



WRM

Supporting Struggles
for Social Justice
in the Forests



WHAT IS WRM?

The World Rainforest Movement has existed since 1986, when it was founded by activists from around the world. **Its main goal is to strengthen the global movement in defence of forests in order to fight deforestation and forest degradation.**

WRM believes that this goal can only be achieved by fighting for social and

ecological justice, by respecting the collective rights of traditional communities and the right to self-determination of peoples who depend on the forests for their livelihoods.

For this reason, WRM's actions are oriented to support the struggles of indigenous and peasant communities in defence of their territories.

Our Organisation

WRM's International Secretariat is composed of a small team with members from several different countries. Our work is guided by on-going dialogue with activists, organisations, movements and communities in the Global South, by the guidelines of WRM's Advisory Committee and by strategic meetings that take place every two years, with the participation of different partners.

Our head office is in Uruguay.



OUR PRINCIPLES

The WRM team's commitment is to learn from communities how best to support and strengthen their struggles.

- We work with grassroots organisations that have a deep knowledge of the complex realities in which they operate;
- We base our partnerships on mutual trust and on shared perspectives and political analysis;
- We believe that community struggles are strengthened when there is an exchange of experiences;
- We seek to understand the structural causes of forest destruction, from a local and community standpoint aligned with a global perspective;
- We believe that exposing exploitation and abuse is a key to strengthening resistance and understanding and acting against the causes of forest destruction;
- We consider it essential that the information, research and analysis produced be accessible for community activists and village leaders;
- We emphasise the specific relation that women have with forests and the importance of their role in collective processes of organisation, struggle and resistance against the threats to their territories; in the production and strengthening of knowledge and culture; in family and community life, and in the transformation of dominant power structures.

OUR MAIN AREAS OF WORK

- Expansion of monoculture tree plantations for the production of timber, cellulose, palm oil, rubber or biomass. This expansion has posed a major threat to communities beyond tropical forest areas.
- Impacts of industries that extract timber, minerals, water and fossil fuels from forest territories, and of the infrastructure that supports this exploitation.
- Initiatives that are presented as "solutions" but in fact only exacerbate forest loss and climate change. These include certification of forest management concessions, monoculture tree plantations, carbon offsets, environmental compensation programmes, among others.
- New trends related to corporate tactics and national and international policies that facilitate the appropriation of community forests.
- Local struggles and resistance strategies of movements, organisations and communities in the defence of their territories and forests.
- The differentiated impacts that women face when their lands are encroached and appropriated: sexual violence, harassment, persecution and deprivation of livelihood, among others.

FUNDING

Since 2015, WRM received financial support including from: Bread for all, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Misereor, Olin g GmbH, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Siemnpuu Foundation, Stiftung Umverteilen and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

"Plantations are not Forests"





OUR ACTIVITIES

Mutual learning and support for community struggles:

- Visiting communities that are struggling against the destruction of their forests for tree plantations and other corporate projects, to exchange experiences and to jointly decide on forms of support.
- Supporting meetings elaborated collectively with people from communities, organisations and social movements on the causes of forest destruction, global trends, threats and local resistance.
- Promoting exchanges between activists and organisations that resist against similar threats to their livelihoods.
- Creating spaces of trust and political connection to strengthen communities' struggles.
- Showing solidarity with local and community struggles, based on demands presented by the organisations, communities and activists involved.

Production and dissemination of information and analyses:

- Participating in debates and international campaigns to give visibility to community struggles and to expose the private and state tactics of land grabbing.
- Producing analyses and exposing violations – in local and international spaces – on the impacts of false solutions to the destruction of forests and climate change for communities.
- Producing analyses about new trends and international policies related to climate and biodiversity with forest dwellers threatened by these initiatives.
- Facilitating the flow of information among groups in different regions of the world, for example with translations of texts, petitions and action alerts into local languages.
- Publishing the WRM bulletin, an e-newsletter, since 1997. It exposes struggles, threats and resistance in forests, as well as false policy solutions at international and local level. Articles are written by activists and organisations from all over the world.
- Producing diverse materials for activists and communities on specific topics.
- Maintaining an online library with WRM materials since 1996, available in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. Some are also translated into other languages, such as Bahasa Indonesian, Lingala, Malagasy, Swahili and Thai.

All of WRM materials are available on our website: www.wrm.org.uy

"It's very important the movement building that WRM contributes to, the role of facilitating interaction between struggles. Even knowing you have threats, it gives us a sort of force to carry on because you know there's someone we can count on."

Anabela Lemos,

Justiça Ambiental, Mozambique

"WRM makes a difference in the sense that it supports the struggles of the traditional populations, mainly when it comes to this 'green economy' talk which is nothing more than something to cheat us."

Dercy Teles de Carvalho,

Community activist from Xapuri, Acre, Brazil

"WRM's work with the many forest communities of the World consists of direct and entrenched engagement with their struggles. The politically informed nature of this engagement distinguishes WRM."

Soumitra Ghosh,

Activist from North Bengal Forum of Forest People and Forest Workers (NBFFPFW) and All India Forum of Forest Movements (AIFFM)

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