Inspiring action in India and across the world! Greenpeace recently completed ten years in India and 40 years internationally. With a colourful history of victories and major milestones, Greenpeace continues to retain its core values that started it all.

‘Climate change’ - an inherent, man-made risk on a steady rise. This is one of the major problems that has to be addressed in order to re-establish the delicate balance our environment needs to survive.

With rampant degradation of the Earth, shaking the very foundation of our existence, Greenpeace is focusing on the ‘Global South’ to challenge the inequitable development paradigm being followed here as in many parts of the world. It’s important for organisations like Greenpeace to stand up and act as a counter-balance to push countries like India to set an example in environmental sustainability and equity.

The only logical solution to our rapidly depleting natural resources, is to make the shift to safe renewable energy. Seeing as how it’s limitless, free, eco-friendly and has the potential to cater to all our needs.

Be it in the international circuit or in India, Greenpeace has been the voice of the Earth, fighting environmental crimes while abiding by our core values of independence, non-violent direct action and bearing witness at all costs. With many feathers in our cap and the provision for more, it’s up to you to fill it in and make this planet we live in a place we can call ‘home’.

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.
Greenpeace organised a Fact Finding Mission to Singrauli – the energy capital of the country and home to tribal communities, forest dwellers and some of the most threatened forests remaining in Central India. The Singrauli region spreads across the states of Uttar Pradesh (Sonebhadra district) and Madhya Pradesh (Sidhi and Singrauli districts). The Fact Finding team visited specific villages in both UP and MP.

The Fact Finding team, comprising of respected figures in the fields of human rights, social justice, mining and environment and journalism visited the Singrauli region (both the areas in UP and MP) between 9th and 11th of July 2011. They had meetings with villagers and village councilors, in which men and women from various tribal and non-tribal communities shared their experiences and problems with the team.

The discoveries made from this Fact Finding Mission run in to pages of horrifying statistics. It reiterates the fact that these forests are mined for private profit while displacing entire communities, ecosystems and not to mention, ravaging thousands of hectares of dense forests. “The government is bent on destroying this rich biodiversity for a few more tonnes of low quality coal. Coal India and its subsidiaries are refusing to answer questions on their existing stocks and how efficient their mining operations are, while looking to grab as much of forested India as they can,” said Priya Pillai, policy officer, Greenpeace India.

Our next on-going mission is in Chandrapur, Maharashtra where we are in the process of unearthing the otherwise hidden facts behind the elusive world of the mining industry and the ill-effects it has on our wildlife. Stay tuned for more on this.

Read the report for a detailed analysis: http://goo.gl/sUC2E
Mattel, now green

Mattel, the largest toy company in the world, recognised that toy packaging shouldn’t come at the cost of rainforests and tiger habitat.

As part of its new commitments, Mattel has instructed its suppliers to avoid wood fiber from controversial sources, including companies “that are known to be involved in deforestation”. Their policy also aims to increase the amount of recycled paper used in their business, as well as to boost the use of wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Mattel’s new policy sends a message to other companies that to be a responsible business, you must be vigilant about keeping deforestation out of your products; be it paper packaging or palm oil. Indian companies such as Godrej, ITC, Britannia, Ruchi Soya and Adani-Wilmar who use palm oil from Indonesia, would do well to pay attention!
BRAI - No thank you

The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India [BRAI] bill, 2011, was listed to be tabled in the Lok Sabha by Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of Science and Technology. The Bill has been in controversy ever since the government tried to formulate a proposal for a new regulatory body to create a single window clearance system for Genetically Modified [GM] crops in the country. Besides lowering the safety assessment bar for GM crops, the bill also proposes to override the Right to Information Act when it comes to matters as important as the bio-safety assessment reports for GM crops.

This hasty move of trying to table the bill without public consultation just comes to show the complete lack of transparency and accountability of our government. GM crops pose a threat on the environment, health and the socio-economic fabric of our country. “BRAI is a ploy by the government to circumvent the massive opposition seen against GM crops in the country”, said Neha Saigal, Greenpeace activist. The government hopes to give a backdoor entry to these potentially dangerous crops through a system that fails to conduct sufficient safety assessments before approval!

Greenpeace is urging the Government to table a legislation to protect and enhance bio-safety and to ensure democratic processes are adhered to when dealing with issues as important as food and farming in our country”, said Kapil Mishra, Greenpeace campaigner.
World record!

With public support, Greenpeace entered the record books by creating the world’s largest ‘GM-free Baingan Bharta’ (342.5 Kgs.)! The purpose of the event was to create awareness and mobilisation of the people so they know their right to safe food and to urge the Government not to table the proposed BRAI bill. What made this record impressive was also the 100,000 + people who contributed to this by singing a petition to the Prime Minister to stop BRAI.

Our food in danger?

During the first week of the parliamentary monsoon session, Greenpeace launched a scientific report ‘Herbicide Tolerance and GM crops – Why the world should be ready to round-up Glyphosate’. The report released by Shri Basudev Acharya, Member of Parliament and chairman of the Parliamentay standing committee for agriculture, explains the ill-effects of Glyphosate and its potential association with birth defects, abnormalities in vital reproductive hormones as well as blood cancer. Herbicide tolerant GM crops is a ploy by the major herbicide produce corporations like Monsanto to increase their herbicide sales. Thus they make profit at both ends; by selling the seed and also the chemical. They are now coming to India with the herbicide tolerant GM crops. If not stopped, they will not only poison our food and farms but also lead to large-scale unemployment in rural areas by displacing farm labour.

Fertiliser

The draft of the approach paper to the 12th five-year plan has been released and the ‘soil’ section of it carries all the recommendations from our ‘Living Soils’ report. We also organised a round table to gather inputs and agreement on the strategies to promote ecological fertilisation in the country through the 12th five year plan. Eminent think-tanks, agriculture ministry representatives, farmer representatives and civil society groups took part in the round table and the outcome has been submitted to the Planing Commission.

For more information, log on to <greenpeaceindia.org>.
GREENPEACE

INDIA IS 10

MARINE RESERVES NOW!

GREENPEACE
Greenpeace exposes HLL's toxic dumping.
GM ingredients exposed in Pringles potato chips & Isomil baby food.
GE Mustard rejected thanks to campaigning.
Rainbow Warrior report finds high levels of Mercury contamination from HLL in Kodaikanal.
Greenpeace exposes Department of Bio-Technology's (DBT) plan to release GM potato.
Bayer discontinues all GE crops.
International agreement to treat obsolete ship as waste.
Supreme Court Monitoring Committee punishes Hindustan Lever for hazardous waste.

GE rice trials stalled.

French asbestos-laden ship Clemenceau, sent back.

Exposed Fertiliser-infected water in Punjab.
Started the 'Anti-GE campaign'.
Public hearing helps policy review on fertilisers.
Model marine reserve in Gahirmatha, Orissa.
Launched a 'Safe Food Guide'.

Greenpeace affects changes in nuclear liability bill.
Online petition asking the Prime Minister to hold a public consultation before passing the nuclear liability bill.
E-waste rule gets implemented.
Moratorium on Bt. Brinjal.
Airtel prolongs

As a part of our renewable energy initiatives, we launched a public campaign with the objective of phasing out the use of unjustified subsidies on diesel. The alternative we suggested, was economical and environmentally safe renewable energy to power the telecommunication network towers. Our campaign was focused on market leader, Bharti Airtel to pave the way for the use of renewable energy within the Indian telecommunication sector. Till date, they are yet to respond with a solution in this regard. The Cellular Operators Association of India on June, ‘11, committed to come up with a roadmap on how the sector would power its network operations and business through a low-carbon intensive model. However, they have now absolved from this commitment. We will continue to pursue this till a concrete conclusion emerges.

Vodafone takes the lead

Our public campaign on the Indian Telecom industry revealed its first major milestone when Vodafone set the precedent for transparency on energy use. As a first of its kind in the Indian Telecom industry, they released a sustainability report, ‘Leaving Footprint’. This being done, the standard is now raised for the others in the industry to improve their corporate responsibility on sustainability of their business.
Govt. to support renewables

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) accepted the recommendation made by Greenpeace to increase the number of telecom towers supported under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. This was released recently in the approach paper for the 12th five-year plan.

Decentralised Renewable Energy

Greenpeace along with partner organisations, conducted social audits in AP, Bihar and UP on the Central Government’s flagship rural electrification scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) to understand:

1. The socio-economic impact of the scheme
2. Fostering of rural development through the scheme

The audit successfully highlighted the peoples’ concern on irregular and low quality electricity supply affecting their overall development. State level consultations brought out the need to decentralise energy via localised generation and distribution in rural areas. This set of demands were then taken at the national level in Delhi and discussed in a consultation on July 1, ’11 which witnessed representation from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Power and other Civil Society members. It was seen that a change in approach to rural electrification through decentralised renewable energy (DRE), was a necessity to enable access to reliable and quality electricity supply in rural areas in the 12th five-year plan.

This had impacts with the MNRE’s approach paper for the 12th five-year plan for energy access, proposing DRE as the best way for rural electrification. Greenpeace further brought the focus on DRE by presenting the social audits and consultation findings through a delegation of villagers from audited villages in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, to the members of Planning Commission.
Livelihoods

Greenpeace has been campaigning in Orissa towards creating a marine management and conservation approach. This is crucial as it will be sensitive to the community needs during the declaration of a sanctuary.

After our recent study spanning 15 fishing villages around Orissa, the United Artists’ Association along with Greenpeace, released a report on the findings of the survey. This report provides a host of specific recommendations towards active involvement. If these are followed, it would involve the communities in the management and also grant certain types of traditional fishing within the sanctuary.

The next course of action of our campaign is seeing that these recommendations get implemented and the balance between conservation and livelihood can meet on common ground.

Whales

Simultaneously, in working towards securing a safer planet for the whales, we worked in conjunction with the Government of India in reiterating our positions for a moratorium on whaling, around the recently concluded International Whaling Commission meeting.
With a loss for words on where to start, I’ll try to do justice to a story, ten years in the making! Being the first employee in Greenpeace India, my journey began as a volunteer. The reason I joined the organisation back then and the reason I’m still here, remain the same; the values and willingness of the organisation to go all out if it’s a matter that concerns the environment, continues to bind me.

Over the years, I’ve had the pleasure to be a part of myriad roles and experiences, be it in a hot-air balloon over the Taj Mahal or as a part of every other department in the organisation! As time went by, I’ve witnessed this organisation grow and conquer new heights. When asked to summarise my experience, I feel like it’s giving birth to and nurturing a baby!

So here’s to the next ten years of victories and experiences to cherish!

Nirmala Karunan, Greenpeace India.
CONTACT US

Recommend a Friend
Have a friend who loves the planet? Send us their name and phone number and we’ll call them!
SMS GREEN <name> <number> to 92200 92200

Supporter Services
Email: supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org
Phone: 1800-425 0374/080-22131899
(Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 1:00pm, 2:00pm to 6:00pm)

New address/ email/ phone number?
Email your current contact information to supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org.

Web
www.greenpeaceindia.org

Head Office
#60, Wellington Street,
Richmond Town,
Bangalore - 560025,
Phone: 080-42821010 / 41154861
Fax: 080-41154862

Follow us on:

BOOK POST