



student action on world poverty and the environment

What else do you want to see on the agenda at the Forum 2008?

DEADLINE Monday 26 November 2007
<http://peopleandplanet.org/forum/08>

Your details

Please provide the names of 2 network members who are putting this proposal forward (they can be from the same group):

Proposer 1

Name	Rhiannon Horsley
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Proposer 2

Name	Charlotte Smith
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People & Planet group	Reading

Your proposal

Total word limit for this section: **500 words**.

Categories for proposal: finance and fundraising, present campaign, group support, communications, democracy, network, other, events

Which category does your proposal best fit into? (see http://peopleandplanet.org/forum/08/other_issues/categories)	Network
Title	Reaching out to returned Gap Year Students
Summary of your proposal (no more than 30 words). For example, a topic for discussion, a position to debate or suggested course of action (like a motion).	Discussion, Course of Action
What is the proposed agenda item?	Many 18 year old now take a 'gap year' between leaving school and going to university, often with the ambition of doing some 'good' usually in the developing world. However research has shown that they have the greatest scope the 'change people's lives' via their actions in the UK Ideally through campaigning or development education.

For that reason People and Planet should actively try and engage with returned gap year students and encourage to campaign to end world poverty.

Why is this important for People & Planet?

Thousands of students each year go on 'gap years', and for many this brings them in direct contact with poverty. Students often use their long university summers to travel, again to the developing world where they encounter poverty.

P&P should be trying to engage with those who have experienced poverty in such a way and encouraging them to turn experiences into positive (campaigning) action. Engaging with this group would also allow us to smash some of the myths around 'being poor'. Helping to explain why these countries are poor (debt, unfair trade rules etc) and how we and our country is responsible for their poverty.

How could it be implemented?

There are a number of ways that this could be implemented. We would be able to target those about to go on gap years through our sixth form network, making individuals aware of the issues before they travel, which would ideally lead to a greater inclination to join a P&P group when they arrive at university.

University groups could run session specifically for returned travellers, allowing them to explore their experiences and educate them about injustices and people and planets campaigning.

Via Gap year operators, encouraging them to make their 'gappers' aware of the work of people and planet.

Having specific events targeted at return gap year students to encourage them to engage in campaigning.

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