

Proposed Civil Society activities and events around WFC2015

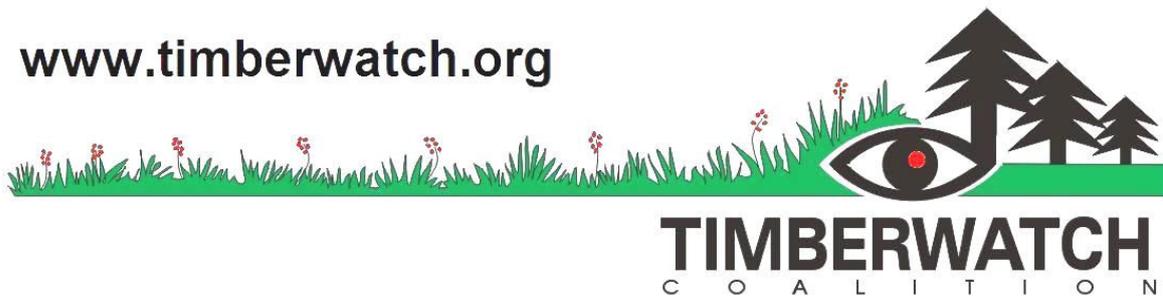
Making the voices of Global Civil Society heard
– and heeded!

at the 14th World Forestry Congress (WFC2015)
in Durban, South Africa, 7-11 September 2015



“Forests” and People: Investing in a “Sustainable” Future, or
‘Corporations and Plantations: Undermining Earth’s Integrity’?

www.timberwatch.org



Proposed Objectives, Activities and Events

- 1) To organise an alternative civil society conference, to be staged at a central and easily accessible venue (or venues) in close proximity to the Durban International Conference Centre where WFC2015 will take place.
- 2) To co-ordinate a comprehensive programme of presentations, workshops and other activities to cater for the interests and concerns of civil society groups and affected communities, also including preparatory and post-WFC meetings and workshops.
- 3) To establish a dedicated information and communication service centre in order to provide civil society participants with access to computer facilities for internet communications and media liaison, including press conferences.
- 4) To provide a sufficient number of adequately equipped meeting rooms for civil society organisation events including panel discussions and workshops.
- 5) To organise local tours for both WFC delegates and civil society participants to visit nearby sites where different types of forests may be seen, as well as to witness the social and ecological effects of large-scale monoculture tree plantations and the associated impacts of pulp and paper mills.
- 6) To support and to assist with arranging the logistical needs of out-of-town and other-country participants, such as local transport and accommodation.
- 7) To co-ordinate a public awareness event aimed at drawing attention to the social and environmental harm resulting from forest-logging, monoculture tree plantations, and the associated pollution from industrial wood processing activities, including production of chemical cellulose (dissolving wood-pulp), paper and packaging, and biomass-based fuels (wood pellets and ethanol).
- 8) To organise a public film festival where documentaries and video testimonies on the socio-economic and ecological impacts of forest loss caused by clear-cut logging, the establishment of monoculture tree plantations, and industrial processing of timber from both forests and plantations, can be screened.
- 9) To organise an open panel discussion/debate between representatives of civil society groups, conservation organisations, FAO/timber industry actors, and other delegations to the WFC, for broadcast on public TV.
- 10) To help provide specialised support in the form of volunteer interpreters and guides to assist participants representing affected Indigenous Peoples and local communities with translation and other services in order to facilitate their fullest and most meaningful possible participation at the event.