



student action on world poverty and the environment

Proposal for second campaign theme from 2009/10

DEADLINE for ideas Sunday 6 January 2008

<http://peopleandplanet.org/forum/08>

Your details

Please provide the names of People & Planet group members who are putting this proposal forward (there may be up to 4 proposers but there should be at least 2):

Proposer 1

Name	Richard Hawting
Email	
Address	
Phone	
People & Planet group	Dundee University People & Planet

Proposer 2

Name	Kristina Diprose
Email	
Address	
Phone	
People & Planet group	Leeds University People & Planet

Proposer 3

Name	El Hadshar
Email	
Address	
Phone	
People & Planet group	Leeds University People & Planet

Proposer 4

Name	Farrah Zaman
Email	
Address	
Phone	
People & Planet group	Goldsmiths College London People & Planet

Your proposal for second campaign theme from 2009/10

Total word limit for this section: **1000 words**.

Title	Food and water security
Summary of your proposal for The Forum Guide (no more than 200 words).	This deals with two of the most basic needs for human survival. It is already an issue that affects billions and this looks likely to grow and become ever more urgent. This is very much a global issue but there are a wide range of areas in which this can be campaigned on domestically and also focus on localising our own food and water consumption. There are a broad range issues that arise from this but food

and water are inextricably linked. Such issues relate to climate change, over consumption in the West, water privatisation, dam building, deforestation, biofuels, GM and pesticide foods, and industrialised farming to name a few.

As there are so many issues that are related, there is a huge potential as to what can be achieved, especially given the lack of awareness about these issues and the urgency that they possess.

With the campaign against climate change well underway and gaining momentum, dealing with access to food and water relates directly as these could be some of the most devastating consequences of climate change. Without serious action, it could turn into greatest humanitarian disaster and threat to global security humanity has ever known.

What is the proposed campaign theme?

To highlight and act on the growing global food and water crisis. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), up to 2 billion people lack [food](#) security and according to the World Health Organisation, 80% of the world's illnesses are related to water borne diseases

These are obviously huge issues to comprehend but like other big issue campaigns there is a great amount that Britain is responsible for and can act on. The Department for International Development has targets in line with the Millennium Development Goals relating to food and water. We can campaign to make sure that these targets are met and go further where needs be. Other government departments could be targeted such as the Foreign Office when looking European agricultural subsidies. We can also make sure that food and water security is pushed up the WTO agenda when/ if negotiations recommence in 2012.

We would campaign in solidarity with landless movements and small-holders at the grassroots for sustainable action to feed the world Other potential targets include the World Food Programme – following Eritrea's lead we should oppose the dumping of 'food aid' by over-producing countries (mainly U.S.) in favour of regionalised sourcing, thus improving in-country capacity to avert food crises through income security, improved infrastructure and access to information.

There are a huge number of corporations that profit from the deprivation of these basic rights such as Biwater which was involved with water privatisation in Tanzania (and the British government that encouraged this). Principles should arise out of the campaign that access to food and water is a human right and a company's profits should not come before this.

Why are you proposing this campaign theme?

1 . . . is a significant human rights, poverty and/or environmental injustice.

Hopefully the scope of the campaign outlined above illustrates its holistic and mutually reinforcing concern for human rights and environmental justice.

2 . . . is raised by those affected or in solidarity with them.

There are countless resistance movements throughout the world including landless peasant movements, seed activists, and those resisting water privatisation.

3 . . . can be tackled by People & Planet as a student network.

Yes. In the same way that other global issues have been tackled.

4 . . . could include a variety of campaign goals and targets developed.

Yes, because of the scale of the problem and the various actors involved there would be short and long term aims that could be developed particularly in relation to DFID.

5 . . . is meaningful to students across the People & Planet Network, by age, geography, interest experience and skills.

We hope so! It pretty much represents all that P&P stands for!

6 . . . has opportunities for cooperation with other groups, including those in the Global South.
As mentioned above, campaigning would be carried in solidarity with those most affected. Others NGOs include WaterAid, ActionAid, The Gaia Foundation. Most other global justice and environmental groups will have dealt with issues relating to food and water.

7 . . . can be contributed to by People & Planet in a unique way and plays on our strengths as a student network.

Given the scale of the problems mentioned, this would be something that the network is perfectly suited to. Pressure needs to come on a mass level and the network has shown in the past that it is more than capable to lobby and raise awareness on such big issues.

8 . . . has a body of research and resources available to us in order to develop the campaign.
Books about the water crisis include 'When The Rivers Run Dry' by Fred Pearce, 'Water Wars' by Vandana Shiva, 'Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource' by Marq de Villiers.

Food security resources include:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/food-security>

<http://www.odi.org.uk/plag/foodsecurity/>

<http://www.ifpri.org/>

9 . . . fits in with and draws from current and past People & Planet's campaigns.
As mentioned, Climate Change is significantly related as is Trade Justice.

If you need any help or advice relating to completing this form please contact your support office contact or Joe in the Forum team joe.greenwood@peopleandplanet.org or call 01865 245678

When completed, please return by email to forum@peopleandplanet.org