

Moving past the Boreal Blues Jessica Dempsey and Kevin Scott with Peter Panache

Canada is land rich in biological diversity and the boreal forests represent a large portion of this diversity, with over 25% of the worlds remaining primary forests residing in these large Northern spaces. Canada is not only a country rich in biological diversity, but also one of the wealthiest nations of the world, a member of the G8 and several times rated by the UN as the number one place in the world to live. Yet Canadas environmental record does not often match it's international position or reputation. This has been profiled in the last weeks. The boreal forest is a prime example of Canada's race to the bottom on environmental issues. Rather than seizing the opportunity to lead the world in the protection of the forest and the cultures intimately linked to these forests, Canada is quickly sectioning off the land and leasing these spaces out in timber concessions to large multinational companies like Mitsubishi. These forests have been spared due to their relative isolation and historically low-value timber, but new technology has created a market for wood chips from these forests to feed exploding consumption. Giant oriental strandboard plants (OSB) are being proposed and built throughout the boreal forest. To feed these mills, Canadian governments are attempting to subvert all imperatives set out by the CBD. Clearcuts over 10,000 hectares are eroding biodiversity, not conserving it. However, all is not lost; the following case study of the Innu territory provides an excellent example of how parties to the convention (Canada and otherwise) could approach realising the three parts of the CBD: conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing.

Interview with Peter Panache, President of the Innu of Labrador by Jessica Dempsey.

J: Can you tell me a little about yourself and your region?

P: The Innu territory is located in Labrador and Quebec, in the Northeast of Canada. There are 13 Innu communities consisting of about 15,000 people. The area is largely covered with boreal forests. We are currently in negotiations with both the federal and provincial government to settle land claims.

J: Can you give us a little history on the industrial forest practices in this area?

P: In the 1970s there was intensive frontier logging taking place on our lands. It didn't get too far, but left a road network from which smaller scale operations have worked from since then. Most of the logging done has been via clearcutting. This really showed us what we didn't want to see on our lands. In 1992, the Newfoundland government tried to punch a new road through our land. We responded with a blockade. The premier of Newfoundland came up to met with me. We reached an agreement that the existing level of harvest (approximately 30,000 cubic meters) would remain until we settled our land claims.

J: And since then?

P: This level of logging has been creeping up, and we could see that forest companies such as Abitibi and Kruger were interested in getting into the area. But we were very concerned with the logging that already existed. It was clearing large sections of land, and shipping the logs out - all this without formal processes and planning. There were no

• Boreal Blues	1
• Bringing the CBD Home: Kenya	2
• Peoples Earth Summit	3
• Adaption not Extinction	4
• Are You Developing?	4

proper inventories of the land, and how the proposals for increased logging would actually look on the ground. We wanted to confine these types of logging, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas. We actually had our own Innu forest guardians going out and doing it themselves - cordoning off the sensitive and ecologically/culturally significant areas from logging.

J: What was the government response?

P: It was actually surprising. Two years ago, we sat down with the provincial Ministry responsible for forests because of these concerns, and actually suggested co-management over these lands as an interim measure during treaty negotiations. And the Minister thought it was a good idea. I don't think he quite knew what he was getting into. Since that time, we have developed a forest plan based on holistic values. We hired a forest planner and retained consultants who could help us implement a real ecosystem-based plan, and we trained our Forest Guardians to be more effective in working directly with the govern-

Innu Nation of Canada and Spaces for Nature present: "Cultural and Biological Diversity in Canada's Primary Boreal Forest: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." Thursday 18th 1:15-2:30, Escher 2

continued on page 3

Bringing the CBD Home: Is the Kenyan Government Serious about the CBD?

Georgina Mbugua and Michael Gachanja

Kenya hosted the Fifth Conference of Parties of the CBD, and has proudly featured its spectacular biodiversity in this fora as well as many others. But can Kenya really be so proud of its track record in bringing the CBD home?

Recent events are not a matter of pride for Kenya.

On 16th Feb 2001, Kenya's Minister for Environment and Natural Resources published in the Kenya gazette the government's intention to excise nearly 170,000 acres of forest- in a semi-arid country with less than 3% forest cover. The massive scale and potentially disastrous environmental and economic consequences of the excisions immediately sparked a wave of public protest led by the Kenya Forests Working Group, including a signature campaign which has now gathered 120,000 signatures, a media campaign based on pro-bono contributions from media group, several lawsuits, a taskforce formed by the clergy, and a song composed by an Emmy- award winning Kenyan songwriter. Some of the forests to be excised include massive areas of indigenous forests in the Mau and Mt. Kenya forests. The Mau forest is the home of an indigenous people in Kenya called the Ogiek, who have suffered the loss of the diverse flora and fauna upon which they depend for their livelihood. Despite this huge outcry by the civil societies and local communities including the Ogiek, the situation is still critical as the government has reiterated its intention to proceed with the excisions.

Prior to the Sixth Conference of Parties, the Global Forest Coalition, an alliance of NGOs and IPOs working on international policies on forests undertook an independent monitoring exercise on the implementation of the requirements of the CBD by signatory partners. This was done in 21 countries. As a member of the Global Forest Coalition, the Forest Action Network, a Kenyan NGOs working on national forest policies and related issues, was selected to carry out the independent monitoring of the implementation of the CBD by the Kenyan government. This study revealed critical issues in that need to be addressed by the Kenyan government in order to achieve the objectives of the CBD. Some of the issues identified among others included the lack of proper coordination by the national CBD focal point with other government sectors; lack of awareness of the CBD requirements by most government and civil societies focusing on environment and other related fields, conflicting and uncoordinated sectoral policies not focused in achieving the CBD objectives and lack of integration of national policies with the interna-



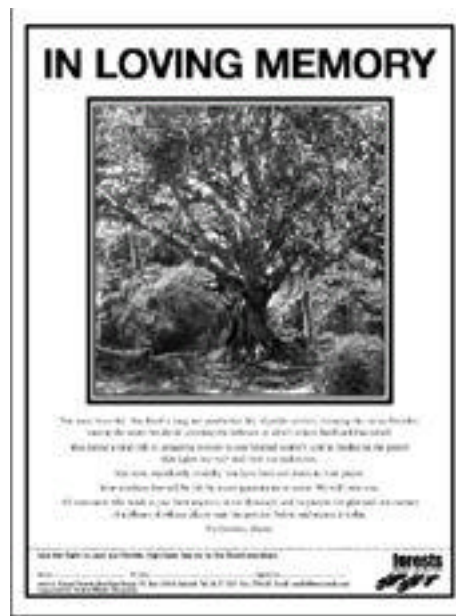
Forest destruction in the Mau forest, Kenya

tional policies.

Apart from the CBD the Kenyan government is a signatory to many other multilateral agreements and conventions. According to the civil societies consulted in the monitoring process, the Kenyan government is good at signing international agreements to conform to the international society norms and expectations. However, it is reluctant to implement the requirements. Kenya signed the CBD in 1994 and ratified it soon after.

Eight years down the line since the ratification, one still wonders on how serious the Kenyan government is in implementing what it promised to do while its national policies and programmes are still not designed to achieve these.

Contact: Michael Gachanja, Kenya Forests Working Group, kfwg@wananchi.com, www.saveourforestskenya.org and Forest Action Network, gmbugua@fanworld.org



Caption on award-winning advertisement in Daily Nation:
You were beautiful. You lived a long and productive live of public service, cleaning the air we breathe, storing the water we drink, creating the habitats in which others lived and flourished. You played a vital role in attracting visitors to to our beloved country, and in producing the poser that lights our way and fuels our industries. And now, senselessly, brutally, you have been cut down in your prime.

Your needless loss will be felt by many generations to come.
We will miss you.

All mourners who wish to pay their respects to the deceased and to protest the planned destruction of millions of others, please sign the petition below and return it today.

No flowers, please

People's Earth Summit

Liz Hoskins, Gaia Foundation

There is a growing concern about the renaming of the Earth Summit to "WSSD"; the focus on poverty as the problem, rather than the consequence of corporate globalisation; and the attempt to use the Earth Summit to sell globalisation as the solution to the problems it has created, under the guise of world sustainable development. Over the last year the idea of the PEOPLES EARTH SUMMIT has been growing, which invites people around the world to celebrate practices and initiatives in their country which are contributing to justice within the human community and for the broader Earth Community of other species and future generation. The objective is



to use the Earth Summit to launch a decade of commitment to Earth Democracy. The aim is to build on the seeds of "another way" which is already happening, quietly, in spite of corporate control and government inertia. The idea is to co-create the critical mass to turn the tide towards a fairer world for the whole Earth Community. Please contact Nick at ejn@gaianet.org or liz@gaianet.org.

Boreal Blues, continued from page 1

ment officials to improve forest practices on the ground.

J: What was your approach?

P: We started by identifying land areas crucial for maintaining biodiversity in the long term. We took all of these areas out of possible forest operations, and identified networks and connections between them. This took up a sizeable chunk of the region. We presented this last December to the Ministry, who were not overly impressed. At first they could not understand why we would pull all of this land out of the timber extraction area. But we had the plan reviewed by ecologists like Reed Noss and other scientists, including government biologists. They considered that our proposal was a reasonable approach to maintaining ecological integrity over the long term. Then, we went to smaller scales, the watershed level, to ensure we adequately protect the spaces that my people need to continue their activities. It's hard to hunt and trap in a clearcut!

J: How much land base remains in the timber management area after these considerations?

P: In the area that we are planning for right now, about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total land base is being protected. Another 30% will come out as sensitive sites are identified on the ground. We started our land use and forest management planning from a different basis than usual timber management - we started by ensuring that ecological and cultural protection was central to the approach. A decision to cut a tree for the Innu is a decision for 120 years, as it is our great grand children who will see that area as a forest. We are not against a small, sensible timber industry and associated secondary processing but the benefits must accrue to local people, and be beneficial to all Innu on a long term basis.

J: Do you have a message to send to the parties to the CBD?

P: We are here to say, "here is an example about what is possible if people leave the time and space for proper planning, and if governments and indigenous people work from a position of mutual respect and accommodation". The examples are there, we need to move forward with these sorts of solutions on the national and international levels. International agreements provide an important goalpost for reaching agreements on the ground.

Although the process began with our road blocks, this could have never happened without *some* progressive minds within the government. The provincial government also added in necessary financial resources.

We are also here to ensure that primary forests are recognized for what they are: places where we have fully functional, intact ecosystems and the communities that have co-evolved with them. Our people occupied our lands 8000 years ago, about the time when the forests were just returning after the last ice age. In many ways, we are the forest.

Adaption to Climate Change, Not Extinction!

John Lanchbery (BirdLife/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)

The backbone of nature conservation, worldwide, is site-based conservation - in which reserves or parks are established to conserve particular species or ecosystems. Yet as the climate changes, zones of similar climate will shift polewards or upwards in elevation and species will move with their "climate space". Indeed, many mobile species such as butterflies and birds have already changes their ranges, in correspondence with the climate change that has already occurred.

Climate-induced species movement has fundamental implications for site-based nature conservation policy because parks and reserves clearly cannot move with the species. This problem is compounded by the facts that, firstly, a host of factors may inhibit movements and, secondly, not all species will move at the same rate.

Species movement will be inhibited by both manmade and natural barriers. Human land-use for agriculture will, for example, slow down or complete prevent the movement of some species. In other cases, especially for plants, the underlying geology may prevent movement: species that naturally occur in chalky hills may not move to granite uplands or lowland swamps. Species on islands or on the edges of landmasses may simply have nowhere to go.

The rate of movement of species will vary wildly. Those at the edges of their natural ranges may have every reason to respond rapidly to changes in their climate space but those in the middle of their ranges may have no need to move. Moreover, some species are highly opportunistic and will move readily, whereas others are sedentary and will be reluctant to move. In addition, the rate of climate change may be too great for some species, especially trees that can take many decades to come to maturity and hence cannot translocate rapidly.

The differential movement of species is especially worrying because it means that not only will species and habitats move but entire ecosystems will change, in many cases becoming less rich in biodiversity as the less mobile species fail to keep pace with the others. We are thus going to face the extinction of at least some ecosystems, quite apart from the problems posed to site-based nature conservation policy.

The CBD needs to address these issues as a matter of urgency, for they will otherwise undermine the very basis of the Convention. The COP needs to be considering how to build adaptation to climate change into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, not simply welcoming cooperation with the UNFCCC. CBD delegates would do well to remind their colleagues in the UNFCCC of the objective of that Convention, which is "stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere ..." and that "Such a level should be achieved within a timeframe sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change ..." Unless action is taken now, the only way that many ecosystems will "adapt" will be by becoming extinct.

Are you developing?

Souphavone Dalavong-May (Laos PDR)
from "The Voice of the Youth", newsletter of the Youth Conference

In our vital world, humans always need to have better lives. We create new things and new ideas all the time. We think that we are developing and making our lives modernized. Do forget that, this is more likely to kill ourselves.

Development has destroyed biodiversity, caused disasters and changed the way of lives. As we are aware, our earth are full of buildings, houses and many concrete places. This means that people have to cut down trees to make those buildings. By doing this we realize that we are destroying the forest, wildlife and also kill ourselves. Moreover, Development causes a great deal of disasters. Nowadays, people are facing floods, droughts, air pollutions and have to be patient to the dilemma of our actions. Otherwise, we are changing the way we live. One example of this: in Thailand, when people built the dams, they lost the rivers that they used for fishing in the past, but they are not satisfied with the jobs in the factories or in the big cities. Lets look at another example: many people have a lot of money, modern cars, big houses, but these people hardly smile. What happened to them?

What does "Development" really mean? Is it necessary to have modernization by destroying the nature or to be satisfied with what you have?

STUMP of the DAY AWARD on Wednesday went to *the United States* for the following reasons:

1. The US is the wealthiest nation on this planet but the most miserly in it's overseas development contributions as percent GDP. Investing in the conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of global biodiversity, including forests, is the foundation for true global security.

2. For not ratifying the CBD. Over 180 countries have now ratified the CBD. The US is not among them, in common with a very small group of countries including Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. However, the US continue to act in a manner suggesting they are a major player in the convention. We call on the US to ratify the CBD.

3. The US must stand up to its global responsibilities, stop sanctioning global pollution and squandering of natural resources through trade polices, patents on life and the spread of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).