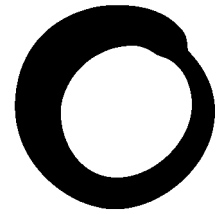


October 2010



**Friends of  
the Earth**

# Media Briefing

## **Convention on Biological Diversity COP-10: How the world must protect biodiversity.**

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## **CBD COP-10: How the world must protect biodiversity**

### **1: Biodiversity, ecosystems and how we are destroying them**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

*“The natural environment provides the basic conditions without which humanity could not survive.”<sup>i</sup>*

Planet Earth. We live here... and we are not alone. We share our planet with billions of other living things: the world's biodiversity. All these living things interact in different ways, in different communities, to make the habitats and eco-systems that make planet Earth inhabitable. The services they provide give us air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat and shelter from the elements. They are our life support system.

But diversity of life on earth is decreasing:

- Habitats and ecosystems are being lost and fragmented
- Species are becoming extinct at a rate 100-1,000 times faster than they did before human civilisation
- Around 60 per cent of the services that support life on Earth, such as fresh water, capture fisheries, air and water regulation, are being degraded or used unsustainably<sup>ii</sup>
- Climate change presents another huge emerging threat as species struggle to adapt and survive to the changing environment and ecosystems services breakdown.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – the international global agreement on conserving biodiversity and ecosystems – holds its tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in Japan in October 2010. The CBD's three main objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.<sup>iii</sup>

In April 2002, the Parties to the CBD committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current 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.<sup>iv</sup> But the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon recently announced that in this, the designated International Year of Biodiversity, the 2010 target has not been met.

COP 10 must set a bold, ambitious and practical agenda for action that will deliver conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This means taking action to tackle the root causes of biodiversity loss: the problems and injustices with our economic system; the undermining and lack of recognition of people's rights over their environment; and ensuring our consumption does not exceed the world's environmental limits.

#### **1.2 What do biodiversity and ecosystems mean to us?**

The following case studies illustrate how our current global economic system, conflicting rights over natural resources, and overconsumption are driving biodiversity loss, contributing to climate change, and adversely affecting local communities in different parts of the world.

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### **A. Soy cultivation in Latin America: tropical rainforests destroyed to feed EU livestock**

A big driver of biodiversity and ecosystem destruction is the import of soy from Latin America to feed Europe's factory farms. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the increasingly globalised and unregulated food industry have encouraged an intensive farming system where animals are reared indoors and fed on protein rich feed. Through subsidies and zero import tariffs, the WTO and CAP make it cheaper for EU farmers to import feed ingredients like soy, rather than use home-grown alternatives. Much of the soy for animal feed is imported from Latin America where soy production has more than doubled in the last 15 years.<sup>v</sup> Major areas of forests such as the Amazon and the Atlantic forest have been cut down to convert the extra land space required to grow soy crops. And soy is now expanding into other habitats such as the Chaco.

Latin America's forests are home to many thousands of the world's plant and animal species. They also play an essential role in regulating our climate, air and water supply. By depleting rainforests, we are and putting life on Earth at threat from dangerous climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that deforestation is responsible for 17.3 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>vi</sup>

The Amazon is one of the world's most bio-diverse regions comprising a mosaic of ecosystems and vegetation types including rainforests, seasonal and deciduous forests. It is a biodiversity hotspot – with the most bio-diverse and most threatened ecosystems on Earth. It is home to almost a third of the world's known species, with more than 1,300 species of bird alone. But over six million hectares of Amazonian rainforest had been converted to soy plantations by 2005.<sup>vii</sup> If current trends continue, cattle ranchers and soy farmers alone will destroy 40 per cent of Amazon rainforest by 2050.<sup>viii</sup>

The Atlantic rainforest is another biodiversity hotspot. It has a high rate of endemic species – those found nowhere else in the world. Many of these unique species are endangered including nine of its 14 endemic primate species. It has already been 90 per cent deforested and a further 1.5 million hectares could be destroyed by soy production.<sup>ix</sup>

The Chaco is a diverse habitat and important ecosystem including dry forest and savannah. It is the second largest forest in Latin America, after the Amazon. Although it has not been studied widely enough, scientists know it contains thousands of species including jaguars, pumas, giant anteaters and otters. 60 scientists from the Natural History Museum will be visiting in November 2010 and expect to find hundreds of new species. But 10 per cent of the forest has been cut down in the last four years alone. The Chaco is one of the last agricultural frontiers. Its destruction is a growing ecological disaster with widespread erosion and desertification taking place in one of the world's most fragile and diverse environments.<sup>x</sup>

Paraguay is the fifth largest producer of soy and the fourth largest exporter globally. The country has seen a rapid expansion in recent years, and displaced cattle farmers and, increasingly, soy plantations are now moving into the Chaco. Agri-business giant Cargill's planned mega port facility on the River Paraguay threatens to drive further expansion of soy into the Chaco forest region and other habitats, as well as into community land.

Loss of land is having major economic, cultural and socio-environmental impacts on campesino and indigenous families. Many have been displaced by soy – some landless campesinos live in makeshift camps along the roadside, some attempt to find work in the cities; members of indigenous communities displaced from their lands scavenge in dumps

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and beg in the streets of cities like Asunción and Encarnacion. Communities living next to soy plantations are in a catch 22-situation; either they stay in their homes and suffer the impacts of pesticide spraying of soy, or they give in to offers to sell their land to soy producers and lose everything, including links with their community. Community cohesion and subsistence are under threat. Friends of the Earth is working to strengthen local communities' rights in Paraguay – see section 3 for more details.

### **B. Palm oil production in Indonesia and Malaysia: tropical forest and peatlands destroyed to fuel EU cars**

The oil palm plant grows best in tropical regions and the main producing countries are currently Malaysia and Indonesia. Palm oil is a very useful and versatile oil. It is found in one in 10 UK supermarket products<sup>xi</sup>, from biscuits to toothpaste, and it is increasingly being used to fuel our cars. The market for palm oil has recently been boosted by the EU's target of fuelling 10 per cent of road transport with biofuel by 2020. But biofuels are a false solution to climate change as they often cause more emissions than they save, destroying biodiversity and ecosystems in the process.

45 per cent of Europe's biodiesel could come from Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil in 2020, according to modelling by the UK Department for Transport.<sup>xii</sup> This will dwarf current palm oil imports for food. Malaysia and Indonesia have already lost most of their rainforest and peatland cover as the peatland is drained and forest is cut, the valuable timber extracted and the remainder burned. UNEP says oil palm plantations are now the primary cause of the loss of permanent rainforest cover in these countries, threatening the critically endangered orang-utan as well as many other species which are intrinsically, commercially and medically valuable.<sup>xiii</sup>

Indonesia's draining and burning of peatlands makes it the world's third largest emitter of carbon dioxide, after the US and China. Regionally, peatlands are a natural means of flood and drought control, acting like a sponge to absorb large amounts of rainfall and runoff. Their destruction puts people at greater risk of flooding. Three of the worst floods in and around Jakarta have occurred in the last 15 years, causing deaths and making thousands of people homeless as well as spreading diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and dengue fever. Poorer communities living near river banks in wooden houses are hit the worst.

Indigenous and local people who have lived in the forest for generations and who rely on the forest and its biodiversity for their livelihoods, water supply, shelter, income and culture have had their rights bulldozed by governments and plantation companies. Oil palm companies often use violent tactics to grab land from indigenous communities with the collusion of the police and authorities. According to NGO Sawit Watch in 2008 there were 576 ongoing conflicts between companies and communities over the issue of oil palm in Indonesia alone.<sup>xiv</sup> Previously self-reliant families, who were able to meet their own needs from the forest around them, complain of being tricked into giving up their land with the promise of jobs and new developments. Instead they end up locked into debt and poorly paid work.

Friends of the Earth has worked, in partnership with Sawit Watch and LifeMosaic, in a participatory way with communities and indigenous peoples' representatives. In consultation with those communities, we have made a film about the impacts of oil palm on forest people in Indonesia, based entirely on the testimony of people who have been affected by palm oil. The film is designed to be shown on karaoke machines in isolated forest communities in

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Sumatra and Borneo helping them to make informed decisions about their land and their futures. As a result of this project, because local communities are often the best custodians of their land, forest has been saved.

### **C. Soy and sugar cane in Brazil: savannah and forest disappearing at an alarming rate**

Our appetite for meat and thirst for biofuels is also causing the destruction of the Brazilian Cerrado. This is a vast savannah, made up of open grasslands, shrubby lands and forest, which covers 20 per cent of Brazil. In 2004 a study by Conservation International suggested that the cerrado is being destroyed so rapidly it could be gone by 2030.<sup>xv</sup> Nearly half of its original two million square kilometers has been cleared. Agriculture is one of the main pressures with soy and sugar cane being the main crops.

Ethanol from sugar cane is projected to double by 2019 with most of this expansion being into the cerrado.<sup>xvi</sup> More than half of Brazil's soy production is on land that was once Cerrado. Friends of the Earth has estimated that the UK's soy imports could have caused 16,652 hectares of deforestation in the cerrado in 2009 alone. And that, through its imports of soy, meat and sugar cane products, the UK was responsible for around 316,695 hectares of deforestation overall in Brazil in 2009. This is an area twice the size of Greater London.<sup>xvii</sup>

With the disappearance of the Cerrado – the world's most biologically rich savannah – important ecosystems are being threatened. The Cerrado is home to 40 per cent of Brazil's mammals, reptiles and fish, including a number of endangered species, such as the giant armadillo, the giant otter and the hyacinth macaw. It also provides a habitat for at risk species such as jaguars, maned wolves and ocelots. Cerrado rivers make up an important part of the watershed for the San Francisco and Paraguay river systems, which provide irrigation and drinking water, as well as rivers that feed the Amazon basin. These are being degraded as the vegetation disappears and polluted with fertilisers and pesticides.

The Cerrado is the home of many of Brazil's indigenous peoples, who have been adversely affected by its clearance as their traditional land rights and access to land are taken away. The conversion for agriculture and cattle pasture makes it Brazil's single largest source of carbon emissions.<sup>xviii</sup> As well as this global climate change impact, the Cerrado plays an important role in regulating Brazil's regional climate, and this too is being eroded. Many other resources provided by this land are disappearing, such as medicinal plants and fruit species that were once abundant in the region.

### **D. Land grabs in Africa: destroying biodiversity, ecosystems and undermining people's rights**

The African continent has long been seen as a source of agricultural land and natural resources for the rest of the world. National governments and private companies are obtaining access to land to grow crops for food and fuel with an estimated nine million hectares of land acquired since 2006.<sup>xix</sup>

When they lose their access to traditional land, local communities face growing food insecurity and hunger – their human right to food is threatened. They also lose many of the other essential functions (ecosystem services) that land provides them with. The erosion of traditional land rights and local use of land very often goes hand in hand with the destruction of that land's biodiversity and ecosystems.

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For example the forest of the Congo Basin is the second largest in the world (after the Amazon) and is a major carbon store. A number of communities depend on the forest for their livelihoods, hunting and relying on products from the forest for their daily lives. The Government of Benin proposes converting 300,000 - 400,000 ha of wetlands for oil palm in the south of the country. Oil palm is a native species in the wetlands, but oil palm plantations will mean the lands are drained and the rich biodiversity destroyed.<sup>xx</sup>

Access to water is a fundamental issue for many parts of Africa the new agriculture is putting intense pressure on already stressed water systems, eroding watersheds, polluting rivers with pesticides and fertilisers. When these ecosystems are damaged, the functions they carry out – for example making fresh water available – are no longer available to local populations. Farmers in Swaziland complained that they were told that jatropha would grow well without water, but in reality they discovered the seedlings needed to be watered regularly.<sup>xxi</sup> Water resources are limited in Swaziland and many farmers struggle to get enough water to meet all their needs.

## **2: Agenda and next steps for the CBD**

This section gives an overview of the key issues on and around the agenda for the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties 10 (CBD COP 10).

### **2.1 Missed targets – what next?**

There are multiple, intersecting reasons for missing the 2010 target, including failure to mobilise the necessary public support and political will for making tangible changes. In particular, Parties have yet to implement CBD decisions and mainstream biodiversity policies into national, regional, and international frameworks, into areas like trade policies, economic development, land use policy (eg forestry and agriculture) and others. This means that the CBD is not addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity and ecosystem loss: the global economic system which promotes ever increasing and unequal resource consumption, and the lack of recognition of land rights and rights to resources.

To begin to address these underlying causes and to ensure that new and existing targets are met, at COP 10 the CBD needs to:

- **Adopt a new, strong strategic plan:** with ambitious, measurable and outcome-oriented goals rather than process-oriented ones. The draft strategic plan contains many well-worded and ambitious targets that meet these criteria, but stronger commitment is necessary.
- **Include measures to tackle underlying drivers of biodiversity loss:** particularly related to global trade in goods and commodities which has so far been neglected in national and international plans and targets.
- **Devise compliance and enforcement measures to ensure the convention is effective:** Good decisions at COPs only go so far, particularly if they continue to be 'voluntary'. To improve implementation, clear national biodiversity indicators must be established, in order to show what progress has been made, and to point to which Parties must do more. The time has also come for Parties to consider what enforcement measures (such as sanctions and other compliance mechanisms) could be developed to address failure by some Parties to implement the spirit or objectives of the CBD.
- **Ensure the integration of biodiversity into other national and international policies:** Parties need to strengthen the integration of biodiversity into other national

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policies such as finance, agriculture and infrastructure planning. The CBD must be taken into account by other global institutions such as the WTO and multi-lateral environmental agreements.

- **Secure increased financial support:** Increased resources and support is needed to implement the convention (see below).

### **2.2 Securing finance for biodiversity and ecosystem protection**

Since the Convention entered into force, the international community has severely failed to increase the worldwide expenditures for biological diversity as a global public good to a level that ensures its conservation and sustainable use. Despite an increase in funding by over 50 per cent to 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the CBD's financing instrument, the funds in the year 2010 will remain far below the level required to achieve the objectives and decisions of the CBD. If we are to stop the loss of biological diversity by 2020, an additional, massive financial commitment on the part of industrialised countries is needed. Without it, one of the CBD's core concerns, establishing marine and land protected areas worldwide covering a surface share of 20 per cent will not be realised. To achieve this objective, at least some 45 billion U.S. dollars per annum would be required.<sup>xxii</sup>

The highest proportions of biodiversity are found in developing countries of the South. These countries, however, do not possess the necessary financial resources to protect biodiversity by their own efforts. The Convention calls upon rich nations to provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to implement the Convention.<sup>xxiii</sup> However, industrialized countries so far have failed to fulfil this obligation.

In the light of this failure, the CBD is looking at other avenues of securing funding – chiefly through the private sector and the market. Finance and the need to secure funding are taking centre stage and will be high on the agenda for the CBD meeting. In January 2009, the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) called for “studies on approaches to develop markets and payment schemes for ecosystem services at local, national and international levels,” and “new and innovative financing mechanisms in support of the strategy for resource mobilisation.”<sup>xxiv</sup> Friends of the Earth is wary of many of the new mechanisms under discussion, which centre around the concept of biodiversity being brought into the market.

The rationale for this approach is that biodiversity is lost and ecosystems are degraded because their value is not included in global economics. They are positive externalities – they provide society with things that are not recognised or given a financial value by the market. There is an argument that bringing biodiversity and ecosystems into the market will help society to realise their true value and consequently to conserve them.<sup>xxv</sup>

There are some inherent limitations and dangers to this approach, however. Friends of the Earth believes that the intrinsic and societal value of “nature” can never be properly captured; it is beyond the market.

Placing a value on something implies, in some circumstances, that someone can own it but it can be impossible to say who owns specific bits of biodiversity (in particular if there are community rights in that area, which is often the case in places where ecosystems are being destroyed).

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Additionally, our current global economic system represents one of the root causes of the biodiversity crisis. Fundamental changes to move away from a system that pushes ever increasing and unequal resource consumption are needed if we want to stop biodiversity and ecosystem damage.

The specifics of the key financing mechanism and financial approaches on the agenda for COP 10 are outlined below.

### **A. Payments for ecosystem services**

Payments for Ecosystem Services (or Environmental Services) (PES) is the idea of paying people (e.g. farmers and landowners) to look after their land in a way that maintains, conserves or protects ecosystems. At first glance payments for environmental services can seem like a “win-win” tool that helps with poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. But as the following examples illustrate, payments for environmental services can be complicated and difficult to implement and results on the ground are mixed.

Where payments for environmental services are used, they must recognise, respect and be based on the historical territorial and use rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. They must support the customary governance systems of Indigenous Territories and community conserved areas, and the values that have led to their success in terms of biodiversity conservation.

Governments need to support community initiatives and in particular ensure that local communities’ rights over their resources are upheld and strengthened. They need to foster and provide a broad range of social, cultural, legal and economic incentives for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, especially by women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, whilst tackling the main drivers of ecosystem damage.

Friends of the Earth believes that community-based governance over forests and other resources is a better way to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as enhancing and protecting the rights of local communities. Community-based forest governance refers to the regulations and practices used by many communities for the conservation and sustainable use of the forests with which they coexist. This type of governance is collective-communal, and by tradition identifies with the protection of the forests with regard to their industrial and commercial use.<sup>xxvi</sup>

### **B. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)**

REDD is a UN mechanism (still under negotiation) that creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests and rewards governments, companies and forest owners in developing countries for keeping their forests. “REDD-plus” brings biodiversity into REDD through “*conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.*”

Concerns about REDD and REDD-plus illustrate some of the complexities and difficulties with payments for environmental services. Firstly there are problems with the concept. “Conservation” of forests, as advocated by REDD can mean large scale evictions and loss of rights for indigenous people and local populations. REDD does not include or affirm the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the concept of Free Prior Informed

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Consent. Also REDD does not aim to prevent deforestation and even allows plantations established on previously forested land to count as “forest” and therefore receive funding.

Funding is the second key problem. There are two main potential mechanisms: carbon trading and a fund. Carbon trading is not reducing emissions in rich countries as much as intended because it provides a loophole through offsetting (see below). Funding REDD through trading could be disastrous for forests and for reducing carbon emissions, but it seems likely that this will be the preferred mechanism.

### **C. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**

The CAP is the main mechanism through which the EU gives financial and policy support to agriculture. After widespread recognition of the environmental damage that the CAP causes, its system of subsidies was changed in an attempt to pay farmers for managing their land sustainably. Unfortunately this has not been very successful because the intensive system of industrial agriculture that the CAP supports is very destructive for biodiversity and ecosystems.

Further reform of the CAP, however, could involve a very positive system of payments for environmental services. This would include payments for farming in least favoured areas and upland grazing areas and grass land payments. Importantly, this would need to be combined with other key reforms such as ending subsidies for intensively produced feed and ensuring prices for farmers that reflect the costs of sustainable farming methods.

### **D. Payments for watershed services**

Not all payments for environmental services are carried out through big mechanisms like CAP and REDD. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has recently published a review it carried out of the effectiveness of 50 payment schemes for watershed services around the world. On poverty reduction they concluded that PWS can help, but that the number of clear cases where livelihoods had been improved was small and that improving health, education and nutrition are better ways of reducing poverty. On conservation, they concluded that impact had been “modest” or “limited”.<sup>xxvii</sup>

### **E. Biodiversity offsetting**

Biodiversity offsetting is the idea that biodiversity or ecosystem loss in one area could be justified by biodiversity protection or ecosystem improvement in another area. It means that instead of choosing developments and projects that respect ecological limits and protect biodiversity, companies, developers, landowners and farmers could pay to protect some other biodiversity in another location.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Friends of the Earth believes that biodiversity offsetting is a false solution that will perpetuate the continued over-exploitation of the Earth’s resources and biodiversity and degradation of our vital ecosystems.

The complex, difficult-to-measure, and non-interchangeable characteristics of biodiversity make it difficult, if not impossible to trade, or offset. And once a species or ecosystem is gone, it’s gone. Apples are not oranges. Rainforest in Indonesia is not wetland in the US. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection is not a menu from which we can pick and choose. Yes, in places cash injections are needed to conserve and enhance biodiversity. But this needs to be combined with tackling the root causes of biodiversity loss, not by giving a license to destroy biodiversity and ecosystems elsewhere through biodiversity offsetting.

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### ***Experience from climate change policy: offsetting does not work***

Although offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions has become a cornerstone of climate change policy and action, Friends of the Earth has comprehensively shown that it is not working.<sup>xxix</sup> The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows countries with binding targets under the Kyoto Protocol to buy credits from developing countries that do not have Kyoto targets and that are implementing projects which are supposedly cutting carbon overseas. These credits are then tradable on emissions trading schemes such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

We need emissions reductions in developed countries and clean development in developing countries to avoid catastrophic climate change, but offsetting is preventing this from happening:

- **Carbon offsetting is not delivering enough emissions reduction:** Offsetting provides rich countries with an escape hatch from cutting their carbon emissions. For example, half of the EU's commitment to reduce its carbon emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 will be met through offsetting and the actual emissions reduction will be only 10 per cent. This means we are not making anywhere near enough emissions cuts overall.
- **Offsetting isn't delivering for developing countries.** The CDM funds all sorts of unhelpful activities in developing countries, including the construction of coal-fired power stations. Offsetting can therefore lock some developing countries into high carbon development paths. It is also being used as a smokescreen by rich countries to avoid their legal and moral commitment to provide money and technology to developing countries to grow cleanly and adapt to climate change.
- **Offsetting is, however, delivering for traders.** The majority of the trade in the EU ETS is carried out not between polluting industries and factories covered by carbon trading schemes, but by banks and investors who profit from speculation on the carbon markets - packaging carbon credits into increasingly complex financial products similar to the 'shadow finance' around sub-prime mortgages which triggered the recent economic crash.<sup>xxx</sup>

### **F. Green Development Mechanism**

A Green Development Mechanism (GDM) is on the agenda for discussion at COP 10 and is certainly likely to receive support in some form or another is being proposed as a way to help secure private finance for biodiversity protection.

The exact nature, structure and mechanism have not been decided, but the direction of travel is towards a market based mechanism that would trade in biodiversity credits and provide payments for environmental services as a way of offsetting biodiversity and ecosystem loss.

Other mechanisms under consideration but largely ruled out include:

- Greening commodity imports through, perhaps mandatory, certification schemes;
- Biodiversity cap and trade where countries with unconverted land could sell certificates to countries that have already converted most of their land to develop a funding flow from developed to developing nations;
- Biodiversity footprint taxation where the size of developed countries' footprint would impose a commitment to transfer resources to invest in conservation, and/or reduce their footprint.<sup>xxxi</sup>

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Discussions for a market-based GDM include bringing together parts of various other schemes and ideas including the biodiversity offsetting, CDM and REDD+. The CBD has recognised some of the shortcomings of and difficulties with these schemes but still takes them as good examples for environmental protection.

Initially a GDM in this model would be a voluntary scheme, additional to other funding sources, but is seen as a path towards a more formal compliance market similar to the CDM. A market-based GDM that created tradable biodiversity credits based on biodiversity offsetting would do nothing to address the root problems of the global market, trade in natural resources and over-consumption that it promotes. In fact it is a distraction from tackling these problems. We cannot and should not rely on market mechanisms to do the job that Government should be doing. The experience of offsetting and trading of carbon demonstrates that this is not an effective way to provide environmental protection.

### ***What kinds of financial levers and funding sources should the CBD promote?***

Instead of creating new risky and untested financial mechanisms to protect biodiversity, the CBD needs a firm and ambitious target for the mobilisation of new and additional public financial resources.

Friends of the Earth is therefore calling for the CBD to require all Parties to increase their financial and human resources to at least one per cent of their annual budget. Industrialised countries must pledge significant additional resources. The G8 states must provide two billion Euros each annually. The 500 million Euros pledged by Germany and the 600 million Euros pledged by Norway, are exemplary and first steps in the right direction, but still need to be increased.

The CBD and governments should be focussing on using simple, direct and proven policy tools that set the framework within which the market operates. Regulation, environmental taxes and major public investment should all be directed at greening the economy.

For example the CBD should be directing governments towards:

- Using their purchasing power to drive innovation and support biodiversity protection, for example by supporting sustainable food systems in decisions about how to spend their budgets for procurement of food for hospitals and schools;
- Ending damaging subsidies and tax incentives by 2020. For example every year more than 500 billion US dollars are spent on fossil fuel subsidies which is incredibly damaging for biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Directing existing funds and subsidies towards measures that help protect biodiversity – for example the IFC should support sustainable agriculture rather than its current investment in intensive livestock systems.

### **2.3 Access & Benefit-Sharing Protocol**

Parties of the CBD intend to adopt a Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use at COP-10. The CBD should adopt rules that can stop biopiracy, increase the incentives and financial means to protect and sustainably use biological diversity, as well as protect the rights of indigenous and local communities.

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This is one of the three fundamental objectives of the CBD and several articles provide legally binding provisions. Despite this, negotiations have been slow with most industrialised countries until recently promoting voluntary guidelines such as the 2001 Bonn Guidelines. These have proven ineffective.

The CBD should consider the following in the final negotiation round of the ABS Protocol:

- **Human rights:** in the context of the overarching UN human rights agreements, specifically the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the ABS Protocol must recognise and protect the exercising of these rights;
- **Scope:** Parties' positions on the scope (technical, temporal and geographic) of the ABS regime will be the litmus test on their will to effectively stop biopiracy;
- **Associated traditional knowledge:** The ABS Protocol must deal with associated traditional knowledge as a crosscutting issue. Access to associated traditional knowledge and benefit sharing has to be dealt with at the same level as that related to genetic resources;
- **Compliance mechanism:** The ABS Protocol must set up clear and binding rules for a compliance regime.

### **2.4 IPBES – Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (an IPCC equivalent)**

A key decision at the CBD will be approval for a new mechanism to strengthen the dialogue between the scientific community and policymakers on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will be a leading body in making scientifically sound and relevant information available to support more informed decisions on how biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved and used around the world.

We have seen how the IPCC (the UN's climate science panel), has raised the profile and political priority on the urgent need to tackle dangerous climate change. While strengthening the dialogue between policy makers and the scientific community will be essential to tackling biodiversity loss it will only be successful if it is under-pinned with the political will and support to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss.

### **2.5 The UK Government at the CBD**

Friends of the Earth is calling on the UK government to:

- Push for global targets and measures that tackle the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss, particularly related to global trade in goods which has so far been neglected in national and international plans and targets;
- Ensure that any measures and mechanisms to incentivise biodiversity protection include a rights-based approach such as community-based governance over forests and other resources rather than a narrow focus on market mechanisms which can be ineffective as well as leading to unjust outcomes for communities particularly in the global South;
- Tackle the impact of the UK on global biodiversity and look at domestic measures and policies to tackle areas such as food, fuel and energy (as demonstrated by Friends of the Earth's campaigns on the Food Chain and on biofuels.)

### **3: Real solutions that help tackle the drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem loss**

To protect biodiversity and ecosystems, we need to tackle the underlying causes of the current biodiversity crisis. We must:

- Ensure that the overall level of resource use is measured and reduced in developed countries to bring it to a sustainable level, equitable between nations and generations. In particular, the overall consumption of land, water, materials and carbon footprint should be assessed and targeted in policymaking.
- Strengthen people's rights over land and access to resources so that ecosystems and biodiversity are managed in a sustainable way that meets local needs as well as maintains their intrinsic and societal value.
- Reform our global financial system so that investment and business is directed towards the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, respect for the planet's limits and respect for the rights of local and indigenous populations over land and resources.

These will be big long term changes that will come about in incremental steps. Friends of the Earth is campaigning for specific measures that would help to address some of these underlying causes and result in better biodiversity and ecosystem protection (see below).

#### **3.1 Planet friendly farming – a massive overhaul of our farming system**

Reform the Common Agricultural Policy

We are demanding changes to the CAP to reduce our reliance on imported soy and move towards low input farming systems protecting biodiversity and ecosystems in the EU and Latin America:

- Support development of alternative feed crops with incentives, research, crop premiums
- Emergency payments for farming in least favoured areas and upland grazing areas
- Prices for farmers that reflect costs of sustainable production systems
- Remove subsidies for intensively produced feed
- Grass land payments
- Payments for stocking rates in upland areas
- Investigation of supply management tools such as quotas and grain stocks.

Fix the food chain: reduce the UK's agricultural and food impact on biodiversity and ecosystems

Billions of pounds of UK taxpayers' money are spent on subsidies that support factory farms, or on buying factory-farmed food for our schools and hospitals. We are campaigning around the Sustainable Livestock Bill, which requires the Secretary of State to introduce a strategy to improve the sustainability of livestock farming and the consumption of livestock produce – how we produce meat and dairy and our dietary habits. The kind of measures which should be in the Bill include:

- Financial levers like subsidies, grants, taxes and tax breaks to support sustainable farming systems and home grown feeds
- Use the £2.2 billion hospital and school food procurement budget to specify better food and drive up standards
- Public information campaigns to encourage or discourage consumer behaviour

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- The UK to take strong positions internationally on policies which affect the production and consumption of livestock products and feeds
- Public support for research and development on extensive farming and home grown feeds.

These changes will make us healthier, improve animal welfare and restore a thriving UK farming sector without exporting damaging production methods to other countries.

### **3.2 Stop biofuels**

Biofuels were initially misguidedly introduced as green solutions – climate-friendly alternatives to fossil fuels in the transport sector. Since then, an accumulation of scientific evidence has shown that expanding biofuel production to meet mandatory volume targets will cause substantial greenhouse-gas emissions, wipe out rich and fragile biodiversity, exacerbate land grabbing in developing countries and impact food prices globally.

In particular, the increased demand for biofuel crops is pushing agriculture into previously unfarmed land—often at the expense of forests and other biodiverse habitats.

Friends of the Earth is calling for:

- The removal of volume targets for biofuels made from crops across the globe
- Accounting systems to be put in place that account for emissions from indirect land use change caused by biofuels
- The exclusion of biofuel and tree plantations from REDD and CDM mechanisms
- Governments to focus on cutting transport emissions through tough standards for new cars and by providing real alternatives to driving such as fast and affordable rail services and measures to encourage people to use public transport, cycle and walk more.

These solutions will be far more effective at reducing climate emissions from transport, while reining in the serious threat to global biodiversity from the unchecked expansion of biofuel plantations.

### **3.3 Protect and strengthen local communities and Indigenous People's rights over their resources and environments**

The undermining of local communities and Indigenous People's rights over their resources is a key driver of biodiversity and ecosystem loss. There is an overwhelming need to actively support campaigns in producer countries where the negative impacts of our consumption are being felt and to support communities most directly affected by these impacts.

Friends of the Earth is working with Friends of the Earth Paraguay, Sobrevivencia<sup>xxxii</sup>, and communities in Paraguay to protect forests and forest dependent communities' rights. Together we are carrying out campaigning, capacity-building and empowerment activities:

#### **A. Community level training, capacity building and legal support:**

Effective implementation of existing laws would strengthen communities' abilities to protect their land and livelihoods and help protect them against some of the negative impacts of GM soy cultivation and in particular, pesticide use. For example, training on current environmental legislation and the role of communities in its enforcement, the development of campaigning skill and resources, and the development of draft by-laws

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through a community participatory approach that generates proposals for sustainable production and environmental protection.

- B. Research on health impacts of pesticides:** a key concern is the health impacts of the pesticides and fertilisers used in GMO soy cultivation. There is considerable anecdotal evidence of the health impacts but hard data and evidence is lacking, weakening communities' abilities to protect themselves and to bring effective cases to court.
- C. Promoting reform of land tenure and use to protect forests:** the issue of land ownership is very unclear; however President Lugo has promised reform. There is a strategic opportunity to push for land reform, by contributing to government initiatives including by providing legal and technical assistance and pressing for government initiatives to take place as promised. At a community level, the project will support land reform when land is to be used for sustainable agriculture, and build an inventory of conflicts to raise awareness of the scale of the problem.
- D. National campaign and advocacy work and global legal work:** to underpin the local rights based work with national and international policy change.

### **3.4 Measure and reduce our resource use**

Europe is using ever more of the world's resources, and is now more dependent on imported resources than any other global region.<sup>xxiii</sup> Yet Europe doesn't measure its resource use, nor does it set any targets or assess whether policies improve resource efficiency. Friends of the Earth is calling on the European Union to take the first steps to tackle this issue by ensuring that it measures resource use, and adopts policies to increase resource efficiency.

We propose four indicators for measuring resource use in a way that is achievable and comprehensive: **land** (in hectares), including non-domestic land use (for example to grow crops for food or energy sources); **material** (in tonnes), including those used to make products that are imported; **water** (in litres), including water used outside the country to produce imported products (eg cotton); and **greenhouse gas emissions** created by consumption (in CO2 equivalent), which includes both Europe's Kyoto emissions, and the carbon footprint associated with imported products.

These indicators do not directly measure impacts on biodiversity. But they can be used to highlight issues that need to be investigated. For example, if a new policy such as a biofuel target or reform of the CAP results in a measurable big increase in EU land use, then there should be further investigation.

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<sup>ii</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005, Experts say that attention to ecosystem services is needed to achieve global development goals, London <http://www.maweb.org/en/article.aspx?id=58>

<sup>iii</sup> United Nations, 1992, Convention on biological diversity, Rio de Janeiro <http://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-un-en.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010 Target, <http://www.cbd.int/2010-target/>

<sup>v</sup> Friends of the Earth, 2008, What's feeding our food? The social and environmental impacts of the livestock sector, Helen Burley, [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/livestock\\_impacts.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/livestock_impacts.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007, Climate change 2007: synthesis report, [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> Eating up the Amazon, Greenpeace, April 2006

<sup>viii</sup> Modelling conservation in the Amazon basin, Soares-Filho BS et al., Nature 440:520-523, March 2006

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<sup>ix</sup> AIDEnvironment

<sup>x</sup> The Guardian, 2010, Chaco deforestation by Christian sect puts Paraguayan land under threat, John Vidal, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/05/chaco-paraguay-deforestation>

<sup>xi</sup> Friends of the Earth et al, 2005, The Oil for Ape Scandal, Helen Buckland, [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/oil\\_for\\_ape\\_summary.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/oil_for_ape_summary.pdf)

<sup>xii</sup> Department for Transport, 2009, Global and EU Biofuel Scenarios to 2020" presentation, Taro Hallworth

<sup>xiii</sup> UNEP "The last stand of the orang-utan", page 38

[http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/PDFs/LastStand/full\\_orangutanreport.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/PDFs/LastStand/full_orangutanreport.pdf)

<sup>xiv</sup> LifeMosaic, 2008, Losing Ground report (webpage) <http://lifemosaic.net/losingground.php>

<sup>xv</sup> Conservation International, 2004, Brazilian Cerrado may disappear by 2030,

<http://www.conservation.org/newsroom/pressreleases/Pages/070804-Brazilian-Cerrado-May-Disappear-by-2030.aspx>

<sup>xvi</sup> Friends of the Earth Europe, 2010, Sugar cane and land use change in Brazil. Biofuel crops, indirect land use change and emissions, Sergio Schlesinger

<sup>xvii</sup> Friends of the Earth, 2010, From forest to fork. The UK's contribution to deforestation in Brazil

<sup>xviii</sup> Mongabay.com, 2010, Brazil's cerrado wins protection, but will it be enough to save the wildlife-rich grassland?

[http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0915-cerrado\\_conservation.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0915-cerrado_conservation.html)

<sup>xix</sup> Headey, D, Malaiyandi, S, and Shenggen, F, August 2009, Navigating the Perfect Storm. Reflections

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<sup>xx</sup> Friends of the Earth Europe, 2010, Africa: up for grabs. The scale and impact of land grabbing for agrofuels,

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<sup>xxii</sup> Bruner et al. 2003.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Article 20 (2)

<sup>xxiv</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, 2009, COP9 decisions 6 and 11 <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-09>

<sup>xxv</sup> For example the Biodiversity Offset Program (BBOP), a "partnership between companies, governments and conservation experts to explore biodiversity offsets" and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), a study which aims to "promote a better understanding of the true economic value of ecosystem services and to offer economic tools that take proper account of this"

<sup>xxvi</sup> There are examples of how community based governance of resources can be the best way to preserve these resources' biodiversity and ecosystems here <http://www.foei.org/en/resources/publications/forests-and-biodiversity/2008/community-based-forest-governance>

<sup>xxvii</sup> Bond, I. and J. Mayers, 2010, Fair deals for watershed services: Lessons from a multi-country action-learning project, Natural Resource Issues No. 13. IIED, London. <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/13535IIED.pdf>

<sup>xxviii</sup> Habitat and species banks (examples of offsetting schemes) already exist in some countries. Most notably in the United States, where figures for hectares of habitat protected and figures for revenue generated/credits traded are readily available, but figures for habitat destroyed are not so easy to come by and there is debate about the quality of ecosystem restoration and conservation.

<sup>xxix</sup> See A Dangerous Distraction [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing\\_notes/dangerous\\_distraction.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/dangerous_distraction.pdf) and A Dangerous Obsession [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/dangerous\\_obsession.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/dangerous_obsession.pdf)

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<sup>xxxii</sup> Friends of the Earth Paraguay – a dynamic organisation with strong links to communities across Paraguay and with indigenous, campesino/small farmers and women's organisations in areas of soy expansion

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