



System change not climate change!

All illustrations created by Anna Loveday-Brown

Editorial

Together we can create a thousand Cancuns for change!

International talks are hamstrung by industrialised countries failing to address their **historical responsibility** but our movements are forging ahead with **real solutions to climate change**. Across the world peasants and fisherfolk, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples are **articulating and living solutions** - societies not based on high consumption of fossil fuels, protecting forests, and implementing food sovereignty. Increasingly they are joined by grassroots and workers movements in the industrialised world who recognise the harm that overconsumption and corporate control has done to their well-being. The fact that these issues will now be taken from Cochabamba to Cancun is testament to the strength, integrity and interconnectedness of the climate justice and food sovereignty movements. But there are also **real challenges to overcome**. Proposals are on the table that would undermine the ability of people to make the urgent changes needed. The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD) offset projects, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and geo-engineering are fundamentally flawed solutions, and arise due to **the capture of the climate debate by corporations**. This edition of the newsletter highlights the need for us to take the future of our planet into our own hands.

Together we can create a thousand Cancuns for change!

Kirtana Chandrasekaran

Food Sovereignty programme co-ordinator / Friends of the Earth International



**Be
active!**

In the spotlight

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Climate Crisis? It's not too late if we change the system!

Earth's self-regulating systems are being altered. In the last decades the **temperature** of the planet has started to increase rapidly due to the escalating concentrations of **greenhouse gases** (GHG), caused by human activities. The current **unsustainable** neo-liberal model - based on high fossil energy consumption, consumerism and trade liberalization facilitated by **governments and transnational corporations** - is causing this climate crisis, now combined with a financial crisis, a food crisis and massive biodiversity loss. Industrialised countries - which constitute twenty percent of the world's population - **are responsible for around three-quarters** of the world's historical GHG emissions. However, the consequences of climate change are **affecting peoples all around the world**: the impacts of natural disasters are growing; while the intensification of climate chaos is pushing small-scale farmers and pastoralists out of their territories and is endangering the survival of coastal communities and fisherfolk.

21 November
World Fisheries day

21-26 November
Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists - Mera, India

25 November
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

29 November -10 December
COP 16 on Climate Change - Cancun, Mexico

6-11 February 2011
World Social Forum - Dakar, Senegal

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Who we are

In the last years hundreds of organizations and movements have been engaged in struggles, activities, and various kinds of work to defend and promote the right of people to Food Sovereignty around the world. Many of these organizations were present in the Nyéléni Forum 2007 and feel part of a broader Food Sovereignty Movement, that considers the Nyéléni 2007 declaration as its political platform. **The Nyéléni Newsletter wants to be the voice of this international movement.**

Organizations involved: Development Fund, ETC, Focus on the Global South, Food First, Friends of the Earth International, Grain, Grassroots International, IPC for food sovereignty, La Via Campesina, Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres, Oxfam Solidarity, Real World Radio, Roppa, The World Forum Of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers, Veterinarios Sin Fronteras.

Now is the time for Food Sovereignty!



A glossary to navigate the climate crisis!

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a convention adopted by 192 countries internationally in 1994. It is the main international space in the UN to deliberate solutions on climate change; it works under the principle of **one country, one vote**. Because the UN process works by **consensus**, it is difficult for rich countries to impose their interests and they have made many attempts to **bypass** the convention: trying to recognize the *Copenhagen Accord* even if it was not agreed by consensus; using other international bodies (as the *Convention on Biological Diversity*) to take decisions; setting up groups of experts. At the same time during the UNFCCC negotiations they try to lobby or mislead the other countries and the public.

Greenhouse gases (GHG) cover the Earth and keep its temperature warmer than it would be without them. The main greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) is the most common GHG on our planet. It is emitted into the air as humans exhale, burn fossil fuels for energy. CO2 concentration in the atmosphere is increasing fast, check the values at <http://co2now.org/>

Mitigation is the term used for all measures implemented to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. As climate chaos is already taking place around us, measures of **adaptation** are planned to reduce the impact of climate change.

Carbon sink is a reservoir (for example oceans or forests) that stores carbon dioxide after removing it from the atmosphere, this process is called carbon sequestration.

Climate debt is the debt developed countries have to developing countries, the Planet and future generations for causing climate change. It is fair to recognize this debt **but it is necessary to go beyond this and demand system change so that there is no more climate debt.**

False solutions!

Geo-engineering is the intentional manipulation of the environment to counteract the undesired side effects of human activities. More than a set of technologies, however, **it is a political strategy**. Biochar, whitening clouds, artificial volcanoes and ocean fertilization. <http://www.etcgroup.org/en/issues/geoengineering>

Transgenic plants and GMO seeds: Monsanto has patented new GMO seeds that are supposed to adapt to climate change – the “climate ready seeds”.

No-till agriculture is theoretically a method to increase the amount of carbon stored in the soil by no ploughing it. Monsanto is lobbying to ensure the recognition of this practice in the Kyoto framework – to benefit soya monoculture producers.

Agrofuels are a wide range of fuels produced by biomass but its cultivation is one of the **main cause of land-grabbing and their energy balance is often null!** <http://www.foeurope.org/agrofuels/index.html>

The story of pollution: From a privilege to a right

The Kyoto Protocol, which entered into force in 2005, is a **legally binding** agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The protocol sets **binding targets** for developed (*Annex 1* in the protocol) countries to reduce their emissions by an average of 5% relative to the level of emissions in 1990, over the period 2008-2012. On one hand the Kyoto protocol is the **only existing binding agreement** on this vital issue, even if not all countries within the UNFCCC process ratified it: for example the US. On the other hand the protocol is also responsible for creating the **market-based mechanisms** which have allowed the rich countries to avoid making these reductions. An *Annex 1* country can reach its 2012 goal by reducing emissions in its territory or in another part of the world through these mechanisms. The protocol gives a price to pollution, divides it into units and puts it in the market, **opening the door to speculation!** The mechanisms:

Emission Trading

Greenhouse gas emissions are now **traded as a commodity**. All developed countries receive a **limit** on how much carbon they can emit (which they distribute between their industries and businesses). Emissions trading allows countries that have emission units to spare - because they polluted less than their limit- to sell these units to countries that contaminate too much. Since **carbon dioxide** is the principal GHG, people speak simply about “carbon markets”. Through buying these units, developed countries **buy the right to carry on polluting as before**. It is just question of money!

Clean Development Mechanism

CDM is the main offsetting tool used by *Annex 1* countries. These countries can compensate their emissions by investing in “**emissions reduction**” projects in developing countries – in return for credits (offsets) which can be counted as emission reductions or sold on the **carbon market**. This allows rich countries to **carry on polluting** while funding **controversial** projects in developing countries (e.g. industrial gases projects, construction of big dams for hydroelectric power, or monoculture plantations for the biomass industry). Often these projects **endanger local communities** and their rights; serving only **private businesses’ profit** and promoting **land-grabbing**. http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

Europe in particular has been applying these **false solutions** and has established the world’s biggest greenhouse gas market (the European Emissions Trading Scheme). However, **instead of being reduced, emissions in fact increased**. In 2008 a new phase of the offsetting scheme started, and after a fall in emissions - mainly due to the global economic crisis, European carbon emissions are expected to **rise again** as economies recover¹.

Coming soon!

Forest privatisation and carbon emission bonanza

Not satisfied with having put emissions in the hands of markets and private interests, the debate is now on **including forests in the game**. **Forest proposals** at the UN climate talks known as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries) are being promoted as a solution to climate change, biodiversity and community rights whilst offering **investment opportunities**. While REDD is set to turn huge **profits for corporations**, including those engaged in deforestation, energy companies and carbon traders, other supposed benefits unfortunately appear too good to be true. The details have not been fully agreed but almost all government proposals support **forest carbon trading** which would essentially allow forests in developing countries to **be privatised to generate the right to pollute for rich industrialised countries**. Other risks include finance for monoculture tree plantations including GM (genetically modified) trees and crops and the **displacement of communities** as the value of forests rise, unleashing **land grabs**. REDD is moving very fast with pilot projects already underway **on the ground**. **We need to mobilise** in order to block a bad deal which governments, including Mexico, will attempt to seal in Cancun at the COP 16 (the 16th Conference Of Parties to the UNFCCC).

Meanwhile, **transnational corporations** are using the climate crisis as an **opportunity to make more profit** by developing new technologies to “solve” global warming (see box). Geo-engineering technologies are part of this trend, but a few weeks ago in Nagoya at the COP 10 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) all 193 countries members of the convention agreed **by consensus to a de facto moratorium on geoengineering projects and experiments**. It’s not all good - the CBD discussed the setting up of market based mechanisms for conserving biodiversity (the Green Development Mechanism)².

1 - Info at <http://www.grist.org/article/cap-and-trade-filling-up-the-political-space-that-should-be-used-for-real-s>
2 - <http://www.handsoffmotherearth.org/2010/10/great-news-un-agrees-moratorium-on-geoengineering-experiments/>
and <http://www.etcgroup.org/en/issues/geoengineering>



Real solutions from the people!

The **COP 15** (the 15th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC) **ended in failure** in December 2009, when the so-called Copenhagen accord³ didn't contain **any real commitment** to reducing emissions. Social movements, civil society organizations and some governments organized an alternative meeting in Cochabamba - Bolivia, the *World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth*. The final *People's Agreement* presents a comprehensive framework of analysis and actions to solve the climate crisis: it attributes the **main responsibility to the capitalist model**, and proposes measures to protect **the rights of Pachamama** (Mother Earth) and its people. The immense challenge of stopping global warming can only be achieved through a transition **away from fossil fuel** dependent economies and the promotion of policies to reduce consumption and to develop public access to renewable energy. In particular a **profound shift in agricultural practices** needs to be implemented toward the sustainable model of production used by indigenous and rural farming peoples, as well as other practices that contribute to **food sovereignty**. Several studies demonstrate **that peasants and indigenous peoples can reduce current global emissions by between 50 and 75%**: through recuperating soil organic matter; reorientating the industrialized and energy-intensive world food system; reversing the concentration of industrial livestock production; expanding local markets and availability of fresh food and halting deforestation⁴.

After weeks of negotiations before in Bonn and recently in Tianjin, several proposals of the People's Agreement have been included in the negotiating text on climate change⁵. The Agreement urges the **COP 16** to approve an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under which **developed countries must agree to significant domestic emissions reductions while excluding carbon markets or other offset mechanisms that mask the failure of authentic GHG reductions**.

3 - At the last minute, the accord was adopted by only 100 countries led by the United States and China.

4 - Info <http://viacampesina.net/downloads/PAPER5/EN/paper5-EN.pdf> and www.grain.org/go/climatecrisisrefs

5 - To read more <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/2010/10/13/cochabamba-proposals-will-be-brought-to-cancun/>

The People's agreement of Cochabamba!

The **capitalist system** is the major cause of this crisis, **we must shift to new models based on social, environmental and climate justice**. **The right to Food Sovereignty** is one of the main solutions to cool down the planet. Other demands are:

- * Implement a **Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth** at the United Nations;
- * **Protect the rights** of those forced to migrate due to climate change;
- * Restrict global temperature increases to **1°C**;
- * **Reduce of 50% GHG** based on 1990 levels for the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol (2013-2017);
- * **Reject the carbon market and all other mechanisms of offsetting, including REDD**;
- * Create a **Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal**;
- * Hold a **World Referendum on Climate Change** to let everyone decide on this issue.

For more info <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/support/>



Mobilize against false solutions during the COP 16!

Join the social movements, environmental organisations, women, youth, indigenous peoples, farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, urban poor, anti-debt coalitions and affected communities which are gathering in Cancun

Spaces and initiatives

Dialogo climático-Espacio Mexicano - <http://www.dialogoclimatico.org/>

Klimaforum - <http://10.klimaforum.org/>

International Caravans for life, resistance and environmental justice and

Alternative Global Forum for Life and Environmental and Social Justice - ivc.cancun@gmail.com

or take part in the **"thousands of Cancuns for climate justice"** actions organized in your own community!

Voices from the field

Climate Change in Indonesia, an overview.

Interview with Elisha Kartini Samon, staff for Policy Studies Department at the Indonesian Peasant Union (SPI)

"After the Bali Road Map Indonesian government policies have changed a lot on climate issues and agrofuels. Indonesia, like Brazil and DR Congo, are countries which still have vast rainforests and land so they are becoming big markets for carbon trading, the REDD mechanism, conservation projects and agrofuels..."

The real face of REDD, a mechanism created "to protect" forests and fight climate change.

Indonesia is one of the nine countries which are implementing REDD pilot projects. Right now in the country there are 22 projects (the first one started in 2007), on a total of 26.6 million hectares (ha) of land which they say has been "conserved" under these projects. The biggest ones are in Sumatra.

What is the impact of REDD?

Many farmers have been already displaced from their land, because many small producers in those areas work inside the forest. The forest peoples have small plots where they grow vegetables. But REDD forbids them to enter their plots. One big case of expropriation is taking place in Jambi, where the area involved is 101 000 ha, and the project is supported by England and Bird Life International⁶; many international NGOs are supporting these programs. **Farmers are banned** from living and working in the area, even collecting branches is not allowed anymore, because they said they contribute to deforestation.

Is this the main danger for local communities?

No, not the only one. Another phenomenon in Indonesia is the emerging of the so called **carbon brokers**. They normally come to a group of farmers, proposing that they should grow trees. They try to convince farmers that it is easy: they receive seeds and after ten years they will

get paid! The only limitation? **Farmers cannot grow anything else apart from trees!** Where will they get their food?

How does this process work exactly?

In the district where I work the broker is a local person, who manages the international contacts and has already convinced many farmers to start these plantations. He offers the international partners a piece of land in a district, and then the international partners bid on that land. The broker gets the **money for the intermediation**; the **international actors got carbon credits to sell on the market or to exchange**.

The situation becomes more complex if we add agrofuels....

Yes, indeed. One year after the European Union established the 2020 biofuel target⁷ the Indonesian President launched the Presidential Decree on biofuel, which guarantees the production of biofuels and its distribution worldwide. The "most efficient" biofuel in Indonesia is **palm oil**. In only 3 years, palm cultivations increased by 1.3 million ha! Islands such as Java and Papua are not normal areas for palm oil but now it is cultivated there too. In Java we produce most of the food for domestic use, if they start to grow palm oil there it will be a **serious threat for food sovereignty for all Indonesian peoples**. What's more, the EU proposed to the UNFCCC that palm plantations should be considered a forest, to take advantage of the market mechanisms. Palm oil plantations **destroy** the soil; use chemicals and an enormous amount of water.

Many farmers were **obliged to shift to palm cultivation**, because they were surrounded by them and cannot grow anything else, there is not enough water and nutrition in the soil for other vegetables. How can this be considered a forest?

Are there any advantages?

Not at all, the production is not even for domestic use! Indonesia exports 80% of the production, first to India and then to the European Union. In 2008 Indonesia suffered **two big food crises, both of them closely related to the expansion of biofuel**: the soy bean crisis and the cooking oil crisis. For the **cooking oil**, in the past we used coconut oil but in the 1970s and 80s there was a big shift in the cooking oil industry and it was cheaper to produce and use palm oil. So everybody now is using palm oil to cook, and for many years we manage to do it. In 2008 the price of palm

at international market became so high that no companies wanted to sell oil anymore for domestic use, and they exported everything...so there was no cooking oil in the country and women and children were queuing for hours to get some oil. One farmer told me: *We live in an ocean of palm and we cannot get access to cooking oil! We are surrounded by plantations, but we cannot even have a bottle of cooking oil in our house.*

4 - The Indonesian government has granted a concession to a consortium: a local group Burung Indonesia, the UK's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Bird-Life International. They formed a group called PT Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia. More at http://viacampesina.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=654:small-farmers-victims-of-forest-carbon-trading&catid=48:climate-change-and-agrofuels&Itemid=75

5 - 10% of renewable energy to be used in transport by 2020

For more info on the Indonesian Peasant Union <http://www.spi.or.id/en/>

The world in words

Thousands of peoples struggle for their dignity and the Sumak Kawsay - good living!

Hundreds of organizations and thousands of delegates from all over Latin America participated in the 5th conference of the Latin American *Coordination of Rural Organizations* (CLOC-Vía Campesina) in Quito, 8 -16 October. The *Quito Declaration* sends a clear message **against the neoliberal system which is devastating Mother Earth**, and expresses **solidarity with all peoples who resist** around the World. The conference demonstrates that America is struggling against looting by the capital system, for land and peoples' sovereignty! For the coverage of the event at <http://www.radiomundoreal.fm/V-Congreso-de-la-CLOC?lang=en> More info and final declaration at <http://www.cloc-viacampesina.net/es/congresos/v-congreso/noticias/404-clocomunicacion> 45

Food sovereignty in the Sahel

After half a century of independence, Sahel countries are **facing chronic food insecurity**. In Niger a crisis of great size is currently affecting more than 7 million people. Convinced that food insecurity is not inevitable, the *Nigerian Consortium for the right to food and food sovereignty* has organized a forum in October to raise awareness of the issue. It was a great opportunity for civil society organizations to reflect further on the need to mobilize for the right to food. For articles and interviews <http://www.alternativeniger.org/spip.php?rubrique79>

The US sees the birth of a new alliance for Food Sovereignty!

Emerging from the US Working Group on the Food Crisis during the Detroit Social Forum, the US Food Sovereignty Alliance is the first of its kind in the United States! Many actions for food justice and sovereignty have been organized all over the US to celebrate its take-off.

Justice for People of the Land and Sea!

To know more check www.usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org or contact Tristan Quinn-Thibodeau tristan@whyhunger.org

The reformed Committee on World Food Security takes its first steps

The first session of the reformed UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which ended on the 15th of October in Rome, showed that the long struggle for its restructuring **was worth the effort**. The social movements were able to fully participate. During the session governments supported the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) process to develop *Voluntary guidelines on Land and Natural resources tenure* and reaffirmed the importance of continuing the work in a **participatory way**. At the same time several governments supported the social movements' position that the World Bank's set of principles on "responsible investment in agriculture" (RAI) should not be accepted by the CFS. The CFS **decided to start an inclusive process** of consideration of the principles". Final report at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/en/> For more info on the Voluntary Guideline and on the RAI check the *Nyeléni Newsletter Num0* www.nyeleni.org

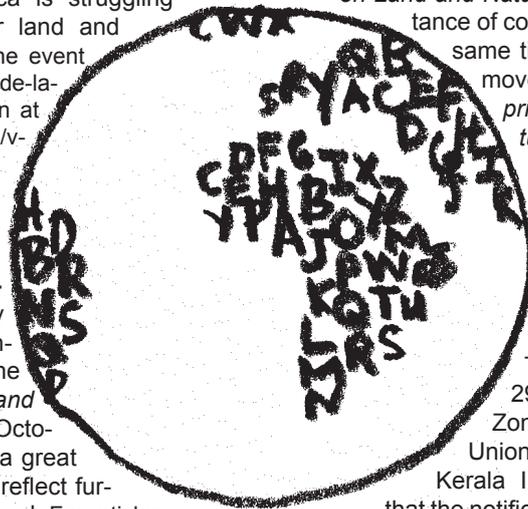
Right to live along the coast!

There was a **day of action all over India** the 29th of October against the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2010 recently issued by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Kerala Independent Fishworkers Federation affirmed that the notification seemed to totally ignore the long-standing demand of fishing communities for their right to live along the coast, as it doesn't protect them nor the coastal environment. More info at <http://www.keralafishworkers.in/news.htm>

First global gather of Women Pastoralists

Pastoralism plays a significant role in natural resource management. However pastoralists are often marginalized; and women pastoralists even more. Despite the many challenges they face, women pastoralists **can be influential forces for change**. *The Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists* will be the first of its kind.

21-26 November - Mera, India, more info www.womenpastoralists.com



Next edition on intensive livestock production!

Send your contributions - news stories, photos, interviews - to info@nyeleni.org by the **15th of December!**

To read, listen, watch and share

- To learn more about *Geoengineering* visit the ETC Group website <http://www.etcgroup.org/en/issues/geoengineering>
- To learn more about *Carbon Markets* visit the Carbon Trade Watch website <http://www.carbontradewatch.org/home.html>
- To follow the *European Assembly for Climate Justice*, 26-29 November at <http://climateassembly.wordpress.com/>
- Video on Cap and Trade <http://storyofstuff.com/capandtrade/index.php>
- Songs on climate change

<http://www.sica.int/busqueda/Noticias.aspx?IDItem=54235&IDCat=3&IdEnt=1&Idm=1&IdmStyle=>

http://viacampesina.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=499:via-campesina-in-the-qsolidarity-vilage-for-a-cool-planetq&catid=41:video

For reports and more references www.nyeleni.org



One does not sell the earth upon which the people walk. Tashunka Witko, 1840-1877