

Ouroboros

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

The Goldman
Environmental
Prize

SUMMER 2007

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THE GOLDMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

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Announcing the 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipients

The 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize was awarded to the following grassroots leaders on April 23 at the San Francisco Opera House before a crowd of more than 3000:

AFRICA Hammerskjoeld Simwina, 45, Zambia:

In Zambia's North Luangwa Valley, where rampant illegal wildlife poaching decimated the wild elephant population and left villagers living in extreme poverty, Simwina administers an innovative sustainable community development program that has successfully restored wildlife and transformed this poverty-stricken area.

ASIA Tsetsegee Munkhbayar, 40, Mongolia:

Munkhbayar successfully worked with government and grassroots organizations to shut down destructive mining operations along Mongolia's scarce waterways. Through public education and political lobbying, Munkhbayar has effectively protected Mongolia's precious water resources from additional unregulated mining.

EUROPE Willie Corduff, 53, Ireland: In the small farming community of Rossport, Corduff and a group of fellow local residents successfully forced Shell Oil to temporarily halt construction on a pipeline through their land. Corduff and four neighbors spent three months in prison for refusing Shell access to their property.

ISLANDS & ISLAND NATIONS Orri Vigfússon, 64,

Iceland: With business savvy and an unwavering commitment to reverse the near-extinction of wild North Atlantic salmon, Vigfússon brokered huge international fishing rights buyouts with governments and commercial interests, helping bring to an end destructive commercial salmon fishing in the region.

NORTH AMERICA Sophia Rabliauskas, 47, Canada:

Working on behalf of the Poplar River First Nation, Rabliauskas succeeded in securing interim protection for a portion of the boreal forest of Manitoba, effectively preventing destructive logging and hydro-power development while calling on government and international agencies to permanently protect the region.

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA Julio Cusurichi Palacios,

36, Peru: In the remote Peruvian Amazon, Cusurichi helped secure a national reserve to protect both sensitive rain forest ecosystems and the rights of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation from the devastating effects of logging and mining.

THE 2007 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE WINNERS. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HAMMER SIMWINGA, ZAMBIA; WILLIE CORDUFF, IRELAND; ORRI VIGFÚSSON, ICELAND; TSETSEGEE MUNKHBAYAR, MONGOLIA; SOPHIA RABLIAUSKAS, CANADA; JULIO CUSURICHI, PERU



From the Founder *Richard N. Goldman*

Excerpt from Founder Richard Goldman's Speech at the 2007 Goldman Prize Ceremony

It is a great pleasure to welcome the winners of the 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize, and all of you who have come to pay tribute to them.

Much has occurred since last year's awards when I first spoke of the threat of global warming. Those of us committed to the preservation of our Earth have found reasons to be somewhat more optimistic since then. For six long years we have endured an administration in Washington that was indifferent and oftentimes hostile to environmental concerns. Now, with newly elected leadership in Congress, change is in the process of taking place. Global warming is by no means the only issue for those of us who treasure the wonders of the natural world, but it is the most urgent facing humanity. Once, coal miners brought canaries into the mines to warn them of the presence of lethal gases. Now, as the Arctic ice cap melts, polar bears are sounding the alarm about climate change. They, and the vast ecosystems of which they are a part, have become endangered.

Earlier this year, the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change confirmed what only the uninformed and those in denial have overlooked. Human activity has led to alarming increases in world temperatures. Those higher temperatures in turn are causing a rise in sea levels as well as an increase in extreme weather events—such as stronger heat waves, droughts, hurricanes and floods. These events are happening now. As an example, The World Health Organization estimates that climate change is currently causing 150,000 premature deaths every year, mainly due to reduced food and water supplies in poor rural areas. Scientists worldwide claim rising temperatures and climate impacts are bound to intensify in years to come because of the momentum of the climate system. Our refusal to cut our greenhouse gas emissions sooner has bequeathed a terrible challenge to our children and grandchildren.

Yet there are good reasons for hope. Recently, in a conversation with Al Gore, I learned that the worst of the damage due to climate change can still be avoided, if governments and industries take the necessary steps to control the growing threat.

For example, last year five states joined eight others in adopting rules to cut emissions from cars and trucks. Other states established renewable energy standards. California enacted legislation to force reduction of greenhouse gases. Unwilling to wait for action by the federal government, enlightened utility and oil companies, among others in the private sector have embarked on programs to develop alternative fuels and new technologies to reduce carbon emissions.

An unprecedented acquisition is unfolding that could amount to the largest, and the greenest, private equity deal in US history.

After the new owners of TXU announced plans to build 11 old-style coal-fired power plants that would spew out 78 million tons of global warming pollution a year, environmental groups were invited to meet with the investors. As a result, TXU agreed to eliminate 8 of these facilities from its plans. Suddenly, remarkably, bad climate policy had become bad business.

We have reached a point in the global economy when no business can ignore the impact of its decisions on our climate, which is an amazing turn of events.

These events and the recent Supreme Court decision on clean air regulations are perhaps the most powerful symbols of how far the climate change issue has come – and where it is headed.



It is evidence of a new reality faced with a looming global crisis that no one can afford to ignore relative to the changing climate.

Scientific studies note that we must reduce the world's greenhouse gas emissions 80% by the year 2050. That is an enormous challenge, yet an attainable one, if all of us do our part. Individual decisions are important as each of us reduce our carbon footprint. But in the end, we cannot stabilize the climate without strong government leadership and clear market signals. In particular, we need to put an environmentally honest price on carbon, a price that gives consumers, businesses and others the incentive to switch to greener practices.

To succeed, the battle against climate change will also require the participation of fast-growing economies such as China and India. It must also address the special needs of the world's most impoverished, those who obtain light exclusively from kerosene which produces megatons of carbon dioxide emissions.

The challenge is immense, but with the creativity and resources with which we humans have been endowed, we can meet it.

There is no time to waste. Anyone who believes otherwise has his head buried in the sand.

The Prize Tour

The 2007 Goldman Prize winners received the Prize at the San Francisco Opera House and then traveled to Washington, DC for the annual Prize tour.



View of San Francisco's City Hall on April 23, 2007, where more than 3000 guests celebrated the Prize winners' achievements following the ceremony at the historic Opera House.



Recipients Julio Cusurichi and Tsetsegee Munkhbayar embrace following the San Francisco ceremony.



Founder Richard Goldman greets 2004 Prize winner Margie Richard at the Prize reception at City Hall.



The Prize winners take a bow before a packed house at the San Francisco Opera House ceremony.



Richard Goldman and Prize winners with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi at a Congressional luncheon in Washington, DC.

2007 Prize Winners In the News

In 2007, the Goldman Environmental Prize received more press attention than ever before. Below is a selection of the publications and media outlets that covered the Prize:

PRINT

Agence France Presse
Baltimore Times
Daily Mail
Houston Chronicle
International Herald Tribune
La Opinion
O, The Oprah Magazine
Outside
San Francisco Chronicle
San Jose Mercury News
Taipei Times
The Associated Press
The Boston Globe
The Chicago Tribune
The Globe and Mail
The Independent
The Irish Times
The Mercury (South Africa)
The Oakland Tribune
The New York Times
The Sacramento Bee
The Sunday Independent
The Wall Street Journal
The Washington Post
The Zambia Daily Mail

BROADCAST

Al Jazeera
CBS Evening News
CTV.ca News
KPFA-FM
KQED-FM
KQED's Pacific Time
NPR's Living on Earth
PBS
Radio Bilingue
RTE
Sierra Radio
The Story
Voice of America

ONLINE

BBC News
CBC.ca News
emagazine.com
Environment News Service
Grist
India Daily
MSNBC
Reuters
The Hindu
The Huffington Post
Times Online
United Nations Environment Programme
Voice Of America

Earth Day 2007

On Earth Day, the 2007 Prize winners joined teens at the Crissy Field Center to plant native seedlings and talk about ways young people can help the environment.



Prize winner Hammer Simwinga discusses his work around building sustainable communities that respect conservation.



Prize recipient Sophia Rabliauskas and one of the Crissy Field Center's Inspiring Young Emerging Leaders plant a native shrub by the Bay.



The Prize winners (back row) with Golden Gate Parks Conservancy staff and Crissy Field youth.

After the Prize...

Following the Goldman Environmental Prize press tour, the 2007 recipients returned home to celebrations, major press coverage, and meetings with dignitaries.

Hammer Simwinga, Africa



Hammer returned to Zambia and was greeted with local and national press about his work. He has been invited to bring his conservation and community development program to other parts of the country and aims to start programs focused on youth empowerment in the region.

In June, Hammer was profiled in the *New York Times* and the *International Herald Tribune*, with his work cited as a clear success in sub-Saharan Africa.

Orri Vigfússon, Iceland



Orri returned to Iceland briefly following the Prize, but was soon back on the road working to secure additional moratorium agreements on commercial salmon fishing. In June, his organization, the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF), signed a salmon agreement with

Greenland. This seven-year moratorium agreement will close all commercial salmon fisheries in Greenlandic territorial waters. Compensation for the moratoria will go to projects to redirect commercial netmen to alternative sustainable fisheries in Greenland's inshore fishing industry and provide employment in coastal communities, aimed at promoting sustainable uses of marine resources.

Julio Cusurichi, Peru



During his time in Washington, D.C. for the Prize tour, Julio met with key leaders from both the US and Peru to discuss pending free trade legislation. Julio's arguments for strengthening limits on the US importation of illegally harvested mahogany proved successful.

In May, Congress passed legislation that requires Peru and other countries with free trade agreements with the US to comply with child labor, anti-discrimination, and environmental regulations. Upon his arrival home, Julio met with President Alan García of Peru.

Sophia Rabliauskas, Canada



Following the Prize tour, Sophia returned home to Manitoba and was met with more press opportunities. She reported that the Prize has significantly helped raise awareness about Poplar River's story.

She also noted that the Prize tour came at a good time, as Poplar

River's campaign for permanent protection of their territory remained an election issue in the recent Manitoba provincial elections. Some key officials who are supportive of their campaign remained in office, which will hopefully aid their plight as final decisions come up in the future.

Tsetsegee Munkhbayar, Mongolia



Munkhbayar got right back to work after the Prize tour, laying out new plans for the Onggi River Movement, the organization he heads.

He aims to implement a reforestation program along the Onggi River, continue working on an ecology textbook and seek claims

from the government for the damage that has been done to the environment and rural communities as a result of mining in rural Mongolia. The latter is a hugely ambitious project that would bring even greater attention to issues of water rights in Mongolia.

Willie Corduff, Ireland



Willie returned home to a crowd of more than 300 people waiting outside the airport to celebrate his Prize win. RTE, Ireland's national television outlet, was there to cover the event, along with the Irish Times, which published a photo of Willie being lifted up with the Prize

by fellow Shell to Sea members. A caravan of 200 cars followed Willie to his hometown, where a celebration took place later that evening.

However, the revelry ended quickly, with Shell continuing to move forward with building a refinery in County Mayo and additional scuffles with police. Willie's Shell to Sea campaign still faces significant opposition from the Irish government and the oil giant, Shell.

News from Around the World

In Memoriam: Colleen McCrory

1950–2007

The board and staff of the Goldman Environmental Prize are deeply saddened at the passing of Colleen McCrory, one of Canada's foremost environmental leaders, who received the Goldman Prize in 1992.



Colleen died July 1, 2007 at age 57 from an inoperable brain tumor. A mother of three and founder and executive director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Colleen began her environmental activism more than 30 years ago by initiating a campaign to save the Valhalla forests and mountain wilderness of southeastern British Columbia—the place where she was born, raised and continued to live—from logging. After a hard-won grassroots campaign that lasted eight years, Colleen's efforts were rewarded with the establishment of the nearly 50,000-hectare Valhalla Provincial Park in 1983.

After securing this victory, Colleen went on to help lead a coalition to protect South Moresby Island—also known as Gwaii Haanas in the Haida language—one of the Queen Charlotte Islands off of the northern coast of British Columbia. Considered the “Canadian Galapagos” due to their large number of endemic species, the islands are the ancestral home of the Haida nation.

After years of campaigning with other environmental and First Nations leaders, and withstanding several threats on her life from pro-logging interests, Colleen witnessed the creation of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve in 1987.

For the next twenty years Colleen's tireless leadership and campaigning helped bring about further historic protections for Canada's forests, including permanent protection for British Columbia's grizzly bear and the Great Bear Rainforest on the province's central coast.

Colleen also took her campaigning overseas in order to raise international awareness of the need to protect Canada's environment. Coining the phrase “the Brazil of the North” when describing the global significance of Canada's forests, Colleen met with people and leaders in Brazil, Japan and elsewhere to partner on forest protection campaigns.

Most recently, Colleen, her brother and longtime campaign partner Wayne, and the Valhalla Wilderness Society were deeply involved in an effort to permanently protect British Columbia's Inland Temperate Rainforest. This vast interior region, home to the Mountain Caribou, immense biodiversity and old-growth cedar and hemlock forest (with some trees more than one thousand years old), is under grave threat of large scale clear-cut logging.

At the time of her death Colleen was further solidifying key partnerships with organizations and communities across the region to call on the government to permanently protect the globally important Inland Temperate Rainforest. The Valhalla Wilderness Society is continuing the campaign.

Throughout her career Colleen was recognized with numerous high honors, including awards from the Canadian government, the United Nations and the World Conservation Union. Environmental leaders across Canada have expressed a deep sense of loss in Colleen's passing, with numerous colleagues and friends describing her decades of leadership as “fearless.” Indeed, the loss of Colleen McCrory will be felt not only in Canada but by many in a world so in need of true environmental heroes.

Colleen's family has expressed that anyone wishing to show support for her life's work can make a donation to the Valhalla Wilderness Society. Please visit the organization's website for more information: <http://www.vws.org>.

2007 Nominating Organizations



Silas Siakor

AFRICA 2006

Following his Prize win in 2006, Silas used his winnings to set up the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF – Liberia), a grantmaking and fundraising facility for small projects. Its mission is to promote environmental and social justice in Liberia.

The EDF has already invested in a six room duplex that houses Silas' organization, the Sustainable Development Institute, and will expand this investment in the coming months by constructing a training center that will be available for short courses on environmental, human rights and sustainable development issues. Money generated through these investments will be channeled into rural communities to support their own struggles for environmental and social justice.

Silas won the Prize in 2006 for exposing evidence that Liberian President Charles Taylor used the profits of unchecked, rampant logging to pay the costs of a brutal 14-year civil war that left 150,000 people dead. Siakor collected extremely hard-to-get evidence of falsified logging records, illegal logging practices and associated human rights abuses. He passed the evidence to the United Nations Security Council, which then banned the export of Liberian timber.

Since Taylor's ousting in 2003, Silas has worked with Liberia's new leadership to create sustainable timber policies and give the local forest communities a voice.



Anne Kajir

ISLANDS & ISLAND NATIONS 2006

In June 2007, Anne Kajir was honored with the Pride of Papua New Guinea Award by the Governor General of Papua New Guinea. Medals for the award were given to Anne and five other women for their significant roles in society at the State Function Room, Parliament House. This award is the first of its kind in Papua New Guinea, honoring women who do extraordinary work.

The six medal categories include bravery, courage, young PNG, community spirit, education/role model and environment. Anne was honored in the environment category.

She won the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2006 for her legal work on illegal logging and environmental degradation. She uncovered evidence that widespread corruption and complicity in the Papua New Guinea government had allowed rampant, illegal logging, which destroyed parts of the largest remaining intact block of tropical forest in the Asia Pacific region.

Amazon Alliance
Ashoka: Innovators for the Public
The Asia Foundation
BirdLife International
Both ENDS
Center for International Environmental Law
Conservation International
Earth Day Network
Earth Island Institute
Earthworks
E-LAW
Flora & Fauna International
Friends of the Earth
Global Greengrants Fund
Hesperian Foundation
International Forum on Globalization
International Rivers Network
National Geographic Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
Pacific Environment
Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Wildlife Fund
Worldwatch Institute

Global Focus III:


Global Focus III, a documentary film featuring Robert Redford and the 2006 Goldman Environmental Prize winner profiles, has received recognition at film festivals around the world. It has also aired on the Sundance Channel and 70 PBS affiliates. The following festivals have featured Global Focus III:

- Aotearoa Environmental Film Festival, New Zealand
- Barcelona International Environmental Film Festival, Spain
- Cape Cod Woods Hall Film Festival, USA
- CMS Vatavaran Film Festival, New Delhi, India
- EcoVision International Cinema Festival, Sicily
- FESTROIA International Film Festival, Portugal
- Green Film Festival in Seoul, Korea
- Maui Film Festival, USA
- Mendocino Film Festival, USA
- Telluride Mountain Film Festival, USA
- Trento Film Festival, Italy
- Tur Ostrava International Film Festival, Czech Republic
- Turin Environmental Film Festival, Italy

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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