

DEEM
CLIMATE
JUSTICE

Friends of the Earth

friends of the earth
international at 40

mobilise. resist. transform

40 years

Friends of the Earth International

“Ten years ago, I went to my first meeting of Friends of the Earth International. I recall a babble of accents, a kaleidoscope of ideas, views and strategies. The spectrum of resources at our command ranged from modest to tiny. Could this small, motley crew help save the earth? But I also remember the words of a Japanese member tumbling out so fast we had to ask her to slow down. She was pleading passionately, not for an issue in her own country, but for Pacific islanders threatened by nuclear testing. Not just their crisis: ours, too. Citizens’ groups such as FoEI can reach across geographical and cultural boundaries, to act together in a way that our governments have so often failed to do.”

First FoEI Chair Mairi MacArthur in ‘Save the Earth’ by Jonathon Porritt, 1991.

contents

introduction: celebrating our past and our future	3
our history: past successes, new struggles	4
our vision and mission	6
our members: diverse and united, grassroots and global	7
our approach: our contribution to the environmental movement	10
our principles: solidarity, learning and creativity	19
the next 40 years: committed to the challenge	21



**Friends of
the Earth
International**

friends of the earth
international secretariat

P.O. Box 19199
1000 GD Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: 31 20 622 1369
Fax: 31 20 639 2181
info@foei.org
www.foei.org



introduction:

celebrating our past and our future

100 Friends of the Earth Hungary activists on a mosaic map of Hungary, urging a radical national climate strategy in front of the Parliament.

Milestones are important landmarks that prompt us to take time out to remember and reflect on what we have achieved, as well as to prepare for the challenges ahead. After forty years of campaigning, Friends of the Earth International can certainly look back on its contribution to the quest for environmental and social justice with quiet but considerable satisfaction.

But we also recognise that our work is far from done. New and emerging challenges driven by the current neoliberal economic model require a strong, integrated and innovative response. Our ecosystems are at breaking point: forests and biodiversity are disappearing, climate change is heating up the planet, and land and water resources are being polluted by oil, mining and gas exploration. Communities and countries across the world have also been rocked by financial, food and energy crises.

On our 40th anniversary we salute those who, inspired by their dream of an international environmental network, created Friends of the Earth International, now a large and influential federation of autonomous environmental groups, and capable of addressing these crises. We now have 76 national member groups around the world, and more than 2 million members and supporters. We have joined forces with farmers, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, women, workers and young people in our struggle for a new and better world built on solidarity, rather than competition and destruction.

Today, in our fortieth year, we stand strong and proud with people around the world struggling for environmental justice and for the change we urgently need. This briefing gives an overview of how far we have come over the past 40 years, and provides an introduction to our approach to confronting today's environmental, social and economic crises. We are determined to succeed, and we believe that our children's future will be better because of what we do.

Our slogan is:

mobilise, resist, transform

Nnimmo Bassey, Chair,
Friends of the Earth International

our history:

past successes, new struggles

FoEI and FoE Germany's hugely successful Lifeboat action at the Bonn climate change negotiations in 2001, brought increased media attention to the negotiations.

Forty years ago, a small, dedicated and determined group of environmental activists from France, Sweden, the UK and the US met in Roslagen, Sweden, to support each other in tackling common environmental problems. This meeting was to be the first of many passionate intercultural exchanges of concerns and ideas over the next four decades: it resulted in the founding of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), now an influential global federation with groups in 76 countries and over 2 million members and supporters around the world.

This all-important first step soon led to a profound shift in national member groups' capacity to bring about change, by allowing them to address key issues at the international level. FoEI's first joint international campaigns were established in the early 1980s and focused on food and pesticides, acid rain, nuclear waste and tropical forests. In 1978 we also co-founded the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), to provide a mechanism for the public to monitor and participate in meetings of the Antarctic Treaty System. The founding of the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) in 1982, by Friends of the Earth groups in Malaysia, Brazil and the United States, was another important step forward.

These international campaigns were extremely influential. In fact many of the environmental campaigns of the 1970s and 80s, orchestrated by Friends of the Earth and other allies in the burgeoning environmental movement, were so successful that their results are almost taken for granted today. It now seems inconceivable, for example, that countries once dumped their nuclear waste at sea, and that there were no controls over even the most lethal chemicals that persist and bio-accumulate in people and in nature. Thanks to joined-up international campaigning, a raft of intergovernmental agreements regulating the disposal of wastes, and the use of chemicals such as pesticides and ozone-depleting substances, has been put in place since those early years. Environmental concerns are now considered to be part of the everyday political discourse in most countries.

In the 1970s and 1980s FoEI's member groups also played an active role in the anti-whaling lobby, urging governments participating in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to protect whale species without the destruction of traditional human livelihoods. After a decade of collaborative campaigning, the IWC agreed to introduce a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982.



1971: FoEI funder David Brower and other co-founders meet for the first time in Roslagen, Sweden.

1992: FoEI Rainforest Chainsaw Summit at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

FoEI also advanced to the forefront of the anti-nuclear movement, and became known for groundbreaking work on energy alternatives. Devastating accidents at Three Mile Island in 1979 and Chernobyl in 1986 increased the number of FoEI groups strenuously opposing nuclear energy.

In the 1980s new member groups joined FoEI from Asia, Africa and Latin America, and in 1986 Friends of the Earth Malaysia hosted the first annual meeting to be held in the Global South. This shifted the axis of the federation away from its original northern dominance, and put us on the path to a more integrated perspective encompassing ecological and cultural diversity, human and peoples' rights, sovereignty, equity, and social, economic and gender justice.

As the size of the federation grew, so too did its influence. FoEI's potential was brandished at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where a vocal mosaic of FoE groups critiqued the severe weakening of the resulting conventions on climate change and biodiversity by the business-as-usual approach of governments and corporations attending the gathering.

In the early 1990s, Friends of the Earth Netherlands introduced the groundbreaking new concept of 'environmental space' coupled with equity (see page 12), and FoEI members proceeded to develop a common agenda for the creation of sustainable societies based on fair shares of resources for all.

The federation's campaigning on the impacts of international trade also began to notch up important successes: collaborative work with other organisations around the world, facilitated by the advent of the internet, led to the swift dispatch of the OECD's proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) in 1998, and contributed to the collapse of World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations that threatened people and their environment, in Seattle (1999) and Cancun (2003).

WTO negotiations subsequently moved into a seemingly terminal decline in 2007, but the influence of neoliberal economic policies and the actions of some of the world's most influential transnational companies and investors remain prevalent. They shape both the challenges we now face, and the suite of ineffective and inequitable market-oriented 'false solutions' currently on offer. Pursuing economic justice and resisting neoliberalism is thus at the core of FoEI's current campaigning.

Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002, it became evident that Friends of the Earth International's political framework urgently needed revision. Emerging environmental and social challenges could not be considered in isolation: escalating environmental destruction, poverty and the violation of human rights were increasingly interconnected. If FoEI's campaigns were to have real and enduring impacts, they needed to address the systemic problems that underlie social and environmental devastation, and to integrate the different perspectives, analyses and proposals from human rights and social change organisations.

The internal debates that took place around the WSSD also illustrated the fact that FoEI's profile had shifted substantially, as southern membership had grown to more than half of FoEI's total membership over the previous decade. These new member groups from Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa were working closely with communities of affected people, and brought a strong perspective on sustainable development processes and strategies to the federation. The resulting in-depth analysis and discussion led FoEI to undertake a participatory strategic planning process over the course of three years, and resulted in a new vision, mission, set of core values and strategic plan.

The idea that we need to work in solidarity with and learn from the people most affected by unsustainable development, together with our social movement allies, is now a key organising principle for Friends of the Earth International. We need to understand local struggles. New challenges include the unsustainable use of the world's natural resources, the impacts of the unfolding climate crisis, and the hunger, ill-health and environmental devastation driven by industrial food production. These are the key challenges that Friends of the Earth International, its member groups and its allies are now striving to overcome. We know a better world is possible.

"Find good people with the right ideas and let them move ahead their way."

David Brower,
Founder of FoE US and FoEI, 1995.



our vision and mission

A photo from the film clip "SOS Climate", made by Belgian director Nic Balthazar, in which more than 6000 people took part. The film was part of FoE's Big Ask climate campaign calling for annual cuts in emissions across Europe.

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our vision

Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature.

We envision a society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realised.

This will be a society built upon peoples' sovereignty and participation. It will be founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice and free from all forms of domination and exploitation, such as neoliberalism, corporate globalisation, neo-colonialism and militarism.

We believe that our children's future will be better because of what we do.

our mission

- To collectively ensure environmental and social justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights and peoples' rights so as to secure sustainable societies.
- To halt and reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, nurture the earth's ecological and cultural diversity, and secure sustainable livelihoods.
- To secure the empowerment of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, groups and individuals, and to ensure public participation in decision making.
- To bring about transformation towards sustainability, and equity between and within societies with creative approaches and solutions.
- To engage in vibrant campaigns, raise awareness, mobilise people and build alliances with diverse movements, linking grassroots, national and global struggles.
- To inspire one another and to harness, strengthen and complement each other's capacities, living the change we wish to see and working together in solidarity.



our members:

diverse and united, grassroots and global

In addition to the hundreds of national-level campaigns run by member groups, Friends of the Earth International prides itself on its ability to run dynamic, insightful and effective international campaigns that work in divergent political, economic and cultural circumstances – even though the financial resources available to do this are always limited, and increasingly difficult to secure in the current economic climate.

To join FoEI, member groups need to meet specific membership criteria, including alignment with our vision and mission, participatory decision-making processes, and gender-balanced leadership. Yet each group is still unique, since most were established independently and evolved in response to their own national circumstances before joining the federation. Thus we are a kaleidoscope of different member groups – big and small, northern and southern, old and new, and all with different concerns, styles, structures and processes. This gives the network a truly creative and energetic dynamic and leads to powerful and multidimensional campaigns.

Though our groups are diverse and work in different social, cultural, economic and political cultures, we are also united. We share a passionate belief that a better world is possible and that we can help to bring it about. Friends of the Earth - internationally, nationally and locally - is powered by teams of committed, dedicated and courageous activists, working together to resist vested interests, mobilise opposition, and help transform the way we all live.

Over the past four decades the federation has matured and grown. There are now 76 member groups campaigning to protect the environment and create sustainable societies, with the majority being located in the Global South. We now have more than two million members and supporters around the world, and some 5,000 local activist groups. The day-to-day operations of the federation are supported by a small international secretariat based in Amsterdam, and there are regional coordination structures in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

FoEI is highly decentralised and democratic, and we take participatory decision-making and national group autonomy very seriously. Member groups - all of whom have an equal say - determine both the day-to-day activities and long-term strategy of the federation. Given our bottom-up, equitable approach and the diversity of our members, decision-making can be a lengthy and sometimes complicated process.

Our successes are hard won even in the best of circumstances, but some of our groups work in extremely challenging conditions: without reliable electricity, without paid staff, and with extremely limited resources. Some of our campaigners have been harassed – and some killed - for speaking out against the vested interests that work against people and the planet. But FoEI member groups' activists can at least count on their friends and allies around the world for support in their campaigns for the environment and for people.

On the following pages is a brief introduction to four of our diverse and effective member groups. We invite you to visit our website www.foei.org to meet them all!



FoE Netherlands occupies an airplane at Schiphol airport.

© foenetherlands/milieudefensie

netherlands

joined foei in 1973

Friends of the Earth Netherlands/Milieudefensie was founded in 1971, and has more than 80,000 members and supporters and around eighty local groups. The Netherlands is a small, densely populated country with many ties abroad. The group's national campaigns focus on protecting green spaces and fighting air pollution by restraining the growth of traffic and promoting alternative transportation plans.

Agriculture is also a key campaign: Dutch agriculture is notorious for its pollution and animal-unfriendly production methods, as well as its impact on tropical forests, which are destroyed to grow soy-based cattle feed. FoE Netherlands has a long history of campaigning for the conservation of tropical and virgin forests.

FoE Netherlands is also pressing for international legislation controlling multinational companies. They have been successful in legal actions against Dutch companies that damage the environment in other countries, and are currently engaged in a courtroom battle with Shell.



Action in Honduras demanding agrarian reform.

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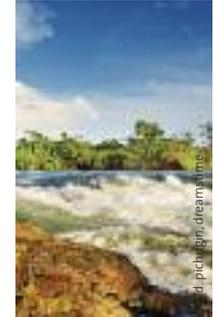
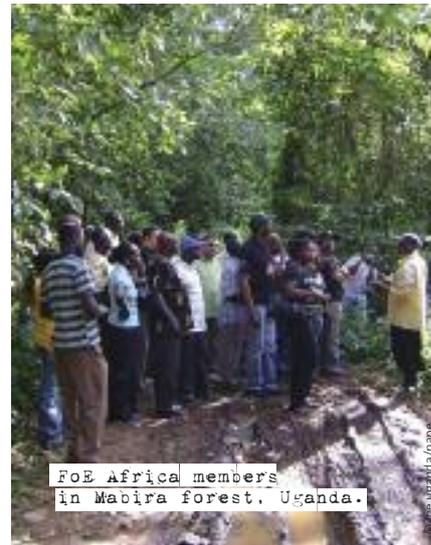
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honduras

joined foei in 2002

Friends of the Earth Honduras/Madre Tierra was set up ten years ago to increase the visibility and influence of the already-existing Honduran Committee for Action for Peace (COHAPAZ), an organisation set up by community activists and based in 26 of Tegucigalpa's poorest communities. The group is a vocal advocate of social and environmental justice in a country riven by systemic injustices. Key issues include the protection of biodiversity and the country's natural resources, defending human rights, and preventing land-grabbing. The organisation is strengthened by the presence of many women activists.

FoE Honduras supports communities affected by mining and agribusiness, making sure that their voices are heard. It also promotes the active participation of citizens and communities (especially farmers) in the defence and rescue of biological diversity and the promotion of food sovereignty; this includes practical support to develop organic farming and the promotion of gardening practices using native seeds.



south korea

joined foei in 2004

FoE South Korea protesting at a construction site (top left) and during a 41-day sit in at the Four Rivers Dam (above).

Friends of the Earth South Korea/Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), founded in 1982, was the first environmental NGO in Korea. It faced stark environmental challenges in a rapidly industrialising country and started by challenging the contamination of water and soil by the petroleum-chemical industry, and campaigning to stop the construction of nuclear power plants and mega-dams. One of the group's most inspiring campaigns concerned the transport of nuclear waste from Taiwan to North Korea in 1997 and 1998, which was finally stopped due to their efforts.

FoE South Korea plays a major role in Korean society, due to its 50 local branches, 30,000 individual members, and 250-strong team of dedicated activists. A key current campaign includes direct actions to halt the Four Major Rivers Restoration Project initiated by the Lee Myungbak government.

uganda

joined foei in 2008

Women collecting water upstream from the polluting Barrick Gold mine in Uganda.

FoE Uganda is campaigning against the Bujagali dam, which will cause major social and environmental upheaval.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)/Friends of the Earth Uganda was formed in 1997, and lobbies and advocates for the sustainable use of natural resources.

FoE Uganda has made substantial progress since its founding. Successes include its campaign to empower communities to demand fair compensation for their land and crops, and influencing the Ugandan government to halt the proposal to turn much of the Mabira Forest reserve, one of the last areas of tropical rainforest in Uganda, into a sugar cane plantation.

But it hasn't been easy. Ugandan communities are generally unaware of their rights, and corruption and a lack of transparency in relation to development projects can cause setbacks. However FoE Uganda is optimistic that membership of Friends of the Earth International will influence governments and corporations "to respect the plight of communities and observe human rights in all development undertakings."

our approach:

our contribution to the environmental movement



FoEI 'Climate Wall' at Climate Summit in Montreal, 2005.



Nnimmo Bassey, FoEI Chair, speaks from the floor at the Cancun Climate Change Summit, 2010.

Climate justice rally in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.

As an 'old-timer', Friends of the Earth International has been part and parcel of the environmental movement from its very beginning, and we believe we have made some valuable contributions to the movement's development and successes over the past forty years. Our main concern – tragically, one that has cost some of our colleagues and allies their lives – is to challenge powerful elites and companies who make decisions that are bad for the health and well-being of our planet and its inhabitants.

This concern means we are also critical of the prevailing neoliberal economic dynamic, since it generally works to the benefit of those with money to invest - rich countries, companies and communities – but tends to further impoverish those at the poorest end of the spectrum. It also enables those same rich elites to usurp the world’s natural resources to fuel excessive levels of consumption and make handsome profits in the process.

This neoliberal approach also threatens to unravel hard-won progress on environmental and social safeguards around the world, which are often perceived as impediments to trade and investment by powerful beneficiaries of the current economic model. Thus one of our main cross-cutting programmes focuses on Economic Justice – Resisting Neoliberalism. All of our other campaigns – on climate justice and energy, forests and biodiversity, food sovereignty, agrofuels and mining – address problems that are to a large extent driven by this same underlying dynamic.

This critical approach also brings with it a deep scepticism about and distrust of market-oriented ‘false solutions’ – such as carbon trading and offsetting – which are heavily promoted at the moment. These schemes are popular because they are pretty much guaranteed to deliver significant profits for investors, but there are no such guarantees when it comes down to whether they actually work. In addition, they are often imposed with little or no concern for people who are negatively impacted by them.

What makes a good campaign? We’ve certainly invested a great deal of time thinking about this over the years, and our collective answer is this: a good campaign should resist vested interests; matter to people and mobilise broad public support; and offer real and viable alternatives that will collectively help to transform the world we live in. Our slogan is: mobilise, resist, transform!

“You can tell an environmental problem has gone off the radar screen when Friends of the Earth don’t have anybody tracking it.”

Michael McCarthy (writing about acid rain) in the Independent, 23 June 2010.

mobilise!

Effective resistance is impossible without widespread mobilisation. Commercial interests and political inertia are hard to shift, and people power is an absolute prerequisite for real and enduring change. This is fundamental to all our campaigns, and one reason why we set such great store by collaboration with our key allies. We know we cannot succeed alone.

We have built alliances with indigenous peoples, farmers’ movements, trade unions, women’s groups and human rights organisations. We are helping to build a diverse, effective and global movement for a better world, together with key social movements including La Via Campesina and the World March of Women. We have prioritised helping to set up new and much needed global networks such as Our World Is Not For Sale, and the Movement of Victims Affected by Climate Change in Central America (MOVIAC). In Europe, our campaigns have also been strengthened by the involvement of youth under the umbrella of Young Friends of the Earth.

resist!

Resistance means understanding and challenging the real underlying causes of a problem rather than settling for a solution that only deals with the symptoms. It entails exposing what is happening around us, and explaining why it matters. It also means confronting powerful interests. It doesn’t matter whether the campaign is a locally important community concern, or a trail-blazing legal case, the requirements are the same: we need the courage to challenge abuse of power, the capacity to understand and analyse all the relevant data, and the patience and creativity to craft effective strategies in response.

transform!

Successful mobilisation and resistance is already opening up spaces for an all-important transformational agenda to unfold. Transforming the world we live in entails reviving traditional sustainable practices, respect for and enforcement of people’s rights, and developing new ways of thinking that enable us to restore a harmonious relationship with our planet. Over the years, FoEI and its member groups have been working with others to develop key concepts that create a framework for this new way of thinking, including environmental space, ecological debt, food sovereignty and climate justice.

key political concepts

The following are some of the key political concepts that Friends of the Earth International works with in developing our strategies and positions:

environmental space... implies equal rights to resource consumption for all peoples of the world within the carrying capacity of the planet. Environmental space is the total amount of energy, non-renewable resources, land, water, forests and other resources, which can be used per capita without causing environmental damage or impinging on the rights of future generations.

ecological debt... is defined as the cumulative debt of northern industrialised nations, owed to those countries in the Global South and elsewhere for resource plundering, biodiversity loss, environmental damage, and the free use of environmental space to deposit industrialised country waste.

food sovereignty... is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers. To view the Nyéléni Declaration visit: www.nyeleni.org

climate justice... means that people have the right to an equitable share in available resources within ecological limits, and communities should have the right to sustainable energy sources. Those responsible for the climate crisis must be the ones who mitigate it and support efforts to increase resilience to climate impacts. Climate justice will be achieved when consumption and control of the world's resources is reduced through real solutions, rather than false solutions which continue to privilege the minority of the world's population.

community and indigenous peoples' rights... is a central demand within our evolving transformational agenda, and is based on respect for and enforcement of local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' rights. These are ancestral and collective rights that can protect traditional customs and are based on the collective management of natural resources. This implies the maintenance of balanced relationships with ecosystems through the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

We are also putting our ideas into practice, through practical support to communities and Indigenous Peoples defending their territories, including the promotion of local and sustainable family-farming and seed banks, the establishment of community-based forest governance projects, promoting alternative renewable energy technologies, and support for local production and economies.



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Indigenous Banyeli drawing up their community map in Cameroon.

WTO meeting in Cancun, Mexico, 2003.

Shell guilty banner, 2009.



FoEI is a member of the ShellGuilty coalition which is striving to make oil giant Royal Dutch Shell accountable for complicity in human rights abuses in Nigeria.

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FoEI Corporate Giant in 2002.
Friends of the Earth campaigners mimic fat-cat delegates at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2001.

FoE Indonesia in a rally commemorating the World Bank's 60th 'Unhappy Birthday' in Jakarta.

Diego Cardona from FoE Colombia at a WTO Ministerial in Geneva.

economic justice – resisting neoliberalism

International trade, foreign investment, so-called 'development funding' and corporate lobbying are all drivers of the current economic model, which is based on the belief that prioritising economic growth and export-oriented development above the interest of society will make the world a better place.

In reality, however, this economic system works best for powerful transnational corporations, enabling them to secure cheap access to the world's limited supply of natural resources, and to persuade governments to relax rules and regulations by playing them off against each other. The environment is being plundered to feed the wheels of industry and the desires of over-consuming countries and elites. At the other end of the spectrum, however, already impoverished people have been losing their livelihoods and access to traditional resources.

Friends of the Earth International has consistently challenged the neoliberal agenda touted as a social and environmental cure-all by governments and institutions such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Together with our allies we have analysed and exposed the contradictions and shortcomings of the current development model, resisting and questioning international and bilateral trade and investment negotiations, including the free trade agreements and association accords promoted by the European Union.

Over the decades we have exposed and denounced the power of corporations. We have also turned the spotlight on the untoward practices of specific transnational companies such as Rio Tinto, Shell, Monsanto and ArcelorMittal. We have exposed underhand corporate lobbying, and consistently called for the establishment of binding rules aimed at limiting the power of corporations, both in the OECD, the UN and the European Union.

The global economic crisis has shown that when it comes to a choice between the welfare of big business and private finance, and the health and well-being of the rest of the population and our environment, the corporate world still wins hands down, even in industrialised countries. Mainstream economic thinking has to change, and people are beginning to realise this.

Popular movements now and in the past show us there is another way forward. FoEI's campaigns aim to change the course of the economy in a dynamic, creative and constructive way. We need to challenge the dominance of neoliberalism and create better conditions for alternative systems based on a more sustainable and equitable approach.



Friends of the Earth's Flood for Climate Justice mobilisation, 2009, Copenhagen. The joint efforts of FoEI and key allies helped to ensure that a number of governments, including Bolivia, officially voiced their concerns about the potential negative impacts of UNFCCC, World Bank and national policies to finance reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD).

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Nnimmo Bassey, FoEI Chair, addresses the media at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in 2009.

FoEI at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, 2010.

climate justice and energy

The world is facing two related challenges that threaten the lives and livelihoods of billions of people: climate change and a global energy crisis.

Friends of the Earth International and others anticipated these developments many years ago, but the corporate and political interests propping up the fossil fuel industry have made resolving this crisis an uphill battle, and one that has had to be fought on many fronts.

It has involved challenging the claims of head-in-the-sand climate deniers. It has also seen us pushing governments relentlessly in the direction of joint international action through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, first agreed in 1992; and shining the spotlight on those governments, like the US, who are refusing to take action for the common good of humanity.

We are calling for strong national emissions reduction programs and targets, with the industrialised countries that have contributed the most to climate change taking the lead. FoEI is also calling for the recognition of and reparations for the Global North's historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions – its 'climate debt' – including through adequate public finance for developing countries to tackle climate change and adapt to its impacts.

This struggle has also required us to have a particularly steadfast approach to finding the right solutions, refusing to be hoodwinked by the raft of inequitable and ineffective 'false solutions' proposed to date, which include 'clean' coal, gas and nuclear power, agrofuels, carbon trading, and large hydropower, and untried and potentially dangerous carbon capture and storage technologies. It has also involved exposing the World Bank's support for the fossil fuel industry, highlighting the actions of banks and other global financial actors seeking to profit from false solutions to the climate crisis, and challenging the underhand activities of fossil fuel corporations such as Exxon and Shell.

The key to solving the climate crisis is climate justice: people have the right to an equitable share in available resources within ecological limits, and communities should have the right to sustainable energy sources. We have spent many years working towards the realisation of energy and climate justice through proactive, grassroots community-based campaigns and projects, and collaborative work with key allies, including the new Movement of Victims Affected by Climate Change in Central America (MOVIAC), which member groups in the region established along with the communities with whom they work.



Blockade of the Penan people of Sarawak, Malaysia to protect their forests from logging and plantations.



forests and biodiversity

Protecting the world's forests remains an absolute priority for Friends of the Earth International. Forests provide livelihoods for many Indigenous Peoples and local communities. They are also some of the most species-diverse habitats on earth; and their ability to store carbon and regulate the climate means they are central to our efforts to stop irreversible climate change.

Yet escalating demand for timber, meat, and agricultural crops for both food and agrofuels, means that forests are still under threat. Increased exports, facilitated by privatisation and international trade liberalisation, are driving the expansion of large-scale tree plantations (for cellulose and charcoal, for example), which are often established in place of tropical forests and at the expense of local systems supporting life.

FoEI has been campaigning to stop deforestation for many years, tracking and challenging the multinational corporations involved, and financial backers such as the World Bank. We have specific campaigns on destructive and illegal logging, monoculture plantations, agrofuels, desertification, and false solutions (including 'carbon sink' schemes and other proposals that replace real forests with lifeless tree plantations).

Demonstrations at Climate Summit in Bali, 2007.

Protest against soy plantations, Paraguay.

Eucalyptus plantation in Uruguay. FoEI campaigns vociferously against plantations, together

with our allies. One key focus is the impact of the pulp and paper industry, as exemplified by our campaign denouncing Stora Enso, whose profit comes on the back of violations of environmental and labor laws and the criminal code in Latin America.

We have also followed and influenced key intergovernmental policy processes in forums such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Forestry Congress. Our successes also include persuading the European Commission to drop its proposal to the World Trade Organization to completely liberalise trade in timber; and contributing to the campaign to convince the EU to implement a ban on illegal timber imports (which is due to be implemented in the EU in 2012).

Our focus on strengthening and promoting sustainable local initiatives means that many of our key activities and successes have been at the national level: our member groups have partnered with local communities around the world, supporting them in their struggles to preserve their forests and uphold community and indigenous rights to manage forest resources and secure sustainable livelihoods.

We have also identified and implemented both traditional and innovative practices for restoring and protecting native species, securing access for communities, and monitoring protected areas. We champion community forest governance.



2008 World Food Day march in Indonesia.



FoE Germany/BUND demonstrating against GMOs in Bonn, Germany.

A farmer in Mozambique, where jatropha production is endangering food sovereignty and rural livelihoods.

The Bite Back coalition, delivered a petition to

the WTO in 2004 signed by more than 100,000 citizens from 90 countries and more than 544 organisations representing 48 million people. It called on the WTO not to undermine the sovereign right of any country to protect its citizens and the environment from GM foods and crops.

food sovereignty

There are some 925 million hungry people in the world, despite decades of adequate food production. Yet even though impoverished people rely on local resources and small local farms for food, large-scale industrial farms are pushing local producers and subsistence farmers off their lands and out of business. They are also trashing the environment.

Food has become a profitable commodity to be exported, traded and speculated upon, rather than a basic human right. In some previously bountiful areas it is now hard to find the diverse local foods once on offer. A small number of corporations control the industrial food system and direct resources to rich overfed people rather than those that need it the most – leading to almost one billion obese people sharing the planet with increasing numbers of hungry people.

Intensive agriculture also drives climate change. It is highly dependent on oil, to produce fertilisers and pesticides, and power vehicles. In a vicious circle, the climate crisis itself poses a threat to food production.

Friends of the Earth's member groups have focused on supporting small-scale peasant and family farmers resisting the corporate powers that destroy their livelihoods and bring hunger and conflict. We work with communities to regain control over their

territories and seeds, defend their land rights, secure their right to water, and recreate local markets for their surplus production. Together with La Via Campesina and other allies, we co-sponsored the 2007 Nyéléni Forum in Mali (www.nyeleni.org), which marked the genesis of the burgeoning food sovereignty movement.

We have also fought unflinchingly for GMO-free food and agriculture since the mid-1990s. Our campaign has been especially successful in Europe, where public outrage and persuasive lobbying eventually led to a *de facto* moratorium on new GMOs from 1998. More than 200 regions and 4,500 local authorities have so far declared their territories GMO-free. Connection and coordination with Friends of the Earth International's GMO campaigning also created a strong campaign ranging from local to global levels.

We have also tracked and exposed the activities of corporations such as Monsanto; and challenged international trade policies that aim to facilitate large transnational corporations' access to developing countries' territories and markets. It is essential that we build a new global food sovereignty, based on diverse, localised agricultural solutions.



Landless campesinos make a stand against soy monoculture in Bolivia.

© A. Macginnis, a seed



© foel



© G. Ribeiro

FoE Agrofuels campaigner Adrian Bebb talks to a participant at the RSPO meeting in 2007.

Local Jatropha farmers in Mozambique.

agrofuels

Rising oil prices and a desire to reduce dependence on oil imports have prompted industrialised nations to promote the use of biofuels, also known as agrofuels, to fuel transport and energy plants. But without enough land to grow them, the North is turning to the South for imports. This has led to aggressive land-grabbing and escalating hunger, as farmland and forests are converted into monocultures of crops such as oil palm. Many of the impacts of agrofuels and other forms of large-scale bioenergy consumption are related to overall demand, meaning that sustainability standards and certification schemes, which do not affect demand, cannot address them.

Friends of the Earth have focused on ensuring that people understand the negative consequences of agrofuel production, which is being falsely promoted as a solution to climate change. We are also supporting communities struggling in defence of their rights.

We are campaigning vigorously for industrialised countries' agrofuels targets to be dropped, and for financial institutions to stop supporting the sector. In 2009 the World Bank temporarily suspended its investments in palm oil to review its practices in the sector.

FoE groups around the world have joined up to challenge the trade in agrofuels, and are lobbying governments in both the North and the South to draw more sustainable and socially responsible national energy strategies.



FoE Guatemala/CEIBA has systematically helped with the facilitation of community referendums on mining, oil and dam projects. By 2010, more than 600,000 people had participated in 46 community consultations.

© foe Guatemala/CEIBA



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resisting mining, oil and gas

Friends of the Earth International has a long history of campaigning on oil, gas and mining, supporting local communities around the world in their efforts to reject and resist extractive industry operations that threaten their health and livelihoods. We have also spent many years campaigning for an end to subsidies for oil, gas and mining projects from publicly-funded institutions like the World Bank and export credit agencies.

The World Bank and other institutions have brought enormous pressure to bear on governments in developing countries, pushing them to allow foreign investors to extract fossil fuels, metals and minerals. The results are hugely destructive drilling platforms, pipelines and large-scale mines. These projects cause environmental disasters, intensify social conflicts and are often associated with severe human rights violations. Through the large-scale pollution of land, air and water, people lose their livelihoods and develop severe health problems.

Mirrarr child at Kakadu National Park in 1997. Friends of the Earth Australia supported the Mirrarr people in their campaign to stop the development of the proposed Jabiruka uranium mine, which came to a successful conclusion in 2005, when the Mirrarr secured an

agreement that no mining at Jabiruka can proceed without the written consent of the current generation of Mirrarr.

Activists from Young FoE Norway protest against oil exploration in the north of the country.

Campaigns against mining are long and arduous, and often met with extreme violence. We are actively engaged in remembering and respecting the fallen heroes and martyrs of this struggle.

In collaboration with communities and allies, however, our efforts are beginning to bear fruit. In 2010, for example, oil giant Shell announced that it will invest US\$600 million in phasing out a third of its gas flaring in Nigeria. As of 2010 a new law in Argentina forbids mining near glaciers, and an unprecedented country-wide ban on metal mining was introduced in Costa Rica after 18 years of intense campaigning. We look forward to these successes being replicated in many other countries.

our principles:

solidarity, learning and creativity



FoE England, Wales and Northern Ireland's 'Big Ask' campaign triggered the adoption of the UK Climate Change Act, the world's first climate change law, in late 2008. The success of the campaign rested on the involvement of over 200,000 people writing and speaking to their elected representatives, and turning out for public meetings.

“My family was filled with gladness upon knowing that I am not alone in these troubled times. Indeed, even distance can be obliterated by the strong spirit of solidarity.”

Jean Marie W. Ferraris, FoE-Philippines/LaC-KsK who received a huge amount of support from Friends of the Earth groups around the world in 2010 when she was being threatened by the government.



2010: Cochabamba People's Summit.

Real World Radio, Friends of the Earth International's multilingual web-based radio, was born in September 2003.



Since then the radio has broadcasted live from many major environmental conferences and events and is being picked up by community radios from all over the world. www.realworldradio.fm



FoE Netherlands, FoE Nigeria and four Nigerian victims of Shell oil spills have also launched a case against Shell in The Hague, The Netherlands.



Aboriginal traditional owners protest against radioactive waste in Australia.
FoE US action against BP.
Demonstrations in Cancun in 2010.

...we stand in solidarity with one another

Many of our colleagues and friends work in hostile and dangerous situations, and FoEI provides an important avenue of support and solidarity. Solidarity actions are a key tool that we use to allow activists around the world to link up with and support each other. The very act of shining an international spotlight on the intimidation or detention of activists can be important in resolving those threats, whether we send an international team or set up a cyberaction. Moral support is also vital to boosting campaigners' spirits and determination in extremely difficult circumstances, especially on the tragic occasions when activists and community leaders have died in suspicious circumstances.

Cyberactions are also a means of raising desperately needed funds for groups reaching out to communities in times of crisis, such as during the disasters that recently devastated Haiti and Japan.

...we are reflective, responsive and rigorous

Over the years we have come to understand that evaluation and learning are not an option; they are a necessity for any organisation that wants to be able to address the shifting environmental, social and economic challenges we face. As the world changes, FoEI has had to change the way we campaign, the way we communicate, and the way we organise ourselves internally.

We are committed to ongoing learning, be it political, strategic or organisational, and to maximising coherence and cooperation between our different programs and campaigns. All our teams are

constantly being challenged to analyse the effectiveness of their activities, and adapt and sharpen their strategies in response. All of our campaigns are based on rigorous and thorough research.

Yet even more than this is needed to help develop a truly inspiring and transformative agenda for another world. Together with our allies we have developed and are promoting innovative concepts that underpin a new way of thinking, based on equity and sustainability. These include carefully crafted ideas and proposals about fair shares of environmental space, environmental justice, food sovereignty and climate justice (see page 12). Our campaigns are designed to breath life into those ideas.

...but we are creative and have fun too, we like to communicate!

The FoEI federation is a global network of dynamic and creative people, young and old, and this energises all of our campaigns and communications. In addition to producing accurate and articulate publications and briefings, we convey our campaign messages through highly visual and colourful metaphors wherever possible. For example, we have used melting ice sculptures, a 500m long dyke and a giant lifeboat to emphasise the urgency of climate change, during various intergovernmental summits. Similarly, it's hard for Shell or the media to ignore our concerns about gas flaring in Nigeria, with FoE Netherlands' 15m-high gas flare roaring metres from the front door of Shell's office in the Hague!

As well as producing animations and documentaries for television, we also have our own multilingual radio station Real World Radio (www.realworldradio.fm).



Over the last forty years, Friends of the Earth International and our member groups have used our scarce resources to make a difference where it matters.

We have helped local communities to defend their rights, and actively supported and promoted fair and sustainable approaches and practices, including food sovereignty and community-led forest management. We have also made a real difference at the national level in many countries around the world, for example by mobilising people to put pressure on governments, whether it be to challenge

bad decisions or propose important new laws. We have helped to mainstream environmental concerns, which are now considered to be part of the everyday political discourse in many countries.

As an international network we also have the capacity to exert significant influence at the international level, including at important intergovernmental summits, and we have made sure that the world's governments are made aware of the impacts that their decisions have on the daily lives of people and the environment. We have successfully campaigned for many new intergovernmental agreements and regulations, on the disposal of wastes, and the use of chemicals such as pesticides and ozone-depleting substances, for example. We also track and challenge the activities of specific corporations, such as Monsanto or Shell, and take them to court if necessary.

But our work is far from done. The corporate quest for profits combined with most governments' focus on short-term economic growth means that ecosystems are collapsing, the pollution of land and water resources by oil, mining and gas exploration continues unabated in many countries, and the climate crisis is already unfolding. Financial, food and energy crises have added to this catalogue of woes.

Friends of the Earth International believes that these crises can be turned around, but that real success can only be achieved if the underlying causes of these problems are challenged. We are committed to challenging the underlying neoliberal model, and to working with our allies for a new and better world built on solidarity, rather than competition and destruction.

We will mobilise, we will resist, we can transform!



2010 Biannual General Meeting in Malaysia.

friends of the earth has groups in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belgium (Flanders), Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Curaçao (Antilles), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, England/Wales/Northern Ireland, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada (West Indies), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of), Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United States, and Uruguay. (Please contact the FoEI Secretariat or check www.foei.org for FoE groups' contact info)

editorial team Ronnie Hall and Ann Doherty

cover image Thousands flood the streets of Copenhagen demanding climate justice in December 2009. © C. Askman, FoEI

design our@onehemisphere.se, www.onehemisphere.se

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mobilise. resist. transform

friends of the earth international at 40

mobilise. resist. transform



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