



# ABOUT US

**Global Justice Ecology Project (GJEP)** explores and exposes the intertwined root causes of social injustice, ecological destruction, and economic domination. It was founded in 2003.

GJEP envisions a world in which all societies are justly and equitably governed with full participation by an engaged and informed populace living in harmony with the natural world and one another.

We accomplish our mission by (1) prioritizing campaigns that are key leverage points for advancing systemic change, and (2) linking struggles and strengthening diverse movements with strategic action, information, and analysis.

## Philosophy of Activism

- Maintain an uncompromising stance and keep the bar high.
- Make systemic connections through a holistic analysis.
- Be accountable to Indigenous Peoples, grassroots organizations and frontline communities.
- Use direct action as a strategic tool.
- Be efficient and effective.
- Win.

## Principles

We believe in the fundamental equality of all peoples and the intrinsic value of the natural world. Our program work is guided by these principles:

- Confront oppression, challenge power elites, and amplify the voice of the least powerful among us.
- Champion diversity and equality to break down barriers and open doors to common goals and ideas.
- Work in cooperation, not competition, to build grassroots power.

## History

Anne Petermann and Orin Langelle, activists with decades of experience in environmental and social justice, locally, nationally and internationally, founded GJEP with the understanding that environmental destruction, war, human rights abuses, the loss of civil rights and liberties, economic domination and social injustice in all its forms are not isolated, and need to be addressed at their common roots.

## Our Programs

### **Campaign to STOP Genetically Engineered Trees**

We founded the Campaign to STOP GE Trees with allies from across the world with the goal of protecting forests, biodiversity, and communities from the potentially catastrophic impacts of GE trees. The problem of GE trees is deeply intertwined with land grabs; the loss of rights and autonomy of Indigenous People; impacts on women in rural communities; water and soil depletion; catastrophic wildfires; deforestation and biodiversity loss; overconsumption of wood and paper by global elites; and false solutions to climate change, such as carbon offsets. For this reason, the Campaign to STOP GE Trees works in collaboration with allies around the world addressing these intertwined issues. Read more at [stopgetrees.org](http://stopgetrees.org)

### **Global Justice Media Program**

We strategically use photography, video and mainstream and alternative media to explore and expose the root causes of social, ecological and economic injustice, and to empower those working for change. The program showcases community struggles against injustice, and amplifies the voices and messages of front line struggles of people working to defend their communities against health, social, ecological, and/or economic damage. The program includes our Breaking Green podcast, Earth Radio segments and New Voices Speaker's Bureau.

**Langelle Photography:** This program uses the power of documentary photography to expose social and ecological injustice and its connection to struggles for the land. The objective of Langelle Photography is to use photographic documentation of peoples' struggles for justice to advance societal transformation toward justice, equity and ecological balance by inspiring others to participate in changing the world, and helping empower those whose struggles we lift up.

**Climate Justice and False Solutions:** GJEP promotes and helps advance an analysis of the climate crisis that focuses on intertwined systemic roots of the crisis; and an approach to addressing the crisis that emphasizes fundamental transformation of the economic and political systems driving the crisis. At the same time, GJEP debunks and exposes false solutions to climate change designed to entrench business as usual at the expense of peoples, ecosystems, communities and biodiversity. Read our [statement on climate justice](#).

## Key Accomplishments

### CAMPAIGN TO STOP GE TREES

- **Created and coordinated a major international campaign against GE trees beginning in 2000**, which has so far successfully prevented their large-scale commercial release
- **Organized historic week of action at the international Tree Biotechnology 2013 conference** in Asheville, NC in May 2013—including several arrests and the largest ever protest against GE trees. Organized subsequent actions at the TB 2017 conference in Concepción, Chile and the TB 2019 conference in Raleigh, NC. There has not been another one since.
- **Won a decision from the UN Biodiversity Conference in Bonn, Germany in 2008** that warned countries of the social and ecological dangers of GE trees
- **Worked with a legal team to challenge USDA approval of GE eucalyptus trees in 2010.** This challenge was credited with preventing GE tree company ArborGen from going public on the NASDAQ in April 2011, leading to the replacement of its executive staff in January 2012
- **Consulted on an award-winning documentary “[A Silent Forest: The Growing Threat, Genetically Engineered Trees](#),”** narrated by internationally renowned geneticist David Suzuki.
- **Co-organized a rapid response international day of action on five continents** targeting Brazilian Consulates and Embassies in 2015 to protest the country's Biosafety Commission which was considering whether to legalize a GE fast-growing eucalyptus tree. The meeting was shut down by La Via Campesina and postponed for a month. The GE trees were ultimately approved but never planted.
- **Coordinated effort to stop deregulation of GE eucalyptus trees in the US.** When the USDA issued a draft environmental impact statement in 2017 recommending approval of ArborGen's GE eucalyptus, we coordinated an opposition campaign, resulting in 284,000 people registering opposition to the GE eucalyptus. No final decision was ever issued by the USDA.
- **Brought international media attention to the dangers of GE trees**, including the *Financial Times*, *UK Guardian*, *Washington Post*, and articles/features in the *New York Times*, *Bloomberg News*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Memphis Appeal*, *NPR's Living on Earth* and *On Point* programs, among hundreds of others.
- **Cited frequently by industry leaders as a major obstacle to GE tree research and development**

- **Co-wrote a major report [Biotechnology for Forest Health? The Test Case of the Genetically Engineered American Chestnut](#)** to expose the ecological dangers and unknown risks of the genetically engineered American chestnut tree, which also revealed the corporate support for the effort and industry's plans to use the GE tree as a Trojan Horse to evade public opposition and open the doors to other industrial GE trees

#### GLOBAL JUSTICE MEDIA PROGRAM

- **Worked directly with reporters and journalists to amplify the voices of impacted communities, social movements, grassroots groups and networks.** Beginning in 2004, GJEP traveled to UN and other international fora, including the Climate Convention, Biodiversity Convention, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, World Social Forum and others where we succeeded in featuring frontline voices in hundreds of newswires and media outlets around the world, helping them reach millions of people with their messages.
- **[Earth Minute and Earth Watch](#):** We have partnered with Margaret Prescod's *Sojourner Truth* show on KPFK Pacifica Radio (Los Angeles) since November 2009, producing weekly "Earth Minutes," as well as weekly Earth Watch interviews on important environmental news.
- **Produced the DVD "[A Darker Shade of Green: REDD Alert and the Future of Forests](#),"** in 2012 out of the experiences in Amador Hernandez, to showcase Indigenous Peoples' resistance to REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
- **Launched the [Breaking Green podcast](#)** in 2021 to speak with activists and experts on the intertwined issues of social, ecological and economic injustice; and to explore some of the more outrageous proposals to address climate and environmental crises falsely being sold as green.
- **Created the [New Voices Speaker's Bureau](#)** to connect frontline activists, Indigenous Peoples and others directly with those seeking to lift up their voices.

#### LANGELLE PHOTOGRAPHY

"As a concerned photographer, my goal is not just to document and expose the harsh reality of injustice—much of which is linked with the struggle for the land—but to inspire viewers to participate in changing the world, while helping empower those striving for justice because they know that images from their struggle are revealed to a larger audience." – Orin Langelle

- **Documented peoples' struggles on six continents over five decades** to highlight their efforts against injustice through online photo essays, gallery exhibits, book covers and illustrations, magazine articles.
- **Invited to document Indigenous Peoples' struggles** by communities closed to journalists: Ayoreo People in Paraguay, Mapuche People in Chile, and communities in the Lacandon jungle of Chiapas, Mexico.
- **Used the power of photojournalism** in 2011 to help prevent the eviction of Amador Hernandez, an Indigenous community resisting forest carbon offsets in the Lacandon Jungle of Chiapas, Mexico.
- **Opened and ran the [¡Buen Vivir! Gallery](#)** in Buffalo, NY from 2014 to 2019. The gallery was founded to utilize art and photography to present an historical look at movements for change, struggle and everyday life, and inspire new generations to participate in the making of a better world.

#### CLIMATE JUSTICE & FALSE SOLUTIONS

- Co-founded **Durban Group for Climate Justice** in 2004; **Climate Justice Now!** in 2007; **Climate Justice Action** in 2008. Participated in founding **Climate Justice Alliance** in the US. Helped organized the *Peoples' Assembly* and *Reclaim Power* march out at the 2009 UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen. In 2011, following years of unpermitted protest and civil disobedience at UN Climate Summits to expose corporate domination, GJEP's Head of Delegation and Executive Director was permanently banned from future Climate Summits.
- **Used [writing](#), analysis and direct action to expose the extent of corporate influences on UN climate and biodiversity negotiations.** Highlighted the exclusion of Indigenous Peoples, social movements and other stakeholders from UN decision-making.

- **Developed the [Climate-Connections blog](#)** to report news, photo essays, videos and original writings from the cutting edge of the climate justice movement.
- **Co-organized the “[Resurgence: North American Forest & Climate Movement Convergence](#)”** which brought together more than 200 forest and climate activists, Indigenous Peoples and others to create strategies to confront false solutions to climate change involving trees, forests and wood.
- **Helped produce and promote [Hoodwinked in the Hothouse](#) booklet**, which emerged from the Convergence and succinctly explains and critiques a comprehensive list of climate false solutions.

**For More Information:**

[GlobalJusticeEcology.org](http://GlobalJusticeEcology.org)

[StopGETrees.org](http://StopGETrees.org)

[PhotoLangelle.org](http://PhotoLangelle.org)

[Climate-Connections.org](http://Climate-Connections.org)