

annual report 2004

friends of the earth international



**Friends of
the Earth**
International



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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 71 diverse national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent.

With approximately 1.5 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.

The Fossdalsfossen waterfall in the Åbødalsvassdraget river, one of many included in the new Norwegian River Protection Act.



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moving forward

meena raman | friends of the earth international chair, malaysia

For many people around the world, 2004 will be remembered as a year of tragedy, terror and loss. Thousands of men, women and children lost their lives in the ongoing senseless and illegal war in Iraq. Tens of thousands were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in Sudan, just one of the many places on the planet where the earth is being bloodied with human rights abuses. And the year drew to a mind-numbing close as an earthquake and tsunami left several hundred thousand people dead and millions homeless across South Asia and East Africa. Friends of the Earth groups in the region and elsewhere in the world mounted an immediate response: WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia in particular mobilized forces to help the homeless and suffering in Aceh, where the director of their local office was among the dead.

These overwhelming human and natural disasters took place in the context of the ongoing neoliberal economic globalization that is threatening environmental sustainability and social justice around the world. Nonetheless, communities and campaigners were able to prevail in a series of exciting and important victories – against polluting mines in Indonesia and Peru, nuclear dumps in Australia and South Korea, water privatization in Uruguay, GMO crops in many European countries, and toxic chemicals in the United States, to name just a few. This annual report will focus on the successes to which Friends of the Earth has contributed in the past year. We hope these stories will help to keep spirits up, and will spawn further victories in coming years.

In 2004, Ricardo Navarro from El Salvador stepped down as chair of Friends of the Earth International and the Bi-Annual General Meeting elected me as his successor. We are all grateful to Ricardo for providing us with such inspirational and charismatic leadership over the past four years.

Friends of the Earth International focused on moving forward in 2004. We emerged from a testy period of internal tensions in the previous year with a commitment to resolving conflicts and managing our diversity. We began to address issues such as a solidarity, alliance building, political differences, decision making, internal leadership, identity and participation through a wide-ranging strategic visioning and planning process that will carry us into 2006.

The road ahead will not be easy, as we face an increasingly unipolar world which continues to undermine ecological sustainability and exacerbate global inequalities between rich and poor. As a truly unique network of dedicated environmental activists and campaigners, Friends of the Earth International's challenge is to work effectively in unity, given our diversity, and to bring about real changes that will contribute to a better world. We will continue to learn from the past, to face challenges, and to grow from strength to strength. I am confident that with all our commitment, passion, energy and combined numbers we will make a difference!

Aceh, Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami.





Friends of the Earth International ExCom 2004.

about friends of the earth international

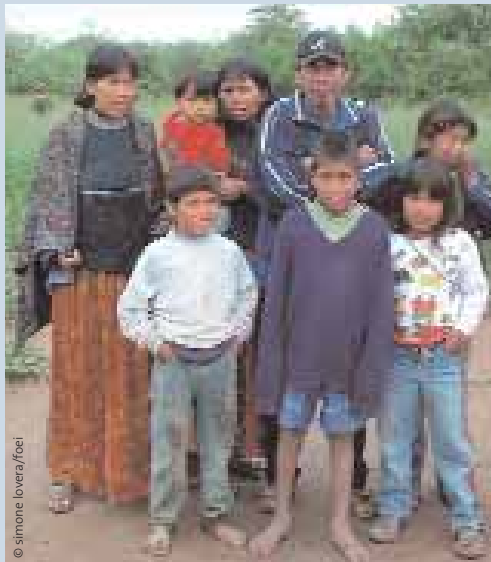
Friends of the Earth International was founded in 1971 by four organizations from France, Sweden, England and the USA. Today's federation of 71 groups grew from annual meetings of environmentalists from different countries who agreed to campaign together on certain crucial issues, such as nuclear energy and whaling.

In 1981, a small International Secretariat was set up, and in 1983 an Executive Committee was elected. In 1986, the annual meeting was hosted for the first time by an organization from the South, Sahabat Alam Malaysia/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 Executive Committee (ExCom), which meets several times per year. The ExCom employs and oversees the work of an International Secretariat in Amsterdam composed of some 25 staff and volunteers from all over the world.

There are now 71 Friends of the Earth member groups and 16 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.

Ayoreo family in Paraguay.



© simone lovera/foei

Pygmy children in Cameroon.



© federica casati



© foie malaysia

Penan man in Malaysia.

- **promoting agrobiodiversity in cyprus** Friends of the Earth Cyprus held a series of events in 2004 to raise awareness about the importance of agrobiodiversity and organic food in the country. Funded by the Hivos-Novib Biodiversity Fund.
- **raising awareness about biodiversity in el salvador** Friends of the Earth El Salvador organized a series of events on biodiversity, biopiracy and food sovereignty at a large fair of Central American social movements and citizens organizations. Funded by the Hivos-Novib Biodiversity Fund.
- **defending coastal communities in indonesia** Friends of the Earth Indonesia defended coastal communities in Indonesia where people's health and livelihoods are seriously affected by foreign mining operations and the expansion of shrimp farms. Funded by DGIS-TMF.

funding

About 16 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 84 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 2004, around 800,000 Euro was distributed among member groups from this fund for projects including the following:

- **hunger, food aid and gmos** The shipment of GMOs via food aid to developing countries has provoked growing controversy since 2000. In 2004, Friends of the Earth Nigeria co-organized an International Conference on Food Aid to build alliances and coordinate strategies to combat the entry of GMOs and push for food sovereignty. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- **supporting indigenous peoples in the heart of south america** Friends of the Earth Bolivia and Friends of the Earth Paraguay supported indigenous peoples in the Pantanal wetland and in the Chaco region in central South America in their fight against large-scale infrastructural developments that threaten their lands and cultures. Funded by DGIS-TMF.
- **improved organizing and campaigning in central and eastern europe** Friends of the Earth's Growing Together project supported the development of organizational and campaigning skills in environmental organizations in Central and Eastern Europe. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **monitoring mega-projects in brazil** Friends of the Earth Brazil is fighting against the adverse impacts of the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA) project, which will implement large-scale, high-risk mega-projects with serious repercussions for communities and nature. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust
- **monitoring illegal logging in cameroon** Friends of the Earth Cameroon and Friends of the Earth France are tracking the unsustainable and often illegal logging of the country's tropical rainforest by foreign companies. Funded by DGIS-TMF.
- **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, Hivos and DGIS-TMF.
- **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 Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **community rights over logging in papua new guinea** Friends of the Earth Papua New Guinea supported indigenous peoples and local communities in their fight against logging companies that are, illegally or with illegitimate approval of the government, destroying their ancestral lands. Funded by DGIS-TMF.
- **resisting gmos in the ukraine and georgia** Friends of the Earth Ukraine and Friends of the Earth Georgia produced a CD and a brochure to raise public awareness about the risks of genetically modified organisms. Funded by the Hivos-Novib Biodiversity Fund and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Protest against the Yacyretá Dam in Paraguay.



© foie paraguay

Friends of the Earth International Bi-annual General Meeting in Croatia, September 2004.



© Israel Aloyalo/foe nigeria

major changes from the bgm

Friends of the Earth International gained five new associate members at the 2004 Bi-annual General Meeting: Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Voor Moeder Aarde from Flanders (Belgium), Asociación para la Promoción y el Desarrollo de la Comunidad (CEIBA) from Guatemala, Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON), and Yonge Nawe Environmental Action Group from Swaziland. Two new affiliate members joined the federation: CorpWatch and Blue Planet Project of the Council of Canadians. The memberships of FoE Benin and FoE Greece were discontinued.

The meeting elected Meena Raman of Friends of the Earth Malaysia as the new Chairperson, and a new Executive Committee was elected with members from Colombia; Croatia; England, Wales and Northern Ireland; Japan; Nigeria; Switzerland; Togo; and Uruguay. Cam Walker from Australia and Jenia Jofre from Chile were elected Ombudspersons, to assist in conflict resolution.

The BGM also identified six priority international campaigns for the period from 2004 to 2006: Climate Change; Trade, Environment and Sustainability; International Financial Institutions; Corporates; GMOs; and Forests.



International Campaign Coordinators.

New members and affiliates.

network development

bi-annual general meeting 2004

In 2004, Friends of the Earth International undertook major steps towards developing new internal processes aimed at making us a truly democratic, global, grassroots environmental network. Although this is not a simple task, as we learned during the period of conflict and internal tension in the previous year, it is a fascinating one. There is no one way to achieve this goal, but many, as well as many interpretations and ideas about what it means to be truly democratic, global and grassroots.

At the 2003 Extraordinary General Meeting in Cartagena, convened to assist the federation in managing diversity and conflict resolution, more than 150 proposals and ideas about how to run the network were discussed and approved. In 2004, the member groups, the Executive Committee and the International Campaign Coordinators reviewed these proposals, organized them into themes, and structured the follow-up steps needed to ensure that the federation would implement all of the decisions. The ExCom ultimately grouped the proposals under six themes: solidarity and alliance building; political differences; decision making; internal leadership and guidance; FoEI identity; and participation.

All of these themes were explored further at the 2004 Bi-annual General Meeting (BGM) from 27 September to 2 October in Stubicke Toplice, Croatia. Some issues were resolved by changing the existing bylaws. For other issues, however, it became clear that solutions that could be endorsed by the whole federation needed a longer discussion process.

To deal with more fundamental underlying issues, such as how to deal with political diversity, the identity of Friends of the Earth International, and the role of the network in the global social movement, the BGM decided to embark on a first-ever, two-year process of strategic visioning and planning. Year one is dedicated to articulating our vision, mission and values, and linking these to major strategies. This process has started at the regional level, with each region discussing its own vision framework, and all groups will come together in September 2005 in Penang, Malaysia to develop a shared global vision for the network. In the second year, groups will seek to align our processes and activities with the broad vision framework agreed upon in year one. We will also develop a method to implement and measure the impact of our strategies during this time.

Friends of the Earth International is committed to developing a global federation in which all member groups have equal opportunities to participate and to decide upon policies, strategies and operations. Finally, we are committed to being open, to experimenting with new methods, and to learning from our successes as well as our failures.

international campaign victories in 2004



gm-free europe gathers steam

Friends of the Earth Europe's "GM Free Europe" campaign spread throughout 2004, with thousands of regions and sub-regions declaring themselves GMO-free (see www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/gmofree). Although Slovenia is the only entirely GM-free country, GMOs are not welcome in eight out of nine provinces in Austria and a huge chunk of Poland. Thanks to Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland's call for a GM-free Europe, more than 14 million people in the UK are now living in GM-free areas. In Germany, 12,000 farmers, most of them conventional, agreed not to grow GMOs on 430,000 hectares in more than 60 regions.

In France, more than 1,000 mayors declared their municipalities GM-free; more than half of the 54 Greek prefectures banned GMOs; and over 500 Italian cities don't want genetically modified agriculture. Overall, seventy percent of European consumers have rejected genetically modified food, and many food retailers and manufacturers have pledged to source their products from GMO-free sources.

with thanks to our funders: *the sigrid raising trust and hivos.*

peruvian mountain can keep its gold

In November, Minera Yanacocha, a unit of the US mining giant Newmont, cited local protests as the reason for its decision to stop exploring for gold on Peru's Mount Quilish. Friends of the Earth International and Friends of the Earth Peru have long supported local farmers struggling to protect their natural resources, particularly water, and pressured the World Bank's International Finance Corporation not to finance the mine.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation and the oak foundation*

climate litigation heating up

Friends of the Earth groups are involved in some of the world's hottest legal cases to combat climate change (see www.climatelaw.org). In Germany, for example, BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany launched a legal action in 2004 to force the German government to disclose its contributions towards fossil fuel projects through its export credit agency. Citing the 2003 floods in Argentina which killed more than 100 people and caused billions of dollars worth of damage, Friends of the Earth Argentina successfully used Article 6 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to reveal the failure of their government to adapt to climate change.

Friends of the Earth Nepal petitioned the World Heritage Committee to place the Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park, where glaciers are threatened by the warming climate, on its World Heritage in Danger list. In the United States, Friends of the Earth and others launched a lawsuit against the US export credit agencies for funding fossil fuel projects without assessing their contribution to global warming, or their impact on the national environment as required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

with thanks to our funders: *the esmée fairbairn foundation and the polden puckham charitable foundation.*

biting back: wto get your hands off our food!

In 2003, George Bush and big biotech companies put consumer health and the environment at risk 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 other organizations – together representing 48 million citizens worldwide – launched the "Bite Back" campaign, demanding that the US complaint be dismissed by gathering Citizens' Objections. The first 100,000 Citizens' Objections, with signatories from 90 countries including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and French small farmers' leader Jose Bové, were handed over to the WTO in May 2004.

Later in the year, the WTO panel decided to call in scientists, including several ecologists, to debate the safety of GM foods and crops. The move was a blow to the Bush Administration, which had attempted to stop any debate over scientific safety.

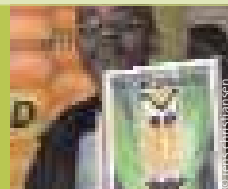
with thanks to our funders: *the jmg foundation, the sigrid raising trust and the dg environment of the european commission.*

new targets for sustainable energy

At the June intergovernmental conference on renewable energy in Germany, the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank made new commitments to increase funding for

international campaign victories in 2004

Nnimmo Bassey of FoE Nigeria at GMO action in Kuala Lumpur.



Top left: In 2003, climate campaigners throughout Europe staged protests outside the Russian embassies in their countries calling on Russia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Bottom left: Janneke Bruil of FoE and Emil Salim, leader of the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review. Bottom right: World Social Forum 2004.



and fought successfully for the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights when protected areas are established, as well as indigenous rights in legal instruments dealing with biopiracy, the theft of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

Friends of the Earth International also generated attention by organizing a fake Biodiversity Auction to highlight the immoral sides of the increasing commercialization of biodiversity through biopiracy and biotrade. Items up for sale included Russian and Malaysian national parks, West African fish stocks, Peruvian potato varieties, the entire Colombian Amazon, a transgenic "tomato-fish", and even an indigenous person. Thanks to this and other campaigns, countries ultimately rejected the inclusion of ecological services in a tropical timber trade agreement that is currently being negotiated.

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

renewable energy. The European Investment Bank announced an unexpected target for renewables lending of 50% of its financing for electricity generation in the EU – over 700 million Euro per year – by 2010. Friends of the Earth groups advocated more financing for sustainable energy during the conference, handing out windmills to delegates.

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

russia ratifies kyoto protocol

In November 2004, the Russian parliament finally ratified the climate change treaty known as the Kyoto Protocol, paving the way for its entry into force in early 2005. Friends of the Earth and others had long campaigned for Russia's ratification, for example protesting outside Russian embassies around the world and sending e-cards to President Putin on his birthday asking him to take action.

with thanks to our funders: *the sigrid rausing trust and novib.*

recognizing indigenous rights

In February 2004, our forest, trade and biodiversity campaigners teamed up at the Conference on Biological Diversity in Malaysia

quantifying exxon's climate footprint

In January, Friends of the Earth International released the landmark report "Exxon's Climate Footprint", which revealed that over the past 120 years the operations and burning of the products of oil giant Exxon Mobil and its predecessors have caused between 4.7 and 5.3% of all man-made carbon dioxide emissions across the globe. This is the first time a company's historic contribution to global climate change has ever been calculated, and should prove vital in paving the way for compensation claims against companies by victims of global warming.

with thanks to our funders: *hivos and novib.*

gm0s, hunger and food aid

Friends of the Earth International is working with groups in Latin America and Africa to detect the presence of GMOs in food aid, and supporting claims by citizens and NGOs that non-contaminated alternatives are available. In early 2004, FoE African groups together with over 50 African farmers' and environmental organizations criticized the pressure placed by the World Food Program and the US Administration upon Angola and Sudan for their refusal of GMOs as food aid, asserting that alternatives exist. Friends of the Earth was also a main organizer of the first international conference on hunger, food aid and GMOs, which took place in Mozambique in July and brought together over 100 people, mainly from the African continent.

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

shell hit by nigeria spill claim

In August, the Nigerian parliament upheld a compensation claim of US\$1.5 billion against Shell made by the Ijaw tribe in the oil-rich Niger Delta. The company admitted that in 2002 alone there were 262 oil spill incidents in Nigeria, involving 2,700 tonnes of crude oil. Friends of the Earth Nigeria and Friends of the Earth International welcomed the ruling against Shell, which has long been the target of our campaigns in Nigeria and elsewhere. Shell, however, has thus far not accepted the compensation order, refusing to face up to its responsibilities to local communities.

eib drops copper mine in laos

Over the past years, Friends of the Earth groups have worked hard to stop public funding by the European Investment Bank (EIB) for a controversial copper mine in Laos. Although the EIB approved the loan in January 2004, it announced just a few months later that it was no longer involved in the problematic project as the mining company Oxiana had received a "better deal" somewhere else. This was an important victory in our campaign to phase out public funding for destructive large-scale mining projects.

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

Top: World Bank protests in Indonesia.
Bottom: Indigenous peoples protest against the Sakhalin project in Siberia.



Protests against GM food and the Bush administration in Croatia.



global law for gmos

Friends of the Earth GMO campaigners from many countries inflated an 8-meter high corn cob and launched a publication detailing a decade of failure in genetically modified crops at the February 2004 Biosafety Protocol meeting in Malaysia. The action and publication received worldwide media attention, and were part of a successful campaign to persuade governments to support strict GMO labelling laws and to launch negotiations for an international regime on liability for genetic contamination.

with thanks to our funders: hivos and novib.

reprieve for sakhalin's endangered whales

The Shell-led Sakhalin Energy company decided to postpone the construction of undersea pipelines in the Siberian Sakhalin II oil and gas project in mid-2004. Prior to the decision, the company had planned to lay the pipelines directly through the primary feeding habitat of the Western Grey Whale. Friends of the Earth groups and affiliate group CEE Bankwatch Network were part of a coalition generating pressure on the consortium and on potential international lenders, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Although the pipelines are only one part of a huge project, this was the first time that Shell acknowledged the impact of the project on the critically endangered whales.

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

pipeline construction stopped after oil company violates georgian laws

In July, the Georgian government suspended work on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline after British oil giant BP decided to start construction in the ecologically vulnerable Borjomi region despite failing to obtain the necessary environmental permission. Furthermore, after continued pressure by Friends of the Earth groups and others, the World Bank Group and the European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development agreed to a compensation scheme and monitoring plan for the project. The pipeline is a long-standing Friends of the Earth campaign due to its negative impacts on local communities and biodiversity, and its contribution to global climate change.

with thanks to our funders: the c.s. mott foundation and the oak foundation

world bank group responds to ngo boycott

At the end of 2004, after months of civil society protest, the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced that it would significantly revise its consultation process on new social and environmental standards. The decision followed a three-month civil society boycott of IFC consultations in Brazil, Manila, London, Nairobi and Istanbul by Friends of the Earth and other groups from around the world.

with thanks to our funders: the c.s. mott foundation

wto expansion plans scrapped

In 1996, at the first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization, the European Union insisted that WTO member states begin discussions on liberalizing investment, competition, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation. Since then, developing countries and civil society organizations around the world including Friends of the Earth International have staunchly opposed negotiations on these issues, which would greatly expand the WTO's power. In July 2004, following eight years of bitter wrangling, developing countries – with the full support of civil society networks such as Our World Is Not For Sale – finally succeeded in taking these issues off the WTO's negotiating agenda.

with thanks to our funders: the c.s. mott foundation and the sigrid rausing trust

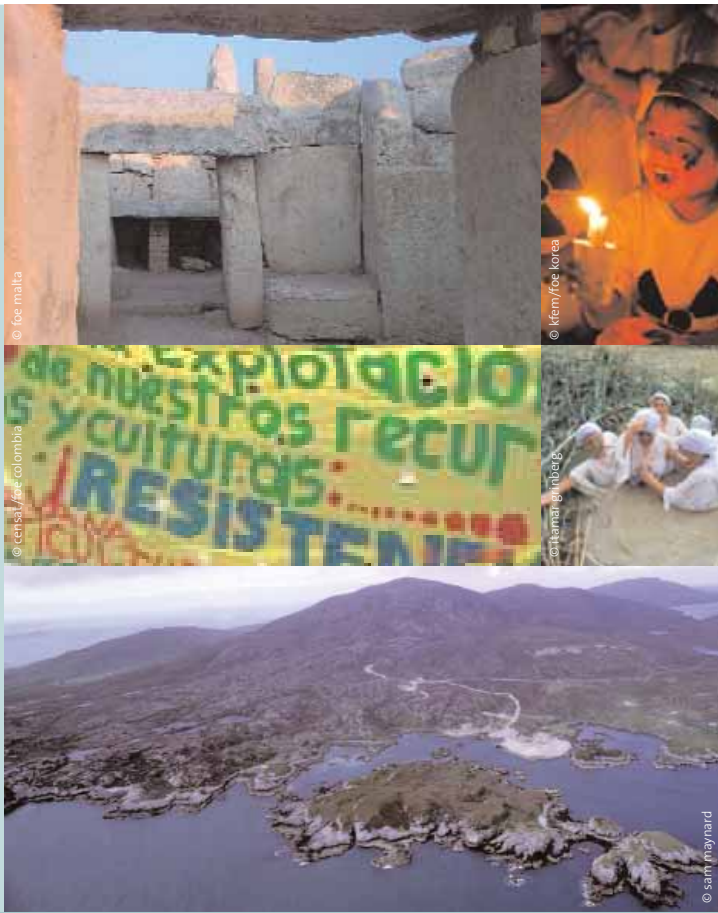
monsanto drops gm wheat

In May, Monsanto, the world's biggest seller of genetically modified (GM) seeds, quietly announced that it was stopping all further efforts to commercialize its controversial GM RoundUp Ready wheat. Monsanto had applied in the US and Canada to grow the GM wheat, but faced worldwide opposition from farmers, food manufacturers, consumers and environmental groups including Friends of the Earth. Friends of the Earth was particularly concerned that growing this GM wheat would increase the use of herbicides.

improved, more transparent opic

Following a sustained campaign by Friends of the Earth groups, the Board of Directors of the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) approved the creation of an Advisory and Accountability mechanism which will allow redress for all communities affected by its projects. Friends of the Earth International's campaign also resulted in a "no-go zone" policy in areas of high conservation value, and the integration of the World Commission on Dams' recommendations into OPIC's environmental standards.

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



victory against fumigation in colombia

In March, CENSAT/Friends of the Earth Colombia and others in the “Grupo Defensa Parques” coalition demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Environment against the environmentally and socially dangerous fumigation of coca, which is considered illegal although it is a traditional crop for indigenous communities. In response, the government announced a halt to fumigation in national parks, although non-protected tropical forests continue to be sprayed.

military school in costa rica defeated

Friends of the Earth Costa Rica won their campaign to stop the United States government from setting up a military academy in the country in March. A national alliance against the militarization of Costa Rica carried out strong local resistance and lobby work in order to achieve this important victory.

Clockwise from top left: Maltese temples saved from waste dump by FoE Malta; Candlelight vigil in protest of South Korean nuclear dumpsite; Baptism in the threatened Jordan River; Site of proposed quarry on Harris Island in Scotland; Protest against fumigation in Colombia.

member group victories in 2004

blow to philippines mining act

In January 2004, the Supreme Court of the Philippines declared unconstitutional provisions of the Philippines Mining Act that allow the operation of 100% foreign-owned mining corporations, an unexpected victory for the indigenous peoples and community partners of LRC-KSK/Friends of the Earth Philippines who filed the lawsuit in 1997. Friends of the Earth International’s cyberaction alert on the issue resulted in some 250 letters being sent to the Philippine government. Although the ruling was reversed in December following political and corporate pressure, this has only strengthened the resistance against large-scale transnational mining in the Philippines.

public rejects south korean nuclear dumpsite

In February, residents of Buan county in South Korea held a referendum to decide whether or not a proposed nuclear dumpsite should go ahead. Ultimately, 72% of eligible voters participated in the referendum, with 91% of them voting

against the dumpsite. The referendum was preceded by more than 200 nights of candlelight vigils, a 41-day strike by young students, highway blockades by local people, and demonstrations with more than 20,000 participants. Although the government claimed it would not accept the referendum results, the project ultimately fell through due to lack of interest from local municipalities.

british supermarket expansion curbed

In early 2004, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland’s legal expert identified a loophole in UK planning law which allowed large retailers to install mezzanine floors in their stores, often doubling their size, without the need for planning permission. Further research showed that the uncontrolled expansion of stores in this way was a serious threat to small shops and local suppliers, and that it increased pollution levels due to additional traffic. Friends of the Earth’s suggested amendments to the Planning Bill were successfully taken through Parliament in a brilliant break for local shops, local economies and people without cars.

scottish superquarry saga finally ends

In April 2004, Friends of the Earth Scotland’s longest running campaign of ten years came to an end as global aggregate company Lafarge Aggregates announced that it would withdraw its plans to establish what would have been Britain’s biggest quarry on Harris in the Western Isles. Friends of the Earth Scotland, supported by many groups in the international network, participated in the campaign by providing evidence in Scotland’s longest-ever planning inquiry, supporting community action, and carrying out 13 years of media and lobbying work.

italian butterfly project wins award

The Padua Butterfly ARC, an initiative of Friends of the Earth Italy, won the 2004 Romeo and Juliet award for creativity in May. The ARC is a space for the public to view living butterflies and learn about sustainable economies. As butterflies provide a subtle indicator of an area’s natural balance, declining in numbers as pollution increases, Friends of the Earth Italy is promoting the establishment of

more butterfly preserves to encourage local sustainable development. Many of the butterflies in the ARC are cultivated by indigenous women in Latin America, providing them with environmentally and socially sustainable incomes.

maltese temples prevail over waste dump

In June 2004, the Maltese government withdrew its plans for two polluting and potentially hazardous landfill sites just 300 meters away from the world's oldest free-standing Neolithic temples, relics of a matriarchal society that existed some 4,000 years ago. Friends of the Earth Malta had warned that the limestone temples would be seriously damaged by the leaking of corrosive gases, including sulphur dioxide, from waste delivery trucks and bulldozers.

keep your waste, say czechs

Following a public campaign and lobbying by Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, the national parliament voted against a proposal to amend the Waste Act in order to allow the import of foreign waste for incineration. The amendment would have brought enormous amounts of waste to be burned in the country and heavily damaged the country's developing recycling sector.

tough gmo law in germany

In 2004, Friends of the Earth Germany won its fight for a tough liability law that holds GMO farmers and operators financially liable when their crops contaminate non-GMO crops. As the law is under continuous pressure from political opponents, the group also ran a parallel campaign for GMO-free regions. The result by the end of 2004: 12,000 farmers, most of them conventional, agreed not to grow GMOs on 430,000 hectares in more than 60 regions.

consumed 1.8 million cubic meters of water each year and required massive inputs of fertilizers and pesticides.

jordan river in the spotlight

In 2004, Friends of the Earth Middle East released a report revealing that the Jordan River will cease to flow by 2005 if all of the planned water diversion plans go ahead. The Jordan's critical state also received widespread international media attention at a Friends of the Earth Middle East conference held on Peace Island in March, where Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian mayors agreed to cooperate in restoring the river and improving the livelihoods of local residents.

clearing up the dutch skies

In October 2004, Milieudefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands erected a huge banner with a satellite image of air pollution in Europe along a major motorway. The image, which showed

Left: FoE Malta protests against golf course.
Right: FoE Netherlands banner showing pollution concentrations.



bayer drops court case against foe in the uk

In June, Bayer CropScience, the multinational agro-chemical and biotech corporation, dropped its court action against Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The company had tried to prevent Friends of the Earth from telling the public how to access safety data on pesticides, including a weedkiller for use on GM herbicide-tolerant crops in the UK.

australian nuclear dump trashed

Following a six-year campaign by Friends of the Earth, other environmental groups and indigenous organizations, the Australian government abandoned its plans for a national nuclear waste dump in the desert region of South Australia in August 2004. In particular, this was a sweet victory for the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta, a group of senior Aboriginal women who have tirelessly traveled the continent to resist the proposal.

polluting gold mine in indonesia shut down

In August, Indonesian police suspended the operations of US mining giant Newmont's Minahasa Raya gold mine after tests confirmed that the company had dumped millions of tons of mercury and arsenic-laced mining waste into Buyat Bay since 1996. WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia has long campaigned against the mine in collaboration with local community members, who are suffering from a range of health problems including neurological and skin complaints. Newmont is now being sued by the Indonesian ministry of environment.

farmers send golf course in malta soaring

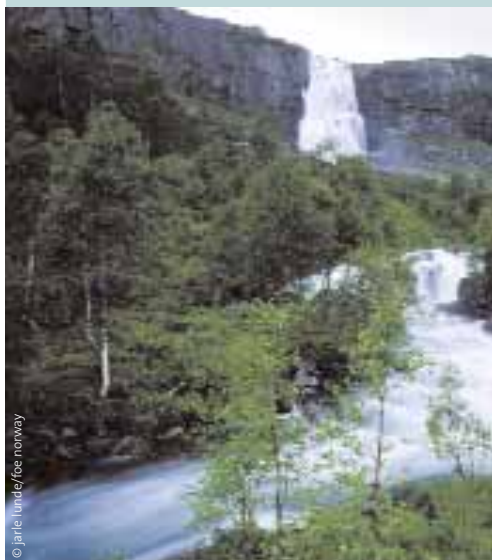
In September, a proposal for an 18-hole golf course and country club on prime agricultural land in Malta was refused. This was an important victory for Friends of the Earth Malta and the 150 farming families that depend on the land for their livelihoods. The golf course would have

enormous concentrations of NO₂ over the Netherlands, was in protest of the Dutch government's plans to build more roads. During the course of the year Friends of the Earth succeeded in reducing the official speed limit on roads through densely populated areas, and geared up for a high-profile court case against the Dutch government for its violation of European clean air legislation.

new zealand rejects nuked mangoes

At the end of 2004, Friends of the Earth New Zealand discovered that the big black blotches covering mangoes imported from Australia were likely caused by irradiation in their country of origin. Working together with Friends of the Earth Australia, they exposed the dangers of irradiation and published photos of the damaged mangoes in the media, causing consumer outrage and statements by major supermarkets that they would not import or sell irradiated Australian mangoes.

Clockwise from left: The Fossdalsfossen waterfall in Norway; Interview with Slovak shephard dog/wolf at opening ceremony of Slovakian national park; Protests against water privatization in Uruguay (top and bottom); Calling for chemicals out of cosmetics in the United States.



chemicals out of cosmetics in the united states

In 2004, Friends of the Earth United States worked with women's health, environmental justice, labour and faith groups to educate corporations and the public about the toxic chemicals used in cosmetics and personal care products. More than 100 cosmetics companies committed to removing chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects and other health harms from their products by signing the Compact for Safe Cosmetics (www.safecosmetics.org). Since the launch of the campaign, four of the world's largest cosmetics companies – L'Oreal, Revlon, Unilever and Estée Lauder – have agreed to reformulate their products globally to meet new EU standards.

member group victories in 2004

norwegian rivers protected

Throughout 2004, Friends of the Earth Norway campaigned hard to protect the country's last relatively untouched rivers, a unique part of the world's natural heritage. Two out of three Norwegian rivers are already dammed and exploited for hydroelectric power production. In cooperation with local action groups and other environmental organizations and supported by a FoEI cyberaction alert, Friends of the Earth Norway managed to have 53 rivers protected under the new River Protection Act.

slovakians protect wolf and lynx

In 2004, after nearly five years of campaigning, Friends of the Earth Slovakia succeeded in establishing two private reserves: Wolf Private Nature Reserve and Lynx Private Nature Reserve. These are the first strict forest reserves in Central and Eastern Europe, with all human intervention banned. Funds for buying the land for the Wolf Reserve were raised through a "buy your own tree" campaign, which brought in donations from people in 19 countries.

famous spaniards for the environment

Friends of the Earth Spain worked to engage high-profile people in their activities in 2004. For example, the Minister of Environment, a famous television presenter and the writer Salomé Ortega joined 8,000 others in putting their handprints on a painted forest to symbolize leaves and their commitment to fighting climate change. The artwork was then sent to the European Energy Commissioner as a plea to make the transition towards sustainable energy.

water as a human right in uruguay

In a major victory against the privatization of public services, more than 60% of the Uruguayan people supported the October referendum to include water as a human right in the national constitution. REDES/Friends of the Earth Uruguay was a leading member of the coalition that called for the referendum. The outcome ensured a halt to the privatization of drinking water services and guarantees the public, participatory and sustainable management of the country's water resources.

climate justice tour through australia

Friends of the Earth Australia organized a Climate Justice Tour through the country in April and May 2004. International guests from Nigeria, Samoa and Tuvalu talked to the Australian people about climate change, oil, equity and the small island states of the Pacific. Tour participants spoke at public fora, met with politicians and indigenous traditional custodians, and talked to the media.

czech wilderness prevails

Friends of the Earth Czech Republic's campaign to persuade the Ministry of Environment not to chop down trees infested with bark beetle in the Sumava National Park was victorious in 2004. The long-running campaign, which included a blockade in 1999, was precedent-setting in that the government accepted the purpose of national parks as the preservation of wilderness rather than the management of nature.

Left: A monster tomato toured Europe in protest of GMOs.
Right: FoEI Patron Bruce Cockburn on a visit to Iraq.



friends of the earth in the media

In 2004, Friends of the Earth International continued to increase its media presence around the world. Throughout the year, around 80 press releases were sent to thousands of journalists covering all continents.

Real World Radio (www.realworldradio.fm), a collaboration between Friends of the Earth International and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, broadcast in Spanish, Portuguese and English at various events throughout the year including the UN Climate Change meeting in Buenos Aires in December. Real World Radio news was picked up by many community radio stations throughout Latin America and the rest of the world, and its website was visited by tens of thousands of users in 2004.

on the december 2004 asian tsunami "What we have seen in the tsunami crisis is that the areas that were protected naturally suffered less than those that were more exposed. The full fury and wrath of the tidal waves were felt in areas where nature's green belts of coral reefs and mangroves no longer exist or were never present in the first place. It is only through having such natural defenses that coastal communities can be protected in the long run."

Friends of the Earth International Chair Meena Raman in a January 2005 Reuters news agency report.

on foei patron wangari maathai, 2004 nobel peace prize winner "We environmentalists are sometimes portrayed as anti-development, as anti-progress, but this award is a great vindication that caring for the environment is crucial to Africans who live so close to the earth."

Nnimmo Bassey, Friends of the Earth Nigeria, Associated Press news agency, October 2004.

on genetically modified crops in the united states "The [US] government is allowing the contamination of our food supply with experimental material they haven't tested."

Bill Freese, Friends of the Earth United States, in a November 2004 Inter Press Service news agency report.

on mining in indonesia "In Indonesia, multinational mining companies including Rio Tinto, BP, Newmont and Newcrest still seek mining concessions in the country's critical conservation areas. Some companies threatened to sue the Indonesian government for revoking mining concessions in the areas planned to be declared protected forests. Indonesian bays have been turned into dumping grounds for mine tailings, and Newmont employs harmful practices banned at home in the United States."

Farah Sofa, Friends of the Earth Indonesia, in a November 2004 report in The Nation newspaper (Thailand).

on world bank plans to water down loan conditions "These flawed proposals seriously undermine the World Bank's duty to protect the environment and affected communities. These

new plans will weaken already inadequate safeguards and must be abandoned."

Hannah Ellis, Friends of the Earth International, on OneWorld US news service in September 2004.

on efforts to revive world trade organization talks "Now is the time for the United States and the EU to realize that they must give up their corporate-driven trade agenda, exchanging it for a progressive approach to developing fair and sustainable economies that work for everyone."

Alexandra Wandel in a January 2004 Inter Press Service report.

on the world trade organization and genetically modified organisms "The WTO is effectively going to be force-feeding the world GMOs. We don't think that the WTO is the right place to be making decisions about the food that people eat."

Liana Stupples, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland in a May 2004 OsterDowJones report.

on the world bank's extractive industries review

"The Buyat Bay pollution disaster shows that instead of benefiting poor communities, mining operations destroy livelihoods and health. The Buyat Bay pollution is an example of why the Extractive Industries Review of the World Bank Group's lending practices headed by Indonesian environmental diplomat and statesman Dr. Emil Salim should have been taken more seriously by the [World Bank's] International Finance Corporation."

Longgena Ginting, director of WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia on Environment News Service, August 2004.

on trade talks at the world economic forum

"While the WEF claims to act in the public interest, behind the closed doors and the WEF's public relations gloss there is a different reality. Prosperity for the WEF means prosperity for the huge multinational corporations who write the world trade rules that help them, but often hurt the global environment and the poorest people."

FoEI Vice-Chair Tony Juniper in a January 2004 Inter Press Service report.

did you know?

- In 2004, Friends of the Earth International counted 71 member groups and 16 affiliates, uniting more than 1.5 million national and local activists and supporters around the world.
- In 2004, Friends of the Earth International's Membership Support Fund distributed more than 800,000 Euro to 39 of our members worldwide. We also recommended that US\$ 80,000 be granted by the Global Greengrants Fund to 13 communities and organizations all over the world.
- The first Asian chair of Friends of the Earth International, Meena Raman from Malaysia, was elected in 2004.
- Friends of the Earth International personally presented World Bank President James Wolfensohn with a massive work of art (nearly 2 x 2 metres) based on drawings by children in mining areas of Honduras at the World Bank's 60th anniversary meeting in July 2004.
- In 2004-2005, the Friends of the Earth Secretariat team included staff and volunteers from Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, China, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Suriname, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- In 2004, Friends of the Earth financially supported forest protection projects in Bolivia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Paraguay.
- The most northerly Friends of the Earth group was launched in Rovaniemi, Finland, in September 2004. Located just on the Arctic Circle, this new local group will campaign at a latitude further north than Iceland or Alaska.
- In June, Yvette Raveneau and Lloyd Narain of Friends of the Earth Curaçao received the Silver Carnation Award from Prince Bernhard and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in recognition of their work for nature conservation.
- In September, Friends of the Earth International implemented its work on gender mainstreaming across the network's structures and campaigns. The International Campaign Coordinators were also given a gender sensitivity training by our gender coordinators.
- Friends of the Earth International Patron and musician Bruce Cockburn met with Friends of the Earth International on his way back from a fact-finding mission in Iraq in January 2004, where he met with doctors, religious leaders, mothers, children, politicians, artists and musicians.
- In April, Manana Kochladze from Friends of the Earth International affiliate CEE Bankwatch in Georgia was awarded the Goldman Prize in recognition of her campaigning on the controversial Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project.
- In 2004, more than half a million people visited the Friends of the Earth International website www.foei.org. This is an increase of 43 percent from the total number of visitors (374,159) in 2003.
- The winner of the 2004 Friends of the Earth International award was International Secretariat volunteer Ina Berman for her many years of contribution to the federation as librarian and web wizard.
- There are currently 439 active users of Friends of the Earth International's internal website, the 'insite', where we carry out discussions and plan campaigns. There are more than 500 documents uploaded on the insite.
- In 2003-2004, Friends of the Earth Europe sent a 6-metre high inflatable tomato around Europe to raise awareness about the US attempt to force-feed genetically modified food to the world. The tomato traveled to 16 cities and engaged with local activists from Friends of the Earth groups all over Europe.
- In the summer of 2004, Friends of the Earth Europe's 10-metre high "Carbon Dinosaur" visited more than 50 cities in Europe, naming and shaming politicians and corporations blocking action to fight climate change.
- For Mother Earth, the new Friends of the Earth member group in Flanders, Belgium, held alternative elections before the official US polls on November 2nd as part of their international Boycott Bush campaign (www.boycottbush.org). The campaign is running a boycott of six multinational corporations – Exxon-Mobil, Texaco, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Altria (Philip Morris and Kraft) and McDonalds – which are important Bush donors.
- The Friends of the Earth International publication "Genetically Modified Crops: A Decade of Failure" was downloaded 4,391 times throughout 2004.
- Friends of the Earth International enjoyed a baby boom in 2004, with at least 10 babies born to campaigners in groups around the world.



summary financial report 2004

balance sheet 31 december 2004 [amounts in euro]

	2004	2003
assets		
Fixed assets	8.148	11.707
Liquid assets	752.727	278.843
Paid in advance	117.639	134
Accounts receivable	292.750	472.643
total assets	1.171.265	763.327
current liabilities		
Accounts payable	664.323	379.422
Donor grants balances	231.831	122.672
	896.154	502.094
reserves		
Accumulated surplus	240.110	226.233
Reserve for relocation	20.000	15.000
Secretariat webteam support	15.000	20.000
MSF low-income FoE groups		
	275.110	261.233
total liabilities	1.171.265	763.327

statement of income and expenditure [amounts in euro]

	2004	2003
revenues		
Membership fees	289.573	264.650
Sales	840	726
Interest & miscellaneous	35.038	14.072
Donor grants	1.345.754	1.502.586
total revenues	1.671.204	1.782.035
expenditure		
Staff costs & volunteer expenses	204.490	199.159
Office operations & communication	103.300	96.003
Publications	49.480	52.976
BGM	38.957	60.050
Chair costs / International representation	13.339	12.696
Executive Committee	22.651	30.749
activities		
Campaign coordinators	167.062	189.295
Media and communication staff	110.154	107.431
Membership Support Fund	715.705	642.530
Specific campaigns & projects	232.189	370.230
total expenditure	1.657.327	1.761.121
unexpended result/accumulated surplus	13.878	20.914

FoEI gratefully acknowledges financial support from Dutch donor agencies HIVOS, NOVIB/Oxfam Netherlands; the joint HIVOS-NOVIB Biodiversity Fund and PSO; the Dutch Ministry for the Environment (VROM); the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS-TMF); the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation; the C.S. Mott foundation (United States); the Wallace Global Fund (United States); the Oak Foundation (Switzerland); the Sigrid Rausing Trust (United Kingdom); the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (United Kingdom); the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation (United Kingdom); the Network of Social Change (United Kingdom); Greenpeace International (the Netherlands) and Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

auditor's report

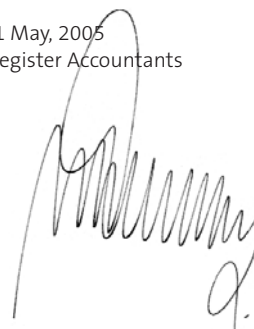
We have audited the abbreviated financial statements of "Vereniging Friends of the Earth International" (FoEI) in Amsterdam for the year 2004. These abbreviated financial statements have been derived from FoEI's 2004 Financial Report. In our auditor's report dated 31 May, 2005 we expressed an unqualified 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 31 May, 2005.

Amsterdam, 31 May, 2005
Dubois & Co. Register Accountants

M. Karman



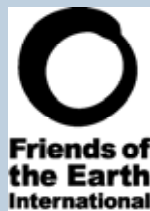
contact us



there are friends of the earth groups in:

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

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



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reyes grijuela [spain]
derek willis [united kingdom]
kirsten sima neke [south africa]
maria jimenez rojas [costa rica]
desislava stoyanova [bulgaria]
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trudy o'donoghay [canada]
deni ferdian [indonesia]

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