Recommendations

For public authorities, from local to international level

- Concerning financial markets
  - Work together to tackle global compensation mechanisms, but use the market tools for nature and wildlife.
  - Focus on products related to natural commons, such as Ecosystem-Trade-Fund-Committees
- Concerning companies
  - Develop strong legal tools that impose legal responsibility for companies, which also apply to their subsidiaries abroad.
  - Improve transparency for buildings at all decision-making levels, to ensure that no industry pressure group has provoked or wavered a policy making.
  - Improve financial consultancy and regulatory reform, so that multilateral corporations are no longer able to exploit legal loopholes and for banks currently similar to their overall national interest.
- Citizen participation
  - Invest in social capital, and their capital place in decision-making that connects the natural commons to their territories.
  - Committed democratic control and shared control of society-wide decisions (energy model, preservation of natural commons, large infrastructure projects).

For citizens

- Use the financialization of nature by supporting and participating in alternatives to industrial monocultures.
- Valuate local and national and international dimensions about these questions.
- Outline how you can avoid and act on what their social and environmental impacts are in your bank, mainly about financial advice to give you a complete framework of the investments and the management of the natural commons.
- Do not place your savings with a financial product related to the exploitation of natural commons.

For scientists

- Make the scientific data about the condition of the natural commons be found where nature needs it.

The Publication of Friends of the Earth France: A vast international and human rights network, independent from any religious or political influence. Created in 1961, it helped to found the global movement and helped to create the International Network of Friends of the Earth France. Friends of the Earth France is a focal point for the natural commons, with a shared vision for a fair global economy and a new internationalism.

A “green economy” which deepens the ecological crisis

What is at stake at Rio+20

Twenty years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a new ecological crisis is evolving: the financialization of nature and the ecological crisis of the 21st century. This crisis can lead to the destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity, transforming the world into a world of human-made environments. The crisis can lead to the destruction of the natural commons and to the extinction of many species. The crisis is deepening, and it is going to be catastrophic if we do not act now.

The green economy

The green economy is the most important solution to the ecological crisis of the 21st century. It is the only way to stop the destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity, and to reverse the ecological crisis. The green economy is not a panacea, but it is the only way to stop the destruction of the natural commons and to the extinction of many species.

The financialization of the economy

The financialization of the economy has been increasing for the past 30 years. The financial industry has been growing faster than the real economy. The financial industry has been taking over the real economy, and it is now the main driver of the economy. The financial industry is not a substitute for the real economy, but it is a threat to the real economy.

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Recommendations

For public authorities, from local to international level

- Concerning financial markets
  - Monitor the evolution of the financial sector and the impact on local communities, such as the Financial and Trade Networks Committee.

- Concerning companies
  - Identify the risks and opportunities arising from the financial sector and its impact on local communities.

For citizens

- Support initiatives that promote local and environmental decision-making at the grassroots level.

For researchers

- Study the relationship between the financial sector and local communities.

Nature is not for sale!

Respect communities’ rights! Stop the take-over of nature by finance!

A “green economy” which deepens the ecological crisis

What is at stake at Rio+20

Twenty years after the Earth Summit in Rio (Brasilia, 1992), another summit to discuss sustainable development takes place in June 2012. It is a forum that brings together governments, businesses, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss the impact of economic growth on the environment.

The economy now follows the financial economy

The economic crisis of 2008 caused profound changes in the global economy. The financial sector, which has traditionally been the driver of economic growth, has become more important than ever before. It has also become more complex and risky.

The banks have successfully eroded the international financial system

The banks have successfully eroded the international financial system through their ability to create new instruments and financial markets. This has led to a new financialization of the economy, which is characterized by the increased weight of the financial sector in the world economy.

The creation of new financial products and the creation of new financial markets

The banks have also created new financial products and financial markets to increase their profits. This has led to a new financialization of the economy, which is characterized by the increased weight of the financial sector in the world economy.

To find out more about our actions

www.thesummits.org/riopaulo
Nature, the latest whim of financial markets

The temptation to extend the market economy to ecosystems and the atmosphere has already existed for many decades. Accordingly, many of the "services" provided for free by nature, such as the purification of water, are not adequately taken into account, although their destruction or degradation do have a cost. For example, the "free" pollination of plants by bees - if they were to disappear, they would have to be replaced by workers.

In 2000, the United Nations Programme for the Environment (UNEP) launched a large study about the economics of ecosystems to try to calculate the value of the "services":

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) www.teebweb.org

Planet for sale: finance launches an attack on new markets

Having speculated on food commodities, raw materials and energy and ahead of an assault against nature, the world of finance has already created new markets and associated financial assets: the best known are carbon markets.

Carbon market: bound to fail...

Within the framework of the Kyoto protocol and under the guidance of the UN, greenhouse gases (GHG) became, in 2005, tradable, with the creation of a carbon market by the European Union. Within this system, companies receive a maximum of rights to pollute, in the form of "emission certificates", each one corresponding to one ton of carbon. An emission certificate can be exchanged between companies, a trading scheme was created.

The public banks, such as the World Bank (WIB), the European Investment Bank (EIB) or, in France, the Caisse des dépôts et consignations helped with the setting up of this carbon market. Today, the majority of exchanges are handled by banks and investors, who speculate in carbon credits and create an increasingly complex, unregulated market for inefficient financial products. The unjust and inefficient compensation mechanisms for rich countries' emissions in poor countries even lead to the creation of negative carbon emissions.

An over-allocation of quotas, a collapse in the price of carbon, massive frauds, profits for the polluters and the bankers – the carbon market has led to all kinds of things but the reduction of GHG. In the meanwhile, the climate crisis gets worse and the impacts for populations become more and more serious.

To find out more: FERN, Trading carbon, 2010...

...but the promoters persist

The carbon market might well be a failure, but as part of the "green economy", the financial actors today propose to also include forests and agriculture through initiatives such as the UN "REDD+" (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Ireland has even already announced the inclusion of forest carbon credits in its carbon price bill in order to "capitalise on the financial needs of the future green economy."

After the storms that ravaged the forests in the southwest of France, le Conseil régional Aquitaine (regional authority) is studying a carbon fund project, to encourage the industry to intensify their production or to use fast-growing tree species, to accelerate the replacement of forests and the creation of carbon capture.

To find out more: video of FERN, The story of REDD, 2012

Integrating nature into markets means taking unacceptable risks:

- Further reduce the responsibility of corporations: instead of respecting laws, they can continue to pollute or destroy the environment by paying a compensation.
- Increase social injustices: integrating nature into markets relies on the creation of new property rights and on the rich having the capacity to buy rights to the environment, excluding the poorest and the collective rights of communities over their own territory.
- Fragment the complex unity on which ecosystems are based: the specific functioning of these systems are intrinsically linked if one function has a greater market value, for example carbon storage, will we modify the ecosystem in order to increase this function to the detriment of others, for example by favouring fast-growing trees rather than local species?
- Deepen the ecological crisis: as species or ecosystems become rare, their market price increases, leading to the temptation not to combat this decline, but rather to encourage it to maximise profit.

Water markets, violation of a fundamental right

In certain countries, water markets have been created in order, according to economists, to enable a better allocation of water. As for carbon markets, those who don't have enough "water rights" can buy them from those who have too many. Crop production that is "efficient" in water use would be favoured even if their use is limited, whereas other crops are required to meet people's needs.

The financial players have not hesitated to make a profit from this market, with the creation in Australia of a water trading market, the "Water Exchange". In Chile the system has resulted in the concentration of water rights in the hands of the big companies and a reduction in access to water for the small-scale farmers and the indigenous, poorest populations. This water market is also heavily criticized because of the resulting speculation and the lack of government regulation. In Bolivia, the proposal to adopt the Chilean model was central to the triggering of the "water war" in Cochabamba in 2000, which resulted in a victory of the mass movements.

In the Camargue, biodiversity compensation is a new alibi for the concrete promoters

In France, the Caisse des dépôts et consignations (CDC) is a major financier player. It has a key role in the structuring of new markets, such as for biodiversity.

In the Plains of Crau, bordering the Camargue, the CDC has bought thousands of hectares of a damaged ecosystem, the Caulaincourt marsh, to endanger two threatened species, the Bustard and the Buprestis de Crau (a type of blister beetle). The aim is to ask companies to finance the restoration of this ecosystem in exchange of a compensation certificate for the environmental damage of their projects. To do this, these certificates will legitimate the destruction of an ecosystem against the "restoration" of another area elsewhere, as if the two were interchangeable. Instead of tackling the damage caused by urbanisation and the loss of biodiversity, this compensation ignites the issue. The French Minister of Ecology admits it. "This enables the reduction, in particular, of delays in getting projects accepted by local communities". One company has already bought these biodiversity credits in advance, with the promise of compensating for the environmental impacts of a project which is currently opposed by local groups.

In the southwest of France, a similar per- verse logic is applied. In order to under- mine the opposition against the Paup Lungan Motorway project (AE 64), the CDC and the regional Agency for Pudding company, Alençon, should com- pensate for the damage that the project will cause, by buying the purchase or the improved management of 1,357 hectares of land elsewhere.

To find out more: www.nacacca.org

Voluntary carbon compensation: a complementary initiative or the sabotage of negotiations?

The inclusion of forests and of biodiversity in carbon markets is being imposed, little by little, through voluntary carbon offset projects. Numerous NGOs or companies defend these initiatives, claiming that they are complementary with GHG emissions' reduction. This argument is naive and harmful – whether the compensation is voluntary or compulsory, it is based on the same flawed logic and hides pollution or the destruction in one place by promoting that there are GHG reductions elsewhere.

Above all, the companies ensure that a law obliging a reduction in their emissions appears unnecessary as they get the impression that they already voluntarily reduce their own emissions. At climate conferences numerous parallel events take place to present to the negotiators the pilot voluntary carbon compensation projects and to convince them to adopt this inefficient approach.

To reinforce our independence and to have more weight to make our voice heard, we need you!

Help us by making a donation, by becoming a member of the association, by diffusing our work and by supporting us financially to make our advocacy work and to locally support struggles against projects that push the financialization of nature.

In order to do it, please visit our website:

http://www.amisdalaterne.org/faisdonut (to donate) and www.amisdalaterne.org/adevenir (to become a member)

If you wish to stay informed about our work, please fill in this form and send it to:

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I make a donation to support the campaign "Nature is not for sale !"  

- 30 € finance our documents of public awareness raising  
- 50 € reinforce our advocacy work towards decision-makers  
- 75 € support our investigation work
The growing infiltration of finance into the existing natural goods markets

**Financial actors**

The infiltration of finance into the natural goods market has been a major development in recent years. This has led to an increase in the value of natural goods, such as in the case of palm oil. However, this trend has also led to increased commodification and exploitation of these goods. The infiltration of finance into the natural goods market has also led to increased speculation and price manipulation, leading to volatile prices and market distortions.

**Multinationals corporations**

Multinational corporations have been major players in the infiltration of finance into the natural goods market. Companies such as AXA and BNP Paribas have been at the forefront of this trend. These companies have been involved in financial activities such as the valuation and financing of natural goods, which has led to increased speculation and price manipulation.

**AXA and BNP Paribas**

These companies have been at the forefront of the infiltration of finance into the natural goods market. AXA and BNP Paribas have been involved in financial activities such as the valuation and financing of natural goods, which has led to increased speculation and price manipulation.

**Communities caught in the middle**

The financialization of nature is also severely harming communities. It leads to the exclusion of communities from the decision-making process regarding natural goods. This is because communities that depend on natural goods for their livelihoods are often not involved in the decision-making process. The financialization of nature leads to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods, which harms the rights of communities that depend on these goods for their livelihoods.

**General Motors in Brazil**

The commodification of nature through the development of a market system has led to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods. This is evident in the case of General Motors in Brazil. The company has been involved in the commodification of nature, leading to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods.

**Community based natural commons management**

The commodification of nature has led to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods. This has led to the development of community-based natural commons management. This approach aims to ensure that communities have control over the natural commons and are able to manage them sustainably.

**A decentralized production of clean energy, under citizen control**

The commodification of nature has led to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods. This has led to the development of decentralized renewable energy projects, which are controlled by local communities. These projects aim to provide clean energy to local communities, leading to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods.

**Acknowledgment of the rights of indigenous peoples to protect their forests**

In Brazil, the acknowledgment of the rights of indigenous peoples to protect their forests has led to increased commodification and exploitation of natural goods. This has led to the development of indigenous forest management projects, which aim to provide sustainable management of natural forests.

**References**


The growing inflation of finance into the existing natural goods markets

Financial markets, crises and loss of power for the masses

More widely, the takeover of finance by finance is a threat to democracy and the capacity of States to govern. The financial services sector is an essential tool for the expansion of events, whether at the national, social or international level. Financial crises can lead to instability, political and social unrest, and even to the collapse of governments and institutions. When countries are faced with financial crises, they are forced to make decisions that affect the lives of millions of people, such as increasing taxes, cutting public services, and limiting social welfare programs. These decisions can lead to widespread suffering and social unrest.

The problem is not with the financial system itself, but with the way it is used. Financial institutions should be used to finance productive activities, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure projects, instead of being used to finance speculative activities and speculative bubbles that lead to economic instability and social unrest. The solution to the financial crisis is not to eliminate financial institutions, but to regulate them and use them in a responsible and productive manner.