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Greenpeace Africa



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 We Stand For The Trees

We Stand For Trees And Free Speech

By Hellen Dena

People around the globe took to the forests, their most iconic trees and heritage sites, to send a message of solidarity in the face of Roslute's legal attempt to silence its critics and deny them freedom of speech.

Credits

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#OURVOICESAREVITAL

GREENPEACE



© Greenpeace / Fred Doff. Greenpeace Activists display signs and banners that read: "#OurVoicesAreVital" in a forest, near Werbellinsee, Brandenburg Greenpeace Canada, 2017.



© Greenpeace / Charbel Bouez. Our Voices Are Vital. Activity in Lebanon, Lebanon Middle East. 2017.



© Greenpeace / Lu Guang. Illegally Logged Hardwood in DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo. 2016.

Imagine a community that depends on the forest for its livelihood. We know the Congo Basin as the second largest rainforest in the world, and for tens of millions of people, this incredibly rich and diverse ecosystem is a source of food, fresh water, shelter and medicine. It is home to many critically endangered species including forest elephants, gorillas, bonobos and okapis.

In Africa, we have seen many governments and corporate bullies attacking our right to speak for the environment and for the wellbeing of our communities. They do so while they continue to reap enormous profits from exploiting the planet and its citizens at large.

The fight against illegal logging has been a prolonged one. Greenpeace itself has been involved for more than 20 years, and

while it is undeniable that some progress has been made, it is equally evident that it continues to be a major problem.

So when Canada's largest logging company, Rolute Forest Products, slammed Greenpeace and Stand Earth with two multi-million dollar lawsuits for speaking out for the protection of the Canadian Boreal Forest, people around the world did not run to their little corners to lament. They decided to take bold action that was going to show the world that environmentalists will not be silenced by bullies.

People around the globe took to the forests, their most iconic trees and heritage sites, to send a message of unity and solidarity in the face of Rolute's legal attempt to silence its critics and deny them the freedom of speech.



If these lawsuits were to succeed in any way, corporate polluters around the world would have been emboldened to use these aggressive tactics to shut down critical speech. This would have posed a major threat to the Congo Basin where our forests are under threat from the unquenchable global thirst for natural resources, since African lands are now more than ever, a target for investors. Rolute's success would have meant that other corporates could follow their example and find ways of shutting down not only Greenpeace, but other civil society organisations around the world.

Greenpeace Africa plays a critical role as a watchdog of the practices of corporations and governments to

protect the environment on the continent. Our work on forests focuses on exposing and documenting unsustainable industry practices, in an effort to urge corporations like Rolute Forest Products to adopt better methods that protect critical forest habitats such as the Congo Basin. These widespread problems and illegal practices will not cease if existing laws are not enforced properly by current governments and authorities.

As a global movement of people, united together for the protection of the forest, and in defense of free speech everywhere; we will not give up the fight until all our rich and indigenous forests are preserved. ●

Aluta Continua!

Project Sunshine Is A Ray Of Hope

Project Sunshine Is A Ray Of Hope

By Lerato Ngakane



"I feel like bringing lights to Diepsloot, even if it's only in one part of the community will make a difference..."



This is what Bongani, a resident of Diepsloot, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Johannesburg's northern suburbs says. The contrast between Diepsloot and its immediate surrounding suburbs is startling. Diepsloot, which means "deep ditch" in Afrikaans, is not an exception. Millions of South Africans and Africans in other parts of the continent make the migration to big cities in the hope for a better life. They sadly get trapped in all sorts of social ills fuelled by the darkness that engulfs the remote parts of the country. For many, instead of the Promised Land they had hoped for, they end up in places where the odds are stacked against them and the competition for limited resources is fierce.

Bongani moved to Diepsloot 10 years ago from rural Kwa-Zulu Natal. Initially, his journey brought him to Johannesburg. After living with relatives in Soweto and

Alexandra, he started looking for work. Once he found employment, he sought out his own accommodation but could not afford it. Diepsloot seemed like a good option because of its proximity to developed areas and the affordable zinc houses. But Diepsloot presented its own problems including a lack of infrastructure and energy.

The recent protest in Diepsloot highlighted the issues around service delivery. During this time, Greenpeace was in the middle of *Project Sunshine*. The project, which was executed in partnership with the Philile Foundation, sought to provide safer streets through installing solar street lights at the Diepsloot Philile Crèche. For people like Bongani, having electricity is not a luxury but a necessity especially because it's an issue of safety. Walking on the streets at night becomes a life and death situation.



"I feel like bringing lights to Diepsloot, even if its only in one part of the community, it will make a difference. People fear for their lives. The lights will create a feeling of safety for the community as a whole especially for people who work shifts. They leave before the sun rises and return after it has set," he says

The project successfully raised its target of R100 000, solely through crowd funding. Raising R100 000 was a feat for Greenpeace and the Philile Foundation. "It gives me hope that people haven't forgotten that we are here." ●

"Winter is the worst because as soon as the sun sets, you realise that Johannesburg, the city of lights, doesn't include people like us."



The Lungs Of Africa Breathe A Sigh Of Relief

The Lungs Of Africa Breathe A Sigh Of Relief

By Nchemty Metimi Ozongashu



*Greenpeace Africa's forest
campaign scores a major victory.*

Questioning the status quo in a society which is plagued with impunity, poor governance, lack of accountability and weak institutions has never been easy. The political systems in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) suffer from these shortcomings, and campaigning to conserve the Congo Basin Forest in these countries is quite challenging, but rewarding for Greenpeace's campaigners.

Industrial agriculture companies realised loopholes in the forestry management of countries such as Cameroon and the DRC and are exploiting the forests mercilessly. Greenpeace has monitored the logging activities of Compagnie de Commerce et de Transport (CCT), tangling with Dutch timber exporter Fibois BV for many years and exposed illegal practices plaguing the forestry sector in Cameroon in 2016.

However, the former Cameroonian Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Ngole Philip Ngwese, reacted in a typical high-handed manner to the Greenpeace report with an emphatic denial in the public and private media. He claimed the information in the report was false and that the activities of all timber suppliers to CCT mentioned in the report were fully in compliance with the Cameroonian forestry laws.

However, Greenpeace disagreed with him and filed a complaint with the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NWWA) against timber importer, Fibois BV, for involvement with questionable timber.

The NWWA slammed Fibois BV with an injunction, declaring the business outfit non-compliant with the European Union Timber Regulation. But Fibois BV appealed the decision of the NWWA ruling in a Dutch administrative court.

The court ruling on 24 June 2017 in the Netherlands, upheld a decision by NWWA to penalise Fibois BV by placing the corporation's timber products on a watch list. Should it not comply with the regulation, the timber importer will pay a penalty of €1800 for every cubic meter of wood or wood products imported. What a sweet day for Greenpeace campaigners who had felt insulted by the remarks of Mr Ngole!

The court ruling against Fibois BV justifies campaigns by Greenpeace. It shows that the court stood by our accurate report. The ruling was a clear call to the Cameroonian Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to implement the rule of law in the forestry sector and to sanction the likes of CCT accordingly. Although we consider this ruling as a major victory for the Forest Campaign in the Congo Basin Forest, it is also a reminder to Greenpeace as an organisation to continuously maintain its impeccable standards in her role as an environmental watchdog. ●



© Greenpeace / Alex Yallop. Oil Palm Nursery in Cameroon, Cameroon, 2012.



© Greenpeace / Alex Yallop. Coastal Rainforest in Cameroon, Cameroon, 2012.



Blending Culture and Nature for Environmental Protection

By Nchemty Metimi Ozongashu

The theme of this year's World Environment Day, celebrated on 5 June, was "Connecting People to Nature", a theme that Greenpeace took to heart. Regional offices across the continent partnered with our volunteers in order to engage with the general public to raise awareness and educate the youth around environmental issues that Africa faces today. All of this, whilst still having a bit of fun.

In Yaoundé, Cameroon, hundreds of volunteers were led in a street march to raise awareness around environmental protection and related issues. This culminated in a clean-up of the Tsinga-Mokolo Market, one of the largest in the Central African Sub Region. Irene Wabiwe, a Greenpeace Africa Senior Forest Campaign Manager, told scores of excited volunteers and the media that "as an organisation passionate about protecting the environment, Greenpeace is using this day to urge Africans to get into nature and appreciate its beauty and importance." The volunteer activities in Cameroon ended with festivities where poetry, sketches, traditional dances and

musical playbacks were presented to the enthusiastic public.

Volunteers and Greenpeace Africa's directors got their hands dirty in Nairobi, Kenya, where the Gatharaini River was cleaned-up, followed by a tree planting ceremony. Once again the theme of "Connecting People to Nature" was top of mind. The activities came to a crescendo with a discussion on how to 'green' Kenya and the value and importance of ecological farming. The event aimed to highlight the importance of the environment and sustainable ecological practices to the public.

The World Environmental Day activities took Greenpeace closer to communities living with the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. Greenpeace would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who gave their time and dedication to the activities across the continent. We are sure that supporters are waiting in anticipation to see what activities Greenpeace, and our passionate volunteers, will unveil next! ●

Below:
Greenpeace Senior Management getting their hands dirty



© Greenpeace / Paul Baswett. Tree Planting and Clean-up Gatharaini River, Kenya, 2017.



© Greenpeace Volunteers Cleaning Tsinga-Mokolo Market in Cameroon, 2017.



© Greenpeace Traditional Dance Competition in Cameroon, 2017.

Above:
Greenpeace Volunteers Cleaning Tsinga-Mokolo Market in Cameroon

Above:
Greenpeace Volunteers Cleaning Tsinga-Mokolo Market in Cameroon



Global Victories

Global Victories

Spain: Biscarrues reservoir approval nullified

In July 2017, the Spanish National High Court declares the nullity of the resolution of February 14, 2012, which approved the preliminary draft of the Biscarrués reservoir in the Gállego river, as well as its Environmental Impact Statement of 8 July 2011, for violating the EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60 / EC)

<https://goo.gl/pkVpvK>

Germany: EU suspends use of ethoxyquin as a feed additive

Following work from GP Germany, the EU has implemented the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/962 of 7 June 2017 which suspends the authorisation of ethoxyquin as a feed additive for all animal species and categories.

<https://goo.gl/N8NztP>

USA / Thailand: Thai Union commit to significant reform

Thai Union, the largest canned tuna company in the world, has agreed to measures that would improve traceability from sea to plate, increase support for more sustainable fisheries, strengthen labour standards for all vessels supplying the company, significantly scale back destructive fishing methods like longlining and purse seining with fish aggregating devices (FADs), and extend a global moratorium on transshipment at sea -- the process of moving fish from one vessel to another often associated with illegal fishing and labour abuse -- if suppliers fail to meet strict standards.

<https://goo.gl/9qEFp9>

Belgium: Glyphosate ban extended to Flanders

From July 2017, the private use of glyphosate is forbidden in the entire country: the Flemish government followed the example of Wallonia and Brussels and implements a similar ban. Although the debate about professional use is still ongoing (incl. at EU level) and a federal government decision to forbid the selling of glyphosate is still pending, this is another important step forward - it increases the political recognition that glyphosate is a toxic product.

<https://goo.gl/KpgZcz>

Australia: Supermarkets drop single use Plastic bags

Two major supermarkets in Australia, namely Woolworths and Coles commit to phase out single-use plastic bags. This is a significant win for our plastic campaigns!

<https://goo.gl/g592TM>



With parts of South Africa in the grips of a severe drought, areas of the Western Cape declared a disaster area, we have some very handy tips to help you save water. These tips will also save energy and money.

1. Check pipes, taps and toilets for leaks

Leaking taps can waste up to 600 litres of water a day. Fix or replace any leaks in your home, to help save you water and money.

2. Catch rainwater

Install a water butt to your drainpipe and use this water to water your garden, wash your car — you can save up to 5,000 litres of water per year, and your plants will flourish under the rainwater better than they would with chemically treated tap water.

3. Take a shorter shower

Take shorter showers with a bucket in the shower to catch unused water, you can then re-use this water to water your garden, plants etc. Also switch to an efficient showerhead this will allow you to lather up with less water.

4. Steam your vegetables

Steaming your vegetables uses less water than boiling and retains more nutrients. If you do boil, save the water and use it in other dishes such as a stock for soups. You can also cool the water and use it to water your garden and plants.

5. Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when there is a full load

Running your machine with a full load utilises less water and energy. This will also lower your electricity bill.

5
WATER
SAVING
TIPS



Greenpeace Supporter Says



Leigh-Anne Lindeque is a passionate environmentalist and long-time supporter of Greenpeace. Candice Meyer spent some time getting to know her better.

1. May I ask what inspires your monthly donations?

I feel that it is the right thing to do - we inhabit the Earth - it is our home and a source of vast resources which continues to be rapidly exploited and diminished. It is therefore our responsibility to protect and safeguard its future, and ours..

2. What is it about Greenpeace that inspires you?

Greenpeace gives a voice to our planet and is a catalysts for change on a continental and global scale. The organisation is about more than just activism and creating public awareness - they challenge policy and offer pro-active solutions to the most pressing environmental issues facing our planet today, and have shown tangible results for over 45 years.

3. What are the things that make you feel good about your philanthropic investments in Greenpeace?

Greenpeace's sound reputation, work ethic, and more importantly their independence from corporate and government funding.

4. What aspects of our work do you believe are our greatest strengths?

Greenpeace is not afraid to do whatever it takes to get things done, and the organisation's financial independence means that it has the autonomy to be in a position to confront anyone in it's mission to protect the environment.

5. Which other organisations do you support or volunteer for?

Myself and my family also support animal welfare and rescue charities.

6. What is it about these other organisations that inspires you to support them?

They advocate for the protection, welfare and rehabilitation of animals who can't "talk" for themselves.

7. Are you particularly passionate about a specific environmental cause?

I am passionate about all of nature. A healthy environment, fighting climate change, protecting our ancient forests and promoting ecological farming are all priorities. Preventing overfishing of our oceans and the impact on our ecosystem, local economies and marine life is a cause particularly close to my heart.

There are so many ways you can keep in touch!

Our team is always here to chat, answer your questions and generally support you.

So whether you want to talk on the phone about how you are making a difference, or want to share your thoughts on Twitter, you can!



Log on to our website to get the latest news, read blogs and campaign updates – as well as information about petitions, events, volunteering and fundraising.
greenpeace.org/africa/en/



Everyone loves getting post. If you have something that you want to share, then we'd love to hear from you. Write to us at Greenpeace Africa, Post Net Suite 125, Private bag X09, Melville, 2109



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Questions, comments or need to chat? You can call us on 011 726 2404, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm



If you prefer writing to talking that's fine too. You can email us at info.africa@greenpeace.org



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SCAN
ME!



<https://www.givengain.com/cause/3570/donate/#start>

