

Petition to the Secretariat of COP15, related to Forest Companies' Undermining the Negotiations

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RECALLING THAT, in 1992, at UNCED, all States adopted Agenda 21 including chapter 11

11.11. Forests world-wide have been and are being threatened by uncontrolled degradation and conversion to other types of land uses; influenced by increasing human needs, agricultural expansion and environmentally harmful mismanagement including for example: lack of adequate forest-fire control and anti-poaching measures, unsustainable commercial logging, overgrazing and unregulated browsing, harmful effects of airborne pollutants, economic incentives and other measures taken by other sectors of the economy. The impacts of loss and degradation of forests are in the form of soil erosion: loss of biological diversity, damage to wildlife habitats and degradation of watershed areas, deterioration of the quality of life and reduction of the options for development.

MINDFUL THAT, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, is the recognition that where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.

CONCERNED THAT, the fulfilling of Article 7c which reads:

(c) Identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects through sampling and other techniques, is not possible because of current logging practices which destroy biodiversity even before it is even identified. Those that strive to prevent these activities are impeded by forest companies' obtaining injunctions which often lead to arrests and even criminal charges.

Equally concerned that forest corporations have been permitted to participate in and undermining of international decisions at COPS on the convention on Biological Diversity.

Your petitioners urge the Secretariat at COP15, to ensure that the commitment (in the convention) to no longer wait for scientific certainty, is no longer violated because there has been scientific certainty that logging practices by forest companies are destroying biodiversity.