

Ouroboros

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

The Goldman
Environmental
Prize

SUMMER 2010



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The 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipients

The 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize was awarded to the following grassroots leaders:

AFRICA

Thuli Brilliance Makama | Swaziland

Makama, Swaziland's only public interest environmental attorney, won a landmark case to include environmental NGO representation in conservation decisions and continues to challenge forced evictions and violence against poverty-stricken communities living on the edges of conservation areas.

ASIA

Tuy Sereivathana | Cambodia

Sereivathana worked to mitigate human-elephant conflict in Cambodia by introducing innovative low-cost solutions, empowering local communities to cooperatively participate in endangered Asian elephant conservation.

EUROPE

Małgorzata Górska | Poland

Górska led the fight to protect Poland's Rospuda Valley, one of Europe's last true wilderness areas, from a controversial highway project that would have destroyed the region's sensitive ecosystems.

ISLANDS & ISLAND NATIONS

Humberto Ríos Labrada | Cuba

Ríos Labrada, a scientist and biodiversity researcher, worked with farmers to increase crop diversity and develop low-input agricultural systems, encouraging Cuba's shift from agricultural chemical dependence toward sustainability.

NORTH AMERICA

Lynn Henning | USA

A family farmer in rural Michigan, Henning exposed the egregious polluting practices of CAFOs—concentrated animal feeding operations—gaining the attention of the federal EPA and prompting state regulators to issue hundreds of citations for water quality violations.

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

Randall Arauz | Costa Rica

Drawing international attention to the inhumane and environmentally-catastrophic shark finning industry, Arauz led the campaign to halt the practice in Costa Rica, making his country the new international model for shark protection.

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THE 2010 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE RECIPIENTS WITH PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA. FROM LEFT: RANDALL ARAUZ, HUMBERTO RÍOS LABRADA, THULI BRILLIANCE MAKAMA, MAŁGORZATA GÓRSKA, TUY SEREIVATHANA AND LYNN HENNING

Notes from the 21st Annual Goldman Environmental Prize Tour



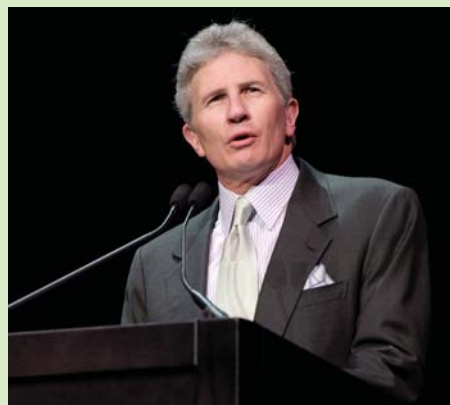
Goldman Prize founder Richard N. Goldman (center) with his children, Prize board members John Goldman, Susie Gelman and Douglas Goldman.

The 2010 Goldman Environmental Prize tour was yet another incredible gathering of courageous leaders. The 21st group of inspiring recipients came from many different corners of the world, and certainly made their mark on the global stage.

The tour began in San Francisco with media interviews, receptions and the annual ceremony at the Opera House and went on to Washington, DC, where recipients were honored by important political figures, including President Obama.

The San Francisco ceremony on Monday, April 19 featured an address by Prize board member Douglas Goldman (right) and a performance by internationally-acclaimed Senegalese musician, Baaba Maal. Before a packed house of more than 3,000 attendees, the recipients accepted the 2010 Goldman Prize and provided moving thoughts on their work and the environment. Following the ceremony, guests mingled with the recipients across the street at San Francisco City Hall. As always, the events were carbon neutral, with as little waste created as possible and organic fare provided for guests to enjoy.

The next morning, the recipients traveled to Washington, DC and began four non-stop days of meetings, events and opportunities to have their voices heard by key US decision-makers and funders. On April 21, the recipients met President Obama at the White House in the Oval Office. They then gathered at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for another ceremony featuring an



address by Prize board member John Goldman. The event was attended by the ambassadors from Swaziland, Cambodia and Costa Rica.

On Thursday, April 22, the recipients met members of Congress at the Prize's annual congressional luncheon at the Capitol hosted by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Senator Barbara Boxer and House members Henry Waxman, Edward Markey and others attended the event and spoke about the importance of environmental work in the world today. The tour ended with a meeting at EPA headquarters with Administrator Lisa Jackson.

2010 Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony

The 2010 Goldman Prize winners received the Prize at the San Francisco Opera House on April 19.



Actor and environmentalist Peter Coyote served as master of ceremonies for the evening event



Humberto Ríos Labrada receives his Ouroboros statuette



Randall Arauz receives his Prize



Senegalese star Baaba Maal performs with two members of his band



Małgorzata Górska with her award



San Francisco City Hall during the Prize reception

The Goldman Environmental Prize in Washington, DC

Following the San Francisco events, the Prize recipients headed to Washington, DC for another ceremony, meetings with dignitaries and interviews with major news media from around the world.



Thuli Makama with Ephraim M. Hlophe, Swaziland's Ambassador to the United States



Prize board members Douglas Goldman, Susie Gelman and John Goldman



Cristián Samper, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, welcomes the audience at the DC Prize ceremony



Tuy Sereivathana with Hem Heng, Cambodia's Ambassador to the United States



Prize board member John Goldman provides a keynote address at the DC Prize ceremony



Guests enjoy the Prize reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

The Prize Tour

In addition to the two ceremonies, the Prize recipients had meetings with important political figures and activists.



Dean and Lynn Hemming with Robert Kennedy Jr. at Earth Day Network's Climate Rally on the National Mall, where Lynn was a featured speaker



The 2010 recipients with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. Administrator Jackson met with the recipients at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC



Lynn Henning with best-selling author Michael Pollan in Berkeley, CA



The 2010 recipients with Senator Barbara Boxer at the annual Prize congressional luncheon in Washington, DC



The 2010 Prize recipients with the Crissy Field Center Inspiring Young Leaders in San Francisco



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi with the 2010 recipients at the Capitol in Washington, DC

Bhopal gas tragedy

On June 7, 2010, the Indian courts announced a long-awaited but unfortunately unsatisfactory judgment for the victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy and activists like Champa Devi Shukla and Rashida Bee (India, 2004), who have been fighting for compensation for the thousands of people dealing with health problems caused by the gas leak and clean-up of the abandoned Union Carbide plant.

The judgment has been criticized for its reduced sentences and fines for the seven former Union Carbide employees, all Indian nationals, who were charged with death by negligence. The decision comes with two-year prison sentences and fines of about US\$2,165. Bhopal also issued a warrant for Warren Anderson's arrest, former chief of Union Carbide, and is pressing the Indian government to ask the US for Anderson's extradition. Dow Chemical, which bought Union Carbide, states that the case was resolved in 1989 when the Indian courts settled on the US\$470 million settlement and that clean-up rests with the Madhya Pradesh state government, which now owns the land where the plant is located.

The tragedy killed 8,000 people immediately after a toxic cloud of methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide refinery and

swept over the neighboring town in the early morning of December 3, 1984. The community claims that the spill has led to the death of at least 20,000 more people and that the toxics from the plant are still leaking in the soil and groundwater, causing birth defects and sickness, affecting over 500,000 people overall.

India's Central Bureau of Investigation stated that the plant was not following proper safety procedures before the disaster, which most likely led to the malfunction that caused the leak. Union Carbide, however, states that it was an act of sabotage by a disgruntled employee and not due to a malfunction, although the employee in question has never been identified.

The ruling is set for appeals, but nothing is expected to happen soon because of India's notoriously slow judicial system.

Bee and Shukla won the Prize in 2004 for their activism and class action lawsuit against Dow, seeking fair and just compensation for the victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy, not settling with a meager compensation (US\$500 per family) to deal with the physical side-effects, congenital defects and high rates of cancer resulting from the toxics still present in their community from the defunct Union Carbide plant.

Crude filmmaker at odds with Chevron

On May 6, 2010, in a US District Court, Judge Lewis A. Kaplan granted Chevron the right to access documentary filmmaker Joe Berlinger's 600 hours of raw footage not used in the film *Crude: The Real Price of Oil*, a documentary following the case of Goldman Prize recipients Pablo Fajardo and Luis Yanza (Ecuador, 2008) against Chevron. Chevron sued to obtain the unused footage, stating that the footage will prove the plaintiffs falsified evidence in the case between the oil giant and 30,000 Ecuadoreans who have sued Chevron for US\$27 billion to clean up the toxic mess known as the "Amazon Chernobyl" in the Ecuadorean Amazon.

Journalists and documentary filmmakers have rallied around the case, claiming the decision sets a dangerous precedent against the integrity of reporting by reporters or filmmakers who use journalistic privilege to obtain sensitive and confidential information. Notable figures such as Robert Redford, Bill Moyers and Michael Moore, as well as the Independent Documentary Association, cite that the ability to research and reveal critical information depends on the trust established between the journalist/documentarian and their source. If corporations were allowed to utilize footage obtained under the agreement of confidentiality, then whistle-blowers would stop coming forward.

However, the privilege awarded to journalists to protect their sources is a limited one and is not always guaranteed. This decision, reporters say, exposes the need for Congress to pass a federal shield law to protect journalists and their sources.

Berlinger has appealed the decision and is set to have a full hearing this summer.

Eugene Rutagarama featured on CNN

Eugene Rutagarama (Rwanda, 2001) was recently featured on CNN International's African Voices program, which highlights remarkable African leaders across many disciplines. Rutagarama, who has dedicated the last 20 years to protecting the endangered mountain gorillas, was dubbed Rwanda's "conservation king." His work integrates community, government and international support in protecting the mountain gorillas in the Virunga mountain range that straddles the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Rwanda.

In the mid-1990's, amidst the chaos of the Rwandan genocide, Rutagarama was falsely imprisoned, tortured and eventually fled the country for three years upon release to avoid death. He lost his family to the war and returned to the ecological wreckage of Volcanoes Park due to the settlements of refugees, landmines and rebel fighting. Rutagarama overcame these tragedies to become the leader in mountain gorilla conservation. He successfully convinced the government to support the gorilla conservation program while the Rwandan people faced pressing issues like starvation, resettlement and rebuilding post-genocide. Now, gorilla tourism brings in revenue for the government and provides income to foster education and cottage industries.

Rutagarama is currently the director of the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP).

News from Around the World

Maria Gunnoe

WEST VIRGINIA, 2009



Goldman Prize recipients Maria Gunnoe (USA, 2009) and Judy Bonds (USA, 2003) have reported that the EPA has issued

new regulations that will affect how mountaintop removal coal mining will deal with the practice of valley fills, the industry's method of managing mountaintop removal waste. Valley fills are responsible for burying thousands of miles of rivers and streams in Appalachia. High levels of toxic metals have been found downstream from valley fills, affecting the health of the environment and making drinking water unsafe. The decision will affect future permitting of new mountaintop removal sites, limiting the number of mountaintop removal operations. The ruling, however, is only valid in Appalachia. Lisa Jackson, head of the EPA, made clear that her intention with the ruling isn't to end coal mining but rather coal mining pollution.

Feliciano dos Santos

MOZAMBIQUE, 2008



Feliciano dos Santos (Mozambique, 2008) was named one of National Geographic's Emerging

Explorers for 2010. Santos received the recognition for his unique approach to educating and inspiring impoverished communities to participate in the development of proper sanitation infrastructure. Santos and his band, Massukos, use their popular music to teach people about environmental issues. His NGO, Estamos, works within the communities to establish wells and sanitation facilities.

The Emerging Explorers Program seeks to recognize young explorers across a broad range of backgrounds and disciplines who are engaged in making a difference that will have lasting value. The program also gives recipients a US\$10,000 grant for research and exploration.

Lynn Henning

MICHIGAN, 2010



Lynn Henning's work to expose the polluting practices of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in her

home state of Michigan has paid off; in May of this year the EPA announced that it would investigate pollution from CAFOs. Under the Clean Water Act, CAFOs are prohibited from dumping their waste into streams or rivers, but the industry operates with little government enforcement. The EPA will ensure that the CAFOs are operating with a permit and will, for the first time, make site visits to confirm that CAFOs are not discharging their waste into waterways.

The Ouroboros is Going Paperless

Beginning in 2011, this newsletter will be delivered exclusively via email in order to more efficiently keep our global audience informed about the recipients' work.

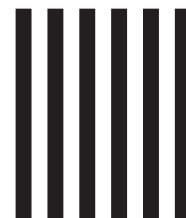
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THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE
*is the world's largest prize for grassroots
environmentalists. Founded in 1990 by Richard
and Rhoda Goldman, the Prize currently awards
\$150,000 annually to each of six activists from
six continental regions. Nominated 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.

