For a full report of the international seminar go to www.tebtebba.org

Outcome of the International Experts Seminar on Indicators Relevant to Indigenous Peoples,

(the convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

By Joji Carino Tebtebba Foundation

Selection and refinement of indicators Working in smaller groups, the participants attending the expert group on indicators used the principles recommended by the SBSTTA to select, amend and refine the indicators drafted by the technical Working Group. The workshop groups were asked to address all the indicators. However, to ensure each relevant area of the 2010 Target would be addressed by at least one group in the time available, each group began work on a different focal area. The focal areas were: protect the components of biodiversity (Goals 1-3); promote sustainable use (Goal 4); address threats to biodiversity (Goals 5-7); maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well being (Goal 8); and protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Goal 9).

The regions then came up with different priority areas:

Pacific

The group selected three priority indicators and proposed an indicator for the participation of Indigenous peoples in CBD processes, as required by Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan. Their comments on the process of the seminar included a suggestion for a more adequate and balanced composition of the Technical Working Group.

Arctic, Russia and North America The group selected four priority categories for indicators, recommended a focus on national laws guaranteeing rights and access to territory, and also a focus on extractive industries. They proposed the next steps to take in the development of indicators relevant to Indigenous peoples, noting in particular the need for further work on indicators for the MDGs.

Asia

The group made detailed amendments to the indicators, and selected priorities for each target in the CBD monitoring framework on the basis of their relevance and importance in the Asian context. They then discussed the next steps to take in the work on indicators relevant to Indigenous peoples, proposing that the Coordinating Committee of the IIFB Working Group on Indicators should refine the proposed indicators.

Latin America

The group made some specific recommendations for the seminar report, identified three priorities from among the CBD goals, and proposed additional indicators on participation of indigenous communities in CBD processes. In their discussion of the next steps, they noted the need for regional workshops to address not only indicators, but the rest of the CBD agenda.

Africa

The group identified one or two priority indicators for each goal in the CBD monitoring framework on the basis of their relevance to Indigenous peoples in Africa. They also discussed next steps in the development of indicators relevant to Indigenous peoples, noting the importance of disseminating information widely to Indigenous organizations, and through them to communities.

Philippines

The Philippine group focused on the initiatives of the PAWB-DENR, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the National Statistics Coordinating Board in institutionalizing the use of indicator sets in the government. They also devised a set of indicators to measure Indigenous peoples' participation in CBD processes.

Working group on the proposed indicators and the MDGs

The group considered how the indicators proposed could relate to the MDG framework. They proposed that a set of core indicators for indigenous Peoples should be developed and brought into other monitoring processes. They also recommended the disaggregation of data by gender and ethnicity under the MDG framework. The participants noted the importance of indicators on the protection of rights to land and resources for measuring poverty (MDG Goal 1) and the importance of indicators developed for food security for measuring freedom from hunger (MDG Goal 2).

The Experts Seminar attempted to provide a set of indicators relevant to Indigenous Peoples to measure progress in pursuing the goals and targets set by the monitoring framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The following set of indicators is the outcome of discussions at the seminar and review by the Coordinating Committee of the IIFB Working Group on Indicators. They are presented alongside the indicators relevant to the 2010 Goals and Targets (as contained in Decision COP VIII.15 Annex II), and for Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan.

Effective participation of indigenous and local communities in CBD Processes (CBD Strategic Plan)

Goal 4: There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the Convention, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation

Target 4.3 Indigenous and local communities are effectively involved in implementation and in the processes of the Convention, at national, regional and international levels Proposed indicators: Numbers of indigenous and local community representatives participating in CBD official meetings disaggregated by region and country (available in participants lists); Number of partnerships with and initiatives of indigenous and local communities in implementation of programs of the CBD (including CEPA and NBSAPS) at national regional and international levels (national reports done in a participatory way); Finances spent to support effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the CBD at all levels (budget for effective participation = volume of funds, CBD meeting reports; number of indigenous and local communities participating)

G-8 to Increase Efforts to Achieve 2010 Biodiversity Target

The leaders of the Group of Eight yesterday agreed to "increase our efforts for the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity to achieve our agreed goal of significantly reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010".

In their summit declaration, "Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy", issued on 7 June 2007 at Heiligendamm, Germany, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, included a commitment on biodiversity – a first for a G-8 Summit.

The text states:

"We emphasize the crucial importance of the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity as an indispensable basis for the provision of vital ecosystem services and the long term provision of natural resources for the global economy. We acknowledge the "Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010" presented at the G8 Environmental Ministerial meeting in March 2007 and will increase our efforts for the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity to achieve our agreed goal of significantly reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010."

The declaration, which also includes important commitments on addressing climate change, acknowledges the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems and highlights the potential role of reducing deforestation as a significant and cost-effective contribution towards mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and toward conserving biological diversity.

Ahmed Djoghlaf, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said:

"This commitment by the Heads of State and Government of the G-8 to increase their efforts to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target is a substantial boost for the Convention. I applaud Chancellor Merkel and each of the leaders for this commitment. Their personal endorsement of the target, and support for the Potsdam Initiative augurs well for the success of the next Conference of the Parties to be held in Bonn, Germany in May 2008, and for the achievement of the target in 2010."

This landmark agreement is the latest in an unprecedented series of high-level statements on biodiversity made this year and follows significant efforts of leadership by the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the crucial global issues of climate change and biodiversity loss. On 22 May, the Secretary General noted in a public message that: "through the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the international community is committed to conserving biodiversity and combating climate change. The global response to these challenges needs to move much more rapidly, and with more determination at all levels – global, national and local. For the sake of current and future generations, we must achieve the goals of these landmark instruments."

The historic declaration by the G-8 leaders is one crucial step in meeting these objectives. The ninth meeting of the 190 Parties to the Convention to be held in Germany in May 2008 will provide a unique opportunity to translate the Heiligendamm commitments into concrete action.

On the eve of the G-8 summit, United Nations agencies and their partners called on the world's leading industrialized nations, to take bold steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect biodiversity. Among these calls, Ahmed Djoghlaf stated that: "Climate change and biodiversity loss, two strongly linked issues, are poised to interfere with, and even reverse, progress that is being made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals" – specific targets agreed to by world leaders for reducing poverty and achieving major advances in health, education, environment and equality by 2015. The two issues could also disrupt economies and international trade, as well as fuel international conflict over access to natural resources, Dr. Djoghlaf added.

On World Environment Day, 5 June 2007, the Executive Secretary of the CBD issued a message to the G-8 through the German authorities on behalf of UNEP, UNDP, Countdown 2010, and the Equator Initiative, highlighting the links between biodiversity and climate change and called upon G-8 leaders to take action on these two issues.

On the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2007, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, highlighted the particular importance of biodiversity for the poorest citizens of the world and noted that the 2010 biodiversity target is now fully integrated into the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. For the sake of current and future generations, he called for the global response to the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss to move much more rapidly, and with more determination at all levels – global, national and local.

In preparation for the G-8 Summit, from 15-17 March 2007 the Environment Ministers from the G-8 and five newly industrializing megabiodiverse countries - Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa – met in Potsdam, Germany, and called for a re-linking of biodiversity, climate change, economics and poverty eradication as necessary to adequately address these global challenges. Recognizing the imperative to significantly scale up their efforts to tackle the global challenges, the Ministers supported the proposal of the German Government for the "Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010" and its ten activities.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 1992, it currently has 189 Parties—188 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal. Its website may be found at www.cbd.int.

UN Convention on Climate Change

by Indigenous Information Network & global Forest Coalition Team November 2006

Indigenous Information Network had collaborated during this meeting with the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the tropical Forest which is based in Thailand with members around the world, and the Global Forest Coalition, based in Uruguay and also with international members globally. The Indigenous Information Network is a focal point for both organizations. We held this meeting hosting Indigenous Peoples from other continent who were attending the 12th conference of parties to the UNFCC in Kenya.

Together as organizers we decided to have a preparatory meeting before the actual meeting so as to be able to give information on what was going to be discussed. As it was going to be a high level meeting which was to discuss issues of climate change, it was important for IPs to clearly follow the process and be able to contribute effectively. The Indigenous Peoples preparatory meeting was held 4th to 5th November 2006.

Indigenous Peoples seminar on Carbon Trading

The Life as Commerce Indigenous Peoples' seminar on Carbon Trading was organized by the Global Forest Coalition and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest, with support from the Indigenous Information Network. The seminar was organized in the Maasai-owned Namanga Riverside Hotel on 11 and 12 November 2006, parallel to the twelfth Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (Nairobi, 6 – 17 November). Twenty-nine representatives of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and NGOs from all over the world attended the seminar.

The objectives of the seminar were to provide members of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change with the latest information on the possible impacts of the commercialization of forests and other ecosystems through carbon trade, to provide a space for debate amongst Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and to increase the capacity of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations to respond to and address the potential negative impacts of the carbon market.

The first session included a number of in-depth presentations on carbon trade, the Climate Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Miguel Lovera, coordinator of the Global Forest Coalition, presented an in-depth introduction to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and carbon trade. He explained how greenhouse gas emissions lead to climate change, how climate change affects people, their livelihoods and their ecosystems and how governments have tried to address this environmental problem by negotiating a Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was signed in 1992, and a subsequent Kyoto Protocol, which was signed in 1997. The Kyoto Protocol obliges Northern countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to an average of 5% below 1990 levels. However almost 10 years later emissions are 9% above 1990 levels. Mr. Lovera explained how the Kyoto Protocol set up a system through which countries could trade their emission reduction obligations with other countries. Through the Clean Development Mechanism they can also trade them with countries who were without obligations on a project basis. He explained that such trade made it cheaper for Northern producers to reduce emissions, but that it did not do anything to address climate change as the overall amount of emission reductions stayed the same. Cheap projects like gas flaring and planting trees are very popular with only 10 percent of Clean Development Mechanism funding going to renewable energy. The main reason for establishing the CDM was to provide a source of funding for clean energy to developing countries, but instead it is producing funds for consultants, utility companies and land owners, and climate change continues unchecked.

Many participants asked for more clarifications on the dynamics of carbon trade and the role of the World Bank in carbon trade. They highlighted the risks of carbon capture and storage, especially for small island states, and the impossibility to capture methane emissions from hydro-electric reservoirs. One participant pointed out that some people have accepted carbon funding as they think "Why don't we just profit from the money, they are all doing it anyway." The response offered was that the main impediment was moral, although it was also pointed out that good projects have always received a lot of additional aid, and they tend to be publicly governed. The carbon market has never fully paid for a good project.

John Rubaka, a Batwa leader, and Isaac Khamisi, who translated for him, said that climate change and

carbon trade were issues that were very hard to understand for local people, especially when key concepts needed to be translated into local languages, but that it looked as if they were planning "to kill us all". Miguel responded that, sadly enough, this was an adequate description of the situation. He added that the key word to explain was "greed," as this business has been developed by greedy governments and greedy corporations.

Sandy Gauntlett of the Pacific Indigenous Peoples Environment Coalition provided a detailed overview of the work of the Indigenous Forum on Climate Change and presented the position papers the Forum had produced since the first meeting of the Forum, which took place in Lyon, France, in 2000. He highlighted how the Indigenous Forum on Climate Change had continuously rejected carbon trade and carbon sinks. He also presented some other documents, including the presentation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which highlighted the dangers of climate change.

In the discussion, participants pointed out that there was quite a controversy over the first declaration of the Indigenous Forum on Climate Change as some Amazonian groups were negotiating carbon sink contracts during that period, and they thought they would be able to make a lot of money out of it. Because of thism these groups were opposed to the anti-carbon trade stance in the position paper, but finally decided to stay with the primary and moral view of opposing the commercialization of their lands and territories. Sandy responded that these kinds of conflicts occurred in many countries, as many communities thought they could make money out of this market, but the reality of the Clean Development Mechanism is that the money does not go to small communities but to big corporations, while communities will loose access to their lands and territories. Meanwhile Meanwhile, the key demand of Indigenous Peoples, that they should be able to fully participate in climate change discussions, has been squarely ignored over the years, which was illustrated by their inability to even register as Indigenous Peoples for this COP.

Ana Filipini of the World Rainforest Movement highlighted how since 1998, when her organization became involved in the climate negotiations, there has been hardly any progress. This is bad news as the failure to halt climate change has caused a lot of people a lot of harm, but it is also good news, as most of the discussions actually tend to go the wrong way. The World Rainforest Movement has extensively documented the social and environmental problems caused by large-scale monoculture tree plantations, including plantations that were financed through carbon funding. In Ecuador, for example, the Forest Absorbing Carbon Emissions (FACE) foundation financed exotic tree plantations on community lands that displaced other economic activities and degraded the paramo ecosystem. Paramos are very important for their hydrological functions. The plantations themselves are very prone to fire and grow badly, causing serious economic problems in the community itself. Other plantations in Ecuador have also lead to the destruction of ecosystems and the displacement of peasants. Similar tree plantation development models are being pushed in countries like Cambodia, South Africa and Uruguay. As plantations create a limited number of jobs, this development model is also causing unemployment. Yet, plantations are still being promoted on the basis of a number of lies:

1) That plantations are forests, when the communities know that forests are more than just trees.

2) That plantations are well-managed,

3) That plantations create jobs, and

Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change: "Life is Luminous" seminar, Nemunga, Kenya

4) That plantations create water (when the reality is often the opposite, as evidenced by the planting of eucalypts in Africa).

Ana showed a number of pictures showing the poor labor conditions and pollution caused by plantations.

New ideas about commercializing life through buying and selling biodiversity, traditional knowledge and water resources are making things worse. Large companies, often wrongly called NGOs, like

Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy, use these markets to acquire rights to control peoples' territories. They evict people and/or obtain, often fraudulently, signatures of illegitimate community leaders who later sell out the right to use the forest. In many countries people are mobilizing to fight plantations and these environmental services' markets. In Puyo Ecuador a large meeting of Indigenous Peoples nullified a contract that contemplated the sale of environmental services and publicly opposed the presence of the above-mentioned conservation groups and institutions that were promoting the commercialization of life. The conclusion by the Batwa leader was very appropriate: if we do not do something we are going to die. We should make clear that people's rights and sovereignty are not for sale.

The meeting continued with a session that addressed the latest developments on Forests and Carbon Trade.

Diego Cardona of CENSAT Agua Viva started his presentation by thanking the organizers and convening the regards of the U'wa people in Colombia, who had wanted to attend the meeting but were prevented from doing so due to financial limitations. He subsequently presented an in-depth analysis of all the reforestation and afforestation projects that have been submitted by the Colombian Ministry of the Environment to the Clean Development Mechanism. He highlighted a large number of problems with these projects, including the extensive use of non-native species, the extensive use of monocultures, human rights abuses and other negative impacts on Indigenous lands. He emphasized how projects like Cormagdalena and Procuenca presume to benefit communities but in reality they mainly provide benefits for medium and large landholders. Companies like Smurfit, which have been in conflict with Indigenous Peoples for many years, benefit from these projects too. Substantial amounts of public funding are being used to subsidize tree plantation companies, and there is a lack of transparency about where the carbon money is going. It is evident that several projects infringe upon Indigenous land rights.

He showed a number of pictures that compared the current lands, which are often biodiversity-rich grasslands or abandoned agricultural lands, with the monocultures that were being planned or developed. Most communities and Indigenous Peoples oppose these projects as they are against the privatization and commercialization of biodiversity, and oppose the introduction of large-scale monocultures tree plantations. An additional threat is formed by the fact that the new Colombian forest law, which was adopted in 2006, allows tree plantations to be established on Indigenous and afro colombian lands without any environmental controls.

Simone Lovera is the campaigns coordinator of the Global Forest Coalition. She highlighted that 20% of carbon emissions were derived from deforestation, which is why the Climate Convention itself urges countries to conserve forests and other so-called carbon reservoirs. The Kyoto Protocol subsequently allowed Northern countries to claim carbon credits for forest related activities. Only reforestation and afforestation activities can be funded through the Clean Development Mechanism, though, as it is difficult to calculate how much carbon is being stored by forest conservation. Projects funded through the CDM are supposed to compensate for increased emissions in the North, but it is very hard to define what would have happened in the business-as usual situation. In practice, as long as a private consultant has calculated that the projects emits less than "business as usual" one can claim a credit. A problem arises because there is an incentive for consultants to approve a lot of "extra" credits, since they earn a living from this carbon trade: therefore more trade means more business. Other problems include that nobody can guarantee how long a planted tree will survive. Moreover, if consumption patterns are not changed, logging corporations and agro-industrial corporations simply move from a 'protected forest' to another forest, a tendency that is called "leakage".

On top of this are the numerous problems with tree plantations: biodiversity destruction, displacement of Indigenous peoples; rural unemployment, malnutrition; depopulation; destruction of rivers, lakes and watersheds; pollution by agrotoxics and the introduction of genetically modified trees, which create many additional risks. Simone mentioned two examples from Uganda, where Tree Farms, a Norwegian tree planting firm, planned to sell carbon credits for 10 million USD to compensate for emissions from Naturkraft and Industrikraft Midt-Norge, two gas-fired powerplants. The Ugandan government got only 110.000 USD for the lease of the land, which was planted with mainly Eucalyptus and pine. The people that lived on the land are being exploited and/or threatened with eviction. Because of the conflicts and bad publicity Tree Farms did not succeed in selling the credits. Meanwhile, FACE, the same foundation that financed the tree plantation in Ecuador that Ana mentioned, is developing a plantation of 25000 hectares in bordering Mount Egon national park, a park established in 1993 without the legally required consultation with local people. In 2002, 300 families were evicted. These and

subsequent evictions have led to poverty, misery, and farmland shortages outside the park. They also caused serious soil and forest degradation, leading to landslides and depletion of fisheries. People are faced with a lack of fodder, medicinal plants, and fuelwood. In October 2005, a judge ruled that the Indigenous Benet people are "historical and indigenous inhabitants of the said area" and asked for degazettement of Mount Elgon national park, but this has not happened yet.

Simone reported on the latest negotiations regarding forests and climate change. A coalition of countries lead by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica has asked for financial assistance for reducing deforestation, and the big question is whether this money should come from a fund or through carbon trade. There are many complications surrounding these proposals. Meanwhile, forest conservation policies that have proven to be effective, like deforestation bans and recognizing Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights, do not require that much funding. It is often suggested that local communities can benefit from carbon trade, but only large landholders with formal titles will be able to participate. The carbon market will increase land pressure and land prices, making it more difficult for IPs to get their land rights recognized. As most powerful stakeholders, including Northern and Southern governments, conservation organizations, consultancy firms, international financial institutions like the World Bank, UN organizations and Northern consumers, can profit from carbon trade it is extremely difficult to stop it. At least regarding forests there is still a chance for other options, as negotiations will continue throughout next year.

Margaret Lamunyang - Karamojong Indigenous Woman from Uganda follows the proceedings at COP12-CMP2 , Nairobi, Kenya

The third session, focused on Indigenous Peoples and the Commercialization of Life

Hubertus Samangun, from ICTI Indonesia, gave a presentation on Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity. He focused on the Convention on Biodiversity and how it had dealt with the rights of Indigenous Peoples. He highlighted that 50 million of the 300 million Indigenous People live in tropical forests. Indigenous Peoples comprise less than 4% of the population of the world but their territories contain 95% of the cultural diversity, and they constitute 50% of the population in areas of high biodiversity. Indigenous Peoples have nurtured species variation in their territories for thousands of years. Indigenous territories are considered to be **inalienable** – they are owned by a people as a whole and are passed from ancestors to descendants as part of its heritage. No one is entitled to dispose of indigenous territories, which are part of a holistic vision of the universe: political control over resource use; spiritual reverence for the invisible aspects of forest life, and a perception of the forest as landscape fashioned by the history of indigenous activity.

However, the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and forest biodiversity is threatened by encroachment by outsiders who are eager to seek their fortunes and displace prior inhabitants. He subsequently explained the background to the Biodiversity Convention (CBD) and highlighted key decisions from its Conference of the Parties that are relevant to Indigenous Peoples. The problem with the CBD is that it reaffirms a unilateral state sovereignty, thus ignoring the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples. He also highlighted problems with the use of the term "traditional" lifestyles, and tensions between the rights of Indigenous Peoples and protected areas, clauses on genetic resources and traditional knowledge and Indigenous rights, and the Global Environment Facility. He concluded that the CBD increases the power of states to control lands and resources, promotes protected areas, promotes and facilitates agreements between states and bio-prospecting companies to gain access to the genetic resources in indigenous territories, and opens up the possibility for financial mechanisms to carry out a limited number of top-down projects to support bio-diversity.

In the discussion, people highlighted that the struggle at the CBD had been very intense (and still is), but it had been worth it, while the climate regime is still ignoring Indigenous Peoples. Responding to a question, Hubertus highlighted that Indigenous Peoples should not only make deals with national governments, but they should also insist on their right to prior and informed consent when governments want to intervene in their territories.

Many people highlighted problems with biopiracy, such as the flawed access and benefit sharing contracts that the Awa people in Ecuador or the San people in South Africa signed. Both peoples have hardly gained any benefits from these contracts. In his response, Hubertus stated that Indigenous Peoples should convince their leaders that traditional knowledge and genetic resources are collective rights, that cannot be sold on our behalf. Participants also highlighted the need to influence the CBD negotiations on genetically modified trees, and the need to be aware of the influence of World Trade Organization agreements on biodiversity policies.

Kanyinke Sena of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee gave a brief presentation about the deforestation problems in the Mau forest. The Mau forest feeds major lakes, and is very important for Kenyan and international watersheds, including the River Nile and Lake Nakuru, which used to be famous for its flamingoes, but the flamingoes are disappearing as the lake is drying up. He stated that the Kenyan government is killing the goose hut still wants the golden eggs. The main threats to the Mau forest include logging by transnational corporations, tea plantations and agriculture by smallholder groups. The Ogiek people have been struggling to get recognition that the Mau is their ancestral territory. In 1997 it was ruled that they should privatize their communal land, and some of their lands have been sold. Originally the government seemed to recognize their rights but in February 2005 the government suddenly cancelled their land rights and a few months later they evicted the Ogiek people from part of the area and burnt all their houses. Forestry and land tenure laws and policies already compromise Indigenous territorial rights, and carbon trade is likely to increase these problems as it increases pressure on land.

Marcial Arias, of the Fundación para la Promoción de Conocimiento Tradicional, Panama, talked about the commercialization of biodiversity and its impacts on Indigenous Peoples. He showed pictures of Kuna communities and explained how protected areas that were established without consent of Indigenous Peoples infringed on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The territory of the Kuna is semi-autonomous, but other Indigenous Peoples, like the Emberra and the Ngobe Bugle, are still struggling to get all their land rights recognized, especially when they live in protected areas that fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment. He explained how the commercialization of life impacted negatively on Indigenous Peoples as it leads to biopiracy and monocultures. That is why they support the slogan "Life is not for Sale".

In the discussion it was mentioned that Indigenous Peoples have often conserved their areas very well, which makes these areas an attractive target for carbon trade. Environmental elites and conservation organizations try to buy up Indigenous lands in order to sell the environmental services, while Indigenous Peoples themselves do not have enough money to buy their own lands. Meanwhile, Indigenous Peoples are still being discriminated, against as has been proven once again by the fact that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was rejected by Asian and African governments.

Indigenous Perspectives on Carbon Trade and Biodiversity

The meeting continued with discussions in parallel regional working groups to discuss the issues raised, and elaborate strategies and ideas for short-term actions.

Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri presented the report from the mixed Asia-Oceania-North America group. The group opposed carbon trade, because it also triggers monocultures, and suggested that general recommendations should be developed on how to eliminate carbon trade from the climate change regime and how to stop the use of fossil fuel. The parties to the Climate Convention should take climate change seriously and eliminate false solutions like carbon trade.

For example, climate change policies should focus on strategies like promoting public transport and dismantling inner city car parks. The group also recommended capacity building for communities and proposed the submission of a formal complaint to the UN Human Rights Council about the failure of the Climate Change Convention to recognize the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate. As a bonus, the group recommended the elimination of the undue influence of the USA and capitalism the balance this undue American influence by recommending that every person in the world be allowed to vote in US elections.

Teowaldo Hernandez presented the report of the Latin American group. The group pointed out that we cannot expect many people to understand all the impacts of carbon trade projects. Corporations have

taken over Indigenous territories, limiting the autonomous activities of Indigenous Peoples. In many cases forests have been bought up by NGOs and private companies. He pointed out that there is a tendency of conservation NGOs to come to communities and pretend that they will promote development projects, but these projects tend to go hand in hand with biopiracy, and other forms of commercialization of life, like "trainings" of Indigenous Peoples to profit from their timber. Many of these NGOs work closely with corporations. Transnational corporations provide money to NGOs for forest protection and help them to buy up lands in Indigenous territories. The carbon market is not a good business as it causes more climate change, leads to more monocultures and violates the sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples. It causes people in developing countries to pay the price for climate change, when it should be the North, that caused the problem who should pay the price.

The group proposed the following strategies to counteract these tendencies:

- To promote intra-cultural education and capacity-building on the impact of market mechanisms.
- To use information networks like community radios.
- To call for solidarity from organizations that can help document this information.
- Not to sell anything at any price.
- To call for a moratorium on all exploitation of indigenous territories.
- To launch a campaign with the following slogans:

  No to carbon trade

  No to privatization

  No to the sale of life

  No to monoculture plantations

In the discussion participants highlighted that the privatization processes that are happening nowadays are becoming more and more sophisticated. Even if the natural resource itself is not privatized, the administration of it is privatized, or lands are being privatized through co-management arrangements.

Kanyinke Sena presented the report of the African group. Many members of his group were new to the process and they felt they only understood a little of the Clean Development Mechanism. It is supposed to be for the benefit of humanity, but it does not benefit us all, as the experience with carbon sinks projects in Uganda shows. Carbon trading leads to loss of land, loss of resources, disintegration of cultures, long persistent droughts, conflicts over scarce resources and increase of diseases like cancer. The group rejected the idea of carbon dumps, which they see as a continuation of strategies to exploit Africa and its resources. They pointed out that the concept of Indigenous Peoples is not yet accepted in Africa, and their right to self-determination is often denied.

The groups recommended:

- Talking to governments and opinion leaders for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and their inclusion in the climate change processes
- Implementing capacity-building at the grassroots level, and in communities, also using schools as entry points.
- Increasing the use of media, e.g. community radio and the press.
- Promoting resource and territory mapping as "*We need to put ourselves on the map.*"
- Building the capacity of Indigenous leaders.
- Mobilizing resources and struggle for respect for Indigenous intellectual rights.

During the discussion, participants exchanged ideas and experiences about community radio and other posible ways to use the media and reach out to communities, including, for example, women who do not own radios but can use recorded programs to play back during meetings. Participants also discussed the positive and negative side effects of community mapping. Mapping can be a beneficial process for communities to increase self awareness and control over their territories, and it has played a useful role in campaigns like the struggle to preserve the Mau forest. But maps can also provide access to sacred information to transnational corporations, who can then use it as a tool to facilitate the exploitation of environmental services in Indigenous areas.

Ana Filipini gave a brief explanation about the Mumbai forest initiative, which is a set of principles about forests and rights that have been adopted by a large number of social movements. The Mumbai initiative specifically supports indigenous rights over their forests.

The meeting ended with an evaluation by the participants and a lot of expressions of gratitude, especially to the staff of the Indigenous Information Network, who organized the meeting, the interpreters, the Global Forest Coalition and all the donors.

After the workshop all participants traveled back to Nairobi to continue with the Conference on Climate change where they attended sessions in the plenary and working groups which had been set. Before the closure of the meeting on 17th Indigenous peoples made the statement which follows before finally departing to their respective countries..

Statement of the

International Indigenous Forum on Climate change at the High level Segment of the 12th Conference of parties to the Convention framework on Climate Change.

November 17, 2006

On behalf of the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples on Climate Change (IIFCC), which is made up of indigenous peoples' organizations from different regions of the globe, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that more than 80% of the world's biodiversity and most of the forests are found within our territories.

As holders of traditional knowledge, we have carefully used and managed our natural resources through our wisdom for millennia. Our ecosystems have been drastically changed due to the impact of climate change, as is clearly evident in many parts of the world. We, the Indigenous Peoples, live in the areas most vulnerable to climate change, which threatens our very survival.

Indigenous knowledge systems have the capacity to use local phenomena to predict and identify changes in the environment. For the future of the planet we all share, we request that our experts be included in the assessments of climate change in much the same manner as was done with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that has already fed into this Convention.

Inuit John Kalvak & Peter Mamak - British Upside Down procedure

For this reason, we demand full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all levels of planning, decision making and implementation of the programs of work of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, including the SBI program and the five year program of work of SBSTA, and that the human rights-based approach be used in this work.

We, Indigenous Peoples, have addressed our concerns to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties since SBSTA 13 in Lyon, France, 2000. However, despite years of experience and efforts to participate in this process, we are profoundly disappointed that, even as the United Nations' Second International Decade of Indigenous Peoples begins, states are still not seriously taking into consideration our demands and contributions.

To remedy this situation, Indigenous Peoples propose the immediate creation of an UNFCCC Expert Group on

Anne Lewis of IIFC read the statement

Indigenous Peoples, Vulnerability and Adaptation that will include both Indigenous Peoples' experts and non-indigenous experts. This Expert Group will make constructive contributions to mitigate the impacts of climate change as well as allow us to contribute to the work of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. For example, we are eager to contribute to the preparation of national communications and capacity building activities under the Convention and Protocol. We would welcome your support of this Expert Group.

To conclude, Mr. President and member-states of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, we thank you for your consideration of our demands and recommendations.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement by African Non- Governmental at the 12th Conference of Parties to the United Nation Framework on Climate Change In November 2006

By: Grace Akumu -Climate Network Africa

On behalf of African NGOs, may I take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to make a statement on this historic Conference in Sub-Sahara Africa. We also wish to express our satisfaction in the manner in which you and the UNFCCC secretariat have steered the Conference.

Mr. Chairman, having keenly followed the deliberations during the two weeks, time has now come that we have to take stock of what has transpired. Coming from a continent that is most threatened by the impacts of climate change, it is our honest observation that COP12 was not meant to achieve any meaningful and tangible decisions that would reassure Africa. Mr. Chairman, we have started witnessing extreme weather events that we were not used to before. If it is droughts and floods, we are experiencing them already and with the attendant consequences. The snow on Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro is melting so fast that in the next few years, we shall have no more. Rivers are drying up and our very livelihoods completely threatened. Community conflicts over natural resources are increasing. Soon, we shall be witnessing cross border conflicts which may degenerate into hot wars.

As civil society, we wish to ask whether justice has been thrown out through the window. Despite suffering for actions not of our own, those responsible for causing the problems of climate change appear to always come to negotiations driven first and foremost by economic interests, then political hegemony and lastly environmental concerns. Yet the time to act is now, for if we do not, we shall soon reach the threshold of 2 degrees Centigrade, a point of no return.

Mr. Chairman, African NGOs have noted with serious concern the following:

1. That no tangible and meaningful decision was arrived concerning equitable distribution of CDM projects. Although we are being told that we should keep in mind that CDM is market driven, we also wish to remind all that markets have not worked for Africa and they are not just about to. We wish to state that markets are creations by human beings and experience has proven that they also fail. Therefore, should the avenue of free market be pursued, it will be a sure way to fail CDM in Africa.
2. That the politics blocked the institutionalization and operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund. As civil society from the most vulnerable continent, we would have wished to see the conclusion of this important agenda item here at Nairobi. In this regard, we would have also wished that those multilateral institutions already housing and successfully managing multilateral environmental funds, such as the Multilateral Fund for the Ozone, be considered.

Grace Akumu -Climate Africa Network

3. That the major emitters of greenhouse gases blocked negotiations at Nairobi for a review under Art 9 of the Kyoto Protocol by trying to demand commitments from some developing countries. African civil society is of the opinion that these are diversionary strategies as Annex 1 countries have yet to meet their reduction targets of just 5 per cent. If Annex 1 countries do not take the lead in combating climate change, then who will?
4. Mr. Chairman, in view of the vulnerability of the African continent and her near negligible contribution of global greenhouse gas emissions, African civil society would wish to urge all delegates to consider a Special Adaptation Fund for Africa in order to compensate the continent on the damages it is suffering from the impacts of climate change.
5. Post-Kyoto Regime: Mr. Chairman, We again note that the legal lifespan of Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012. African civil society would not want to see another regime that is lopsided in favour of some regions of the world at the expense of others. With this, the buck lies at the doorstep of the African delegates. Again they should not allow themselves to be arm-twisted this time. African civil society would wish to call for an equitable Post-Kyoto regime that engenders equity in its broader sense based on per capita emissions allocations in order to provide incentives for implementation. In this regard, African civil society also wish to call up the G77 delegates to ensure that the regime agreed upon in future is not discriminatory and oppressive.
6. Prioritisation of climate change: Mr. Chairman, we urge all delegates to commit themselves to accord climate change issues a higher priority status at national and international levels. In Africa, we wish to call upon our governments to accord climate change the same level of priority as HIV/AIDS.

Drought
in Central and Horn of Africa Regions

The magnitude of the food insecurity situation in the Central and Horn of Africa regions remains a compelling humanitarian crisis. Although there are considerable variations in severity and impact of the drought conditions across countries in the regions, regional statistics and trends point to an increasingly repetitive acute food insecurity situation.

The causes of food insecurity in the two regions are multiple, complex and often regional in nature. The Horn of Africa Region is predominantly made up of an arid- and semi-arid landscape with a vast population comprised of pastoralists. Effects of the drought conditions are mostly evident in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of many countries, with pastoralists and their livestock-upon which their livelihoods depend-the most vulnerable populations.

Numerous pre-famine indicators have been reported, and vary in different countries. These include widespread livestock deaths, culling of young animals to protect breeding animals, distress migrations, increased animal and human disease and high acute malnutrition. Crop production has been insufficient in some countries such as Somalia where production for 2005 was reported to be 50% of the post war average and the lowest cereal production in over ten years. Reports indicate that conditions are predicted to worsen as the peak hunger season gets underway.

Estimated caseload by country

The current drought is particularly manifest in the hardest hit countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, where nearly 7 million people are estimated to be in need of immediate assistance. Food and livelihood insecurity intensified by the current drought is affecting an approximately 1.7 million people in north, central and southern regions of **Somalia**. A similar situation is found in the pastoral areas of northeastern and eastern **Kenya** where an estimated 3.5 million people are affected and in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. This figure includes both the drought-affected and total food insecure populations. Of the 2.6 million people requiring emergency food assistance in **Ethiopia**, 1.7 million (69%) are in the critically affected pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Somali and Oromiya regions. The total figure of food insecure populations in the country is placed at 9.8 million, including a 7.2 million figure of those under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). In **Djibouti**, an estimated 150,000 persons are categorized as populations at risk of food insecurity while 88,000 are affected by the current drought conditions in all the 6 rural districts, including the peripheral areas of Djibouti capital city. While there is currently no comprehensive information on the food security situation in **Eritrea**, country reports indicate that there are up to 2 million food insecure persons while 500,000 of these are drought-affected. The failure of the short *Belg* rains in the country's pastoral regions is imposing a severe livelihood crisis on the population. WFP field monitors have also

Water is Life and a right for all to have, but most Nomadic-pastoralists in Africa it is a struggle to have it as you can see with young lady watering their livestock

indicated that the below average rains in coastal areas of the country have led to the wilting of winter crops. In **Rwanda**, over 1 million people- accounting for about 12% of the population- are food insecure while in **Burundi** the food security situation has steadily deteriorated in recent months, primarily due to poor weather conditions and exacerbated by crop disease and poverty, and an estimated 2.2 million people are in need of food assistance. In **Tanzania** 3.7 million people in 77 districts are facing food shortages and require food assistance up until the next harvest. Approximately 564,726 of this number have been classified as destitute and in need of emergency food aid. In **Uganda**, an estimated 1.45 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the northern part of the country and approximately 500,000 drought-affected populations in the Karamoja region in northeastern Uganda continue to rely on food assistance.

Drought conditions in the region are occurring at a rapid rate and with the frequency reduced from 5 years to between 1 and 2 years. A number of factors have converged to create this situation. These include global warming conditions that have influenced the change in climatic patterns, resulting in consecutive years of poor and erratic rainfall. Other factors include underlying structural contributors such as inadequate

The camel in Africa has been one of the drought resistant animal it is now visible in most Nomadic pastoral areas areas been one of

or absence of disaster management policies as well as environment management. The political dynamics in the region such as in the case between Ethiopia and Eritrea, inter-clan conflict in Somalia and continued rebel activity in some African countries have also directly or indirectly impacted on food security. Areas affected by conflict often mean that farmers cannot access their land and/or markets and the cyclical relationship between conflict and resource scarcity means that the risk of food insecurity and the risk of conflict are often interlinked. Inter-communal clashes as a result of heightened competition over scarce pasture and water resources between communities have become increasingly frequent in some areas. Other natural disasters such as pest infestations and periodic flooding have also destroyed crops and infrastructure. All these factors are symptomatic of a chronic condition that requires a multi-pronged approach on emergency response interventions, structural reforms, peace-building initiatives and other long-term development interventions.

Cross-Border Implications

Population Movements - Depleted pasture and water for livestock push pastoralists across borders into neighbouring countries. In Djibouti, the economy of the northwestern pastoral zone is mostly oriented towards north eastern Ethiopia and therefore cross border trade and movement is interlinked with that of north eastern Ethiopia. Cross border trade and population movement intensifies during the dry spells where livestock cross borders in search of pasture and water.

In northern and eastern Kenya, cross-border pastoral movements are an intrinsic coping strategy against drought and resource scarcity. Abnormal movements of livestock across the borders into Somalia and Ethiopia have been noted during the past few months. Most of the livestock are severely weakened by the long trekking distances (more than 40 Kms in some cases) and anecdotal evidence from Ethiopia shows that these migratory herds are the ones experiencing the greatest losses. Cross border migration of livestock also removes a valuable source of milk and meat from families who remain behind, driving them to settle closer to urban areas where relief aid is more readily available. Population movements have also been reported from Burundi into northwestern Tanzania as the result of food insecurity in Burundi.

Conflict - The impact of the current drought on Somali and Oromiya regions' pastoralists in Ethiopia has been further exacerbated by the influx of large numbers of livestock from drought stricken areas of northeastern Kenya and southwestern Somalia. Likewise population and livestock movements have been reported into Kenya and Somalia. Such movements contribute to growing tensions and have

triggered resource based conflicts among communities competing for browse and access to water. Cross border cattle raids have also increased in intensity with the predictable impact on lives and livelihoods. One raid in remote northern Kenya left 38 pastoralists dead and thousands of heads of livestock were moved across the border into Ethiopia.

Major constraints to Response

Increased competition for resources in countries in the regions that are plagued by the prevailing drought has curtailed the effective delivery of a full basket ration to populations in need of food and non-food assistance. WFP has over time fallen short in its ability to fully cover food deficits in countries in need. This is mainly attributed to poor funding for their operational costs and sourcing for food aid which contributes to a recurring problem with its food pipeline. In Burundi, as in the case of its operations in many other countries, WFPs annual programmic barely covers a third of the entire food deficit. The gap between needs and available resources has been prevalent for a long period now and is set to worsen due to the likelihood of the scaling down of humanitarian actors. In addition to the need to address the necessity for consistent funding for humanitarian operations elsewhere and in Burundi, the country also needs to adopt the "relief-to-development" continuum approach particularly due to the most likely scaling down of humanitarian presence in post-transitional Burundi. A framework should be adopted to consider where short term emergency responses and long-term development assistance would be integrated and undertaken simultaneously to avoid neglect of humanitarian issues of concern.

A number of donors as well as other entities have lamented over the **lack of a centralized information portal** at the regional level but also in some of the drought affected countries such as Kenya and Djibouti. The unavailability of consistent and coherent information on the needs and responses in the emergency impacts on funding decisions. The end result is unbalanced and/or inappropriate interventions that are not necessarily needs-based.

The impact of the drought is felt most acutely by the poorest and most vulnerable populations who are often in marginalized regions of the country where **poor infrastructure and lack of services** impede effective response. The vast regions of northeastern Kenya, arguably at the epicenter of the current Horn of Africa drought, have poor road networks which, coupled with the distances that need to be covered, serve to drastically increase the costs of the aid operation. Furthermore, low population densities spread out over a large geographical region also add to costs and constrain effective aid delivery. In other areas where the community based targeted distribution system is poorly implemented, confusion has resulted in diversion of needed relief items. Health systems are often poorly resourced in the worst affected areas, with limited trained staff and few medical supplies. Livestock interventions, crucial to shoring up livelihoods during a drought, are also quite costly and slow to implement, giving limited impact at this most acute stage of the drought.

Because of the frugile soil when it rains erosion caused mor loss to the land exposing dugie for both livestock and human

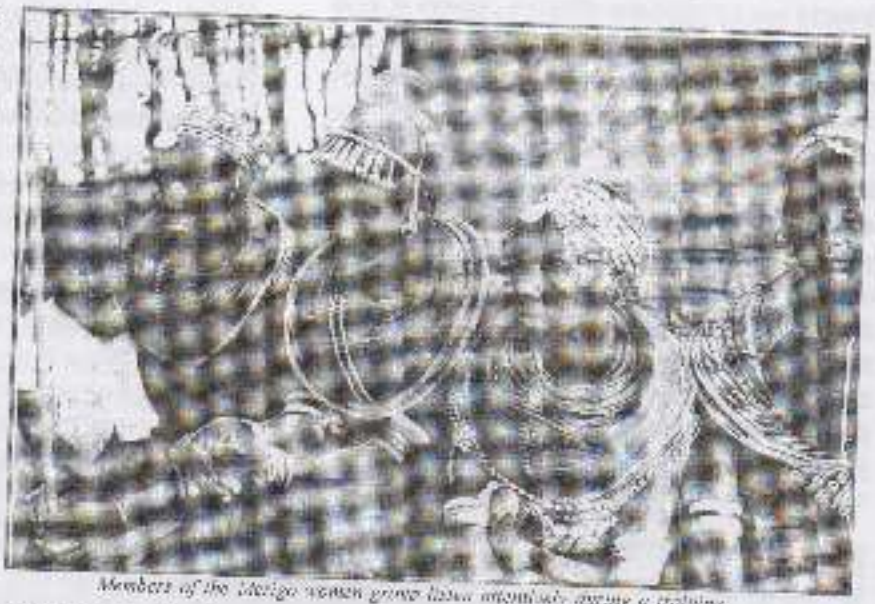
The www.droughtnet.org is a web based network that tries to address the question of how to improve drought in Africa and its relationship to broader development issues. It promotes discussion and debate on inter related issues; provides a platform for the development and dissemination of good practices and innovation; serves as an entry point for accessing existing networks and links; and will act as a vehicle for the elaboration of critical strategy and policy decision support.

Merigo women

from a successful case study on protecting Traditional knowledge

by Kaline Needham-INMoGil University

Merigo women's Group is an Indigenous-run community self-help group based in Logologo, Kenya. The group was formed in 2002 with the aim of promoting Rendille culture and environmental conservation, while simultaneously empowering women through education and leadership experience. The group has twenty-two members, all of whom are women.



Members of the Merigo women group listen attentively during a training

Shortly after the group formed, the women were able to acquire a piece of land, where they have constructed a traditional Rendille hut, several huts for overnight guests, an adult education class for the group members and the community in general, and a small cultural Rendille museum which has collected all traditional and cultural items of the Rendille. Situated in logologo of Marsabit district, the land is arid and hardly gets rainfall but the women have planted indigenous and some exotic trees like the neem tree, which is the only other exotic that can survive there on the property, around the fence that the group erected to protect destruction by livestock. A water tank has been installed to provide water for the trees and for group members and visitors.

The group is involved in several initiatives which will benefit the community. The first is their conservation efforts. By keeping a nursery and teaching others about conservation, the group is helping to improve the environment for the entire community.

Another initiative is the adult education program. Through this program, community members can gain literacy, math and language skills with the guidance of educated Merigo group members. The school is open to all community members, though it is mostly women who participate. The women participating in this program are empowered by the knowledge that they gain. The adult education program allows women to increase their self-esteem, expand their worldview and become more active as community leaders.

To raise money to fund these projects and to raise awareness about Rendille culture, Merigo Women's Group is becoming involved in the tourism industry. People who visit the group can tour the cultural museum, see the traditional hut and learn about the cultures and traditions of the Rendille and group's activities. Overnight guests can stay in the huts, which were built specifically to house tourists, NGO workers and conference participants. Two of the lodgings sleep ten people, and one sleeps five people. The huts are simple but comfortable, with colourful cloths lining the interior. This means that the walls are thin enough to allow cool air to pass through, providing a welcome respite from the daytime heat. The women provide meals as well as tea and bottled water for their guests. A toilet and bathing area have also been built on-site for visitors' convenience.

Merigo Women's Group has made remarkable achievements with the resources that are available to them. All of the group's accomplishments have

stemmed from their own initiative, and the group members themselves have done the bulk of the work. This is an extremely motivated group. Several women occupy positions of leadership; the group is therefore not dependent on one person, and the leaders do not appear to be in competition with one another. All group members have input into major decisions, and the group functions in a co-operative fashion.

The group's goal for the near future is to build a small library and documentation centre, as well as a curio shop. In order to raise funds for this project, the women plan to invest in camels. They are hoping to start off by buying two camels and then later add as they progress and as they gain resources. Camels are well-adapted to the Arid Northern environment, and are much hardier than cattle or other livestock. The group plans to breed the camels to sell. They will also sell the camel milk, which is a staple source of nutrition in the area.

The strength of Merigo Women's Group lies in a strong vision, self-motivation and a co-operative group structure. The primary challenge facing the group is competition from other women's groups who hope to carry on the same activities, but they accept that competition is healthy for a progressing institution. The remote location, and a lack of information from the outside, causes lack of awareness of the group. This also means that not many tourists pass by. Most visitors to Logologo come with non-governmental organizations and humanitarian groups. Marsabit District is located in the Northern region of Kenya, which is some times faces insecurity and is then and not easily accessible. It is not frequented by tour companies, nor is it a common tourist destination. For this reason, it is vital for the group to find ways of gaining exposure. At the moment, the guest facilities that the group has built are underused. Since tourism was one of the main avenues that the group hoped to take for fundraising, advertisement would help ensure that this work pays off. The group has been lucky thanks to Indegenous Information Network and other partners, they have been able to attend meetings and trainings on woman, environment and human rights, making change in their lifes.

Accessibility is another major challenge for Merigo Women's Group. Poor roads and inadequate public transportation to the area make it even more difficult to bring tourism to the area. For this reason, the group might consider focusing on 'adventure tourism', or people who come to the North for seminars and conferences.

At the moment Merigo is proud that it has a traditional museum and is able to show the important of safeguarding their culture. The Rendille women are so motivated that despite the hard terrain and the drought which seems so constraints these days, the group continues to develop and in their small conservation are they have managed to harvest green vegetables. The challenge now is how to keep it up. Maybe skill from experts on dry land farming could be the best solution for them as an alternative livelihood.

Alice Lesopen of Merigo Women group inside the groups museum

for more information, merigowg@gmail.com

ENERGY: FOSSIL FUELS

And Impacts on Indigenous Peoples

STATEMENT OF FACT ON ENERGY POLICY AND ITS IMPACT ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF NORTH AMERICA

Indigenous peoples in the United States, Canada and the Americas have experienced systematic and repeated violations by oil, gas, and mining industries infringing on our inherent right to protect our traditional lands and our treaty rights. These industries violate our human rights and create unconscionable destruction to traditional territories that have sustained us for time immemorial.

Indigenous Peoples in Canada, and throughout the Americas **hold valuable land and water resources that have long been exploited by the provincial, state and federal governments and by corporations trying to meet the energy needs of an industrialized world. Indigenous peoples** have disproportionately suffered adverse effects due to the production and use of energy resources - coal mining, uranium mining, oil and gas extraction, coal bed methane, nuclear power and hydropower development – yet are among those who benefit least from these energy developments. Indigenous peoples face inequity over the control of, and access to, sustainable energy and energy services. Territories where Indigenous peoples live are resource rich and serve as the base from which governments and corporations extract wealth yet are areas where the most severe form of poverty exists.

FACTS ON THE IMPACTS OF FOSSIL FUELS

Fossil fuels supply over 80% of the world's energy needs. All fossil fuels, whether solid, liquid, or gas, are the result of organic plant materials being covered by successive layers of sediment over the course of millions of years.

Human consumption of oil, gas, coal bed methane and coal (fossil fuels) increases the production of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO_2) that is a major cause of climate change, global warming and changes in weather patterns.

Oil drilling and related activities fragment the landscape, leading to increased symptoms of neo-colonization, development, and deforestation. It also pollutes the land and water causing irreparable damage to fragile ecosystems.

The mining and drilling of coal, oil, gas, and other minerals result in substantial local environmental consequences. This includes severe degradation of air, forests, watersheds, rivers, oceans, fisheries, agricultural lands and biodiversity. Cultural impacts of fossil fuel development include the loss of access to traditional foods, the forced removal of people, land appropriation, the destruction of sacred and historical significant areas, the breakdown of Indigenous social systems, and violence against women and children. Fossil fuel development in these areas results in the accelerated loss of biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and ultimately in ethnocide and genocide.

Coal burned to generate electricity produces toxic material and acid rain that severely pollutes the air, soil and water. It also releases mercury into our lakes where it contaminates our fish, traditional crops, wild rice, other aquatic life and traditional

food systems. The burning of fossil fuels for energy is a major source of air pollution, contributing in particular to acid rain and the greenhouse effect contributing to climate change and extreme weather events.

Coal is the single largest source of electricity in the United States. Coal-fired power plants provide fifty-three percent of the electricity used in the United States. The United States contains some of the largest coal deposits in the world. Coal is the United States most abundant fossil fuel. Coal deposits are found in 38 of the 50 as well as on several Indigenous territories, for example, the *Navajo (Dine')* and *Crow* territories.

Coal mining on Indigenous lands in the United States leads to environmental and human rights violations. Coal mining in the *Hopi* and the *Navajo* territories has forced *Navajo* and some *Hopi* Indigenous peoples to be relocated, to leave homelands that have sustained them for generations. Coal mining operations cause the displacement of communities, destruction of natural habitat, disruption of sacred sites, water depletion from surface, subsurface and aquifers, as well as the diversion of water away from our communities. Several Indigenous Peoples are also being approached to develop projects for the production of coal bed methane gas, which is associated with additional, long-term groundwater depletion and contamination problems.

Oil companies continue to seek development within Indigenous peoples' territories and within biological regions that sustain Indigenous peoples. In the United States arctic region, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, home to the *Gwich'in* peoples and the porcupine caribou herd, is threatened with oil development. Oil drilling and development of a petroleum industrial infrastructure within the pristine and fragile arctic ecosystem would devastate the calving grounds of the caribou and the lives of the *Gwich'in*. *Gwich'in* peoples' relationship with the caribou is beyond food subsistence. The relationship is both cultural and spiritual as well.

UNITED STATES

The United States is home to 4% of the world's population, yet consumes 26% of the world's energy. The United States is currently the largest energy market in the world and is right behind Canada when it comes to per capita consumption. The United States uses about 17 million barrels of oil every day, fossil fuels account for

nearly 80% of United States energy, with natural gas, a third form of fossil fuel, accounting for roughly 23% of the United States energy usage. It takes the equivalent of 7 gallons of gasoline per day for every man woman and child to keep this country running at its current pace.

The United States consumes one quarter of the world's total oil production, but controls a mere 3 percent of known oil reserves. Oil comprises about 40 percent of the energy Americans consume and 97 percent of U.S. transportation fuels.

The United States Energy Plan proposes 1,300-1,900 new power plants, 38,000 miles of new gas pipelines, consider new nuclear-power plants, build new refineries and open new areas to oil exploration. Almost all of these power plants generate electricity by using fossil or nuclear fuels to heat water to produce the steam that spins the generators. While the exploration for new sources of fossil fuel, particularly natural gas, is currently underway, the availability of both water and water rights may actually be the key and limiting factor in the operation of new energy generation plants.

CANADA

Canadians consume more energy per capita than any other country. Canadians use more total energy than the 700 million people of Africa. Canadians are the third-largest per capita producers of greenhouse gases in the world. Each year the Alberta (Canada) Energy and Utilities Board processes more than 20,000 applications for new wells, pipelines and gas plants.

Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are increasing. Energy consumption grew about 13 per cent between 1990 and 1998, while emissions rose at a rate of 1.5 per cent annually, 17 per cent since 1990.

Canada's energy plan proposes to expand oil and gas production, particularly in the Alberta oil sands. The primary source of climate changing emissions is the burning of fossil fuels- oil, gas, and coal. Canada's emissions have risen 15 percent due to increased oil and gas production and increased coal-fired electricity production. The Alberta Tar Sands refinery (which produces 150,000 barrels of oil a day) releases the same amount of CO_2 per year as 1.35 million new cars.

Alberta Canada currently supplies more than 12 percent of American natural gas use. New pipelines designed to carry Canadian power south to United States markets are in all stages of development across the western boreal region - from Alaska, the Yukon and Northwest Territories to British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Very few, if any, of these projects will be assessed for their social and cultural costs or their cumulative environmental and health impacts, which would cause critical fragmentation of the boreal forest, disruption to Indigenous cultural life-ways and the production of greenhouse gases.

The social, ecological and cultural risks involved in a Canadian-United States northern oil and gas pipeline are huge. Alaska's North Slope holds an estimated 35 trillion cubic feet of known reserves. The Mackenzie Delta holds about nine trillion cubic feet. The exploration potential is even larger, with an estimated 65 trillion cubic feet waiting to be discovered in Alaska and a similar volume in the Northwest Territories of Canada. *Athabascan* tribal members are concerned about mega-pipeline developments linking Arctic gas along the Mackenzie Valley from the Beaufort Sea to Alberta, Canada. This development is planned by some of the largest energy companies in the world.

The *Lubicon Lake Cree* are an Indigenous peoples living deep in the boreal forest zone of Canada's Alberta province that have been living for decades with the impacts of oil and gas drilling on their traditional lands. Like other Indigenous peoples across the Americas, the *Lubicon Cree* have been battling for years to receive recognition of their land rights and compensation for stolen wealth and environmental damage. They have struggled to halt and reduce the rapid pace of exploration and excessive destruction by roads and pipelines. The traditional homelands of the *Lubicon Cree*, near Peace River, Canada are now surrounded by 1,000 oil and gas wells.

Historically, energy development activities in Indigenous communities have been based upon western values of monetary profit to raise gross domestic product at the expense of the rights of Indigenous peoples and the recognition of our basic human rights. Indigenous values teach us that money cannot fully compensate for cultural losses, losses of traditional lands, debilitating illnesses, death, impure water, threats to long-term food security, or diminished economic autonomy.

FOSSIL CONNECTION TO CLIMATE JUSTICE its Impact on Indigenous Peoples

The burning of oil, gas, and coal, known collectively as fossil fuels is the primary source of human-induced climate change. By burning these fuels, humans are releasing carbon that has been sequestered in the ground for hundreds of million of years and are emitting carbon dioxide into the planet's thin and chemically volatile atmosphere at an unprecedented rate.

For over 150 years, industrial societies have been releasing carbon from underground coal and oil reserves, adding about 175 billion tons of CO_2 to the atmosphere since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Another 6 billion tons are being added each year, resulting in a 31% increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere since 1750.

Within the next 20 years, temperatures over land areas of North America, Europe and Northern Asia will increase as much as 5 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit over today's normal temperatures, well in excess of the global average (IPCC Report 1998).

Climate change, if not halted, will result in increased frequency and severity of storms, floods, drought and water shortage, the spread of disease, increased hunger, displacement and mass migration of people and ensuing social conflict.

The grave damages caused by a changing climate the pollution and the loss of our Indigenous territories, deterioration and destruction of our forests, our food security and our rich and diverse ecosystems. Climate change crisis is very evident in arctic regions where ice is thinning, thus affecting the land-based subsistence cultures of the Indigenous peoples. The climate change crisis is also most evident in low-lying coastal regions and in small Pacific Islands that are being flooded. The United States energy plan not only promotes the increased burning of CO_2-producing fuels, it also plans to open pristine forests for drilling stations, pipelines, transmission lines and roads - a process that would increase global warming by releasing the carbon currently locked securely in the living trees and soil. The increasing demand and use of fossil fuels continues to impact vital areas through deforestation and pollution from drilling operations and ultimately forest degradation from the global climate imbalance.

What We Need to Do

The people of the Earth are too reliant on fossil fuels, natural gas, coal, coal bed methane and oil. In order to halt the damages resulting from their use, we must find more ecologically sound and sustainable sources that do not threaten the Indigenous way of life or the entire Circle of Life. Sustainable energy can be defined as energy with minimal impact on the healthy functioning of the local and global ecosystem. Sustainable energy is energy with very few negative social, cultural, health and environmental impacts, and which can be supplied continuously to future generations on earth.

- We must respect our traditions and responsibility to protect the sacredness of our Mother Earth.
- We must get involved in federal energy legislation and oppose any legislation that supports the continued dependence on fossil fuels to supply the countrys energy needs.
- Governments, utility and environmental regulators, energy producers, and energy resource tribes must shift energy supply away from fossil fuels, mega-hydro dams and nuclear power and toward clean renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and fuel cells. This must be done in ways that create living-wage jobs and build community wealth.
- Tell your Tribal government/ First Nations to carefully consider the environmental and cultural consequences when looking at, or continuing any fossil fuel energy development (oil, gas, coal mining, coal-fired power plants, coal bed methane) on, or near Indigenous lands. We also know that local fossil fuel energy activities impact far and wide, even in other countries.
- Industrial countries of United States and Canada must immediately start phasing out its national dependence on a fossil fuel economy, support policies to immediately reduce carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions and seek legislative action for a just transition of workers, Tribes/ First Nations, and communities that are impacted from a phase-out and reduction of CO_2 emissions.
- Support tree cover and improved management of forests, energy efficiency and conservation initiatives, and increased fuel economy standards. Innovative, affordable and prudent solutions are available to help reduce the seventy of climate change.
- Support and invest in our Tribes/ First Nations to pursue clean renewable energy projects where the abundant wind and solar resources can meet the growing demand for clean, renewable energy.
- Governments, industry and multi-lateral institutions should adopt and abide by a precautionary principle in all energy development decisions and policies, recognizing that each decision will have impacts on the future generations of all Peoples.
- We must tell the fossil fuel and coal mining industries to take corporate responsibility for their polluting ways.
- Governments must impose a legally binding obligation to restore all areas already affected by oil, gas, dams, coal exploration and exploitation by the corporations or public entities that are responsible. This restoration must be done such that Indigenous peoples can continue traditional uses of their lands.
- Governments must integrate external costs, such as human illness, environmental illness, cultural and spiritual degradation, and long-term cumulative effects into energy policy and pricing decisions and regulations. The governments must compile and compare the true costs of national energy policy and data for energy policy and planning purposes.
- Governments and utility regulators must adopt electricity-restructuring policies that offer affordable and stable electricity rates to Indigenous and local communities and eliminate subsidies to nuclear energy and fossil fuels, and expand cleaner energy solutions.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

For more information on additional informational materials, statements and links to other Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups working on this issue, contact:

INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
PO Box 485 – Bemidji, MN 56619
Phi (218) 751-4967 Faxi (218) 751-0561 Email: ien@igc.org Web: www.ienearth.org

The **Medicine Man**

by Kaitlin Dearborn IIN/McGill University

Joel Kamal sprints ahead of me through the forest, surprisingly sprightly for a man in his fifties. He ducks under tree branches and leaps over streams while I struggle to keep up. Every once in a while, a particular plant will catch his eye, and my guide will stop to explain its medicinal uses in great detail. Joel is an herbalist who serves the community of Chepararia in West Pokot, and he has generously offered to show me his property and all of the amazing plants that he grows there.

Joel learned about medicine from his father, who was also an herbalist. His botanical knowledge is extensive — he shows me plants that can be used to treat everything from asthma to aching joints. He explains procedures for preparing plants to encourage fertility, or to stop a child from crying. Joel owns forty acres of land which climb up a mountainside, and every inch of this land is filled with life. The herbalist's property is lush and green, benefitting from the rainy climate of the region. He treats his entire property as a nursery, with both indigenous and exotic species spread throughout. The plants are placed in different areas of the nursery to determine which conditions are most conducive to healthy growth. Only Joel knows the location and uses of each plant on this property, though one of his sons is training with him, perhaps to become an herbalist after his father and grandfather.

When residents of Chepararia are ill or injured, many turn to Joel for assistance. His traditional treatments are an alternative to those who cannot afford or who have no access to clinics and hospitals. Others simply prefer the local methods of healing to Western-style medicine. The herbalist does not sell his medicines or charge for treatment. He simply treats people who come to him for help. Usually those who has treated will return with a small gift of thanks. Not only is Joel providing great benefit to community members by practicing his trade; his work is also beneficial to the environment. By planting trees all over his property and ensuring that the forest remains healthy, Joel is doing his part to help curb climate change. Maintaining the forest helps keep Chepararia's air clean and prevents environmental degradation and erosion. Keeping our forests healthy is one of the most important ways we can help the environment.

By using his knowledge of medicinal plants and passing this knowledge on to his son, Joel is preserving the healing traditions of the Pokot. He is vigilant to ensure that this knowledge will remain in the hands of his people, and will not be unjustly exploited by outsiders. Joel is well aware of the fact that multinational drug companies are becoming more and more interested in indigenous plant-based medicines. He has already had encounters with representatives from drug companies who have tried to pressure him into giving them all the information about his practices. At first, Joel naively gave them samples of plants, which they took away for study. When they returned to ask him about the name, uses, preparation and location of the plants, he refused. While Pokot medicinal knowledge is not secret, Joel believes that it should be used to help people, not to make money. Through intellectual property law, drug companies could patent the use of these plant-based medicines, forcing people to pay for the use of medicines that their community has been using for centuries. This would effectively prevent people from using these forms of treatment, since most do not have the means to pay for health care.

Joel the Medicine man in his well kept & managed tree farm in Kapenguria West Pokot Kenya

Joel's work as a herbalist provides enormous benefit to his community and the environment, and helps maintain important cultural traditions. His story is a wonderful example of the strengths and self-reliance that can exist within an Indigenous community. It seems ironic that Western medicine, which once dismissed this kind of healing as nonsense and superstition, is now looking to traditional healers to provide them with a new methods of healing. Many drug companies are guilty of co-opting Indigenous knowledge, marketing it as 'exotic', and making a profit while denying the original holders of knowledge any access to their own practices. It is no wonder, then, that Joel declined to share his traditions with visiting pharmaceutical representatives. Joel's use of medicinal knowledge, which he uses to help his community, shows how Indigenous knowledge can be extremely positive and powerful, if left in the right hands. With the support of his family, community and Sorta Sopan Indegenous Pokot group which is a key member Joel continues to give guidance and teaching to them all on how to plant trees in their farms.

Let's plant **Seeds of Peace and Hope,** not seeds of conflict!

Kenyan winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, and also Deputy Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources and Member of Parliament, Wangari Maathai, launched in 1977 the Green Belt Movement, which spread from Kenya across Africa.

The movement has an environmental conservation programme focused on promoting the planting of indigenous trees in forest catchment areas and riparian reserves, private farms with high community access, and public spaces to preserve local biological diversity. For the purpose of conservation, medicine and herbs, shade, biodiversity increase and protection of cultural sites, indigenous trees are provided as the best suited species. Exotic fast growing species are provided to supply for household needs and fodder. However, Maathai warns that the introduction of some exotic plant species can have a severe effect on the balance of the ecosystem.

Though promoting tree planting, Wangari Maathai stands far apart from the large-scale tree monoculture model. She has cautioned against giving priority to exotic plants, which she says are becoming a threat to Africa's flora and fauna. "Thinking money all the time is also contributing to the governments' sacrificing our rich biodiversity", said Maathai in an interview (The East African Magazine, November 13-19, 2006). She warned against the present trend that gives "a lot of emphasis now to trees such as the eucalyptus". "Several years down the line, the water table will begin to go down with the huge tapping of water from the ground by these trees, because they consume too much water. The argument is that they mature quickly. But the sad thing is that they are being introduced in the continent's highlands, which are the custodian of the continent's natural drainage system, without which animals and people downstream cannot survive", said the former Nobel laureate.

Along similar lines – and even with the Green Belt Movement as a partner –, UNEP launched a major tree planting campaign, the Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign, http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/, which encourages the planting of indigenous trees and trees that are

Prof. Wangari Maathai during the launching of the billion tree project - UNEP, 07

appropriate to the local environment in areas such as degraded natural forests and wilderness areas. The objective is to plant at least one billion trees worldwide during 2007.

However, the project also encourages "sustainably managed plantations". This raises a number of doubts, given that two plantation certification schemes (PEFC and FSC), that have consistently certified unsustainable large-scale tree plantations are partners of the campaign, and so is the FAO, which has been -and still is- the world's main monoculture plantation promoter. It is interesting to note that the campaign states that "mixtures of species are preferred over monocultures" – a wording very similar to that of FSC's criterion 10.3 which states that "Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred". Why not simply say that large-scale tree monocultures will not be accepted within this campaign?

In this respect, it is essential to maintain the spirit of Wangari Maathai's words: "when we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope". It is clear from the above quotes that she is thinking in terms of indigenous species or small community plantations. If large scale tree monocultures are included, the result will be that the campaign will easily achieve the quantity target, but will in fact be planting seeds of conflict and seeds of despair.

Article based on: "Unbowed. One Woman's Story", Wangari Muta Maathai, published by William Heinemann, 2006; "Beware those foreign plants", The East African Magazine, November 13-19, 2006.

"Gains and Losses for the African Continent"

By: Grace Akumu, Mithika Mwenda & Fanuel Tolo

The Twelfth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP12), held in Nairobi from 6-17 November 2006 was significant to African countries in particular, and developing countries in general. This is because it presented them with an opportunity to lobby for equitable distribution of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

Since Parties agreed on the Kyoto Protocol which gave birth to the CDM, in Japan, in 1997, the issue has remained as emotive as ever, with Africa being of the opinion that industrialized countries are giving preference to other regions while ignoring the continent. This is despite the fact that scientists have confirmed that Africa will suffer the most from the impacts of climate change.

The catastrophic impacts caused by climate change and suffered by Africa are gaining sympathy from several quarters, especially from charitable organizations, which have joined African lobbyists in demanding for the incorporation of the principle of equity in the Post-Kyoto climate change regime. "Equity" in this context means an approach that is fair with reasonable actions by all countries in addressing climate change in a manner that would reflect the significant differences in countries in terms of their capacity and ability to respond to climate change, their historic and projected emissions, and their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

The inevitable realization by civil society that government representatives, who are the ultimate negotiators and reference points in the Climate Change Convention and meetings, have made the former to devise proactive ways of engagement in order to collectively have an influence that would benefit the continent.

Grace Akumu of Climate Change Network Africa talking to the press during COP12 - UNFCCC

Active participation by major civil society actors on the subject of climate change has been necessitated by the realization that many countries in Africa, which are major beneficiaries of humanitarian aid, are experiencing resource conflicts emanating from the increasing impacts of climate change such as community clashes over water points. Further, food security in many African countries is already threatened and governments are also finding it hard to reconstruct after excessive flooding associated with the *El-Nino* phenomenonm which led to infrastructure damages. Equally, frequent electricity (the main source of energy for industrial and domestic use) interruption, as a result of droughts associated with *La-Nina* has exacerbated the situation. Both have a direct bearing on Africa's aim to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially the goals of poverty eradication and environmental protection by 2015.

Convincingly, nearly all African governments have signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, as well as ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. Although they have shown political willingness to globally cooperate and collaborate in the implementation of both of these legal instruments, the biggest hurdle lies with negotiators and individuals structurally referred to by the UNFCCC as Designated National Authorities (DNAs). Most DNAs are non-functional and have no staff competent in matters of climate change. Keen observers have bitterly argued that Africa has not constructed a powerful and coordinated team to negotiate with other Parties in important conferences, thus largely losing out to other regions.

It is also significant to note that resource flow from the rich countries responsible for climate change has been disappointingly slow and at the same time quite negligible to meaningfully assist Africa to adapt to climate change. This means that the little development gains the continent is struggling to make may be diminished by the impacts of climate change in particular, in infrastructure development as well as in other sectors.

In recognition of its role in social, economic and political development, the African civil society has come

together forcefully and contributed remarkably towards the strengthening of African voices in international fora by trying to respond to global efforts that aim to address the adverse effects of climate change.

It is equally significant to note that COP12 was the first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the second in Africa after the one held in Marrakech, Morocco in 2001 (UNFCCC-COP7). The conference was held at a time when there were loud murmurs across the globe that the current climate change regime, the Kyoto Protocol, is inadequate in terms of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for industrialized countries, oppressive and discriminative to the African continent.

Evidently, the Kyoto Protocol's resultant mechanism, the CDM, has failed to attract projects to Africa. When Parties signed the Kyoto Protocol, they thought CDM was going to be the dream of the 21st century; and that it was going to create the dawn of equity for Africa. However, as time went, disillusionment continued to creep in, as the reality hit home that the CDM was as unfair to Africa just as was any other multilateral treaty with the North. By the time COP12 was being held, only 3 out of the 406 CDM projects so far implemented could be found in Sub-Sahara Africa, representing a paltry 0.8%! When the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997, Africa pushed for equity and sustainable development. However, the MHCDM, being a private sector and market driven mechanism, has failed to attract projects due to the traditional biases industrialized countries have against Africa when it comes to real and meaningful investment. They cite lack of competency in project development, political instability, insecurity, poor infrastructure development, etc. Yet quite surprisingly, it is from the same continent that the North reaps the highest returns on their investments!

Some African countries have resolved to look elsewhere and change tactics, thus diversifying in what they refer to as unilateral CDM. Such endowed countries like Nigeria have even established a Presidential commission to specifically deal with CDM issues. Taking this path, they have started sensitizing their financial institutions to invest in CDM projects. This is after realizing that CDM was conceived as a private sector and market-driven mechanism, whose main focus is to make profit, rather than contribute to sustainable development and environmental protection in developing countries. However, the majority of African countries are not as lucky as Nigeria, a country endowed with petroleum resources and would therefore prefer an equitable and favorable Post-Kyoto regime in which equity will be the cornerstone. In view of this situation, they should continue to put pressure and lobby industrialized countries to focus more on the continent.

1. Adaptation to Climate Change (and the Adaptation Fund)

If there is any key idea that touched a nerve for African delegates, it was adaptation to climate change and the resources needed in its application. Indeed, adaptation was the catch phrase from day one until the close of the conference. The Adaptation Fund draws on 2 percent of the proceeds generated by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects and is designed to support concrete adaptation activities in developing countries, specifically small island states and the most vulnerable developing countries. A new report on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in Africa, released by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and based on data from bodies including the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), indicates that the continent's vulnerability to climate change is even more acute than had previously been supposed.

It is estimated, for example, that 30 percent of Africa's coastal infrastructure could be inundated, including coastal settlements in the Gulf of Guinea, Senegal, the Gambia and Egypt. Between 25% and over 40% of species' habitats in Africa could be lost by 2085. Cereal crop yields will decline by up to 5% by the 2080s with subsistence crops — like sorghum in Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Zambia; maize in Ghana, millet in Sudan and groundnuts in the Gambia – also suffering climate-linked declines. The latest estimates indicate that about 25% out of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) surface stations in East and Southern Africa are not working and that most of the remaining stations are functioning in a less than desirable manner. Around one fifth of the 10 upper air network stations are in a similar state. There are significant consequences in highly elevated area like Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro, whose glaciers, ice caps and run-off are important for water supply. These are vanishing at a high speed. Though he seemed to be pre-emptive when he was quoted as advising African countries to utilize other funds instead of agitating for a Special Adaptation Fund for Africa, Mr. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, agreed with the majority of delegates on one issue: *that activating the adaptation agenda is critical. It is time to move from establishing the principles to real action on the ground. It will also be important to do further work to better understand how adaptation relates to efforts aimed at poverty eradication, particularly in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.*

Part of Africa's current and future adaptation needs, thus, must include the following:

- Improvements in climate and weather monitoring capabilities;
- Better links between climate research and policy-making;
- Mainstreaming climate change considerations into development and sectoral plans and programmes;
- Education and awareness- raising for governments, institutions and individuals;
- Better forecasting and early warning systems.

In effect, the conference was able to agree on rules to establish the Adaptation Fund.

The following are some of the key issues agreed upon:

1. A share of the proceeds from certified project activities will be used to cover administrative expenses, as well as to assist developing country parties particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to meet the costs of adaptation;
2. Access to the fund in a balanced and equitable manner for eligible countries;
3. Transparency and openness in the governance of the fund;
4. Funding on full adaptation cost basis of projects and programmes to address the adverse effects of climate change;
5. The Adaptation Fund should operate under the authority and guidance of and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties, serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which shall decide on its overall policies;
6. Accountability in management, operation and use of the funds;
7. No duplication with other sources of funding for adaptation in the use of the Adaptation Fund;
8. Efficiency and effectiveness in the management, operation and governance of the fund;
9. Funding for eligible Parties will be available for national, regional and community level activities;
10. Facilitative procedures for accessing funds, including short and efficient project development and approval cycles and expedited processing of eligible activities;
11. Projects should be country driven and should clearly be based on needs, views and priorities of eligible Parties, taking into account, inter alia, national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and other relevant instruments where they exist;
12. Funding shall be available for concrete adaptation projects and programmes in eligible countries;
13. Ability to receive contributions from other sources of funding;
14. Competency in adaptation and financial management;
15. Sound financial management, including the use of international fiduciary standards;
16. Clearly defined responsibilities for quality assurance, management and implementation;
17. Independent monitoring, evaluation and financial audits;
18. Learning by doing;
19. Membership of the governing body of the Adaptation Fund shall be from Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, following a one-country-one-vote rule where a majority will come from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;
20. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation was requested to develop recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its thirteenth Session with the aim of adopting a decision on the following issues:
    a. Eligibility criteria
    b. Priority areas
    c. Monetizing the share of proceeds
    d. Institutional arrangements

African delegates succeeded in preventing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from hijacking the Adaptation Fund without the clear, transparent and equitable rules above. It was the concerted efforts by African civil society, in collaboration with the African delegates, that prevented the GEF from running away with the Fund. However the war is not yet won; in order for the continent to have an influence in future negotiations, Africa's presence and proactive participation in future meetings needs to be felt. Similarly, African civil society, as a key actor in these engagements, should strive to proactively participate in such future meetings. The partnership between the African civil society and the national government representatives should be strengthened in order to ensure that Africa's interests in the climate change negotiations are taken into consideration.

1. Special Adaptation Fund for Africa

The call by African civil society for a Special Adaptation Fund for the continent was swept under the carpet and even African countries decided not to lobby for it. But African civil society will not relent on this particular fund because given past experience with global funds/ arrangements, Africa is always discriminated against. Yet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that Africa will suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. Given the fact that Africa only contributes 3 4 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions, the region must not be made to suffer because of the actions of others.

2. The Nairobi Framework

During his address, the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced the "Nairobi Framework", which will provide additional support to developing countries to successfully develop projects for the CDM. The agencies involved in the partnership are: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As to whether this will end the neglect of the African

continent in the implementation of CDM projects, only time will tell. Will it be a talk shop like the many others that have never yielded anything worth the while for Africa? Will the UN agencies use the "Nairobi Framework" to serve their interests instead of Africa's?

It is undeniably clear that with the right political will, and administrative support, the five UN agencies can the losses into gains in Africa. As a strategy, they should first build capacities of African countries (private sector, academic institutions, governments and civil society) through training on:

i) Methodologies

ii) Creating a window forsmall projects that would help significantly in simplifying the methodologies;

iii) Discouraging Northern academics and consultants from experimenting on CDM and making Africa a destination for trial and error;

iv) Empowering African governments (across all sectors of the national economies rather than concentrating solely on climate change focal points) through capacity building and tailored training;

v) Assisting the African governments to share lessons learnt and best practices with respect to the CDM;

vi) Appreciating the contribution and role of African civil society as a key stakeholders in the climate change, Kyoto Protocol and the development process;

vii) Gender empowerment.

Since they are capable of mobilizing large amount of resources for Africa, which is a headache the six institutions would further enhance African capacity in the CDM by:

1. Creating a special desk for Africa;
2. Creating a special investment fund for Africa (say the African CDM Investment Fund);
3. Making an extra effort for institutional capacity building;
4. Encouraging prospective beneficiaries to bundle small projects together for bigger returns and economies of scale as well as training in bundling of projects;
5. Making sure more projects can qualify as small projects by increasing the threshold and avoiding the rigidity of such facilities like GEF;
6. Making bundling simpler;
7. Increasing the potential for landfill gas projects as easy alternative sources of energy and for sustainable development in the waste management sector;
8. Creating a window for NGO's and CBOs to be involved in creating bottom-up projects;
9. Ensuring that that CDM transactions are quick, simplified and quickly expedited;
10. Standardizing methodologies.

3. Compliance

At Nairobi, Parties adopted Rules of Procedure for the Kyoto Protocol's Compliance Committee, making it fully operational. The Compliance Committee, with its enforcement and facilitative branches, ensures that the Parties to the Protocol have a clear accountability regime in meeting their emissions reductions targets.

4. Post-Kyoto Commitment

Talks on commitments of industrialized countries for post-2012 under the Kyoto Protocol advanced well, with Parties reaching agreement on a detailed work plan spelling out the steps needed to reach agreement on a set of new commitments. There was unanimous agreedrcement that global emissions of greenhouse gases have to be reduced to very low levels, well below half of levels in 2000, in order to avoid dangerous climate change. The fact that Parties agreed to a concrete work plan hopefully means that they can move ahead with addressing fundamental issues necessary for agreement on future commitments, such as the level of emissions reductions that is required and the ways in which they can be achieved.

Practically, industrialized countries account for most of the emissions at the expense of developing countries. Developing countries provide the sinks for CO_2 emissions. That is to say, all the fifty three African countries combined account for less pollution than the United Kingdom. If uncorrected, this asymmetry in access and use of global commons would result in 'economic genocide'. In view of this inequality, there is need for an agreement in the Post-Kyoto regime that is based on equity and per capita emissions allocations where by those with excess space may trade the same for sustainable development.

This has always been the African position, and though it was defeated through intense Western lobbying in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, it still remains in the continent's interest to agitate for a mechanism that would incorporate the principle of 'equity' and '*per capita* emissions allocations'.

Africa's position also remains the same that industrialized countries must take the lead to combat climate change as the largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions threatening the survival of humanity and the planet Earth. Additionally, Africa still needs to grow economically in order to develop and eradicate poverty.

5. Long-term Cooperative action to Enhance the Implementation of the Climate Change Convention

Parties held a second round of the Dialogue on Long-Term Cooperative Action to Enhance the

Implementation of the Convention, open to all 189 Parties to the UNFCCC. Landmark presentations on the latest findings on economic challenges posed by global warming were made, along with suggested economic solutions.

There is now a revolutionary shift in the debate on climate change, where climate change policies are seen as a cost factor for development, as they would provide opportunities to enhance economic growth in a sustainable way. Further development of carbon markets can help mobilize the necessary financial resources needed for a global response to climate change but only if the principle of emissions entitlement and per capita allocations principle are agreed to and implemented. Without this the future arrangements/regimes will remain skewed against Africa, just as with the present Kyoto Protocol.

6. Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol

The Conference of Parties, through the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, agreed to regularly monitor the progress of the implementation of the framework and report to the Conference of the Parties at each of its sessions.

The Parties also requested that the secretariat provide reports to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol on the efforts made to implement the framework for capacity-building.

They appreciated the efforts in capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol by various Parties and organizations, and the value of sharing best practices and lessons learned at the first informal Designated National Authorities Forum of the Clean Development Mechanism that was convened in Bonn, Germany, in October 2006.

In Particular, they agreed on the following:

(a) Parties are to be invited to submit information on the activities that they have undertaken.

(b) Relevant multilateral and bilateral agencies and the private sector are to be invited to provide reports on their support of the implementation of the framework undertaken in accordance with national priorities and with the knowledge of relevant national authorities.

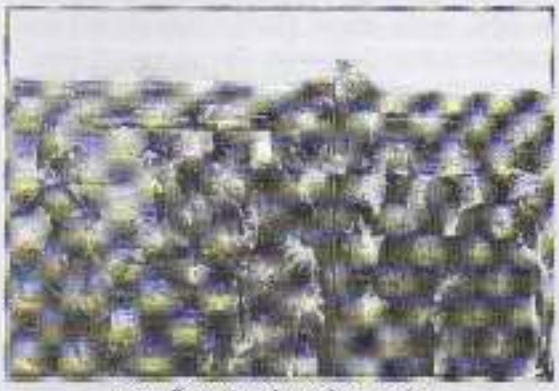
(c) The secretariat is to produce a synthesis report on progress made in the implementation of activities drawing upon information contained in subparagraph (a) and (b) above, as well as information on activities of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism relating to regional distribution of the Clean Development Mechanism project activities and related capacity-building.

(d) Parties are to consider the synthesis report as described in subparagraph (c) above as a basis for regular monitoring and as a contribution to the comprehensive review of the capacity-building framework.

(e) Parties and relevant United Nations agencies and other organizations are encouraged to focus on institutional and technical capacity-building activities that are specific to the Clean Development Mechanism, with a view to enhancing the capacities of developing countries, in particular those regions and countries with few or no project activities.

(f) Parties are requested to continue with measures to assist Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in particular least developed countries and Small Island developing states, and bearing in mind the difficulties of Africa to attract Clean Development Mechanism projects, to carry out capacity building activities in order to facilitate their participation in the Clean Development Mechanism

(g) Parties and relevant international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations and others, are encouraged to facilitate learning by doing and to further strengthen their efforts to support the identification, development and implementation of project activities in Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention wishing to participate in the Clean Development Mechanism. It must be stressed, however, that Africa is



most affected members of our society

interested in equitable distribution of CDM projects.

7. Dates and venue of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties

The Parties resolved that the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties and the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP13/MOP3) shall be held from **3-14 December 2007, at Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.** In this regard, African civil society should start preparing early enough to participate at COP13/MOP3, in order to continue building on the momentum they have so far created.

for more contact Climate Change Network Africa on cnaf@cnaf.or.ke

Forest Cover

Ex Silvis: *The Stench of Carbon Trade*

By Miguel Lovera, coordinator, Global Forest Coalition

Not long after the birth of the Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997) many civil society organizations that were later to become members of the Global Forest Coalition began to express their deep misgivings about the Protocol's proposals for dealing with carbon dioxide emissions. We argued that the Protocol's mechanisms were inappropriate because they were based on pointlessly inadequate carbon calculation methods – rather like trying to measure human protein consumption by calculating the methane content of the entire population's collective flatulence.

We were immediately challenged by others, who urged us to reconsider. They thought we were crazy to oppose this opportunity to save the forests. We would be throwing the baby out with the bath water. To this we replied: would you really consider putting your baby in that stinky bath water? We argued that fossil fuels should be left underground so as to avoid the imminent climatic catastrophe we are facing.

In 1999, in Lyon, many of the founding members of the GFC wrote about *"Sinks that Stink"*, and emphasized that *"Not every Tree is a good Tree"* - many of them were going to be part of a 'carbon trading' scam that would deprive people in developing countries of their resources, lands and future well-being. Seven years down the road, this proposal to 'conserve' forests for a ransom is being revamped by governments. In September, a UN workshop was organized in Rome focusing on Papua New Guinea's and Costa Rica's proposal to reduce the emissions resulting from deforestation within the framework of the climate regime. Needless to say, things have been in disarray since the moment PNG first presented this proposal in Montreal last December. The climate profiteers immediately attempted to twist the proposal by insisting it be included in carbon trading schemes. But in Rome, the Brazilian Government proposed that those countries striving to conserve their forests be compensated by official development aid in recognition of the contribution that forest conservation would make to climate stability.

It is clear that the Kyoto Protocol didn't provide sufficient support for the development of alternative energy systems. As emissions by industrialized countries have continued to spiral upward, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the Kyoto Protocol has been used to prolong the pollution 'rights' of industrialized countries, allowing them to continue their business as usual. Furthermore, the funds invested in carbon capture projects in developing countries have been invested in cheap and smoky projects, such as methane flaring in coal mines and garbage dumps.

Miguel Lovera-GFC

The Kyoto Protocol is not capable of mitigating climatic change through carbon credit trading. The fact that it is so focused on trading seems actually to be impeding the development of a sound energy matrix and relegating existing and sustainable energy generation technologies to premature obsolescence. Programs that would really bring about a significant reduction in CO_2 emissions, which can be linked directly to climate change mitigation - such as adopting a sound energy matrix; are said to be too expensive.

Would a climate catastrophe be so much 'cheaper'?.

Decisive Year to Address Tropical Deforestation in the International Climate Change Regime

By Mark Lutes, Vitae Civilis, Brazil

The remainder this year will be key to determining how tropical deforestation will be addressed through the international climate regime. This discussion is important because deforestation, mainly of tropical forests, is responsible for approximately 20-30% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and approximately 75% of Brazil's greenhouse gas emissions.

Now, in the context of the negotiations for the Second Commitment Period (CP2) under the Kyoto Protocol, there is an excellent opportunity to overcome many of the problems that plagued previous discussions of this issue, especially concerns about leakage and other issues related to project-based measures under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This "leakage" refers to issuing credits for emissions reduction that doesn't occur in practice – when, for example, deforestation avoided in a given region through environmental protection measures results in shifting the deforestation activities to another area. Another concern was that such mechanisms would

become a source of cheap carbon credits that would allow industrialized countries to avoid reducing their excessive emissions within their own countries. A decision of the December 2005 Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention (UNFCCC), held in Montreal, established a 2-year process under the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to consider ways to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries, on the initiative of Papua New Guinea.

Under this process, Parties and Accredited Observers (including NGOs) to the UNFCCC were to make submissions on issues to be considered in this process by March 31, 2006. Many country parties and observers took this opportunity to make submissions, including the Brazilian government and the Climate Working Group of FBOMS (Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for Environment and Development), submitted in the name of Vitae Civilis Institute.

During the SBSTA meetings in Bonn in May, parties considered these submissions and debated what issues would be discussed in the remainder of the process, and especially for the workshop being planned for August 30 to September 1, 2006, in Rome. The decision of SBSTA, after considerable debate, was that the workshop would consider:

a) Scientific, socio-economic, technical, and methodological issues, including the role of forests, in particular tropical forests, in the global carbon cycle; issues of definition, including those relating to links between deforestation and degradation; data availability and quality; scale, rates and drivers of deforestation; estimation of changes in carbon stocks and forest cover; and related uncertainties;

b) Policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries, including causes; short- and long-term effectiveness with respect to emission reductions; the displacement of emissions; bilateral and multilateral cooperation; activities of other relevant international bodies; enhancing sustainable forest management; capacity-building; and financial mechanisms and other alternatives – basing discussions on experiences and lessons learned;

c) Identification of possible links between relevant scientific, socio-economic, technical and methodological issues and policy approaches and positive incentives that may arise from the consideration of the topics in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

The most contentious issue here, discussed in the May SBSTA meeting in Bonn, was the expression in (b) "financial mechanisms and other alternatives". Brazil wanted to remove any wording that could allow emissions trading or any type of new commitments, but it was virtually alone in this interpretation, so the workshop was free to consider the full range of mechanisms that could contribute to protecting tropical forests.

Brazilian NGOs, including Vitae Civilis, will continue to watch this process closely, and will be engaging with the Brazilian government to try to ensure that Brazil's position allows for effective international support to domestic efforts to reduce deforestation. This issue has broader implications as well. As one of the key elements of the "package" that will determine the shape of the post 2012 regime under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, a favorable decision on deforestation can help to put additional pressure on industrialized countries to make much deeper cuts in their emissions.

For more information, please visit: http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbsta/eng/misc05.pdf

This report is a summary version of an article that appeared in VCInforma, June 2006.

Reducing Deforestation: It's the Money We Love!

By Simone Lovera, Global Forest Coalition

Halting the ongoing, dramatic destruction of the world's forests is of the utmost importance if we want to address climate change. Deforestation is the second most significant source of carbon emissions (coal consumption ranks highest) and must therefore be included in the climate change regime. It is for precisely this reason that the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) includes a clear obligation for Parties to "...promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems."

Of course, real Kyoto freaks will immediately point out that this article does not mention a specific target. That is indeed regrettable, but recent experiences with the Kyoto Protocol's existing targets makes one wonder whether we might have been better off without them anyway (with a focus on norms, instead). We might then have been able to avoid a couple of nuclear plants and other devastating 'climate change solutions', including what is euphemistically called "biofuel", but is likely to become the number one cause of deforestation in the coming decade, due to its insatiable demand for arable land.

If tropical forests will be part of the climate regime after 2012, it is absolutely essential to integrate some

expertise on forests as ecosystems first. The average climate negotiator still tends to see a forest primarily as a collection of straight poles of carbon or a full tank of "biofuel".

For that reason, the proposal of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice of the Climate Convention to organize a workshop to discuss options to integrate the reduction of deforestation into the future climate change regime was very welcome. The workshop took place from 31 August to 2 September in Rome. The purpose was to discuss, informally, recent proposals to integrate forests into the post-Kyoto regime, including that of the so-called Rainforest Coalition led by Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea. Their proposal focuses on compensating developing countries for reducing deforestation.

Payments for Environmental Services: the Polluted Pays Principle

At first sight, it seems a reasonable proposal that countries making an effort to reduce deforestation are compensated. However, to get some insight into the obscure background of the Rainforest Coalition, it might be worth mentioning an anecdote relating to Papua New Guinea. Rumor has it that the idea to propose payments for environmental services, and thus introduce forests into the climate regime, came from an informal conversation between the Prime Minister of PNG and a young advisor to the government. The Prime Minister was complaining that the World Bank made his life difficult, by insisting that numerous conditions be attached to their loans to the forestry sector in PNG. This was making it impossible for him to make any money out of the forests: "So who compensates me if I conserve my forests?" (*It should be noted here that the World Bank conditions were imposed to halt corruption and illegality in the PNG forestry sector.) His advisor, who was attending university in the US (in the end all market-based conservation mechanisms seem to have their roots in the home of market fanatics), proposed including forests in carbon trading. This idea nicely matched the ambitions of Costa Rica, keen to sell its national payments for environmental services (PES) scheme as carbon credits in the international carbon market. The fact that Costa Rica has succeeded in halting deforestation is a nice selling point for this scheme, although it should be noted that deforestation has actually been illegal in Costa Rica since 1998. Landholders are essentially being paid to comply with the law, which is an interesting concept, certainly for the PNG government.

It should be noted that compensation for reducing deforestation itself is rather an old idea: at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 it was clearly agreed by heads of state that developed countries would provide 0.1% of their GDP in "new and additional" development aid for the "incremental costs" of environmental policies. But the way PES is being introduced into the climate regime could ultimately have some very perverse consequences. After all, it is the most vulnerable peoples in the world - Indigenous Peoples, islanders and small farmers - who have the largest stake in halting climate change. According to the PES principle, the people who benefit from a certain environmental service should compensate the people who provide that service. In the climate regime this could mean that the victims of climate change would have to pay soy farmers, cattle ranchers and logging companies for the 'efforts' they are making not to burn up all the forest they can lay their hands on. This would be the exact opposite of the climate justice movement proposal to compensate climate victims for the damage caused by unchecked greenhouse gas emissions.

Leakage: "So What?"

On the other hand, it is understandable that logging companies, Prime Ministers and others with a major stake in the forest business do not want to lag behind in the new booming carbon market now that the new Executive Secretary of the Framework Convention on Climate Change Ivo de Boer has suggested that this market might deliver US$100 billion of new investments in developing countries. During the Rome meeting it became clear that there are two different sets of proposals to include forests in carbon trade. The first is that deforestation should be included in the CDM or a similar scheme, allowing project-based trading at the international level. The second is that countries are able to voluntarily commit to binding targets for reducing deforestation, generating opportunities to sell additional reductions as carbon credits.

The latter proposal seemed to receive more support in Rome. At first sight, it has the benefit that it allows

Simone Lovera-Global Forest Coalition Agency

for public, governmental control over forest policy - it would not necessarily imply privatization of forests and forest values within countries themselves. However, both schemes threaten to undermine the climate change regime even more seriously than carbon trading itself already does. This is partly because of the problem of leakage. Obviously, in project based trading schemes deforestation could simply be shifted to locations outside project boundaries. But even a country-based approach with national targets could lead to leakage, especially if it concerns measures like reduced logging. Timber exports could simply shift to countries without voluntary targets. Significantly, the reaction so far of the UK and some other countries during the Rome workshop on this problem could be summarized as 'Yes, there will be leakage. So what?' Really, there seems little hope of a strong climate regime after 2012 as long as this is the prevailing attitude.

Cheap Options to Reduce Deforestation

Happily, however, some countries still seem to remember that, a long time ago, there were good methodological, technical and environmental reasons for not including deforestation reduction in the CDM or carbon trading in general. In this respect, a proposal from Brazil during the Rome workshop was significant. They proposed that developing countries voluntarily take up national targets, adding that such countries should be rewarded by increased ODA.

For anyone who has been following Brazil's position in forest policy over the years, the fact that they are willing to consider specific deforestation reduction targets is revolutionary. Sadly though, the proposal was received with skepticism by many FCCC delegates, who pointed out that ODA levels were already low, so 'where was the money?' They were obviously turning on a blind spot here, as right at the same moment the Global Environment Facility was celebrating the fact that it had been replenished with a reasonably satisfactory US$3.13 billion (see also other reports). This includes a significant amount to compensate the 'incremental costs' of projects related to reducing deforestation that provide global benefits. But it must be admitted that the Brazilian proposal roughly refers to millions of dollars in compensation, while many forestry officials seem to expect billions of dollars to be invested in their sector if forests are included in carbon trade.

Thus, a more fundamental question is: how much money is really needed to reduce deforestation?

For example, the Paraguayan government introduced a deforestation moratorium in half of the country in 2004 which led to an 85 % reduction in deforestation in one year. It required hardly any funding, except for some satellite monitoring and enforcement capacity. Costa Rica's paymen for its environmental services scheme, on the other hand, is very expensive. In Rome, the Brazilian delegation subtly pointed out that it would cost them around US$5 billion annually if the PES scheme was applied to a third of the Amazon only. And it is not even known whether the success of the Costa Rican forest policy is owed to the large amount of money channeled to forest owners or to the deforestation ban that was introduced at the very same time.

Logging companies, soy farmers and other stakeholders in the world's deforestation business are of course all seeking to increase revenues. This much is obvious. For them, carbon trading might indeed be a real blessing. But forests, Indigenous Peoples, islanders, small farmers and all the other climate victims around the world would probably be much better off with a strong climate regime that includes both strong emission cuts and clear detailed norms and targets for reducing deforestation. This could include policies and measures as cheap and easy to implement as deforestation bans.

A full report on the Rome workshop, which will be discussed at the upcoming climate meetings in November, can be downloaded from: http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbsta/eng/10.pdf

Branching Out: *Indigenous Communities and Climate Change Adaptation Policies*

By Marcial Arias, Fundación por la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Panama

The expected impacts of climate change include droughts, hurricanes, storms, floods and a rise in sea levels rise. They will be felt most keenly by coastal communities, including poor rural communities that are least able to protect themselves. The challenges will be multiple. In addition to the loss of productive land and housing, climatic changes are also expected to lead to increased levels of disease, including dengue fever and respiratory diseases such as asthma. Water quality could also be affected, leading to more cases of diarrhea and other gastro-intestinal illnesses.

Thus - according to studies of the Smithsonian Institute of Tropical Research - poor communities affected by climate change are likely to become increasingly impoverished. In a vicious circle, this will in turn reduce poor communities' ability to adapt to climate change. They may also find it harder to adapt because of insufficient technological know how and information, weak infrastructure and underdeveloped institutional capacity. Poorer communities are thus extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Societies and economics have, of course, been adapting to climatic changes for centuries, and most of them have been able to do so reasonably well, especially when those changes were gradual. However, climatic conditions are now becoming more frequent and more extreme, and thus more damaging. Increasing losses indicate that autonomous adaptation is no longer enough to confront the challenge of varying climatic conditions. Communities are clearly more vulnerable now than they were in the past.

It is highly significant, then, that Indigenous Peoples have not so far been able to participate in the elaboration and monitoring of adaptation policies. Indigenous Peoples' relationship in fragile ecosystems vulnerable to climate change is well known, and for many their lives depend upon these coastal areas. Moreover, in addition to socio-economic impacts, climate change is likely to have a significant impact on their culture, language, history and lifestyle. As actors directly affected by the impacts of climate change, Indigenous Peoples should therefore be able to participate in the elaboration and application of adaptation policies.

Indigenous Peoples' themselves are well aware of this. It has been predicted that natural disasters including droughts, hurricanes and sea-level rise will cause major negative impacts on indigenous communities in the coming years. According to the meteorologist Anetta Queen, and Scott Muller, the director of CODESTA (a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity) such a situation is already clearly evident in the area of Kuna Yala, in the Republic of Panamá. This area has seen sea-level rise by an average of 15 centimeters since 1910, and it continues to rise now by around 2cm every year. Moreover, recent storms have resulted in the frequent flooding of peoples' homes. This situation is becoming more and more serious, and they add that "It is clear that the Kuna will need to move the majority of their communities to the mainland in the next generations".

However, it is not only the increasing volume of water which poses a problem. Deterioration of the polar masses is also leading to decreasing salinity in sea water, which interferes with the life cycles of marine species. This will also impact on food chains and the food security of people dependent upon marine resources.

Kuna Yala is not the only Panamanian community affected by climate change. In Bocas del Toro and Punta Chame (on the Pacific coast) the elevation of the sea has also started to cause significant damage, especially to crops.

Panama's response so far has been to focus on water resources and their impact on agriculture. Will this benefit these coastal communities already directly affected by climate change? My answer is a categorical no: it will only benefit large-scale cattle-ranchers, associations of producers, the owners of hydro-electric enterprises and large agricultural producers. The majority of the population, on the other hand, will be marginalised when it comes to elaborating and deciding upon suitable adaptation policies. (Note however, that Panama is nevertheless making a considerable effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change. It is striving - in a systematic, sustained and planned manner - to improve the quality of its environment and adequately protect its natural resources, whilst taking into account both environmental aspects and economic and social needs.)

To sum up, there is clearly a significant role for the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples in times of climate change. We believe that the process of identifying vulnerable communities and developing adaptation policies, should be organized in a bottom-up, participatory manner, based upon the knowledge and inputs of local, regional and national peoples, especially Indigenous Peoples. There should be more consultation and national workshops with indigenous and local communities about the impacts of climate change, the way in which it is related to cultural and spiritual concerns, and means of adaptation.

Furthermore, adaptation processes are currently focused on protection against flooding. Yet there is still much to be done in relation to other areas, including public health, water resources and the management of ecosystems. Again, there should be space for the participation of indigenous and local communities in the process of planning and implementing these adaptation policies.

The full version of this report and other reports by Indigenous Peoples' Organizations on the impacts of climate change will be launched at the upcoming UNFCCC meetings in November. More information will soon be posted on: http://www.internationalalliance.org/unfccc.htm

A Mountain producing a Molehill: Access and Benefit Sharing under the FAO Seed Treaty

By François Meienberg, Berne Declaration, Switzerland

The first Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR) held 12-16 June in Madrid, answered many questions concerning the way in which access to genetic resources from the multilateral system and the sharing of benefits will

be handled in the future. These decisions might have an important influence on the international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) that is currently being developed within the framework of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). The following summarizes the current situation and suggests ways to improve a state of affairs that is still less than satisfactory.

Access under the Treaty

The Treaty governs access to plant genetic resources and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of 64 species listed in Annex 1, which includes some of the most important food crops such as corn, wheat, rice potatoes, millet, and also many fruits, vegetables and fodder plants. The Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), approved at the first meeting of the Governing Body, sets out the terms of access and benefit sharing.

Compared to the bilateral negotiations for access and benefit sharing required under the Convention on Biological Diversity, access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under the terms of the SMTA is easy: just fill out an SMTA form. All countries, research institutes, and companies benefit from this simplified system of access regardless of whether or not they make their collections available to the system. However, this does mean that the system also rewards freeloaders who keep their own collections to themselves.

The Treaty states that "recipients shall not claim any intellectual property or other rights that limit the facilitated access to the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, or their genetic parts or components, in the form received from the Multilateral System" *(Paragraph 12.3 (d)). This compromise text leaves many questions unanswered. Specifically, it is not clear whether an unaltered gene (isolated from a plant in the multilateral system) is covered by these terms and whether, in a case like this, a patent application may be filed. Only a very narrow interpretation that excludes patents on isolated materials would do justice to the spirit of the Treaty, which seeks to facilitate rather than restrict access to plant genetic resources. Regretfully, the wording of the adopted SMTA replicates Paragraph 12.3 (d) word for word. A clear decision on this urgent question was evidently avoided.*

Benefit sharing related to patents under the FAO Seed Treaty

Paragraph 13.2 (d) (ii) of the Treaty stipulates that if a product is covered by intellectual property rights which are restricting free access for further research and breeding, then a fair share of the benefits arising from commercialization of the plant should be paid into a special account. However, since the benefit-sharing requirement is limited to those who restrict the availability of a product, the definition of what it means to be 'available without restriction' is of great importance. The definition adopted in Madrid, as part of the SMTA, is unsatisfactory: it does not even clearly declare that patents constitute such a restriction.

How much is an 'equitable share' of benefits?

The adopted SMTA defines an 'equitable share' as 1.1% of the selling price from which, moreover, an additional 30% may be subtracted (to cover transport, marketing and related costs). In real terms this puts the 'equitable share' at 0.77% of the selling price – practically a give-away for plant genetic resources with specific material characteristics (materials without such characteristics will be somewhat more expensive than in the past). But only those who restrict access to their product through intellectual property rights will pay even this small price.

In the end, very little benefit sharing money will flow back into the multilateral system. A rough and optimistic calculation may illustrate this point. Ten years from now the global seed market could be worth some US$30 billion. Ten percent or US$3 billion worth of seed may have been bred with genetic resources from the multilateral system, of which, again, only 10% (so, US$300 million) are protected by a patent and thus subject to benefit sharing at 0.77%.

The resulting US$2.31 million per year would not even cover the Treaty's administrative budget. The mountain has produced a molehill. According to paragraph 13.3 of the Treaty, the benefit sharing funds from the multilateral system are supposed to benefit farmers "in all countries, especially in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilise plant genetic resources for food and agriculture." It seems that farmers may provide a large proportion of the plant genetic resources in the multilateral system, but come away empty-handed.

Hopefully, the planned future reassessments of the SMTA will provide outcomes that are more in line with the Treaty's original goal and objectives: real access and real benefit sharing.

For a full version of this report on the first meeting of the Governing Body of the ITPGR please visit http://www.evb.ch/en/p/5011427.html. See also http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm

Forests within food sovereignty

by World forest Movement/ WRM)

What is understood by "food sovereignty"? The concept of food sovereignty arose in 1996 when Via Campesina expressed it for the first time at the World Food Summit held in Rome. In 2002, the NGO/SCO Forum for Food Sovereignty defined food sovereignty as "the right of peoples, communities and countries to define their own agricultural, pastoral, labour, fishing, food and farming policies, which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances."

Since then the concept has been strengthened during subsequent meetings to become an alternative to the productive models imposed by globalizing policies directed from entities of power (WB, IMF, WTO, etc.) these models have consolidated the control of food by large transnational corporations, starting from seeds, sowing and inputs and going on to cover distribution, processing, sale and consumer habits all over the world.

Food sovereignty is centred on local autonomy, local markets and community action, and incorporates aspects such as agrarian reform, territorial control, local markets, biodiversity, autonomy, cooperation, the debt, health and many other issues related to food production.

Thus, perhaps, the first point to be underscored is that food sovereignty is a process of grassroots resistance and its conceptualization is not only deeply rooted in the social movements fuelling these struggles, but is also an opportunity to bind them together in a common agreement over objectives and actions.

So, starting with peasant movements, the concept is widened to include the landless, traditional fisherfolk, shepherds, indigenous peoples...and the defence of forests which is also a matter of food sovereignty.

A village girl in Karamoja, Uganda spinning millet

Non-timber forest products have been and still are a basic input for many communities either living in the forest or by and who resort to it for their livelihood. They find honey, fruit, seeds, acorns, tubers, insects and wild animals in the forest; all important additional sources of food. Forests also supply resins, rattan, bamboo, tannins, dyes, leaves, straw, skins and leather, useful for either self consumption or to be sold, thus ensuring income to obtain other foodstuffs. The forest is also a supplier of plants for forage, particularly important for the rearing of cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys and camels.

Forests are threatened and destroyed by those same processes that threaten peasant farming: the advance of agro-business and large-scale monoculture plantations for export, ranging from soybeans to eucalyptus trees, the destruction of biodiversity by imposition of transgenic crops; the oil matrix, which involves exploitative processes that poison and destroy everything around them; and the fencing in of sites showing high biodiversity to use them for the tourist business or for bioprospecting. In every case these scenarios exploit or displace entire communities, stripping them of their way of life and culture and leaving them to sink into poverty. The predominant model involves a circle of exploitation, extermination, exclusion. When the forest is destroyed, food sovereignty is destroyed.

However, this is not happening unopposed. From their grassroots, peasants, traditional fisherfolk, shepherds and indigenous peoples who have developed and made possible production systems ensuring their own livelihood and that of other people not directly involved in production, are attempting to rise up against these demolishing processes. From a local level, building autonomy, taking up again the principles of cooperation, integration and dialogue with nature that enabled them to build biodiverse agro-ecological systems and the dynamic conservation of ecosystems, grassroots movements are becoming the masters of their fate and teaching the world that "It is time for food sovereignty"!

Environment and Sustainable Development Training Isiolo, Kenya

Group Discussion

One of the participants from explaining how important it is to have education

Information is empowering. Mohamed Aress interviewing the chairman of Isiolo county council

Ice giving gifts to the community for early childhood

Director Sharbo giving a presentation on voting and civic education

Group Photograph

Nothing can stop us reaching out

Juma District Environmental Officer giving a presentation on locust community environmental management

Indigenous Peoples Participation at the COP 12 of the Convention on Climate Change, Nairobi-Ke

Preparatory meeting Nairobi, Kenya

Meeting with the Minister of Environment Ke

Ogiek, Nairobi

Ogiek, Nairobi

Events and actions during COP 12 2006 Kenya

Kaimuga, Kenya

Access and benefit sharing for Africa- Cape Town

Events and actions during Access and Benefit Sharing meeting Cape Town, South Africa

Visiting the San Indigenous People of South Africa

Traditional hut and artifacts

Listening carefully to the proceedings

Listening carefully to the proceedings

Visiting the San Indigenous People of South Africa

Song and Dance by the San People

GTZ team preparing for a presentation

Margaret Lomonjong from Uganda and Adam Olenwarabu from Tanzania keenly following the training

Marakwet Peace, Environment and Conflict resolution Workshop

Kerungo Dennis - Forest Officer

Mr. Joseph Otieno - DC Marakwet, serving opening remarks

Group Discussions

Presenting group work

Group Discussions

Mr. Johnson Chepkwony of Kerdo sending a message

Taking a break with a song

Councillor Susan Kinbury - Mt Elgon

Declaration of NYÉLÉNI

Nyéléni Village, Selingue, Mali—March 2007

We, more than 500 representatives from more than 80 countries, of organizations of peasants/family farmers, artisanal fisher-folk, Indigenous Peoples, landless peoples, rural workers, migrants, pastoralists, forest communities, women, youth, consumers, environmental and urban movements have gathered together in the village of Nyéléni in Selingue, Mali to strengthen the global movement for food sovereignty. We are doing this, brick by brick, have been living in

Young children sharing a meal in Kidal North of Mali

huts constructed by hand in the local tradition, and eating food that is being produced and prepared by the Selingue community. We give our collective endeavor the name "Nyéléni" as a tribute to and inspiration from a legendary Malian peasant woman who farmed and fed her peoples well.

Most of us are food producers and are ready, able and willing to feed all the world's peoples. Our heritage as food producers is critical to the future of humanity. This is specially so in the case of women and indigenous peoples who are historical creators of knowledge about food and agriculture and are devalued. But this heritage and our capacities to produce healthy, good and abundant food are being threatened and undermined by neo-liberalism and global capitalism. Food sovereignty gives us the hope and power to preserve, recover and build on our food producing knowledge and capacity.

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food that is produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than at the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers. Food sovereignty prioritises local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just income to all peoples and the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage our lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations.

In Nyéléni, through numerous debates and interactions, we are deepening our collective understanding of food sovereignty and have learned about the reality of the struggles of our respective movements to retain autonomy and regain our powers. We now understand better the tools we need to build our movement and advance our collective vision.

What are we fighting for?

A world where...

...all peoples, nations and states are able to determine their own food producing systems and policies that provide every one of us with good quality, adequate, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food;

...recognition and respect of women's roles and rights in food production, and representation of women in all decision making bodies;

...all Peoples in each of our countries are able to live with dignity, earn a living wage for their labour and have the opportunity to remain in their homes;

...where food sovereignty is considered a basic human right, recognised and implemented by communities, peoples, states and international bodies;

...we are able to conserve and rehabilitate rural environments, fish stocks, landscapes and food

traditions based on ecologically sustainable management of land, soils, water, seas, seeds, livestock and other biodiversity;

...we value, recognize and respect our diversity of traditional knowledge, food, language and culture, and the way we organise and express ourselves;

... there is genuine and integral agrarian reform that guarantees peasants full rights to land, defends and recovers the territories of indigenous peoples, ensures fishing communities' access and control over their fishing areas and eco-systems, honours access and control over pastoral lands and migratory routes, assures decent jobs with fair remuneration and labour rights for all, and a future for young people in the countryside;...where agrarian reform revitalises inter-dependence between producers and consumers, ensures community survival, social and economic justice and ecological sustainability, and respect for local autonomy and governance with equal rights for women and men...where it guarantees the right to territory and self-determination for our peoples;

...where we share our lands and territories peacefully and fairly among our peoples, be we peasants, indigenous peoples, artisanal fishers, pastoralists, or others;

...in the case of natural and human-created disasters and conflict-recovery situations, food sovereignty acts as a kind of "insurance" that strengthens local recovery efforts and mitigates negative impacts... where we remember that affected communities are not helpless, and where strong local organization for self-help are the key to recovery;

...where peoples' power to make decisions about their material, natural and spiritual heritage are defended;

... where all peoples have the right to defend their territories from the actions of transnational corporations;

What are we fighting against?

Imperialism, neo-liberalism, neo-colonialism and patriarchy, and all systems that impoverish life, resources and eco-systems, and the agents that promote the above such as international financial institutions, the World Trade Organisation, free trade agreements, transnational corporations,and governments that are antagonistic to their peoples;

The dumping of food at prices below the cost of production in the global economy;

The domination of our food and food producing systems by corporations that place profits before people, health and the environment;

Technologies and practices that undercut our future food producing capacities, damage the environment and put our health at risk. These include transgenic crops and animals, terminator technology, industrial aquaculture and destructive fishing practices, the so-called white revolution of industrial dairy practices, the so called 'old' and 'new' Green Revolutions, and the "Green Deserts" of industrial bio-fuel monocultures and other plantations;

The privatisation and commodification of food, basic and public services, knowledge, land, water, seeds, livestock and our natural heritage;

Development projects/models and extractive industry that displace people and destroy our environments and natural heritage;

Wars, conflicts, occupations, economic blockades, famines, forced displacement of people and confiscation of their land, and all forces and governments that cause and support them; post disaster and conflict reconstruction programmes that destroy our environments and capacities;

The criminalization of all those who struggle to protect and defend our rights;

Food aid that disguises dumping, introduces GMOs into local environments and food systems and creates new patterns of colonialism.

The internationalisation and globalisation of paternalistic and patriarchal values that marginalise women and diverse agricultural, indigenous, pastoral and fisher communities around the world;

What can and will we do about it?

Just as we are working with the local community in Selingue to create a meeting space at Nyeleni, we are committed to building our collective movement for food sovereignty by forging alliances, supporting each others' struggles and extending our solidarity, strengths, and creativity to peoples all over the world who are committed to food sovereignty. Every struggle, in any part of the world for food sovereignty, is our struggle.

We have arrived at a number of collective actions to share our vision of food sovereignty with all peoples of this world, and these elaborated in our synthesis document. We will implement these actions in our respective local areas and regions, in our own movements and jointly in solidarity with other movements. We will share our vision and action agenda for food sovereignty with others who are not able to be with us here in Nyeleni so that the spirit of Nyeleni permeates across the world and becomes a powerful force to make food sovereignty a reality for peoples all over the world.

Finally, we give our unconditional and unwavering support to the peasant movements of Mali and ROPPA in their demands that food sovereignty become a reality.

Now is the time for food sovereignty!

The 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples

"Cultural Indicators for Food Security, Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Development"

From September 7 – 9, 2006, Indigenous experts including Indigenous rights activists, community leaders and traditional food producers from 6 regions (North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Pacific and Arctic) met together with representatives of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD).

This 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples was hosted by the Consejo Regional Autónomo (Autonomous Regional Council) in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte, Nicaragua and was coordinated by the International Indian Treaty Council in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization/SARD Initiative and el Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas, Nicaragua (CADPI).

The focus of the Consultation was to share experiences and build on previous work to develop a set of "Cultural Indicators for Food Security, Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Development" which can be used by UN Agencies and bodies, development institutions, NGO's and Indigenous communities.

The following are the results of the Consultation, as agreed to by consensus of the participants.

A. Underlying Principles for Cultural Indicators for Food Sovereignty:

1. Based on the definition of food Sovereignty as a prerequisite for Food Security for Indigenous Peoples as defined in the Declaration of Atitlan:

   "Food Sovereignty is the right of Peoples to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution, and consumption of food, with respect for their own cultures and their own systems of managing natural resources and rural areas, and is considered to be a precondition for Food Security"
2. Based on the Rights of Self Determination, Free, Prior and Informed Consent and full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples at all stages.
3. Based on and inextricably linked to Indigenous Peoples' right to lands, territories and natural resources.
4. Based on implementing real partnership efforts between Indigenous Peoples, key UN agencies (in particular, FAO, UNDP, UNPFII, WHO), States, NGO's, agencies, etc. as underscored in the 1st and 2nd UN Declarations for the International Decades.
5. Based on recognition of the common concerns and perspectives among all Indigenous Peoples as well as respect for the unique, distinct situations and needs of each Indigenous Peoples and each region.
6. Based on the recognition that the Right to Food, Food Security and Subsistence are fundamental inherent human rights of Indigenous Peoples and all Peoples, as is the right of Indigenous Peoples to set their own priorities for their development.

B. Criteria for Cultural Indicators

1. They have a food sovereignty focus, in particular relating to the relationship between food sovereignty and traditional culture
2. They are practical, useful and measurable
3. They should be broad enough to be applied in a range of regions and situations (where they could be made more specific and detailed if need be)
4. They can be used to measure trends and changes (increases and decreases over time)
5. They use the model proposed that includes under each theme structural, process and results indicators.
6. They reflect Indigenous Peoples' input and direct involvement in development, planning, data collection, analysis and follow-up activities.
7. They take into account the role and contributions of Indigenous men and women, youth and elders
8. They include the collection of anecdotal data, oral histories, interviews and other information provided by traditional practitioners, producers, elders and other community members, as well as from other sources (studies, testing, statistics, etc)

C. The definition of Development to be used in the context of Cultural Indicators

"Development with identity is the project of life of the Indigenous Peoples based on their own logic and worldview. It is the natural growth of Indigenous Peoples, of their flora and fauna based on principles of self determination in relation to land, territories, and natural resources. It is also respect for their individual and collective rights. It is the welfare and security of our peoples."

For more information on the cultural indicators and categories developed at the consultation – Indian treaty council visit:

carmen.andrea@treatycouncil.org

The Presence of Refugees
in Garissa district and their impact on the environment

by Hubble Hussein –Woman Kind Kenya

Garissa district is the second largest district in North Eastern province and the 4th largest district in the republic. It covers an area of 43,931km² and has an estimated population of 500,000 people. The district is among the least developed in the republic due to its climatic and general environmental condition. It is classified as Arid and Semi Arid Land and categorized to be ecological zone. With a fragile environment 90% of its inhabitants are Somalis who are predominately pastoralists.

The refugee phenomenon dates back to the biblical times. In December 1949 the UN general assembly established UNHCR and called upon all governments to cooperate with UNHCR in performing its functions. The Geneva Convention of 1981, the protocol of 1967 and OAU convention of 1969 were all conventions meant to provide for the protection of refugees internationally. Articles 2 and 12 of the Geneva conventions of 1951 on "General obligation" and personal status of refugees demand that refugees be governed and conform to law and regulation of the host countries. Over half a million asylum seekers crossed into Kenya within a span of six months in 1991 after the disintegration of Somali national state in 1990 and the fall of the Marsabit regime in Ethiopia in 1991. This was further compounded by another influx of refugees from the war in Sudan. These forced the government to hastily establish transit centres and refugees camps at main entry points such as Moyale, Mandera, Liboi, Mombasa, Amuma and Hulugho. Four of the refugee camps were later closed and their population transfereed to the only two remaining main camps, Dadaab in North Eastern Province and Kakuma in Turkana. The total populations were 130,000 and 110,000 refugees respectively. The refugee camps in Dadaab area are Ifo and Daghicy in Dadaab division and Hagardera camp in Jarajilla division with a refugees population of 16,163, 34,706 and 45,058 respectively.

The presence of these large population of refugees in the Dadaab area of Garissa has invariably had adverse environmental impacts on these fragile ecological zone. Competition for scarce resources found in these environment by over 200,000 people both locals and refugees, coupled with the presence of large herds of livestock and wildlife caused serious environmental degradation of the Dadaab region trust land environment. The environmental impact of these refugees has had multiple effects on this environment that can lead to irreversible land degradation and loss of biodiversity and economic value of the environment in. This phenomenon is rapidly spreading to the adjacent regions.

Even though we have given figures above, it is difficult to obtain the final figure as the numbers keep increasing as the refugees keep fleeing from the conflict in Mogandishu.

LAND

Land is a primary environmental resource that provides space and supports all biodiversity upon it. Land degradation renders this important resources economically worthless and unproductive and limiting landscape for economic production proportionally lowers its ability to support that economic activity.

Dadaab, Jarajilla and Liboi division cover an area of 7074kms and 1783km respectively and combined form approximately 1/3 of the district trust land available to support the local pastoral economy. The best dry land season grazing land, referred to as RAMAGUDA falls in the heart of these three divisions and because of its significance to the pastoral community, the range land development project drilled boreholes and divided the area into grazing blocks.

Fatuma Hassan, 35, mother of five, prepares a meal for her children at the open ground

The impact of the refugees on these resources has drastically reduced the land space previously available to the local community to make their livelihoods. Each refugee camp occupies 4km² of land that has become devoid of vegetation as a result of using earth-moving machines to make way for refugee

settlement. The former Liboi camp was occupying 2km² at bare land with gaping pit latrines and silted communal water pans. Currently the harvesting of live trees for FUEL WOOD takes place is 10km away from the camps, while the harvesting of live building materials is 40km away. The actual land area surrounding the refugee camps that has been rendered worthless and unusable by the local pastoralists is 50km² and will soon spread to 100km². Before the settlement of the refugees in Dadaab area the natural vegetation was relatively dense and comprised of trees, shrubs and grasses that sustained the pastoral economy. The most important trees, shrubs and grasses include acacia, spcordia, slimness, dalbergia, chloris, etc. Specific environmental impacts on vegetation by refugees in the trust land include:

1. Comsite bush clearing to pave way for refugee settlement camps
2. Indiscriminate harvesting of natural vegetation for different uses
3. Fuel wood extraction for domestic and commercial purposes, the most notorious being harvesting of live trees for fuel wood within vicinities of camps in the absence of lead fuel wood.

Building materials include poles, fitus, grass thatch and rafters and are harvested indiscriminately from natural vegetation by the refugees. It is well known fact that the UNHCR does NOT PROVIDE TENTS or shelter to the refugees. These refugees entirely depend on the surrounding natural vegetation for live building materials to construct their temporary shelters. These temporary shelter materials are perishable within six months due to the harsh weather conditions and are vulnerable to highly destructive ants that are common in the subject area. Let us take Hagardera camp as an example to estimate the live shelter and material requirements of the refugee in the camp form the surrounding trust-land environment.

1. Population of Hagardera - Camp refugees – 45,058
No of blocks in Hagardera camp – 9 blocks
Estimated average household in each sub-block e.g. block A = 100 households
Assume every household has six members and require at least 3 temporary shelters for accommodation and 2 temporary for resting and cooking purposes = 5 shelters.
Estimate tonnage of live building material for each temporary shelter 2 tonnes. Total tonnes of vegetation required per household in a block 1100 x 9 = 9900 tonnes.

Duration of this shelter is 6 months.

Estimated requirement of live vegetation for shelter materials per year = 9900 tones x 2 = 19,800. Duration of refugees in Dadaab area = 10 years. Total estimate live shelter materials harvested by all refugees in the three camps 198,000 x 3 = 594,000.

Wood carving materials are extracted from the natural environment surrounding refugee camps. Wood carvers are selective by targeting certain trees to meet market demands fortheir produce, which includes walking sticks, tablets, Koran materials, domestic vessels and wood crafts, the activity is posing a serious threat to some trees which are feared to become extinct in these trust land environments. Some of the most threatened tree species include Kulan (sam), Hagar (som)and Kuro (som) cordial imensis among others.

The harvesting of fencing materials in the area of the local trust land and is known to have immense environmental impacts on particular species of trees. Almost all the refugee camps, UNHCR and supporting agencies compounds are fenced with the commophora species. This activity has made this particular tree species rare in the environs of Dadaab refugee camp. A total of 640km has so far been fenced with this particular type of tree which is triple layered. The cost of establishing one meter of this fence is 80/= per meter 640km = 640,000m

WATER

The only two permanent water sources in Garissa district are Tana River and Merti Aquifer and these must cater for both human and livestock demands. Others are surface pans that dry up immediately. To meet water demands for the 130,000 refugees in Dadaab area, UNICEF/ UNHCR dug a total of 24 boreholes in 1992/ 1994. A lone ma chine with high discharge pumps, operating for 14 hours a day and extracting large volumes of water, specifics has the following impacts:

1. Destruction of water catchment area through deforestation
2. Over exploitation of the Mert Aquifar as the rate of the abstraction of underground water from the acquifer is not equivalent to the rate of recharge of the acquifer.
3. Lack of acquifer monitoring gadgets
4. Lowering of water table of merti acquifer at an alarming rate.

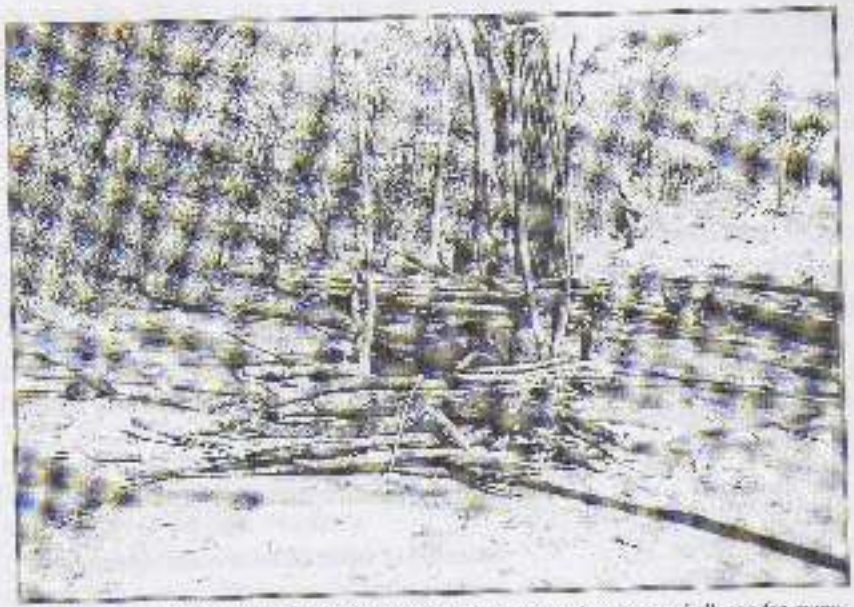
For more information write to, wokiko@wanench.com

The energy crisis and a bad solution

In 1972, a study conducted by the Massachussetts Institute of Technology (MIT), on growing consumer trends alerted politicians and scientists all over the world. The research titled "The limits of growth" was prepared by an international group of scientists, researchers and industrialists - later to be known as the Club of Rome - and became a classic for the analysis of the relationship between production and environment.

Throughout the seventies and most of the eighties, various theories and studies endeavoured to analyze the problem of the limitations imposed by nature on the development model. In 1990, forceful neo-liberal waves wiped out a considerable part of those efforts and the idea of unlimited growth based on technological progress overwhelmingly prevailed in political and academic circles all over the world. However now in the twenty-first century it would seem that the energy issue is emerging as yet another reminder of those old announcements which affirmed that in life everything has a limit.

Energy sources and uses- Energy sources are divided into renewable and non-renewable sources. Solar energy, wind energy, geothermic energy (harnessing the heat inside the Earth), plant biomass and hydraulic energy (from water) are virtually inextinguishable sources of energy, some because of the enormous amount of energy they contain and others because they can be regenerated by natural means. Non-renewable energies, once totally consumed cannot be replaced in the short or medium term, for instance as in the case of fossil fuels (formed during millions of years by action of heat inside the earth and the pressure of rocks and soil on the remains of dead plants and animals) and nuclear fuels. With industrialization coal appeared on the scene and later on (at the end of the nineteenth century), oil and gas. Most of the world energy consumption is based on one of these non-renewable sources: oil, natural gas and coal, adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Today, 80 per cent of the oil consumed in the world comes from wells discovered during the seventies and are now reaching their ceiling for daily extraction. The consumption of oil rose from 2,753 million barrels in 1973 to 3,767 million barrels in 2004. The daily extraction of oil amounts to some 75 million barrels and a 2 per cent annual growth is expected over the next few years. By 2020 some 100 million barrels a day will be needed. This in turn gives rise to the urgent need for new prospecting and discovering of reserves as the present ones can no longer increase their extractive capacity. There are major differences in the use of energy between rich and poor countries. Although consumption of fossil energy in third world countries has risen at a faster rate, their participation in world consumption has dropped. According to the International Energy Agency, by 2025, 82 per cent of the population of the planet will be consuming 45 per cent of the energy, while in the industrialized countries, 14 per cent of the population will be consuming 43 per cent (the remaining amount corresponds to the so-called transition economies). The percentage of energy consumed in the United States is some 25% of world consumption for 4.6 per cent of the world population, while in India consumption is 3.1 per cent for 16.6 per cent of the world population. In other words, a US citizen consumes an average of



Logging everywhere even the least expected areas here continues to a challenge for many centres

fifty times more that an inhabitant of India.

Disproportionate use of fossil fuels has fed unsustainable economic growth. From the time "The limits of growth" was published and today, increase in energy consumption - and the need to increase supply - was sustained with the argument of economic growth to overcome the poverty of the vast masses of the population. Since then we have undergone an escalation of continuous growth - except for a few years - where increased energy consumption has not been accompanied by the same measure of improvement in people's living conditions. Furthermore, the vision mechanically associating growth of exchange and consumption of energy with "development" overlooks several key problems, among them the fact that energy imports increase a country's dependence; energy exports have a strong impact on the balance of payments but also make the producing country extremely vulnerable to changes in importing economies; the use, exploitation and transformation of energy always have environmental impacts left unaccounted in the balance of payments.

Climate change as a result of excessive fossil fuel use

The United Nations has warned that we are going through the largest process of extinction of life on the planet since the disappearance of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Climate change causing the abrupt increase in the mean temperature of the earth's surface has been identified as one of the main causes of this process. Additionally, climate change is directly related to an accelerated increase in carbon dioxide emissions together with other greenhouse effect gases as a consequence of the current development models - production and consumption - encouraging an excessive use of fossil fuels and unsound land uses (see WRM bulletin No. 76). The international community's response to the threat of climate change has been given through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in May 1992. Its declared objective is to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases resulting from human activities at a level that will not involve risks for the climate system. In 1997 the Kyoto Protocol established obligations for reduction, basically affecting industrialized countries which, so far, do not appear to be willing to change their energy consumption model.

As a response to commitments to reduce carbon emissions, the European Union and the United States are seeking "solutions" that do not imply taking on the cost of radically changing their unsustainable production, trade and consumption patterns based on squandering energy. The way of life of a small sector of the planet is threatening the whole of humanity with a planetary crisis.

Within this context, biofuels enter into the scene

Biofuels are any fuel that derives from biomass - recently living organisms or their metabolic byproducts. Thus it could be oils from plants, manure from cows, wood from trees and so on. We will focus —in this bulletin— on biofuels that are derived from crops and include biomass that is burnt directly; biodiesel obtained from oil seeds and ethanol produced from the fermentation of sugars found in plants. Vegetable oil can be used as fuel either pure or blended with gasoline. It can also be converted to biodiesel through a process using alcohol and a strong alkali to make a more volatile blend based on oil from a variety of plants. The European Union and the United States have adopted policies promoting rapid biofuel expansion. This has led to the creation of an enormous market in the tropical countries of the South which are converting millions of hectares to bio-energy monocultures to feed European and US automobiles. All this is done without stopping to study the impacts of this expansion on the planet. Effects on the forests of Latin America and Asia and on their people are already being felt.

Facing the present energy crisis or the climate change crisis - the other side of the same coin-, the politicians and technocrats have shown no willingness to adopt strong measures to solve them. In this great vacuum and paralysis largely supported by major corporate interests, false and dangerous solutions are being promoted that urgently need to be submitted to public scrutiny and debate, such as the growing enthusiasm over biofuels which merely worsen existing socio-economic, technical and environmental problems.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Read more by visiting the websites listed

Article based on: "Energía en Sudamérica: una interconexión que no integra", Gerardo Honty, Ceuta, Nueva Sociedad 204, http://www.nuso.org/upload/articulos/3369_1.pdf; "Biocombustibles Renovables y sustentables", Gerardo Honty, Peripecias Nº 18, www.peripecias.com; "Which energy?", 2006, ISS, Energy Report, Mae-Wan Ho, Peter Bunyard, Peter Saunders, Elizabeth Bravo, Rhea Gale; "Biofuels: Renewable Energy or Environmental Disaster in the Making?", Almuth Ernsting, Biofuelwatch, http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/background.php

Who does the biofuel business benefit?

There are over 800 million automobiles in the world, consuming over 50 percent of the energy produced in the world, making individual vehicles the prime cause of the greenhouse effect. Although there is consensus that climate change is a fact, there is no serious intention of changing the life-style causing it and instead, technological solutions are being sought to enable the companies benefiting from this model to maintain their profits. In this context, over the past years biofuels have started to be promoted as an alternative to global warming.

European countries - in their eagerness to comply with their obligations within the Kyoto Protocol - are determined to switch their energy systems based on fossil fuels to biofuels, but their production is insufficient to cover their needs. Although the United States has enough farmland, the consumption of energy is so high that they will also have to depend on imports to cover their demand. Where will these biofuels come from? Well, from regions such as Latin America, Asia and Africa. In many countries, farmlands or natural ecosystems will be used for the production of crops used to produce biofuels.

Biofuels will compound problems caused by soya bean, oil palm and sugar cane monocultures because of world voracity for energy and still not resolve fundamental ecological and social problems.

The Brazilian Minister Dilma Rousseff (Civil House) stated that biofuels express "a marriage between agro-business and the oil industry." In this marriage the biotechnology industry must also be included. Perhaps the most paradigmatic example is the new association set up by the BP oil company and the DuPont biotechnology company. Together they are going to develop, produce and put on the market a new generation of biofuels to increase global fuel demand for renewable transport. The two companies have been working since 2003 and will be introducing on the British market a new product: biobutanol as a bio-component of gasoline. The companies are benefiting from DuPont's biotechnology capacity and BP's experience and know-how in fuel production. They hope to become world leaders in the development of advanced biofuels which, according to their estimates, could involve as much as 20 percent as blends in transport in some key markets.

The biotechnology industry has found an opportunity to increase its business through biofuels, mainly because they will enable it to remain on the market for a long time, in spite of opposition by consumers all over the world who have rejected transgenic crops as sources of food. The incorporation of transgenic crops in the preparation of biofuels will help the biotechnology industry to improve its image which had resoundingly deteriorated over the past years. After many promises made by this industry that it could never have fulfilled, today it is offering to develop new transgenic varieties better adapted to the production of energy. The RR soya bean will be the main raw material used in the production of biodiesel in the Southern Cone and possibly in other countries of the region. The RR soya bean already covers vast areas in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil. The use of transgenic soya beans in the production of biodiesel was presented by President Lula as a way out of the polemics on the use of transgenic soya beans in Brazil. He said that instead of people eating transgenic soya beans they will be used to make biodiesel because cars will not reject it. Monsanto is the company that will most benefit from this business as it collects royalties from the sale of its patented transgenic seeds and the product of its harvests (in this case, biodiesel) already the case of soya oil made from RR soya beans, and other companies such as Cargill, Bunge, ADM, which will market biodiesel. Furthermore, no doubt a large part of the maize used in the distillation of ethanol in the United States comes from transgenic crops. Each litre of ethanol that is sold increases the income of biotechnology companies holding the patents for transgenic maize seeds. These companies include Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer and Dupont.

Another oil-seed used in making biofuels is colza. The European Union's Confederation of Food and Beverage Industries has requested the European Commission to authorize imports of new varieties of genetically modified colza for the biodiesel industry.

Additionally, they are starting to test new transgenic varieties specifically designed for the production of biofuels. Syngenta has developed transgenic 3272 maize that expresses the alpha amylase enzyme mixed with conventional maize in the process of elaborating ethanol from maize. The alpha amilasa enzyme has been identified as triggering important food allergies. If the genes synthesizing it manage to infiltrate the food chain we will be facing a protein with unthought-of effects on human physiology.

US food companies are opposed to the introduction into the environment of transgenic crops that are not intended for food because they fear possible genetic contamination of their products with these genes. Another sector benefiting from biofuels is the oil industry. Oil companies, and above all, European oil companies, have decided to enter the business of "environmentally friendly" products to satisfy their consumer needs and to adapt to the new goals of the European Commission regarding

renewable energies. Some of the companies having best diversified their business are Total, BP and Shell.

The French company Total obeys the policies of that country strongly promoting renewable energies. France is the second largest producer of biodiesel and ethanol in Europe (it has 4,500 service stations in that country) and has a considerable market in Spain and Italy, where it has 1,740 and 1,400 service stations respectively. It is currently planning to open up new plants in Africa and South America. The case of BP and Shell is different as neither Holland nor England is engaged in promoting biofuels but they have service stations in countries where consumers demand them. For example, BP has 2,700 service stations in Germany (the largest producer of biodiesel in Europe). Shell has 2,200 service stations in Germany and 1,000 in France.

Royal Dutch Shell intends to develop a second generation of biofuels and has been experimenting with the refining of bio-ethanol from lignin and pulp in cooperation with the Canadian company, Iongen. Another of Shell's strategic partners is the Choren Industries (Germany), with whom it has been working on the production of diesel from forestry biomass. Among the US companies, Chevron has set up a business unit in advanced technologies to take advantage of the opportunity to produce and distribute ethanol and biodiesel in the United States. This unit is located in Galveston (Texas) with a production capacity of 100 million gallons per year of biodiesel. Chevron processes 300 million gallons of ethanol per year in the United States. In Latin America, in spite of its considerable oil reserves Venezuela is preparing to join Brazil and Argentina in the development of fuels originating from plants as an energy alternative. The search for technologies to produce alternative fuels, among them biodiesel, is also included in an agreement recently signed by Venezuela and 13 other Caribbean countries to set up Petrocaribe. Most of the fuels containing pure alcohol or mixtures in Brazil are produced by Petrobras refineries, the State company.

The Spanish company, Repsol that already produces biodiesel in Spain, will invest 30 million dollars in a first biodiesel plant in Argentina, that it will start building in 2007. During a first stage, production capacity will be 120,000 cubic metres per year mixed with gas oil in a proportion of 5 percent. Finally we have the automobile industry. This industry is responsible for the greatest consumption of fossil fuels and for the greenhouse effect on a world level, but it is also adapting to the new wave of biofuels.

Already in Brazil all the major international automobile companies have adapted themselves to making vehicles that run on alcohol. Half the vehicles sold in Brazil in 2004 were designed to use pure alcohol or alcohol in mixtures. In other parts of the world, these companies have entered into partnerships, joint ventures and joint projects with various companies to improve their image, achieve technological transformation and continue doing business for a long time yet. For example, there is the announcement made by the Germany company, Volkswagen AG to extend the guarantee to automobiles using biodiesel (B5) added to the fuel. This announcement is part of a joint initiative lasting 2 years with the trans-national food company, Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), after the two companies had assessed this biofuel for a year.

For its part, the Japanese company, Toyota announced a strategic cooperation with BP for the production of ethanol from pulp waste in Canada. This is the route that other companies have also followed. They are not concerned about the future of the planet, but must adapt themselves to the new demands made by their consumers and by international obligations that some countries have acquired with the Kyoto Protocol. The use of biofuels is being promoted all around the world and various countries have launched national biofuel programme, making laws favouring this sector, and consultative councils have been set up on the subject, etc. The justifications given, among others, are that the proliferation of energy crops such as sugar cane, oil palm, soya beans and other crops may become an important factor in rural development and that the substitution of fossil fuels by biofuels will contribute to lessen global warming.

However, the biofuel business will help to position the biotechnology industry, to recycle the oil and automobile industry and to expand the profits of industries marketing biofuels. This does not imply that all that has been said is applied to the use of vegetable oils, cane bagasse or other agricultural or forest waste to supply the energy needs of small local communities. The problem we are now facing is one of scale. We refer to the problems that arise when we have to satisfy the demands of consumers who want to continue enjoying their standard of living based on squandering, but who also want to have a clear conscience when they put into the tank of their vehicle 5.75% of biofuel that may come from the Amazon forest of Brazil or from Paraguayan lands from which the peasant population has been violently displaced or from their own farmlands. Unless we can change the development model and initiate a transition towards a post-oil society, where the energy consumption patterns are changed, biofuels cannot be a solution to curb climate change. With this in mind, we must continue to work towards a society that promotes and respects everybody's food and energy sovereignty.

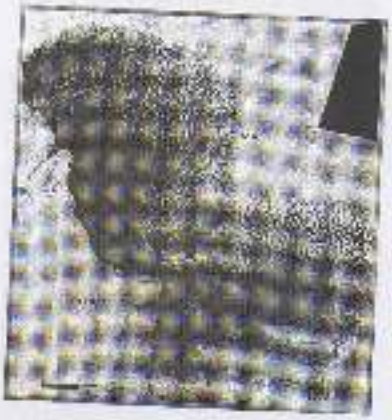
By Elizabeth Bravo, Acción Ecológica, e-mail: ebravo@ralit.org, http://www.accionecologica.org/whhae/index.php

The Dying lakes of Africa

a dark future for the Continent

by JIN team

Seen from space, the earth appears as a largely blue planet, suggesting the presence of vast quantities of water. Although this is true, only about two per cent of the earth's water is fresh, and the majority of this small fraction is locked up in glaciers and icebergs or located far underground beyond our easy reach. Lakes appear as blue diamond mosaics in the terrestrial mass. As a relative perspective, if all water on earth could be put into a four-litre bottle, the readily-available quantity for use by people would be about one tablespoon, or less than half of one per cent of the total. Nevertheless, even this small amount is deemed sufficient to meet all the present and foreseeable people's needs- if it were evenly distributed around the world and protected from degradation.



Lake Chad in 1972: Located at the junction of Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, Lake Chad was once the sixth-largest lake in the world and the second largest wetland in Africa. It was highly productive and supported a diversity of wildlife, including gazelle, primus monkey, hyena, cheetah, wild dog, after African elephant and hippopotamus. In 1972 it had a surface of 16,384 square kilometers.

A lake is defined as a large body of water, which is surrounded by land. Lakes are usually formed when natural depressions or basins in the land surface become filled with water over time. They can range from small ponds to water bodies stretching hundreds of kilometres and containing vast quantities of water; large lakes are sometimes referred to as 'inland seas'. Some small seas are also often referred to as lakes. As definitions of lakes vary, the precise number of the world's lakes is difficult to determine. In contras to flowing streams and rivers, lakes provide a means for pooling or storing water for varying periods of time. Lakes are one of our most important natural resources, especially in the tropics, where they form highly productive biological systems. They provide water for consumption, irrigation, fishing, power generation, transportation, recreation, and a variety of other domestic, agricultural and industrial uses

Natural and human made lakes and wetlands provide significant storage of somewhat easily accessible global terrestrial water, which varies seasonally and annually according to climatic variation and anthropogenic activities. There are approximately 50,000 natural lakes and 7500 man-made lakes in the world. Despite the publication of several world lakes datasets and databases, most data on limnologically studied natural and artificial lakes are dispersed over a wide range of literature.

Africa, with a total area of 30 244 050 km2 (11 677 293 square miles), is the second largest and second most populous continent after Asia. It covers approximately 20.3% of the total land area on earth. With over 800 million people, it accounts for about one seventh of the world's population. It is also the largest of the three great southward projections from the main mass of the earth's surface. It is estimated that Africa has about 30,000km3 of water in large lakes, which is the largest volume on any continent. Africa is endowed with hundreds of lakes, both natural and artificial. For example, Lake Bosumtwi is a natural lake that was formed from a crater when a large meteorite smashed into the continent Lake Nasser, on the other hand, is a reservoir or artificial lake created behind the Aswan Dam in Egypt. Africa is also

Lake Chad in 2001: Pastoral droughts have shrunk Lake Chad to about a tenth of its former size. It's surface into a mere just 1,346 square kilometers. Between the 1970s and today the seasonal cycles became more and more serious. In addition, human demand for water resources near Lake Chad has grown rapidly. In 1986, an estimated 13 million people lived within the catchment area. By 1986, the population had already doubled to 26 million.

home to some of the largest lakes in the world, many of which are bordered by two or more countries Lake Victoria is the largest of all African and the second largest fresh water body in the world with a surface of about 68 800 km2. Its extensive surface is divided among three countries, the northern half to Uganda, the southern half to Tanzania and part of the north eastern sector to Kenya.

According to the **World Lake Database**, there are 677 lakes in Africa, with 88 of them listed as principal lakes. Although lakes are a source of livelihood in most African societies, they are also a major source of natural disasters, tropical diseases, and pandemics. It is important to note that Africa's lakes are undergoing significant changes due to a combination of human activities and climate change, with potentially serious implications for people's livelihoods and aquatic biodiversity.

Africa, particularly East Africa, has numerous lakes that support very important fisheries providing a livelihood to millions of people and contributing significantly to the food supply. In many of these lakes, however, fisheries are reaching a state of maturity and unsustainability. The fisheries of just 11 lakes in the 11 countries of Eastern Africa employ close to half a million people, with perhaps three time as many engaged in secondary activities and related services thus supporting about 4% of the regions entire population. This has also resulted in transboundary water conflict, despite the creation of regional initiatives on integrated water management. Transboundary freshwater resources will clearly become a source of growing conflict in Africa without the development of – and adherence to- sound multilateral agreements for their shared management. The degree of resource utilisation differs greatly from lake to lake and according to the two main types of fisheries: demersal/ onshore and pelagic/offshore. Currently, demersal/onshore resources are being exploited more heavily or overexploited. Africa's large lakes are receiving considerable biological attention through a number of international activities, with research focusing particularly on lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Malawi. However, governmental support for lakes remains low in many African countries, with little money allocated from national budgets for their conservation and development.

Although Africa's lakes are limited and represent sensitive resources that call for proper care and management, they remain among the most abused of the continents natural resources. The direct disposal of waste water into lakes continues to have a damaging impact on their fragile ecological balances. Human impacts in the lake basins and catchments also have devastating consequences for the lakes themselves, including: rapid siltation caused by accelerated soil erosion, irreversible take up of water and or salinity due to irrigation, eutrophication, contamination with toxic chemicals and mine tailings and acidification. Effective integrated watershed management requires not only strict soil conservation measures, but changes in the way that water moves through the agro-ecosystem. In Africa, human factors, in combination with the natural conditions of climate and geology, may influence water quality to a large extent. Some African nations do not have industries that flourish in developed countries, and pollutants are not produced in such high quantities. However, pollution resulting from land-use changes, environmental modification and other practices associated with rapid population increase, have caused or accelerated many changes in the continent's lakes. The main threats to water quality in Africa include eutrophication, pollution and the proliferation of invasive aquatic plants such as the water hyacinth. Industrial wastes are still discharged without treatment into rivers and lakes in most African countries, posing a major and persistent health problem. Recurring droughts are also a major threat and cause of water shortages.

Africa's freshwater supply, including lakes, is threatened by certain natural phenomenon and human factors. Among the greatest natural threats are: The multiplicity of transboundary water basins, extreme and temporal variability of climate and rainfall, growing water scarcity, shrinking of some water bodies and desertification.

The major human threats include

The pursuit of inappropriate governance and institutional arrangements in managing national and transnational water basins, the depletion of water resources through pollution, environmental degradation and deforestation, failure to invest adequately in resource assessment, protection and development and unsustainable financing of investments in water supply and sanitation. These threats pose challenges in managing the continent's water resources and in meeting competing demands for basic

water supplies.

Water supplies are undoubtedly one of the most important resources for Africa's social, economic and environmental well being. Currently, about two-thirds of the rural population an done quarter of the urban population are without safe drinking water and even higher proportions lack proper sanitation. Climate change will likely make the situation even worse. The greatest impact will continue to be felt by the poor, who have the most limited access to water resources.

Other threats to Africa's lakes include:

- Poisoning. Mercury poisoning is affecting at least three of Africa's great lakes: Turkana, Naivasha and Baringo.
- Drought. Lake Chad, once one of the continent's largest freshwater bodies, has dramatically decreased in size due to climate change and extraction. Once close in surface area to North America's Lake Eerie, Lake Chad is now a ghost of its former self. According to a study by University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers, working with NASA's Earth Observing Systems Programme, the lake is now one –twentieth of the size it was 35 years ago.
- Killer lakes. In August 1986 Lake Nyos in Cameroon "exploded" releasing up to 1km3 of co2 and killing about 1700 people up to 26km away. A smaller gas burst from Lake Monoun in August 1984 killed 37 people. Steps are being undertaken to reduce such risks in the future.
- Flooding. In addition to drought, lakes may flood, posing threats to human populations living close by. An example is Lake Kyoga.
- Potential collapse of dams. The United Nations team of experts dispatched on 21st September 2005 to Lake Nyos, in Cameroon's northwest province to assess the stability of its natural dam warned of the risk of its potential collapse within the next five years and called for urgent measures to prevent it.

The Africa water vision for 2025 calls for:

- Strengthening the governance of Africa's water resources.
- Improving national and regional water wisdom.
- Meeting the most urgent water needs.
- Strengthening the financial base for a sustainable water future.

Human influence on the Lakes- Africa's lakes are among the most heavily exploited of all the continent's freshwater resources. With human populations continuing to grow, this pressure shows no sign of abating. While some countries may have high annual averages of available water per capita, many already face water stress- 1700m3 or less per person annually- or scarcity conditions – 1000m3 or less. At present, 14 African countries are subject to water stress or scarcity, with those in Northern Africa facing the most pressure with 11 more countries expected to join them within the next 25 years. Freshwater fisheries are the main source of income and protein for millions of African people. The annual freshwater fish catch is estimated at about 1.4 million tonnes, with Egypt alone contributing about 14%. However, the damming of the Nile and the disposal of untreated sewage and industrial effluents, has endangered fish species and reduced the catch in many regions, including the Nile Delta and Lake Chad. The introduction of exotic fish species into Africa's lakes has also reduced the number and size of indigenous fish populations- the most notable being the impact of the Nile Perch(lates niloticus)_ on the Tilapia(oreochromis spp) and other indigenous species in Lake Victoria. The health of a lake is intrinsically linked to its watershed and to changes made to the landscape. Over-extraction of water and diversions from rivers that feed lakes has been compounded by pollution and sedimentation. Many lakes also support extensive fisheries, with accompanying problems of stock depletion and invasive species. Meaningful long-term improvements in lake scan only result from a comprehensive look at their entire watersheds and basins.

Reservoirs serve many different and diverse functions. They improve water supplies for irrigation and households, provide power, mitigate floods, and reduce dependence upon fossils fuels through the generation of hydroelectric power. The meeting of the combined needs of water and energy from dams and reservoirs must be balanced by the minimising and mitigating of their adverse environmental and social impacts.

Wetlands are defined as areas that are regularly saturated by surface water or underground water, and are characterised by vegetations that is adapted for life

in saturated soil conditions. They include swaps, bogs, fens, marshes and estuaries (USEPA 1994), and they generally support a rich biological diversity with many endemic and rare flora and fauna. Wetlands are found in most African countries. The largest include the Okavango Delta, the Sudd in the Upper Nile, Lake Victoria and Chad basins, and the floodplains and deltas of the Congo, Niger and Zambezi rivers. Despite being among the most biological productive ecosystems on the continent, wetlands are often regarded, locally, either as wasteland, habitats for pests and a threat to public health, or as potential areas of agriculture. As a result, many wetlands are being lost due to increasing pollution or conversion to agricultural use. During the past decades, Niger has lost more than 80 per cent of its freshwater wetlands (Niger Ministry of Environment and Hydraulics 1997). Coastal wetlands in Egypt and Tunisia and freshwater wetlands in the Sudan are also under increasing threat. Freshwater ecosystems found in lakes, rivers and wetlands may be the most endangered ecosystems of all. They have already lost a greater proportion of their species and habitats than terrestrial or marine ecosystems, and are in danger of further losses due to damming, pollution, over-fishing, and other threats. Rising demands for increasingly scarce freshwater resources are leading to growing concerns about future access to these resources – particularly where they are shared between countries. Two or more countries share about 50 rivers in Africa. Access to water from any of these rivers could provoke conflict, particularly in the Nile, Niger, Volta and Zambezi basins (Hinrichsen 1997). As in other dry regions, agriculture is the largest user of fresh water in Africa, accounting for an estimated 88 per cent of total water use. However, with only six percent of cropland under irrigation, there remains considerable potential to increase food production through irrigation, and water demand for irrigation will inevitably continue to grow. Some 40-60 per cent of the region's irrigation water is currently lost through seepage and evaporation. This contributes to serious environmental problems such as soil salinisation and water logging, although water 'lost' in this way may end up in aquifers where it can be pumped to irrigate nearby fields.

Africa's population is expected to grow by 2.21 per cent from 2005-2010, and the growth rate is expected to decline by 1.8 per cent from 2020-2025. This compares to expected world population growth of 1.2 per cent from 2005-2010, and 0.8 per cent growth from 2020-2025. Increasing populations and corresponding water shortages will exacerbate the challenges the continent faces in the third millennium, giving rise to an ever-greater need for regional cooperation in addressing water related issues. According to Harden (1968), Africa's growing population is the major cause of the degradation and population of most of the continent's lakes. Hayden's theory appears to have stood the test of time, as high population increases continue to have negative impacts on most of Africa's lakes.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Stories on the dying Lakes of Africa are a collection from Africa's Lakes. Atlas of our changing Environment, www.unep.org

Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity

This year, the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May will be celebrated on the theme "Biodiversity and Climate Change". The theme is particularly appropriate, coming in the wake of the recently released Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The assessment makes it clear that climate change is real, that it is driven by human activity, and that, without action, its consequences on natural systems and on society will be severe.

Climate change is forecast to become one of the biggest threats to biodiversity. Tackling its causes is vital to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems and the services they provide to human societies. Protecting biodiversity and maintaining the resilience of ecosystems will at the same time help mitigate climate change, reduce its impacts and help us adapt.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a call for urgent and concerted action on climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is hosting a major event in Montreal on 22 May with dignitaries, including the Premier of Quebec, Canadian Federal Government Cabinet Ministers, and the Mayor of Montreal. International dignitaries include the executive heads of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and, through video messages, the Ministers of Environment of Brazil and Germany.

More partner organizations and countries than ever before are marking the day with special events, including the United Nations Environment Programme at its headquarters in Nairobi and its regional offices, and United Nations offices in New York and Tokyo.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a chance to show that we, as individuals and members of a larger community, care about the future well-being of our planet and in ensuring a better life for us all. Please join us in celebrating life on Earth.

For more information on the celebrations please visit:
http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cucreach/annoncews/book-day-2007.html

Mainstreaming Culture and Tradition in the Management of Africa's Lakes

IIN Team

More than 3000 ethnic groups, cultures and languages reside on the African continent. The tremendous beauty of its natural resources, its modern urban centres, its great mineral wealth, and its ancient cultures all establish that Africa has much to offer the world. Although African cultures are not heterogeneous, many attach strong religious or spiritual significance to large water bodies such as lakes. Across Africa, people refer to water by evocative names such as Mvura, Maji and Woha, which can all basically be translated as a thing that does something significant that causes something to be "the fluid of creation." Lakes are also significant repositories of natural and human history, with ancient local political centres often arising on or near their shores. Specific lifestyles based entirely on lakes and their resources have developed in many locations, for example the ancient indigenous cultures that have sprung up around Ethiopia's Lake Tana basin.

Many Africans believe that water is a living entity, controlling the life forces of every bird, fish and other creature. As such, major freshwater lakes evoke significant respect. Older cultures hold that pollution occurs in a river upstream, the water gods will become angry and dry up lakes or cause flooding. The Tonga people of Zambia believe that floods in Lake Kariba are the result of the anger of the water snake, Nyaminyami. They celebrate the lake's natural rhythm through poems, songs, dances, and other events in their daily lives. The pattern of Lake Kariba is the pattern of life in Zambia, and if that pattern damaged through the unsustainable use of its water, the whole web of life in the country will begin to unravel. Many African cultures also have natural totems, some of which are linked to aquatic species such as fish or crocodiles. People who identify themselves with a certain water species are not allowed to eat it or exploit it in any other way (Chenje 2000). Lakes are regarded as holy or sacred and often boast the greatest diversity of aquatic life, as exploitation of their resources is regarded as taboo or as a sin to the gods of water or lakes. Lake water is also used for medicinal purposes by some traditional healers, who believe that drinking or bathing in it can remove human misfortunes. The 'holy' attributes of lake water, its use in baptisms or for exorcising evil spirits, also indirectly help in the conservation of lakes. However, due to globalisation and the gradual erosion of traditional African cultures, such beliefs are dying out – and with them traditional controls over the exploitation and pollution of these larger bodies.

Gender differences also have an impact on the utilisation of Africa's lakes and their natural resources (Nakijoba 1996; Nanjunya 2001). Degradation of resources tends to affect men and women differently, as evidenced by the impact of the reclamation of the Nkivubo Wetlands around Lake Victoria. Declining wetland resources affect women more adversely as they tend to utilise them more than men for their households' food and medicinal resources (Nakijoba 1996). There is a clear emerging need to mainstream gender and culture in the sustainable management and utilisation of Africa's lake resources.

Water-related diseases are among the most common causes of illness and death, particularly among poor communities in developing countries. Such diseases kill more than five million people each year –more than ten times the number killed in wars. They can be divided into four categories: water-borne, water-based, water-related, and water-scarce diseases. These diseases are very common among communities living close to lakes in Africa.

"Improving water management is a powerful tool that can be used by individuals, communities and households to protect their own health."

An Elmolo traditional village at the shores of Lake Turkana in Kenya

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of the World Health Organisation

The most common water-borne diseases-cholera, dysentery, typhoid and hepatitis-are among the greatest emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, contributing up to 70-80 per cent of all health problems in developing countries. Their causative agents may be bacterial or viral in nature and generally have endemic and epidemic periods. The burden of these diseases is felt in almost every African country-particularly those with large water bodies like lakes.

More than half of Africa's people lack access to safe drinking water, leaving them vulnerable to water-borne diseases. Whatever the quality, water is often in short supply. In rural Africa, people use four to nine gallons of water per day per person for domestic purposes, and much of this is untreated water drawn directly from rivers or lakes. Food production also suffers from major water shortages. Of all the renewable water available in Africa each year, only four per cent is actually used, because most Africans lack the wells, canals, pumps, reservoirs and other irrigation systems needed to make use of potential water supplies from their lakes. Point and non-point source pollution of surface and ground water also poses a major threat to public health, coming not only from human waste but also from agricultural runoff, waste dumps, mining and industry. For example:

- High concentrations of nitrates from agriculture in drinking water result in oxygen-starvation in the brain. This is especially dangerous for babies.
- Benzene, a component of petrol, is carcinogenic (cancer-causing);
- Most heavy metals are toxic. For example, arsenic is carcinogenic, lead damages the nervous system, cadmium results in kidney problems, and chromium can cause severe skin reactions;
- Most organic components of products like pesticides, tar and solvents are toxic; they can lead to kidney and liver problems, heart problems, damage to the nervous system, cancer, and skin problems.

Ensuring access to safe fresh water is imperative. Water is an economic issue as it is essential for agriculture, food and energy production, as well as for recreation. In the developing world, it is women's issue as women have the primary responsibility for domestic water collection. Time spent gathering water robs women and girls of time for education or for engaging in meaningful work. It is also, of course, a children's issue as water is essential for healthy development. It is estimated that a child dies every eight seconds from water-borne diseases.

Global Warming: The vicious circle

By Steve Connor, Science Editor

The effects of man-made emissions of carbon dioxide are being felt on every inhabited continent in the world with very different parts of the climate now visibly responding to human activity. These are among the main findings of the most intensive study of climate change by 2,000 of the world's leading climate scientists. They conclude that there is now little doubt that human activity is changing the face of the planet.

In addition to rising surface temperatures around the world, scientists have now linked man-made emissions of greenhouse gases to significant increases in ocean temperatures, rises in sea levels and the dramatic melting of Arctic sea ice over the past 35 years.

A draft copy of the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that global temperature rises this century of between 2C and 4.5C are almost inevitable. Ominously, however, it also says that much higher increases of 6C "or more" cannot be ruled out. The final version of the IPCC's latest report is to be published on Friday but a draft copy, seen by The Independent, makes it clear that climate change could be far worse than previously thought because of potentially disastrous "positive" feedbacks which could accelerate rising temperatures.

A warmer world is increasing evaporation from the oceans, causing atmospheric concentrations of water vapour, a powerful greenhouse agent, to have increased by 4 per cent over the sea since 1970. Water vapour in the atmosphere exacerbates the greenhouse effect. This is the largest positive feedback identified in the report, which details for the first time the IPCC's concern over the uncertainties - and dangers - of feedback cycles that may quickly accelerate climate change.

All the climate models used by the IPCC also found that rising global temperatures will erode the planet's natural ability to absorb man-made CO2. This could

lead to CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere rising by a further 44 per cent, causing global average temperatures to increase by an additional 1.2C by 2100. The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report will go further than any of its three previous reports in linking the clear signs of global climate change with increases in man-made emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

"Confidence in the assessment of the human contributions to recent climate change has increased considerably since the TAR [Third Assessment Report]," says the draft report. This is due to the stronger signs of climate change emerging from longer and more detailed records and scientific observations, it says. The "anthropogenic signal" - the visible signs of human influence on the climate - has now emerged not just in global average surface temperatures, but in global ocean temperatures and ocean heat content, temperature extremes on the land and the rapidly diminishing Arctic sea ice. "Anthropogenic warming of the climate system is widespread and can be detected in temperature observations taken at the surface, in the free atmosphere and in the oceans," the draft report says. "It is highly likely [greater than 95 per cent probability] that the warming observed during the past half century cannot be explained without external forcing [human activity]." The report adds that global warming over the past 50 years would have been worse had it not been for the counterbalancing influence of man-made emissions of aerosol pollutants, tiny airborne particles that reflect sunlight to cause atmospheric cooling. "Without the cooling effect of atmospheric aerosols, it is likely that greenhouse gases alone would have caused more global mean temperature rise than that observed during the last 50 years," the draft report says.

"The hypothetical removal from the atmosphere of the entire current burden of anthropogenic sulphate aerosol particles would produce a rapid increase of about 0.8C within a decade or two in the globally averaged temperature." The IPCC says that over the coming century we are likely to see big changes to the Earth's climate system. These include:

- Heat waves, such as the one that affected southern Europe in summer 2003, are expected to be more intense, longer-lasting and more frequent.
- Tropical storms and hurricanes are likely to be stronger, with increased rainfall and higher storm surges flooding coastlines.
- The Arctic is likely to become ice free in the summer, and there will be continued melting of mountain glaciers, ice caps and ice sheets.
- Sea levels will rise significantly even if levels of CO2 are stabilised. By 2100 sea levels could be 0.43 metres higher on average than present, and by 2300 they could be up to 0.8 metres higher. The IPCC also finally nails the canard of the climate sceptics who argue that global warming is a myth or the result of natural climate variability; natural factors alone cannot account for the observed warming, the IPCC says. "These changes took place at a time when non-anthropogenic forcing factors (i.e. the sum of solar and volcanic forcing) would be expected to have produced cooling, not warming.

"There is increased confidence that natural internal variability cannot account for the observed changes, due in part to improved studies demonstrating that the warming occurred in both oceans and atmosphere, together with observed ice mass losses."

The report, the first draft of which was formulated last year, will be made public on Friday in Paris.

Key findings of the IPCC's fourth assessment report

- Global temperatures continue to rise with 11 of the 12 warmest years since 1850 occurring since 1995. Computer models suggest a further rise of about 3C by 2100, with a 6C rise a distant possibility
- It is virtually certain (there is more than a 99 per cent probability) that carbon dioxide levels and global warming is far above the range of natural variability over the past 650,000 years
- It is virtually certain that human activity has played the dominant role in causing the increase of greenhouse gases over the past 250 years
- Man-made emissions of atmospheric aerosol pollutants have tended to counteract global warming, which otherwise would have been significantly worse
- The net effect of human activities over the past 250 years has very likely exerted a warming influence on the climate
- It is likely that human activity is also responsible for other observed changes to the Earth's climate system, such as ocean warming and the melting of the Arctic sea ice
- Sea levels will continue to rise in the 21st Century because of the thermal expansion of the oceans and loss of land ice
- The projected warming of the climate due to increases in carbon dioxide during the 21st Century is likely to cause the total melting of the Greenland ice sheet during the next 1,000 years, according to some computer forecasting models
- The warm Gulf Stream of the North Atlantic is likely to slow down during the 21st Century because of global warming and the melting of the freshwater locked up in the Greenland ice sheet. But no models predict the collapse of that warm current by 2100.

Benefiting from our African Lakes

There are many ways for people to benefit from the African lakes, as Africans we can only make a difference in our life's if we appreciate the natural resources we have. The Lakes of Africa is a natural resource that can earn the country money to fight poverty that continues to threaten the continent. Nature-based tourism is one of Africa's fastest-growing industries, with a growth rate of nearly seven per cent in international visitor arrivals between 2004 and 2005. As well as national parks and wildlife reserves, lakes provide some of the continent's most important flora and fauna areas and recreation destinations. Some lakes, such as Lake Malawi and the St. Lucia wetlands, are also protected as World Heritage sites under the World Heritage Convention of 1975 (Chenje 2000). Visitors come to these lakes to enjoy boating and water sport, as well as to witness the remarkable range of freshwater and inland biodiversity that they support.

Ecotourism has also increased environmental conservation as people struggle to maintain Africa's lakes in their natural state as a way to sustain local tourism activities. Many riparian states have gazetted conservation areas and enacted strict laws to protect wildlife and plant life around their lakes. Elephants, which were about to face extinction, have increased around Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kariba as tourists seek them out. The establishment of game parks around lakes is a strategy that allows tourists to see many different kinds of animals in one location (IUCN 2004). African lakes also house about 500 different aquatic species, creating the potential for sustainable fishing activities.

Fishing is the one of the key source activities for people living near lakes

Despite all these opportunities, however, increasing tourism can also have negative impacts. Without proper management and regulation, growing tourist facilities, roads and other infrastructure can wreak havoc on fragile freshwater environments. A rapid increase in visitors' numbers can render lakeside developments environmentally unsound-and negatively impact the very creatures that brought people there in the first place. Areas within easy reach of large population centres are particularly under threat.

Even apparently harmless activities such as boating and rafting can pose a threat to fragile lake environments. The growing number of boats on Lake Kariba, for example, is increasing oil and fuel pollution of the lake waters – both from accidental leakages and the deliberate dumping of waste oil into the lake. Oil reduces the water quality, and can be fatal to many aquatic animal and plant species.

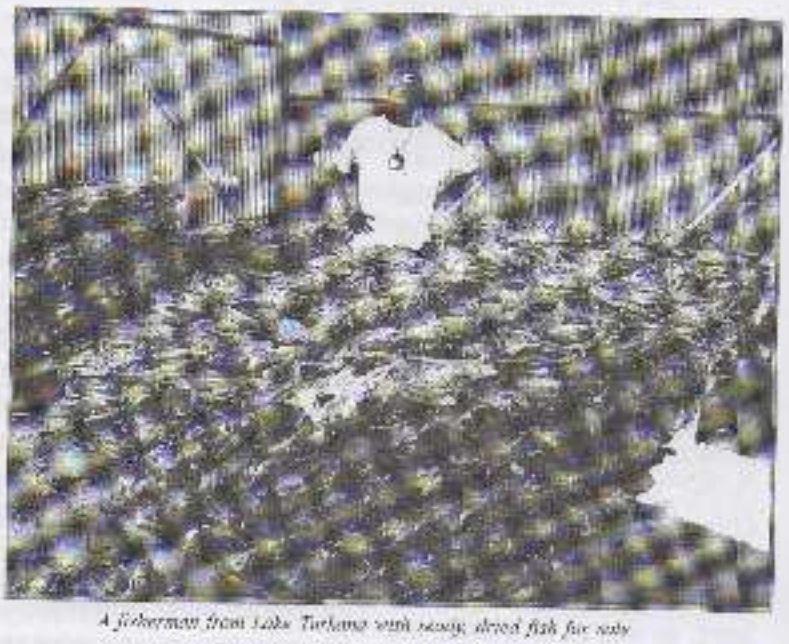
Likewise, noise pollution and the wave action of motorboats can harm riverbanks and, over time, cause irreparable damage to their micro-ecology. There is mounting concern about the impact of sport angling on certain game-fish species, as well as the effects of introducing alien species such as trout and bass, which are favoured by anglers. At Lake Kariba, concerns are growing over the impact of sewage discharges from local lodges and settlements, siltation from erosion cause by riverbank disturbance, overexploitation of wetland resources such as reeds and fish, and pollution by fuels and pesticides. All of these factors pose a significant threat to the flora and fauna upon which the lake's tourism is based.The

souvenir or curio industry has developed as a by product of tourism and is a big consumer of indigenous hardwoods. The over-harvesting of large and increasingly rare indigenous trees is occurring- unsustainably and often illegally-in many parts of Africa where tourism is thriving.

Fishing - Fishing is vital to Africa, supporting annual exports worth about US$3,000 million. Fish are crucial to the health of 200 million Africans, providing a source of inexpensive protein, and income for over 10 million people engaged in fish production, processing and trade. The fishing sector also plays an important role in the alleviation of poverty and general food security in Africa. In Malawi, the FAO states that 70 per cent of dietary animal protein is derived from fish, and the fishing sector constitutes a major source of income and livelihood for more than 300,000 people. Lakes in Africa support 16-17 per cent of inland fisheries (Sithole 2000). Across much of the continent, lake fisheries provide an important source of food and livelihood for millions of people. Yet these benefits are at risk as the exploitation of natural fish stock is reaching its limit and filled its potential (FAO 2004). African lakes are among the largest and most ecologically diverse on Earth-but are also among its most endangered water systems. Population densities are higher along the shores of Lakes Tanganyika, Victoria and Malawi. With four of Africa's Great Lakes on its borders, Uganda ranks as one of the world's largest producers of freshwater fish. But pollution, the introduction of non-native fish, and over-fishing has all taken a heavy toll on these waters.

Africa's fishing sector urgently needs strategic investments to safeguard its future contribution to poverty alleviation and regional economic development. Broadly, Africa needs investments to (I) improve the management of natural fish stocks, (II) develop aquaculture production, and (III) enhance fish trade in domestic, regional and global markets. In support of this investment, capacity needs to be strengthened at both the regional and national levels for research, technology transfer and policy development. As a first step, stakeholders in the region need to build a common and strategic understanding of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for Africa's development and of the challenges being faced by the sector. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is taking the lead in developing regional priorities for future investments in fisheries and aquaculture as part of its wider agriculture programme. Following an invitation from President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, the World Fish Center and the FAO are supporting NEPAD in developing an integrated approach for the sustainable management of fisheries in Africa's lakes. This is critical, as poor fishing habits are still known to be poisoning large water bodies in most African countries.

On the African continent as a whole, 85 per cent of water withdrawals are used for agriculture-and the percentage is even higher in sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa lags far behind the rest of the world in the proportion of irrigated arable land to its contribution to the total food supply. In North Africa, 11 per cent of the land is irrigated (excluding Egypt's 100 per cent), whereas in sub-Saharan Africa, it is only 3.5 per cent of total cropped land . In North Africa, 3.4 million hectares are irrigated by large-scale systems, whereas in sub-Saharan Africa, half of the 5.3 million hectares is irrigated by large- and medium-scale systems; the other half is by small-scale systems. In terms of value, irrigation is responsible for an estimated 33 and nine per cent of the crops produced in



A fisherman from Lake Turkana with newly dried fish for sale

North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa respectively (Yudelman 1994). In those areas, the water withdrawn for agriculture from the hydrologic system may represent a significant part of the total water resources. The ways in which freshwater resources are used for agriculture leave much to be desired. In some places, water use exceeds renewable supply rates and cannot be indefinitely continued. Elsewhere, overuse in one area deprives users in other areas, leading to agricultural production decreases and the loss of jobs. Misuse occurs where water is returned to the water system in an unusable state. Used irrigation water is often contaminated with salts, pesticides and herbicides.

Irrigation from lakes can also jeopardise aquatic ecosystems such as wetlands, leading to losses in their productivity and biodiversity. This has important implications for people who depend upon the major inland fisheries that such areas support. Wetlands serve as natural filters that have historically been responsible for cleaning up much of the world's wastewater. Where they have been eliminated in the name of irrigation, the results are usually regretted. A positive impact is that highly productive irrigation of a small area can often replace the use of a much larger area of marginal land for growing crops. Improving the environmental performance of irrigation projects is important for their long-term sustainability.

Aquatic Biodiversity and Habitats-

Lakes provide critical habitat for an amazing array of plants and animals, including bacteria, fungi, algae, plankton, mussels, snails, crustaceans, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Despite their importance, however, lakes continue to be fairly invisible on the global conservation screen. Lakes and their watersheds dramatically underrepresented both in protected areas and in the significance of the aquatic biodiversity they hold. Many African lakes boast some of the world's richest freshwater ecosystems, harbouring a broad diversity of endemic species that exist nowhere else on Earth. They are often surrounded by wetlands store significant volumes of fresh water, as well as serving as vital habitats for endemic wildlife and transit-points for migratory species. Lake Victoria is home to more than 300 endemic species, Lake Tanganyika 140, and Lake Malawi nearly 500. Lake Malawi provides over 60 per cent of the animal protein consumed by the country's entire population. Such figures demonstrate the major 'natural capital' generated by Africa's lakes – the broad range of social, economic, ecological and hydrological functions on which people, especially, the poor, often directly depend. Understanding the full range of benefits and services provided by these aquatic ecosystems is crucial to the conservation of the continent's lakes.

As biodiversity 'hotspot' regions of the Earth with vitally important but critically endangered biodiversity – Africa's lakes and wetlands share high concentrations of unique plant and animal species and high degree of threat. Although they are clearly of great regional importance to livelihoods and economies, development activities are not always compatible with the conservation of their biodiversity. One of the main reasons for the inadequate representation of biodiversity in development planning processes is a widespread lack of readily available information on the status and distribution of inland water taxa. Pollution and sedimentation, as well as the introduction of invasive species, pose the greatest threat to the aquatic biodiversity of Africa's lakes. On a basic level, activities that influence aquatic environments and biological systems, like forest clearing, the burning of fossil fuels, agricultural pollution and soil loss, lead to greater emissions of carbon dioxide and an increase in global warming. The impacts of climate change are projected to accelerate aquatic and animal population losses and the extinction of a wide range of species and ecosystems. Some of those lakes richest in aquatic biodiversity are already being affected, most notably Lake Victoria and the Okavango Delta. It is estimated that at least 30 per cent of freshwater fish and over 800 other freshwater species are on the brink of extinction in Africa's lakes (IUCN 2002). Some lakes in Africa contain large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO_2), which when released can be fatal to people and animals. Lake Nyos is one of Africa's best known "killer lakes." On 21 August 1986, the lake released a large cloud of CO_2, which flowed down neighbouring valleys, travelling as far as 26 kilometres (16 miles) from the lakeshore. The cloud reportedly moved fast enough to flatten much of the vegetation in its path, including several trees. A total of 1,746 people suffocated, while an additional 845 people had to be hospitalised.

For more information,
Africa's Lakes: Atlas of our changing environment,
www.unep.org

GENDER

Desicrimination and violence

By Hubbie Hussein - Womankind Kenya

Somali community is a male dominated society that discriminates against the girl child and the women. Culture and misconception of religion are the basis of discrimination and violation of the rights of women and the girl child. Women are disadvantaged in the community because they have heavier workloads, lack direct access to finances, lack education and power (decision making).

The major problem facing women and the girl child is lack of education. Their parents were even reluctant to teach them the religious education which is mandatory for any Muslim community to teach their children, under the pretext that the girl is a property of another family (the family she will be married to). Stereotyping, "why educate a girl who would leave the family after marriage to benefit another family". Fear of promiscuity if a girl goes to school leading to teenage pregnancies. (Empirical evidence however, shows low teenage pregnancies in North Eastern girl's school)

Girls are married at an early age (13 – 18 years) which increases the school dropout rates and educated girls are seen as a threat by many Somali prospective husbands. Women and the girl child have a complex series of cultural obstacles that prevent them form enjoying the full range of social, political, civil and legal rights.

Women and the girl child face domestic violence which ranges from wife beating, marital rape to brutal battering of female family members by male family members. Gender based violence such as practices that force women and girls to have virginity tests or undergo female genital mutilate (FGM), as well as the severe physical violence or murder inflicted on women by male family members in the name of family honor are also a big problem. The legal codes provide no serious protection of women against violence within the family and treat a woman's testimony as worthless than a man's in cases in which rape or domestic violence is brought before the legal authorities.

When a husband beats his wife severely and she runs away then she gets a complimentary beating from her male relatives and sent back without treatment or counseling. A major problem for women in the region is lack of information about women's global achievements. They also lack knowledge of and access to the work of women's advocacy international organizations. Overwhelmingly, women in the region are unaware of their rights under the constitution or laws of Kenya and the Islamic laws especially the Islamic personal laws.

The government does not feel obliged to inform their female populations of the available laws and policies that women could use to empower themselves. The media also largely fails to cover the injustices women suffer and problems specific to women. In addition to lack of information, cultural attitudes, predominant throughout the region treat women's demands and protests as being in violation of women's traditional, subservient role. Local women's organizations have made significant headway in certain areas despite the impediments of cultural or traditional laws but women's rights advocates do not have easy access to government officials to participate in women's policy issues because of the regional marginalization.

They have no huge population to offer votes to political parties hence any political party takes leadership in government sidelines the region especially women.

The patriarchal attitudes sideline women in Islamic inheritance laws, a source of inequality for women. The Islamic laws instipulate that sisters get half of the share of the brother but women do not even get their half share of the inheritance because of their lack of access to the legal system and traditional council of elders who make decisions on inheritance. The government does not take aggressive steps to enforce women's inheritance and property rights and often allow abuses to go unpunished.

Islam grant property rights to women but culture denies them this opportunity. Even where a

woman owns property decisions regarding the property is made by her husband, father, son or brother. She cannot dispose off her property without consulting the male relatives.

Listening carefully in a workshop, such [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a deeply entrenched cultural tradition practiced by the Somali community and purpose ranges from cleanness, aesthetic, preserving virginity and stop measure against promiscuity.

Female genital mutilation has health complications on the women and the girl child and psychosexual implications. The complication include bleeding, urine retention, recurrent infections, severing of important muscles such as the sphincter muscles, septic wounds, anaemia, haemorrhage, shock and psychological trauma just to mention a few. Islam does not promote the cutting of girls' genitals but community mistake their culture for religion and strongly emphasis on female circumcision. The Children Rights Act 2000 out laws female genital mutilation but it lacks enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Women should enjoy equal rights under the law and culture in all aspects of life
- Family or personal laws should be revised to ensure equal rights within marriage and the family. To ensure nondiscriminatory implementation of family laws, government should institute significant reforms within the family court system and provide women's rights training to court officials. Islamic sharia interpretations should be done rightly according to the Islamic principles so that women enjoy their God given rights.
- Domestic violence should be considered a serious crime in all instances and the existing laws on domestic violence should be strengthened and enforced. This implies to all forms of violence, including torture, rape, marital rape, spouse battering and violence against women in the name of honour. Court and law enforcement agencies should consider the prevention of domestic violence a major priority. Government should also provide counseling and support services for victims.
- Legal and traditional barriers to women's participation in politics, government and the private sector should be removed. Government should take concrete steps to promote indigenous women's leadership in politics and business, including various forms of affirmative action and complaint mechanism for victims of bias.
- Government should increase spending for education, ensure that indigenous women in all parts of the country have access to education, and eliminate laws and practices that discriminate against women in education.
- Government should take aggressive steps to eliminate legal and social obstacles to women's economic equality in particular labour laws should ensure that women are not denied equal access to jobs or employment benefit at any level. Government should facilitate the social needs of women workers, such as transportation and protection from sexual harassment.

For more information write to, wokike@wananch.com

Samburu Women Advocacy Network-
Empowering Samburu women

By Miliam Winkel- freelance Writer

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early marriages, violence, poverty, drought, hard work, HIV/AIDS and inequality between men and women. These are just some examples of problems Samburu women have to deal with. The women want to improve their lives and fight for their rights. SWAN, Samburu Women Advocacy Network is supporting them in many ways with the main goal: sustainable empowerment of Samburu women.

SWAN is based in Maralal, Samburu District. Member organizations are women groups, youth groups, vulnerable groups and opinion leaders all over the district.

SWAN is organized in thematic working groups. Themes are:

- Women and Leadership;
- Economic empowerment;
- Education (all girls to school);
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages;
- HIV/AIDS;
- Legal aid to support women who are the victim of gender based violence.

Inequality

The Samburu culture predisposes women to various forms of violence, some of which are inhuman in the extreme sense of the term. The glaring inequality between men and women undermines the status and role of women in the society. While in reality Samburu women play a vital role in the economic, social and political sectors of the society. They are hardly involved in the decisions that inform the direction that their community should take. In Samburu the women are classified as children and viewed as the property of their husbands. They do not have an identity in the community.

Violence against women in Samburu ranges from persistent wife battering, FGM, early and forced marriages, rape outside and within the family and arranged abortions for girls and women become weapons of death for their disabled children who are seen as a curse that the women have brought upon their families. HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections are branded women's diseases. Further, the persistent drought and conflict between the pastrolists communities have impacted negatively on the Samburu women and children.

Women's rights

SWAN, Samburu Women Advocacy Network is mobilizing, organizing and educating the Samburu community-men; women children, men and leadership institutions to realize women's rights. They are organizing local workshops and trainings about the rights of Samburu women, HIV/AIDS and FGM. SWAN is supporting legal cases through registering and hiring lawyers to stand in to support women cases, is participating in national and local forums to support and represent the voice of Samburu women and is linking women groups to donors to support their economic empowerment.

SNV and the Netherlands Center for Indigenous People sponsor SWAN. In May SWAN will open an office in de middle of Maralal town.

More information:
(SWAN),
Samburu Women Advocacy Network,
P.O. Box 282, Maralal.
Phone: 0221 566034.
Email: swanmaralal@yahoo.com

Fighting the traditional and giving up the blade:

By Kaitlin Dearham-IN/McGill University

The circumciser's profession is not an easy one to leave. For women who decide to stop performing female circumcisions, the path becomes increasingly unclear, as it is much more difficult for women to find jobs in rural areas than it is for men. Ex-female circumcisers who face economic hardships must have great conviction to stop themselves from going back to a job which virtually guarantees a comfortable income. Rebecca Ngurianyang Chepochonjil, from Chepararia, West Pokot, is one of the ex-circumcisers in the area who has resisted returning to female genital mutilation (FGM) as a way of earning a living. This is the story of her struggle to survive, and her fight against FGM.

FGM is practiced in many regions of Kenya as a rite of passage. Though it is meant to mark a girl's passage into womanhood, it can have serious negative impacts on a woman's health, and on her ability to experience sexual pleasure. The practice also denies women their basic human rights when it is performed without their consent. When we think about the issues surrounding FGM, we think about the rights of women and children, about culture and tradition. Money, we think, hardly enters the picture. But to ignore the economic aspect of FGM is to ignore one of the reasons why this practice is so deeply ingrained in many areas of the world. FGM is not just a cultural practice; it is also a business. To this business, both circumcisers and the family of the circumcised girls make a profit.

Women who perform FGM can be paid up to 10, 000 Ksh. per girl. In West Pokot, groups of girls are circumcised in December and April every year, and the money that circumcisers make during those months is enough to support them and their families throughout the year. Families of the circumcised girl also profit, since FGM and early marriage go hand-in-hand. Most girls are married shortly after their circumcision, and their families receive substantial dowries on this celebratory occasion. Girls who are not circumcised often attend school, putting off marriage for later. Their dowries will often be smaller than those who were circumcised and married young.

When we realize that the practice of FGM allows circumcisers to support their families, it becomes apparent that if we want these women to stop cutting girls, they must have some other way of earning income. In 2000, an NGO which advocated against FGM became active in West Pokot. Circumcisers, as well as the general public, were educated about the

Rebecca Ngurianyang at her shop in Chepararia, West Pokot

health risks of FGM. They attended seminars, saw photos of complications, and discussed. Rebecca, who had been performing circumcisions for ten years, attended these events. In West Pokot, the form of circumcision performed is excision. This means that the inner and outer labia, as well as the clitoris, are sliced off with a razor blade. When Rebecca recalled the circumcisions that she had performed, and compared them with the health risks that were being presented by the NGO, she understood that some of these problems had been present in girls that she had circumcised. As a result, Rebecca decided to leave the profession of circumcision. She said that "the money I made was bad because it was made by causing girls to suffer." The thought that she might have been responsible for birth complications and the death of babies was too much to bear.

When Rebecca and several others decided to leave FGM, the NGO helped them to find other ways of earning income. To some, they donated livestock for breeding, and they helped others to find funding to start new professions. Rebecca was interested in baking, so they helped her buy ovens and establish a bakery. For quite some time, the ex circumcisers did well, and eventually the NGO finished their project and left the area. Problems began when some of the businesses began to fail. The livestock that the NGO had donated was used up, and there was no follow-up to ensure that the circumcisers were still able to

support themselves. Faced with deciding between poverty and returning to FGM, many of the ex-circumcisers picked up the razor once again. Rebecca was also struggling; with two of her children in secondary, and one in college, the income she made from the bakery was not enough to support her family. She credits religion with helping her stay on a moral path. If it weren't for her faith in God's guidance, Rebecca says, she would also have returned to circumcision, because there's no other way of making money.

Even though she works long hours at the bakery, Rebecca still makes time to educate others about the dangers of FGM. When the NGO left, no one was talking to young girls about the practice, and so the ex-circumciser took it upon herself to visit schools and lead discussion sessions. She also participates in a weekly radio show on the topic of FGM. Though progress is slow, Rebecca believes that eventually the practice of FGM will die out in West Pokot. As some circumcisers have left the profession, fewer women are being trained to be circumcisers for the next generation. Information about FGM and its potential complications is becoming much more widely-known and accepted than it was only a few years ago. In addition to this, women are becoming more open to talking about their own experiences of FGM, and questioning whether they want their daughters to undergo the same thing.

Rebecca believes that it is crucial for women to speak up about the importance of health and education as a means of dissuading others from undergoing FGM. Girls who are in secondary school should act as role models and encourage others to continue with school as much as possible. Women who have had to undergo operations while giving birth should speak out. Above all, the truth about FGM must be told. For too long, women have been silent about their experiences. It is only through honesty and respect for women that this practice can be stopped.

In reach Rebecca, write to sartasapon@gmail.com

Message on the International Human Rights

By Victoria Tauli Corpuz Chair UNPFIIman

Indigenous peoples would have joyfully celebrated the International Human Rights Day this year if the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly before the end of 2006. Unfortunately, the decision of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on November 28th, 2006, to defer the adoption of the Declaration has weakened the meaning of this day.

At the Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues the shared expectation of indigenous peoples, of the UN system and of the Permanent Forum was for the adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly, as had also been the call of Heads of State at the World Summit in 2005. The Permanent Forum thus adopted the following recommendation at its session in May 2006:

The Permanent Forum is convinced that a declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples will be an instrument of great value through which to advance the rights and aspirations of the world's indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum therefore recommends the adoption without amendments of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples ... by the General Assembly during its sixty-first session in 2006. This would represent a major achievement for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

To the credit of the newly established Human Rights Council, it adopted this Declaration in June 29, 2006, at its First Session. All the regional caucuses of indigenous peoples spoke with one voice and echoed the resolution of the Human Rights Council that this be adopted by the General Assembly at its 2006 Fall Session.

Indigenous Peoples were shocked and deeply disappointed at the recent decision of the Third Committee of the General Assembly to defer the adoption, following an initiative of some Members States. I am also deeply disappointed by this move to defer the adoption of the Declaration because this is illustrative of the continuing discrimination against indigenous peoples in many parts of the world. The Declaration stands out as one of the most extensively discussed and negotiated texts in the history of the UN with the full participation of the subjects of those rights– a process for which the international community should stand proud. The non-participation of some Governments in more than 20 years of drafting and negotiations on the Declaration does not justify a further delay of its adoption. This Declaration represents the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples.

I commend the Member States who voted for the adoption of the Declaration at the Human Rights Council and those who did not support the deferral of its adoption at the General Assembly Third Committee. I urge all Governments to demonstrate that the UN stands for human rights for all, including indigenous peoples, and to adopt the Declaration without amendments. It is the responsibility of all UN Member States to address the past and continuing injustice, racism and discrimination against indigenous peoples. International Human Rights Day will be more significant for indigenous peoples once the UN adopts the Declaration and continues building genuine partnerships and solidarity with indigenous peoples.

Women's day 2007

focuses on the rights of women in Isiolo Kenya.

by IIN Team

Indigenous Information Network was glad this year to organize World Women's Day in Isiolo Kenya, an area where women hardly celebrate. To create more awareness on the day we decided to hold a workshop focusing on women's rights especially on HIV/AIDs and the need for effective participation of Indigenous women at all forums.

Holding this day gave the women time to share and discuss their understanding on women's rights and main problems facing them. The Nomadic Pastoralist women came mainly from Isiolo, Marsabit and Moyale Districts. The day was also important as it is a day celebrated worldwide so the women felt happy to be in solidarity with other women in the world. It has become a tradition that we celebrate in a different area to enable bring information and awareness to different women about the day. We are happy that this has been successful and now that many groups want to be given a chance to celebrate the day in their own communities.

The day was a successas the women went into groups for discussion and came up with recommendation which helped organize for the following day March the 8th with clear messages to the public and to the government.

Indigenous women march through Isiolo town on March 8th 2007

Discussions on the following topics drew attention to many issues and sparked a debate that even those who were shy and have never attended any workshop participated in speaking of issues that have bothered them for years.

- Violence, both internal and external to the family, including FGM, forced marriages, sexual abuse
- Violation of their rights as women, no voice to say no or yes
- Property rights.
- Rights to education as a girl and as a woman.
- Access to maternal health care, HIV/AIDS information, VCT and home care and nutrition.
- Awareness on CEDAW
- It was very clear that the women were not aware of CEDAW and were not sure that they have a right to demand their rights like any other citizen.

An officer from the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK), Ann Mukena, talked about voting.

She explains that It is ones right to vote and called on all women to register and vote. Women have an opportunity to make choices by voting, thus they need to get a voters card. She gave basic information about who to bequalified as a voter one must be an adult, have an identity card and be a Kenyan. There was a case where a man carried his family's identity cards includes those of his three wives to go and get voters cards for them but that is not allowed everyone should go in person so that it can be verified that it is the right is person, getting the voters card.

In regards to HIV/AIDS, it was explained that 30% of the infection is transmitted through unprotected sex. Information for women within the region can be found at Pepo la tumaini, the district hospital, VCT and other women's organizations. women must visit these places to set more information.

Polygamy is another cause of increase HIV infections. Some cultures don't accept the use of condoms, saying one who uses it is not man enough. Often a man will have a job with government or other

organization and be transferred to other regions of the country, making him vulnerable to contracting HIV if he does not protect himself propery and is not faithfull to his spouce at home.

Stigmatization was common among the people. Those who are sickly and thin are beleived to have the virus. Many people use ARV's which enable one to look healthy and live longer, thus it is not easy to

Participants listening carefully to the proceedings in preparation for Rural Women's Day 07

know who has the virus. Women are mostly involved in caring for the sick but it becomes tricky when the mother is sick because there is hardly anyone to take care of her. It was also a challenge for the once caring for the HIV/AIDS patients as they have no experience and facilities for homebased care.

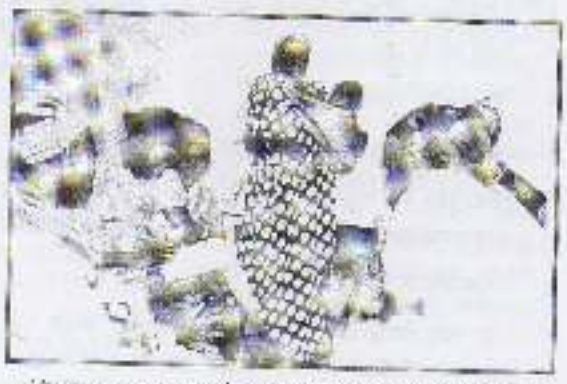
The Boran culture permits for women to have boyfriends (Jal) when married and this allows for the spread of AIDS.

After the full day of discussions on the 7th of march the women who mainly came from Turkana, Borana, Somali, Rendille communities and other local women living around Isiolo, came up with the following Recommendations

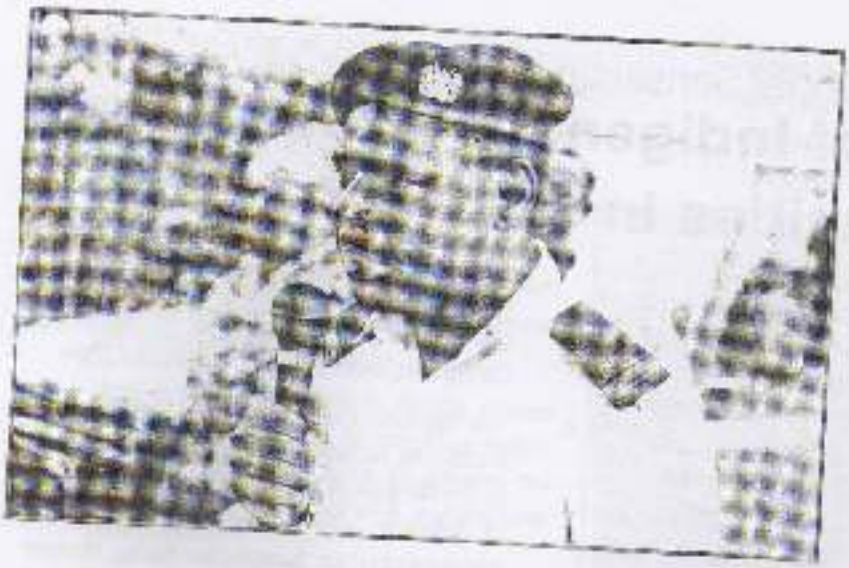
1. Nomadic Pastoralists Women be fully empowered, and encouraged to advance in get educated so as to take up positions like engineers, pilots, members of parliament, councilors and president. This is to give challenge and take up places like the men.
2. Violence against women should stop.
3. Stop early marriages
4. Women should be respected and be given the right to bodily integrity
5. Give women leadership and political space and opportunities
6. Women should participate fully in decision making and should be included in policy formulation and implementation.
7. Stop stigmatization against women and families living with HIV/AIDS
8. Set up women- friendly VCT's so that they can go there with confidence that their position will be protected. The VCTs should be organized and set up through Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organization which is a national women's organization.
9. Women's Day celebrations should be participatory and involve every woman. Women organizations should make sure they celebrate and create awareness on this day.
10. Information dissemination should be enhanced.
11. Capacity building to empower rural women.
12. Women to be recognized as peace makers.
13. Awareness on HIV/AIDS to be enhanced.
14. Awareness raising about ways on the way to stop FGM, while at the same time recognizing and respecting the cultures of those who practice should be enhance.
15. Girls should be give the right to education and all should know that they are not for sale.
16. Women should own property.
17. Governments should ensure that there are maternity wards and other health facilities nearer to villages in the remote parts of the country so as to ensure the safety of mother and child.

March 8th was celebrated with a march through the town of Isiolo with women carrying the following messages,

- Stop FGM
- Support proposal of one billion shillings for women



Merigo women group from Marsabit marching out in groups prior to 8th March, 2007 in Isiolo-Kenya



Isiolo district officer addressing women on March 8th - World Women's Day 2007 on behalf of the district commissioner

- Stop violence against women
- Give education to all
- Girls are not for sale
- Stop stigmatization of people with HIV/AIDS
- Provide mobile VCT for women
- Give opportunity for women to rule.
- Women for peace
- Create awareness of women's rights
- Create unity and understanding among women
- Women are not slaves
- Facilitate women in rural areas to know their rights

Mr. Mayama the DO1 Isiolo representing the District Commissioner thanked all those who attended the meeting and those who gave a speech. MYWO and Social Services should join up for such events. After independence the three enemies in Kenya were disease, illiteracy and poverty, was to be eradicated. The current government gives free primary education to all. "Educate a girl and you have educated the world" is a correct statement. Chiefs to take it upon themselves to visit villages and make sure all children both boys and girls are taken to school.

On 12th December 2006 president Kibaki gave a speech saying women of MYWO to be placed in district levels to be checked and monitored by Chiefs, DO's and DC's. This was an Executive Decree and has been implemented. 30% of public employment to go to women specifically thus women/girls need to get education, good grades that will allow for equal chances in job opportunities.

HIV/AID's has affected women so much help has been provided to those affected by issuing food to them since the ARV's require one to eat well.

Recommendations from the District Commissioner

- Mobile VCT's to be implemented by asking the MOH to work on it. Children below five years are given free treatment in government hospitals.
- Bursaries and LATF to benefit children from poor families and a higher percentage for the girl child.
- Women to be enlightened through education and their rights then the rest will automatically follow.
- When men/husbands don't tend to their family problems and duties should be reported to the chiefs and police stations.
- There is the gender desk that was introduced in police stations that is friendly to the women.
- Next years event should be well mobilised and use civil service to pass on the information.

Other grievances that had not been addressed, women should feel free to go and discuss with him in the office. He relayed greetings from the DC and was very thankful for the opportunity given.

Regional Sensitisation Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Central Africa

by IWGIA African team

In September 2006, the African Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities hosted a regional sensitisation seminar on indigenous issues in Cameroun. This seminar was the first of its kind and drew participants from eight Central African countries - Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The aim of this seminar was to inform people about the African Commission's work

and its policy on indigenous peoples' rights to its member states and affiliated national human rights institutions. The seminar covered issues such as the criteria for identifying indigenous peoples, indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources, poverty amongst indigenous communities and their lack of access to health and education. The seminar successfully established dialogue between the African Commission and its members, and participants generally found the seminar very enriching. The seminar received extensive media-coverage in Cameroon, - both via newspaper, radio, and tv- and this stimulated the debate on indigenous rights further. The seminar also received coverage outside Cameroon, namely in the Angolan Press as well as websites such as AllAfrica.com.

1. Organized by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in collaboration with IWGIA, and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, the Regional Sensitization Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Populations/Communities in Central Africa took place in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 13 – 16 September 2006.

2. The opening Ceremony was chaired by His Excellency, Adoum Gargoum, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in Charge of Relations with the Islamic World, in the presence of HE Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in charge of Relations with the Commonwealth. The opening ceremony was also attended by other members of the government of Cameroon, members of the Diplomatic Corps, state delegates from the Central African region, members of the African Commission, international organisations and relevant organs of the African Union, representatives of National Human Rights Institutions from the Central African region, international and local NGOs, journalists, the academia and other institutions interested in indigenous issues in Africa.

3. Various issues related to the human rights of indigenous populations in Central Africa were discussed by State Delegates, National Human Rights Institutions and resource persons. The issues discussed include inter alia:

   - The legal protection of the rights of indigenous populations in Central Africa;
   - Poverty amongst indigenous populations and their situation with regards to health and education;
   - The importance of land for the survival of indigenous populations; and
   - Factors responsible for land dispossession.

4. After a rich dialogue among all the participants and stakeholders represented, the following recommendations were adopted.

A. Recommendations to Member States

- Member States are requested to pay attention to the findings and recommendations contained in the "Report of the African Commission's

Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities," adopted at the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Commission in November 2003.

- Member States are requested to find ways and means for the legal recognition and enforcement of the rights and special needs of these marginalized and vulnerable indigenous populations/communities.
- Member States are urged to include, in their periodic reports to the African Commission, programmes and strategies to enhance the human rights of indigenous populations/communities.
- Urge Member States to establish National Action Plans for the effective implementation of the 2nd Decade on the rights of indigenous populations from 2005 - 2014 .
- Urge Member States to consider ratifying the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and tribal peoples;
- Urge Member States in Central Africa to enhance the capacity of national human rights institutions to be independent, and to establish such institutions in those countries where there do not already exist.

B. Recommendations to the African Commission

- Participants recommended that the African Commission undertake sensitisation missions about the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous populations to Member States of Central Africa.
- Urges the African Commission to accelerate its studies on the protection of human rights of indigenous populations in the constitutions on Member States.

C. Recommendations to National Human Rights Institutions

- National Human Rights Institutions in collaboration with Indigenous NGOs are requested to help their respective authorities gain a better perception of indigenous issues.
- National Human Rights Institutions are urged to be more proactive in the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous populations/communities and to issue reports and/or studies on the various discriminatory practices and violations suffered by.
- National Human Rights Institutions with Affliate Status before the African Commission are urged to include, in their activity reports to the latter, information on the human rights situation of indigenous populations/communities in their respective countries.

D. Recommendations to NGOs

- Local, regional and international NGOs are requested to maintain their commitment to advocating for the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous populations/communities through increased partnerships and dialogue with all stakeholders, including governments and national human rights institutions.
- They are also urged to enhance their networking capacities at the local, regional and international levels with a view to achieving better recognition and visibility of indigenous populations/communities throughout Africa.
- NGOs with Observer Status before the African Commission are urged to include, in their activity reports to the latter, information on the human rights situation of indigenous populations/communities in their respective countries.

5. The organisers and participants of the Seminar wish to express their profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them and the facilities placed at their disposal for the smooth running and success of the Seminar.

6. The participants further expressed profound appreciation to the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for organising the Seminar.

■■■■■■

African Regional Workshop ON SUSTAINABLE USE

by Susan Odhuke and Ishri Parsad

This Meeting on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, with a focus on Agricultural resources, took place in Nairobi December 2006.It was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agricultural Organization (CBD/FAO) respectively. There were thirty three participants in this workshop, eighteen from the countries of Africa, Thirteen officially designated representatives of the Parties to the convention, research Institutions, NGOs, farmers federations and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

We will indicate with pleasure that out of the thirteen participants, four of us were representatives from the Indigenous, Peoples and local community organizations. It was therefore, very crucial that we were given the opportunity to participate and contribute to the meeting proceedings.

Participants were taken step by step through the background documents, provided by the CBD/FAO organizing partners, including those important reports, from previous and related events, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity as adopted through CBD decision VII/12.

The first two days were used for us to understand how these principles and guidelines would become of great use to the discussion in the meeting and plenary participation. We were then divided in three groups for discussions, the first two groups had each an Indigenous organization participant and the other two joined the third group. It was felt necessary, so that we could contribute and follow those crucial contributions that were of importance to us as Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities.

Participants encourage the CBD/FAO and Governments to provide mechanisms and resources for Indigenous Peoples, and local communities to participate at all levels in the program of work as partners to the Convention, in monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure implementation.

After a lot of deliberations, presentations and case studies that were exchanged with the participants, there were recommendations put forward to the organizing partners

CBD/FAO how best we could be informed on the outcome of the workshop outputs and results. All the participants agreed on the definitions and scope for Agro-Biodiversity which was included in the background document. It was proposed that the definition and scope of agricultural biodiversity be attached as Annex to the workshop final report. Agro-biodiversity was recognized as a very important aspect of biodiversity, as it is both the basis of food security and sustainability of livelihoods all over the world.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities came up with the following observations and recommendations:

Observations

- Indigenous Peoples and local communities have experiences and skills in ecosystem management and have so far not been included as active stakeholders in the effective international negotiations on sustainable use.
- They do not have the skills and resources to follow the international processes.
- Indigenous Peoples and local communities have not been adequately informed of the Addis Ababa Principles. Further development of guidance in their application should involve all key stakeholder groups.
- International negotiations and the resulting documents are difficult to understand, because of the technical phrases and jargon.

Recommendations

- There is need to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as indispensable partners in all efforts to conserve agro-biodiversity/ecosystems and therefore a need for capacity building and training.
- Provide mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to participate at all levels of the CBD and FAO processes as partners to the convention.
- Avoid top down decision making approaches that excludes Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Organize regional workshops to include the participation of indigenous peoples and NGOs to raise awareness and enhance the outreach to Indigenous Peoples and local Communities.
- International negotiations and the out-coming documents should use simple and understandable language and avoid use of technical phrases and jargon.
- The organizers of this workshop should ensure that the inputs from this group (Indigenous Peoples and local communities) are included in the recommendations and follow up to this workshop.
- Need for a monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that the CBD and Addis Ababa Principles are implemented. This process should include communities and Indigenous Peoples as stakeholders.
- Funds should be created to give the Indigenous Peoples and local communities the opportunities to organize workshops at local level and create platforms where they can discuss issues related to the convention especially on the topic of sustainable use.

Large-scale biofuels:

Good for power, bad for the people and the climate

The modalities of biofuel consumption and production are already having a negative impact on food security, rural livelihoods, forests and other ecosystems, and these negative effects are expected to accumulate rapidly. Large-scale, export-oriented production of biofuel requires large-scale monocultures of trees, sugarcane, corn, oil palm, soy and other crops. These monocultures are already the number one cause of rural depopulation and deforestation worldwide. Furthermore, the claim that biodiesel is "carbon neutral" is disputed since it doesn't take into account how, for example, oil palm plantations are developed. Realistic estimates show that making biofuels from energy crops requires more fossil fuel energy than they yield, and they do not substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions when all the inputs are accounted for. Also, rainforests, swamps and peat forests, which are important carbon sinks, are being cleared in order to establish oil palm plantations.

However, the European Union is promoting the use of biofuels as an energy source for transport. The EU has set itself a target of increasing the use of biofuels in energy consumption to 5.75% by 2010. The European Commission is now pressing member states to fulfil their commitments under the 2003 Biofuels Directive. The agriculture council of 20 Feb 2006 held a first policy debate on the biofuels strategy and the EU's biomass action plan. The advantage for these countries is that biofuels like bioethanol and biodiesel have lower prices than oil. Another plus for European farmers is that domestic production of biofuels could offer new income and employment opportunities after the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy.

In Europe, biodiesel is used in Germany, France and Austria in varying concentrations. In Germany, there are more than 1,000 filling stations providing biodiesel. The first German "biorefinery" is to be built in Emden, with financing from a Dutch syndicate. The plant is intended to turn 430,000 tonnes of palm oil, probably from Indonesia, into more than 400 million litres of biodiesel. Demand for crude palm oil to generate electricity has increased 400,000 tonnes this year in the Netherlands, of which 250,000 tonnes will be imported. The electricity company, REOX bv, is reportedly planning to build four new generators using palm oil. The company intends to sell this palm oil-based electricity to several EU countries. In the United States, biofuels are welcomed as a way to help reduce the country's dependence on oil produced abroad. Biofuels combine patriotism with economic self-interest: farmers love it because biodiesel and ethanol are brewed from agricultural commodities, helping drive up prices; Republican senators love it because federal tax subsidies keep their agriculture happy.

On quite an opposite stand, in Southern countries, the production of biofuel crops is already having great environmental and social impacts which will become worse in case the North-driven push for new energy sources gain ground. An alliance of human rights and environmental NGOs are campaigning against European countries' use of fuel made from palm oil at the expense of forest ecosystems. In an April statement entitled "No to Deforestation Diesel", over thirty German, Austrian and Swiss groups warn that a palm oil-fuelled biodiesel boom would repeat the pattern of forest destruction caused by the rapid growth of Indonesia's pulp and paper industry. The groups argue that a fundamentally different approach to energy consumption is required, rather than merely replacing oil with biofuels. This entails promoting of public transport over private car and air traffic, more energy conservation measures and more energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind power. The groups are calling for strict criteria to be applied to the use of biofuel raw materials including: no conversion of primary forests for plantations; no burning to clear forests for plantations; no human rights violations or police or military operations; no certification of palm oil plantations, as a monoculture based on palm oil cannot be cultivated in an ecologically sustainable way and generally leads to problems rather than any enduring benefits for local people; yes to the promotion of organic farming without the use of artificial fertilizers or agricultural toxins; yes to a promotion of agricultural smallholdings in the cultivating countries. The statement also calls for customary rights and land rights to be respected and full compliance with ratified international agreements relating to indigenous peoples, biodiversity, workers' rights, etc in countries cultivating biofuel crops.

Furthermore, more NGOs, Indigenous Peoples Organizations and farmer's movements called upon the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 12 held in Nairobi on 6 - 17 November 2006 to immediately suspend all subsidies and other forms of inequitable support for the import and export of biofuels. They claimed: "There is nothing green or sustainable to imported biofuel. Instead of destroying the lands and livelihoods of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the South through yet another form of colonialism, we call upon Northern countries to recognize their responsibility for destroying the planet's climate system, to reduce the energy consumption to sustainable levels, to pay the climate debt they have created by failing to do so until now and to dramatically increase investment in solar energy and sustainable wind energy".

Article based on: "Biodiesel and the expansion of plantations", Down to Earth, Newsletter E-mail: dte@gn.apc.org; http://dte.gn.apc.org; pdf; "Biofuels: A Disaster in the Making", alert to the Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, http://www.wrm.org.uy/actors/CCC/Nairobi/Disaster_Making.html

Samburu Handicapped

Education and Rehabilitation programme,

giving disabled children a future

By Miriam Winkel

When you are disabled in Samburu, you are a bad omen, a curse and a bother. You are valueless, useless or incomplete and you are killed directly or left to die in vacated manyattas. SHERP, Samburu Handicapped Education and Rehabilitation Programme, is fighting against the discrimination against disabled children and is taking care of them. In the SHERP School in Maralal, there live 122 disabled children. SHERP is also taking care of disabled children who are living in their homes with their families, all over the district.

Kitonga Lesiatoi one of the disabled children, SHERP

Among the Samburu, children are regarded as a source of labour. At a very tender age they take care of livestock, the community's primary source of livelihood. Disability interferes with this role. There are many very sad stories to tell. Asanta Nenga's family left her in a pathetic state when she was just six years old. The need for fresh pasture and water had become more important to them than Asanta. Catholic sisters found her in a deserted homestead. The family had tied her to a tree using a rope. They wanted her to succumb to hunger and harsh weather. The semi-arid land is hot during the day and cold at night. Asanta's ankles still bear scars made by the rope. By the time she was rescued, she could hardly walk. Asanta has been living in SHERP now for three years and she is doing very well. She can walk and is used to people.

Kitonga Lesiatoi, fifteen years old, is also living in SHERP. He suffers from a condition known as Osteogenesis Imperfecta and was in very bad condition when Grace Sencliya, the director of SHERP, found him . She took him to SHERP and now he is undergoing rehabilitation process. Kitonga has a new wheelchair and a special seat. Kitonga is happy and he has a beautiful smile.

Change

The children of SHERP are getting everything to improve their life conditions. Teachers of local schools are coached in Braille or Sign language. SHERP is also organizing workshops in communities on how to maximize the potential of disabled children. The goal of SHERP is: to enable the disabled children in Samburu district to participate in their communities and to contribute to the development of society through education and rehabilitation.

With funding available SHERP is a very good tool to change attitudes and perceptions and offers hopes to the marginalized children in Samburu District. It is a venue where the Director, who is a Samburu herself, is trying to educate the community on the need to recognize disabled children as having rights just like the others, and even need more attention. Awareness and acceptance by a traditional and cultural dominated community like the Samburu needs time and resources.

More information:
(SHERP),
Samburu Handicapped Education and Rehabilitation Programme,
P.O. Box 287, Maralal
Phone: 0721 566094.

Sorta Sopon

Promoting Traditional Knowledge and Conserving Biodiversity

by Karlin Dechamm IIN/

Sorta Sopon Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity is a community self-help group based in Chepararia, Kenya. The group was formed in 1998 and gained most of its members in 2003, with the aim of promoting biodiversity and creating an ecotourism project in West Pokot. The group is also involved in doing community work, such as raising awareness about the potential dangers of female genital mutilation (FGM), while simultaneously working to preserve Pokot cultural identity. Sorta Sopon is made up of forty members, both men and women, from Chepararia.

Sorta Sopon has largely been involved with the promotion of Pokot cultural traditions, with raising awareness about FGM and with environmental conservation. The members acquired ten acres of land for the group, on which they constructed three Pokot traditional huts. This involved the purchase of specific materials which are not widely available. One of the huts contains traditional Pokot costumes and ornaments, the meaning and use of which can be explained by group members. Indigenous plants and herbs are grown on the group land, with the assistance of a local herbalist.

In order to raise awareness about FGM, the group has made visits to four primary schools in the area. There they speak to classes, encouraging young girls to stay in school and discussing the impact of FGM. Some group members also participate in an FGM awareness radio program which is broadcast weekly throughout West Pokot.

In order to raise money for their activities, Sorta Sopon group has invested in aloe plants. Approximately 450 plants have been planted on group property. These plants will be harvested and sent to a nearby factory to be processed and added to skin lotions and gels.

Sorta Sopon's other fundraising activity is to host guests, either tourists or Kenyans, participating in workshops and conferences. Thus far, three seminars have been held at the centre. The group's land is located at the top of a small hill, with a beautiful view of the lush valleys and hills of West Pokot.

Sorta Sopon is continuing to work on several long-term projects. The aloe plants will not yield immediate returns, since at the moment, the aloe market is saturated with plants from Kitale and Baringo. However, once this supply is exhausted, Sorta Sopon expects that there will be great demand for their plants. Their goal is to become a major aloe supplier for the processing plant.

The group plans to expand their facilities to accommodate a variety of groups. Their goal in terms of building is to construct a larger hut in which to hold seminars, workshops and the like. They would also like to build additional huts in which visitors could stay overnight. Two members are planning to make a permanent move to the site to become caretakers for the centre. Finally, the group is planning to build an easy walking path up the hill to reach the centre.

Though the location of the centre is ideal in terms of scenery, the location becomes a challenge in terms of accessibility. Since the centre is located at the top of a small hill, it would be difficult for the elderly or ill to reach, and nearly impossible for disabled people. In addition to this, it is also a challenge to bring water to the summit. Access to water will be crucial if Sorta Sopon hopes to accommodate guests for long conferences or visits.

Proper advertisement and visibility is also an issue which will become more pressing if the group hopes to attract visitors. At the moment, there is not even a sign on the road to mark the group's presence. Visibility will have to be improved in order to attract professionals and tourists. Fortunately, Chepararia is on a main road and accessible by public transportation, so guests have easy access once awareness is spread.

Though it has succeeded in building good foundations for a strong group, Sorta Sopon lacks the concrete plans necessary to achieve their goals. The group functions co-operatively, but it is in need of stronger leadership and motivation. For the amount of funding that the group has received, they have not made as much progress as expected. The group has good ideas, but needs a cohesive plan and better organization to give the push that is needed to achieve its goals.

For more information email: sortasopon @gmail.com

Indigenous Women Peace and Conflict Resolution

By Yvonne Godia IIN

A training workshop for the Cherangany/ Emugut inhabitants was conducted from 15th to 18th March 2007, at Kapsewor. The focal point of the training was women's rights and conflict resolution in forest conflict area of Cherangany/ Emugut. Discussions, group work, electronic documentation and presentations were used to empower women to become active participants in the public domain to take up leadership roles in the community, to have equal opportunities to choose their own paths in life and be able to bring about peace in the community and resolve conflict.

Women especially the indigenous, are survivors of their own struggle against community conflicts which deny them freedom of leadership, decision making, education and land. The present conflicts are not based on human needs but rather greed for power, wealth and exploitation of the natural environment. Thus Indigenous Information Network is honored to have steered the training that it believes will help do away with the root causes of conflict and enhance peace and stability to enable positive progress among the communities. Using women as peace keepers is important considering that they are the mothers of the sons who go to raid and fight others; they praise them and sing for them because they are their children. They can stop the conflict and bring peace if they want to.

The trainings are important as they create awareness on the rights of women, children and the community. It is here the women identify their problems and strategies.

The training held in Kapsewar Marakwet District focused on:

- Peace building and conflict resolution for women living around Embobut/Cherangany forest.
- Instilling a greater understanding of the importance of womens rights and need to recognize women as key peace keepers in the community
- Mainstreaming peace issues in environmental conservation for the survival of the forest's residents.
- Formulating ideas for specific projects for income diversification.
- Educating community members on the importance of gender equality
- Formulating ideas for specific projects for women economic empowerment.
- Educating community members on ways to find funding for gender equity projects.
- Maintaining links with community members who will further disseminate information given at workshops and monitor progress.

Recommendations

1. It was recommended that women, especially from the grassroots level, should have financial support. Chiefs and other leaders should also recognize women's projects, and other activities, respect them equally and without discrimination, and motivate the mothers starting with their wives.
2. Strengthening of merry go rounds and other income generating activities to eradicate poverty. Offer training to women from the village about their rights and women should take up legal charges when rights are undermined.
3. Policies by the government on illegal logging of trees should be enforced by the chiefs and policemen in the region.
4. The mandate should be given to all the citizens to report any form of environmental destruction. Alternative methods of energy should be adopted to avoid cutting of trees for charcoal burning.
5. Conservation of rivers should be a personal duty. Women should not wash clothes and pour the dirty water back into the river so that it stays clean for consumption by those downstream.
6. It should never be allowed to bring stigmatization, fear and abandonment to those affected by AIDS as discussed by the participants, and thus community members should learn to appreciate those living positively, accept them and help them feel wanted.
7. Prevention of the HIV/AIDS by using measures like safe sex with one partner, use of condoms and taking care of those infected in the family and community.
8. Empowerment of those infected to live positively by making efforts to form groups that can take up activities that will boost them economically and social
9. Teaching through Information, Education and Communication (I.E.C) V.C.T testing was suggested.
10. As a community to be able to choose wise leaders who will be capable of bringing people together incase of conflict and organizing forums for peace.

Potential Policy Approaches and Positive Incentives to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries

A submission to the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Introduction

While a small group of countries have made significant progress in reducing deforestation over the past decades, global deforestation rates continue to be unacceptably high. In 2006, the International Tropical Timber Organization concluded that only 5% of all tropical forests were managed in a sustainable manner. Unsustainable forest management is the main cause of forest degradation, while the conversion of forests into agricultural land is by far the main cause of deforestation. The expansion of large-scale agro-industrial monocultures for food, fiber and, increasingly, energy production is both direct cause of deforestation and an underlying cause of forest loss; the expansion of monocultures on existing arable land causes cattle ranching and other forms of agriculture to move towards forest areas and other natural ecosystems.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) obliges all Parties that ratified the Convention to conserve and enhance forests and other sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases.1 The FCCC also obliges developed countries to provide financial assistance to developing countries to achieve these and other obligations.2 The Global Environment Facility, which was recently replenished with 3.13 billion US dollars for the coming four years, was chosen as the interim financial mechanism to channel this financial support. The Global Environment Facility is in great need of reform, if only because it currently takes an average of 66 months to decide on medium and large project proposals. However, it should be emphasized that its small grants program is widely appreciated as an effective instrument to support, , policies to reduce deforestation amongst others.

2. The Need to include all Forms of Deforestation

Deforestation and forest degradation are both significant causes of greenhouse gas emissions. It should be noted that the replacement of natural forests by monoculture tree plantations is considered to be a form of deforestation by those who foster a definition of forests based on biological science, though it is formally not defined as deforestation according to the definitions adopted in the Marrakesh Accords of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Whether defined as deforestation or forest degradation, the replacement of natural forests by monoculture plantations is a worldwide trend that forms a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. On average, in tropical areas, plantations store, at best, one-quarter of the carbon stored by natural forests. It is essential that efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation address the emissions caused by the direct or indirect replacement of forests by monoculture plantations. If the political discussion is limited to deforestation, it would be important to change the definitions used so that the emissions caused by this replacement are taken into account.

3. Perverse Incentives: Policies Triggering Large-scale Leakage

Policies and incentives to reduce deforestation can only be effective if they address the underlying causes of forest loss and the macro-effects of forest policies themselves. Already in 1996, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests recognized the need to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. In its final recommendations, the Panel encouraged countries to formulate national strategies in this respect.

If the macro-effects are not addressed, policies and incentive schemes targeting specific forest areas will unavoidably lead to "leakage". The term "leakage" is quite inappropriate in so far that it suggests a small-scale impact, while the macro effects of forest policies can trigger deforestation trends that are actually larger than the positive impacts of these policies on specific areas. Schemes to halt logging in one area will unavoidably promote logging in other areas unless overall timber consumption and log and pulp processing capacities are diminished, and the development of infrastructure in these areas can trigger deforestation of much larger areas than the area originally protected. Schemes that provide a positive incentive for the expansion of eucalypt, oilpalm and soy monocultures, tend to promote the expansion of forms of land use that provide very little labor per hectare of land. Eucalypt plantations, for example, provide up to 800 times less employment per hectare than traditional forms of family agriculture. In fact, these forms of land use replace

many small farms. As many of these small farmers will be forced to move to new, unexploited areas beyond the agricultural frontier, these schemes trigger a rapid expansion of the agricultural frontier into forests and other natural ecosystems. The rapidly rising demand for biofuels is already becoming a major cause of deforestation in regions like South East Asia, and it is expected to become a major cause of deforestation and rural depopulation in many other regions too. Standards that only guarantee that the crop concerned has not been produced on recently deforested ignore these macro-effects on forests. Most existing certification initiatives (with the exception of FSC) even allow genetically modified crops, causing major, unpredictable environmental and social risks. Especially the use of genetically modified trees could have devastating impacts on natural forests, due to the high risk of genetic contamination. The impacts of such macro-effects on greenhouse emissions are very hard to estimate.

Another more indirect example of leakage is caused by payments for environmental services (PES) schemes. These schemes tend to create a perverse "right to deforest" for landholders, the macro-effect of which tends to be that a country risks losing most of its forests unless it is able to pay a compensation for every square meter of existing forests. The Brazilian government has calculated that a modest payment for environmental services scheme as implemented by the government of Costa Rica would cost them 5 billion dollars per year if applied to just a third of the Amazon. If applied to the entire Amazon, the Atlantic forests and all its other forest ecosystems, the Brazilian government would have to spend at least 20 billion dollars per year on payments for environmental services to guarantee halting its forest loss.

4. Cheap and Simple: the Deforestation Ban

Happily, there are much cheaper ways to reduce deforestation. In Paraguay, a country plagued by problems of bad governance and impunity, the government succeeded in reducing deforestation by at least 85% in the eastern half of the country between May 2004 and May 2005, thanks to a legally straightforward deforestation moratorium combined with very modest investments in GIS forest monitoring technology and systematic law enforcement based on the satellite information gathered.

In fact, satellite monitoring has made it possible in many countries to monitor forest law enforcement much more effectively than people would have dreamt of ten years ago. Deforestation bans already exists in most European countries, China, Thailand, Costa Rica and many other countries, and they have proven to be very effective and relatively cheap policy instruments. In most major forest countries, especially in Indonesia and Brazil, there is a lively internal political debate about the possibility of a country-wide deforestation ban, and the most important NGOs in these countries are strongly in favor of such a ban.

5. The Need to Safeguard the Social Sustainability of Forest Policy

Payment for environmental services schemes and other market-based conservation mechanisms also tend to create significant negative social impacts, as they further marginalize women, Indigenous Peoples and other social groups that already have a marginal position in the market economy. These groups are strongly dependent on access to the goods and functions of forests and other ecosystems for their livelihoods, but they often lack the money to pay for environmental "services". These groups also have less marketing skills and formal land titles to compete in such a market. Carbon trade is specifically detrimental to these groups as it tends to negatively impact land reform and processes to recognize Indigenous Peoples' land rights. The carbon sinks market has already led to devastating impacts on Indigenous Peoples and local communities in countries like Ecuador, Brazil and Uganda..3 The positive exceptions of carbon finance that did contribute positively to community governance have all been the result of intense public governance and official development aid rather than market forces. Even an often lauded payment for environmental services scheme such as the one in Costa Rican is the result of a combined tax and subsidy system developed and implemented by the Costa Rican government with the help of large amounts of official development aid. Meanwhile, the Costa Rican government has failed in its attempts to sell its scheme on the commercial carbon market, as the price of a ton carbon saved is about twice as high as the current market price for carbon sequestration. Without generous donor support and the income provided by its mandatory fuel tax the Costa Rican scheme would have ceased many years ago.

While strict public governance can address many of the negative impacts of payments for environmental services schemes that are implemented by governments and other public institutions, most of these socially equitable schemes are commercially infeasible. In fact, there is no existing example of a socially just and environmentally sound PES scheme that has been fully financed through the carbon market or other market-based conservation schemes. Most schemes promoted as successful examples of PES are classical combinations of taxes and subsidies

with at most 10% additional carbon finance, and it should be noted that introducing them into international markets might lead to severe complications with WTO and other trade rules that prohibit commercial initiatives to be co-financed through market distorting subsidies. It should also be emphasized that these schemes require quite a lot of regulatory and fiscal capacity of governments to avoid fraud and other socially harmful impacts, while policies like deforestation bans tend to be much easier to implement thanks to modern remote sensing technology.

It should be emphasized that deforestation bans and moratoria should also take into account social impacts. Shifting cultivation in secondary forests can be a socially and environmentally sustainable form of land use provided it is applied within a system of community governance and social checks and balances. In consultation with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, governments should allow for exceptions to deforestation bans for activities that do not lead to long-term degradation of the forests concerned.

6. Positive Social Incentives versus Perverse Financial Incentives

It is of utmost importance that incentive schemes are not narrowed down to include only relatively expensive and socially inequitable payments for environmental services schemes, but that more innovative forms of incentives like recognizing land rights and education and awareness building are also promoted. The discussion on positive incentives tends to be dominated by economic actors with a strong stake in financial incentives like the forestry sector and large conservation NGOs, but the most successful policies that succeeded in halting and reversing deforestation have actually been based on such social incentives. In those countries where deforestation was halted it was mainly education, public awareness raising and fostering the traditional value systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that formed the key to successful forest policy. These policies created strong social incentives that translated into numerous innovative community-based forest governance schemes. These social incentives also formed the main force behind the increased political will of governments to set and enforce regulations to address corporate and other free-riders that ignored these community based forest conservation schemes. Of course, whether broad public awareness and traditional value-systems to conserve forests translate into government policy also depends on sound democratic decision-making. Regretfully, forest policies are still dictated by special interest groups in many countries. For that reason, safeguarding genuine democracy and public participation rights and regulations as laid down in treaties like the Aarhus Convention is a pre-condition to ensure forest policy responds to the values of the majority of the population.

7. Conclusion: Policies and Incentives that Work

Recognizing and safeguarding Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights over their own, often widespread, forest areas, has proven to be a highly effective policy for reducing deforestation in many countries, including, for example, Colombia and Panama. The recognition of their territorial rights forms an important incentive for these Peoples to foster their traditional sustainable forest management systems. Likewise, community conserved areas have proven to be an effective and socially just form of forest conservation in countries like India.

The Mumbai Initiative, an initiative developed by NGOs and social movements attending the World Social Forum recommends, amongst others, that "Governments must ensure an enabling environment for the community governance of forests." **The Initiative emphasizes that** "Indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities living in and using forests for their survival needs are the true protectors and governors of these forests and enjoy inalienable rights over their forests...The protection and conservation of forests demand that their rights be ensured." **It also points out that** "The historical role and positive contribution of women in the governance and nurturing of forests must be recognised and their full participation in decision making must be ensured." **The Mumbai Initiative urges Governments to** "ensure that legislation and policies comply with the above principles." **and it urges** "NGOs and other civil society organizations at national and international level committed to the conservation of forests and to the protection of forest peoples' rights" **to** "have a supportive role to peoples' initiatives to govern the forest and to be accountable to them." **The Initiative highlights that** "Society at large benefiting from the broad range of products and services provided by forests must support communities in their efforts to govern and conserve forests." **but it rejects market-based conservation mechanisms:** "The commodification of nature and forests by corporations, governments, international institutions and some NGOs is not acceptable."4

These principles are supported by the Global Forest Coalition and many of its members as a set of principles that provide guidance to effective and socially just policies and positive incentives. It is recommended that the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change take these principles into account when further elaborating policies and positive incentives to reduce deforestation. Providing

well-targeted, predictable and sufficient financial support to developing countries is an obligation of developed countries under the FCCC. It should be emphasized in this respect that it is the quality rather than the quantity of financial support that determines the success of forest policies. Carbon finance has already proven to be unsustainable, unpredictable, unstable and inequitable, causing major financial deficits in regions like Africa, and among communities and social groups like Indigenous Peoples and women that are most in need of support for their forest policies. For that reason it is essential that governments, both in developed and developing countries, fulfill their obligations under the FCCC, conserve and enhance forests and other carbon sinks and reservoirs, and ensure the availability of sufficient official development aid to enable developing countries to meet these obligations.

The Global Forest Coalition is a worldwide coalition of NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organizations involved in international forest policy. The mission of the Global Forest Coalition is to reduce poverty amongst, and avoid impoverishment of, indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent peoples by advocating the rights of those peoples as a basis for forest policy and addressing the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. For more information please visit http://www.wrm.org.uy/GFC or contact Simone Lovera, Brussles 2273, Asuncion, Paraguay, tel/fax: 595-21-663654, simonelovera@yahoo.com.

No Clinic in the Forest:
Health Care in Pygmy Communities

***By Nengo Emmanuel** - Executive Secretary of UNIPROBA (Unissons-nous pour the Promotion des Batwa)*

The Pygmy communities of central Africa are facing a health crisis due to a lack of adequate health care. Their health situation has changed due to a loss of traditional livelihoods, as well as remoteness, exclusion and discrimination. To prevent the crisis from worsening, these issues must be addressed, and efforts must be made by Pygmy associations and organizations to keep communities informed about health matters.

The term 'Pygmy' is used to refer to a number of ethnic groups who are forest hunter-gatherers and former hunter-gatherers, distinguished from other forest-dwelling groups who rely on farming. These communities are marginalized economically and politically. They are currently facing a variety of challenges when it comes to health, including high infant mortality rates; inadequate nutrition; widespread transmission of viruses and infections; and a lack of access to health care facilities. The change in traditional lifestyle and culture accounts for many of these problems. Pygmy populations have been pushed out of their traditional forest lands in many regions, forcing these peoples to abandon their source of food, medicine and shelter, as well as their spiritual home. Pygmy communities that have access to forest resources have adequate nutrition due to a diet of game, fruits, vegetables, honey and nuts which are found in the forest. The restriction of access to protected areas, or environmental degradation due to logging or poaching, means that this valuable food source is lost, and the risk of malnutrition and mortality is increased. In addition to this, Pygmy communities which have been pushed out of their lands often make their homes in fixed settlements along roads. This means that they are more exposed to malarial mosquitoes, and to the build up of parasites due to inadequate sanitation and increased population density.

The remote location of many Pygmy groups has made health care provision difficult, but discrimination has also been an important factor in the lack of adequate services to these communities. As many groups are no longer able to access traditional herbal medicines due to their forced removal from the forest, they are more dependant than ever on the provision of treatment from health care centres. However, health care staff often favour Bantu populations over Pygmy groups, which means that Pygmy communities have less access to medical resources than their neighbours. In addition to this, Pygmies seeking medical treatment often suffer humiliation from health care staff simply because of their ethnicity. The Batwa, a Pygmy group from Burundi, have recently confronted an HIV/AIDS epidemic. Their story serves as an example to illustrate the kinds of struggles that Pygmy communities throughout central Africa face to receive adequate health care, and the potential solutions that can be reached. The Batwa people are one of the poorest minority groups of Burundi. Making up only 1% of the population, they have been marginalized by development, ignored by government policy and have suffered from discrimination. It is only recently, with the education of a few community members, that the Batwa have begun to fight for equal treatment.

The scourge of AIDS has affected the Batwa as much as any other group, despite their isolation from larger society. Indeed, this very isolation has been a

challenge in addressing the AIDS epidemic in Batwa communities. In Burundi, the Batwa are uninformed about this epidemic for several reasons, particularly because of a lack of access to information and social discrimination. For example, they have no access to radio or television programs which have reported on AIDS and are not invited to seminars held by various organizations on HIV/AIDS education. Those working in HIV/AIDS education have neglected to visit Batwa communities to inform them about the existence and challenges of this epidemic. Batwa women and girls are particularly vulnerable to infection, due to the widespread belief among other ethnic groups that one can cure backaches or even HIV by having sexual relations with a Batwa woman. Due to this belief, Batwa women are frequently raped by those whose HIV status is unknown. Aside from the gross violation of women's rights, this means these women are at great risk of contracting STDs or HIV. Most of those who have been violated keep silent due to social stigma, and do not seek medical treatment. Their health and even their lives are put at risk.

Some in the Batwa community still believe that AIDS is an urban disease that cannot affect those living in rural areas. This ignorance can be a barrier to the prevention of the spread of HIV. Another challenge is that multiple sexual partners are common in Batwa communities. This means that if one person is infected with HIV, the virus may spread quickly and decimate a community, especially since most Batwa are unaware of their HIV status. Conscious of these challenges, a group called UNIPROBA – Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa ("Let us unite for the Promotion of the Batwa") – has formed to address the information needs of the Batwa of Burundi. Through this organization, the Batwa have been able to participate in seminars on health care and human rights for the first time. At HIV seminars, the lecturers, often doctors, inform participants of ways of protecting themselves about the epidemic, about modes of transmission, how HIV develops, and that there is no cure. They also address the questions of women who have been violated, urging them to present themselves to rape centres to receive counseling about HIV and unwanted pregnancies. These women must be examined for the sake of their future health, particularly because of potential damage to the genitals, which can cause reproductive difficulties.

Seminar participants also receive advice about how to protect themselves from the spread of HIV. Married couples should undergo voluntary examinations before deciding to have children, which will be HIV-positive if the parents are infected. In the case of sexual relations between people who are not married, protection such as condoms should always be used. Finally, the Batwa are receiving the information they need in order to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. The lessons being passed on at the workshops are being disseminated at the community level. This information will invaluable for those who are at risk or who are already affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. When it comes to reproductive health, the lecturers speak about proper nutrition for pregnant mothers, examinations of the mother and the fetus with a healthy birth in mind, the importance of medical consultation in case of complications, and proper monitoring for the duration of the pregnancy. They also speak about hygiene in general, because one cannot speak about health without also addressing hygiene.

Finally, the Batwa are receiving all the information they need in order to protect themselves against AIDS. The lessons being passed on at the workshops are being disseminated at the community level. The Batwa now know that an HIV-positive person has less chance of having a healthy child, and that a family in which there is AIDS is more likely to be affected by poverty. This information will invaluable for those who are at risk or who are already affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Pygmy groups everywhere face challenges similar to those of the Batwa; discrimination, ignorance and a lack of professionalism from health care workers are major barriers to maintaining healthy communities. However, the work done by UNIPROBA is an inspiration for other groups that can work to address the needs of Pygmy communities. Non-governmental organizations can help to provide information, as well as helping communities claim their right to basic medical services. The problem of discrimination in state-provided clinics must be addressed, as well as the issue of land rights. If Pygmy communities retain access to their traditional forest lands, many of the health problems that are arising could be resolved through the use of forest resources. Through a combination of traditional and state-provided health care, and with the help of NGOs, the health crisis in Pygmy communities can be averted.

References: Jackson, Dorothy. "The Health Situation of Women and Children in Central African Pygmy Peoples" in *Indigenous Affairs 1/06: Africa and the Millenium Development Goals*. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs: Copenhagen, 2006.E mmanuel, Nengo. "Le Peuple Autochtone Batwa du Burundi Face au Fleau du VIH/SIDA", 2006.

Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Committee

Meet and Focus on the Environment.

Members of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC) Executive Committee met in Bujumbura, Burundi from 16-19 April 2007. The leaders are elected by IPACC's 150 member organisations. They came from 10 African countries to spend four days in Burundi learning about the United Nations three conventions on Biological Diversity, Desertification and Climate Change and planning a strategy to organise indigenous peoples' approach to protecting and managing natural resources.

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Minister of Land Management, the Environment and Tourism of the Republic of Burundi, Mme Odette Kaytesi. Burundi is the only African country to formally recognise indigenous peoples and include them in the national parliament and senate.

The Burundian Minister praised the efforts of IPACC and emphasised that indigenous peoples are important stakeholders in protecting Africa's natural heritage and traditional knowledge systems. She encouraged other African governments to value the contribution of indigenous peoples.

Some of the topics that were discussed included the destruction of grazing lands, deforestation, drought, access to safe water, destruction of plants and animals, and the displacement of indigenous peoples. A major concern was how to help protect and promote how indigenous peoples pass knowledge from one generation to another. All of the leaders noted that their knowledge systems are at risk and needs urgent attention.

In an exercise on analysing why grazing lands are being destroyed, the IPACC team discovered that the underlying problem in Africa has a policy root. Using a logical framework technique, the indigenous leaders, both pastoralists and hunter-gatherers, recognised that there needs to be a marriage in Africa between national Environmental policies and recognition and participation of indigenous peoples and their knowledge systems.

Indigenous peoples have protected biodiversity for millennia. Now their old managements systems have been marginalised and control went to the governments who live far away from the rural areas. In some cases, land was lost to rich farmers. In other cases, land and resources went into protected areas. In the worst cases, there has been uncontrolled legal and illegal deforestation, destroying nature and the lives of indigenous peoples.

Mrs Mary Simat, Chairperson of IPACC from Kenya said: "We have learned a lot in this workshop. We need to be speaking directly to our governments about policy changes which will recognise indigenous peoples and our knowledge systems."

Central African delegates put the emphasis on protecting forest biodiversity. Indigenous leaders from Burundi, Gabon and Rwanda all noted that the pharmaceutical companies want to have access to their knowledge about medicinal plants. They need to learn more about how to protect their rights, and use traditional knowledge to help their communities and their countries.

North and West African delegates were concerned about climate changes and increasing drought. They felt that old knowledge of water management in pastoralism and arid area agriculture needs more attention and recognition. The rush to modernisation in agriculture has put aquifers at risk now that the climate is changing.

In East Africa, hunter-gatherers and pastoralists expressed their concern about how privatisation, land invasions and protected areas are causing strains on natural resources. There are new mechanisms to study traditional knowledge but these need to be linked to environmental management.

Southern Africans also expressed concern about climate change and unsustainable land use by agricultural communities. San activist, Mr Cgara Cgaase from Botswana said: We have a lot to learn about the UN Conventions. In Botswana, our San people are rich in knowledge but if we are not using this knowledge, it will not pass to the next generation.

Ms Amolia Bok, a San young woman from South Africa said that the workshop helped her understand where to focus. "We are dealing with immediate problems of poverty. We are trying to cope with those issues. Now I am learning that we also need to know

how policy impacts on our lives. We need to go home and speak to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism."

The workshop recommended plans of action for each sub-region of Africa. The action plans includes more training on the three Rio Conventions, building up strategic partnerships with other civil society groups, pilot projects which help show how traditional knowledge can play a role in protecting the environment and monitoring climate change. An Africa Regional Action Plan will be produced and circulated to indigenous peoples in English, French, Swahili and Afrikaans.

The meeting was closed with a traditional Batwa dance performance and speeches by the Batwa Senators and members of the National Assembly. The event was funded by the Centre for Agricultural Technical Cooperation with Rural Areas (CTA) which is supporting indigenous peoples to plan and communicate about natural resources in rural areas of Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean. The Batwa national organisation, Unissons pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA) hosted the event. IPACC's Deputy Chairperson Vital Bambanze expressed his satisfaction that the workshop helped raise the profile of indigenous peoples and created clearer strategic direction. Follow up workshops are due to take place around Africa.

IPACC's Executive Committee also approved a proposal to create a new region in Africa for voting and representation. This unites Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic with Sudan and Ethiopia. Mrs Fadematou Dahirou from the Cameroonian Mbororo organisation, Mbosouda, was coopted as the Regional Representative for Sahara-Sahel. Mrs Dahirou expressed her concern about on-going drought conditions, new civil conflicts in CAR, and the vulnerability of transhumant pastoralists.

The government of the Republic of Burundi met with indigenous leaders from Central Africa and committed its full support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which needs to be passed at the General Assembly.

For more information on IPACC see www.ipacc.org.za

NGO Statement at CSD 15 interactive sessions: Turning Commitments into Action.

by Nnimmo Bassey - Friends of the earth, Nigeria

We cannot have action if we do not have commitments to take action: **If governments had followed through on their past commitments** – Agenda 21, the Kyoto Protocol, JPOI and Millennium Development Goals to name a few, then we might have had the privilege of inaction that is occurring at this current CSD. In the current negotiations, delegates have studiously avoided target-setting. We have a text in our hands that is devoid of targets and timelines and reads like an oil spill.

The Secretary General's focus on climate change and energy is highly commendable and is indicative of the leadership needed to address the most pressing global problem. We hope that more leaders will emerge and that practical action will be taken in this regard.

We are in a climate crisis. While we recognize that the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol are the main international forums for climate change negotiations, action is needed at all levels and from all governments. Small island developing states, coastal communities, arctic dwellers and the poor cannot afford to wait while governments hesitate to take action. Taking action for deep reductions in GHGs to mitigate climate change is not just an environmental necessity, it's a moral imperative. A signal of commitment toward a post-2012 climate change agreement and committed funds and strategies for adaptation should come out of the CSD-15. **As a matter of fact, the financial roles in the debate in the Climate Crisis are reversed because we now have debtor countries in the North and creditor countries in the South.**

Some CSD delegates see fossil fuels as the main energy source for the foreseeable future. We believe it's the duty of the CSD to look beyond that and set long-term commitments. The solutions to energy, climate security and equitable access to energy are available and well- known. We need to phase out fossil fuels and nuclear energy. We should also phase out all direct and indirect subsidies to large hydro,

Dangers of climate change already threatening traditional cultures,

Urgent response needed, indigenous forum told as the United Nations Permanent Forumon Indigenous Issues wrapped up discussions on its future work, representatives of tribal and native peoples from all regions called on the expert body to urgently examine the dangers of climate change, which was already threatening their traditional cultures as grasslands withered, glaciers melted, ocean temperatures rose, and coral reefs disappeared.

Adding his voice to the call for climate change to be the theme for next year's session, the representative of Habitat Pro, an Andean indigenous organization, reminded the Forum that, despite the fact that indigenous peoples would be primarily affected by global warming, their plight had barely been mentioned during the just-concluded session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had focused on climate change and air pollution.

"Global warming does not recognize borders, peoples or continents," he said. Increasing sea levels and shrinking glaciers adversely affected the flow of drinking water and fishing prospects. He urged the Forum to speak clearly and openly with Governments about addressing indigenous issues distinctly, rather than in a "packaged" manner. By way of warning, he added that countries relying on corn and agro-industrial products to diversify away from oil-based fuels would continue to seize traditional lands.

Echoing that call, the representative of the Indigenous World Association and associated organizations stressed that climate change remained an urgent and cross-cutting issue that impacted indigenous peoples' environment, economic development, culture and human rights. It had emerged as a particular priority in the Pacific, where indigenous peoples were impacted by global tides and changes in the marine food chain. Tuvalu had a dire need for assistance in handling rising tides. The phenomenon also was tragically impacting the Arctic and disrupting the planet's entire hydro and marine cycle.

Responding, Chairperson Victoria Tauli-Corpuz said that, after hearing the pleas of so many organizations that had spoken on the issue over the past two days, the experts had agreed to make climate change the special theme of next year's session. She added that the decision would be formally announced tomorrow when the Forum adopted the provisional agenda for its seventh session.

Summing up some of the other issues that had been raised, she said the Forum would work to reduce the number of recommendations it made and tomorrow review them individually. The responsibility to disseminate information lay with the indigenous organizations.

Regarding the methods of work for next year, she said the Forum would recommend holding parallel sessions, which would make it easier to more closely examine relevant issues. That matter would need to be discussed further, however, as it would require additional funds.

Another idea on the Forum's future work came from the representative of the Rapa Nui peoples living off the coast of Chile, who asked that immigration, particularly stemming from mainland to island, remain a top-of-mind issue. He explained that the Chilean Government was perpetuating problems on his island by allowing immigrants from continental Chile to arrive.

Schools were overcrowded and the health system that existed could barely support traditional inhabitants, let alone an influx of new people. Acknowledging the Government position that it was unconstitutional to restrict Chilean citizens from coming to the island, he nonetheless argued that his people were being forced to accommodate that new situation.

In the afternoon, the Forum heard from a representative from the Peruvian Amazon region, who proposed that the panel take up the theme "indigenous peoples living in isolation" for the next session. He said his peoples were living under occupation, particularly from oil companies. The State decision to place oil concessions up for bidding represented an action against the rights of isolated peoples.

Explaining that Peru was not a party to International Labour Organization Convention 169 on indigenous rights, he called for full respect of the pre-existing rights of isolated peoples in the region.

Additionally, he urged Governments to respect the Convention; the Organization of American States (OAS) to speed procedures to call on its member Governments to protect isolated peoples; the World Health Organization (WHO) to approve implementation guidelines for States to handle health emergencies of isolated peoples; and the United Nations to establish a supranational body to take action against Governments that had shown disrespect for the rights of

We Thought It Was Oil, But It Was Blood

The other day
We danced on the street
Joy in our hearts
We thought we were free
Three young folks fell to our right
Countless more fell to our left
Looking up
Far from the crowd
We beheld
Red hot guns

We thought it was oil
But it was blood

We thought it was oil
But this was blood

Heart jumping
Into our mouths
Floating on
Emotions dry wells
We leapt with fury
Knowing it was not timing
Then we beheld
Bright red pools

We thought it was oil
But it was blood

We thought it was oil
But this was blood

Tears don't flow
When you are scarred
First it was the Ogoni
Today it is Ijaws
Who will be slain this next day?
We see open mouths
But we hear no screams
Standing in a pool
Up to our knees

We thought it was oil
But it was blood

We thought it was oil
But this was blood

Dried tear bags
Polluted streams
Things are real
Only when found in dreams
We see their Shells
Behind military shields
Evil horrible evil gallows called oilrigs
Drilling our souls

We thought it was oil
But it was blood

We thought it was oil
But this was blood

The heavens are open
Above our head
Toasted dreams in flared
And scrambled sky
A million black holes
In a burnt sky
But we know our dreams
When it burst like crude pipes

We thought it was oil
But it was blood

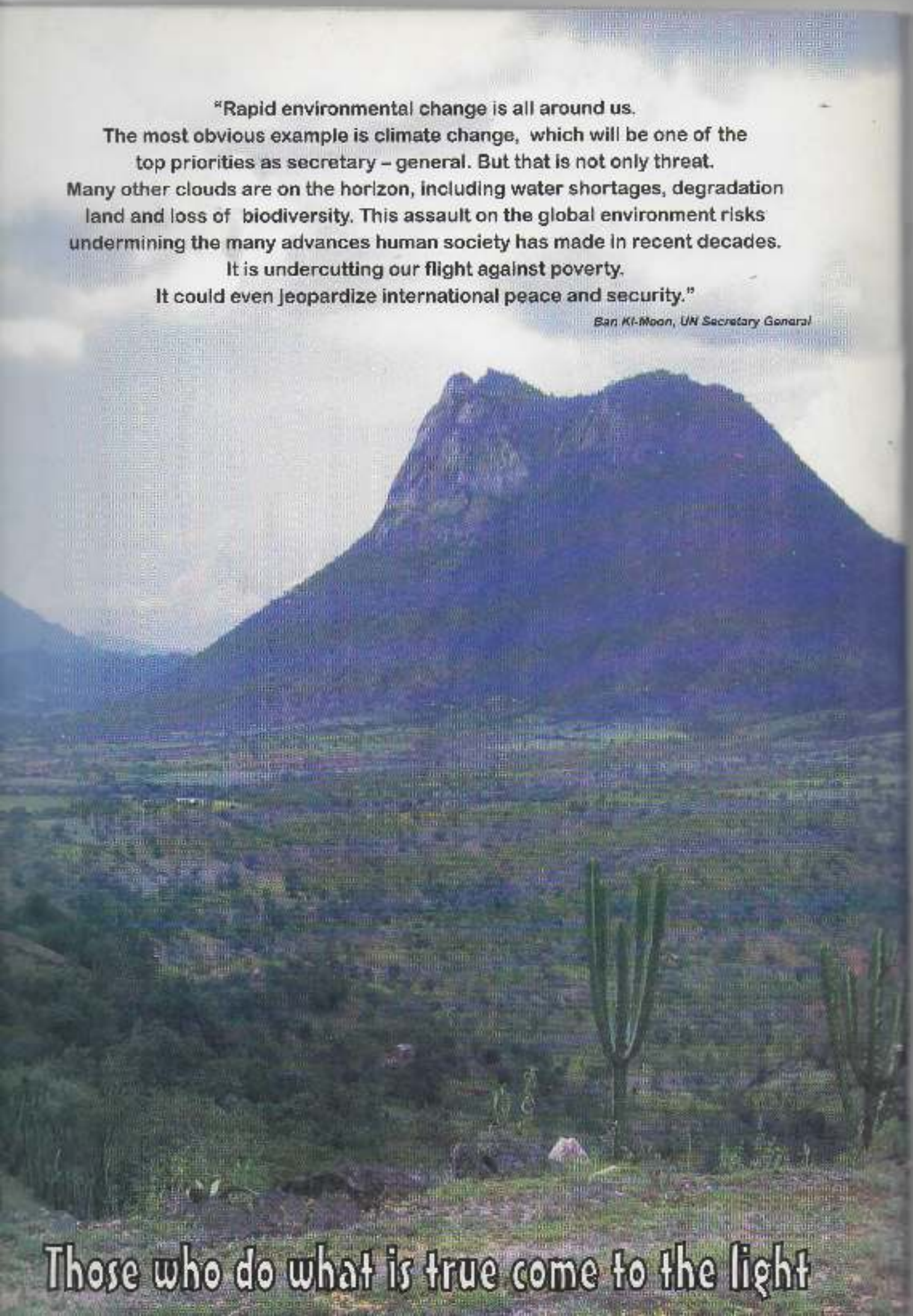
We thought it was oil
But this was blood

This we tell you
They may kill all
But the blood will speak
They may gain all
But the soil will RISE
We may die but stay alive
Placed on the slab
Slaughtered by the day
We are the living
Long sacrificed

We thought it was oil
But it was blood

We thought it was oil
But this was blood

by Kelvene Bassey - Friends of Earth, Nigeria


"Rapid environmental change is all around us.
The most obvious example is climate change, which will be one of the
top priorities as secretary – general. But that is not only threat.
Many other clouds are on the horizon, including water shortages, degradation
land and loss of biodiversity. This assault on the global environment risks
undermining the many advances human society has made in recent decades.
It is undercutting our flight against poverty.
It could even jeopardize international peace and security."
Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General
Those who do what is true come to the light