friends of the earth international

annual report 2017

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

Our vision

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

Our mission

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

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Letter from Karin Nansen - Chair of Friends of the Earth International

2017 programme highlights

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Dear Friends,

We will remember 2017 as a year of contrasts. Together with our allies, we achieved some critical political victories, building towards economic justice and food sovereignty in particular, and enhancing our federation's cohesion and capacity to bring about change. But these highlights were set against the backdrop of a deteriorating geopolitical context heralding ever more worrying consequences for the planet's environment and defenders of territories.

In 2017 we saw the relentless rise of anti-democratic, xenophobic, misogynist, conservative and extreme conservative forces, including right and extreme right-wing political parties, who are often climate change deniers, especially in the Americas, and the European and Asia Pacific regions. This dominated much of our planet’s politics, influencing the overall direction of travel on democracy and the environment. More defenders of territories and people’s rights were attacked than ever. Donald Trump’s presidency began with the unravelling of national environmental laws in favour of dirty energy interests, including announcing his plan to pull the USA out of the UN Paris Agreement on climate change.

Given this negative state of affairs it was heartening to be in Geneva in October, to witness the launch of UN negotiations to create a binding Treaty to hold transnational corporations accountable for human rights abuses, with a record-breaking 101 countries participating. Our priorities during the year were to encourage governments to participate in these negotiations, and to make sure that peoples’ rights and voices were placed at their heart, right from the start. Friends of the Earth International has contributed significantly to the Treaty process and its key elements, advocating for the primacy of human rights over trade and investments agreements, and the need to ensure direct obligations and binding rules for transnational corporations instead of voluntary approaches, backed up with strong enforcement mechanisms. We have worked with others in all continents to mobilise peoples’ support for the Treaty.

Similarly, we helped to ensure people power really made its mark in the UN’s COP 23 climate change negotiations in Bonn in November, with an unprecedented delegation of over 30 member groups from six continents testifying to the reality of dirty energy and climate change impacts on the ground and the need for climate justice, and supporting mobilisations for a coal phase out in Germany. Together with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) we made the case for a just transition away from fossil fuels. But COP 23 moved in the opposite direction, weakening the notion of an equitable approach, and making little progress on developed countries’ short-term emissions cuts or climate finance.

We believe social movements’ and local communities’ resistance to dirty energy can result in the radical transformation of our energy system so that it serves peoples’ rights and needs rather than corporate interests. For example, in 2017, as a result of pressure from Asian civil society, the Asian Investment and Infrastructure Bank (AIIB) announced that it would stop funding coal, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) avoided funding coal during the year as well (although there are loopholes, so we need to continue to monitor the situation). Friends of the Earth South Korea was instrumental in mobilising protests that succeeded in ousting their president, and bringing in a new president who cancelled plans for numerous coal and nuclear power plants. Our member groups also persuaded governments in Ireland, Scotland and Victoria, Australia, to join the growing number of countries and states banning dangerous and dirty fracking.

We helped to stop the worst excesses of corporate trade liberalisation, opposing the expansion of the World Trade Organization’s corporate trade agenda at its MC 11 Ministerial Conference in December, and discouraging the use of the notorious Investment Settlement Dispute (ISDS) system, especially within the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Our international programmes collaborated to publish a new and groundbreaking report on scaling up solutions to transform our economies.

We strove to ensure that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) develop policies on Agroecology and food sovereignty in line with the definitions of the food sovereignty movement, of which we are a part, without the debate being hijacked by agribusiness; and we succeeded in demonstrating the links between Agroecology, community forest management and food sovereignty to the Committee on World Food Security.

Finally, we focused on building our federation’s work on gender justice and dismantling patriarchy, and on defending the defenders of territories and peoples’ rights, embedding and advancing our work on these critical issues, as well as developing conceptual frameworks, so that these cross-programme thematic issues will support our efforts to mobilise, resist and transform our world in the years to come.

In solidarity,
Karin Nansen, Uruguay
Friends of the Earth International Chair

letter from
Karin Nansen

In solidarity,
Karin Nansen, Uruguay
Friends of the Earth International Chair
Tipping the scales towards economic justice

Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme
In 2017 formal negotiations to develop a legally-binding treaty to hold transnational corporations and other businesses legally responsible for human rights violations and environmental crimes, and to give victims access to justice, were finally launched. This was a victory for Friends of the Earth International and our allies in the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and the Treaty Alliance—together we have been advocating for this treaty for many years. A record breaking 101 states participated in the launch, at the 3rd session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG3) in October, together with more than 200 civil society representatives.

We focused on ensuring that peoples’ rights and voices were centre stage in these negotiations right from the start. Our demands were rooted in and amplified our member groups’ struggles, and we strengthened our member groups’ capacity to tell their stories and campaign for change both nationally and internationally, including by organising regional capacity-building activities.

We also ramped up pressure for change by increasing awareness about the Treaty amongst our supporters, social movements and other key audiences, with an extensive range of communications materials, including an updated UN Treaty web page, a report on the new precedent-setting French Corporate Duty of Vigilance Law, and numerous Real World Radio Interviews.¹

Our federation worked to ensure that key elements were included in the initial negotiating text, and engaged in preparatory sessions at UN Human Rights Council meetings in March and June, co-hosting an experts’ meeting in June, together with the Global Campaign. Here we collectively drafted civil society’s demands for IGWG3. These included Friends of the Earth International’s call for the primacy of human rights over trade and investment regimes, our views about how an international tribunal should function, and our demands relating to the collective nature of defenders of territories’ struggles, Indigenous Peoples’ rights, and the need to end the impunity enjoyed by both corporations and international financial institutions.

We sent a delegation of 40 people from 25 member groups, spanning all regions, to IGWG3. We enabled member groups and community members to present their cases to negotiators directly. In addition we made oral interventions in the negotiations, spoke directly with UN Special Rapporteurs, and participated in numerous panels, side events and public activities. We also intervened in thematic sessions to voice our concerns about water rights, and corporate involvement in building walls in occupied territories.

A report from our Latin America and Caribbean region (ATALC) detailed eight cases of systemic violations of human rights by transnational corporations, and another from our Asia Pacific region (APac) focused on international financial institutions’ impunity, corporate crime and the struggles of defenders of territories. Together with the Global Campaign we presented an alternative Treaty proposal, complemented by a technical analysis highlighting important differences between the formal treaty draft and our proposal.

Together we ensured that governments were aware that all eyes were upon them as they launched the negotiations. We made sure that civil society’s presence was highly visible both within and outside the negotiating hall. We organised a Week of Mobilisation with the Global Campaign, with a detailed programme of public events, which were covered by our online radio station, Real World Radio. Ongoing collaboration and coordination with the Treaty Alliance similarly culminated in a range of side events, outside events and demonstrations, and a collaborative tracking of countries’ positions.

footnote

¹ http://radiomundoreal.fm/tercera-ronda-de-negociaciones-en?lang=en
In 2017 Friends of the Earth International strengthened member groups’ capacity to advocate for a binding Treaty, and our member groups in turn encouraged their governments to support the negotiations and participate in IGWG3. As part of this effort, we helped to document and expose specific examples of human rights abuses by transnational corporations in Asia, Africa and Latin America, supporting key national-level research and advocacy efforts being undertaken by our members.

For example, our support for CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador contributed to the government of El Salvador expressing its political support for the Treaty. CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador were able to advocate both nationally and regionally, and prepared a case to present to the UN Treaty Process. They also co-hosted a regional forum, organised national workshops with allies and documented the gender-specific impacts of transnational corporations’ activities.

Similarly, the debate about the UN Treaty gained traction at the national level in Mozambique. Justiça Ambiental!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique encouraged key decision makers—such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Attorney General and the National Commission of Human Rights—to start to think of ways of collaborating, which resulted in Mozambique’s presence at IGWG3. At the same time the African perspective within the Global Campaign was strengthened by our group’s involvement in the UN Treaty process. We supported work on legal cases challenging corporate rights violations in Mozambique, and the presentation of two cases—the ProSavanna agribusiness project and the Mphanda Nkuwa dam—to the 2nd Southern Africa Permanent People’s Tribunal in August. We also contributed to communities in Mozambique becoming more engaged in on-the-ground struggles by supporting Justiça Ambiental!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique’s capacity-building activities.

LRC-KSK/Friends of the Earth Philippines was supported to present their experiences of the impunity afforded to international financial institutions to UN Treaty negotiators. We funded community-level trainings and follow up on four legal cases in the Philippines involving rights violations by corporations (the Marcopper Mining Corporation spill on Marinduque island; a Supreme Court case questioning the fiscal regime of the mining industry; a case against mining operations in prime agricultural land; and a libel case against an indigenous leader in Mindanao). Although the Marcopper case is ongoing, it was included in APac’s regional submission to the UN Treaty process because the Asian Development Bank lent Marcopper US $25 million for its Marinduque operations. We also provided support for a new lawyer and a paralegal.

WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia also contributed to the development of the joint Asia-Pacific regional proposals, on the basis of their work with communities. We supported additional member groups in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Palestine and Sri Lanka enabling them to engage with the international Treaty process, and other members—including in Australia, Russia and South Korea—started to engage in our federation’s ongoing efforts to ensure that transnational corporations are finally and fully held to account for their human rights abuses.
In 2017 we contributed to the growing crisis of legitimacy facing the current corporate trade and investment regime. For example, together with our allies, we made progress in weakening the toxic Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) system, which enables businesses to sue governments.

Our collaborative efforts helped convince Ecuador to terminate its bilateral investment treaties (BITs) in May. ISDS became a major political issue in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), with New Zealand refusing to sign any agreement that includes ISDS. Friends of the Earth Europe has also played an important role in the EU shifting its position on ISDS (although that shift is so far cosmetic).

We supported our members’ ISDS campaigns, which included (co-)hosting a civil society event during the RCEP negotiations in South Korea, publishing a report on the impact of foreign investment and ISDS on land grabbing in Uganda, and organising a ‘Stop ISDS’ advocacy tour of parliamentarians in Australia. Our ISDS trainings included a regional meeting in Latin America, an online global training for our member groups, and co-publishing an ISDS lobby guide.

During the year we provided support to a growing number of member groups challenging the corporate trade model in general. This included providing financial support to members in France and Togo, facilitating Friends of the Earth Togo’s participation in the 5th African Union-EU summit in Côte d’Ivoire. We supported REDES/Friends of the Earth Uruguay to co-organise ‘Jornada Continental por la Democracia y contra el Neoliberalismo’, a three-day 3,000-person conference in Montevideo, and ERA/Friends of the Earth Nigeria to co-host a forum on the impact of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in Nigeria.

Friends of the Earth International’s ongoing collaborative campaigns to end international financial institutions’ investments in fossil fuels are also proving successful. In 2017, the Asian Investment and Infrastructure Bank (AIIB) announced it will not fund coal (although gas will still be funded). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) avoided funding coal for another year and is now understood to have an informal policy of not supporting coal financing. The World Bank announced it will stop funding fossil fuels from 2019 onwards. Our support included capacity building for member groups, and the publication of a report which calls for an end to fossil fuel investments by ADB and AIIB, and an end to legal impunity for ADB.

We ended the year at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)’s 11th Ministerial Conference and the associated People’s Summit, in Buenos Aires. We achieved our main objective, again with allies, of keeping the dangerous ‘new issues’ of investment, e-commerce and domestic services regulation out of the WTO. We worked closely with the Our World Is Not For Sale coalition, and Real World Radio provided communication support to the ‘Fuera OMC’ coalition.

Our 2017 communications on Trade Justice laid the foundations for stronger and broader civil society advocacy and lobbying in the future, as we successfully increased the reach of our trade justice messages through mainstream and social media and through Real World Radio. Our trade justice videos proved especially popular, reaching almost half a million people.

Finally, the federation’s work promoting economic transformation moved up a gear this year, with the completion of our report ‘Transforming our Economy: Scaling up Solutions’, which contains a clear and coherent framework for economic transformation based on local and national examples and 25 ideas about how to scale up solutions.
Resisting dirty energy, championing climate justice

Climate Justice & Energy Programme
In 2017, our federation’s campaigns against dirty energy achieved some important successes, including the banning of fracking in Scotland and Ireland and in the state of Victoria in Australia. We amplified the demands of member groups resisting dirty energy projects on the ground, using these case studies to illustrate the consequences of dirty energy during the UN’s climate summit, COP 23, in Bonn. Throughout the year we also supported member groups with their campaigns, including through subgrants and media field visits.

For example, we supported Justiça Ambiental!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique to develop its campaign challenging impending gas extraction, showing others that gas should be rejected as a ‘transition fuel’. We supported Madre Tierra/Friends of the Earth Honduras in its fight against hydroelectric dams, and BUND/Friends of the Earth Germany’s mobilisation for the phase out of coal. We also facilitated solidarity actions across the federation in support of Friends of the Earth Norway’s fight to keep the Lofoten islands free of oil exploitation (which was finally achieved in January 2018).

Member groups in England, Wales and N Ireland and South Africa campaigned against fracking, while those in France and Japan challenged coal financing. Member groups in Russia and Austria campaigned around the continuing legacy of Chernobyl, to ensure that this disaster is not forgotten and its impacts are addressed. With Friends of the Earth International’s support WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia continued to resist coal extraction, and Friends of the Earth Togo stood up to the oil sector.

Friends of the Earth International’s work around energy sufficiency and just transition attracted growing engagement by the federation during 2017, with member groups in Cameroon, Palestine and Scotland showcasing case studies that give our work on transforming the energy system a solid foundation, and provide examples for other member groups to learn from.

For example, PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine’s clean energy campaign has included successfully lobbying to modify bylaws concerning incentives that are designed to attract investment in the clean energy sector, and for gender to be mainstreamed into energy management. They also organised a national clean energy competition, and created a clean energy map which was adopted by the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority. PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine has built a reputation for its expertise on these issues and became a member of Palestine’s national renewable energy committee in 2017.

Friends of the Earth International is concerned that while it is critical to transition away from fossil fuels, that transition needs to be done in a socially and environmentally just manner, and we took this forward together with members of the trade union movement in 2017. Our cross-regional joint analysis on Just Transition contributed to a very well attended Just Transition event held at COP 23, which we co-hosted with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

We are also developing our understanding of how women are specifically impacted by dirty energy and how they can be a force for fighting dirty energy and moving towards a Just Transition. This included providing a platform for feminist voices to speak to this issue during our Just Transition event.
Friends of the Earth International is part of a growing, diverse and effective global movement resisting dirty energy, championing alternative energy sources, and pushing for climate justice. The devastating impacts of climate change—including heat waves, floods, droughts, storm surges, rising seas and ever more intense storms—are triggering crop failures, wildfires, and the loss of lives, homes and livelihoods for billions across the planet. These impacts are hitting the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. Communicating the urgency of this issue, alerting people to the ‘false solutions’ proposed, and demonstrating real and successful alternative energy models and technologies is an urgent priority for our federation.

During the year we worked with our federation’s member groups to alert people across the world to the threats posed by climate change, potential solutions, and problems associated with the upcoming climate change negotiations. We successfully focused on communicating these messages through two coordinated Days of Action in October, showing what a bold and diverse federation looks like when it is acting together to demonstrate people power.2

The Days of Action events made a significant contribution to member groups’ local and national climate justice struggles as well, and contributed to civil society’s Reclaim Power month of action, supporting wider climate justice movement-building efforts.

In 2017 we placed a special emphasis on the impacts of the climate emergency in the Asia Pacific region, supporting our member groups to research and publish case studies about climate-induced migration in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines. These were published in a climate impacts report from Friends of the Earth APac. Our member groups called on governments to look beyond emergency responses to climate disasters, addressing the issue of displacement and its causes, and ensuring justice and protection for impacted peoples.

In November we attended the climate change negotiations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 23, in Bonn, with a delegation from over 30 member groups from six continents. Being able to testify to the realities of climate impacts on the ground in so many different countries and regions provided a rock-solid foundation for our key messages about planetary emergency and climate justice, and the need to end dirty energy ensuring a just transition.

We hosted a moving event at the People’s Climate Summit at COP 23, where people from the Asia Pacific region, together with allies from Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, shared personal and powerful stories about our changing climate and the impacts they and their communities are already facing.3 We produced a film with WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia exposing the destruction being wrought by the coal industry in Indonesia, and we highlighted communications from Friends of the Earth Haiti revealing the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma.

footnotes

Finally, we aim to visibilise and connect the struggles of our member groups over the longer term, enabling them to mobilise for climate justice nationally and regionally. Our 2017 Planetary Emergency & Climate Justice communications materials were planned with this in mind. We worked closely with representatives from member groups from across the federation, to develop powerful, relevant and resilient materials that can be used in different national contexts in different regions of the world.

We also built member groups’ capacity to advocate for and mobilise around climate justice including through a programme workshop with the APac region in Papua New Guinea in August, workshops helping to build the capacity and engagement of member groups in Ghana and Palestine in September, and other work throughout the year supporting individual member groups, such as BELA/Friends of the Earth Bangladesh. This successful strategy is helping to build member groups’ engagement in our international climate justice and energy programme, which is in turn helping to ensure that people’s voices are increasingly heard at the intergovernmental level.
Shaping and shielding food sovereignty

Food sovereignty programme

IPC−FAO stocktaking meeting on agroecology. © Martín Drago / Friends of the Earth International
Food sovereignty enshrines peoples’ right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and socially and economically just methods. Food sovereignty is about feeding people rather than corporate profit and it defends the interests of future generations. Following campaigns by Friends of the Earth International, La Via Campesina and other allies in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), food sovereignty and Agroecology are now under active consideration by governments in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Committee on Food Security (CFS).

Friends of the Earth International’s priority in 2017 was therefore to continue to submit, advocate for and shape food sovereignty policies in these international policy spaces, together with our allies, ensuring the full and formal recognition of Agroecology in line with the food sovereignty movement’s definition of it. We successfully made solutions visible to decision-makers, who are disconnected from and lack knowledge about the realities of food production around the world or are representing the vested interests of agribusiness.

We made a concrete contribution to political positioning, advocacy and policy proposals around the CFS’s negotiations on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, together with the Forests and Biodiversity programme, jointly presenting a combined and unique position linking Community Forest Management and Agroecology to the issues of food security and nutrition.

Ensuring civil society’s successful engagement with the CFS negotiations between June and October, and at CFS 44, which was held in Rome in October, entailed considerable preparatory work by all involved throughout the year. We contributed by providing technical support to the team coordinating the CFS’s Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) working group on Sustainable Forestry For Food Security And Nutrition, which included facilitating the development of a shared political position, assisting with evaluating the negotiations, contributing research and advocacy, and providing communications support during CFS 44, through Real World Radio. We also contributed to movement-building and capacity-building activities, enabling broad participation in the working group including by social movements from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Many governments in the CFS responded positively to the CSM’s inputs, with Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Mexico and Zimbabwe supporting policy recommendations on recognising the needs of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and smallholders and their traditional practices, and on the rights of and need to empower women and girls. The CFS agreed to further discussion on the negative impacts that tree plantations have on food security and nutrition.

Our two programmes were also part of the team elaborating the CSM’s comments to the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) consultation on the scope of the forthcoming CFS report on Agroecology, food security and nutrition. This critical report will be an important input into intergovernmental negotiations relating to Agroecology in 2018-2019, and strategic intervention at this early stage was vital.

One of the Food Sovereignty programme coordinators was selected to represent Southern NGOs in the CSM’s Coordination Committee.

A further key focal point during the year was the two-day stock-taking meeting on Agroecology held by FAO in Rome, in November. This built upon the positive outcome of the regional Agroecology seminars held by FAO in 2015 and 2016, which demonstrated that Agroecology is better able to overcome the challenges faced by the current global food system. IPC members were able to present concrete examples of ways of building Agroecology, as a contribution to FAO’s ‘Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative’, and to discuss preparations for the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology and FAO Regional Conferences planned for 2018. A permanent mechanism to enable dialogue between the IPC and FAO was also established.
In 2017, our research helped to increase understanding about the negative consequences of agribusiness’s growing control over food production. As part of our involvement in the CSM Working Group on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, we analysed policies that promote destructive tree plantations, logging and other forest-based activities that have a negative impact on the food sovereignty of forest dependent peoples, especially local communities and women.

Several mega-mergers involving agribusiness giants in seed, pesticides, fertilisers and farm machinery are threatening to consolidate the ‘agribusiness inputs’ sector even further. In 2017 Bayer was aiming to acquire Monsanto (a deal that was finally approved in 2018), and ChemChina was planning to—and then did—acquire Syngenta. The combined mergers mean that 60% of the world’s commercial seed sales and 70% of pesticide sales are now in the hands of just three companies.

To mobilise opposition we sought to broaden and deepen our federation’s understanding of why these mega-mergers are so problematic and what the alternatives are. As a first step we hosted a multilingual webinar in February, together with ETC Group, on ‘Agribusiness Mega-mergers vs Food Sovereignty in 2017’, which helped to support awareness-raising efforts already being undertaken by Friends of the Earth Europe and Friends of the Earth US. Our communications also included a popular social media video, ‘Industrial farming is wrecking the planet and rural livelihoods’, which was published as the European Commission launched its investigation into the Bayer-Monsanto merger.

In 2017 Friends of the Earth International helped to strengthen the food sovereignty movement, amplifying our calls for food sovereignty and Agroecology, by building members’ capacity and an ever stronger global team of campaigners.

Together with the Forests and Biodiversity programme we held a series of three regional workshops, focusing on Agroecology and Community Forest Management and the links between them. These workshops, which were held in Colombia and Togo in May, and in Papua New Guinea in August, enabled southern member groups to contribute to the CFS policy process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. During the workshops we also shared information about our proposals to counteract the agribusiness sector and its investment plans, and considered how our international programmes and national struggles on food sovereignty, Agroecology and Community Forest Management can be integrated in mutually beneficial ways.

We strengthened our demands for food sovereignty and Agroecology by underpinning them with additional research. We provided financial support to a number of member groups engaged in resisting agribusiness so that they could research and prepare communications materials (to be launched in 2018). Friends of the Earth Africa prepared four short videos on land grabbing, Community Forest Management and Agroecology in Cameroon, Nigeria, Togo and Uganda, and ATALC and Friends of the Earth APac published briefings on the links between Community Forest Management and Agroecology in several countries in their respective regions.

We also highlighted the feasibility of Community Forest Management and Agroecology more generally in a report looking at what’s already happening on the ground in all three regions, specifically in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Uganda.
During the year Real World Radio produced and distributed multiple radio reports about the negative impacts of the agribusiness model on communities, together with examples of initiatives successfully implementing the Agroecological/food sovereignty model.

During CFS 44 these communications enabled us to demonstrate that Agroecology and Community Forest Management are intimately linked, political proposals, not just technical initiatives. We also made the case that both are under threat from the green economy, the Financialisation of Nature, agribusiness and technical visions of forest management and agriculture, which have significant negative impacts in terms of food shortages, deforestation, forest degradation and climate change. The real challenge is to put institutional and societal mechanisms in place that enable these solutions to flourish in practice as well as theory.

We also advanced the coordination of the food sovereignty movement during 2017, enabling it to better defend and promote small-scale food producers’ Agroecology. We promoted joint resistance and mobilisation with key allies, especially through the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Working Group on Agroecology, which has played a crucial role in promoting Agroecology at the global and regional levels. Collectively we aim to ensure that the version of Agroecology that gets political and policy support will be one that transforms our economies, production systems and social relationships. Our involvement in the IPC also includes participation in its Working Group on Land and Territory which prioritises capacity-building for grassroots organisations.

The Nyéléni Newsletter helps to ensure that social movements around the world remain well informed about food sovereignty, and we continued to participate in its Editorial Board in 2017. There were four issues during the year—one on free trade agreements and their effects on food, agriculture, the defence of territories, seeds and food sovereignty; one on food sovereignty in practice, distributed at the Seventh Conference of La Via Campesina; one on oceans and water, distributed at the assembly of the World Forum of Fisher People; and one on climate change, resilience and food sovereignty.

Together with peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists, feminists, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, public and research institutions, we were fortunate enough to have an opportunity to deepen our collective analysis of the global food system at the ‘International Colloquium: The future of food and challenges for agriculture in the 21st century’ held in the Basque Country in April. As part of the colloquium, Friends of the Earth International, together with La Via Campesina and Transnational Institute co-organised a well-attended workshop on the causes of the environmental and food crisis. This enabled us to bring our analysis to an important global audience. In addition we strengthened our relationship with La Via Campesina, accepting an invitation to participate in its VII Conference and related assemblies in the Basque Country in May.

Friends of the Earth International’s updated Agroecology map can be viewed at: http://www.foei.org/Agroecology-map.

footnotes

4  https://nyeleni.org/spip.php?rubrique80
Defending forests & biodiversity

Forests & biodiversity programme
In 2017 we successfully brought our vision of Community Forest Management (CFM) and Agroecology—as feasible and linked grassroots solutions to fighting climate change, and achieving food sovereignty and system change—to the Committee on World Food Security’s (CFS) negotiations on sustainable forestry, food security and nutrition, together with our Food Sovereignty programme.

The two programmes co-facilitated the CFS’s Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) working group on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, together with allies coordinating the group, including La Via Campesina and the fisherfolks movement. Some 60 organisations and movements took part in the process. This responsibility involved organising numerous global face-to-face meetings and conference calls, advocacy and research, and the co-publication, in October, of a report on ‘Community Forest Management and Agroecology’. We also helped to organise regional consultations in Latin America and Africa (arranging two in Africa, one in English and one in French); and Real World Radio broadcast radio interviews with participants at the Committee on World Food Security negotiations. 

This collaborative approach by civil society proved very effective, and several governments participating in CFS 44, in October in Rome, supported a number of recommendations made by the CSM concerning the food security of forest-dependent people, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and women and girls. There is now increasing recognition within the CFS that Community Forest Management is at the heart of the forests and food security nexus, and that peoples and their collective rights are central to Community Forest Management. The CFS has also agreed to examine the impact of monoculture tree plantations on food security.

This new area of work has proved fertile ground for the Forests and Biodiversity programme, allowing us to build new cross-sectoral relationships with allies such as La Via Campesina, the World Rainforest Movement, and many others in the food sovereignty movement, including fisherfolk, women, and Indigenous Peoples participating in the CSM. Strengthening these alliances and movement-building is critical to translating our analytical and lobbying work into real solutions that are increasingly widely adopted, and provides us with opportunities to share our analysis about issues such as the Financialisation of Nature and Reducing Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and their impacts.

The solid multi-regional analysis that Friends of the Earth International was able to feed into CFS 44 was underpinned by knowledge- and capacity-building workshops with member groups during the year, which resulted in a significant increase in the number of members engaging in our international programme on forests and biodiversity. We organised three well-attended two-day regional workshops, in the African region (in Togo in April), in the Latin American and Caribbean region (in Colombia in May) and in the Asia Pacific region (in Papua New Guinea in August). This created important spaces for in-depth discussion amongst our member groups about the links between Community Forest Management and Agroecology in their region. We also held two webinars for member groups, on Free Prior and Informed Consent.

The regional meetings and webinars culminated in a federation-wide Friends of the Earth International workshop on Community Forest Management, in Palawan, in the Philippines, in October, where we pulled the different regional stands together into a global analysis, and improved our common understanding of the links between Community Forest Management and the international discussion on forests and food security. We also established a process for future development of work in this area.

footnote
6 http://radiomundoreal.fm/bosques-y-soberania-alimentaria-en?lang=en
The need to expand public understanding about the ‘Financialisation of Nature’—the way in which obscure financial mechanisms are being used to create profit-making opportunities under the guise of biodiversity conservation—grows ever greater as those with a vested interest in their introduction seek to have them included in intergovernmental agreements. This Financialisation of Nature converts nature and its functions into financial assets. It involves an artificial division of nature into different ‘ecosystem services’ that can be quantified, measured, and sold and traded as individual units.

In 2017, to encourage as many civil society organisations as possible to track and challenge the introduction of Financialisation of Nature mechanisms in different fora, we focused on deepening and sharing our analysis, both with our member groups and with others. We also monitored and challenged the introduction of Financialisation of Nature measures ourselves, in key intergovernmental spaces including meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). For example, within the UNFCCC, the framework for market mechanisms under the Paris Agreement is advancing more quickly than expected, and Friends of the Earth International stepped up its work to track and analyse this trend at the UNFCCC’s COP 23 in Bonn.

We provided much needed space for inter-group discussion and information sharing on the Financialisation of Nature by hosting three global webinars. The first of these, in July, explained how this trend benefits corporations and linked these concerns to our work around the UN negotiations for a Binding Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights abuses (see page 5 above). The other webinars—one in Spanish and one in English—shifted the spotlight onto the links between the Financialisation of Nature and proposals on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), as well as looking at solutions. These were co-hosted with the ICCA Consortium.

We shared our preliminary results about the links between the Financialisation of Nature and corporate strategies with others at the ATTAC France Summer School in Toulouse in August, strengthening civil society understanding and creating working relationships with participants including re:commons, Corner House, and members of ATTAC. The analysis was well received and prompted plans for research into ways in which the Financialisation of Nature approach furthers deregulation.

A further priority was the promotion of Community Forest Management and collective rights as solutions that should be put in place of Financialisation of Nature-related mechanisms, especially in the CBD. At meetings of the CBD’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and Working Group on Article 8(j), held in December in Montreal, we challenged ongoing attempts to ‘mainstream’ biodiversity across various sectors such as mining, energy and manufacturing (because of the priority being given to searching for ways that those sectors can benefit from biodiversity rather than create benefits for biodiversity). We also followed other agenda items of particular concern, including the development of the CBD’s strategic plan/vision2030; mainstreaming biodiversity in mining, energy and manufacturing; and elements related to the role of Community Forest Management. We worked in collaboration with allies in the CBD Alliance, and met with the Executive Secretary of the CBD to stress our concerns and demands.

We remain extremely concerned about the ‘No Net Loss’ approach to managing biodiversity loss and the implications that this has for our climate and forests. Biodiversity offsetting can now be used to pave the way for the destruction of previously protected habitats, that were once off limits to developers—provided there is ‘no net loss’ of biodiversity. This encourages regulators to give the ‘green light’ to projects with severe impacts on biodiversity as long as the damage is supposedly offset elsewhere.
In theory, the intention is that the biodiversity offset should outweigh a project’s damage to biodiversity, but a close look at relevant standard texts (from the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation) reveal that they are riddled with loopholes, opening up a new route for developers to greenwash their destructive or polluting activities. Our analysis, undertaken in 2017 together with the Climate Justice & Energy programme, is due for completion and publication in 2018.

We have also been tracking developments in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) since its 2016 announcement that it plans to compensate for emissions from aviation through an offset scheme that might involve REDD credits. Together with others we mustered opposition over the course of 2017, conducting research and communicating and lobbying to challenge the use of REDD and other false solutions by ICAO.

In 2017 we also exposed the ways in which the environmental cooperation and carbon trading deal between the governments of California in the United States, Chiapas in Mexico, and Acre in Brazil, is fuelling environmental injustice. Our analysis, together with a set of recommendations for alternative ways of tackling climate change and environmental conflicts was published in the form of a report ‘REDD+ fuels human rights abuses, causes of climate change: The case of California, Chiapas and Acre’ (published in January 2018). The report was launched in Acre, Brazil, by Friends of the Earth Brazil and Friends of the Earth US, together with local communities; and in Mexico a workshop on REDD, organised by Otros Mundo/Friends of the Earth Mexico, was held in San Cristobal de las Casas, with the other two members contributing online presentations.

Rescuing the world’s forests requires an accurate understanding of the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, so that these can be addressed. Friends of the Earth International aims to include a new strand of work on the way in which the global production and trade of agrocommodities—such as soy, corn, palm oil, meat, wheat, milk powder, rapeseed, coffee and cacao—impacts forests and people, through land grabbing and forest clearance, human rights abuses including the exploitation of workers, the use of genetically modified crops and pesticides, and the production of unhealthy processed food.

Many of our member groups are already campaigning around the impacts of agrocommodities at the national level, and Friends of the Earth International can complement these campaigns at the international level. In 2017, we began a mapping of our member groups’ work on agrocommodities, and set up an initial listserv for internal information exchange and planning.

One strand of this campaign is already underway, together with ProNatura/Friends of the Earth Switzerland and Bread for All. Our ‘Strengthening evidence-based advocacy against palm oil production’ project is funding our member groups in Nigeria, Malaysia and Honduras to strengthen their national struggles against palm oil plantations, and to investigate the impacts of relevant sustainable palm oil certification schemes, such as that of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil plantation (RSPO). Initial research reports were received in August (from Honduras), October (from Nigeria) and December (from Malaysia). Each group detailed policy demands that related to their specific struggles, but all show that oil palm plantations provoke negative impacts and that certification is a false solution.
Solidarity & support for defenders of territories

Planting trees near the Apartheid Wall in Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem City, March 2017. These trees were uprooted one day later by the Israeli Forces. © PENCON / Friends of the Earth Palestine
The current global economic system, with its ever greater demand on natural resources, is driving an increase in land grabbing, resource exploitation and attempts to privatise and control the commons and community-managed assets. Communities, community leaders, activists and journalists resisting the loss of territory and livelihoods suffer unlawful detention, threats, harassment and raids of their offices and homes. Murders, disappearances and torture are alarmingly common—human rights abuses against environmental and political activists and defenders of territories and people’s collective rights are committed daily around the world.

The full extent and severity of these abuses have become more visible thanks to community resistance and international solidarity work which has amplified the voices of those most affected. Friends of the Earth International is striving to contribute to this increased exposure and solidarity by working to strengthen regional, cross-regional and international solidarity for defenders of territories, and strengthening our member groups’ capacity to protect their activists and allies against the repressive actions of state and non-state actors. We aim to embed practices of solidarity across our federation—both in terms of urgent responses and campaigning for preventative policies and practices.

In March 2017 we decided to form a working group to take this critical work forward as rapidly as possible, including by developing a conceptual framework that emphasises that the defence of human rights defenders and the collective struggles they are part of has to include addressing the drivers and structural causes of human rights violations, if we are to stop them happening in the first place.

Friends of the Earth International has established country-specific solidarity strategies as well. In 2017 these were focused on Honduras and Palestine, taking forward collaborative projects with Honduran and Palestinian communities, including solidarity actions with the Palestinian people in June, marking the 50th Anniversary of the Occupation.

In October, Friends of the Earth International coordinated a delegation of representatives from our member groups in Honduras and Colombia and their allies, who participated in a lobby tour in the EU. All participated in the Friends of the Earth International delegation to IGWG negotiations for a binding Treaty on business and human rights in Geneva (see page 5), and important contacts were established with the EU’s European External Action Service (EEAS).

In September, BELA/Friends of the Earth Bangladesh hosted Friends of the Earth APac’s 2017 School of Sustainability. This precedent-setting ten-day Environmental Human Rights Defenders training covered: basic human rights concepts and principles; gender justice; security training for front line defenders; risk assessments; digital security; visibility for protection; monitoring; and documentation. It also included training relating to Friends of the Earth International’s conceptual framework concerning defenders, our Economic Justice Resisting Neoliberalism programme and drivers of threats, and plans related to building international solidarity and a rapid response system. This training has now been translated into a curriculum that is part of our virtual school of sustainability. We will be expanding this training to make it available to activists in other regions.

We also started work with Milieudefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands on a planned international solidarity and rapid response system. When established this should help ensure that the federation and its member groups are able to respond to urgent requests for solidarity more systematically, and that we are more effective in meeting both immediate and long-term safety needs, so that our member groups can continue their core work, which includes bringing state and non-state actors to justice.

Communications included updates on our website and numerous solidarity communications in 2017, including press releases relating to ‘hotspot’ countries, expressing our solidarity with murdered or threatened social activists in countries such as Honduras, Palestine and the Philippines.

footnote

7 https://www.foei.org/what-we-do/human-rights-defenders
Gender justice and dismantling patriarchy
We aim to challenge power and privilege and drive transformation by pursuing gender justice and dismantling patriarchy in the wider world, including through all our programme work and communications. We are also addressing these issues internally, by fostering internal conversations and communication about patriarchy—a system of oppression that continues to reinforce men’s and women’s unequal and hierarchical roles in society—and about real solutions for gender justice.

Friends of the Earth International established a new Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy (GJDP) working group at the beginning of 2017. This group held its first virtual meetings in May and June to prepare for activities during the rest of the year, and a further three online meetings between October and December. An immediate priority was to introduce and increase understanding of these issues across our federation, and we ran Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy sessions at our 2017 regional AGMs in the African, Asia Pacific, and Latin American and Caribbean regions, as well as a one day gender training focused on women HRDs at the EU-funded APac EHRD training in September. We also provided regional support, including through an ATALC regional online meeting in December, a Friends of the Earth Africa women’s group, and for European representatives.

Our first international meeting on Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy took place in early September in Ghana, enabling us to begin developing our conceptual framework collectively and plan other goals and activities for the coming period. Following on from this we held a Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy training day with Friends of the Earth Ghana.

The first draft of our conceptual framework clarifies what our key GJDP concepts mean for Friends of the Earth International, and is already supporting analysis and practice around the link between GJDP and our programmes and campaigns. For example, in terms of food sovereignty, the framework helped us to shape concrete recommendations on the rights of women to food, including with respect to land, governance, access and benefits. Our Economic

Justice Resisting Neoliberalism programme also began to integrate gender justice concerns into its communications and other work, helped by the gender trainings. In 2017 the programme’s ‘Transforming our Economy’ report included strong feminist demands in multiple sections (see page 7).

Our new emphasis on gender justice and dismantling patriarchy reflects a parallel discussion about changes in Friends of the Earth International’s governance that also comes about after many years of work within the federation on gender issues. The 2016 BGM asked our Executive Committee to look at issues around governance structures and elections, including ways of increasing gender justice and other forms of diversity in our governance structures. This was taken forward in consultation with the regions during their 2017 annual meetings, with a view to presenting proposed bylaw changes and other formal guidance to our next Biennial General Meeting in 2018.

In 2017 we have continued to strengthen our alliance building with the World March of Women, both in Europe (including by participating in their European meeting and mobilisation in September) and in Latin America (especially at La Jornada Continental por la Democracia y contra el Neoliberalismo in Montevideo, in November).

We also marked International Women’s Day on 8 March with interviews with women from across the federation, which were shared on social media and on our website.
Our federation

Participants at Young Friends of the Earth Africa and Young Friends of the Earth Europe exchange, Africa launch meeting, Liberia. © Babawale Obayanju
Friends of the Earth International is striving to build a more diverse and inclusive environmental justice movement. Within our federation ways of doing this include increasing our member groups’ capacity to mobilise and engage with each other, and building greater political and institutional coherence.

Particular priorities include supporting member groups through needs-based political and institutional capacity-strengthening so that their local- and national-level priority campaigns are strengthened, and promoting their engagement in inter-member, cross-regional work within the federation. This was a particularly important and successful area of work within Friends of the Earth International’s programmes in 2017, with member groups increasingly engaged in and enthusiastic about all our programmes.

Capacity-building is also supported by our regional Schools of Sustainability and cross-regional exchanges. These are spaces for political formation and capacity building, where we can collectively define and communicate our solutions. All of our structures support the schools, with the Membership Development Team playing a key role.

In 2017, Friends of the Earth APac’s 2017 ten-day School of Sustainability, hosted by BELA/Friends of the Earth Bangladesh, analysed the drivers of threats to defenders of territories, and gender justice, as well as providing security training for front line defenders.

Otros Mundos/Friends of the Earth Mexico hosted ATALC’s 2017 School of Sustainability in Chiapas, Mexico, in October. The school focused on capacity building in relation to three key themes—defenders of territories, gender justice and dismantling patriarchy, and strategic communication.

The School of Sustainability in the European region brought together member groups for skill-shares and trainings on a wide range of topics including working with affected communities and communities in resistance, building solidarity at the global level, and working with the Theatre of the Oppressed and other transformative forms of people-centered education. There were also thematic events on Climate Justice and Energy/Fossil Free campaigns and Food, Agriculture and Biodiversity. All of these events—which included many hundreds of educational and broad outreach activities at local and national level in more than 20 countries—have created joint analysis, and shared skills and tools for working for system change in relation to the most pressing environmental and social justice topics at local, national and international levels.

In the African region, campaign communications took priority, with a communications capacity-building workshop for African member groups at the end of March, to boost our activists’ skills in film-making, social media, interview techniques, press work, producing good web content, communications analysis, and assessing movement and alliance building. As a result of the training all Friends of the Earth Africa groups now have active social media accounts, as does the region. This contributed to strengthening the efforts of various member groups, such as Friends of the Earth Togo, which hosted Friends of the Earth Africa’s regional meeting, organised a parallel press conference, and arranged a solidarity visit to a community facing the negative impacts of oil exploration. This visit included a fact-finding trip gathering video and photo materials, which were used to illustrate our campaign communications in the run up to UNFCCC COP 23 in November.

The Europe-Africa cross-regional youth exchange project continued throughout the year, with 14 exchange visits between youth representatives in the two regions (lasting between ten days and one month each). In January, Friends of the Earth Liberia hosted the first ever gathering of youth in Friends of the Earth Africa, and in April, groundWork/Friends of the Earth South Africa hosted our first shared youth training for the two regions, with a training based on Friends of the Earth South Africa’s Environmental Justice School/School of Sustainability model.)
We have greatly enhanced the strength of our federation in recent years, by investing in and strengthening collaboration and coordination between our member groups, especially at the regional level. All of our regions now have their own organisational structures, and hold annual general meetings (AGMs), as well as regional Schools of Sustainability (see above).

In May Friends of the Earth Togo hosted the 2017 Friends of the Earth Africa AGM, choosing a new Consultative Board, Regional Facilitator and Regional Programme Coordinators. The AGM re-affirmed Friends of the Earth Africa’s ‘No REDD+’ position, and participants agreed to map defenders of territories ‘hot spots’ in member group countries. Participants at the AGM used the opportunity to hold a press conference examining the devastating environmental and social impacts of oil, gas and coal extraction and other forms of mining in Africa, and visited a community affected by oil exploration.

CENSAT/Friends of the Earth Colombia hosted ATALC’s 2017 AGM in Bogotá, Colombia, also in May. The assembly’s general objective was to review the issues of political and administrative functioning in the region and in the federation, with a view to strengthening both ATALC and Friends of the Earth International. Key agenda items included debate about Friends of the Earth International’s and ATALC’s work on defenders of territories and dismantling patriarchy; improving communications internationally and regionally; building solidarity between the different regions and with other organisations and movements; and working on a common narrative and solutions.

Friends of the Earth Papua New Guinea hosted APac’s 2017 regional meeting in August. Member groups made plans for activities in the coming year which included campaigning and communications materials on pressing regional concerns such as forests fires, land rights violations, and climate-induced migration (prior to UNFCCC COP 23). Participants also decided that the region should participate in the UN negotiating session on business and human rights in Geneva in October (see page 5), establish a small APac communications team, host a School of Sustainability training for defenders of territories in Bangladesh (see page 21), ensuring gender balance in all its structures and gender justice in all its documents. Two simultaneous workshops for participants, on food and forests, and on climate justice and energy, were very successful.

Friends of the Earth Europe’s AGM was held in the UK in May/June. Principal thematic issues included gender justice, solidarity and movement building. The AGM was additionally tasked with designing a process to develop a new regional strategy. Other routine elements included the approval of the financial report and the budget, agreeing a regional work plan, and electing the new Friends of the Earth Europe Executive Committee. The meeting also approved changes to bylaws to reflect diversity (especially gender diversity) within the Executive Committee.
Developing a new communications strategy for Friends of the Earth International was a major priority in 2017, with a dedicated team drawn from across the federation. This strategy will guide our work to communicate Friends of the Earth International’s vision of system change to the world, and the way in which we use communications as a means of mobilising support, dismantling corporate power and increasing peoples’ sovereignty.

Following a series of global trilingual conference calls held between August and December, covering a wide range of issues, a draft strategic communications framework was completed. It included eleven objectives. Four strategic communications objectives focused on creating effective and inspiring popular communications that mobilise support; communicating Friends of the Earth International’s vision and mission to the world; elaborating and communicating Friends of the Earth International’s identity; and using communications to challenge power and privilege and drive transformation directly. The remaining tactical communications objectives included: adopting a digital/radio popular communications strategy; improving and refining our ‘wider world’ communications; introducing a new visuals strategy; maintaining and enhancing our offline communications; improving our capacity to work in multiple languages; adding communications value for member groups and the regions; and building communications capacity across the federation.

The communications strategy paper was sent to the federation, via the working group members, for consultation during January and February 2018.

During 2017 we improved our communications, both externally and internally, including our web content, press and social media communications, and we enhanced our working relationship with Real World Radio. These developments helped to improve communications within the federation as a whole, including between and within regions, including those focused on solidarity with defenders of territories. We improved our ability to work in multiple languages, and the quantity, quality and visual impact of our online content, especially video and design. We also made better use of the skill sets within our federation, and organised a communications capacity-building workshop for African member groups in Durban in March 2017, together with the communications team from the International Secretariat and a representative from Real World Radio.

Closer collaboration with Real World Radio and the IS Communications Team significantly enhanced Friends of the Earth International’s communications from key events during the year including the Seventh International Conference of La Vía Campesina in the Basque country in July; the UN negotiations for a binding Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights in October; the Committee on World Food Security meeting in Rome also in October; UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn in November; and the eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December. Real World Radio contributed to numerous communications projects including radio and video programming, production and editing, graphic design and web development. The radio team also worked with the regions and various member groups within the regions, helping to organise and cover, for example, the Continental Day for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism in Montevideo in November, and assisting members in ATALC, Europe and the APac region with various communications projects.

footnote

8 Key Radio Mundo Real broadcasts from events in 2017 can be found here: http://radiomundoreal.fm/Coberturas-198?lang=es
Amounts in Euro

**Total Expenses** 2,827,106

- Administration (176,930; 6%)
- Fundraising (83,292; 3%)
- Governance (228,008; 8%)
- Programmes (1,090,706; 39%)
- Support members & regions (1,248,169; 44%)

**Total Revenue** 2,880,737

- Grants (2,322,509; 80%)
- Membership fees (549,288; 19%)
- Donations (7,761; <1%)
- Other (1,180; <1%)

2017 Surplus 53,632

Friends of the Earth International’s complete audited financial statement is available at www.foei.org/about-foei/annual-reports

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

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs *(Fair, Green & Global alliance and Green Livelihoods Alliance)*
- Isvara Foundation
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Bread for the World

- European Union *(Europe Aid, Erasmus+)*
- IUCN-NL / Netherlands Postcode Lottery
- Bread for All
- Friends of the Earth Switzerland
- Friends of the Earth Netherlands
- Friends of the Earth US
The new Executive Committee was elected during our Biennial General Meeting at the end of 2016. It consists of:

Chair: **Karin Nansen, ATALC/Friends of the Earth Uruguay**

Vice Chair: **Hemantha Withanage, APac/Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka**

Treasurer: **Kwami Dodzi Kpondzo, Africa/Friends of the Earth Togo**

Luka Tomac, **Europe/Friends of the Earth Croatia**

Godwin Uyi Ojo, **Africa/Friends of the Earth Nigeria**

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

Choony Kim, **APac/Friends of the Earth South Korea**

Silvia Quiroa, **ATALC/Friends of the Earth El Salvador**

Elaine Gilligan, **Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

Our programme coordinators:

**Economic Justice Resisting Neoliberalism**
Lúcia Ortiz
Sam Cossar-Gilbert

**Climate Justice & Energy**
Dipti Bhatnagar
Lucy Cadena
Sara Shaw

**Food Sovereignty**
Martin Drago
Kirtana Chandrasekaran

**Forests & Biodiversity**
Isaac Rojas
Nele Marien

Our membership development team: David Heller (Friends of the Earth Europe); Daniel Riberio (Friends of the Earth Mozambique); Chloe Aldenhoven (Friends of the Earth Australia); Danilo Urrea (Friends of the Earth Colombia).
Friends of the Earth groups around the world

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

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

Europe
- Austria
- Belgium (Flanders)
- Belgium (Wallonia & Brussels)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of)
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Russia
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine

Latin America and Caribbean
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Curaçao (Antilles)
- El Salvador
- Grenada (West Indies)
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- Uruguay

North America
- Canada
- United States of America

cover image: Presenting alternative treaty to IGWG3. © Victor Barro/Friends of the Earth International