

annual report 2003

friends of the earth international

2003



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**Friends of
the Earth**
International

mission statement

Friends of the Earth International is a global federation of national environmental organizations that aims to:

- *protect the earth against further deterioration and repair damage inflicted upon the environment by human activities and negligence;*
- *preserve the earth's ecological, cultural and ethnic diversity;*
- *increase public participation and democratic decision-making, both of which are vital to the protection of the environment and the sound management of natural resources;*
- *achieve social, economic and political justice and equal access to resources and opportunities for men and women on the local, national, regional and international levels;*
- *promote environmentally sustainable development on the local, national, regional and global levels.*

Friends of the Earth International is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 68 diverse national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent.

With approximately one million members and supporters around the world, we campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues. We challenge the current model of economic and corporate globalization, and promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Our decentralized and democratic structure allows all member groups to participate in decision-making. Our international positions are informed and strengthened by our work with communities, and our alliances with indigenous peoples, farmers' movements, trade unions, human rights groups and others.

Farmers join anti-GM food rally in London in October 2003.



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conflict and solidarity

ricardo navarro | friends of the earth international chair, el salvador

2003 was a year of conflict and solidarity. The US-led war that broke out in Iraq in March was strongly condemned by Friends of the Earth International and our groups around the world. We joined demonstrations worldwide, held candlelight vigils, challenged our governments, and initiated a popular cyberaction alert calling for the United Nations to stop the war. We are unified in rejecting the legitimacy of this war, and we deplore the environmental and social atrocities being committed in Iraq by the occupiers.

Friends of the Earth International, as a network that has grown from a handful of groups 30 years ago to the current 68 from all over the world, also invested substantial energy and resources in dealing with our own internal turmoil in 2003. Our Extraordinary General Meeting, held in September in Cartagena, Colombia, was a successful experiment in managing diversity and conflict resolution. We made use of innovative, participatory techniques such as "open space" to ensure broad-based democracy, transparency, and accountability in our discussions and decision-making (see page 6).

Our Extraordinary General Meeting was preceded by an international conference on human and environmental rights, in which we heard moving and inspirational testimony from indigenous peoples and human rights activists faced with rights violations. Speakers, ranging from indigenous leaders Berito Cobaría from the U'wa people and Duduzile Mphenyike from the anti-water privatization movement in South Africa to Juan Almendares from Friends of the Earth Honduras and Nnimmo Bassey from Friends of the Earth Nigeria, motivated us to focus more on solidarity actions as a network and to seek out legal mechanisms to address these violations.

In 2003, a year marked by bloodshed and conflict throughout the world, we have chosen to focus our annual report on the small and large victories that we have achieved together with other social and environmental movements. The encouraging outcome of the World Bank's independent review of oil, mining and gas projects (which Friends of the Earth International has long called for), the triumph of the environmental and social agenda of southern countries over the US-led trade agenda in Cancun and in Miami, and countless other national and local victories show both the breadth of diversity in our network and the strength we wield when we work together.

A microcosm of the planet earth, our small, diverse network is familiar with both conflict and solidarity. We strongly believe in the need for democracy, transparency, accountability, participation and equity in decision-making at all levels, not only within our organization but also at the governmental and institutional levels. Only by promoting these inclusive models will we achieve sustainability, world peace, environmental and social justice, and the well-being of people everywhere.



Friends of the Earth International Extraordinary General Meeting in Cartagena, September 2003.



Friends of the Earth International ExCom 2003.

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about friends of the earth international

Friends of the Earth International was founded in 1971 by four organizations from France, Sweden, England and the USA. Today's federation of 68 groups grew from annual meetings of environmentalists from different countries who agreed to campaign together on certain crucial issues, such as nuclear energy and whaling.

In 1981, a small International Secretariat was set up, and in 1983 an Executive Committee (ExCom) was elected. In 1986, the annual meeting was hosted for the first time by an organization from the South, Sahabat Alam/Friends of the Earth Malaysia. In 1985, a European coordinating body was established with an office in Brussels, Friends of the Earth Europe, and in 2001, Latin American and Caribbean groups formed their own regional coordinating body.

Friends of the Earth International is highly decentralized: it is made up of autonomous organizations that comply with the guidelines established by the federation. Friends of the Earth International is democratic: every two years there is a general meeting where the policies and activities of the federation are decided, and in which all members have an equal say. This Bi-annual General Meeting (BGM) elects an ExCom, which meets several times per year. The ExCom employs and oversees the work of a small International Secretariat in Amsterdam.

There are now 68 Friends of the Earth member groups and 15 affiliates campaigning internationally, nationally and locally. They are united by the common conviction that creating environmentally and socially sustainable societies requires both strong grassroots activism and effective national and global campaigning.

Pygmy children, Cameroon.



funding

About 15 percent of the funding for Friends of the Earth International's activities comes from the membership dues paid by the member groups, which contribute a percentage of their income on the basis of their revenue from two years ago to the international network. This core funding is used to cover the operational costs of the Secretariat. The other approximately 85 percent of our income is subsidies received from government agencies and foundations (for details see page 15). These funds are granted to us for specific projects and campaigns and for our Membership Support Fund.

The objectives of our Membership Support Fund are network development, capacity building, strengthening national campaigns and increasing participation in international campaigns. In 2003, nearly 500,000 Euro was distributed among member groups from this fund for projects including the following:

- **supporting climate alliance building in latin america** Friends of the Earth Argentina is coordinating initiatives by communities and other groups in the region to demand strong national emission reduction targets and address the 'carbon debt'. Funded by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.
- **monitoring illegal logging in cameroon** Friends of the Earth Cameroon is tracking the unsustainable and often illegal logging of the country's tropical rainforest by foreign companies. Funded by DGIS-TMF.
- **gm's out of africa** Following the rejection of GM food aid by southern African governments, Friends of the Earth Nigeria hosted an African strategy meeting on GMOs and food aid to build alliances and coordinate campaigns. Funded by the Rausing Trust and Novib/Oxfam Netherlands.
- **community input into extractive industries review** Friends of the Earth groups in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, working with mining-affected communities, played active roles in the World Bank-initiated Extractive Industries Review (see page 7). Funded by ICCO.
- **community training and mobilization in malaysia** Friends of the Earth Malaysia worked with indigenous communities in Sarawak to protect their lands, their rights and their ways of life from threats posed by corporate loggers and miners. Funded by IUCN, Novib/Oxfam Netherlands and Hivos.
- **no más daños in paraguay** Friends of the Earth Paraguay and affected communities campaigned against an additional loan for the destructive Yacyretá mega dam from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Funded by the Rausing Trust.
- **community partnerships in the philippines** Friends of the Earth Philippines gathered activists from 44 communities throughout the country in order to discuss common issues including commercial forestry, water and energy privatization, mining, gender and the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act. Funded by the Rausing Trust.
- **supporting people, not corporations, in slovakia** Friends of the Earth Slovakia is campaigning to shift the government's channeling of public funds away from corporations and towards underdeveloped regions and marginalized social groups. Funded by our low income membership support fund.

Friends of the Earth International Extraordinary General Meeting in Cartagena, September 2003.



human and environmental rights

Prior to the Extraordinary General Meeting in September, CENSAT/Friends of the Earth Colombia and Friends of the Earth International organized a successful meeting with some 300 participants from around the world on Human and Environmental Rights. The aim of this conference was to share experiences with human rights groups and learn from experts in order to develop a global strategy on human and environmental rights for the network. We heard about the human rights violations suffered by indigenous people and environmental activists around the world, and discussed strategies to protect rights, and the meaning of taking a rights-based approach in our international campaigning. These discussions were followed up at the subsequent Extraordinary General Meeting, and groups committed to developing specific solidarity actions and to seeking out legal mechanisms that can be used at the national, regional and international levels.

network development

One of Friends of the Earth International's greatest achievements of the year was the successful handling of internal conflict and our resulting increased ability to manage the organization's growing diversity. Since its founding, Friends of the Earth International has been defined by diversity, as a network that has grown from a handful of groups 30 years ago to the current 68 from all over the world.

Managing this breadth and depth of diversity has been overwhelming at times, especially as the number of opinions and norms increases with the number of groups. But to allow our dialogues to fall into fractured, unproductive dissent is to fail at our very purpose: finding ways for people around the world to discuss and take action towards environmentally sustainable and socially equitable societies. That is why we consider the process of decision-making as important as the decision itself.

Within Friends of the Earth International, policy decisions are reached largely by consensus. To this end, we apply the principles of broad-based democracy, transparency, and accountability to all that we do. More specifically, in 2003, the network experimented with three new and innovative ways to communicate across cultural and political divides:

1. The "insite" communication system, which is our newly-developed Internet discussion forum that allows people to view comments on documents or ongoing discussions in one central place.

2. Open space dialogue, a new discussion technique used successfully at our Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in September. Open space eschews a set agenda for a completely open one, encouraging the maximum participation of all member groups in setting the agenda and coming up with solutions to complex issues.

3. The inner/outer circle, also used at the EGM, which uses a delegate system to make debating and decision-making about issues among 68 member groups more manageable.

By all accounts, these methods have greatly enhanced the way we manage the great diversity that characterizes the Friends of the Earth International network.

international campaign victories in 2003



Left images: Friends of the Earth joins protests at the WTO Ministerial in Cancún in September.



wto ministerial collapses in cancún

Developing countries flexed their muscles at the September 2003 World Trade Organization talks in Cancún, standing up to rich countries and multinational corporations. Civil society, including social, environmental and peasant farmers' groups, celebrated when the meeting ground to a halt. Proposals on the table, which would have opened developing country markets to foreign investment and even more cheap agricultural imports, were overturned.

Some 40 Friends of the Earth campaigners from around the world were present in Cancún, working and demonstrating in coalition with other social movements including the Our World Is Not For Sale network and Vía Campesina. Friends of the Earth participated in memorial actions for Lee Kyung-Hae, the South Korean farmer who took his life in front of police barricades in Cancún in order to draw attention to the impact of neoliberal economic globalization on food production, livelihoods, and the environment.

with thanks to our funders: *the sigrid rausing trust, novib/oxfam netherlands, icco and the hivos-novib biodiversity project.*

another trade failure in the americas

Just eight weeks after the World Trade Organization's collapse in Cancun, trade ministers from most of the western hemisphere came to Miami for a key negotiating summit for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA/ALCA). A brutal police force – now accused of human rights violations by Amnesty International – tried to limit the free speech rights of thousands of protesters. But those same police could not prevent the negotiations inside, where Mercosur countries refused to make concessions on issues such as investment and services, from unraveling.

Friends of the Earth activists from Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States came to Miami, but it was really the dozens of protests and citizen-sponsored plebiscites in Latin America during the run-up to the summit that led to today's shaky, watered-down FTAA. On the heels of Cancún, Miami was a reaffirmation of popular resistance to a biased and unsustainable trade agenda.

with thanks to our funders: *the sigrid rausing trust, novib and the swedish society for nature conservation.*

pushing the world bank out of oil and mining

In 2000, Friends of the Earth International Chair Ricardo Navarro publicly confronted World Bank President James Wolfensohn with the tragic impacts of the Bank's ongoing investments in oil, mining and gas. He spoke on behalf of Friends of the Earth International and the communities we work with that are impacted by Bank-funded projects like the Chad-Cameroon pipeline, the Yanacocha gold mine in Peru and the Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline in the Caspian region.

In response, the World Bank commissioned an independent review of its financing of oil, mining and gas projects. In November 2003, this Extractive Industries Review culminated in a report recommending that the Bank stop financing all coal and oil projects in developing countries, respect human rights, up its funding for renewable energy projects, and implement "free, prior and informed consent" for the communities and indigenous people that will be impacted by Bank projects. Although it remains to be seen whether these recommendations will be implemented, communities and campaigners now have increased leverage for halting destructive projects.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation, the global greengrants fund, the wallace global fund and icco.*

international campaign victories in 2003



Above: Demonstration against the BTC pipeline in front of the EBRD office in London.

Far left: Protests against Camisea at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC.

Left: Mango farmers demonstrate in Tambogrande, Peru.

stopping up the baku-ceyhan pipeline

The planned Baku-Ceyhan pipeline is one of the most controversial projects in the world. When constructed, this US\$3.5 billion pipeline will carry oil from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the Mediterranean, wreaking environmental and social havoc along the way.

Campaigning throughout 2003 resulted in several stoppages to pipeline plans. Following a complaint by a coalition of human rights and environmental groups including Friends of the Earth, the European Union agreed to investigate alleged human rights abuses along the pipeline route. Furthermore, in early 2004 project consortium leader BP suffered an embarrassing setback with the postponement of the signing of a US\$150 million deal with the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department. And finally, a longstanding civil lawsuit against the company brought by Friends of the Earth Georgia and others to the courts alleging that BP pressured Georgia's environment minister to approve the pipeline route through a national park came to trial in early 2004.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation and the wallace global fund.*

mangos over mining in tambogrande

In December 2003, the Peruvian government terminated Manhattan Minerals' concession to develop the Tambogrande gold mine in Peru. In 2002, the people of Tambogrande had held a community-initiated referendum in which 98.65 percent voted against the mine. This destructive project, long a campaign focus of Friends of the Earth Peru and Friends of the Earth International, would have destroyed the sustainable agriculture, polluted the rivers, and displaced one-third of the population of the village of Tambogrande.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation and the wallace global fund.*

damning the iceland dam

In July, following vigorous lobbying, cyberactions and a barrage of letters by a coalition including Friends of the Earth groups, the International Rivers Network and Icelandic groups, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced that it would not finance the Kárahnjúkar Dam. The Icelandic government and Alcoa, the world's biggest aluminium company, plan to build a large dam and aluminium smelter in Europe's second-largest

remaining wilderness area, damaging fish, seal, reindeer and pinkfooted goose habitats as well as rare vegetation and unique geological formations. Although the EIB will keep its hands off the dam, campaigners are now lobbying private banks not to fund this monstrosity.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation, the wallace global fund and vom.*

us export-import bank rejects camisea gas project

In August 2003, the US Export-Import Bank decided not to finance the Camisea gas project in Peru following intense local and international pressure from environmental and human rights groups including Friends of the Earth United States. Camisea is the most damaging project in the Amazon Basin, with gas extraction operations taking place in indigenous peoples' territories and a pipeline cutting through one of the world's most pristine rainforests. Campaigners hope that this rejection will send a signal to other funders that the project is financially, environmentally and socially risky.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation and the wallace global fund.*



Protests against GM food and the Bush administration in Croatia.

Right: World Social Forum Porto Alegre, Brazil 2003.

Below: In 2003, Friends of the Earth's giant inflatable tomato travelled to 15 European cities to raise awareness about the WTO trade dispute and collect Citizens' Objections to the US complaint.



liability mechanism under the Protocol to ensure that corporations are held financially responsible for damage they cause, for instance through contamination by genetically engineered crops.

with thanks to our funders: the hivos-novib biodiversity project and the canton of basel.

socializing at the world social forum

Friends of the Earth International strengthened existing alliances with Via Campesina, the Our World is Not for Sale coalition, the World Rainforest Movement, Corporate Europe Observatory, the Water Justice campaign, and indigenous peoples' organizations at the January 2003 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Together with other social movements and environmental NGOs, we co-organized seminars and workshops on water, forests, GMOs, food sovereignty, biodiversity and the impacts of trade and corporate misbehaviour on people and the environment.

with thanks to our funders: novib, hivos, the sigrid rausing trust and the canton of basel.

new right-to-know pollution treaty

In January 2003, a new international law improving the public's right to know about the annual pollution output of individual industrial and intensive livestock sites was finalized. The United Nations treaty has so far been signed by 36 countries from Europe and Central Asia. Environmental NGOs that took part in the two-year negotiations, including Friends of the Earth, welcomed the agreement. Although many toxic chemicals and radioactive pollutants are not covered by the protocol, the public nonetheless will have an important new pressure tool to reduce pollution levels.

dutch bank rejects eib

In July 2003, the socially responsible Dutch ASN Bank decided to withdraw its investments in European Investment Bank bonds in response to questions and information submitted by Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Friends of the Earth International and our affiliate members CEE Bankwatch and A SEED. In a press release announcing its decision, ASN stated: "It is inconceivable that a big financier like the EIB should lack an environmental policy, internal environmental expertise, or a mechanism of regulation. The projects it finances in areas such as infrastructure, oil production, mining, waste processing and dam building, have an enormously destructive impact. We reject the lack of sustainability."

with thanks to our funders: the c.s. mott foundation, the wallace global fund and vrom.

bite back: wto get your hands off our food!

More than 70 percent of EU citizens do not want genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their food. However, George Bush and big biotech companies put consumer health and the environment at risk in 2003 by trying to use the World

Trade Organization to force the EU and the rest of the world to accept genetically modified food and farming.

In response, Friends of the Earth International and more than 350 other organizations – together representing 35 million citizen's worldwide – launched the "Bite Back" campaign. This initiative invites civil society around the world to submit Citizens' Objections to the WTO, demanding that the right to eat GMO-free food not be undermined and that the US complaint be dismissed. By the end of 2003, more than 30,000 objections had been signed.

more information: www.bite-back.org
with thanks to our funders: the hivos-novib biodiversity project and icco.

biosafety protocol becomes law

In September, Friends of the Earth International welcomed the Cartagena Protocol, the first treaty that seeks to protect the environment from the risks of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Friends of the Earth, having lobbied for this important treaty for many years, celebrated the coming into force of the Protocol. Nonetheless, many issues are still pending, and we are calling for the immediate establishment of an effective

First ghost ship enters Teesside in the UK.



Right: Volunteers cleaning up after the Prestige oil spill off the coast of Spain.

Far right: Oil-coated birds following the Prestige oil spill.



member group victories in 2003

cleaning up the prestige mess in spain

When the Prestige oil spill dumped tens of thousands of tons of oil on the Galician coast at the end of 2002, Friends of the Earth Spain mobilized quickly in response to what became one of the gravest environmental disasters in European history. By early 2003, the local Friends of the Earth group in Galicia had coordinated the training, lodging, food, equipment and transport for some 1,650 volunteers from across Spain and Europe to clean up the mess and to help save coastal animals that had been coated with oil. Many of the hundreds of birds and other animals treated in one of the rescue centres coordinated by Friends of the Earth Spain survived. Nonetheless, despite the heroic efforts of volunteers, the Galician coast and its marine resources will not completely recover for many years to come.

ghost ships ruled illegal in the uk

In November 2003, four dilapidated US ex-naval ships contaminated with toxic PCBs, asbestos and oil arrived in the UK for scrapping against a background of disapproval. Friends of the Earth, together with local residents from Teesside where the ships would be scrapped, said that the ships should be disposed of in the United States where they originated. Furthermore, they argued, the company importing them, Able UK, did not have the necessary permissions to do the work legally. In December, the High Court found in favour of Friends of the Earth and local residents, and the UK government said that the ships should be sent back to the US unless an appropriate environmental solution could be found for dealing with them. As of early 2004, the ghost ships remain docked in the UK, waiting for calmer weather whilst arguments continue to rage about their final fate.

saemangum wetlands victory in korea

Korea's Saemangum wetlands, one of the planet's most important and ecologically diverse tidal flats, came closer to survival when the Seoul Administrative Court ordered the temporary suspension of the controversial reclamation project in mid-July. The project has been the subject of years of protests by Friends of the Earth Korea and partners around the world. It involves the construction of a seawall damming the mouths of two rivers, and would turn 40,100 hectares of mud flats into 28,300 hectares of farmland and a freshwater lake. Accepting the petition filed by local citizens and Friends of the Earth Korea, the court recognized the urgent need to suspend the project in light of the massive environmental damage that is feared to result.

Howler monkeys in Brazil's Atlantic Forest.



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human river defends right to water in uruguay

A 'human river' co-organized by Friends of the Earth Uruguay and other social and environmental groups delivered a petition of 280,000 signatures to the Uruguayan Parliament in October 2003. The petition launched a procedure for constitutional reform that would halt the privatization of drinking water services and guarantee the sustainable management of the country's water. If adopted, the reform would make access to water a fundamental human right in all of Uruguay.

Human river delivers petition for water referendum to Uruguayan parliament.

canadian polluter forced to pay

A major victory in the Canadian courts in 2003 upheld the 'polluter pays' principle. In an attempt to dodge costs, Imperial Oil took the Quebec Minister of Environment to the Supreme Court of Canada alleging conflict of interest over a clean-up order. While strongly supporting the polluter pays principle found in almost every environmental law across Canada, the Supreme Court decision also addressed the importance of inter-generational equity. "This decision will affect how the more than 30,000 contaminated sites in Canada will be dealt with," said court intervenor Bea Olivastris of Friends of the Earth Canada.



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brazil's howler monkey protected

The forests around Porto Alegre, Brazil have historically been home to the endangered howler monkey. In recent years, however, urban sprawl and electric power lines have threatened the habitats and water supplies of these primates. In 2003, campaigning by Friends of the Earth Brazil and local groups resulted in the establishment of a 1,600 hectare reserve for the howler monkey in order to compensate for the environmental impacts of a huge new sewage system in Porto Alegre. This victory was part of a wider campaign to protect the Atlantic Forest, which also met with success in 2003 when new national legislation was passed to govern the protection and sustainable use of one of the world's most biologically rich ecosystems.

brazilian pipeline plugged up

An important victory in the campaign against the Urucu-Porto Velho pipeline was achieved in April 2003 when the Brazilian Federal Justice suspended the temporary license issued by the federal environmental agency for the project. In the months preceding this decision, Friends of the Earth Brazilian Amazon and Friends of the Earth International promoted a global web campaign calling for this suspension. As a result of this decision, the whole legal process supporting this destructive pipeline went back to the stage of public hearings.

chilean mega-aluminium plant defeated

In August 2003, the planned Alumysa mega-project, in which the Canadian Noranda company would have sited an aluminium plant, three hydroelectric dams and a new port in one of the most pristine areas on earth, was cancelled. The victory was termed a "triumph of citizen's organizations" by activists from CODEFF/Friends of the Earth Chile, who were actively involved in opposing the plan.

Friends of the Earth Slovakia information stand on recycling and composting.



dutch company abandons pulp dreams

Friends of the Earth Netherlands celebrated in January 2003 when Dutch chemical giant Akzo Nobel cancelled its plans to participate in the construction of a pulp factory on the Indonesian island of Kalimantan. Since 2001 Friends of the Earth had asked Akzo Nobel to withdraw from the project, which involved the destruction of 50,000 hectares of tropical rainforest, even draping a "jungle curtain" accompanied by chainsaw noises in front of company headquarters at the end of 2002.

better packaging, recycling and composting in slovakia

In 2003, seven Slovakian towns benefited from improved waste collection, recycling and composting thanks to campaigning by Friends of the Earth Slovakia. Activists organized training seminars, issued a practical manual, and in some towns even constructed compost sites. On the national

member group victories in 2003

checking the impacts of mediterranean free trade

If established, the Mediterranean Free Trade Zone would become the world's most populous regional free trade zone. The MedNet network, which unites Friends of the Earth groups from Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, Tunisia and the regional Middle East office, is busy raising awareness about the social and environmental risks likely to accompany this free trade area. Their efforts throughout 2003 met with success when the European Commission agreed with MedNet's demand to launch a Sustainability Impact Assessment on the free trade zone.

clean water in the middle east

Friends of the Earth Middle East's Good Water Neighbours project showed refreshing results in 2003. For example, on the border between Tulkarem (Palestine) and Emek Hefer (Israel), an old sewage treatment facility was rehabilitated following the collection of thousands of petitions from both communities. In addition, thousands of water saving devices were installed in public buildings in several communities, and eleven school buildings in Palestine, Jordan and Israel were fitted to collect rainwater, reuse gray water and maintain ecological gardens.

level, they lobbied successfully for legislation ensuring that packaging waste be reduced. Thanks to their efforts, large supermarkets are now required to provide consumers with reusable beverage containers.

costa ricans battle patents on life

Since 1999, the Costa Rican government has been pressured by multilateral trade institutions to adopt laws allowing patents on life. In response, Friends of the Earth Costa Rica is working in a coalition of campesinas, indigenous peoples, and environmental groups to oppose this development. In November of 2003, the coalition presented a legal proposal to Congress that forbids patents on life forms. Although the free trade agreement with the United States has dampened prospects for the proposal's success, it still enjoys support from some members of Congress. In the meantime, the coalition is working to ensure that indigenous peoples and campesinas obtain collective rights over biodiversity.



friends of the earth in the media

In 2003, Friends of the Earth International continued to increase its media presence around the world. Throughout the year, more than 100 press releases were sent to some 4,000 journalists covering all continents.

Friends of the Earth's Real World Radio (www.radiomundoreal.fm) started broadcasting in Spanish, Portuguese and English at the September World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, and has been on the air ever since. It is picked up by tens of community radio stations throughout Latin America and the rest of the world.

on food aid with genetically modified crops

"Food aid is being used, particularly by the US, as a marketing tool to capture new markets. Big agribusinesses are huge beneficiaries of the current food aid system," alleged Ricardo Navarro, the Salvadorean chairman of Friends of the Earth International. "GM crops are not the solution to hunger. If Bush wanted to tackle hunger he would be answering the real causes of hunger, like poverty, debt, lack of infrastructure that make it impossible for small farmers to compete in world markets."

Sunday Herald (Scotland), 29 June 2003.

on the world economic forum "Prosperity for the World Economic Forum means prosperity for the huge multinational corporations that write the rules of world trade – rules that help them, but often hurt the global environment and the poorest people. It is deeply worrying and quite wrong for world trade policy to be decided in secret and while dissenters are excluded."

Tony Juniper, Friends of the Earth International Vice Chair and Director of Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in a 20 January 2003 IPS article.

on mining "We welcome any move that takes mining pressure off such [World Heritage Site] areas, however we still want to see a halt to all resource extraction, not only because of the effect on environment and biodiversity, but also the negative effect on local communities. Our call is, no more mining."

Isaac Rojas, Friends of the Earth International mining coordinator, in a 22 August 2003 Reuters article.

on the collapse of world trade talks in Cancun

"This is a triumph of reason, a triumph of the poor countries and civil society, because we could not allow the rich countries to once again impose their views and their pressure. The World Trade Organization has lead feet, and is moving slower and slower. I don't foresee a good future for it."

Alberto Villareal, Friends of the Earth Uruguay, commenting on the collapse of the Cancun World Trade Organization talks in a 15 September 2003 IPS article.

on shell "They are like a colonial force running the communities. But we want access to our resources."

Oronto Douglas, Friends of the Earth Nigeria, attending Shell's annual meeting, in a 23 April IPS article.

on the G8 "These eight leaders are more responsible than anyone for the actions of their multinationals. But they are more interested in the interest of multinationals than they are in people and the environment."

Matt Philipps, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in a 3 June 2003 Press Association article.

on trade, agriculture and deforestation "The large-scale, export-oriented agriculture that is promoted in current WTO proposals is [...] the main cause of deforestation, especially in tropical areas. It is now widely recognized that the recent increase of deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon is mainly caused by the rapid expansion of soy bean production for the mainly European export market."

Simone Lovera, Friends of the Earth International, in a 9 September 2003 BBC World Service article.

did you know?

- Friends of the Earth groups around the world demonstrated against the US-led war in Iraq in the early months of 2003 www.foei.org/war/. In March, an e-mail action on the Friends of the Earth International website calling for an emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly in order to put a stop to the war resulted in 13,000 e-mails being sent to UN ambassadors in less than 24 hours.
- In 2003, the total number of visitors to the Friends of the Earth International website www.foei.org was 374,159. This is an increase of 79 percent from the total number of visitors (209,342) in 2002.
- Friends of the Earth International has approximately one million members and supporters around the world.



- The Friends of the Earth International publication "Clashes with Corporate Giants" was downloaded approximately 30,000 times throughout 2003 (23,000 times in English, 3500 each in French and Spanish). "Water Justice for All" was downloaded more than 40,000 times in the three languages. And our publication for the WTO Summit in Cancun, "Business Rules: Who Pays the Price?" was downloaded nearly 25,000 times in the last few months of 2003 alone.



- In 2003, Friends of the Earth International financially supported forest conservation projects in Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Paraguay.



- 253 Friends of the Earth activists are now logged into Friends of the Earth International's internal website, the "insite". 92 of these people have received individual training by Sisi Nutt, our insite coordinator.



- By the end of 2003, there were 1200 people on the Friends of the Earth International cyberaction list taking part in our regular action alerts.
- An October 2003 Friends of the Earth Europe cyberaction to convince European decision-makers to regulate chemicals resulted in over 30,000 e-mails being sent to Commissioners.

- The 2003 Goldman Prize went to three individuals nominated by Friends of the Earth groups: Julia Bonds, an Appalachian woman defending her West Virginia community against the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining and Eileen Kampakuta Brown and Eileen Wani Wingfield, two Aboriginal elders from the Australian desert blocking construction of a federal nuclear waste dump.

- In 2003-2004, the Friends of the Earth Secretariat team included staff and volunteers from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Spain, Suriname, the United Kingdom and the United States.

- In 2003, Friends of the Earth Uruguay and Friends of the Earth International launched a children's website, www.somosamigosdelatierra.org, in Spanish. The site uses clay figures and, animation, sound and video to explain environmental and social issues to younger members of the public. www.somosamigosdelatierra.org

- An average of 30 groups request membership information from the International Secretariat each month. From these, a handful of new groups fulfilling the membership criteria are admitted by the Biannual General Meeting.

- In 2003, Friends of the Earth International's Membership Support Fund distributed nearly 500,000 Euros to 30 of our members worldwide. We also recommended that US\$90,000 be granted by the Global Greengrants Fund to non-Friends of the Earth groups around the world.



summary financial report 2003

balance sheet 31 december 2003 [amounts in euro]

	2003	2002
assets		
Fixed assets	11.707	19.347
Liquid assets	278.843	491.490
Paid in advance	134	22.867
Accounts receivable	472.643	320.686
total assets	763.327	854.390
current liabilities		
Accounts payable	379.422	304.122
Donor grants balances	122.672	309.949
	502.094	614.071
reserves		
Accumulated surplus	226.233	202.859
Reserve for relocation	15.000	15.000
Secretariat webteam support	20.000	
MSF low-income FoE groups		22.460
	261.233	240.319
total liabilities	763.327	854.390

statement of income and expenditure [amounts in euro]

	2003	2002
revenues		
Membership fees	264.650	253.111
Sales	726	912
Interest & miscellaneous	14.072	28.340
Donor grants	1.502.586	1.233.628
total revenues	1.782.035	1.515.990
expenditure		
Staff costs & volunteer expenses	200.416	189.292
Office operations & communication	128.300	116.526
Publications	52.976	43.207
EGM	60.050	30.318
Chair costs / International representation	12.696	15.156
Executive Committee	30.749	21.474
activities		
Campaign coordinators	147.200	164.642
Media and communication staff	73.878	61.855
Membership Support Fund	602.625	393.125
Specific campaigns & projects	452.230	433.542
total expenditure	1.761.121	1.469.137
unexpended result/accumulated surplus	20.914	46.853

FoEI gratefully acknowledges financial support from Dutch donor agencies HIVOS, Novib/Oxfam Netherlands, ICCO and the joint HIVOS-Novib Biodiversity Fund; the Dutch Committee of the IUCN; the Dutch Ministry for the Environment; the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation; the Canton of Basel (Switzerland); the C.S. Mott and Ford foundations (United States); the Wallace Global Fund (United States); the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (United Kingdom); the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation (United Kingdom); the Global Greengrants Fund (United States); the Climate Justice Programme; the Sigrid Rausing Trust; DGIS-TMF (the Netherlands); Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland; Friends of the Earth Germany; Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Friends of the Earth Switzerland; Oxfam; the Open Society Institute; Action Aid Asia; the Bank Information Center; Greenpeace; and WWF.

These figures represent the finances of the International Secretariat; thus, they reflect only a part of FoEI's overall work as member groups make substantial contributions to the federation's international campaigning activities.

auditor's report

We have audited the abbreviated financial statements of "Vereniging Friends of the Earth International" (FoEI) in Amsterdam for the year 2003. These abbreviated financial statements have been derived from FoEI's 2003 Financial Report. In our auditor's report dated June 8, 2004 we expressed an unqualified opinion on this Financial Report. These abbreviated financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these abbreviated financial statements.

In our opinion, these abbreviated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the Financial Report from which they have been derived.

For an understanding of the organization's financial position and results and for an adequate understanding of the scope of our audit, the abbreviated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Financial Report from which the abbreviated financial statements have been derived and our unqualified auditor's report thereon issued on June 8, 2004.

Amsterdam, June 8, 2004
Dubois & Co. Registeraccountants

M. Karman



contact us



there are friends of the earth groups in:

argentina, australia, austria, belgium, benin, bolivia, brazil, bulgaria, cameroon, canada, chile, colombia, costa rica, croatia, curaçao (antilles), cyprus, czech republic, denmark, el salvador, england/wales/northern ireland, estonia, finland, france, georgia, germany, ghana, greece, grenada (west indies), haiti, honduras, hungary, indonesia, ireland, italy, japan, latvia, lithuania, luxembourg, macedonia (former yugoslav republic of), malaysia, mali, malta, mauritius, nepal, netherlands, new zealand, nicaragua, nigeria, norway, papua new guinea, paraguay, peru, philippines, poland, scotland, sierra leone, slovakia, south africa, south korea, spain, sri lanka, sweden, switzerland, togo, tunisia, ukraine, united states, and uruguay.

please contact the foei secretariat for an address list of foe groups



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[joost lafibre] united kingdom

[simone lemstra] netherlands

[jules marshall] united kingdom

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