

Bruno-Manser-Fonds



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Editorial

Thanks to man's research and his inventive ingenuity, the last 50 years of technical developments have brought us prosperity. Free trade has conquered the world, and we are among the fortunate 20% of the population who have managed to inexpensively lay claim to some 80% of global resources. In the case of tropical woods, 90% of all profits go to the importing country. In other words, we are pocketing this as well. There are politicians and representatives within this economic system, which is directed at short-term profit, who are using every possible means to fight against transparency and trade restrictions, even when human rights are being violated. They themselves have become the victims of trade, unable to rule and react according to ethical principles.

Is it possible to reverse this "commercial servitude" overnight and from above? Hardly! Experience has shown that change begins from below and in small steps. It begins there where each of us assumes a personal responsibility, has the courage of his

convictions, and acts accordingly. Common sense tells us to avoid buying products which are damaging to human beings or the environment. We can start today. Trade is based on supply and demand. We can have an influence through deliberately buying or renouncing a product. After a TV program in Great Britain describing the illegal felling of mahogany in Brazil by English companies, sales of mahogany dropped in the United Kingdom by 80% within two weeks. Efforts in Switzerland have also been successful. Imports of tropical wood (logs and cut timber) were about one-third lower in 1993 than in 1992. Let the dealers sit on their products! For them, it's all the same what they sell. Support those companies which gladly give their customers information on the origins and types of raw material and wood which are being used and who consciously renounce the use of tropical timber.

Yours sincerely

Bruno Manser

Photo: Bruno Manser



Report

Thoughts on the Situation in Sarawak

by Bruno Manser

The non-violent opposition by the Penan and other Dajak peoples to the destruction of their homelands in the interior of Borneo has focused worldwide attention on the over-exploitation of the earth's last primeval forests and the disregard of traditional land rights of indigenous peoples. With spectacular campaigns such as ship blockades, climbing escapades, and demonstrations, organizations in Australia and Japan, in Europe and in Canada, have called attention to the situation. Their call has been heard as far away as Bern, the European Union and the United Nations. Scientists, partly commissioned by the ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) and the World Bank, have studied the situation at its source and recommended a massive reduction in the felling of timber. At the end of 1993, the governor of Sarawak, Datuk Taib Mahmud, ordered a moratorium on lumbering until the end of the year because quotas had already been substantially exceeded. The moratorium brought no financial losses because timber prices rose as a result. With dwindling resources, prices will continue to rise. Before the end of the century, Sarawak's last primeval forest, with the exception of a few reserves, will be irretrievably destroyed.

The reasons are as follows

1) Lack of political will at the local level: Because West Malaysia skims off 95% of the profit from Sarawak's petroleum reserves, which are 20% higher than those of the timber industry, the timber trade has become the main source of income for the state and its politicians. The state governor grants licenses to politicians and they in turn pass them on to friends, acquaintances and business partners.

2) 99% of the tropical woods which are traded on the world market, including those of Sarawak, are still the product of over-exploitation. The ITTO has decided to deal only in timber from so-called sustainable developments as of the year 2000. But by then, it will be too late for Sarawak's forests.

3) Those responsible in Japan, in European ministries, and in the Swiss Federal Government are still hesitating to pass the moratorium on imports requested by the European Parliament in a 1987 resolution. This has its economic reasons. Trade in tropical wood is good business, and profitable trade relationships should not be endangered by restrictive measures. With purchases totaling Sfr. 50.7 million, Malaysia was the prime customer for Swiss weapon exports in 1993.

4) Even today, timber from Sarawak is often purchased unknowingly. Together with other tropical woods, it serves as a cheap raw material and is often concealed with a plastic lamination imitating domestic wood. Only a mandatory declaration, providing objective information on origin and type of wood, can remedy such an absurdity.

5) Rules regarding the renunciation of tropical woods in public buildings are effective in only a few European countries. Although information campaigns in Europe, Australia and North America have created an awareness, the main customers will shift. Thailand, which has been clear-cut, is already one of the main importers of cut timber from Malaysia. And China's economic aspirations are opening up another immense market for tropical woods.

6) The only truly effective campaigns have been the many non-violent local road blockades by the Penan and other indigenous peoples. They kept the bulldozers at bay, often for five to eight months, until they were respected by officials. Their active resistance, however, was broken with the following measures:

a) Intimidation through changes in the law (fines of M\$ 6,000, or Sfr. 400, jail sentences of up to 2 years)

b) More than 600 arrests since 1987

c) Threats and acts of violence by the military, police, and troops of the timber companies

d) Bribery: chieftains and spokesmen have been paid by the timber companies to allow lumbering in their areas

**Destruction of the Penan village
Long Sebatu by army and police units
on September 28, 1993. Bulldozers,
army helicopters and tear gas bombs
were used.**

Photo: Hariraya



Report

The Situation of the Penan Today

The present situation of the nomadic and semi-nomadic Penan is deteriorating for three reasons:

A) "Selective logging"

In the last ten years, large areas of the nomadic Penan have been destroyed. Some of the Penan groups have even lost their entire territory. Faced with the lack of alternatives, they are still living in these now degraded areas. After the lumbering companies had felled the thickest and most valuable trees in a first, so-called "selective logging" process, there was usually a second and third felling by other lumber companies in the same area immediately thereafter. This was done, even though forestry

officials had foreseen a waiting period of 35 years until the second cutting. After the first "selective logging", the Penan still finds small islands with sago palms, fruit trees and wild animals. After a second and even a third felling, the areas resembles a desolate battlefield. What was once promoted as "selective forestry", in which felling was limited to only about seven trees per hectare, has turned out to be a farce. With the exception of three commercially insignificant types of trees, almost every tree of more than 45 cm diameter at the trunk is felled today.

B) Illegal logging

In visiting the logging areas, one fre-

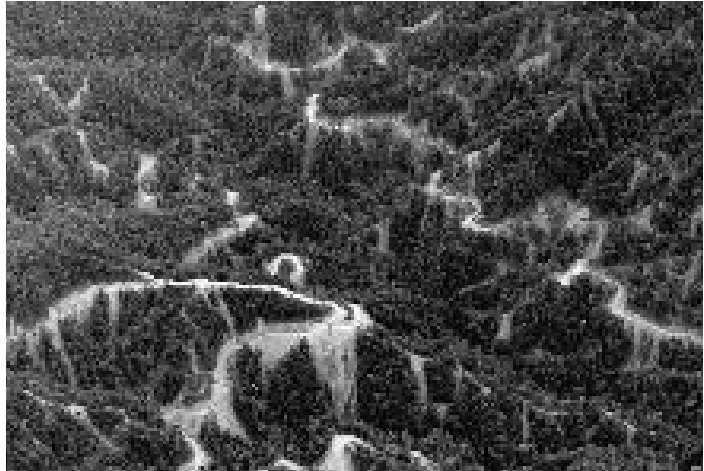
quently notices high quality trees of several cubic meters which have been "forgotten" and left to rot. Although forbidden, loggers have felled durian and alim trees, valued by the Penan for their fruit, and trees which provide the poisons essential for their arrows. In the area of the Magoh Reservation, dozens of officially protected abang trees have been cut by the Shin-Yang, Rimbunan-Hijau and WTK logging companies. Their fruit, illipe nuts, are an important export product in the manufacture of chocolate. Although cutting in areas

After the governor of Sarawak called on the West Malaysian military to fight illegal logging, the lumbering companies have become somewhat more cautious.

C) Illegal hunting

Lumbering's most serious consequence for the Penan is in the loss of food resources from hunting, fishing and gathering. In addition to degrading the land, loggers and foreign intruders are responsible for the disappearance of wild animals (including

According to forestry regulations, the felling of trees on land with a gradient of more than a 60% is forbidden. This photo from the Ulu Baram area, taken in spring of 1994, proves the contrary. Photo: Abang Kecil, 1994



with a gradient of more than 60% is prohibited, it is occurring in the regions of Ulu Baram, Ulu Tutoh, Ulu Limbang, and Ulu Magoh. Timber is even being cut in the Ubung area of the protected Gunung Mulu National Park. Forestry officials have not really bothered to inspect the damage, and companies are still working in the area today.

boars, monkeys and birds) through their use of modern guns and for the depletion of fish stocks through the use of electric shocks, dynamite and poison. Almost all lumberers have their own guns and even in the Gunung Mulu National Park, the hunting area has been subjected to the worst possible abuse.



Plundered fruit gardens of the Penan nomads in the Ubung area. Photo: Abang Kecil, 1994

D) Biospheres/protected areas

According to current information, the situation in the protected areas is as follows (see map on page 7):

1) Gunung Mulu National Park (529 km²)

At the present time, this is the only legally protected area (TPA, Totally Protected Area) in Penan territory. There have been occurrences of illegal lumbering within the national park. The traditional rights of the aborigines (hunting and gathering) are restricted in favour of protecting nature and furthering tourism.

2) Melana Protected Forest (220 km²)

Set aside by the government for semi-nomadic Penan. However, lumbering concessions have already been granted. The area has been opened up for forestry purposes and has once been "selectively" cut. However, there are still individual forest islands with sago palms, fruit trees and wild animals. Borders are not demarcated and the legal status of land rights is unknown.

3) Magoh Biosphere (526 km²)

Although set aside by the government for the nomadic Penan, according to our information lumbering concessions have al-

ready been granted for the entire area. In June 1994, a lumbering company should have resumed work in the area of Ulu Bare/Ulu Magoh. The eastern part of the reserve is still intact. The legal status of land rights is unknown.

4) Seridan Reserve (14 km²)

According to the contract between the Rimbulan-Hijau company and the Penan, the area will be protected as long as the lumbering company is licensed for logging.

5) Adang Reserve (50 km²)

Although this has been mentioned by the government in press reports, the exact situation is unknown. Even the local Penan know nothing about it. A lumbering company from Lawa is developing the area.

6) Tutoh Reserve (22 km²)

Mentioned by the government in press reports. Exact situation is unknown.

7) Long Kidáh group (a few hectares)

Small island, with a few hectares of primary forest (including 20 large meranti trees), which has been protected from logging since 1987 by the constant presence of the Kurau Kusin Penan.



At Melinau-River

Photo: Abang Kecil, 1994

Sarawak Situation

**Penan quotation:
"Their ears are like
mushrooms!"**

Long-lasting and fearless resistance and the lack of food have brought a peaceful people to its limits. Where earlier there was laughter, dancing and singing, today there is frustration, disappointment, sadness and wrath: "Tears are in my eyes, I, this man, because I have lost. When the companies come, it is as though we were burning termites: they do not know how to defend themselves and all are dying a wretched death. We are like animals without teeth. They want to destroy

the land as far as Batu Lawi. Say nothing, there are reserves. Come and look for yourself. They will call it a dead land. We talk and we talk, but their ears are like mushrooms."

One Penan, who experienced the destruction of the blockade on the Sebatu River, reflected: "We have tried everything but we were unable to stop the Sam-Ling Company. You told us to remain peaceful, even if they used force. Now we have seen how our kin have bled. If you don't come quickly, we will die. When we are dead, you will no longer have to care about us!"

Sarawak, April 1994



Photo: Bruno Manser

Japan

**Support the work of SCC, the
Japanese tropical timber group.**

by Roger Graf

With a global share of 30%, Japan is the largest importer of tropical timber, importing about the same amount as the entire European Union. About 70% of Japan's

tropical wood imports are in the form of unprocessed logs originating almost exclusively in the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah. Sabah has recently forbidden

the export of raw logs after about 70% of all exports went to Japan in 1991. Now the Japanese tropical wood importers are concentrating on Sarawak (50% of production goes to Japan) and, more recently, on Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific region (Solomon islands). 80% of tropical timber is used in Japan in the form of plywood, mainly in the construction industry and for furniture. About 20% is used in formwork for poured concrete. After being used once, the

noted in the summer of 1993 when the districts of Kanagawa and Tokyo decided to reduce the use of plywood in concrete construction by 70% and 50% respectively over the next three years. The association of Japan's 81 largest building companies has also announced a reduction of 35% within the next five years. Although SCC campaigns have scored certain successes, the import of tropical woods has hardly declined in Japan. The active role of SCC members is urgently



Hunger strike before the ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) Conference in Yokohama. Photo: SCC, 1992

wood is thrown away because storage costs are too high!

Environmental concerns are still in a rudimentary stage in Japan, and environmental protection groups are in a difficult position. With the realization that the destruction of tropical forests, especially in Sarawak, is directly tied to the excessive consumption of tropical woods in Japan, a Japanese environmental group known as the "Sarawak Campaign Committee" (SCC) was founded in August 1990. The SCC's goal is a moratorium on tropical wood imports from Sarawak until such time as the land rights of the indigenous people have been clarified and ecologically sustainable forestry is being practiced. The SCC publishes two information brochures, in Japanese and in English, undertakes studies on tropical timber and indigenous peoples, and tries to appeal to the Japanese government and private business through public activities (campaigns, hunger strikes, conferences, visits from Penan spokesmen, etc.). The first modest achievement was

needed. There will be hope for an improvement of conditions in Sarawak and other tropical timber countries only when Japan's use of tropical timber is substantially reduced.

The tiny SCC office is in Tokyo. A total of four people are working on the campaign. The Bruno Manser Fund has already contributed Sfr. 8,700 and would like to continue this in the future.

Please support the SCC's efforts. Without a noticeable success in Japan, the situation for trade in tropical wood will not change.

Contributions are welcome. Please use the enclosed payment form (with the notation "Japan").

Many thanks!

Obituary

A Star is Born

On June 3rd, Marlène Kanas drowned in the ocean in Venezuela. She was 31 and expecting a baby.

Marlène, a woman small in stature and full of bubbling energy. Always ready to fight for whales, dolphins, elephants, for the Antarctic as well as for the freedom of the Loire, against the nuclear industry and for Life. You fought for the trees in Paris as you

fought for the Penan and their forests in Borneo. You defended yourself like a small wild cat when the police in the harbor of Nantes twisted your arm.

Dear Marlène, your spirit and your energy will continue to be with your long time companion Jacky, with the environmental organization "Robin des Bois" in Paris, and with the international environmental movement.

Marlène Kanas



Mandatory Declaration

A Mandatory Declaration for Paper and Cardboard?

by Tobias Haller

For quite some time, the Bruno Manser Fund has been fighting for the declaration of wood and wood products. A motion in this respect, which was narrowly passed by the Upper House of Parliament, and its counterpart in the Lower House, was termed a "tropical wood declaration" by the media. It is a misnomer because the proposition specifically requires that all wood and all wood products be labelled with the name of the country of origin and the type of wood. This includes the cellulose and wood pulp used in the manufacture of paper and cardboard. A part of the raw material being processed in Switzerland is coming from boreal and temperate rain forests, and in some cases from forests which are being devastated by clear-cutting. Just as the rain forest and the Penan are suffering in Sarawak, the natural environment and the indigenous peoples living in these areas are also suffering from the clear-cutting of lumber companies.

Should paper and cardboard, which are genuine wood products, also be subject to a declaration? This question was affirmatively answered by a small majority of the members of the Parliamentary Commission for Environmental Planning and Energy (UREK). Opponents of the mandatory declaration are especially objecting to the inclusion of paper and cardboard. The BMF conducted a small survey of three paper factories in May this year to determine if a declaration for these products is even feasible. It was subsequently extended to include 13 factories, or more than half of the 27 Swiss companies.

Declaration: almost all companies are able, but few are willing

Basically, almost all factories can find out where they are obtaining their cellulose and their wood pulp because many have had the same suppliers for years. Based on fiber length, the type of wood can be clarified in a laboratory, partly indicating its place of origin. In addition, foreign cellulose must be declared in any case at the border.

Not all Swiss companies share the desire to declare their products. Of the 16 staff members who were questioned, most of them laboratory technicians and buyers, 11 would be willing to do so. In three of the cases, this is irrelevant because they use recyclable paper almost exclusively. 8 of 13 factories using fresh cellulose and wood pulp thus approve of the mandatory declaration. With more than 60%, it represents the majority of the factories surveyed.

Of the remaining five factories opposing a mandatory declaration, only two reacted with a clear "no". In the case of the Tela Paper Factory, which produces a variety of specialized paper products (including so-called high quality hygienic paper and coffee filters), opposition was justified as follows: Tela invests a great deal of time and money in the development of a product and declaration would amount to a revelation of the company's secrets. This argument is only partly valid. Knowledge of the chemical and mechanical processes involved in production is more important than the knowledge of the composition of the cellulose. Information on the type of wood and origin of cellulose, as required by the motion, is certainly not sufficient to copy a product.

The Utzertorf Paper Factory also responded negatively, stating that it would be difficult to determine the origin of the mixture of foreign cellulose used by the company (only about 8% of total consumption). In addition, a declaration indicating a foreign country of origin would arouse negative associations and be tantamount to negative publicity. The first argument clearly contradicts information provided by other companies. In the case of the latter, the company must consider if its practices and policies have something to conceal. Officials of other companies approving of a declaration emphasized that a transparent information policy would be beneficial for turnover. Lack thereof is indicative of something to hide, and can be detrimental to a company's image.

Three other factories did not clearly dis-

approve, but nevertheless voiced considerable reservations with regard to the plan's usefulness. The majority stated that the changing composition of cellulose acquired on the world market would necessitate continuously renewed product declarations which would be senseless. This must be countered with the fact that many companies have their specific suppliers and do not obtain all of their cellulose, in ever changing compositions, on an impersonal world market. In most interviews, suppliers were named. The conversation turned to Canada, and especially to British Columbia, where the lumbering giant McMillan Bloedel Ltd is still ravaging the last moderate rain forests.

Critical voices from the supporters

In addition to openly negative positions, there are also supporters who are voicing reservations. For instance, the confirmation of a high share of Swiss cellulose in stationery products should have a positive effect on turnover or it would be of little interest. There is also the question of controlling data. The considerable differences between companies and products must be taken into consideration. An all-encompassing declaration is not possible. The most important objection is that a declaration gives no details of the sustainability of resource use and thus provides no significant information. The following will address this last argument.

Foreign cellulose from clear-cut areas has both environmental and social impact: the environment and the indigenous peoples are the losers

The detailed survey indicated that 10 out of 13 factories obtain their cellulose and wood pulp from abroad. Three of the companies buy less than 20%, the remaining seven between 80% and 100% of their raw materials outside of Switzerland. There are plausible reasons for classifying foreign cellulose and wood pulp as "questionable", "alarming", or even "intolerable" from the perspective of human rights and ecology. Foreign cellulose and wood pulp is often transported over long distances, burdening the environment with CO₂ exhaust which contributes to air pollution and climatic change. Forestry practices vary within the countries of origin. The situation in Canada and Russia, two of the sources for long-fiber cellulose, is particularly alarming. The prevalent clear-cutting methods severely damage the old primary ecosystems and destroy the "lebensraum" of indigenous peoples. Clear-cutting is also being practiced in Scandinavian forests, especially in the northernmost virgin forests of Finland. These ancient forests, which belong to the government, should now be converted into cellulose – and thus destroyed! Protests are being heard from environmentalists, and from the Sami who want to preserve their territory. The Sami are especially dependent on



**Clear-cutting in Canadian forests.
Photo: P. Schneider, 1991**

the old forests because they provide their reindeer with moss and lichens for grazing in the cold winter months. But even though wood is one of Finland's most important exports, it provides less jobs, for example, than tourism or an existence based on gathering and reindeer. Destroyed remnants of virgin forests are not an attraction for tourists and they deny gathering and the herding of reindeer. Sirpa Pietikäinen, the Finnish Environmental Minister who wants to put a stop to clear-cutting, is one of the major hopes for the northern Finnish forests (see Schwägerl in GEO 2/94).

The problem of reforestation: variety of species or biodiversity?

A part of Scandinavian forests is privately owned and managed, either by farmers or by others. There are forestry rules which, in addition to requiring reforestation, allow clear-cutting according to an old concept that no more should be cut than what grows again (see reports of the Finnish Forestry Association, SODERA, and the Association of Swedish Cellulose and Paper Producers). This type of forestry is certainly better than that in Canada and Russia because the clear-cut areas are smaller and must be reforested. But according to newer criteria of sustainability, the multifunctionality of the forest should not be encroached upon. This means that the timber can only be used selectively through reforestation and that the existing composition of fauna and flora should be maintained. However, it only partly applies. In terms of the reduction of biodiversity, the negative ecological effects are the same as

those in the large clear-cut areas which should be re-forested. For a long time, the tropical rain forest was considered the only refuge for biodiversity because, in comparison to other ecosystems, it sheltered a gigantic number of species in small numbers of individuals within a limited area. If the discussion is reduced to the variety of species, boreal forests seem relatively uniform because a few types of trees are widely distributed. Is it now less severe if boreal forests are clear-cut or are reforested with seedlings from a central nursery? Studies in boreal forests in Alaska have shown that genetic differences of individual trees in a stand of spruce on a single mountain slope can vary greatly according to their specific location. In the case of reforestation, this aspect of biodiversity is usually not taken into consideration (Fenner 1993, p. 62). It leads to the fact that new forests are genetically standardized and as a result badly adjusted to changing environmental conditions and to possible pests and disease.

Cellulose plantations are an environmental problem

Imported short-fiber cellulose primarily comes from Spanish, Portuguese, and Brazilian eucalyptus plantations, which are partly the product of reforestation in clear-cut areas. These "new forests" amount to a monoculture. The seedlings are poorly adjusted to environmental conditions, require a good deal of energy in the form of fertilizer and pesticides, and as plantations are unable to offer a niche to almost any kind of living thing. Ecologically seen, these forests are dead. There is also the question of who profits from the export of cellulose. Certainly not

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the local population! The entire operation is organized on a modern basis, using little human labor, and it is the local people being who are left with nothing but to bear the environmental damage.

Swiss cellulose has less environmental impact

In the end, almost every foreign production of cellulose, with the exception of that from neighboring countries and truly sustainable forestry operations in Scandinavia, has serious ecological and social shortcomings. Thanks to strict forestry regulations, this does not occur to the same extent in Switzerland. In addition, it would be desirable to use more Swiss timber. According to the annual report of the Swiss Cellulose, Paper and Cardboard Industry (ZPK), 397,000 tons of cellulose were imported in 1992 while a good deal of

domestic wood remained unused in the forest. Swiss trade statistics indicate that, of the above amount, 60,000 tons of sulfate cellulose were imported from Canada. Would it not be possible to cover this need with domestic wood (see box)? In any case, consumers have the right to know the source of the cellulose being used in the manufacture of Swiss paper. Based on the information, they can choose for themselves. As a rule, domestic cellulose has less social and environmental impact than cellulose from Canada, Scandinavia, Spain, Portugal, Brazil or Malaysia. According to a senior buyer who was interviewed, it should be added in the case of Malaysia that there are plans to clear the rain forests, replacing them with cellulose plantations for exports. These in turn are primarily intended for the Southeast Asian market.



**Paper factory Gruvöns Bruk in Sweden.
Photo: Greenpeace, 1978**

Is foreign cellulose replaceable?

The extent to which imported sulfate cellulose can be replaced by Swiss sulfite cellulose is unclear. Sulfate cellulose is not produced in Switzerland for environmental reasons. Although Bayrische Zellstoff GmbH in Kelheim an der Donau has proven that this type of cellulose can be produced in an environmentally tolerable way, the factory was forced to close in part because it was unable to compete with the low prices of foreign cellulose producers. (Source: Greenpeace News, Germany, February, 1994)

News of the Wood Industry in Switzerland

Bravo!

For several months, Migros has been labelling its wood products with the name of the wood being used and its country of origin. In visiting the Do-it-Yourself center in Basel Dreispitz, however, it was evident that many wood products – especially in the household section – have not been labelled, or incompletely labelled. The place of origin for some of the boards being sold in the lumber section, which is often too broadly defined (as "Europe, Canada, Asia"), is still inadequate. Within the last two years, the British Do-it-Yourself chain "B & Q", with an annual turnover of 260,500 m³ of timber, has been able to retrace 99% of all wood sold, and not only back to the country of origin but also back to the area where it was felled. At the outset, 90% of all suppliers did not even know the country of origin of imported woods. By 1995, "B & Q" intends to sell only timber from sustainable forestry developments. Norma Reiden AG in the Lucerne area is now making doors from domestic wood which even fulfill the requirements for fire retardancy. Instead of abachi and sipo, the company is using laminated beech and poplar (70% from Switzerland, 30% from Alsace and the Black Forest).

Black list!

Nationalrat Dr. Georg Stucky (FDP Party from the canton of Zug) is on the Board of Directors of Hiag Holding AG (Switzerland's largest wood processing company) and a vehement opponent of the mandatory declaration for wood and wood products. In addition to tropical woods (sipo, koto, limba, lauan, wawa, doussie, okoumé), his company also sells lumber from the Canadian clear-cutting areas of the McMillan Bloedel company. For the last several months, the Precious Woods company, with offices in Kilchberg ZH, has been publicizing its two projects in Costa Rica and Brazil in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung". They concern a pochote and teak plantation in Costa Rica, and the "sustainable development" of 800 km² of virgin rain forest in Brazil. "Each stock in our company represents a vote for the protection of the tropical forest" is the arrogant advertizing slogan of

Precious Woods. Forum für Holz, an advisory commission to the Swiss Department of the Interior, organized a meeting on "eco labels" for professionals and specialists on November 12, 1993. At this so-called professional meeting, ambassador Nicolas Imboden gave a speech opposing the mandatory declaration. No supporters of the declaration were invited. This is the way that the Federal Government influences public opinion! The Fritz Jäggi Holzimport AG in Kirchberg BE has been advertising its "FJ" label, which is suggestive of an eco label, for some time. The company has a large selection of tropical woods from West Africa and contends: "Whoever uses tropical woods actively helps to maintain the rain forest." The "FJ" label promises strict controls and sustainable forestry development. On April 16, 1994, we wrote to the company, asking for details of its "eco" label. We never received an answer. For lack of information, this pseudo "eco" label is not credible. Indeed, there is no genuine "eco" label on the market.

REQUEST: We would like to publish a list of wood processing companies which consciously renounce tropical woods and timber from clear-cut areas and would be thankful for names and addresses.



Greenpeace campaign at the headquarters of Hiag in St. Margrethen. Photo: Roger Graf

BMF Internal Affairs

1993 Annual Report

by Roger Graf

1993 was characterized by the fasting campaign in Bern. Many people fasted together with Martin Vosseler and Bruno Manser, knitted sweaters, and helped with the campaign and information booth. This much-acclaimed activity, together with the visit of Federal councilor Ruth Dreifuss, also attracted the attention of the media. During the fasting campaign, the BMF organized another remarkable manifestation in Brussels. At the end of Bruno Manser's 60 days of fasting, a chain of fasting volunteers was formed which is still active and growing. About 40 people had participated by the end of the year. Jacqueline Piso has assumed coordination (see list of events). The BMF joined other environmental groups in a surprising activity for the opening of the June Festival Weeks in Zurich. Guests of honor were informed in an unusual way about Japan, the guest country, and its policies with regard to the world's oceans and rain forests. A climbing manifestation by the BMF in London focused attention on the use of Indonesian tropical woods in the new "Globe Theatre". The BMF has participated in various conferences, including the "eco label" seminar in Brussels and the European meeting of Rain Forest Organizations in Oxford. One of the impor-

tant tasks is lobbying government officials, politicians, and companies. At present, it is concentrated on the motion requesting a mandatory declaration for wood and wood products. Thanks to our untiring efforts, and to the surprise of many, the Upper House of the Swiss Parliament passed the motion in fall. There have been various discussions with Federal councilors, EU ministers, government officials and politicians. In this connection, the BMF organized a meeting between a spokesman for Malaysian aborigines and ambassador Nicolas Imboden as delegate of the Federal Government for trade agreements. This year, the two Basel half cantons joined the "climate alliance". A part of its program includes renouncing tropical woods for use in public buildings. The BMF also effected a change of mind in the case of Coop and Migros. Both wholesalers now intend to only use tropical timber if no alternative is available for technical reasons. Migros has also started labelling many wooden articles with country of origin and the type of wood. The interest of the media has been exceptionally good. TSR television showed a 50-minute film on the work of the the BMF. Additional television and radio broadcasts and innumerable newspaper articles were published on the Penan, the BMF and on Bruno Manser. A jury of journalists selected Bruno Manser as the "Icebreaker of the Year", and he received the 1993 "Award for Civil Courage" from the Association of Christian Entrepreneurs (VCU).

A detailed annual report is available in the BMF office, Heuberg 25, 4051 Basel.

**Martin Vosseler,
Bruno Manser,
and friends during
the fasting
campaign in Bern.
Photo: Fritz Berger,
1993**



BMF Intern

Financial Report

Assets per 31.12.93

Cash	1 127.05
Postal check account	7 806.45
Bank account	121 572.40
Office equipment	2 295.10
Books, brochures, videos	34 093.—
Total assets	166 894.—

1993 Profit and Loss Statement (Summary)

Income

Donations	193 843.68
Sales of information material	17 099.87
Bank interest	4 233.—

Total income **215 176.55**

Expenditures

Help to Sarawak	59 232.—
Administration	27 911.40
Salaries	41 619.—
Honorarium	300.—
Social insurances	3 234.70
Purchase of materials	40 347.05
Insurances	189.—
Postal check fees	1 728.50
Bank fees	742.60
Withholding tax	1 464.85
Various	9 260.66 *

Total expenditures **186 029.76** **186 029.76**

1993 Surplus **29 146.79**

*As Bruno Manser voluntarily divided his Sfr. 10,000 «Icebreaker» Prize 1993 with his two «competitors», Sfr 6,666 was donated to the charitable projects of Pastor Max Sieber and Mrs. Christiane Brunner.

A detailed balance sheet and profit and loss account, together with the auditor's report, is available at the BMF office, Heuberg 25, CH 4051 Basel, Switzerland.

Events

Very Successful Matinee in Zurich

On May 15, 1994, Maria Becker inspired the audience in Zurich's theater with her reading of texts by Tertullian and Tolstoy. Suffering from an enormously painful lumbago, she vowed: "Even if someone has to carry me on stage, I will come!" Franz Hohler also offered a memorable performance. His apt pieces not only brought laughter to the audience but also encouraged it to reflect. Finally Bruno Manser, with a talk and slides, lured the audience into the jungle of Sarawak. This benefit event brought net proceeds of about Sfr. 9,000. We are grateful to Barbara Nathan-Neher who organized the matinee and helped with its financing and to all of the others who helped in the preparation and at the event itself.

An Old Familiar Story

as recounted by Franz Hohler in the Zurich Theater on May 15, 1994

The young man from the nice country watched as the bulldozer ploughed paths through the rain forest in the distant country, felling one giant tree after the other. He returned in a state of shock to his nice country and asked the officials if they couldn't do something about it. What did he expect them to do, they asked. "The simplest," he said, "would be to forbid the import of tropical wood into the nice country." When he realized that the nice officials were becoming pale, the young man rapidly changed his approach. "It would be enough to simply declare tropical timber as such," he proposed. This time the nice officials were ready with their answers, pronouncing them with concerned expressions. "Freedom of trade," they claimed, "for the protection of the domestic tropical timber import industry," and hurtled on with the potential problems of "distorted competition, not to speak of Euro-compatibility, and only then within the framework foreseen by lawmakers." – "There must be guidelines – which is no longer possible – even though it once was the case. And it would all be to our great regret." And with every sentence, another tree crashed irretrievably in the distant land.

**Bruno Manser, Maria Becker
and Franz Hohler, Zurich.
Photo: Ruedi Habegger, 1994**



Forthcoming Activities

Fasting Chain

Our fasting campaign has quietly been in progress from March 1993 until today. This exercise in doing without can open new doors. A list of all participants will be published in our next newsletter. Who would like to join the fasting chain for a few days? A "fasting package" is being passed from one participant to the next. Further information can be obtained from:

Jacqueline Piso,
Donnerbühlweg 33,
3012 Bern,
(phone 031 301 08 88 home) or
Barbara Stocker,
Zeunerstrasse 7,
8037 Zürich,
(phone 01/272 89 17).

Notice of Publications

Guidebook to timber in Bern

(Published by WWF, Regional Group, Bern)

This guidebook is the result of efforts to promote the use of domestic Swiss timber and thus reduce the consumption of tropical wood. The first section presents the results of a survey undertaken by lumber companies in the region of Bern. In the second section, abuses in the Swiss lumber trade are discussed in detail. The third part addresses the question of a boycott on tropical woods and provides tips for the consumer for buying wood and wood products in an ecologically responsible way. In addition to European alternatives to tropical woods, there is a list of companies in the region of Bern which have renounced the use of tropical woods. (Price Sfr. 5.-.)

This can be ordered from:
WWF Regional Group,
Postfach 1035,
3000 Bern 7
or BMF, Heuberg 25,
4051 Basel
Phone 061 261 94 74.

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Photo: Bruno Manser