



European Environmental Paper Network

A wide-angle photograph of a dense forest with vibrant green foliage, serving as a background for the title text.

Annual Report 2012

Introduction

This has been a positive year for the EEPN, with a new co-ordinator, a revitalised steering group, and new active network members. Highlights have included an inspiring meeting of members in Porto in Spring, a summer party in Bremen and most of all, a three-week tour of nine European cities by a delegation of Indonesian activists in November. There have unfortunately been low points too, particularly the recent tragic death of our paper reduction activist Doreen MacIntyre. Still, regular communications, some strategic joint actions and two lively projects, one on Indonesian paper and one about reducing paper consumption, all add up to a sense that the EEPN is increasing its effectiveness as a co-ordinating force among environmental and human rights organisations. Together we are helping to transform European paper consumption and production towards our vision of an ethical and sustainable future.

Network Co-ordination

The EEPN grew this year. There is a renewed sense of relevance in the EEPN's activities, and we have welcomed 16 recent new member organisations, from Switzerland, Belgium, Portugal, Germany, UK, Norway, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Poland, USA and China. We now have 67 member organisations from 26 countries.

The steering group has also been strengthened. As two members (Otto Miettinen and Jim Ford) moved on we took the opportunity to broaden the skill base and geographical spread of the group.

- Jonas Rudberg joins us from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and Europe's biggest paper producing nation.
- Richard Wainwright joins us from FERN.
- Sini Eräjä, from Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, keeps our Finland connection going.
- Helma Brandlmaier, WWF International's energetic lead paper campaigner has returned after maternity leave.
- Judy Rodrigues is returning from Greenpeace International.
- We retain our links with the German network of NGOs working on paper through Monika Nolle and Peter Gerhardt.
- Sergio Baffoni keeps the Italian link strong and leads our work on Indonesia.

In February, EEPN said goodbye to Daniel Hausknost, our co-ordinator for the past two years, who moved to an academic job, and whose contribution to the network is deeply appreciated. Mandy Haggith returned as network co-ordinator, refreshed and full of energy, after an extended 'sabbatical'.

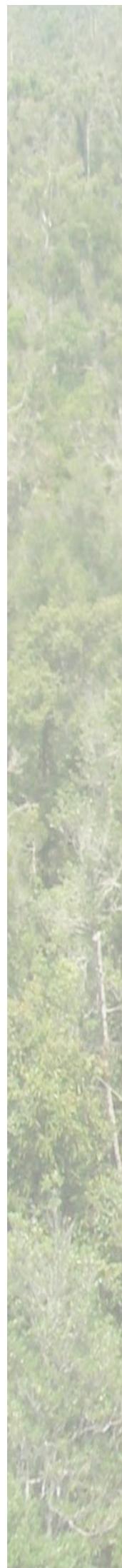
In April, we had an excellent meeting in Porto, as part of the Forest Movement Europe gathering, in which about 40 members took part, and thanks to which we have a renewed sense of direction and strategy for the next few years. Our priority objectives are:

- ▲ to persuade many of Europe's biggest paper users to reduce consumption;
- ▲ to co-ordinate a campaign to prevent products of Indonesian forest destruction being sold in Europe;
- ▲ to co-ordinate a campaign for less negative impacts of the pulp and paper industry on boreal forests;
- ▲ to develop the network's capacity to respond strategically to investment in new pulp and paper mills;
- ▲ to share information within the network and develop a range of useful information tools.

Finances

Funding remains the big challenge for the network, but with two major grants from JMG Foundation (covering our core co-ordination and supporting our Indonesian forests project) and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (for the Shrink Paper project in the UK) we are in a better position than at the start of the year. The Grassroots Foundation gave us a grant for a European tour by three Indonesian activists and the Siemenuu Foundation also contributed. We have received financial contributions from some member organisations, and help in kind, ranging from time given to help govern the network to hospitality to our Indonesian guests in November. We are very grateful for all of this support.

Income	2011	2012	2013 (projected)
From foundations	€83,610	€94,090	€154,616
From members	€40,630	€36,420	€44,000
Total	€124,240	€130,510	€198,616
Expenditure			
Staff costs	€17,500	€69,176	€106,616
Travel, office etc	€106,740	€61,334	€92,000
Total	€124,240	€130,510	€198,616



Mandy has made fundraising her top priority, and although there have been inevitable failures of some funding applications, there are promising signs with several foundations requesting us to resubmit in future and a number of new applications in process. We are collaborating with the EPN in North America and with several member organisations on joint fundraising, and look forward to a more financially secure future.

Projects

We began the year with one major active project on paper from Indonesian rainforests, co-ordinated by Sergio and funded by the JMG Foundation, and in August, thanks to funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, we restarted the Shrink Paper project. We are also developing projects on investment in the pulp and paper industry and on paper from boreal forests.

1. Shrink (Reducing Paper Consumption)

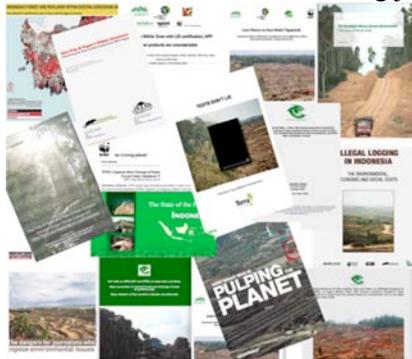
The Shrink project, which ran for two years from 2007-9, has been revitalised this year.

- ✦ We have developed our new website (shrinkpaper.org) to help people at home, at school and at work to save paper.
- ✦ We have begun work to encourage 60 of the UK's biggest paper consumer organisations, both public and private sector, to use less.
- ✦ We have instigated a similar project in Germany and are promoting other European network activity on paper saving.
- ✦ We have commissioned work into a report that will make clear the contribution that paper saving can make to reducing climate change emissions from 'paper vapour'.



2. Indonesian paper

We had an in-depth strategy session on the Indonesia campaign at the FME meeting in Porto in Spring and this has led to some exciting joint work to stop products of Indonesian deforestation reaching



European markets. Sergio has created a comprehensive suite of campaign materials and tools to help our members to address the problem at the scale and in the manner they are comfortable with, and he works tirelessly to ensure up to date information and advice to campaigners, whether they are taking direct action against big customers of Indonesian paper companies or having quiet conversations with paper buyers.

As well as tackling the market for Indonesian paper in Europe, we have also co-ordinated strategic work to address the threat of new pulp mills.

We have organised joint letters, one to Export Credit Agencies that have funded Indonesian paper companies in the past, and one to banks likely to invest in new mills, asking for assurances from the finance sector that they will not fund pulp mills that are bound to cause deforestation in future. These letters are already producing significant results, not least the revelation from Export Credit Agencies of the billions of Euros of public money that went down the drain when Asia Pulp and Paper defaulted on its debts several years ago. We will continue the pressure on financial institutions to resist similarly stupid investments in future.



The highlight of the year was our three week visit from Aidil Fitri, Haryansiah Usman (Kaka) and Muslim, from grassroots organisations in Sumatra, who toured nine European cities in November educating everyone they met about the impacts of the pulp and paper industry on their forests and communities. We were proud to be their colleagues as they made impassioned speeches to paper industry executives, who were visibly moved, and as they carried out interrogations of financiers to extract information previously not forthcoming about investments that have robbed the forest people of Indonesia of their land and livelihoods. We feel sure their presence will be felt for a long time to come.



3. Investment in the Pulp and Paper Industry

When a new pulp mill is built without due diligence being taken by investors into its social and environmental impacts, an industrial process begins that is like a bomb, the fallout of which increases in radius year by year, taking land from communities, damaging livelihoods, degrading forests and reducing biodiversity. As a network we need to build our capacity to work strategically to prevent irresponsible investment in a new generation of pulp and paper mills. We have taken steps this year by bringing together knowledgeable activists to help us to co-ordinate communication with investors, using the Indonesian pulp mill plans as a case study. We are also co-ordinating a new learning partnership on ethical investment, for which we will seek European funding in the new year.



4. Boreal Forests

Much of the paper we use in Europe comes from boreal forests and not all of it them are sustainably managed. We aim to co-ordinate work to highlight problematic boreal paper and work to ensure these problems are solved. We have prioritised the need to respond to plans for up to 10 new Russian pulp mills, which could have devastating impacts on the taiga. We are seeking funding for research into these proposed new mills and their potential investors and to support grassroots Russian organisations to monitor and make interventions into the plans.



5. Communications

Daniel left an important legacy in the form of EEPN's new website, at www.environmentalpaper.eu, providing access to the core materials that define the network, including the Common Vision for Transforming the European Paper Industry, and also to a range of useful tools, including the Environmental Calculator, PulpWatch.org and WhatsInYourPaper.com, which we are developing in collaboration with our sister network in North America, the EPN. It also has a blog, updated regularly, and a dedicated area on the APP campaign. A new version of the shrinkpaper.org website was also completed.



Our collaboration with the EPN in North America has strengthened this past year, with an agreement to harmonise our communications, in order to maximise our ability to respond globally to urgent calls for action and to be more efficient in sharing information and developing campaign resources and research. One aspect of this tightened collaboration is that we now have a system for shared management of email lists, with integrated lists for Europe, North America, Indonesia and other regions of the world, and a joint global list. We also have a facebook page, and a presence on twitter (@paperistas) so the tools are in place for better information sharing on all relevant channels.

Conclusions and priorities for 2013

The EEPN is poised for a new year of growth, increased joint activity and co-ordinated campaigns. We are building support and engagement within the network and already feeling the positive effects of working together more closely, and having clear priorities for joint activity.

In 2013 our focus will be to raise funds to pursue the priorities set by our members. We look forward to reporting back at the end of next year about the progress we have made on our projects: cutting wasteful paper consumption; resisting paper from Indonesian and boreal deforestation; and stopping irresponsible investment in the pulp and paper industry.

We need to increase our core capacity to do justice to our members' work towards our shared vision for transforming the pulp and paper industry. We will continue to welcome new member organisations who share that vision. If you would like to know more or have suggestions about how we can be more effective, please get in touch.

Contact:

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