

The Global Ocean Grab

Mads Barbesgaard,
Chairperson of Africa Contact,

WFFP General Assembly, 02.09.2014



"We are not here to celebrate but to know who we are and what we are fighting against. We are here to strengthen our resistance."



Elizabeth Mpfu

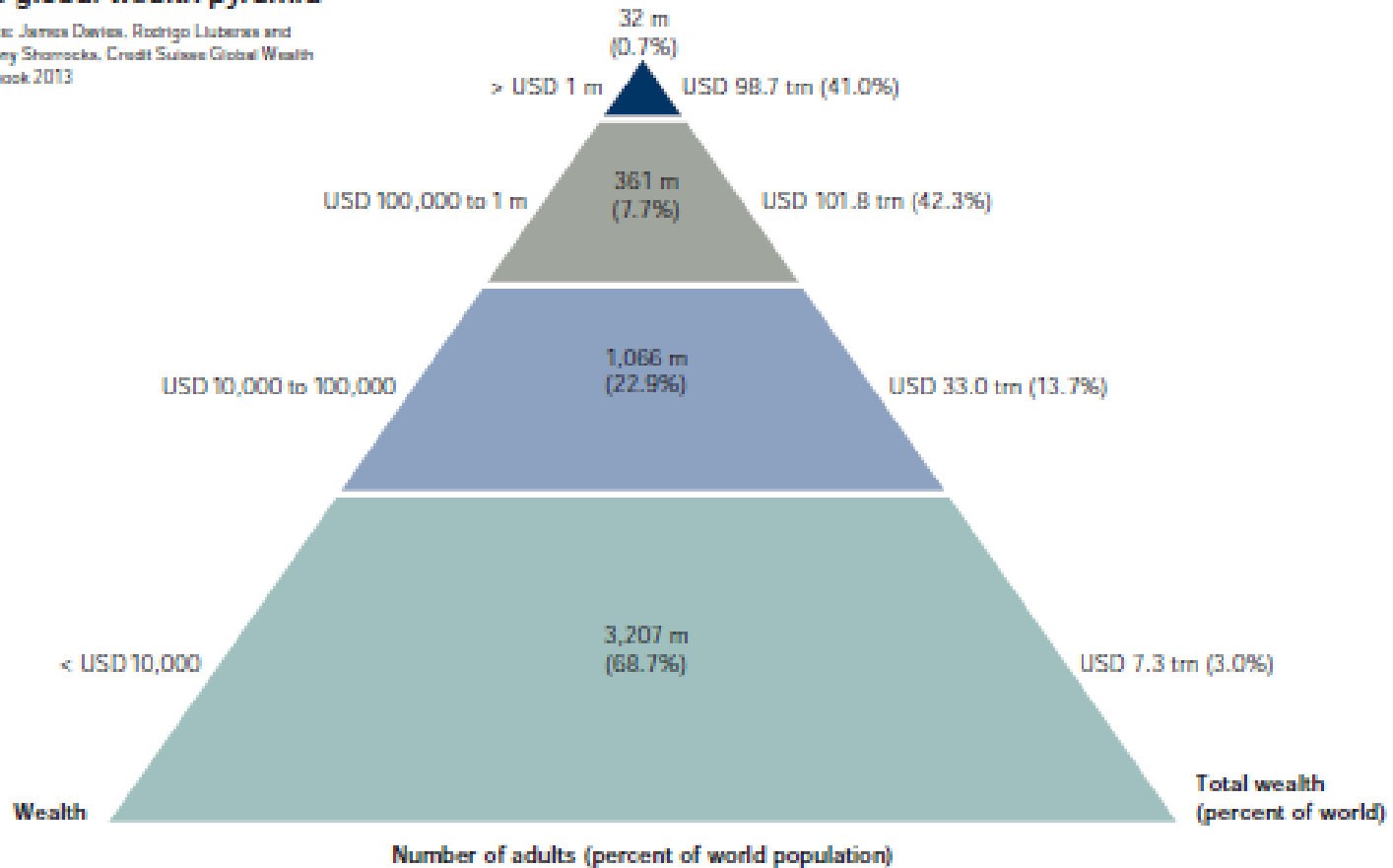
Coordinator of La Via
Campesina, speaking at Rural
Women's Assembly, Bulawayo,
Zimbabwe, 14 August 2014

Global Inequality

Figure 1

The global wealth pyramid

Source: James Davies, Rodrigo Lluberas and Anthony Shorrocks, Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2013

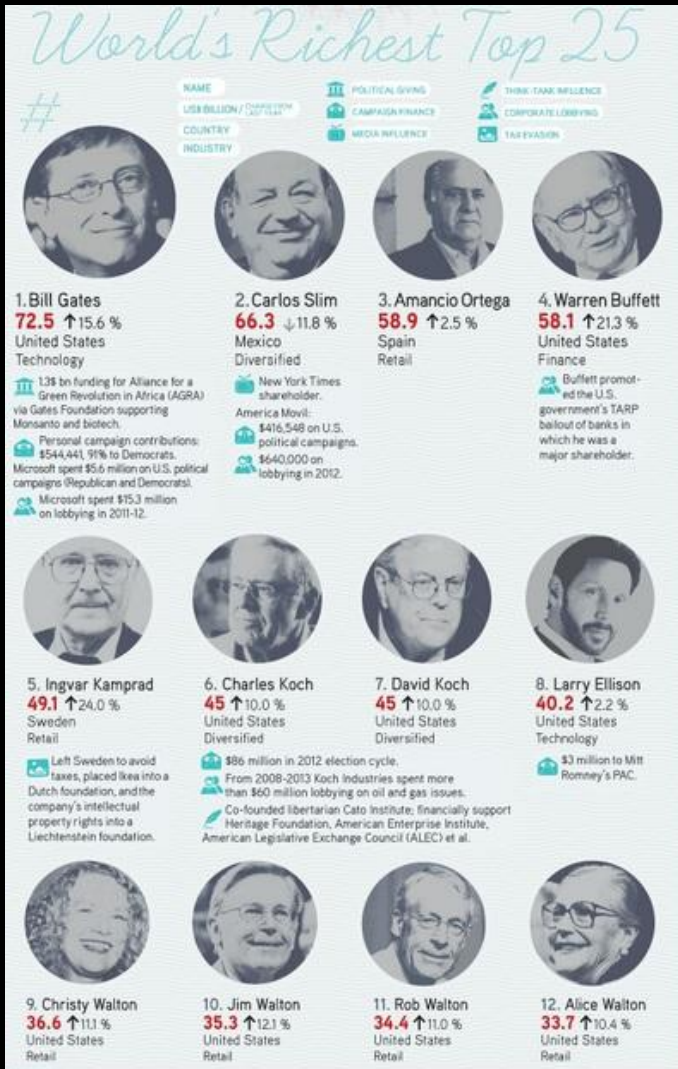


Source: Global Wealth Report 2014

Neoliberalism

- "Neoliberalism is ... characterized by strong private property rights, free markets and free trade." (Harvey 2005 :2)
- "Neoliberalism has either restored class power to ruling elites ... or created conditions for capitalist class formation." (Harvey 2006 :152)

The 1%



”There’s class warfare all right – but it’s my class, the rich class, that’s making war, and we’re winning.”

Warren Buffet, New York Times, 26th November, 2006

Ocean-Grabbing: what is it?

- “Ocean grabbing thus means the capturing of control by powerful economic actors of crucial decision-making around fisheries, including the power to decide how and for what purposes marine resources are used, conserved and managed now and in the future. As a result, these powerful actors, whose main concern is making profit, are steadily gaining control of both the fisheries’ resources and the benefits of their use.” (page 3)

Ecuador

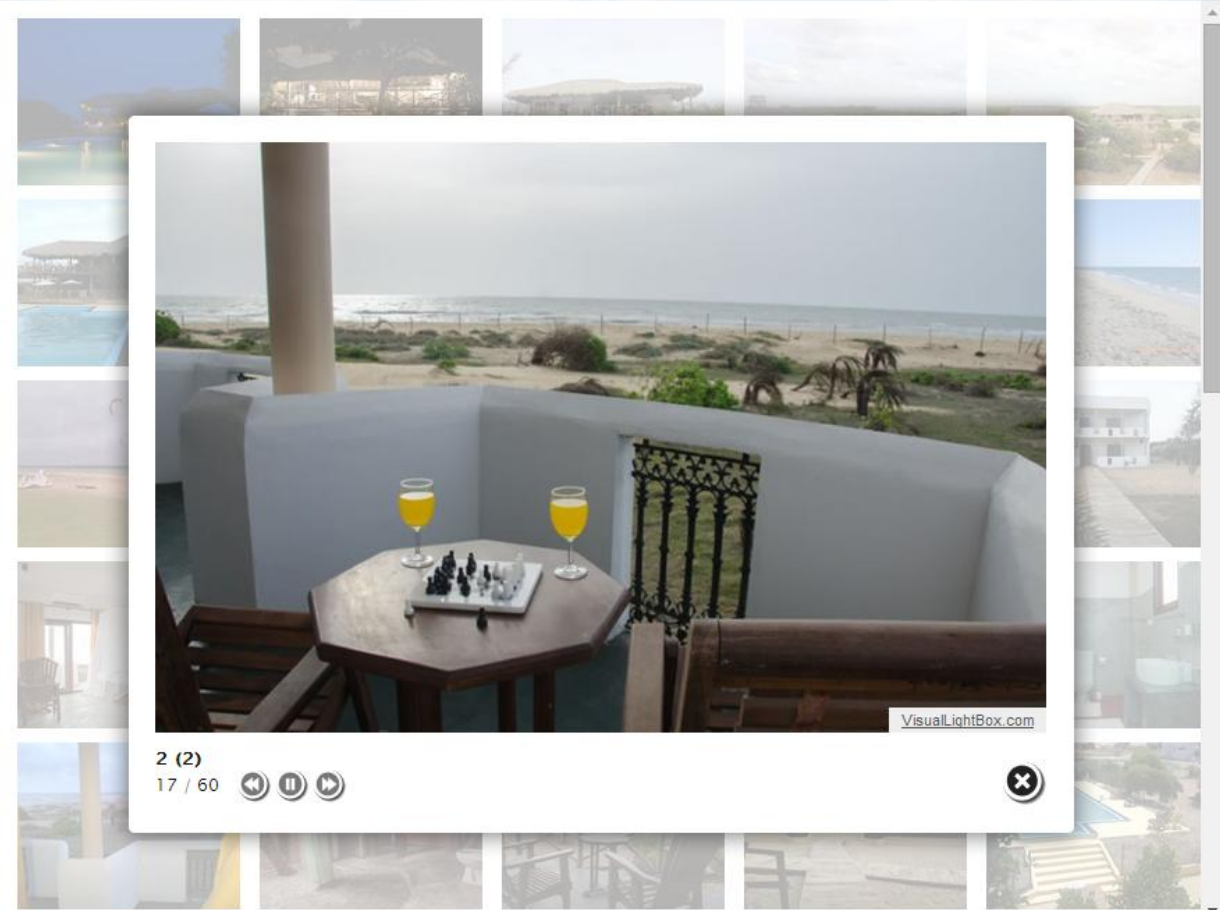


Source: Environmental Justice Foundation

Sri Lanka

E-mail :: Resultat for søgn x Tourism-driven grabbing x Bay x

www.baywatchkalpitiya.com/gao.html



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Bangladesh





GETTY IMAGES



Ocean-Grabbing: what is it?

“... the exclusion of small-scale fishers from access to fisheries and other natural resources ... through the adoption or reinterpretation of laws, regulations or policies affecting fisheries governance.”

(page 6)

Ocean Grabbing: how does it work?

Adoption or reinterpretation of laws as decision-making becomes captured by economic actors:

International level

- Trade and investment agreements (e.g. TPP, TTIP)
- UN-processes (e.g. Rio +20)
- International institutions (WTO, World Bank, IMF)

Regional level

- Intergovernmental institutions: African Union, ASEAN, EU, OAS,
- Regional development banks: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank

National level

- All manner of national policies (investment, agriculture, extractive industries, fisheries)

Ocean Grabbing: the Global Partnership for Oceans

The image shows a screenshot of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) website. The browser address bar shows the URL www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org. The website header features the GPO logo and the text "GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "ABOUT GPO", "PARTNERS", "VIDEOS", "FEATURES", "NEWS & UPDATES", "CALENDAR", and "PARTNER BLOG". A "Follow @GPOceans" button is also visible.

The main content area features a large banner with the text "INDISPENSABLE OCEAN" in large, white, serif font. The word "OCEAN" is stylized with images of people and a fish. Below the banner, the text reads "ALIGNING OCEAN HEALTH AND HUMAN WELL-BEING" and "Guidance from the Blue Ribbon Panel to the Global Partnership for Oceans".

To the right of the banner is a section titled "Blue Ribbon Panel Report". The text describes a unique panel of business, government, conservation and academic leaders who have agreed a global strategy for aligning ocean health and human well-being. The report includes 21 global experts from 16 countries and emphasizes that without action to turn around the declining health of the ocean, the consequences for economies, communities and ecosystems will be irreversible.

- [Read the Report](#)
- [Meet the Blue Ribbon Panel](#)
- [Learn More About the GPO](#)

At the bottom of the article section, there are four small circular icons, with the second one from the left being filled in blue.

The GPO: who are they?

As of 1st September 2014, the GPO had 155 partners, herein:

- Governments and government agencies (27)
- Private sector actors (31)
- Civil society organizations (56)
- Foundations (8)
- Regional and multilateral organizations (10)
- Research institutes (15)
- UN agencies (8)

The GPO: who are they?



Ocean Grabbing: how are they legitimising the attack?

- Wild capture fisheries: shock-doctrine
- Aquaculture: 'feed the world' / export-oriented growth
- All (inland and marine fisheries): "In the name of economic growth..."

