



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

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Proposer 2

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Your proposal for second campaign theme from 2009/10

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

Title	Mining
Summary of your proposal for The Forum Guide (no more than 200 words).	The aim is to prevent human rights abuses in the global south which are associated with the mining industry. This includes things such as resource wars and slavery associated with mining. It also includes "land grabbing" - people being kicked out of their homes and off their land to make way for corporate mining.
What is the proposed campaign theme?	The focus of the campaign would be mining in the global south. The campaign might aim at lobbying the British government to make UK mining companies answerable to UK laws and courts for their actions. We might also campaign to make it illegal for UK companies to bring resources into the country which have been mined in a way which caused human rights abuses.
Why are you proposing this campaign theme?	<i>1 . . . is a significant human rights, poverty and/or environmental injustice.</i> For a long time there have been two main links between mining activity and human rights abuses in the Global South. Firstly, mining corporations have been accused of complicity with governments in forcibly removing civilians from their homes to make way for mining projects. Secondly, warlords and violent militia often fight brutal wars to gain control of resource-rich areas. Britain is involved in this in at least two ways. Firstly, British companies mining activities have been linked to human rights abuses (e.g. Shell in Nigeria and Vedanta in India). Secondly, conflict resources end up in Britain – meaning British money is fuelling the conflict.

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

Those affected by the abuses associated with mining have been openly opposed to the activity. This includes opposition to British companies such as Shell in the Niger Delta (which, although not strictly mining is a good example linked to the issues outlined above) and mining firm Vedanta in India, amongst many others.

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

People and Planet could hopefully lobby lead a successful campaign to get the government to 1) control British mining companies working abroad and/or 2) prevent conflict resources being brought into the country.

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

There are at least two different aims of the campaign (see point 3). The campaign could perhaps be extended to include logging or other resource related processes which contribute to violence.

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

Conflicts over resources are of interest to People & Planet members. At the workshop on the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo at Shared Planet we learned that controlling various resources has been a major contributing factor in the violence. Meanwhile, British corporate behaviour is also of interest, as has been shown by the emergence of the network-led ethical investment campaign.

6 . . . has opportunities for cooperation with other groups, including those in the Global South.

There are several other groups dedicated to ending the trade in conflict resources such as Fatal Transactions and Global Witness. People in the Global South have also been openly opposed to resource wars and much corporate mining activity. There is also the CORE (corporate responsibility) coalition which aims to end corporate related abuses in all forms.

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

The other groups which campaign on these issues have quite a small base of personnel compared to People & Planet. People & Planet could bring far more people to the campaign.

8 . . . has a body of research and resources available to us in order to develop the campaign.

Groups such as Global Witness and Fatal Transactions, as well as others such as Action Aid have created a large body of research on the issue.

9 . . . fits in with and draws from current and past People & Planet's campaigns.

The campaign fits in with the ethical investment campaign as both seek to prevent harm caused by corporate behaviour. The campaign also fits in with past arms exports campaigns because both seek to prevent violence and human rights abuses in the global south.

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