

Climate change and Financialization of Nature

As realization of fresh water limitations grows, the world is simultaneously feeling the pressure from food commodity price fluctuations and climate change. The multiple crises or ‘trifecta’ are affecting the appropriation, use, and allocation of resources, especially water and land. With climate change, the current conjuncture creates a “perfect storm” for old and new ways of privatization, enclosures and privatization at different levels and for different purposes and at the expense of local communities and peoples in the global South.

These multiple crises or resource ‘trifecta’ are driving the need for global and national plans centered on the human rights to water and food and the earth’s right to maintain equilibrium. International and national leaders, however, are failing to respond to climate change. But at the same time, it is very important, if not necessary, to understand how local communities and peoples are resisting/ struggling against this ‘resource restructuring’—who are the actors, processes, and mechanisms. This includes how water and land have been revalued based on market forces and capitalism and consequently, how local peoples’ rights, access, use, control and ownership of the resource are (re) framed and (re) allocated along the same lines.

The recently concluded COP 17 in South Africa presents an opportunity to highlight particular cases and on-the-ground experiences. Such examples can further shed light on the web of inter-related water and resource issues that communities experience and community-level, local/national leaders and officials’ responses. Further, Rio+20 process underscores the urgency to tackle concrete policy questions, alternatives and progressive solutions to counter the financialization of nature and market-based proposals to solve the multiple crises of food, energy, climate, and finance.

Friday 16 March from 1pm to 3.30pm, Dock des Suds D

Common goods against the commodification of life and of the planet, strategies and mobilisations of social and environmental movements towards RIO+20 and beyond?

In June 2012, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) will host a new conference of the United Nations for Sustainable Development (UNCSD), whose main theme will focus on "green economy". Their green economy, far from solving the global crisis we are facing, aims to save the capitalist model in crisis by financialization and commodification of nature and societies. Around the globe, people rise to oppose these logics and to promote the commons and to fight for social and environmental justice.

At the World Social Forum in Dakar in 2011, an overall roadmap was defined to impose our alternatives through the mobilisations during the G8-G20 in France, the COP-17 on climate in Durban (South Africa) and the Alternative World Water Forum in Marseille. This meeting in Marseille is open to all networks, organizations and individuals who wish, including those involved in the water movement. It is a space and a moment to share our analysis, to discuss strategies and define a common agenda towards Rio+20 and beyond.

Assembly proposed by AITEC and ATTAC

with the participation of Arci, Food & Water Watch, Ecologistas en Accion, Ibon, Focus on the Global South, Via Campesina, Fair, IATP, The Council of Canadians, Corporate Accountability International, Ritimo, Friends of the Earth France, Transform

Friday 16 March from 3.30pm to 6pm, Cabaret Rouge 3

Water and Land in the Context of Climate Change: In the Search of Just Solutions

This workshop will be space for activists and practitioners working on food, land, water and climate issues to share issues, strategies and struggles and in the hope to find common grounds/commonalities and create joint initiatives and collaboration. The workshop will combine information sharing and strategizing.

In particular, the session aims to:

- ✦ understand and unpack the nature and links of the multiple crises or resource trifecta, in the 'collective' quest to address their impacts on the world's economies and peoples, especially to the poor and marginalized;*
- ✦ identify the local level challenges and opportunities that communities face, understand what it means for international advocacy, and how to bridge the gap between national/international efforts and community-level responses; and*
- ✦ discuss progressive solutions, alternatives including local water adaptation efforts and agroecological techniques, in the context of multiple governance challenges faced, both locally and globally.*

Presenters: Shiney Varghese (IATP) & Darcey O'Callaghan (Food & Water Watch)

Land, Water and Climate Change/Justice: issues, links, challenges and trends

Nicola Bullard (Focus on the Global South)

Wenonah Hauter (Food & Water Watch)

?? (Via Campesina)

Community-led Experiences and Responses

Mary Galvin (Umphilo, South Africa)

Sheelu (Tamilnadu Womens Collective)

?? (Jubilee South)