



Environmental Paper Network

Europe and Beyond...



Annual Report 2016

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.

2016 was a busy year in which we focused our attention on our most fundamental concerns – generating energy and momentum within the network to campaign for paper reduction, stopping irresponsible finance of the next generation of pulp mills and supporting civil society in Indonesia struggling to hold the paper industry to its commitment to end the land rights and climate catastrophe it has caused over past decades.

Network Co-ordination

Our annual global paper gathering was hosted by Reforesting Scotland, in a big house in the Borders as part of a joint meeting with the Forest Movement Europe. More than 50 activists attended from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, England, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland, USA and Wales. Our focus was on reducing paper consumption, and our discussions led to inspiring new strategies for collaborating on paper saving. We produced and discussed a global map of the threats to forests and communities caused by new pulp mills that are still at the planning stage. We also launched our [Green Paper, Red Lines](#) document, which sets out requirements (red lines) for the finance sector to avoid involvement in paper industry projects that are unacceptable either legally, socially or environmentally. In October, we helped to fund many of our member organisations to gather again at a meeting hosted by BankTrack in Gorssel, in the Netherlands, where we ran sessions about forest finance.

Our steering group was sorry to see the departure of Emmanuelle Neyroumande, Merel van der Mark and Jonas Rudberg, but happy to welcome back Helma Brandlmaier from WWF. To increase our representation outside Europe we also welcomed Peg Putt on board, from Markets for Change, Australia. The group is now

- Bas Tinhout, Wetlands International, Netherlands.
- Helma Brandlmaier, WWF International, Austria.
- 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.

Objectives

Our priority objectives for the year were:

- ▲ to develop network activity on reducing paper consumption;
- ▲ to co-ordinate efforts to support our Indonesian colleagues in their struggle to reform the Indonesian paper industry;
- ▲ to co-ordinate responses to irresponsible finance of new pulp and paper mills;
- ▲ to grow the network's capacity in other regions, particularly China and the global south;
- ▲ to share information within the network and develop a range of useful information tools.

Finances

Fundraising has been adequate to maintain our current level of activity including joint work with the North American and Chinese EPNs. We have had our grant renewed by JMG Foundation, which helps to cover our core co-ordination costs. It also supports our Indonesian rainforest paper campaign, and we have been successful in increasing funding for this, with a renewed grant from the Waterloo Foundation and support for finance campaigning from the Grassroots Foundation. Jointly with the North American EPN we also had funding for work in Indonesia and China from the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation and the Climate and Land Use Alliance. We had a grant from the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, for core co-ordination. We also received cash contributions from some member organisations, and considerable help in kind, 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. 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	2014	2015	2016
From foundations	€146,487	€124,730	€190,263
From members	€29,165	€29,410	€24,200
<i>Total</i>	€185,652	€154,140	€214,463
Expenditure			
Core costs	€57,500	€71,211	€127,067
Projects	€98,913	€70,480	€91,075
<i>Total</i>	€156,413	€141,691	€218,142

Projects

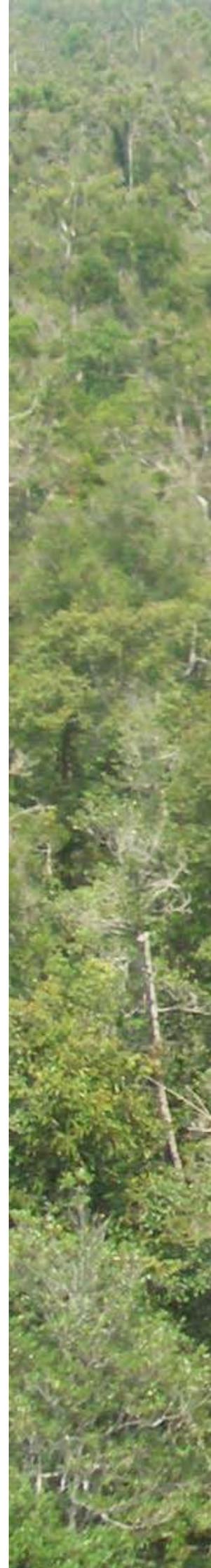
Our two main projects were once again on paper from Indonesian rainforests, co-ordinated by Sergio, and on pulp mill finance, co-ordinated by Mandy, Monika and Merel van der Mark. We also developed activities on reducing paper consumption, particularly paper cups.

1. Saving Paper

Reducing paper consumption is always the top priority when we ask our members what they want us to work on, and although it is always extremely hard to find funding for this work we made it the focus of our global gathering in May 2015, in Scotland. This enabled us to have strategic discussions and understand better how to co-ordinate and build synergies among our member organisations. Our working group agreed to focus first on paper cups, as several organisations are campaigning on them, and in September, just before International Coffee Day we launched our '[Cupifesto – a manifesto for a world without throwaway cups.](#)' We co-ordinated an international day of action, with campaign events in Australia, China, Germany, Finland, UK, France and the USA which gained international media coverage.

2. Indonesian paper

Following co-ordinated campaigning in previous years against the companies, Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL), which together are responsible for more than 80% of Indonesian paper production, both committed to no further forest logging, resolution of social conflicts and restoration of forests and peatlands that they have damaged over the past decades. This year's priority has therefore been to ensure that both companies keep their promises. Although the chainsaws have mostly stopped in the forests, there



are still serious land rights abuses and conflicts to resolve with affected communities, and a terrible legacy of deforestation and peatland destruction which requires urgent restoration. The damaged peatlands in particular are the root cause of catastrophic climate change emissions, exacerbated by the fires that have raged in Sumatra, which have caused awidespread haze, which is devastating to human health.

Our Indonesian colleagues and member organisations are monitoring both company's activities on the ground and our role is to amplify their findings to concerned stakeholders, including paper buyers and financiers, to ensure that everyone knows it is still too early to do business with these companies. There have been numerous breaches of their commitments so far, including ongoing use of peatlands, details of which can be found [on our website](#). In the latter part of the year, we helped to organise a workshop for communities, government and industry representatives about 'paludiculture', showcasing sustainable long-term solutions for managing peatlands.

We will continue to shine a light on the impacts of the pulp and paper industry on the Indonesian tropical rainforests, their biodiversity and communities, until reforms are implemented and an ethical, environmentally-benign future is secured for all affected by pulp production. We play a crucial role, to ensure that Indonesian civil society is not abandoned by international NGOs now that the industry has made commitments. We have gained so much, and we must not risk losing it by not maintaining the pressure to ensure their promises are kept.

3. Investment in the Pulp and Paper Industry

We play a leadership role in strategic joint campaigning to prevent irresponsible investment in a new generation of pulp and paper mills. Last year we produced a report, [Mapping Pulp Industry Expansion](#), which included demands that the industry makes all its processes more sustainable. This year we followed it up with [Green Paper, Red Lines](#), published in June 2016. This is a set of requirements that financiers need to check are met before engaging with pulp and paper companies and projects. We have done research into who finances the industry and have a list of about 40 target banks. We are currently assessing their policies to determine whether they are robust enough to ensure that they will not breach the red lines. We expect to publish the results in the first half of 2017. This work is carried out in partnership with BankTrack, plus a number of other member NGOs who take part in our pulp finance working group.

We also coordinate efforts to tackle particular problematic mill developments or companies, using the leverage of finance companies that make loans, handle share offers and provide financial services. Campaigns we have supported this year were in Russia, Chile, Mozambique and Indonesia. The latter, in particular, involved asking financiers of APP and APRIL to put pressure on the companies to honour their promises.

A very useful meeting was hosted by BankTrack in Gorssel, the Netherlands, in October 2016, during which we ran a series of strategic sessions on forest finance, including discussions about how pulp finance campaigners can find synergies with campaigners working on other forest commodities such as palm oil and biomass energy. We also held a roundtable session for banks in Utrecht, and a follow-up webinar, to explain our *Green Paper, Red Lines*.

Conclusions and priorities for 2017

Our steering group held a retreat at the end of 2016 to discuss priorities for the coming year. These will continue to be the fight against Indonesian rainforest destruction and social conflict caused by the paper industry, energising paper saving campaigns and building capacity for financial campaigning. We will also promote debate on a wider range of issues, including pollution and clean production, greenhouse gas emissions and genetically modified trees together with solutions of these problems, including recycling. We are hosting a series of webinars and publishing discussion papers to facilitate these debates, and working on a new global EPN website and report on the state of the industry. We will continue co-ordinating with our Chinese and North American sister networks and listening to our members.

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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