

friends of the earth international

annual report 2014

mobilise, resist, transform

Las empresas extractivas de energía son los principales responsables del cambio climático y de los impactos en el bienestar de las comunidades nativas. Estas son personas que han compartido testimonios de cómo estos impactos están cambiando y afectando sus vidas.

para más información: foei.org



Friends of the Earth International

Friends of the Earth International is the world's largest grassroots environmental network with 75 member groups and over two million members and supporters around the world.

our vision

Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature. We envision a society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realised. This will be a society built upon peoples' sovereignty and participation. It will be founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice and free from all forms of domination and exploitation, such as neoliberalism, corporate globalisation, neo-colonialism and militarism. We believe that our children's future will be better because of what we do.

our mission

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

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**Friends of
the Earth
International**

letter from

Jagoda Munić



Dear Friends,

2014 was yet another busy year for Friends of the Earth International, both in terms of our campaign agenda and because we held our biennial general meeting (BGM) in Sri Lanka. During the BGM, which was flawlessly hosted by FoE Sri Lanka/CEJ, we dealt with important membership issues and worked together to elaborate and agree programme and other priorities for the federation. Perhaps the most important outcome was our decision to develop a five-year workplan based on our vision of system change, and guidance on integrating the objective of system change into all our programmes and planning processes.

Whilst there, we also held a conference on the all-important issue of public participation in environmental decision-making. We learned a great deal about work with local communities in post-conflict countries, inspired by FoE Sri Lanka's tireless collaboration with local communities and different religious leaders to protect the environment and nature.

In 2014, we endeavoured to support and show our solidarity with threatened communities and human and environmental rights defenders everywhere. This included mobilising significant resources for FoE Liberia/SDI's work assisting communities ravaged by the Ebola virus. We also established a solidarity fund to support threatened activists, with member groups pledging and contributing vital funds and additional resources.

Our programmes were, as ever, intensely busy throughout the year. FoEI's Climate Justice and Energy programme was present at key UNFCCC negotiations, including in Lima, and published testimonies from people, especially in Latin America, who are already being seriously impacted by climate change. We also participated in the People's Summit in Lima, where we continued to build cooperation and alliances with movements and organisations around the world, bringing the FoEI narrative into the mix. FoEI is recognised as one of the key organisations in the climate justice movement.

In June we celebrated a groundbreaking victory with our partners in the Treaty Alliance and many Southern governments, when our work for a binding treaty on transnational corporations and human rights resulted in a resolution to start formal negotiations being passed in the UN Human Rights Council.

Moving from global to local, across the world our member groups continued to help local communities resist dirty energy projects, including coal, nuclear power and mega-dams, land grabbing, the imposition of genetically modified organisms, forest destruction and unwanted land use changes. But we are not only resisting—we are also seeking out, supporting and suggesting truly transformative solutions, such as community-managed forests, agro-ecology and community-owned renewable energy production. We are mobilising to protect nature and the climate!



In solidarity,
Jagoda Munić, Croatia

Friends of the Earth International Chair

2014 programme highlights



reclaiming power

Climate Justice & Energy Programme

Marching for 'Mother Earth' at the climate talks in Lima, Peru. © foel/luka tomac

Ultimately there needs to be a total phase out of carbon emissions by the middle of this century.

The world faces a planetary emergency because of our rapidly changing climate, yet governments are failing to deal with the crisis. Many are involved in a stand-off over climate change, prioritising short-term economic concerns over the good of all. Richer countries are promoting risky, ineffective and inequitable false 'solutions', in the hope that these will bring private capital to the table. But this approach has failed. Climate science now predicts that we will soon breach critical tipping points.

In 2014, FoEI was one of a symphony of voices demanding that governments take urgent action to tackle climate change, including by supporting vulnerable people across the world. We are calling for steep emissions cuts and a 'fair share' approach to dividing the planet's available carbon budget. Ultimately there needs to be a total phase out of carbon emissions by the middle of this century.

We tracked UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, including UN intersessionals, Ban Ki-Moon's business-focused Climate Summit, and the 'COP 20' negotiations in Lima. We communicated our concerns to millions of people on all continents, and our messages were picked up by a broad range of alternative and mainstream media, from Democracy Now! to the Financial Times. Member groups also helped coordinate civil society efforts to shape the UNFCCC's new Green Climate Fund so that it is as equitable, climate friendly and effective as possible.

But we found governments negotiating in a bubble that bears no relationship to the demands of millions around the world. As Typhoon Ruby blasted across the Philippines, the Lima climate talks drew to a close with yet another ineffectual text driven by the interests of rich developed countries and corporations.

The Lima conclusions actually weakened existing international climate rules, undermining historical responsibility and ignoring the need for drastic emissions reductions before 2020. Developed countries' obligations to provide climate finance were also glaringly missing. FoEI's engagement with UN climate change negotiations will continue in the run up to COP 21 in Paris at the end of 2015, but a seismic shift in governments' collective outlook is needed if they are to reach agreement on an effective way of avoiding runaway climate change.



FoE Croatia, Zelena Istra and Greenpeace protest the far-reaching negative consequences of the project to build the coal-fired Flomin C thermoelectric power plant.

It's time for people to lead the way. Our governments' blinkered views contrast sharply with the real leadership and inspiration being demonstrated by peoples' movements and communities on the frontline, who are already suffering the impacts of climate change.

During the year we collaborated with people around the world, who are building an enduring movement to implement real solutions to the climate crisis. FoEI member groups from across the world joined with social movements, some Southern governments and NGOs in Venezuela for the first ever 'Social Pre-COP', and the Peoples' Summit on Climate Change in Peru. We co-hosted two workshops in Peru, on 'Exposing false solutions to the climate crisis' and 'Planetary emergencies and voices from the front line'.

We also participated in the galaxy of creative actions and popular demonstrations that took place in 2014, including many of the events that made up the global People's Climate March on 21 September, and the World March in Defence of Mother Earth on 10 December, Human Rights Day. These events brought more people to the streets to protest for a just solution to climate change than ever before.

October's 'Reclaim Power' global week of action saw thousands of people across every continent, including many FoEI member groups, taking part in actions to target dirty energy and promote clean community energy solutions. These actions included FoE US organising protests outside World Bank meetings, big events for the Global Frackdown, and FoE El Salvador participating in a mobilisation with MOVIAIC (the Movement of Victims and those Affected by Climate Change and Corporations).

We also focused on movement-building regionally and nationally. For example, FoEI member groups helped to launch a new Balkan Youth Climate Movement, held a pan-European youth event in Brussels during COP 20, hosted a series of public forums in Australia highlighting the issue of climate-change refugees, and called for country-wide mobilisations to save Germany's ambitious plan to create an emissions-free economy. We also mapped a variety of community owned or controlled sustainable energy initiatives in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

Ditching dirty energy

Climate Justice & Energy Programme



Replacing dirty, climate-wrecking energy technologies with sustainable and clean community energy is a high priority for FoEI and its member groups. In 2014 we launched our ‘Good Energy, Bad Energy’ website, a new and vital information resource concerning problems with the current energy system and the economic drivers and logic that underpin it. It explains the destructive impacts of the main dirty energy sources—oil, gas and coal—and what’s wrong with other ‘false solutions’—nuclear power, industrial agrofuels and biomass, mega-dams and waste-to-energy incineration.



Friends of the Earth International at the COP20 in Lima, Peru.

The relentless extraction of oil and gas, including gas flaring, oil spills and related land grabbing, remains a major concern for the federation, both in countries where extraction is already established, such as Nigeria, and in places where new oil fields are being discovered, such as Uganda and the Adriatic Sea. We continue to challenge Shell’s destructive activities in the Niger Delta. FoE Nigeria/ERA believes that Shell’s day of reckoning is imminent, as the Nigerian authorities calculated compensation due to communities affected by a 2011 oil spill. FoE Netherlands/Milieudefensie’s and FoE Nigeria’s ongoing court case against Shell moved to appeal stage, and the results of a British court case revealed that the company may have lied in the original case, falsely claiming to have introduced a Leak Detection System.

The rise of fracking (the extraction of natural gas using hydraulic fracturing to blast it out of shale rock) clearly demonstrates that many countries are choosing to have short-term profits now at the risk of climate catastrophe later. Fracking is the very definition of a dirty technology: there is a risk of methane leakage, it uses and pollutes huge quantities of local water resources, and it is associated with an increased frequency of earthquakes. FoEI member groups are collaborating with each other and with local communities to stop the expansion of fracking in countries such as Argentina, Scotland, Spain, the UK and Ukraine. As a result of campaigning in 2014, for example, FoE Scotland and allies celebrated a key victory in January 2015, when the Scottish government announced a moratorium.

FoE England, Wales and Northern Ireland hosted a two-day strategy meeting on unconventional fossil fuel extraction in Europe, with FoE campaigners and allies from various European countries. FoE Europe published a comprehensive range of documents on the impacts and drivers of fracking, including planned expansion into vulnerable regions of Latin America, Asia and Africa.



In areas where shale-drilling/hydraulic fracturing is heavy, a dense web of roads, pipelines and well pads turn continuous forests and grasslands into fragmented islands.

#myclimate stories

Climate Justice & Energy Programme

The extraction and processing of oil from tar sands, particularly in Canada, also reveals a breathtaking disregard for the need to leave fossil fuels in the ground. Tar sands oil is the most devastating fuel in commercial production, and FoE Europe is campaigning to stop the importation of tar sands-derived fuel into the EU. But Canada and the US have been using on-going free trade negotiations with the EU to try and steamroller Europe into accepting imports.

Coal, another dirty, polluting and climate-changing fossil fuel, remains the world's primary energy resource. The coal industry is calling for new, larger and allegedly more efficient plants, but this would commit us to further unnecessary fossil fuel use for decades. In 2014, FoE member groups in South Africa, Austria and France exposed the impacts and hypocrisy of coal companies Eskom, Verbund and Alpha Coal.

Nuclear power and agrofuels (known as biofuels) are also key concerns for many FoE members, particularly because they are wrongly pushed as 'solutions' to climate change. For example, EU imports of palm oil, for use as fuel, have increased by 365% since 2006—even though spiralling demand is having a devastating impact on local communities, forests and biodiversity. Visiting activists from FoE Indonesia/WALHI and Indonesian NGO Sawit Watch came to Brussels to tell MEPs that Indonesia is now swamped by 13.5 million ha of palm oil plantations—an area bigger than Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands combined.

FoE Japan, meanwhile, has been campaigning to transform Japan into a nuclear energy-free society, following the catastrophic Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan in 2011.

Looking forward, during an international strategy meeting on climate justice and energy, FoE member groups decided to target tax subsidies and hand outs to dirty energy corporations, and to demand a global financial model that supports community energy.

We often talk about climate change as an abstract, global problem. But when energy and extraction companies disrupt the climate, how do they change people's lives? What is the impact on people's wellbeing, community and culture, especially when water and air are contaminated? In 2014, Friends of the Earth International launched a #myclimate series of stories to hear people's experiences. We started with stories from people in Peru.

For example, Rosa Palomino, the president of the Unión de Mujeres Aymaras de Abya Yala in the region of Puno, told us that changing weather patterns were disrupting their harvest. The medicinal plants that are part of their culture and their ceremonies were not growing.

Agripina Aguilar Mamani from the Zepita Provincia Chucito, Puno, said that her community was waiting for rain and they were very worried about it, as it would create problems for the whole of the coming year. They were experiencing a drought that would impact their health, their economic situation, their planting season and their animals.



Mural at Casa Activa with portraits of activists and people affected by climate change and extractive industries. Lima, Peru, 2014.

2014 programme highlights

demanding economic justice, resisting neoliberalism

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

People's victory at the UNHRC! ©victor barro/foei

Interviewing Ecuador's negotiator following UNHRC victory.



After many years of campaigning to stop the tide of corporate capture currently engulfing the United Nations, FoEI and allies in the Treaty Alliance celebrated a pivotal moment in June 2014, when the tide finally started to turn. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), following a resolution tabled by Ecuador and South Africa, agreed to adopt a proposal to negotiate binding standards intended to prevent human rights abuses by transnational companies.

FoEI emphasises that support for human rights includes defence of the environment, and we published a report 'We defend the environment, we defend human rights' just before the UNHRC meeting. This documents more than 100 incidents of violence and rights violations against environmental rights defenders in 27 countries, including with respect to hydroelectric dams, coal, shale gas, oil, and palm oil operations.

FoEI's team in Geneva included representatives of member groups working with communities to resist these dirty energy technologies. As part of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power & Stop Impunity, we helped to organise a special session of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, which included cases against Spanish energy company Hidralia, and oil giant Royal Dutch Shell. Our member groups also campaigned assiduously in capitals around the world, persuading governments to back the call for binding regulation. Continued vigilance will be vital however, as the EU and US are threatening to boycott the intergovernmental working group tasked with laying down the ground rules for the coming negotiations.

"A uniform binding mechanism will ensure that environmental racism as practiced by TNCs, Shell, Chevron and other oil companies in Nigeria will come to an end because the standards deployed in Europe and America will be the same standards to be applied in Nigeria and elsewhere."

Godwin Ojo, Friends of the Earth Nigeria/ERA

FoEI and our member groups around the world continued to resist predatory corporations. As part of this effort we co-published 'How Corporations Rule Part 4: Anglo-American'. This exposes the ways in which corporations are undermining crucial climate-related policies, and promoting false solutions that allow them to profit from the climate crisis whilst expanding dirty energy extraction. This is exemplified through the case of British-South African company Anglo American, which operates the world's biggest open-pit coal mine in Cerrejón, Colombia.

FoE Palestine/PENGON and other Palestinian groups organised a week of action against the discriminatory policies of Israeli state water company Mekorot. Access to water for Palestinians is a major problem. FoEI published 'Water Injustice in Palestine', which was written by FoE Palestine.

Central and Latin American member groups, in countries such as Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Uruguay, continued their staunch resistance against destructive and contaminating extractive projects, collaborating closely with and supporting impacted communities. For example, FoE Colombia/CENSAT has been working with communities to challenge extractivism, support resistance, and learn from popular consultations in places like Piedras and Tauramena (where communities successfully rejected a mining project and an oil project respectively, in 2013).

Exposing the consequences of transatlantic trade deals

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

FoEI is collaborating with other civil society members in the EU and US to overturn the looming threat posed by secretive intergovernmental trade negotiations such as those focused on establishing a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). In 2014 our primary focus was ensuring broad public understanding about what TTIP really means for citizens' livelihoods, democracy and the environment—and why we need to sink this economic iceberg before it sinks us.



'Stop the Trojan Treaty!' protest against TTIP.

We turned the spotlight onto one of the most alarming elements of TTIP—the proposal to incorporate an 'Investor-to-State Dispute Settlement' mechanism (ISDS). This would provide companies with access to an arbitration tribunal where they could challenge governments' public interest policies and demand compensation for lost profits—or even potential lost profits. It would also create a 'chilling effect'—governments are much less likely to introduce new public interest policies if they fear being sued.

The campaign to stop the dispute settlement element of TTIP has been very successful, with opposition growing rapidly, including among EU member states and European parliamentarians. On 8 January 2015, the European Commission announced it was temporarily suspending the dispute settlement component pending further consultations with governments, parliaments and civil society.

FoE Europe's briefing, 'What greater rights for investors really means', explains a number of myths peddled about this type of dispute settlement; and another, 'The Hidden Cost of Trade Deals' explains what the proposed dispute settlement mechanism means in practice. Even without TTIP, European governments have already paid over €3.5 billion to private investors because of disputes in other international trade deals. We co-created an online mechanism that allowed more than 23,000 people to send the European Commission (EC) a clear 'NO to ISDS' message.

Rejecting such trade liberalising measures is essential. Numerous corporations are angling to use TTIP to strike down domestic regulations designed to protect people's health and safety, and their environment. In 2014, FoE Europe and its allies exposed the extent to which EU regulation—especially relating to fuel quality, shale gas and tar sands—is already being targeted by industry.

For example, another FoE Europe publication, 'Dirty Deals', detailed how EU-US and EU-Canada trade talks have undermined the implementation of the EU's Fuel Quality Directive, constraining EU climate change policies. Similarly, 'No Fracking Way' explained how TTIP could limit governments' ability to

Numerous corporations are angling to use TTIP to strike down domestic regulations designed to protect people's health and safety, and their environment.

regulate fracking and control natural gas exports; and 'Fracking Brussels' showed how the shale industry has successfully lobbied to undermine any attempt to regulate shale gas at the EU level.

FoE Europe also published a briefing outlining how TTIP threatens the EU's ability to regulate genetically modified food and seeds. US agribusiness and the biotech sector have been pushing for greater access to European markets for years, and US negotiators are using TTIP to push their demands.

Our TTIP transparency initiatives have also been very effective. A joint civil society letter generated so much momentum that the European Ombudsman opened two own-initiative inquiries against the Council of the EU and the European Commission (EC), for their lack of transparency with respect to TTIP. We provided an on-line response template and 6,000 contributions were sent by the public to the Ombudsman. Its inquiries resulted in the publication of the TTIP negotiating mandate by the Council, and some steps forward by the EC (which we are pursuing further through a complaint to the Ombudsman).

During the year we co-organised two key public events in the EU, one on TTIP and food and farming, the other on dispute settlement. This latter event forced the EC to admit publicly that its proposed reforms relating to dispute settlement are not as good as it pretends they are (for instance, there are no proper safeguards protecting states' right to regulate). We also focused on extensive media work, actions, presentations at public events, and lobbying and advocacy on TTIP and the ISDS issue.



Young FoE TTIP protest in Brussels.

GoldCorp project forced to improve or close

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

Community members in El Carrizalillo, Mexico, blocked access to Canadian mining company Goldcorp's gold project 'Los Filos.' Goldcorp's lease of the peasants' lands had expired the day before, and the community was determined to renegotiate a fairer agreement, or see the mine closed.

The Meso American Movement against the Extractive Model, M4, which FoE Mexico/Otros Mundos and other FoEI member groups are actively involved in, is part of the 'Goldcorp makes me sick' campaign. Goldcorp repeatedly attacks the human rights of entire communities, polluting their water resources and air, leading to increases in respiratory and skin diseases. The community living next to 'Los Filos' also reports more premature births and increased birth defects.

After a 33-day long strike the company responded by agreeing to a joint environmental and health monitoring initiative, broader social benefits, increased rent, and more opportunities to increase local employment. International solidarity from FoEI and others helped the communities to stand up to the company without suffering government repression.



An international mission organised by FoEI in Guatemala and El Salvador verified systematic human rights violations and criminalisation of environmental activists and communities resisting mining and hydroelectric projects.

2014 programme highlights

promoting food sovereignty

Food sovereignty programme

Protestors with seeds at the United Nations
climate negotiations in Durban. © luka tomac



Growing food
in the city.

The pervasive expansion of industrial agriculture is stifling the local and sustainable production of diverse, healthy foods. Land grabbing for agricultural exports deprives peasant farmers and local communities of land for cultivation, and can destroy forest-based food resources that Indigenous Peoples and others rely upon. But staunch resistance can bring significant change: food sovereignty and agroecology offer a healthy and equitable alternative.

Member groups continued to campaign against international trade and investment policies that tighten agribusiness's stranglehold over food production. These policies increase land grabbing in exporting countries, and drive the deregulation of food health and safety standards in importing countries. A year-long campaign by FoE Europe and FoE Indonesia/WALHI culminated in EU-based Deutsche Bank announcing its disinvestment from Indonesian palm oil supplier Bumitama, an important supplier to palm oil giant Wilmar.

FoE Europe co-published a comprehensive Meat Atlas, which addresses spiralling meat consumption, concentration of market power, the impact of trade liberalisation on consumer protection, the rise of supermarket chains in developing countries, and the consequences of trade in soy and its impacts in Latin America.

We also continued to expose the myths peddled by the biotech industry. Our annual report, 'Who Benefits from GM crops?' found the industry's claims that their crops will improve yields and nutrition do not add up. 99% of all GM crops grown are actually designed with pesticide and herbicide sales in mind, but the use of these chemicals has led to the evolution of resistant 'super-weeds'. This has prompted farmers to use more rather than less herbicide, regardless of impacts on the environment and people's health. People are not fooled by the biotech companies' claims either: our report found that significant resistance to GM crops continues on all continents.

There are cheaper, better and more readily available solutions to address hunger and malnutrition. Sustainable food and farming models controlled by communities guarantee food sovereignty,

including by helping to control pests and dramatically increase yields (even doubling them in some countries). In 2014, we continued to promote food sovereignty and agroecology vigorously at local, national and international levels.

Internationally, we took our demands—including with respect to anchoring proposed policies within a rights-based framework and genuinely recognising the contribution of small-scale producers—to meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). We particularly focused on the development of principles and criteria on Responsible Agricultural Investments by the FAO's Committee on World Food Security (which do not, so far, address civil society concerns).

We also continued to collaborate with key civil society allies, including through the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, and on the editorial committee of the Nyéléni Newsletter, which is published by a broad alliance of organisations and movements working to promote food sovereignty.

FoEI groups continued their support for practical examples that demonstrate how agroecology works in practice. For example, FoE Uruguay/REDES promoted agroecological family-farm production and the recovery of native and local seeds, through the Seeds Network. It was asked to provide seeds for a national school programme, and for a MERCOSUR meeting on family farming.

FoE Honduras/Madre Tierra has been engaged in training and educating indigenous and rural women about their rights and about the conservation and management of natural seeds, natural medicines, practical garden applications and organic crops. FoE El Salvador/CESTA has been working to establish four community sanctuaries for heirloom seeds, to break the cycle of dependence on expensive hybrid seeds and to improve food sovereignty for rural families.

FoE Colombia/CENSAT collaborated with Colombian peasant communities helping them to install efficient wood-burning stoves and solar dehydrators in their houses. This project effectively demonstrated energy alternatives in food production processes.

Capacity building with FoEI member groups and allies remained a priority. An internal programme strategy meeting in Budapest, and FoE Latin America (ATALC)'s 5th Sustainability School both focused on developing strategies about and mapping agroecological solutions.

Land grabbing: supporting community resistance

Food sovereignty programme

FoEI strives to build awareness about and facilitate community resistance against land grabbing, and helps to defend people's rights. We also aim to support communities in their efforts to implement positive solutions.

In 2014, FoEI members continued to support communities' resistance to land grabbing—especially for palm oil plantations—in Indonesia, Liberia, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea and Uganda. Our members are also campaigning for national laws that would allow the communities greater control over their land. Support includes awareness-raising, assistance with mobilisation

and advocacy, training for human rights defenders, legal support, and support for community-based alternatives (such as community-based peat forest management in Indonesia). We also hosted an international strategy meeting on land grabbing, in Sri Lanka, campaigned to hold investors responsible for land grabbing to account, and began developing a new area of work promoting binding regulations for financiers.

FoEI continued to support the efforts of FoE Liberia/Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) to return land to communities, and to maintain pressure on UK palm oil company Equatorial Palm Oil (EPO), in order to prevent the expansion of plantations into other areas. FoE Liberia has filed complaints on behalf of 363 households in eleven Joghban clan villages. In May, a petition 'Tell Equatorial Palm Oil NO means NO' and a film 'The Joghbahn Clan' were also launched locally and internationally. The film has been used in community education and to mobilise communities across Liberia. In spite of being suspended during the Ebola epidemic, the campaign was eventually successful and EPO agreed, in March 2015, to return the communities' land.

Similarly, FoE Papua New Guinea/CELCOR is implementing a range of strategies to resist land grabbing and deforestation, and protect indigenous communities' livelihoods. FoE Papua New Guinea's strategic decision to seek legal redress proved successful. In May, local communities in Collingwood Bay, Oro Province, celebrated a major victory after a long-standing legal battle against Malaysian palm oil giant KLK, which they undertook with support from FoE Papua New Guinea. The court declared the land concession acquired by KLK to be illegal, and ordered KLK to return the land to the customary landowners. Customary landowners' court cases have also been successful in Turubu and Pomio. FoE Papua New Guinea is working on a number of other legal cases, and hosting a series of training workshops with communities. They have also developed and distributed awareness-raising materials about the negative socio-environmental impacts of oil palm plantations, climate change, food insecurity and loss of food sovereignty.



Woman holding photo of baby whose condition is blamed on the dumping of agrotoxins, Asunción, Paraguay.

FoEI strives to build awareness about and facilitate community resistance against land grabbing, and helps to defend people's rights.

FoE Mozambique/Justiça Ambiental is campaigning against the Pro-Savana project, which threatens to escalate land grabbing in Mozambique. In 2009, the governments of Brazil, Japan and Mozambique signed an agreement to implement 'Cooperation for the Agricultural Development of the Tropical Savannah in Mozambique' (Pro-Savana). This programme aims to transfer know-how about large-scale agribusiness practices and technologies used in Brazil to Mozambique, threatening the livelihoods of millions of peasants, and Mozambique's food sovereignty and biodiversity. FoE Mozambique and numerous national allies such as UNAC (the National Farmers' Union), together with NGOs and movements from Japan and Brazil, held a 'No Pro-Savana' campaign conference in Maputo, in July.

FoE Europe and FoE Indonesia/WALHI celebrated a victory in 2014, when Deutsche Bank revealed that it had sold its shares in Indonesian palm oil supplier Bumitama, an important supplier to palm oil giant Wilmar, following months of campaigning by the two groups. Despite numerous promises to clean up its act, Bumitama continued to produce illegal palm oil. The palm oil sector has so many cases of land grabbing, deforestation and environmental degradation that there is no excuse for responsible financiers to invest in it. Yet American and European financiers hold €371 million worth of shares in Wilmar, and have €1.1 billion in outstanding loans with the company. The campaign must continue.



Oil palm nursery in Borneo.

Radio to mobilise against land grabbing in Uganda

Food sovereignty programme

In addition to supporting communities directly, FoE Uganda/NAPE worked with local and national media outlets, including community-facilitated radio talk-shows, to expose cases of land grabbing. In August, they launched the Uganda Community Green Radio, and they estimate they have reached some 5,000,000 people.

Communities have now started to campaign for elected officials who will help stop land grabbing. More communities are actively seeking to become legal owners of their land and a number of community land associations have been established.

FoE Uganda also reports a marked shift in the approach of local officials and the police, who are showing goodwill by allowing dialogues with communities and civil society organisations. It is hoped that this change will ripple up to the national level, and that the Ugandan government and developers will rethink their investment strategies, and stop harassing civil society organisations that dare to challenge land grabbing, such as FoE Uganda.



Precious Naturinda is a reporter at the Green Community radio in Western Uganda.

2014 programme highlights

banks out of biodiversity!

Forests and biodiversity programme

Valmir Noventa is the state coordinator of the Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores (MPA) in Espírito Santo, Brazil. © tamra gilbertson/critical information collective

Roşia Montană is home to rare and threatened grassland plants.



FoEI's goal is clear: the financial sector's takeover of biodiversity must be stopped. In 2014, we finalised a detailed position on the 'financialisation of nature', an approach that underpins governments' inequitable and unworkable 'green economy' approach.

The recent economic crisis revealed that many countries have a casino-style financial system, and that excessive and escalating risk-taking had been masked by a series of complex financial products that even bankers did not understand. Yet governments are using a similar smoke-and-mirrors approach to try to prevent biodiversity destruction. In a bid designed specifically to be attractive to private investors, governments are bent on turning the planet's natural resources—including biodiversity, water and forests—into complex and intangible financial assets, such as 'biodiversity offsets', that can be bought and sold at a profit, as well as being used to compensate for projects that destroy biodiversity. Thus, for example, Brazil's Forest Code has been weakened, by incorporating biodiversity offsetting and reducing protection for Brazil's forests.

We are witnessing a new wave of privatisation of the commons which ignores the social functions of land and tramples over the concept of equity and people's collective rights to territories. These are particularly vital for communities and peoples who rely primarily on natural resources rather than money. This approach is also a magnet for financial fraudsters.

FoEI's Forests and Biodiversity and EJRN programmes co-organised an internal workshop on the financialisation of nature in Paris, together with allies. This important gathering enabled campaigners from FoEI and other organisations to elaborate shared conceptual understandings, identify opportunities for collaborative and coordinated campaigning at the regional and international levels, and develop multimedia tools, including through our online/community broadcaster Real World Radio.

Our campaigners participated in a key London summit on biodiversity offsetting, which was organised by the UK government, the Zoological Society of London (London Zoo) and others. FoEI brought a critical view of biodiversity offsets to the

debate, focusing on the situation in England in particular, where biodiversity offsetting is being heavily promoted even at the expense of the country's remaining ancient woodland. We presented case studies showing ways in which local communities and Indigenous Peoples conserve and manage biodiversity much more effectively. We also participated in a parallel civil society event, 'Nature is Not For Sale—2nd Forum on Natural Commons'. We organised subsequent international strategy meetings on financialisation, during ATTAC's Social Movements' School in Paris, during FoEI's BGM in Sri Lanka, and just before the UNFCCC COP 20 in Peru. This has led to a shared understanding of the complex issue of financialisation of nature across FoEI's 75 member groups and with key allies.

Together with allies we have been successful in building opposition to the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) initiative, which specifically aims to financialise forests' ability to absorb carbon. This included the publication of several reports and briefings on REDD during the year. We also continued to lobby the Food and Agriculture Organization to change its damaging definition of forests, which includes plantations. This is particularly important with respect to REDD, because it opens the door to financing monoculture tree plantations with funding meant for mitigating climate change.

Corporate capture, the financialisation of nature and REDD have all been core concerns in our Climate Justice and Energy programme activities as well. The 'Social Pre-COP' hosted by the Venezuelan government was an important strategic moment for building support for these concerns amongst civil society and with decision-makers (such as the Brazilian negotiator on REDD). The resulting 'Margarita Declaration' unequivocally rejected false solutions to the climate crisis, including carbon markets, the commodification of life and the 'green economy.'

Resisting risky REDD

Forests and biodiversity programme



Governments around the world are recklessly betting on a risky financial mechanism, ‘Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation’ (REDD). They are gambling that standing forests can be conserved, and greenhouse gas emissions reduced, by turning the carbon-sequestering capacity of forests into financial commodities that can be traded for profit.

This ignores numerous methodological problems relating to accurately quantifying the amount of carbon in trees, the risk that deforestation will move elsewhere if demand for forest-depleting products is not reduced, and the fact that this complex and opaque financial process is a magnet for fraudsters.

In 2014, FoEI finalised a clear ‘No REDD’ position, drawing upon member groups’ work with local communities and indigenous peoples, our collaboration with allied civil society organisations and social movements, and our involvement in tracking the development of intergovernmental climate change negotiations. We concluded that it is time to ditch risky REDD, replacing it with community-based approaches that are effective, ethical and equitable.

We published a new briefing, ‘The great REDD gamble’. Now that various REDD readiness and REDD projects have been underway for some time, we can see that—as already predicted by FoEI and other movements and organisations in civil society—REDD really



A No REDD protest in Mexico.



Burning and deforestation in KFCP REDD site, Indonesia.

is a risky and false solution to climate change, both in theory and in practice. There are now some notable real world examples, including in Indonesia, Mozambique and Peru, demonstrating that REDD projects can facilitate rather than prevent the continued use of fossil fuels; exacerbate tensions over land and resource rights; have significant negative impacts on forest dependent Indigenous Peoples and local communities; threaten food security; and even endanger forests. Some REDD projects have also faced significant financial difficulties, wasting considerable amounts of money.

REDD projects can result in local communities being forced to leave their own territories. This can lead to an erosion of their cultures and traditional ways of life. We published a new guide for communities, 'Traps and Dangers of REDD and other Forest Conservation Projects: Precautionary guide for communities'. This beautifully illustrated pamphlet is based on an analysis of documents and contracts related to REDD (proposed or already signed). It explains the experiences of some signed-up communities, and the underlying risks that need to be considered by others thinking about getting involved in REDD. A number of representatives from organisations advocating for forest-dependent communities across South Asia and the Asia-Pacific regions were also trained to analyse REDD contracts.

We continued to make sure that concerns about REDD are registered in relevant political spaces. We brought our positions on REDD and the financialisation of nature to climate change debates and negotiations at the Social Pre-COP in Venezuela and the UNFCCC COP 20 climate change negotiations in Peru, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) COP 12 summit that took place in South Korea.

It is time to ditch risky REDD, replacing it with community-based approaches that are effective, ethical and equitable.

Collaborating with communities to protect forests

Forests and biodiversity programme

FoEI works with local communities and Indigenous Peoples to conserve forests and strengthen communities' rights, supporting community forest management programmes that aim to ensure access to and control over forest resources for the communities inhabiting them.


In 2014, for example, FoE Costa Rica/COECOCEIBA collaborated with communities in the northern area of the country, and worked with Bribri indigenous communities struggling against the imposition of a REDD project.

FoE Mali/Guamina collaborated with the community of Tiélé in Mali. A community plan to protect the environment was elaborated by a communal council, which, together with training, encourages the villagers to protect and regenerate their local forests.

In Sri Lanka, land grabbing was threatening to devastate the Nilgala forest, famous for its medicinal plants. FoE Sri Lanka/CEJ organised a Buddhist tree ordination ceremony to raise public awareness. The public furore that ensued prompted the government to take action, stopping the land grabbing.



The golden toad, an amphibian once endemic to Costa Rica, is now extinct.



2014 programme highlights

Mobilising support for activists in danger

Supporting defenders of human rights & the environment

An international mission organised by FoEI in Guatemala and El Salvador verified systematic human rights violations and criminalisation of environmental activists and communities resisting mining and hydroelectric projects. © victor barro/foei

Solidarity is of the utmost importance to FoEI and we support threatened activists, who face escalating levels of violence. With assistance from the EU we have been able to provide vital emergency funds and support legal cases, undertake and follow up international solidarity missions, publish and broadcast critical information and calls to action, and engage with the current UN debate on non-state actors and human rights.

In 2014, we played an active role in responding to cases of abuse in Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Palestine, Paraguay, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Uganda and Ukraine. We also held capacity building activities for environmental defenders in Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Uganda. FoEI's Real World Radio collaborated with communities and activists on fact-finding and continued to expose abuses against environmental defenders.

International solidarity missions helped to protect threatened communities and activists in Malaysia, Palestine and Uganda. FoEI also supported environmental rights defenders to travel to Brussels, Madrid and Geneva, challenging persecution by state and non-state actors in Guatemala, Nigeria, Palestine and Ukraine.

FoEI's solidarity was evident during the year when FoEI member groups, together with individual online donations, collected

28,272 euros and helped FoE Liberia to distribute Ebola prevention kits to some 1,300 households including public facilities.

Human rights defenders from Nigeria and Palestine also presented their experiences to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva in June and the parallel Permanent People's Tribunal. Persuading UNHRC to adopt a treaty creating binding rules for non-state actors acting outside their home jurisdiction has been a key priority for FoEI for many years, and we are an active participant in the 'Treaty Alliance', which represents more than 500 groups worldwide. FoEI's report 'We defend the environment, we defend human rights', which was published at the same time, paints an alarming picture, exposing growing institutional violence against communities and nature. A major victory ensued when the UNHRC adopted a resolution put forward by Ecuador and South Africa, to start elaborating an international, legally binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations with respect to human rights. This came about in spite of staunch opposition from EU member states and the US.

We also exposed the abuse of defenders and demanded mechanisms that will guarantee the respect and protection of environmental and human rights during UNFCCC COP 20 and the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.



Our federation

Gathering global momentum

Building the movement for environmental & social justice

People's Climate March, Peru, 10 December 2014.

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Our mission and long term goals explicitly encompass building a worldwide movement to ensure living in harmony with nature by enabling environmental and social justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights.

One key aspect of this involves growing and strengthening the FoEI federation itself. The BGM is always an important moment, bringing our diverse and far-flung federation together to restore and replenish our collective spirit and identity. In October, our 2014 BGM, together with an important pre-conference on the role of communities in environmental decision-making, was hosted by FoE Sri Lanka/CEJ, in Sri Lanka, and we welcomed new members FoE Russia and FoE Bosnia and Herzegovina.

FoE Latin America and the Caribbean (ATALC)'s 5th Sustainability School, held in Mexico, brought people together to share and map agroecological solutions and models. The school included a seminar focusing on the defence of human rights and the persecution of environmental defenders in Mexico and Latin America, currently a major issue in the region. FoE Uganda/NAPE hosted FoE Africa's 1st Sustainability School and Human Rights Defenders 'training of trainers', for members of communities threatened by oil palm plantations, hydropower schemes and oil extraction, and representatives of civil society organisations.

Similarly, Young FoE Europe (YFoEE)'s annual summer camp, hosted by FoE Bulgaria/Za Zemiata, helped young people build their knowledge and campaigning skills, join projects and actions, and share stories and experiences.

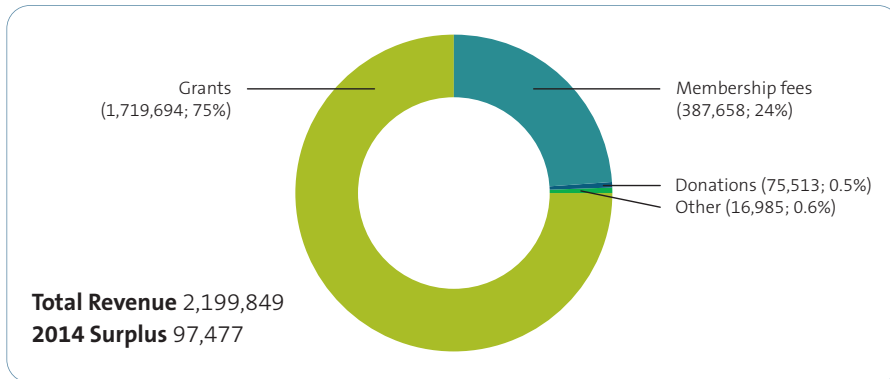
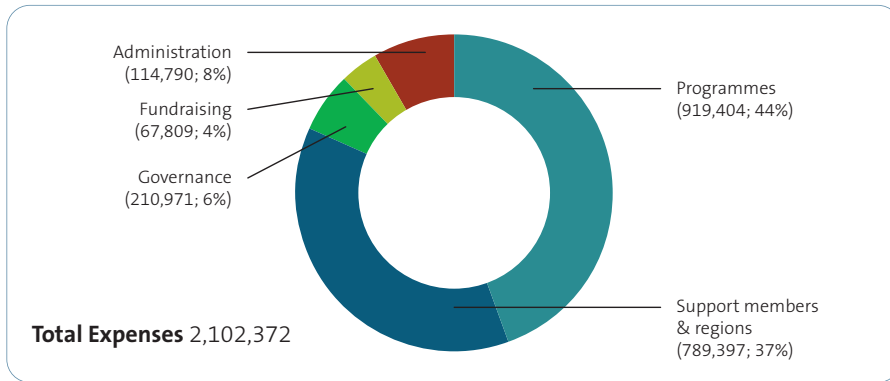
In another example, FoE Croatia/Zelena Akcija Croatia also launched the new Balkan Youth Climate Movement, and Young FoE Bulgaria launched a series of training programmes designed to prepare young people for active participation in the civil environmental sector.

The federation also focuses on building and fostering alliances with diverse movements, organisations and people striving for transformation, and aims to secure the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women. FoEI's Real World Radio is an integral part of this. It plays a significant role in getting our campaign messages and other information out to communities, especially across the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In 2014, we also cooperated with many organisations and movements through our programmes, and continued to work with key allies La Via Campesina and the World March of Women.



Amounts in Euro



FoEI's complete audited financial statement is available at www.foei.org/about-foei/annual-reports

Friends of the Earth International wishes to thank our generous individual supporters and institutional donors:

- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Isvara Foundation
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- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Bread for the World

- Friends of the Earth Croatia
- Friends of the Earth Netherlands
- Friends of the Earth Switzerland
- Friends of the Earth USA
- Friends of the Earth Scotland

(Above) FoEI international programme coordinators. FoEI demands climate and energy justice.

our 2014

executive committee



Chair: **Jagoda Munić, FoE Croatia**

Vice Chair: **Karin Nansen, FoE Uruguay**

Treasurer: **Godwin Uyi Oj, FoE Nigeria**

Silvia Quiroa, FoE El Salvador

Hemantha Withanage, FoE Sri Lanka

Abetnego Tarigan, FoE Indonesia

Choony Kim, FoE South Korea

Asad Rehman, FoE England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Kwami Dodzi Kpondzo, FoE Togo



FoE Biannual General Meeting, Sri Lanka, 2014.



FoE Executive Committee members (from left to right): Choony Kim, Kwami Dodzi Kpondzo, Hemantha Withanage, Karin Nansen, Godwin Uyi Oj, Jagoda Munić, Asad Rehman, Silvia Quiroa and Abetnego Tarigan.

Friends of the Earth groups around
the world



Africa

Cameroon
Ghana
Liberia
Mali
Mauritius
Mozambique
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda

Asia - Pacific

Australia
Bangladesh
Indonesia
Japan
Malaysia
Nepal
New Zealand
Palestine
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Timor-Leste

Europe

Austria
Belgium (*Flanders*)
Belgium (*Wallonia & Brussels*)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany

Hungary
Ireland
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia (*former Yugoslav Republic of*)
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Scotland
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine

Latin America and Caribbean

Argentina
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Curaçao (*Antilles*)
El Salvador
Grenada (*West Indies*)
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Mexico
Paraguay
Uruguay

North America

Canada
United States of America

Russia

Russia

cover image: Mural at Casa Activa with portraits of activists and people affected by climate change and extractive industries, Lima, Peru, 2014. © luka tomac

www.foei.org