

Ouroboros

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

The Goldman
Environmental
Prize

SPRING 2007

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ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

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From Grassroots to Government

Since 1990, the Goldman Environmental Prize has recognized and brought international attention to grassroots environmental leaders from around the world. After receiving the Prize, many winners have gone on to hold positions within their respective governments.

Harrison Ngau Laing (Malaysia, 1990) used his Prize money to run for and win a seat in the Malaysian Parliament in 1990, ousting the Deputy Minister for Public Works.

Bob Brown (Australia, 1990) helped establish Australia's Green Party in 1992 and was elected to the Australian Senate in 1996. He has since become one of Australia's most outspoken advocates for the environment and continues to serve as Senator.

Wangari Maathai (Kenya, 1991) was elected to Parliament in 2002 with 98% of the vote after leading the Greenbelt Movement, one of

the most important environmental campaigns to date on the African continent. She was subsequently appointed Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources, and Wildlife. In 2004, Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Juan Mayr (Colombia, 1993) was appointed Minister of the Environment in 1998. He held that position until 2002.

Tuenjai Deetes (Thailand, 1994) was elected Senator of Chiang Rai Province in 1999 and continues her work with the hill tribes of Northern Thailand.

Luis Macas (Ecuador, 1994) became the first indigenous person elected to the Ecuadorian National Congress in 1996, and was subsequently appointed Minister of Agriculture.

Noah Idechong (Palau, 1995) was elected to the Palau National Congress in 2001.

Marina Silva (Brazil, 1996) was elected to the Senate in 1994 at the age of 36, making her the youngest senator in Brazil's history. She was re-elected in 2002 and has since become the Minister of the Environment.



HARRISON
NGAU LAING



BOB BROWN



WANGARI
MAATHAI



JUAN MAYR



TUENJAI
DEETES



LUIS MACAS



NOAH
IDECHONG



MARINA SILVA

From the Founder *Richard N. Goldman*

This year, I have been overwhelmed by the recognition of my work in the area of philanthropy. In November 2006, the Association of Fundraising Professionals honored me with its Lifetime Achievement Award for Philanthropy. In November, Benefit Magazine featured me on the cover of their November/December issue and named me Philanthropist of the Year. All of these accolades reinforce to me that the work we do at the Fund and Prize makes an impact. Below is an excerpt from the article. I look forward to another year of innovative grant making.

From *Benefit Magazine*, November/December 2006 (<http://www.benefitmagazinesf.com>)



Benefit: *You've been in the philanthropy business 55 years. At one point you told me that giving away money is hard work. Has it been?*

Goldman: Well, it's more demanding than most people think and it requires a level of diligent research. But it's lovely work, and I think there's a new consciousness that philanthropy is something worthwhile for us to do. People like Gates and Buffett have encouraged this. In fact, what the Gates family has done is quite remarkable. They're taking on problems of the world that nobody else is. But that said, to tell you the truth, there's a lot of room for improvement.

Benefit: *Like what?*

Goldman: For one, how much money foundations are willing to give out. Under current law, foundations are required to spend only 5 percent of their assets each year, and that amount can include money for offices, salaries, and other overhead costs. We endorse legislation that would exclude those expenses from the 5 percent minimum spending level. I have spoken out on this issue [Goldman has written extensively about the topic for publications such as *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*].

If the more than 50,000 charitable foundations that make grants were to increase their giving to 10 percent, nonprofit groups could reap \$15 billion more annually. That would give organizations the boost they need, which would translate into better public education, more after-school programs, more job training, and more families with food on the table.

Benefit: *How much are you giving away at your foundation?*

Goldman: Five years ago we just made up our minds we were going to give away more. Now we give away 10 percent, and our expenses are pretty modest compared to others. And in time, the word's gotten out, and I think many others have followed our lead.

Benefit: *Where did your commitment to the environment come from and how did the Goldman Environmental Prize get started?*

Goldman: Growing up I was a member of a Boy Scout troop, which was very active and had a lot of outdoor activities. And Rhoda was a Girl Scout. We were both interested in the outdoors. I remember a particular fellow who was a river guide in Oregon, who was a real protector of the environment. And we'd go fishing with him, and we'd be talking about the things he was doing and what he thought could be done, and it was people like this that just rubbed off on us.

Then about 18 years ago, I was reading in the papers about the Nobel Prize. I was curious and wondered why there wasn't a comparable prize for environmental work. So I told my staff to do some research and see what was out there. To our total amazement, there was nothing. So after some more inquiries, my wife and I took a look at one another and we said, "Let's go for it."

Benefit: *What was the first prize ceremony like?*

Goldman: There was a lot of anxiety and uncertainty. We didn't know if it would work or not, we didn't know if

anyone would come, or if we would have to bring in busloads of people. We tested something that was never done before...and it worked.

Benefit: *Do you track how the winners spend their money?*

Goldman: First of all, we don't limit how they can spend the Prize money. But interestingly enough, I'd say that a good 90 percent goes back into their organizations.

Benefit: *What are some of the gifts you are most proud of?*

Goldman: What I'm most proud of is serving as a catalyst, helping others realize their dreams. For example, from 1997 to 2000 we worked with several environmental organizations that wanted to protect land in Alaska. We gave a \$5 million leadership initiative, and now I think they have raised more than \$30 million. Our work has helped to save a lot of land that otherwise would likely have gone to development.

Benefit: *Where did your philanthropic drive come from. Was it something that was encouraged as you were growing up?*

Goldman: As far as growing up, no, but once I married Rhoda, we had very similar beliefs about giving...most of what we've done we just did it because we believe. The thing is, this all just sort of grew. It had its own momentum. When we look back, we scratch our heads, and say, "How did we ever get all this done?"

Environmental Grant Highlights

While the Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes and rewards the efforts of individual grassroots leaders, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, established in 1951, makes grants to a variety of organizations and programs locally, nationally, and internationally, including those that benefit the environment. Below are some of the Fund's recent environmental grants.



Occupational Knowledge International

\$120,000 over two years

This grant supports Occupational Knowledge International's (OKI) work to improve public health by reducing exposures to industrial pollutants. Through their BEST Project (Better Environmental Sustainability Targets), OKI is

working to help monitor and curb emissions from lead battery manufacturing facilities by establishing an environmental audit and certification program. With demand for lead batteries rising worldwide due to their use in new clean technologies such as hybrid cars and solar power systems, pollution from lead battery manufacturing is becoming more of a problem. This process releases thousands of pounds of toxic lead into the environment, polluting waterways and the air and affecting the health of millions of workers around the world. The health and environmental impacts of the lead battery industry have been compounded by the migration of manufacturers to developing countries where environmental standards are less stringent.

Clean Air Task Force

\$125,000

This grant supports the Clean Air Task Force (CATF) in its work to tackle air pollution and climate policy by providing decision-makers with technical analyses on the impacts of atmospheric policies. Specifically aimed at CATF's Marine Shipping Project, this grant contributes to a global research and public education campaign to advocate for stronger shipping emissions standards. Commercial ships are a major source of harmful air pollution and emissions that contribute to global warming. Ships contribute as much as 30 percent of the world's smog and nearly half a billion tons of carbon dioxide annually. Marine shipping moves 90 percent of internationally-traded goods with volumes expected to triple by 2020. Home to some of the nation's busiest ports, California is particularly hard hit by pollution from shipping, but does not have legal jurisdiction over the emissions of ocean-going vessels. The International Maritime Organization, the legal authority on international shipping, is currently conducting negotiations to amend its air emissions standards that govern international shipping, with CATF contributing important research and advocacy.

WildAid

\$500,000 over two years

This grant supports WildAid's Conservation Awareness Program in China, a public education campaign aimed at encouraging Chinese citizens to reduce their consumption of wildlife products made



from threatened or endangered species. China is currently the world's largest consumer of illegal wildlife products, representing 40 percent of the global market. Chinese demand for wildlife increasingly draws on the natural resources of other Asian countries and the rest of the world. With the number of middle class Chinese consumers expected to grow by 250 million over the next 10 years, this demand is likely to increase.

The Conservation Awareness Program is using the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing as a focal point with Chinese and international athletes and celebrities as spokespeople.

Amazon Conservation Team

\$750,000 over three years

This grant supports Amazon Conservation Team's (ACT) work to protect the vast rainforests of the Amazon, which still face rapid destruction, through direct action with the area's indigenous inhabitants. The healthiest and most intact areas of the Amazon Rainforest are also the areas where strong and thriving indigenous communities continue to live. Recognizing this correlation, ACT embarked on a large-scale effort to create a series of training centers in the Amazon to teach indigenous leaders the technical, organizational, scientific, management and other modern skills to conserve their rainforest home and to disseminate what they learn to others. The establishment of fully operational indigenous conservation training centers in the Amazon Rainforest is a long-term goal of ACT and will be fulfilled in the next several years.



Winners' Circle *News from Around the World*



Medha Patkar

INDIA, 1992

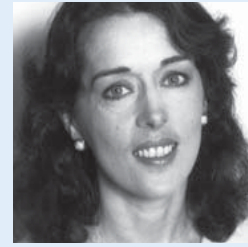
December 31, 2006 marked the official completion of the highly controversial Sardar Sarovar dam in the Indian state of Gujarat, a project 20 years in the making. One of the most controversial mega-development projects in recent history, the Sardar Sarovar dam was touted by the Indian government as a way to irrigate more than 1.8 million hectares of land, provide power, and supply water to large areas of drought-prone Gujarat state. Instead, the dam was mired in controversy from its beginnings. Indian activists, including 1992 Goldman Prize recipient Medha Patkar and residents and farmers of the Narmada Valley—the lush, fertile area due to be flooded by the dam—initiated a global peoples' movement against the dam. Activists, environmentalists, and scientists warned of the dam's likely devastating consequences to the hundreds of thousands of people living in the valley and to their farmland, including flooding and complete submergence of land.

In the early 1990s Patkar and the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), the nonviolent people's movement challenging the Sardar Sarovar and several other large dams in India, forced the national government to conduct an official review of all aspects of the dam. Resisting dam construction, police harassment and government-imposed evacuation of areas slated for submergence, Patkar and the NBA have gone on hunger strikes, filed numerous legal challenges and led peaceful marches of thousands

of affected people and their supporters.

Mounting grassroots opposition coupled with independent commissions cast serious doubt on the dam's safety, irrigation benefits and environmental sustainability, and eventually caused the World Bank, which had committed more than \$400 million dollars to the project, to admit failure in its own environmental and resettlement conditions. In 1993, the Bank withdrew its financing of the Sardar Sarovar dam.

Patkar and the NBA brought a challenge of the Sardar Sarovar to India's Supreme Court. The NBA's case led the court to halt construction of the dam for several years. Both the court and a federal tribunal have since repeatedly ordered that the government meet strict guidelines for resettlement and rehabilitation for affected people and their land before the dam height could be raised and construction completed. However, the Indian and state governments, in direct violation of the supreme court's orders, continued to raise the height of the dam, submerging the homes and farmland of thousands of residents in the Narmada Valley. Now, in spite of the official completion of construction of the Sardar Sarovar, Patkar and the NBA continue to demand that the Indian government adhere to federal tribunal and court rulings ordering full resettlement, rehabilitation and just compensation for the people of the Narmada Valley affected by the Sardar Sarovar dam.



Lois Gibbs

UNITED STATES, 1990

Lois Gibbs gave a keynote address at the 2006 Bioneers Conference (www.bioneers.org), where she shared her experiences at Love Canal. Gibbs showed a short cartoon about the use of PVC or vinyl (www.pvcfree.org) and spoke about the "Precautionary Principle," the idea that when an activity threatens human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if the causes are not fully established scientifically.

In 1978, Gibbs discovered that her neighborhood sat atop 21,000 tons of chemical waste, at the site of the now infamous Love Canal. Gibbs led her community to win evacuation of more than 800 families and the eventual cleanup of Love Canal. Her actions helped spawn widespread resistance to industrial polluters and environmental injustice, and led to the creation of the EPA's Superfund program, which is used to locate and clean up toxic sites throughout the US. Gibbs leads the Virginia-based Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ).



Bob Brown

AUSTRALIA, 1990

Bob Brown traveled to San Francisco in October and met with Richard Goldman and the foundation staff. Leader of the Australian Green Party, Brown is now in his second term as a Senator in the national Parliament of Australia.

Brown's visit was a wonderful reunion, as he and Goldman reflected on how far the Prize has come since 1990. Brown commented that the Prize provided critical support to him in 1990 as he led environmental campaigns in Australia.

While in San Francisco, Brown was honored by the Rainforest Action Network with its World Rainforest Award.

Back home, Brown is one of several environmentalists leading a citizens' campaign against the corporation Gunns Limited, the world's largest hardwood chipper, and its massive logging of old-growth forests in Australia's island state of Tasmania. In December 2006, an Australian federal court ruled in favor of Brown's legal challenge of Forestry Tasmania and its logging practices in the Wielangta State forest in Tasmania.



Colleen McCrory

CANADA, 1992

Colleen McCrory visited the Goldman Prize offices in November 2006. She spoke with Richard Goldman and the Prize staff about her current campaign to win permanent protection for Canada's 14-million-hectare Inland Temperate Rainforest in British Columbia (BC). The forest, with a biodiversity distinct from that of the coastal temperate rainforests of BC, houses some of the oldest trees in the world as well as species found nowhere else on Earth.

McCrory and her organization, the Valhalla Wilderness Society, are now working with other environmental groups and several First Nations in advocating that the BC and federal governments set aside more than 55 percent of the Inland Temperate Rainforest as permanently protected, and 85 percent managed for biodiversity conservation to protect species such as the endangered mountain caribou. McCrory sees strong momentum in the coming year for key victories, and is reaching out to diverse stakeholders, including the public, to join the campaign in calling for permanent protection of this globally unique forest.

2006 Nominating Organizations

- Amazon Alliance
- Ashoka: Innovators for the Public
- The Asia Foundation
- Birdlife International
- Both ENDS
- Center for International Environmental Law
- Conservation International
- Earth Island Institute
- E-LAW
- Environment Liaison Centre International
- Environmental Defense
- European Environmental Bureau
- Fauna and Flora International
- Friends of the Earth
- Gaia Foundation
- Global Fund for Women
- Global Green USA
- Global Greengrants
- Greenpeace International
- Hesperian Foundation
- International Forum on Globalization
- International Indian Treaty Council
- International Rivers Network
- National Geographic Society
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Ocean Conservancy
- Oxfam International
- Pesticide Action Network
- Rainforest Action Network
- Sierra Club
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Women's Environment and Development Organization
- World Resources Institute
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature International
- World Wildlife Fund
- Worldwatch Institute

Silas Siakor

Liberia, 2006

After the Goldman Prize tour, Siakor traveled back to the United States in September 2006 for a number of speaking engagements.

His first stop was San Francisco, where he met with Richard Goldman and the Prize staff, as well as with a group of young people at a local environmental education facility, the Crissy Field Center (www.crissyfield.org). Siakor was then off to speak at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. His engagement was part of an international speakers program called "Conversations about World Affairs," hosted by the International House on campus. The audience included 200 students, faculty and other campus community members.

As his final stop in the US, Siakor traveled to Washington DC, where he participated in a forum sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Council (<http://www.fscus.org/>) on controlling illegal timber in the marketplace. He also held informal briefings with several US officials, NGOs and donors in an effort to build relationships and strengthen cooperation with groups interested in working on Liberian issues.



Olya Melen

Ukraine, 2006

Following Melen's trip to the US for the Goldman Prize tour, she has continued working to reverse Ukraine's plans to cut a huge canal through the Danube Delta, which would potentially destroy thousands of acres of some of the world's most valuable wetlands.

In recent months, Ukraine has witnessed unprecedented events, with President Viktor Yushchenko nominating his former 2004 presidential opponent, Viktor Yanukovich, as Prime Minister. Yanukovich has been publicly linked to Russian interests and his election campaign was tainted by corruption, vote fraud and other criminal actions that led to the Orange Revolution. Since becoming Prime Minister, Yanukovich has appointed a Minister of Environment who is unlikely to side with Melen's position on the canal.

However, Melen continues her opposition to the plans and has utilized her Prize money to set up an office dedicated to this work. Several court cases are still pending as the battle for the Danube Delta continues.



Anne Kajir

Papua New Guinea, 2006

Since winning the Goldman Prize, Kajir has had numerous invitations to attend seminars, workshops, and parliamentary hearings nationally and internationally. She reported that it has been rewarding and rejuvenating to see that people and governments around the world are willing to debate and pay attention to illegal logging in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Kajir recently spearheaded a large protest outside of a closed-door seminar on illegal logging hosted by the National Forest Authority in PNG. Many NGOs boycotted the seminar on the basis that there was no participation from indigenous landowners and that the Forest Authority wanted several organizations to change their presentations on illegal logging to suit its interests. These NGOs were also discouraged from stating their positions on illegal logging in PNG to the international community in attendance.

The protest had widespread coverage in the media and the picketing was a success. Kajir's organization utilized Goldman Environmental Prize award money to print T-shirts and banners for the protest.



Craig Williams

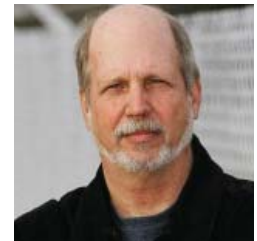
United States, 2006

Following the Goldman Prize tour, Williams has continued leading his organization, the Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG), working toward safe disposal of chemical weapons in the US.

In November 2006, Williams joined Goldman Prize winner Margie Richard (USA, 2004) and Jennifer Osha, an activist working against mountaintop removal mining, to address students during a symposium. "Environmental Justice: Transforming Values into Action," was held at Berea College in Kentucky. Williams's organization is based in Berea's College Square.

During the symposium, the three speakers told their personal stories about working for social and environmental justice and made connections between the two themes. "A clean environment is necessary to fulfill the definition of 'human rights,'" said Williams.

Richard encouraged the audience to get involved by volunteering with grassroots organizations, making class projects apply to real issues, taking internships and writing letters to government officials.



Tarcísio Feitosa da Silva

Brazil, 2006

Feitosa continues to work in Pará, Brazil with the Pastoral Lands Commission, the social justice arm of the National Conference of Bishops (of Brazil). He won the Goldman Prize for working with NGOs and local communities to prompt the Brazilian government to protect a huge mosaic of tropical rainforest areas, including the Verde para Sempre Extractive Reserve, the Riozinho do Anfrizio Extractive Reserve, the Iri Extractive Reserve, the Serra do Pardo National Park and the Middle Lands Ecological Station.



In recent months, Feitosa has been working closely with inhabitants of the Iri and the Riozinho do Anfrizio Extractive Reserves to form associations, facilitating access to government services, credit, and health care. The government is also beginning the difficult process of expelling illegal farms from the Iri Extractive Reserve and the Serra do Pardo National Park, as well as prosecuting those responsible for illegal deforestation in the area.

In late December 2006, Feitosa was profiled in the *New York Times* for his continued commitment to his cause despite death threats from opposing factions.

Yu Xiaogang

China, 2006

Since his return to China after the Goldman Prize tour, Yu has been preparing workshops that train NGOs how to work with Chinese banks to encourage policies that are socially and environmentally responsible. He is helping to lead a larger shift in policy with the support of institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.



Yu won the Prize for his work on dam issues in China. In July 2006, the Chinese Premier issued a new policy for dam-affected people. Several points advocated by Yu have been integrated into the new policy, including an increase in compensation given to resettled people.

In February 2007, Yu reported that his local provincial government has become more environmentally-friendly, inviting him to participate in meetings related to environmental protection in the region. In addition, Yu's Goldman Environmental Prize win was listed in the Chinese press as one of the top 20 international environmental news stories of last year.



Global Focus III: The New Environmentalists

In February 2007, Global Focus III airs nationally on the Sundance Channel.

Global Focus III presents intimate stories from Liberia, devastated by years of civil war and now one of the world's poorest nations; Brazil, where fighting to preserve the rainforest can cost activists their lives; Ukraine, home of the fragile Danube Delta that is being threatened by an encroaching canal system; Papua New Guinea, a remote island nation whose indigenous people are struggling to protect their forests; China, where rural communities are speaking out against massive dam projects; and Kentucky, home to stockpiles of chemical weapons that have instigated an international movement for their safe disposal.

The documentary was produced by the Mill Valley Film Group and narrated by Robert Redford.

Learn more at www.goldmanprize.org.

In Memoriam



Jonathon Solomon, a Gwich'in leader who won the 2002 Goldman Environmental Prize for his efforts to prevent oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, died on July 13, 2006 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Solomon, 74, was a lifetime member of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, the collective leadership voice for Gwich'ins, one of the most traditional of surviving Native cultures in North


America. More than 7,000 Gwich'in live in villages in northeast Alaska and northwest Canada, above the Arctic Circle, and they rely strongly on caribou for survival.

When he won the Goldman Prize, Solomon explained his dedication. "Some might say it is a fool's errand to fight the oil industry in Alaska, but we have no choice but to fight." The land he fought to protect includes the birthplace and nursing grounds of 130,000 porcupine caribou, an area the Gwich'in call "the sacred place where life begins."

THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE is the world's largest prize for grassroots environmentalists. Founded in 1990 by Richard and Rhoda Goldman, the Prize currently awards \$125,000 annually to each of six activists from six continental regions. Nominated confidentially by a worldwide network of environmental organizations and individuals, recipients are chosen by an international jury of experts on the basis of their sustained and important environmental achievements. The Prize offers these environmental heroes the recognition, visibility, and credibility their efforts deserve.

The Ouroboros, a serpent biting its tail, is recognized in many cultures as a symbol of nature's power of renewal.



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