Foreword

FERN was created in two backrooms in Brussels and in the UK in March 1995 by Sian Pettman (now a board member) and myself. Neither of us would have believed at the time that in the tenth year of its existence, FERN would have two full offices with eight staff, four in Brussels and four in the UK. Nonetheless, that’s where we are today.

Why and how FERN managed to grow is connected, we believe, to the fact that for FERN the forest crisis is a symptom of wider deficiencies in the current political and economic arena. To tackle the forest crisis we need to address the issues which have led to this crisis: forestry laws that benefit forestry industry over local people, skewed terms of trade for forests and agricultural products, top-down development and investment programmes, lack of participation in decision-making of NGOs, local communities and indigenous peoples, lack of governance and above all, a neo-liberal economic dogma that falsely guides many decision-makers.

Through our work we seek to address these seemingly intractable global concerns by challenging established thinking, finding new and creative ways to progress and provoking discussions within environmental and social movements, and within governments. We aim to increase the political and economic space for people to create a more balanced society in which there is a true respect for forest peoples, human rights and environmental and social values.

Whether we have done our work effectively and how we can improve our effectiveness is something we intend to assess in 2005, as we did after the first five years. As one of our board members pointed out: “What is clear is that one of FERN’s main achievements over the last ten years is to have achieved credibility with such a wide range of stakeholder groups, from NGOs to Commission officials, funders and politicians. FERN has done this, in part at least, by delivering high quality products (briefing notes and reports), which are not only professional and accurate, but also incisive and pertinent. FERN has also managed to keep its finger on the pulse of critical issues affecting forests and forest peoples. It has done this by playing a pivotal role in various regional and international NGO networks. FERN has been at the cutting edge of forest issues over the last ten years and has helped maintain forests on the international agenda.”

With your support, we hope to do the same for the next ten years.

Saskia Ozinga
FERN co-ordinator
Orang-utan with her young. Indonesia, Sumatra
Networking and communication

FERN works to create real change in the policies and practices of the EU, specifically those that impact on forests and forest peoples' rights globally. We work closely with environmental groups and social movements world-wide and are connected with and motivated by their concerns - from locally-based struggles for rights to national or regional campaigns against destructive practices, such as large-scale industrial logging, mining and large dams. Developing permanent and ad hoc NGO networks and facilitating the development of joint NGO strategies and positions is one of FERN’s key roles.

Some examples of our most successful networking activities in 2004 include:

- Organising the annual FME meeting. The Forest Movement Europe (FME) has been in existence for 15 years and is the oldest European-wide network working on forest issues. Over 50 organisations participated in 2004.
- Supporting NGOs in the US, Canada, Malaysia and Brazil in activities to make public the failings of their national forest certification schemes. We also actively worked within the FSC network to ensure it improves its performance on the ground, notably with the certification of tree plantations in the South.
- For development issues, FERN’s EC Forest Platform hosted and organised meetings between Indonesian, Nigerian and Ecuadorian environmental and indigenous rights campaigners and EU Institutions. The Platform links NGOs in the South with EU institutions. The 2004 Platform strategy meeting, held in Yaoundé (Cameroon), brought together Cameroonian and Indonesian groups to discuss key issues to improve the quality of EC development co-operation.
- Expanding FERN’s work on EU forests, FERN broadened its NGO network with more than ten NGOs in the new EU Member States and is providing NGOs in Eastern Europe with tools on how to use EU policies and legislation to protect forests in their countries.
- FERN’s SinksWatch initiative is the only cross-sectoral initiative on forest and climate change from a grass roots perspective. It has provided a platform for activists to report on the negative impact of tree plantations established as carbon sinks and sharpened awareness of policy makers and potential buyers of carbon credits about the problems related to carbon sinks. In 2004, we responded to over 50 information requests, and provided advice to NGOs in South Africa, Brazil, India and Uganda.
- FERN co-ordinates the European Export Credit Agencies Reform campaign, bringing together over 15 European NGOs working on financial institutions. It was the ECA campaign that forced the OECD into producing the first set of environmental standards for ECAs. In 2004 the campaign focused on monitoring the implementation of these guidelines and on achieving greater transparency in export credit financing through new EU legislation.
Raft of logs on its way to the saw mills on Mahakam River, Indonesia
**FERN’s campaigns in 2004**

**Export Credit Agencies**

Most of the large-scale infrastructure projects in the South are funded by export credit agencies (ECAs) - governmental or quasi-governmental departments using taxpayers' money to help domestic corporations to invest and export overseas. ECAs typically provide export finance in the form of guarantees, insurance and direct loans. Their main purpose is to protect companies against the commercial and political risks of not being paid while operating abroad. However, while ECAs are large and powerful players operating with public money, they are not subject to any binding environmental or social guidelines. Export credit funding therefore often goes to highly destructive and risky operations in the mining, pulp and paper, oil and gas, nuclear energy and hydropower sectors. Because of their approach to support domestic business at any cost and against fierce competition from other industrialised countries, ECAs have a poor track record of taking into account the negative environmental or social impact of projects they support. Since 1998, an international NGO coalition has been working to reform ECA practices. FERN's goal for European ECAs is to achieve binding environmental, development, human rights and social guidelines. In order to achieve this, FERN co-ordinates the European ECA Reform Campaign founded in 2002.

**FERN’s main activities and successes**

- FERN's ECA campaign has continued to maintain and expand our excellent working relationship with key officials in the Commission and members of the European Parliament, who have become allies in our efforts to achieve sustainable and fair export promotion.
- One of FERN's major achievements in 2004 related to financing terms for large dams. It's been widely acknowledged that large dams have failed to provide the benefits their promoters predicted while their negative social and environmental impact has been far greater than imagined. As a result of FERN's campaigning DG Trade ruled that European ECAs are expected to comply with specific safeguards, including the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams (WCD). This statement is a significant success as it further cements the Commission's commitment to the WCD and acknowledges the critical role ECAs play in the financing of dams.
- A focus of the 2004 campaign was the lack of transparency and accountability of European ECAs. A briefing note entitled: Blood from a stone: can the new EU Directive on Access to Information force ECAs to open up? was published in November and reprinted in the newsletter of the European Public Participation campaign. This research has helped to further the debate on transparency requirements for ECAs.
- FERN organised two meetings in Brussels dedicated to the issue of transparency: a NGO workshop on access to environmental information with input from experts of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the Centre for International
Environmental Law (CIET) in September and a working meeting between ECA campaigners and Commission staff in November to discuss new EU Directives, such as the Directive on access to information, as tools to hold ECAs accountable to taxpayers.

- FERN strengthened ECA campaign links with Brussels-based development organisations, namely with the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad). This has greatly enhanced co-operation and a better use of synergies between the different campaigns.

- A briefing paper by the European ECA Reform Campaign and Both ENDS on the debt-creating aspects of export credit lending - How ECAs turn private risks of corporations into debt for developing countries - was published in October 2004.

Illegal logging

Illegal logging continues to be a pervasive and widespread problem, causing enormous damage to forests, forest peoples and the economies of many countries. No exact figures exist, but reliable estimates suggest that over 50 per cent of tropical timber imports into the EU and between 10 and 20 per cent of timber from the boreal region is illegally sourced. Costs to producer countries are crushing, ranging from 1.8 billion US dollars in the Philippines to 3 billion dollars in Indonesia.

Since the EU is one of the largest importers of timber and forest products, wood consumption of EU Member States continues to fuel illegal logging and related criminal activities. However, the EU has no legal means to halt the import of illegally sourced forest products. All the main EU institutions have recognised this problem but insufficient action has so far been taken to address the issue.

FERN campaigns to ensure the EU does not contribute to illegal practices and supports the demand for forest law reform in producer countries. A revision of forest-related laws in most timber-producing countries is seen as essential. Existing legislation typically favours the timber industry over local people, often ignores indigenous peoples’ rights and prohibits forestry activities like small-scale timber production, fuel-wood collection, and hunting that millions of poor rural households rely on for survival. To focus only on greater enforcement of existing forestry and conservation laws could therefore potentially have a devastating effect on rural livelihoods.

FERN’s main activities and successes

- In 2004, FERN campaigned to ensure that the EU bans illegally sourced timber imports and supported local demands for forest law reform in producer countries. The aim has been to ensure that the EU adopts a Regulation on controlling imports from wood-producing partner countries, including minimum requirements for partnership agreements with these countries, particularly in relation to land rights and civil society participation.

- Following widespread campaigning initiated by FERN over the last four years, the EU
has now drafted legislation to control timber imports from partner countries. This legislation is currently in the process of being adopted.

• The debate on illegal logging has given new impetus to Member States’ procurement policies. Several EU Member States are now developing and implementing timber procurement policies, specifying legal and sustainable timber, informed by FERN’s publications and updates.

• FERN has created and is co-ordinating an NGO coalition working on the issue at EU level.

### EU Timber Procurement Policies

Government procurement has great potential to make an effective contribution to responsible forest management. Governmental purchase of timber and timber products is estimated to account for 18 per cent of total timber imports into G8 countries. Worth 20 billion US dollars annually, this constitutes a formidable economic force in the international timber market. As new EU Directives on government procurement adopted in January 2004 were rumoured to have an impact on government procurement policies, FERN decided to research the potential impact of these Directives on EU Member States’ timber procurement policies. FERN’s report To Buy or not to Buy, summarising the findings, was published in January 2004. The report found that new EU Procurement Directives did not rule out the possibility for green timber procurement and highlighted available options for government procurement favouring legal and sustainable timber under the new EU Directives.

### Forest certification

Forest certification is widely seen as one of the most important initiatives of the last decade to promote better forest management. Backed by both NGOs and the private sector, it has led to greater recognition of the importance of environmentally and socially sound wood products and has engaged producers, consumers and retailers in a positive effort to clean up the timber industry. Certification has also strengthened a global debate on the future of forest use. However, the credibility of certification as a tool to deliver good forest management is now at risk from the business-as-usual practices allowed under most certification schemes. FERN has explored these risks and presented detailed recommendations to ensure certification remains a tool to promote better forest use.
FERN's main activities and successes

- In 2004, FERN researched and published the report Footprints in the forest: Current practice and future challenges in forest certification. The report compares eight forest certification schemes currently in operation, and finds that the majority of schemes are certifying near status quo practices in the forestry industry.
- As an FSC member, FERN has actively worked within the FSC network to ensure improvements, notably with regard to the certification of industrial tree plantations in the South. As a result, the FSC has started a review process of its plantation policy.
- Other certification related activities in 2004 included FERN's support for partner NGOs in the USA, Canada, Malaysia and Brazil in efforts to make public the failings of the national certification schemes in these countries.
- FERN monitored the developments on the EU ecolabel scheme on furniture, and published the findings in its newsletter. The EU ecolabel scheme on furniture is fast losing credibility due to large industry pressure.

Footprints in the Forests

FERN published the report Footprints in the forest: Current practice and future challenges in forest certification in January 2004. The report compares eight forest certification schemes currently in operation, and finds that the majority of schemes are certifying near status quo practices in the forestry industry:

- No independence: Six out of eight schemes have standards primarily developed by the forestry industry with little or no participation from other stakeholders;
- No transparency: Half the schemes do not make certification reports or standards freely available and don't allow for public scrutiny of practices;
- Rights ignored: Social issues, specifically land and user rights, are not sufficiently addressed by any of the schemes, although one is well ahead of its competitors.

The report concludes that the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) remains the most credible scheme in operation.

Women collecting bamboo, Malaysia

Climate

Climate change is one of the world's most pressing problems. Human consumption of fossil fuel is the main contributor to climate change. Hence, reducing our fossil fuel addiction and switching towards economies based on renewable energies is the only
viable solution to the problem. Weaning our economies off the current reliance on fossil fuels requires drastic changes to current industrial production processes and consumption patterns. Assuming responsibility to bring these changes on the way requires political will and leadership. FERN’s Sinkswatch initiative has exposed the fact that international climate change negotiations and government action have failed to show such leadership and instead have chosen political expediency by pretending that planting trees can ‘neutralise’ the carbon release through burning fossil fuels. While trees do absorb carbon from the atmosphere and temporarily store it in their wood, tree-planting is an insecure way of storing carbon out of harm’s way as far as climate change is concerned. This approach also distracts attention away from the unavoidable need for drastic reductions in fossil fuel use. Many proposed carbon sinks projects also have a negative impact on the environment and on communities living on, or in the vicinity of, land designated as carbon sinks. By creating Sinkswatch – an initiative to expose the fraud underlying the carbon sinks accounting of the Kyoto Protocol and to support communities confronted with problems arising from large scale tree plantations – FERN has worked tirelessly and with success to expose the false logic of tree-planting ‘offset projects’.

**FERN’s main activities and successes**

- FERN’s SinksWatch initiative is the most important source of information for individuals and organisations seeking updates and critical analysis on carbon trading and carbon sinks projects. In 2004, the initiative provided advice to NGOs advocating regulatory measures to avert climate change. The SinksWatch website [www.sinkswatch.org](http://www.sinkswatch.org) is a central element in this endeavour, featuring a wealth of information and ready-to-use PowerPoint presentations on the topics of carbon trading, climate change and carbon sinks.

- Spreading the word about the flaws in the carbon sinks concept also helped convince the European Parliament and Council to exclude carbon sinks credits from the initial phase of the EU Linking Directive, the legal instrument allowing carbon credits from the Kyoto Protocol to enter into the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme.

- In addition to networking and communications activities, Sinkswatch filed a complaint with the UK Advertising Standards Authority regarding an advert promising to ‘offset’ harmful greenhouse gas emissions linked to making phone calls by investing in a tree-planting project in Uganda. We are still awaiting the outcome.

- FERN played an active role in a new coalition addressing the dangers of turning the atmosphere into a tradeable commodity, the Durban Group, which published a declaration on carbon trading. This declaration has catalysed a much-needed discussion amongst civil society organisations about the impacts of embarking on climate strategies relying on carbon trading.

- FERN’s call to ‘say no to fake carbon credits’ has made a significant contribution to ensuring companies remain wary of carbon credits from tree-planting projects.

Stan Cox, AlterNet, April 4, 2005
Four flaws of carbon ‘offset’ tree-planting projects

• Phoney climate fix: Carbon in fossil fuels is locked away beneath the ground and only released through human intervention. Furthermore, the release of fossil carbon is permanent, and over historic timescales, fossil carbon will remain in the atmosphere once released. Tree-stored carbon meant to ‘offset’ these permanent fossil carbon releases on the other hand may also enter the atmosphere during that time because trees are an insecure way of storing carbon out of harm’s way. Carbon storage in vegetation is volatile and temporary - tree-stored carbon is easily released into the atmosphere through fire, natural decay and timber harvesting.

• Arming a time bomb: Avoiding climate changes requires drastic reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, but carbon ‘offset’ tree-planting projects do nothing to bring about these reductions. In fact, they mask the real crisis and create the illusion that tree-planting is an easy fix to the climate crisis. This is sentencing future generations to live with fewer choices and worse conditions.

• Forest fraud: Forests play a vital role in storing carbon and buffering extreme weather events. But linking forest restoration with carbon credits is a dead-end for forest peoples as well as for the climate. Given that fast-growing trees produce more credits because they soak up more carbon, the carbon market favours plantations of fast-growing, exotic species over natural regeneration with slow-growing, native species. Such plantations have often directly or indirectly contributed to deforestation. Halting the forest crisis requires action against the underlying causes of the forest and climate crisis, not a bigger active carbon pool and more monoculture tree plantations.

• Measuring carbon fluxes in forest ecosystems is fraught with uncertainties. Scientists have found that estimates of the carbon balance in Canadian forests could vary by 1000 per cent if seemingly small factors, such as increased levels of atmospheric CO₂, are not taken into account.
Development co-operation

The European Union is the world’s largest aid donor, providing for 55 per cent of all global development assistance – over 30 billion euro in 2003. One-fifth of the EU’s total aid budget is managed by the European Commission, making the Commission the third largest donor in the world after the USA and Japan. Yet, despite the fact that the European Community (EC) disburse over seven billion euro annually in development co-operation activities, its aid programme does not adequately integrate civil society concerns, and forests and forest peoples’ rights are often neglected. Causal links between the increase of poverty and environmental degradation are not sufficiently incorporated into the implementation of the EC aid programme.

FERN’s EC Forest Platform aims to improve the quality of EC aid so that it contributes to the protection and sustainable use of forests and the respect for forest peoples’ rights. The Platform co-ordinates NGO participation in the EC policy-making process in Brussels as well as at country level (notably Cameroon and Indonesia), monitors EC-funded projects and provides valuable information of ‘on-the-ground effects’ of EC programmes to EC policy makers.

FERN’s main activities and successes

- A major achievement in 2004 has been that FERN’s concerns with regard to the EC’s current development policy, such as the lack of consultation and the lack of recognition of the link between environmental degradation and poverty, have been acknowledged in the revision of the EC development policy. The Commission has subsequently undertaken a broad consultation, including civil society, to prepare its future development strategy.
- FERN provided a detailed analysis of new EC plans to reduce the current array of geographic and thematic financial tools to a more manageable number of six. FERN campaigned for a rejection of the current proposal unless transparency and accountability within EC development programmes was increased. The Parliament’s Development Committee has endorsed FERN’s request for rejecting this proposed funding instrument.
- FERN’s co-ordination efforts have succeeded in establishing a coalition of international environmental organisations who now meet regularly in Brussels to define common strategies for joint advocacy on development issues.
- Our ongoing work with partner NGOs in the South crystallised in 2004 with the creation of two EC forest platforms in Indonesia and Cameroon. The platforms have opened up communication channels for the first time between civil society groups, EU institutions and local governments on EC aid and forest issues. EU Development Commissioner Louis Michel applauded FERN’s initiative and noted its importance “to make the Commission more accessible to our developing country stakeholders”.
- The Cameroon Forest Platform now consists of 19 organisations. Jointly with CO SADER, a Cameroonian network of social groups, the Platform launched a monthly meeting called ‘Les Jeudis de Cotonou’ that brings together different Cameroonian...
networks to discuss and co-ordinate strategies and work on EC aid issues.

- In Indonesia, 15 provincial and national organisations work jointly in monitoring EC forest projects and lobby at national level. Their demands have led to the Indonesian government recognising the lack of “mechanisms [...] to involve civil society groups in the decision-making process and monitoring project implementation”, and has welcomed the idea of starting a dialogue with the Platform on this issue.

- The European Commission and its delegations in Cameroon and Indonesia are now in continuous dialogue with NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs), which has enhanced the quality of communications between EC delegations and Commission headquarters in Brussels, as well as between EC delegations and local governments and civil society groups. Forest NGOs and IPOs in Indonesia and Cameroon are now well-informed on EC aid issues and EC-funded forest projects.

Forests and biodiversity

Understanding and influencing EU legislation to protect forests and forest peoples around the world is central to FERN’s work, and in the past we’ve commissioned or co-ordinated critical research into possibilities of using existing legislation to regulate export credit agencies and to outlaw illegal wood. We have used the same approach to determine how best to ensure that European forests are well-managed and that the rights of Europe’s forest-dependent peoples are respected.

With the accession of ten new EU Member States the Union’s forest area has grown by 20 per cent (to 160 million ha from 136 million ha), large parts of which have high biological and social importance. It is therefore crucial that FERN keeps a firm focus on European forests.

FERN’s main activities and successes

- Together with Taiga Rescue Network (TRN), FERN researched and published The EU’s impact on Forests: A practical guide to campaigning in 2004 - an essential tool for anyone working to influence the EU on forest issues. The guide provides an overview of the EU, details of how EU processes work, practical tips on influencing those processes and pointers on where to get hold of critical information.

- FERN produced the following briefing notes with TRN: Habitats Directive & Natura 2000 and Forest Focus, which were distributed widely to NGOs in Europe in old and new EU Member States.

- FERN has actively monitored and provided comments on the evaluation of the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy.
EU Guide for Forest Campaigners

European forest campaigners can no longer ignore the role the EU plays in forest loss globally: the trade and investment agreements that impact on forests; the aid spending that either supports or destroys forests; the accession of ten Eastern and Southern European countries to the EU which has dramatically increased the area and quality of EU forests. Thus, in response to requests from community groups and NGOs throughout Europe, FERN and the Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) have developed a guide on how to approach EU institutions and campaign effectively at EU level.

FERN and TRN’s Guide is an essential tool for anyone working to influence the EU on forest issues. The Guide provides an overview of the EU, details of how EU processes work, practical tips on influencing those processes and pointers on where to get hold of critical information.

The United Nations Forum on Forests

FERN’s activities in 2004 focused on the evaluation of the United Nation Forum on Forests (UNFF) – the only international intergovernmental forum on forests. Despite its huge potential to help protect and promote good forest management of the world’s forests, its track record has been disappointing and it has clearly not contributed to better forest management worldwide. In the lead up to 2005, in which the UNFF’s functioning will be evaluated, FERN prepared the ground by researching its impact on the monitoring and reporting practices of governments.

FERN’s main activities and successes

- In 2004, FERN researched whether governments had reported to the UNFF on progress made in forest management and published a Briefing: UNFF Effectiveness: Monitoring and assessing progress through reporting (distributed during the UNFF4 meeting in May) which revealed that of 191 member countries, only eight had fulfilled all reporting requirements. This equally surprised NGOs and government delegates at the 2004 UNFF meeting.
- Not reporting means no data, which in turn means that no evaluation can be made of the UNFF and of the effectiveness of action undertaken. FERN underlined that the
UNFF is failing its mandate and actively involved more than 20 NGOs in discussions to formulate changes needed to turn the UNFF into a forum that truly promotes good forest use.

- FERN presented recommendations to the EU Council Working Group, together with the Forest Peoples Programme, to improve the functioning of the UNFF. FERN and the Forest Peoples Programme presented a document on social and cultural aspects of forests and on traditional forest-related knowledge: Preliminary Civil Society Recommendation for UNFF4.

- FERN actively participated in the UNFF4 meeting in Geneva, focusing specifically on monitoring, assessment and reporting, and presented a report on the meeting, together with the Forest Peoples Programme, which was widely quoted and used by EU Member States.

- Together with the Forest Peoples Programme, FERN presented a completed questionnaire to the UNFF: Voluntary questionnaire to facilitate the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangements on forests at the fifth session of the United Nation Forum on Forests.

Over 2295 tree species are endangered and 95 have already become extinct. A review of 10,091 tree species by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre showed that 8753 tree taxa are threatened. UNEP-WCMC, 1994
FERN financial information

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(Deficit) or income over expenditure

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<td>Taxation</td>
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<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
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(1) In the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2004, the deferred income has been included in the corresponding income. They are no longer referred to on a separate line.
FERN’s relationship with NGOs

NGOs and NGO networks that make use of FERN in their EU relationships

European ECA campaign (co-ordinated by FERN)
*Les Amis de la Terre (France)*
*Bern Declaration (Switzerland)*
*Both Ends (the Netherlands)*
*Campagna (Italy)*
*Corner House (UK)*
*ECA Iberia (Spain-Portugal)*
*Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (Finland)*
*Friends of the Earth (England)*
*Proyecto Gato (Belgium)*
*Urgewald (Germany)*
*WEED (Germany)*

EC Forest Platform (co-ordinated by FERN)
*CED, Cameroon*
*Telapak Indonesia*

Forest Movement Europe (co-ordinated by FERN)
and related groups in the South and the USA
*PER, Thailand*
*RRDC, Nigeria*
*WALHI, Indonesia*
*IDEAL, Malaysia*
*ICA, Ghana*
*FPP, UK*
*SSNC, Sweden*
*EIA, UK*
*EDF, USA*
*American Lands, USA*
*Robin Wood, Germany*
*Pro Regenwald, Germany*

International networks
*World Rainforest Movement, Uruguay*
*Taiga Rescue Network, Sweden*
*Friends of the Earth*
*Greenpeace*
*WWF*
*Durban Group*

Media and publications

In the run-up to FERN’s 10th anniversary year, significant progress has been made on visibility, media and publications. The popular Forest Watch newsletter and the EC Forest Platform newsletter ‘Platform News’, mailed to over 200 people and over 130 organisations in more than 30 countries worldwide, have both seen an increase in subscriptions. The total number of subscribers to Forest Watch (by mail and email) has seen a significant increase, from 523 in December 2003 to 968 in December 2004. FERN’s website continues to be extremely successful with an ever-increasing number of hits as visibility increases; from 7,917 to 9,863 visitors per month – a significant lift from 3,342 in the start of 2003. The following briefings and reports were produced last year in connection with FERN’s campaigns:

Briefing notes

**Forest Focus**
FERN/TRN briefing note introducing the EU’s Forest Focus Regulation and discussing critical areas and opportunities for NGO participation. [Authors: Leontien Krul (FERN) / Tom Lomax (TRN)]

**All change: a proposal for a new instrument on development and economic co-operation**
Summarising the main elements of the Commission's proposal to simplify EC development aid, together with FERN’s concerns and recommendations. [Author: Iola Leal Riesco]

**Europe and North Asia FLEG: a key task for civil society**
FERN/TRN briefing note introducing the latest development in the EU’s attempts to fight illegal logging through the FLEGT initiatives. The ENA-FLEG will be launched with its first Ministerial Conference in Russia some time in 2005. [Author: Iola Leal Riesco]

**Habitats Directive and Natura 2000: TRN/FERN**
Focusing specifically on forests this briefing note assesses current implementation plans and the potential for NGO participation in implementation of the Natura 2000 network. [Authors: Leontien Krul (FERN) / Tom Lomax (TRN)]
Blood from a stone: can the new EU Directive on access to information force ECAs to open up?
FERN briefing note assessing the potential of and limitations for a new EU Directive in forcing ECAs to open up their business to scrutiny. [Author: Judith Neyer]

Special Report on UNFF: UNFF failing its mandate - 4th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
A report on the successes and failures of the 4th session of the UNFF. [Authors: Emily Caruso and Leontien Krul]

UNFF Effectiveness - Briefing 1: Monitoring and assessing progress through reporting
FERN’s briefing note looking at the fulfillment, or lack thereof, of government commitments on monitoring and assessing progress through reporting on the implementation of the IPF / IFF Recommendations for Action. [Author: Leontien Krul]

Reports

Licensing of Legal Timber: Logic and Design of an EU Scheme
FERN commissioned a discussion paper reviewing the Commission’s proposed voluntary licensing scheme to prevent the import of illegally produced and traded timber into the EU. [Author: Mike Garforth, Tacsus Consultancy]

The EU’s Impact on Forests: a practical guide to campaigning
An essential tool for anyone working to influence the EU on forest issues, the Guide provides an overview of the EU, details of how EU processes work, practical tips on influencing those processes and pointers on where to get hold of critical information. [Authors: Emilie Cornu-Thenard and Saskia Ozinga]

Une loi pour le bois: quelles dispositions juridiques pour lutter contre les importations illicites de bois en France?
Examination of French law relevant to illegal wood imports into France, including recommendations for the implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan. A joint FERN / FoE France publication. [Author: Frederic Castell; Les Amis de la Terre France]

Facing Reality: How to halt the import of illegal timber in the EU
In this joint report, FERN, WWF and Greenpeace discuss the EU’s FLEGT Action Plan on illegal logging, and provide
detailed recommendations to assist EU policy makers in assisting the Action Plan's successful implementation. [Authors: Saskia Ozinga, Chantal Marijnissen, Sebastien Risso, Beatrix Richards]

**Footprints in the forest: current practice and future challenges in forest certification**

FERN's comparison of eight certification schemes, and update of our 2001 report: Behind the Logo. Eight case study reports published on FERN’s website provided information for the synthesis report Footprints in the Forests. [Author: Saskia Ozinga] Case studies were carried out by Meng Chuo Wong, on the Malaysian Timber Certification Council-scheme (MTCC), Sierra Club Canada, on the Canadian Standards Association’s Certification scheme (CSA), American Lands on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative in the USA (SFI), by Tim Cadman on the Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFS), by Cristina Timmer of the Brazilian Sistema Brasileiro de Certificação Florestal (CERFLOR), and by Saskia Ozinga on the Chilean Certificación Forestal (Certfor).

**Illegal logging: Room for manoeuvre by EU governments**

FERN's detailed analysis shows what EU institutions and Member States can do to prevent illegal timber entering EU markets. [Authors: Saskia Ozinga, Nicole Gerard]

**To Buy or Not to Buy: Timber procurement policies in the EU**

Report comparing policies in nine EU countries, plus the USA, and examining the likely impact of revised EU procurement directives. [Author: Mike Garforth]
Board and staff

Our current Board members:

Gemma Boetekes (Netherlands)
Francesco Martone (Italy)
Sian Pettman (United Kingdom)
Stan Termeer (Netherlands)
Filip Verbelen (Belgium)
Caroline Zuniga (Germany)

FERN's staff (current):

Lucia Appleby, Communications Manager/Editor
Sylvia Franssen, Finance and Office Manager
Jutta Kill, Climate Campaigner
Leontien Krul, Forests and Biodiversity Campaigner
Iola Leal Riesco, Development Campaigner
Sara Manning, Administrative Assistant
Judith Neyer, ECA Campaigner
Saskia Ozinga, FERN Co-ordinator and Trade Campaigner

FERN staff in 2004 (now departed):

Emilie Cornu-Thenard, ECA Campaigner (replaced by Judith Neyer)
Chantal Marijnissen, Trade Campaigner (replaced by Saskia Ozinga)
Bérénice Muraille, Development Campaigner (replaced by Iola Leal Riesco)

FERN would like to thank all of its funders who so generously supported our work during 2004:

C.S. Mott Foundation, US
Department for International Development, UK
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, Germany
DG Environment of the European Commission
Dutch Ministry of Development Co-operation, the Netherlands
Dutch Ministry of Environment, the Netherlands
Greenpeace, UK
Netherlands Committee for IUCN, the Netherlands
Sigrid Rausing Trust, UK
Wallace Global Fund, US
Rockefeller Brothers Fund, US
World Rainforest Movement, Uruguay
WWF, the Netherlands
**USA**
FERN works with different NGOs in the USA on a range of issues. On certification with NRDC and American Lands, on ECAs with Pacific Environment, Environmental Defense and to a lesser extent with CIEL, WRI and FoE USA.

**Europe**
FERN has been co-ordinating the Forest Movement Europe for over 10 years. It is one of the oldest European NGO networks, and has members in most European countries.

Since 2002 FERN has co-ordinated the European ECA Reform Campaign, which brings together a coalition of social, environmental and human rights groups in 11 European countries.

**SEU, Russia**
FERN works with Russian NGOs on illegal logging issues and with Friends of Siberian Forests on international issues.

**Old-growth logging in California, USA**

**Green Desert Movement, Brazil**
Plantations which are robbing local people of land and income is a big issue in Brazil, where FERN is working with the Green Desert movement to stop plantations being ‘certified’ as sinks.

**WRM, Uruguay**
FERN, together with FPP, hosts the Northern Secretariat of the World Rainforest Movement which has its international secretariat in Uruguay.

**Telepaks, Indonesia**
FERN is working with the Green Desert movement to stop plantations being ‘certified’ as sinks.

**Telapak, Indonesia**
Telapak is one of FERN’s partners in our EU Forest Platform.

**IDEAL, Malaysia**
IDEAL is one of the organisations FERN is working with in Malaysia on indigenous rights and forest certification.

**Cameroonian village**

Photos from left to right and top to bottom: We Save Trees; Daan van Beek; Vadim Kantor; Greenpeace; WRM; Erik Wakker; Paolo Genari Tezza; CED; BMF.
About FERN

Who we are and how we work

FERN is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) created in 1995 by the World Rainforest Movement. We work closely with many local, national and international NGOs. Our overall goal is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forests and respect for the rights of forest peoples in the policies and practices of the European Union. We co-ordinate several NGO networks and work co-operatively to achieve change.

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 plants found in all forest types.

With so many issues affecting forests globally, FERN has decided to focus on the underlying causes that in many cases lead to forest loss. These include financial flows and the international trade in timber and other forest products, as well as government policies. Within this framework, FERN’s main campaign areas in 2004 were climate change, export credit agencies and the European Investment Bank, illegal logging, aid and development co-operation, intergovernmental fora, EU forests and biodiversity policies and forest certification. FERN’s main activities in all of these areas involve researching and disseminating accurate information; producing detailed analyses on key forest issues; working to build common NGO positions on these issues and facilitating grassroots and national organisations’ work in putting a wide range of complex information to practical use.

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