

friends of the earth international

# annual report 2018

mobilise, resist, transform



**Friends of  
the Earth  
International**



Friends of the Earth International is the world's largest grassroots environmental network with 73 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 be 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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# annual report 2018

**mobilise, resist, transform**

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50,000 people mobilised to defend Hambach Forest and the climate, Germany, October. ©BUND



letter from

## Karin Nansen

Dear friends,

**Friends of the Earth International's work has never been more important.**

**We face not only risk of the collapse of ecological systems, but systemic, socio-ecological crises which are leading us towards greater injustice worldwide. These crises are driven by an economic model which favours capital accumulation and corporate power over peoples' rights. Social organisations, democracy and rights won through popular struggle are threatened by the rising right-wing, xenophobic and misogynist movement, which seeks to impose new social imaginaries—values, institutions and discourses—based on hatred and climate denial.**

Yet many peoples and communities around the world are rising up in defence of their collective rights, livelihoods and territories. Our federation, and the communities and social movements with whom we work, all form part of this resistance. Together, we challenge corporate power and mobilise to achieve our vision of system change.

In 2018, we strengthened our capacity to support defenders of territories and peoples' collective rights, who are increasingly threatened with violence and even killed. Our new strategic framework enables us to raise awareness, strengthen internationalist solidarity and take political action in support of defenders. Other progress included community trainings and improved online resources in Asia-Pacific, and a new rapid response system in Africa. We also made significant steps towards our goal of dismantling patriarchy, promoting the integration of gender justice across our programmes and federation, guided by a new conceptual framework.

By 2020, we aim to advance our agenda for economic justice and people-led solutions. We outlined what this might look like in our report 'Transforming our Economies: Scaling up Solutions'. Just and healthy societies include public services for all, social ownership and cooperatives, local markets and fair trade. They value the wellbeing of people, care work and livelihoods, whilst dismantling the power of transnational corporations and the sexual division of labour. They incorporate feminist perspectives and promote women's agency. Solutions already exist—now, they must be multiplied and become the axis of public policies.

Our 'People Power Now' manifesto similarly maps a path to climate justice based on a just energy system. This means a system with 100% renewable energy, owned and controlled by the peoples, which provides sufficient energy for all whilst ensuring workers' rights. A collective week of action in October enabled our member groups to articulate peoples' widespread call to tackle the climate emergency through system change. We are working with the trade union movement to elaborate what a Just Transition should look like. Our manifesto also helped us to demand climate justice at COP 24 in Poland in December, in the face of governments' shocking lack of action. Due to the responsibility of big corporations in the crisis, we have stepped up our involvement in climate litigation, to end the impunity of corporations like Shell.

A key step forward in 2018 was the publication of the first formal draft of the proposed UN Binding Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights. Concerted and coordinated civil society efforts have played a key role in this process. Our contribution has been informed by peoples' struggles worldwide and legal expertise, ensuring that governments hear first-hand about grassroots struggles. We have supported national and regional coalitions and built support in capitals and communities—many countries warmly welcomed our passion, testimonies and substantial contributions.

We kept business on the back foot in the UN Food and Agriculture organisation, working with allied social movements, most importantly La Via Campesina, to ensure that our political vision of food sovereignty and agroecology is the pathway that governments choose towards healthy and just food systems. We connected agroecology and community forest management, making it clear that both are essential components of food sovereignty, whilst synthetic biology poses a major threat.

This year, our regions became stronger, we fostered members' capacity, and strengthened links with allies. Finally, we succeeded in improving the way in which we communicate resistance, mobilisation and transformation around the world. This included a new strategic communications framework, fully integrating Real World Radio into our communications team, and creating inspiring and popular videos to spread messages on social media.



*In solidarity,*  
**Karin Nansen, Uruguay**

Friends of the Earth International Chair





# Standing up for economic justice

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

Civil Society mobilise outside UN in Geneva at start of ICG 4. © Victor Barro / Amigos de la Tierra

# Triggering new UN Treaty negotiations

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

**In 2018, the United Nations finally published the first official draft of the planned legally binding treaty “on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights”. The publication of this ‘zero draft’ means that negotiations are now formally underway.**

Successful civil society collaboration continues to be the driving force propelling the whole process forward. Our collective demands have inspired many governments to support the process, and to face down opposition from those few—most notably the European Union—who seem determined to side with transnational corporations, rather than the people whose human rights are being violated. Over 90 states engaged in negotiations in 2018, and an unprecedented 400 civil society organisations were represented at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group in Geneva (IGWG4), in October.

Friends of the Earth International has taken a consistent, collaborative approach to demanding this treaty and influencing its content. We are informed by legal expertise, our knowledge of inspiring struggles of resistance and transformation on the ground, our involvement in national and regional coalitions, and our commitment to ensuring that women’s and Indigenous Peoples’ perspectives are heard throughout. Many countries warmly welcomed our passion, testimonies and substantial contributions to the draft text and the overall process.

We participated in informal consultations in Geneva in March and July, including a meeting with the new Ecuadorian ambassador—current Chair of the IGWG—in The Hague in March. Our delegation to the IGWG4 in October included 37 people from 16 countries, reflecting the high priority our federation gives to reining in the power and impunity of transnational corporations and protecting the rights and security of defenders of territories across the world. We contributed a formal submission to IGWG4, together with numerous oral, legal and technical inputs and analyses, and we engaged with government representatives, ambassadors and missions in more than 50 lobby meetings.



© Victor Barro / Amigos de la Tierra

We continued to coordinate and participate in the two major coalitions working on the Treaty process—the Global Campaign to dismantle corporate power, and the Treaty Alliance. This involved constant collaboration throughout the year and during the IGWG4, where we helped to organise workshops, side events, rallies, communications and joint inputs to the negotiations. Our deepening alliance with the International Trade Union Confederation of the Americas was an important development, enabling us to develop a shared analysis of global value chains, framework agreements, trade and investment, the power of transnational corporations and the importance of implementing a binding treaty.

Friends of the Earth Africa presented a proposal for an International Tribunal on Corporations during the IGWG4, with the support of the South African mission. This gained considerable interest as a counter proposal to the European Union’s push for a business-oriented Multilateral Investment Court. Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth France also published reports exposing the EU’s corporate agenda and how corporate impunity works in practice. We enhanced campaign communications generally with our UN Treaty Online Toolkit, a series of videos, educational and social media materials, and special coverage of IGWG4 by Real World Radio.



© Victor Barro / Amigos de la Tierra

Civil Society mobilise outside UN in Geneva at start of IGWG 4.



# Building support in capitals and communities

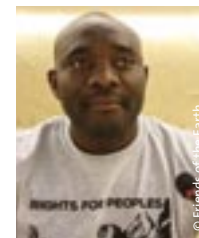
Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

Josefina Escamilla,  
leader of Las Marlas I  
and II communities.

right: Kwami Kpondzo,  
Friends of the Earth  
Togo, giving a  
statement to the  
IGWG in Geneva,  
October 2012.



© CESTA – Friends of the Earth  
El Salvador



© Friends of the Earth

**Together with our member groups we continued to build support for the UN Treaty process around the world, in national capitals and local communities.**

**Our member groups in Africa also helped to bring an in-depth African perspective to the UN Treaty process, working with others to create a new network to mobilise support from people across the continent. Member groups from Mozambique, Liberia and Togo participated in the week of mobilisation around the IGWG4 in Geneva, presenting Friends of the Earth Africa's new proposal for an International Tribunal on Corporations, and engaging directly with negotiators from Angola, Congo, Ghana, Mozambique, South Africa and Togo.**

Justiça Ambiental!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique ran trainings for national officials at Mozambique's National Human Rights Commission, on corporate impunity, extractivist economics, human rights and the UN Treaty. Parallel on-the-ground trainings boosted people's capacity to resist corporate impunity by advancing understanding of systemic corporate impunity, human and community rights, and land and resettlement laws. Justiça Ambiental! also provided advice on resisting, mobilising and using the legal system. They supported communities presenting cases challenging corporations at the Permanent Peoples Tribunal (PPT) on transnational corporations in Southern Africa.

CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador organised educational workshops to build staff capacity within El Salvador's Office of the Procurator for the Defense of Human Rights, on issues relating to the treaty process. Together with others in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, they also met with El Salvador's Director of Foreign Policy, bolstering the country's strong support for the treaty process. National and regional information sharing and capacity building activities with civil society allies—including women, trade unions, human rights activists, and urban and rural community leaders—strengthened national and regional collaboration and advocacy.

In the Asia Pacific region, member groups in eight countries ensured that the treaty process was increasingly well understood and supported by reaching out to their national governments, media, and impacted peoples, and strengthening national coalitions and regional task forces. Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific published the region's demands for the UN treaty process, a summary of country positions, and case studies exposing transnational corporations' roles in violating human rights in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Palestine, Sri Lanka and Russia.

LRC-KSK/Friends of the Earth Philippines continued its campaign calling for binding national laws and policies ensuring corporate accountability and economic justice, and its provision of practical legal support for communities (such as in the ongoing case against the Marcopper Mining Corporation).



© SAM/Friends of the Earth Malaysia

Blockade in Cawas, Gua Musang, Malaysia.

# Envisioning alternatives to shady corporate deals

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme

**Realising new ways of living based on economic justice requires a clear vision of the steps needed to transform our economies. In February we launched ‘Transforming our Economies: Scaling up the Solutions’—setting out our vision and the key steps needed to bring about real system change.**

Many of our member groups are already engaged in building and promoting real solutions on the ground, including new ways of producing food and energy systems, running cooperatives and managing biodiversity. Our report builds on these sturdy foundations, examining and providing practical examples of five economic justice solutions that need to be scaled up to end the era of neoliberalism and reshape our global economy. These include providing public services for all through tax justice, scaling up economies based on social ownership and cooperativism, supporting local markets and fair trade, valuing and measuring the well-being of people and planet, ensuring binding rules to dismantle the power of big business, and gender-sensitive policies concerning publicly provided care services and feminist leadership in the solidarity economy.

**Together with allies, we continued to challenge a number of environmentally and socially damaging trade deals, many of which remained stalled during 2018.** These include the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the West African Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and EU-Indonesia and EU-Mercosur negotiations. Maintaining and strengthening current levels of public opposition was a priority throughout the year, in relation to these negotiations and around the Week of Action Against the G20 in Buenos Aires at the end of the year.

For example, we strengthened member groups’ involvement in the ‘Stop RCEP’ coalition, co-publishing a report and related campaign communications that demonstrate the total lack of transparency and public engagement that characterise this shady free trade deal in Asia. Combined with a civil society training, our involvement helped to raise public awareness, and a number of politicians voiced their concerns about the lack of transparency in RCEP.



National Park land vital to communities and wildlife at threat in Uganda from Total's plans to drill for oil.

Friends of the Earth Togo kept the public, media and politicians on high alert concerning the West African EPA, with a two-day conference and trade analysis skills training for West African civil society, journalists and politicians. WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia continued to campaign against the EU-Indonesia trade negotiations, and Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific initiated investigations into the potential impacts of the China Belt and Road Initiative.

We also supported member groups challenging proposals that allow transnational corporations to sue governments (also known as Investor-State Dispute Settlement or ISDS). Friends of the Earth South Korea and Friends of the Earth Europe tracked and lobbied the United Nations working group considering reforms to ISDS (UNCITRAL Intersessional Working Group III). Friends of the Earth Australia published a briefing paper on ISDS in relation to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and, although a revised version of TPP was eventually agreed, the Australian Labor party did table a bill with which they had hoped to ban ISDS.

We contributed to the Milieudefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands and Friends of the Earth Uganda campaign to stop ISDS in the Bilateral Investment Treaty between these two countries, publishing a popular video and an international petition about the Total vs Uganda ISDS dispute and its impacts.



Protest over suspected cover-up scandal involving Japan's PM and Finance Minister, Tokyo.



# Laying the foundations for energy transformation

Climate Justice & Energy Programme

Members of Friends of the Earth International, Friends of the Earth Nigeria (FEN) and the Goi community in Goi, Niger Delta, November 2018. © Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International



# Rejecting dirty energy & the corporate perpetrators destroying the planet

Climate Justice & Energy Programme

**We are gearing up for a clean energy revolution and supporting our member groups' struggles against the dirty energy giants destroying their villages, communities and neighbourhoods. By promoting and sharing our groups' campaigns we are able to show that there is a growing global backlash against dirty energy. By pushing for energy transformation, we are connecting resilient communities to learn from and inspire each other.**

For example, in 2018 we supported Movimiento Madre Tierra/Friends of the Earth Honduras' ongoing campaign against destructive mega-dams in the country. The Mayor of Reitoca municipality admitted that international pressure had influenced his decision to uphold the Lenca indigenous communities' declaration that Reitoca and the Rio Grande river should be free of hydroelectric and mining projects. This is an important step towards banishing hydroelectric dam building company PROGELSA, and supporting the local communities.

Similarly, we supported Justiça Ambiental!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique's campaign challenging impending gas exploitation in northern Mozambique. We rallied around the South African national campaign to call for a ban on fracking, and helped Friends of the Earth Togo produce powerful campaign communications about impending offshore oil exploitation. In Indonesia demands were submitted to the Japan Bank for International Commerce (JBIC) to stop funding coal extraction in Indonesia. We carried these and other powerful stories to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

During the year we also channelled critical funding to facilitate dirty energy fights involving six small organisations working closely with our member groups—local campaigns against coal in Bosnia-Herzegovina, dams in Colombia and Costa Rica, fracking and oil in Colombia, incineration in El Salvador, and the fight against nuclear power in Russia.

Civil society, including Friends of the Earth International, increasingly aims to force action on climate change through climate litigation. For example, in 2018 our groups were using the law to challenge coal mining in Mozambique and fracking in England, Wales and Northern

Friends of the Earth Netherlands' People vs Shell action outside the Shell ADM in The Hague.



Ireland, while PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine worked with parliamentarians on changing laws around women and solar energy.

We shifted our use of climate litigation up a gear this year, supporting an unprecedented effort by Miliuedefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands to use the Dutch courts to force Shell to change its business model worldwide and reduce its emissions to zero by 2050. Shell has known, since the 1960s, that CO<sub>2</sub> contributes to global warming, that fossil fuels are a primary source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and that its operations would increase the likelihood of extreme weather events. Yet they continued for decades to criminally damage ecosystems, lives and livelihoods in order to pump out and profit from fossil fuels.

In 2018 our member groups participated in diverse 'Stop Shell' actions around the world, helping to launch the campaign internationally and attract extensive global media coverage. Over 30,000 people from 70 countries signed up as honorary co-plaintiffs. The 'Stop Shell' campaign is becoming an important part of the growing global movement to stop fossil fuels.

System change is an ambitious but much-needed goal, and we know we cannot achieve such goals alone. We prioritise efforts to foster strong and coordinated international alliances, such as the alliance campaigning on energy strategy across Asia, and networks working on coal and oil/gas in Africa. To this end, Justiça Ambiental/Friends of the Earth Mozambique and Miliuedefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands co-organised a strategy meeting for African oil and gas campaigners in Maputo in June, which brought together campaigners from almost 20 organisations across the continent.



Still from Madre Tierras film highlighting mega-dam destruction in Honduras.

# Mobilising for People Power

Climate Justice & Energy Programme

Close Right: Groundwork/Friends of the Earth South Africa and allies launch National Campaign to ban fracking.

Middle Right: Basma Giacaman, Director at Al Basma Center Arab Women's Union and solar energy manager, Palestine.

Far right: Press conference to launch People Power Now manifesto at COP 24.



© Groundwork/Friends of the Earth South Africa

**We are ready for a world based on justice and sustainability. People everywhere are already building this world, and Indigenous Peoples and frontline communities have long been living with these values. Now we need to build power, together, from the ground up, to change the energy system and make energy sovereignty and climate justice a reality everywhere.**

**In 2018 we launched our People Power Now (PPN) manifesto at UNFCCC COP 24 in Poland. The manifesto, based on our vision of solutions for a just and climate-safe world, sets out positive measures that will accelerate the transition towards a climate just world which is free from all forms of oppression.**

The manifesto's ten demands are the culmination of years of dialogue, research and movement building across every continent. It is a testament to a world which is not only possible, but coming to fruition, as shown by case studies from our member groups in Hungary, Korea, Palestine and Scotland.

The publication of our manifesto was complemented by practical support to seed grassroots energy transition projects in Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Palestine, Togo and Uruguay. We also fostered collaborative civil society approaches to just energy transitions with our member groups and allies, especially trade unions. We participated in a Just Transition meeting in Amsterdam in April, followed by a conference dedicated to Just Transition before our Biannual General Meeting in Nigeria in November. We have been an integral part of the African Ecofeminist Just Transition process. Just Transition also featured prominently during the solutions-focused workshops held at all our regional annual general meetings.

Gender justice is an integral part of the solution to the current multi-faceted crisis, and is a key component in our People Power Now manifesto. We supported PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine's work linking solar energy and women's empowerment, and their participation in the launch of the manifesto in Poland. Our new 'gender justice, climate justice'

flags helped us get this key message across simply but effectively at demonstrations and events.

Our priority in 2018 was to foster mobilisation, connecting movements and helping to generate a global surge in demand for real action. We produced a wide range of guidance and communication materials and tools, equipping and strengthening our groups, whose various actions and approaches during our Week of Action in October collectively created an overall narrative of a dirty energy-fuelled climate emergency that can be resolved through system change. We were also active throughout the year in strengthening our relationships with allies such as those in the Demand Climate Justice campaign, It Takes Roots, Womin, Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development, and participants at the international climate justice gathering hosted by JA! Friends of the Earth Mozambique in May.

Our Week of Action focused on the IPCC special report on the dire impacts of global warming of more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Our analysis of the report and an internal positioning process around the 1.5°C goal enabled us to respond collectively and decisively to the IPCC report, at the time of its launch and around COP 24 in Poland. We also published our position on Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) clarifying our opposition to this relatively new technology.



© Friends of the Earth Korea / KFEM

Friends of the Earth Korea / KFEM action around the launch of IPCC 1.5°C report.





© Hussein Zohor/PENCON



© Hanna Takahashi/Friends of the Earth Japan



© Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland



© Hanna Takahashi/Friends of the Earth Japan



© Luka Tomac/Friends of the Earth International.



Above Top: Communities in Lancashire, UK fighting fracking.

Above Middle: Climate Justice march at start of COP 24.

Above: rooftop solar project giving energy to communities through solar lamps, at the Banismenta union parishad building, Sundarsons, Bangladesh.

Above Right: Demand Climate Justice action by civil society at the end of COP 24 in Poland.

Nevertheless, the world currently faces a relatively shocking political context where—however compelling the science—individual countries, overwhelmingly in the global North, are refusing to commit to the changes and commitments that are needed. To highlight this desperate state of affairs we sent a team from 15 countries to COP 24 in Poland at the end of the year. In addition to launching our PPN manifesto and hosting press conferences, we helped coordinate and participated in numerous joint actions and side events on a wide range of issues, from Just Transition to opposing gas, nuclear and biomass, exposing them as false solutions to the climate crisis. We challenged the continued financing of fossil fuels and exposed oil companies' involvement in the process with actions against Shell. We played a key role in a joint civil society equity review, 'After Paris: inequality, fair shares, and the climate emergency', which we co-launched at COP 24—a detailed assessment of countries' commitments, levels of equity between and within countries, and what it will take to avoid global warming above 1.5°C.

Although COP 24 itself was a failure, as expected, it was also an important opportunity for civil society to build alliances and develop collaborative strategies for the future. The federation collectively created a strong overall narrative on climate justice, equity, finance and urgency. In the same way, civil society sent a powerful message to negotiators and to the world outside that people power is a real solution to the climate crisis, with a massive final 'Demand Climate Justice' action, in which hundreds of activists took over the staircase outside the main plenary with 10-metre long banners.



© Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International

Michael B rejoice is determined to improve the future for her community, devastated by Shell's oil exploits. Joi, Nigeria.

2018 programme highlights

# Nurturing food sovereignty

Food Sovereignty programme

Exchange of seeds and agroecological products during a World Food Day Forum in El Salvador. © Martín Drago



# Strengthening the movement

## Food Sovereignty programme

**The food sovereignty movement—for the right of peoples to healthy, culturally appropriate and sustainable food systems—continued to grow in 2018. It is now able to address policy-makers forcefully and with a unified voice, influencing government agendas and putting agribusiness on the ‘back foot’. Friends of the Earth International continued to contribute through awareness-raising, capacity building, collecting and collating critical data and evidence, and helping to coordinate the movement. This focus enables us to connect our own capacity development and lobbying efforts with those of other social movements, using civil society spaces to advance a joined-up international strategy on agroecology, for food sovereignty in all regions.**

We continued to prioritise our involvement in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), an autonomous and self-organised global platform of small-scale food producers and rural workers’ organisations and grassroots/community-based social movements, which is advancing the food sovereignty agenda globally and regionally. As well as our close involvement in the IPC’s working groups on Agroecology and on Land and Territories, we helped to coordinate its inputs to civil society events and key UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) processes, as well as attending the IPC General Meeting held in Paarl, South Africa in March. We co-edited three editions of the Nyéléni newsletter, which this year focused on the links between food sovereignty and youth, migration, and the rural-urban interface.

Together with allies and communities we exposed and explored the tensions between agroecology and agribusiness. For example, alongside the Latin American and Caribbean region’s annual general meeting in El Salvador in May, we led regional exchanges on agroecological alternatives and resistance to the corporate agricultural model, together with peasants, farmers, community leaders, representatives of Indigenous Peoples, and members of the anti-mining network MOVIA. This was followed by a forum in October marking World Food Day, which included exchanges of seeds and agroecological products. On the same day, The Ecologist published an opinion piece by our international

programme coordinator, elaborating the links between resisting fascism and building food sovereignty.

Capacity building within our own federation is integral to effective and widespread movement building, and regional capacity building with our member groups was an important area of work in 2018. For example, one of our key priorities was to bring well-informed Friends of the Earth International regional representatives to the FAO’s agroecology symposium ‘Scaling Up agroecology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals’, held in Rome in April. Participants from our groups in El Salvador and Nigeria participated in the symposium, civil society preparatory and evaluation meetings, and meetings with various allies. We also reached out to all our member groups during our regional annual general meetings, integrating food sovereignty issues into the cross-programme ‘Pathways to System Change’ workshops held at these events.

Our regional subgrants for capacity-building activities in key member groups underpinned initial research and the creation of communications materials. CELCOR/Friends of the Earth Papua New Guinea completed their publication on land rights, and began preparatory work for national lobbying and advocacy. CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador is challenging the use of agrotoxics and calling for changes in relevant national laws, and working on urban agroecology with a women’s group. Our member groups from Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria, Togo and Uganda engaged with the hugely successful West African Caravan on Water, Land and Peasant Seeds organised by the Global Convergence of Struggle for Earth and Water, hosting a workshop on agroecology and community forestry for the 300 caravan participants as they passed through Togo.

We deepened our collective knowledge about food sovereignty through three webinars on gender justice and food sovereignty, political opportunities for mainstreaming agroecology, and the impact of plantations on food sovereignty. This resulted in more coordinated communications work, the integration of gender justice into our positioning and activities, and better joint analysis and plans with food sovereignty movement allies at both the regional and international levels. Together with the Forests and Biodiversity programme, we also began to develop new areas of work around agrocommodities and synthetic biology, and their impacts on food sovereignty (see p19).

# Keeping agroecology negotiations on track

Food Sovereignty programme

Close Right: Community member holding seeds, South Africa.

Right: Social media visual created by real World radio for the International day of Peasant Struggle.



**In 2018 we successfully articulated our understanding of agroecology as a way of life that involves small-scale food producers, many of whom are women, at key intergovernmental events. This approach has been highly effective and, together with allies, we have managed to change minds: even the Director General of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expressed the view that the agroindustrial model is exhausted and that it is essential to make a change to guarantee food security, the most viable way being agroecology.**

**However, some governments are still questioning the economic viability of agroecology—even though peasants, Indigenous Peoples and family farmers have already shown, over hundreds of years, that it is both viable and sustainable. Our assessment at the end of 2018 was that the private sector, with the support of sympathetic governments, is on the defensive, and trying to co-opt the concept of agroecology. Our next challenge is to prevent this, as the two models cannot co-exist.**

We played an important role in the organisation of the FAO's Second International Symposium on 'Scaling up agroecology' in April, facilitating civil society preparation and participation, and representing the IPC's Working Group on Agroecology in preparatory dialogues with FAO. One of our key concerns is that FAO says it cannot close its doors to private initiatives to 'scale up' agroecology—but these initiatives may seek to integrate agroecology into the existing agroindustrial model of production, and even try to include the use of fertilisers and pesticides. Our challenge was heard, however, and a number of civil society proposals to promote and defend our vision of agroecology and prevent agribusiness co-optation were included in the Chair's final summary, which was supported by many governments. We were also pleased to see FAO supporting agroecology through its new agroecology knowledge hub.

A second key priority during the year was our involvement in the Committee on World Food Security's Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM). We were actively engaged in its Coordinating Committee and working groups—on CFS evaluation and work planning, agroecology, communications, and people in protracted crisis—in the run up to the CSM Forum and 45th meeting of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 45), which were held in Rome in October. Significantly, the CSM Forum attracted 200 representatives from civil society, social movements and Indigenous Peoples organisations. Participation is increasing every year, showing that the forum continues to be an important moment for civil society to discuss shared visions, policies and strategies.

We were also part of the team that drafted the CSM's comments on the Zero Draft of the Agroecology Report being prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). This critical report, due for completion in 2019, is expected to play a key role in defining future institutional approaches to agroecology, potentially influencing agroecology's economic, social, nutritional and productive impacts. Depending on how the report is written, it could also play a role in counteracting attempts by corporations to capture agroecology, greenwash agribusiness and co-opt the agendas of UN agencies.

The CSM's messages were highly visible during CFS 45—especially through collectively organised side events on food systems and nutrition guidelines, defenders of territories, migration and the right to food, the International Day of Rural Women, and the UN Decade of Family Farming. Two further CSM events explored the impacts of dematerialisation, digitalisation and financialisation on our food systems, and ways in which emerging technology and corporate mega-mergers are rapidly transforming the landscape of food, agriculture and farmers' rights.





Middle: The Committee on World Food Security's Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) Forum, Rome.

Left: West African Caravan on Water, Land and Peasant Seeds in Togo.

We also made the case for agroecology at the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) meeting on 'Innovation for sustainable food and agriculture', the FAO Expert Workshop on Multi-dimensional Assessment of Agroecology (in October), and the FAO's 'International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers (in November). The Food Sovereignty programme coordinator also attended the Latin American and Caribbean CSO Consultation in Guna Yala, at the end of January, in which FAO participated in as a guest.

Communications remained a high priority. Decision-makers need to understand that agroecology is not just about production, but also about consumption, distribution and alternative economies, and that it should be scaled up with support from public policies. Our 2018 publications included a public briefing about ways in which agroecology can fight hunger and cool the climate, and a strategic intervention on innovation targeted at FAO negotiators. Our reports show that agroecology is not only an innovative way forward, it is a science, a set of practices and a social movement that has multiple benefits including stable yields, nutritious food, sustainable livelihoods and a cooler climate.



© Martin Drago



© Friends of the Earth Togo

West African Caravan on Water, Land and Peasant Seeds in Togo.



© Martin Drago

Above Top: Exchange of seeds and agroecological products during a World Food Day Forum in El Salvador.

Above: Mystica organised by women from civil society during CSM Forum in Rome.

2018 programme highlights

# Fighting for forests & biodiversity

Forests & Biodiversity programme

Children collecting *Carapa guianensis* seeds to use as baitfishing hooks. Jutai Reserve, Amazon Jungle.  
© Diego Cardona Calle



# Sparking action in the Convention on Biological Diversity

Forests & Biodiversity programme

Action raising awareness of the threats to environmental defenders during COP 14 in Egypt.



**In 2018 we focused on reframing the debate in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) away from what is ‘politically feasible’ and commercially profitable, towards real solutions which maximise benefits for biodiversity. We facilitated a series of highly visible civil society actions during the CBD’s COP 14, on human rights defenders, corporate capture and gene drives, to ensure our messages were heard. This was a successful strategy, energising civil society, allied countries and sympathetic Secretariat staff. Many people involved in the negotiations reported that they felt supported by these actions.**

The meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA), held in Montreal in July, was an important moment to begin strategising with allies in the CBD Alliance, and influencing the CBD’s agenda in the run up to COP 14.

During COP 14 in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt in November, our delegation tracked negotiations on key issues including the protection of environmental and human rights defenders, Protected Areas and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the recognition of indigenous areas. Territorial governance by Indigenous Peoples is vital for biodiversity conservation. Civil society scored a success— agreement on vital language recognising ‘indigenous conservation community areas’ (ICCAs) and ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ (OECMs).



‘No to gene drives’ action during COP 14, Egypt.

We also tracked negotiations around natural capital, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and governments’ plans for mobilising resources for biodiversity conservation. These currently reflect corporate interest in making money through the Financialisation of Nature. ‘Mainstreaming biodiversity’ negotiations may facilitate industries seeking to greenwash their activities. This reflects the fact that over the past eight years corporate pressure on governments has increased, and governments have failed to implement the CBD’s 2010-2020 Aichi Targets. However, as a result of civil society pressure around COP 14, text about conflicts of interest was explicitly introduced, at least acknowledging this problem.

Synthetic biology and its impacts on biodiversity and food production is also a growing concern. The industry is heavily involved in CBD negotiations on synthetic biology, gene drive organisms, genome editing, and digital sequence information, all of which could threaten biodiversity and Access and Benefit Sharing. Corporate representatives often speak ‘on behalf of’ Africa to ‘save’ poor people, but our representative from Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria—also Chairperson of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)—led civil society in making it absolutely clear that there is strong opposition to synthetic biology right across Africa. This helped strengthen some countries’ positions, and important points about regulation and the precautionary principle remained in the final text, despite efforts to have them removed.

We are also engaged in shaping the CBD’s post-2020 plans. Together with our allies we will endeavor to ensure that the process is genuinely participatory, and incorporates demands for social justice, economies that respect planetary boundaries, agroecology, and the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. In Egypt, we succeeded in removing references to weaken ‘voluntary measures’ from the draft post-2020 text.



# Elaborating Community Forest Management

Forests & Biodiversity programme

In 2018 we explored in more detail what Community Forest Management means to our federation, including principles, inalienable rights, and the concept as a whole. We concluded that it is a top priority in relation to forests and biodiversity in territories managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We published and submitted a report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Together with allies we successfully advocated for the formal recognition of territories by the CBD at COP 14 (see p17). Our developing understanding of the links between gender justice, forests and biodiversity also enabled us to make substantive inputs to the CBD Secretariat's work around gender and the post-2020 framework.

As a result of our consensus-building process, held in stages throughout the year, and the debates at cross-programme solutions-focused workshops held at our regional annual general meetings, there is now a much broader understanding of Community Forest Management and its link to member groups' campaigns and issues at the regional and national levels. This discussion will continue in 2019, focusing on solutions to forest and biodiversity loss in countries without a tradition of Community Forest Management, or where there are no Indigenous Peoples, and on deepening our understanding of gender justice.

As a result of these processes we are better able to advocate, both internationally and nationally, promoting and strengthening Community Forest Management as a way forward, and opposing false solutions that damage it.



© Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International

Penang Inshore Fishermen Welfare Association (Pifwa), Mangrove Education Centre, Seberang Perai Selatan, Penang, Malaysia.

# Challenging the Financialisation of Nature

Forests & Biodiversity programme

Our campaign to oppose the progress of Financialisation of Nature (FoN) continued in 2018. We observed that the financialisation process has a new development: Many discussions on FoN (new mechanisms, standard setting proposals, legal developments, and financial opportunities) are taking place in non formal spaces, without public participation or democratic discussion. We continue to see the same impacts such as privatisation and the erosion of rights among others, as well as a new trend in using FoN to loosen strict environmental regulations. According to Friends of the Earth International, governments should instead be implementing publicly funded, real and effective solutions to biodiversity loss, including strict regulation of biodiversity-damaging activities.

We concentrated primarily on developing clear and accessible communications materials—for the public and policy makers—that explain why the Financialisation of Nature is counterproductive. Videos and a report, with case studies from member groups showing exactly how FoN drives deregulation, are planned for 2019.

We also supported the presentation in Brazil and Mexico of our analysis of lessons learned about Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) from the environmental cooperation and carbon trading agreement between the US state of California, Chiapas in Mexico and Acre in Brazil. The report finds that the agreement has fueled injustice. In the case of Chiapas, for example, communities have been expelled from their land and banned from harvesting wood to make way for the production of monocultures like oil palm. This policy triggered conflict and impacted biodiversity, which has a vital role in regulating the climate. Recommendations focus on tackling climate change and environmental conflicts by addressing their structural causes and promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and peasant communities.

# Ploughing a new furrow: agrocommodities

Forests & Biodiversity programme

The industrial-scale production of agrocommodities destroys forests and depletes food. In 2018 Friends of the Earth International started developing an international campaign to challenge environmentally and socially damaging agrocommodities such as oil palm monoculture plantations.

Together with the Food Sovereignty programme, we organised a regionally and gender balanced internal strategy meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon in June. Participants agreed the outline and objectives for a new 2019-2025 agrocommodities campaign strategy. The path outlined will enable us to challenge and block the agribusiness model and its false solutions, secure policy change relating to consumption, supply chains and markets, and mobilise to support the inclusion of collective rights in national and international policies.

Extensive preparations for this meeting included mapping agrocommodities work already underway within member groups, at the regional level, and through our other international programmes. This enabled us to identify what is needed to integrate these activities into a cohesive and comprehensive international campaign. The mapping was primarily conducted via a series of webinars and bilateral interviews with member groups.

With the Food Sovereignty programme we prioritised Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) preparations for the Committee on World Food Security's planned intergovernmental event on plantations, food security and nutrition. There were moves to cancel this event but, partly in response to strong protestations by the CSM, the CFS eventually rescheduled the event for September 2019. The collaborative work involved in bringing about this change deepened our links with allies working on forests and food sovereignty.

In November, just before the annual conference of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm (RSPO) in Malaysia, we published an open statement with World Rainforest Movement signed by around 100 organisations from five continents. The statement exposed the RSPO's failure to eliminate the violence and destruction that oil palm plantations cause.

Friends of the Earth  
Switzerland/ Pro  
Natura action against  
RSPO and palm oil.



© Friends of the Earth Switzerland/ Pro Natura



© Pa. Vandevoort



© Amigos da Terra Brasil



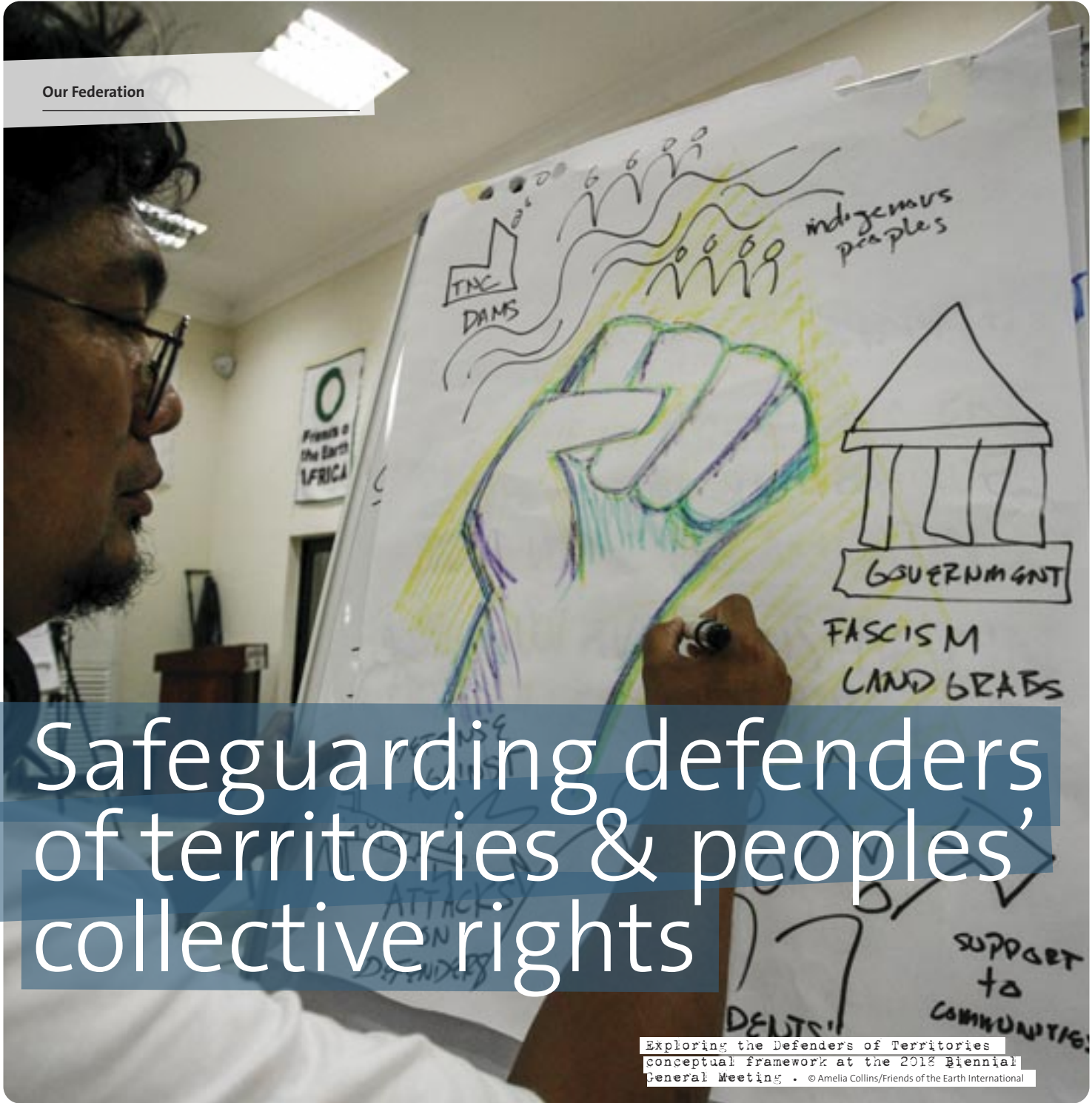
© Victor Barro

Above Top: Plantation worker collects bunches of palm oil seeds. North Sumatra, Indonesia.

Above Middle: Community meeting at the Jamnawa indigenous school in the rural district of Sao Paulino in Sena Madureira, Acre, Brazil.

Above: Female worker on a BJA palm oil plantation, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.





# Safeguarding defenders of territories & peoples' collective rights

Exploring the Defenders of Territories conceptual framework at the 2018 Biennial General Meeting . © Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International

# Defining concepts, building capacities

Our Federation

**The annual number of human rights defenders killed reached an all-time high in 2018 - 321 people in 27 countries. Community and civil society organisations were increasingly criminalised for their work defending community rights and livelihoods. This is a major challenge for people and organisations around the world, including our own federation, our allies, and the communities we work with.**

Our 2018 Biennial General Meeting approved a new strategy and conceptual framework. This shows that defenders are struggling in defence of people's collective rights and territories, and working to build democracy and popular sovereignty, even while they are resisting the violent imposition of neoliberalism. We are now looking to create new strategic alliances, including with organisations that provide emergency support.

In the meantime, we continued to support and stand in solidarity with impacted member groups and communities, building capacity and resilience. In Uganda in January, African groups created prevention and protection strategies, a rapid response system, and terms of reference for a new regional focal point. In February a three-day awareness raising seminar in Brazil developed strategies to protect defenders and prevent abuses, with a day dedicated to gender. In July, the Asia Pacific region's School of Sustainability in Indonesia focused on the region's virtual environmental human rights defenders' curriculum and rapid response system, and ways of building international solidarity, maximising emergency funds and integration with the Economic Justice Resisting Neoliberalism programme. Real World Radio followed Berta Cáceres' murder trial that started in September. A Central American Feminist gathering with allies held in Honduras in October created a space for women to develop strategies for self-care, empowerment and financial independence. In general, there is increased internal engagement and coordination across the federation with regional focal points in Asia Pacific and Africa, and the regional facilitator in Latin America and the Caribbean fulfilling the same role.

We mobilised and raised awareness with, for example, solidarity letters, actions, social media and press releases on the cases of



Action in solidarity with the women of Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens, demanding justice for the victims of Vale and BHP's environmental crimes in Rio Doce, Brazil.

Florent Compain from Friends of the Earth France, Gustavo Castro from Friends of the Earth Mexico, Ahed Tamimi's release from Israeli prison, Andrey Rudomakha in Russia, UDAPT Ecuador, Human rights violations in Honduras including the deplorable murder of Luis Fernando Ayala and the fraudulent 2017 elections, the Khan Al Ahmar community in Palestine, killings at the Gaza border during the official opening of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, Brazilian struggles against Bolsonaro, the devastating murders of members of the Landless Rural Workers' Movement in Brazil, the red tagging and criminalising of activists in the Philippines and Indonesia and the first anniversary of the massacre of eight indigenous leaders in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines. Real World Radio created solidarity videos about the impact of Chevron/Texaco on Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador, and the case they took to the Canadian courts.

## Challenging human rights abuses in Palestine

Our Federation

In 2018, we trained women and men from six communities to document violations in ways that can be used in legal cases and submissions to human rights mechanisms. Three Palestinian delegates were supported to participate in the UN Treaty negotiations in Geneva in October, where they held a workshop on Israeli security technologies, strategies and companies used against the Palestinian people. They also met EU parliamentarians in Brussels. We also supported scientific and legal research into Israel's nuclear waste dumping site, to be published in 2019.

PENGO/Friends of the Earth Palestine held a three-day workshop with various national stakeholders and members of the federation to develop a lobbying strategy focused on resistance to Israeli violations, to support their ongoing work in support of communities such as Khan Al Ahmar. A range of videos, photo exhibitions, press conferences, research and factsheets were used to expose numerous water-related violations.





# Bringing gender justice & environmental justice together

Exploring the Gender Justice Dismantling Patriarchy Conceptual Framework during the 2018 Biennial General Meeting in Nigeria. © Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International



Far Left: Women in Monte Cristo describing the consequences of sugar cane on their lives.

Left: Gender Justice Dismantling Patriarchy working group meeting in Mexico.

**Our Gender Justice Dismantling Patriarchy working group made excellent headway in 2018, bringing about change across our federation, integrating gender justice analysis and practice throughout the international programmes and building our capacity to challenge patriarchy and structural oppressions.**

The annual working group meeting was held in Mexico in May. This was a key opportunity for evaluation, planning for the future, considering communications, fundraising and alliances, and continuing work on the Gender Justice Dismantling Patriarchy Conceptual Framework. This framework describes how we conceive key concepts such as gender, patriarchy, gender justice and feminism. The Biennial General Meeting in November approved the final version of this framework, as well as the “Feminism and System Change Strategic Plan 2019-2020”, which includes ambitious commitments in relation to four theories of change: capacity building and political formation; challenging patriarchal behaviour within the federation; alliance building for gender justice and dismantling patriarchy; and supporting women as political subjects.

All four regions succeeded in mapping out their 2018 gender justice dismantling patriarchy commitments during their regional annual general meetings, including commitments to support women’s protagonism and decision-making at member group and structural levels.

Ahead of Friends of the Earth Africa’s annual general meeting in Uganda in May, women from across the region met for a two-day women’s meeting, sharing stories of gender injustices and resistance, linking gender justice and environmental justice, and building a process for the region to identify and tackle systems of oppression such as patriarchy, racism and neo-colonialism.

Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific organised gender justice dismantling patriarchy political formation and capacity building during its annual general meeting in Nepal in June; and the Latin American and Caribbean region annual general meeting included a half day gender justice session. The European annual general meeting used the ‘The Theatre of the Oppressed’ methodology to engage members in collective debate about gender justice, patriarchy and intersectionality.

This year we deepened the federation’s understanding of gender justice and its links to environmental justice, during a political formation meeting in Cuba in April, a webinar on gender justice, rural feminism and food sovereignty hosted by young Friends of the Earth Europe in May, and a webinar on women and energy hosted by the Climate Justice and Energy programme in October.

We launched a dedicated landing page on our website on International Women’s Day 2018 in March, and produced some ‘gender justice, climate justice’ flags, which were shared amongst member groups and federation structures. Gender justice was also integrated into key programme communications, including the People Power Now manifesto, and agroecology publications. CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador and Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean published a report into women defending life and natural resources in Central America in March. Friends of the Earth Argentina helped to articulate the links between feminist and ecological struggles by publishing a report on ecofeminism in November for the G20 counter summit. Young Friends of the Earth Europe published an intersectionality toolkit in December.



Our Federation



# Our Federation

Just Transition pre-conference at the biennial general meeting in Nigeria. © Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International

# 2018 Biennial General Meeting

Our Federation

**In November, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria hosted Friends of the Earth International's 2018 biennial general meeting and a pre-conference on Just Transition (see p10). It was a key moment for assessing how well we have been implementing our 2016-2020 five-year plan, and making the necessary decisions to continue our work. One priority is how we can increasingly formulate, promote and implement peoples' solutions. Our intention is that by the end of 2020, through our programme and membership development work, we will be implementing solutions with increased engagement globally. We will also have made a significant contribution to reducing corporate power.**

Our collective mid-term evaluation showed that we have made good progress in terms of improving political coherence, mobilisation and movement building, increasing engagement and strengthening capacity, developing analysis and evidence, crafting our messaging and narratives, and integrating gender justice into our programmes and structures. We have significantly strengthened our regional structures and their engagement, and improved engagement and learning across the regions, and with our allies. New and productive cross-programme activities are strengthening our commitment to creating pathways to system change.

The biennial general meeting approved reports, agreed a budget for the next period, amended by-laws and held elections for the key leadership and governance roles in the federation (see p31). We also welcomed Friends of the Earth Slovenia/Focus Association for Sustainable Development as a full member of the federation.

Finally, we have to note the devastating loss of our dear comrade Andreia Golem-bieski Machado, from Amigos da Terra Brasil/Friends of the Earth Brazil, who died following the biennial general meeting in Nigeria after contracting an extremely dangerous form of malaria. There are no words that can express the torment and heartbreak we all feel, especially our comrades Friends of the Earth Brazil who have lost their dear friend. As a federation we will continue her legacy sowing seeds of hope and resistance, and will always honor Andreia through our struggle for justice.

# Prioritising political formation

Our Federation

**In April the federation met in Cuba, to build a common vision and practice in relation to political formation, learning and pedagogy, based on the theory, practice, values and ideology of popular environmental education. It was a space to share and internationalise the various regional approaches to political formation and our Schools of Sustainability, as an important component of mobilising and movement building.**

The meeting was hosted by Cuban organisation CEPRODOSO-Centro Memorial Martin Luther King, which specialises in environmental popular education, and has a very close relationship to our members in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was regionally balanced, with three to five representatives from each region, most of whom have experience in political formation and popular environmental education at the local, national or regional level.

The meeting was structured within the overall framework of system change, with specific days devoted to system change itself, Defenders of Territories, Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy, solutions, and a combination of facilitation and campaign skills, evaluation and regional planning. Participants explored how to take these issues forward from a pedagogical perspective at the regional and international levels. All agreed that the extensive learnings from this meeting were highly significant. A methodological guide or curricula from the event has been written up and used at subsequent regional and programme meetings and activities.



Friends of the Earth International biennial general meeting, Nigeria.



# Building internal capacity, driving external change

Our Federation

**Friends of the Earth International is a grassroots, member-led federation, with a small international secretariat, and our capacity to bring about change is therefore dependent upon the strength and engagement of our member groups. Needs-based political and institutional capacity-strengthening is thus a key priority. In addition to capacity building activities within our international programmes (see p4-19) we now hold regular regional Schools of Sustainability, which help to strengthen our regional networks and alliances.**

Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific's 2018 School of Sustainability, held in Indonesia in July, focused on the region's Human Rights Defenders project - progress, case studies and plans. All member groups are engaged and making progress nationally: half of the project members have already begun to use an online curriculum, which was published earlier in the year, and adapted it for local use; and the other half were planning to use it in community trainings later in 2018 and 2019.

The eighth Latin American and Caribbean School of Sustainability was held in November in Cuba, following a meeting on building people power through popular environmental education, organised by ally CEPRODES. The two meetings combined to create a critical space for people from across the region to learn from each other about ways of bringing about change using this political pedagogical approach.

In Africa, the School of Sustainability held in Uganda in December, worked on a strategy for the region and brought Friends of the Earth Africa's communicators together. Participants also met with representatives from NAPE/Friends of the Earth Uganda's 'sustainability villages' project to learn about and have hands on experience of the work of sustainability schools in Uganda. The plan is to replicate this approach elsewhere in the region, resolving problems without having to wait for governments to take action.

Erasmus Africa-Europe exchange project in Amsterdam, July 2018.



The ongoing three-year European School of Sustainability concluded in March 2018. The project supported nearly 40,000 people in 21 countries across Europe to take action for environmental and social justice, through learning and developing innovative people-centred and transformative educational approaches, including popular education, theatre, arts and learning-by-doing. In recognition of its success, the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) named it one of the 20 most outstanding educational projects across Europe in 2018.



Above: Africa School of Sustainability, Uganda.

## Supporting youth-based learning & intergenerational representation

Our Federation

In 2018, we continued our work to build a more inclusive and diverse environmental and social justice movement by encouraging young people to get involved in our campaigns and structures. We focused on creating opportunities for regional and cross-regional youth-based learning. Seven African and seven European groups continued the two year 'youth exchange', started in 2017. This has been extremely successful, creating bilateral relationships between member groups based on common resistance targets and capacity building objectives, and boosting region-to-region relationships. Participants have been working collectively to gather and digitally publish case studies and resources for youth mobilisation in the two regions.

The 2018 biennial general meeting considered the value of strengthening the youth voice within the federation and potential strategies for achieving this, reaffirming our aim to make the federation structures as inclusive and transparent as possible by striving for intergenerational representation, as well as regional, gender, and cultural balance. Young people from Uganda, Mozambique and Nigeria and Young Friends of the Earth Europe attended the biennial general meeting and presented the Erasmus Africa-Europe exchange project.



Erasmus Africa-Europe exchange project in Amsterdam, July 2018.

## Celebrating increasingly strong & engaged regions

Our Federation

We have significantly strengthened our member groups' capacity to campaign in a coordinated and effective way at the regional level. This has enabled the regions to play a stronger role in our federation. For example, they are now formally represented in the international programme steering groups and in our membership development team and other structures, such as the gender justice and dismantling patriarchy working group.

Every region now has its own regional structures and annual general meetings, regional facilitators, regional communications processes and regional focal persons for Environmental and Human Rights Defenders. In 2018, we also strengthened regional autonomy and flexibility by devolving budget management responsibility for regional activities such as regional meetings, schools of sustainability, human rights defenders trainings and regional facilitation.

During 2018, Friends of the Earth Africa focused on engaging young people in its activities, under the umbrella of the Erasmus+ project, which facilitated several exchange visits by young people from Africa and Europe (see p27). They launched an African water campaign, including Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria's prominent water anti-privatisation campaign in Lagos, which could serve as a model campaign for others to replicate. Other regional priorities include fostering community forest management and food sovereignty, and challenging biosafety and geoengineering technologies, 'climate smart agriculture', plantations and agribusiness, and Payment for Ecosystem Services and REDD+ approaches.

Friends of the Earth Africa's 2018 annual general meeting was held in Uganda in May, following a gender justice workshop (see p23). During the meeting the region selected two women as candidates for the Friends of the Earth International Executive Committee for the first time - they were successfully elected in October. The meeting adopted a Human Rights Defenders rapid response strategy, and all member groups participated in risk assessment and risk management training.

Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean annual general meeting, El Salvador.



© Martin Prado

In 2018, Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean improved regional campaign communications by creating a new regional website, increasing its use of social media and focusing on communications to build regional and international solidarity. Key campaign priorities include the Financialisation of Nature, alliances and movement building around key intergovernmental events including the World Trade Organisation and the G20, monitoring new technologies such as synthetic biology, promoting food sovereignty and gender justice. Their annual general meeting was held in El Salvador in May, together with a Forum on Food Sovereignty and Biodiversity, and a roundtable with key strategic allies in the region, including the World March of Women, La Via Campesina and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas.

Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific held their 2018 annual general meeting in Nepal in June. Their programmes, which are closely aligned to our international programmes, prepared a set of regional priorities and a strategy for the coming two years. Each steering group member committed to ensuring that priorities and strategies would be met and that there would be adequate funding, and each member group committed to participate. The region also held a gender justice session, and—as with all the other regional annual general meetings—a cross-programme solutions-oriented workshop. The meeting also adopted a regional communications strategy, along with a communications protocol and ways of working document which will guide all internal communication amongst member groups.



Friends of the Earth Africa annual general meeting, Uganda.



Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific annual general meeting, Nepal.



# Voicing our concerns & solutions more effectively

Our Federation

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL

**162,561**

USERS ON FOE.ORG IN 2018

**In 2018, we sought to improve our federation's communications. We devoted time and resources to creating films for use on social media, which often generated hundreds of thousands of views. Particularly widely viewed this year were films on transforming our economy, the Stop Shell campaign, putting an end to trade and investment deals, and synthetic biology and gene drives.**

Film is also a powerful tool for communities, enabling them to communicate their views and positions to wider audiences including the press, and for capacity building amongst their members. Examples in 2018 included films on women's resistance to Marcopper in the Philippines, and the threats posed by offshore oil exploitation in Togo.

We published a wide range of reports and briefings in multiple languages, including our People Power Now manifesto, and reports about scaling up solutions, fighting hunger and cooling the planet with agroecology, innovating for sustainable food systems, and the link between Community Forest Management and agroecology. We supported research and communications published by our member groups and regions, such as Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific's 'Rights for People: Asia demands binding rules on business'. We co-published reports with allies, including 'RCEP: A Secret Deal' and the Joint CSO Equity Review for UNFCCC COP 24.

We increased our outreach by regularly providing campaign messages and assets, which resulted in a marked increase in the number of regions and member groups communicating our international messages and campaigns. Our own social media accounts grew steadily, and we expanded our French and Spanish communications. Press work around the Shell court case (see p9) and our analysis of the IPCC's special report on global warming (see p10) generated particularly good media coverage and public interest. Digital communications updates included website improvements, a new digital UN Treaty toolkit, the implementation of new data protection regulations and the creation of an events app for the biennial general meeting.

Our Communications Team supported programmes around key events, such as The UN treaty negotiations (see p5), the CBD COP 14 (see p17) and the UNFCCC COP 24 (see p10). Additional communications tools for both member groups and international programmes included flags and T-shirts, giving us a highly visible presence at these and other key events. We also communicated and supported the federation in numerous moments of international solidarity to threatened Defenders of Territories (see p21).

2018 was a key year for Real World Radio - the radio's coordinator role was fully integrated into the Communications Team. The radio team continued supporting the development of the radio, audiovisual, design and digital aspects of the federation's communications. The radio also launched a new website, identifying it more formally as a communications tool for the federation. The radio's work with civil society communications around key intergovernmental events helps us ensure that civil society's collective voice is heard. It also helps to strengthen our links with allies.

The 2018 BGM approved Friends of the Earth International's new communications framework, which provides the political context and direction of travel for the further development of our communications strategy. It provides guidance for those involved in our international and regional communications; and aims to improve the federation's collective capacity to communicate our shared vision, mission and values, promoting collaborative communications and communications capacity-building for our member groups.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL

**3.1 MIL**  
IN 2018

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL & RWR

**9**  
TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

IN ENGLISH, SPANISH & FRENCH IN 2018

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL

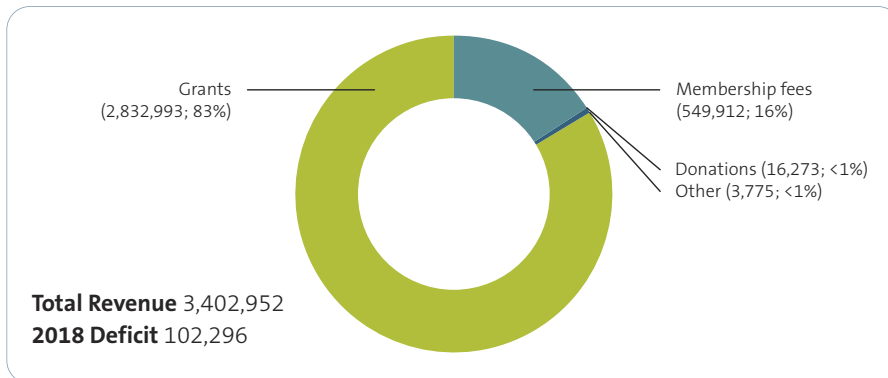
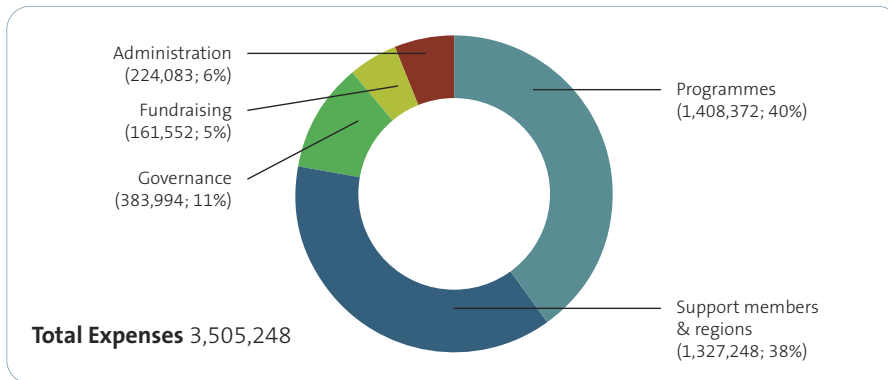
**424,987**

PAGE VIEWS ON FOE.ORG

## our finances



### Amounts in Euro



Top: Friends of the Earth International's Executive Committee.

Above: International Secretariat.

Friends of the Earth International's complete audited financial statement is available at [www.foei.org/about-foei/annual-reports](http://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 (*Fair, Green & Global Alliance and Green Livelihoods Alliance*)
- Isvara Foundation
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Bread for the World
- IUCN-NL / Netherlands Postcode Lottery
- Bread for All
- European Union (*Europe Aid, Erasmus+*)
- Friends of the Earth Switzerland
- Friends of the Earth Netherlands
- Friends of the Earth US

our 2018

## executive committee & structures



The new Executive Committee was elected during our Biennial General Meeting at the end of 2018. It consists of:

Chair: **Karin Nansen, Latin America and the Caribbean/ Friends of the Earth Uruguay**

Vice Chair: **Silvia Quiroa, Latin America and the Caribbean/ Friends of the Earth El Salvador**

Treasurer: **Nur Hidayati, Asia Pacific / Friends of the Earth Indonesia**

**Anabela Lemos, Africa/ Friends of the Earth Mozambique**

**Bertrand Sansonnens, Europe/Friends of the Earth Switzerland**

**Nora Bowier, Africa/Friends of the Earth Liberia**

**Pankaj Kumar Karn, Asia Pacific/Friends of the Earth South Nepal**

**Victor Barro, Europe/Friends of the Earth Spain**



### Our programme coordinators:

#### **Economic Justice Resisting Neoliberalism**

Lúcia Ortiz

Sam Cossar-Gilbert

#### **Climate Justice & Energy**

Dipti Bhatnagar

Lucy Cadena

Sara Shaw

#### **Food Sovereignty**

Martin Drago

Kirtana Chandrasekaran

#### **Forests & Biodiversity**

Isaac Rojas

Nele Marien



Top: Friends of the Earth International's international programme coordinators.

Above: Friends of the Earth International's Membership Development Team.

**Our membership development team:** Elaine Gilligan (Friends of the Earth Europe) since July 2018; Kwami Kpondzo (Friends of the Earth Togo) since May 2018; Chloe Aldenhoven (Friends of the Earth Australia); Danilo Urrea (Friends of the Earth Colombia).

**Our regional facilitators:** Theiva Lingam (Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific), Kureeba David (Friends of the Earth Africa), Danilo Urrea (Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean), Shenna Sanchez and Jagoda Munic (Friends of the Earth Europe) since August 2018.



# Friends of the Earth groups around the world



## Africa

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

## Asia - Pacific

Australia  
Bangladesh  
East Timor  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Malaysia  
Nepal  
Palestine  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Russia  
South Korea  
Sri Lanka

## 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  
Russia  
Scotland  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland

## 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

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