# Annual Report 2022

Friends of the Earth International

**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.**

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## 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.


## Credits

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# Hello

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**There is no easy way to say this: time is running out. In my own country, Sri Lanka, the impacts of climate change are being felt today; people are dying and the environment is suffering. Nonetheless, the solutions to our planetary crisis are straightforward and achievable, and there is still plenty of room for hope.**

In 2022, Friends of the Earth International focused on transforming our hopes into reality by making our voices heard. We were at the UN negotiations for a Binding Treaty for Transnational Corporations in Geneva, and we put forward our critique at the EU-Mercosur trade negotiations, the UN Climate Summit, the UN Committee on World Food Security and the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) among others.

The role of Friends of the Earth International in these fora is crucial: highlighting the powerful and self-serving role of multinational corporations and neoliberal governments and policies, and the devastating impacts on the ground for peoples and communities as they struggle against corporate impunity, hunger, deforestation, biodiversity loss, climate change and the violation of their rights, including criminalisation and assassination.

Building on Friends of the Earth Netherlands' landmark victory in 2021 that forced Shell to drastically reduce its emissions, we also supported fights for justice and accountability in various court cases around the world, including the climate damages lawsuit by Indonesian islanders against Swiss company Holcim.

What continues to give me hope in today's unpredictable world are the people and organisations we work together with. They are actively creating system change: beautiful and resilient alternatives that continue to inspire others. To name just a few: Friends of the Earth Togo is lobbying for the prioritisation of food sovereignty in the country's agricultural strategy; young people in the Philippines are reviving indigenous, agroecological farming practices; and Friends of the Earth El Salvador (CESTA) is training families to be self-reliant through agroecological practices. We will continue to work for the convergence of movements to build a just society.

Please read on for more inspiring and hopeful news from our campaigners and our communities. Thank you for being part of the change!

**Hemantha Withanage**
Friends of the Earth International Chair

# Economic justice & resisting neoliberalism

**Our aims:**

- Reduce corporate impunity through national regulation and a UN Binding Treaty
- Win significant victories against and weaken the current trade and investment regime
- Support groups to promote our economic transformation agenda

*CESTA/ Friends of the Earth El Salvador's "No Bicycle, No Planet" campaign won the 2021-2022 energy category of the Transformative Cities People's Choice Award.*

© James Kao/CESTA

*Demanding that the Binding Treaty negotiations honour the third draft and a democratic process, in Geneva.*

© Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Impunity

## Binding Treaty: affected people central to curbing corporate impunity

The tension in the room was palpable when UN negotiations for a treaty to regulate transnational corporations resumed in Geneva. Despite the international balance of power working against progress in the talks, the people's will for an ambitious and effective Binding Treaty remained resolute. Friends of the Earth's delegation joined the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, with strong participation by women. As civil society, alongside states from the Global South, we challenged the Chair's attempts to undermine the process with arbitrary methodologies. We demonstrated the importance of engaging with affected communities to tackle the transnational architecture of impunity: calling for the primacy of human rights over corporate interests; exposing the continued privatisation of public services, large-scale destruction of the environment, and reduction of workers globally to a state of semi-slavery. We continued to strengthen ongoing advocacy work with African, Asian and Latin America states.

## Tackling the global neoliberal trade system

The EU-Mercosur trade deal is predicted to increase trade in pesticides, cars and agricultural commodities that are directly linked to deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions and human rights violations. In 2022, social movements, and some governments that have built popular opposition, succeeded in further stalling this harmful deal. Our support of groups in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay to increase their engagement will be essential as EU-Mercosur negotiations heat up in 2023. We amplified Friends of the Earth Europe's high profile studies on the harmful impacts of the trade deal. The European and Latin American regions worked together to bring grassroots Brazilian voices to EU policy makers. Our work to pave the way for a new trade model that puts people and the planet first is as strong as ever.

> **"As an environmental federation working to change the system, one of our goals has to be to fight for mechanisms or instruments to stop transnational corporate impunity. The Binding Treaty is a key instrument in the fight against corporate power."**
>
> Leticia Paranhos Menna de Oliveira, FoEI's Economic Justice/Resisting Neoliberalism programme coordinator

# Climate justice and energy

© Blanka Csenki, Artivist Network (@Blank4 / @artivistnet)

Women dressed in blue "flood" COP27 to demand loss and damage finance

**Our aims:**

- Shift and influence the global narrative to better reflect our radical, feminist vision of climate justice
- Advance a feminist just transition towards a people's energy system and dismantle the current dirty energy system
- Undermine and block the rise of corporate-led false solutions, like carbon markets, offsetting, nature-based solutions, and techno-fixes like geoengineering

*Celebrating community-led solar energy in Bangladesh.*

© Luka Tomac

## Calling for a just and feminist transition

Scientists reiterated the urgency of climate change this year, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change called for finance to support a just energy transition and adaptation to climate impacts.

Friends of the Earth brought that urgency to the UN climate conference in Egypt in November 2022, with an international group of activists calling for climate justice. We supported African civil society in building power from the ground, culminating in an online 'counter COP', and showed solidarity with Egyptian prisoners of conscience.

Our research on how fossil industry actors are pushing carbon markets and net zero for their own profit-driven interests was used to lobby negotiators and fight false climate solutions. This work is vital, as 'nature-based solutions' and geoengineering accelerate globally. The COP27 agreement of a 'loss and damage' fund was historic, but now rich countries must fill it. We continue to fight for urgent action, including finance for a just and feminist transition away from fossil fuels towards community-led renewable energy for all.

## Grassroots struggles and solutions

In 2022, Friends of the Earth International supported groups in Asia, Africa and Latin America with their work towards an energy transition. We told stories of an indigenous community who sparked a solar project in the Philippines and of the fight against coal in Bangladesh.

People increasingly see the courts as a way to hold polluting corporations and governments to account. We amplified a new case brought by an Indonesian island against Swiss company Holcim, and continued to support cases against Total's megaprojects in Uganda/Tanzania and the UK government's funding of Mozambique gas. We pushed for Shell to stick to the historic 2021 verdict that held them accountable for causing dangerous climate change.

> **"For the 3.3 to 3.6 billion people living in highly climate-vulnerable countries – almost all of whom are in the Global South – [the IPCC] report is not news. Those of us on the frontlines of the climate crisis have been shouting this from the rooftops for decades."**
>
> Anabela Lemos, JA!/ Friends of the Earth Mozambique, in Euronews and Common Dreams

# Food sovereignty

© CESTA / Friends of the Earth El Salvador

**Our aims:**

- Strengthen the global food sovereignty movement
- Advance food sovereignty and agroecology as key pathways to environmental, social, gender and economic justice
- Expose and resist agribusiness power and all forms of oppression including gender, race and class

## Tackling the food crisis with system change

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine brought the global food crisis to the headlines, we exposed the underlying structural drivers of the crisis: a fragile neoliberal industrial food system, driven by profit and the prioritisation of free trade over the Right to Food. In October 2022, we joined food sovereignty movement allies at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 50th plenary in Rome, where we called on governments to put in motion the systemic changes needed to solve hunger and malnutrition.

"Our entire food system is extremely dependent on energy and fossil fuels because of the industrial nature of food production. [The CFS] are not talking at all about any of the structural solutions that are really needed to deal with the food crisis, and are certainly not talking about what really needs to happen to implement the Right to Food," said Kirtana Chandrasekaran, programme coordinator, speaking to Real World Radio from the CFS plenary.

We continued to build new alliances with climate and gender justice movements, and called for policies and practices to build food sovereignty with a feminist perspective.

## Amplifying agroecology's transformational potential

In 2022, we supported groups around the world in transforming food systems from the grassroots, through advocacy and practical action. With our support, Friends of the Earth Togo is lobbying for a national agricultural strategy that prioritises food sovereignty. Youth in the Philippines are also reviving indigenous, agroecological farming practices and our member group in El Salvador (CESTA) is training families in agroecology for self-sufficiency and ecologically sustainability.

In response to the rise of so-called 'nature-based solutions', we published an in-depth report Double Jeopardy: how nature based solutions threaten food sovereignty and agroecology on how nature-based offsetting poses a threat to agroecology and food sovereignty, as well as livelihoods, territories and rights. Our report was used in a series of educational webinars for civil society and in UN spaces like Climate COP27. It is a crucial resource for activists and organisations in understanding transformative solutions to the climate and food crises, specifically agroecology, and how they differ from corporate false solutions.

**Below:** *We used graphics like this to expose the inaccuracy of corporate pledges for nature-based solutions.*

© Somerset Bean

> **"There is an ongoing crisis of hunger. Almost every year, over 2 billion people are moderately or severely food insecure. At the moment we have almost 3 billion people who cannot afford a healthy diet."**
>
> Kirtana Chandrasekaran, programme coordinator

# Forests and biodiversity

*The Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ/ Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka) and Friends of the Earth France joined groups mobilising globally to call for system change to tackle the biodiversity crisis in the run up to COP15 and beyond.*

© Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka / FOEI

**Our aims:**

- Promote system change in international biodiversity forums (CBD) to protect biodiversity
- Advance a political framework championing community forest management
- Expose and reduce the corporate impact on biodiversity

*Silent walk during COP15 to remember and honour murdered environmental human rights defenders.*

© Caroline Prak

## Global biodiversity framework agreed, but action still needed on biodiversity

As the long-awaited Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 opened, we published Nature of Business, a report exposing the often invisible corporate capture of this United Nations space. This is the first in-depth analysis of its kind, and an important one according to Friends of the Earth given the overwhelming evidence that transnational corporations in the biotech, agribusiness, mining and oil sectors are causing the biodiversity crisis.

We took an international delegation to COP15 in Montreal and, along with the CBD Alliance, prepared positions and arguments, held press conferences and mobilised actions to influence the negotiations. Despite the final agreement lacking the transformational change needed to protect ecosystems, some of the key elements that we fought for were approved: environmental defenders are recognised in the framework; Indigenous peoples' territories count towards biodiversity conservation; and 'nature positive' no longer features in the text. The fight against false solutions and for an effective biodiversity framework continues.

## Community forest management strengthened by gender justice

We built a gender justice framework for community forest management (CFM) with inputs from across the federation. This work has deepened our shared understanding of CFM and its importance for Indigenous peoples, local communities, biodiversity, forests and traditional knowledge. The full and effective implementation of women's rights is vital if CFM is to be transformative.

We supported groups in Costa Rica, Nepal and Georgia to ensure CFM and collective rights are part of national level policies. This work paves the way for strengthening CFM and rights in other parts of the world.

> **"While biodiversity loss is an environmental crisis we must address, it is also a matter of justice. Indigenous peoples' rights should never be violated, much less in the name of nature conservation. Corporations must be held accountable, rather than getting to craft their own escape measures to allow them to continue with business as usual."**
>
> Nele Marien, Forests and Biodiversity coordinator, in Devex.

*Action at the International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations – Togo, September 2022.*

# Regional highlights

**A look at 2022 across our global federation, featuring achievements from Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin American and the Caribbean, Europe and Canada and the USA.**

# Africa

> **"Government policies must change. Let's put an end to the financialisation of nature. Companies must stop criminalising communities in Africa and start respecting people's fundamental rights."**
>
> Amos Nkpeebo, Friends of the Earth Ghana

## Stop the monocultures: plantations destroy forests and violate peoples' rights

In many parts of Africa, communities are facing challenges to their livelihoods and rights connected to corporate land grabbing, deforestation and the operation of monoculture plantations – sometimes billed by companies as 'nature-based solutions' – for profit. Two series of events, in Togo and Tanzania, took place over the same three days to highlight this regional issue.

On 22 September, the International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations, Friends of the Earth Togo convened an intensive three-day meeting with participants from Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Ghana and Togo. Campaigners and communities took stock of plantations in the region, and reflected on the resulting challenges for the community forest management and agroecology initiatives happening on the ground. They shared information about the impacts of deforestation on their households, communities, and livelihoods, identified concrete violations of people's rights, and discussed the overall challenges they face regarding land, forests and food.

During the gathering, a delegate from Friends of the Earth Switzerland gave an overview of the mobilisation in Europe against monoculture plantations in the Global South. A member of Friends of the Earth Mozambique also highlighted possible ways in which the UN Binding Treaty for Transnational Corporations on Human Rights could be used to hold the companies involved in industrial plantations accountable.

## Women leading the movement against monoculture tree plantations

Women are at the forefront of forest and biodiversity conservation, and they remain the most impacted when these rich ecosystems are converted into industrial plantations. This situation was the catalyst for three field days organised by LEAT (Friends of the Earth Tanzania) in September 2022 to strengthen women's leadership in the movement against monoculture plantations.

The goal was to train 100 women and girls who are victims of land grabbing and other monoculture-related activities in Mapanda village in the Mufindi district: increasing their awareness about land access, use, ownership and control as well as highlighting the possibility of abusive actions by the plantation owners. LEAT also offered legal aid to victims of plantation-related activities and launched a public campaign against monoculture plantations during these field days. These events all served to remind local government authorities of their responsibilities in implementing rights for women and girls.

**http://foeafrica.org/**

# Asia Pacific

*Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific stands in solidarity with the Wadas community in Central Java, Indonesia, who have been protesting against a proposed mine since 2018.*

## International solidarity for the Wadas People in Indonesia

On 8 February 2022, 250 police officers and military personnel infiltrated the village of Wadas, located in Central Java, Indonesia. The officers arrived without warning, armed with shields, weapons and police dogs. They claimed they were there to oversee the operations of the Purworejo Land Agency, a company conducting land measurements for a mining project.

However, the situation quickly turned violent, with police attacking, intimidating and arbitrarily arresting local residents. At least 63 people, including 13 children, were arrested. Public advocates attempting to provide legal assistance to the detained residents were forced out.

This is the latest episode in the five-year struggle of the Wadas community to protect 114 hectares of hills and productive agricultural land – their main source of livelihood – from the Indonesian government's plans for an andesite mining site.

In March, Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific worked with the federation's International Solidarity System (ISS) and WALHI (FoE Indonesia) to develop the Wadas call for action. This included a statement and the coordination of an international online action. Various member groups from across the region – including Bangladesh, Japan, Australia, Malaysia, India, Palestine, Russia and Sri Lanka – took part in the online action to show solidarity and call for an end to the repression of the Wadas community.

The following month, WALHI reported that the situation in the Wadas community was stable, although police and military officers were still spotted in the village under the pretext of patrolling. On 28 April, the government distributed money to pro-mining people in exchange for the purchase of land. The community issued a joint statement saying that "those who sell the land are not really citizens of Wadas; they are not born and live and have livelihood from the land of Wadas", and that they would "continue the struggle at all cost and risk". FoE Asia Pacific continues to stand alongside the Wadas people in their pursuit of justice and the defence of their territories, rights and environment.

**https://foeasiapacific.org/**

# Latin America and the Caribbean

*ATALC delivers the proposal for a Binding Treaty to the Minister of the Secretary of State for Human Rights of Honduras, Natalie Roque.*

## Challenging corporate impunity at all levels

Although significant political victories were achieved in Chile, Honduras, Colombia and Brazil in 2022, the power of transnational corporations continues to cause territorial conflicts and peoples' rights violations in the region. The prevailing neoliberal model, with its legal and illegal military and political actors as well as the laws, regulations and public policies that sustain this system, must be dismantled.

The political changes in the region created opportunities for Friends of the Earth groups in Colombia, Honduras, Argentina and Brazil to start dialogues with governments there, and regional representatives from ATALC (Friends

of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean) used the opportunity to participate in specific spaces and events.

Our new coordination efforts implemented at the national and regional levels resulted in concrete achievements in our advocacy and lobbying work. This took place through mutual capacity-building among national organisations, and by finding ways to work with governmental institutions and regional or international movements that offer an understanding of the political negotiations and the overall context.

**www.atalc.org**

> **"The prevailing neoliberal model, with its legal and illegal military and political actors as well as the laws, regulations and public policies that sustain this system, must be dismantled."**

## Main achievements

The greatest highlights of 2022 centred around the region's advocacy towards national institutions to garner support for the UN Binding Treaty for Transnational Corporations on Human Rights. ATALC members reached out to the National Human Rights Institution in Uruguay and to government representatives in Honduras, Argentina, Colombia and Brazil to gain their support for our negotiating positions. The individual positions of governments in support of our recommendations are crucial for the completion of a solid treaty on transnational corporations and human rights.

The Honduran government publicly expressed its support for the binding treaty during a public event called *Rights for peoples, binding rules for corporations* organised by ATALC in August 2022.

In Brazil, ATALC's national organisation and allied social movements joined parliamentarians in presenting the first proposal for a law on human rights and business (PL572/22) that would instate effective accountability in cases of human rights violations.

Eight national civil society organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean actively participated in the development of communications materials regarding the growing power of TNCs in the agriculture and energy sectors. This work serves to inform public opinion, mobilise allies, and influence government institutions regarding the need for binding regulations for corporations.

*FoE Europe's enormous dinosaur on tour throughout Europe.*

# Europe

## Resisting false solutions in the aftermath of the Ukraine war

In Europe, 2022 was a year overshadowed by the war in Ukraine. The devastating impacts of the war are first and foremost borne by Ukrainians, and we stand in solidarity with them as well as with all other victims of war around the world. The secondary impacts of the war – economic crises affecting food and energy – are being felt in Europe as well as globally.

The war hiked up the price of food and highlighted existing fragilities in our farming system. Although agribusiness has used the war to argue that global food security is threatened and that the solution involves boosting food production through the greater use of synthetic fertilisers, we continue to resist these false solutions.

The rising cost of energy has pushed many more people in Europe into energy poverty. As part of the Right to Energy Coalition that fights energy poverty, Friends of the Earth Europe organised a Right to Energy Forum in January 2022 where more than 1,800 attendees debated real solutions to the energy crisis.

The war inflated gas prices, and this placed new pressure on campaigns against fossil fuels. Friends of the Earth Europe's report LNG: The liquid path to climate chaos (available in 10 languages) responded to gas industry and government narratives around the need for massive LNG expansion by arming the climate movement with facts and figures.

Another major energy-related achievement was the campaign for countries to withdraw from the EU's Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which undermines climate goals. To draw attention to the campaign, a nine-meter-tall inflatable dinosaur representing the 'prehistoric' ECT went on tour to nine European cities. The tour video has 17,000 views, and the campaign received broad mainstream media coverage. Following the campaign, seven EU Member States decided to withdraw from the toxic ECT and even more are considering to follow.

**www.friendsoftheearth.eu**

# US and Canada

*Friends of the Earth US day of action in Washington, October 2022.*

## United States

In 2022, the US finally passed a national climate policy focused on public investment in renewable energy. Although it was seriously inadequate, the policy pointedly avoided carbon markets, which was the result of ten years of resistance by Friends of the Earth US and environmental justice groups.

In addition, following a 20-year legal effort by Friends of the Earth US, the Environmental Protection Agency took its first step towards regulating lead from aviation fuels, the single largest source of airborne lead in the country. When finalised, the EPA's rule will benefit 16 million people, including 3 million children.

Friends of the Earth US also took a leading role in holding World Bank President (and Trump appointee) David Malpass accountable for missteps on climate change, including orchestrating major demonstrations at the 2022 World Bank annual meetings. Malpass resigned several months later, well before the end of his term.

**www.foe.org**

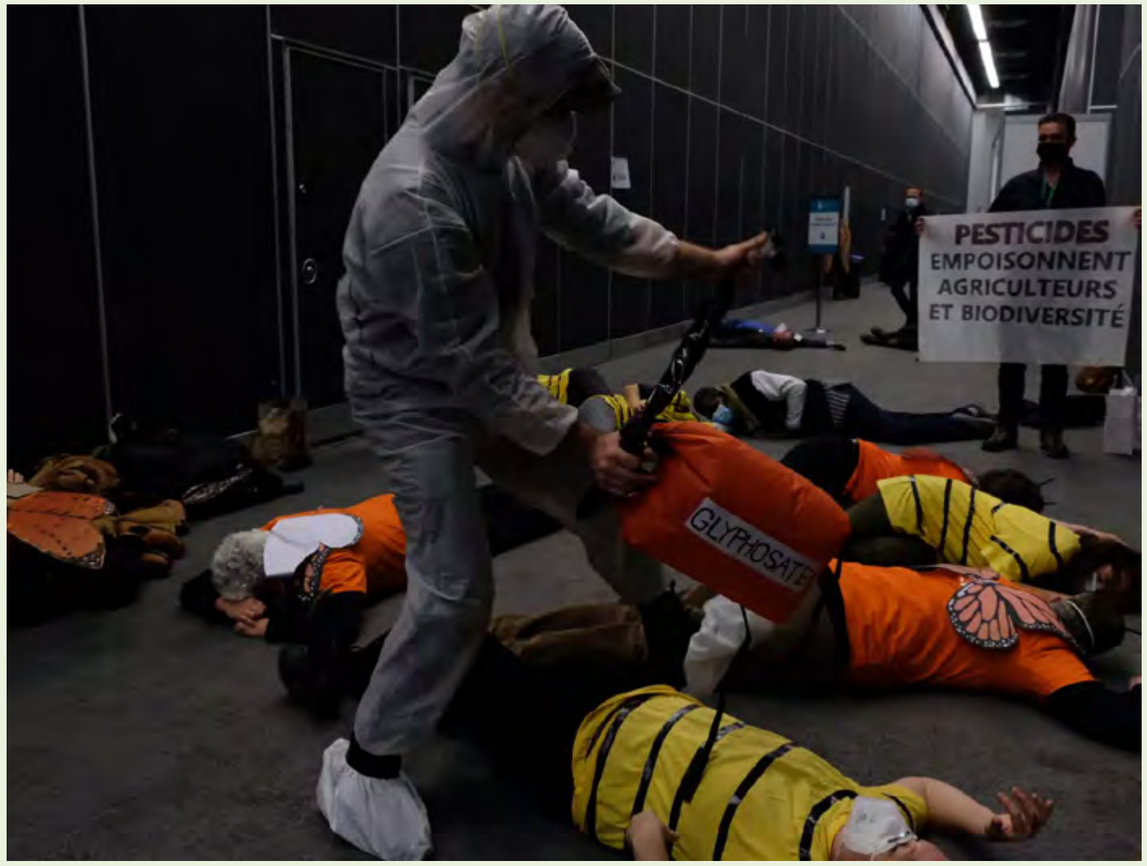
## Canada

Friends of the Earth Canada intervened in a historic youth-led climate challenge, *Mathur et. al.,* alleging that Ontario's weakening of climate targets not only leads to widespread illness and death, but also violates Ontarians' Charter-protected rights to life, liberty and security of the person.

They campaigned with 78 groups to call on Canada's biggest banks to drop investments in nuclear power – including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) – from their fossil-free and ESG investment portfolios, and continued to put pressure on Canada's largest pension fund for its support of the fossil fuel industry.

Friends of the Earth Canada also participated at the UN COP15 on Biodiversity in Montreal within the CBD Alliance, and collaborated with Canadian environmental and conservation groups in actions including a Parliamentary petition to ban glyphosate, the transformation of Canada's regulatory agency for pesticides, and legal challenges against select new pesticides.

**www.foecanada.org**




*Demonstrators dressed as bees and butterflies at the UN's COP15 on Biodiversity in December 2022 raised concerns about the presence and profile of the pesticide industry.*

# Solidarity around the World

As a global federation, Friends of the Earth is stepping up the fight for environmental justice and internationalist solidarity by protecting defenders of territories and upholding peoples' collective and human rights.

We respond swiftly to violations and mobilise internationalist support for threatened peoples and communities. We stand up against all forms of oppression, including patriarchy, racism, colonialism and state violence, even when we are only indirectly impacted. In 2022, Friends of the Earth International, through our Internationalist Solidarity System and its supporting team, brought attention and awareness to various struggles around the world.

To learn more about these on-the-ground struggles and to access the valuable resources including videos, publications, articles and podcasts that form part of our documentation process, visit the page dedicated to the Philippines on the Friends of the Earth International website.

## Asia Pacific

### The Philippines

In 2018, more defenders were killed in the Philippines than anywhere else in the world; in 2019 and 2021, the country was at the top of the list of the most dangerous places for environmental defenders in Asia. In this light, the Internationalist Solidarity System (ISS) focal points from the Asia Pacific region worked with LRC (Friends of the Earth Philippines) to develop a strategic campaign to provide long term support to the country's defenders. This campaign highlights cases with the goal of building an understanding of the local context and generating support for the issues faced by environmental defenders in the country. It focuses on three key themes: dams, agro-industrial plantations and mining.

*The 2022 State of Indigenous Peoples Address report found that half of ancestral domains in the Philippines face environmental threats.*

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Brazil

The intensified onslaught against Indigenous Peoples in Brazil over the past years was inevitable, given the country's predominantly far-right Parliament and the instalment of former military officer Jair Bolsonaro as President. In April 2022, thousands of Indigenous Peoples from various communities converged in Brasilia, the federal capital of Brazil, to set up *Terra Livre*, the world's largest Indigenous camp. The mobilisation was organised by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), a bottom-up movement that has struggled for land rights, ethnic-cultural identity and self-determination since 2004. APIB is demanding an end to Bolsonaro's genocidal government; as APIB coordinator Paulino Montejo explained in an interview with Real World Radio: "When we talk about bringing the people into politics, or bringing politics to the people, we are saying that in addition to collective social struggle we need to reclaim institutional spaces."

*Indigenous Peoples hit the streets during Terra Livre: "Your weapons may attack our bodies, but they won't silence our cries and our chanting!"*

## Ukraine

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, we have been working to coordinate a response to this unjust attack on the Ukrainian people and to find ways to support comrades in Ukraine who have been working very closely with some of our European groups. We launched a solidarity statement, and provided finances to ECOACTION in Ukraine to support families affected by the war.

### Colombia

In 2022, Friends of the Earth International continued to support peasants' struggles in Colombia through our work with CENSAT (Friends of the Earth Colombia) and La Via Campesina. We launched a complaint at the UN to denounce violations and repression against Colombian peasants, and in particular to draw attention to the persecution of the National Agricultural Trade Union Federation (FENSUAGRO). This complaint was carried out in collaboration with CETIM, FIAN International, La Via Campesina and FENSUAGRO, and in April 2022 this same coalition submitted a report to the UN Special Procedures mechanisms to spotlight these violations.

## Africa

### Mozambique

The situation in Mozambique is worrisome, ranging from intimidating attacks directed at JA! (Friends of the Earth Mozambique) based on their denunciation of gas exploitation, to the shrinking of civic space following the establishment of an unfavourable new legal regime covering the creation, organisation and operation of non-profits in the country.

Defenders are also being targeted, including the communities opposed to the Mphanda Nkuwa hydroelectric dam project. After participating in a workshop organised by JA!, some community members were labelled as terrorists and summoned by the police for questioning about their participation in the workshop. After JA! activated the ISS, the federation contributed to a video in support of community members. Thanks to the massive solidarity response both nationally and around the world, the District Commander had no option but to release the defenders without charge.

## Europe

### United Kingdom

Fundamental rights are in danger in every part of the world; in the UK, for example, proposed legal changes would potentially weaken the ability of citizens to protest.

In 2022, the passing of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act increased the powers of the police to restrict protest. The UK Government is also attempting to pass authoritarian anti-protest laws that would make the suspicion of an intention to take part in a protest reason enough for arrest. The government also proposed the introduction of a Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill, which could jeopardise the ability of public bodies to divest from the fossil fuel industry and would hinder campaigns that support the boycott of goods for ethical reasons.

In December 2022, the ISS called on the federation to mobilise and show solidarity with Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as activists are already experiencing the restriction of civic space, protest rights and campaigning. Friends of the Earth member groups took part in the action, and Real World Radio wrote a piece in solidarity.

**Read our blog if you want to learn more about our Internationalist Solidarity System: how it links to environmental justice, and how we respond to attacks on defenders of territories!**

## Solidarity with the people of Palestine

November 29 was the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In commemoration, the ISS launched a statement and a call through Friends of the Earth APAC and PENGON (Friends of the Earth Palestine). 18 Friends of the Earth member groups ultimately took part in an online solidarity action.

We denounced the Israeli occupation that, for decades, has denied Palestinians access to and control over their land, borders and natural resources. This occupation is the source of profound human and environmental rights violations against the Palestinian people.

# Real World Radio: Voices in action

*International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women podcast.*

**Below:** *Five of Real World Radio's seven team members: Nicolás Medina, José Elosegui, Mercedes Eguiluz, Valentina Machado and Edgardo Mattioli.*

Since 2003, Real World Radio (RWR) has been servicing social movements around the world as part of the communications team of Friends of the Earth International. RWR is based at the Friends of the Earth office in Montevideo, Uruguay.

## Live from the ground, in the South and in the North

In 2022, Real World Radio highlighted the major moments of the Friends of the Earth International programmes.

- On Food Sovereignty, our video *Dismantling Patriarchy While Building Food Sovereignty* launched in July 2022 focused on the complex challenges faced by women around the world as a result of a patriarchal system of domination, capitalism and discrimination that represses them and undermines their rights.
- Real World Radio covered the negotiations for the UN Binding Treaty for Transnational Corporations on Human Rights on behalf of the Economic Justice and Resisting Neoliberalism programme in October 2022, reporting from the field and supporting the federation's communications with the opening interview on *Why a legally binding treaty on transnational corporations and human rights is so important* as well as various social media work.
- In November, the radio was live at the UN Climate COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The special report *The devil will actually be in the details: UN climate change negotiations kick off* presented the demands, concerns and expectations of the Friends of the Earth International delegation. During the COP, the radio continued reporting from the field.
- In support of the Forests and Biodiversity programme, the radio conducted a series of interviews around the International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations on 21 September, covering the African, Asian and Latin American regions. A podcast entitled *Protecting life in all its different forms*, as well as audiograms, videos and radio reports, were also made by RWR and the communications team during the Montreal Biodiversity COP in December.

## International solidarity and allies

RWR also took action for international solidarity in 2022, including pieces on Palestine and Haiti, and highlighted important dates together with social movements such as 16 October – the International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty – and 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

> **"You can see the movement of the transnational logging industry in the Philippines. Where they have been, the forest is gone. You can really see the path of destruction of the transnational logging industry and transnational monoculture plantations."**
>
> Shamila, SAM (Friends of the Earth Malaysia)

Real World Radio continued to produce two collaborative radio shows in alliance with social movements: *Voz Campesina* with La Via Campesina, and *Furia Feminista* with the World March of Women.

The radio also supported the work of communication colleagues at Friends of the Earth Europe with the production of a podcast in July 2022: *Small-scale farming in the European Union: Youth voices from the ground* on the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy and on the alternatives from the perspective of family farming.

The radio highlights of 2022 included the Friends of the Earth International at 50 radio shows produced for the federation's 50th anniversary. In these shows, Real World Radio talked with former Friends of the Earth International chairs, charting the emergence and development of the federation in political, strategic and structural terms as well as its relation to the external world.

# Friends of the Earth in the media

## Devex

"We can't let biodiversity COP15 be a cover for greenwashing", wrote Friends of the Earth International's Nele Marien at the UN biodiversity conference in Montreal. "When I look at biodiversity loss in my lifetime, it is clear we cannot keep on at the current rate of loss until 2030. And for businesses to claim that ecosystem and biodiversity destruction is sustainable because it is compensated elsewhere is not only highly flawed – it is not realistic."

## The Guardian

Ubrei-Joe Maimoni Mariere, climate justice and energy project coordinator at Friends of the Earth Africa, said ahead of the COP27 climate talks in Egypt: "We must use this opportunity to demand climate justice and solidarity for Africa and the global south. To stop the climate crisis and bring energy justice to the world, we need a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels, and a just and feminist and equitable transition to community-based renewable energy systems."

## Politico

Kirtana Chandrasekaran, from Friends of the Earth International, at the UN Committee on World Food Security in Rome: "We need the UN CFS and governments to put in place policies that realise the Human Right to Food, dismantle the huge power of corporations and protect the small-scale producers that feed the majority of the world whilst doing the least harm to the environment."

## Vanguard (Nigeria)

This news source celebrated Chima Williams of ERA (Friends of the Earth Nigeria) being awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize. "The Prize winners show us that nature has the amazing capability to regenerate if given the opportunity. Let us all feel inspired to channel their victories into regenerating our own spirit and act to protect our planet for future generations."

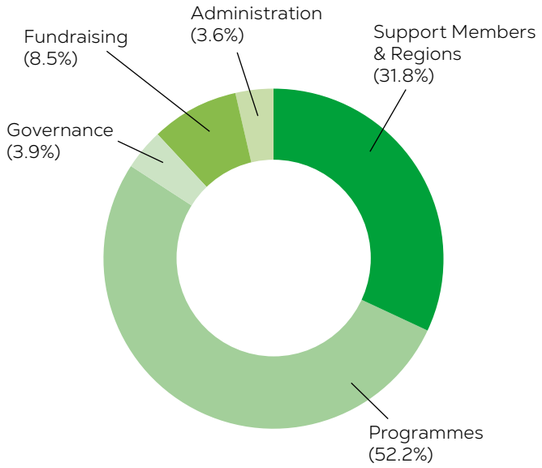
## Huffington Post

"Developed countries' attempts to remove the concept of loss and damage, and the finance for it from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report, was largely thwarted, but we condemn this resistance by those most responsible for the climate crisis," Meena Raman, an advocate with Friends of the Earth Malaysia, said. "This has been a shameless attempt to wriggle off the hook."

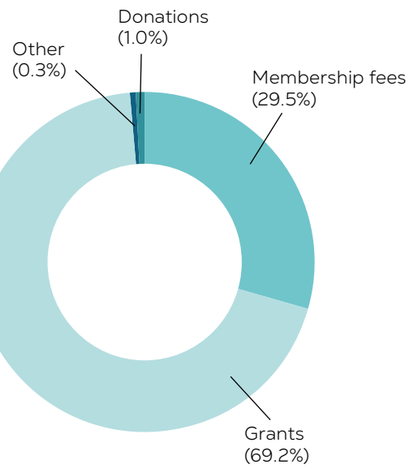
## Caras y Caretas (Uruguay)

According to Friends of the Earth International, "corporations systematically prioritise profit over the environment and human rights. Many transnational corporations are richer and more powerful than the states that should be regulating them in the public interest. Big business often hijacks political decision-making spaces, like UN negotiations, to shape environmental policies to serve their interests."

# Our Finances




**Total expenses** 3,003,634
*Amounts in Euro*




**Total Revenue** 3,237,323
*Amounts in Euro*

**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)
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Swiss Church Aid
- HEKS (previously Bread for All)
- Pro Natura
- Isvara Foundation
- Energy Transition Fund, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- European Climate Foundation
- Foundation for International Law for the Environment
- Daidone Foundation
- Iara Lee Foundation
- TOP fund
- Marisla Foundation

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.

In 2021 a Safety and Security policy was adopted.

Friends of the Earth International has no violations of integrity to report for 2022.

*Friends of the Earth Nigeria at the Global Day of Action for Forests and Biodiversity*

# Our structures

## The Executive Committee

The current 'ExCom" was elected during our Biennial General Meeting in July 2021. It consists of Friends of the Earth members from national groups:

**Hemantha Withanage** – Chair, Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka
**Silvia Quiroa** – Vice Chair, Friends of the Earth El Salvador
**Lucia Ortiz** – Treasurer, Friends of the Earth Brazil
**Victor Barro**, Friends of the Earth Spain
**Anabela Lemos**, Friends of the Earth Mozambique
**Bertrand Sansonnens**, Friends of the Earth Switzerland
**Mai Taqueban**, Friends of the Earth Philippines
**Chima Williams**, Friends of the Earth Nigeria

## The International Secretariat

The International Secretariat, based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, supports the federation with coordination, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, financial management, capacity building and communications.

**Dave Hirsch** – International Coordinator
**Nina Ascoly** – International Programmes Facilitator
**Colleen F. Halley** – International Fundraising Coordinator
**Caroline Prak** – International Communications Coordinator
**Wieke Wagenaar** – Operations Manager
**Loreto de Amunátegui** – Internationalist Solidarity System Facilitator
**Myra de Bruijn** – Regional Programmes Facilitator
**Amelia Collins** – Communications Officer – Economic justice and resisting neoliberalism; Forests and biodiversity
**José Elosegui** – Real World Radio Coordinator
**Magdalena Ferrin Pozuelo** – International Fundraising Officer
**Laura Wu** – International Fundraising Officer
**Mara Hotiu** – Events and Logistic Coordinator
**Anke Kluppels** – International Programmes Officer – Economic justice and resisting neoliberalism
**Fieke Jagers** – International Programmes Officer – Climate justice and energy
**Elisa Melgar** – Office Coordinator
**Grace Nijbroek** – Bookkeeper
**Willie Meester** – Human Resources Officer
**Paola Palladino** – Digital Communications Officer
**Madeleine Race** – Communications Officer – Climate justice and energy; Food sovereignty
**Kaetlyn Roberts** – International Programmes Officer – Food sovereignty; Forests and biodiversity

## The International Programme Coordinators

### Climate justice and energy

**Dipti Bhatnagar,** hosted by JA! (Friends of the Earth Mozambique)
**Sara Shaw,** hosted by Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

### Forests and biodiversity

**Nele Marien**, hosted by Friends of the Earth Flanders and Brussels
**Isaac Rojas**, hosted by COECOCEIBA / Friends of the Earth Costa Rica

### Food sovereignty

**Kirtana Chandrasekan**, hosted by Friends of the Earth Scotland
**Martin Drago**, hosted by REDES/Friends of the Earth Uruguay

### Economic justice and resisting neoliberalism

**Leticia Paranhos Menna de Oliveira**, hosted by Friends of the Earth Brasil
**Sam Cossar**, hosted by Friends of the Earth Australia

## The Membership Development Team

**Kwami Kpondzo**, Africa
**Chloe Aldenhoven**, Asia Pacific
**Elaine Gilligan**, Europe
**Karin Nansen**, Latin America & the Caribbean

## The Regional Facilitators

**Nerisha Baldevu**, Friends of the Earth Africa
**Bareesh H. Chowdhury**, Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific
**Jagoda Munic**, Friends of the Earth Europe
**Danilo Urrea**, Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean

## Internationalist Solidarity System Focal Points

**Emma Harvey**, Asia Pacific
**Kwami Kpondzo**, Africa
**Theiva Lingam**, Asia Pacific
**Natalia Salvático**, Latin America & the Caribbean
**Shenna Sanchez**, Europe
**Danilo Urrea,** Latin America & the Caribbean

# Groups around the world

## Africa

Cameroon Ghana Liberia Mali Mozambique Nigeria Sierra Leone South Africa Tanzania Togo Uganda

## Asia Pacific

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

## Europe

Albania 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 Malta Netherlands North Macedonia Norway Poland Russia Scotland Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland

## Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina Brazil Chile Colombia Costa Rica Curaçao (Antilles) Ecuador El Salvador Grenada (West Indies) Haiti Honduras Mexico Paraguay Uruguay

## USA and Canada

Canada United States of America

Cover picture: A community woman who benefits from the rooftop solar project giving energy to communities through solar lamps at the Banishanta Union Parishad building, Sundarbans, Bangladesh. © Luka Tomac/ Friends of the Earth International

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Friends of the Earth International