

Open Letter to the Chief Executive of the World Wild Fund for Nature-UK

Glyn Davies  
Acting Chief Executive  
WWF-UK

Dear Glyn

You will remember I sent an Open Letter to WWF-US on 02/10/2015<sup>1</sup> and asked WWF-UK to forward it to them. This Open Letter is addressed to WWF-UK. How is it that WWF-UK is campaigning and raising money to conserve species abroad, but is not providing a service to the UK? I could find no reference to The State of Nature Report 2016 on your website.

**The State of Nature Report 2016**

Mark Eaton of the RSPB, the Report's first author said: *"The report includes a new "biodiversity intactness index", which analyses the loss of species over centuries. The UK has lost significantly more nature over the long term than the global average with the UK the 29th lowest out of 218 countries. "It is quite shocking where we stand compared to the rest of the world, even compared to other western European countries: France and Germany are quite a way above us in the rankings," said Eaton. "The index gives an idea of where we have got to over the centuries, and we are pretty knackered."*

**Biodiversity Intactness Index**

This is a link to an animated pictorial representation but it is not easily findable.<sup>2</sup>

*"Of 218 countries assessed, the UK is ranked 189: it is 29<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 218: Countries below are the Republic of Ireland, USA, Hong Kong and Macao. This means that nature is faring worse in the UK than in most other countries.*

*Around 75% of the UK is managed for food production. How we manage that land is key to the state of Nature.*

*UK 165 species are considered critically endangered and likely to go extinct.*

*England 109 species are critically endangered and likely to go extinct.*

*Scotland 65 species are critically endangered and are likely to go extinct.*

*Northern Ireland 45 species are critically endangered and likely to go extinct.*

*Wales 41 species are critically endangered and likely to go extinct."*

**Most UK farmers who manage '75% of UK land' are drowning their crops in pesticides**

The National Farmers' Union (NFU), the Crop Protection Association (CPA) and the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) combine to lobby the EU not to restrict the 320+ pesticides available to them. The publication is called: **HEALTHY HARVEST**.<sup>3</sup> The countries that have even lower Biodiversity Intactness Indices are similarly working with the Agrochemical Corporations: the Republic of Ireland and the USA.

**Complete denial that farming was responsible**

It was therefore astounding to see the complete denial of the NFU and Defra about The State of Nature Report. NFU vice-president Guy Smith said *"intensification of farming had ended in the early 1990s."* that farmers *"were using less fertiliser and pesticides than ever"*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.academia.edu/16404294/Open\\_letter\\_to\\_WWF-US](https://www.academia.edu/16404294/Open_letter_to_WWF-US)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/whatwedo/stateofnature2016>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/whatwedo/stateofnature2016>

<sup>3</sup> Healthy Harvest: The impact of losing plant protection products on UK food and plant production. <http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/30597>

and a spokeswoman from Defra said: *“Protecting our precious environment and supporting our world-leading farmers, a cornerstone of our economy, will form an important part of our EU exit negotiations.”* The statistics for pesticide usage produced by Fera show exactly the opposite. Isn't Defra supposed to be advising the UK Government?

### **Results are out for species that have declined in summer 2016 compared with 2015**

From the Butterfly Conservation Trust Big Butterfly Count <sup>4</sup> *“It was a pretty good summer, with above average temperatures and yet butterflies on the whole fared badly. Over half of the big butterfly count target species decreased in 2016 compared with the previous year. The 'blues' did badly, with Small Copper recording its lowest numbers since the big butterfly count began and both Common Blue and Holly Blue halved in numbers compared with summer 2015. This was particularly disappointing for Holly Blue, which had an excellent 2015 and numbers in spring 2016 also appeared high. The stunning Peacock, with its beautiful eye-spot wing markings that can scare off would-be predators such as Blue Tits, decreased for the third summer in a row. Its numbers have now dropped from an average of 3.6 individuals per count in 2013 to just 0.5 per count in 2016, a sixfold decrease over three years. Small Tortoiseshell numbers were down once again too, falling by 47% from 2015 levels, and even the Comma, one of the butterfly success stories of the past few decades, suffered a poor summer. Its numbers were down 46% year on year, resulting in its lowest abundance in the seven years of big butterfly count. It was all change at the top of the big butterfly count chart in 2016, with Gatekeeper, the most abundant species in 2015's count, suffering a 40% decrease and finishing in fourth place. An average of just 1.5 Gatekeepers seen per count in 2016 was the lowest abundance of this species since big butterfly count began.”*  
*Toads “Toad numbers have fallen by more than two-thirds in 30 years, according to a study using data from volunteer patrols set up to help the amphibians cross roads.”<sup>5</sup>*

### **Even in the 1970s the Agricultural Industry was given massive power by the British Government**

Robert van den Bosch, writing in 1978 in *The Pesticide Conspiracy*:<sup>6</sup> *“If one considers how dangerous these chemicals are, one would suppose that it would be Government policy to minimize their use by every possible means. However the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution notes, ‘there is... no such policy in the UK, nor does the possible need for it appear to have been considered, notwithstanding the great increases in the use of these chemicals.’*

The Agrochemical Industry, on the contrary, seems to be under the impression it is Government policy to encourage the maximum use of pesticides. Thus according to the Agrochemical industry, of 367,000 acres of potatoes grown in this country in 1976, 310,000 acres are treated with herbicides, 114,000 acres with granular insecticides and nematocides, 218,000 acres with foliar insecticides and 265,000 acres with fungicides.<sup>7</sup> In this way one acre of potatoes, the industry boasts, can be treated from 2-11 times with different pesticides.” Van den Bosch also condemns the UK for aerial spraying. *“What is particularly shameful in this country is the prevalence of aerial spraying. One million acres of agricultural*

<sup>4</sup>

[http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/2016mainresults?utm\\_source=Butterfly%20Conservation&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=7591230\\_October%202016&utm\\_content=BBC%20results&dm\\_i=DGT,4IPFI,KNFC3B,GQ32W,1](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/2016mainresults?utm_source=Butterfly%20Conservation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7591230_October%202016&utm_content=BBC%20results&dm_i=DGT,4IPFI,KNFC3B,GQ32W,1)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/06/uk-common-toad-numbers-down-two-thirds-in-30-years>

<sup>6</sup> Van den Bosch, R. *The Pesticide Conspiracy*: USA Doubleday & Company (1978): Dorchester, UK: Prism Press (1980).

<sup>7</sup> Industry's Statistics: British Agrochemical Association London 1976

*land are sprayed each year, which involves 34,000 flights. Controls on this practice are practically non-existent...nor as the Royal Commission points out, does there appear to be any controls on the type of spraying equipment.”* Britain still uses aerial spraying as derogation from the EU recommendations.

**Sustainable Use of Pesticides 21 October 2009: DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT<sup>8</sup> What is the EU Directive Advice and the UK Government’s Response on Article 9 Aerial Spraying?**

EU Directive Advice: Aerial spraying of pesticides has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment, in particular from spray drift. Therefore aerial spraying should generally be prohibited with derogations possible where it represents clear advantages in terms of reduced impacts on human health and the environment in comparison with other spraying methods, or where there are no viable alternatives, provided that the best available technology to reduce drift is used.

UK Government Response: We do not consider that responsible application of pesticides by aerial spraying poses an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, and consequently we will use the derogation. We believe that the existing legislation control regime provides a basis for meeting the Directive and this will be adapted to ensure the continuation of properly regulated aerial applications through a consent-based approach.

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution was abolished on 1 April 2011, as part of the Coalition Government's spending cuts. It had been created under Royal Warrant in 1970 to advise the Queen, Government, Parliament and the public on environmental issues.

**Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) survey of pesticides 1988 to 2014**

These indicate that Pesticide Residues on British food are increasing annually. A survey of pesticide (active substances) usage on Oil Seed Rape (OSR) 1988-2014 showed that the number of active substances applied had increased from 5 in 1988 to 15 in 2014 (Fig 1) and the number of treatments had increased from 5 in 1988 to 12 in 2014. (Fig 2) In 2014, herbicides were used on 98.4% OSR and seed treatments on 95.8%.

In 2014 glyphosate was used on Wheat (601,330 kg) Winter barley, Spring barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Oilseed rape (577,969 kg), Linseed, All potatoes, Peas, Beans, Sugar beet, with a total of 1,765,465 kg glyphosate on all crops. The total weight of pesticides (herbicides and desiccants, fungicides, growth regulators, molluscicides and repellants, insecticides and seed treatments) applied to farmland in 2014 was in excess of 16,000 tonnes.

**Pesticide usage statistics show massive increase in glyphosate between 2012 and 2014**

Fera statistics showed that in 2012 the area treated by glyphosate was 1,750,000 ha. This had increased in 2014 to 2,250,000 ha. Guy Gagen, Chief Arable Adviser for the NFU, said increased glyphosate use (up one third since 2012, to an area the size of Wales) was probably due to treatment of ‘black grass.’<sup>9</sup> Black grass is a glyphosate-resistant super-weed just like Japanese knotweed. Herbicide resistant black grass, first seen in 1982 (two years after farmers started spraying glyphosate pre-harvest) and is now found on 16,000 farms in 34 counties. Gagen said that spraying wheat could result in traces of glyphosate ending up in bread sold in supermarkets but the amount was well below the maximum residue level set by the EU. A Defra spokesman said: *“There are extensive regulations in place so that people and the environment are protected from pesticides. The approval of glyphosate for use across Europe is being reviewed by the EU Commission.”*

<sup>8</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32009L0128>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4528297.ece>

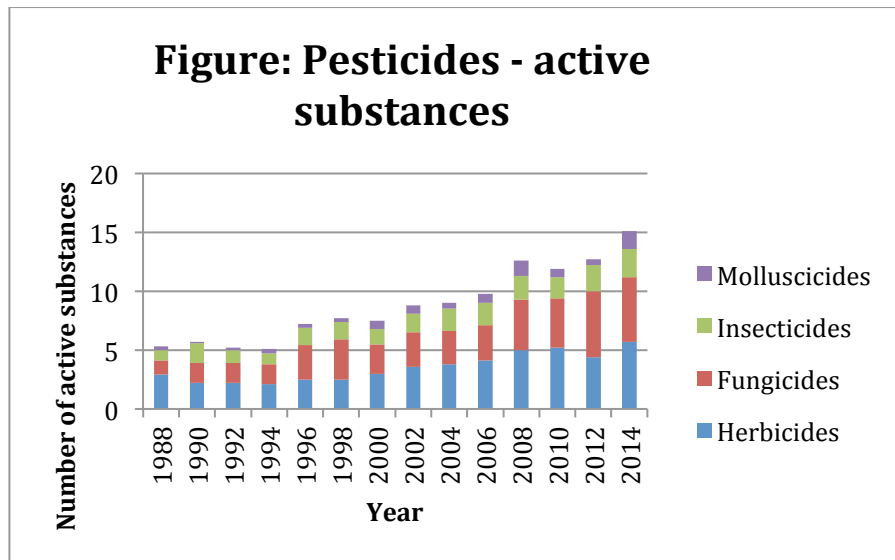


Fig. 1 PESTICIDES: Number of active substances used on Oil Seed Rape in the UK between 1988 and 2014: By kind permission of John Hoar, Hampshire Beekeeper's Spray Liaison Officer. Figures supplied by FERA

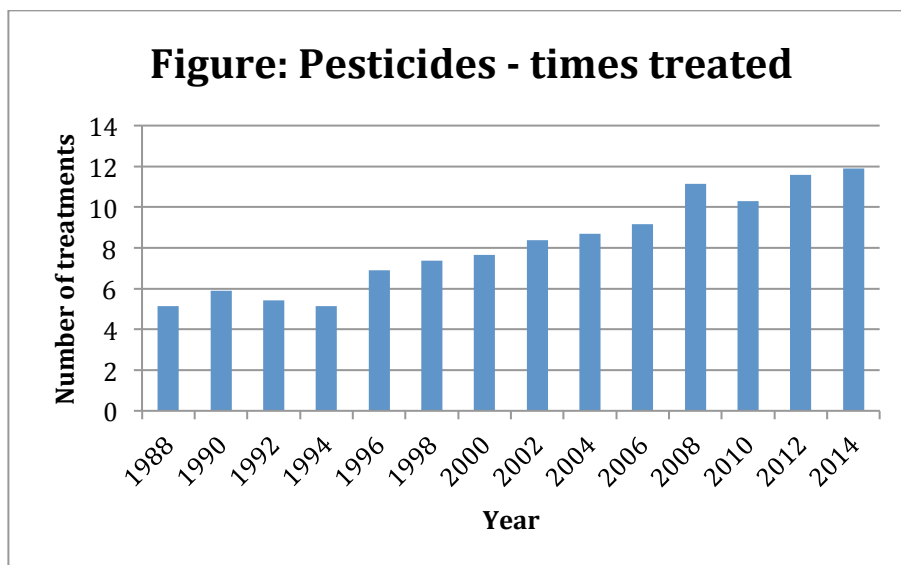


Fig. 2 PESTICIDES TIMES TREATED: used on Oil Seed Rape in the UK between 1988 and 2014: By kind permission of John Hoar, Hampshire Beekeepers Spray Liaison Officer. Figures supplied by FERA

**In 2011, we wrote to WWK-UK and asked if they would join our campaign against the systemic neonicotinoid insecticides**

You and David Nussbaum, the then CEO said: "WWF doesn't 'do' pesticides any longer. CHEM Trust does it for us." We did indeed contact CHEM Trust, a charity set up in 2007: Protecting Humans and Wildlife from Harmful Chemicals.<sup>10</sup> However, I've discovered that in 2002/2003, WWF-UK, in its more 'caring for people in the UK' role, did undertake bio-monitoring for pesticides instead of corporate funding for big animals around the globe. What happened since 2003? I have discovered that WWF-UK was 'taken over' in 2004.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.chemtrust.org.uk>

### **CONTAMINATION: The results of WWF-UK's Bio-monitoring Survey November 2003**<sup>11</sup>

On the second page there was a picture of a baby superimposed by a challenge: WHO CARES WHERE THE CHEMICALS END UP? This was an advertisement that appeared in the media in 2002. There was a courageous and defiant statement from the 'old, caring' WWF-UK: *"This advertisement appeared in the media in 2002 but was banned by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), even though it agreed with WWF that man-made chemicals are causing widespread contamination of humans and wildlife. Chemical industry lobby groups had complained that the advertisement overstated the risk of chemicals to human health. WWF is perturbed that, by asking the ASA to ban this advertisement, the chemical lobby has managed to influence what the public is allowed to know about chemical contamination. The lobby is now attempting to weaken the proposed EU chemical legislation that, as a result, could end up providing no additional public protection."* It is the same in the UK in 2016; British people are still being used as LAB RATS in an uncontrolled global experiment – and yet no one tells them, neither the government nor the Corporate Media.

**In 2003, according to WWF-UK the European Commission and World Health Organization expressed 'concern' about man-made chemicals; yet in 2002 glyphosate was re-licensed<sup>12</sup> with the help of the industry and the WHO JMPR<sup>13</sup> (Joint Meeting for Pesticide Residues)**

*"Given the concern expressed by international organizations such as the European Commission and the World Health Organization about the potential harm from man-made chemicals, this report makes unnerving reading. We are facing an uncontrolled global experiment where humans and wildlife are being exposed to man-made synthetic chemicals that have the potential to harm. It is time to wake up to this threat and ensure that exposure to such chemicals is controlled – and, where necessary, that they are banned.*

*The ASA rejected all complaints relating to the scientific and technical content of the advertisement.*

*Industry representatives disputed whether:*

- *more than 300 man-made chemicals are present in human bodies;*
- *all these chemicals are present in the foetus;*
- *man-made chemicals are more dangerous than naturally occurring ones;*
- *presence of these chemicals is dangerous even at low levels;*
- *pollutants are found in intensively farmed food; and*
- *man-made chemicals are linked to birth defects in humans.*

*The ASA found WWF's scientific research to be above reproach on all fronts and rejected every technical complaint. But despite being ruled factually accurate and being in the public interest, the advertisement was nevertheless banned on the grounds that it was 'unduly alarming'.*

### **Executive summary**

*WWF visited 13 locations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in the summer of 2003 and took blood samples from 155 volunteers. Lancaster University analysed the samples for 78 chemicals: 12 organo-chlorine pesticides (including DDT and lindane), 45 PCB congeners and 21 polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) flame retardants, including those found in the commercially traded penta-, octa- and deca-BDEs.*

*WWF believes that this survey provides the first data on the concentrations of PCBs, organo-chlorine pesticides and PBDEs in the UK population's blood serum. Further, these results form*

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/biomonitoringresults.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241665203\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241665203_eng.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/17/unwho-panel-in-conflict-of-interest-row-over-glyphosates-cancer-risk>

*the most comprehensive and largest data-set of organo-halogen chemical concentrations in humans in the UK in the last 10 years at least. In addition, the survey is the first that tries to link findings of chemical contamination to people's lifestyles.*

### **FINDINGS**

- *Every person tested is contaminated by a cocktail of known highly toxic chemicals which were banned from use in the UK during the 1970s and which continue to pose unknown health risks.*
- *We found 70 (90 per cent) of the 78 chemicals we looked for in the survey. The highest number of chemicals found in any one person was 49 - nearly two thirds (63 per cent) of the chemicals looked for.*
- *Every person is contaminated by chemicals from each group: organochlorine pesticides, PCBs and PBDEs (flame retardants).*
- *The highest concentration of any chemical found was 2,557 ng/g (ng/g = parts per billion) of the DDT metabolite p,p'-DDE. The use of DDT was banned in the UK more than 20 years ago.*
- *The most frequently detected chemicals were PCB congeners 99 and 118 and the DDT metabolite p,p'-DDE, which were detected in all but one of the 155 volunteers.*
- *Ten chemicals were found in more than 95 per cent of volunteers (PCB congeners 99, 118, 138, 153, 156, 170, 180, 194, PBDE 153 and the organochlorine pesticides --HCH and p,p'-DDE).*
- *This is the first survey to identify the widespread contamination of non-occupationally exposed people to the deca-BDE brominated flame retardant product. Worryingly, the highest levels found in our non-occupationally exposed volunteers were very similar to those observed in Sweden of people occupationally exposed to deca-BDE.*
- *We are being contaminated daily by 'unregulated' chemicals of unknown toxicity, such as the deca-BDE flame retardant. Since there is a dearth of knowledge on the levels of brominated flame-retardants in the UK population, it is not possible to determine any trend in contaminant levels.*
- *PCB contamination is gradually decreasing from levels found in the UK 10 years ago - which indicates that strong regulations work.*
- *Small numbers of people continue to be exposed and contaminated with high levels of certain chemicals, although median levels of some chemicals are decreasing compared with some earlier studies.*
- *Volunteers tested in Nottingham had the highest median level of total chemical contamination of the chemicals we looked for. They also had the highest median level of PCBs, organo-chlorine pesticides and of DDT and its metabolites. Further regional findings are presented in Appendix 1.*
- *The lifestyle questionnaire identified two factors which significantly affected the level of contamination of individual chemicals: older people have higher levels of PCBs in their blood; and women have lower levels of certain PCBs than men and the levels appear to reduce in relation to the number of children they carried and breast-fed. These differences seem to be related to women "off-loading" some of their chemical burden to their children."*

### **In 2016 the European Commission no longer CARES WHERE CHEMICALS END UP: the EU Commission, EFSA and the UK government are colluding with the Pesticides Industry**

The measure of public suspicion in Europe was such that the EU Commission received more than 1.5 million citizen petitions demanding they not approve glyphosate.

When it was clear that some European Commissioners were secretly planning to re-approve it for 15 years, veteran US journalist William Engdahl reported in an article: [The Amazing](#)

**Glyphosate Revolt Grows:**<sup>14</sup> *“To date the EU Commission has received a staggering 1.5 million citizen petitions demanding they not re-approve glyphosate. The opposition to EU Commission approval of glyphosate has taken on a self-expanding character and that has the agribusiness weed-killer cartel alarmed. The process is exposing to the general public, for the first time in such a clear manner, the degree of corruption in not only Brussels but also in the so-called scientific bodies that advise it on what is safe and what not. ... So a group of manifestly immoral scientists (Boobis & Moretto) led the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).”* Vito Buonsante, a lawyer for the ClientEarth group, in reference to the suspiciously-timed FAO/WHO report stated, *“There is a clear conflict of interest here if the review of the safety of glyphosate is carried out by scientists that directly get money from industry.”*

### **When did WWF-UK finally bow to the pressure of the industry?**

Two thousand and three was undoubtedly the last biological monitoring for pesticides done on people in the UK. Was it as a result of pressure from the industry and the Advertising Standards Agency? There have been many more studies in Europe of glyphosate (the most widely used herbicide) residues in food and drink, animals and humans.

### **Fourteen German beers contain glyphosate residues**<sup>15</sup>

“The Munich Environmental Institute (Umweltinstitut München) released shocking results on 25/02/2016 of laboratory testing it has completed on 14 of the most sold beers in Germany. The probable carcinogen and World’s most used herbicide – glyphosate – was found in all of the 14 beers tested.”

### **Studies in Danish dairy cattle<sup>16</sup> found glyphosate residues and changes in blood parameters**

- Glyphosate in the urine
- Blood parameter indicative of cytotoxicity (Increased alkaline phosphatase (AP), glutamate dehydrogenase (GLDH), glutamate oxaloacetate transaminase (GOT), creatinine kinase CK)
- Signs of nephrotoxicity (raised urea and creatine)
- Increased serum cholesterol
- Trace elements: very low levels of manganese and cobalt

### **Survey of glyphosate residues in the urine of German citizens**

It was published in March 2016 and funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation. “According to the study, 99.6% of the 2,009 German citizens monitored have some level of glyphosate found in their urine. Over 75% of these individuals have concentrations that are higher than the EU’s legal level for glyphosate in drinking water. Further, children up to age 19 are found to exhibit higher levels of urinary glyphosate than older adults. Individuals living near agricultural areas also show elevated concentrations compared to those that did not.”<sup>17</sup>

### **When did WWF-UK change? Could it have been with the appointment of Robert Napier as Chief Executive Officer in 2004?**

<sup>14</sup> <http://journal-neo.org/2016/05/23/the-amazing-glyphosate-revolt-grows/>

<sup>15</sup> [http://sustainablepulse.com/2016/02/25/german-beer-industry-in-shock-over-probable-carcinogen-glyphosate-contamination/#.V\\_ZMDRSFDzI](http://sustainablepulse.com/2016/02/25/german-beer-industry-in-shock-over-probable-carcinogen-glyphosate-contamination/#.V_ZMDRSFDzI)

<sup>16</sup> <http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2161-0525.1000186>

<sup>17</sup> <http://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2016/03/study-finds-majority-of-germans-have-glyphosate-in-their-bodies/>



"Napier had spent most of his career working for environmental despoilers, took over the running the UK arm of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).<sup>18</sup> It was a surprising choice. 'It's like putting King Herod in charge of a crèche,' said one commentator. But with the corporate world becoming ever more sophisticated in its relations with the environmental movement, the fund wanted someone who could talk on level terms with the City."

**On Linked-In Glyn Davies states:**

*Since 2005, I have increasingly engaged with corporates on CSR (? Corporate Social Responsibility, referring to business ethics) agenda: BBOP, HSBC, M&S, Coca-Cola-GB. In all situations I am focused on delivering change, through science, advocacy and campaigns.*

**WWF-UK stopped bio-monitoring in 2005/2006 and stopped working on chemicals 2007**

That was why CHEM Trust was set up in 2007. Protecting Humans and Wildlife from Harmful Chemicals.<sup>19</sup>

*"CHEM Trust is a UK based charity, working at UK, EU and International level. It's worth noting that many aspects of chemical regulation within the UK are actually controlled at EU level, with the UK government and MEPs participating in decisions. This means that CHEM Trust's work at EU level has a direct impact on the UK."*

**WWF-US statement on Monsanto**

*"WWF does not have a partnership or any formal relationship with Monsanto. WWF is committed to achieving zero net deforestation and forest degradation and has played a key role alongside other NGOs to establish and maintain the soy moratorium to combat deforestation in the Amazon (and Cerrado). WWF co-founded the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS), a multi-stakeholder initiative to encourage environmentally, socially and economically sound soy production. Monsanto is a member of the RTRS, and a prominent actor in genetically modified soy production, but their membership does not mean that WWF endorses their position or actions. We believe that being part of the RTRS to develop standards with other stakeholders will have a much greater impact than refusing to participate and so we will continue to do so. Moreover, we maintain the precautionary principle to use of GMOs."*

**How WWF works with business<sup>20</sup>**

WWF justifies why and how it works with corporations. *"Whether through direct operations or supply chains, business depends on natural resources. It needs energy. WWF works directly with companies and through industry-specific roundtables and platforms to reduce the ecological footprint of doing business, and to help the private sector be better stewards of shared natural assets.*

*We also advocate for policies and regulations that promote sustainability and protect people's rights."*

**WWF International's Corporate Partnership Report for the fiscal year 2015**

On the second page it makes these statements:<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2004/jan/11/business.conservationandendangeredspecies>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.chemtrust.org.uk>

<sup>20</sup> [http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/how\\_we\\_work/businesses/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/businesses/)

<sup>21</sup>

[http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/2015\\_corporate\\_engagement\\_wwf\\_int\\_final\\_1.pdf](http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/2015_corporate_engagement_wwf_int_final_1.pdf)



*“WWF is one of the world’s largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.*

*WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.”*

### **PandaLeaks: The dark side of WWF: The description of the book and the author.**<sup>22</sup>

“The WWF, renowned global nature conservancy brand, *greenwashes* the ecological crimes of corporations currently destroying the last remaining rain forests and natural habitats on earth; and it accepts their money. This business model of the famous “eco” organization does more to harm nature than to protect it.

The WWF cannot refute the facts gathered by esteemed journalist and filmmaker Wilfried Huismann during his two-year research expedition to all corners of the *green empire*. A journalistic tour de force unearthing the grim secrets behind the warm and cuddly façade of the WWF, Huismann’s exposé went straight to the German bestseller list. The book is now available in English, unabridged and updated.

Huismann also dug deep into the early history of the world’s most powerful nature conservancy organization and found several skeletons in the closet: the elite secret club known as “The 1001” and a private military commando unit deployed in Africa against big game poachers – *and* against black African liberation movements. In the name of environmental protection the WWF has participated in the displacement and cultural extinction of indigenous peoples the world over.”

*“It paints the picture of an environmental organization rubbing elbows with industry; doing deals with the rich and powerful, the oil companies and GMO mafia, forgetting its goals and even losing its identity in the process.”*

Review by –*Süddeutsche Zeitung*–: This South German newspaper, founded in 1945, published in Munich, Bavaria, it is the largest German national subscription daily newspaper. The newspaper in conjunction with the [International Consortium of Investigative Journalists](#) reviewed the data from the Panama Papers for over a year before publishing it on 3 April 2016. Unlike the UK media, it is independent from government and not controlled by Media Corporations.

### **WWF accused of facilitating human rights abuse**<sup>23</sup>

Complaints from Survival International:<sup>24</sup> Survival International has launched a formal complaint about the activities of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Cameroon.

*“This is the first time a conservation organization has been the subject of a complaint to the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), using a procedure more normally invoked against multinational corporations”,* Survival International writes.

The complaint charges WWF with involvement in violent abuse and land theft against Baka “Pygmies” in Cameroon, carried out by anti-poaching squads which it in part funds and equips.<sup>25</sup>

### **The UK and WWF could appear in the International Criminal Court in The Hague together**<sup>26</sup>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.pandaleaks.org>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/03/wwf-accused-of-facilitating-human-rights-abuses-of-tribal-people-in-cameroon>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.survivalinternational.org/news/11276>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.pandaleaks.org/wwf-accused-involvement-in-violence-and-abuse/>

The International Criminal Court in The Hague announced a change in remit.<sup>27</sup>  
 On 15/09/2016 John Vidal and Owen Bowcutt for *The Guardian*: “*Environmental destruction (Britain) and land-grabs (WWF International) could lead to governments and individuals being prosecuted for crimes against humanity by the international criminal court following a decision to expand its remit.*”

### **The Monsanto Tribunal to be held next week: 14-16 October in The Hague**

The Monsanto Tribunal is an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for human rights violations, for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide. Eminent judges will hear testimonies from victims, and deliver an advisory opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice. A parallel People's Assembly provides the opportunity for social movements to rally and plan for the future we want. The Tribunal and People's Assembly will take place between 14 and 16 October 2016 in The Hague, Netherlands.

Rosemary Mason MB, ChB FRCA  
 08/10/2016

## **Appendix**

**The Monsanto Tribunal:** [www.monsanto-tribunal.org](http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org)

### **Program Monsanto Tribunal**

**Location:** Institute of Social Studies, Kortenaerkade 12, 2518 AX Den Haag. Scroll down for the PDF version and the People's Assembly program

**October 14th, 2016 Opening of the Monsanto Tribunal. For more information, please scroll down to the agenda of the People's Assembly.**

#### **October 15th, 2016**

8:00-8:30 Registration of the visitors: please be in time!

8:30-8:45 Opening with Corinne Lepage, member of the Organizing Committee, former French Minister for the Environment & Member of the European Parliament

#### **Hearings of the victims and their lawyers 8:45 – 12:45**

- **Impact on human health**

8:45-9:15 Sabine GRATALOU, Maria Liz ROBLEDO, RoundUp victim, France, Argentina

9:15-9:45 Christine SHEPPHARD, victim RoundUp & Timothy LITZENBURG, lawyer, USA

9:45-10:15 Kolon SAMAN & Channa JAYASUMANA, victim and environmental health expert, Sri Lanka

10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45-11:15 Damian VERZEÑASSI, doctor public health, Argentina

11:15-11:45 Marcelo FIRPO, Public Health & Environmental Health researcher, ABRASCO, Brazil

- **Impact on soils and plants**

11:45-12:10 Diego FERNANDEZ, farmer, Argentina

12:10-12:35 Don HUBER, biologist, USA

12:45-14:15 *Lunch break*

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1238>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2016/sep/15/hague-court-widens-remit-to-include-environmental-destruction-cases>

**14:15 – 18:45**

- **Impact on animal health**

14:15-14:40 Art DUNHAM, veterinary, USA

14:40-15:05 Monika KRUEGER, scientist, Germany

15:05-15:30 Ib Borup PEDERSEN, pig farmer, Denmark

- **Impact on biodiversity**

15:50-16:05 Feliciano UCAN POOT, Angelica EL CANCHE, beekeepers, María Colin, lawyer, Mexico

16:05-16:30 Steve MARSH, GMO contamination, Australia

16:30-17:00: *Coffee break*

- **Impact on farmers and the right to food**

17:00-17:25 Ousmane TIENDREBEOGO, GMO Cotton, Burkina Faso

17:25 -17:50 Kishan BIR CHAUDHARY, scientist, India

17:50-18:15 Farida AKTHER, GMO eggplant, Bangladesh

18:15-18:40 Percy SCHMEISER, IPR/patents, Canada

### October 16th, 2016

**9:00 – 13:00**

- **Pressures on stakeholders and institutions**

9:00-9:25 Pedro PABLO MUTUMBAJOY, victim Plan Colombia

9:25-9:50 Paul FRANCOIS, Lasso victim, France

9:50-10:15 Juan Ignacio PEREYRA, victims of crop spraying lawyer, Argentina

10:15-10:45 Miguel LOVERA, Expert on health, Paraguay

10.45-11.15 *Coffee break*

11.15-11.40 Gilles Eric SERALINI, academic research, France

11.40-12.05 Shiv CHOPRA, expert regulatory agency, Canada

12.05-12.30 Claire ROBINSON, academic research, United Kingdom

12.30-13.00 Peter CLAUSING, toxicologist, Germany.

**14:30 – 17:00**

14:30-15:00 Lawyer of the Monsanto Tribunal, Claudia Gómez Godoy, Right to healthy environment, health and food

15:00-15:30 Lawyer of the Monsanto Tribunal, William Bourdon, Right to information

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-16:30 Lawyer of the Monsanto Tribunal, Maogato Jackson, War Crimes

16:30-17:15 Lawyer of the Monsanto Tribunal, Gwynn McCarrick & Koffi Dogbevi, Ecocide

**17:15-17:30 Closing of the International Monsanto Tribunal**

### Agenda People's Assembly

**Location: Bazaar of Ideas (next to the Student Hotel) - Hoefkade 9, 2526 BN Den Haag**

Scroll down to download the PDF version

#### October 14th, 2016

**10:00 - 11:00 Registration - please be on time**

**11:00 - 12:00 Press Conference**

Marie-Monique Robin, Vandana Shiva, Hans Herren, André Leu, Ronnie Cummins, Corinne Lepage, Valérie Cabanes, Renate Künast, Nnimmo Bassey.

12:00 - 13:30 *Lunch*

**13:30 - 15:30 Opening session: A Century of Ecocide and Genocide**

- 13:30-13:35 Opening remarks

- 13:35-14:30 *Owning Life*: Vandana Shiva (Navdanya) - Patents on Seed and the attempt to "own" life; Percy Schmeiser (Canadian farmer sued by Monsanto) - Farmers vs. Monsanto; Fernando Cabaleiro (Argentina) - Citizen Coalition against Monsanto's

claims to Patents on Life.

- 14:30-16:00 Poisoning Life: André Leu (President IFOAM International) - Why are they poisoning our children?; Hans Herren (Chair IAASTD and Biovision Institute) - Farming without pesticides; Stephanie Seneff (Senior Research Scientist) - Toxics and Autism; Marcelo Firpo (Environmental Health researcher - ABRASCO – Brazil) - Health effects of pesticide contamination in Brazil; Francois Veillerette (Pesticides Action Network) - pesticides in people: a widespread contamination that threatens the health of present and future generations.

16:00 - 16:30 *Coffee break*

- 16:30-18:00 Attack on Farmers and Farming: Nnimmo Bassey, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (Nigeria); Charito Medina, MASIPAG (Philippines); Farida Akhter, UBINIG (Bengladesh); Ali Tapsoba, C.C.A.E. (Burkina Faso); Nivia Silva, MST Brazil (La Via Campesina); Xiulin Gu (China).
- 18:00-19:00 Attack on science and scientists: Claire Robinson, editor GMwatch.org and co-author of the book *GMO myths and truths*; Shiv Chopra, Scientist and author of the book *Corrupted to the core*; Gilles-Eric Séralini, Professor and founder of CRIIGEN

19:00 - 20:00 *Dinner*

20:00 - 21:30 *Theater, music, films & drinks*

### October 15th, 2016

**10:00 - 10:10 Order of the Day**

**10:00 - 12:15 Workshop Session 1**

Each workshop starts with a short introduction by expert followed by interaction between participants towards action plan. [Scroll down to the bottom of the page for the detailed workshop program.](#)

- How to ban GMOs worldwide
- Ideas to ban Pesticides and toxic chemicals
- Steps towards Seed Freedom
- Steps to hold transnational corporations responsible for their acts
- Promoting agroecology to feed the world

12:15 - 14:00 *Lunch*

**14:00 - 16:00 Workshop session 2**

16:00 - 16:45 *Coffee break*

**16:30 - 17:45 Reports from workshops 17:45 - 18:00 Music: Murga 18:00 - 19:00 Attack on Democracy and Laws that protect the planet and our food freedom**

- Ronnie Cummins (Organic Consumers Association) - GMO Labelling and the US DARK Act; Nina Holland (Corporate Europe Observatory) - Monsanto's lobbying tools and tricks; Bart Staes (European Greens) - How agrochemical lobbies try to overtake EU-regulation and decision making

**19:00-20:00 New Corporate Strategies for extending control over our seed, food and planet**

- Antonius Michelman (Bayer Co-ordination, Germany) - Facing The Monsanto-Bayer Merger; Vandana Shiva (Navdanya) - The poison cartel, Bill Gates and new attempts to control our seed and food; Monica Di Sisto (Fairwatch) - TTIP and Free Trade Agreements; Jim Thomas (ETC Group) - The new technologies of corporate control.

20:00 - 21:00 *Dinner*

21:00 - 22:30 *Music, films & drinks*

### October 16th, 2016

**10:00 - 10:10 Order of the day**

**10:15 - 11:15 Workshop Session 3 - Concrete Actions and Coalitions**

**11:15 - 12:15 Results from Workshops**

12:15 - 14:00 *Lunch*

**14:00 - 17:45 Closing session: People's vision and Actions for the future of food and the future of the planet**

- 14:00-15:30 Renate Künast - Right to safe and healthy food; André Leu (IFOAM International) - Organic Agriculture and Poison Free food; Ronnie Cummins (Regeneration International) - From Degeneration to Regeneration; Hans Herren (Biovision) - Agro ecology nourishes the world; Rachel Parent (Kids Right to Know) - Rights of future generations

*15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break*

- 16:00-17:30 Brid Brennan (Transnational Institute) - Dismantling Corporate Power and building People's Sovereignty; Miryam Gorban - The Future of Food Sovereignty; Valérie Cabanes (End Ecocide) - End Ecocide; Vandana Shiva (Navdanya) - Sowing the Seeds of Earth Democracy
- 17:30-17:45 Collective Launch of Global Participatory Declaration for the future of food and future of the planet and sharing of biodiversity

*17:45-18:00 Drinks & music*

*19.00 Dinner for organisation & guests with invitation*