



Environmental Paper Network

International



Annual Report 2017

Introduction

The Environmental Paper Network is a global network of more than more than 140 non-governmental organisations in 36 countries who share an aspiration for future of paper production and consumption, expressed in our [Global Paper Vision](#). We work together to transform global paper consumption and production towards this vision of an ethical and sustainable future.

The past year has seen recognition of our maturity and significance in the wider forest movement, with completion of big projects, publication of some key reports and plans made for embarking on some new and exciting ventures, notably a focus on climate change and support for East Asian networking. We continue to co-ordinate efforts to save paper, to stop irresponsible finance of the next generation of pulp mills, and to support civil society in Indonesia struggling to resolve social conflicts with the paper industry and end the climate catastrophe it has caused over recent decades.

Network Co-ordination

This year we have had two important gatherings. The first was at the Forest Movement Europe meeting in the beautiful city of Brasov, Romania, in May. This meeting is always an important opportunity for us to take a sounding from our member organisations, many of whom were present, and as always we asked for guidance on what our priorities should be. As always, paper reduction, Indonesia and pulp finance were at the top of the list, plus there was a strong call for us to focus attention on climate change, working with the whole forest movement to increase understanding of the crucial role of forests as carbon sinks and the severe threats to the global climate from forest destruction and increased use of forest products. In particular, a large group of our member organisations who are working on forest biomass energy asked the EPN to help them to incubate a global network on this topic. This confirms that the EPN plays an increasingly effective and trusted convening role within the forest movement, and that the global co-ordination we provide is valued by the civil society organisations we serve.

Our second gathering was in Yunnan, in China, in December, and 34 participants came together from 14 countries (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Russia, USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Italy, England, Scotland), including representation of organisations from all across China. The purpose of the gathering was to allow current and potential member organisations and staff of EPN to meet informally, exchange ideas, review progress and discuss strategy and plans for development of the network. The location in China offered us an opportunity in particular to focus on developments in East Asia. We had deep discussions on a range of topics including: biomass energy and climate change; engaging with companies to ensure responsible supply chains; threats from the paper industry to forest biodiversity, pollution and water quality; use of alternative and agricultural residue fibres; and paper saving and recycling. There is clearly energy and appetite for development of the EPN to support co-operation between NGOs in the high-consuming East Asian nations and other Asian paper producing countries.

Our steering group is a strong and creative team. We are sorry that Helma Brandlmaier from WWF, one of our founding members, is moving to a new job (though still in WWF), but delighted that her place will be filled by Cecilia Alcoreza, from Chile, giving us representation from Europe, Asia, Australasia and South America. The

group is now

- Bas Tinhout, Wetlands International, Netherlands.
- Cecilia Alcoreza, WWF International, Chile.
- Monika Nolle, ARA, Germany.
- Otto Miettinen, Luonto-Liitto, Finland.
- Peg Putt, Markets for Change, Australia.
- Peter Gerhardt, denkhausbremen, Germany.
- Richard Wainwright, Fern, UK and Belgium.
- Woro Supartinah, Jikalahari, Indonesia.

Sergio Baffoni keeps our Italian link strong and leads our work on Indonesia. Mandy Haggith is the network co-ordinator. Monika Nolle manages our finances. Peter Gerhardt is our webmaster.

We continue to work in close co-ordination with EPN North America and the China EPN. We are delighted that we now have a new global website at www.environmentalpaper.org, reflecting all our work internationally.

Objectives

Our priority objectives for the year were:

- ▲ to co-ordinate network activity on reducing paper consumption;
- ▲ to support our Indonesian colleagues' struggle to reform the Indonesian paper industry;
- ▲ to co-ordinate responses to irresponsible finance of new pulp and paper mills;
- ▲ to develop the network, particularly in East Asia;
- ▲ to create capacity for joint work on forests and climate;
- ▲ to develop a new website and promote discussion on key [Global Paper Vision](#) issues.

Finances

Fundraising has once again been adequate to maintain our current level of activity including joint work with the North American and Chinese EPNs. We are hugely grateful again for our grant from JMG Foundation, which helps to cover our core co-ordination costs. It also supports our Indonesian rainforest paper campaign, and we are also funded for this by the Waterloo Foundation. We value the support for finance campaigning from the Grassroots Foundation and Lush. Jointly with the North American EPN we also have had funding for work in Indonesia and China from the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation and the Climate and Land Use Alliance. We have just received another grant from the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, for core co-ordination. We also received considerable help in kind from member organisations, particularly in the form of staff time. We are very grateful for all of this support, and our financial situation remains secure for the next year, with hope of some new funding to develop work on forests, climate and biomass energy. Most of our grants are managed for us by ARA, with one being managed by the Forest Peoples Programme. Both are member organisations and we are very grateful for their administrative support.

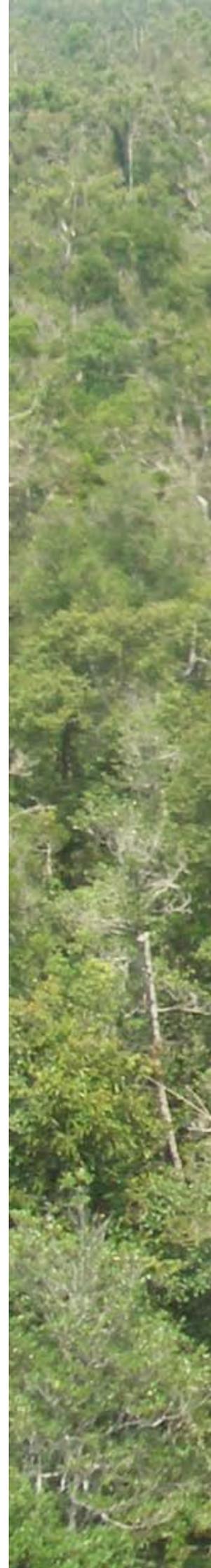
Income	2015	2016	2017
<i>Total</i>	€154,140	€214,463	€194,804
Expenditure			
Core costs	€71,211	€127,067	€74,289
Projects	€70,480	€91,075	€109,266
<i>Total</i>	€141,691	€218,142	€183,555

Projects

Our two main projects were on paper from Indonesian rainforests, co-ordinated by Sergio, and on pulp mill finance, co-ordinated by Mandy, Monika and Merel van der Mark. We also worked on reducing paper consumption, particularly paper cups, and on forests and climate..

1. Saving Paper

Reducing paper consumption remains a priority topic although it is always extremely hard to find funding for this work. We co-ordinate a paper saving working group, ran a global day of action in



March promoting our [Cupifesto – a manifesto for a world without throwaway cups](#). NGOs and individuals joined in from around the world. As packaging makes up more than half global paper consumption, we hope to co-ordinate more joint action on this in future.

2. Indonesian paper

Indonesian civil society is still fighting to end the social and environmental harm from the huge production of pulp, more than 80% of which is by Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL). While they have both stopped logging natural forests, thanks to our earlier co-ordinated campaigning, their legacy of deforestation, social conflict and climate change emissions from peatland destruction remain. Concerted pressure has been applied on both companies to keep their promises to resolve these issues. The damaged peatlands in particular are the root cause of devastating climate change emissions, fire and smog. We highlighted these in our report [Too Much Hot Air](#), along with inspiring examples of community action to resolve the problems. This is our most popular report ever!

As well as working to highlight the climate change connection, our co-ordination activity this year has covered a wide range of topics, to ensure good flows of information and strategic thinking about solutions by all stakeholders seeking to see the reforms promised by the industry are actually implemented.

- Mapping of social conflicts with APP and APRIL is being carried out by a coalition of Indonesian NGOs, with our support, and is due to publish next year.
- We are involved in the stakeholders working group as part of the Forest Stewardship Council's consideration of whether to re-associate with APP.
- We have supported [calls to APRIL's financiers](#) to divest as long as the company continues violating the peatland regulation.
- We have co-ordinated a new [framework for evaluating progress](#) by APRIL and APP on their commitments.

We will continue to co-ordinate work on Indonesia until the paper industry there is reformed.

3. Investment in the Pulp and Paper Industry

EPN convenes strategic joint campaigning to prevent irresponsible investment in a new generation of pulp and paper mills through our pulp finance working group. Last year we published [Green Paper, Red Lines](#), a set of requirements that financiers need to check are met before engaging with pulp and paper companies and projects. This year we published [In the Red](#), our assessment of the policies of 42 banks, after a major collaborative effort among our member organisations in China, Netherlands, Germany, Chile and Indonesia. It showed that bank policies are mostly not fit for purpose for avoiding reputational risk from financial involvement with pulp and paper companies that cause social and environmental harm or are involved in corrupt or illegal practices. We also coordinate efforts to ask financial institutions to avoid particular problematic mill developments or companies, particularly in [Russia](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Indonesia](#).

4. *Other activities.* In the second half of the year we formed a new working group on forests, climate and biomass energy and planned work including a threat map and a campaign toolkit and training course. We have also published several discussion documents and hosted a webinar series to debate a range of key topics, including peatlands, detoxing the paper industry, forests and climate, pulp finance and GM trees.

Conclusions and priorities for 2018

This has been a significant year and our network is strong and ready for an intensification of work in 2018. Our co-ordination team will be bolstered by Merel van der Mark, who will lead on pulp finance and Peg Putt, who will lead on forests, climate and biomass. We plan to publish a new global report on the state of the pulp and paper industry. Paper saving and Indonesia remain crucial. We will continue co-ordinating with our North American sister network, help our Chinese and other Asian colleagues to develop their network, listen to our members and keep a good sense of humour in our efforts to achieve our [Global Paper Vision](#).

If you would like to know more or have suggestions about how we can be more effective, please get in touch.

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