



World Rainforest Movement

Annual Report | 2016



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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 and environmental justice and respect for human and collective rights.

Our mission

WRM has learned from forest-dependent communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America that when their collective rights are respected, forests are more likely to be conserved. **WRM's main mission therefore is to support struggles of indigenous peoples and peasant communities for recognition and respect for their practices of forest conservation, as well as guarantees of their 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 at the same time that 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 to self-determination. This includes collective rights over their territory, their

cultures and ways of life. We define territories not just as physical land but also as the totality of beings and relations, customary rules and histories that permit coexistence and reproduction, as well as the interconnections of different forms of life and cultures.





Foreword

Why, since its foundation, has the World Rainforest Movement focused on supporting local struggles against forest destruction and expansion of industrial tree plantations?

One reason has always been to demonstrate the importance that the knowledge, cultures and practices of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and traditional and peasant populations have for the conservation of forests. This vital link is ignored by many policy makers in governments, UN organizations and other international bodies. These same communities, and especially women, are the first to have to deal with the devastating consequences of forest destruction and land grabbing in their territories.

Support for local struggles is increasingly important because the pressure on territories and their forests is increasing without a corresponding increase in support for the communities that depend on them. Resistance to being deprived of livelihood and culture is often met with the criminalization of leaders or entire groups as well as violations of human and collective rights. 2016 was a particularly sad year in terms of assassinations of human rights activists, including indigenous leader Berta Cáceres from Honduras.

How can an international initiative like WRM

support local struggles? One way is to help strengthen processes of organization and mobilization both nationally and across borders. Much of the growing spate of land and forest grabbing can be traced to the same corporate actors, who use similar strategies and tactics everywhere. To confront these corporations and build stronger opposition, we have learned how important it is not only to listen to local needs and strategies, but also to share information and promote exchanges and increase networking and alliance-building among local and national organizations engaged in defending territories and life. For a community to share its experience of a successful defence against a corporation attempting to grab its lands and destroy its forests is for the value and strength of its struggle to be recognized, but also for other communities to learn lessons they can apply to their own struggles.

This 2016 annual report puts a special emphasis on our work in collaborative networking at the national and regional level, and in exposing corporate activities and state policies that promote forest destruction and violations against forest-dependent communities.

Winfridus Overbeek
International coordinator WRM



WRM's policy plan

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

- Providing support to forest-dependent peoples' attempts to combat deforestation and secure their territories.
- Analyzing the direct and underlying causes of deforestation.
- Critically assessing "solutions" to the forest and climate crises that are presented in official processes at the international level.
- Disseminating 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 '[WRMs 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. In addition to English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, - some materials are also available in Swahili, Lingala, Bahasa Indonesia and other languages.

Responsibility for implementing 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:

- + the WRM Advisory Committee;
- + participants in biannual WRM strategy meetings, in which a number of WRM allies from different continents participate;
- + hundreds of community organizations, social movements, NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations and activists in Africa, Asia and Latin America, who interact regularly with the secretariat team.



Highlights of WRM's work in 2016

Promoting collaborative national and regional networking

Networking in South East Asia

Together with the Thailand-based groups Focus on the Global South and Project SEVANA South East Asia, as well as with the School of Democratic Economics (Indonesia), and The Corner House (UK), WRM organized an international meeting in Thailand in November 2016 around the question “What’s happening to our forests?” Fifty people participated, mostly community members and local activists from Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and India.

The meeting promoted exchange and dialogue on both old and new threats and challenges faced by communities in the different countries. The meeting was also an opportunity for participants to identify the many values and interests they have in common despite the many cultural differences. One shared concern was to probe the patterns behind the threats to territories and forests from land-grabbing and deforestation. For example, participants strove for a better mutual understanding of currently-fashionable concepts such as ‘the green economy’, ‘green development’ and

‘green growth platforms’. They also resolved to continue mutual collaboration and solidarity-building efforts, to carry out further exchanges of experiences, and to identify areas for further study.

Prior to the meeting, a solidarity and exchange visit to Phetchaboon and Chayaphum provinces in Northeastern Thailand was organized. There, participants learned about two communities' struggle to secure access to their lands and forests in the face of attempts by different state forest institutions to evict them from parts of their territories. In Phetchaboon Province, where a Wildlife Sanctuary is claiming agricultural and forest land belonging to several communities, the government has taken villagers to court, accusing them of using the land in a way that causes global warming. This stratagem exemplifies a mainstream tendency to blame peasant farming for a problem that is in fact rooted in fossil-fuelled industrialism and industrial agriculture. In Chayaphum, meanwhile, the land in contention was a eucalyptus plantation that had been imposed on community agricultural land under a policy of recuperating logged-over areas. In 2014, the Borkeo community was ordered to move away. The campaign against this policy, joined by many groups, involves a local proposal for 'community land title' as a way of protecting land and livelihood.



Photo: COPINH

The Latin American Network against Tree Plantations (RECOMA)

The RECOMA network, founded during the World Social Forum in 2003, is coordinated by 15 focal points in different Latin American countries. The focal points, with WRM functioning as the secretariat of the network, coordinated and supported a number of activities in 2016 to enhance the struggles of communities against industrial tree plantations across the continent. During the year, RECOMA increased the number of focal points to include the local organisations COPINH and OFRANEH from Honduras, as well as Intipachamama from Nicaragua.

2016 was a particularly hard year in terms of violence against human rights activists. The brutal assassination of COPINH member Berta Cáceres on March 3 deeply shocked the world. In addition to expressions of solidarity to her family and the organisation, RECOMA actively engaged in putting pressure on the authorities, demanding justice for Berta and the safe return to México of Gustavo Castro from Otros Mundos/Friends of the Earth México, who had witnessed Cáceres' assassination. In April, RECOMA participated in an international meeting called "Berta Cáceres Lives", organized by social movements from Honduras. The aim of the meeting was to celebrate people's resistance and denounce the government's inaction over Cáceres' murder, as well as to denounce the criminalization and assassination of other

activists in the country and in the region. This meeting was also important to build more international solidarity and put a spotlight on the dangerous political situation that activists are facing in Honduras. In 2016, several other activists were assassinated in Latin America, including members of the Movement of Rural Landless Workers (MST) in the South of Brazil struggling against the tree plantation company Araupel. Once again, RECOMA reacted and expressed its solidarity through a letter to the MST that was widely disseminated.

RECOMA also published an international declaration in the context of the World Environmental Day, denouncing the New Generation Plantations Platform – created by WWF with support of some of the main tree plantations companies active in Latin America such as Stora Enso, UPM, Veracel and Fibria – as greenwashing.

In Ecuador, RECOMA's focal point organized an exchange with Chilean activists to explore the role of the so-called "Forests Restoration Programme" launched by Ecuador's government. The programme, which aims to reproduce what it mistakenly calls the "successful" Chilean plantation model, is promoting 50,000 hectares of teak and more than 100,000 hectares of pine and eucalyptus tree monocultures.

RECOMA, though its focal point in Chile, also supported a WRM-facilitated exchange of a local leader from Chile working with Mapuche communities and Ecuadorian activists



attempting to come to terms with the expansion of teak monocultures in their country's Guayas region. The exchanges, which took place at the ground level in communities in Guayas helped all participants improve their understanding of the impacts of large-scale tree monoculture plantations on local communities in both Chile and Ecuador.

Exchanges in Africa around the Struggle against Industrial Oil Palm Plantations

In Africa, WRM continued its collaborative work with GRAIN and groups and organisations in 10 countries in West and Central Africa in order to promote exchange and networking among groups and activists affected by expanding oil palm plantations. With these networking activities, we hope to contribute to stronger national and international responses to industrial oil palm plantations in the region, which have been expanding for about 10 years.

Two initial international workshops were organized in Mundemba in Cameroon in January 2016. One workshop, attended only by women, facilitated discussions about the problems women face due to the expansion of industrial oil palm plantations, and a second workshop, with both men and women participating, focused on strategies and tactics employed by the industry. Both workshop activities were described in more detail in our last annual report.

In July, as a follow up to the workshops in

Mundemba, WRM and GRAIN supported the initiative of two Cameroonian organizations – SEFE and Synaparcam – to organize a workshop in the Mounjo region in Cameroon. During these meetings, the discussions and the lessons that were learnt from the Mundemba workshops on corporate strategies and tactics were shared with communities from that specific region.

Another initiative, based on one of the recommendations of the women's workshop in Mundemba, was taken up by the Cameroonian organization RADD, which had organized that workshop. In the course of 2016, RADD, with support of WRM, organized four workshops in different rural communities in Cameroon where women traditionally cultivate and process oil palm using traditional varieties and cultivation methods. The introduction of high-yield seedlings, as well as large-scale plantation expansion and heavy use of chemicals by corporations, threaten this economy. The community workshops aimed at raising awareness about the value of maintaining and developing traditional oil palm cultivation and use. As part of this process, RADD collected recipes and other information about the uses of natural palm in each of the four communities. These will be published in a booklet in 2017.

The results recipes and information around traditional oil palm use are being organized in a booklet that will be published and shared with all the participating women and the general public in 2017.

March 21st and September 21st – Days to speak out loud and clear: *Plantations are not Forests!*

March 21st is the International Day of Forests, launched by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation – FAO -. September 21st, exactly 6 months later, is the International Day of Struggle against Monoculture Tree Plantations, launched by peasant, indigenous and traditional communities in Brazil in 2004.

Both days are important moments for WRM to say loud and clear: Plantations are not Forests! WRM uses both days to give visibility to community struggles against industrial tree plantations, and to highlight that plantations are not forests. For WRM, September 21st is a day for celebrating community resistance to plantations all over the world.

On March 21st, 2016, WRM produced a short video in response to the FAO video commemorating the day. The FAO video highlighted the importance of forests for water supplies. WRM parodied this approach, emphasizing that that the large-scale monoculture tree plantations that FAO considers to be forests consume and appropriate people's water supplies. The English version of the video can be accessed [here](#).

On September 21st, together with the South African Timberwatch Coalition and the German NGO Rettet den Regenwald, WRM

launched an international Open Letter to FAO urging the UN organization one more time to revise its forest definition. Why another international letter to FAO? The reason is that in 2015, FAO decided for the first time to respond officially to the protest letter on the issue delivered during the World Forestry Congress in South Africa . In its response, FAO minimized the importance and influence of its definition. By doing so, the FAO sought to underestimate the fact that its definition favors big timber and other corporations that promote large-scale tree plantations, to the detriment of communities that depend on their territories for their livelihoods. And this needed a reply.

In the Open Letter responding to the FAO reply, we therefore presented evidence of the relevance of the FAO's definition and how influential it has been on the almost 200 other forest definitions used by national governments, as well as by international processes such as the UN negotiations on climate change. Our demand remains unchanged: FAO should accept the responsibility it bears for this damage and immediately implement a genuine review process aimed at changing its definition of forests. The letter remained open for sign-on for 6 months and was sent to FAO on the International Day of Forests, March 21st, 2017.

Exposing corporate activities and state policies that promote forest destruction and violations

Action alerts in Africa and Asia

Among the important tools that WRM uses to expose corporate activities that jeopardize local communities are action alerts originating from organizations in our network. WRM's role is to share these alerts with our entire network of organizations, movements and activists in order to help mobilize support for the local struggles in question. This support

can include signing letters to state authorities or corporations, disseminating press releases and organizing solidarity protests.

One action alert in four languages was widely disseminated in cooperation with the Mozambican organization JA! (Friends of the Earth Mozambique). It demanded that the two main plantation companies active in Mozambique – the Norwegian company Green Resources and the Portuguese Portucel/The Navigator Company – give back to communities lands that had been invaded



by the companies' tree monocultures. With support from the German NGO Rettet den Regenwald, we gathered more than 12,000 signatures for the letter. It was then delivered to the relevant ministers in Mozambique and to the headquarters of both companies with the support of organizations in both Norway and Portugal.

In June, similarly, we were asked by colleagues from the No2Bidco Campaign in Uganda and Kenya to support their struggle against the company Bidco Africa, which is a joint venture with the palm oil company Wilmar International. An action alert was prepared denouncing Bidco and urging international institutions such as the UNDP, International Finance Corporation, World Bank and UN Global Compact to stop doing business with it.

Another action alert was produced together with two organizations from India: the All India Forum of Forest Movements and the Campaign for Survival and Dignity. The letter was widely disseminated and supported by more than 55 organizations. In the letter, the signatories demanded that the Indian government refrain from implementing a new Bill – the CAF Act – that was recently approved by the Indian parliament. In the letter, the organizations state that in their understanding the implementation of the law would result in gross violations of forest dwelling communities' rights and in a massive expansion of industrial tree plantations.

Field Visits

Field visits are extremely important for WRM's efforts to understand the problems communities face when struggling against corporations or state policies that negatively affect them. They are also important moments to share relevant information with the communities and help strategize about how to best expose the corporations and policies in question.

In addition to the visits to communities in Africa and Asia described above, we would like to highlight the following three activities.

In April, WRM carried out a field visit to the region of Baixo Parnaíba, Maranhão, in Brazil, to participate in five community meetings with 400 participants, organized by the local organization Forum Carajás. This visit was particularly important to WRM because Baixo Parnaíba will be the site of the first officially-approved commercial plantations of genetically-engineered (GE) eucalyptus trees in the world (although it is rumored that secret GE plantations have also been established in China). Its aim, however, was broader: to strengthen articulation and solidarity among a range of communities in Brazil who are struggling against eucalyptus plantations belonging to Suzano, the company in question. Thus WRM invited a member of a landless rural workers' movement from another region in Brazil also struggling against



Suzano, MLT, to attend and share MLT's experiences with the Maranhão communities. The coordinator of the Global Stop Genetically Engineered (GE) Trees campaign also joined the meetings to share information about the risks associated with GE tree plantations.

Two visits by WRM's international coordinator to Acre, Brazil, involved a number of activities in collaboration with CIMI-West Amazon region, indigenous communities, the STTR rural workers' trade union from Xapuri-Acre, the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), Friends of the Earth Brazil and FoE International, as well as local activists and academics. This was another important activity for WRM in that Acre is considered one of the main "laboratories" worldwide engaged in experimenting with so-called 'green economy' policies. The state government has received about 25 million Euros from the German cooperation bank (KfW) in return for demonstrating that emissions from deforestation have stayed below a level agreed in the financing agreement.

The first visit was to three communities located in the "Russas/Valparaíso REDD+ project" area and to indigenous Jaminawa communities in the Acre / Amazonas border area. One aim of the meetings was to share the results of a 2013-2015 investigation carried out by the Brazilian platform for Social Economic and Cultural Rights about the impacts of the Acre government's green economy policies – an investigation in which

the communities had participated. WRM had been part of field visits of the investigation team in 2014 and 2015. In the report of the investigation, communities denounced the flaws in the official public relations material, which claims falsely that communities are the greatest beneficiaries of the policies implemented with KfW support. WRM's visit was also a way of finding out to what extent things had changed since the report was issued.

Following this visit, WRM wrote an article to disseminate information about the precarious situation of the indigenous Jaminawa communities, who are still waiting for land demarcation promised years ago. The article denounced German overseas cooperation funding from KfW and GIZ in both Acre and Amazonas states. It contrasted the agencies' claim that their support promotes respect for indigenous rights with the reality of suffering and negative impacts that German-funded programmes have on the Jaminawa communities. The article was published by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Brazil and disseminated through its network in Brazil, Latin America and Germany.

In collaboration with groups and activists in Acre, and based on recommendations that came out of the community visits in April, an August 2016 capacity-building workshop on REDD and other green economy policies being implemented in Acre brought together indigenous and non-indigenous forest-



dependent communities. The workshop was the start of a process to reinvigorate alliance-building among these communities. It helped participants to understand better state policies linked to REDD+ and their impacts on communities for whom forests provide a livelihood. The gathering provided a space for discussing and articulating possible collective actions to be undertaken to strengthen resistance against green economy policies that negatively affect communities. One decision was to continue this process with a follow-up meeting in 2017.

Finally, we would like to highlight a field visit to Panama's Province of Donoso whose purpose was to better understand and document a new trend affecting communities in forest areas: biodiversity offsetting. To date, there has been little documentation on the ground-level effects of biodiversity offsetting from the perspective of affected communities, even though the practice is being increasingly taken up by corporations in extractive industries. The visit was an opportunity to contribute to filling this information gap by learning about a project being implemented by the company Minera Panama SA, a subsidiary of the Canadian company First Quantum. Minera Panama has been granted a 13,000-hectare concession for a copper mine, port and power plant. As part of the conditions imposed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) – the private arm of the World Bank that has provided funding for

the project – the company is obliged to set up a biodiversity offset project. The company's concession overlaps with the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, a unique lifespace which indigenous and peasant communities inhabit and depend on. Although the mine has yet to commence full operations, the company has already started to implement the offset project. Because this project has been portrayed at the international level as a “success”, WRM was particularly interested in visiting the location to learn from affected communities about the real impacts. One WRM task will be to help disseminate information about the situation, for example through an article to be published in 2017.



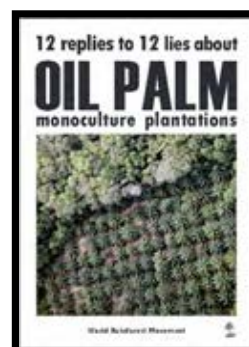


List of publications in 2016

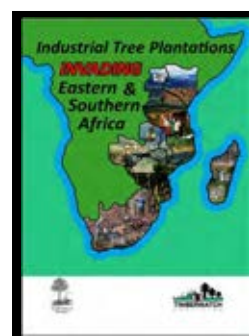
Impacts on Water of Industrial Tree Plantations. This new tool is a response to a request from a number of community leaders and activists, especially in regions affected by water shortage and industrial tree plantations. When communities denounce water shortage they experience as a result of tree monocultures, the empirical evidence they present is often discredited and ridiculed in public by plantation proponents, who claim it is not “scientific”. With this briefing, WRM puts at the service of local communities a tool that combines empirical evidence from communities with scientific evidence that reinforces what communities have been saying about the water impacts of plantations. As of now, the publication is only available in Spanish. It can be accessed [here](#).



Twelve Replies to Twelve Lies about Oil Palm Monoculture Plantations (2nd edition). The new layout of this booklet dissecting the most frequent lies that corporations use to promote industrial oil palm plantations includes a number of photographs. The booklet has been produced in six languages, including Lingala and Swahili. The English version can be accessed [here](#).



Industrial Timber Plantations Invading Eastern and Southern African Countries. This briefing document analyses the drivers contributing to the present wave of tree plantation expansion in the region as well as the problems it poses for local communities, women in particular. It also provides specific information on plantation expansion to date in each of the 11 countries within the region. It is available in English, Portuguese and Swahili. The English edition can be accessed [here](#).



REDD materials in Bahasa Indonesia. In early 2016, WALHI/Friends of the Earth Indonesia finalized the translation of four WRM documents related to REDD and Payment for Environmental Services into the national language Bahasa. These translations are available [here](#).





In 2016, in addition, a total of seven issues of the **WRM monthly bulletin** were published. Each bulletin issue, published in four languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese and French), takes several months of preparation and is the result of a collaborative effort with activists, organizations and social movements from different countries, depending on the theme of the issue.

Bulletin production helps us to disseminate and share WRM's own analyses; to strengthen and increase joint collaboration with organizations contributing to the bulletin; and to showcase local and national situations that need visibility and exposure. All articles remain on-line and continue being accessed, often years after publication.

In 2016, following requests from bulletin readers, WRM returned to producing regional bulletins: issue 224 on the Congo Basin region in Central Africa, and issue 227 on Middle America.

The 2016 issues of the WRM bulletin included the following:

Issue 221 –The Paris agreement: worsening violations of rights and people's territories. This issue contained a series of articles showing how the false solutions promoted through the Paris Agreement will only exacerbate further the violation of peoples' rights. The bulletin was prepared in collaboration with Friends of the Earth and the Biodiversity Network from Costa Rica, Project SEVANA from South-East Asia, Pays Plat First Nation from Canada, as well as Cepedes and Cimi from Brazil.

Issue 222 –The green economy: tweaking laws to perpetuate a destructive model. This bulletin issue focuses on the 'green economy' and its mechanisms related to forests and plantations. Articles describing examples from the ground came from the Ekuri peoples of Nigeria and Censat/Friends of the Earth Colombia.

Issue 223 – Racism in the forests: a process of oppression at the service of capital. This bulletin issue was particularly appreciated by our readers. It includes articles from the Corner House from the UK, the Indigenous Environmental Network from the USA, GroundWork from South Africa, School of Democratic Economics from Indonesia, the Critical Geography Collective of Ecuador, African Ecofeminist Collective and CENSAT from Colombia.



Issue 224 – What is driving land grabbing: a critical overview across the Congo basin region. This bulletin was the result of a collaborative discussion and effort that involved several organizations from the Congo Basin region including CED and RADD (Cameroon), Brainforest and ATTAC (Gabon), Forum for Governance and Human Rights (FGDH) (Congo-Brazzaville), Réseau-CREF (DRC), COPACO (DRC) and RIAO (DRC).

Issue 225 – Health and healing: a holistic view of the struggles of communities that depend on forests. A bulletin issue that tried to unravel the connections between a healthy territory and communities with strong values, identity, culture and customs. Included were contributions from the School of Democratic Economics from Indonesia, Acción Ecológica from Ecuador, Eco-Culture Study Group and Mekong Watch from Thailand, the African Biodiversity Network and Waman Wasi and Pratec from Peru, as well as an interview with Francisca Maria, a leader of a community in Baixo Parnaíba that is struggling against monocultures.

Issue 226 - Middle America: Peoples resisting a colonial past that persists through imposition and violence. This issue was produced in collaboration with several organizations from the central part of the American continent: the Rel-UITA, the Biodiversity Coordination Network, the *Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña* (OFRANEH), SAVIA Guatemala/ Defense of Mangroves and Life, the Guatemalan Council of Mayan Peoples, and the Nicaraguan feminist movement.

Issue 227 – How the CBD's interpretation of "biodiversity" has become a threat to the livelihood of communities. This issue received contributions from ETC Group, GRAIN, Friends of the Earth International, IDEAR/CONGCOOP from Guatemala, as well as *Terra de Direitos* and the Small Peasant Movement (MPA) both from Brazil.





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.

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

- Larry Lohmann – Chairman
- Yvonne Yanez – Treasurer
- 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 WRM activities, includes Winfridus Overbeek, acting as the international coordinator; Elizabeth Díaz, Teresa Perez, Flavio Pazos, Isabel Trivelli, Joanna Cabello and freelance researcher Jutta Kill.

The **WRM Advisory committee**, with the role of advising the international secretariat and guiding the work and activities of WRM, is composed of the following members:

- 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 (Mexico)
- Shalmali Guttal – Focus on the Global South (Thailand)

ANBI Status

In 2016, WRM was granted ANBI in the Netherlands. The acronym stands for "Algemeen Nut Beogende Instellingen" and the status is granted to foundations registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce whose mission and activities are deemed by the Tax Service overwhelmingly to serve the common good.



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.

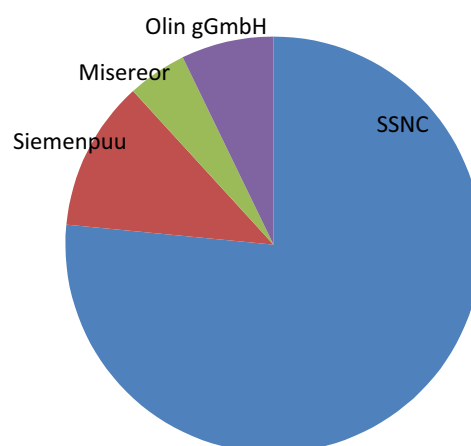
Funding

In 2016, WRM core activities were funded by SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation), Misereor, and Siemenpuu foundation. For specific activities, WRM received support from Olin gGmbH, while the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Brazil office (FRL) directly funded costs related to WRM activities in Acre. Both funders are organisations with main offices based in Germany. WRM partners with GRAIN in a joint project in support of communities in regions and countries in Africa where foreign investors are expanding industrial oil palm plantations.

WRM 2016 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 2016 was USD 215,039, split among the different funding sources as follows:



| Funding source | Amount in USD | Percentage |
|----------------|---------------|------------|
| SSNC | 164,557 | 76% |
| Siemenpuu | 25,169 | 12% |
| Misereor | 9,880 | 5% |
| Olin gGmbH | 15,443 | 7% |



WRM

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