

Captain Hook Awards 2016

FOR

BIOPIRACY

Biopiracy refers to the monopolization (through intellectual property, & more recently, digital sequencing & genome editing) of genetic resources & traditional knowledge or culture taken from peoples or farming communities who have developed & nurtured those resources.

Digital Biopiracy Award:

DivSeek

For facilitating wide-spread biopiracy by providing access to digital sequences of the world's crop biodiversity.

Worst Government Behaviour Award:

Canada

For attempting to delete any reference to digital sequences in the text at COP 13, and putting 30 million dollars into digitizing its biological collections without considering digital biopiracy implications.

Runner-up: Honduras

For defending free and unregulated access to digital genetic sequences data with a shameless disregard for benefit-sharing.

Two Faces Award:

Blairo Maggi

Maggi's ministry has adopted measures in Brazil that limit the Brazilian commitments in the CBD; instead of ratifying Nagoya Protocol they support the creation of the Legal Framework of Biodiversity which legalizes biopiracy in Brazil.

Greediest Biopirates Award:

(a tie) Coca Cola & Clarins

Coca Cola for massively profiting from Stevia in their beverages while the holders of the traditional knowledge about the sweetening property of Stevia, the Guarani groups living across Paraguay and Brazilian borders, make very little.

Clarins for patenting African medicinal knowledge of the harungana tree, selling its product for US \$7000/kilo and paying \$2/kilo to African farmers for dried leaves (and then for calling it 'Fair Trade').

The Coalition Against Biopiracy is an informal group of civil society and peoples' organizations that first came together at the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Jakarta.



The 2016 Cog Awards for

Most Creative Legal Defense: The Mayan Council in Bacalar, Quintana Roo,

...including The Agroecology School 'Educe';
The Beekeepers 'Kabi Habin'; The Seeds Collective
Much Kanan; and several ejidos.
For halting thousands of hectares of transgenic soy
in their region through an innovative legal strategy:
refusing to be 'consulted'.

Best Peoples' Defense: People's Permanent Tribunal (Mexico Chapter)

For their ruling in favour of a total prohibition
on transgenic maize in Mexico, and declaring it
a crime against humanity.

NB: Cogs were ships designed to repel pirate attacks.