



Friends of the Earth

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Where Do We Go From Here?

Leading Environmentalists Debate Strategies for Environmental Progress

Pressing Forward With a Vision for a Healthy Planet

The prospect of having the most anti-environmental president in U.S. history in office for four more years presents an awesome challenge for all of us who are working to save our precious earth from the ravages of pollution and natural resource exploitation. President Bush did not receive a mandate for an anti-environment agenda. In fact, he claimed during one debate to be pro-environment, and Senator Kerry, despite a 92 percent pro-environment voting record, chose not to make the Bush assault on clean air and clean water a centerpiece issue in the general election. Thus, matters other than the environment were the prime factors determining the outcome of the presidential race.

The question people are posing to me most often this winter is whether there is any hope for winning environmental battles, given the administration and the new Congress. People concerned about the fate of our planet are wondering what to do.

Friends of the Earth intends to exercise determination and leadership. We will deploy a wide range of creative strategic initiatives to make progress. Of course we intend to challenge President Bush and his administration every step of the way as they continue their campaign to weaken environmental protections. But we must do more in telling the public about our vision for healthy families, a healthy society, and a healthy planet.

We need to emphasize that environmental values are strong moral values. We are supposed to love our neighbors, not poison them.

All Friends of the Earth members who belong to religious organizations can emphasize a values message of



Brent Blackwelder

stewardship of creation in their churches, synagogues, and mosques. They can form green committees in their congregations, doing such things as buying clean energy and implementing other green measures. In 1995, evangelical church leaders helped in the effort to save the Endangered Species Act through an imaginative "Noah's Ark" campaign. I am emphasizing work with religious organizations because we cannot allow the polluters to exclude a healthy environment and a healthy earth from the list of moral values.

To make progress, we should also look to the state and local level. Over 75 percent of the 161 land conservation ballot measures this past November were approved. In Colorado, voters approved important ballot measures on clean renewable energy statewide and on rapid transit in the Denver metropolitan area.

Races for state legislatures featured many key environmental tests. In states like Georgia, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, and South Carolina, the pro-environment candidates won.

Through the national Green Scissors program, we will continue to assemble bipartisan votes in Congress to cut spending on projects that damage the environment. Even if we can't make significant progress at the federal level, state level Green Scissors strategies offer a promising path that we have already been pursuing successfully in several states. Victories on clean energy and climate change are obtainable at the state level.

Unfortunately, the U.S. House of Representatives will be under the iron hand of majority leader Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Texas) once again, who will focus not on environmental progress but on weakening the Clean Air Act, blocking climate change legislation, and subsidizing polluters.

In two crucial areas – international activity and consumer/corporate initiatives – we intend to make strong gains. Corporate campaigns can achieve success regardless of what the Bush administration tries to do. For example, our safe cosmetics campaign has achieved initial success with over 50 companies agreeing to remove cancer-causing ingredients from their personal health care products.

Cooperation with the FoE International network in 70 countries will enable us to highlight the rogue role being played by the United States in violating, obstructing, and not joining global treaties essential for the health and well-being of humanity. Ultimately, the moral pressure on the United States to curb our own pollution and to reign in U.S.-based corporations, which are polluting around the world, will have an impact.



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Our Mission: Friends of the Earth defends the environment and champions a healthy and just world.



Earth Share

Earth Share giving campaigns allow you to designate a donation to Friends of the Earth. Federal employees can donate through the Combined Federal Campaign by marking #0908 on their pledge forms. To set up an Earth Share campaign at your workplace, contact Rosemary Greenaway at 202-222-0722.

Leading Environmentalists Debate Strategies for Environmental Progress

Traditionally, this is the time of year that we pause and reflect on the things that we care about deeply. This year we are at a critical crossroads. Friends of the Earth has achieved many successes over the past year, but the environment is still threatened on many fronts. Major threats to the environment from an impending climate crisis are emerging with greater urgency while our government continues to rollback key environmental protections. And, we are faced with four more years of a president who is no friend of the earth.

We sought to broaden the conversation on the issues we face in the new year. So, we asked several prominent thinkers in the environmental movement to share their thoughts on both major environmental problems and the tools we can use to confront them. Climate change and armed conflicts over natural resources loom large in their contributions. But, as Lester Brown, founder and executive director of the Earth Policy Institute, writes, there is time to reverse a worldwide environmental crisis if we act decisively. Our contributors all agreed that we are at a pivotal moment. While there is not a consensus on how to move forward, Gus Speth, Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, believes that engaging a broader coalition of groups and interests will generate the groundswell of public energy and determination to impel us on a more sustainable path. Communications strategists Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus ask that we first address some fundamental questions about the usefulness of defining global warming as an environmental problem when it might



Credit: John & Karen Hollingsworth, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Hawaiian Geese at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii.

be more effective to identify it as a large scale social problem effecting our economic stability, security, and health.

Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment

By James Gustave Speth, Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

The current system of international efforts to help the environment simply isn't working. The design makes sure it won't work, and the statistics keep getting worse.

Progress has been made on some fronts. There are outstanding success stories, but rarely are they on a scale commensurate with the problems. For the most part, we have analyzed, debated, discussed, and negotiated these issues endlessly. My generation is a generation, I fear, of great talkers, overly fond of conferences. On action, however, we have fallen far short. As a result, with the notable exception of international efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer, the threaten-

ing global trends highlighted a quarter-century ago continue to this day.

With more than two decades of dilatoriness behind us, it is now an understatement to say that we are running out of time. For such crucial issues as deforestation, climate change, and loss of biodiversity, we have already run out of time: appropriate responses are long overdue.

In part because of fossil fuel use in the twentieth century, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is now at its highest level in 420,000 years. While the public in the United States and especially abroad is increasingly aware of this issue, few Americans appreciate how close at hand is the widespread loss of the American landscape. The best current estimate is that, unless there is a major world correction, climate change projected for late this century will make it impossible for about half the American land to sustain the types of plants and animals now on that land. A huge portion of America's protected areas – everything from wooded lands held by community conservancies to our national parks, forests, and wilderness – is threatened. In one pro-

jection, the much-loved maple-beech-birch forests of New England simply disappear off the U.S. map. In another, the Southeast becomes a huge grassland savanna unable to support forests because it is too hot and dry.

Humans dominate the planet today as never before. We now live in a full world. An unprecedented responsibility for planetary management is now thrust upon us, whether we like it or not. This huge new burden, for which there is no precedent and little preparation, is the price of our economic success. We brought it upon ourselves, and we must turn to it with urgency and with even greater determination and political attention than has been brought to liberalizing trade and making the world safe for market capitalism. The risks of inaction extend beyond unprecedented environmental deterioration. Following closely in its wake would be widespread loss of livelihoods, social tensions and conflict, and huge economic costs.

One thing is clear: the needed changes will not simply happen. No hidden hand is guiding technology or the economy toward sustainability. The issues on the global environmental agenda are precisely the type of issues – long-term, chronic, complex – where genuine, farsighted leadership from elected officials is at a premium. But we have not seen this leadership emerge, and we have waited long enough. What we need now is an international movement of citizens and scientists, one capable of dramatically advancing the political and personal actions needed for the transition to sustainability. We have had movements against slavery and many have participated in movements for civil rights and against apartheid and the Vietnam War. Environmentalists are often said to be part of “the environmental movement.” We need a real one. It is time for we the people, as citizens and as consumers, to take charge.

The best hope we have for this new force is a coalescing of a wide-

array of civic, scientific, environmental, religious, student, and other organizations with enlightened business leaders, concerned families, and engaged communities, networked together, protesting, demanding action and accountability from governments and corporations, and taking steps as consumers and communities to realize sustainability in everyday life.

A phenomenal expansion of economic activity is projected for the decades immediately ahead. Down one path, this growth can protect, regenerate, and restore the environment. It can provide sustainable livelihoods for the world’s poor and lead to large improvements in quality of life for all. There is still world enough and time to realize this future. But it will not be won without a profound commitment to urgent action.

Reprinted with permission from *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*, by James Gustave Speth. Yale University Press, 2004.

The Environment’s Role in Peace and Conflict

By Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Across the developing world and the countries of the former Soviet Union, old chemical stockpiles, aging nuclear reactors, damaged and decaying factories and other assorted environmental time-bombs are ticking. These scars, threatening water supplies, the fertility of the land and the cleanliness of the air, are recipes for instability between communities and neighboring countries.

If we are to prevent the environment from becoming a victim of war, then equally we need to ensure that pollution, contamination and other environmental woes do not play their part in triggering conflicts in the first place.

Many factors may lie behind decisions by countries to engage in armed conflict including opposing ideologies, ancient enmities and a scramble to plunder natural resources such as timber, minerals and oil. But it is the view of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), increasingly shared by others, that environmental degradation and a scarcity of healthy ‘natural capital’ plays an important role too. A new report, produced by UNEP in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), highlights the risks. It focuses on environmental hot spots in the Southern Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The study concludes that environmental degradation can undermine local and international security by “reinforcing and increasing grievances within and between societies.” It identifies some specific issues for that region that need to be urgently addressed. These include the rapid and poorly managed urbanization of capital cities, which is straining waste management, water supplies and the transport systems. Other areas include pollution of coastal waters, deforestation, soil degradation as a result of pesticides and erosion and old military and civil industrial sites. A decrepit and declining environment can also

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Clement's Mountain, Glacier National Park, Montana.

Credit: Dave Menke, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Cranes Land Along the Platte River, Desoto National Wildlife Refuge, Iowa.

‘weaken states’ by depressing economic activity and diminishing the authority of the government in the eyes of its citizens.

Governments have, as part of UNEP’s new science initiative, requested more in depth studies, the first of which is likely to focus on one of the great war torn regions of the world, the Great Lakes region of Africa. The initiative is using novel mapping methods that link environmental problems with factors such as population movements and socio-ethnic mix in order to pin point key areas where tensions could turn to turmoil.

Several of these ‘environment and security priority areas’ are highlighted, including the Black Sea coastal zone, South Ossetia, the Ararat and Valk valleys, the Greater Baku region and the Kura River estuary and southern Caspian sea coast.

The research also emphasizes the role the environment can play in promoting peace. Many of the problems are shared between communities and neighboring countries.

Joint projects to clean up sites, agreements and treaties to better share resources such as rivers and forests, and strengthening cooperation between the different countries’ ministries and institutions may hold the key to building trust, understanding and more stable relations. While this work is shedding new light on how the environ-

ment can be both a trigger for instability and a broker for peace, a great deal more research is needed before we can fully and precisely unravel its role.

There are places in the world where, despite appalling environmental degradation, communities and countries continue to hold the thin red line and others where there appears to be direct links between environmental vandalism and deterioration and con-

flict. A classic case of the latter is the extreme land degradation on the Caribbean island of Haiti.

In recent years, UNEP’s Post Conflict Assessment Unit has investigated the environmental damage of wars in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. The unit has just completed its first assessment along with concrete recommendations for improving the environment, and therefore the prospects for peoples’ lives and development, in Liberia. Other African countries, including Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are requesting similar support following decades of war there.

However, we are certainly opening a new chapter in our understanding the environment’s role in peace and conflict. Let us hope that, armed with more sound science, we can use the environment as a new peace policy for the 21st century so that it emerges as less the passive victim and more an active broker of a more stable and less war ridden world.

Beyond “Environmentalism”

by Michael Shellenberger and
Ted Nordhaus

November 2 was a major defeat not just for John Kerry but also for America’s largest environmental

groups, which invested millions trying to educate the public about the administration’s anti-environmental policies.

Publicly, the country’s leading environmental and progressive leaders will tell you that the 2004 election campaign was enormously successful because we registered millions of voters and formed new grassroots alliances. Privately, they’ll tell you that we lost because the media and the candidates were focused exclusively on Iraq and the economy.

These analyses beg the question: if the media and voters were more focused on Iraq and the economy, why did the environmental movement insist on talking about environmental issues? Wouldn’t green groups have shown more success criticizing the president on the war in Iraq or the economy?

For years pollsters have pointed out that public support for environmentalism is broad but shallow. New research shows that anti-environmentalism has been growing, at least since the early 1990’s. According to a survey of 2,500 Americans by the market research firm Environics, the number of Americans who agree with the statement, “To preserve people’s jobs in this country, we must accept higher levels of pollution in the future,” increased from 17 percent in 1996 to 27 percent in 2004. The number of Americans who agreed that, “Most of the people actively involved in environmental groups are extremists, not reasonable people,” leapt from 32 percent in 1996 to 43 percent in 2004.

We recently asked Mike Lux, a well-known D.C. political strategist whose clients have included the League of Conservation Voters and Planned Parenthood, whether environmental groups would have been more successful had they used non-environmental messages to help environmentally friendly candidates.

“Progressive groups are much worse about this than conservative groups,” Lux said. “For the last dozen

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years the NRA has been going into pro-gun control districts and running ads on term limits and taxes and issues that have nothing to do with ‘their issue.’ They just wanted to win. My experience with progressive groups is that for the most part, no matter how marginalized their issue might be in a given year or cycle, they are not willing to work on anything other than their issue. It’s one of the weaknesses of our movement.”

A few years ago a Packard Foundation program officer coined the term “literal-sclerosis” in reference to his grantees who felt that the only way to win on their issue was to talk about their issue. It’s an orientation grounded in the belief that social change happens only when people speak a literal “truth to power.” Literal-sclerosis can be seen in the assumption that to win action on global warming one must talk about global warming instead of, say, the economy, industrial policy, or foreign policy.

Curing literal-sclerosis, and building a true progressive majority, will demand more than finding new words for the same old concept of environmentalism. Faced with the most powerful anti-environmentalist president in U.S. history we must ask ourselves the uncomfortable questions:

What are the implications of classifying global warming – a human-made phenomenon that may kill hundreds of millions of human beings over the next century – as “environmental?”

Why are poverty, AIDS and war not considered environmental problems while global warming is?

If environmentalism is popular, then how can our government get away with being so anti-environmental?

What is our vision for America’s future, and what are the values in the culture that we must strengthen in order to achieve it?

We know from decades of research that great companies are unwavering in their values and highly

flexible in their products and business strategies. Progressive organizations should be the same way. And yet they frequently compromise on their core values while remaining rigid on strategic and tactical questions.

What do we mean by values? For social scientists, “values” are those core beliefs and principles that motivate behavior – from who you vote for – to what kind of car you buy – and political identity, e.g. environmentalist, fundamentalist, progressive or conservative.

The scientists who study values understand that some values are traditional, like so-called “family values,” others are modern, like “liberal” enlightenment values, and others (like consumer values) fit into neither category. These values inform how individuals develop a range of opinions, on everything from global warming to the war in Iraq to what kind of SUV to buy.

Conservative foundations and think tanks have spent 40 years getting clear about what they want (their vision) and what they stand for (their values). They created coherence around the values of smaller government, fewer taxes, a large military, traditional families, and more power for big business. This coherence is reinforced through a web of strategic initiatives (e.g., the “war on terror”, “tax relief,” the ban on “gay

marriage,” and the ban on “partial-birth abortion”) that would activate conservative values among their base and swing voters.

The strategic initiatives have created a political alliance to represent these conservative values. Once in power, the conservative alliance governs on all of its issues – whether their solutions have majority support or not. By contrast, progressives and environmentalists tend to approach politics with an eye toward addressing one problem at a time.

Environmental groups have spent the last 40 years defining themselves against conservative values like cost-benefit accounting, smaller government, fewer regulations, and free trade, without ever articulating a coherent morality we can call our own. Most of the intellectuals who staff environmental groups are so repelled by the right’s values that we have assiduously avoided examining our own in a serious way. Environmentalists and other liberals tend to see values as a distraction from “the real issues” – like global warming, clean air, toxics and habitat destruction – which must be addressed literally.

Kevin Phillips recently argued in *Harper’s Magazine* that the decline of liberalism began because “liberal intel-

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Hawaiian Moorhen at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii.

lectuals and policy makers had become too sure of themselves, so lazy and complacent that they failed to pay attention to people who didn't share their opinions."

Environmentalists find themselves in the same place today. We are so certain about what the problem is, and so committed to legislative solutions, that we behave as though all we need is to tell the literal truth in order to pass our policies. Environmentalists need to tap into the creative worlds of myth-making, even religion, not to better sell narrow and technical policy proposals but rather to figure out who we are and who we need to be.

And, above all else, we need to take a hard look at the institutions the movement has built over the last 30 years. Are existing environmental institutions up to the task of imagining the post-global warming world? Or do we now need a set of new institutions founded around a more expansive vision and set of values?

Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus are co-founders with Environics of the Strategic Values Project, which is repurposing corporate social values research for political ends. They can be emailed at Michael@theBreakthrough.org and Ted@EvansMcDonough.com. Their report, "The Global Warming World," can be downloaded from www.TheBreakthrough.org.

Is There Enough Time?

By Lester R. Brown, Founder and President of Earth Policy Institute

Accelerating the transition to a sustainable future means overcoming the inertia of both individuals and institutions. In some ways, inertia is our worst enemy. As individuals we often resist change. When we are grouped into large organizations, we resist it even more.

At the institutional level, we are looking for massive changes in industry, especially in energy. We are looking for changes in the material economy, shifting from a throwaway mentality to a closed loop/recycle mindset. If future food needs are to be satisfied adequately, we need a world-

wide effort to reforest the land, conserve soil, and raise water productivity. Stabilizing population means quite literally a revolution in human reproductive behavior, one that recognizes that a sustainable future is possible only if we average two children per couple. This is not a debatable point. It is a mathematical reality.

I am frequently asked if it is too late. My response is, Too late for what? Is it too late to save the Aral Sea? Yes, the Aral Sea is dead. Its fish have died; its fisheries have collapsed. Is it too late to save the glaciers in Glacier National Park in the United States? Most likely. They are already half gone and it would be virtually impossible now to reverse the rise in temperature in time to save them. Is it too late to avoid a rise in temperature from the buildup in greenhouse gases? Yes. A greenhouse gas-induced rise in temperature is apparently already under way. But is it too late to avoid runaway climate change? Perhaps not, if we quickly restructure the energy economy.

For many specifics, the answer is, Yes, it is too late. But there is a broader, more fundamental question: Is it too late to reverse the trends that will eventually lead to economic decline? Here I think the answer is no, not if we move quickly.



Hidden Lake, Glacier National Park, Montana.

Perhaps the biggest single challenge we face is shifting from a carbon-based to a hydrogen-based energy economy, basically moving from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal. How fast can we make this change? Can it be done before we trigger irreversible damage, such as a disastrous rise in sea level? We know from the U.S. response to the attack on Pearl Harbor that economic restructuring can occur at an incredible pace if a society is convinced of the need for it.

There is no middle path. Do we join together to build an economy that is sustainable? Or do we stay with our environmentally unsustainable economy until it declines? It is not a goal that can be compromised. One way or another, the choice will be made by our generation. But it will affect life on earth for all generations to come.

Reprinted with permission from *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth*, by Lester Brown. (W.W. Norton & Co., NY: 2001). The full text is available online for free downloading at <http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/index.htm>.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on this series of articles or other articles in the newsmagazine. Letters to the editor can sent to lgrob@foe.org or Lisa Grob, Friends of the Earth, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036-2008.

Gold Mining Giant Under Fire for Mining Practices

By Elizabeth Bast

Gold mining operations have caused extreme environmental damage worldwide, polluting water, soil, and air with high levels of toxic chemicals and metals. Colorado-based Newmont Corporation, the world's largest gold producer, is known for using especially reckless practices, which have left a trail of destruction in communities from Peru to Indonesia. Local communities near Newmont's mines have complained for years about the environmental and health problems resulting from gold mining operations. Earlier this year, the communities of Cajamarca, Peru and Buyat Bay, Indonesia, won significant victories over the mining giant and its dirty practices.

The community of Cajamarca, Peru, has been fighting Newmont ever since the company opened its Yanacocha mine near the town in the early 1990s. The community of Choropampa was devastated by a mercury spill caused by a truck accident en route to the mine in June 2000, and concerns over water pollution near Cajamarca have grown as fish and frogs have disappeared from local rivers. Newmont maintains that their mining practices do not harm the environment. But the local community reports that farm production has dropped and their water is contaminated.

Earlier this year, Newmont began exploration to expand mining opera-



tions at Yanacocha to nearby Mount Quilish, the source of the community's water supply. With support from Friends of the Earth-Peru, the community protested, blockading roads and demanding that Newmont cease exploration in the area. Here in the United States, Friends of the Earth mobilized activists to generate over 600 faxes urging Newmont's CEO to get community consent before resuming operations.

In response to community and international pressure, Newmont has stopped operations at Mount Quilish and has asked the Peruvian government to revoke its license to explore the area.

In Indonesia, residents near Buyat Bay in Sulawesi have complained that pollution from the Minahasa Raya gold

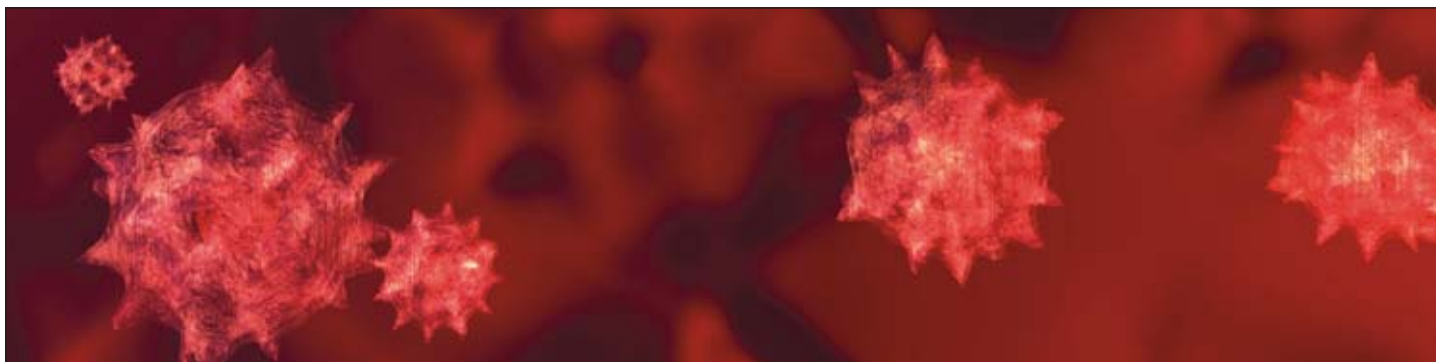
mine has killed fish in the bay and has caused mysterious illnesses in the community. Hundreds of people have lost their livelihoods as a result of declining fish numbers, and residents have complained of skin diseases, tumors, and headaches, all believed to be caused by the mining operations.

Friends of the Earth-Indonesia has campaigned to raise awareness of the environmental hazards in Buyat Bay, working with the community to make their voices heard. As a result of pressure, Indonesian authorities recently arrested mine managers, where they were charged with dumping toxic waste, an offense that carries up to fifteen years in prison. Concern still remains that the company will not adequately clean up the site after the mine is closed this year.

Newmont's operations in other parts of the world also pose a threat to the environment and human health. Friends of the Earth-Ghana has been fighting Newmont's operations in Ghana, where the company has two exploration projects and plans to expand its operations. In Turkey, a court recently rejected an appeal by Newmont to reopen a gold mine accused of soil contamination.

Newmont's dirty practices also hit closer to home. A state judge in Nevada recently revoked a water discharge permit issued to Newmont for its gold quarry near Elko, Nevada, stating that it violates state clean water laws. ■

Small Particles, Big Risks



By Bjorn Gangeness

You probably haven't heard about the latest hi-tech development, but you may already be using a product that employs this technology.

It's called nanotechnology, and it has the potential to radically redefine the products, medical devices and amenities that you are now familiar with. There are already ingredients in many common sunscreens and cosmetic products that have ingredients called nanoparticles. Food, drug, and electronic companies are developing even more such substances, which are slated for consumer use in the very near future.

Nanotechnology is the development of materials and tiny machines that are 100 nanometers in size or smaller. One nanometer is exceedingly small. A human hair is nearly 100,000 nanometers thick, making anything classified as "nanotechnology" smaller than 1000th of the width of a human hair.

When substances are manipulated at such a small level, their physical and toxicological properties can change. A good example of this is that at 50 nanometers (nm) gold looks red, and at 20 nm it looks green. These novel properties are what make nanotechnology both exciting and worrisome. Materials at this scale have the poten-

tial to be much more toxic simply because of their size. Objects smaller than 70 nm are not recognized by our immune system and therefore easily penetrate our bodies and delicate internal organs.

In the case of the nanoparticles in sunscreen, titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, research has shown that they can penetrate the skin and possibly enter the bloodstream where they may then accumulate in other parts of the body. Carbon nanotubes have been found to harm living tissues and organisms as well. In one experiment, needle-like nanotubes were injected into the lungs of rats in order to simulate inhalation. The results showed that the nanotubes exhibited more toxic characteristics than quartz dust, a known carcinogen.

Nanotechnology research and development is fast becoming a multi-billion dollar per year industry, with the global market for nanotechnology expected to reach \$1 trillion in less than 10 years, according to the National Science Foundation. The U.S. government spent over \$700 million on nanotech research last year, with Europe and Japan spending nearly as much.

Unfortunately, these new materials are not being vigorously analyzed for human health and environmental concerns. Additionally, the safety testing performed on macroscale material is

being accepted as applicable to the new nanomaterial. This ignores scientific evidence showing differences in the way these nano-scale materials may impact our bodies and our environment.

Swiss Re, one of the world's top insurance institutions, points out that these "diminutive" particles have "special properties with resultant risks that are still largely unknown" and that research is forging ahead without acknowledging long term hazards. Many others have suggested that without a more precautionary approach to this new technology, nanoparticles could become the next asbestos or dioxin.

Given the potential hazards identified by scientific institutions ranging from the Royal Society in Great Britain to Rice University's Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology, there is no legitimate reason to wait until nanoparticles cause a health or environmental crisis to adopt a strategy to protect the public. A moratorium on nanotechnology in anything but vigorously controlled laboratory settings is the reasonable answer to the risks posed by this new technology.



For more background information, visit the Erosion, Technology and Concentration Group's website at www.etcgroup.org.

Campaign Updates

Safe Cosmetics Campaign is Reforming the Cosmetics Industry

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics continues to gain momentum. The campaign raised the pressure on industry leaders by running a full-page ad in *USA Today*, naming Revlon, L’Oreal, and Unilever as companies who have not yet pledged to remove chemicals linked to cancer and birth defects from their products. Chemicals linked to cancer and birth defects don’t belong in cosmetics. The European Union has a new law that requires cosmetics companies to remove reproductive toxins and carcinogens from personal care products. Cosmetics companies need to make these safer products available for all of us.

To date, the campaign has received commitments from 50 companies to phase out these chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products in every market they serve. Barefoot Botanicals, Prestige Cosmetics Company, Sunflower Essentials Bath & Body Care, and Marie-Veronique Cosmetics are among the companies that have taken the pledge.

Friends of the Earth is a lead group in the coalition of environmental, health, and consumer groups that is pushing the health and beauty industry to phase out the use of these chemicals from their products. To find out more, please visit: <http://www.safecosmetics.org/>.



Friends of the Earth ran this ad in *USA Today* demanding that Revlon, L’Oreal, and Unilever remove toxic chemicals from personal care products.

Environmental Activist, First African Woman Wins Nobel Peace Prize

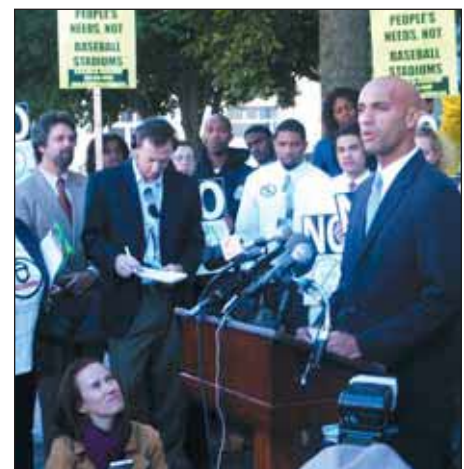
Friends of the Earth International welcomes the news that Dr. Wangari Maathai is the recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her social and environmental work. Dr. Maathai, a patron of Friends of the Earth International, is the first African woman to win the prize. “This is a great testimony to the resolute struggles of a great woman,” said Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA) director Nnimmo Bassey. Dr. Maathai is founder of the Kenya-based Green Belt Movement, a grassroots group comprised mainly of women, which is responsible for planting 25-30 million trees across Africa. She has served as

the Kenyan Assistant Minister for the Environment since 2003.

No D.C. Taxes for Baseball

The No DC Taxes for Baseball campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth, participated in a rally in the District of Columbia to oppose taxpayer financing of a new baseball stadium. The stadium has an over \$500 million price tag and stands to siphon money away from vital city services like the environment, schools, libraries, and healthcare. Over 150 D.C. residents and representatives from 20 organizations were present at the rally. Also present were D.C. Council members David Catania and Adrian Fenty, who forcefully spoke against the

financing plan. For more information, go to www.nodtaxesforbaseball.org.



The DC Environmental Network led a coalition to fight the mayor’s baseball plan that would drain city coffers and leave vital city services underfunded. DC Councilmember Adrian Fenty speaks to the coalition at a rally.

Friends of the Earth Demands Clean Air and Clean Water

On October 14th, Friends of the Earth ran a full-page ad in *USA Today*, criticizing politicians for taking campaign contributions from polluters. Industries responsible for air and water pollution have given millions in campaign contributions to politicians. These same politicians have rewarded contributors by weakening the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. Check out Friends of the Earth's ad gallery to see other hard hitting ads that have appeared throughout the nation:

<http://www.foe.org/about/adgallery.html>.



Victory! Chevron Must Clean Up Lake Sabine in Texas


Ten years ago, Friends of the Earth filed suit against the Chevron Chemical Company for violating its water pollution permit at a Texas polyethylene plant and polluting Lake Sabine, a 100-square mile saltwater lake in southeastern Texas. For years, the case had been tied up in a procedural fight. Finally, this summer, the District Court found Chevron liable for 65 violations of the Clean Water Act and will hold a hearing to determine remedies for a clean-up of Lake Sabine.

Friends of the Earth Exhibits at the Green Festival in Washington, D.C.

The first Green Festival to be held in our nation's capital proved to be a huge success. An estimated 10,000 people attended the fair, which featured 250 exhibitors, environmentally conscious community leaders, green businesses and artists. Roughly 50 speakers, including Julia Butterfly Hill, Amy Goodman, and Jim Hightower gave inspirational talks throughout the weekend. Friends of the Earth staff members held workshops on the safe cosmetics campaign, the DC Environmental Network, and environmentally sound transportation options for the D.C. metro area, in addition to staffing an exhibition booth.

Victory! Gold Mining Giant Pulls Out of Mt. Quilish in Peru

On November 4, just weeks after fierce protests by local farmers and residents concerned about water contamination from new gold mines, the Denver-based Newmont Mining Corporation asked the Peruvian government to revoke its license to explore Mt. Quilish in the Cajamarca region of Peru. Friends of the Earth-Peru and others have been demanding that Newmont respect the rights of communities concerned about dirty mining operations. Newmont finally acknowledged that the complaints of residents were legitimate and stated that "...in light of the concerns and the desire of the people of Cajamarca, we have asked the Ministry of Energy and Mines to revoke the exploration permit for Cerro Quilish." This is wonderful news for the people of Cajamarca, who have been plagued by Newmont's mining operations in the region for more than a decade. To find out more, read the full article in this issue, "Gold Mining Giant Under Fire for Mining Practices," on page 9.

 For more frequent updates, sign up to receive action alerts via email. Go to <http://www.foe.org/action>. ■

- In our next issue, look for tips on a sustainable diet.
- If you have comments on the newsmagazine, send a letter to the editor, or answer our online reader survey at <http://www.foe.org/members>.

Building Strength from Diversity

Friends of the Earth International's Biannual General Meeting

By Colleen Freeman

Friends of the Earth was founded in the United States in 1969. Since then, Friends of the Earth has expanded to include a network of member groups in 70 countries – from Europe to Asia, from Africa to Latin America.

Every two years, the groups in the Friends of the Earth network – which has an international coordinating office in Amsterdam – join together for a general meeting. This year, guided by the theme of “Building Strength from Diversity,” the biannual general meeting (BGM) took place from September 26 through October 2 in Stubicke Toplice, Croatia. The BGM is a time of decision making and planning for the future success and growth of the world's largest grassroots environmental federation.

Members are autonomous groups that work in partnership to reach common goals. In Croatia, new member groups from Bangladesh, Flanders, Guatemala, Palestine, and Swaziland were admitted to the federation. The Council of Canadian's Blue Planet Project and U.S.-based CorpWatch were admitted as affiliate members. The federation's new executive committee is evenly balanced



Outgoing chair Ricardo Navarro of El Salvador is pictured here with incoming chair Meena Raman in a tree planting ceremony with the mayor of Stubicke Toplice.

between member groups from developing and developed countries, with representatives from Colombia, Croatia, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Japan, Nigeria, Switzerland, Togo, and Uruguay.

The federation also elected a new chair, Meenakshi “Meena” Raman, Secretary General of Friends of the Earth-Malaysia, to replace outgoing chair Ricardo Navarro of Friends of the Earth-El Salvador. Meena is a public interest lawyer who has represented local communities in her

country for the past two decades. In 1987, she spent 47 days in jail for representing Malaysian citizens poisoned by radioactive waste dumped in Bukit Merah by a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Chemicals.

Over the next two years, the priority campaigns for the international federation will be climate change, corporate accountability, forests, genetically-modified organisms, international financial institutions, and global trade. The next biannual general meeting will take place in Abuja, Nigeria in 2006.

Friends of the Earth International plans to have a high profile at a number of major upcoming international events, including the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in late January 2005, and at the next meeting of the

world's eight most powerful countries (the “G8”) in Scotland in June. U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair has made climate change one of two priority issues for the G8 meeting. Friends of the Earth International will be there to press the world's most powerful governments for meaningful commitments to turn back catastrophic climate change.



To learn more about Friends of the Earth International, go to: www.foei.org.

The Snow Leopard

By Cyndi Gamble

The snow leopard is an elusive and ghostly cat. It dwells within the realm of some of the earth's loftiest peaks. And when it appears, it seems to grace us with its mystical presence, magically appearing as if it stepped off a cloud. A solitary hunter, living where the mountains nudge the heavens, it seems to be a bridge between this world and the spirit world. The snow leopard is the King of the Clouds.

The ancient shaman used the pelt of the snow leopard as a magic carpet, believing the soul of the leopard would carry them to a higher plane of consciousness. So did the Mongolian Lamaists, who incorporated the snow leopard's fur into their own traditions, placing pelts in the middle of a courtyard at the beginning of Tsam dances, the ancient religious dances of Mongolia, where the dancers wear magnificently ornamented costumes and elaborate masks. Even today, snow leopard pelts are rumored to cover the seats of expensive cars. Though coveted by man, the snow leopard's coat, with its dark spotted markings and rosettes, enables the leopard to vanish completely into its harsh environment.

Living high in mountains that are the rooftop of the world – the Himalayas, the Pamirs, the Karakorans, the Hindu Kush and the Tien Shan – this mighty cat is one of the few predators to view the world from above. They roam a one million square mile (2,590,000 sq km) area in



12 ethnically diverse countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The snow leopard's body is superbly designed for mountain predation. It has large snow-shoe-like paws, short thick legs and well-developed chest muscles to aid in climbing steep mountain ledges. Its skull is flat across the top, with a deep notch down to a wide nose, allowing for larger nasal passages to breathe in the thin, cold mountain air. The snow leopard has the longest, thickest tail of all cats, vital for balancing as it races up narrow game trails after its sure-footed prey, the mountain sheep and goats. The snow leopard stalks prey that is every

bit as elusive and at home in the mountains as it is.

Following the migration of their larger prey along the ridgelines, bluffs and cliffs can make eating a major uncertainty at times. Unfortunately, many of the exotic mountain sheep and goats have been eliminated for food, as hunting trophies, or to make grazing room for domestic prey. Consequently they incur the wrath of their competing human neighbors. Despite a ghostly manner and mystical charms, the snow leopard cannot avoid the snare traps hidden on game trails.

As this imperiled cat teeters on the edge of extinction, the people also struggle to live in this unforgiving environment. Ways must be found to make the survival of the snow leopard economically viable to the humans. But

poaching presents an almost irresistible temptation to these impoverished people. The demand for its fur and other body parts brings untold income to their struggling economies. Financing school and healthcare systems in communities that adopt protection measures and discourage poaching may be the most efficient way to help the snow leopard. Although fully protected under the Endangered Species Act, enforcement of the laws is difficult in the remote areas that these high mountain predators inhabit.

Much of the snow leopard's habitat is fragmented, making it uncertain whether they will find one another, affecting future genetic diversity. Biologists have seen evidence of snow leopards traveling through the low-

lands of the southern Gobi region of Mongolia. Hot and desolate, it was thought impossible for the snow leopard to cross such terrain. Although not officially listed, many believe there are two subspecies already in existence: a main southern snow leopard, and a northern Mongolian/Russian snow leopard.

Not only are there uncertainties in finding a new territory to call home, a young snow leopard may find it empty of viable prey that it needs to survive. Several projects have been started to re-establish some of the lost prey herds. Along the Pakistan-China border, herders have been given financial incentives to protect the wildlife in the Khunjerab National Park, once a lambing ground for the wild Marco Polo sheep. Overgrazed by their domestic sheep, they have agreed to stop this practice, especially during the critical

lambing season of Marco Polo sheep, which are the snow leopard's traditional prey. In the Bar Valley in northern Pakistan, a famous hunting region for ibex, natives agreed to stop hunting for three years to help re-establish the herds, and then only to hunt if they held a permit.

Survival depends not only on the skill of hunting scarce prey, but on careful footing on deadly precipitous cliffs. Additionally, the snow leopard must step cautiously to avoid snare traps placed along game trails by poachers. Garments of snow leopard fur were once highly prized, but worn only by the leaders of Asian nomadic tribes. During the height of the fur industry, however, thousands were taken, as eight to ten pelts were required to make one coat. In oriental medicine, snow leopard bones are used as a substitute for tiger bones, making

the snow leopard skeleton also prized. Only by educating the next human generation can ancient practices be ended that are so lethal to this endangered cat.

The snow leopard illustrates the difficulty and delicacy of life. Perhaps the ancient shaman was right; they are indeed magical. This amazing cat has survived for centuries in the impenetrable mountains and valleys of Central Asia, enduring poaching, shrinking habitat and a brutally harsh environment. With yet more people and modern technology, the remote mountaintops are becoming increasingly accessible and crowded. Can we share the Himalayas with this mystical cat, or shall we only hear the tale of its lonely cries in the still mountain air?

Excerpted with permission from *Leopards: Wildlife History & Conservation* (WLL). Text by Cyndi Gamble copyright 2004 Rodney Griffiths. Voyageur Press, 123 North Second Street Stillwater, MN, 55082, USA. 1-800-888-9653. ■

Nature Photography Contest

Winning Photos will be Featured on the Friends of the Earth Web Site

Celebrate the wonders of nature by sharing your photos. If you have striking images of nature, wild animals, or plants, please enter them in the Friends of the Earth Nature Photography Contest. Images will be judged on originality, composition, and overall aesthetics. Each month we will pick a photo-of-the-month and feature it on our website. At the end of the year, one photo will be chosen as the Photo-of-the-Year, which will be featured in the winter 2005 newsmagazine as well as on our web site. Submissions and questions can be sent to Lisa Grob at lgrob@foe.org.

Special Instructions

Multiple submissions are allowed. We prefer that email submission be low resolution jpegs. Each photograph must bear the photographer's name, address, and phone number. Please also include this information on a separate sheet of paper with your occupation, email address, and a brief description of where, when and how the photograph was taken. We are not able to return entries. Previously published material may be entered; however, please include information on when and where the photo appeared. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond what is possible in a darkroom must be labeled as such and will be judged separately.



Send print entries to Friends of the Earth, Photo Contest, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036. Digital entries should be emailed to Lisa Grob at lgrob@foe.org.

The competition is open to all amateur and aspiring professional photographers 18 years of age or older except employees of Friends of the Earth and their immediate families. Your entry in the contest constitutes agreement to publish the photographs in the Friends of the Earth newsmagazine, on the Friends of the Earth web site, and in other Friends of the Earth publications. Entrants retain all other rights to future use of their photographs. Full-time professional nature photographers are asked not to enter this contest. Friends of the Earth retains the right to verify winner eligibility. Receipt of packages will not be acknowledged. Only winners will be notified. Friends of the Earth cannot be responsible for entries. Void where prohibited. ■

New!

Friends of the Earth and AllLearn Team Up to Offer Online Classes

AllLearn and Friends of the Earth are teaming up to offer Friends of the Earth members discounted tuition for online courses. Offering over 50 online courses designed by faculty at Oxford, Stanford, and Yale Universities, AllLearn brings the best of traditional classroom education into the environmentally friendly medium of online learning.

Current offerings include: The History of Nature, The American West,

Archaeology for Amateurs, The Intellectual Making of the Modern World, The Da Vinci Code Demystified, and Great Political Thinkers.

Each of these courses features extensive interaction with the instructor and with other class members. Courses can be accessed anytime, any-

where and offer flexible formats that fit easily into busy schedules.



To learn more about AllLearn and the special discount for Friends of the Earth members, please email Rosemary Greenaway at rgreenaway@foe.org or go to the member's page at <http://www.foe.org/members>.



Notice of Special Meeting of Members

Friends of the Earth will hold a special meeting of its members on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, at 12:00 p.m. in our Washington, DC office, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036. The purpose of this meeting is to consider a possible merger of Bluewater Network into Friends of the Earth.

Friends of the Earth's president and board of directors recommend approval of this merger because the combination will create a more efficient, powerful

and effective organization that is better able to protect the environment.

Bluewater Network, based in San Francisco, California, has rapidly become one of the most effective young environmental organizations in the United States. In its 8-year history, Bluewater has been the leader in drafting and lobbying for the country's first state law to regulate greenhouse gases from automobiles. It has been working to stop the damage of our public lands and waterways caused by personal watercraft and snowmobiles. Bluewater

is also leading campaigns to reduce pollution from oceangoing ships and to encourage consumers to pledge not to buy a Ford car or truck until Ford Motors builds climate-friendly vehicles.

Signed,

Brent Blackwelder
President



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