

## How do we work?

With many issues affecting forests globally, FERN focuses on the underlying causes that lead to forest loss, such as financial flows contributing to forest destruction, the unsustainable trade in timber and forest products and negative government policies. Our campaigns fall within the following five campaign areas: climate change, development aid, forest peoples' rights, forests and biodiversity, and trade and investment. In all these areas we work very closely with a large number of environmental groups and social movements across the world.



Through our work we aim to increase the political and economic opportunities for people to create a more balanced society in which human rights are fully respected and environmental and social values are fully integrated.

Through our co-ordination and facilitation work, FERN has built a series of strong and effective campaign networks. These are then used to co-ordinate campaigns and have resulted in the release of many joint statements on issues of shared concern.

## Some of FERN's most notable successes

FERN produces excellent material and is increasingly influential and well thought of in EC circles.

*UNDP Small Grants Fund*

- Successfully working with NGOs in Venezuela and the European Parliament to save forests from mining and logging in the Venezuelan State of Amazonas.
- Highlighting the undue and unjust influence by large companies on environmental and social laws in host countries when executing large projects, such as the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline.
- Improved integration of environmental concerns into EC aid programmes and EC aid policies.
- The rejection of the scientifically flawed concept of planting trees to reverse climate change ('carbon sinks') by the European Parliament.
- The presentation by the Commission of an EU Action Plan to combat illegal logging following an NGO campaign, co-ordinated by FERN.
- Successfully co-ordinating the European network for the reform of export credit agencies, leading to the adoption of environmental guidelines for export credit agencies.

By challenging established thinking, finding new and creative ways to progress, provoking discussions within the different environmental and social movements, and within government, we want to address seemingly intractable global concerns.

## Who is FERN?

FERN is a non-governmental organisation (NGO), created in 1995. We work to achieve greater environmental and social justice, focusing on forests and forest peoples' rights in the policies and practices of the European Union.

FERN was an invaluable source of information and extremely helpful in connecting us with the right people in the EU, in navigating the EU maze of people and committees etc. Our lobbying work at the EU level would have been impossible without the input, support and advice of FERN.



*Photos: Fred Hoogervorst, Creativ collection, Colin Nicholas / Centre for Orang Asli Concerns*



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# FERN

**keeping track of EU activities,  
with a focus on forests**



[www.fern.org](http://www.fern.org)

## Focus on forests

The world's forests are under pressure. Tropical forests are disappearing fast due to logging, mining, hydropower and the hunger for land. The last temperate and northern old growth forests are being destroyed by the timber and paper industries. The livelihood of forest peoples is being undermined and every year thousands of plant and animal species disappear.

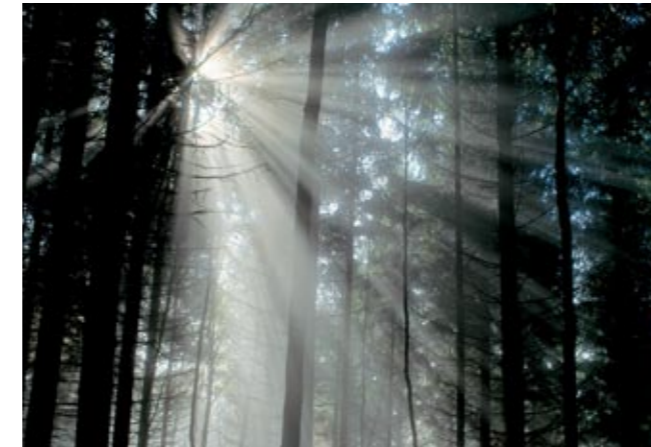
Many organisations campaign to save the world's forests and support the struggle of forest peoples. International co-ordination of these activities is important. FERN was created in 1995 to keep track of the EU's involvement in forests and to co-ordinate NGO activities at the European level. In the last five years we have widened our scope beyond forests to also include work on general aid, trade and climate issues, as many of the decisions made in these areas have a direct or indirect impact on forests and forest peoples' rights.



The name FERN stands for Forests and the European Union Resource Network, although we are more widely known by our acronym. The name was chosen for its symbolic value, as ferns are among the few plant families found in all types of forests.

## Why focus on the European Union?

The European Union (EU) and its Member States have a major influence on how forests are managed worldwide. Firstly, the EU is a major producer, consumer and importer of timber and timber products, a large proportion of which is suspected to be illegally sourced. Secondly, the EU is one of the main actors within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) – where rules on the trade in forest and agricultural products are being drafted – and is a major instigator of bilateral trade and investment agreements that impact on forests. Thirdly, one-third of all forest projects worldwide are funded by the EU and its Member States.



The co-ordination and contact point roles of FERN are important and well received.

*DG Trade of the European Commission*

Reports that have met with considerable acclaim include **Trade liberalisation and the Impact on Forest / Sinking the Kyoto Protocol / Behind the Logo / Forests at the Edge / Controlling imports of illegal timber / EU's impact on forests, a practical guide to campaigning**. For a full list of our publications see [www.fern.org](http://www.fern.org) or our publications brochure.

## FERN's activities

### Research and monitoring

Each month, FERN publishes a concise, up-to-date information bulletin entitled EU Forest Watch. In addition, we publish specialised briefing notes on selected topics (e.g. illegal logging, export credit agencies, forest certification, EC aid) and highly significant reports, based on research we have carried out.

### Co-ordination and facilitation

At FERN we believe in concerted NGO advocacy at EU level. To stimulate discussion and develop joint strategies and campaigns, FERN regularly organises NGO meetings, such as the annual Forest Movement Europe meeting.

### Advocacy

In our advocacy activities we aim to link different movements and organisations and create effective networks to campaign on issues we believe to be important. In other words: we link issues, stimulate informed discussion and develop joint strategies in areas that are of critical environmental and social concern, in most cases, but not exclusively, focused on EU institutions.

### Support

Through our unique position within NGO networks and our contacts with the EU institutions, FERN supports both Northern and Southern NGOs in putting their case to the EU institutions. Where needed we help NGOs with fundraising.

The advocacy work that the Sami people did at the EU level would have been impossible without the input, support and advice of FERN. Thank you for your great work.

*Sami Support Group*



## Who do we work with?

FERN works in close co-operation with many NGOs and NGO networks, including: American Lands, US / Both Ends, Netherlands / BRIMAS, Malaysia / Campagna, Italy / CED, Cameroon / Cornerhouse, UK / Down to Earth, UK / ECA Reform Campaign / Environmental Defense, US / Durban Climate Group / Forests Monitor, UK / Forest Peoples Programme, UK / Forest Watch Ghana / Friends of the Earth / Global Witness, UK / Green Desert Movement, Brazil / Greenpeace / IDEAL, Malaysia / International Alliance of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Forests / JATAN, Japan / Netherlands Committee for IUCN / NTFP exchange programme, Philippines / Pro Regenwald, Germany / Taiga Rescue Network / Telapak, Indonesia / Urgewald, Germany / World Rainforest Movement.