



World Rainforest Movement

Annual Report 2024

Who We Are

Foreword

Highlights from 2024

WRM Structure and Finances



Who We Are

The World Rainforest Movement was founded in 1986 by activists from around the world. Its main goal is to strengthen the global movement to defend forests, in order to fight deforestation and forest degradation.

WRM believes that this goal can only be achieved by standing up for social and ecological justice, and by respecting the collective rights of traditional communities, along with the right to self-determination of all those Peoples who depend on forests for their livelihoods.

For this reason, WRM's actions are aligned to support the struggles of Indigenous Peoples and peasant communities who are defending their territories.

Our Principles

The WRM Secretariat team is committed to learning directly from the communities how best to support and strengthen their struggles.

- We work with grassroots organisations that have an in-depth knowledge of the complex realities in which they operate;
- We base our partnerships on mutual trust, shared perspectives and political analysis;
- We believe that community struggles are strengthened through the exchange of experiences;
- We seek to understand the structural causes of forest destruction, from a grassroots, community-based standpoint;
- We believe that exposing exploitation and abuse by forest-destroying actors is critical in strengthening resistance and taking action against the causes of forest destruction;
- We believe it is essential that WRM's information, research and analyses are always made accessible to community activists and village leaders;
- We highlight the special relationship that women have with forests, and the importance of women's roles in the following: collective processes of organisation; resistance to threats to their territories; production and strengthening of knowledge and culture; family and community life; and the transformation of power structures to ensure meaningful involvement by all community members.



Main Areas of Work

- We support the resistance and solidarity-building processes of organisations and communities who are defending their territories and forests. We analyse and expose the following dimensions of forest destruction:
- The expansion of monoculture tree plantations to produce timber, pulp, palm oil, rubber or biomass. This expansion poses a major threat to communities in tropical forest areas and beyond.
- The impacts of industries that extract timber, minerals, water and fossil fuels from forest territories, and the additional impacts caused by the infrastructure that supports this exploitation.
- Initiatives that are presented as “solutions,” but which in fact only exacerbate forest loss and climate change. These initiatives include certification of forest management concessions, monoculture carbon tree plantations, other carbon and biodiversity offset projects, protected areas, among others.
- New trends in corporate tactics and national and international policies that facilitate the appropriation of community forests.
- Differentiated impacts that women face when their lands are encroached upon and appropriated—including sexual violence, harassment, persecution, and loss of livelihood, among others.

Foreword

A major part of WRM's work in recent years has been directly related to the consequences, as it has come into force, of the Paris climate agreement, which was adopted in 2015. This initiative has made it compulsory for all national governments to make plans, starting from 2020 onwards, to reduce the carbon emissions of their respective countries. This has breathed new life into the carbon market and, in particular, into so-called land-based projects and programmes to avoid emissions from tropical deforestation, especially in those places where forest-dependent communities have their territories and homes.

Here it would help to explain why such a growing rush by polluting industries to become carbon neutral. By following a colonialist logic, industrial sectors in the Global North seek to offset their carbon emissions by purchasing carbon credits from forests located within countries in the Global South.

Different carbon offset mechanisms have been created and the carbon market seems to reinvent itself with ease. But neither in the voluntary carbon market involving NGOs or private companies, or programmes involving governments, nor in seemingly innovative international initiatives such as the 'Tropical Forests Forever Fund,' to be launched at the UN climate talks in Belém in 2025, are the structural and harmful impacts being solved. What is clear, however, is that all these mechanisms intend to restrict the control that communities have over their forest territories. And this helps to explain why such initiatives continue to be subject to a constant flow of criticism, as well as various scandals, particularly in terms of the older projects, where painstaking investigations have repeatedly shown that most of the forest-based carbon credits being sold are fake.

All of which results in the increasing demand for WRM to share information with communities targeted by such projects and programmes, particularly around the carbon issue and new developments.

During 2024, a large part of our activities were thus focused on supporting communities' demands to help them better understand and learn how different communities are resisting the expansion of carbon projects, which are taking place alongside and in partnership with old and new forms of extractivism.

Happy reading!



Highlights from 2024

Building Resistance and Solidarity

In 2024, WRM was involved in organising several international meetings, community exchanges, visits, and webinars. These were all aimed at connecting organisations and representatives from different communities, in order not only to share experiences but also to strengthen their processes of resistance and territorial defence. A common thread among the communities involved in these initiatives is their confrontation with projects that, in the name of the carbon market and green capitalism, threaten, expropriate, and/or devastate their territories.

In Brazil, WRM together with the Tuxa Ta Pame Council of the Indigenous Ka'apor, a traditional organisation that links up several communities, held an exchange meeting in one of their villages. This took place in the Alto Turiaçu territory of the Brazilian Amazon. The exchange meeting brought together Indigenous Peoples, peasant, traditional and Afro-descendent communities from five different countries within the Amazon region and Central America.

All of the participants are facing the expansion of carbon credit projects related to the forests of their ancestral territories. The meeting resulted in a statement which was widely disseminated: in this document the participants explained why they inserted REDD into the category they refer to as “death projects,” contrasting with what they themselves defend as “life projects” – i.e., initiatives that are based on the promotion of autonomy, respect for nature and the idea of belonging to the forest.

Adopting a similar proposal, WRM also organised an exchange meeting in Zambia. This involved activists, grassroots groups, and peasant movements from rural areas of eight African countries, all of which are being affected or targeted by carbon credit projects. Through this meeting, community leaders and activists from these countries had the opportunity to join together and learn from each other about community experiences with carbon offset projects, allowing for a unique horizontal learning and sharing experience among those taking part.

In addition to these activities, WRM also helped set up several meetings and connections, such as the bi-annual assembly



of the Informal Alliance against Industrial Oil Palm Plantations in Gabon; this included the participation of community members and grassroots activists from ten African countries. In Mozambique, WRM supported a gathering that brought together communities affected by eucalyptus plantations; this activity enabled them to link up with Brazilian communities that already have extensive experience with such resistance.

WRM was also active in connecting grassroots organisations and networks such as WALHI from Indonesia, and the 'Agro é Fogo' Coalition from Brazil. This was due to the fact that their respective governments had signed an agreement in late 2022 to collaborate on plans to conserve their forests, but without any consultation or participation with the local communities. The bilateral conversations facilitated by WRM resulted in a webinar that took place in 2024; this event was an important space for dialogue, exchange, and trust-building. Participants agreed on the need to organise more on-line events of this nature, highlighting the relevance of such horizontal learning exchanges between communities located in different countries, and even different continents.

Through these exchanges, more than one hundred communities from different parts of the world were able to connect directly with each other.

One important additional comment is that WRM has continued to place importance on the challenge to incorporate a feminist perspective in its supportive work to grassroots struggles in the forest. This it has done, for example, by encouraging the participation of a significant number of grassroots women in activities it co-organises, while also creating spaces for women-only activities. Furthermore, WRM continues to strengthen alliances with feminist organisations: the aim here is to further build knowledge around popular feminism in the different contexts where WRM carries out its collaborative work.

Exposing the Activities and the Actors behind Forest Destruction and the Violation of Rights

Throughout 2024, WRM produced various communications resources such as articles, briefings, research papers, petitions, letters of support, videos and podcasts to expose corporate activities or state policies that lead to deforestation and/or forest degradation, and which result in rights violations of forest-dependent peoples and communities. These actions and publications supported the struggle of communities from countries across different continents.

For example, as a member of the Alliance against Industrial Oil Palm Plantations, WRM supported communities in Cameroon fighting to recover their land, and who find themselves in a conflict with the SOCAPALM company. These communities not only wish to prevent the replanting of oil palm around their villages, but also demand respect for the demands of women to have access to land to grow food for their families.

In Guatemala, WRM helped mobilise efforts to halt the abuses and violence that the palm oil company Industria Chiquibul has been committing against indigenous and peasant communities, and to call for the suspension of the RSPO certification process of Industria Chiquibul, which is considered to be a clear example of greenwashing.

In Gabon, and together with the JVE youth organisation, WRM raised awareness among communities about the threats posed by a carbon plantation project of a company called Sequoia.

In Indonesia, WRM supported farmers from the Nagari Kapa community in West Sumatra, with the aim of helping them to increase pressure to accelerate the ongoing agrarian reform process, as well as to denounce Wilmar International, a company planning to destroy the community's rice fields in order to expand its oil palm plantations.

In Brazil, WRM supported the Indigenous Turiwara and Temb   Peoples, as well as Quilombola communities, in the Amazonian state of Par  , denouncing the land grabbing of their territories by the oil palm companies Agropalma and Brazil Biofuels. The violence and repression of local police and security forces was also denounced, including the private guards employed by the companies.



The WRM Bulletin: Denouncing and resisting the injustices and violence of capitalism in the forests

One of WRM's main tools are its Bulletins, which are translated into English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, and sometimes Indonesian. In 2024, five bulletin issues were published, with more than 31 articles; these were mostly written by groups and activists from different countries and continents, and who all form part of the WRM network. These publications reached more than 6,900 followers on the different social networks being used by WRM.

- Bulletin 269: The Amazon: Community struggles against old and new threats
- Bulletin 270: Tree plantations for the carbon market: more injustice for communities and their territories
- Bulletin 271: Communities resisting extractivism: from bioeconomy to monocultures and mining
- Bulletin 272: Offsets and monoculture plantations: growing threats for territories
- Bulletin 273: Governments and NGOs serving corporate interests: impacts and resistance struggles

The Amazon: Community struggles against old and new threats

WRM Bulletin 269 February 2024

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OUR VIEWPOINT



27 February 2024

The Amazon Summit: Extractivism and violence in the name of the "bioeconomy" and of "sustainability"

Follow the summit of Sustainable Development Goals in the Amazon region

Tree plantations for the carbon market: more injustice for communities and their territories

WRM Bulletin 270 June 2024

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OUR VIEWPOINT



28 June 2024

A new destructive business: Carbon credits from tree plantations

Governments and NGOs serving corporate interests: impacts and resistance struggles



Governments and carbon markets are fueling more fires in the

Communities resisting extractivism: from bioeconomy to monocultures and mining

WRM Bulletin 271 August 2024

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OUR VIEWPOINT



22 August 2024

Carbon projects are projects of death

This bulletin highlights several cases where the expansion of carbon projects has become

Offsets and monoculture plantations: growing threats for territories

WRM Bulletin 272 October 2024

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24 October 2024

Conference of the Parties (COP16): Solutions for biodiversity

Producing Information and Analysis of Corporate Tactics and Threats to Forest-Dependent Communities

Among other issues, WRM is a key reference in reliable information on carbon markets and offset projects and their harmful impacts on communities. It has provided key information on these areas to support the public debate regarding this subject. Below are some of our publications from 2024.

We can also highlight our support to the organisation of a webinar by the Federal Prosecution Service (MPF, in its Portuguese abbreviation) in Manaus, which was the first

critical international webinar on the aforementioned issue held in Brazil, a country where other events organised by public institutions more often than not promote carbon markets. This particular event was widely publicised and featured the participation of major organisations representing critical carbon market investigators, Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities from Brazil and other parts of Latin America.



DOCUMENTARY – “No to REDD and Carbon Markets”

In 2024, WRM produced the documentary “No to REDD and Carbon Markets” with testimonies from forest-dependent communities about the impacts REDD projects and programmes have had on their livelihoods. The documentary has been used to promote debates in communities targeted by carbon projects. The material will also be released in English, Spanish, French and Indonesian.



BRIEFING - Tree Plantations for the Carbon Market. Why, how, and where are they expanding?

A new WRM briefing was released titled “Tree Plantations for the Carbon Market. Why, how, and where are they expanding?” After an initial push around the 2000s, a new round of tree plantation initiatives for the carbon market is now taking place.

This briefing provides an overview of the expansion of tree plantations aimed at carbon markets: Where are these plantations located? What do they look like? Who is profiting from them? What have been the impacts for communities living on the lands these projects occupy? And what international initiatives are taking place to boost tree plantations for carbon offsetting? These are just a few of the questions explored by the briefing.



PODCAST - “Dayak Women Defend the Forest of Tambun Bungai, in Indonesia”

WRM released the third podcast of the series on Land and Women’s Struggles, produced together with the Indonesian feminist organisation Solidaritas Perempuan. It shares the story of Dayak women who have been facing in and around their territory the expansion of oil palm plantations, a carbon REDD project, and an agricultural estate project. The podcast was released in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Indonesian.



Indonesia: Dayak Women
Defend the Forest of
Tambun Bungai Land

**WOMEN'S
STRUGGLES
FOR LAND**



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

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



The Uruguayan Education Ministry has granted Stichting WRM, registered in the Netherlands, permission to operate in Uruguay, which is 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 registration number (RUT) 00215767260016.

In 2016, WRM was granted ANBI in the Netherlands. This acronym stands for “Algemeen Nut Beogende Instellingen” (public benefit organisation), which is a status granted to foundations registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, and whose mission and activities are deemed by the Tax Service to overwhelmingly serve the common good.

The **WRM International Secretariat** is a team of seven people located in different countries, with its office in Uruguay.



The International Secretariat team receives input and guidance for its activities from the WRM Advisory Committee; from WRM strategy meetings with allies from different continents; and from regular interaction between the team and hundreds of activists, community organisations, social movements, NGOs and indigenous peoples' organisations in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Coordination Team is composed of two team members: Winnie Overbeek and Teresa Perez.

The **WRM Advisory Committee in 2024** consisted of the following members:

- Hendro Sangkoyo, School of Democratic Economics (Indonesia)
- Larry Lohmann, The Corner House (United Kingdom)
- Nasako Besingi, Struggle to Economise the Future Environment (Cameroon)
- Premrudee Daoroung, Project SEVANA South-East Asia (Thailand)
- Ivonne Yáñez, Acción Ecológica (Ecuador)

- Shalmali Guttal, Focus on the Global South (Thailand)
- Silvia Ribeiro, ETC Group (Mexico)
- Tom B.K. Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network (USA)

WRM's Remuneration Policy

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

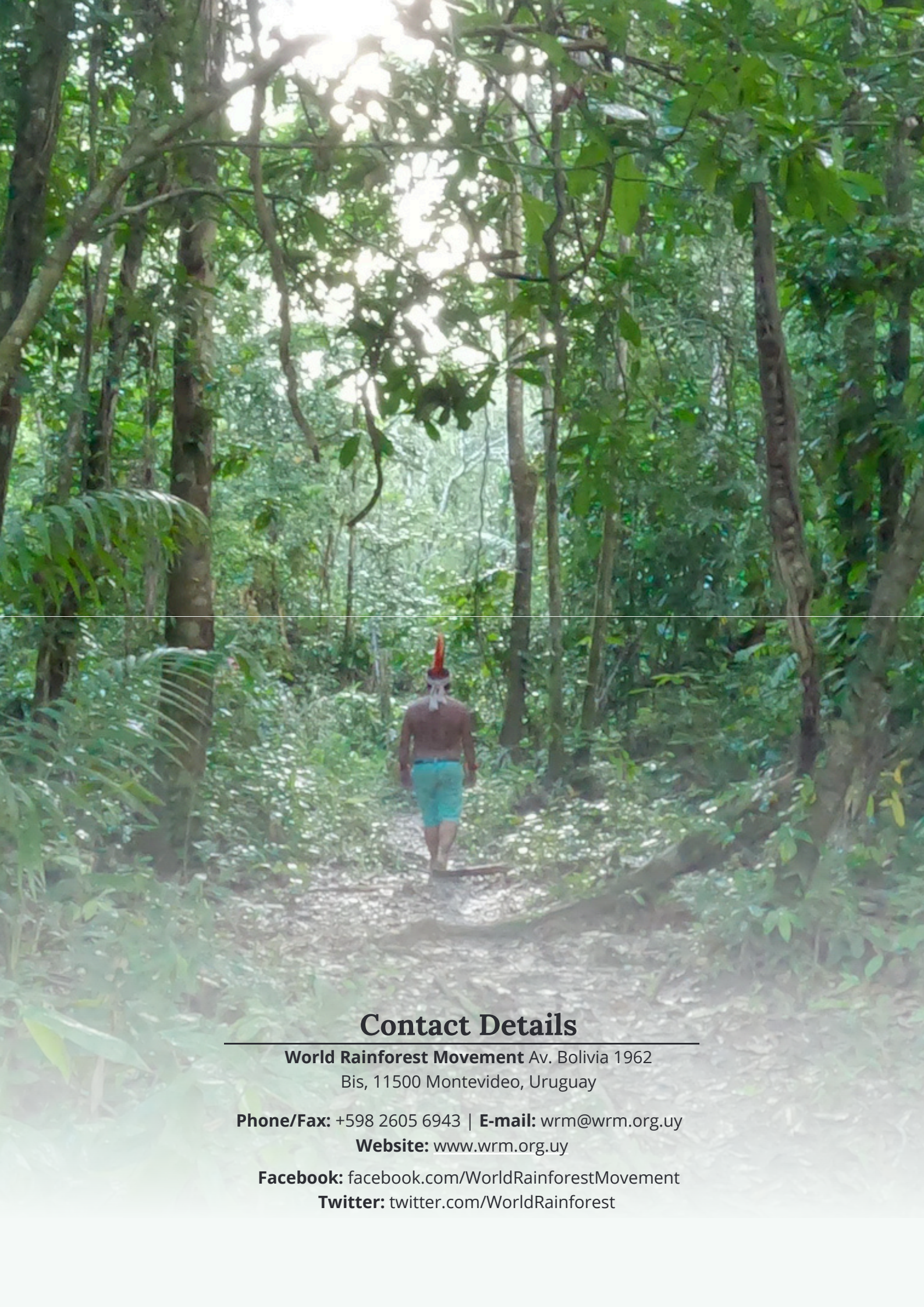
The only WRM staff members to receive a salary or honorarium are those that make up the International Secretariat. Individuals hired for short-term, specific activities, such as carrying out case studies, can receive an honorarium, based on a contract clearly describing the tasks to be carried out and the remuneration agreed upon.



Funding

In 2024, WRM's activities were funded by **SSNC** (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation) from Sweden; **Misereor/KZE** from Germany; **HEKS/EPER** from Switzerland; **Swift Foundation** and **Grassroots International** from the United States; and the **Agroecology Fund and Olin gGmbH**.

WRM's 2024 Annual accounts have been audited by the firm PKF, in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). A summary of the Annual audit is available [here](#), and includes a summarised version of the Notes to the financial statements.



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