



World Rainforest Movement

Annual Report | 2015



Who we are Our mission	Red
Foreword	Green
WRM's policy plan	Orange
Highlights of WRM work	Blue
List of publications	Dark Red
Organizational Changes	Dark Green
Structure and Financial Overview	Light Blue



Photo: N. Kuntscher

Who we are

The World Rainforest Movement (WRM) is an international initiative that contributes to the struggles, reflections and political actions of forest-dependent peoples and populations. It

is part of a global movement for social change that aims at ensuring social justice, the respect of human rights and environmental conservation.

Our mission

WRM has learned from forest-dependent communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America that whenever their collective rights are respected, forests have the best chance to be conserved. WRM's main mission therefore is to support struggles of indigenous peoples, traditional and peasant communities for the recognition and respect of their role in and practices of forest conservation, as well as to guarantee their collective rights and control over their territories. For WRM, it is important to highlight and support the role of women in such struggles. Women have a specific relation with forests while at the same time they suffer differentiated impacts from deforestation. Women's participation is also crucial in organizing collective resistance.

WRM's analysis, research, support and facilitation work are guided by its commitment to the right of forest-dependent peoples and populations to self-determination. This includes exercising collective rights over their territory, their

cultures and ways of life. We define territories not just as physical spaces or land only. They also include the totality of beings and relations, customary rules and histories that permit a coexistence, the reproduction, as well as the preservation of the interconnection of the different forms of life and cultures.



Photo: WRM



Photo: WRM

Foreword

Since its foundation in 1986, **WRM seeks to play a role in monitoring international plans and policies to halt deforestation.** Although these plans and policies promise to contribute to the conservation of tropical forests, in our experience, they often fail to do so and have adverse effects on forest-dependent communities. One of WRM's tasks is to report on these impacts.

In recent years, we have increasingly reported on what is being called “a new economy with nature”: **it means that destructive projects in tropical forests to supply global markets continue happening as before, but now in tandem with a new breed of “conservation-type” projects that promise to compensate for this destruction.** This “new economy with nature” started to have implications for forest-dependent communities several years ago with the first REDD projects. REDD stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in tropical countries. REDD was and is about seeing forests as mere “carbon stores”, without considering communities and other species, and this view of forests continues to prevail. Besides, REDD and other proposals launched afterwards such as “Zero Deforestation” all have a fundamental problem: they all fail to address direct and especially underlying causes of deforestation, resulting in the continued destruction of forest and the expansion of the

destructive production and consumption model, based on, for example, monoculture oil palm and timber plantations.

The support to the struggle against the expansion of tree monocultures has been one of WRM's main activities. Industrial tree monocultures –whether for timber or oil palm– have many negative and destructive impacts on local communities' livelihoods and territories. However, **international policy makers continue to consider industrial tree monoculture plantations as forests, because they follow the prevailing UN forest definition of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).**

The Paris climate agreement of the United Nations states that it aims “*to achieve a balance between anthropogenic sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gasses in the second half of this century*”. This formulation pushes the door wide open for the promotion of large-scale “carbon sequestration” projects that could very well include monoculture tree plantations. The World Bank-supported *African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative* (AFR100), launched in parallel to the Paris Agreement, is one example to illustrate this risk, as it aims to cover no less than 100 million hectares of so-called “degraded” lands in different African countries with trees. Much, if not most of this tree planting can be



Photo: Greenpeace International

expected to occur in the form of large-scale monoculture tree plantations. Moreover, which and whose land is being classified as “degraded” is also an important question mark to be put.

Another concerning tendency WRM has decided to research further and make organisations aware of is the mechanism of so-called biodiversity offsetting. Its essential characteristic is, on the one hand, seeing the destruction of forest and other vegetation as something “unavoidable” in order to expand “progress” and “development”. While on the other hand, it promises a new mechanism by which such destruction can be “compensated” through protection elsewhere.

With the “new economy with nature”, the pressure on communities’ territories is increasing further and further. Because communities most often will defend the lands and forests they depend on, we see more and more criminalization and violence, including assassinations, against those that resist such land and territorial grabbing and against the local organizations that support them. **A growing concern is the increase in human rights violations involving environmental activists, including from communities and local NGOs WRM collaborates with, as well as the impunity that reigns in many countries.**

What is striking is that the scale of the “green grabbing” of lands is getting increasingly

bigger, and so will be the impacts that can be expected from it. While in the recent past, for example, REDD+ projects were implemented in clearly delineated project areas, nowadays REDD+ has morphed into large-scale and so-called integrated landscape or jurisdictional REDD+-programs that cover entire administrative units such as a province.

But we also believe this scenario opens up new possibilities of strengthening people’s resistance, their organizations, mobilization and solidarity. We have learned about the positive effects of supporting exchanges, networking and alliances between local organizations engaged in defending territories and life. Not only strengthening the alliance of women and men, youth and elderly in the same community, but also the alliance between different, for example, indigenous and peasant communities, strengthens the overall opposition. And definitely, a stronger opposition is needed to halt the aforementioned threats. **WRM is committed to continue giving its contribution in solidarity with the many communities around the world** resisting these threats.

Winfriidus Overbeek
International coordinator WRM



Photo: WRM

WRM's policy plan

WRM's policy plan is based on the following core activities:

- Provide support to struggles of forest-dependent peoples against deforestation and to secure their territories.
- Analyze the direct and underlying causes of deforestation.
- Critically assess "solutions" to the forest and climate crises that are presented in official processes at the international level.
- Disseminate the results of our analysis and research so that it becomes accessible to a broad array of local organizations, movements and communities.

How do we make our work accessible to our broad network of allies?

The WRM website and WRM's electronic bulletin are available in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese). Additional information including booklets, briefings and videos, among others, complement the information shared through WRM's bulletin. Most of this information is also available in several languages.

The responsibility to implement the WRM policy plan rests mainly with the WRM international secretariat team. The secretariat team receives input and guidance on implementation of the policy plan on a regular basis from:





Photo: WRM

I) the WRM **Advisory Committee**;

II) the biannual WRM **strategy meetings** in which a number of WRM allies from different continents participate;

III) the **regular interaction** between the team and hundreds of community organizations, social movements, NGOs and indigenous peoples organizations and activists in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In October 2015, WRM organized again a 4-day WRM Strategy Meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, in order to get guidance for its policy plan for the coming years. Eighteen people

from activist groups, NGOs, and social movements from Africa, Asia, Europe, the USA and Latin America participated. The discussions contributed to thinking and reflection on many aspects of the WRM's international and regional work for the next few years. The input received served to update the WRM policy plan in terms of the geographical and thematic priorities for the coming years. The meeting also complemented the feedback we constantly receive on WRM publications and other tools produced by WRM. For example, a 2015 WRM bulletin survey which allowed readers from across the world to give feedback and suggestions on how to improve this tool.

Capacity building is part of WRM's policy

Before the 2015 strategy meeting in Uruguay, the WRM international secretariat organized a one-day workshop to facilitate meeting participants to share experiences and understandings of the “new economy with nature”. Other terms used to refer – at least in large part – to the same phenomenon are “green economy” or the process of “financialization of nature”. With the workshop, the WRM secretariat team and the participating organizations gained better insight into the issue, both from a theoretical point of view but also by learning about concrete cases of, for example, REDD initiatives and local resistances. It also provided a space for further reflecting on the collective work participating organizations and groups are planning to do around this issue.



Photo: WRM



Photo: WRM

Highlights of WRM's work in 2015

A regional perspective

Industrial oil palm plantation expansion in West and Central Africa

Forests are the basis for diversified and community-controlled food systems in many rural regions worldwide. Across the African continent, local economies are particularly dependent on products derived from the forest. Over the past 5-10 years, communities from West and Central African countries have been threatened by the rapid expansion of industrial oil palm plantations. These plantations increase rapidly as palm oil is the cheapest vegetable oil globally and its consumption has increased significantly, also for biofuel use. Much of the expansion of these industrial plantations is encroaching on forest land that local communities depend on. It is also threatening the traditional cultivation of native oil palm varieties which are the basis for a wide range of products sold on local markets.

In 2015, as a follow up to African partners' suggestions, WRM together with the NGO GRAIN started to prepare a set of activities aimed at reaching out to local NGOs and community organizations in areas that are already affected but also those under threat of industrial oil palm expansion. Two initial workshops took place in Cameroon in January 2016, following extensive and inclusive preparation during the whole second semester of 2015. First, a women's workshop was prepared on the importance of traditional oil palm cultivation and the role of women in resistance against the expansion of industrial oil palm plantations, in collaboration with the Cameroonian NGO RADD. Then, a second workshop was organized on corporate strategies and tactics of oil palm companies in collaboration with the local NGOs SEFE and CED/Friends of the Earth Cameroon. The workshops contributed to stimulate exchange and networking among the groups, and also to set up a stronger (inter-) national response to the industrial oil palm expansion on the continent.

Photo: Rhett A. Butler/Mongabay



Women and traditional palm oil production versus industrial production

Traditional palm oil production is extremely important for women in many West and Central African countries. Women grow the oil palms, process the oil and sell the different final products. When the land is given away by the State to industrial oil palm companies, women lose their access to traditional palm stands or groves. They lose access to the palm fruits for processing oil and selling it at local and regional markets, and thus they lose their income. Other plants grown inside the traditional palm stands are also lost, all of which significantly affects local economies – and it particularly affects women due to their disproportionate reliance on and use of local markets.

To make things worse, women in most African countries where industrial oil palm is expanding do not have access to or control over land. Women are not allowed to hold a

formal title of land and even their customary land use is determined by husband or male relatives. This obviously puts women in an extremely underprivileged situation. It normally excludes them from any discussion over use of the land that may take place between community leaders and government or corporate representatives.

Although in general damage far outweighs benefits for communities, men tend to benefit more than women from the limited benefits industrial plantations have to offer. An expansion of the plantations system thus also reinforces the patriarchal system by disempowering women and making them even more economically dependent on men. Not only the natural resources women use are gone but women also hardly gain employment in plantations. And if they do, it is generally the lowest paid and most seasonal.

Industrial timber plantation expansion in Eastern and Southern Africa

In Eastern and Southern Africa, industrial timber plantations have been expanding steadily in the past two decades. In general, industrial tree plantations have increased much more rapidly in the global South than in the global North. A number of factors have made it more attractive for companies and investors to establish new tree plantations in the global South, including a favorable climate, access to cheaper and fertile lands and labour, less strict environmental laws, and significantly higher tree growth rates than in North America and in Europe.

In 2015, WRM teamed up with the Timberwatch Coalition from South Africa. Together we started to research the magnitude and impacts of this present expansion trend in 11 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. Aims of the joint effort: To give visibility and raise awareness about this trend, besides promoting networking among

African NGOs and social movements. With this effort we hope to be able to better support local communities that lose control over their territories to tree plantation companies.

The main expansion country in the region is Mozambique, being well located for easy access to timber markets in Asia. In September 2015, in collaboration with the NGO Justiça Ambiental in Mozambique, WRM traveled through Mozambique and talked with communities and local organisations in the main tree plantation expansion areas. The information collected was an important input to the joint research carried out with Timberwatch.

At the same time, WRM supported Timberwatch' efforts in organizing together with other southafrican and international groups the Civil Society Alternative Programme (CSAP) in Durban in September 2015. The CSAP was held during the World Forestry Congress, a key global FAO conference that takes place every 6 years.



Photo: WRM

FAO, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation is one of the main international actors promoting industrial tree plantations . During the CSAP, WRM participated in several activities including a protest march against the new promotion wave of industrial timber plantations on the African continent.

Latin America: the violent expansion of industrial oil palm plantations

Industrial oil palm plantations are among those monocultures that most rapidly expand in countries like Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil, and is often surrounded by severe human rights violations. When in mid-2015, Julio López from the local organization Cogmanglar in Guatemala, was assassinated, the Latin American Network of Struggle against Tree Monocultures (RECOMA), of which WRM hosts the secretariat, reacted immediately. It demanded an urgent and in-depth investigation and showed solidarity with the organization and family of Julio in Guatemala. Julio had accompanied WRM during a field visit in

Guatemala. And when, in the same year, in Guatemala a spill caused the massive killing of fish in the Rio La Pasión, on which many communities depend, RECOMA again reacted immediately with a declaration that circulated widely, both nationally and internationally.

Linking the global South with the North: the Acre, Chiapas and California REDD connection

In November 2010, the governors of the Brazilian Amazon state Acre, Chiapas in México and California in the USA signed a memorandum of understanding to elaborate an agreement to trade carbon credits from REDD. REDD stands for Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. The plan is to offset the pollution of the industry in California by using forest carbon credits from Acre and Chiapas. But REDD policies and projects have led to a number of restrictions and violations against forest-dependent people in Acre and Chiapas. Together with Friends of the Earth and the Brazilian human rights DHESCA platform, WRM has supported local groups in Acre to

Photo: WRM

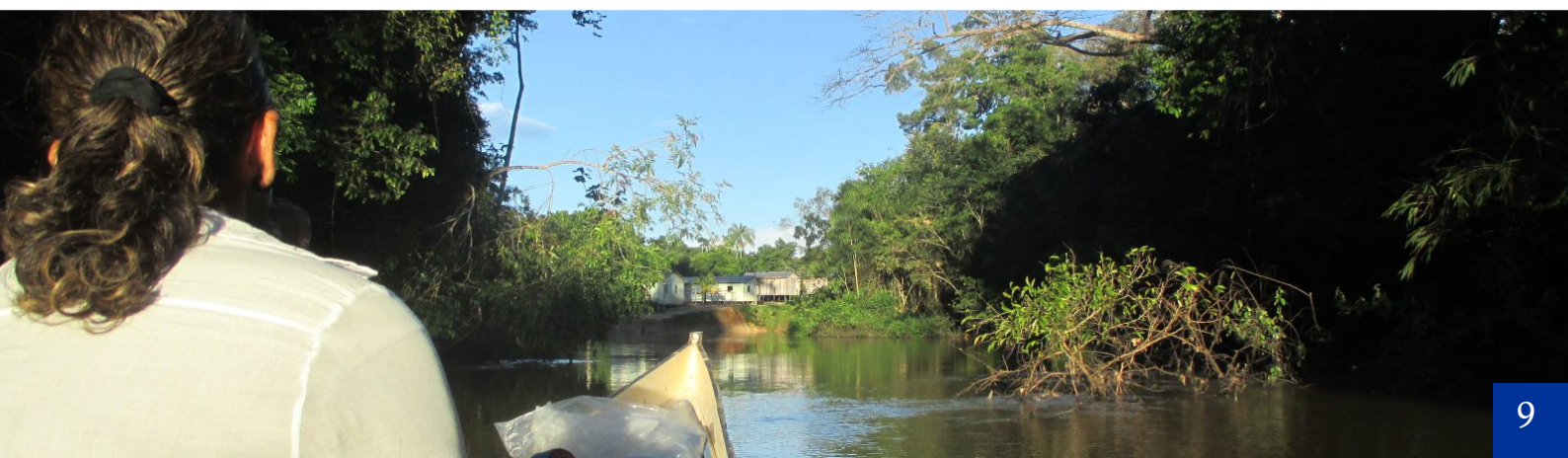




Photo: WRM

expose these violations that result from these policies. WRM has also given support to the demands of land demarcation of the forest-dependent peoples and communities. All the efforts have made an important contribution to the fact that until now the three sub-national governments have not yet signed a REDD agreement.

Nevertheless, in 2015, the California government reinvigorated its process of including forest carbon credits from Brazil, Mexico and possibly other countries in their subnational carbon emissions trading scheme. WRM submitted input during the consultation process. Earlier denunciations from 2013 from local organizations and activists from Acre that had not yet been considered in the process were re-sent. Further campaigning in collaboration with other groups involved is needed as a decision of the California government is expected in 2017.

Informing local groups in Indonesia on global policy trends

In April 2015, WRM briefed members of the Indonesian organisation WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia about global trends in climate and forest policies during its national assembly. WALHI is the biggest environmental organization in Indonesia with more than 450 local groups spread over the country.

As follow-up to this initiative of WALHI to better inform its member groups about international policies, WALHI translated five publications WRM had produced in the past few years into Bahasa Indonesia. This translation was done in close collaboration with WRM and focused on publications on the topics of financialization of nature and new REDD trends. WALHI distributed these materials widely among their network in Indonesia.

An exchange of black communities struggling against industrial oil palm plantation

WRM facilitated an exchange of experiences between black communities of the Pacific Colombian coast and Garifuna communities from the Honduran coast. This type of exchange and meeting aims at strengthening of local resistance processes. The central issue was the impacts of monoculture oil palm plantations. The exchange was coordinated by

OFRANEH in Honduras and CENSAT/Friends of the Earth Colombia. For both communities, this exchange implied in getting to know and learn from each other's struggle. The exchange also gave a new impulse to the daily resistance of facing the expansion of oil palm monocultures.



Photo: WRM

A global perspective

Monitoring the new trend of Biodiversity Offsetting

A concerning tendency WRM has identified as important to research further and make organizations and people aware of is the mechanism of so-called biodiversity offsetting. Its essential characteristic is seeing the destruction of forest and other vegetation as something “unavoidable” in order to expand “progress” and “development”. A new mechanism is then promised by which such destruction can be “compensated” through protection elsewhere. The claim is that this biodiversity elsewhere otherwise would have been destroyed, and that their “conservation project” will prevent this planned destruction elsewhere. Such an approach requires a complete denial of the uniqueness of each place, of each forest area where communities have lived for ages and its importance for their cultures and livelihoods. Especially mining companies are interested in this mechanism by which they propose to compensate the loss of biodiversity in areas

they need to destroy in order to set up a new open-pit mine.

In 2015, WRM monitored, in collaboration with national NGOs, what is happening in different countries around this new trend. For example, it denounced in an article in its bulletin how the World Bank is paving the way for a national biodiversity strategy in Liberia. WRM also gave visibility to the new Sustainable Development Law in Gabon that establishes, among other things, that companies can compensate destruction of biodiversity by buying biodiversity compensation credits.

WRM also carried out a first research on the ground in 2015 into a concrete biodiversity offset project of the mining company Rio Tinto in Madagascar and its impacts on the local communities. The report on this research was released in 2016.

Systematizing experiences around REDD

In 2015, WRM published the book “REDD: A Collection of Conflicts, Contradictions and Lies” (available in Spanish, English, Portuguese

Photo: WRM





Photo: Kasia Wojtylak

and French) that exposes the companies as well as other actors like the World Bank that are behind 24 REDD initiatives worldwide. The book is the only publication available that presents in one single report summaries of 24 REDD projects and programmes worldwide and analyzes what they have in common. For example, all projects show a number of structural characteristics that undermine forest peoples' rights, and they all fail to address deforestation. The book has become a reference for organizations, activists against REDD+ projects and other actors that are looking for systematized information about REDD+ instead of the many reports on individual projects or aspects around REDD+. A google search with the name of the book shows it has been mentioned, only considering the English version, on more than 1870 websites.

GE Trees: the case of Brazil / Suzano

A new trend worldwide is the expansion of research and field trials, as well as procedures to approve the commercial use of genetically engineered (GE) trees, in spite of the many unknown impacts of this new technology. WRM is part of the global Stop GE Trees Campaign and participates in its Steering Committee, responsible to monitor specifically what happens around this issue in countries in the global South.

In 2015, WRM continued to promote a campaign aimed at preventing the Brazilian

plantation company Suzano Papel e Celulose obtaining permission for the commercial release of the first GE eucalyptus trees in Brazil and Latin America. Mobilization against this decision involved Brazilian social movements and NGOs at the national level as well as the international Stop GE Trees Campaign and other international groups around the globe. The result was an exceptional level of dynamism in actions and support: twice, social movements and NGOs in Brazil (see here) and in another six countries worldwide organized simultaneous and coordinated actions over a period of two weeks (see here). A petition against the release of GE Trees with over 100,000 sign-ons was presented to the Brazilian authorities. Also, one big article was published on the case in one of the biggest mainstream economic newspapers of Brazil, *Valor Econômico*.

These activities did not prevent the approval for commercial release of this transgenic eucalyptus. This is due to the very strong lobby of agribusiness in Brazil. However, the support did expose publicly the Brazilian decision both at the national and international level. It also showed how the decision violates the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recommendations around the issue of genetically engineered trees. Several international groups showed their interest in engaging in follow-up activities on this issue both in their own countries (for example, Chile) as well as in Brazil.



Photo: MST

Forest Definition

As one of the few international organisations, WRM has maintained a campaign against the FAO forests definition, raising the issue in all of its publications where this is relevant, and organizing specific actions like joint protest letters with other NGOs and social movements.

The FAO definition of forests only takes into consideration trees to define a forest, allowing for a monoculture industrial tree plantation, even large-scale and genetically engineered, to be defined as a “forest”. This benefits the interests of the wood-based industry, such as the timber, the pulp and paper, the rubber industries and also those interested in promoting carbon plantations.

In 2013, the FAO launched on March 21st the “International Day of Forests”. WRM choose that day to annually prepare a specific set of actions to point to the problems the definition creates and to hold FAO publicly to account for the impacts of their definition. The overall aim is to continue building pressure for the FAO to review and change the definition. In 2015, WRM prepared a document called

“United Nations' 2015 International Day of Forests. Theme: “Forests / Climate / Change”. What change?” The aim of this document was to respond to FAO’s 2015 campaign for March 21st which highlighted the carbon-storage function of forests. WRM produced a short and very successful video parody of the FAO video in which they narrowly presented forests as carbon sinks.

In September 2015, during the FAO World Forestry Congress (WFC) in South Africa, FAO's director of forests and the organizer of the congress briefly attended two panel discussions organized as part of the Civil Society Alternative Programme to the FAO congress. The FAO representatives were handed a petition that WRM had launched in collaboration with Rettet den Regenwald (Germany) and Timberwatch Coalition (South Africa). The petition with more than 117,000 sign-ons urged in the FAO to change its forests definition. WRM also presented a protest letter against the WFC from the Latin American Network against Tree Monoculture Plantations (RECOMA). One month later FAO, for the very first time, formally answered a letter sent as part of the WRM campaign for FAO to change its forest definition.

Photo: WRM



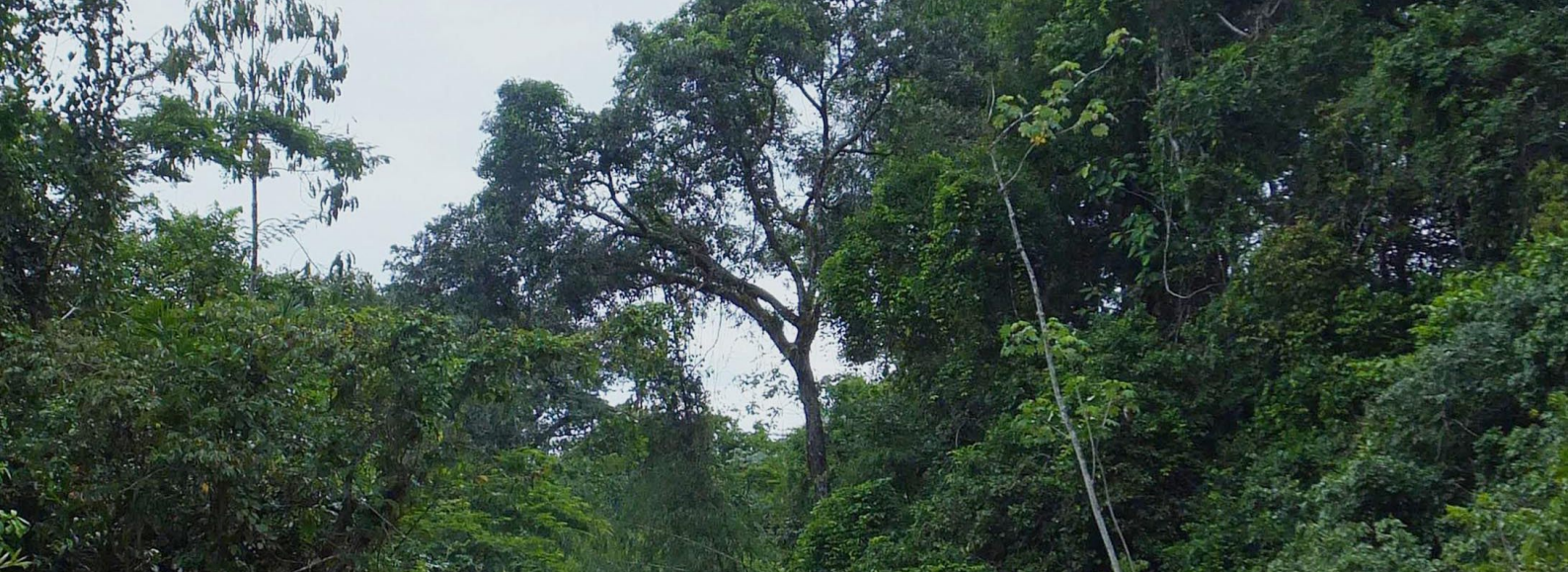


Photo: WRM

List of publications in 2015

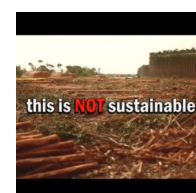
How REDD+ projects undermine peasant farming and real solutions to climate change. A new joint publication by GRAIN and the World Rainforest Movement looks at the dangers for peasant communities from one of the main carbon market mechanisms on the table at the UN summit on climate change in Paris (available in [English, Portuguese, French and Spanish](#))



United Nations' 2015 International Day of Forests. Theme: "Forests / Climate / Change". What change? A briefing aiming to respond to the 2015 campaign for March 21st carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (available in [English, French, Spanish and Portuguese](#)).



This is not sustainable. A short video exposing how FAO's 2015 campaign for March 21st that reduces forests to mere carbon stores. The WRM video specifically responds to a 1-minute video produced by FAO (available in [English, French, Spanish and Portuguese](#)).



10 things communities should know about REDD. First published in 2013, the main goal of this booklet was to inform communities about the serious problems that a REDD project can cause for the people involved. In 2015 we published versions in [Swahili and Lingala](#)



REDD: A Collection of Conflicts, Contradictions and Lies. This publication presents summaries of reports from 24 REDD projects or programmes with a common characteristic: they all show a number of structural characteristics that undermine forest peoples' rights, or fail to address deforestation. This year we published an expanded version of the original 2014 publication. (available in [English, French, Spanish and Portuguese](#)).

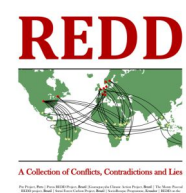
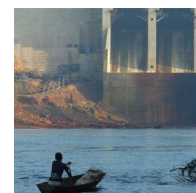




Photo: Rainforest Foundation UK

In 2015, eleven issues of the WRM bulletin (in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese) were produced and distributed. Its production helped us once again to disseminate and share our own analyses, strengthen and increase the joint collaboration with organizations contributing to the bulletin, while also disseminate local and national situations that need visibility and exposure.

[Issue 210](#) – January 2015 - **The destruction of forests and territories in front of peoples' resistances.** A bulletin focusing on local resistance struggles, in collaboration with TERRA (Thailand), Focus on the Global South (South East Asia), several organizations in Guatemala struggling against oil palm plantations, CAPPA (Indonesia), Mapuche news agency (Chile)



[Issue 211](#) – February 2015 - **Women resistance: defending territories and life** – Focusing on women's role in resistance struggles, in collaboration with Brainforest (Gabon), Acción Ecológica (Ecuador), African Biodiversity Network (Africa).



[Issue 212](#) – March 2015 - **Artificial trees? The forestry and paper industry searching for new ways to expand industrial monocultures.** Bulletin on the trend of Genetically Engineered (GE) Trees, in collaboration with Stop Ge Trees Campaign (USA), Terra de Direitos (Brazil), OLCA – Chile, ETC Group (Mexico-Canada).



[Issue 213](#) – April 2015 - **Grabbing and accumulating under "green" capitalism: more pressure on communities' territories.** Bulletin about new trends in land grabbing such as biodiversity offsets, REDD+ and investment funds taking control over lands, etc.



[Issue 214](#) – May 2015 - **Water theft: an economic model that dries up life.** Bulletin about the massive water consumption for extracting and producing raw materials for supplying the production chains that function under the hegemonic production and consumption model, in collaboration with Timberwatch (South Africa), Walhi (Indonesia).



[Issue 215](#) – June 2015 - **Mining in expansion: destruction of territories, resistance struggles and criminalization.** Bulletin made in collaboration with CED (Cameroon), Walhi (Indonesia), Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin





Photo: WRM

America (Ecuador), International Articulation of affected people by VALE and PACS (Brazil), on the increasing presence of mining in forest areas and its role in destruction of territories and forests.

Issue 216 – July 2015 - **When consumption and production have no limits, more territories at the service of capital.** This issue of the bulletin included articles on mining in Madagascar by Collective for the Defence of Malagasy Lands; on the destruction caused by agricultural industrial projects by AwasMIFEE and GRAIN from Indonesia; on a Story of resistance led by women in India by All India Union of Forest Working People (AIUFWP); an interview to local activists from Liberia seeking for support to their struggle against gold mining; on the problems created by mining operation in North Kivu in DRC by Réseau CREF; and finally, an article on the impacts of livestock production on Ayoreo's lives and lands in Paraguay by Survival International.

Issue 217 – August 2015. **Forestry concessions: an imposed model that benefits industry.** It focused on the forestry concessions model and how it benefits the industry. It counted with contributions from Cambodia, India, Brazil and Cameroon.

Issue 218 – September 2015- **The advance of industrial oil palm monoculture: destruction and resistance struggles.** It was published within the framework of September 21st International Day against industrial tree monocultures, that in 2015 was focused on the expansion of industrial oil palm monocultures. We received contributions from Liberia, Brazil, DRC and West Papua Indonesia.

Issue 219 – October 2015. It focused on **the struggle for Food Sovereignty and the Climate Agenda.** It was co-produced with GRAIN and it was aimed at describing how the peasants and forests people's struggles converge around the issue of food sovereignty.

Issue 220 – November 2015. **Realities hidden under the "green" discourses in Paris.** With the upcoming climate COP meeting in Paris, that was going to take place in December, we focused the bulletin on the false solutions to the climate crisis that were going to be discussed in the meeting.

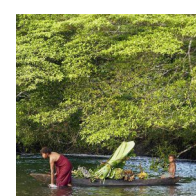




Photo: Martin Harvey

Organizational Changes

In 2015, the WRM Advisory Committee (AC) was renewed. Some members who had been on the AC for more than 20 years stepped down. Terms of Reference (ToR's) were elaborated as part of the renewal process. They describe the role and responsibilities of the Committee, and served as a guideline for identifying new AC members. Candidates identified as potential new AC members participated in the October 2015 strategy meeting in Montevideo and were subsequently invited to join WRM's AC.

In 2015, the WRM International Secretariat implemented an action plan that resulted from a Systems and Compliance Audit that the organisation underwent in 2014 with support

from SSNC. One of the most important points of the plan was to improve internal process and control systems related to financial administration and management. The WRM manual of procedures was revised, making it more comprehensive and detailed; for example, it now includes a set of principles for hiring staff. One WRM Advisory Committee member as well as the international coordinator and the administration officer participated in a workshop sponsored by SSNC around the issue of governance and risk management and internal control for civil society organisations. Along with WRM, other SSNC partners from Latin America participated in the workshop in São Paulo, Brazil, in January 2015.

Photo: WRM





Photo: Lindsay Stark

Structure and Financial Overview

Stichting World Rainforest Movement (WRM) is a Dutch foundation registered in 1999 at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce under number 34118798 and at the Dutch Tax Authorities under fiscal number NL810078429B01.

The Board of the Dutch WRM Foundation, responsible to govern legal and financial-administrative issues, is composed as follows:

Larry Lohmann – Chairman
 Ivonne Yanez – Treasury
 Silvia Ribeiro - Secretary
 Premrudee Daoroung – Member

The Uruguayan Education Ministry has granted the WRM Foundation registered in the Netherlands permission to function in Uruguay where the office of the WRM international secretariat is located. In Uruguay, the Foundation is registered under the name of “Fundación Movimiento Mundial por los Bosques Tropicales”, with the fiscal number (RUT) 00215767260016.

The **International Secretariat team**, responsible for implementing the WRM activities, includes Winfridus Overbeek, acting as the international coordinator of the WRM; Elizabeth Diaz, Teresa Perez, Flavio Pazos, Isabel Trivelli, Joanna Cabello and freelance researcher Jutta Kill.

The **WRM Advisory committee**, with the role to advise the international secretariat and guide the work and activities of WRM, is composed as follows:

- Yvonne Yanez – Acción Ecológica (Ecuador)
- Larry Lohmann – The Corner House (United Kingdom)
- Premrudee Daoroung – Project SEVANA South East Asia (Thailand)
- Hendro Sangkoyo – School of Democratic Economics (Indonesia)
- Godwin Ojo – Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (Nigeria)
- Tom Goldtooth – Indigenous Environmental Network (USA)
- Silvia Ribeiro – ETC Group (México)
- Shalmali Guttal – Focus on the Global South (Thailand)



Photo: Marcos Canosa

WRM's remuneration policy

The members of the Dutch WRM Foundation Board and WRM Advisory Committee, as well as any volunteers WRM might work with do not receive any form of salary for the activities they carry out for WRM. They can request reimbursement for costs incurred for participation in WRM meetings, such as transport and accommodation costs.

Only WRM international secretariat staff and the international coordinator of the organisation receive a salary based on a legal contract. Individuals hired for short-term, specific activities, such as for carrying out case studies can receive a honorarium, based on a contract clearly describing the tasks carried out and the remuneration agreed.

Funding

In 2015, the WRM international secretariat further diversified its funding sources. WRM core activities were funded by SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation), Misereor, and Siemenpuu foundation. For specific and relatively small activities, WRM received support from Olin gGmbH, Heinrich Böll Foundation Chile office (HBF) and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Brazil office (FRL), all organisations with their main offices based in Germany. WRM partnered with GRAIN for a joint project in support of communities in regions and countries in Africa where foreign investors are expanding industrial oil palm plantations.

WRM 2015 Annual accounts have been audited by the firm Auditores Asociados following the International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). [See here a summary of the Annual audit.](#)

The total income for the year 2015 was USD 254,787, split among the different funding sources as follows:

	USD	%
SSNC	175,942	69%
Siemenpuu	25,556	10%
Misereor	27,568	11%
FRL	9,279	4%
HBF	3,155	1%
Olin gGmbH	2,345	1%
Own funds	10,942	4%

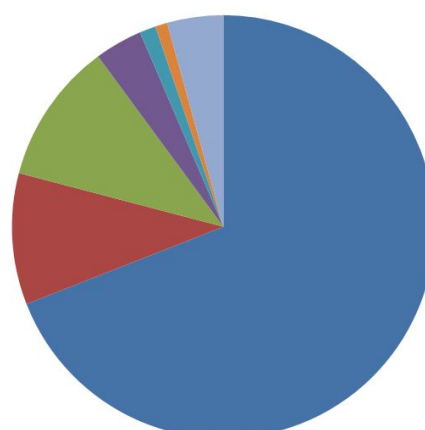




Photo: WRM



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