Peatland Defence
Since March this year there have been three reported incidences of sabotage to defend peatland sites, and (we suspect) several unreported incidents.
- In early March over £30,000 worth of damage was done to stocks of the Scots plant at Hatfield Moor, South Yorkshire, when stacks of peat bags on pallets were slashed. (reported by Scots at a bail hearing during the Easter Blockade, late March 2002)
- On May Day one of two wooden pylons which bring electricity into the Scots plant at Hatfield was felled and a serious attempt was made on the second one.
- In early July at Bolton Fell in Cumbria (site belonging to William Scotts plant at Hatfield) digging equipment was disabled and plastic sheeting protecting stockpiled peat was destroyed. Posters demanding an end to peat extraction were displayed.

There will be a mass trespass at Hatfield Moor on Sunday 25th August (bank holiday weekend) during the nearby Northern Green Gathering. There will also be an action camp on the site previously used for the blockade camp, straight after the NGG, Wednesday 28th - Sunday 1st September. Peat Alert hope to run talks and tours of the site as well as leaving plenty of time for action. More info from www.peatalert.org.uk or on info@peatalert.org.uk

Down Under...
29th June - Refugee Advocates freed asylum seekers from the Woowarra Detention Camp, where around 160 asylum seekers were holding a hunger strike. Many of them had sewn their lips together in protest at their treatment by the Australian Government. Around midnight on Friday 28th June, a group of 25 refugee supporters went in to the main compound area of the centre (a former missile test site) in South Australia to show their support for the hunger-striking asylum seekers inside by performing a ‘noise’ action. Once it was known that people were outside supporting them, children came out to the fence first, followed by men then women. Moving by the suffering of these people, the refugee supporters proceeded to try and free as many of these suffering people as possible. It is estimated that between 20 -25 asylum seekers were freed before detention centre staff stopped them. Police set roadblocks up in the area, but there were no immediate arrests. Some of the asylum seekers were later captured. More info on http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org.

Sisters are doin’ it...
Mid-July: hundreds of women from the Nigerian Ijaw people take over several ChevronTexaco oil pumping stations, in protest at the environmental destruction caused by the company’s operations in the Niger Delta, and its failure to create jobs or bring other social benefits. The initial occupation, at Escravos, lasted for a fortnight, and at least four more stations were taken over in subsequent actions. Employees were either driven out of the stations or (gently) taken hostage, but Ijaw men were said to have threatened to burn down all the company’s facilities if the women were harmed. In other protests in the area, protesters in several Nigerian cities were teargassed by police after demonstrating against that old villain Shell’s activities in the region.

News in brief
Football carzy...31st July, Leyton-Tel Aviv football match in London. Deciding to surpass distributing leaflets outside, several activists got onto the pitch with boycott banners and Palestinian flag. The crowd was pretty hostile, and three protesters were arrested. They were charged with invading the pitch under the Football Offences Act 1991.

New book
The 4th edition of Resources for Radicals, an ‘annotated bibliography of print resources for those involved in movements for social transformation’ will soon be available. The price (including postage and handling) is (international) $15.00. (U.S. funds). Cheques should be made payable to Toronto Action for Social Change. Orders should be sent to: Toronto Action for Social Change P.O. Box 73620, 509 St. Clair Ave. West Toronto, Ontario M6C 1C0 416-651-5800 tac@web.ca

For more info on the campaign against the pipeline and the environmental destruction and human rights abuses associated with it, Contact Rising Tide at: www.risingtide.org.uk tel: 01865 241 097 or London Rising Tide: shells@gn.apc.org

Dump nuclear
The British government is engaged in another ‘public consultation,’ this time on the environment policy. Shock, horror, it will be using it to try and get nuclear energy into the back door, and to sell it as a ‘climate friendly’ alternative. The nuclear energy is ‘encouraging’ its employees to use the consultation to promote it. For information on the campaign against this, visit www.dumpnuclear.org.

Conference disrupted
July 8th: those busy bees from London Rising Tide disrupted a conference on ‘Monetising carbon credits in emerging economies’ at the Carlton Tower Hotel. The conference was yet another effort by a crowd of corporates and shady multilateral bodies to promote carbon trading, one of the prime methods of watering down any attempts to address climate change on an international level. Schemes such as forest sequestration also involve the exploitation of some of the world’s most vulnerable environments and oppressed peoples. Organisations involved (and present at the conference) include Vivendi and the World Bank. Despite the thousand-pound price tag on tickets, the protester toddled easily in, to be shouted down by the speaker and being accused of being

The EF! AU is produced to aid the sharing of news, information and ideas amongst those interested in taking action. It is edited by a different collective each year to avoid the centralisation of power and information. We welcome submissions and articles (max 150 words) so if you’ve set up a group, taken action or want to publicise a campaign or project please let us know. No matter how big or small it seems, we’d like to share your news and inspiration. Feature articles and ideas are also appreciated.

50p where sold- Anti-copyright- photocopy and distribute
Prisoner Support

Callum Currie, Michael Davidson, Malachi Nicklach, Howard Oakes and John Windhoff

We have been collecting donations and
taking action for 9 months in support of
an activist who has been imprisoned in a
VRU in Wrexham, North Wales.

In December, Samar Alami, a
Libyan women's activist, was
forcibly relocated against her
wishes to prison in Israel.

For International contacts we
recommend the list in e
Dr actionagainstthetollmotorway
www.uk.indymedia.org
Action Against the Toll
Mobile+336 72634905

For International contacts we
recommend the list in e
Prospect Camps

Adastrian Women's Peace Camp
33 Harcon Road, Bath
0117 939 3746

Elevaston Park
demo@elevastonpark.co.uk
(04475-046), US Pen - admin
mumia@adr.org

Cascade Global Action (PGA)
for the anti-
liberalisation, www.apg.org

Trident Ploughshares 2000
44-46 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NY 0845 458 8360

Women Speak Out
woolham@earthlink.net

Contacts List August 2002

Wanwick - the old group's
website has been updated with
new information and
contact details, see
www.arpa.org.uk/about

For activists who are looking for
other listings from Anarchist Black

Earth Liberation Prisoners

c/o 3rd Cell, University of
Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NB

For advice on activist legal issues, try
For International contacts we
recommend the list in e
www.urgen@wix.com

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Airports protests
In Mexico, hundreds of riot farmers with machetes and petrol bombs held hostages to protest against plans to build a new international airport outside of Mexico City. Young farmers were instantly concerned about the planet's atmosphere...their more immediate concern is that the scheduled location is smack in the middle of their land. In return for the банк of SKs, with the condition that they be allowed to keep their land. Sounds reasonable enough, but the pro-business government of Mexican President Vicente Fox has ruled out any changes to its plans to build the £1.3 billion airport.

And then there's British airport expansion plans...the government is planning a massive capacity in upcoming years, with at least 6 new runways around the country, focusing on the south-east. Cue the destruction of homes, communities, ecology, and the global environment...more protect camps, anyone? AEF has launched Airport Watch. www.aef.org.uk. See also

World Summit on Sustainable Development
And talking of greenwash...from 26 August to 4 September the world's leaders will be meeting in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to come up with cunning plans to cure the world's environmental and social ills, building on the landmark successes of the Rio Earth Summit ten years ago. Or, more likely, sell the environment people of the planet ever further down a highly polluted and overheated river, courtesy of corporate organizations like the ICC and BASD, who feature little darlings like Carell, Dow Chemicals, Monsanto, Nestle, RTZ, Shell and Unilever. Sponsors also include that well-known murderer of both the environment and its workers (as long as they’re black…), Anglo-American also include that well-known murderer of Nestle, RTZ, Shell and Unilever. Sponsors Cargill, Dow Chemicals, Monsanto, World Summit on

In the UK
This summer has seen a number of public rallies at test sites around the UK. One such event took place at Lymn in Cheshire on July 26th. After a concerted campaign of letter writing and petitions local people decided to take matters into their own hands. A public meeting at Lymn Village Hall was followed by a trip to the nearby field of GM-maize. A samba band led around 30 of the crowd into the field and people began to decontaminate the area. Proceedings were only interrupted by the cops who arrested 9. People were kept in Warrington station until famine the following mowing with cops complaining; "These things take time if you will get arrested on mass" - poor things.

Other activities...

Blitz...
Blitz festival hit the streets of Manchester from 20-26th July with a mind-blowing explosion of artisan propaganda, actions and information, timed to offer an alternative vision to the Corporatised Commonwealth Games. Blitz was the result of six months of organising by the Northern Arts Tactical Offensive who provided the overall structure for art, film, music, street theatre and protest, in collaboration with UHC arts collective, Bybcd,TV, i-contact, Fasch, a Spacehijacker and many other individuals. NAO aims to bring together people working on social, cultural and political issues and to promote art that is spontaneous, conscious and public. The Blitz highlighted all that is street-level, independent and potentially illegal from the dissenting inhabitants of Manchester.

It went a bit like this: AgITATE - brazenly located in the middle of a building "Great Northern" shopping mall this exhibition in the belly of the beast took over a swathe of unused warehouse space and transformed it into the most beautifully presented and ideologically challenging collection of art work Manchester has ever seen. Stuck on the wall is a promise that the third world war will be fought in our heads, through images, on the airwaves (etc.), the exhibition grew from local graffiti to a "live sound installation" (read- "pirate radio station") see link on Nato website. Over 200 people came through in a week.

OUTDOOR LIVE MUSIC: The punk bands swearing loudly, playing to three shoppers at a "no skating" sign and the pointless graffitti wall swearing loudly, playing to three shoppers at a "no skating" sign and the pointless graffitti wall before realising it was a spoof, they cottoned on to a “live sound installation” (read- “pirate radio station”)

A month later, on August 4th, a second exhibition was held in the same venue. The previous day, the UK government had announced a \#farright rally to mark the second anniversary of the Bradford riots. The day before the rally, a series of meetings were held in central London in order to pledge his support for the cause, having read about it on the internet, and kindly pointed the demonstrator on the direction for the nearby field of GM-maize. A samba band led around 30 of the crowd into the field and people began to decontaminate the area. Proceedings were only interrupted by the cops who arrested 9. People were kept in Warrington station until famine the following mowing with cops complaining; "These things take time if you will get arrested on mass" - poor things.

World on Earth Day

Stephens Green, www.indymedia.ie/
The Philippines are home to some of the last surviving gatherer-hunters. In the rainforest of Luzon Island the Agta live off the land's coconuts, fish, leaves, crabs, fruit and occasional larger animals as they have done for generations. Compatible with the local ecology, their lifestyles and culture are also largely non-hierarchical and non-materialistic. This rare one of the few truly free and ecological societies left in the world.

Like many tribes across the world the Agta have seen their numbers fall to the low hundreds and their traditional ways of life made increasingly impossible. Their land is stolen, their children taken from them by government officials, the forest on which they depend for food is cut down and they are forced into the farms and factories. They have become landless refugees in their own land.

As Western radicals, anarchists, ecologists and conservationists, it is essential that we act in solidarity with the tribal peoples who defend themselves and their land. If we are ever to succeed in creating free and ecological communities in our own lands we will have much to learn from them.

In 2001 the non-development organisation Friends of People close to Nature raised £8000 and bought 10 hectares of stolen Agta tribal land in Dipuntian on the North-West coast of the Luzon island. This land now houses 8 Agta families, a significant section of the Agta population, and has also become a base for action against logging of the rainforest.

Here is an opportunity to give direct aid and on-the-ground solidarity to an endangered gatherer-hunter community struggling to protect an ecology within one of the 3 hottest of the global hotspots. The importance of action on this field cannot be overstated.

Visit Dipuntian

Although only Agta live on the reserve, western visitors are invited to stay there to learn from the Agta and to help stop the destruction of the forests. There is a lot to do. You can help the Agta in their daily difficulties, plant fruit trees, protest about logging, teach Agta children to stop them being stolen off to school, build huts, administer medical treatment and keep missionaries off the land. Even if you don’t do anything you would probably be useful in Dipuntian. The Agta feel safer when foreigners are around.

Anyone wanting to visit Dipuntian should contact the Philippines Solidarity Group. We have tapes and books in Tagalog and Kirsten, whose head offices are in Cardiff.

Support resistance in the Philippines

Tribal warriors in West Papua

Agta indigenous peoples and rainforest protection centre

The Philippines is one of the few 3rd world countries with active conservation projects. Located as they are in one of the global hotspots, these "eco-warriors of the 3rd world country" must surely be a key target for as much support as we can provide. Davao Earth First! have asked for literature for their info shop as well as for a video camera. Check out their fantastic website on: www.geocities.com/efdavao

Raise Money

In addition to the £8000 already raised, a further £10000 is now being collected to buy an adjoining piece of land to house a further 100 Agta. For £18000 most of an endangered anarcho primal tribe can be pulled back from the brink of cultural and personal extinction! The Philippines Solidarity Group aims to have raised the necessary £10000 by the end of this year. We need your help.

Providing financial aid should not be seen as charity but as a tool of solidarity that we have available to us as a result of our position in the highly monetised West.

Make cheques payable to “Agta Support Group” and send to the address at the end of the article.

Solidarity Actions

Philippines Solidarity Group

c/o Leeds Earth First!,
Cornerstone Resources Centre, 16 Shobrooke Ave, Leeds, LS7 3HB
e-mail: threeoars@hotmail.com www.leedesfs.org.uk

The Philippines are an area of immense ecological importance. Home to many rare and amazing birds and mammals, including the monkey-eating eagle, it is the plant life which really marks it out as exceptional, with the virgin rainforest containing a greater diversity of flora than anywhere else in the world.

All is far from well however for this beautiful environment. Most of the rainforest has been destroyed, largely by Western logging interests, and the destruction continues at a horrifying rate. Many species are extinct or threatened with extinction. Dam building destroys landscapes and communities and mineral extraction rips open the land, it is the vast scale of its destruction, combined with its incredible bio-diversity, which has seen the Philippines classed as one of the top three environmental hotspots. In other words, one of the three most important areas to defend in the world.

If we ecologists in the West are serious then we cannot afford to ignore the global hotspots. Financial aid, solidarity actions and other support must be given to these areas as a matter of urgency. The Philippines Solidarity Group has been set up to do just this. The following are all struggles in the Philippines with which we can act in solidarity with real effect.

**Davao Earth First!**

The Philippines is one of the few 3rd world countries with active Earth First Groups. Davao City EF! have taken action in support of indigenous people, opened an anarchist/ecologist info shop, trashed genetically modified crops and taken part in local conservation projects. Located as they are in one of the global

ASSOCIATED INDIGENOUS STRUGGLES

Resistance to mining and dams in the Philippines has been intense. In April 1998 the “Unity Pact” was forged in the Cordillera Region increasing the levels of militancy used by indigenous peoples to stop environmental destruction of their area. Indigenous people in southern Mindanao followed suit and also took up arms recently. The Cordillera people are the first to have stopped a World Bank funded project (Chico River Basin Development Project). The Cordillera People’s Alliance (an alliance of various indigenous groups) have also been at war with golfers. The forest on which they depend for food is cut down and they are forced into the farms and factories. They have become landless refugees in their own land.

The indigenous people of the Philippines have plenty of enemies. We are currently doing research into these, (any information gratefully received), but most of these companies at war with nature are based in Canada, Australia or the Philippines. We have however dug up some links in the UK, and are sure to find further ones.

**Rio Tinto** are (of course) one of the arch enemies of those living close to nature, and they have offices in London and in Bristol. Give them a bell on 0207 9302999, or pop into visit at 6 St James Square, London. They are a Canadian Company committing a host of environmental and human rights abuses on Philippine shores. They are assisted in this by mining expert consultants Stefan, Robertson and Kirsten, whose head offices are in Cardiff.

**Crew Development** are fighting the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources who cancelled their nickel mine proposal for Mindoro. If it goes ahead 12 Manguan communities will be displaced. Mindoro is ecologically incredibly precious. Crew also have their fingers in many other pies. They are Canadian, but David Williamson Associates are their London consultants, and can be found at 15 St Helen’s Place, London EC3A, or rung on 0207 6283989.

**Week of Action**

The Philippines Solidarity Group is one part of a wave of action in support of ecologists, radicals and indigenous peoples in the South Pacific. West Papua is currently engaged in low intensity warfare. The OPM, and others resisting Indonesian occupation are suffering vile human rights abuses and known figures are being “disappeared”. A speaker from West Papua will be touring later in the year. Contact the South Pacific Solidarity office for more details.

A week of action in support of resistance in the Philippines and West Papua has been called for the 6th - 13th of October, 2002. Take action against any or all of the companies mentioned in this article. Check the Leeds EF! Website for more information on targets nearer the time.

**FRIENDS AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

The following are an assortment of groups we found useful and have contacted. They are all different and may not share all of the political ideas of Earth First! (eg they may be hierarchical organisations).

www.nisopp.org

solidarity group - check out the links

www.golfwar.org

produced video on armed resistance to the golf project

www.philsol.net

Philippines solidarity group

www.minesandcommunities.org

info on various indigenous resistance to mining

www.forestsmonitor.org

especially for reports on the Philippines and logging

www.fcpn-global.org

info on Agta and Dipuntian plus slide show

www.leedesfs.org.uk

our website where we will paste future info on targets etc

The South Pacific Solidarity Office will open in Brighton on August 1st.

Contact us on: 01273 695505 Email: solidaritysouthpacific@yahoo.co.uk

Up to date information on the website: www.earthfirst.org/sos