

# Annual Report 2018

of the Environmental Paper Network International

## Introduction

The Environmental Paper Network (EPN) is a global network of nearly 170 non-governmental organisations in 30 different countries who share a positive aspiration for the future of paper production and consumption, expressed in our *Global Paper Vision*. We work together to transform global paper consumption and production, so it reflects this vision of an ethical and sustainable future. This report mostly concerns EPN International, which together with EPN North America and EPN China forms the global network.

Many transitions and developments have taken place during the past year. Membership keeps growing, as does the breadth of issues covered - the new working group on forests, climate and biomass plays a central role in this. 2018 was also the year that Mandy Haggith stepped down as the long-standing coordinator of the network after being in the driving seat since 2005. She helped coordinate the drafting of the *Global Paper Vision* and many other activities central to the network. We will continue to coordinate efforts to save paper, to stop irresponsible financing of the next generation of unsustainable pulp mills, and to support civil society in Indonesia struggling to resolve social conflicts with the paper industry.

## Network coordination

For the first time, EPN's global annual gathering was held in the USA, thereby enabling participants to also join the climate summit in San Francisco. This was essential as unsustainable paper production and use is a key element of the forest and climate crisis. We brought together people from China, Russia, Japan, Mozambique, Chile, Brazil and Australia as well as several European countries. We discussed governance of the network, including how to encourage evolution of regional sub-networks.

Another bigger annual gathering was held in Estonia in April, this is always combined with the **Forest Movement Europe**. Meeting participants agreed that climate change is the top priority for EPN to work on, with paper consumption as a strong second. The third priority was social issues, followed by finance, consumption, Indonesia, plantations and pollution. This was useful confirmation of the efforts we made throughout 2017 and 2018 to put climate issues centre stage and to nurture coordinated campaigning on forests, climate and biomass energy.

EPN's work continues to be led by an expert international steering group, some of whom take responsibility for specific projects. We unfortunately said goodbye to Bas Tinhout from Wetlands International as he changed jobs. On the other hand, we are lucky to have Mandy Haggith continuing with the EPN as a member of the steering group.

We continue to be staffed by four part time

### EPN International Staff

*As of December 2018*

- Sini Eräjää, Coordinator
- Sergio Baffoni, Indonesian Forests
- Merel Van Der Mark, Pulp Finance
- Peg Putt, Biomass and Climate

coordinators and campaigners. Mandy Haggith was replaced by [Sini Eräjää](#) who stepped in as the new coordinator of EPN International in October 2018. Sini has worked on advocacy, policy and campaigning in environmental NGOs for the past 10 years, and has a particular passion for forests.

The full list of staff and steering members is set out in the boxes.

## Objectives

Our priority objectives for the year were:

- Ensure good governance of the growing network
- Continue to organise and coordinate pressure on Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL) in Indonesia
- Support our Indonesian colleagues' struggle to reform the Indonesian pulp and paper industry
- Promote our Red Lines for sustainable finance and communicate with financiers on pulp finance risks, opportunities and policies
- Develop and grow the working group on forests, climate and biomass, support local campaigns and map the threats posed by the growing industry

## Projects and working groups

### 1. Paper Saving

Our working group on paper saving has been helped by a grant to reduce paper consumption in the USA, where per capita paper consumption is the highest in the world. Activities included [a new factsheet](#) on using less paper. Many of our member organisations continue to campaign on reducing paper cups and other throwaway items, but the lack of resources has been an obstacle for more coordinated efforts on this area of work.

With the leadership of our member organisation denkhausbremen, we prepared two successful German summits on reducing consumption of the fastest growing paper products. A successful [summit on tissue](#) took place in January and preparations were made for another summit on packaging for January 2019.

### 2. Indonesian forests

We continued our work to keep pressure on the two biggest companies responsible for Indonesian forest destruction, Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL), as well as affiliated firms such as Paper Excellence. To push them to [keep their forest conservation and restoration promises](#) we made a concerted effort to alert their financiers, Chinese and Asian banks and potential customers that they are failing to fully implement their commitments. This resulted in Credit Suisse and ABN Amro agreeing not to join the consortium of banks involved in APRIL's most recent loan.

Our efforts to coordinate consistent civil society input and involve Indonesian grassroots organisations also managed to stop the re-association of APP with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), ensuring that the company won't have access to the prestigious market label until they change their practices and make their corporate structure transparent.

### EPN International Steering Group

*As of December 2018*

- Mandy Haggith, Scotland
- Cecilia Alcoreza, WWF International, Chile/US
- Monika Nolle, EPN financial management, ARA, Germany
- Otto Miettinen, Luonto-Liitto, Finland
- Peter Gerhardt, EPN webmaster, denkhausbremen, Germany
- Richard Wainwright, Fern, UK and Belgium
- Woro Supartinah, Jikalahari, Indonesia

A key activity over the past two years has been facilitating a major joint activity in which Indonesian NGOs map social conflicts with paper companies across Indonesia, creating a hugely valuable body of shared knowledge. The results will be published in 2019.

In addition, we've been quick to respond to new emerging threats such as the **'land swaps' scheme** proposed by the Indonesian government and have continued to do coordinated monitoring and "horizon scanning" of the industry, such as the global expansion of **APP & APRIL**. We have also closely monitored the expansion of forest concessions in Papua and West Papua provinces of Indonesia, which still host large intact forests.

### 3. Pulp finance

Our pulp finance working group has been following up on the findings of the **In the Red** report which assessed the financial policies of 42 banks. We sent letters to the banks, focusing on the destruction of peatlands and social responsibility. This work has generated responses from the likes of ABN Amro, BNP Paribas, Citibank, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Mizuho, Norges Bank, Standard Chartered and Cathay United Bank.

We also kept monitoring the overall expansion of the pulp industry in order to identify projects that can lead to deforestation or human rights abuses, this included updating our **map on the expansion of the paper industry**. Where we identified new mills that would pose environmental or social threats, we reached out to local NGOs, connecting them with the global campaigners and alerting machinery producers, export credit agencies and potential or actual financiers.

Highlights included our engagement with **the campaign against the Estonian Est-For 'biorefinery'** (a proposed new pulp mill), including networking with Estonian NGOs and facilitating outreach to potential investors. We are delighted that the government has stopped the planning process for the mill. Finally, we have been educating investors in the Portucel mill in Mozambique about its **outrageous social impacts** and are heartened that the mill appears to be on hold, although the plantations that were established to supply it are still an issue of serious contention.

### 4. Forest, climate and biomass energy

This new working group has blossomed into an active group of more than 100 individuals from over 70 organisations with regular video conferences involving dozens of people from all around the world. The annual EPN gathering in Estonia was particularly crucial for this working group, offering a space to put an activity plan together for the various activities of the coming year.

Highlights include putting together and publishing a joint NGO statement on forest biomass energy, **The Biomass Delusion**, which achieved the largest NGO endorsement until today for a statement denouncing industrial scale biomass energy - with over 130 signatories. Based on some commissioned and in-house research we also published the **Threat Map report** about the increasing pellet trade market which is of major concern to the world's forests. In early November we also published an **international open civil society letter** in various languages to dispel the false promises of the "bioeconomy" as promoted by the government-led BioFuture platform.

We have also formed a biomass finance subgroup, gearing up work and research to tackle the money behind biomass industry developments. A great start for this work was our successful coordination of a response to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), challenging their involvement in a Korean Development Bank biomass energy project that would have had devastating impacts on forests in Samoa, Papua New Guinea and West Papua among others.

Joining forces, the two working groups also engaged with the Climate Bond Initiative to influence their new criteria on forestry and bioenergy projects, as these might turn out to be crucial benchmarks for the financial sector. We also made an important connection with coal campaigners at a meeting on financing convened by BankTrack at which we were able to brief campaigners on the emissive and other adverse impacts of biomass burning, unifying participants to the concept of going 'beyond burning'.

Finally, we researched a new discussion document on the [role of large scale industrial plantations](#) in a warming climate, which finds that they can increase forest fires. The document was published in February 2019, to bring a new perspective into the debate about the future of plantations.

## Finance

Our fundraising efforts have allowed us to expand our activities, particularly to cover the new area of work with climate and biomass. We are extremely grateful to the JMG Foundation for our grant to help cover core coordination costs, part of our Indonesian forests campaign, and some of the biomass work. Our Indonesia and pulp finance work was also made possible by the generous support of the Waterloo Foundation and the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation. We greatly value the support for grassroots campaigning from the Grassroots Foundation and Lush. A new partnership with the Packard Foundation made it possible to start the biomass working group. We continue to fundraise to be able to gear up our work to coordinate paper saving campaigns and support specific joint actions.

We also received considerable help in kind from member organisations, particularly in the form of staff time. We are very grateful for this support and are thankful that our financial situation remains secure for 2019. We are also very grateful to our long-standing member organisation ARA, which manages these grants for us.

Income	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	€ 214.463	€ 194.804	€ 256.268
Expenditure	2016	2017	2018
Core costs	€ 127.067	€ 74.289	€ 84.364,00
Projects	€ 91.075	€ 109.266	€ 140.539,00
<b>Total</b>	€ 218.142	€ 183.555	€ 224.903,00

*If you would like to know more or have suggestions, please follow us & get in touch!*

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