



Environmental Paper Network

Europe and Beyond...



Annual Report 2015

Introduction

The Environmental Paper Network is a global network of more than more than 140 non-governmental organisations in 36 countries who all share an aspiration for the future of paper production and consumption, expressed in our [Global Paper Vision](#). In 2015 we have seen the power of our network growing and much more internationally co-ordinated activity. Together we will continue to transform global paper consumption and production towards our vision of an ethical and sustainable future.

Network Co-ordination

In April 2015 we celebrated our tenth anniversary with a global paper gathering in Brussels, attended by about 40 organisations that endorse the *Global Paper Vision* from 18 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa and the USA. We discussed various models for global governance of the network, to enable us to make a stronger response to the multi-national pulp and paper industry. We agreed to move towards more international co-ordination and encourage the development of regional networks in the global south. For now, the European EPN's co-ordination role has broadened to include signatory organisations everywhere in the world except North America and China, which will continue to be co-ordinated by our sister networks there.

Our steering group was bolstered with three new members that can better support our international activities and project work:

- Bas Tinhout, from Wetlands International.
- Woro Supartinah, from Jikalahari, Indonesia.
- Merel van der Mark, formerly from BankTrack, now based in Brazil.

The other members are:

- Peter Gerhardt, from denkhausbremen.
- Otto Miettinen, who represents the Finnish NGOs.
- Emmanuelle Neyroumande, from WWF International.
- Monika Nolle, from ARA.
- Jonas Rudberg, from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (retired towards the year end).
- Richard Wainwright, from Fern.

Sergio Baffoni keeps our Italian link strong and leads our work on Indonesia. Mandy Haggith is the network co-ordinator. Mandy took a sabbatical of several months this summer to write a novel. Our healthy financial situation enabled us to pay several people to cover for her, and to carry out specific pieces of contract work, including network consultation, website development, meeting facilitation and research.

As usual, our annual meeting was at the Forest Movement Europe meeting, and as always, we consulted those present on priorities for the Network. In addition, we carried out a six month project to 'reactivate the network', interviewing all our member organisations in Europe on their views of the network. This has given us a good sense of what we do well, and what our members want us to do in future.

Objectives

Our priority objectives for the year were:

- ▲ to develop network activity on reducing paper consumption;
- ▲ to co-ordinate a campaign to prevent products of Indonesian forest destruction being sold in Europe;
- ▲ to develop the network's capacity to respond strategically to investment in new pulp and paper mills;
- ▲ to grow the network's capacity in other regions, particularly China and the global south;
- ▲ to co-ordinate activities to lessen the negative impacts of the pulp and paper industry on boreal forests;
- ▲ to share information within the network and develop a range of useful information tools.

Finances

Fundraising has been successful once again, both for our Europe-based work and for international world, including joint activity with the North American and Chinese EPNs. We have had our grant renewed by JMG Foundation, which covers our core co-ordination cost. It also supports our Indonesian rainforest paper campaign, and we have been successful in increasing funding for this, with a grant from the Waterloo Foundation. Jointly with the North American EPN we also have funding for work in Indonesia and China. This comes from the Blue Moon Fund, the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation and the Climate and Land Use Alliance. We have also won a grant from the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, for core co-ordination. We have received contributions from some member organisations, mostly 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
From foundations	€146,487	€124,730
From members	€29,165	€29,410
<i>Total</i>	€185,652	€154,140
Expenditure		
Core costs	€57,500	€71,211
Projects	€98,913	€70,480
<i>Total</i>	€156,413	€141,691

Projects

Our two main projects this year 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, but we also developed activities on reducing paper consumption and communication

1. Reducing Paper Consumption

Reducing Paper Consumption is always the top priority when we ask our members what they want us to work on, yet few of our members are active in this area and resources are hard to find to fund it. In the early part of the year we explored the potential of creating a spin-off organisation to focus on paper reduction work, but we remain to be convinced of its viability. Our website materials have been re-organised and we are looking for other ways to support activity in this area. We are organising a strategy meeting about paper saving campaigns on 31 May 2015, in Scotland. We are also setting up a working group and seeking funds to pursue an international paper saving project. With seed-funding from WWF, we have also issued three grants to NGOs working on reduced wasteful consumption projects: Riposte Verte in France, Catalog Choice in the USA and Forum Ökologie & Papier in Germany.

2. Indonesian paper



Our campaign to prevent paper from Indonesian rainforests finding a market in Europe made significant progress during the year. It is focused on the two 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. The big news in the summer of this year was that our member organisations working in Indonesia achieved a moratorium on rainforest logging by APRIL, which together with the promises made by APP in previous years means that the bulldozers have stopped logging rainforests for pulp. This was cause for rightful celebration, however a lot remains to be done to ensure that both companies keep their promises, and although the chainsaws have stopped in the forests, there are still serious land rights abuses and social conflicts to resolve, and a terrible legacy of deforestation and peatland destruction which will take years to heal. The paper industry was severely implicated in the fires that have raged in Sumatra, causing a haze that has been devastating to human health and caused unaccountable damage to biodiversity. The moratorium is thus a useful pause in which to press for deep reform of the pulp and paper sector. We look forward to continuing to work with our Indonesian colleagues and member organisations around the world towards long-term solutions.

A lot of our work involves back room negotiations to ensure that our member organisations listen to the grassroots campaigners representing Indonesian communities and speak with one voice to all stakeholders in the industry – paper buyers, investors, government and industry professionals. Sergio does an amazing job of diplomacy under sometimes very difficult circumstances.

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 are building our capacity to work strategically to prevent irresponsible investment in a new generation of pulp and paper mills. This year we produced a report, *Mapping Pulp Industry Expansion*, the result of considerable research into the next wave of pulp mill developments around the world. It includes demands to the industry to ensure that this expansion is sustainable. It was launched at the Global Forestry Congress in Durban in September and has been circulated to about forty banks known to be actively involved in financing the industry.

We are also coordinating, through our partnership with BankTrack, efforts to tackle 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, Australia, South Africa and Indonesia. The latter, in particular, involved asking financiers of APRIL and other Royal Golden Eagle group companies, to divest unless a logging moratorium was secured. This financial activity was an important aspect of the success of the Indonesian rainforest campaign.

4. Communications

This year we produced a film, *The Future of Paper*, to explain our vision. Our website, at www.environmentalpaper.eu, has a new look and it continues to provide access to the core materials that define the network, including the *Global Paper Vision*. It also has a dedicated area on the Indonesian rainforest paper campaign. We work closely with the EPNs in North America and China to enhance the efficiency of our communications. We regularly co-ordinate letters to companies and governments on behalf of member organisations and this remains an important role for the network, enabling member organisations to gain substantial international backing for their own campaigns.

Conclusions and priorities for 2016

In the latter part of the year, we have started to plan for the next five years. Our top priorities will remain the fight against Indonesian rainforest destruction and social conflict caused by the paper industry, reducing paper consumption and building capacity for financial campaigning. We will continue to follow a wider range of issues, including recycling, pollution and clean production, greenhouse gas emissions, and genetically modified trees. 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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