

GREENPEACE

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RISE ABOVE
PLASTIC

PROTECT THE
BLUE OCEAN





EDITORIAL

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On February 13, 2024, the iconic ship Rainbow Warrior, of Greenpeace docked on the shores of Sri Lanka, to flag a new chapter of environmental campaigning in the region. With this Greenpeace proudly inaugurated its South Asia regional operations in Colombo, Sri Lanka. South Asia is a region that faces climate challenges on an unprecedented level. With over 1.5 billion people living in the region, the impacts of global warming such as rising temperatures, extreme rainfall, droughts, and natural disasters are becoming increasingly severe.

According to the World Bank, nearly 750 million people across South Asia have already been affected by at least one climate - induced disaster. The region's dense populations, fragile eco systems, and reliance on agriculture make it particularly susceptible to environmental upheaval. We also have to keep in mind that the people of this region contributed the least towards climate change but still have to bear the consequence for it.



Recognizing the urgency of the crisis, Greenpeace South Asia calls for a unified response that demands collective action, amplifying the voices of those disproportionately affected. With a series of planned engagements spanning community interactions, policymaker dialogues, and advocacy initiatives, Greenpeace South Asia's journey has just begun. This new operation of Greenpeace is a call for action, of hope and resilience. Asking the people and entities that have contributed towards aggravating the climate events to take responsibility for their actions.



PEOPLE FOR CLIMATE



ADVANCING INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA



Greenpeace urges political parties of Maharashtra during state elections to include a fare-free bus scheme in their manifesto for women and transgender individuals, following the lead of states like Delhi and Karnataka in India. A dedicated fund is crucial to ensure accessibility and safety. Additionally, expanding public bus services with exclusive lanes, women-only buses, and better infrastructure - such as shelters and CCTV - will improve mobility, cut pollution, and support sustainable urban transport.

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FASHION AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY



Initiating conversations on women's safety and freedom of movement with *Prapti Elizabeth*, Indian satirist, actor and content producer on Instagram.

URBAN MOBILITY

FARE FREE FUTURE



Prithviraj Chavan

Chairperson of the Indian National Congress Manifesto Committee

was receptive towards the introduction of fare-free bus policy for women and transgender people in Maharashtra. He spoke about his party's plans to implement the scheme in public transport

Vandana Chavan

Chairperson of the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) Manifesto Committee

was quite receptive to our fare-free bus transport policy for women and transgender persons in Maharashtra demand



Sanjay Borge

Manifesto Committee Member, Nationalist Congress Party

received the manifesto and recommendations from our end

Atul Bhatkhalka

Member of Legislative Assembly, Manifesto Committee Member BJP

recognized our work and also mentioned that some of the demands present in our demand manifesto are already in consideration



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URBAN MOBILITY

EXPOSING THE INVISIBLE THREAT: NO₂ POLLUTION IN BENGALURU

India is always in the news for the high pollution levels in its capital city, Delhi and other cities around the Indo-Gangetic Plain in northern India. A recent publication, Beyond North India: NO₂ Pollution and Health Risks in Seven Major Indian Cities, highlights dangerously high NO₂ pollution in Bengaluru and other major cities in South India.



Linked to traffic and fossil fuel combustion, NO₂ poses severe health risks. While the WHO recommends a 10 µg/m³ annual limit, India's NAAQS allows 40 µg/m³. The report underscores that air pollution is not just a North India issue, with transportation being the biggest contributor. Rising private vehicle use continues to worsen air quality and endanger public health.

Click Here



URBAN MOBILITY

IN HOTTER WATER: OCEANS STRUGGLE TO KEEP PACE WITH CHANGES CAUSED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

A report released by Greenpeace, *In Hotter Water: How the Global Ocean Treaty Can Boost Climate Action*, on the opening day of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Columbia, presents evidence of the climate crisis's disastrous impacts on oceans and coastal communities. The report warns that the oceans' ability to absorb carbon dioxide may no longer be able to keep pace with human emissions. The report also analyses data from the past five years which raises alarm about ocean warming, coral bleaching, shifting marine species distributions, sea ice loss, sea level rise, and extreme weather events. These changes will not only impact the oceans but also the people dependent on them.

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© Paul Hilton / Greenpeace
Manta Ray off Nusa Penida Island

PROTECT THE OCEANS



GREENPEACE SOUTH ASIA WELCOMES REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN RATIFICATION OF HISTORIC UN OCEAN TREATY

In a landmark moment for marine conservation, India, Bangladesh, and the Maldives have taken bold steps to protect oceans at the UN General Assembly. India has officially signed the Global Ocean Treaty (also known as the High Seas Treaty or Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement), while Bangladesh and the Maldives have completed their ratification process.

This Treaty paves the way for the creation of vast marine protected areas beyond national waters, offering hope for ocean recovery, climate resilience, and the livelihoods of millions. However, the work is far from over. This Treaty will only come into force once 60 countries ratify it, after including its provisions into national law.

Now, India and other South Asian nations must lead the charge in ratifying and implementing this treaty to safeguard biodiversity and combat climate change.

The future of our oceans - and our planet - depends on it.



PROTECT THE OCEANS

A WORD FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

COP29: A LONG WAY TO GO




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After exhausting negotiations, COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan came to an end - falling far short of what was needed. Dubbed the "Finance COP", it was meant to deliver meaningful climate finance commitments, but the final agreement settled on a disappointing \$300 billion by 2035 with loopholes that let polluters off the hook. At the last moment, even the "Make Polluters Pay" principle was stripped from the text, a blow to climate justice.

But amidst the frustration, people's power stood strong. Civil society navigated restrictions to make their voices heard, proving once again that the fight for climate action will not be silenced.



**PROTECT AND
RESTORE NATURE
NOW!**



In solidarity for a
Green World

P E R S I S T I R
GREENPEACE

ICJ CLIMATE HEARINGS: A DEFINING MOMENT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

After two weeks of historic climate hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), communities most impacted by the climate crisis, national governments, and international organizations have made a resounding call: clarify the legal responsibilities of States to mitigate climate change and protect human rights.



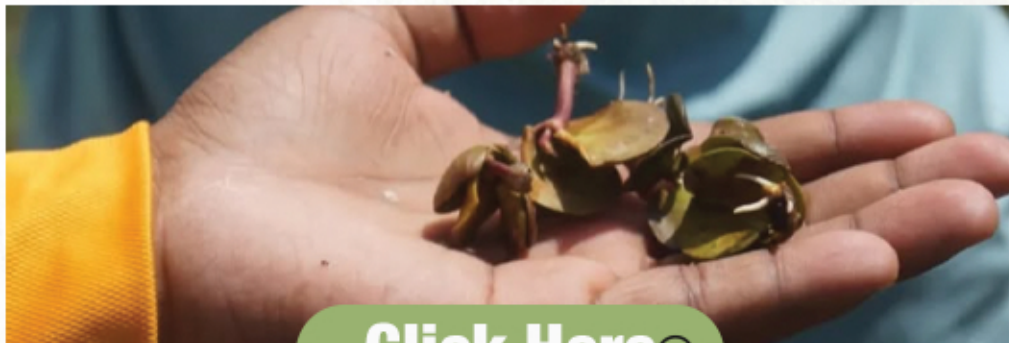
What began as a bold initiative by 27 Pacific Island law students has grown into a global movement demanding accountability from the world's biggest polluters. Despite pushback from high-emitting nations, the hearings demonstrated overwhelming support - especially from the Global South - for stronger legal obligations on emissions reduction, climate reparations, and the protection of future generations.

Now, the world awaits the ICJ's advisory opinion, a ruling that could set a powerful legal precedent for global climate action. This is a watershed moment, and the fight for climate justice is only just beginning.

NATIONAL NEWS

MEET SRI LANKA'S RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Mangroves are nature's guardians, serve as critical blue carbon sinks, protect against soil erosion and are nurseries for marine life. Local fishing communities play a key role in their conservation in Sri Lanka. The communities' traditional knowledge is the heart of mangrove conservation. During a field visit to the Anawilundawa Mangrove Restoration Site in Sri Lanka - a community-led restoration effort helped the team understand the global implications of regional mangrove strategies to support coastal livelihoods, biodiversity resilience, and mitigate climate change impacts. Interacting with the team at the site and learning their ways is a stark reminder of the power of community-driven action and collaboration and how climate action starts with the community.



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WHAT IS THE CLIMATE DAMAGES TAX?

A climate damage tax is a crucial step in making polluters pay for the environmental damage they cause. This form of tax, along with other levies on fossil fuels and high-emitting sectors - will make polluters pay for the cost of climate impacts caused by environmental damages, as well as support workers and affected communities in the transition to clean energy, jobs, and transport.

The funds raised through a climate damages tax can be crucial in addressing the loss, damage, and mitigation born by the most vulnerable communities, particularly in the Global South.

The tax could raise an estimated US\$900 billion by 20230 to support governments and communities around the world as they face growing climate impacts.

But the question remains, **who pays this tax?** There is an urgent need to shift the financial burden of the climate crisis from the victims to the polluters. Make Climate Polluters Pay.



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