



**GREEN
CROSS**

I n t e r n a t i o n a l

ACTIVITY REPORT



2 0 0 8 - 2 0 0 9

GREEN CROSS INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITY REPORT 2008-2009

Coordinated and written by Someshwar Singh
and Michelle Laug
Under the guidance of Alexander Likhotal

Green Cross International
160a Route de Florissant – P.O. Box 80
1231 Conches – Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 789 1662
Fax: +41 22 789 1695
www.gci.ch

Design: NAPALM - napalm@mtds.com -  *messaggio studios*

Printed by  *naturaprint*

www.naturaprint.net

On recycled paper and vegetable inks

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT, MIKHAIL GORBACHEV	3
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, JAN KULCZYK	4
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ALEXANDER LIKHOTAL	5
RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE	6
CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE	6
SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS	8
ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ACTIONS	10
PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES	12
WATER FOR LIFE AND PEACE	12
WATER FOR PEACE	13
ACCES TO WATER	17
RIGHT TO WATER	18
ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WARS AND CONFLICTS	19
THE LEGACY PROGRAMME	20
SOCIAL, MEDICAL CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAMME	22
PROMOTING VALUE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE	25
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS	26
THE EARTH CHARTER	30
THE EARTH DIALOGUES	31
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	32
GCI COMMUNICATIONS	32
GREEN CROSS PUBLICATIONS	33
AWARDS GIVEN BY GREEN CROSS	34
AWARDS RECEIVED BY GREEN CROSS	35
GREEN CROSS INFORMATION	36
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	36
HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS	36
GCI HEADQUARTER AND NETWORK	36

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT

TAKING ACTION TO SAVE OUR PLANET



The last two years have been historic in many ways, both for our planet as well as the role of Green Cross International. The onset of the financial and economic crisis and attempts to resuscitate the world economy shook our confidence in our way of living. It threw into question our values and ethics that placed private profit above everything else, including other human beings. Copenhagen showed that despite the realisation that humanity faces a serious threat from climate change, the political will to set hard targets is faltering. Sustainable development is not just a worthy goal - there is no alternative to it. Greater, more-focused and coordinated actions to stop the environmental degradation - on land, seas and the biosphere - need to get in the pipeline without further delay. However, the road ahead is still long and winding. The destruction wrought over many decades and even centuries will take time to unwind, provided the human commitment to do that never falters.

Just two months ago, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Such scenes of jubilation, unity and hope for a better future were unthinkable in the midst of the Cold War days, when suspicion and mutual rivalry commanded most of our resources to the building of military arsenals. The Berlin Wall came down with a conscious resolve on the part of the two power blocs to tear it down. Today, we need the same determination and resolve by leaders of the multi-polar world to tear down a number of remaining barriers that stand in the way of peaceful co-existence.

The threats to human security and stability are many. Among the principal are those coming from a resurgence of the nuclear threat from State and non-State actors, the widening gap between the rich and poor, a failure to achieve the modest poverty-related goals enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and a continued apathy towards ameliorating the lot of 50-odd countries that remain in the rungs of the least developed countries.

But clouding all the rest is the threat to human survival and existence that is increasing being felt due to extreme weather events being triggered by climate change. The melting of polar ice sheets, mountain glaciers, changes in rainfall and therefore cropping patterns, and the increasing displacement of human populations in search of food and water – are some the consequences of climate change. They do not afford us the luxury of time nor space. They are urgent. Delay only means fixing a bigger damage.

“Politics is the art of the possible.” That is a famous observation made by the German Prussian politician Otto Von Bismarck in 1867. Over a century later, in this age of globalisation, politics has become the art of turning the impossible into possible. We did that with the Cold War and the Berlin Wall. There is no reason why we cannot break down the remaining walls.

When Green Cross was set up in 1993, the agenda we set for it seemed impossible to achieve. Only idealists and dreamers could, at that time, be arguing that the environmental agenda would become a dominant issue. It did not seem so realistic then to think that environmental degradation would become such a serious security threat to our very survival and existence. And that it would aggravate the problems of poverty and development.

Today, the connecting links between security, development and the environmental agenda are more visible and therefore easier to comprehend. The rising sea levels are a common threat to humanity, the motors of development must use natural resources in such a way as to minimise not just the carbon footprint but also the pollution and wastage that current production patterns and consumption lifestyles engender.

This will be the first General Assembly for me to which I am coming as a member of the Green Cross Board. As you recall, I stepped down from the position of the Chairman of the GCI Board two years ago, giving way to Jan Kulczyk to take on the reins. I am glad to see that at the last General Assembly two years ago, we took the correct decisions.

Despite the difficulties and the financial crisis, the Green Cross network has continued to develop and achieved new levels of strength and expansion.

Green Cross International believes that non-governmental organizations should take action both individually – in line with their goals and opportunities – and jointly. An integrated approach is needed, reflecting the inter-related nature of the global challenges. Within this approach, solutions should be sought to amplify the voices of the public.

This approach forms the basis of a Climate initiative being coordinated by the Green Cross International. It involves a number of organisations like the Club of Rome, the Club of Madrid, Nobel Peace Laureates Summit, and other NGOs, as well as prominent scientists. The idea was to develop a joint “beyond Copenhagen” roadmap. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, with whom we had a fruitful meeting recently in Geneva, has also shown support to our initiative.

I am convinced that the Climate Change Task Force we have launched has provided an impetus not just to the negotiating process before Copenhagen but in following through an honest and meaningful response in the years to come.

Now that our own new leadership has been tested, I hope the outlook will be brighter as our organisation gears to meet future challenges.

I look forward to seeing you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mikhail Gorbachev'.

Mikhail Gorbachev

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

CATALYZING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



As Chairman of Green Cross International I am on a special mission. My objective is to create an organizational, intellectual and financial platform for governments, environmental activists and business people. As an entrepreneur, I do my utmost to make sure that my investment projects meet the highest standards for environmental protection, as well as respecting international law and local conditions. I have no doubt whatsoever that business should work together with society, not at its cost.

There are many expectations from civil society movements, and particularly the green ones as questions of climate and sustainability come to the fore. Linked to that are the expectations of what governments should do and, similarly, of the kind of role that businesses must play as important stakeholders in society. Managing the interlinkages of such expectations is not easy, but I have never felt frustrated or disappointed. On the contrary, I believe that people are able to go beyond traditional divisions and speak with one voice about saving our home, Earth.

I have strong faith in the new partnerships between the main stakeholders in society - governments, businesses and civil society - being able to deliver on the common challenges that face humanity. Forging the right kind of partnerships to build the appropriate strengths in each society is a complex and painstaking exercise, but there can be no turning away from that. Based on my interactions over the last two years, I am convinced that we, as responsible members of the civil society, are on the right path to achieve the goal of creating catalytic partnerships for change.

The Climate Change Task Force that we are helping to coordinate under Mr. Gorbachev's leadership, is an example of the multi-stakeholder response that we are trying to elicit. The initiative was given the support from the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon who participated in its inaugural meeting.

The world economy needs an entirely new direction. A full-scale, systemic reorientation of our production, distribution and consumption patterns is warranted. The transition to a low-carbon future involves the creation of new incentives and regulations which can assist the creation of new markets that will carry a much smaller environmental footprint than today. This clearly calls for a new phase in government-business-civil society relationships founded on trust and confidence. Planetary challenges need global responses across markets and countries.

In line with the environmental consciousness that needs to permeate economic activities, I have been involved in several initiatives. One that I am proud to report to you about is the recent launch of the RESPECT Index, Poland's first stock exchange index, rating socially responsible enterprises. Kulczyk Investments, together with renowned partners, the Warsaw Stock Exchange, Deloitte and Forbes Magazine, initiated the project and developed the rating's methodology. The objective of the project is to recognise those companies that promote responsible business activities that are honest, transparent and consider the long-term social and environmental impact of an enterprise rather than just the short-term economic considerations. I also initiated a cross-country survey among Polish enterprises to measure their environmental awareness and responsibility. The results of the survey show that the majority of those enterprises surveyed actively protect the environment. On the other hand, Polish entrepreneurs highlight that there are numerous constraints which hinder environmentally oriented investments. Together with Polish opinion leaders, I would like to create a cooperation platform which will stimulate public debate and the exchange of opinions which will result in real financial and legal solutions. I hope this to be the first challenge for the Polish branch of Green Cross.

It is a gigantic, but necessary, endeavour to bring about fundamental changes in the value systems that drive our thinking, the motors of our economy, and our relationship with nature. We need the full force of our network and partners - in government, private industry and civil society and above all, the common man - to help catalyze sustainable solutions. We have to tap the synergies for a better future.

Taking on the mantle of responsibility from our illustrious previous Chairman, Mikhail Gorbachev, for whom there is deep and deserved respect within our network and beyond, is certainly a big challenge. Nevertheless, I am prepared to shoulder this responsibility even more so in the coming years. Of course, I will count on your valuable support and dedication to the commendable activities of the Green Cross.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK' or 'Jan Kulczyk', written in a cursive style.

Jan Kulczyk

MESSAGE FROM GCI PRESIDENT

GEARING THE NETWORK TO GREEN LEADERSHIP



The world is witnessing a heightened public concern over the health of our planet. Even more so than during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 which inspired the creation of our organisation in 1993. It is our joint task and responsibility to assess the changes that need to happen, to goad political will in that direction, as well as to garner public support for sustainable solutions.

Such an outlook is, in fact, dictated by the Green Cross mission. Bearing that in mind, we have forged several partnerships with other organisations. For strengthening programme support as well as chalking out a realistic strategy to deal with a planetary crisis such as climate change, which is not just on the horizon but already set in motion. It is in this context that we forged links with and sensitized the Nobel Peace Laureates Forum as well as the Club of Madrid, the United Nations institutions and the Club of Rome, besides many others.

As you are well aware, we are going through an extraordinarily difficult period in the history of our organisation. On the external front, the global economic downturn and the financial meltdown have affected everyone and the civil society is no exception. But within the limits of the constraints imposed on us, Green Cross as an organisation has continued to develop its programmes and consolidated its agendas.

Internally, we have been earnestly engaged in upgrading our governance system. This is never an easy task but has been rendered difficult in the current circumstances.

Gianni Berner, former Chairman and currently Honorary President of Green Cross Switzerland, deserves our praise for the admirable task he has accomplished in guiding us through the work of the GCI Governance Task Force. I am confident that this effort will make GCI more transparent, democratic and effective. I sincerely hope that it will give a boost to the strengthening of our network.

Our current agendas, as you know, is dominated by climate change concerns. In a sense, it encapsulates our three basic concerns of human security, poverty and the environment. And they are so interconnected; they must be dealt with simultaneously as no one aspect can be left to be tackled at a later date. Copenhagen was an important step. But we have such a long way to go. Our responsibility as members of the Green Cross family is to help catalyse an honest commitment and realistic actions the world over for a quick transition to a low-carbon society.

We are proud to have provided a platform for the Climate Change Task Force, which has been supported by the United Nations Secretary General. It brings together some critical voices to bear on the climate change agenda. The Task Force members were active before and during Copenhagen. But above all, they will continue to monitor the Copenhagen follow-up.

Our commitment to ongoing programmes – relating to water, energy, legacy of the cold war, and education - is bound to see a diversification and some modification to reflect current priorities. I commend the spirit of dedication shown by all our programme staff and indeed, by all in the Green Cross family.

It is also my honour to thank President Gorbachev, all Board members and Chairman Jan Kulczyk for their unflinching support and enlightened guidance, especially at a time when maintaining the momentum of our commitments is also a challenge in itself. But we must deliver on green leadership. That is what is expected of Green Cross.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Likhotal'.

Alexander Likhotal

RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE



At the inaugural meeting of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) in Geneva on 5th October 2009, Mr. Gorbachev and the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meet with GCI Chairman Jan Kulczyk, Jean-Michel Cousteau and Martin Beniston / Photo: Gosia Wieruszewska

Climate change poses an increasing threat to global security and stability. Because it is the net result of several contributing factors, a matching response has to be comprehensive and systemic. Given the unprecedented scale of the climate and inter-related challenges and the urgency of global coordinated action, Green Cross provided a platform for a Task Force of opinion leaders, not linked to the negotiations process. The idea is to strengthen the global response process to climate change in a way that is fair, balanced and effective. Led by GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) had its inaugural meeting in Geneva on 5 October 2009, in the presence of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The mission of this Task Force is threefold. First, to urge governments to maximise the opportunities Copenhagen offered for a strong and coherent climate deal. Second, since Copenhagen is but a milestone in a journey, to “recalibrate” the international response to climate change in line with the danger posed to human security and development and to outline a framework for Copenhagen follow-up. And thirdly, to promote the active engagement of civil society in the search for appropriate and adequate solutions to the challenges of climate change. The objective is to build the critical mass for a deep-rooted societal change that is able first to contain and then to reverse the effects of climate change.

This initiative built on the work of several well-known international organisations such as the Club of Rome, the Club of Madrid, and the World Political Forum. It seeks to consolidate and support the intellectual input of these think tanks,

as well as other organizations with similar objectives, in a manner than is inclusive and transparent so as to achieve synergies and maximize impact.

Following the second meeting of the CCTF on 25 October 2009 in Amsterdam, President Gorbachev gave a keynote address to the Club of Rome General Assembly where he described the CCTF as a blueprint for a global emergency response to the climate crisis. He also appealed to heads of states to personally attend the Copenhagen conference. GCI president Alexander Likhotal introduced a statement prepared by CCTF members to the Club of Rome general assembly, which was attended by Queen Beatrix



GCI President Alexander Likhotal, Secretary-General of the Club of Rome - Martin Lees, GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Mayor of Amsterdam - Job Cohen / Photo: City of Amsterdam



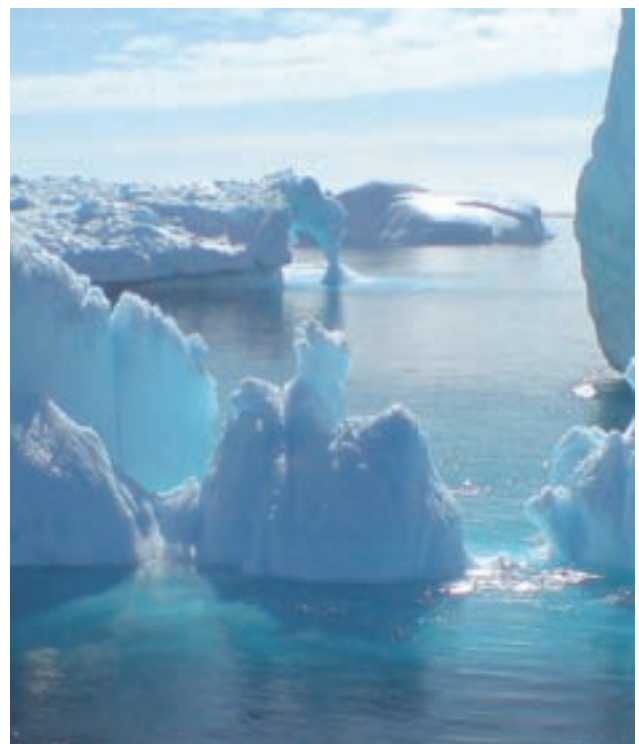
View of the melting glacier from the Pax Arctica expedition / Photo: © Luc Hardy / SAGAX

of Netherlands and the former Netherlands Prime Minister and GCI honorary Board member Ruud Lubbers. The former President of Chile and current President of the Club of Madrid and CCTF member, President Ricardo Lagos, also took part in a panel discussion on the need for urgent action on climate change at the national and international levels.

At the end of their 10th Summit in Berlin (10-11 November 2009), the Nobel Peace Laureates issued a special statement on climate change for the Copenhagen Conference. They urged world leaders to make a personal commitment for a successful Copenhagen process. The third session of the Summit, organized by GCI, examined the barriers to sustainable development.

After the plea made by Nobel Peace Laureates for a strong Copenhagen deal at their 10th summit in Berlin, the Club of Madrid, the largest forum of former heads of state and government, held a special session on climate change at its 8th General Assembly and Annual Conference. The overall focus of this year's conference was "The Political Dimensions of the World Economic Crisis: National Interests, Stability and Global Governance".

Representatives from the GC network and CCTF members also participated in the Copenhagen climate conference events. A separate website has been designed to disseminate the work of the CCTF - www.climatechangetaskforce.org.



For thousands of years, this Greenland icesheet used to be intact during the month of April. Not anymore / Photo- GC Sweden

SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS



The Zero Energy Housing project Los Vecinos in California / Photo: Global Green USA

“GREENING THE TAX CREDITS” CAMPAIGN

The “Greening the Tax Credits” campaign by the US affiliate of Green Cross – the Global Green - is an effort to get states to incorporate green building criteria in their low-income housing tax credit programs, the most competitive source of financing for low income housing developments nationwide. Global Green has been successful in encouraging the adoption of green building criteria in several states and cities, notably New York, Texas and California, and has influenced practices in others.

MODIFYING THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE

In 2008 Global Green spent time in several states working on a campaign aimed at updating the most utilized residential building code in the country to make it 30% more energy efficient. The “30% Solution” was championed by the Energy Efficient Codes Coalition (EECC) comprised of energy efficiency and environmental groups like Global Green and energy efficiency products manufacturers. The initial phase of the campaign culminated with a vote on the “30% Solution” in September 2008. Modifying the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is one of the most cost effective and practical ways to help mitigate the potentially devastating impact of global warming. Global Green continued to work collaboratively with the EECC in 2009.

FIRST EVER GLOBAL SOLAR REPORT CARD

In 2008, Global Green conducted the first installment of an annual country-by-country review of the state of solar energy, the first of its kind. This comprehensive document grades the solar policies of 16 countries (Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and US) as well as the state of California, and thereby establishes benchmark snapshots against which to evaluate future progress.

The Global Solar Report Card looks at each country’s progress to date in terms of solar installed, and drivers for future growth, including policy frameworks such as financial and regulatory incentives. Germany, an early and enduring champion of solar, ranked the highest. California fared well, thanks to its California Solar Initiative, and 10 year \$3 billion rebate program. Despite the United States’ recent extension of the Investment Tax Credit, its overall rating was just fair with a C+ grade. The report also considers countries that stand to gain most by developing their solar markets given their solar resources level of pollution of their current electricity generation.

The second Solar Report Card 2009, which looked at the same countries, was released during the Copenhagen climate summit. It urged world leaders and the private sector to make significant investments - \$50 billion and more in the next 2 to 3 years - in solar energy swiftly as a way out of the current economic crisis and as part of an

emergency response to climate change. Long-term commitments to solar can enable the private sector to further reduce costs via economies of scale and technological advancements. Every hour, enough solar warmth hits the earth to meet the world's annual demand for energy. Today's solar technologies can cleanly meet annual demand four times over. Yet solar does not even account for 1% of our electricity portfolios.

RESOURCE RECOVERY FROM WASTES

In 2008, Global Green USA launched a new recycling initiative in New York City, which exports 15,000 tons of waste to distant landfills each day, designed to catalyze a national recycling movement. Increasing the national recycling rate is one of the most readily available mechanisms for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and actively engaging the public and industry in the fight against climate change.

New York City, as the largest municipality in the country, offers an unparalleled opportunity for a nationally replicable demonstration aimed at solid waste stream diversion. Global Green's Coalition for Resource Recovery (CoRR) is working with various restaurants on pilot projects that close the loop on waste by transforming garbage into assets.

LOS ANGELES GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM

Global Green devoted 25 months assisting the City of Los Angeles in shaping, drafting, and gaining public support for a Green Building Program for Private Development. The Los Angeles City Council approved the program on Earth Day 2008 and Mayor Antonio Villariagosa signed it later that afternoon. Under the ordinance, the City will require all projects at or above 50,000 square feet - or 50 units - to comply with the general LEED-certified standard. In exchange, the City will work with builders to speed up approvals and to remove obstacles in the municipal code for elements of sustainable building design, such as green rooftops, cisterns, and permeable pavements.

The program is expected to have an influence on approximately 150 buildings per year, resulting in significant long-term reductions in carbon emissions. An analysis conducted by Global Green showed that over 15 years the green building program would result in avoided emissions equivalent to removing 100,000 cars from the road or planting approximately 14 million trees - surpassing any other major city in the country.



Solar Panels / Photo: Global Green USA

CALIFORNIA'S FIRST ZERO ENERGY AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

One Global Green project that demonstrates the viability of lowering energy bills and reducing climate is SOLARA, the first ever Net Zero Energy affordable housing community in the history of California. Designed to be completely green - solar panels power the entire residential complex. SOLARA's carbon footprint is 95% lower than a conventionally powered community.

In 2008, the project met its goals to reduce electricity bill by 68% for the 56 low-income families in the complex. It contributes to the overall stability of the electrical grid by exporting power during peak times. The project has also been instrumental in provoking a series of policy changes at the state level, including new provisions that will reduce installation costs and promote energy efficiency. A second Global Green-affiliated zero energy affordable housing project, Los Vecinos, was opened in 2009.

CALLS FOR US MILITARY TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

In December, 2009, the Security and Sustainability Program of Global Green released a preliminary analysis of the impact of the U.S. Department of Defense on climate change. Entitled "Department of Defense Sustainability," the study illustrates how very important energy has become as a determinant of national and international security, and also how large an environmental impact the U.S. military has with its widespread use of fossil fuels.

ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ACTIONS

BUILDING BENEFITS TO LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

Global Green has continued its push to make benefits to low-income communities a priority in the implementation of CA's Global Warming Act, AB 32. As primary advocate for the "Community Empowerment Amendment" (CEA) of AB 32, Global Green has continued to successfully encourage the California Air Resources Board to make the CEA a priority in the AB 32 Scoping Plan, the primary guiding document for implementation that was approved in December 2008. With the Scoping Plan approved, Global Green will continue to monitor implementation to ensure that revenue streams created by AB 32 are directed toward the most disadvantaged communities in California.

EXTREME WEATHER HEROES

Green Cross Australia has recently launched the Extreme Weather Heroes campaign in light of changing climate and an aging volunteer population. The aim is to inspire a new generation of young emergency services volunteers. It educates young Australians about the science of extreme weather and building evidence of a changing climate. By drawing a connection to emergency volunteering, GCA aims to inspire 20,000 Australians under 30 to become active emergency volunteers with one of Australia's 18 agencies in three years time.

To kick-start this campaign, GCA selected five outstanding active volunteers from the State Emergency Service (SES), Red Cross or the Rural Fire Service to be our Extreme Weather Heroes. These five Extreme Weather Heroes document their stories over live interactive blogs, twitter, video and photo links on Facebook - encouraging and inspiring their peers to do the same at any one of their local emergency volunteering agencies.

BUILD IT BACK GREEN

In February 2009 Australia experienced the worst bushfires in history; with 174 lives claimed and more than 2,000 homes and 3,500 structures destroyed. Green Cross Australia is building partnerships with companies to catalyse a major green rebuilding initiative centred in the Victorian community of Flowerdale - at the heart of the bushfire impacted zone. It raised funds from government, business and community in order to use the model led by Global Green in New Orleans for the benefit of communities by investing in a green future.

GC Australia's strategy involves using web tools for home builders, architects and builders, including installation videos, tip sheets, extensive product guides and information about available Federal, State and local government rebates and discounts; Community green building resource centres with up to date sustainable product and vendor information, samples of environmentally friendly building materials, and advice on how to access professional one-on-one green building consultations by appointment; and regular information meetings and workshops coordinated through community centres and clubs in bushfire affected communities

PEOPLE POWERING THE FUTURE

To build the capacity of young people and women in leadership positions in Asia and the Pacific, GC Australia's first landmark initiative was the 2008 National People's Assembly: a rigorously implemented deliberative democracy project following the Danish Consensus Conference method. The Project Steering Committee comprised the highest level cross sector leadership group ever assembled to address the topic of how Australia should respond to the humanitarian challenges of rising sea levels in Asia Pacific.

The People Powering the Future initiative was derived from the recommendations of the National People's Assembly to establish a south-south capacity building network in Asia Pacific so that women and youth leaders can build a common understanding about the key adaptation challenges confronting Asia Pacific as a result of rising sea levels and increasingly severe weather events.

Green Cross Australia is building powerful relationships with other network participants across the region, with a focus on encouraging youth and women leaders to share good ideas for coping with the changing climate using internet based social networks and conventional communication tools. By using these open facilitated collaboration network, GCA aims to catalyse thinking and action across the Asia Pacific region.

The driving force for this project is in response to increasing severe scientific weather predictions and the fact that women and youth are excluded from decision-making processes when disasters strike, despite being the most affected by the consequences. Both groups are deeply and disproportionately impacted by climate change.

"THE TURNING POINT" CLIMATE FILM FESTIVAL

Green Cross Sweden helped launch the first international Climate Film Festival in Europe "The Turning Point" in Torsby, Sweden from 6-9 May, 2009. It was in collaboration with Global Kuynskap/Sebra Films, the Municipality of Torsby, the County Administration of Värmland, the Center for Climate Safety, the University of Karlstad, and the European Commission. International participants included Thor Heyerdahl Jr, Norway and Marie-Monique Robin, French producer of the film "Monsantos Värld".

JOURNEY TO A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE

In April-May 2008, GC Sweden organised a climate workshop series: "Journey to a Climate Friendly Lifestyle." They offered the public an opportunity to make climate friendly choices, ideas for a greener lifestyle, besides providing a forum for dialogue and inspiration. Guest speakers included energy experts and meteorologists. Sweden's EPA Naturvårdsverket provided the funding and the workshop host was Stuart Pledger.

THE 11th HOUR FILM PREMIER, STOCKHOLM

GC Sweden, in cooperation with Sandrew Metronome Distribution and Warner Bros held the film premier of Leonardo DiCaprio's "The 11th Hour" on 14th January, 2008 with a full house at the Cinema Grand in Stockholm. Guests included decision-makers from the Swedish government, business as well as celebrities.

SEMINAR ON GREENLAND AND THE ARCTIC

A seminar on "Climate and Environment in Greenland and the Arctic" was held 19-23 April 2008 in Narsaq, Greenland. Organised by Earth Charter and Agenda 21, in cooperation with GC Sweden, Nature and Peoples of the North and WWF Denmark, it focused on environmental policies in Greenland and the impact of climate change in the region. Among the speakers were Brendan Mackey and Henrietta Rasmussen and Tonia Moya. GC Sweden, together with Plantagon produced a documentary film shot from the southern tip of Greenland. Images show the Arctic melt down in April 2008, of glacial ice beds that have for thousands of years been solid ice at this time of the year. Only in the last 2 - 5 years they have become open waters.

PAX ARCTICA POLE EXPEDITIONS

The Young Ambassadors of the Arctic was the first in a series of initiatives, collectively grouped under the name Pax Arctica, created by Global Green USA, Global Green board member Sebastian Copeland and Luc Hardy to sensitize public opinion on the climate changes and challenges facing the Arctic region.

With sponsorship help from HP, an international coalition of children took the trip to the North in July 2008, setting out on a month-long expedition of the Arctic region. The kids, ages 9 - 17, came from diverse backgrounds and areas around the world, yet shared a common passion to learn more about climate change. Young Ambassadors of the Arctic aims to engage the young as the eyes of their generation, leading them to experience the Arctic in a variety of ways: interacting with local culture; working alongside scientists in the field; and of course, experiencing the ice itself ... which risks being gone within their lifetimes.



Melting icesheets in Greenland / Photo - GC Sweden



The last five years have produced new formations of vanishing icesheets / Photo GC-Sweden.

2008 saw the greatest depletion of summer ice, leaving experts confounded by the implication. In all, half a million square miles of ice simply vanished during the summer months. That is an area the size of Texas and California combined. It is now clear that the Arctic sea ice will likely break entirely much sooner than was initially predicted. To put this in perspective, projections two years ago pinned 2050 as the time this would happen. Last year it was 2025. Today, scientists fear that this summer could see for the first time the northern polar cap mostly broken up, opening maritime routes never before imagined.

In spring of 2009, Sebastian Copeland embarked on a centennial North Pole expedition in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first trek to the North Pole by Admiral Robert Peary in 1909. Scientists predict that in less than five years, the Arctic sea will be ice free in the summer months. *In 1909, the average depth of ice at the North Pole was 12 feet while today it averages just 5.5 feet.*

GANGES EXPEDITION IN INDIA

GCI supported the month-long "Ganges Expedition" by the Swiss adventurer Andy Leemann, mapping the current state of the river over a 2,500 kilometres long stretch in September-October 2009. The photographs and video footage provide a good reference point for likely changes in the near future expected to be caused by climate change. "As the reality of Climate Change sets in, with some changes already happening, it is important to prepare for future impacts on the Ganges river basin," said Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, a special GCI envoy present in New Delhi at a press conference on 10 September 2009 for the launch of the expedition. Prof. Munasinghe shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for work on global warming and sustainable development. Other partners included Kuoni, TAG Heuer, WWF and AB inflatables.

PREVENTING AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER FOR LIFE AND PEACE



Girls in Burkina Faso with bowls to collect water / Photo: GC Italy

Humanity currently uses only half of the accessible 12,400 cubic kilometres of estimated freshwater annual flow. Agricultural claims the largest share of around 70 per cent. With fast growing human population, water use is growing even faster. In the 20th century, water consumption grew twice as fast as the world population. As a result, a third of the world's population lives in water-stressed countries now. By 2025, this is expected to rise to two-thirds. Water shortages and pollution are causing widespread public health problems, limiting economic and agricultural development, and harming a wide range of ecosystems. They may put global food supplies in jeopardy and lead to economic stagnation in many areas of the world. Therefore, the strategic challenge for the future is to ensure adequate quantity and quality of water for everyone, and share responsibilities and benefits between all stakeholders: between nations, and between competing users such as agriculture, industries, and individual consumers.

GCI's water projects are built around the themes of *Water for Peace*, *Access to Water* and *Right to Water*. The *Water for Peace* programme aims to promote cooperation and resolution of conflicts over water, particularly focusing on transboundary river basins. Over half the world's population lives in valleys drained by Transboundary Rivers, causing tension amongst people of different nations over the allocation of scarce water. Whether it is a major river like the Nile, Mekong, Danube, La Plata or a local river like the Okavango or Jordan, their water is precious to the people who depend on it, and reducing tension around these basins is crucial to alleviate many future conflicts all over the globe. As nations experiencing increasing water stress, mechanisms and institutions to manage disputes over water resources remain either absent or inadequate.

Climate change is increasingly posing a serious risk to water availability, with serious social and economic repercussions. Therefore, water management systems need to be adapted. To deal with water scarcity, excessive withdrawal of water from surface and underground aquifers, pollution of fresh water resources, and inefficient use of freshwater need to be checked. GCI's *Access to Water* programme seeks to ensure everyone has access to a safe and sustainable water supply.

Fresh water is not a global resource. It is a regional one, available within specific watersheds. Appropriate ways and means to extend this basic human right to all people are yet to be clearly defined and deployed, and the majority of countries are yet to confirm this right in their national legislation. Therefore, the Green Cross *Right to Water* programme seeks to promote access to water as a basic human right accepted by all nations.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE – DETERMINING NEEDS

Green Cross Switzerland, Green Cross France and the Peres Center for Peace are currently finalising a study of the water needs of the region. The final goal of the study is to provide the Israeli and Palestinian side with reliable, unbiased data and analysis on the water needs and availability in the region, thus opening new avenues for developing integrated water management.

RAINWATER HARVESTING IN MIDDLE EAST SCHOOLS

GCI and partner organisation Friends of the Earth Middle East successfully installed 12 additional rainwater-harvesting systems in schools and community centres in Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli communities. GCI is now looking to build on this experience by installing more systems throughout the region and linking this with environmental education.

RESOLUTION OF A PAPER MILLS CONFLICT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY

The construction of two paper mills (one from Botnia, Finland and the second, Ence, from Spain) in the Gualaguaychú border area between Argentina and Uruguay has led to public concerns over potential water and air pollution in the region. As such, Green Cross Argentina with the support of Green Cross Switzerland has been undertaking since September 2007 an environmental impact assessment along the Rio Uruguay in Argentina and Uruguay to analyze the quality of transboundary air, soil and water. Analysis of the water and mud on both coasts of the Uruguay River were completed showing no evidence of pollution by the activities of the Botnia paper mill. During the first stage of the project, an assessment of the air quality in the region found no significant increase in the air and water pollution levels during both the start up of the mill and the first months of activity. All data are publicly available at the GC Argentina website. Also, different public meetings were held over the year with schools, activists, local universities, etc.



The Rain Water Harvesting systems in the Middle East / Photo: David Alix

GREEN CROSS NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS PROJECTS

- **Green Cross Sweden programme initiatives**

Peace building in the Rift Valley, Kenya: GC Sweden is working closely with the *Green Belt Movement*, founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Mathai, on a joint project in Kenya to mitigate conflict and promote environmental restoration in local communities. Started in 2006, the joint project is in the Maai Mahiu Rift Valley province, where conflicts erupted between the pastoral community of the Maasai and the agricultural community of the Kikuyu. Through tree planting, conflict mitigation and environmental education, the project brings the communities together. In total, some 200,000 trees have been planted. Post-election violence in 2008 temporarily brought the project to a halt but it has since been resumed with the establishment of peace building councils for dialogue and reconciliation. Prof. Mathai has taken a number of steps to promote rapprochement among local communities through tree planting as well as creating youth football teams. GC Denmark joined as project partner in 2009. With climate change, drought and access to water are major challenges for this region. Project funding is provided by the Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden.

GC Sweden runs the “World’s Water – cooperation or conflict” project for Swedish teachers at the high school level. Through the creativity of role-play teachers are given a deeper perspective on the world’s water issues with respect to the need for equity and conflict solving, which they can then incorporate in their teaching.

- **Preventing conflicts over water resources in Burkina Faso**

Green Cross Switzerland and Green Cross Burkina Faso are working to prevent conflicts in the Volta River Basin over the lack of natural resources management. The project educates communities about the reasons for environmental degradation, improvement of soil fertility through composting, restoration and maintenance of irrigation systems, and promotes the creation of local water councils.

- **Green Cross Spain: Fourth (2008) and fifth (2009) International Dialogue on the worldwide water crisis**

The fourth dialogue on the world water crisis, (2008) focused on the water management in Eastern Europe and the new opportunities for cooperation including the incorporation of the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Dialogue featured the current situation in Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland and Turkey on their way to integration. Held in Seville, Spain, it was organised by Green Cross Spain, Seville Public Water Management Company (EMASESA) and Seville City Council. The fifth dialogue (2009), held in Alcorcón, looked at the Maghreb region and access to water for sanitation purposes.

- **Green Cross Spain and the Water Alliance**

The Water Alliance was formed as a tool for raising funds and engaging Spanish citizens in the challenge to go above and beyond the UN’s Millennium Development Goals of reducing the number of the world’s population with limited access to water by 2015. Sponsored by Spanish Environmental Ministry, International Agency of Spanish Cooperation, United Nations office for the Millennium Development Goals in Spain and of the Expo Zaragoza 2008; it has been an opportunity to work with like minded partners to raise funds in the hope of exceeding Millennium Development Goals.

- **Clean and monitor water quality in the Henares Basin by Madrid**

GC Spain brings together volunteers to conduct water quality analysis and clean up the bank of the Henares River, close to Madrid. The project is an initiative of the Environmental Science Association (Asociación de Ciencias Ambientales, ACA) in collaboration with Green Cross Spain. In addition, the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, through its Rivers Volunteering Project, subsidizes the project.

- **Green Cross Swaziland: “Water Pollution Surveillance” project**

GC Swaziland is leading a project aimed at monitoring water pollution in the main rivers of Swaziland, mostly polluted by chemicals dumped by surrounding big companies. It has recently run a very successful clean-up campaign in the Eastern Lowveld region of Swaziland, involving school children. Another project aims to combat desertification, a major issue in Swaziland. One of the solutions has been the planting of trees in areas affected by dams or roads.

- **Green Cross Pakistan: treating contaminated water**

The tanning industry is big business in Pakistan. The industry has recently boomed in Kasur, near the Indian border, and has become the livelihood for most of the 350,000 residents. 9000 cubic metres of waste are discharged daily in Kasur, entering waterways and forming pools of stagnant water. Toxins seep into crops watered from polluted sources. In 2008, GC Pakistan and its partners from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, have treated the contaminated water, employing the technique of biosorption. Almost 1500 people have now benefited from this kind of wastewater treatment. Residual traces of the toxins are no longer found in the food chain.



Group of volunteers cleaning up the Henares River / Photo: GC Spain

PROMOTION OF WATER ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- Expo Zaragoza 2008, the International Water Exposition in Spain, welcomed Mikhail Gorbachev, GCI Founding President and Board member. He launched the new book “Water for Peace - Peace for Water” at the conference. The book is part of the “Water Words” series and highlights the work of GCI in the field of water conflict prevention.
- GCI held a panel session on “Water as a Human Right” at the 9th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates held in Paris, France 11-13 December 2008. The overall focus of the summit was on “Human rights and a World without violence,” seeking to raise awareness about the threat violence, poverty and a lack of resources have on basic human rights and ensuring a peaceful future for the world.
- GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev and GCI President Alexander Likhotal both attended and addressed *Peace with Water* conference at the European Parliament in February 2009. President Gorbachev called for a fundamentally new model of development and political architecture while Mr. Likhotal spoke during a session on the Right to Water.
- The *Fifth World Water Forum* was held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009. GCI International Water Programme Director David Alix was among the speakers at a side event to encourage the ratification and entry into force of the UN Watercourses Convention. The event was organized together with the WWF, the Global Nature Fund (GNF), the European Water Partnership, and the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water & Sanitation (UNSGAB). Global Green USA Senior Fellow Finn Longiotto, GC Russia Communications Director Alexander Fyodorov, GC Brazil President Celso Claro and GC Switzerland Water and Legacy Unit Manager Stephan Robinson also attended and took part in events at the Forum.
- GCI International Water Programme Director David Alix spoke about the outcomes of the Forum on the issue of urban water management at the *Sustainable Water use and Management: Leadership for Positive Change* panel held 26 March 2009 in Geneva. The event was organised by the Geneva Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH), in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- GCI Water Programme Director David Alix was among the speakers at the *World Sustainable Congress* on 24 July 2009 in Austria. Addressing the session on politics and human rights, Mr. Alix expanded on the theme of “*Peace-building the future: Is water the answer or the missing piece?*” He drew on lessons from the GC water projects in the Middle East.
- The focus of the *Stockholm World Water Week* held 16-22 August 2009 was on transboundary waters, providing a platform to highlight the UN Watercourses Convention. GCI together with the WWF, European Water Partnership, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Global Nature Fund and the Swedish EU Presidency hosted a side-event 17 August on the relevance of the Convention to European states.

WATER FOR PEACE

WORKING WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INITIATIVES

- **World Water Council**

GCI was represented on the Board of Governors of the World Water Council until the election of a new board in October 2009. GCI Water Programme Director David Alix served as an Alternate Governor and Bertrand Charrier, as Governor. The 6th World Water Forum in 2012 will be held in Marseille, France.

- **Ganges Expedition**

GCI supported the “Ganges Expedition” by the Swiss adventurer Andy Leemann in September 2009 as an invaluable tool to support one of its primary focus activities - water campaigns. The over 2000 kilometres Ganges expedition was also partnered by Kuoni, WWF and Tag Heuer. Mapping the current state of this river through photographs and video footage provided an important resource to support efforts aimed at restoring its health. It also provides a good reference point for likely changes in the near future expected to be caused by climate change.

INFLUENCING WATER POLICIES THROUGH THE MEDIA

GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev authored the preface to the *Water for Peace- Peace for Water* book in 2008, highlighting the work of Green Cross in water conflict prevention. The book is a compilation of seven essays with contributions from Shimon Peres, President of Israel; Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner for the Environment; Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council; Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Michel Rocard, member of the European Parliament ex-Prime Minister of France; and Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt.

GCI President Alexander Likhotal wrote an opinion piece *Water Politics Needs a Sea Change*, published on 12 March 2009, calling for urgent action to improve water resource management.

GCI's water activities in the Middle East were highlighted in the article *Building Bridges in the Middle East*, which appeared in the Geneva Times in March/April 2009.



Women going to collect water in Burkina Faso / Photo: GC Italy

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER AND BASIC SANITATION

- **Access to clean water in Burkina Faso**

GC Italy and GC Burkina Faso are currently working on Seme l'Eau au Burkina Faso, a project to increase the availability of drinking water in the region.

- **Water systems in Swaziland**

Green Cross Swaziland is providing water systems to villages in the Maloma area, supplying the inhabitants with safe drinking water.

WATER EDUCATION

- **Water Education for farmers in Pakistan**

Water Scarcity is a serious problem in many parts of Pakistan due to drought, water mismanagement and conflict. GC Pakistan is working grass-roots level by imparting water education to farmers. Two training centres have been established in a remote region in Pakistan to educate farmers on wise and sustainable management of water.

- **Water education in Russia**

GC Russia is involved in a variety of activities designed to educate the public about water as a precious natural resource. These include promoting a *Young Water Movement* in Moscow, water related media tours, a youth painting contest for the International Day of Water, a public campaign for legislative development on the Water Code, environmental safety and other issues, public monitoring of water objects, cleaning and restoration of water bodies and their assessments, environmental awareness and education training, and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM).



Elio in BF- Green Cross Italy CEO Elio Pacilo monitoring an access to water project in Burkino Faso / Photo: GC Italy

COMBATING WATER POLLUTION

- **Ending pollution in the Marilao Watershed, Philippines**

GC Switzerland completed Phase I of the *Ending Pollution in the Marilao Watershed* project in the Philippines in 2009. In addition, it is working on the remediation of the former Subic Bay Naval Base and the former Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines to improve the health and environmental well being of inhabitants in the area.

- **Cleaning up water sources in the Rudnaya River Valley, Russia**

GC Switzerland is working on water and soil remediation and reducing the lead exposure from lead mining in the Rudnaya River Valley in Russia.

- **Cleaning up pesticides in the Former Soviet Union**

GC Switzerland is working in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to demonstrate the viability and scale up sustainable non-chemical alternatives to DDT to control vector borne diseases. It is also working on a project for capacity building of local stakeholders in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan for compiling inventories of pesticides, remediating large-scale pesticide burial areas, develop adequate elimination technologies, and educate the public on the risks of illicit and indiscriminate use of legacy POPs pesticides forbidden by the Stockholm Convention. Finally, GC Switzerland together with GC Belarus is coordinating capacity building in nine former states of the Soviet Union on inventorying, safeguarding and eliminating POPs pesticides.

- **Reducing water contamination in Kyrgyzstan**

In Kyrgyzstan, GC Switzerland's project "Mailuu-Suu social and medical problems alleviation for the radionuclide-contaminated area" aims to reduce the threat of water contamination due to uranium tailings from USSR mining activity in the 1950s.

- **Assessing the environmental impact on river Tom in Russia**

GC Switzerland and GC Russia co-financed a research project on safe nature management on the river Tom in the Russian Federation in 2008. The project, managed by GC Russia, within the framework of their water programme, and implemented by the GC office in Tomsk, will assess the environmental situation around the Siberian Chemical Industrial Complex (SCIC) in Seversk, just a few kilometers north of Tomsk.

- **Clean-up campaign in Swaziland**

GC Swaziland conducted a successful water clean-up campaign in the Eastern Lowveld region of Swaziland. The campaign brought together local residents and school children to clean up the large amount of plastics that are used.

RIGHT TO WATER

UN WATERCOURSES CONVENTION

The United Nations Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses was adopted at the UN General Assembly in 1997, but the required number state ratifications for entry into force has not been reached. In 2008 and 2009, GCI partnered with the WWF to speed up the process. In 2009, Tunisia and Spain both ratified the Convention bringing the total of contracting states to 18, leaving 17 more for entry into force. At the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul (March, 2009), France announced its intention to ratify the Convention and is expected to complete the accession process in 2010. Block ratifications are being assessed in several regions and national consultations have started in countries interested in the Convention, among which are several countries in West Africa.

THE RIGHT TO WATER CONCEPT AND CAMPAIGN

Most human and environmental rights are defined as such by instruments of legal international treaty or agreement. GCI believes that the right to water should not be different. Like climate and biodiversity, the right to water deserves a legal international instrument. GCI and President Gorbachev are fully engaged in this campaign. Because the right to water is universal and inalienable, Green Cross lends a strong voice to the call for the adoption of a convention that would recognise it and make it a priority in political decision-making. What had previously been an awareness campaign is transitioning into a powerful force for action in international law.

Following the petition for a Global Water Convention launched in 2002 in Lyon during the first Earth Dialogues, it was decided with the International Secretariat of Water (ISW) and the Maghreb-Machreq Alliance for Water (ALMAE), that the first World Assembly of Water Wisdom (WAWW) would be held in Kyoto and that the Water Convention project would be launched at this occasion. The second WAWW was held in Barcelona during the Universal Forum of Cultures (Barcelona 2004), where the first draft of the Fundamental Principles for a Global convention on the Right to Water was adopted. GCI continues to push for the Right to Water being included as a fundamental right.



GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev presenting the International Green Film Award to Leonardo DiCaprio at the eighth annual Cinema for Peace gala in Berlin on 9 February 2009 / Photo: Cinema for Peace

ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WARS AND CONFLICTS



Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington DC with Republican Senator Richard Lugar.

Too often in cases of conflict, the focus narrows to short-term strategy, while long-term consequences of conflict, including environmental and public health impacts, are ignored, often to the detriment of the surrounding populations. For this reason, Green Cross International established in 1993 an international programme to address the environmental consequences of wars and conflicts with the mission of safely eliminating weapons of mass destruction and mitigating social, health, and environmental impacts of conflicts and nuclear, chemical, biological, and toxic contamination. The health related, social and educational issues are covered by a separate programme - the Social, Medical Care and Education Programme (SocMed).

The **Legacy Programme** originally refers to the legacy of the Cold War and covers promoting disarmament efforts, addressing toxic pollution as a consequence of conflicts and wars, and involving all stakeholders through public outreach and provision of information. The purpose of the programme is to promote and facilitate responsible destruction of dangerous and toxic weapons stockpiles, remediation of nuclear, chemical, biological, and toxic contamination, and conversion of military bases for civilian use, while providing affected communities with means for information, participation and decision-making. The program has focused over the last years mainly on the reduction and destruction of chemical weapons within Russia and the United States of America, but also looked at other issues including the non-proliferation and safe elimination of nuclear weapons, biological pathogens, and conventional weapons and related military systems. The Legacy Programme moved into a phase of reorientation in 2009. The Legacy Steering Committee saw a first preparatory document on different options for change in September. A workshop in Spring 2010 is being planned to shift the focus and widen both the themes and countries in which the Programme is active. This expanding scope reflects the importance of dealing with the diversifying threats posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and the need to secure and eliminate them in a safe and timely manner.

Possible new program elements include the chemical pollution caused by the military use of defoliants such as Agent Orange in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

LEGACY PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In 2009 international relations as a whole seemed to improve with the arrival of Barack Obama as the President of the United States of America. Existing tensions diminished and there were openings for international negotiations in different fields, among those possible START follow-on negotiations.

- The new US President Barack Obama met with former Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev, founding president of Green Cross in a prelude to Obama's first meeting with Russian president Dmitry Medvedev in London, in April.
- Global Green USA, the US affiliate of Green Cross International, facilitated a meeting in March with Gorbachev and Senator Richard Lugar in Washington DC to discuss US-RF relations, threat reduction, and non-proliferation programs.

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

• Chemical Weapons

- As was foreseen, the 2009 Sub-Program Chemtrust: Chemical Weapons Destruction – Public Information and Outreach Program in the Russian Federation was substantially reduced due to the phase-out of donor support. The Russian Federation had taken responsibility for public affairs associated with the Shchuch'ye CWDF" and therefore "the subject Subcontract was not further extended after 30 June 2009." The US integrating contractor, Parsons, decided however to issue an extension until the end of August for the orderly closeout of the three offices, ensuring that all obligations under RF and US laws and the public outreach contract have been met in the course of the closure process.
- The shift in funding and changing donor policies are reasons for Green Cross International to rethink the present activities under this programme and organise a workshop in Spring 2010 to refocus the programme on the latest developments. Parsons ordered, however, that no work may be undertaken after June 30, 2009. Global Green USA has been examining options for extended Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) funding in Washington, but no news is yet forthcoming.
- Green Cross Switzerland financed and co-organised together with Global Green USA a workshop to establish an NGO Coalition against Chemical Weapons. This Global Green USA initiative was held on the margins of the Conference of States Parties, in the Hague, the Netherlands in December 2009.
- Over two dozen NGOs joined this coalition which will promote full membership ("universality") and national implementation of the treaty regime, complete, safe, and timely elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles, and longer-term verification and inspection of chemical industry. Global Green USA was given the coordination hub of this new international coalition. The initiative was warmly greeted by both the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Rogelio

Pfirter, and the Chairman of the Conference of States Parties, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba of Lithuania. The Director-General-elect of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu of Turkey, also met with the coalition for a first introduction.

- On the margins of the Conference of State Parties, Green Cross was active with networking among national delegations and NGOs.
- **CWC Progress**
 - More than 54 per cent of the known global stockpile of chemical warfare materials had been destroyed by November 2009, the monitoring agency for the Chemical Weapons Convention announced. A total of 37,581 metric tons of Category 1 chemical agents, materials that have essentially no applications other than as chemical weapons, had been verifiably destroyed as of November 2009, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). That is 54.13 percent of the 71,194 metric tons of banned materials once held by the seven states that have declared stockpiles under the treaty – Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, Russia, the United States and "another State Party" widely known to be South Korea. That figure does not encompass chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China at the end of World War II. Another 915 metric tons of Category 2 chemical weapons, which do have commercial applications and are considered less threatening to the treaty, have been eliminated.
 - The Russian Federal Department on Safe Storage and Destruction of the Chemical Weapons announced at the end of November the preschedule execution of the third stage of the RF CWD program. One month prior to the target date, Russia had destroyed not less than 18 thousand metric tons or 45 per cent of stocks of the chemical weapon. At Shchuch'ye in the Kurgan region more than 900 tonnes of poison gases or 312 734 artillery out of the 5,400 tonnes of chemical agents were destroyed.
 - The United States had destroyed 18,516 metric tons of material, 67 per cent of the world's second-largest stockpile of 27,768 metric tons, at the end of October 2009.
 - Disposal is complete or under way at all but two U.S. chemical weapons storage sites. India fully eliminated its stockpile in March 2009. Albania and a nation (believed to be South Korea) have also already completed elimination of their stockpiles in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Libya has not yet started work on its small stockpile of 23 metric tons. And Iraq recently declared an unknown quantity of "legacy chemical weapons," known to be in two sealed and bombed bunkers. China and Japan recently finished a trial excavation of weapons from one site of buried chemical weapons but have not built any destruction facilities or eliminated major amounts of any weapons yet. (Source: NTI/GSN Feb. 20, 2009)
 - New Russian Chemical Weapons site begins operations with international support: On March 5, 2009, the Russian Federation's new chemical weapons destruction facility in the Kurgan Oblast, just north of Kazakhstan and just east of the Ural Mountain Range, has been opened. The Shchuch'ye

construction project has been the largest in the history of the US Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR or Nunn-Lugar) Program and US funding – about one billion dollars - represents approximately 50 per cent of total project costs.

- English Proceedings of the 10th Russian National Dialogue on Chemical Weapons Destruction (October 2008) were published in April. The proceedings compile the presentations given at the 10th Russian National Dialogue held 28-29 October 2008 in Moscow. The presentations cover a wide variety of related and important issues, including costs and schedules of destruction; financial support by Russia, the US, and other G-8 Global Partners; public health and environmental monitoring; state and regional regulations and permits; and citizen concerns. While not all-inclusive, this annual forum-dialogue is the one place where a reader can obtain a comprehensive overview of the many challenges involved in destroying chemical weapons.
- Russia is doing everything possible to meet the deadlines established by the Convention. This process is under the personal control of the Russian President. The Russian Federation is now taking upon itself the main portion of the expenses related to chemical disarmament. In 2008, more than 40 billion roubles [about \$ 1.35 billion] were earmarked for these purposes.
- According to a statement made by senior officers of the RF CWDF program, the global financial and economic crisis will not affect the completion of the program.



VX M55 Container Loading Pine Bluff



VX Spray Tank

SUB-PROGRAM NUCTRUST (NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY)

- The two-year Green Cross outreach office in Severodvinsk, helping to facilitate the safe dismantlement of nuclear-powered submarines at the nearby shipyards of Sevmash and Zvezdochka, had to be closed in 2009 due to lack of donor funding. Green Cross undertook a small research project on the environmental impact of plutonium breeding at Seversk along the embankment of the Tom river.
- Global Green USA undertook to translate, edit, and publish the Proceedings of the Nuclear National Dialogue 2008 in English – Energy, Society, and Security. This was published in late February 2009 in both hard and electronic copies and is available at www.globalgreen.org/publications/archive/ or news.greencross.ch/. The third Nuclear National Dialogue was held in April 2009, and a fourth is now planned for April 2010 in Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- GGUSA has participated in a Fissile Material Working Group in 2009 in Washington DC to help plan for an NGO Summit on fissile materials and non-proliferation, in coordination with the Obama White House plan for a Nuclear Summit in April 2010.
- GC Switzerland is preparing possible projects with partners on the consequences of the use of defoliants during conflict and war in Laos.
- GC Switzerland is also discussing projects on chemical remnants in the Middle East.

SUB-PROGRAM BIOSAFETY

Global Green USA is working on new elements for the sub-program on Biosafety and Biosecurity. An initial international roundtable discussion on global biosecurity and biosafety was organised by Green Cross in Geneva in 2006. Follow-on roundtables are under discussion before the 2011 Five-Year Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

- A documentary is in production on the use of anthrax. Global Green was interviewed given the American link in the documentary. GC Switzerland is considering funding it.

SOCIAL, MEDICAL CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAMME (SOCMED)



Women participating in a social cooperative workshop in Belarus 2008 / photo: GC Switzerland

THERAPY CAMPS

BELARUS, UKRAINE, AND RUSSIA

Currently, therapy camps operate across the region affected by the Chernobyl disaster and chemical weapon stockpile areas. In 2008, participating in therapy camps were 427 children from Belarus, 295 from Russia and 85 children from Ukraine. Since the project began, 14,500 children from the Chernobyl region have participated in the Green Cross therapy camps. Young people attend therapy camps for 24 days of rest, medical and social care, education and recreation. The majority of children living in the Chernobyl region have chronic problems with their respiratory, digestive and endocrine systems; thus the camp is an opportunity for them to receive treatment and prescriptions for their daily life. Positive effects are stronger after multiple participations over years. Children also report feeling healthier after spending time at the camp. Although the benefits to the children's physical health are quite significant, the effect of therapy camp on the attitude of the children is also worth noting.

MOTHER AND CHILD PROJECT

BELARUS, UKRAINE, RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA

The specific aim of the Mother and Child Project is to improve the health of mothers and their children through focused medical attention and by showing them methods for protecting their families from the effects of radioactivity. During a 21-day stay at sanatorium, mothers learn about food growth and preparation techniques that reduce radioactive contamination. Information sessions about basic human health and nutrition, legal advice, and family psychology are also offered. The positive response to this program is overwhelming. In parallel to this project, "family clubs" have been established in rural locations, providing mothers with techniques for dealing with stress and improving family relations. They learn best practices for reducing nuclear contamination levels, and also receive training and information regarding their legal rights. Knowledge is also spread and the exchange between mothers is very important for raising awareness and self-confidence. Above all, the family clubs are a venue for mothers to find a supportive network of women who face similar challenges every day. In Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, over 700 mothers are members of family clubs.

AGENT ORANGE- GREEN CROSS WORK IN VIETNAM

Since launching the Socmed programme in Vietnam, Green Cross has been working to bring improvements in physical health and daily life of people affected by Agent Orange. The most pressing concern is to repair the physical deformities caused by environmental contamination with this substance. In 2008, approximately 175 children received their first orthopaedic treatment in Vietnam. Since 1998, GC has provided 1500 children with prosthetics and long-term follow-up treatments. Because the Socmed programme is dedicated to an integrated and holistic approach in its work, children are not one-time recipients of Green Cross benefits. Often, solutions to their treatments require multiple surgeries and prostheses as they grow. Addressing the economic and educational needs of children and their families is also an integral aspect of the Socmed mandate. Green Cross has instituted a micro-credit program in Vietnam that helps these vulnerable people to have a decent and dignified life.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH RELATED PROGRAMS

BELARUS AND UKRAINE

The *Family Medicine Program* in Belarus is geared toward the development of public infrastructure to protect the Chernobyl population from the continuing health and social degradation. In 2007, the Family Medicine project evaluated the health of 16,350 people and integrated their medical records into the information database “info clinic”. Thus, the long-term healthcare that a patient receives will be more consistent and thorough. *Health for the Future* is the name of a new and innovative program launched by Green Cross Ukraine. Like many of the health related projects in the Socmed programme, “Health for the Future” liaises with the established state health system to support and strengthen its efforts. In the effort to provide thorough research on the state of children’s health and aspects of chronic paediatric pathology, 1691 children participated in the Health for the Future project in 2008.



Children of one of the families active in the family club / photo: GC Switzerland

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Socmed was founded on the idea that provision of aid, services and knowledge could grow exponentially when delivered in a self-sustaining manner. The “Training for Trainers” seminars accomplish this goal and are the avenue for creating a large network of persons committed to social and medical projects. “Training for Trainers” workshops are organised in places where the Socmed programme is active. Most often, participants are parents, doctors, teachers, activists, students, and officials. In 2008, over 900 participants were involved in a total of 86 seminars that took place.

SOCIAL COOPERATIVES

GC Belarus, GC Ukraine and GC Russia have been working on the establishment of a *Micro-credit for Women Cooperatives Programme* in contaminated areas. The aim of the programme is to empower women by establishing steering committees that develop and implement micro-projects in different regions. The programme combines educational and socio-economic aspects and helps the communities to overcome health and economic challenges in the contaminated areas. Since 2007, GC Belarus, GC Russia and GC Ukraine have founded 48 women cooperatives and have assigned more than 240 successful micro-credits.

PROJECTS IN SENEGAL AND IRAQ

- **Iraq:** In 2008, GC Switzerland, together with the development organization WADI, started a project in Northern Iraq in the region of Halabja affected by the poisonous gas attacks during Saddam Hussein’s regime. A community radio station broadcasting 17 radio programmes a week has been established to help build a sense of community among the affected population. Four mobile teams provide medical care and advice to women in family and personal emergencies. In 2008, the mobile team visited 353 villages, providing assistance to 10,608 women. A special bus equipped with a library and recreation area and accompanied by a dentist, travels to remote villages to provide hygiene care to children as well as educational materials. In 2008, the bus visited 98 villages, attending 2446 children.
- **Senegal:** In 2008, GC Switzerland also commenced a project in Senegal to address the problem linked to the recycling of lead and acid in batteries, which are a serious environmental issue in Senegal. Due to the fact that women take the highly poisonous melted material home, children suffer in particular. Cooperating with the Blacksmith Institute, Green Cross supports the Senegalese government in the treatment of the contaminated soil and in developing a non-toxic method for battery recycling. In 2008, soil samples were taken from 350 spots, leading to the treatment of 300 tons of contaminated soil. In addition, during this year 500 children were medically examined with 81 receiving medical treatment.

SOCIAL, MEDICAL CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAMME (SOCMED)



SocMed Programme Director Christina Bigler on a field visit in Vietnam / photo: GC Switzerland

DRACULA PROJECT

UKRAINE

The Dracula Project by GC Ukraine addresses the dental needs of mothers, children and youth living in the contaminated rural areas of Ukraine. Due to their rural location, dental care and education is difficult and expensive to obtain. In 2008, dental care was provided to 3,605 children in the region.

CHERNOBYL REHABILITATION CENTRE

MOLDOVA

After the Chernobyl disaster, radioactive dust was carried across the Ukraine and many of its neighbouring countries, such as Moldova, contaminating the land. In order to support the local population, GC Switzerland and its partner organisation, "Echo of Chernobyl," have renovated the rehabilitation centre CRIS (Centrul de Rehabilitare si Integrare Sociala) making it accessible to all families affected directly or indirectly by the disaster. Health experts and family members participate in workshops and seminars to learn and find adequate ways to integrate disabled children into society, offering single and group therapies for the patients and their relatives. Family clubs are created to offer families a network of support in which they can ask questions and discuss ways to improve the quality of life of their children. In 2008, Green Cross helped 300 families with disabled children.



Patients at the rehabilitation center in Tuyen Quang, Vietnam / photo: GC Switzerland



A mother with her child as part of the mother and child project photo: GC Switzerland



A SocMed Vietnam patient with her orthoprosthesis photo: GC Switzerland



A young girl presents a summary of the workshop at the 2008 Children's Symposium in Japan / Photo: GC Japan

In its effort to bring about fundamental changes in value and behaviour for a sustainable future, Green Cross relies on three pillars: the Earth Charter, Earth Dialogues, and environmental education initiatives. The *Earth Charter*, a document that embodies fundamental principles to guide human actions towards sustainable living, was spearheaded by GCI founding president Mikhail Gorbachev and the secretary-general of the Rio Earth Summit Maurice Strong. Over 8,000 organizations have formally endorsed the Charter, with many nations starting to implement aspects of the EC into their legislation and national laws. The *Earth Dialogues* are public forums on the most pressing environmental, social and security issues and the search for solutions through a participatory process. They have been so far in Lyon, Barcelona, New York, Brisbane, and most recently in 2008 in Brazil. The *environmental education and awareness programmes* of the national Green Cross affiliates, including the Environmental Diaries created by GC Japan, seek to educate and infuse children and adults with a positive awareness of and responsibility to the environment.



Taiwan drawing contest

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



(L-R) Dennis Liang, Annapoorna Boccasam, Xavier Guijarro, Mr. David Y.L. Lin, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ling-Ling Chu, Section Chief, Third Section NGO Affairs Committee, Stacy Liang, Joey Lim

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MOSCOW

The 14th International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development by GC Russia, held on 1-3 July 2008, focussed on the integration of different forms of education in programs and new forms of public engagement to address issues of public health, natural resources and the role of government in education and energy policy. The issues were discussed in plenary sessions and round-table discussions with strong conclusions on how to improve education on sustainable development. The 15th edition of the conference was held 27-28 June 2009 and brought together 134 teachers and experts in education and ecology fields, state representatives, public and academic organizations and other environmental service experts from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Discussions were held regarding the relationship of education to energy, health, environmental safety, protection of wildlife, water and organic farming.



(L-R) Annapoorna Boccasam, Joey Lim, Dr. Ying-Shih Hsieh, Chairman, EQPF, Xavier Guijarro,

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES IN GC NETWORK

• Value Change Team travels to Taiwan

In an effort to further consolidate and secure new partnerships in the Asia Pacific region, the Value Change programme team travelled to Taiwan and Singapore. With a view to expand the Environmental Education programme and the Earth Dialogues, the team along with GC information office and the Environmental Quality Protection Fund (EQPF) conducted a series of lectures and forum sessions to discuss and share the Green Cross vision and experiences.

Among the several programmes implemented by EQPF, the recently concluded drawing competition saw more than 2000 children participating in 2009. An innovative audio-visual presentation with Climate Change as its central theme was used to inform young children on impacts and solutions in schools throughout Taiwan.

• Green Lane Environmental Diary - Japan, Sri Lanka

The Environmental Diary program is a project run by GC Japan, and now followed by GC Sri Lanka. In 2009, the programme celebrated its 10th year of operation, expanding its outreach to 14 companies. Apart from the companies, 6,100 kids participated in 2009 in Japan, and 5000 kids in Sri Lanka. In the past ten years, 600,000 elementary school kids have written a diary containing their daily ecological activity and 50,000 kids have participated in the 3-month diary contest. In the programme, children keep a diary logging their day's environmental impact. To recognise their efforts, GC Japan hosts an awards ceremony for the children who produce exceptional diaries. In 2009, GC Japan honoured 200 individuals, who received certificates and a chance to participate in the Asian Children's Ecology Symposium. Three children who participated in the diary programme from Sri Lanka also attended the Symposium.



GCI Honorary Board member Wangari Maathai at the annual meeting of GC Sweden in April 2009.

- **Green Cross Sri Lanka**

Started in 2005, GC Sri Lanka (GCSL) is continuing its tree planting campaign by both planting new trees at schools and taking care of trees already planted. Following the Tsunami in 2004, GCSL built a library and Eco Centre at one of the schools that suffered heavy damage during the Tsunami. They inform children on environmental conservation and protection. GCSL also continues to maintain the Green Cross Solar Park, which was opened in 2007 at Wellawatta beach in the Colombo district. All buildings and outdoor lights in the park are powered by solar energy, with assistance from GC Japan and the Sri Lanka Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

- **“Exploring the Forest” website – Green Cross Japan**

GC Japan continued to maintain their environmental education interactive website for young people called “Exploring the forest” (<http://www.sato-sato.jp>). It teaches children various features of forests - their history, fairytales, bio-diversity, and the forest’s symbiotic relationship with people as well as the implied ecological issues that this entails. The production of the website has been wholly funded by the Ministry of Education and Science’s “Child Dream Fund”.

- **Green Cross Spain links sports and sustainability**

GC Spain continued to develop the “Spanish Strategy on Sports and Sustainability,” begun in 2007. It collaborates with the Spanish High Council of Sports to disseminate the “Green Charter” on Spanish Sports, a text outlining fundamental principles of Sustainable Sports. Organisations linked to the sports world can choose to endorse the “Green Charter” and by doing so they agree to respect certain values and implement basic actions.

Their activities included producing a 2008 yearbook on Sport and Sustainability to document their work in linking the sport world with sustainable development. The yearbook highlights the most important events as well as announcements, legislative development and initiatives during the year. To increase awareness, GC

Spain has developed a special sport and sustainability website (www.deportesostenible.es) with international and national news and the Green Charter. A related newsletter is also sent out every two months.

During 2008 and 2009, GC Spain worked with the city of Madrid on the city’s bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. It issued a report “Environmental comparative analysis of bid cities to host 2016 Summer Olympic Games” that compared some of the green features contained in the submissions by the four cities bidding to host the 2016 Olympic games.

- **Green Cross Sweden environmental education activities**

GC Sweden offers the educational program for youth “The World’s Water”. Through role-playing games, students learn of conflicts related to resource use. Through the dynamics of water conflicts, students understand the value of cooperation across cultures and geographical borders. This educational program has been successful in many cities in Sweden since 1998. In 2009, project funding provided by the Folke Bernadotte Academy for updating the program with case studies from GC and other water projects. The program will be offered internationally by linking up schools in different parts of the world.

Tree planting in Tibet: GC Sweden works in cooperation with the Swedish Tibetan School Cultural Society (STSKF) to promote environmental education activities at the 108 schools built by STSKF in Tibet. Since 2006, thanks to GC Sweden, Swedish public can sponsor and plant “Peace Trees” on the 108 school grounds in Tibet. The GC Sweden annual meeting on April 5 2008 was held at the House of Tibet, in Stockholm, where a seminar discussed “Perspectives on Global Warming – from Tibetan Insights to Western Science.”

For other GC Sweden’s projects which promote changes in values and behaviour, see *Responding to Climate Change* section in this biennial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



Sri Lankan schoolboys with their environmental diary / Photo: GC Sri Lanka

- **Green Cross Italy environmental awareness initiatives:**

- GC Italy sponsored an international conference, *Rock Inside 2009: Environmental Law*, on 5 September 2009 at Bibiena Theatre Academy in Mantua, Italy. It sought to promote the concept of a UN Universal Declaration on Environmental Rights.
- It awarded a special prize for the Best International Documentary dedicated to the environment to a Finnish filmmaker in October 2009. "Recipes For Disaster" by John Webster deals with the reduction of CO₂ emission and energy consumption in daily life. In total 11 films were judged on concept, editing and production, and total assessment.

- **Greenland Youth Conference**

A youth conference on climate change and sustainability was held in Narsaq, Greenland on 22 April 2008 to discuss the impact of rapidly melting ice on Greenland's youth. Supported by Green Cross and WWF, the conference included a launching ceremony of a Messenger Kayak directed towards the politicians in the capitol of Nuuk.

- **Green Cross Argentina**

GC Argentina has several ongoing programmes targeting school children and university classes, theatre play for school children on urban waste, and "Artists for environment" exposition.

- **Yahoo and Starbucks - Way toward Corporate Sustainable Development**

In April 2007, Starbucks and Global Green USA teamed up to encourage individuals to click, play and learn about global climate change and smart solutions with the launch of Planet Green Game. Through the online game located at www.planetgreengame.com players can explore a virtual world and learn how everyday decisions by individuals, cities, schools and businesses can impact the climate and environment. The game offers real-world examples of how individuals can change their own behaviour and while also influence the actions of community, political and corporate leaders to engage in the effort to stop global warming.



GC Sweden joint project in Nigeria.

- **Environmental Education in Belarus**

GC Belarus has built an Education Centre near Minsk on 16 hectares of land with the infrastructure to house 40-50 participants.

World Garden: The World Garden is a summer ecological school for youth and students, organised by GC Belarus. The aim of the Garden is to create a new model of ecological education, which should harmonically integrate natural and cultural aspects of human life. The two-week programme includes presentation of prepared reports, discussion of set topics, visits to National Radiation Reserve (inside 30 km Chernobyl zone) and the Berezinsky Bio-sphere Reserve.

Inter-Eco-School: The international Ecological School (Inter-Eco-School) was started in 2007 by GC Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. It is a summer ecological field school for teachers and teenagers, which allows for an experience exchange in ecological education methods between teachers and innovators. About 70 children and teachers from schools in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine come to the GC Belarus Education Centre to take part in a joint cross-cultural ecological program.

In My Homeland Drawing Contest: GC Belarus held the 4th and 5th annual "In My Homeland Drawing Contest" in 2008 and 2009. The 2008 competition received 12,073 works from 22 countries with 95 young artists being awarded gold, silver and bronze medals. An exhibition of 2008 entries was displayed at the Belarusian Parliament in October 2009, while a mobile exhibition travelled throughout Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

GC Belarus organises the art contest with the Ministries of Education, Culture, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The contest seeks to spread ecological awareness and conservation among both children and adults, encourage the discovery of nature's beauty and build ties between the world's youth. Since its inception, over 12,000 teachers, and 43,000 children and youth from 27 countries have been involved.



Judging the "In My Homeland" Drawing Contest / Photo: GC Belarus

THE EARTH CHARTER

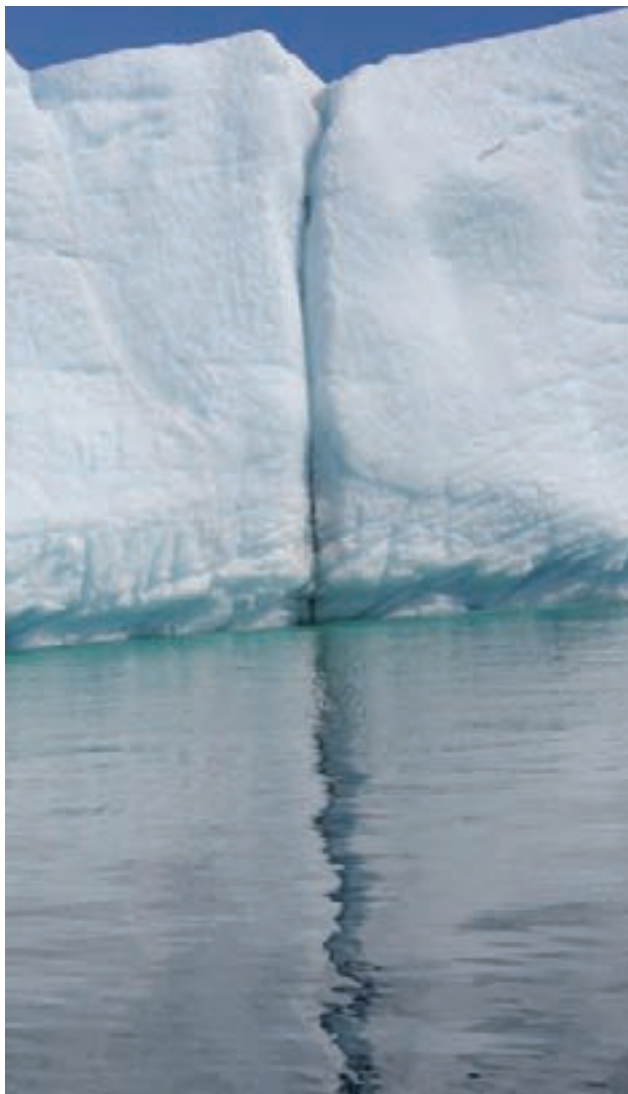
EARTH CHARTER EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS

- **The Earth Charter Climate Change Community Summit**

The Earth Charter Climate Change Community Summit brought together leaders and scientists to discuss locally based solutions to climate change, including GCI President Alexander Likhotal. Organised by Earth Charter US and held on Saturday 11 October 2008 at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida, the Summit highlighted sustainability initiatives in business, education and government in more than 25 locations, such as Honolulu, Hawaii, Okinawa, Japan, Hamburg, Germany and Bournemouth, UK.

- **A Voice for Earth**

Published in 2009, the book *A Voice for Earth* by Peter Blaze Corcoran and A. James Wohlpart tells the story of how the Earth Charter, one of the most ambitious civil society projects ever undertaken, embeds in it the keys to sustainable living in the twenty-first century. It is a collection of poems, essays, and stories that seek to bring to life and give a voice to the Earth Charter principles.



Glacier crack - Pax Arctica / Photo: © Luc Hardy / SAGAX

GREEN CROSS NATIONAL OFFICES AND THE EARTH CHARTER

- **Earth Charter in Italy**

In 2008 and 2009, GC Italy organised the 16th and 17th editions of the Earth Charter Youth Contest, which seeks to make the youth feel responsible for the world around them. In 2009, more than 30,000 students participated with more than 400 students from 14 schools being declared winners. The winners were presented with certificates at an award ceremony hosted by the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano on 26 October 2009 at the Presidential Palace gardens.

- **Earth Charter in the Czech Republic**

The eleventh Earth Charter Youth Contest was held in the Czech Republic throughout June 2008. The contest was co-organised by Green Cross and the Club of Ecological Education. The painting and essay writing received 188 children's paintings from 54 schools and 102 essays and creative writing submissions addressing the theme "The face of the Earth is constantly changing".

- **Earth Charter in the Netherlands**

The Seeds of Change Earth Charter exhibition by GC Netherlands opened in July 2008 with a special performance by the Canadian Brass band at the Catharina church in Eindhoven, Netherlands. The exhibition aimed to educate the public about the principles and application of the Earth Charter today.

- **Earth Charter in China**

GCI is working with Executive Director of Earth Charter International Miriam Vilela to coordinate programmes with NGO's in the People's Republic of China. In addition, GC Sweden President Tonia Moya is in the process of creating an education and awareness raising initiative in the People's Republic of China.

- **Earth Charter in Sweden**

– GC Sweden has improved information dissemination about the Earth Charter by developing the first Swedish Earth Charter website, and an Earth Charter brochure in Swedish. It has also forged closer cooperation with the Earth Charter International Communications Centre in Stockholm. Representatives from GC Sweden and GC Denmark have attended many meetings focused on the Earth Charter. See *Responding to Climate Change* section in this report for Greenland event collaboration.

EARTH DIALOGUES BRAZIL – NOVEMBER 2008

The most recent Earth Dialogues were held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in November 2008. Over 2000 people from civil society, governments, experts, business community and other stakeholders participated. The two and a half-day event also featured folk music concerts by local artists and social networking galas. The mission of the 2008 Earth Dialogues was to analyse threats and obstacles, unlock potential, fight injustice and forge partnerships to stimulate actions through which Latin America can further sustainable development - both at home and globally. In focus were issues of poverty, inequality, violence and the environment.

Four main themes: Water and climate change; Renewable energies for a sustainable society; New approaches to territorial planning; and International solidarity and South-South Cooperation were discussed in working group meetings. The conference ended with the adoption of the “Minas Gerais Charter,” which includes targeted action plans to further sustainable development both in Brazil and globally.



A panel discussion at the Brazil Earth Dialogues in 2008

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

GCI COMMUNICATIONS

GREEN CROSS INTERNATIONAL WEB PRESENCE

At the start of 2009, GCI upgraded its website management system and expanded into the new forms of social media, including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

PARTNERSHIPS

During the last two years, GCI forged several strong partnerships and collaborations. Outreach opportunities were tapped around the following:

- At the start of 2009, GCI started a partnership with TAG Heuer and Leonardo DiCaprio. As part of the three-year agreement, the royalties generated from the deal will go to support GCI.
- In April 2009, GCI started a global “eco-communication” partnership with YOOXYGEN, the largest internet-based fashion retailer. The website Yoox.com features highlights from GC programmes.
- In September 2009, GCI launched a new global partnership with L’Oreal affiliate “Pureology Serious Colour Care”. The partnership is established both at the global and national levels with Pureology local affiliates teaming up with their respective GCNO to fundraise and raise awareness about the environment.
- GCI joined WWF International, David Suzuki and other respected environmental NGO’s in support of the BIG ROOM bid for the .eco (Dot Eco) domain in August 2009.
- In partnership with GCI, the “Pax Arctica-Himalayas Expedition 2009” took a team of Young Ambassadors to Nepal to witness changes in lakes and glaciers in the Hinku region, just south of Mt. Everest from 15-30 August 2009. Pax Arctica partnered with GCI to bring a team of Young Ambassadors to witness changes in global climate. Guided by French and Nepalese scientists, the group did field work on the Mera Glacier in partnership with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) at the Kathmandu University. The group also observed and photographed Sabai Tsho lake, a symbol of glacial lakes overflowing in the Himalayas.



Leonardo DiCaprio displays his TAG Heuer watch as part of the GCI-TAG Heuer partnership / Photo: TAG Heuer

- GCI partnered with AB Inflatables and Kuoni to support the “Ganges Expedition.” From 14 September to 19 October 2009 an international team of specialists travelled the entire length of India’s national river, starting from its source in Gangotri in the Himalayas to Hooghly where it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- In October 2009, GCI and World Waternet began a partnership to enhance cooperation in international river basins through capacity building in all aspects of the water cycle: drinking, waste, ground and surface water.
- GCI is also teaming up with a new cosmetics line, PURE by SWITZERLAND, to support its activities, especially in the field of water. The products are made from natural ingredients and the packaging is made with recycled plastic, glass, or aluminium, with boarding using FSC standards.



Livelihoods connected to the river Ganges at Varanasi. Partners of “Ganges expedition” were GCI, Kuoni, TAG Heuer, WWF and AB Inflatables.

NEWSLETTERS

The monthly newsletters, announcing the various initiatives of the Green Cross network, were brought out regularly during 2008 and 2009. Their format was upgraded and improved. At the same time, their outreach has been expanded and continuous effort is being made to achieve greater networking with relevant organisations and individuals.

GREEN CROSS PUBLICATIONS IN 2008-2009

- Contribution by Mikhail Gorbachev in *The Art of Living: A Practical Guide to Being Alive* by Claire Elizabeth Terry (Editor), 2008
- Foreword by Mikhail Gorbachev in *Water for Peace - Peace for Water*, 2008
- Op-ed: *Climate change- Rising to the humanitarian challenge* by Mikhail Gorbachev in *The Australian*, 2008
- OP-ed: Mikhail Gorbachev on world food crisis, 23 May, 2008
- Editorial by Alexander Likhotal for the 5th anniversary of the Taiwan National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) magazine, 13 June 2008
- Op-Ed: *Cure the Disease, Not the Symptoms* by in *La Nacion*, Argentina & *El Universal de Mexico*, 16 October 2008
- 10th annual National Dialogue on Chemical Weapons Nonproliferation and Destruction by Green Cross Russia, Green Cross Switzerland and Global Green USA, 2009
- *Second Russian National Dialogue On Energy, Society And Security* by Green Cross Russia, Green Cross Switzerland and Global Green USA, 2009
- *Russian – Ukraine dispute over gas demonstrates need for green energy* by GCI President Alexander Likhotal, published on GCI website, 14 January 2009
- *Hiroshima and the World: The Lesson of Hiroshima* by Alexander Likhotal in *Chugoku Shimbun* and on the website of the Hiroshima Peace Media Center, 10 February 2009
- *Green Cross International: “Give Humanity a chance, give the earth a future”* in *Cote Magazine*, March 2009
- Op-ed: *Water Politics Needs a Sea Change* by , published on the GCI website, 12 March 2009
- *Our Planet is our Business* in *Geneva Times*, March/April 2009
- *Building Bridges in the Middle East* in *Geneva Times*, March/April 2009
- *Getting chemical weapons destruction back on track* by Paul Walker and James Martin in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 27 April 2009
- *Solar Sees Green* in *Geneva Times*, May/June 2009
- *We Had Our Perestroika. It’s High Time for Yours*, by Mikhail Gorbachev in the *Washington Post*, 7 June 2009
- Op-ed: *Copenhagen: Climate Deal Not Climate Market* by Alexander Likhotal and Benjamin Mkapa in the *Euractiv/Blogactiv*, 10 June 2009
- Op-ed: *Disarmament lessons from the Chemical Weapons Convention* by Mikhail Gorbachev and Rogelio Pfirter in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, 15 June 2009
- *Two First Steps on Nuclear Weapons* by Mikhail Gorbachev in the *NY Times*, 25 September 2009
- *Tear down this wall! And save the planet* by Mikhail Gorbachev in the *Times*, 9 November 2009
- *Playing Russian Roulette with Climate Change* by Mikhail Gorbachev and Alexander Likhotal in the *Guardian*, 3 December 2009. Original article carried by Project Syndicate.
- *We Have a Real Emergency* by Mikhail Gorbachev in the *New York Times*, 9 December 2009.



From left, GCI Chairman Jan Kulczyk, GCI President Alexander Likhotal and GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev at a meeting of the GCI Board in Geneva on 6 October 2009 / Photo: Gosia Wieruszewska

AWARDS GIVEN BY GREEN CROSS

GREEN STAR AWARDS

The inaugural Green Star Awards were held in 2009 to honour individuals, organisations, and governments who demonstrate outstanding dedication to preventing, preparing for, and responding to the environmental impacts of man-made and natural disasters. The awards are a joint initiative between GCI, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The awards will be given out every two years with the next ceremony to be held in 2011.

The 2009 winners were:

Individual - Mike Cowing - United Nations Environment Programme.

Organisation - The Center for Scientific Support in Disaster Situations (CENACID) of Paraná Federal University in Brazil; and Spiez Laboratory of Switzerland.

Donor Government - Netherlands and Sweden.

MILLENNIUM AWARDS

Global Green USA continued to give their annual **Millennium Awards** to honour individuals and organisations for their extraordinary environmental contribution. The winners for 2008 and 2009 were:

2008

Individual Environmental Leadership Award: Van Jones

Corporate Environmental Leadership Award: The South Group (Gerding Edlen/Williams & Dame Development), Mark Edlen and Homer Williams

Entertainment Industry Environmental Leadership Award: Lyn Davis Lear

California Environmental Leadership Award: Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD); Julie Korenstein, LAUSD Board of Education; Guy Mehula, LAUSD Chief Facilities Executive

2009

Green Building Environmental Leadership Award: Marc Nathanson

Entertainment Industry Environmental Leadership Award: Jeff Skoll

Founders Award: Zem Joaquin

California Environmental Leadership Award: Wallis Annenberg/ the Annenberg Foundation

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AWARDS

In 2008 and 2009, GGUSA held the 9th and 10th Annual Sustainable Design Awards. The award honours leading innovators for demonstrating effective climate solutions today by designing green business, schools, governments, and utilities, as well as establishing new networks of businesses and investors to address climate change. The winners were:

2008

Policy Design: Governor Bill Richardson, New Mexico

Organizational Design: Rosemary Ellis, Editor in Chief, Good Housekeeping

Founders Award: Robert S. Bucklin, Chief Corporate Banking Officer, Rabobank International

Green Building Design: Jeffrey C. Hines, President, Hines

Product/Industrial Design: Datuk Vinod Sekhar, Chairman & CEO, Green Rubber – A Petra Group Company

2009

Organizational Design Award: Ceres - Mindy Lubber, President

Green Building Design Award: The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art – Dr. George Campbell Jr., President

Corporate Design Award: PG&E Corporation - Peter A. Darbee, President, CEO, and Chairman

Founders Award: Sebastian Copeland - Explorer, Photographer, Advocate

Policy Design Award: Pegasus Sustainable Century Merchant Bank - Terry Tamminen and Bonnie Reiss



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with GCI Chairman Jan Kulczyk at the inaugural meeting of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) in Geneva on 5th October, 2009 / Photo: Gosia Wieruszewska

AWARDS RECEIVED BY GREEN CROSS

GCI received a *Save the World Award* in Vienna on 24 July 2009 for the *Water for Peace programme*. Receiving the award on behalf of the network, GCI President Alexander Likhotal said the mission of Green Cross was extremely relevant today as we shape our future amidst multi-faceted crisis. Hosted by World Awards Media, the Save the World Awards recognize exceptional individuals and organisations working toward a peaceful and sustainable future.

GC Japan received the *National Energy Globe Award* in 2009 for their Green Lane Environmental Diary Programme. It was also selected as one of three nominees for the Energy Globe World Award in the category "Youth." GC Japan's nomination for the World Awards marked the first time a Japanese candidate was nominated in the Awards' 10-year history.

GC Australia's Extreme Weather Heroes website won an "*Outstanding Achievement*" *Interactive Media Award* in 2009 from the "Interactive Media Council," a prestigious global network of web professionals based in New York. The website was developed by Brisbane based web development company *Zeroseven*.

GCI Founding President Mikhail Gorbachev was honoured with a *Lifetime Achievement Energy Globe Award* on 26 May 2008 at the European Parliament in Brussels. The award recognized his past and current efforts towards a better future for the planet.

GC Belarus was awarded the *Laureate of 1st Degree* by the EcoWorld National Ecological Premium of the Russian Federation on 21 May 2008 for their *In My Homeland* international drawing contest.



GCI President Alexander Likhotal with the "Save the World Award" GCI received for its "Water for Peace" programme / Photo: Copyright © World Awards Media

NETWORK EXPANSION

Prep Com Ghana

The new GC representative office in Ghana received a "Preparatory Committee" status in September 2009. Based on local needs, this office during its first year of operation is embarking on Environmental Awareness and Education, the Smart Water for Green Schools and Post-conflict Peace Campaign in the Bawku-East Municipality.



Green Cross Italy CEO Elio Pacilo, Environmental Education Programme Director, Xavier Guijarro, President of GC Ghana Mubarick Masawudu and GCI Chief Operating Officer Adam Koniuszewski at the GCI Geneva office in 2009.

GREEN CROSS INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mikhail Gorbachev*, Founding President
Jan Kulczyk, Chairman
Alexander Likhotal*, President & CEO
Sander Mallien, Treasurer & Green Cross Switzerland President
Mario Soares
Scott Seydel, Global Green USA Chairman
Sergey Baranovskiy, Green Cross Russia President
Shoo Iwasaki, Green Cross Japan President
*ex officio members

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Chinghiz Aitmatov, Kyrgyzstan
Princess Basma Bin Talal, Jordan
Mr. Victor Danilov--Danilyan, Russia
Prof. Istvan Lang, Hungary
Dr. Rita Levy Montalcini, Italy
Dr. Rudolphus Lubbers, The Netherlands
Prof. Wangari Maathai, Kenya
Ms. Diane Meyer Simon, USA
Ms. Pat Mitchell, USA
Mr. Adolf Ogi, Switzerland
H. E. Javier Perez de Cuellar, Peru
Mr. Robert Redford, USA
Dr. Karan Singh, India
Rabbi Awarham Soetendorp, The Netherlands
Mr. Olzhas Suleimenov, Italy
Mr. David Suzuki, Canada
Dr. Monkombu S. Swaminathan, India
Mr. Ted Turner, USA
Dr. Yevgeny Velikhov, Russia
Wakako Hironaka, Japan

GREEN CROSS INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Alexander Likhotal, President & CEO
Pierre Muller, Vice-President
Adam Koniuszewski, Chief Operating Officer
Someshwar Singh, Director of Communications
Michelle Laug, Communications Officer
Marianne Berner, Head of Administration
Ivelina Gueorguieva, Administrative & Project Officer
Karolina Skrybant, Advisor to the GCI Chairman & Assistant to the Board
Xavier Guijarro, Director of Environmental Education Programme
David Alix, Director of International Water Programme

GREEN CROSS NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED TODAY IN 31 COUNTRIES:

Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Ghana, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Information Office in Taipei.

Green Cross International has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and with UNESCO. It also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN-HABITAT.

The activities of Green Cross International are audited annually by PriceWaterhouse Coopers AG. The results of audits are available upon request. All general inquires are handled by gciinternational@gci.ch and the media inquires are handled by media@gci.ch

For more information on GCI
please contact Someshwar Singh,
Director of Communications,
at someshwar.singh@gci.ch



GREEN CROSS INTERNATIONAL
160a Route de Florissant - P.O. Box 80
1231 Conches - Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 789 1662
Fax: +41 22 789 1695
www.gci.ch