FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Your head and shoulders can now breathe a sigh of relief as Procter and Gamble (P&G) has committed to a new No Deforestation policy that will remove forest destruction from its products and provide full traceability for all the palm oil and derivatives it uses. After weeks of public pressure and outcry over the company’s palm oil sourcing practices, Greenpeace worldwide has welcomed the move as a huge step forward in protecting the country’s forests and the communities who depend on them.

2013: A SUMMARY

- Created crop circles in various cities to highlight the problems of the BRAI bill and GM crops.
- Our ‘Living Soils’ campaign brings systemic change in Bihar with an alternate development pathway for Indian Agriculture.
- Started the Switch On the Sun campaign in Delhi to raise key issues and challenge the current energy system by showcasing renewable energy through solar rooftops, as the most feasible way to combat climate change.
- In Bihar we moved towards implementing the first of its kind “smart micro-grid” project in terms of establishing DRE as a viable solution for energy access.
- Radio Sangharsh – an initiative to empower the tribal communities and give a voice to their grievances.
- We mobilised volunteers from 31 Indian cities to come together and rally to save the Arctic.
- We engaged with the Resident Welfare Association by setting up renewable energy fairs in different parts of Delhi to spread awareness about the benefits of alternate sources of energy.
- We got Airtel to commit to go green after persistent campaigning.
- We designed, implemented, proved and got the Bihar government to commit to phase out diesel powered pumps and implement 2.85 lakh solar powered ones within the next 10 years.
- Staged an action at the Upper Wardha dam in Amravati, Maharashtra to protest the diversion of water to coal power plants instead of the farmers.
- We welcomed 81,322 new supporters to our family!

Greenpeace is one of the oldest and largest environment NGOs in the world.
Greenpeace does not take any donation from corporates or governments.
Greenpeace is fiercely independent and survives on donations solely from individuals like you.

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Follow us on:
Exasperation leads to effective campaigning. This statement is true in every sense of the word. Everywhere we look around, in every sphere of our lives; be it family, society or the work place, we harbour frustrations that lead to action. As the saying goes, “there’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer”.

Activists are a unique breed. They have the ability to break away from societal norms and stand up for what is right and for the common good. The journey is nowhere close to being a pleasant one. It’s riddled with obstacles that would make everyone else run the other way. Along with are diverse supporter base, we witness this on a daily basis. An example from the recent past beautifully illustrates that people power is a force to be reckoned with. Procter and Gamble (P&G), an international giant well known across the world for their products like Head and Shoulders shampoo, etc, have finally succumbed to public pressure when almost half a million people from around the world, demanded they put an end to their deforestation practices. Following suit, many other big companies have pledged a ‘no deforestation’ commitment as well.

Moving closer to home, you cannot help but notice a big change underway. We see our youth standing up and questioning corruption, leading campaigns and demanding justice. This is the age of reason and no longer can money-driven politicians and corporates get away without accountability. Clearing vast chunks of pristine ancient forests to mine for coal is no more logical than it is absurd. Unfortunately though, this is happening right now and we’re up in arms to defend the multitude of people and animals that depend on it with their lives. The ‘license to kill’ is too big a power for anyone to possess. This is our nation, our environment and our world. We have the majority say in how it’s forged. Stand up.

It’s unfortunate that a nation with so much potential as ours, still harbour certain practices that are not to be proud of. When we think development, we think green cities, sustainable livelihoods and methods to leave the environment better off than when we found it.

Tragically, this is not the case in one of the oldest forests in Central India. Mahan is in a crisis – it risks losing its rich biodiversity to the greed for coal. With the recent approval of the Stage 2 clearance, Essar has now been sanctioned to fell over five lakh trees! The repercussions of this is on a scale so enormous, that words don’t do it justice. This is why we staged a daring protest outside their head quarters in Mumbai to bring to public notice the grave danger that this poses. From entire tribal communities and livelihoods to the frightened animals who don’t stand a chance, it’s up to us as educated citizens to fight for what is just. In a desperate attempt to gag our voice, Essar slapped a legal notice on us and Mahan Sangharsh Samiti amounting to Rs. 500 Crore.

If history has taught us anything is that we do not take no for an answer. This is just another impediment along the way and with the constant support of you, our extended family, we’ll see it to the end even if it means hugging every tree along the way!
WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

One of the issues that we’ve been campaigning for has gained importance and found its way into the Manifesto of the main political parties is the controversial Genetically Modified (GM) crops. The raging debate around this risky technology and whether it should be released into our farms and plates has become a relevant election issue. One of the main reasons for this, is the growing opposition to GM crops and the fact that the discussions around them is not limited to scientific forums but has moved to the realm of the common man. This is for good reason as the impacts of this technology cut across health, environment and livelihoods; this only suggests that it is an issue that will affect every citizen.

It has been recognised by credible bodies like the International Assessment of Agriculture Science and Technology for Development as well as our Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture that GM crops will play no role in achieving food security. A look at the Bt Cotton situation in India would explain the yield-production myth of GM crops very well. With these kinds of realities, can decision makers actually expect a technology like this ensuring food security to the poorest in the country?

It is widely recognised that GM crops are neither safe, nor are they going to help us achieve food security or help our farmers move towards welfare. While there are limitations to manifestos and intentions that can be put in place, one surely hopes that the new Government in place will take a stronger stance against GM crops to ensure our food security and seed sovereignty.

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DHARNAI SEES THE LIGHT

Can you imagine waking up, drenched in your own sweat while tumbling around looking for a candle just so that you can see what’s around you? This is the harsh reality that the people from the village of Dharain in Bihar face every day. They have not received electricity for over 30 years and the lack of power has stunted their growth. Healthcare is limited and it’s extremely difficult to establish new models of medical services in the absence of constant power supply. Additionally, using any form of electrical appliance or equipment requires diesel-powered generators. This essentially means that access to electricity is highly limited and only affordable to the economically affluent class who can bear the rising cost of diesel.

One of the key drivers for our Dharain project in Bihar is energy access, which is a big unresolved issue in India. This will serve as a model for the rest of the country to adopt. Our solution is Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE). This will ensure that villages will no longer be dependent on the grid for their power but will be able to generate their own. With this empowerment, think of the countless possibilities that can now come to life – from sleeping under a fan to feeling safe on a road with street lights. It’s Dharain’s time now.

70% of Bihar has no access to electricity

GREENPEACE INDIA Consolidated Financials, 2013

(Figures in INR)

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Dated: 28th February 2014
For GREENPEACE INDIA
Sd/-
SAMIT AICH
(Executive Director)
For GREENPEACE INDIA
Sd/-
G. GAUTAM
(Chairman)
Sd/-
R.KUMAR & Co,
Chartered Accountant
Sd/-
C.R.SUNDARARAJAN
(Partner)