

# 30



**Friends of  
the Earth  
International**

## sparks of hope, fires of resistance:

foei celebrates the sustainable path forward

30th anniversary publication

sustainability  
durabilité  
sustentabilidad

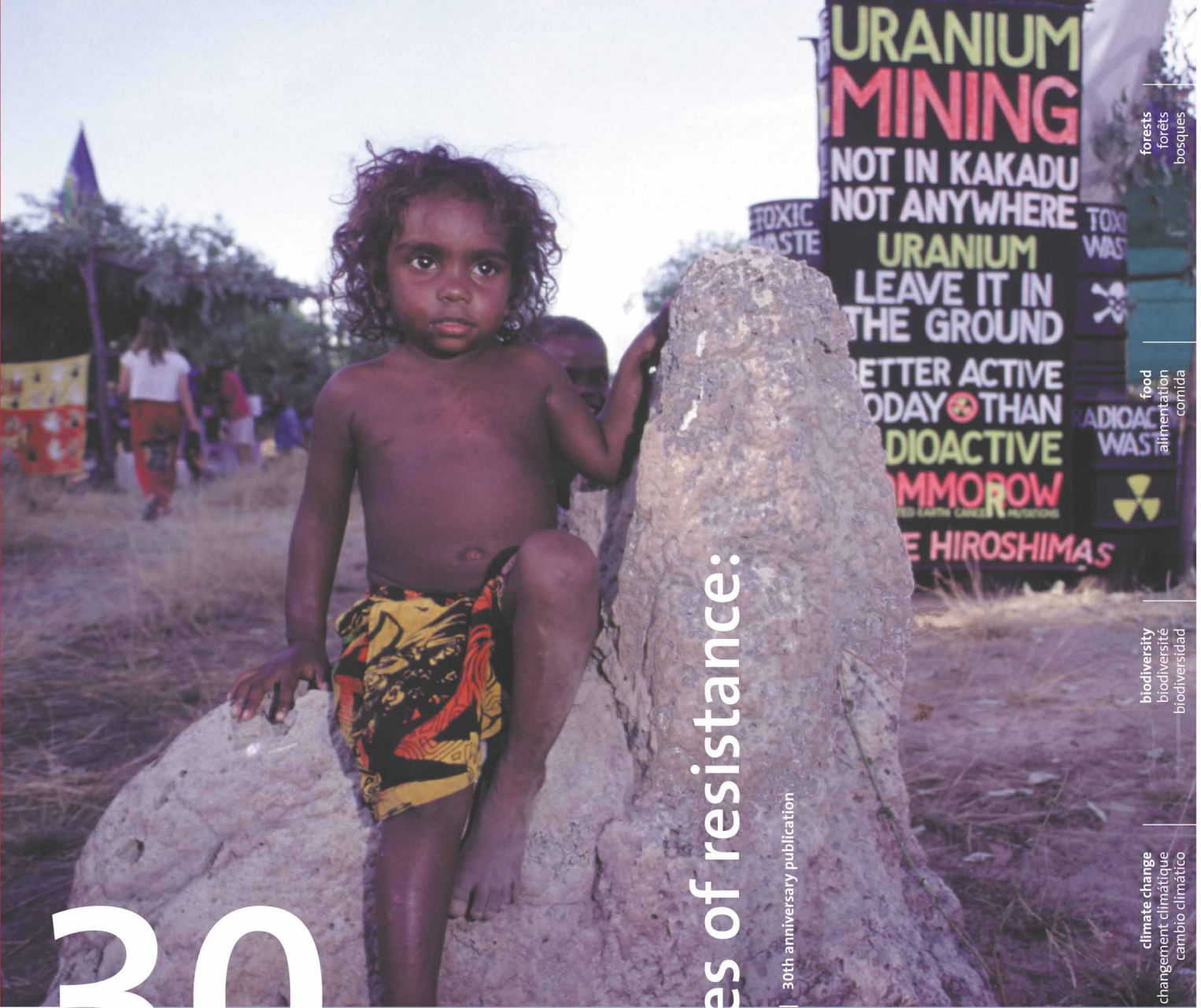
economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica

climate change  
changement climatique  
cambio climático

biodiversity  
biodiversité  
biodiversidad

food  
alimentation  
comida

forests  
forêts  
bosques



friends of the earth has groups in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Croatia, Curaçao (Antilles), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, England/Wales/Northern Ireland, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada (West Indies), Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of), Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Middle East, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States, and Uruguay. (Please contact the FoEI Secretariat or check our website for FoE groups' contact info)

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# sparks of hope, fires of resistance:

foei celebrates the sustainable path forward | 30th anniversary publication

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economic globalization  
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globalización económica



sustainability  
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Friends of the Earth International Chair Ricardo Navarro helps thousands of others from around the world build a dike in The Hague, The Netherlands in November, 2000. An FoE Europe initiative, the one-kilometre long dike warned Kyoto Protocol negotiators who gathered there about the dangers of sea level rise and other effects of climate change.



# introduction by ricardo navarro

resisting the big, celebrating the small | foie international

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of Friends of the Earth International, we would like to share stories from our member groups around the world with you.

Each story shows how national Friends of the Earth groups work with local communities to build a sustainable future. And each provides momentum for Friends of the Earth International's broader agenda: challenging governments and policy makers worldwide to adopt policies that contribute to sustainable societies and encourage local community initiatives.

Today, the FoEI network consists of 66 independent member groups worldwide, with a total of some one million members. Friends of the Earth groups are as diverse as the cultures they represent. Yet all are united by their commitment to combine grassroots activism with international advocacy.

Campaigning on the basis of shared ecological and social values, groups challenge the export-oriented neoliberal economic system. They promote viable alternatives, demonstrating that development is about much more than just money. Investing in biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, food security, forest protection, community forest management, energy conservation and renewable energy are all alternatives that place people and the environment above the profit motives of the current global economic paradigm.

Friends of the Earth does not claim to address all of the world's problems, or even all of today's environmental threats. But many answers and alternatives already exist and are being implemented around the world. The community level solutions featured in this publication are the seeds of future sustainable societies.

Yet this cannot happen without government action. Over the coming 30 years, FoEI will continue to urge political leaders to adopt national and international responsibilities to stop dangerous climate change, to reverse policies that promote unsustainable consumption and production, and to elevate biodiversity protection above free trade priorities. We are responsible for safeguarding the resources upon which the survival of future generations depends. Governments must transcend their tendency to adopt short-sighted economic imperatives that will sorely limit the choices of our children, and their children to come.

Friends of the Earth International will also continue to challenge the policies of global international financial institutions, multinational corporations and investment banks. We will strive to convince governments that they must invest in equitable and sustainable development. We will lobby governments, support research and develop alternatives. And we will partake in and support public resistance.

To achieve our vision, FoE groups will work on the local and national levels, while coordinating activities on the broader regional and international level for maximum impact. We will continue to build coalitions with other civil society organizations that share our belief in a sustainable future.

Together we will find a way to make our voices heard.

Ricardo Navarro, Chair, Friends of the Earth International



The world's forests provide food and shelter for peoples, plants and animals. Yet they are disappearing at an alarming rate: only one fifth of the earth's original forests remain as large areas. More than 40 groups around the world are engaged in FoEI's Forest Programme to conserve and restore forests and to advance their sustainable use. FoE groups promote community-based forest management on the local level, certification of endangered forest species, a halt to illegal logging, corporate accountability of logging companies, and sustainable trade and consumption of forest products.

"The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited benevolence that makes no demand for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life activity. It affords protection to all beings, offering shade even to the axeman who destroys it."

Buddha Guatama

# igniting awareness in a benevolent people

deforestation threatens unique island species | foe sri lanka/environmental foundation limited

Half of Sri Lanka's tropical forests have been stripped over the past three decades, threatening life forms found nowhere else. The future of the country's forest-dependent animals, like wild elephants, looks bleak. But Sri Lanka's Buddhist culture has always enshrined concern for all life, and Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka believes that with education, they can ensure a future for the island's unique species.

FoE Sri Lanka is fighting to preserve and restore the island's biodiversity with their Anti-Deforestation Campaign. But they know that forests can only be saved if people value them, so along with exposing and preventing illegal logging, the group educates the public and engages their help to increase forest cover.

**momentum builds** A year into this effort, the campaigners have carried out tree planting programmes with students, and replanting and garden programmes with villagers. The students have increased forest cover, and herbal and forest gardens created by villagers are providing much-needed refuge for some of the island's endangered

and unique species. Many students who took part in replanting programmes have continued the work themselves, educating and inspiring adults in their home villages.

**the value of diversity** FoE Sri Lanka plans to continue the work by reaching out to key schools, and through them to surrounding villages. They plan to construct nurseries with the help of children and women, to create sustainable, income-generating work. If successful, this project will become a model for similar endeavours in the future.

FoE Sri Lanka's broader efforts to engage public opinion on deforestation appear to be having an effect. In the past few years, public opposition halted proposals for the clearing of 8,000 hectares of forest for a maize plantation, the clearing of 5,000 hectares for a pineapple plantation, and the logging of a further 25,000 hectares. Public opposition will be increasingly important to preserve surviving forests: only one quarter of Sri Lanka's original forests remain standing today, covering a mere 19 percent of the land.

website: [www.elaw.org/partners/efl.html](http://www.elaw.org/partners/efl.html)

A Buddhist priest plants a coconut tree in the temple garden at Bulathsinhala. FoE Sri Lanka's Anti-Deforestation Campaign has helped communities plant a variety of flora around their schools and villages, creating refuges for many rare, protected, endangered and endemic species.



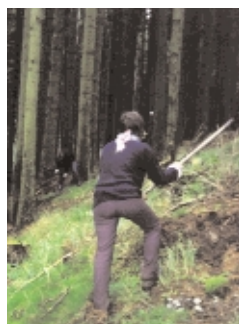
"Hunters place dead animals near firing towers to attract wolves. When they approach in search of food, these endangered animals are killed on the spot."

FoE Czech Republic Forest Campaign

A FoE Czech predator patrol in the Beskydy Mountains near the border of Slovakia found this dead dog, used to attract wolves, which are then killed.



Volunteers work to restore Czech forests.



# a place for the wild wolf

dedication and vigilance restore czech forests | foeczechrepublic/hnutí duha

Czech Republic forests are among the most damaged in Europe. Step by step, tree by tree, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic restores forest diversity, and promotes tolerance for the large predators that make forest ecosystems complete.

**landslides trigger campaign** Huge floods devastated Czech forests in 1997 and 1998, adding severe erosion and landslides to a long list of human impacts. FoE Czech responded with a massive mobilization of volunteers during 11 separate "Weeks for the Forest", with five more such weeks planned for 2001. So far, 250 volunteers have planted more than 15,000 trees in five different mountain regions. All native species, the trees increase the diversity, stability and health of the forest ecosystem. Under similar programmes a further 220,000 trees have already been planted by FoE Czech local groups and their volunteers in urban, rural

and mountain areas.

**endangered carnivores under fire** Two centuries ago, lynxes, bears and wolves were found in large numbers across most of Europe but they are now close to extinction, their numbers reduced by the growth of towns and villages and through extermination by farmers. Vanishingly small populations remain in the Czech Republic's West Carpathian Mountains. A spring 1999 count recorded just twenty lynxes, five bears and between eight and twelve wolves. Disturbingly, at least four of these wolves were killed by humans the following winter.

**hunters: we're watching** One of many FoE groups working to save Europe's large carnivores, FoE Czech's campaign has created predator patrols, teams of two to four volunteers that comb Czech/Slovakian border areas in shifts lasting two to five days. They follow wolf movements and keep tabs on hunters. They also place stickers on hunting lodges and lookout towers to remind people that hunting predators is illegal, and to show poachers that they're being watched.

**knowledge breeds tolerance** FoE Czech also organizes lectures, given in small mountain villages by experts, to debunk myths about the danger of wolves to humans, and to underline the animals' importance for a healthy forest ecosystem. They describe how to protect livestock from natural predators, and how to receive state reimbursement for livestock killed by protected predators.

Attendance of the two key target groups - hunters and sheep farmers - has been good. Statistics prove the information campaign's success: the small but critical portion of the population who declares they cannot tolerate wolves has been reduced by almost 25 percent.

website: [www.hnutiduha.cz](http://www.hnutiduha.cz)



# voice of the rainforest

radio amazonia | foe brazilian amazonia

For Amazon forest peoples, isolation brings many threats: incursions from illegal loggers, gold miners and drug traffickers. Health emergencies, including deadly epidemics, become magnified. And obtaining fair prices for their forest products can be impossible.

This year, the Radio Amazonia Project looks back on a decade of providing traditional forest dwellers with a simple tool to defend themselves - the power of talk. This FoE Brazilian Amazonia effort has saved lives and helped preserve forest peoples' increasingly threatened way of life.



*"We feel very happy to receive the radios, since we are totally abandoned by the government, and threatened by local politicians who do not want our territories to be demarcated. With the radios we also saved people who were going to die from malaria and hepatitis."*  
Clovis Rufino Luis, President, Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley.

*"This radio project is very important for us, Tikuna Indians. We have many health problems... and this project also helps resolve the problems of invasions, of those who cut the trees for their wood, of the illegal fishermen who enter our rivers. This is my word."*  
Pedro Inácio Pinheiro, President, General Council of the Tikuna Chiefs.

Radio Amazonia locations. The programme has so far provided radio transceivers to 173 remote communities across more than 1.5 million square kilometres of Brazilian rainforest.



Started by FoE Italy and carried out entirely by Friends of the Earth with contributions from various private and public donors, Radio Amazonia has so far provided radio transceivers to 173 remote communities across more than 1.5 million square kilometres of Brazilian rainforest.

Communication between these isolated communities was once limited to the speed a person could walk, run or boat. Now it takes place instantaneously.

**effective, streamlined operations** Radio Amazonia is provided only at a community's request. Its team of professionals may travel for weeks to reach a community, risking cholera, hunger and lack of fuel along the way. Yet every project has been implemented on schedule. Its NGO administration makes for reliable, pared-down operations that don't seek profits. It has been so successful that Brazilian officials have sought Radio Amazonia's advice on similar projects.

The communities receive complete short wave radio stations, including transceivers, antennas, solar panels and technical equipment. They also receive training - which has proven highly successful despite some communities speaking no Portuguese,

Brazil's official language.

**results worth talking about** Just what are the concrete results of Radio Amazonia? Here are just a few examples. It played a decisive role in saving an estimated 100 lives during the cholera epidemic that struck the Tikuna indigenous people in the state of Amazonas.

It helped the indigenous people of Alto Rio Negro carry out ecologically and socially sustainable mining of tantalite, a metal used by the electronics industry. It also helped the Panara indigenous people fend off threats in their traditional lands from goldminers, and aided their re-settlement after two decades of exile and near extermination.

And it helped 600 families of rubber tappers and brazil nut gatherers in Northern Amazon states gain access to local markets, strengthen their co-op system, and defend themselves against land speculators.

website: [www.amazonia.org.br](http://www.amazonia.org.br)





"We've decided to target the oil companies directly, and particularly Shell, as our government is not receptive to the opinions of Bangladeshi citizens," says Mohammed Ali Ashraf of FoE Bangladesh.



# silencing the tigers' roar?

## will Shell's expected development affect the sundarbans?

| foebangladesh/institute for environment & development studies

The Sundarbans has been likened to a natural Taj Mahal, Bangladesh's jewel of biodiversity. The world's largest mangrove forest, it now lies in the hands of one of the most ruthless multinational corporations, Royal Dutch/Shell. Friends of the Earth Bangladesh is one of many FoE groups, which also include Ecuador, Nigeria and Colombia, that campaign against the disruptive presence of transnational oil companies in their countries.

Just west of the mighty Ganges and Brahmaputra River deltas, one of the world's few unruined mangrove forests rambles across 10,000 square kilometres of land and water, a tropical evergreen forest of stunning beauty.

**will tigers walk in rhinos' footsteps?** Now locally extinct, the spectacular Javan rhinoceros once roamed the humid and forbidding mangrove thickets of the Sundarbans. This World Heritage Site still shelters some of the planet's most endangered species, including the largest single population of magnificent and ferocious Bengal tigers, about 400 animals.

**secretive deal-making** However, beneath the Sundarbans lies a rich potential source of gas. In August 2000, the Anglo-Dutch company Shell, in partnership with Scotland's Cairn Energy, signed a contract with the Bangladesh government to exploit Block 5, which includes the Sundarbans. The companies have admitted they will carry out aerial and seismic surveys and drilling well tests in Block 5, yet refuse to disclose exactly where. They deny they will enter ecologically sensitive and protected areas of Sundarbans. But even if they keep their word, many scientists believe that Shell's intervention in any part of Block 5 could drastically damage the ecosystem of the Sundarbans.

Shell is one of the worst offenders of environmental and human rights in its operations around the world, most famously in Nigeria and South Africa. (See also Nnimmo Bassey, p. 29.) FoE Bangladesh fears Shell's Sundarbans activity will be a replay of the company's highly unethical approach in Pakistan's Kirthar National Park, where environmental law prohibits mineral exploration. When Shell and Premier Oil gained a license to explore the whole Kirthar area in 1997, they lobbied to discard the laws that protect the park.

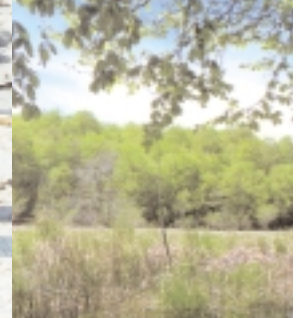
"Britain would not let a Bangladeshi company drill for oil in the Lake District," says Mohammed Ali Ashraf of FoE Bangladesh, angered at the lack of protection afforded the Sundarbans.

FoE Bangladesh is campaigning with FoE Netherlands and FoE England, Wales and Northern Ireland to protect the Sundarbans. They are determining more precisely if the park would be affected, and raising public and NGO awareness locally and nationally in Bangladesh about any dangers. They will campaign for governments and oil companies, nationally and internationally, to stop any activities that would harm the Sundarbans. FoE Bangladesh's ultimate long-term goal is to protect and conserve the Sundarbans from all destructive practices.





The Bishop of Locri, who helped publicize a "day of reconciliation with nature," lends a willing hand with Belcastro during a beach clean-up.



# chemist catalyzes greening of calabria

calls on bishop's help to restore forests | foe italy/amici della terra

Terrorized by organized crime and wearied by high unemployment, Calabria's Locride area is an unlikely place for a thriving environmental movement. Yet through inspiration and dogged persistence, Friends of the Earth Italy's Giuseppe Belcastro is revitalizing and greening the local landscape.

**angered by inaction** Thirty-four year old Belcastro, a chemist, was formerly employed to test for water and soil pollution in Calabria. Though his results often revealed worrying levels of contamination, local authorities ignored his warnings. Frustrated and angered, Belcastro resolved that if the authorities were deaf, he would inform citizens himself and help them make their voices heard. Belcastro became a full-time environmental activist and founded one of FoE Italy's most active local chapters.

**activism, calabrian style** Calabria's devastating September 2000 floods wreaked a terrible toll in damage and human lives. Belcastro visited the Bishop of Locri to convince him to declare that the disaster was neither natural nor an act of God, but instead a consequence of

bad land management. (The Locride is an area of 1,227 square kilometres in the tip of Italy's "boot".) They decided a day of reconciliation with nature was needed. The Bishop publicized the event in all his parishes and lent a willing hand, along with hundreds of volunteers, in a day of beach clean-ups and tree planting.

**wastelands into woods** Incredible media coverage resulted, and their success led Belcastro and the Bishop to work with local mayors to launch a much more ambitious project to plant 100,000 trees during 2001 in the Locride. As of May 2001, 36,000 trees were already planted, transforming areas ruined by fire, rain, landslides, and unchecked waste disposal from deserts into gardens.

All of the indigenous species planted - olives, mulberries, junipers, and acacias - help to stabilize the soil. Their canopies beautify the landscape and create a microclimate that nurtures other flora and fauna. The tree planters include schoolchildren and volunteers from 41 Calabrian towns, whose environmental awareness grows along with the trees.

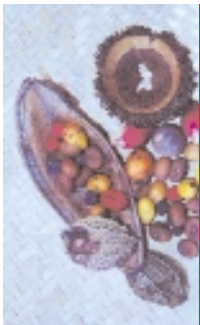
The project will create jobs, prevent further erosion, preserve biodiversity, and ultimately produce income. Now more watchful, citizens will help prevent illegal waste disposal and indiscriminate building.

A high profile fundraising campaign is underway to accelerate the effort. Through their adopt-a-tree programme, donors who give 30.000 Lire (U.S. \$13) will receive an adoption card and a photograph of the planted tree.

website: [www.amicidellaterra.it](http://www.amicidellaterra.it)



*“Over the years, a series of biologists and other professionals have made very valuable studies. We realized that this forest contains a wealth that was unimaginable to us.”*  
Adilio Zeledón Mesén, FUNDECOA President.



# guardians of a tree-top world

el cornelio cloud forest | foe costa rica/comunidades ecologistas la ceiba (coecoceiba)

Cloud forests occur only at high elevations in tropical mountain regions. Drenched with moisture from cloud banks, their humid canopies create unique treetop ecosystems. Friends of the Earth Costa Rica is fighting to preserve one of the country's most ecologically important cloud forests, El Cornelio.

Cloud forests may support thousands of plants species, including epiphytes - plants such as orchids, that grow on other plants. Hundreds of species of ferns and orchids grow in cloud forests, where new species are constantly being discovered. Such fantastic plant diversity means a constant food supply for hundreds of bird species. Bats, howler monkeys, olingos, sloths, anteaters, armadillos, gray foxes and dozens of other mammals, reptiles and amphibians also make cloud forests their homes.

**biological bridge in jeopardy** The El Cornelio cloud forest is especially diverse because it links dry Pacific coastal forests with south Pacific rainforests. Its location also makes it an important biological corridor between these two major ecosystems.

But El Cornelio lies in one of Costa Rica's most deforested regions, the Acosta region in the highly populated Central Valley. In 1993, Fundación Ecológica de El Cornelio de Acosta (FUNDECOA) was created to address forest destruction and protect the region's remaining forests. FoE Costa Rica has worked with this local group since 1994.

**growing sanctuary** A major milestone of their progress was the 1997 government-funded purchase of 300 hectares of primary forest in El Cornelio. It serves as a nucleus for an expanding protected area, as neighbouring land owners are surveyed for their willingness to either sell land to the project, or take part in conservation.

Extensive community involvement is a key part of the conservation strategy. The partners meet with a wide variety of local organizations, hold educational discussions with schools, and host festivals to promote awareness of the urgent need to protect the area's rainforest, biodiversity and water resources. FUNDECOA's quarterly magazine, the "Green Toucanet," helps keep the general public informed.

**documenting diversity** The project also funds scientific field research, which has led to a publication entitled "Ecological Wealth of the Cornelio Mountains: A Preliminary Inventory." With the help of FoE Costa Rica, the area's living wealth will be revealed and protected so that it can be shared by all far into the future.

food

| foe poland england, wales & northern ireland australia denmark greece



starlink



no to GMOs, yes to organic food! FoEI's Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) Programme examines how agricultural biotechnology adversely affects our food and society. Our goal is to keep GMOs out of the environment and out of the food chain. Simultaneously, FoEI promotes organic agriculture, local production and consumption of food, and food security for people in both the North and South.

food  
alimentation  
comida



At a Polish grocery shop, a separate display contains only organic products. Friends of the Earth Poland works with retail shops, organic farms and a variety of support institutions to bring organic produce that has been chemically tested and grown in unpolluted areas.



# tried, tested & truly organic

healthy food in a fast changing poland | foe poland/polish ecological club

Friends of the Earth Poland is laying the groundwork for expanded public access to healthy organic food during a trying period of rapid economic growth and accelerated environmental damage.

Nine years ago, in a region troubled by severe agricultural pollution, FoE Poland's local group in Gliwice began an organic food programme to reduce health risks and promote the switch to organic foods and farming.

**safe food into small hands** Based in the province of Upper Silesia, this ongoing programme provides local consumers with organic produce grown on unpolluted farmland and tested for chemical contamination. Eating this safe food is an important preventative health measure: the persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals found in contaminated food are a serious health risk, especially damaging for children. This is why produce tested by the group is directly distributed through pre-schools to children at high risk.

**the right to know, the need for networks** People need to make informed choices about what they eat. So FoE Poland also performs community education on agricultural pollution, and on the benefits of organic food and farming. Their numerous workshops, training sessions, conferences and promotional events also target politicians, whose support is essential, and journalists, who need to better communicate these pressing public health issues.

The group also believes it is critical to link consumers and producers as directly as possible. They achieve this by establishing retail outlets and farmers markets. The programme's impressive network includes a total of 40 retail shops, organic farms and a variety of other support institutions.

**coalition seizes the moment** FoE Poland has also set up the Coalition to Support Organic Agriculture. The Coalition unites 25 NGOs, as well as research institutions and farmers associations. The Coalition is pushing government to implement a national organic policy, and to establish organic agriculture as an integral regional development strategy. As the nation prepares to enter the European Union, foreign and domestic companies view Poland as a land of opportunity filled with expectant consumers and pent up demand. The Coalition's efforts to influence policy and public opinion couldn't come at a more critical time!

website: [www.most.org.pl/PKE-zg/](http://www.most.org.pl/PKE-zg/)



# from field to fork – direct!

the best food doesn't come by jet | foe england, wales & northern ireland (ewni)

It's a wonder supermarket food doesn't look more weary - it may travel thousands of kilometres to reach your plate. Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) is working to reduce "food miles", while creating vibrant local economies and enhancing small-scale agricultural production.

**why "local" makes sense** The huge amounts of polluting fuel used to ship food around the world unnecessarily is now the fastest growing source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions - the principal cause of dangerous climate change. In developing countries, growing crops for northern consumers diverts much-needed land, resources and money away from local farming. Food that is locally produced and sold reduces these food miles and helps limit damage to the environment.

**stratford farmers market** Stratford was the home of Shakespeare and is a popular visitors' destination. Resident James Pavitt knew it would be an ideal place for a market to promote locally grown organic food. He made the creation of the Stratford Farmers Market a goal of FoE Stratford's Food Campaign, and worked with local authorities to make it happen.

Interest in a farmers market proved huge, so three trial markets were planned for the summer of 1999, to determine whether it would take off and become self-financing. Local producers were keen - but would the people come?

When the first market opened on June 5th, customers swarmed the stalls before they were even set up. At the official opening time of nine o'clock, trade was so busy it was impossible to stop it to officially declare the farmers market open!

**local food for local people** Local Food for Local People is a separate project promoted by FoE Liverpool. It strives to connect local growers in the Merseyside region directly with local people, particularly in areas of low income and poor access to fresh, good quality produce.

Farmers are given capital and marketing grants through government programmes, and connected to local communities by food co-operatives, box delivery of fruit and vegetables, and farmers' markets. The result is healthier food for residents, reduced food miles, less packaging and a stronger local economy. The first Merseyside Farmers Market, launched in May 2000, proved highly successful. Each month it brings irresistible produce including organic vegetables, wild boar and Guernsey herd ice cream.

website: [www.foe.co.uk/](http://www.foe.co.uk/)



food  
alimentación  
comida



FoE Melbourne's Food Co-op on 312 Smith Street has always had a strong philosophical and educational commitment, doing more than just selling food.

Food production in Australia is increasingly dominated by a small number of large food companies, and agricultural products are transported large distances. By buying locally wherever possible, FoE reduces "food miles."



The Co-op's aim is to educate consumers to enable them to make informed choices about what they are purchasing as well as making them aware of their right to healthy, sustainable food.

# food for social justice

melbourne's inner city food co-op | foie australia

At a time of increasing consumer distrust in large-scale food production systems, the Friends of the Earth Food Co-operative brings inner city people healthy, affordable food. What began in 1975 as an effort to put ideals into action and raise funds has evolved into a vibrant hub for sustainable living.

**trust & responsibility** The Co-op's customers are from the inner city, multi-racial neighbourhoods of Fitzroy and Collingwood in Melbourne. The co-op sells products with low retail mark up, and reduces costs by selling food in bulk. Two staff coordinate the Co-op, but the majority of the work is carried out by active members who do regular shifts in exchange for a further 15 percent discount on food.

The Co-op's small-scale approach is a welcome alternative to faceless supermarkets. Customers also receive information about alternatives to what daily becomes a more critical problem: the unhealthy and even dangerous nature of unsustainable, industrial food production. The Co-op believes people have a fundamental right

to healthy food. In turn, it informs people about their responsibility to consume goods in an environmentally sustainable way.

**local farmers, ethical trading** The Co-op stocks only products that rate high on eco-friendly production, nutritional value and community health, and low on pesticide contamination and species exploitation. It develops trade with local family-owned organic farming ventures to reduce energy-wasting, polluting food miles. Overseas commodities arrive, where possible, via ethical trading networks.

Packaging is also a major focus of operations and education: Co-op policy is to buy in bulk, and find suppliers with returnable and re-usable containers. This supports smaller local businesses and sustainable ventures. Shoppers also provide their own bags and containers.

**corporate invaders** New challenges come with takeovers of the wholesale food industry by large corporations that are unlikely to share the Co-op's ethics. When large supermarkets offer organic foods, they tend to undercut small stores like the Co-op. Despite these challenges, the store remains a vibrant and thriving business venture.

website: [www.melbourne.foe.org.au/food/index.htm](http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/food/index.htm)



As part of the book project, FoE Denmark also holds special classes where teachers cook with activists and discuss sustainability in the kitchen.



# there's environmental space in my lunchbox

textbook ties big concepts to student food | foeddenmark/noah



The book's title is "Putting Environmental Space in the Kitchen: Home Economics in the 21st Century." Created by volunteer writers, the book is proving popular. It was sold to teachers in one hundred schools across Denmark within just six weeks of its completion in January, 2001.



When Friends of the Earth Denmark realized that schools weren't "greening" their classes fast enough, they decided to focus on something irresistible to students - food.

FoE groups around the world are campaigning for organic, locally produced food because it benefits both the environment and people's health. This goal is behind FoE Denmark's decision to write a student cookbook that mixes higher eco-concepts of energy, water, land and resource use with the everyday reality of student diets - burgers, pizza and salad.

**accelerating the green curriculum** Despite a new framework intended to integrate environmental issues across Denmark's educational curricula, little discussion about the environment actually took place outside biology classes. "So we've done a book that takes this challenge seriously," says book editor Pernille Hagedorn-Rasmussen.

Titled "Putting Environmental Space in the Kitchen: Home Economics in the 21st Century," this book is designed to broaden the discussion of sustainability. The concept of environmental space, developed by FoE Netherlands and adopted by FoE groups worldwide describes

how the world's people have equal rights to the earth's water, food, air, land and other resources. Now widely-recognized, this concept forms the basis for equitable and sustainable worldwide production and consumption. The book includes practical challenges for students that put the environmental space concept into everyday activities.

**pizzas revolutionized** Geared for sixth graders' use in Home Economics classes, the book describes environmental problems and what to do about them, "Like how to save energy, eat more vegetables and less meat, and buy locally-produced food," says Hagedorn-Rasmussen.

It includes recipes for food that pupils know and like, yet approaches meals in a new way. For example, burgers with healthier bread, less meat and more vegetables, pizzas that make use of leftovers, and salads made with wild flowers.

As part of the book project, FoE Denmark also works directly with teachers, leading special classes where teachers cook with FoE activists and discuss sustainability in the kitchen.

To order the book, or learn more about the project, contact: [noah@noah.dk](mailto:noah@noah.dk)

website: [www.noah.dk](http://www.noah.dk)



food  
alimentation  
comida



"We are farmers who choose not to grow genetically engineered corn. Now it appears that our crop may not be safe from contamination by StarLink ... Biotech companies and federal regulators need to be a lot more careful with the genetic engineering genie - because once it's out of the bottle, it's near impossible to stuff it back in."

"Aventis broke the promise of biotechnology. They were supposed to improve the quality of our food, not cause so many problems and introduce so much risk."  
Larry Bohlen, FoE USA Food Campaigner

FoE USA's Larry Bohlen was not surprised to find StarLink in supermarket products.



Friends of the Earth's Frankenfoods Monster protests GM foods in the UK.

# agri-food industry chokes on aventis gm corn

starlink releases dangerous gmo genie | foe usa



U.S. approval of genetically modified (GM) StarLink corn hinged on biotech giant Aventis' vow to keep the product out of the human food chain. Three years later, Friends of the Earth found StarLink in supermarket food.

Larry Bohlen is an engineer by training, and a food campaigner at Friends of the Earth USA. Long concerned about the negative environmental and health effects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), Bohlen has led FoE's effort to halt their use in agriculture.

In July of 2000, as part of a campaign to urge large companies like Kellogg's, Campbell's and Frito-Lay to ensure their food products were GMO-free, Bohlen sent popular supermarket products to labs to test them for GMOs. He was not surprised when corn tacos made by Kraft tested positive for StarLink corn. His findings unleashed an international media storm that has vastly increased public awareness of the ineffective controls on and potential dangers of GMOs.

StarLink corn is genetically modified to produce a protein called Cry9 that kills a notorious agricultural pest called the corn borer worm. However, Cry9 breaks down little or not at all when cooked, processed or digested. Because it may pass unaltered into the human bloodstream, the U.S. Federal Drug Administration flagged it as a potential trigger for allergic reactions.

In 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave Aventis the green light to sell StarLink seed corn for animal feed, but only on the strict conditions that it would not enter the human food chain. Aventis also agreed to accept liability if it did.

Somewhere between the Aventis labs and the farmers' fields, the promised vigilance broke down.

The fiasco has cost farmers, distributors and other agricultural intermediaries endless hassles. In October, Kellogg's was forced to stop production at its Memphis plant due to concerns about StarLink contamination, and recalls have been made of at least 300 different food products.

**contaminated shipments** Fifteen FoE groups have demanded that their national governments cease imports of StarLink corn. The U.S. continues to export corn tainted with StarLink to Asia and possibly other countries. FoE's GMOs Programme is assisting member groups around the world to look for StarLink in imports.

**zero tolerance** More than one hundred NGOs worldwide signed a Friends of the Earth letter to U.S. President Bush requesting him to suspend further exports of U.S. corn and corn products until they can be guaranteed StarLink free. But Aventis has admitted it cannot guarantee "zero" StarLink genetic pollution, and is instead lobbying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for regulatory change that will legalize this pollution. FoE is fighting this bid, because zero tolerance for GMO pollution is the only way to ensure healthy ecosystems and safe food.



# babis mourgelas' war on gmo pollution

defending agriculture in greece | [foe greece/nea ecologia](#)

In the summer of 2000, a Greek beekeeper declared war on GMOs, and used a hive of bees to convince government to take action.

Babis Mourgelas is the leader of the local Friends of the Earth Greece group he founded in the city of Trikala. As a beekeeper, Mourgelas values the Mediterranean region's millennia-old agricultural history of diverse plant and animal species. It's a unique, healthy heritage that Mediterranean FoE groups are campaigning to preserve - in the face of an agricultural nightmare of intensive farming, and most recently genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Like other FoE activists, Mourgelas moved quickly to initiate a campaign against GMOs when they were introduced into the country. Low key and likable, Mourgelas is also educated as an economist and is a respected leader among local agriculturalists.

**alarmed about cotton flowers** During the spring of 2000, Mourgelas alerted media to GMO pollution in his region. Genetically modified cross-pollinated cottonseed had been sold to local farmers, who unwittingly planted it. Subsequent GMO awareness activities by FoE in Athens captured more media attention, prompting the Deputy Minister of Environment to announce his intention to destroy the suspect crops before they flowered. Yet this promise was a mere

government public relations stunt - the crops had already flowered, a full 20 days before.

The next day, Mourgelas and 20 FoE members entered blooming cottonfields and gathered "bouquets" of flowered cotton plants.

They proceeded to the Trikala Prefecture headquarters with the plants and a secret weapon - a glass-enclosed beehive containing 30,000 live bees. As they approached the Prefectural offices, they were surrounded by 100 police officers, and were told to halt immediately or face arrest.

"Dear Sir," Mourgelas replied as he pulled out a hammer, "If you don't let us proceed, I will liberate these bees." The police retreated and kept a cautious distance of 200 meters, as requested by Mourgelas.

TV cameras followed the protesters and bees into the Prefect's office, where he was presented by Mourgelas with a bouquet of GM-polluted cotton blossoms. The Prefect declared his support for the group's efforts against GMOs, and promised to convey them to the Deputy Minister. The government also promised to destroy the suspect cotton crops.

**broken promises** But outrageously, the government failed to do so, instead announcing in the autumn that the cotton would be harvested and shipped to Third World nations.

In response, a new anti-GMO coalition organized by Mourgelas and consisting of conventional farmers' unions, organic farmers, the beekeepers' union and FoE Greece announced a "Declaration of War" against the Ministry of Agriculture, and burned a suspect cotton field in protest (with the owner's permission).

Their protests continue.

website: [www.ecologia.gr](http://www.ecologia.gr)

# biodiversity | foe benin switzerland el salvador usa



More than 10,000 species vanish permanently from the earth each year, an alarming rate of extinction that continues to increase. Friends of the Earth groups around the world are battling this great extinction by protecting local and national biodiversity.

They promote sustainable agriculture rather than intensive, high-input food production that decreases biodiversity. They support the initiatives of local indigenous peoples to conserve their surroundings and their livelihoods in the world's forests. And they create space for endangered species and ecosystems to recuperate.

On a global level, Friends of the Earth International uses a variety of multilateral fora to promote the protection of biodiversity over financial and trade priorities.



biodiversity  
biodiversité  
biodiversidad



# the healing branch

foe benin's botanical garden for medicinal plants | foe benin



The cradle of humankind, Africa is where people first learned to use medicinal plants. Friends of the Earth Benin's medicinal botanical garden ensures this timeless tradition will continue. The group also uses the garden as a resource to tackle important local issues: poverty, desertification and loss of biodiversity.

Eighty percent of the world's population, most living in developing countries, still rely on medicinal plants for primary healthcare. Yet in Benin and many other nations, this natural gift is rapidly being eroded through habitat loss and destructive harvesting.

**nature's medicine cabinet** FoE Benin has planted more than 500 medicinal plant species at the International Sustainable Societies Village in the Kpomasse district in north Benin. The one-hectare garden will expand to fill a further 13 hectares of land owned by FoE Benin, and contains species that are vulnerable to extinction or have already vanished from the local environment. The group's goal is to restore them to the surrounding ecosystems.

**profitable cures for desertification** But the garden is also a seedbed for much broader ecological action. In Benin and around the world, intensive farming and climate change are transforming productive land into desert. Deforestation and desertification are widespread in Benin, and recent droughts have severely affected agriculture in the semi-arid north.

One of many FoE groups fighting desertification, FoE Benin is working to restore forest cover while fighting poverty. They motivate local people to plant valuable medicinal species in small-scale agri-forestry ventures that bring income and improve local healthcare. The group also promotes the practise of traditional pharmacology as a small business enterprise.

**preserving traditional knowledge** The botanical garden is designed to welcome and educate. Through lectures and tours, local people are urged to conserve these valuable medicinal plants. Staff caution against destructive harvesting and make Beninese aware of the benefits of healthy biodiversity.

FoE Benin believes that traditional medical knowledge is an important source of cultural pride for young people, as well as a practical asset. Children and students can tour the garden, which also has a traditional treatment room, and learn about the plants' therapeutic properties.

**unravelling nature's secret gifts** The garden is also a research centre, where plants' pharmacological effectiveness is studied. Researchers compare local and scientific knowledge to assess plants' key biological, sociocultural, and environmental characteristics. They also travel the region to identify important indigenous species that are at risk, so this valuable biodiversity can be conserved and restored for the entire world's benefit.



biodiversity  
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An indicator species that reveals the entire river community is in jeopardy, the critically endangered tree frog was selected as FoE Switzerland's 1999 "Animal of the Year."



# bringing back the evening chorus

amphibian first aid | foe switzerland/pro natura

Frogs appeared on earth hundreds of millions of years before humans, and even before dinosaurs. But their evening song is less and less heard around the world, and humans are to blame for this dramatic

silencing.

Often viewed as wastelands, the world's wetlands are instead ecological powerhouses that purify water and provide critical breeding grounds for birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects. More than a dozen Friends of the Earth groups around the world take part in the international Wetlands Campaign, which strives to conserve and sustainably manage these invaluable ecosystems.

**the poster frog** In Switzerland, river damming and intensive agriculture simply erase wetlands and frog spawning grounds.

Tree frogs are the most endangered of Switzerland's 16 amphibian species. Once distributed continuously across the country, they have been quickly reduced in recent decades to small isolated groups. Not so long ago, survival prospects for these tiny remnant populations looked very bleak.

**tree frog first aid** For example, in the Aargau Region's lower Reuss Valley, a mere 24 tree frog sites were found in 1991, and the animal had vanished from adjacent valleys. The Reuss is one of four separate regions where FoE Switzerland has been working to ensure the tree frogs' survival using a two-pronged strategy.

First, the group moves rapidly to safeguard remaining viable populations with substitute habitats. These resemble original habitats as closely as possible, but require intensive maintenance.

Next, the group creates permanent tree frog habitat in the original river floodplains, a much longer and more difficult process. In the Reuss, they are modifying river shores to create submerged areas, with the ultimate goal of a free-flowing, ecologically dynamic river. They also alter farmland, improve original spawning grounds, and link them with new ones. To help achieve this goal, they've placed 22.5 hectares of land under protection through purchase or trade.

**singing a little bit louder now** Since 1994, the number of tree frogs in the Reuss valley has increased by almost 50 percent. But this number must double to 5,000 individuals if the rare amphibian's survival is to be ensured.

**watery vision** The group also leads national efforts to restore streams and rivers with a broader vision called "Water Network Switzerland". It will require 250 square kilometres of riverside land to create 6,000 kilometres of wild river landscapes - fantastic habitat not only for tree frogs and beavers, but for people seeking recreation too!

website: [www.pronatura.ch/](http://www.pronatura.ch/)



A former gravel pit, final refuge for amphibians within an intensively farmed landscape. FoE Switzerland prevented filling of the pit by simply buying it.

Spawning area created on former farmland by FoE Switzerland - one of several new habitats within reach of remaining tree frog populations.



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*"There is a horrid clamor on this Mos in the summer from many millions of frogs"*  
Chronicler Abraham Schellhammer on the Mos, a gigantic swamp on Switzerland's River Aare floodplain, 1720.

*"It's five minutes to twelve for Switzerland's tree frog."*  
Christoph Flory, FoE Switzerland tree frog specialist.

"When the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again."

Twentieth century naturalist & explorer, William Beebe.



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# a future for the ancient ones

community conservation for sea turtles | foe el salvador/cesta (centro salvadoreño de tecnología apropiada)

Each year, endangered sea turtles enact a prehistoric ritual, lumbering from the surf under the cover of night to lay their eggs on El Salvador's beaches. Thanks to Friends of the Earth El Salvador's "Project Ayutzin," their vulnerable hatchlings now face better chances for survival.

**armoured giants defenceless against new threats** The huge leatherback sea turtle, the world's largest at an astonishing 900 kg, faces similar perils to its smaller cousin the Oliver Ridley sea turtle. Pollution, entrapment in fishing gear, and direct harvesting of adults or eggs have drastically reduced their numbers.

On prime turtle nesting grounds midway down El Salvador's Pacific coast, Project Ayutzin relies heavily on education and community support to restore populations of these two turtle species.

**tortugueros change their ways** In its first stage, the project selected three members of the 27-family target community of Playa Toluca to be educated as ecological champions for the turtles. The three spread information about restoring turtle populations, teaching the community about the species' importance and about alternatives to destructive harvest patterns.

For the project's second stage, project members approached leaders

among the local "tortugueros," people who harvest turtle eggs to sell. They secured an agreement that 33 percent of the turtle eggs that tortugueros collected would be donated for conservation.

**a helping hand** Next, a sea turtle hatchery and holding pools were constructed, to hold turtles that hatched during the day for release at night. Sea turtles may live longer than 100 years, but scores of hatchlings are killed and eaten by predators in their first hours of life as they scramble toward the ocean.

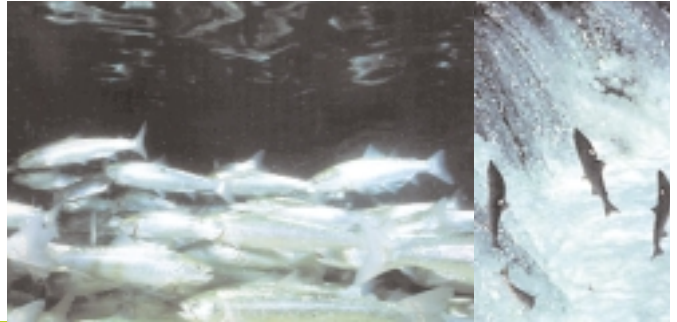
By 1997, two more turtle hatching beaches were incorporated into the programme, with a total of 350 tortugueros participating in conservation efforts. To date approximately 60,000 Oliver Ridley and 200 leatherback hatchlings have been safely released.

**turtle school** In 1999, a sea turtle environmental education school was built by the NGO Tecnica Sueca. It teaches literacy to Playa Toluca villagers, along with themes that increase the ecological consciousness of children and tortugueros. Next will come the handover of project control to the Playa Toluca community, with FoE El Salvador providing technical support.

The success of Project Ayutzin led to FoE El Salvador joining a technical panel which produced the nation's first sea turtle conservation strategy, in which they underlined the importance of community participation. Friends of the Earth believes that community self-determination and control over natural resources re-awakens an essential respect for life - a condition vital to ensure sea turtles' aeons-old story will be part of our future.

Dams are the main reason why one-fifth of the world's freshwater fish are now either endangered or extinct. The number of people flooded off their lands by dams is in the tens of millions - 30 million would be a conservative estimate, 60 million more likely. Very few of these people ever recover from the ordeal, either economically or psychologically.

Patrick McCully, author of *Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams*



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# breaching on the elwha

restoring salmon in the u.s. northwest | foe usa

Friends of the Earth USA is leading a new wave in habitat restoration, to free dammed rivers and return the rich, wild flow of life to their waters.

From its pristine source in the snowcapped mountains of the Olympic Peninsula, the Elwha River is blocked in its oceanward journey by the 90-year-old Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams.

Friends of the Earth opposes the construction of large dams for energy production because they destroy habitat on a massive scale, disrupt entire ecosystems and displace local populations. In addition to their Elwha campaign, FoE USA is also fighting for the removal of four dams on the Lower Snake River, and they were a key player in a coalition that successfully lobbied for removal of an aging dam on the White Salmon River.

In their bid to restore the Elwha, the group is leading a coalition of conservation groups, fishing interests, resource agencies and Native American tribes in a push to remove the dams that have decimated the rivers' once bountiful salmon runs.

**lost river riches** A World Biosphere Reserve ecosystem, the Elwha was once among the highest quality fish habitat anywhere in the U.S.

Pacific Northwest. Its gravel beds and boulders offered excellent spawning habitat for five species of salmon, as well as steelhead, sturgeon and smelt.

The Elwha dams provide no means of fish passage and have devastated fish runs. The equilibrium of gravel and nutrients in the entire river has been completely disrupted, and habitat downriver of the dams is also unusable for many spawning fish species.

The two dams have also brought devastation to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, indigenous people who retain the right to fish the Elwha River in perpetuity. By blocking passage to more than 90 percent of historic fish habitat in the watershed, the dams have rendered these rights meaningless.

**jump at opportunity** But the Elwha presents a "unique opportunity to restore wild salmon stocks on a scale unparalleled on the West Coast," according to the U.S. Pacific Fishery Management Council. Researchers say that with dam removal, more than 390,000 adult salmon and steelhead could be restored annually.

Momentum is building. In February 2000, thanks to pressure from FoE USA and other coalition members, the U.S. Interior Department acquired the two dams from their private owner.

Yet funds must still be appropriated for dam removal, restoration and water quality protection.

**dam removal urgent** Sockeye salmon in the Elwha are now extinct, and Elwha River chinook salmon and bull trout have been recently listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Time is running out for the fish runs on the Elwha.

website: [www.foe.org/foenw/rivers/elwha.html](http://www.foe.org/foenw/rivers/elwha.html)





Friends of the Earth International's Climate Campaign works to accelerate worldwide action to halt dangerous climate change, the single biggest environmental threat facing the planet. More floods, forest fires, excessively hot days, and extreme weather events are predicted as a result of rapidly increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other polluting greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Such changes could lead to poverty, homelessness and even death for millions.

A major source of the problem is burning coal, oil and gas. FoEI strives to halt the polluting activities of large multinational oil corporations like Exxon and Shell, which continue to put profits before people. Simultaneously, FoE groups around the world are implementing strategies to hasten a revolution in green energy.



climate change  
changement climatique  
cambio climático



Green electricity, you can't really see the difference but you feel it inside.

# green electricity – it's a feeling!

switching currents in finland | foe finland/maan ystävät ry



climate change  
 changement climatique  
 cambio climático

Friends of the Earth Finland is catching the public's imagination with a creative new campaign to promote "green" electricity. Think about where your power comes from, they urge, and really do something about climate change.

Friends of the Earth promotes clean energy sources such as wind, solar and small hyroelectric projects to combat dangerous climate change. These renewable energy sources, along with energy efficiency, form a sustainable alternative to polluting oil, gas and nuclear energy. They also provide better quality of life for all people.

**consumer education needed** In many countries, consumers can choose to directly support the growth of renewable energy, which may even be cost competitive with conventional sources. Eco-labelled "green" electricity from renewable energy sources has been on Finland's market since 1998. But consumer demand has been lower than expected. Many consumers erroneously believe green electricity is higher-priced, unreliable, or that switching may be difficult.

**electrifying demand** FoE Finland's Green Electricity Campaign aims to correct these misconceptions, and help simplify the switch to green electricity. The group's website informs consumers about the dozens of suppliers, listing their prices and policies. Users can fill out applications for green electricity online. They can even send E-cards to friends and family, encouraging them to switch too.

The campaign also uses humourous and engaging brochures, posters and postcards, distributed widely to restaurants, bars, and railway stations in Finland's eight largest towns. Their message: "You can't really see the difference, but you feel it inside."

More attention is grabbed with seminars and events like FoE Finland's national springtime Green Electricity Day 2001, which included demonstrations at public venues like shopping centres. And to fulfil their goal of gaining endorsement from celebrities and public figures, FoE Finland started at the top - with a petition for the Finnish President to sign on as green electricity's number one supporter.

website: [www.vaihdivirtaa.net](http://www.vaihdivirtaa.net)



To complement their transport concept, FoE El Salvador designed load carrying tricycles with 18 speeds capable of carrying up to 90 kg.



# ecobici – pedal power for the people

redefining the bicycle | fo e el salvador/centro salvadoreño de tecnología apropiada (cesta)

With adversity comes inspiration. Friends of the Earth El Salvador turned austere economic times into an opportunity to popularize and revolutionize the bicycle.

The 1980s saw difficult economic times in El Salvador, and alternatives to expensive gas or diesel cars and buses were urgently needed. So in 1987, CESTA set up the school-workshop EcoBici in San Salvador to bring ecological and affordable transportation to the people.

A shipment of 700 bike parts, quickly assembled to make El Salvador's first mountain bikes, was the first raw material for EcoBici. Over the years 500 people, one third of them women, have graduated from the workshop.

**rural youth on the move** Then in 1996 came the group's next initiative: the Escuela Móvil, or Mobile School. It was conceived as a way to reach rural children who cannot attend EcoBici because they must work to assist their families. Students are taught basic repair skills and traffic education. The programme's triumph is the increased use of bicycles among young people in

towns.

**bicycles that really work** But CESTA wanted to do more than just get people on bicycles - they wanted to change the way bicycles were used. To complement their transport concept, they designed a wheelbarrow integrated with a bicycle, capable of carrying 55 kg. Later came tricycles with 18 speeds capable of carrying up to 90 kg. The result was Bicitaxis, Bicirecollectors (waste collectors) and tricycle product delivery.

Though popular in tourist areas, Bicitaxis are also promoted by FoE El Salvador as a way to relieve increasingly congested urban streets. And the group's Bicirecollectors have successfully reduced fuel consumption and increased effectiveness of garbage collection, which is problematic in urban areas. Delivery tricycles are purchased by small and medium-size companies that sell products in small quantities from door to door, such as dairy products, newspapers and drinks.

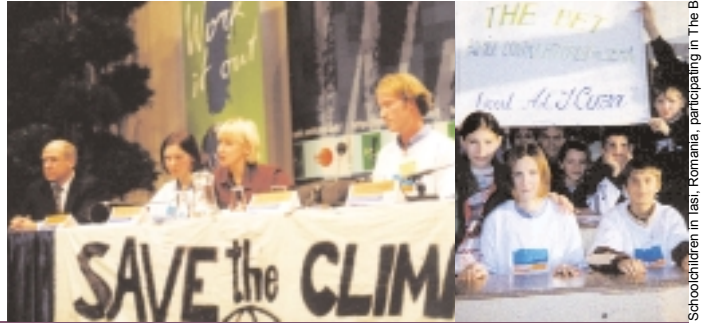
**pedal for orange juice** FoE El Salvador also runs an appropriate technology workshop where bicycles are transformed into water pumps, orange juice squeezers and flour mills. Most useful in areas without electricity, they are great for mobile juice operations on streets, or for grinding flour, corn and beans.

FoE El Salvador is determined to continue developing cycle mechanisms, despite the all-too-common failure of their government to recognize bicycles as safe, reliable and effective transport. The group's work reflects Friend of the Earth's promotion of sustainable, affordable solutions to climate change that also improve quality of life.



climate change  
 changement climatique  
 cambio climático

The Bet campaigners hold a press conference with EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström at the November 2000 international climate change negotiations in The Hague, The Netherlands, where they announced a bet with Wallström.



Schoolchildren in Tasi, Komana, participating in 'The Bet'



# the bet is on!

the climate change challenge | foie germany/bundjugend

Schoolchildren are accomplishing in mere months what world leaders will likely fail to do for climate change over a decade. The Bet is a Europe-wide Friends of the Earth initiative that motivates students to take personal action on climate change.

a popular challenge The Bet sprang out of a successful 1999 FoE Germany effort called "Die Wette" which inspired students from about 100 German schools to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas) emissions by 10 percent in just seven months. The Bet had rapidly expanded to 16 European countries by autumn, 2000.

The Bet activists and students sign bets with their governments that they can reduce their schools' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by eight percent in the following eight months. Eight months was chosen because the EU's Kyoto Protocol commitments require the

same reductions for member nations over eight years.

spirit of competition Students in the campaign become caught up in the excitement of competition. Activists make it clear to young people that little CO<sub>2</sub>-saving steps add up to thousands of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> saved. They motivate students to be creative and set up energy-saving teams to see who can save the most.

They also show that saving energy can be easy. Good insulation, energy saving bulbs, more efficient modes of transport, halting the use of canned drinks in cafeterias, turning off lights... these measures may seem obvious, but they require changing mindsets and habits.

a dangerous gamble... In November 2000, The Bet campaigners signed "betting contracts" with EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström, before dozens of international reporters at the Climate Summit in The Hague, where the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions suffered a serious blow when international negotiations broke down.

The students' enthusiasm contrasts with many industrialized nations' calculated, short-term self interest that permits emissions to rise, gambling the stability of earth's climate. But it is the young people of today who will inherit tomorrow's climate change crises: excessive heat, flooding, extreme weather, impaired agricultural production, and damaged forests.

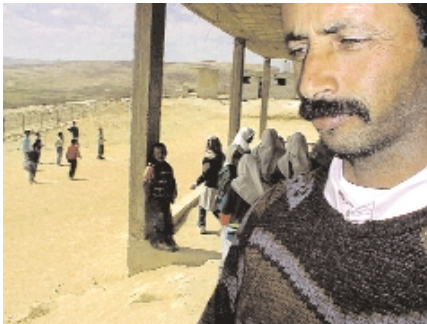
... and a sure bet The results of The Bet team's wager with Wallström will be determined in 2001. If The Bet team can save eight percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from at least 88 schools in just eight months, Wallström must bike to work for a month. But if they lose they must carry her to her Brussels meetings for one week - in a rickshaw!

website: [www.thebet.org](http://www.thebet.org)



climate change  
 changement climatique  
 cambio climático

School principal and village council president Audi Nasir Al Najada seeks a brighter future for his students.



A new day for students in the remote village of Al-Kaabneh, on the West Bank, in Palestine. With photovoltaic solar panels, their school has electricity for the first time ever.

# untapped potential

desert solar villages | foe middle east



climate change  
changement climatique  
cambio climático

Al-Kaabneh's friendly, generous Bedouin inhabitants have lived in the sun-baked desert for thousands of years. In some ways, time has stood still: until 1999, the two thousand villagers lived without electricity, telephones or running water.

The children of Palestine's Al-Kaabneh dream of becoming teachers, programmers and engineers - but many had never seen a computer. Then in early 1999, thanks to Friends of the Earth Middle East and the generous support of the U.S.-based Greenstar Foundation, solar panels were installed in Al-Kaabneh. Suddenly the children's potential, like the sun's energy, could be tapped.

FoE Middle East wants its Solar Bridge Project to exploit clean, secure, and renewable solar energy for small Middle East communities that are currently off the electricity grid. Despite ample sunlight, solar power currently provides only a tiny fraction of the region's total energy supply - about two percent in Jordan, and 3.5 percent in Israel.

**a sunny vision** In 1999, four feasibility studies commissioned by FoE Middle East revealed how communities in Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Egypt could capitalize on solar generators to pump and purify water, supply energy for domestic use, and power up schools, small

production facilities and clinics.

Moreover, these solar powered communities would act as solar pioneers and serve as living models for eco-desert communities. They could build local capacity to provide reliable technical and financial services for renewable energy promotion. Connected to the grid, they would form the basis for national sustainable energy programmes.

**changing lives** To date, Al-Kaabneh remains the only community to have received solar generators - financial backing is urgently needed to implement the project in other areas. Yet in this one small Bedouin village, life has changed dramatically.

In 1999, eight photovoltaic (PV) solar energy panels were mounted on the school's roof. People in the village were active throughout the entire installation process. Thanks to education on solar PV operation and maintenance, the villagers are also more self sufficient.

In the school, the first item to be plugged in was a multimedia computer. In the local health clinic there are now electric lights, refrigeration for vaccines and antibiotics, and the village mosque can use speakers to announce the call to prayer across the desert hills.

**clean development** In their quest for improved quality of life, people like those of Al-Kaabneh can now completely bypass large-scale, polluting conventional energy sources such as oil, natural gas or nuclear power. Friends of the Earth believes small-scale, clean, renewable energy installations will be essential to prevent the threat of worsening climate change.

At least 375 chimney sweep companies took part in the Climate Family Campaign.



# 100 million air balloons

chimney sweeps for energy savings | foe austria/global 2000



Chimney sweeps and Friends of the Earth Austria joined forces to prevent 100 million air balloons of the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> from being released into the atmosphere.

In November 2000, Friends of the Earth Austria made new allies in their fight to slow climate change: the nation's chimney

sweeps!

Chimney sweeps are ideal partners for the group because they visit homes yearly and have intimate knowledge about the way people burn fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, which produces climate-warming greenhouse gases.

The campaign, called Climate Family, sought to reduce target households' greenhouse gas emissions by five percent in just six months, starting in November 2000. Chimney sweeps in the program provided their customer families with detailed information about how to cut back on energy use. FoE Austria also partnered with 450 municipalities who lent their support by spreading information about the campaign.

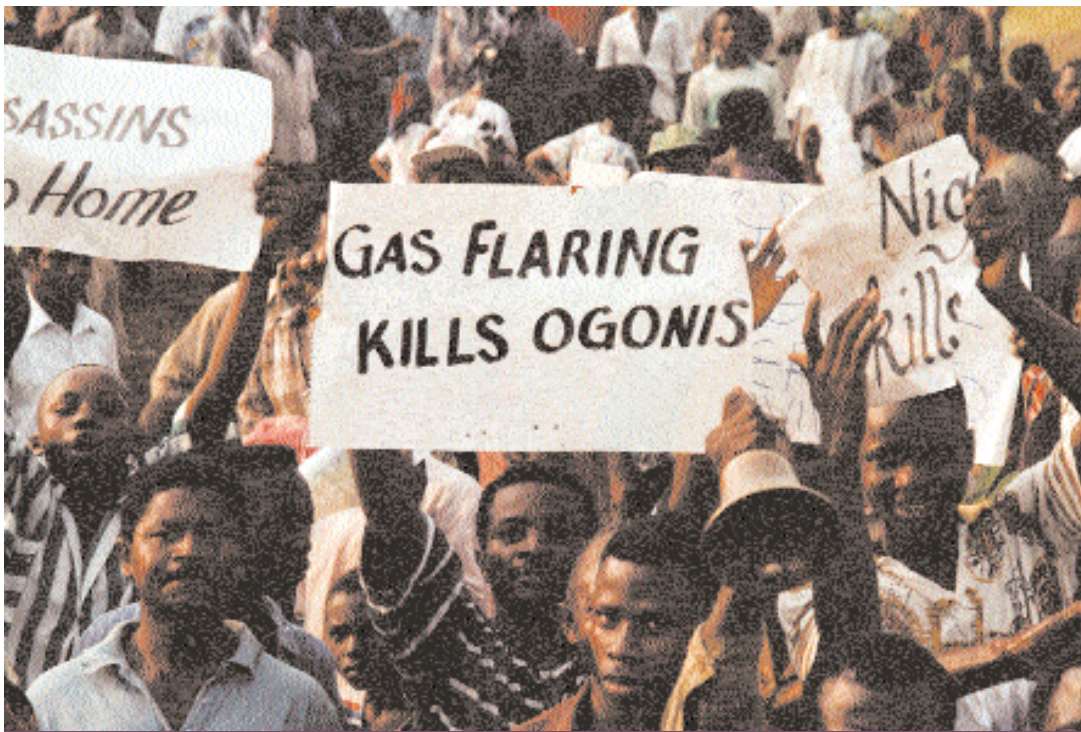
**broad participation** By the end of March 2001, one of every two chimney sweeps, or 375 companies, was taking part in the campaign. A remarkable 2,400,000 million litres of oil had been saved, or put in the more user-friendly language of the campaign, "100 million air balloons" of greenhouse gases prevented from entering the atmosphere.

The campaign ended in April 2001 with a prize draw. One household, and the chimney sweep who advised them, each won 100,000 Austrian schillings (U.S. \$65,000).

**the shift to equity** Friends of the Earth believes that major industrialized nations have too long used the atmosphere as a dumping ground for pollution. While these nations accrue the economic benefits, the developing world suffers the consequences of the resulting air pollution and climate change.

The atmosphere is a shared resource, to which every individual has equitable rights. Efforts by nations like Austria to curb their disproportionately high greenhouse gas emissions will be key to brokering international agreements to slow climate change.

website: [www.klima-familie.at](http://www.klima-familie.at)



Ogoni Day demo against Shell oil company.



FoE Nigeria's Nnimmo Bassey, activist, architect, poet.

# we thought it was oil, but it was blood

confronting shell in nigeria | foenigeria/environmental rights action



climate change  
 changement climatique  
 cambio climático

## we thought it was oil, but it was blood

The other day

We danced on the street  
 Joy in our hearts  
 We thought we were free  
 Three young folks fell to our right  
 Countless more fell to our left  
 Looking up,  
 Far from the crowd  
 We beheld  
 Red hot guns

We thought it was oil  
 But it was blood

We thought it was oil  
 But this was blood

Heart jumping

Into our mouths  
 Floating on  
 Emotions dry wells  
 We leapt with fury  
 Knowing it wasn't funny  
 Then we beheld  
 Bright red pools

We thought it was oil  
 But it was blood

We thought it was oil  
 But this was blood

Nnimmo Bassey

First written/performed in Amsterdam, 16 September, 1998.  
 Dedicated to Orono Douglas & the youth of the Niger Delta.

In 1996, Nigerian architect, poet and human rights campaigner Nnimmo Bassey was imprisoned when he tried to travel to a West African Friends of the Earth meeting. In a land where protests may be answered with bullets, FoE Nigeria director and co-founder Bassey emerges as a courageous and dynamic environmental leader.

In their campaigns against transnational oil corporations including Royal Dutch/Shell, Bassey and FoE Nigeria do more than just fight oil pollution and climate change. They also fight for the rights of local people, who benefit little from the exploitation of their lands. Friends of the Earth believes that the elimination of poverty and gross inequity between people is vital to any real sustainable society. Bassey is an ardent advocate for putting resource control in the hands of the people who rightfully own the resources.

pipelines, fire & bullets Shell's now infamous exploits in the oil-rich Niger Delta have had drastic consequences for the region's peoples.

The aged and rusting Shell pipelines that criss-cross the nation explode and rupture, spewing oil and polluting water, soil, and vegetation. Death and sickness are the result, while the livelihoods of farmers and fishers are destroyed with no adequate redress. Just a single 1998 Shell pipeline explosion at Jesse in the Niger Delta killed more than 400 people.

In Nigeria's oppressive political climate, Shell's collusion with the government and the military protection afforded the oil industry have had murderous results for those who resist. The dictatorship's 1995 murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni anti-oil activists brought global attention to the Niger Delta, but Shell and other oil companies continue to exploit the land and the people relentlessly. Shell has even directly financed troops to violently suppress resistance to hated oil developments.

"Never forget that the weapons being used on the defenceless people of the Niger Delta were purchased with revenue got from the oil exploited from the Niger Delta," writes Bassey. Unflinching pursuit of democratic development has led to the award-winning environmentalist's arrest and detainment without charges on several occasions.

"It is time for Shell to seriously consider issues of environmental justice in its relation with the people of the Niger Delta," says Bassey. "So far all that the house of Shell has offered is public relations."

Luis Caballero, vice president of the Traditional U'wa Authority as of 1998, stands next to the Cano Limon pipeline, the target of guerilla attacks. "Oil is the blood of Mother Earth," he explains. "It belongs to the ground, where it sustains the world below. Up here it only causes violence and death."



# fighting for the mountains of the condor

the u'wa struggle against big oil | foe colombia/censat agua viva

The name U'wa means "intelligent people who can speak." The 7,500 U'wa people, aided by Friends of the Earth Colombia, are determined to voice their opposition to exploitation of their lands by the U.S.-based transnational Occidental Petroleum.

In 1991, Occidental was given rights to explore and extract oil in U'wa territory, an area that includes sacred lands and the protected areas of the La Sierra Nevada del Cocuy and the Del Tama national parks. In 1995, after witnessing part of their population undergo eviction and spiral into alcoholism, prostitution, illness and hunger, the U'wa sued the company for not consulting them before obtaining government permission to begin exploration in the area. (Consultation is required by Colombian law.)

natural stewards Friends of the Earth supports land and sustainable resource rights of local indigenous people like the U'wa because they make the best conservationists. Not only do they have inherent right to the land, they also have the most practical and genuine interest in its future.

A communal society of agriculturalists, fishers, and gatherers, the U'wa retain legal title to their land and a vibrant culture, despite colonization. Their traditions hold that petroleum is the blood of the earth, and that "the U'wa territory is the heart of the world, for in it runs the veins that feed the universe. If it is destroyed, the world bleeds." They believe its magnificent biodiversity provides sustainable riches for Colombia far more valuable than oil.

peaceful protests met with violence "Our weapons are the thought, the word; our power is the wisdom," say the U'wa. Despite their purely peaceful approach to opposition, they are the targets of threats and violent attacks perpetrated by the State and increasingly from paramilitary and other armed groups. For example, on February 11, 2000 during a peaceful blockade of a main road just beyond Occidental's drill site, three U'wa children drowned after U'wa protesters jumped into a river to flee Colombian military and police troops who had attacked them with tear gas and heavy machinery.

Yet there have been successes too, as U'wa support grows worldwide. In October 2000 the U.S. financial firm Fidelity Investments dumped 18 million shares in Occidental, worth over U.S. \$412 million, after U'wa supporters occupied the company's investor centres.

foe furthers the cause FoE Colombia actively supports the U'wa by increasing awareness of its cause, forming alliances with national and international organizations, performing media work, and organizing missions to U'wa territory.

U'wa website: [www.uwacolombia.org/](http://www.uwacolombia.org/)



climate change  
changement climatique  
cambio climático



# economic globalization

| foe ecuador brazil japan costa rica australia

rio tinto



Friends of the Earth International strives to make global trade more transparent, equitable and participatory, and less environmentally and socially destructive. Above all, FoEI promotes small-scale, locally-determined economic initiatives.

To achieve these goals, FoEI campaigns against the neoliberal economic policies and practices of existing global financial and trade architecture. This includes the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks, the World Trade Organization and many regional trade bodies and Export Credit Agencies.

Our member groups around the world are also doing battle against a host of transnational corporations (TNCs) whose damaging operations are facilitated by global banks and trade agreements.



economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica



economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica



Ecuadorian village.

Between 1980 and 1997, Latin American export volumes increased by 245 percent; and between 1982 and 1996, the region repaid U.S.\$740 billion in debt more than double the \$300 billion owed in 1982. Yet rising interest rates have increased the debt to \$607 billion.

Seven million children's lives could be saved each year if unpayable debts were written off.  
United Nations estimate.

"Nature cannot grow at a rate of four to five percent a year."  
Professor Joan Martínez Alier, Ecological Economist, University of Barcelona, 1997.



# who owes whom?

ecological debt is real | foe ecuador/acción ecológica

Repayment of southern debt is increasingly seen as ecologically impossible, unjust and inhumane. But Friends of the Earth's new Ecological Debt Campaign, led by FoE Ecuador, takes the case further. The balance of payments, they argue, should actually be reversed.

**ecological debt cancels external debt** "Ecological debt" is defined as the cumulative debt of northern industrialized nations to Third World countries for resource plundering, environmental damage, and the free occupation of environmental space to deposit wastes from industrial countries.

Ecological debt is closely related to illegitimate external debt, which burdens impoverished people, is contracted fraudulently or for wasteful projects, or grows due to compounding interest payments and unilaterally raised interest rates.

**hoarding environmental space** Climate change is a prime example of an ecological debt, largely created in the North, with devastation wrought largely in the South. Industrial countries' per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions far outweigh the modest emissions from developing countries. It's "as if the rich had assumed property rights over all the CO<sub>2</sub> sinks: the oceans, the new vegetation and the atmosphere," says economist Joan Martínez Alier. Yet the carbon creditors are asked to

curb future emissions with no recognition of this historical debt owed to them.

**plunder must end** FoE's Ecological Debt Campaign opposes northern natural resource extraction that damages southern peoples' survival and degrades their best lands and marine resources in the name of export production. For example, in Ecuador, 70 percent of mangrove forests were cut to allow shrimp farming, devastating traditional fishers' livelihood and aggravating El Niño-related flooding.

The Campaign holds that the North must halt and compensate for chemical and nuclear weapons testing and toxic waste dumping in the South, and for its appropriation of southern traditional knowledge and biodiversity. For example, southern medicinal plants and microbials have been estimated to contribute at least U.S. \$30 billion a year to the North's pharmaceutical industry.

**account for this!** A central campaign strategy is the "Ecological Debt Creditors Club" for Third World peoples, the counterpart to the Paris Club of industrialized creditor countries that meet to negotiate Third World foreign debt. Repayment of ecological debt entails more than just monetary compensation: creditors are demanding restoration of ecosystems and resources. In the Esmeraldas area of Ecuador, for example, the victims of an oil refinery fire which destroyed many homes are asking to be repaid not in cash, but rather with new houses and a clean river, so they may continue fishing and bathing.

website: [www.cosmovisiones.com/DeudaEcologica/](http://www.cosmovisiones.com/DeudaEcologica/)

The Amazon's uniquely rich forest diversity is an important consideration for certification. A visit to a certified forest of precious woods organized by Friends of the Earth Brazilian Amazonia, Imailor and WWF.



# certifying brazil's forests

taming the world's biggest timber appetite | foe brazilian amazonia

Certification of forest products is being implemented worldwide as one of many tools needed to help halt ancient forest destruction. In Brazil, rapid and illegal plunder of rainforests adds to the urgency of Friends of the Earth Brazilian Amazonia's efforts to make good environmental choices clear to wood buyers.

**a world standard** The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the world's premier certifying body for forest products, and its standards reflect a consensus of ecological, social and economic interests. FoE Brazilian Amazonia was a co-founder of Brazil's FSC process, and continues to play a defining role.

**massive market poses challenges** Many might be surprised to learn that a mere 14 percent of Brazil's timber is actually exported. The remainder is consumed domestically in southeastern Brazil, the world's largest timber market. Widespread illegal logging is depressing wood prices and fuelling further consumption.

While Brazilians believe rainforest destruction to be the country's number one environmental threat, most timber consumers remain surprisingly unconcerned about timber's origins. Many doubt that it is possible to distinguish between illegally and sustainably-derived timber. Furthermore, producers fear that forest certification will damage profits.

**start big...** FoE Brazilian Amazonia has energetically tackled these obstacles to certification, which is one of many important ways the group works to halt deforestation. In 1999 the group approached Tok & Stok, the nation's largest furniture retailer with 800 suppliers and 16 large stores, and convinced them to give preference to certified timber. The move encouraged certified suppliers, and compelled competing firms to adopt similar measures.

**...and the rest will follow** Drawing on this experience, FoE Brazilian Amazonia created the Brazilian Buyer's Group of Certified Timber to enhance domestic demand for FSC-certified forest products. It provides commercial support, advises companies about certification and helps consumers understand its benefits. By April 2001, 55 companies, two state governments and one municipality were listed with this buyer's group.

**direct from forest peoples** As of April 2001, FoE Brazilian Amazonia was also working with 14 forest communities to help them certify their forests, and adapt to consumer markets. A major tool is the FoE Brazilian Amazonia website, voted one of Brazil's three most popular sites. It hosts a virtual market for products from sustainably managed forests, which lists everything from rubber and ecological leather to Brazil nuts and annatto, a native plant used to make dyes.

website: [www.amazonia.org.br](http://www.amazonia.org.br)



economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica

Eighty-three percent of Japan's imports of Siberian wood are used to build houses. Often the wood is used once or twice then discarded. The short lifespan of a typical Japanese house, just 22-25 years, adds to the waste.



Japan's timber self-sufficiency is less than 20 percent, and imports are rising each year. FoE Japan believes housing is one way to illustrate how forests and timber relate directly to people's lives.



# getting their house in order

japan's runaway timber consumption | foe japan

Part of the solution to Japan's voracious appetite for the world's ancient forests can be found growing on the steep, wooded slopes of the nation's mountains. Friends of the Earth Japan's new Forest Campaign strives to halt foreign forest destruction by changing domestic practices.

**trade of destruction** Japan annually consumes 110 million cubic meters of wood. Its massive consumption of pristine tropical and northern boreal forests is a prime example of unsustainable global trade opposed by Friends of the Earth.

**starting with our homes** Japanese house construction alone consumes 84 percent of Siberian wood imports. Astronomically high levels of new housing construction, low quality housing, rapid turnover of houses, and no recycling of wood are all factors that feed this huge demand.

FoE Japan believes that talking about housing is an excellent way to start educating people about the need to reduce wood consumption. The group's information campaigns promote sustainable housing, more efficient use of construction timber, and the development of higher quality, longer lasting dwellings. They also lobby for legislative change; for example, to change a Japanese construction law that effectively discourages domestic timber sales.

**teaming up with foresters** Despite rising wood consumption, Japanese forestry is in decline, its plantations underused. Only one third of Japan's annual timber production is harvested, supplying a mere 20 percent of domestic demand. Higher prices, plantations grown on steep mountain slopes, erosion and lower productivity are all factors that hinder Japanese competition with cheaper imports.

To solve these problems, FoE Japan's Hiroki Sugaya says the group directly co-operates with the Japan Forest Agency and the Forester's Union, "because we share the goal to promote Japanese domestic timber and save forests in Japan."

The group uses information campaigns, directly lobbies for forest act revisions, and pushes for domestic forest certification. They also promote information technology as a way to streamline Japan's costly and convoluted timber sales system. And they organize volunteer crews to help improve Japanese tree plantations, educating people at the same time.

**siberia hot spots** Domestic work is crucial, but it's not enough. The group recently began to combat illegal logging in Asia. And through their seven-year-old Siberia Hot Spots campaign, they identify and protect locations of high forest biodiversity in Siberia and the Russian Far East. They fund and work with Russian NGOs to create protected areas, reform destructive Russian-Japanese wood trade practices, and change Japanese investment policies in these regions.



Due to cheap imports, many private forest owners do not plant after harvesting and abandon their land. Intensive care is needed to prevent landslides and soil erosion on Japan's steep forest slopes.



economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica

Butterflies are not only beautiful, they also generate foreign exchange for economies that are starved for hard cash. Rearing them requires daily care and diligence.



Each butterfly species is interdependent with two or three species of host plant. Butterfly farmers plant flowers and food plants on the farm and in the vicinity to provide food and nectar, encouraging the maintenance of local biodiversity and forest cover.



Caño Negro was settled by small farmers. The soil is generally very poor after forest degradation, and the crops fail to sustain families. Women suffer most from the effects of poverty.

# farming rainforest diversity

women's butterfly rearing project | foe costa rica/comunidades ecologistas la ceiba (coecoceiba)

When Friends of the Earth Costa Rica sought to enhance poor women's earning power and ecological awareness, they turned to a dazzling natural export - butterflies.

Costa Rica's 1,300 butterfly species mirror the rainforest's rich biodiversity. But this ecological wealth is threatened in northern Costa Rica by destructive logging, cattle ranching and colonization by small farmers.

"We understand the forest is very important and beautiful but there are few opportunities for us to live from the forest," said one young woman from a small town in the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. Yet once forests are cut and the land converted to farms, the poor soils fail to sustain healthy crops. This means economic hardship for small farmers, and women are hardest hit.

**appropriate technology** When FoE Costa Rica began forest conservation work in the region six years ago, it immediately sought to connect forest preservation to women's income. Friends of the Earth believes that trade can be harnessed as a positive force in sustainable development. To this end, FoE promotes technologies that are readily understood, environmentally benign, use locally available raw materials, and are not de-humanizing to users.

**diversifying nature, diversifying income** Butterflies are highly diverse and have complex and fascinating relationships with plants. Rearing them requires knowledge of rainforest ecology. It also encourages local people to protect park and rainforest biodiversity. Furthermore, butterfly exports to research institutions and collectors generate new income for small farmers, diversifying their resource base and reducing dependence on a few staple commodities and capricious foreign markets.

FoE Costa Rica's butterfly training programme began with 70 women from communities along the Rio Frio Basin and the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge. It included basic natural history studies, tropical forest fieldwork, and organizational skills. Economic and technical feasibility analyses for butterfly production were done, and the women received loans from an agricultural development fund.

**exploiters become protectors** Now, seven separate women's organizations in the region are engaged in butterfly farming, and many local families have independently started their own small farms. Most encouragingly, the local women's organizations have joined forces to form the Fufumrama Federation, a regional group that promotes forest conservation and denounces illegal logging.

And of course these women's organizations still produce thousands of butterflies each month, bringing the brilliant colours and charming textures of Costa Rica's forests to gardens and educational centres worldwide.



economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica

"Ba-Ngurmening Diabluukkul Yum Ngurri-Djagarung Boiwek Gun-Ngukkim"  
"Don't dig the life out of the knob tailed gecko-streaming"



Yvonne and a Mirrar child at the protest camp. Her struggle is for the well being and the future of her Country and her people.

# a life of resistance

fighting australia's uranium mines | foe australia

Following in her father's footsteps as Senior Traditional Owner and leader of the Mirrar people, Yvonne Margarula has watched cataclysmic change pass over her traditional lands. Kakadu's pristine bushland has become polluted by radioactive tailings, its sacred grounds stripped to feed the global nuclear industry.

Assisted by Friends of the Earth, Margarula is fighting to stop a new uranium mine, the third on her people's traditional lands.

**mines brought social chaos** When the nearby Ranger open-pit uranium mine was opened during the 80s, it brought radioactive pollution and drastic cultural change. The inducements that coerced Kakadu's traditional owners to agree to the mine proved to be empty promises - no improvements in the Mirrar people's health, housing or employment ever materialized. Margarula attributes deaths in her family, including that of her father, to the aggravated alcohol abuse, despair and social chaos generated by the mine.

"History will now repeat itself," says Margarula, a recipient of the respected Goldman Environmental Prize, the Nuclear Free Future Award for Resistance, and the FoEI Award, "Uranium mining is to be forced on the next generation of traditional owners of the Mirrar."

**sacred setting** The new Jabiluka uranium mine lies in the hauntingly beautiful Kakadu National Park in Australia's Northern Territory, a World Heritage Site. Mining is prohibited within Kakadu. Yet against popular Australian opinion and the wishes of the traditional owners, mine developers Energy Resources of Australia received government

approval and commenced construction. The uranium it will produce is destined for export despite the worldwide glut of uranium and record low prices.

To feed the global uranium trade, the mine will unavoidably spill tailings - radioactive for up to 250,000 years - into the park's fragile ecosystems, and destroy lands of great spiritual significance to the Mirrar.

Led by Margarula and fellow Goldman recipient, Jacqui Katona, the Mirrar continue a highly effective opposition campaign that includes legal action, education, and mobilization of national and international support. Five thousand people visited the site in a massive 1998 civil disobedience action. In July 1998, when the land was cleared and construction began, 550 protesters were arrested during a blockade, including Margarula and Katona. Katona later served a prison sentence for trespassing on land the Mirrar have held for 40,000 years.

**jabiluka stalls; dangers persist** In September 1999, work at Jabiluka ceased indefinitely when Mirrar opposition meant that the company could not pursue its preferred development option. Yet Margarula's work must continue. Runoff from Jabiluka threatens to spill into Kakadu, potentially poisoning the surrounding wetlands with radiation and heavy metals, while majority ownership of the mine has passed to the massive transnational Rio Tinto (see opposite).

Yvonne remains a determined opponent. "We will fight to protect our Country. That is a fact of life," she says.

websites: [www.foe.org.au](http://www.foe.org.au), [www.mirrar.net](http://www.mirrar.net)



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globalización económica

In 1986 QIT, which was subsequently acquired by Rio Tinto, began exploration and feasibility studies in southeastern Madagascar. Three ore bodies of heavy mineral sands were found, containing titanium dioxide, a commercial pigment found in abundance worldwide. This image shows a South African mine where Rio Tinto used the same methods planned in Madagascar.



In April, 2001 Friends of the Earth staged a protest outside Rio Tinto's headquarters in London, and handed CEO Leigh Clifford a giant boomerang. Their message, "Jabiluka, Hand it Back," urges Rio not to sell the mine, but instead return it to Kakadu National Park.



# tainted rivers, open wounds

rio tinto mines | foie mining campaign

The world's largest mining company, British multinational Rio Tinto, boasts operations in 40 countries and mines almost every mineral on the planet. But its still longer list of abuses has led to devastated fisheries and forests, disruption of entire societies and even provocation of war.

Rio Tinto is emblematic of unrestrained transnational corporations that feed on huge global appetites for raw materials. Friends of the Earth's Mining Campaign backs peoples who fight to halt destructive mines, and questions the runaway consumption patterns that drive their creation.

**jabiluka: give it back** A significant proportion of Rio Tinto's operations take place on the lands of indigenous peoples, who have never consented to mining. In late August 2000, Rio Tinto emerged as the new majority stakeholder of the Jabiluka uranium lease. But current low uranium prices and fervent indigenous opposition have made development unattractive. As Rio Tinto considers selling the mine to other interests which may in turn exploit it, Friends of the Earth is instead urging the company to give up their lease on Jabiluka, and allow the land to be reincorporated into the Kakadu National Park.

**madagascar's lemurs lost?** Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island, lying off southeast Africa. Its unique ecology makes it a rich living laboratory of biodiversity. Yet beneath the country's last remaining east coast littoral forests lies titanium dioxide ore, which Rio Tinto aims to exploit. The company admits development would destroy up to 76 percent of the forest and lead to the extinction of several endemic species, including the brown collared lemur. FoE is calling on Rio Tinto to cancel the project, and for the Malagasy Government to consider alternative sustainable development plans.

**toxic gold mine shelved** Campaigning by FoE Czech Republic and a coalition of community and environmental groups successfully led to the 1997 cancellation of a Rio Tinto gold exploration and mining project in Mokrsko. The project would have created an open pit mine, a cyanide heap and arsenic contamination within two kilometres of a major reservoir holding Prague's drinking water.

**rio sent packing in ecuador** The company's subsidiary Rio Tinto Zinc began its Ecuadorian operations during the late 80s, moving aggressively into nature parks, protected forests and fragile ecological zones. It also provoked social conflict by dividing local leaders and buying up communal lands. By 1998, FoE Ecuador's work with local groups had led to the successful community rejection of Rio Tinto operations in several areas of the country.

websites: [www.moles.org](http://www.moles.org), [www.mpi.org.au](http://www.mpi.org.au)



economic globalization  
globalisation économique  
globalización económica

# sustainability

| foe germany middle east nicaragua ghana paraguay australia



The quest for sustainable and equitable societies is the central challenge of our time. Friends of the Earth believes that people everywhere have the right to enjoy clean air, ample fresh water, healthy soil and the benefits of the earth's diverse ecosystems and species. Rapid environmental and social deterioration make this transition to sustainability an issue of human survival.

In our quest for sustainability, an important first step is the reduction and redistribution of resource use. Those that use too many natural resources must consume less, so that opportunities are freed up for impoverished peoples and nations to lead better lives. In particular, the 20 percent of the global population that consume 80 percent of the energy produced and the natural resources extracted from the earth have a responsibility to live more sustainably.

The concepts of equity and environmental space - which assume that every individual has an equal right to the earth's resources - are central to all of Friends of the Earth's campaigns. FoEI is also dedicated to incorporating gender perspectives into both our institutional structure and our campaigns.

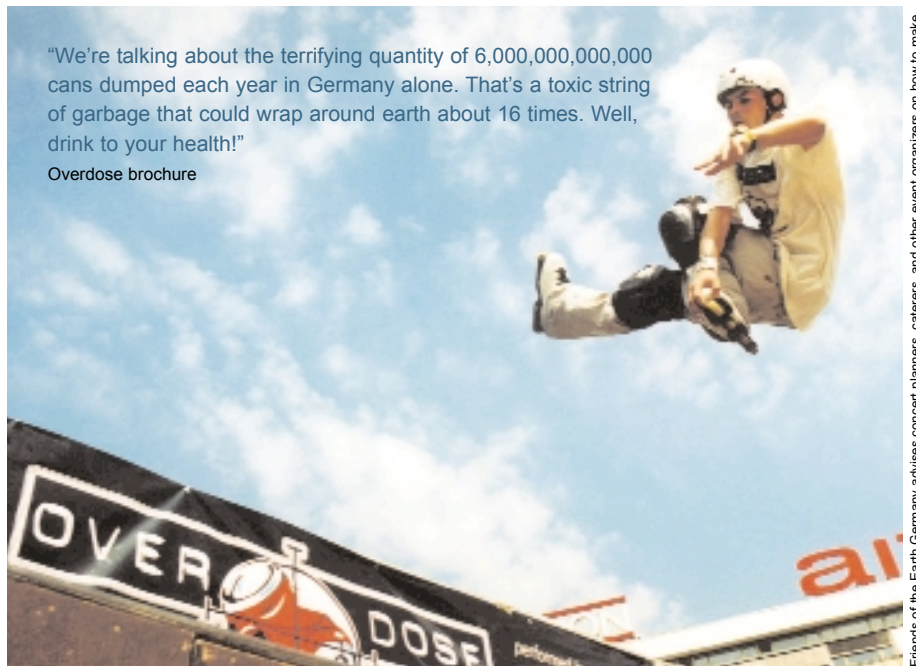


sustainability  
durabilité  
sustentabilidad



"We're talking about the terrifying quantity of 6,000,000,000,000 cans dumped each year in Germany alone. That's a toxic string of garbage that could wrap around earth about 16 times. Well, drink to your health!"

Overdose brochure



Friends of the Earth Germany advises concert planners, caterers, and other event organizers on how to make their events garbage-free, to avoid mountains of discarded tin cans.



# the truth about tin cans

overdose anti-garbage campaign | foe germany/bund

"Dose" means tin can in German, and "overdose" now means "too much garbage" to many German youth - after Friends of the Earth Germany's successful anti-garbage campaign. The campaign uses a hip, youth-friendly approach to break through the marketing and hype that feeds our unhealthy addiction to beverage tins.

symbol of "throwaway" society Found everywhere, beverage cans are expertly marketed, and often endorsed by superstars and top models - in sum "tin idols" that symbolize industrialized nations' environmentally destructive consumption. Producing a ton of tin cans spews ten times as many dioxins into the environment as does burning a ton of garbage. Even perfect recycling can't redeem these cans, because of the immense environmental impacts related to their production.

These unsustainable consumption patterns unfortunately represent a lifestyle that many people aspire to. Friends of the Earth campaigners around the world are working to change these values.

kicking the can FoE Germany knows the best way to affect life-long consumption patterns is to start with youth. Wasteful use of tin cans is especially visible to young people when they gather for concerts, raves and other events, leaving behind mountains of garbage. So the group is using these venues to challenge habits and change thinking. "The time has finally come to scrap the 'idol' made out of sheet metal," say Overdose brochures, "The more people who kick the can, the faster we will solve this problem."

music spreads the message The group goes directly to concert and event organizers, and urges them to make their events garbage-free with re-usable plastic cups that can be rinsed and saved for the next show. To popularize their cause, BUND also organized a garbage-free Overdose roller blade event, featuring skaters and rap artists, and several school parties with bands and DJs. They've produced Overdose info and music CDs, featuring popular artists. All proceeds from the sale of their Overdose T-Shirts and CDs went directly to the Overdose Campaign.

website: [www.bund.net](http://www.bund.net)



sustainability  
durabilidad  
sustentabilidad



FoE Middle East raises public awareness about the Gulf of Aqaba's fragile ecosystem. A recent demonstration sought to drive home to the Israeli Environment Minister the environmental hazards posed by fish farming.

# middle east coral crisis

sustainable tourism in the gulf of aqaba | fo e middle east



Damaged coral.

The Gulf of Aqaba straddles the southern tips of Israel and Jordan, where high desert mountains meet deep blue seas filled with brilliant corals. The Gulf's beauty is a natural attraction for tourist development - which has in turn propelled it into crisis.

**tourism grows, corals decline** Swimming with biodiversity, the Gulf of Aqaba's waters sparkle with more than 1,000 species of tropical fish and 230 species of coral. But its popularity with tourists has meant construction of ports, marinas and coastal highways that destroy the coral reefs. Ships leak oil, port activity releases sediments, and hotels, businesses and people discharge pollutants directly into Aqaba's waters.

In 2000, the distress of the reefs reached crisis proportions when for the first time the corals completely failed to grow. Although the region is convulsed by severe political tensions, environmentalists and others feel that this natural crisis cannot wait for peace. Friends of the Earth believes that deteriorating environmental trends can contribute to social chaos, while a healthy environment is the best basis for equitable and sustainable societies.

**reforming an industry** The group tackles destructive tourism by organizing lectures and training programmes for hotel staff and

tourism operators on issues including water and energy conservation and impacts of off-road vehicles. They stress the industry's responsibility to work with environmental groups.

**raising the alarm about plastic** Discarded plastic is deadly for many of the Gulf's fragile marine organisms. "Plastic bags get caught in the reef and choke the coral, and are mistaken for food by turtles and dolphins and choke them as well," says Munqeth Mehyar, FoE Middle East's Jordanian Chair.

The group's newly launched Plastic Free Gulf of Aqaba Campaign announces this hazard to the public with brochures, stickers and posters, and provides alternatives such as canvas and paper bags.

**peaceful co-operation** FoE Middle East also works with the local community and tourists. The clean-up dives and beach clean-ups that the group organizes bring together Israelis and Jordanians, raising local awareness about this shared ecosystem and strengthening peaceful ties between neighbouring countries.

Because children are key to the Gulf of Aqaba's future, FoE Middle East has also organized a children's drawing exhibition, and a day for schoolchildren to help release baby Hawksbill sea turtles into Aqaba's waters.

FoE Middle East's efforts lend hope that the Gulf of Aqaba's beauty will endure, and that a troubled region can be unified in a common vision for a sustainable future.

website: [www.foeme.org](http://www.foeme.org)



sustainability  
durabilité  
sustentabilidad

Nicaragua's northern rainforest is the largest pristine tract of primary forest remaining in Central America.



Miskito and Mayagna women face double discrimination in Nicaragua: as indigenous people and as women.

# ending double discrimination

nicaragua's indigenous women step up | fo e nicaragua/centro humboldt

In northern Nicaragua lies Central America's largest remaining rainforest, a land of meandering rivers, long white beaches, and endangered manatees and sea turtles. It's a region of fabulous beauty - and numbing poverty.

The Bosawas Reserve is home to the Miskito and Mayagna indigenous peoples, numbering about seven thousand individuals in total. They possess few modern comforts, but their accustomed hardship has been greatly compounded by Nicaragua's civil war. With the war's end in 1990 came an attack on their resources, as corporate scouts and resource pirates moved to seize their fisheries, forests and minerals.

**women as shock absorbers** Female community members have been hardest hit because they face double discrimination - as indigenous people and as women. And as traditional caregivers and environmental stewards, these women are also the primary shock absorbers for the deterioration of both human health and the

environment.

Seeking to rebuild their communities, the Miskitos and Mayagnas have formed partnerships with governments and NGOs, including Friends of the Earth Nicaragua. FoE Nicaragua helps them take control of threatened natural resources and pursue their land rights.

**first steps** FoEI and its member groups recognize that a prominent role for women is critical in creating and maintaining sustainable livelihoods for indigenous communities. Reflecting this goal, FoE Nicaragua helped to form the Women's Indigenous Organization in 2000. Now instead of simply ferrying their male representatives to meetings in boats, Miskito and Mayagna women themselves gather at their community centre to discuss their rights, make decisions, and train themselves in handicrafts.

They are led by Quelita Maxwell, a Miskito woman who has always stayed abreast of community decisions, but formerly had no power to vote or influence affairs. "We have a long way to go, but as children do, we are starting to walk," says Quelita.

Quelita has been a powerful motivating force, urging women to take time away from their homes to attend meetings, pick up new skills, and learn about women's and indigenous peoples' rights and cultural heritage. As these meetings and workshops become increasingly popular, more and more women are determined to take part in community decision-making.

**keepers of medicinal traditions** Quelita is also acutely aware of the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge, despite the lack of respect it receives outside the community. The women's next initiative will be to document their traditional medicines. This will serve to enhance species protection, and enable them to share this valuable inherited knowledge.

website: [www.ibw.com.ni/~humboldt](http://www.ibw.com.ni/~humboldt)



The Bosawas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, home of the Miskitos and Mayagnas.



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Mushroom farming makes economic use of agricultural by-products. Mushrooms contain high quality protein, vitamins and mineral salts. Many mushrooms also have beneficial medicinal effects.

“Due to women’s low social status, they have had a back seat in development. This is a waste as the country could gain enormously if women are given equal opportunities.”  
Charlotte Kanstrup, Danish International Development Agency.



Friends of the Earth Ghana educates women’s groups and selected grassroots community organizations in northern and southern Ghana on income generating activities including mushroom production, snail farming, tie dye production, cotton, sheanut and oil processing.

# sheanuts, snails & mushrooms

green industries for ghana’s women | foe ghana

Through Friends of the Earth Ghana’s programmes, selected women’s groups and communities across the nation are learning how to turn mushrooms, snails, tie dyeing of cloth, and sheanut processing into profits - sustainably.

When daily survival entirely saps a woman’s time and energy, she can hardly be expected to worry about whether her labour harms the environment. Friends of the Earth believes that creating local opportunities for women to generate their own income is integral to environmental preservation.

**more food & greener landscapes** FoE Ghana carefully selects small-scale industries for environmental friendliness, and performs analyses to ensure women have the opportunity to play a leading role in them.

For example, mushroom farming makes use of agricultural by-products that would otherwise be burnt or left to rot. Their cultivation also helps solve food supply problems, as mushrooms are a high quality source of protein, vitamins and mineral salts.

Snails are also nutritious. They must be reared under the cover of shading vegetation, which can include economically valuable plants, such as cocoa, coffee, banana, plantain and oil palms. Thus, to cultivate snails, farmers must promote vegetative cover. This is important because the quest for firewood has denuded Ghana’s landscape and led to the threat of desertification over 35 percent of its land area.

Production of sheanut butter, a substitute for dairy-based butter from the native West African sheanut tree, also helps solve hunger while promoting forest protection. Similarly, bee keeping is best done under vegetative cover.

**income and networks** Thanks to FoE Ghana, women in 15 communities nationwide have received training and assistance in how to best turn these and other activities into much needed income. Supported by the Danish International Development Agency, FoE Ghana offers skill training and capacity building in project monitoring and evaluation, as well as networking, advocacy and financial management.

“Some women never speak to other people outside their house. Now they meet other women and share ideas and experiences,” says Rufina Forkah, FoE Ghana’s coordinator for the project, “The women feel elated that they belong to something.”

FoE Ghana’s programme also helps inform women about the greater environmental context of their activities - through information sharing about global frameworks including the Beijing Platform for Action, the International Conference on Population, and Agenda 21.

Friends of the Earth Ghana encourages activities such as beekeeping, which promote the regeneration and maintenance of forest cover. This discourages deforestation, which leads to erosion and land degradation.



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At the Yvapuru farm in Central Paraguay's Los Altos range, local school children receive a class on permaculture. This experimental sustainable farm created by FoE Paraguay teaches local people how to manage their resources sustainably, and helps revive traditional culture.



Teaching local children about water resources on the Ytu Creek, in Central Paraguay. FoE Paraguay has set up programmes in the region to help local people learn how to sustainably manage their fresh water and other natural resources.



# ancient solutions for today's problems

conserving culture and ecology in paraguay | [foe paraguay/sobrevivencia](http://foe.paraguay/sobrevivencia)

Deep in a shady forest of Central Paraguay, local peasants can be found carving ceremonial wooden masks from the roots of the giant Timbo tree, cultivating native plants for food and medicine, and making communal decisions on issues ranging from local land use to watershed management.

**biodiversity, culture eroded** The first Europeans settled this part of Paraguay in the 16th century, mixing with the indigenous Guarani people. Their descendents created what is now known as Paraguay and the Paraguayan people. Over the years, however, traditions have eroded along with local knowledge about biodiversity and agricultural practices. Furthermore, widespread forest destruction and the expansion of large-scale agriculture have caused a decline in the nation's biodiversity.

**community action** Working to reverse these trends, Friends of the Earth Paraguay has helped to create two experimental community farms and a 300-hectare protected forest area in the country's Los Altos region. Conservation in this region is important, not only because it is a major source of fresh water, food and climatic stability, but also because its diverse forests contain an unusually high number of species found nowhere else on the planet.

Spreading over an area of approximately 250 hectares, some 140 families in the area have now helped to restore and conserve local biodiversity. They've taken part in research and education programmes on sustainable forest management, and the conservation, cultivation and use of medicinal plants and other forest products.

**revitalized culture** FoE Paraguay's community forestry project has encouraged the revitalization of traditions such as the celebration of the Winter Solstice with its indigenous dances, music and pantomime, and the reinvigoration of crafts such as the carving of traditional masks and animal figures from a renewable forest resource.

**removing obstacles** In the industrialized world, sustainable communities often must be created from absolute beginnings. In many southern countries, however, communities that sustainably manage their own resources have existed for centuries. To thrive, the greatest challenge of these existing communities is simply to resist external threats. Many FoE groups nurture and promote these inspiring examples of community-based resource management as models to be replicated worldwide.



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Reverse Garbage founder, Lisa Owen in front of the timber section of their warehouse.



Reverse Garbage founders Lisa Owen and Rob Waller outside the Reverse Garbage warehouse, located next to their Brisbane FoE office.

# cradle to cradle

putting garbage back in circulation | fo e australia

“Waste is something we do, not something that is.” This is the motto of Reverse Garbage, Friends of the Earth Australia’s successful business initiative, now entering its third year.

Modern consumer goods typically follow a straight line from resource extraction to wasteful dumping at the end of their product lifetime. Recycling helps to subvert this march from cradle to grave. But re-use is far more efficient, and it will be increasingly vital if Europe, North America and Japan are to reduce resource and energy use by up to 90 percent over the next 50 years - the reduction Friends of the Earth deems necessary to allow equitable and sustainable economic development without overburdening the planet.

Each week, Reverse Garbage diverts two tonnes of material from Brisbane landfills to their warehouse, where it is sold to businesses, schools, craftspeople and home renovators. Customers find textiles, paper, foam, timber and foil. With it they build everything from intricate patchwork quilts to coffee tables and chicken sheds.

**a win-win business** Reverse Garbage provides hundreds of industries across Brisbane with bins, to be filled with clean, non-toxic discards. FoE workers then collect the bins free of charge, saving businesses dumping fees and reducing the environmental costs of landfills.

Reverse Garbage is an independent worker-run co-operative with six employees. Its positive demonstration of an alternative business approach earned it Australia’s 1999 Quest New Small Business Award. In October 2000, Reverse Garbage expanded to open a gift shop selling recycled goods made by local artists and craftspeople. A separate gallery displays art made from re-used and recycled materials.

**supports environmental education** Surplus income from sales will be used to develop and carry out environmental education programmes focussing on issues of consumption and waste. Reverse Garbage also provides students with construction materials so that they can see for themselves how useful waste can be.

**transforming two-wheeled wrecks** A new offshoot of Reverse Garbage is the Bicycle Revolution store. Discarded bicycles are collected, refurbished and sold, and the shop also performs bike maintenance and sells bike parts and merchandise. The programme’s longer-term goal is to run maintenance workshops and to stimulate a more vibrant bicycle culture in Brisbane.

website: [www.reversegarbage.com.au](http://www.reversegarbage.com.au)



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Front cover: Mirrar child during a 1997 week of protest, cultural exchange and workshops at Kakadu, in Australia's Northern Territory, which seeded a dynamic international campaign against the Jabalka uranium mine. One year later a major blockade camp was operating on the same site. Friends of the Earth supports the traditional land owners, the Mirrar indigenous people, in their battle to reincorporate the mine lease land back into Kakadu National Park, a World Heritage Site.