ANNUAL REPORT 2020

MOBILISE. RESIST. TRANSFORM.
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL is the world’s largest grassroots environmental federation, with 73 national member groups and millions of members and supporters around the world.

OUR VISION

- A peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature.
- A society of interdependent people living in dignity, wholeness and fulfilment in which equity and human and peoples’ rights are realised.
- A society built on peoples’ sovereignty and participation.
- A society founded on social, economic, gender and environmental justice, and free from all forms of domination and exploitation, such as neoliberalism, corporate globalisation, neo-colonialism and militarism.
- We believe 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.

FOEI.ORG HAD 207,266 VISITORS IN 2020

Report design: Leanor Hanny
Cover: Covid-19 meant that we stepped up our campaigning and movement building online.
Peasants, many of whom are women, quickly undertook the responsibility to feed the people, and their diversified and ecological food systems became even more relevant for our societies. Local markets proved to be a real alternative for urban peoples, to avoid the deadly speculation of the big supermarkets controlled by transnational corporations and powerful economic elites. Popular kitchens flourished, organised and sustained by the working class – unions, neighbourhoods and feminist organisations – providing food to millions of people who lost their jobs, and migrants. As always women were at the forefront in response to the pandemic, sustaining not only the much-needed care work both for their families and communities, but also other types of essential work in our societies, in public health, education, food processing, and other sectors.

In times of crisis, what is most important becomes evident. Throughout the world the people grew to understand once again, that the right to food, water, energy, biodiversity and a healthy environment; as well as care work, public health systems, public services and social security are key to sustaining life. With the pandemic and its huge impacts, it became clearer that our societies need to organise themselves to provide for those in greater need while, at the same time, demand public policies that put life at the centre and ensure the realisation of rights. It became all the more evident that neoliberalism does not prioritise saving lives and that a radical transformation is urgently needed to advance environmental, social, gender and economic justice and secure the sustainability of life. Thus, the need for responses that contribute to dismantling the systems of exploitation and oppression, including corporate power that generates and exacerbates the systemic crises, turned out to be crucial, along with responses based on international solidarity.

In this difficult context of 2020, our deep roots nurtured by a long history of local and national work with communities and social movements around the world, combined with our internationalist perspective built together with our allies, allowed Friends of the Earth International to organise rapidly at multiple levels to provide structural and justice-based responses to the pandemic, while also addressing the other interlinked systemic crises.

Our work at the local, national, regional and international levels was informed and strengthened by our common principles for a Just Recovery. Principles that were the result of the Federation coming together to reach a common understanding and analysis of the root causes of the health crisis and its links with the other systemic crises; its devastating impacts that extend beyond the tragic loss of human lives, and avoid going back to what was considered ‘normal’ by making steps towards building the society we want.

Our commitment to dismantling patriarchy became even more pressing, as we witnessed the growing violence against women: stuck in unsafe homes with their aggressors; in their communities while leading collective struggles against corporate power; landgrabbing, deforestation, fossil fuels, mega dams, and mining; in their jobs where their work and bodies suffered exploitative conditions; and institutionally when their rights are constantly violated.

The dismantling of the sexual division of labour and the re-organising of care work as the shared responsibility of society as a whole and the State, is a matter of real urgency. Prioritising the struggle against all forms of oppression in our political agenda was reaffirmed, as we saw how the sanitary crisis and its consequences threatened the lives of Indigenous Peoples, black people and communities, people of colour, women and LGBTQ people. Together with our allies from the World March of Women and La Via Campesina, we were able to learn about and integrate the analysis and principles of Feminist Economy into our work.

It was difficult to mobilise on the streets or carry out face-to-face advocacy, yet through webinars and strategy meetings with allies, online mobilisation and participation and monitoring of international negotiations, our international programmes managed to convey a strong critique against false solutions aimed at continuing business as usual under a green veneer, and to challenge the corporate capture of decision making. Together with our allies, we mobilised internationally against human rights’ violations by transnational corporations, and their impunity, as well as against the excessive privileges they are granted through Free Trade, investment agreements and corporate bailouts.

Importantly, we continued to advance our system change agendas. We made huge progress in proposing pathways to foster truly emancipatory and systemic peoples’ solutions and clear policy proposals to enable community forest management, food sovereignty and agroecology, economic justice, climate justice and a Just Transition. In a rich dialogue with our allies, our regions and programmes alike made steps towards a feminist framing of the Just Transition.

We strengthened international solidarity in our Federation, with our member groups and regions joining forces to engage in solidarity actions and resist the right wing and corporate push against peoples and the environment, which is taking place in so many places around the world.

We witnessed once again how a system structured around oppression and exploitation will do whatever it takes to silence the voices of those leading collective struggles against structural racism and the destruction and grabbing of their territories.

We denounced the murder of Jehry Rivera, an indigenous leader from the Naso Bórman people in Costa Rica. Jehry fought for indigenous autonomy in the face of land usurpers and extractive projects such as the Diquís Hydroelectric Project which was negatively affecting the community.

We condemned the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and Ahmaud Arbery and the systemic murders and state-sanctioned violence against Black People in the United States. We stood in solidarity and joined forces to denounce systemic racism and institutionalised oppression.

We also condemned the killing of Mama Fikile Ntsangase in South Africa. As a member of the Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organisation (MCEJO) she was vocal in her concerns about the Tendele coal mine operations. We stand in solidarity with her family and the entire Somkhele community to demand justice, so that the impunity of the intellectual and material perpetrators of this vile crime will not prevail.

Our struggle continues and, no doubt, we face huge challenges ahead. But our unique decentralised and democratic structure which is rather unique, allows us to be deeply rooted in the local struggles and come together internationally as we share a profound commitment to justice. Our shared political analysis and agenda, both within Friends of the Earth International, but also with other social movements and organisations, is a strong basis for a greater convergence towards building peoples’ power, real peoples’ solutions and internationalist solidarity, while confronting the systems of oppression and exploitation which are at the roots of the systemic crises.

We strongly value your ongoing support which is fundamental for our struggle and achieving a radical transformation of our societies founded on justice.

In solidarity,
Karin Nansen,
Uruguay,
Friends of the Earth International Chair
Q: HOW DID WE CARE FOR OUR FEDERATION DURING THE PANDEMIC?

“Though it was a complicated and wearying year, it also changed the way we worked and organised ourselves,” reported Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific, summarising a view shared across Friends of the Earth International.

As lockdowns spread across the globe, most activity moved online, from training to big events like our popular School of Sustainability workshops and our AGMs. For our member groups whose work is based around mobilising communities to take collective action this was a dramatic change which needed new working methods and apps, surveys and pilots as well as grants to support those most in need.

Our wellbeing group was set up in March and continued operating into 2021. We organised a survey about the impacts of Covid-19 on groups, managed emergency grants and ran a well-received solidarity event and a wellbeing workshop.

Response from 37 member groups to our online survey (20 March – 19 April) showed that all faced a dramatic increase in online work. Issues included:

- The need for research into and training for online tools for video conferencing and communication.
- With 90% of our groups working online or from home we ran three webinars (in English and Spanish) to facilitate remote team working, wellbeing and share tips on becoming better at organising and creating inclusive spaces online. We also held an open session for all member groups in December to share stories of hope, solidarity and inspiration.

Being at home meant an increase in care responsibilities (including children and family members) for many staff and key volunteers, particularly women, due to their socially-constructed role as caregivers. Many groups responded by being flexible, often agreeing reduced hours/workload at the same pay.

Five years [after the Paris Agreement], we find our world mired in higher inequality, deeper crises of increasing unemployment, fossil fuel projects and bailouts for the most polluting companies, not to mention a global Covid-19 pandemic. The roots of all these inter-related crises are the same: extractivist, profiteering capitalism. We call for system change, community-owned renewable energy systems and rights for Indigenous Peoples and frontline communities, so they can continue to protect the ecosystems that nourish us and the planet.

dipti Bhatnagar, International Programme Coordinator for Climate Justice and Energy, December 2020
women, people suffering from racism, migrants, peoples living in areas of war and conflict, the LGBTQ population, people in countries enduring economic blockages. Our response was to better implement a cross-programme work so all regions and the Federation worked on a Just Recovery from Covid-19, that helps the world move towards system change. We spoke out about the way the Covid-19 pandemic is fuelled by the current political-economic system that prioritises profits over peoples’ rights and the environment. We showed how neoliberalism and the financialisation of nature impose significant obstacles to structural responses, which in turn make a global health crisis worse. For example:

- Weakening of public health and social security systems and public services (see p16 EJRN).
- Dismantling of workers’ rights and flexibilisation of labour, see Mercosur-EU deal (see p16 EJRN) and Food Sovereignty (see p20 FS).

We were also the lead author in the largest grassroots assessment of Covid-19 and food systems bringing together the voices of millions of small-scale food producers, workers, consumers, women and youth represented in the organisations that participate in the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSM) to call for the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to coordinate a global Human Rights based, Just Response to the Covid-19 food crisis and structural problems with the food system. This report was published in October. See p20 for more Food Sovereignty work.

The pandemic exposed existing inequalities across the world, bringing many undemocratic practices and an increase in poverty and violence. Across all countries, lockdowns impacted small businesses, farmers, informal traders and transport. The result has been a massive increase in food prices while millions of jobs and sources of income have been lost. Friends of the Earth Africa report witnessing abuses of power with increased militarisation across several countries, abuse by police, and ineffectual, disjointed responses from governments to both the growing and growing socio-economic crises. Globally some government’s measures to deal with Covid-19 have seen attacks on civil liberties and land grabbing that have left environmental defenders vulnerable (see p30 for more on our Internationalist Solidarity System).

Our members reported a brutal increase in gender-based violence in their societies especially in the home, that has been accompanied by new and more demands on women in terms of care work and survival under extreme circumstances. The pandemic has shown how crucial care work is for the sustainability of life in our families, communities and societies and for the defence of our territories. We made clear that recovery does not mean going back to the ‘old normal’. This is the time to prioritise the sustainability of life, peoples’ rights and the protection of livelihoods and the planet. In August 2020 we proposed four principles for a Just Recovery:

1. Abandon neoliberalism and austerity and immediately put in place policies and measures founded on justice, recognising ecological limits.
2. Recovery measures should be built on and enhance multilateral cooperation and internationalist solidarity.
4. Government must respond to the multiple systemic crises – of the pandemic, inequality, climate, food, biodiversity and care – and their root causes, by pursuing a transformative system change agenda.

This powerful collective political analysis helped the majority of Friends of the Earth member groups to share a common understanding of the Covid-19 crisis and advocate for a Just Recovery at the national and local level. Together the progressive and environmental movements have contributed to the Just recovery being part of the global agenda. Many national political and public agendas have used the language of a ‘Just recovery’ as a framework to respond to Covid-19. For example the UN secretary general, Chinese president, UNCTAD and many cities and local governments have used or called for a ‘Just’ or green recovery although the World Economic Forum is making use of the term for its own false corporate solutions. Yet often the so-called ‘just recovery’ discourse and policies adopted by governments or international institutions only contain a few elements of what Friends of the Earth International would see as a Just Recovery able to create sustainable societies.
Across Uruguay community soup kitchens sprung up as a feminist response to the pandemic. See p.28 for more Internationalist Solidarity System work.

Feudal systems, agrarian systems, and food sovereignty through agroecology; the pandemic shocked the world, we initiated a Political Economy Justice Dismantling Patriarchy work.

Across Uruguay community soup kitchens sprung up as a feminist response to the pandemic 820 million women and men were already suffering from systemic inequalities and food insecurity. In the French language show, Juliette Renaud from Friends of the Earth France said that now is the time to dismantle the privileges enjoyed by transnational corporations, “in particular the protection and dispute settlement mechanism, ISDS.”

In the English language show, participants explained how they moved environmental campaigning and education activities online, and brought local activists and communities along with them through web training sessions and toolkits. Among the range of pathways to a Just Recovery discussed in the shows, many are founded on work that Friends of the Earth, its allies and communities have been doing since long before the pandemic.

Meena Raman from Friends of the Earth Malaysia pointed out our campaigning track record on climate justice and the environment. “Many of us have been pushing our governments to do what is needed – not bailing out corporations – helping the poorer sections of society, ensuring that people are able to feed themselves. We have been pushing them to recognise the environmentally sustainable solutions we have been talking about for a long time. Friends of the Earth International and its members around the world have been campaigning on this in every facet of our economy and our lives.”

The importance of Internationalist Solidarity was brought to the fore in 2020. To accompany the launch of our Just Recovery principles Friends of the Earth International chair, Karin Nansen expressed our solidarity with those affected by the coronavirus crisis, particularly those already suffering from systemic inequalities and oppressions, in a video message in May. See p.30 for more Internationalist Solidarity System work.

“Terminate existing agreements with ISDS.”

“Stop signing any future agreements that include ISDS. See p.16 for more Economic Justice and Resisting Neoliberalism work.”

A webinar run with our allies the World March of Women and the Latin American Network of Women Transforming the Economy (REMOTE) on 30 June had 100 people from at least 17 countries discussing Feminist Economics and Environmentalism for a Just Recovery: Outlooks from the South. This focused on solutions including better overlap of social movements, internationalist solidarity and food sovereignty through agroecology; the transcript was published in November in English, Portuguese and Spanish. See p.29 for more Gender Justice Dismantling Patriarchy work.

Five feminist frontlines: responses to Covid-19 and the care crisis was the theme for international discussions held in August with member groups and analysis from the World March of Women. Forced lockdown meant that many children, teenagers, women and LGBTQ people experienced more patriarchal violence in the home as they spent more time with their aggressors. Even before Covid-19, one in three women in the world endure sexual or physical violence in their lifetime, many from their partner/ex-partner, but the pandemic intensified violence against women and girls. At the same time there is a lack of shelters or services for survivors and a lack of state investment in public policies for prevention. Main proposals made during the discussions included the need to continue lobbying for public policies for the prevention of violence and support for survivors, and strengthening our gender justice actions within our Federation in alliance with feminist and other movements for the prevention of violence and dismantling of patriarchal power relations. Friends of the Earth Brazil’s Patricia Gonçalves said, “We must build anti-patriarchal, anti-racist, anti-capitalist solutions, based on a community perspective and on feminist relations.” See p.26 for more Gender Justice Dismantling Patriarchy work.

Real World Radio – broadcast in English and Spanish

Logged Visitors From 174 Countries

Actual Visitors Were Up to 58,718 (32,063 in 2019).

Feedback From RWR Listeners

“We are fans of the Real World Radio which is a very important reference of popular and international communication for us.” — Helena Zelic, World March of Women

“We would like to thank the comrades of Real World Radio for their dedication to the production of [the show] Voz Campesina.” — CLOC-Via Campesina 2020 Year Report

“We want to extend our compliments for the radio work that you carry out in the service of the citizens.” — Olmedo Carrasquilla from Radio Temblar, Colectivo Voces Ecológicas de Panama

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Although the pandemic made it difficult to mobilise on the streets, travel or conduct face-to-face advocacy, we were still able to have an impact, in particular linking the Covid-19 crisis to climate and the other crises the Earth is facing. By August we were able to launch our four key Just Recovery principles (see p9), and support Friends of the Earth El Salvador, Costa Rica and Ghana to advocate for Just Recovery from the Covid-19 crisis at the national policy level. We held more than 50 internal online meetings, webinars and knowledge exchanges related to Covid-19 and Just Recovery. More than 40 groups from across the Federation participated in this process, analysing the new health context, developing policy positions and strategies to influence governments and the public discourse. With the Economic Justice and Resisting Neoliberalism programme we built support for the Just Recovery agenda within our major global alliances including the Demand Climate Justice Campaign. Our Chair, Karin Nansen, spoke at a webinar organised by TNI on the Global Green New Deal with UNCTAD’s chief economist. Friends of the Earth Latin America & the Caribbean co-organised with La Jornada Continental an online conference on peoples’ recovery to the pandemic attended by over 2,000 people from eight countries. We also spoke at the Global Green New Deal webinar in November attended by over 300 people.

TACKLING FALSE SOLUTIONS

In 2020 we addressed the growing problem of false solutions to the climate crisis. Building on our work against carbon markets at COP25 in Madrid we worked with allies against offsets. Our briefing A Leap in the Dark: the dangers of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage warns that this unproven idea distracts from urgently needed climate action. While a joint publication with allies made clear the pitfalls of Not Zero: how net zero targets disguise climate inaction. We also worked with allies on a new report, Chasing Carbon Unicorns: The Deception Of Carbon Markets and “Net Zero” to be fully launched in 2021. We ran a webinar.

Our Climate Justice & Energy programme aims to:
- mobilise at scale under a narrative of planetary emergency and climate justice.
- weaken the dirty energy sector by stopping harmful energy projects.
- be recognised as a leading voice for a just peoples’ energy system.

The Liability Roadmap is a tool we can use to call to account those who have knowingly caused the climate crisis and make them pay. Not only that, it lays the foundations for systemic change – reducing corporate power and ensuring resources for the much-needed just transformation."

Sara Shaw, Climate Justice & Energy Programme Coordinator at Friends of the Earth International quoted in Energy Live News. Launched in September with our Make Big Polluters Pay alliance, the liabilityroadmap.org had visits from 99 countries; hashtags were seen over 7.8 million times; people and groups from all continents except Antarctica participated in the launch, reaching up to 77 million people.
our work against carbon climate crisis. Building on false solutions to the growing problem of In 2020 we addressed theEarth Europe’s online summer camp, and the Asia justice in a managed phase out of fossil fuels. We all allies launching their report on equity and climate Friends of the Earth Mozambique’ and Norway with their climate legal cases and co-led supported Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Sweden the online youth climate strikes on 24 April. We also supported the Earth Netherlands, Sweden and Norway with their climate legal cases and co-led on a key online mobilisation in June supporting JA! Friends of the Earth Mozambique’s anti-gas fight and human rights’ abuses. We also supported allies launching their report on equity and climate justice in a managed phase out of fossil fuels. We presented on climate justice at the Young Friends of the Earth Europe’s online summer camp, and the Asia Pacific and the Caribbean School of Sustainability in November (see p35). We were part of the new Africa Climate Justice Group, which this year launched a website, sharing the Africa covid and climate justice statement. Building a strong climate justice movement in Africa is vital: real progress was made in developing unified positions and new resources as a basis for stronger coordinated climate justice action. Although COP26 in Glasgow was postponed until 2021 we participated in logistics, policy, mobilisation and communications work with Friends of the Earth Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Europe throughout 2020, running COP26 sessions at Europe’s Fossil Free meeting in February.

MOBILISATION FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS
While the Covid-19 health and economic crisis dominated the headlines the climate crisis continued apace. We were able to respond to events via media interviews and social media starting in January with the Australia bushfires and Indonesia floods and then the online youth climate strikes on 24 April. We also supported Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Sweden and Norway with their climate legal cases and co-led on a key online mobilisation in June supporting JA! Friends of the Earth Mozambique’s anti-gas fight and human rights’ abuses. We also supported allies launching their report on equity and climate justice in a managed phase out of fossil fuels. We presented on climate justice at the Young Friends of the Earth Europe’s online summer camp, and the Asia Pacific and the Caribbean School of Sustainability in November (see p35).

We were part of the new Africa Climate Justice Group, which this year launched a website, sharing the Africa covid and climate justice statement. Building a strong climate justice movement in Africa is vital: real progress was made in developing unified positions and new resources as a basis for stronger coordinated climate justice action.

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FIGHTING BIG POLLUTERS & CLIMATE LITIGATION
We worked actively with Friends of the Earth Netherlands during their historic climate case hearings in the Hague, in December, which saw thousands of co-plaintiffs and supporters around the world demand Shell stops climate destruction. The Court outcome is due in May 2021, however the case had huge global media impact with many journalists reporting that Shell was hampering the phase-out of fossil fuels. We also supported many other groups in their work against dirty energy, including:

- Togo successfully held back the drive to open up offshore oil drilling for another year and supported communities in understanding the fight.
- Madre Tierra/Friends of the Earth Honduras continued to fight destructive hydro in the Lenca region. 2020 proved a challenging year with continued repression, including under cover of Covid-19. Thanks to the politicisation and training work of Madre Tierra and allies, the CILR (Lenca Indigenous Council of Reitoca) managed to maintain the community resistance against the hydroelectric project which remains stalled.

- Friends of the Earth Mozambique played a huge role in fighting gas extraction in their country. We co-released a report with JA! and Friends of the Earth France in June 2020.
- We presented at Friends of the Earth Japan’s climate justice symposium, supporting the Yokosuka coal power plant-affected community including making a short film, hosting a gender justice workshop and meeting with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to demand they don’t fund Mozambique gas exploitation.
- Thabametsi coal plant was finally cancelled thanks to Groundwork/Friends of the Earth South Africa and allies.
- Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland’s work with local communities to block the construction of Druridge Bay opencast coal mine and block the third runway at Heathrow (the campaign got a win in Feb 2020, although this was later reversed). With them we will step up our climate litigation work across the Federation.
- By the end of 2020 the UK government announced an end to overseas finance for fossil fuels due to the work of Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland and allies.

TRANSFORMING THE ENERGY SYSTEM
A Just Transition to a community-owned clean energy system is a crucial element of our climate justice and energy work. African ecofeminist Just Transition work continued online, as did the Just and Feminist Transition workshops (planned to be held in Argentina) with webinars in three regions, during October and November (see p28 JGJP). We co-hosted the Global Feminist Frameworks for Climate Justice Town Hall in September; co-hosted a Just Transition gender justice session at the From the Ground Up in November; spoke at an UNRISD webinar; and joined PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine to speak about renewable energy and gender justice at a roundtable organised by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Our new booklet, 10 Demands for a transformed energy system, a summary of our People Power Now publication was well received in the Just Recovery webinars and forums offering a real solution rather than the false solutions of big business. We continued financial support of PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine’s good energy work, especially their focus on empowering women, and were glad they were nominated for the Transformative Cities award.

In 2020 we addressed the growing problem of false solutions to the climate crisis. Building on our work against carbon capture, at COP25 in Madrid we worked with allies against offsets. We continued financial support of PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine’s good energy work, especially their focus on empowering women, and were glad they were nominated for the Transformative Cities award.
Resisting Corporate Power

While many Friends of the Earth groups and the communities we work with were in lockdown, or isolation, we continued to remain connected and act in solidarity by organising huge webinars, photo actions, phone link ups, twitter storms and carefully organised Covid-19 safe protests. When Shell faced Friends of the Earth Netherlands in an historic court case for its climate wrecking activities, we coordinated an International Day of Action to #StopShell in more than 20 countries, demonstrating huge global solidarity from our million plus supporters.

Call for a Binding Treaty

Negotiations online for a UN binding treaty for transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights were problematic. Prior to the sixth round of negotiations we joined the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power to argue that the second revised draft of the binding instrument had “lost its soul”. Collectively we criticised this year’s negotiation process for failing on inclusivity, especially for Southern governments and civil society. Online participation brought many challenges for those in different time zones, as sessions started at dawn for most of the Americas. There were often internet connection difficulties that prevented the participation of both civil society and states. The informal consultation did not provide interpretation, so we organised this for our members and allies including Movement of Peoples Affected by Dams (MAB) and academics from the Center for Human Rights and Companies of the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (HOMA). Ultimately, we were able to make our voices heard to make sure that the Binding Treaty is more ambitious using live video interventions to the UN floor by Friends of the Earth groups from Brazil, France, Indonesia, Mozambique, Philippines, Switzerland, Togo and Friends of the Earth Europe in October. In addition, we also enabled the participation of allies in Brazil – from HOMA and members of La Via Campesina – who delivered oral interventions using Friends of the Earth International’s

Our Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism programme aims to:

- reduce corporate impunity through national regulation and a UN binding treaty.
- win significant victories against the current trade and investment regime, helping to weaken it.
- support more groups to promote our economic transformation agenda.

Despite all the difficulties that hybrid negotiations entail, we will continue to fight for an ambitious and effective Binding Treaty that secures real access to justice for communities affected by violations, and puts an end to the power of transnational corporations and their economic and legal structures.

Leticia Paranhos Menna de Oliveira, Friends of the Earth International’s Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism Coordinator
CASE STUDY
Together with our allies we ensured that the Transformative Cities Award shared powerful stories of a Just Recovery and system change initiatives from around the world. Two of our groups (Amigos da Terra Brasil/ Friends of the Earth Palestine) were among the 12 finalists with more than 10,000 people voting online for their favourite initiative. The award was complimented by national grants for our member groups and communities allies to scale up their projects for a Just Recovery. This is part of our strategy to learn and be inspired by each other’s successes building local to global solutions for system change.

ECOSOC badge. Despite all the limitations, we had an organised participation together with the Global Campaign, not leaving out any of the points that are key to make sure that the Binding Treaty project is more ambitious and effective, both in terms of curbing power asymmetries and ensuring justice for communities affected by transnational corporations.

Some 67 countries participated in the negotiations, with many raising issues that we have long advocated for; including the need to respect the mandate and legal instrument must focus on transnational corporations. For the first time, there were state delegations arguing in favour of direct obligations corporations. For the first time, there were state delegations arguing in favour of direct obligations for transnationals as legal entities and guarantees for the primacy of human rights over trade deals. These important negotiations to regulate transnationals worldwide will continue into 2021 and we will be there to demand rules for business and rights for people. Other highlights included:

- Participation of Pro Natura/Friends of the Earth Switzerland meant we could have face-to-face participation.
- More than 250 organisations are part of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, so many of our allies actively participated in the meetings including La Via Campesina, World Women's March, Central Trade Union of the Americas, Transnational Institute, Centre Europe: Tiers Mondre, HOMA Center for Human Rights & Companies of the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Fian International, Corporate Accountability International, Union of Those Affected by Texaco-Chevron UDAPT, Stop The Wall, and many others.
- Despite Covid-19 limitations we helped civil society drive momentum for a historic UN Binding Treaty in October.
- We published an advert in the Financial Times calling for support for the UN Binding Treaty, in collaboration with the Global Interparliamentary Network and backed by more than 300 parliamentarians urging states in particular to engage with the negotiations.

TOTAL IN COURT
January saw oil company Total’s abuses in Uganda heard by the French High Court of Justice. This was an historic first, a legal action based on the French law of Duty of Vigilance of Transnational Corporations. However the judges decided the case did not fall within their jurisdiction and needed to sit with the

It is insanity to continue a business-as-usual agenda in the WTO during the pandemic. Governments should listen to global needs and act accordingly. A new agenda, focused on putting the global economy at the service of the global good, should emerge as a result.  

Opinion column by Deborah James quoting a letter from more than 400 civil society organisations including Friends of the Earth International, Asia Times, 7 May 2020

RESISTING UNJUST BAILOUTS
We know from previous crises that transnational corporations are all too eager to use disasters to increase profits and power, so from day one of the Covid-19 pandemic we have exposed unjust bailouts to the fossil fuel industry. We’ve also produced a video demanding a moratorium on the harmful Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and researched corporate capture of different international institutions.

We supported global south countries’ proposal for a waiver of the TRIPS in the World Trade Organisation through our 150,000 person strong social media channels. This change would mean more affordable and equal global distribution of Covid-19 vaccines rather than boosting pharmaceutical corporations’ profits.

MERCOSUR-EU DEAL OPPOSITION
With Friends of the Earth Brazil we launched Burning Amazonia: A Global Corporate Crime (see p24 F&B). The new report offered insight into the Amazon context and the fires that occurred in 2019, as a warning of the potential impacts of the harmful Free Trade Agreement between Mercosur and the EU, and which our member groups in Latin America and Europe, working with allies from trade unions, peasant and feminist organisations have delayed for another year. Tactics include strategic advocacy by Friends of the Earth Europe at the EU parliament, plus Friends of the Earth France and Survie show human rights’ violations are escalating in Uganda and Tanzania, now affecting over 100,000 people.

Commercial Court, a decision unfortunately confirmed by the appeal court in December, after a new court hearing in October. These rulings seem to contradict the spirit and main objective of the law, which is to protect human rights and the environment. The delays caused by this procedural issue are worrying as a new investigation by Friends of the Earth France and Survie show human rights’ violations are escalating in Uganda and Tanzania, now affecting over 100,000 people.

It is insane to continue a business-as-usual agenda in the WTO during the pandemic. Governments should listen to global needs and act accordingly. A new agenda, focused on putting the global economy at the service of the global good, should emerge as a result.

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Friends of the Earth International
2,248,500
Tweet impressions during 2020

With Friends of the Earth Brazil we launched Burning Amazonia: A Global Corporate Crime (see p24 F&B). The new report offered insight into the Amazon context and the fires that occurred in 2019, as a warning of the potential impacts of the harmful Free Trade Agreement between Mercosur and the EU, and which our member groups in Latin America and Europe, working with allies from trade unions, peasant and feminist organisations have delayed for another year. Tactics include strategic advocacy by Friends of the Earth Europe at the EU parliament, plus Friends of the Earth Argentina powerfully communicating the impacts to the public, sign-ons and mass mobilisation amongst social networks in Brazil and detailed technical trade analysis from Friends of the Earth Uruguay. Now political opposition is also growing against the deal as the government and leaders in France and Ireland threaten to block it.
COVID-19 INSPIRED ACTION FOR A JUST RECOVERY

We built on our 2019 success at seeing the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) recognise agroecology as the transformative solution for a food system in crisis, by linking the Covid-19 food crisis and structural problems with the food system to call for food sovereignty for a Just Recovery.

In April we sent a joint letter, with allies, to the G20 Ministers about the Covid-19 crisis as closed borders and lockdowns highlighted the extreme fragility of a food system in which 820 million women and men were chronically hungry and 2 billion suffered from food insecurity. We made clear that all Covid-19 measures must respect Human Rights and build the resilient, sustainable food system we desperately need.

In August we held four webinars – the first looked at the challenges of new technologies in agriculture and their food sovereignty impacts and was attended by 46 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Haiti, Honduras, Malaysia, Netherlands, Palestine, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Uruguay and USA. The next webinar discussed the CFS process for policy recommendations on agroecology. We also exchanged analysis and strategy about Covid-19 with allies via several webinars in the CSM working group on Covid-19 for the UN World Food Security.

As part of the CSM working group we were the lead author of the largest grassroots assessment on food security, nutrition and Covid-19. This report was presented to UN agencies in October. It was part of advocacy efforts calling on the UN Committee on World Food Security to coordinate a global human rights based, just response to the Covid-19 food crisis and structural problems with the food system. It led to commitments from delegates and the CFS chair that we hope will lead to practical, action-oriented guidance to Governments (see p 9-10).

“We are facing acute, interconnected crises – hunger, malnutrition, biodiversity loss, the climate crisis, growing inequality and poverty. What we need are real solutions, not more greenwashing from agribusiness. Real solutions – public regulation for agroecology and food sovereignty – require dismantling corporate power, redistributing resources, re-localising food systems and ensuring small scale producers have control. Food is a human right not a commodity.”

Kirtana Chandrasekaran, Friends of the Earth International on Agility PR News
13 October 2020
In addition to our input to the Just Recovery principles (see p9), we made films showing how food sovereignty can be the answer to a Just Recovery from Covid-19. Filmed in December with Friends of the Earth International, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mozambique, Philippines, El Salvador, Uruguay and Togo, they are due for launch next year.

DISMANTLING TRANSNATIONALS

With allies we challenged the problematic corporate takeover of UN and democratic spaces through our mapping research, webinars, and letters calling for a democratic reset. In October we launched a global campaign to challenge the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). Our letter to the UN Secretary General against the summit was supported by more than 550 organisations. We also presented our concerns at governments at the UN CFS plenary. This resulted in UNFSS leadership taking steps to address our concerns such as embedding Human Rights better and corporatisation of agriculture.

As part of our Internationalist Solidarity Support, we stand in support of the Indian farmers’ historic protests against the deregulation and corporatisation of agriculture as they struggle for food sovereignty, anti-fascism, democracy and human rights.

Our Junk Agroecology report exposed how corporations are co-opting peoples’ solutions to the food crisis. We then worked on a manual to share knowledge about how collective rights of peasants, Indigenous Peoples, farmerfolk and nomads can be protected by the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other rural peoples (UNDRRP). Recognition of collective rights is a crucial component of initiatives like agroecology and Community Forest Management.

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Friends of the Earth International

110,224 Facebook likes in 2020

AGROECOLOGY MAPPING

CASE STUDIES FOR AGROECOLOGY MAPPING

MALAYSIA

Wherever the government is pushing the one-crop cash-crop model, agroecology is an act of resistance. Nuie Anak Sumok, who leads a women’s group, supported by Sahabat Alam Malaysia/Friends of the Earth Malaysia helps her family, community and the environment with every chilli, pineapple and courgette she produces on her roadside plot in Sarawak. As she says: “We can’t afford to plant only one crop – we have to do what is of more benefit to us.”

MOZAMBIQUE

After a land rights win, supported by JA! Friends of the Earth Mozambique, Namaacha village farmers have adopted agroecology and communal farming as they get back to planting cabbage, onion, beans and lettuce and to tend their bananas, tangerine, lychee and papaya trees. Gizela Zunguze from JA!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique working with Namaacha village farmers as they adopt agroecology and communal farming.

Gizela Zunguze from JA!/Friends of the Earth Mozambique working with Namaacha village farmers as they adopt agroecology and communal farming.

© Amelia Collins/Friends of the Earth International

As part of our Internationalist Solidarity Support, we supported the Indian farmers in their historic protests against the deregulation and corporatisation of agriculture.

© Anil Varghese / Jibin Robin

In November, FAO officials virtually updated us on TAPE implementation as we discussed possible collaboration in 2021: Some country-level pilots are yielding positive initial results. This is creating a positive knock-on effect as improved information helps to increase the number of countries interested in using the TAPE tool and will greatly contribute to the food sovereignty movement’s work increasing peoples’ and decision makers’ support for agroecology.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAO TOOL

As technical facilitators of the IPC working group on agroecology, we are following the implementation of the FAO Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE). Through this process, we continue to push the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to support our vision and proposals on agroecology, although keeping up momentum has been a struggle.

It took until the end of November to know that the second round of negotiations will be on 29-31 March and 3-7 May 2021. Even at this stage we expect a very tough negotiation process, due to the severe differences between governments. Some governments are willing to pair agroecology with “other innovative approaches” which opens the door to the inclusion of false solutions, (gene editing, etc). The interlinkages between human health and the environment and ecology have been objected to by some governments; and there is a significant resistance on language about the use, reduction and phasing out of agrotoxics.

We then worked on a manual to share knowledge about how collective rights of peasants, Indigenous Peoples, farmerfolk and nomads can be protected by the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other rural peoples (UNDRRP). Recognition of collective rights is a crucial component of initiatives like agroecology and Community Forest Management.

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Promoting Agroecology as a Pathway to Food Security

We continued campaigning for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to agree global recommendations for agroecology. Friends of the Earth International facilitates the Civil Society & Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism for relations with the UN World Food Security working group (CSM) on agroecology feeding into the CFS process. We kept up the pressure during these complicated and sometimes chaotic negotiations.

It was a fast-paced series of meetings that were not inclusive, due to lack of translation of documents or interpretation at meetings. Although this did not affect CSM participation, because the working group provided translation and interpretation for its members, it did affect the participation of some governments. In addition, people living in regions/countries with connectivity problems and other important voices from movements, and also those countries that do not have many staff in Rome were left out, an experience that was echoed in other UN spaces this year (see p16 EJRN).

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TACKLING BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Before the second open-ended working group of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) we sent a forceful message making it clear that the draft of the global biodiversity framework rescue plan to stop extinction and tackle biodiversity loss is not ambitious enough and lacks urgent targets for saving peoples and nature.

Our Friends of the Earth International delegation including representatives from Argentina, Switzerland and Sri Lanka (Nigeria had visa issues when the meeting was moved to Rome because of Covid-19) were active in the meeting itself as well as working with the CBD alliance on, for example, protecting the CBD from detrimental influence of “mainstream conservation” NGOs. Our work on the ground and with the CBD alliance included proposals for the text that will be considered by parties for the next round of negotiations.

We supported member groups in Argentina, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Costa Rica and Malaysia to lobby at the national level on the post 2020 process and the implementation of CBD decisions in their own countries.

We organised a debate with the CBD Alliance on the Post 2020 UN Framework, and were able to get a common position based on justice and fairness signed by 31 organisations. This resulted in the publication of DOs and DON’Ts for a successful global biodiversity framework used by many of these organisations to lobby the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We continued our analysis of the hopelessly weak draft zero of the Post 2020 Framework and came up with alternative proposals. A new draft is out, but we are still analysing it to see how our elements have been taken on board.

Although the Post 2020 Framework discussions made the whole world focus on forests and biodiversity issues, it seems that this is bringing an increasing interest by transnationals into biodiversity decision-making processes including a rise in untenable offsetting proposals and voluntary initiatives.

"The current draft plan... won’t prevent the sixth mass extinction or build a fairer and safer future. It requires binding rules to ensure we start living within planetary boundaries, reduce inequality, address corporate conflict of interest and ensure rights for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. In short we need system change." - Nele Mariën, Forests and Biodiversity Coordinator at Friends of the Earth International, in The Ecologist, 24 February 2020.
CASE STUDY

PROTECTING PEOPLES’ AND NATURE FROM HYDROPOWER

In Georgia, resistance to a plan to construct a hydropower plant, thereby destroying a national park and local communities, was extra difficult due to Covid-19 restrictions. Thanks to a grant, Friends of the Earth Georgia held online consultation meetings, did social media work and ultimately halted the construction of the hydropower plant for now. Further protection for the park is also on the national agenda. Rights framework to better enable the implementation and recognition of Community Forest Management (CFM) in legislation and public policies. We defined a Friends of the Earth International position and produced a report, Essential Rights for Community Forest Management. A second report was published after analysis of 17 international agreements, Community Forest Management: how it is supported in international agreements. We ran two webinars in November, focusing on the situation regarding rights at the national, regional and global levels with a view to improving our lobbying work. The first, attended by 19 people from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Malaysia, Netherlands, Spain, Togo and Uruguay, focused on the current state of the essential rights such as Community Forest Management. The second had 21 participants from Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Liberia, Honduras, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay and looked at how the UN recognises those rights and shared lobbying experiences on rights in Liberia and Argentina. Following the webinars it is clear that there is a lack of implementation of rights.

Nature has a social, cultural and spiritual value. By putting a price on nature we reduce it solely to the ecosystem services it provides. It is impossible to put a price on nature. When a price is put on nature it can then be bought or sold. Does it make sense? Money buys the right to destroy nature. There is no guarantee that nature can be regenerated.


with defenders suffering attacks and killings. The fight for the respect and implementation of rights and the use of legal mechanisms is a good strategy but the rights need to be appropriated by the local communities and our groups before the use of legal actions. The discussions gave rise to many ideas for our work in 2021.

RIGHTS AND THE FINANCIALISATION OF NATURE

This year we identified and analysed the main characteristics of false solutions linked to the financialisation of nature, to be shared in 2021. To strengthen the capacity of our groups, Latin America & the Caribbean (ATALC) and Asia Pacific (APAC) designed a workshop for each region. The ATALC workshop was attended by five organisations and the APAC workshop by seven groups (around 25 people at each) to review the concept and impacts of the financialisation of nature. Both regions looked at further capacity building, participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), national and regional mechanisms and policies that entail financialisation of nature, and interregional coordination to improve understanding.

AMAZONIA FIRES

This is a global corporate crime as we make clear in our September report Burning Amazonia: a global corporate crime which warns about the need to stop the Mercosur-EU Free Trade Agreement (see p.16 E.B similar). We worked with Friends of the Earth Brazil, the Economic Justice and Resisting Neoliberalism programme and Internationalist Solidarity team to organise a webinar in October for 40 people about the Amazonia fires in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. This led to a deeper understanding of the causes of the increase in fires during 2019 at a time when there was 11% more rain, and also the demands of social movements in Brazil. The aim is for our solidarity to have more impact in the future and disrupt the capitalist, racist and patriarchal system and the current far right, conservative, genocidal and neoliberal administration of Bolsonaro. Participants came from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Malaysia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, UK, Uruguay and USA.

Related reports included Friends of the Earth Brazil’s What really happens in the Amazon forest? published in May and a July article on www.foei.org The military model destroying the Brazilian Amazon.

SUPPORTING AFRICAN PEOPLE’S TRIBUNAL

The Peoples’ Tribunal in Africa continues to expose the negative impacts agrocommodities have on forests, biodiversity and local communities. This year the tribunal called for peoples’ solutions and highlighted the need to strengthen Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ rights (see p32).

CASE STUDY

MALAYSIA FISHERFOLK

Fisherfolk involved in an administrative challenge are aware of the importance of the Malaysian government’s ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as they need their fishing territory to be protected. They fear the destruction of their livelihoods and the marine ecosystem by the proposed Penang South Reclamation (PSR) project. Sahabat Alam Malaysia/Friends of the Earth Malaysia met with the fisherfolk regularly and translated key materials from English to Bahasa Malaysia and the local language for the community. This helped strengthen the fisherfolk’s capacity and shared details about their campaign against the project. In November local fisherfolk held a public webinar to speak about the importance of preserving marine biodiversity and the adverse impacts of this massive project on their livelihoods.

STANDING UP FOR INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY

We identified that during the pandemic it is even harder for groups to stand up for environmental justice, Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ rights and to protect the environment. To help we assigned Covid-19 grants to Friends of the Earth Georgia, Honduras, Palestine and Sri Lanka.

RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

We deepened the understanding of the need for a strong Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’
Our Global Federation: A year in which we stepped up the fight for gender justice and renewed internationalist solidarity to protect defenders of territories and peoples’ rights.

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GENDER JUSTICE

Our grassroots, anti-capitalist, feminist analysis was key to understanding the patriarchal impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and other social groups, and to defending a life and career-centred Just Recovery from the crisis. This included the fundamental demand that care work is valued, recognised as work in our internal structures, and reorganised in our societies – with shared responsibility between men, women and the state (see p9).

The Federation made the reorganisation of care work into the building of care economy a principle in 2020. This led to Friends of the Earth Africa's women’s communique to the regional AGM; childcare support offered to delegates of the Latin America and the Caribbean (ATALC) AGM; an official communique to the Federation in July to recognise the burden of care work and reaffirming our gender justice commitment to reorganising care work internally and in society. Following a webinar in June, we published a report Covid-19 and the crisis of capital: the sustainability of life and peoples’ sovereignty are the solution with the World March of Women and REMOTE. More than 100 people from 17 countries participated in the webinar to discuss a Just Recovery by strengthening social movements, internationalist solidarity and building food sovereignty through agroecology.

FEMINIST FRONTLINES

Our Feminist Frontlines: Response to Covid-19 and the Care Crisis publication (see page 6) stemmed from three international webinars of the same name organised in August with more than 30 member groups and several key allies, including the World March of Women, working in five languages. Discussions focused on the impacts of the pandemic on women, how we understand these impacts from a patriarchal, racist, classist and LGBTIQ perspective and the need for a just and feminist recovery from the pandemic.

The Working Group was also part of the coordination team formed to organise an international seminar on a Just Energy Transition & Feminism (postponed to 2021) and then adapted their plans to organise three regional webinars in October on the same theme. This saw the participation of more than 35 member groups and allies, who were invited to share their analysis and reflections and/or participate, including World March of Women, WoMin, Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, Grassroots Global Justice, Indigenous Environmental Network and MAB/MAR (Movement of People Impacted by Dams).

These were important collective spaces for alliance building, making visible the patriarchal impacts of dirty energy and exchanging and developing a feminist analysis of a Just Energy transition. In 2020, the commitment to integrate gender justice at regional level was once again evident, despite the challenges of adapting to an online environment. Running a safe space before Friends of the Earth Africa’s AGM enabled women leaders to exchange experiences about the patriarchal impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in their countries and strategise together for the ongoing integration of gender justice in their region, resulting in a women’s communique being presented and approved at their AGM. In the Latin American & Caribbean (ATALC) region, groups discussed Friends of the Earth International’s Policy on Violence and Sexual Harassment and proposals for ongoing gender justice work. This led to the region renewing its commitment to integrating gender justice dismantling patriarchy in internal policy, territory level action and within allied spaces.

The Working Group ended 2020 by developing feminist capacity building tools for the Federation that will be launched next year: a feminist popular education manual Sowing the seeds of gender justice to dismantle patriarchy, and a manual and poster to support member groups to implement Friends of the Earth’s Policy on Violence and Sexual Harassment (developed in 2019).
In 2020 we continued to develop our systematic and holistic response to human rights’ violations and attacks on defenders of territories and peoples’ rights around the world. Our internationalist response differs from other approaches to this issue, allowing anyone to accompany struggles against injustice in any part of the world, responding to them as our own cause.

As individuals we play an important role in organising ourselves for the transformation of our societies in pursuit of system change. Solidarity means standing up and mobilising against all forms of oppression, such as patriarchy, racism, colonialism and against violence.

Our Internationalist Solidarity System works through a decentralised team in each region that uses all aspects of the system to act from the local to national level, via the regional and international, through four areas of work: political formation; analysis and documentation; rapid response and mobilisation for political action.

In 2020 we started to develop the digital side of our International Solidarity System, as part of our new foei.org website which is due to be launched next year. The digital platform will showcase the struggles we are supporting, allowing us to learn more about their history through deep political analysis. It will also help us respond rapidly to violations by mobilising internationalist support for threatened peoples and communities, according to their needs and wishes. We also plan to share educational resources on the new platform to enable our supporters to learn about the struggles, and to understand how to support them.

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Friends of the Earth Togo took the lead launching the region’s first website to increase visibility for its member groups in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda. The website will help better deliver campaigns, cross-movement solidarity and increase capacity for collective action.

In June our call, with allies, for African governments and institutions to recognise Africa climate justice was soon supported by 191 organisations (see p12 CJE).

Our work calling for a strong UN Binding Treaty (see p16 EJRN) Cases for a binding treaty – corporate impunity in Africa and the appeal of affected communities has resulted in the documenting of several cases of corporate impunity in the region. The report will be launched in 2021 and will help strengthen the African narrative and voices calling for a strong and effective UN treaty, with demands that speak directly to the context of the region, and serves as an advocacy tool for the groups in the region who are mobilising around the UN treaty process, as well as supporting affected peoples in their struggles for justice.

Campaign win: the HCSA, a voluntary standard that agribusinesses use to assess their impact on forests has ruled that Golden Veroleum Liberia, controlled by the world’s second largest palm oil company Golden Agri-Resources, must restore over 1,000 hectares of deforested land customarily owned by local communities and these findings were widely reported. The complaint was originally filed in July 2018 after collaboration by three groups – Sustainable Development Institute/Friends of the Earth Liberia, Milieudefensie/Friends of the Earth Netherlands and Friends of the Earth US.

In November the African Peoples’ Tribunal organised in Lagos, and virtually across the continent, by Friends of the Earth Africa ended with a call on governments of 10 African countries to ensure that the human rights of people who brought cases of abuses before the tribunal are respected and protected.

The tribunal found companies wanting in Cameroon, Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, Gabon, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Mozambique. In all of the cases international financiers, including development banks, private banks, investment funds and pension funds from all corners of the world, are found to be controlling and financing controversial rubber, palm oil and timber plantation companies. The verdict was widely reported in the media, including on TV.

Recommendations include governments immediately setting up a mechanism to review existing arrangements with plantation corporations, openly and transparently engage with communities and revert wrongfully acquired lands and forests to the communities.

“I refused to sign. I cannot sell out my people. And if need be, I will die for my people.” Murdered activist, Mama Fikile Ntshangase.
During 2020 our member groups focused on the need for a Just Recovery while continuing to challenge corporate power, promote peoples’ sovereignty and build peoples’ power – often online.

Women comrades took a leading role in our webinar on Neoliberalism's pandemics: peoples’ responses to the global crisis in June. This event was part of the regional process of political analysis developed within Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean (ATALC) and with allied organisations and popular movements, following the imposition of various measures in different countries as a result of the global health crisis to which neoliberalism has pushed us with the Covid-19 pandemic. The panellists confronted the power relations of domination imposed through states’ rules and policies and their practical implementation on the ground. It was organised in a broad collaboration between ATALC and the World March of Women (WMW), the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCAN), Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ), the Latin American Coordination of Peasant Organisations (CLOC-Via Campesina), the Movement of Peoples Affected by Dams in Latin America and the Caribbean (MAR) and Brazil (MAB), and the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN).

The event helped us build joint proposals for popular responses to the crisis in areas such as food sovereignty, the control over information and communication technologies as a way to dispute the control of politics and public policies, the construction of knowledge and wisdoms from and for the peoples, and the generation of basic income for those most in need.

**JUST RECOVERY**

**FEMINIST JUST ENERGY TRANSITION SEMINAR**

The seminar held in October was designed to support the construction of a transformative feminist just transition narrative and coalition in close collaboration with feminist and women's rights groups from the global South and global North, indigenous women, black women and women suffering from racism, peasant women, environmentalists, (informal) workers and immigrants. It sought to contribute to a feminist framing of a just transition in response to Covid-19, based on a holistic and popular perspective, and to policies and their practical implementation on the ground. It was organised in a broad collaboration between ATALC and the World March of Women (WMW), the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCAN), Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ), the Latin American Coordination of Peasant Organisations (CLOC-Via Campesina), the Movement of Peoples Affected by Dams in Latin America and the Caribbean (MAR) and Brazil (MAB), and the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN).

**TRANSFORMATION**

On 16 October, International Day of Action for Peoples’ Food Sovereignty and against Transnational Corporations ATALC underscored the need to build an agrifood system that puts the needs and rights of the people before the economic interests of big business, based on Food Sovereignty as defined by La Via Campesina. ATALC developed a week of activities in Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica on (re)thinking Food Sovereignty for the peoples and by the peoples.

**CALL FOR SYSTEM CHANGE**

Working online with the Continental Platform for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism and as part of the Continental Action in November, ATALC made a video, jointly with the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) that celebrated how the defence of peoples’ democracy is at the core of our struggles, and shared information about the inspiring popular uprisings that allowed democracy to be re-established in Bolivia, US and Chile.

Other highlights included:
- Friends of the Earth Brazil holding a public rally and film screening in the streets of Porto Alegre.
Despite a clear split between member groups thriving or struggling online, all 13 engaged in the discussions at the regional level and during our September and December AGM. For the first time in five years we had representatives from every group and also staff from member groups who have never attended an AGM before.

The secretariat grew with the hiring of two part-time project-based staff to handle online events. Our four secretariat staff work remotely from Malaysia, Australia, Philippines and Bangladesh but meet up weekly online. Through mentoring and capacity building between older and newer staff we brought up new ideas to revitalise the region's work during the pandemic and encouraged more youths and intergenerational participation in discussions.

We also strengthened the capacity of staff and volunteers new to Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific such as Pro Public/Friends of the Earth Nepal and upgraded our website. In addition, representatives from member groups were trained in consensual decision making.

We managed one face-to-face workshop in February on ‘Rebuilding the power of the people and contributing to a just transition to a just energy transition and feminism, nature-based economy’ in Malaysia. Our online events coordinators also worked closely with the School of Sustainability on a new theme to build the capacity of new climate activists in the region. Altogether 35 people from 10 member groups and one ally from India registered for the two sessions in November and December. We followed this up with discussion by app.

We completed our APAC’s AGM took place online, despite its many challenges. https://foeasiapacific.org/

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

- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Fair, Green & Global Alliance and Green Livelihoods Alliance)
- Isvara Foundation
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Bread for the World
- Bread for All
- Friends of the Earth Switzerland
- Friends of the Earth US
- Friends of the Earth Europe

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

Organisational policies/compliance

- Friends of the Earth International approved a conceptual framework on Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy at the 2018 BGM and adopted a Policy on Violence and Sexual Harassment in 2020.

The latter policy along with ones on Anti-corruption and Anti-fraud, a Code of Conduct and a Whistleblower policy form an ‘integrity system’ which aims to address violations of both personal and financial integrity, to give guidance on desired behaviour, and to provide staff with a safe way to address injustices. This system was adopted in 2020.

- Friends of the Earth International has dealt with one violation of personal integrity, which was a case reported and investigated in 2018. The process of sanctions and reparations for this case began in 2019 and is still on-going.

- Friends of the Earth International dealt with one violation of financial integrity reported in 2019. The investigations are still underway.

- Friends of the Earth International is developing more robust safety and security policies.

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

**Chair:** Karin Nansen, Latin America and the Caribbean
**Vice Chair:** Silvia Quiroa, Latin America and the Caribbean
**Treasurer:** Nur Hidayati, Asia Pacific

**Members:**
- Anabela Lemos, Africa
- Bertrand Sansonnens, Europe
- Nora Bowier, Africa
- Prakash Mani Sharma, Asia Pacific
- Víctor Barro, Europe

**Our programme coordinators:**

- **Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism:** Leticia Paranhos Menna de Oliveira, Sam Cossar-Gilbert
- **Climate Justice & Energy:** dipti Bhatnagar, Sara Shaw
- **Food Sovereignty:** Kirtana Chandrasekaran, Martin Drago
- **Forests & Biodiversity:** Isaac Rojas, Nele Marien

**Our membership development team:**
- Elaine Gilligan (Friends of the Earth Europe)
- Chloe Aldenhoven (Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific)
- Danilo Urrea (Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Kwami Kpondzo (Friends of the Earth Africa)

**Our regional facilitators:**
- Danilo Urrea (Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Bobby Peek from January to June 2020 and Nerisha Baldevu from July 2020 (both Friends of the Earth Africa)
- Shenna Sanchez and Jagoda Munic (Friends of the Earth Europe)
- Theiva Lingam (Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific)