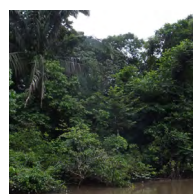
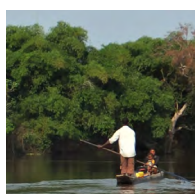




# WORLD RAINFOREST MOVEMENT

Annual Report | 2019



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## Who We Are

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 peoples and peasant communities in defence of their territories.



Chile

## Our Principles

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

- We work with grassroots organizations 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 between communities and community activists;
- We seek to understand the structural causes of forest destruction, from a local and community standpoint;
- We believe that exposing exploitation and abuse by forest destroying actors 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 by the WRM be accessible for community activists and village leaders;
- We emphasise the specific relation that women have with forests and the importance





Uganda

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 towards power structures that ensure meaningful involvement by all community members.

## 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 in tropical forest areas and beyond.
- 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 and biodiversity 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.





# Foreword

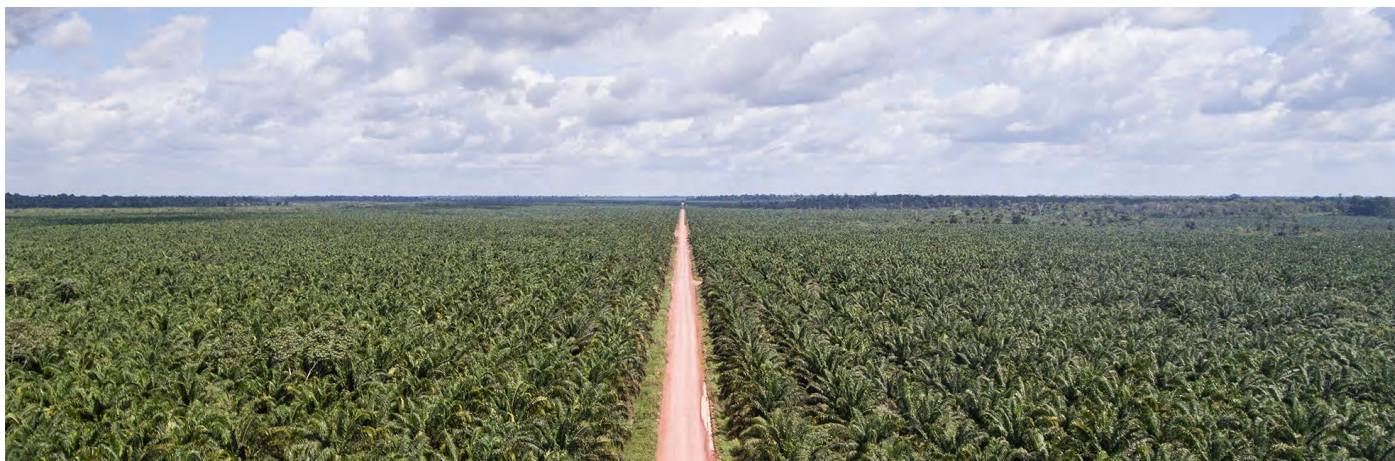
International coverage of forest issues increased in 2019. Forest fires in Brazil, the Congo Basin and other countries and regions captured the attention of the world, while experts prepared proposals and agendas for 2020 onwards under both the Climate Change and the Biodiversity Conventions. So what will all this mean for the lives and livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples and communities?

In terms of the Climate Convention, 2019 was the last year before the Paris Agreement goes into effect. This global accord has placed forests at the centre of its agenda, suggesting that they can be used to remove and store so-called excessive carbon from the atmosphere and thus control global warming and climate change. It was expected that issues such as strategies for financing actions and the role of a market-based approach would be addressed at the 2019 Climate COP in Madrid, yet decisions about these matters were simply postponed. The result was another Climate COP that failed to address the real and urgent measures that are needed to offset climate change. They failed to call for a global end on the extraction and burning of fossil fuels or, as the Oilwatch Network once more emphasized, the urgent need to “leave the oil in the soil”.

Instead, we witnessed negotiators wasting precious time on repetitive discussions for a new forest-related policy: REDD, REDD+, Landscape REDD, Jurisdictional REDD, Zero

Net Deforestation, and so on and so forth. With each new trend, often similar to previous ones, millions of dollars are invested in pilot projects and programs. The latest of these, launched during the Madrid COP, is called “*Nature Based Solutions*” or “*Natural Climate Solutions*”. Lauded as another new, dazzling solution to the crisis, it has been proposed without considering why its predecessors failed to halt on-going large-scale deforestation or mitigate the global heating emergency. What each new trend does do, however, is to ever more forcefully place the blame for the deforestation crisis on forest-dependent communities and their traditional agricultural practices.

“*Nature Based Solutions*” (NBS) are defined by their promoters as a series of activities aimed at conserving, restoring and improving land management. The goal is to increase carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, savannahs and grasslands and avoid emissions from natural sources. Ambitious plans for “forest restoration” and “reforestation” throughout entire regions and countries are part of “Nature Based Solutions”. At the same time, NBS proponents are ambiguous if they accept that polluting industries offset their emissions through NBS. It is clear, however, that the “negative” concept of “**deforestation**” **has been removed from the agenda, cleverly replaced by the much more positive term of**



**“restoration” of “degraded” forests or other ecosystems. The truth is that restoration offers many opportunities for the corporate sector.** These include the expansion of large scale tree monocultures which, based on the FAO forest definition, are misleadingly called and defined as “planted forests” or “reforestation”. Calling monoculture tree plantations “forests” is outrageous, but the term is accepted and employed by most governments and the Climate Convention. It is one more sign of how governments, the Climate Convention and other forest-related UN processes are swayed and dominated by corporate interests.

The pressure on “available” land for these new restoration initiatives will increase the risk that such schemes **take control over forest areas as well as a much wider area of land occupied by peasant communities. Such land that is frequently used for diversified agriculture that makes an important contribution to the food sovereignty of communities and a wider region.** These sorts of initiatives also **pave the way for continued fossil fuel burning. Transnational oil and gas companies including Royal Dutch Shell and Italian energy giant Eni, have already launched a program in 2019 to “conserve and restore forests” so as to compensate for their emissions.**

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is now preparing a “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”. Like their counterparts in the initiatives described above, the corporate and conservation

sectors are jointly pushing for measures that allow corporations to continue to destroy biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities. This includes a drastic increase in “conservation areas” – the initial proposal refers to a global expansion to achieve that 30% of the world surface are declared as such areas. For communities, more conservation areas translate into more [violence, repression and evictions](#). The CBD also wants to push for further partnerships with the private sector to protect ecosystems, including several new “Deals for Nature”, the promotion of financial investments in “nature” and zero net deforestation initiatives. Given their expansion plans, this is an attractive way for extractive industries to greenwash their image by investing in protected areas. Such moves allow them to offset their destruction and open up new markets and new “business in biodiversity”.

These cunning corporate strategies to continue expanding while greenwashing their businesses are very dangerous, particularly for local communities whose livelihoods depend on land and forests. Instead of providing solutions, they simply lead to more forest destruction and reduce the chances of solving the problems of climate change and the acute loss of biodiversity and their severe impacts.

WRM continues to closely monitor these and other new proposals and remains committed to supporting local communities in Africa, Latin America and Asia facing these new threats. In this report we provide an overview of





WRM's most important 2019 activities. The discussion is organized around four key themes:

- **Building Resistance & Solidarity** describes WRM's efforts to promote, facilitate and encourage mutual learning and exchanges of experiences as a way to support communities' efforts to defend their lands and livelihoods.

- **Exposing the Actors Responsible for Forest Destruction and Land Grabbing for Conservation Purposes** provides examples of harmful policies and corporate actions. This section also highlights how communities are struggling to claim back their lands and forests. Such detailed exposure contributes to a better understanding of the causes of forest destruction.

- **Producing Information and Analysis on Forest Policies and New Trends** summarizes the main research and analysis conducted by WRM during 2019. Producing and sharing information that is accessible to community activists and community-based organizations is fundamental to our work.

- **Helping Deconstruct Patriarchy in the Forests** highlights the relationship between women and forests. This includes women's knowledge and culture related to forests, as well as women who have been fundamental in processes of collective resistance against the threats to their livelihoods, and in the transformation of dominant patriarchal power structures.



Indonesia







# Highlights from 2019

## Building Resistance & Solidarity

- In collaboration with the Stop GE (Genetically Engineered) Trees Campaign and Friends of the Earth Brazil, WRM co-organized a meeting around the expansion of industrial tree monocultures in Brazil, particularly the spread of GE Tree plantations. WRM's network of contacts in Brazil ensured participation from communities, social movements and grassroots organisations from seven Brazilian states targeted by monoculture plantations. This included the participation of members of the Latin American Network against Monoculture Tree Plantations (RECOMA) from Chile and Argentina, as well as a representative of the global Stop GE Trees Campaign. Besides sharing and exchanging information, the meeting **resulted in renewed networking and collaboration among the Brazilian participants who are facing a Bolsonaro-led government that fully supports a renewed expansion of tree plantations.** During the meeting, participants produced a message of solidarity through a ["video letter"](#) that was sent to a meeting of communities that took place shortly afterwards in Mozambique. These communities also face industrial tree plantations that have taken over part of their lands. The meeting attendees also drafted an [open letter](#) with 76 signatories from organisations from Brazil and other countries, which rejected the organization of the conference of IUFRO (International

Union of Forest Research Organizations-World Congress) in Brazil in 2019. IUFRO represents and promotes the interests of the plantation industry.

- WRM has contributed to the **consolidation of the Informal Alliance against Industrial Oil Palm Plantations in West and Central Africa.** The Alliance, which was set up in 2016, has created a network of and space for community activists and grassroots NGOs to exchange experiences, undertake mutual learning and build solidarity between countries and Alliance members. Said members met during 2019 in Ivory Coast to reflect on and evaluate the activities carried out to date and to plan the movement's next steps. More than 30 Alliance members came together from Ghana, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria and the Republic of the Congo. Although many challenges remain, one important fact was celebrated: [a recent research](#) project commissioned and produced by the Alliance and drafted by GRAIN, showed **a significant decline in the number of land deals in Africa for industrial oil palm in the past 5 years, and in the total area -from 4.7 to 2.7 million hectares-. And certainly one relevant reason, among others, is the growing resistance to industrial oil palm plantations,**



to which the Alliance contributed by way of producing and disseminating declarations, briefings and articles, giving visibility to the negative impacts of plantations. This also included organizing workshops, meetings and field trips for exchange and mutual learning. Here it is also very important to mention the specific focus placed on the silenced and hidden impacts of harassment and sexual violence against women. The research also revealed that the oil palm expansion planned for Africa is expected to respond not only to the growing demand for cheap vegetable oil, but also that for biofuels.

- Eastern and Southern African countries have been targeted in a new push of industrial timber plantations. To strengthen resistance and build solidarity among community activists and grassroots NGOs in this region, WRM facilitated a knowledge exchange with Brazilian activists. In collaboration with Justiça Ambiental and ADECRU from Mozambique, an agenda was organized with community visits in the Northern Zambezia province, followed by a meeting with community activists in the town of Quelimane. The main companies active in Mozambique are Portucel from Portugal and Green Resources (GR) from Norway. During this **first gathering of community members from several provinces, participants discussed their problems and developed follow-up plans. The initiative helped to break the isolation often faced by communities affected by plantations while strengthening their motivation to jointly resist the takeover of their lands.** The exchange and mutual

learning with the Brazilian activists was an important contribution to this gathering. One Brazilian participant represented a women's movement in Brazil – the Interstate Movement of Babassu Breakers - , and she was able to exchange knowledge with the Mozambican women during the village visits about their valuable experience in organizing rural women at the grassroots level in Brazil. The Brazilian representative also had the chance to learn about the life of women, village organisations and community struggles against industrial tree plantations in Mozambique.

- There is a renewed trend of fortress forest conservation in India. The government, big conservation NGOs and the extractive industries are encroaching into areas where forest-dependent communities live with the purpose of expanding protected areas. They claim such areas are needed to compensate for the destruction caused by an ever-expanding extractive industry. This leads to many injustices given that the needs and opinions of local communities are being neglected. WRM, the All India Forum for Forest Movements (Akhil Bharatiya Jungle Andolan Manch), Chhattisgarh and Navrachna Samaj organized a series of field visits and a community meeting. The initiatives **allowed communities to break their isolation and to unite and discuss strategies of movement building and resistance. It was also an opportunity for them to learn about their rights related to the landmark legislation of the Forest Rights Act, which is at present under serious threat.**





# Exposing the Actors Responsible for Forest Destruction and Land Grabbing for Conservation Purposes

- Nine communities from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are committed to recovering lands taken over by oil palm giant FERONIA Inc. They filed a complaint against the German, Dutch and French Development Banks in 2018, as these are three of the financial institutions that have provided a loan to said company. The complaint was formally accepted in January 2019 even as communities reported that company personnel were harassing villagers, instigating violent clashes and circulating misleading information to discredit RIAO-RDC, the grassroots NGO that supports the communities.

At the request of community members, WRM joined RIAO and set up a field visit in collaboration with GRAIN and a coalition of organizations in Europe. The initiative included a workshop with a group of members who will represent their communities in the mediation process. Additionally, WRM used the visit to reach out to women affected by the plantations, underlining the importance of involving women in these discussions and the mediation process. As in other locations where companies have taken over community land for their plantations, women affected by the Feronia PHC plantations spoke out about

incidents of violence, including the sexual abuse of women by Feronia PHC staff, particularly the company's security guards.

- In Sierra Leone, WRM has contributed to exposing **the violence perpetuated by Socfin**, a Luxembourg-based holding company owned by two wealthy European families: Hubert Fabri (Belgium) and Vincent Bolloré (France). This company controls a total of 400,000 hectares in 10 African countries. In January, two members of the community-based Malen Land Owners and Users Association (MALOA), who had been fighting against land grabbing, were brutally murdered by the company's security guards. Hundreds of members of MALOA have also been harassed, intimidated and physically assaulted, their houses vandalized and properties looted, while other members have been arrested. WRM and other international human rights organizations sent a letter to the President of Sierra Leone, urging his government to investigate the role of the aforementioned company in this conflict.

- In Mozambique, WRM partnered with the local organizations of *ADECRU (Acção Académica para o desenvolvimento das comunidades rurais, Moçambique)* and *JÁ! (Justiça*



*Ambiental, Moçambique*) to expose **the role of BIOFUND, a public-private conservation trust fund created with support from the World Bank, international cooperation agencies and conservation NGOs**, which is being used to greenwash biodiversity destruction in Mozambique. The article reported on the risks for grassroots communities of being evicted or losing access to forests, savannah and other areas crucial for their livelihoods. For this will be the outcome if BIOFUND and its partners go ahead with plans to implement a biodiversity offsetting system to supposedly “compensate” for the future extraction of the plethora of natural resources available in the country, particularly minerals, oil and gas.

- In Uruguay, WRM exposed **the negative impacts of the installation of the second giant pulp mill built by the UPM company, and provided support to the Uruguayan movement resisting the installation of a third huge pulp mill in the country**. As part of the negotiations between the company and the government, a contract was secretly negotiated and then signed. According to this document, the Uruguayan government is responsible for providing US\$ 4 billion dollars in infrastructure for the company using tax dollars. [A series of articles](#) were published in the WRM bulletin during the year and a [joint statement](#) was produced exposing the plans of UPM and the Uruguayan government, and which received more than 120 endorsements from national and international groups.

- In Brazil, WRM took part in and co-organized a meeting with the Rural Female and Male workers trade union (STTR) of Santarém. The issue addressed was REDD+ in the Brazilian state of Pará. The workshop fostered capacity building among the 65 participants with respect to REDD+ and the new trends linked to this initiative. It also **allowed WRM to facilitate an exchange with another Amazon state, Acre, where communities have more experience with “community-based sustainable logging”**. **As this is now being promoted more and more in Pará, participants appreciated the chance to be able to learn from the experience gained in Acre**. In the latter state, this scheme has proven to be dangerous for grassroots communities, as it is corporate-controlled and the experience has shown that the benefits for local communities are minimal. Meanwhile, forests continue to be destroyed in the same way as with corporate logging, just at a slower rate.

- In Gabon, WRM partnered with Muyissi Environnement **to support the successful struggle of the Ferra and Nanga villages in halting the expansion of OLAM’s industrial oil palm plantations over a part of their most valuable lands**. This is an important precedent: it was the first time communities inside OLAM’s concessionary areas have taken such an initiative to stop further expansion of oil palm plantations over community lands. OLAM, a Singapore-based transnational corporation, was granted 500,000 hectares by the Gabonese government, and has huge power in the country thanks to the fact that the same government acts as its business partner.





## WRM Bulletin: A Key Tool

WRM published 6 issues of its bulletin in 2019 and engaged in ongoing efforts to increase the reach of our communication tools. As a result, we increased our subscriber base by 16% year-on-year, and now have 2877 subscribers to the WRM mailing lists in four languages. Facebook followers increased by 30% since our last annual report, while twitter followers stand at 2186, representing a 10% increase since our last report to SSNC.

### WRM 2019 bulletin issues:

- Bulletin 242. Jan/Feb 2019  
[Conservation NGO's: Whose Interests are They Really Protecting?](#)
- Bulletin 243. April/May 2019  
[Hiding Deforestation: New Trends and Resistances.](#)
- Bulletin 244. June /July 2019  
[Cementing Deforestation: Infrastructure at the Service of Corporations and Capital.](#)
- Bulletin 245. September 2019  
[Communities Facing Deforestation, False Solutions and Corporate Interests.](#)

- Bulletin 246. Oct / Nov 2019

[A Mineral-Intensive "Green" Energy Transition: Deforestation and Injustice in the Global South.](#)

- Bulletin 247. December 2019

[Concepts that Kill Forests](#)

It is important to note that each bulletin is the result of an extensive networking process involving a range of local, national and/or international organizations. Each issue includes articles about local struggles linked to a specific company, new policies or laws, exposing how this leads to forest destruction and how the rights of forest-dependent communities are being abused. From time to time, our bulletins also report on victories and other progress achieved by communities in their local struggles, along with lessons learnt that are important to share.

Our 2019 bulletin issues highlighted struggles from the following countries: India, Suriname, Tanzania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mozambique, Malaysia, Ecuador, DRC, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Gabon, Cameroon, Chile and Madagascar.



More than 30 activists from different organizations and movements contributed articles. These included:

- Avispa Midia from Mesoamerica
- Mulokot Foundation in Suriname
- Rainforest Foundation in the UK
- All India Forum of Forest Movements (AIFFM)
- Oakland Institute, USA
- The People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice in Indonesia (KIARA-Koalisi Rakyat untuk Keadilan Perikanan)
- Academic Association for rural communities' development in Mozambique (ADECRU-Ação Académica para o desenvolvimento das comunidades rurais)
- Environmental Justice in Mozambique (JÁ! – Justiça Ambiental!)
- Friends of the Earth Malaysia (SAM – Sahabat Alam)
- Critical Geography Collective of Ecuador
- The Corner House, UK
- Radio Ucamará from Peru
- Pandang Legal Aid (LBH Padang), Indonesia
- Interstate Movement of Babassu Breakers (Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu), Brazil
- Xingu Alive Forever Movement (Movimento Xingu Vivo para Sempre), Brazil

- Muyissi environnement, Gabon
- Sawit Watch, Indonesia
- Center for the Environment and Development (CED – Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement), Cameroon
- Waman Wasi Center, Lamas, Peru
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Latin American Observatory on Environmental Conflicts (OLCA – Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales)
- Research and support centre for development alternatives – Indian Ocean (Centre de Recherches et d'Appui pour les Alternatives de Développement- Océan Indien – CRAAD-OI), Madagascar
- Study Group on Society, Territory and Resistance in the Amazon (Grupo de Estudo Sociedade, Território e Resistência na Amazônia, GESTERRA)
- Federal University of Pará, Brazil
- Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), Pacific Islands
- Acción Ecológica, Ecuador, which is a member of the Oilwatch network
- Rainforest Rescue and the Yes to Life No To Mining network (YLNM)
- Missão Tabita, Mozambique with activists and researchers from India; and the Research Nucleus on Work, Territory and Politics in Amazonia, Brazil.





# Producing Information and Analysis on Forests Policies and New Trends

The concepts of forest restoration and offsetting gained momentum in 2019 and are among the main concepts that are part of the proposal of “Nature Based Solutions” to address the climate and biodiversity crises.

However, in practice forest restoration will most probably lead to a vast expansion of monoculture tree plantations. Initiatives such as the Bonn challenge, which aims to restore 350 million hectares of “degraded and deforested land” worldwide, have adopted the FAO forest definition, allowing monoculture tree plantations to be called forests. The same is true for the national governments that are part of such initiatives. Offsetting, whether linked to biodiversity or carbon, allows for and is closely linked to even more destruction. Offsetting exists only if there is further destruction that needs to be compensated for: this logic is intrinsically perverse.

In this framework of constantly emerging new trends aimed at distracting from the urgent measures needed to face the crises afflicting our planet, **WRM has played a vital role in producing information about what these trends imply for forests and their dependent communities.** Moreover, we have contributed to the pressure and mobilization by many groups and movements that aim to stop such

trends and make an appeal for the need for real solutions.

The following materials were produced and widely distributed during 2019:

- On March 21, the UN International Day of Forests, WRM launched a [set of shareables](#) exposing FAO’s forest definition and its implications.

*Plantations are not Forests*



*March 21st 2019 - International Day of Forests  
EDUCATING FAO*

*FAO's forest definition considers forests to be basically just "a bunch of trees". This ignores the vital interconnections with other life forms.*

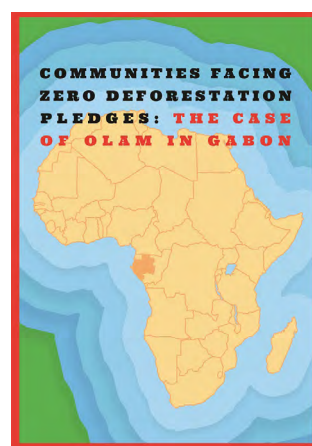
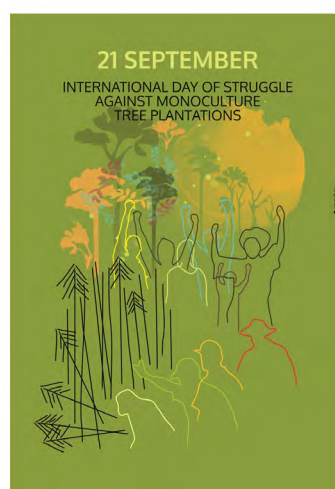
*With this definition, FAO has actively promoted the establishment of many millions of hectares of industrial tree plantations, of mainly alien species, especially in the global South.*

- On September 21, the International Day of Struggle against Tree Monocultures, WRM released a [poster and solidarity statement](#) in support of communities whose lands have been grabbed by tree monoculture industries. The same day was also an opportunity to contribute towards and support various actions urging for an end in the expansion of monoculture tree plantations.



- In Gabon, in collaboration with the grassroots NGO Muyissi Environnement, WRM carried out a case study to better understand the impacts on the communities of the “Zero Deforestation” pledge, which was adopted by the company OLAM in 2017. OLAM holds a concession for oil palm plantations that overlaps with the territories these communities depend on. The research was conducted during 2019 with a series of community visits. The publication is available in [French](#) and [English](#). Extensive literature has been produced about “zero deforestation” but little about the experiences of communities on the ground. Therefore, the additional value of this report relies on the fact that it is one of **the first critical publications available about the impacts of a Zero Deforestation policy of an oil palm plantations company on forest dependent communities.**

- WRM researched and produced a booklet for local activists and community organizers about the new global push for industrial tree plantations. This time, the argument for such a push is the climate crisis where tree planting is supposed to be needed to absorb the excess of carbon in the atmosphere that causes climate chaos. The publication describes the initiatives that have already been launched at the international level, such as the Bonn Challenge, and that may result in a massive expansion of industrial plantations mainly in the Global South. It also explains the erroneous logic of using trees as carbon sinks. The research was finalized during 2019, and the booklet published during the first months of 2020.







The trends described above and now promoted under the new umbrella of “Nature Based Solutions” are being advanced by major conservation organizations including **TNI, Conservation International and WWF**, all of which stand to heavily benefit from such initiatives. In order to expose this flawed relationship between the extractive sector and the conservation organizations, WRM dedicated an entire issue of its bulletin to the role these major NGOs play today in terms of forests and related policies. Such NGOs have simply transformed themselves into profit making organizations serving the interests of the corporate sector. The four language versions of the bulletin **received a total of 29.865 hits** during 2019.

- In September 2019, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved its Tropical Forest Standard. Initially, the Air Resources Board had planned to adopt a decision that would allow international REDD+ credits to be used by companies in California who are part of the state’s emissions trading scheme.

However, and thanks to the organized and robust opposition from organizations inside and outside the USA—including WRM -, the Air Resources Board introduced another loop to keep the discussion going: instead of a decision to approve or reject the use of international REDD+ credits in the California carbon-trading system, it presented only a draft ‘Tropical Forest Standard’ that has since been approved. However, the Air Resources Board is keen to underline that “the TFS [Tropical Forest Standard] is not proposing, nor would it result

in any new offset credits being eligible for use in the California Cap-and-Trade Program ... and any such future connection would require a future rulemaking proceeding and a separate Board vote.”

**This means that for the time being, and despite having approved an offset scheme, it will not imply the use of REDD offsets, which is important news for forest-dependent communities in Acre in Brazil, where the state government is keen on using such a scheme to sell carbon credits to companies in California, which would allow them to continue polluting.**

- Finally, in 2019 due to the pressure built by several groups including WRM, the **Green Climate Fund rejected a loan requested by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, which is the private-sector arm of the World Bank. In 2019, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) had to decide on a number of funding requests presented to the GCF and related to REDD projects. Among others, the **IFC requested funding in order to subsidize a carbon market for private sector carbon credits from REDD+ projects**. Thanks to the initiative of WRM, a group of more than one hundred organizations submitted a [letter](#) to the Board urging it to reject all funding to REDD projects in general, and to the IFC proposal in particular.

As a result of the pressure exerted, the **IFC finally decided to withdraw its proposal.**



# Helping to Deconstruct Patriarchy in the Forests

- On March 8, International Women's Day, WRM together with GRAIN, RADD from Cameroon, Muyissi Environnement from Gabon, Radio Culture from Sierra Leone and the Natural Resources Women's Platform from Liberia, and with the support of the Informal Alliance against Oil Palm Plantations, published a briefing entitled "Breaking the silence: Industrial oil palm and rubber plantations bring harassment, sexual violence and abuse against women". The briefing was based on a number of case studies conducted in Cameroon, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Gabon.

The briefing was produced and published at the request of the women involved in the Informal Alliance against Oil Palm Plantations. The publication **has contributed to breaking the silence and exposing the different types of violence women are subjected to, particularly those living in and around industrial oil palm and rubber plantations, including sexual violence and abuse.** The briefing called for an immediate stop of the harassment, sexual violence and abuse against women in and around industrial rubber plantations. It has so far received a total of 2,895 hits.

- In the Brazilian state of Acre, WRM together with SOF -a feminist organization from Brazil- and CIMI in the state of Acre -an organisation defending indigenous people's rights- organized

an exchange among women to talk about and strengthen women's voices against the "Green Economy". The state of Acre has been the main "laboratory" in the world for the implementation of jurisdictional REDD+ and other forest-related green-economy policies. By organizing the meeting, CIMI, SOF and WRM helped to create a space for **knowledge exchange among women involved in building resistance and alliances in Acre among indigenous and non-indigenous peoples and communities against REDD+ and other green-economy policies. The women were able to discuss how these policies affect women in particular and their role in the resistance.** It was also an opportunity to promote exchanges between indigenous and non-indigenous women. The report from the meeting is available upon request.

- During the period a total of 6 articles written by and related to women and/or social gender issues were published in the WRM Bulletin:

## [Indigenous Baiga women in India: "Our story should be heard".](#)

This article was written by an Indian activist and based on an interview with an Indigenous Baiga woman. It describes the struggle of the village of Fulwaripara to prevent its inhabitants from being evicted from their lands, by demanding the recognition of their rights under the Forest Rights Act.





### **Brazil: Women Stand Up to Fight the Suzano Paper Mill in Maranhão**

This is an interview of one activist from the Interstate Movement of Babassu Breakers. She describes how the construction of the Suzano Pulp and Paper mill—along with nearby highways, the constant transport of wood, and the massive influx of workers—has led to mass devastation and social problems for communities.



Ph: Carolina Motoki/Reporter Brasil

### **Indonesia: Violence against Women Workers in Oil Palm Plantations**

Written by Sawit Watch, this article describes how exploitative working conditions in the oil palm plantation industry are persistent, and that the main victims are mostly women. It was also published in Bahasa.

### **Mapuche Lavkenche Women's Resistance to the Chilean Forestry Model**

This article was a contribution by the Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts and describes the resistance strategies developed by the network of Women's Organizations of Tirúa in south-central Chile. The territory has been threatened

by the massive invasion of tree plantations, continuously promoted by Chilean government policies and subsidies.

### **Madagascar: Women, Forests and Extractive Industries**

The Case of the Mikea Indigenous Women. This article describes how an Australian company, Base Resources, secured a permit to destroy the Mikea Forest as long as it established an offset project, which, in turn, would impose far-reaching restrictions on communities in terms of accessing their land and forests. This pushes women even further into a situation of dispossession and exclusion.

### **India: Women, Commons and Patriarchy**

This article was written by an Indian activist and shows how a feminist view of the "Commons" reveals that accumulation opposes the basic principles of sharing and sustaining: being receptive to nature's abundance is carried out by ensuring that needs (and not wants or greed) define the extent of extraction. For the "Commons" to exist, abundance and not scarcity must inform people's needs.



Mikea woman in Madagascar. Ph: CRAAD-OI





# WRM 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 legal address of the Stichting WRM is Vuile Riete 12 in Linde (Dr.), the Netherlands.

The Board members of the Stichting WRM, responsible for governing legal and financial-administrative issues, are:

- Larry Lohmann, Chairman
- Ivonne Yanez, Treasurer
- Silvia Ribeiro, Secretary
- Premrudee Daoroung, Member.

The Uruguayan Education Ministry has granted the Stichting WRM 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.

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.

The **WRM International Secretariat** is a team of seven people located in different countries. Its office is in Uruguay and its international coordinator is Winfridus Overbeek. The international secretariat team receives input and guidance for its activities from the WRM Advisory Committee; from biannual WRM strategy meetings with WRM allies from different continents; and from regular interaction between the team and hundreds of community organizations, social movements, NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The **WRM Advisory Committee**, meanwhile, consists of:

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





## 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 or honorarium 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.

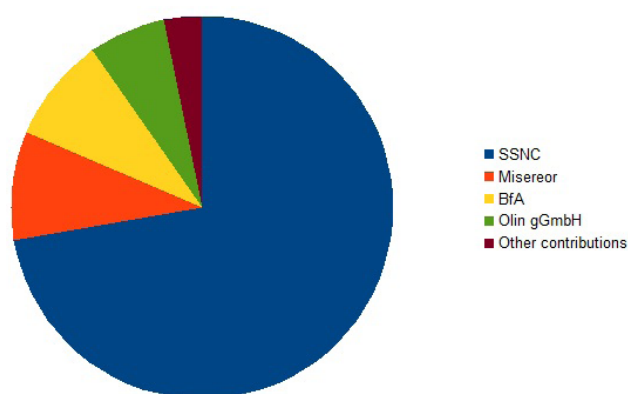
Only WRM international secretariat staff and the international coordinator of the organisation receive a salary or honorarium. Individuals hired for short-term, specific activities, such as for carrying out case studies, can receive an honorarium, based on a contract clearly describing the tasks carried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

## Funding

In 2019, WRM core activities were funded by **SSNC** (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) from Sweden, **Misereor** from **Germany** and **Bread for All** from Switzerland. For specific activities, WRM received support from **Olin gmbH** from Germany. WRM partners with GRAIN in a joint project in support of communities West and Central Africa where foreign investors are expanding industrial oil palm plantations.

The total income for the year 2019 was USD **281,525** split among the different funding sources as follows:

Funding source	Amount in USD	Percentage
SSNC	\$203,342	72%
Misereor	\$25,647	9%
BfA	\$25,028	9%
Olin gGmbH	\$18,379	7%
Other contributions	\$9,129	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$281,525</b>	<b>100%</b>



WRM 2019 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 a summary of the Annual audit [here](#).





## Contact Details

### **World Rainforest Movement**

Avenida General María Paz 1615, office 3, 11400 Montevideo, Uruguay

Phone/Fax: +598 2605 6943 | E-mail: [wrn@wrn.org.uy](mailto:wrn@wrn.org.uy)

Website: [www.wrm.org.uy](http://www.wrm.org.uy)

Facebook: [facebook.com/WorldRainforestMovement](https://facebook.com/WorldRainforestMovement)

Twitter: [twitter.com/WorldRainforest](https://twitter.com/WorldRainforest)