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.
2023 was a challenging year for our planet, as it was for many people around the world. The global neoliberal capitalist model fuels great unrest in many countries: the endless creation of wealth and the stimulation of consumption leads to the destruction of our forests, agricultural lands and waters and it jeopardises the lives and livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

The Friends of the Earth International federation continued to follow and mobilise people power around the plethora of international summits focused on the crises that are making our planet increasingly uninhabitable for many. Tragically, these events are more often than not a stage for the further entrenchment of dangerous corporate-driven "solutions".

We are working harder than ever with our allies to bring about system change, from the grassroots to the global level and in villages, towns and cities all over the world. Our work gave rise to many important successes this year, and we proudly present them to you in this annual report. There is no denying that people's movements are growing in breadth and power, and 2023 was an important year for us in consolidating some critical alliances so that we can move forward together in creating a fairer and greener world.

We are horrified and heartbroken by the ongoing situation in Palestine. As a federation dedicated to peace, we condemn Islamophobia and antisemitism, as well as all forms of racism, militarism, oppression and violence.

We stand with the ongoing resistance against Israel’s apartheid and support the struggle for Palestine’s autonomy, an end to the occupation and to corporate impunity, and a fair, just, and permanent solution for the Palestinian people.

**Hemantha Withanage**
Friends of the Earth International Chair
Economic Justice & Resisting Neoliberalism

Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific campaigners were part of the FoEI delegation attending the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop the Plastics Treaty in Paris.

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.
Ending plastic pollution

The plastic crisis has captured the world’s attention. Over the past decades, the movement to break free from plastic has been gaining momentum at all levels: from community groups tackling waste on their local beaches, to national bans in several countries, and global campaigns to stop the harmful trade in plastic waste.

In 2023, a historic global plastics treaty started taking shape. Leaders from 175 countries held two negotiating rounds, in Paris and in Nairobi, to develop a new agreement to end plastic pollution. The desired outcome is the adoption of a bold and ambitious treaty that addresses the entire lifecycle of plastic – from production, to design, and finally to disposal.

Friends of the Earth International and our member groups were on the ground at these pivotal international negotiations, demanding an ambitious treaty that challenges the power of the corporations behind the plastic crisis. Our global demands were strengthened by the grounded experiences of 15 Friends of the Earth groups that have been waging national and local campaigns for plastics legislation. The negotiations made substantial progress in 2023, and the resulting ‘Zero Draft’ for a Global Plastics Treaty contains several important wins: potential obligations for reductions or caps on plastic production, the avoidance or banning of harmful single-use plastics, and increased regulation to address the trade in plastic waste.

Pathways to system change

We are fighting for a future where all people have rights, and where they live in dignity and in harmony with nature. This means we need to challenge existing power relations in societies, politics and economies. Our energy and food systems must be transformed. We need to defend territories and biodiversity, as well as the peoples who protect them. We need to achieve gender justice and uphold collective rights against the power of corporations.

In 2023, we took the next step in bringing all these struggles and alternatives together via our Pathways to system change project. We made solutions visible through a visual storytelling project that tells our stories of system change and expresses our achievements, ideas and visions for the future. We launched a detailed report with analyses, a political framework and policy proposals, as well as an illustrated pamphlet with case studies, an interactive online map and a multimedia exhibition with captivating photos and videos that bring our work around the world to life.

Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights

The 9th round of negotiations for a Binding Treaty to regulate transnational corporations represented an important milestone in the fight against corporate power and impunity. Friends of the Earth’s delegation joined the Global Campaign together with Indigenous peoples, affected communities, civil society organisations, trade unions, social movements and many states from the Global South in blockings attempts by the Chair and special interest to undermine the process and water down the Treaty. As a united front against the transnational architecture of impunity, we were successful in blocking the Chair’s last minute proposal to request a new resolution from the Human Rights Council which would have derailed the entire Binding Treaty process. Moving forward, Friends of the Earth remains fully committed to a Binding Treaty that holds transnational corporations accountable and enables access to justice for affected communities.
Climate Justice and Energy

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.

Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, 9 December 2023. Friends of the Earth International joined the march at COP28 in solidarity with Palestinian peoples and communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

© Hanae Takahashi, Friends of the Earth Japan
Overall, 2023 saw a continued dash for false solutions to the climate crisis. In November, Friends of the Earth brought a diverse international delegation to the oppressive halls of COP28 in Dubai to fight for climate justice. Although this summit was celebrated as a success in the fight to phase out fossil fuels, the agreement has huge loopholes and big polluters were granted an escape hatch that allows them to keep polluting.

Throughout the year, we were at the forefront of the global fight against corporate-driven schemes and technologies including offsets and geoengineering. We also supported regional work through the Real Zero Europe campaign, which calls on the EU to deliver real solutions to the climate crisis, and important national work, such as the intersectional, grassroots driven campaigning, advocacy, and movement building led by Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia). We invested in capacity building, training and creating resources to support work across the federation, including our false solutions toolkit and trainings at African, Asian and European gatherings. We highlighted the pitfalls of the hydrogen hype with a new report, and focused our media work on exposing these dangerous distractions.

We also supported national fights against fossil fuels across the federation – specifically in South Africa, Nigeria, Togo and Colombia. We sought to strengthen and deepen our work around solutions to the climate crisis, and our report on Renewable energy and land use: barriers to just transition in the Global South explored the experiences of communities in India, Palestine, Argentina and Bangladesh.

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**Fuelling a feminist energy transition**

In September, a meeting calling for a feminist just energy transition was convened in Argentina by Friends of the Earth International climate justice and gender justice campaigners, together with Milieufactie (FoE Netherlands) and Tierra Nativa (FoE Argentina).

The meeting brought together women from each of the federation’s regions and allied organisations. Participants developed consensus around various principles for a feminist, popular and just energy transition. These principles are based on the feminist economy, anti-colonialism, anti-racism and just land transition, and include the challenges of extracting transition minerals and the role of transnational corporations and countries in the global North during the energy transition.

Gender diversities and the impacts on women were highlighted during the sessions, and we practiced holding space for the numerous women in our movement, acknowledging the many roles they carry both inside and outside the conference room. Youth and Indigenous people from Argentina also joined to share their realities, and helped us to understand the intersections that unite our struggles against racism, patriarchy and class.

FoEi’s "Bank of evidence on false solutions" is a collection of media articles, investigations and reports documenting the impacts of climate false solutions on communities and ecosystems across the world.
Forests and Biodiversity

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.

Palm oil plantation in Pontianak, Indonesia. © Kemal Jufri
**Resisting "nature-based solutions"**

The Forest and Biodiversity programme opposed Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) – dangerous and damaging schemes for corporate profit in the guise of nature protection – in the United Nations Environment Assembly consultation about the topic in May. The meeting ended without a defined result, leading to a temporary halt on NBS policy development. Additionally, we influenced the Convention for Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) by urging its members to consider the impacts of climate and climate policies (including carbon offsetting) on biodiversity. These issues are pending finalisation at COP16 in 2024.

Simultaneously, we delved deeper into gender dynamics within community forest management. We emphasised the disproportionate impact of agribusiness on women, highlighted their resistance against agrocommodities, addressed gender roles within community forest management regimes, and offered educational resources to our groups on the ground.

We also highlighted how collective rights are integral to protecting biodiversity and forests and how we can make them a reality. Collective rights are a foundation for justice and equity, which would benefit not only communities but society as a whole. They are a necessary step in the pathway to system change that we so desperately need.

"The powerful human right to a healthy environment is up against an even more powerful force in the global economy, a system that is absolutely based on the exploitation of people and nature. And unless we change that fundamental system, then we’re just re-shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic."

David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur for human rights and the environment

**Women and agrocommodities**

Agrocommodities – agricultural products produced at an industrial scale – are the result of a patriarchal capitalist economic model that relies on the privatisation, commodification and financialisation of nature for profit. The production of agrocommodities continues to wreak havoc on the natural environment, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women.

Around the world, women are actively challenging this system by offer alternatives for just and equitable food systems based on the fundamental principles of a feminist economy. Read our analysis to learn more!

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**Framework for gender justice and community forest management**

Building on our work in 2022 to create a participatory gender justice framework for community forest management, we released a leaflet in 2023 on the key takeaways of this process. The publication highlights women’s crucial role in the traditional use and defence of forests and biodiversity, the urgent need to recognise and make this role visible; and practices that can be eliminated or strengthened to ensure gender justice in community forest management. A simplified and more accessible version of the framework, the leaflet helps equip Friends of the Earth member groups and allies in their work with Indigenous Peoples and local communities on gender justice and community forest management.
**Food sovereignty**

**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.

Women in Indonesia engaged in a community forest management project, which includes advocating for land and Indigenous rights and food sovereignty.
Resisting systemic oppression, building food sovereignty

From 3-7 July 2023, representatives of Friends of the Earth International gathered in El Salvador along with our close allies to strengthen the articulation of our collective resistance to different systems of oppression. We also build a joint understanding of food sovereignty and placed it within the context of other proposals for system change. We did this through political formation and strategic exchanges.

The political understanding and trust between our organisations is well developed, and we have a long history of building alliances and movements together in various spaces. In El Salvador, we created a unique space where we could analyse the current moment from the historical perspective of intersecting systems of oppression, with each organisation bringing its different entry points and experiences.

Mobilising for food sovereignty as system change: Nyeleni III

In June, two Food Sovereignty programme coordinators attended the first global meeting between the International Planning Committee (IPC) and allies from the Nyeleni III process. This gathering was held with peasant, feminists, fisherfolk, Indigenous peoples, unions, and organisations working on social and solidarity economy, health galvanised and climate justice. The gathering galvanised work towards a global forum for Food Sovereignty and Justice for System Change in 2025, which is aimed at widening the alliances between different movements for system change and rearticulating the food sovereignty movement. We set the principles and political aims for the forum, created a global steering committee, and agreed on regional processes towards the forum. Friends of the Earth International is part of the global steering committee for this initiative.

Success: coordinated response to food crises

Since the COVID-19 food crisis in 2019, Friends of the Earth International and our allies have been calling for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as the most effective and legitimate space for coordinating a policy response to the multi-layered global food crisis, to take up this mandate. In October, civil society celebrated a major victory at the CFS plenary in Rome with the decision that this global multilateral human rights focused UN body will take on the role of globally coordinating policy responses to the food crises.

Raising the alarm on the threats of nature-based solutions for food sovereignty

We continued our work to oppose and resist nature-based solutions for climate and biodiversity loss due to their huge negative impacts on food sovereignty and the financialisation of land and territories. We created educational materials on different aspects of NBS and the rise of soil carbon markets showing their link to greenwashing, land grabbing and the increased digital control over our food system.
Regional highlights

A look at 2023 across our global federation, featuring achievements from Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin American and the Caribbean, Europe, and Canada and the USA.

Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights session in Gambia.
© Friends of the Earth Africa
Africa

**Dismantling corporate power**

In July, Justiça Ambiental JA! (Friends of the Earth Mozambique) organised the seventh edition of its Maputo workshop on corporate impunity and human rights. This year’s workshop focused on energy models: how they determine power relations, and the behaviour and strategies of some of the world’s most powerful dirty energy corporations.

The workshop was attended by Friends of the Earth groups from South Africa, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Philippines and Sri Lanka as well as regional and international allies. They tackled questions including: What are the elements of the so-called ‘architecture of corporate impunity’? How is this manifested in the Mozambican context, in African countries and other regions? Discussion topics ranged from the role of oil, gas and coal companies to the mega dams industry, as well as the sectors that support these dirty businesses (including banks, financial institutions, and industrial plantations financed through carbon credits).

Transnational corporations, with their enormous and unchecked economic and political power, violate human rights and destroy entire ecosystems with impunity. They include big oil, coal and gas companies that leak toxic substances into our atmosphere, oceans and soils and drive us towards climate crisis, as well as agribusinesses that exploit industrial tree plantations that destroy natural habitats and displace thousands without fair compensation. Across Africa and the rest of the Global South, transnational corporations are contributing to increasing inequality, wars, social conflicts and the shrinking of civic space. Corporations and other actors in their global value chains are often able to escape legal action by using their complex and opaque structures as a shield from liability, and by wielding their economic and political power to ensure that government elites defend their interests above the interests of the people.

More than 130 people from 12 countries – ranging from affected communities, civil society organisations, experts and government representatives – came together to share and learn about the strategies being used by corporations to exploit our resources and violate our rights, and the strategies and resistance taken up by affected communities, social movements and civil society organisations. This annual gathering has become an important space for discussions about the power and impunity of big companies and for planning mobilisations that place people and nature above profits.

› foafrica.org
Latin America & the Caribbean

ATALC Building movement and people power for peoples’ sovereignty

A highlight this year in the work of FoE Latin America & the Caribbean (ATALC) has been steady consolidation of alliances and movement-building – a process that involves different moments and convergence spaces for joint political action with allied social movements and organisations.

Feminist education inspired by Berta Cáceres

In August 2023, the first face-to-face gathering of the Berta Cáceres Feminist School was held in Honduras. Participants included representatives from member organisations from 22 countries of the Continental Journey for Democracy and against Neoliberalism.

The role of the state in each of our countries, the democracies we defend, and our sexuality, bodies and territories were the guiding threads during the reflections as participants sought to understand the meanings that construct today’s feminism. The school incorporates the dynamics of popular, participatory and transformative education, based on personal experiences and common agreements. It works for linguistic justice and encourages "unlearning" as a learning tool. The hope is that the ideas and processes behind the school will continue to develop and spread to other continents.
The processes are the result of articulated and coordinated work by our member organisations, along with FoEI’s structures and our international, regional and cross-cutting programmes. One of the main processes was the Berta Cáceres International Feminist Organising School (IFOS) held in Siguatepeque, Honduras, which placed a strong emphasis on political training from the perspective of grassroots popular feminism and women’s political participation in determining strategic actions and programmatic agendas for collective work and struggle. Another significant process was the Just and Feminist Transition Meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which provided new elements for the dispute over the capture of the transition, for defending workers’ rights and for furthering environmental, social, economic and gender justice.

Also important were the advocacy actions to gain support for the adoption of the Binding Treaty conducted in Brasilia, Brazil, in dialogue with Brazilian government institutions and parliamentarians. This advocacy work was complemented with national initiatives for grassroots popular mobilisation and the development of proposals for regulatory frameworks to confront violations of rights and the impunity enjoyed by transnational corporations, as well as a permanent detailed monitoring of the negotiation process for the Binding Treaty in Geneva, Switzerland, in constant dialogue with diplomatic missions.

The above-mentioned spaces for gathering, collective reflection and learning for political action and movement-building were furthered in the region alongside organisations and movements that are part of the Continental Platform for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism. These processes will continue in the next years, thus contributing to the objectives promoted by FoEI and allied movements and organisations as a contribution to the construction of emancipatory political processes that confront the power and impunity of transnational corporations, the capture of the transition and false solutions, prioritising political formation/training towards organising for peoples’ sovereignty.

Main achievements

In 2022, ATALC reached out to the National Human Rights Institution in Uruguay and governmental representatives in Honduras, Argentina, Colombia and Brazil to lobby for their support for our positions regarding the Binding Treaty negotiations. The individual positions of governments in support of our recommendations are crucial for a solid Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights.

The Honduran government publicly expressed its support for the Binding Treaty during the public event "Rights for peoples, Binding rules for corporations", organised by ATALC on 23 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) for 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 governmental institutions regarding the need for binding regulations for corporations.
Europe

Equitable and planet-friendly trade and economies

In 2023, the ugly face of the climate crisis showed itself in Europe: the EU’s largest ever recorded forest fire in Greece, a landslide disaster in Georgia, and massive rains that wreaked havoc in Slovenia, Norway and Sweden. The prolonged war in Ukraine has had tremendous impacts on energy and food costs and has stoked feelings of insecurity across Europe. And on top of all this, we also witnessed harrowing violence in Gaza and Israel and a divided Europe, unable to unite to influence the conflict and demand an end to the occupation and a fair, just and permanent solution for the Palestinian people.

Politically, 2023 was a year of backlash against European environmental and climate ambitions. With the Parliament elections coming up in June 2024, European political actors on the right, hand-in-hand with corporate interests, jump-started their election campaigning by instrumentalising environmental and climate legislation for populist gains. Despite significant resistance, we witnessed very worrying pushbacks on legislation addressing pesticides, corporate due diligence and nature restoration.

But 2023 also brought sparks of hope. We achieved major milestones through campaigning and mobilising for economic justice and in changing the narrative on economic growth.
Championing an economy "beyond growth"

Our work on questioning systematic economic growth took a big leap forwards at the European Parliament’s Beyond Growth Conference. As a testament to our work, the president of the European Commission told the conference: “GDP measures everything except that which makes life worthwhile. Economic growth is not an end in itself.” This a significant shift in narrative coming from the innermost workings of the European institutions!

The injustice inherent in our current economic system was very much at the heart of this conference. Participants engaged in a collective analysis of what underpins Europe’s growth: white supremacy that seemingly justifies a global system of exploitation and extractivism, and the colonialism that is the foundation of corporate value chains, trade deals, and geopolitical structures of wealth accumulation.

In conjunction with the conference, we organised a large civil society gathering to connect intersectional allies around degrowth and worked collectively towards a common "Beyond Growth" vision. In cooperation with the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the European Environmental Bureau and the European Youth Forum, we sent an open letter to key EU decision makers highlighting the need for a post-growth EU economy and how this could look in practice. The letter was co-authored by renowned academics and activists in the field including Kate Raworth, Timothée Parrique and Vincent Liegey. It was translated into 22 languages, signed by over 150 civil society organisations and 250 academics and experts, and published in more than 30 news outlets. Ultimately we received a response from the responsible European Commissioners that pointed to the impact of our efforts.

Fighting the EU-Mercosur trade deal

We continued campaigning against the EU-Mercosur trade deal, emphasising its harmful impacts on the environment, local communities, human rights, and democratic processes.

Our efforts focused on raising awareness about deforestation and rural conflicts in the Amazon and the less-protected territories in Mercosur countries - including Cerrado, Pantanal and Gran Chaco. We highlighted the exacerbation of the climate crisis through agribusiness expansion in the region.

We launched a series of short videos in collaboration with Friends of the Earth Brazil showcasing the testimonies of frontline activists and affected communities, as well as a series of factsheets monitoring the latest data on deforestation in Mercosur and rural conflicts in Brazil.

We engaged with policymakers and EU institutions, and together with the European Trade Justice Coalition, we gathered 305 signatories for a cross-party parliamentary letter asking for the democratic scrutiny of the EU-Mercosur deal. With our German partners, we organised two large-scale outdoor projections with strong messages to stop the EU-Mercosur deal during Brazilian President Lula’s visit to Berlin.
In August, Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific (FoE APac) organised a regional gathering that brought together campaigners from 12 member groups for a five-day intensive workshop in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The goal was to fulfill a previously identified need in the region: a deeper integration and connection between member groups in order to better formulate regional campaigns. This space provided an opportunity to do exactly that – it connected many of the region’s young campaigners and injected fresh enthusiasm into a future process for collaboration.

As this was the first time that many of the participants had engaged with other Friends of the Earth groups, the workshop began with an introduction to the host country and relevant issues in Sri Lanka. This was followed by an orientation to the region as well as to the international federation and its different structures. A full day was allocated to capacity building on anti-oppression, focusing particularly on gender. This allowed campaigners to chart the different types of oppression they encounter in their daily work, to discuss ways to actively resist this oppression, and to integrate these tools for resistance into their campaigns.

FoE APac also invited one of Friends of the Earth International’s Climate Justice and Energy programme coordinators to provide a session on ‘false solutions’, which laid the groundwork for the region to work on this vital issue. In another session, campaigners broke into three groups for a future campaign planning session.

On the last day, the group took a field trip to a local wetlands area and met with some of the communities that work with Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka. The workshop spurred many of the participants to start to contribute to Friends of the Earth’s regional and international structures and activities. Several young APac campaigners attended the COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai and were active in press conferences, actions and protests. A few of them have gone on to join the steering groups of FoEI’s International programmes; others are represented in the informal APac plastics working group as part of the work of the federation’s work on the Global Plastics Treaty. The set of demands they have formulated around plastics for the region now forms a basis for Friends of the Earth APac’s advocacy work. Overall, the gathering deepened the relationship between the region’s national groups, and this work will ideally continue during future campaigners’ meetings.
Regional highlights • Canada & United States

Canada & United States

Canada

In 2023, on the heels of Canada’s first single-use plastic ban of stir sticks, straws, checkout bags, cutlery, and takeout containers, we joined forces with more than 60 groups to #ExpandtheBan with six additional categories. Our argument was that the current action only addresses 3% of plastic waste and fails to address the scope and urgency of the plastic crisis. In addition, we stopped a provision to allow manufacture for export of the first six banned items. In order to avoid false solutions like chemical recycling and incineration, we called for truly zero waste and reuse-centred systems.

We returned to court to intervene in the appeal of Mathur et al., the historic youth-led climate case. We also instigated a legal case to insist that Canada’s pesticide regulator make public the assessments of scientific findings on the impact of glyphosate used to re-register Mad Dog Plus, a glyphosate-containing product that is used in agriculture and forestry. We campaigned across Canada with Jennifer Baichwal, director of Into the Weeds: Dewayne “Lee” Johnson vs. Monsanto Company, for an immediate ban of glyphosate. Finally, we welcomed a ban on pesticides used for cosmetic purposes on more than 41 million hectares of federal land as a start – not a finish – to banning harmful pesticides.

United States

In 2023, Friends of the Earth United States monitored the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, the US’s most significant climate legislation, with the goal of ensuring that it delivers climate benefits to disadvantaged communities rather than supporting false solutions such as waste incineration. We also won protections for culturally and ecologically significant areas, providing a buffer against mining and drilling.

To protect public health, we successfully pressured major grocery stores to reduce pesticides and increase organics in their supply chains, while working with schools to support regional food systems by increasing locally sourced, organic, plant-based meals. And after years of litigation, the Environmental Protection Agency took a critical step in phasing out lead in aviation fuel, which will benefit over 5 million people.

Internationally, we launched a powerful campaign to stop International Finance Institutions from funding factory farms. At the November Convention on Biodiversity in Nairobi, we helped defend measures limiting synthetic biology. Our climate disinformation campaign continued to win important victories, including a commitment from TikTok to ban false information about climate change as part of its disinformation policies. Finally, David Malpass, who was appointed by Trump to head the World Bank, was forced to resign in February after some serious climate missteps, handing an important political victory to environmental organisations including Friends of the Earth US.
Internationalist Solidarity System

Mobilising to defend rights  The world is witnessing a resurgence of conservative ideology that has taken on a particularly authoritarian character, rejecting traditional forms of politics, media and knowledge itself. Nonetheless, in the face of crisis, people around the world are organising to defend territories and rights and questioning the very principles at the root of a system in dire need of transformative change.
Friends of the Earth International is also stepping up the fight for environmental justice and internationalist solidarity by protecting defenders of territories and upholding peoples’ collective and human rights. We do this by responding swiftly to violations and by mobilising internationalist support for threatened peoples and communities. In 2023, our Internationalist Solidarity System (ISS) team has continued to consolidate alliances and strengthen movement building related to the criminalisation of environmental activists and violations of rights connected with our organisations. In October, we defined and launched our vision on People’s Rights and Defenders of Territories.

**Standing strong with Palestine**

The work of our member group in Palestine, PENGON, deserves a special mention. Since the October 2023 attacks, the Israeli occupation forces have been conducting a large-scale military offensive in the Gaza Strip, using intensive air, land, and sea bombardment. This war crime – which is a continuation of history given the context of the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian lands since 1967 and the blockade on Gaza for the past 16 years – resulted in the killing and assassination of tens of thousands of people, widespread destruction of property and infrastructure, and serious harm to the environment and biodiversity.

To date, more than 35,000 men, women and children have been killed, and two million individuals – over 90% of Gaza’s population – have been displaced from their homes.

The siege against Palestinians has mobilised most of the world’s population against the unjustified massacre of innocent people. Friends of the Earth International and our member groups have come together to denounce the situation and to show solidarity by joining demonstrations around the world by demanding an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Illegal occupation.

On December 10, Human Rights Day, we launched our blog entitled “Palestine is a cause of human rights and climate justice”.

**Supporting rights defenders in Ecuador**

The ISS continues to support the struggle of UDAPT (Friends of the Earth Ecuador) against Chevron. Since 1993, communities affected by the company’s oil operations have been taking legal action to address the environmental damage caused in the provinces of Sucumbios and Orellana. This struggle is a clear example of the systematic violations going on in Ecuador at the hands of transnational corporations with the complicity of the neoliberal government.
Communications

**New Friends of the Earth International visual identity**  The Communications team updated Friends of the Earth International’s visual identity in 2023. This goal was to capture the essence of our federation and at the same time provide guidance for how to visually display who we are in a way that is both consistent and recognisable.
This work was executed by our long-time design partner, One Hemisphere. The new identity shows our nature as a social movement, based on people’s power. It uses powerful quotes and imagery, ranging from group and protest pictures to portraits and still lifes.

We aim to ensure that our communications present the federation’s vision as a whole, rather than simplifying its specific parts, and that the following elements are highlighted:

→ "Who we are"
Reminding the public that we are "the world’s largest grassroots environmental federation" as well as an "environmental and social justice movement".

→ Our "tone of voice"
We are positive, passionate, human, honest, bold, and we "speak truth to power". We seek to inspire people, not to preach to them. We draw out a variety of local contexts as well as the global picture.

→ Our "colour family"
Our main colour remains a rich green, which reminds us of our ecologist essence, and our secondary colour is a lighter grassy green. Specific colours have been added for two of our structures: the Internationalist Solidarity System and the working group on gender justice and dismantling patriarchy.

→ A new font: Nexa
A "serif" font, Nexa, now accompanies our existing rounded "sans serif" Arial font for body text that complements our logo. Arial is still used for our internal work, but the print and digital work for our external facing comms will use Nexa.

→ "Mobilise Resist Transform"
Our slogan has been restyled and will be put on the cover of our main publications, together with the logo. We encourage our member groups to use it at all times!
Transform! a visual journey towards system change

In June 2023, Friends of the Earth International launched *Pathways to system change*, our cross-programme project that focuses on the interconnected, systemic nature of the crises we are facing and on the importance of people’s solutions (more info on page 5).

We supported the launch of the report with a social media campaign that spanned over a month, and boosted traffic to the new dedicated pages on the website, including a blog and an interactive map with examples of our member group’s transformative solutions.

The launch was followed by a multimedia photo exhibition that was officially unveiled to the federation during our Biennial General Meeting in New Orleans (US) and promoted externally with a campaign on LinkedIn. The digital version of the exhibition is still available on our website while the physical one is available to all our groups that wish to display it to their countries.

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**Media highlights**

**The Guardian**

*Rich countries "trap" poor nations into relying on fossil fuels*

Daniel Ribeiro of Friends of the Earth Mozambique (Justiça Ambienta): "The debt caused by fossil fuels [is] being structured to be paid back by fossil fuels, solidifying a vicious cycle of having to move forward and having very severe consequences of not wanting to continue with fossil fuels."

**CNN**

*"The climate time-bomb is ticking": The world is running out of time to avoid catastrophe, new UN report warns*

"This report is the most dire and troubling assessment yet of the spiraling climate impacts we all face if systemic changes are not made now." Sara Shaw, program coordinator at Friends of the Earth International, said in a statement.

**DeSmog**

*2023 Has Been A Big Year for Climate Accountability in the Courts*

In reference to the court case of Friends of the Earth Netherlands (Milieudefensie) against Shell: "Additionally, an appeals court in the Netherlands will hear Shell’s appeal in the Milieudefensie v. Shell case, as the company seeks to overturn the groundbreaking 2021 verdict holding the company accountable for failing to align its business with the decarbonization aims of the Paris Climate Agreement."
In 2023, Real World Radio celebrated its 20th anniversary with the release of an editorial, a short promotional film and a new design for our website and social networks.

The federation’s work around gender justice and the dismantling of patriarchy offered an important context for the Radio’s work throughout the year. We produced a video to celebrate International Women’s Day on 8 March, together with Friends of the Earth Nigeria and Friends of the Earth International. During the International Day of Feminist Solidarity against Transnational Corporations on 24 April, we released a video in solidarity with the victims of the 2013 Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh.

As part of our Economic Justice work, we produced a series of audiovisual interviews in the run-up to the UN negotiations for a Binding Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights. We even created a special television studio in Brazil – something new for Real World Radio – where we interviewed activists Pablo Fajardo, Leticia Paranhos, Iván González and Karin Nansen.

We also made a video for the International Day of Peasant Struggles on 17 April to draw attention to the fact that over the past decade, a land and environmental defender was killed every two days somewhere in the world.

To support the federation’s work on climate justice and energy, Real World Radio interviewed Friends of the Earth International’s Lise Masson before the UN COP28 on Climate Change, and produced three (first, second and third) audiograms for social media.

In our work to promote internationalist solidarity, we made a podcast together with LRC (Friends of the Earth Philippines) focusing on the first year of the corrupt government of Ferdinand

“Bongbong” Marcos Jr. We also produced a special audiogram on the subject in Spanish.

Finally, Real World Radio continued to build partnerships in 2023. We were invited by La Via Campesina to their 8th international conference in Colombia, and did several short interviews there, including one with Francisca Rodriguez from ANAMURI in Chile and another with Joao Pedro Stédile from Brazil’s Landless Workers’ Movement (MST).
**Our finances**

**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
Bread for the World
Energy Transition Fund
New Venture Fund
Daidone Foundation
Pro Natura
HEKS/EPER - Swiss Church Aid
Isvara Foundation
Global Greengrants Fund
Lara Lee Foundation
European Climate Foundation
CS Fund
Trust for Mutual Understanding

Friends of the Earth International’s complete audited financial statements are available at [foei.org/friends-of-the-earth-internationals-annual-reports](foei.org/friends-of-the-earth-internationals-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.

In 2023 all members - funded or not by FoEI - have adopted the Code of Conduct. Friends of the Earth International has no violations of integrity to report for 2023.

**Total expenses:** € 3 610 118  
**Total revenue:** € 3 321 578  
**Surplus:** -€ 288 540
Our structure

The Executive Committee

The current “ExCom” was elected during our Biennial General Meeting in November 2023. It consists of the following Friends of the Earth members from national groups:

- Hemantha Withanage
  Chair – Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka
- Lucia Ortiz
  Vice Chair – Friends of the Earth Brazil
- Bertrand Sansonnens
  Treasurer – Friends of the Earth Switzerland
- Emma Jayne Geraghty
  Friends of the Earth Ireland
- Avena Jacklin
  Friends of the Earth South Africa
- Anabela Lemos
  Friends of the Earth Mozambique
- Theiva Lingam
  Friends of the Earth Malaysia
- Wanda Olivares
  Friends of the Earth Argentina
- Mai Taqueban
  Friends of the Earth Philippines

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
- José Elosegui
  Real World Radio Coordinator
- Ghislaine Fandel
  Communications Officer
- Magdalena Ferrin Pozuelo
  International Fundraising Officer

- Economic justice and resisting neoliberalism; Forests and biodiversity
Our structure

Mara Hotiu
Events and Logistics 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
Laura Wu
International Fundraising Officer

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

Kokou Amagadze
Africa
Chloé Aldenhoven
Asia Pacific
Elaine Gilligan
Europe
Karin Nansen
Latin America & the Caribbean

The International Programme Coordinators

Climate justice and energy
Tyler Booth
hosted by groundWork (FoE South Africa)
Sara Shaw
hosted by Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Lise Masson
Advocacy Officer
hosted by Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Forrests 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 Chandrasekaran
hosted by Friends of the Earth Scotland

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
FoE Latin America and the Caribbean

Internationalist Solidarity System Focal Points

Kwami Kpondzo
Africa
Chalani H. Rubesinghe
Asia Pacific
Finnian Murtagh
Europe
Natalia Salvático
Latin America & the Caribbean
Danilo Urrea
Latin America & the Caribbean
## Friends of the Earth Groups around the world

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**mobilise resist transform**

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