Who is a fool? Someone who wants to destroy beautiful, life-supporting forests to mine coal - a dirty source of energy, or someone who wants to protect these forests and everything they shelter?

According to the powers that be, forest defenders are fools! What would you rather be; a foolish forest defender or a clever forest destroyer? If you chose the first option, welcome to the 30,000 strong group of people who’ve already joined our fight to protect India’s richest, densest forests from coal-mining. When India has the potential to produce 180 Gigawatts of electricity from clean and renewable sources, why wreck forests for coal?

The government says it wants more coal to bring energy to billions of Indians in rural areas. In over 60 years, big coal power plants and centralised grids have consistently neglected rural India. Our recently concluded social audits revealed how even specialised schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) have not electrified India’s villages. It’s time to reduce this dependence on coal and adopt real solutions - like renewable sources of energy that can be harnessed locally to meet local needs.

The dangerous reliance on dirty sources of energy doesn’t end with coal. Did you know that mobile phone towers are powered using diesel? If the telecom industry chooses renewables instead, we won’t have to sacrifice a clean and green future for connectivity. We are urging Airtel to show its leadership and set a clean example for other companies to follow. Already, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has promised to come up with a plan to reduce their massive carbon emissions in three months.

We won the campaign against electronic waste by moving industry and government towards better practices and rules. We can switch off diesel and communicate with our loved ones without hurting the environment. All we need is your continued support and determination.

Samit Aich
Executive Director
Greenpeace India
Greenpeace exists because this fragile Earth deserves a voice. It needs solutions. It needs change. It needs action.

Greenpeace is a non-profit campaigning organisation that acts on the most crucial global threats to our planet’s biodiversity and environment. In over 40 countries around the world, Greenpeace campaigns to stop climate change, defend our oceans, protect ancient rainforests, create a toxic-free future and promote sustainable agriculture.

At Greenpeace, we strongly believe in the power of non-violent direct action. We expose environmental crimes and confront the criminals fearlessly. We point at problems and promote solutions for a clean and safe future for the Earth and all life on it.
I’m a FOOL, are you?
In this case, being a ‘fool’ means being smart and saving our rapidly depleting forests from the greedy coal mining industry. Greenpeace has been campaigning to save our forests from deforestation which of late, is on a steady rise.

We all want our creature comforts; fans, lights, air conditioners, TVs, etc. but at what cost? The existing energy used to power our homes comes mainly from coal, which comes from under our forests. With the increase in demand for electricity, more and more of these precious reserves are being tapped. It’s just a matter of time before we’re left with nothing but barren land.

With almost 30,000 supporters, our campaign, ‘Fools for Forests’, aims at saving the remaining forests in Central and Eastern India from the threat of coal mining. The campaign has the support of many famous Bollywood celebrities.

There is a public misconception that coal is a cheap source of energy. This is because the huge social and environmental costs of coal are not accounted for. A finite resource that took nature millions of years to create, is perishing faster than expected!

The solution?

**Renewable energy.** It’s clean, green and limitless! Obtaining energy from sources like the sun, wind, tides, etc., is the way forward. This is because the costs involved are only building and maintenance. Let’s all be ‘fools for forests’ and secure a sure future for us and the generations to come.

Log on to foolsforforests.org to show your support.
The iconic doll, Barbie, has been given a new avatar - ‘Rainforest Destroyer’. After recent research, it was found that Mattel (leading toy company) along with other famous toy companies, have been sourcing materials for the packaging of their toys from the deforestation of Indonesian rainforests.

Internationally, Greenpeace launched a campaign to urge Mattel to remove products on their supply chain that come from deforestation. So far, nothing but vague statements have been made on their part.

What are we asking toy companies to commit to?

- Immediately suspend all purchases from Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) or any connected or subsidiary company
- Maintain this suspension until APP implements commitments to stop deforestation
- Become a leader in the use of sustainable forest products through implementing progressive procurement policies that cover all pulp and paper products, including packaging

What you can do:
Log on to greenpeace.org to write a letter to Mattel.
Palm oil
The Indonesian Government announces the moratorium under its USD 1 billion deal with Norway. Sadly, the moratorium falls short of expectations as it will allow palm oil, pulp and paper companies to continue clearing forests in areas already allotted to them.
Annya, a victim born after the Chernobyl incident suffering from a brain tumour.

NUCLEAR. WORTH IT?

It looks like one by one, the world is taking heed to the eminent danger that nuclear power poses: Germany and Italy have confirmed that they want no hand in this extremely hazardous source of power by halting future constructions and phasing out the existing ones. Switzerland will be casting a decisive vote on this in September - it’s looking positive. Japan has said that it is open to consider a nuclear phase-out after a thorough evaluation of its current installations.

Back on home ground, Jaitapur continues to be in a state of conflict as the discussions are on-going. Greenpeace, in order to speed up the anti-nuclear decision, conducted a photo exhibition in Mumbai which displayed the photographs by Robert Knoth that captured the life of Annya, a young woman born after the accident who suffers from a brain tumour as well as her life in Chernobyl. This event was inaugurated by Tushar Gandhi and Anand Patwardhan. We managed to get media coverage in many editions.

People and countries all over are slowly making a unanimous decision to steer clear from nuclear. It’s only logical that we in India do the same. Log on to our site for a detailed update on the current scenario as it happens.
E-waste rule

Here’s announcing a victory - India now has an ‘e-waste’ rule! We have long been the destination for the off-loading of e-waste from other developed countries and has a rapidly growing domestic electronics industry. So much so that all the waste is just being recklessly dumped. This in turn, causes many environmental concerns that are piling up and posing a grave danger.

We started our campaign in 2005 and have since been lobbying for an e-waste rule to be implemented. This will hold all manufacturers responsible for the entire life cycle of their goods. Six years later and here we are; the MoEF (Ministry of Environment and Forest), on May 30, 2011, publicly announced the new e-waste rule. This rule will be implemented on May 29, 2012 as the companies are given a one year window to prepare themselves to comply with the rule.

Now, Greenpeace will cooperate with the MoEF to form the implementation guidelines to prepare the industry to abide by regulations.
Give up the gas!

India is now the second largest telecom industry after China and is projected to overtake it in the near future. However, this growth has been and continues to be, at the cost of the climate. In India, the sector has been continually reliant on diesel and as a result, is responsible for around six million tonnes of CO2 emissions from diesel generated power annually.

Greenpeace India launched a campaign with Bharti Airtel as the primary focus, urging them to ‘Switch off Diesel’ and use renewables instead to power their operations. Our activists scaled Bharti Airtel’s head office and painted “Switch off Diesel” on it. Even though we had signed petitions from over 71,000 Airtel users, our actions seemed to end in vain as we did not receive any commitments from their side but excuses instead.

We requested a meeting to discuss their plans of phasing out diesel and adopting a clean energy plan. The meeting however was not as we hoped.

We will not stop here. We’re going to pursue this till Bharti Airtel finally goes green and becomes an example for the rest to follow. Keep an eye out for what is to come.

To show your support, log on to greenpeaceindia.org and sign the petition.
DRE, the way forward.

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) is a programme of the Government of India aimed to accelerate the pace of rural electrification in the country. After a series of social audits however, it was found that the people are not satisfied as their concerns are not being heard and requirements, not met.

Greenpeace has been working to promote Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE). This system works on the concept of generating energy locally. DRE has proved to be more effective as it eliminates dependence on the Government and world oil prices. All this, while being completely green!

Greenpeace conducted social audits in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to take in to account what the people had to say:

1) Rapid uptake of DRE generation units in RGGVY operational areas with target of 25% of resources for these projects
2) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions to be made mandatory for better implementation and sustainability of the scheme
3) RGGVY scheme should support the overall development of the village economy and therefore provisions need to be made for energy requirement for irrigation, medium and small scale industries
4) State Government must be included at all stages of the programme, right from designing to implementation. Centre should provide support in terms of resources and technology
5) Target 100% electrification of a village instead of phase-wise electrification
6) Support to DRE by creating a regulatory framework for its better implementation

The findings of these audits should be factored in the next five-year plan for the RGGVY scheme in order to make it more effective and accountable.
Greenpeace has been invited to join one of the working groups created by the Planning Commission as part of the 12th five-year plan development.

As a result of our Living Soils campaign which aimed at throwing light on our degrading soils, Gopikrishna, Sustainable Agriculture Campaigner, Greenpeace India, has been invited as a member of the 12th plan working group: ‘Management of Natural Resources and Rain-fed farming’.

After a series of social audits conducted in five states, we exposed how the existing policies have failed to support ecological fertilisation and instead, promote chemical fertilisation through lenient subsidies.

With our soil health hanging in the balance, the group had their first meeting on April 25, ’11. Our Greenpeace representative highlighted the need for addressing the environmental issues during the meeting. The final report will be published in August which will then be discussed by a steering committee before the 12th plan is finalised. Fingers crossed!
Reeling in livelihoods

The declaration of a marine sanctuary is often met with cynicism since it also implies affecting the livelihoods of those fishermen who are dependent on the area for their livelihoods. This conservation vs livelihoods debate has been typified in Gahirmatha.

Towards achieving a more inclusive marine management and conservation approach, Greenpeace India undertook a comprehensive study in 15 villages around Gahirmatha from March-June 2011 to document the attitudes and perceptions of the traditional fishermen about marine conservation and their opinions on multiple income generation schemes.

In July, we organised two public hearings in the villages of Gupti and Kharinisasi so that we could discuss the results of this survey with all the stakeholders at the same time; the fishermen, the implementing agencies and the political representatives of the area. These saw the attendance of about 600 fishermen in all and proved to be highly interactive. Many suggestions by the fishermen on livelihood options seem to have been accepted by the government representatives.

Not surprisingly, the fishermen have always understood the importance of setting areas aside as no fishing zones since it helps the larger area rejuvenate, thereby improving the quality of both fish catch and stocks. Our survey showed that over 90% of the fishermen in Gahirmatha support the sanctuary for precisely these reasons. However, it is equally important to provide them with income generation means and actively involve and consult them when it comes to the management of the sanctuary.

The fishermen have been heard and now, it’s time to include their suggestions. This combined with the inclusion of the fishermen in the management of the sanctuary can actually make Gahirmatha an example that the rest of the country can follow.
Sumedha Joglekar, Greenpeace India.

“Why am I a part of Greenpeace?”

Out of the many reasons that come to mind, I’ll pick out the one which had the biggest impact on me:

Working in Greenpeace has always been a learning experience. For instance, the Greenpeace action in Mumbai where we were protesting against the construction of the Dhamra port in Orissa by TATA, which posed a danger for the Olive Ridley turtle. The interaction with the police personnel was a pleasant surprise. After loading us in their police vans, they remarked, “We understand you are not criminals, we are just doing our duty”. This was a silent support to our campaigns which strengthened my belief in what we are doing.

In these six years, I have got an opportunity to interact with people at different levels. I’m loving every bit of it and look forward to a bright future. This is just one of many reasons as to why I’m a part of Greenpeace and proud of it!
Instructions:
• Fill in the blanks
• Spot and circle the words in the jumble

1) C __ S __ V T __ N
2) S L R
3) R __ Y _ L _
4) _ G _ C
5) T R
6) W N
7) R D C _
8) R U E
9) R _ W E
10) G _ P _
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Have a friend who loves the planet? Send us their name and phone number and we’ll call them!
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(Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 1:00pm, 2:00pm to 6:00pm)

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