



False climate solutions threaten land and lives.

A talk and photo presentation by Jeff Conant

California's carbon-trading deal

In Chiapas, Mexico, where a carbon-trading deal was recently signed with the state of California, efforts to preserve forests and transform subsistence farming practices are leading to displacement and increasing instability.

Mexico's poorest state almost annually experiences torrential rain and flooding, which can only get worse as the climate crisis deepens. In 2009, the state launched its Climate Change Action Programme (CCAPCH). Along with forest carbon offset projects, the plan includes a statewide "productive



conversion" initiative to convert subsistence farmers into producers of African palm, Jatropha, and roses (seen above).

"Sustainable" rural cities

Chiapas State is developing prefab population centers designed to "promote regional development, combat the dispersion and marginalization of local peoples, and play a significant role in making efforts [to develop infrastructure and provide basic services] cost-efficient."

However, in reality these are diminutive pastel-painted ticky-tacky houses made of chipboard, set on stilts on a bald hillside, burning in the open sun.



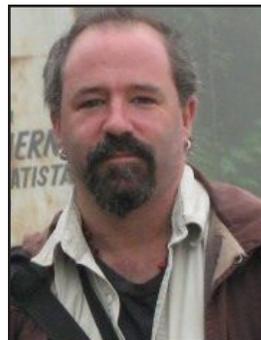
Palm oil plantations

In Honduras, investment in biofuel plantations through the UN-mandated Clean Development Mechanism have fueled increased repression of peasant movements.

Palm oil monocultures for food production, cosmetic and chemical industries and agrofuels are a major cause of deforestation and climate change, and they destroy the livelihoods of millions of small farmers.



Jeff Conant



Author, activist, and Communications Director for Global Justice Ecology Project, Jeff Conant was recently in Chiapas researching the effects of the California-Chiapas agreement, and has been following events unfolding in the Bajo Aguan region of Honduras. He will talk about how market-based climate policies are leading to

human rights violations, and what communities in Mesoamerica are doing to resist.

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