BREAKING THE LINKS BETWEEN NATURAL RESOURCES, CONFLICT AND CORRUPTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2004
We are known as Global Witness but the organisation's work and finances are split into three distinct entities.

**Global Witness Limited** exposes the links between the exploitation of natural resources and the funding of conflict, corruption and human rights abuses. It seeks to break these links and to change corporate and government practices, where these practices have resulted in an unregulated and unsustainable rush for resources. Global Witness carries out investigations in countries devastated by conflict, corruption and poverty and our findings from these investigations are used to inform international institutions and to achieve lasting change. Global Witness names names and calls the unaccountable to account.

**The Global Witness Trust** advances public education in environmental matters, preservation and conservation of the natural environment and its sustainable development, and the causes and effects of environmental degradation. The Trust also carries out research in places or areas where there may have been an impact on the human rights of inhabitants as a consequence of environmental damage or change, and publishes or otherwise disseminates the useful results of such research. The principal purpose of the Trust is to support those activities of Global Witness Limited that deliver the Trust’s charitable objectives.

**The Global Witness Foundation** is a Californian Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation which has exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Inland Revenue Code. The principal activity of the Global Witness Foundation is to further the activities of Global Witness Limited.

Global Witness has offices in London, Cambodia, Cameroon and Washington, DC.
Global Witness campaigns to achieve real change by highlighting the links between the exploitation of natural resources, environmental destruction and human rights abuses, particularly where the resources are used to fund and perpetuate conflict and corruption. Through a combination of covert investigations on the ground and in-depth research, we gather first-hand evidence that is compiled into hard-hitting reports, which we work vigorously to ensure are considered by the relevant bodies. By advocating for good governance in relation to natural resource management, we aim to achieve our vision of a world in which the populations of countries rich in natural resources equitably benefit from their sustainable use.

JONATHAN MILLER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT, CHANNEL 4 NEWS

“Global Witness has boldly gone where others fear to tread and has consistently delivered authoritative, riveting and revelatory reports linking the exploitation of natural resources with the exploitation of ordinary people by greedy people. Driven by compassion, rigorous, trustworthy and tenacious, Global Witness defies cynics who say you can’t make the world a better place.”

ABOUT GLOBAL WITNESS...
Global Witness has come a long way since 1995, when the three of us launched our first campaign to cut off the illegal $20 million per month trade of Cambodian timber between the Khmer Rouge and Thai–based companies. Our staff now totals 35, based in offices in London, Phnom Penh, Yaoundé and Washington, DC, and over the years our campaigns have not only highlighted the role of natural resource exploitation in the funding of conflict and corruption but have led to very real change.

2004 was a particularly exhilarating and rewarding year for Global Witness. We published no less than 12 reports and briefing documents, providing accurate and reliable information to organisations in a position to bring about change. We launched a new campaign to expose the rampant exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has already resulted in a sharp increase in international attention on the political and economic tensions relating to the role of natural resources in the DRC. We continued to make the global oil, mining and gas industries more transparent by driving the Publish What You Pay campaign, which is in turn influencing the UK Government’s Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We worked to strengthen the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and coordinated ongoing campaigns to tackle corruption in the timber trade. By exposing the roots of conflict and corruption and by refusing to accept that some problems are too large to be tackled, or some attitudes too entrenched to be challenged, we continued to seek not front-line relief from the consequences of conflict and corruption, but long-term and lasting solutions to bring about their end.

As we look to the future, Global Witness has identified a need to establish a new, overarching campaign to change the global architecture of natural resource extraction and trading. We have learned that campaigns focussed on a single country or resource can be highly effective, but that they often take place after the most destructive phase of the conflict has occurred. Over the coming years we will continue to work on dynamic thematic and country-specific issues, in order to compile the lessons from different areas and develop a cohesive framework of measures that can be implemented in a preventative, rather than reactive way to existing problems.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to all those who have played a part in our work. Our staff, through their tenacity, commitment, innovation and unfailing dedication to challenging established thinking on seemingly intractable global issues, have made Global Witness what it is. We would also like to thank the many courageous people who, at great personal risk, have provided us with the information essential to our work, the NGOs and civil society partners with whom we share a common vision, and last but not least, our funders, who, through their great generosity and commitment to an equitable world, have enabled us to carry out our work.

PATRICK ALLEY, CHARMIAN GOOCH AND SIMON TAYLOR, DECEMBER 2004
Global Witness is proud to be one of the few campaigning NGOs with a consistent track record of getting related primary information, evidence and reports in front of key international institutions and donors. Policies and concepts formulated by Global Witness are now incorporated in numerous rafts of international policy, including the United Nations, the UK Africa Commission, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance initiatives and the annual US Appropriation Acts.
Since 1999 Global Witness has campaigned to secure revenue transparency within the oil, gas and mining industries and in states with large extractive sectors. This campaign reflects our belief that the disclosure of royalties, taxes and other payments to governments by extractive industry companies is a necessary precondition for equitable development and accountable government in resource rich countries.

Across the globe, revenues from oil, gas, logging and mining, which should be funding sustainable development, are being misappropriated. In many countries, governments do not provide even basic information about their revenues from natural resources, nor do foreign companies extracting natural resources publish any information about payments made to the government. Huge amounts of money are subject to no oversight and unscrupulous rulers can extract all
In 2004, through our ongoing negotiations with other members of the EITI steering group, we have driven the gradual reshaping of the EITI into a more coherent and effective process, and secured a public commitment to include mechanisms that guarantee full civil society input and independent audits.

Through a number of submissions to the UK Cabinet Office and the Africa Commission, Global Witness has also ensured that transparency over natural resources is now one of the UK Department for International Development's eight indicators of fragile/failing states, and in doing so has ensured that revenue transparency is at the top of the UK's agenda for its G8 Chairmanship in 2005.

2004 saw us advocate for natural resource revenue opacity to be addressed as a US government policy priority. The release of our report *Time for Transparency* drew attention to the Riggs Bank scandal in which two American oil companies paid hundreds of millions of dollars of Equatorial Guinea’s oil money into a private Riggs Bank account held by President Obiang in Washington DC. Riggs Bank was later the centrepiece of a major money laundering investigation by the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Our work in the US also extended to successfully including revenue transparency provisions in the US appropriations legislation, which will direct the US government’s support of international financial institutions’ promotion of revenue transparency.

Our investigative research continued and included an investigation into the relationship between mining company Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold and the Indonesian military. In addition, Global Witness has also been responsible for successfully pushing revenue transparency at the World Bank via the Extractive Industries Review, initiating the debate on international accounting standards with investors, influencing donor policies in Congo Brazzaville and Angola and ensuring that new oil laws contain revenue disclosure provisions in Timor Leste.

GORDON BROWN, UK CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING

The recent proposal from George Soros and Global Witness to increase transparency in extractive industries is an excellent example of how private sector companies can positively contribute to development and poverty reduction... more governments, businesses and NGOs must sign up to this initiative and make it work.

GORDON BROWN, UK CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING

sorts of ‘facilitation payments’ from companies that would probably prefer not to pay bribes. Ordinary citizens, who often own a country’s resources under its constitution, are left without the information to call their government to account over the management of revenues. The result is a litany of corruption, social and ecological decay, increased poverty, reinforcement of authoritarian government and regional instability.

As a founding member of the Publish What You Pay coalition, Global Witness has led calls for the disclosure of net payments made to national governments by oil, mining and gas companies in every country of operation and has worked to create a space in which citizens of resource rich nations can hold their governments to account, and in which good governance and civil society can flourish. These efforts have led directly to the creation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, or EITI, a multi-stakeholder process to deliver revenue transparency.

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Global Witness first exposed how diamonds were fuelling the civil war in Angola in December 1998. This led to an international campaign and outcry that drew attention to how diamonds funded some of Africa’s most devastating wars, often with the complicity of the international diamond industry. Since this time we have been instrumental in creating and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, an international effort to exclude conflict diamonds from the legitimate diamond trade, currently supported by 43 countries and the European Commission.
Our recent efforts have centered on ensuring the effective and permanent implementation of the Kimberley Process. Over the last twelve months Global Witness has participated in official review visits to Botswana, Canada, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, India, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates, helping to strengthen controls systems and close loopholes in the scheme. We have continued to advocate for countries to submit accurate and comparable statistical data and for more resources to be allocated to this work. We also successfully pressed for Congo Brazzaville, long known as a major hub for illicit diamond trading, to be removed from the Kimberley Process and to establish a procedure to remove countries that are not complying with the process.

Global Witness continues to play a key role in pressuring the diamond industry to commit to undertaking stronger measures to eliminate conflict diamonds. We released an investigative report exposing the shortcomings of diamond jewellery retailers and the diamond trade in adequately following through on their commitments to combat conflict diamonds in the US. In conjunction with Amnesty International, we conducted a survey of the top jewellers in the US and the UK, evaluating their policies to prevent the sale of conflict diamonds. This work generated widespread media coverage and pressured the diamond industry to take concrete actions in the US, the UK and globally to prevent diamonds from fuelling conflict and to address the social, environmental and ethical issues pertinent to the diamond jewellery pipeline.

Countries ripped apart by diamond fuelled wars, such as Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have an opportunity to institute reforms which could transform their diamonds from a liability to an asset. Following months of in-country research, Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada presented our findings on this issue at a Kimberley Process Plenary Meeting and ensured that a working group on alluvial mining was established to identify best practice in alluvial diamond mining countries. Building on this work, we were invited to monitor diamond mining cooperatives in Sierra Leone through the ‘Integrated Diamond Management & Policy Program’. The primary objectives of this project are to ensure that all diamonds produced in five specific cooperatives of alluvial diamond diggers can be tracked from the mine to the point of sale, and to increase benefits for miners and their communities.

Significantly, in 2004 Global Witness worked to ensure that sanctions remained on the export of Liberian diamonds. Throughout 2005 we will continue to actively advocate for the continuation of sanctions until sufficient controls on the diamond industry in Liberia are secured.
Since 2000, Global Witness has become the leading advocate for change and the primary information source on the role of conflict commodities in the Mano River region. Our campaigning has focused specifically on the timber networks that link arms trafficking to human rights abuses and state looting in the region and globally, with Liberia at its centre.

Following our investigations, Global Witness successfully lobbied the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions on the export of Liberian timber, and as a consequence drastically reduced the warring parties’ ability to exploit the country’s forests to fund conflict. Soon after the imposition of the embargo, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed and former president Charles Taylor left Liberia for exile in Nigeria.

2004 saw Global Witness undertake several field investigations in Liberia, focusing on the continued role natural resources are playing in fuelling instability, cross-border movements of weapons and mercenaries, and other threats to regional security. Our investigations have revealed the lack of capacity within the Liberian Forestry Development Authority to adequately enforce domestic forestry laws and have exposed how the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the National Transitional Government have failed to adequately assume control of Liberia’s interior and border regions. In many cases this has allowed armed ex-combatants and businessmen unfettered access to Liberia’s timber once again, and has perpetuated the continued cross-border movement of natural resources and weapons, both of which are undermining an already tenuous regional peace.

Throughout 2004 Global Witness briefed United Nations officials, Liberian government representatives and Liberian and international NGOs on the lack of transparency and accountability over Liberia’s natural resources and successfully advocated for the maintenance of sanctions.

In 2005, Global Witness will continue to work to halt the role of Liberia’s natural resource industries in fuelling regional and national insecurity and to ensure that the industry is sufficiently reformed to prevent further abuses. In light of the impending elections a primary objective of the campaign will be on promoting good governance in relation to natural resource management as a key focus for both voters and candidates prior to the elections, and for the newly elected government from December 2005 onwards.

Increasingly our efforts will focus on the role natural resources play in the post conflict reconstruction of countries such as Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Our campaign work on these countries will serve as pertinent case studies, illustrating best practice in terms of natural resource management for international policy makers.

“According to reports from groups such as Global Witness… Liberia’s Charles Taylor has used revenues from the timber industry, which is now under UN Sanctions, to buy arms and fuel violence throughout the region. In the process, Liberia’s logging industry is... destroying an important source of the natural wealth the people of Liberia need for their own development.”

COLIN POWELL, REMARKS ON THE LAUNCH OF PRESIDENT BUSH’S INITIATIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL LOGGING, JULY 2003
The United Nations Mission in Liberia and the National Transitional Government have failed to adequately assume control of Liberia’s interior and border regions.
For many years, illegal logging and corruption within the Cambodian timber industry has resulted in severe social, economic and ecological degeneration. Global Witness first began working to combat illegal logging in Cambodia in 1995 and quickly realised our initial objective of stopping the illegal timber exports that were financing Pol Pot’s Khmer Rouge movement. Ten years of campaigning have resulted in the expulsion of several destructive logging companies and the pioneering of Independent Forest Monitoring in the country.

The biggest obstacle to sound forest management in Cambodia remains corruption and the culture of impunity enjoyed by the government agencies in charge. Irrespective of the current logging moratorium, illegal logging operations continue to take place under a variety of guises.

In 2004, Global Witness intensified our investigations into the role of state actors in brokering and extorting money from illegal logging operations. As a result of these investigations we published *Taking a Cut: Institutionalised Corruption and Illegal Logging in Cambodia’s Aural Wildlife Sanctuary*, exposing illegal operations in one of Cambodia’s wildlife sanctuaries, and in particular, tracing the role of various officials and army officers. This report helped to re-focus attention on levels of corruption and forest crime in Cambodia and provided a new level of detail in terms of the workings of corrupt institutions in the forest sector. As a result, international donors used Global Witness’ recommendations on increasing transparency in the management of state assets as the basis of performance benchmarks outlined for the Cambodian government to meet in 2005. Global Witness also successfully influenced the Cambodia Independent Forest Sector Review, which was commissioned by international donors as an assessment of future forest management options in Cambodia, and which resulted in many outcomes supportive of Global Witness’ campaign objectives.

The people who did for Pol Pot were not forces of law and order, still less the diplomats of the international community. They were the tree detectives of Global Witness…

JOHN SWEENEY, GOING UNDERGROUND, THE OBSERVER
Launched in 2003, Global Witness’ work on Burma has documented the $250 million a year illegal timber trade carried out by the Burmese regime and the country’s cease-fire groups. Investigations have uncovered the key players and politico-economic motivations driving the exploitation of large swathes of virgin forests in exchange for political, financial and military support.

In 2004 the key focus of the Burma campaign was to place the issue of natural resource management firmly on the table - both inside Burma and in the international community. We widely disseminated our report ‘A Conflict of Interests: The Uncertain Future of Burma’s Forests’, which was the result of primary research conducted over three years in Thailand, China and Burma. The report examines illegal logging throughout Burma, with a focus on border areas, and details the importance of the timber trade to the Burmese regime, the ceasefire groups, Thailand and China. The report has been read by ceasefire leaders and the regime at the highest level and has empowered community leaders to speak up and call for an end to destructive logging in Burma.

We have continued to work closely with international stakeholders and activist groups with a view to facilitating development interventions in relation to the environment. In 2004 the EU changed its Common Position on Burma to include an exemption to its suspension of non-humanitarian aid and development programmes in relation to projects in support of environmental protection and addressing the problem of non-sustainable logging resulting in deforestation.

Trade of timber between Burma and China continues to be a particular concern and Global Witness has worked to influence the Chinese central government to adopt a responsible and transparent approach to logging in northern Burma. In 2005, we will publish a report based on investigations into the companies, political and military structures and individuals involved in the destruction of northern Burma’s forests, and which will focus on the illegal cross border timber trade between Burma and China.

‘A Conflict of Interests’ had a big impact in Rangoon and beyond. Global Witness’ original research and data, and their balanced and realistic recommendations gave the report a credibility that even the main protagonists found hard to refute once they’d had time to read it. A well-thumbed copy was on the Forest Minister’s desk when I called on him in April 2004. The former Prime Minister discussed it with the Kachin ceasefire groups. It put the issue on the agenda for the EU, and for Burma/China relations’

VICKY BOWMAN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO BURMA
Nowhere is the exploitation of natural resources to perpetuate conflict and propagate a culture of unaccountability and opacity better exemplified than in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where militarised exploitation of natural resources dates back to the 1800s and continues today within the context of Africa’s worst conflict. Whilst an extremely resource-rich country, the population of the DRC has historically, and categorically, failed to benefit from the extraction of natural resources.

Global Witness’ DRC campaign was officially launched in July 2004 with the release of Same Old Story: A background study on natural resources in the DRC. The objective of the campaign is to significantly increase transparency surrounding natural resource revenue in the DRC and to address how natural resources can, and should be, managed in the context of the successful reconstruction of a post-conflict state.

The campaign’s success so far can be measured by the response to it from local civil society organisations, DRC experts, and embassy representatives in Kinshasa, many of whom have given us overwhelmingly positive feedback. The response to advocacy directed at the UN Security Council, European governments, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and various U.S. government representatives has been generally supportive of the campaign’s broad aims and in the short time since its inception, the campaign has re-stimulated civil society debate on the issue of natural resource governance and re-introduced the issue as an area of concern for the international community.

A second report Rush and Ruin: the Devastating Mineral Trade in Southern Katanga, DRC, published in September 2004, uncovered massive cobalt smuggling operations in Katanga province depriving the country’s economy of between $1-4 million a day. In 2005 we plan to release a further report, focusing on the trade in cassiterite (tin ore) in eastern DRC. Currently there are no international mechanisms in place to regulate the trade in cassiterite, therefore allowing various armed factions, many with appalling human rights records, unfettered access to world markets.

Whilst an extremely resource-rich country, the population of the DRC has historically, and categorically, failed to benefit from the extraction of natural resources.
Illegal logging has long been associated with corruption, unsustainable deforestation and social disruption and has helped to fuel long and bloody conflicts. Whilst in many countries, good laws to protect forests and the livelihoods of forest communities are formulated on paper, they are frequently completely bypassed by powerful timber barons. Poor governance of the logging sector all too often allows corruption, fraud and organised crime to flourish and the links between the logging industry and abuses of human rights are widely documented. In support of more effective regulations, better enforcement, and active civil society participation in forest sector governance, Global Witness has pioneered Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM). Drawing on our long experience in investigating links between natural resources, conflict and corruption, we implement IFM in order to document illegal logging activity in the forest and pinpoint deficiencies in governance from local to ministry level. In all cases we are observers: responsibility for law enforcement remains with forest officials and governments. The role of IFM is to provide objective and credible information that other local and international organisations can use and to create a political space that fosters transparency, accountability and participation in forest governance. Furthermore, it aims to put illegal logging on wider agendas relating to good governance worldwide, creating momentum for discussions around the exploitation of natural resources and links to corruption and human rights abuses.

Global Witness undertook IFM work in Cambodia from 1999 to 2003, and we have been official Independent Observer of Forestry Law Enforcement in Cameroon since 2000. Since IFM started in Cameroon, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has reported ever-increasing penalties being levied on logging companies who break the law. In October 2004 the fines, damages and interest levied totalled US$7.5m, a significant contribution to state coffers, and a strong deterrent to illegal logging.

In 2004, at the request of state officials in each country, Global Witness conducted feasibility studies for initiating IFM in Peru, Ghana, Honduras and Mozambique. Whilst all countries showed a strong potential need for IFM, the Honduras and Ghana studies discerned wide support for the concept, and particularly strong support from oversight institutions other than the forest ministry (the National Commission for Human Rights in Honduras and the Parliamentary Committee on Lands and Forests in Ghana).

Acceptance of the concept of IFM can be seen in the range of international initiatives to tackle illegal logging, progressed in 2004, that make reference to ‘independent monitoring’ as a tool to improve governance in the sector.
The Global Witness research department supports all of our campaigns and projects by undertaking continuous and dedicated research tasks and by providing a centralised pool of knowledge that enhances cross campaign communication.

Throughout 2004 the research department undertook work that underpins the full spectrum of Global Witness’ campaign, monitoring and fundraising activity. Specifically, this work has centred on fulfilling the goals of Global Witness’ ‘Conflict, Resources and Corruption: The Global Picture’ project. This project utilises computer software which is the intelligence and law enforcement standard for complex investigations, and has been used as part of investigations into September 11th and by the Yugoslavian War Crimes Tribunal.
Global Witness Limited is a registered non-profit company in the UK (Company No. 2871809). The activities of Global Witness Limited involve campaigning and political lobbying, and as such it is not eligible for charitable status.

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The principal purpose of the Trust is to support those activities of Global Witness Limited that deliver the Trust’s charitable objectives. Some donors restrict funding to certain campaigns, others fund the Trust without restriction.

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Global Witness gratefully acknowledges and thanks all those who supported us in 2004 and who are listed below:

Global Witness Limited
UK Department for International Development
Haut Commissariat Canada
Novib
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Open Society Institute
Oxfam GB
The World Bank
i2 Limited

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Comic Relief
Concern Worldwide
The DOEN Foundation
The Sigrid Rausing Trust
The Staples Trust
Trócaire
US Agency for International Development

We would also like to express our enormous gratitude for the support of all our individual and anonymous donors.