



World Rainforest Movement

Annual Report 2025

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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 and Approaches

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

In 2025, WRM continued to work closely with Indigenous Peoples, grassroots communities and social and environmental justice groups. Our aim was to support their struggles against extractive industries, companies promoting carbon offset projects, and the colonial power structures behind said projects and actors. WRM also sought to promote solidarity and build alliances among communities; we see these as key to building a stronger movement that is better equipped to resist the impacts of forest destruction and climate change.

As we reflect on another challenging year, some concerning facts stand out.

The 30th edition of the UN Climate COP – held in November 2025 in the Amazonian city of Belém, in the Brazilian state of Pará – once again achieved very little. It reinforced the idea that forests can be conserved through carbon markets, REDD, and offset projects – despite the fact that such projects and mechanisms have been shown to exacerbate climate chaos and perpetuate deforestation and the displacement of communities. The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), launched during the COP, is yet another example of turning forest destruction and the climate crisis into a gambling opportunity – this time for investors profiting from speculation on financial markets. The initiatives promoted at the Brazilian COP – carbon markets, REDD and the TFFF – fit neatly into the fossil fuel industry’s greenwashing agenda; they continue to channel money into tropical forest conservation without addressing the root causes of deforestation.

What’s worse, most governments are turning the COP into a business counter by offering carbon credits for sale. Meanwhile, they are promoting large-scale deforestation in the name of the ‘energy transition’ towards a ‘low-carbon economy’. For example, the government of Indonesia is driving the rapid expansion of large-scale nickel mining that fuels new industrial parks such as the Green Industrial Zone (KIHI) in North Kalimantan. It is a stark reminder that concepts like “green energy”, “energy transition”, and the very idea of “development” always imply the destruction of communities, territories, and lives.

The hopeful news is that many forest-dependent Peoples and communities on all continents continue to fight such initiatives. WRM stands with these Peoples and communities and

learns from their struggles. Drawing on these experiences, we analyse and challenge the mechanisms underpinning the root causes of deforestation and climate chaos.

This annual report reflects the collaborative work and learning that WRM has engaged in alongside communities in resistance. It highlights a number of activities that WRM carried out throughout 2025. And it shows that, despite the many crises they face in their territories, communities are daily building another world based on solidarity, self-determination and the defense of life.

We stand in solidarity with their struggles!



Highlights from 2025

Strengthening Grassroots Resistance and International Solidarity:

In 2025, WRM intensified its efforts to connect and strengthen grassroots communities and movements that are resisting the expansion of industrial monocultures, the imposition of carbon markets, 'nature-based solutions', and other plans hatched in international spaces like the UN climate conferences (COPs). Our efforts to connect communities facing similar threats across different countries and continents helps break the isolation they often face in their struggles.

In West and Central Africa, for instance, as part of the facilitation team of the Informal Alliance against industrial oil palm plantations, WRM supported a mobilization for the International Day of Struggle against Industrial Tree Plantations on September 21st. This online event brought together over 200 participants from communities in six countries – Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gabon, Cameroon, and Nigeria – to share their experiences resisting monoculture plantations and reclaiming ancestral lands.

In Papua, Indonesia, WRM's work contributed to the campaign to stop the Merauke industrial food estate project, which is currently the largest of its kind in the country. In addition to disseminating information about the impacts of what may be the largest deforestation project worldwide, WRM created online spaces for dialogue among Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and grassroots activists from Papua, IPs and activists from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and IPs from Brazil. As a result, the Ka'apor People and their leadership, organized in the Tuxa Ta Pame council, received a delegation of Indigenous Peoples from Papua just before COP30 in Belém. This in-person gathering was a space for mutual learning about the importance of self-governance, autonomy and territorial defence against potential invaders (such as logging companies and carbon offset companies).



Brazil

WRM also facilitated an in-person learning exchange about the impacts of large-scale hydropower dams. There is currently a renewed push in Southeast Asia for such dams, which are being promoted as 'clean energy' for the 'green transition'. Community and grassroots activists from Indonesia who are fighting the Mentarang hydropower dam project visited communities in Thailand that have a long history of struggle against such dams on the Mekong River and its affluents. In this exchange, the international Movement

of People Affected by Large-scale Dams (MAR) also participated. The exchange resulted in a joint statement issued on 14 March, the International Day of Action for Rivers, calling for the halt of the Phou Ngoy dam project in Laos and the Mentarang dam project in Indonesia.

In Mozambique, WRM worked with local groups to support communities resisting tree monoculture plantations in the provinces of Manica, Zambézia, and Nampula. A community exchange in Zambézia brought together 40 members of communities affected by industrial eucalyptus plantations promoted by the companies Portucel and Florestal do Norte. These activities have strengthened the participation of women in the resistance against eucalyptus and rubber plantations.



Thailand



Mozambique

Women at the forefront of resistance

When we talk about capitalism's exploitation of community territories and its destruction of forests, we also need to talk about its exploitation of women, their labour, and their bodies. WRM understands that the struggle against capitalist oppression must also include the struggle against patriarchal and other forms of oppression, such as racism.

One fundamental concern is women's participation in the activities that WRM facilitates. In Mozambique, for instance, WRM's contributions over the past years have strengthened the participation of women in struggles against monoculture tree plantations.



Mozambique

In the Brazilian Amazon, WRM and the Tuxa Ta Pame of the Ka'apor Indigenous People facilitated a women's gathering in September to share information about



Brazil

the expansion of carbon markets and carbon projects in forest areas. REDD, like most market-based tools, is not gender neutral; on the contrary, it reinforces patriarchal and racist patterns

of oppression. We organised this space on the request of women who had participated in a previous meeting in the same territory, in which both men and women participated. The women wanted to create a dedicated space for themselves to talk about REDD and their participation in resistance struggles. Nearly 50 women from Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, and participated. They issued a

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collective statement denouncing REDD and carbon markets, raising their voices in a discussion that has traditionally been dominated by men.

In Cameroon, WRM continued to support the AFRISE peasant women's association in their struggle to reclaim their lands from the Socfin corporation. In February 2025, WRM helped organise a women's solidarity visit to the site where the AFRISE women had successfully taken back a small piece of land to plant food crops. It served as an important learning activity for women from other communities who are part of the Alliance against industrial oil palm plantations in West and Central Africa.

Within the framework of the International Women's Day, WRM also published an **article** summarising the commonalities

in the resistance stories of three groups of women – which were recorded as a podcast series on “Women's struggles for land”. One can hear the connections among these stories of struggle and resistance from Indonesia, Sierra Leone, and Mexico – despite the different contexts and continents.

Exposing Corporate Tactics and the Role of 'Conflict Mediators'

Throughout 2025, WRM continued to produce information to expose corporate, government and NGO activities that destroy forests and violate rights.

In collaboration with activists who are part of WRM's network, WRM produced an **article** about the role of certain NGOs



Cameroon

that portray themselves as ‘conflict mediators’ between corporations and communities. The article focused on the case of the Earthworm Foundation, explaining how organisations like this one undermine community struggles and greenwash corporations. The Earthworm Foundation is helping greenwash Socfin and Agropalma, two companies that are promoting industrial oil palm plantations whilst creating conflict and negative impacts for communities. Following Earthworm’s public response to the article, WRM and its allied groups **published** further evidence of how this kind of “mediation” does not stop land grabbing and rights violations.

In Brazil, WRM supported communities that are resisting the expansion of eucalyptus plantations belonging to pulp and paper company Suzano in the states of Maranhão and Espírito Santo. We helped organise action alerts to prevent Suzano from using the judiciary system to evict landless peasants and Quilombola communities from their lands. WRM’s exposé of Suzano reached international media outlets like **Taz Magazine**.

WRM also facilitated a range of activities to help communities being targeted for REDD and carbon market projects better understand the purpose of these

schemes and, in particular, the interests driving them. REDD promoters often pressure communities to consent to such initiatives; they deceive communities, rather than informing them about the true nature of the projects they want to implement in communities’ territories. In Argentina, WRM helped organise a visit to the province of Misiones to share information with Indigenous and peasant communities about carbon projects that are targetting their land – including the Jurisdictional REDD program that Swiss company Mercuria Energy Group is pushing to implement, which also affects their land. Similarly, in Tocantins, Brazil, WRM contributed to educating about 200 representatives from 10 Indigenous groups about REDD. These peoples are



Brazil

being pressured to accept a jurisdictional REDD program also involving Mercuria and its local branch, Silvania. In Bolivia, WRM participated in the annual assembly of CONTIOCAP, by sharing communities' experiences and challenges with new laws that have opened the country to carbon markets and agrofuels. In Colombia, WRM shared key information about REDD and carbon markets at the ONIC (National Indigenous Organization of Colombia) federation's national assembly, held in 2025.

Information Tools and Critical Analysis

The WRM Bulletin, reaching 3,980 subscribers, continued to be our main tool for sharing critical analyses during 2025. The bulletin continues to be published in four languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese and French), and several articles are also translated into Indonesian. In 2025, four issues were published:

- **Bulletin 274 – “Dirty tactics behind ‘green’ business”**: This bulletin focused on the violent and coercive strategies hidden behind so-called sustainable business models.
- **Bulletin 275 – “Energy in debate”**: This bulletin questioned prevailing ideas about “energy” and the “energy transition”,

and what these concepts mean for communities.

- **Bulletin 276 – “Tree Monocultures: Communities resisting pressure over their territories”**: Within the framework of the International Day of Struggle against Plantations Issue, this bulletin featured articles on resistance and land reclamation struggles in Indonesia, Liberia, Colombia, and Brazil.

- **Bulletin 277 – “Resistance struggles confront corporate profiteering from climate chaos”**: This bulletin included analyses of the COP30 and the TFFF, a feminist declaration on carbon markets, and other articles.

DOCUMENTARY – “NO to REDD and Carbon Markets”

This film was released in early 2025 and features testimonies from Indigenous and traditional communities across three continents that have decided to say no to carbon projects. The documentary was released in six languages – including Thai and Indonesian – and has been viewed nearly 21,000 times to date.

BRIEFING – “Who really needs more pulp and paper?”

This briefing is an analysis of the interests behind the increase in global demand for pulp

and paper products. It takes a close look at who benefits from the expansion of industrial tree plantations, and how this expansion puts pressure on community lands.

Stichting World Rainforest Movement (WRM) is a Dutch foundation registered in 1999 at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce under number 34118798.

Structure and Financial Overview:

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
- Hendro Sangkoyo, 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 2025 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)
- Shalmali Guttal, Focus on the Global South (Thailand)
- Silvia Ribeiro, ETC Group (Mexico)
- Tom B.K. Goldtooth, Indigenous Environmental Network (USA)
- Ivonne Yáñez, 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 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 ones who receive a salary or honorarium are those that make up the WRM International Secretariat team. 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 2025, 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 CCFD from France.

WRM's 2025 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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