

annual report 2005

friends of the earth international

2005



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**Friends of
the Earth
International**

our vision and our mission



Demonstrating against lignite mining in the Czech Republic.

our vision

Friends of the Earth International is a worldwide grassroots environmental network campaigning for an ecologically sustainable, just and peaceful world. We are a vibrant, credible and effective federation, driving social transformation and securing sustainable, gender just and equitable societies.

Our strength comes from our solidarity, passion, and shared beliefs. We respect each other and value our diversity. We inspire and bring about change by living according to our values, and we learn from our experiences. In turn, we are inspired by successful campaigns and strengthened by the friendships and alliances we forge.

Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature. We envision a society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples' rights are realized.

This will be a society built upon peoples' sovereignty and participation. It will be founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice and free from all forms of domination and exploitation, such as neoliberalism, corporate globalization, neo-colonialism and militarism.

We believe that our children's future will be better because of what we do.

our mission

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

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we have a vision!

meena raman | friends of the earth international chair, malaysia

2005 was a momentous year in the history of Friends of the Earth International. We completed the first phase of our strategic visioning and planning process when we gathered in Penang, Malaysia in October. The results of this general meeting seemed almost miraculous: some 100 campaigners and representatives of member groups from around the world were able to draft and agree upon a strong, inspirational mission, vision, and set of core values.

To a great extent, the Penang meeting was a success because our discussions there were based on the outcomes of a year-long process of national consultations and regional meetings. Within the regions – Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America/Caribbean – groups discussed and evaluated campaign experiences over the past 20-25 years. They looked at trends, obstacles and opportunities that impacted their work at the local, regional and global levels, and came up with their own values, visions and mission statements. This process served to strengthen the regions, and also empowered more members to participate in our global campaigns, network processes and leadership structures.

When the network convened in Penang, it became clear that the outcomes of the regional processes were mutually reinforcing, and we were able to move towards global consensus on the federation's mission, vision and core values. Of course this process was spiced with the passionate and sometimes heated discussions that Friends of the Earth International is renowned for, providing all present with a dynamic learning experience.

We are very proud of what we achieved in Penang, and are now moving into the second phase of the strategic planning in which we will make our vision and mission concrete by developing objectives, strategies and activities for the next ten years. This promises to be challenging, but it is clear that we are on firmer ground as a federation now that we have gone through the process of determining what binds us together philosophically and politically.

Parallel to our strategic visioning process, our campaigns went full steam ahead in 2005. Friends of the Earth International was visibly and audibly present at several important meetings, including the World Social Forum in January in Brazil, the United Nations climate negotiations in Montreal, and the World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong in December. We celebrated a number of exciting and critical victories on the global, national and local levels throughout the year, including convincing the European Commission to change its position on trade liberalization in forests, fisheries and mining; a ban on gas flaring in a Niger Delta community; and the detection of illegal GMOs in many Central American countries, leading to their condemnation by a number of official bodies in the region.

We warmly invite you to read about the numerous successes to which Friends of the Earth has contributed in the past year. As we progress in our strategic planning and become stronger as a global federation, we anticipate that our campaigns and the alternatives we put forth will become more powerful and effective.

Friends of the Earth International Chair Meena Raman at the 2005 G8 meeting in Scotland.



© colin hattersley/friends of the earth

Tatiana Roa of Friends of the Earth Colombia, Meena Raman, and Nnimmo Bassey of Friends of the Earth Nigeria at the G8 meeting.



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Friends of the Earth International Secretariat.

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.

Children in the Niger Delta.



- **resisting gas flaring in nigeria** Friends of the Earth Nigeria is making a video documentary in order to expose the environmentally and socially damaging impacts of gas flaring in the Niger Delta. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **raising awareness about tree monoculture plantations in brazil** Friends of the Earth Brazil organized a series of seminars and advertising campaigns in the area of Rio Grande do Sul regarding the adverse impacts of tree monoculture plantations on livelihoods and on biodiversity. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **protecting people's right to water in indonesia** In their campaign to protect people's access to water, Friends of the Earth Indonesia is monitoring the global policy agendas set forth by international financial institutions and their possible impacts on national legislation. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

funding

About 12.5 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 87.5 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 2005, 1.2 million Euro was distributed among member groups from this fund for projects including the following:

- **resisting the west african gas pipeline** Friends of the Earth groups from Ghana, Togo and Nigeria are lobbying, educating and campaigning against the massive trans-boundary West African Gas Pipeline, which is being implemented in total disregard of the environmental and livelihood concerns of local communities. Funded by Novib/Oxfam Netherlands, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **monitoring climate impacts in small island states** Friends of the Earth groups in Haiti and Mauritius conducted capacity-building activities in relation to the impact of climate change in small island states. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **defending indigenous rights in peru** Friends of the Earth Peru is supporting communities in their struggle against the Camisea gas extraction project, which cuts through pristine rainforests and indigenous peoples' territories, by organizing trainings, forums, and meetings between local people and international financial institution representatives. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **protecting the forest and local communities in asia** Friends of the Earth groups in Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea conducted a series of trainings and campaigns on the protection of forests and livelihoods in the face of corporate destruction. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **training for latin american campaigners** Friends of the Earth Paraguay trains campaigners in Paraguay and nearby Latin American countries on issues that impact biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities, and provides activists with tools to understand legislation and mobilize people. Funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **enabling corporate challenges by communities in the philippines** Friends of the Earth Philippines conducted a series of workshops in order to assist and strengthen community initiatives to challenge natural resource extraction by corporations. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.
- **protecting collective rights in costa rica** Friends of the Earth Costa Rica works with local communities and indigenous peoples to protect their collective rights over forests and biodiversity and to strengthen sustainable initiatives.. Funded by Novib/Oxfam Netherlands.
- **keeping gmos out of cameroon** Friends of the Earth Cameroon is raising public awareness about the ambiguous and insufficient national Biosafety Law, and mobilizing resistance against the entry of GMOs into the country. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **building sustainable societies in colombia** Friends of the Earth Colombia is resisting corporate power by protecting and promoting the sovereignty of communities, enabling them to choose their own paths towards sustainable development. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



network development

extraordinary general meeting 2005

Friends of the Earth International completed the first phase of our first-ever, two-year process of strategic visioning and planning at an Extraordinary General Meeting in Penang, Malaysia in October. We were able to articulate a common vision, mission and set of values for the global federation in a process that united member groups from around the world both philosophically and politically.

The General Meeting also agreed upon the implementation of the next phase, in which we will make our vision and mission concrete by developing objectives, strategies and activities for the next 10 years. Thus far, the process has put the network's democratic structure to test, and the results to date have been inspiring and energizing.

The Penang meeting was preceded by a two-day discussion on the different political visions and strategies used by members, campaigners and regions in the network. Members from different regions were asked to speak about controversial topics such as the use of market-based mechanisms for addressing global environmental problems. These discussions provided more clarity about how to synergize the different realities and strategies of the network, and shed light on the richness and potential of our diversity.

with thanks to our funders: the swedish society for nature conservation, hivos, novib/oxfam netherlands, and the dutch ministry of foreign affairs directorate-general of international cooperation.

gender mainstreaming

2005 also saw the consolidation of the gender mainstreaming process that had been approved by the network at the 2004 Bi-annual General Meeting. Over the year, all of the main network structures – the International Campaign Coordinators, the International Secretariat, and the Executive Committee – received gender training from the gender coordinators team. This training was designed to provide an introduction to the conceptual understanding of gender analysis, to promote an understanding of the relevance of gender to environmental issues, and to share practical examples of the incorporation of a gender perspective in environmental campaigns.

The other main focus of the Gender program's work in 2005 was to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in the ongoing strategic visioning and planning process. As a result, gender justice was reaffirmed as one of the network's core values in Penang, along with a vision of the

world "founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice and free from all forms of domination and exploitation" and a commitment to "driving social transformation and securing sustainable, gender just and equitable societies".

Our gender mainstreaming is also having visible results outside of the network. At the UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi in February, for example, FoEI's Biodiversity project worked closely with women's groups to raise awareness about the role, rights and needs of women in biodiversity conservation and the importance of gender mainstreaming in environmental organizations. The potential impacts of the commodification of biodiversity on women were raised in a special address to a roundtable of environmental ministers.

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

learning from each other

Our International Financial Institutions program has been facilitating member group exchanges that enable staff to participate in campaigns and advocacy in other cultures. In 2005, for example, Ruth Pune from Friends of the Earth Papua New Guinea spent a month at the International Secretariat, and Friends of the Earth US campaigner Michelle Medeiros spent six weeks in Cameroon. Here is what Michelle had to say about her experience:

"Staff exchanges are an incredible way to share hands-on knowledge and best practices between one country and another. All too often we get mired in our daily work and stuck using the same tools and techniques. Working in another office opens up a whole new way of thinking and acting. This can yield new victories in our work. I have come home from my trip with an experience that has changed me in fundamental ways: from how I work with partners in communicating issues, to how I perceive the world I live in."

with thanks to our funders: the cs mott foundation and the dutch ministry of foreign affairs directorate-general of international cooperation.



Top photo: African groups celebrate their strategic visioning.
Lower photo: Creating a common vision in Penang.

international campaign victories in 2005



gmo opposition on the rise in central america

Friends of the Earth groups and allies in Central America achieved a major victory in their campaign against the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in 2005. For over a year, activists in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras united within the Central American Biodiversity Alliance monitored the entrance of GMOs via food aid and commercial imports. They found Starlink, a GM maize variety unfit for human consumption, in food aid intended for children in Guatemala, as well as many other unauthorized GMOs elsewhere.

Friends of the Earth International assisted in the public denunciation of these illegal GMOs, resulting in a resolution by the Central American Council of Human Rights calling the introduction of GMOs in the region a human rights violation. The Central American Parliament called for increasing controls over food aid and for biosafety legislation, and several biosafety laws were subsequently drafted in Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua in 2005. Guatemala also ratified the Cartagena Protocol after intensive lobbying by civil society. In addition, local opposition continued to grow in Costa Rica, and two municipalities were declared GMO-free in 2005.

with thanks to our funders: novib/oxfam netherlands, hivos and the sigrid rausing trust.

no more gas flaring in niger delta community

On November 14th, the Federal High Court of Nigeria ordered that gas flaring must stop in the Niger Delta Iwherekan community as it violated guaranteed constitutional rights to life and dignity. This was the outcome of a lawsuit filed in June by communities from across the Niger Delta, with the support of Friends of the Earth Nigeria and the FoEI-based Climate Justice Program. In December, contempt of court proceedings were started against Shell and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation for failing to comply with the court order.

with thanks to our funders: the sigrid rausing trust.

prying the wto's hands off our natural environment

Following a Friends of the Earth Europe hearing in the European Parliament organized jointly with Women in Development Europe, Friends of the Earth succeeded in persuading the European Commission to change its position regarding the ongoing negotiations to completely liberalize the forests, fisheries, and gems and precious metals sectors. Shortly before December's World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong, the Commission explicitly stated that it does not support full liberalization in these sectors, as it would have devastating impacts on

biodiversity and poverty in many areas of the world, and particularly for the 60 million indigenous people and 40 million small-scale fisherfolk who depend upon these resources for their survival.

with thanks to foe europe's funders: the jmg foundation, the sigrid rausing trust, the european commission and the heinrich boell foundation.

loan for papua new guinea palm oil plantation called off

An Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan to the government of Papua New Guinea for a large-scale oil palm monoculture project was cancelled in 2005 thanks to campaigning by Friends of the Earth. The ADB has a reputation for funding large-scale monoculture cash crop projects under the guise of "poverty alleviation" that have had socially and environmentally damaging impacts. As a result, Friends of the Earth groups are campaigning with local communities and allies in Asia, and in increasingly in Latin America, against the use of public funds for these environmentally and socially destructive plantations.

with thanks to our funders: the dutch ministry of foreign affairs and the sigrid rausing trust.

bringing the climate negotiations to life

The December UN climate negotiations in Montreal provided much-needed official impetus to the global effort to stop dangerous climate change, giving campaigners around the world something to celebrate. This was the first meeting since the Kyoto Protocol entered into force, and governments succeeded in launching a discussion on how to proceed when the first phase of the Protocol ends in 2012. Friends of the Earth has campaigned for this international climate treaty since initial discussions began in 1990.

Friends of the Earth created a colorful 60-metre long mosaic called 'The World Can't Wait' outside the negotiation center. The mosaic was made up of 3,000 individual pictures and messages in different languages demanding action on climate change. It was the product of national painting sessions and actions by Friends of the Earth groups in 18 European countries.

with thanks to our funders: novib/oxfam netherlands.

international campaign victories in 2005



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Top left: Friends of the Earth and community members protest at the 2005 Shell AGM. Top right: Friends of the Earth's climate mosaic at the December UN Climate Negotiations in Montreal. Bottom left: Campaigners delivering petition against GM food to WTO chief Pascal Lamy at the December Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

big noise at shell annual shareholders meetings

At the June 2005 Shell annual meeting, simultaneously in London and the Hague, a number of fenceline communities and Friends of the Earth groups from the UK, the Netherlands, South Africa and Nigeria attended as shareholders and called upon Shell to clean up its act. In London, activists were expelled as they uncovered their (S)HELL t-shirts and shouted 'Shell is Hell!'. In the Hague, questions about the impact of Shell's operations on the environment and neighboring communities went on for two hours. Friends of the Earth South Africa offered the Corpse Award, which had recently been granted to Shell and BP's polluting refinery in Durban, South Africa, to Shell Chief Executive Jeroen van der Veer in person. Following the event, van der Veer agreed to a meeting with the communities to discuss their grievances.

with thanks to our funders: *the sigrid raising trust, novib/oxfam netherlands and the dutch ministry of foreign affairs.*

pan-european public participation on gmo decisions

After four years of intense and polarized discussions, the Meeting of the Parties to the UN Aarhus Convention agreed in May to grant citizens in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia the right to participate on decisions related to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). This will prevent the introduction of GMOs in these areas without public scrutiny and adequate information.

Friends of the Earth International, working with the Ecoforum coalition, had actively campaigned since 2001 to improve the rights of the citizens of the Pan-European region on this issue.

with thanks to our funders: *hivos and novib/oxfam netherlands.*

slowing down oil, mining and gas investments

Friends of the Earth International's campaign for a phase-out of public funding for destructive fossil fuel and mining projects was still going strong in 2005. West African groups are united in their stance against the West African Gas Pipeline, as it may worsen the Niger Delta crisis and will do little to stop gas flaring. This may have contributed to the European Investment Bank's hesitation to support the project. Similarly, campaigns on the Sakhalin II oil and gas project in the Russian Far East, which poses a grave threat to the last remaining grey whales, have forced the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to put financing for the project on hold. These small victories mean a lot for the people on the ground!

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation, the wallace global fund, the sigrid raising trust and the dutch ministry of foreign affairs.*

60 million tell wto: take your hands off our food!

Campaigners delivered a petition, signed by 135,000 citizens from 100 countries and over 740 organizations representing 60 million people, to WTO chief Pascal Lamy at the December Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. The petition asks the WTO not to undermine the right of individual countries to take appropriate steps to protect their farmland, environment and consumers from the risks posed by genetically modified foods and crops. Friends of the Earth Chair Meena Raman, French Farmer José Bové and Indian ecologist Vandana Shiva were among those delivering the petition.

with thanks to our funders: *the dutch ministry of foreign affairs, the swedish society for nature conservation and novib/oxfam netherlands.*

cutting down genetically-modified trees

At the December meeting of the scientific advisory body of the Convention on Biodiversity in Montreal, Friends of the Earth International organized a successful campaign to raise awareness about the risks of genetically-modified trees, which are being promoted as potential carbon sinks. This led to the scientific body requesting an official report on the possible impacts of GM trees to be presented to the Biodiversity Convention meeting in March 2006.

with thanks to our funders: *hivos and novib/oxfam netherlands.*

eu investment bank reacts to exposure

Friends of the Earth International and our allies continued to shine the light on the secretive European Investment Bank (EIB) in 2005. We launched a brand new web site revealing all EIB projects over the past ten years, www.eibprojects.org. After the launch of the site, the EIB announced that it was setting up an information disclosure policy, a success that can be chalked up to years of pressure by civil society.

with thanks to our funders: *the c.s. mott foundation, the wallace global fund and the dutch ministry of environmental affairs.*

Top: The Corpse Award, granted by Friends of the Earth South Africa to Shell for its polluting activities in the country.
 Bottom: Friends of Earth Nepal activists appeal to UNESCO for the protection of the Himalayas from dangerous climate change.

Right photo: Friends of the Earth International Chair Meena Raman and others deliver a petition to WTO chief Pascal Lamy at the December Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.
 Lower photo: World Bank spring meetings, 2005.



saving the himalayas

In July, UNESCO established an expert working group to discuss the threat that climate change poses to some of the most important World Heritage Sites around the world. This unprecedented move resulted from the pressure applied by Friends of the Earth Nepal, Friends of the Earth International and others for the protection of World Heritage Sites including Mount Everest, the Peruvian Andes, and coral on the Belize and Great Barrier Reefs.

with thanks to our funders: *the esmee fairbairn foundation and the network for social change.*

banning gm foods and crops in europe

Throughout Europe, 172 regions and over 4,500 local government and smaller areas have declared themselves GM-Free Zones. Opinion polls in the EU consistently show that 70-80% of citizens are opposed to GMOs. Throughout 2005, Friends of the Earth Europe called on EU Environment Ministers to allow European countries to ban GM foods and crops, similar to Switzerland's ban of November 2005.

building alliances to protect forest ecosystems

Friends of the Earth International believes that environmental issues are, in essence, social and political matters, and that we must build up common positions and make alliances in order to defend forests and the people that depend upon them. To this end, the main success of Friends of the Earth International's forest program in 2005 was the building and nurturing of the social movement that protects the cultural and biological diversity of forest ecosystems around the world. Throughout the year, we raised awareness and forged common positions on issues including community forest governance, market-based mechanisms, biofuels, destructive logging, expansion of monocultures and land conversion, collective rights, and forests and climate change. Our partners include the World Rainforest Movement, Via Campesina, the Landless Rural Workers' Movement, the Global Forest Coalition, and indigenous and environmental organizations.

with thanks to our funders: *hivos, novib/oxfam netherlands and the dutch ministry of foreign affairs.*

exposing the true face of the world bank's ifc

The World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) decided to revise all of its social and environmental policies in 2005, proposing to adopt non-binding weakened standards for corporations that receive funding. When it became clear that consultations with civil society would be extremely rushed and non-transparent, Friends of the Earth International launched a worldwide boycott of the official procedure and voiced concerns and proposals through alternative channels. Member groups around the world asked their governments to pressure the IFC to protect the rights of people and the environment rather than listening to industry. After the IFC was confronted with a walk out in Brazil, protests in Manila, an empty consultation room in London and various damning civil society statements, it was forced to improve its review process. Unfortunately, the results were still disappointing: the new lending standards are weak and pose a real threat to communities and the environment.

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



Clockwise from top left: In October, Friends of the Earth Brazil and local groups organized a demonstration calling for climate justice in the town of Araranguá, where the eye of Hurricane Catarina hit in 2004. They also presented a manifesto on climate justice at the Climate Convention meeting in Montreal in November; Sustainable forestry in Costa Rica's Osa peninsula; Costa Rica's Osa peninsula; Middle photo: Wetlands in El Salvador protected under RAMSAR Convention; Yam farm in Ghana exposed to soil erosion; Car-free day in Estonia.

member group victories in 2005

canada: pressing mining companies to respect human rights

In 2005, Friends of the Earth Canada worked with national parliamentarians on a motion that calls for Canadian mining companies that receive support from international financial institutions to respect human rights in their operations abroad. The Canadian government responded by announcing a series of roundtables to discuss the proposals put forward in the motion.

costa rica: exploitation and violence making way for sustainable forestry

Over the past three decades, the farming and fishing families of Costa Rica's Osa peninsula fought successfully to end the unsustainable logging and violence practiced by the forest industry in the surrounding tropical forests. In July 2005, assisted by technicians from the state university, Friends of the Earth Costa Rica, and other environmental and social organizations, the communities of Osa peninsula obtained an official decree allowing small-scale, community-controlled timber production using fallen wood from the forest.

This is an important first step in the creation of a new culture of forestry that can form part of future sustainable societies.

costa rica: successful resistance against trade agreement

As of early 2006, Costa Rica was the only country involved in the free trade initiative between Central America, the United States and the Dominican Republic still holding off on signing the agreement. The government's hesitation stems from the successful resistance being waged by civil society in the country, which Friends of the Earth Costa Rica is helping to coordinate. The people of Costa Rica have firmly rejected the neoliberal model of trade, as made apparent in massive protests convening tens of thousands of people.



czech republic: wind, small hydro and biomass revolution

After several years of campaigning and lobbying by Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, the government finally passed a Renewable Energy Act. The law - probably the strongest within the ten new member states of the European Union - will boost wind, small hydro and biomass energy, reduce carbon dioxide pollution and create new local jobs. It is anticipated that overall carbon dioxide reductions will be equivalent to about half of the total of Czech passenger car emissions by 2010.

el salvador: new ramsar wetlands site

Until recently, the RAMSAR convention and wetlands were relatively unknown terms in El Salvador. In 2001, however, CESTA/ Friends of the Earth El Salvador began an intensive education campaign about the Bahía de Jiquilisco wetlands, an important waterbird habitat. More and more NGOs, municipalities, communities, companies and international organizations joined the call, and in 2005 this ecosystem was officially protected under the RAMSAR Convention.

england, wales and northern ireland: 300 mps support climate campaign

Since the launch of The Big Ask, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland's campaign to increase public pressure on decision-makers concerning climate change, over 30,000 people have taken action by writing to their Member of Parliament or completing Friends of the Earth's on-line petition. As a direct result, more than 300 Members of Parliament had registered their support for the campaign by the end of 2005.

estonia: car-free day draws crowds

In September, the Estonian Green Movement/Friends of the Earth Estonia organized several activities for International Car-Free Day. In Tallinn, more than 3,000 signatures demanding better biking infrastructure were presented to the city major. In Tartu, campaigners organized a film festival, biking competitions and a series of events for

france: more transparency in exports

Due to the huge secrecy surrounding the French export credit agency, Coface, on the subject of French exports to developing countries, Friends of the Earth France launched a campaign in 2003 asking Parliamentarians to demand more accountability and transparency from the government. After a series of meetings with Parliamentarians and a high-level seminar, Friends of the Earth initiated a parliamentary inquiry which was supported by a Member of Parliament and endorsed by one-third of the National Assembly. Ultimately, a law was adopted at the end of 2005 requiring the French government to report annually on Coface's activities to the Parliament.

ghana: exposing the dangers of the yam trade

The pressures of trade liberalization have forced Ghanaian farmers to focus on the intensive production of yams as a new cash crop for export, and this has had

indonesia: victory over newmont

In 2005, US-based mining giant Newmont was finally brought to court following a long-standing campaign by Friends of the Earth Indonesia, JATAM and local communities. The trial exposed the terrible pollution of Buyat Bay following years of toxic waste dumping near the company's gold mine. As local drinking water was found to be polluted with arsenic, the government ordered Newmont to find new water sources for the community.

middle east: overcoming the wall

Since 2001, Friends of the Earth Middle East has run a Good Water Neighbors project with communities in Israel and Palestine. Over the years, the Wadi Fukin (Palestine), and Tsur Hadassah (Israel) communities have built trust through community site visits, building water saving models in their schools, carrying out landscape and hydrological surveys, and writing letters to decision-makers to help preserve their unique cultural landscape. Furthermore, the

Left photo: Green space in the Netherlands saved from development. Middle photo: Israeli and Palestinian residents visit the site of the planned separation wall. Right photo: Collecting signatures for an environmentally-friendly chemicals policy in Hungary.



children. In both cities, people painted a total of 200 wooden tiles as a contribution to the Friends of the Earth Europe climate action in Montreal at the end of the year (see page 7). As a result of this successful car-free day, the Tartu city government awarded Friends of the Earth Estonia with "best NGO of 2005".

finland: snowmen against climate change!

Snowmen are not generally recognized as political activists. Yet as rapid climate change pushes their snowy habitats further and further north, they are becoming endangered in many parts of the world. For this reason, hundreds of snowmen demonstrated in more than 20 towns in Finland, Sweden and Murmansk (Russia) in February against the dangerous climate change that is threatening them (as well as most other inhabitants of the planet). The action was organized by Friends of the Earth groups in Finland and Sweden as well as the Russian environmental group GAIA.

negative impacts on forests and biodiversity. In 2005, Friends of the Earth Ghana ran a capacity-building project educating small farmers about the impacts of international trade on their livelihoods and environments. The group also lobbied national policy makers to pay attention to the threat posed by international trade and yam production to Ghana's natural resources.

hungary: meps back environmentally friendly chemicals policy

Friends of the Earth Europe groups campaigned throughout 2005 for the strengthening of the European Union's new chemicals policy. Friends of the Earth Hungary, for example, collected signatures, organized street actions in seven cities that received wide media coverage, and made personal contact with decision-makers. As a result, 16 of the 17 Hungarian MEPs participating in the vote went for the most environmentally friendly options. However, despite this impressive vote, the policy was ultimately heavily watered down following strong industry lobbying.

threat of a separation wall dividing Israel and the West Bank stimulated people from Wadi Fukin to show Tsur Hadassah residents the planned site. As a result, hundreds of Tsur Hadassah residents signed petitions in favor of changing the route of the wall, and recent developments show that their efforts may be bearing fruit.

netherlands: saving what's left of the dutch countryside

The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Current calls for new roads, houses and business parks threaten the remaining pieces of open countryside, and planners and builders do little to protect these last green spaces. In 2005, Milieudefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands succeeded in stopping three major new business and industrial parks by organizing polls showing that the vast majority of local people did not support the plans. This campaign was supported by Milieudefensie's research showing that there is no need for new business parks due to the large number of empty buildings nearby.

norway: oil companies to stop using toxic pollutant

In August, Friends of the Earth Norway revealed that oil companies had flushed more than 80 tons of the toxic pollutant Perfluorooctane Sulphonate (PFOS) from Norwegian oil rigs directly into the North Sea. As a consequence, the two main Norwegian oil companies, Statoil and Hydro, announced in October that they would remove the toxic chemical from their rigs as soon as practically possible.

paraguay: people's victory over moon sect

In August, the Paraguayan Senate expropriated 52,000 hectares of land – including the town of Puerto Casado – from the Moon Sect, which acquired more than 600,000 hectares in the country in 2000. Friends of the Earth Paraguay is working with local people to implement sustainable agriculture, create nature reserves and restore the historic town.

slovakia: breaking waste records

Throughout the year, three Slovak towns rejected plans for hazardous waste incinerators to be co-financed from the European Union's Cohesion Fund. These incinerators were designed to process large amounts of waste imported from other regions and very likely from abroad. In all cases, Friends of the Earth Slovakia provided expert studies to the municipalities, helping to generate the public and official rejection of the projects. The group also succeeded in promoting cleaner alternatives to incineration, and helped 117 municipalities to decrease municipal waste and increase recycling. One town, Palarikovo, has reduced waste levels by 73 percent since 2000, a record in Central and Eastern Europe.



Pollution in Durban, South Africa.

Protests against mega-motorway in Scotland.

south korea: steel company bows to environmental demands

After a sustained campaign by Friends of the Earth Gwangyang, a local group of Friends of the Earth Korea, the Pohang Steel Company (POSCO), the world's largest steel production company, agreed to release environmental information to the public, create an environmental improvement committee, and rehabilitate following environmental destruction. In order to obtain this victory, Friends of the Earth Gwangyang organized public meetings and demonstrated outside of the factory and government buildings.

switzerland: gmo-free by constitution

In November, Swiss voters supported a five year-ban on the cultivation of genetically modified crops. Pro Natura/Friends of the Earth Switzerland was part of the group that initiated the referendum, and was the main financial supporter of the public campaign supporting the ban. Although Swiss farmers do not yet grow GM crops, the decision is symbolically important as the country is home to one of the world's largest GM seed producers, Syngenta.

member group victories in 2005

paraguay: course for campaigners

Friends of the Earth Paraguay launched their first "Course for Campaigners" in 2005. Twenty local leaders from Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina participated in this capacity-building course before passing their new democracy-building skills on to local activists.

scotland: mega motorway stopped

Against all expectations, Friends of the Earth Scotland won a hard-fought public inquiry to stop Britain's biggest motorway building project in 2005. The six-lane motorway was planned through some of the poorest communities in Glasgow, and would have generated more traffic, added to climate change, damaged the local economy, and cost over £500 (US\$875) million. The battle is not yet won, as Friends of the Earth Scotland was forced to take the government to court after ministers decided to ignore the findings of the independent inquiry and plow on regardless. See www.STOPtheM74.org for updates!

spain: slowing the spread of gmOs

In June, Spain opposed a pro-GMO proposal from the European Commission for the first time. As the only EU country that grows GMOs commercially, Spain had always voted in favor of legislation supporting the spread of genetically modified food and crops. However, the new government has exercised more caution by opposing the lifting of bans on eight genetically-modified products. This is a significant victory for both Amigos de la Tierra and Greenpeace in Spain, reflecting years of lobbying and targeted actions in the run-up to the Commission vote.

south africa: cleaner air to breathe

South African President Thabo Mbeki signed the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act in February 2005. This legislation comes after years of pressure by groundWork/Friends of the Earth South Africa and local people, and is the first piece legislation that will protect communities from the pollution of South Africa's air by industry.

united states: groundbreaking climate litigation

In 2005, a federal judge in California ruled against the US administration and allowed a groundbreaking global warming lawsuit to proceed. The case was originally filed in August 2002 by Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and four US cities, with charges that the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) had provided financial assistance to oil and other fossil fuel projects without first evaluating the global warming impacts of these projects.

uruguay: water trickling back to the people

On October 8th, the National Commission in Defense of Water and Life (in which Friends of the Earth Uruguay plays a key role) celebrated the return of water and sanitation services in Maldonado to the public arena. In order to complete the mandate of the Constitutional Reform that was approved in October 2004 with regards to water and sanitation services, the government plans to buy out the majority stake of Aguas de la Costa (a subsidiary of Suez). Mechanisms to implement the public, participatory and sustainable management of all water sources in Uruguay are still pending.

Protests at the 2005 World Social Forum in Brazil.



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friends of the earth in the media

Throughout 2005, a growing and broad spectrum of media outlets - from alternative news portals to the top global newspapers - echoed the messages voiced by Friends of the Earth International campaigners. The following are quotes from stories published in 2005.

on ending gas flaring in the niger delta "For the first time, a court of competent jurisdiction has boldly declared that Shell, Chevron and the other oil corporations have been engaged in illegal activities here for decades. We expect this judgement to be respected, and that for once the oil corporations will accept the truth and bring their sinful flaring activities to a halt. This victory marks a new dawn in the struggle of the communities of the Niger Delta to have these flares of hell switched off."

Nnimmo Bassey, Director of Friends of the Earth Nigeria, in the Nigerian Daily Independent, November 2005.

on the wto keeping its hands off our food "The World Trade Organization should not force anybody to eat genetically modified foods. The WTO is the wrong place to be deciding what we eat and how we protect our environment. It is time for the WTO to get its hands off our food!"

Meena Raman, Friends of the Earth International Chair, in the Environment News Service, December 2005.

on exploding the myth of free trade "The myth of unfettered free trade as a solution to poverty needs to be exploded."

Ronnie Hall, International Coordinator of FoEI's Trade, Environment and Sustainability program, in the Associated Press, December 2005.

on bush derailing action on climate change "The Bush administration has again done its best to derail international action to tackle climate change."

FoEI Vice-Chair Tony Juniper following the G8 meeting in Scotland in the Associated Press, July 2005.

on the need for climate targets and timetables "Pouring money into new technologies will not address climate change alone. We also need to see agreement and understanding on the science of climate change, on the urgency and scale of the problem and be drawn to commitment and action. That means targets, it means timetables."

FoEI Climate Campaign Coordinator Catherine Pearce on the BBC World Service, July 2005.

on oil plantations on indigenous lands "As logging has encroached for decades on the native lands of the Penan and other indigenous groups, palm oil plantations are a growing menace. What the Sarawak government is doing now is pushing the expansion of oil palm plantations in Sarawak with the underlying premise that it will bring development to the state. So in places where logging took place, it is being replaced by oil palm plantations, and this is not taking into account the plight of the Penan people and other indigenous communities."

Friends of the Earth International Chair Meena Raman in Agence France Presse, October 2005.

on illegal oil palm and timber harvesting "We handed over 196 names to the Environment Minister and want the ministry to be serious about prosecuting the errant companies by filing criminal or civil proceedings against them."

Chalid Muhammad, Executive Director of Walhi/Friends of the Earth Indonesia, in The New Straits Times newspaper, September 2005.

on big oil's contribution to climate change "The oil companies are the ones contributing primarily to global carbon dioxide emissions. Fossil fuel burning comes primarily from the big oil corporations. And we feel that climate justice dictates that governments take action to reduce global emissions."

Meena Raman, Friends of the Earth International Chair, in Inter Press Service, July 2005.

on shell's greenwash "Shell's environmental legacy in these communities exposes the reality behind the company's greenwash. If Shell worked in the West with the same standards it uses in Africa, there would be an outcry. Companies should stop operating with double standards."

Paul de Clerck, FoEI Corporate Campaign Coordinator on Real World Radio, June 2005.

on new world bank president wolfowitz "Wolfowitz is a terrible choice. He has no relevant expertise in alleviating poverty or addressing critical environmental issues like global warming, he is the wrong person for this job. Wolfowitz has shown nothing but disdain for collaboration with other countries."

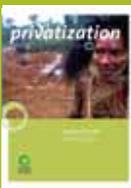
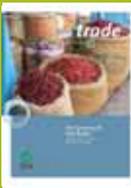
David Waskow, International Program Director at Friends of the Earth United States, in the Washington Post, May 2005.



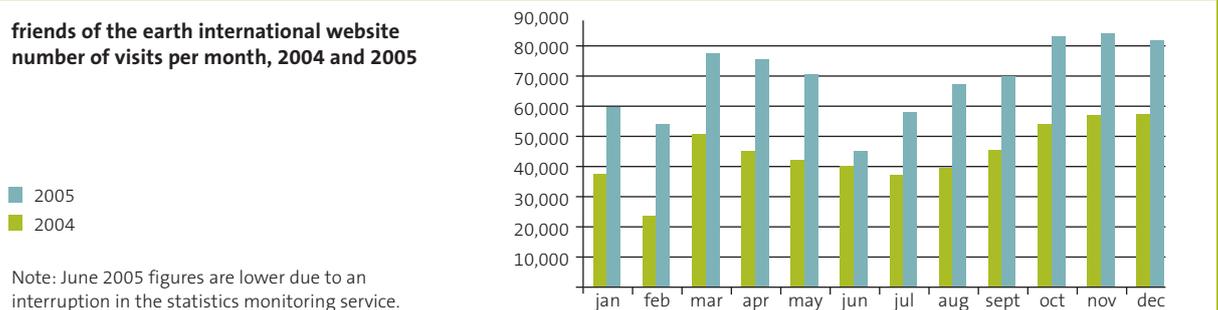
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did you know?

- In 2005, Friends of the Earth International counted 71 member groups and 16 affiliates, uniting more than 1.5 million national and local activists around the world.
- In 2005-2006, the Friends of the Earth Secretariat team included staff and volunteers from Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Scotland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- In 2005, the total number of visitors to the Friends of the Earth International website www.foei.org was 834,393. This is an increase of 36 percent from the total number of visitors (537,743) in 2004. We hope to surpass the 1 million visitors per year mark in 2006!
- In 2005, Friends of the Earth financially supported forest and biodiversity protection projects in Brazil, Bolivia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Togo.
- In 2005, Friends of the Earth Paraguay developed and produced a unique ballet about water as the basis for all life in cooperation with the Paraguayan National Ballet. The water ballet and accompanying workshops have enabled Friends of the Earth Paraguay to reach out to hundreds of people.
- In 2005, Friends of the Earth International's Membership Support Fund distributed more than 1 million Euro to 29 of our members worldwide. We also recommended that US\$60,000 be granted by the Global Greengrants Fund to 13 communities and organizations all over the world. Additionally, through the support of the Global Greengrants Fund, we presented a total of US\$25,000 in "Community Awards" to communities in Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Peru in recognition of local struggles to protect their rights, their livelihoods, and the environment.
- GroundWork (Friends of the Earth South Africa) and Environmental Rights Action (Friends of the Earth Nigeria) are collaborating to allow South African communities affected by heavy industrial development to share their knowledge with local people affected by the oil industry in Nigeria. GroundWork and community representatives visited Nigeria in May to introduce the Bucket Brigade air monitoring system to communities there.
- In 2005, Friends of the Earth financially supported member groups in Argentina, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, and Uruguay in strengthening their national and community initiatives to challenge the power of corporations.
- There are currently 474 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 2,000 documents uploaded on the insite.
- The Friends of the Earth International publication "Nature: Poor People's Wealth" was downloaded 22,653 times throughout 2005. "The Tyranny of Free Trade" was downloaded nearly 7,000 times in December 2005 when it was launched.
- In order to share local realities and global threats with a wider public, Friends of the Earth invested approximately 100,000 Euro in decentralized communication projects including radio, a children's website www.somosamigosdelatierra.org, and video documentaries in 2005.
- In April 2005, we launched our first-ever web 'blog', documenting our protests and debates at the World Bank's spring meetings. According to Google, our site was the second most popular blog on this topic.
- In June 2005, FoEI organized a speaker's tour on the impact of oil, gas and mining projects financed by International Financial Institutions. Friends of the Earth speakers from Ghana, Guatemala, Georgia and Nigeria met with officials, students, parliamentarians and the media in France, the Netherlands and the UK. The tour generated a lot of public and media attention, and was documented on DVD for use by local groups.



friends of the earth international website
number of visits per month, 2004 and 2005



summary financial report 2005

balance sheet 31 december 2005 [amounts in euro]

	2005	2004
assets		
Fixed assets	12.005	8.148
Liquid assets	983.684	752.727
Paid in advance	117.027	117.639
Accounts receivable	336.979	292.750
total assets	1.401.695	1.171.265
current liabilities		
Accounts payable	791.261	664.323
Donor grants balances	360.414	231.831
	1.151.675	896.154
reserves		
Accumulated surplus	240.123	240.110
Reserve for relocation	5.897	20.000
Fund for membership fees alliances	4.000	
Secretariat budget support		15.000
	250.019	275.110
total liabilities	1.401.695	1.171.265

statement of income and expenditure [amounts in euro]

	2005	2004
revenues		
Membership fees	293.439	289.573
Sales	479	840
Interest & miscellaneous	37.517	35.038
Donor grants	2.029.706	1.345.754
total revenues	2.361.142	1.671.204
expenditure		
Staff costs & volunteer expenses	243.890	204.490
Office operations & communication	128.110	103.300
Publications & translations	66.200	49.480
BGM	64.833	38.957
Chair costs / International representation	14.925	13.339
Executive Committee	24.387	22.651
activities		
Campaign coordinators	208.738	167.062
Media and communication staff	119.544	110.154
Membership Support Fund	1.256.459	715.705
Specific campaigns & projects	259.146	232.189
total expenditure	2.386.233	1.657.327
balance	-25.091	13.878
specification deficit		
Secretariat budget support from reserves	-15.000	
Allocation office move from reserves	-14.103	
surplus	4.012	
	-25.091	

FoEI gratefully acknowledges financial support from Dutch donor agencies HIVOS, NOVIB/Oxfam Netherlands, the joint HIVOS-NOVIB Biodiversity Fund; PSO; the Dutch Ministry for the Environment (VROM), and 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); and the Network for Social Change (United Kingdom).

auditor's report

Introduction We have audited the abbreviated financial statements of 'Vereniging Friends of the Earth International' (FoEI) in Amsterdam for the year 2005. These abbreviated financial statements have been derived from FoEI's 2005 Financial Report. In our auditor's report dated May 31, 2006 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.

Scope We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the Netherlands. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion In our opinion, these abbreviated financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the vereniging as at 31 december 2005 and of the result for the year then ended as is required in this case.

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 May 31, 2006.

Amsterdam, 31st May, 2006
Dubois & Co. Register Accountants

M. Karman



contact us

Protests against mega-motorway in Scotland.



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.

friends of the earth international affiliate groups:

amigos da terra amazônia brasileira, a seed europe, blue planet project, cee bankwatch, corporate europe observatory, corpwatch, earthlife africa, friends of the earth middle east, grupo de trabalho amazônico, international rivers network, mineral policy institute, north sea foundation, peace boat, rainforest action network, rainforest information centre, world information service on energy europe.

please contact the friends of the earth international secretariat for an address list of friends of the earth groups

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simone lemstra [netherlands]

reyes grijuela [spain]

ana cristina yao [brazil/japan]

jaap hamers [netherlands]

sarah johnson [united kingdom]

brandy vaughn [united states]

rosalind alcock [scotland]

louise rowland [united kingdom]

sjoerd panhuysen [netherlands]

john blogg [netherlands]

gwendal danguy des deserts [france]

sebastian dupont [france]

amanda brandellero [italy/uk]

wendy baxter [united states]

lila vega [nicaragua/united states]

abel esteban [spain]

adriana martinez [colombia]

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