Fern’s Theory of Change

Forests are essential to life on earth: they maintain biodiversity and protect land and water. More than 1.6 billion people rely on them for their livelihoods, and they’re critical in the fight against climate change.

What’s more, as the weather becomes deadlier and hurricanes, droughts and floods intensify, forests can offer some protection.

Yet the threats against forests are multiplying.

Around the world forests are being plundered for timber and cleared to make way for mines, infrastructure and agriculture.

We identify the threats facing the world’s forests, and work with affected peoples, social and environmental organisations and policy makers to devise and deliver solutions.

Our purpose, as a Europe-based NGO, is to address the root causes of this forest destruction from a European perspective. As the number one global trade and aid power, the EU has an immense influence on the world’s forests and the people who depend on them.

Our close work with partners in the global South and Europe shapes and drives our campaigns and is vital to bring about lasting change on the ground.

Fern makes decisions by consensus and all our campaigns are built in close collaboration with social and environmental organisations and movements across the world.

Contents

FERN’S THEORY OF CHANGE 2
OUR TEAM 3
‘INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE REALLY COME TOGETHER AS A STRONG FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH’ 6
2017: AT A GLANCE 8
2017: FERN’S YEAR IN REVIEW 8
CONSUMPTION 8
  A day in the life of a Fern partner SAMUEL MAWUTOR 10
FORESTS AND CLIMATE 12
  Arctic Limits 14
FORESTS AND DEVELOPMENT AID 15
  Forest Movement Europe (FME) 16
  A day in the life of a Fern Finance manager RAPHAEL KOENIG 18
  UK Forests Coalition: keeping UK forest policy on point 21
  Trade 22
FERN’S FINANCES 23
Our team

Hanna Aho: Forests and Climate campaigner (incoming)
Céline Bernard: Partner Finance Officer (outgoing)
Julia Christian: Forest Governance Campaigner, West Africa
Lindsay Duffield: Communications Coordinator (outgoing)
Tom Espley: Finance and Administration Manager (outgoing)
Perrine Fournier: Forest Governance Campaigner, South East Asia
Marie-Ange Kalenga: Forest Governance Campaigner, Congo Basin
Rudi Kohnert: Forest Governance Campaigner, South East Asia (outgoing); Gender and M&E (incoming)
Raphael Koenig: Finance and Administration Manager (incoming)
Hannah Mowat: Forests and Climate Campaigner (campaigns coordinator as of 1st April 2018)
Mark Olden: Press Adviser
Saskia Ozinga: Campaign Coordinator
Julie Painting: UK Office Administrator
Nicole Polsterer: Sustainable Consumption and Production Campaigner
Emilie van Strydonck: Campaign Assistant
Indra Van Gisbergen: Forest Governance Campaigner, Congo Basin
Viviane Vandemeulebrouke: Finance Officer

Richard Wainwright: Communications Manager
Linde Zuidema: Bioenergy Campaigner (maternity)

Our board

Ramy Bulan: Director of the Centre for Malaysia Indigenous Studies & Professor of Law at the University of Malaya
David Kaimowitz: Director Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ford Foundation
Jacques Lauruol: Specialist in NGO finance and financial training based in the UK
Elisa Peter: Executive Director of Publish What You Pay, a coalition of more than 700 civil society organisations promoting transparency and accountability in the extractive industry.
Fred Pearce: Author and journalist who has reported on environment and development issues from 67 countries. His books have been translated into 16 languages and won a number of prizes.
Flip van Helden: Coordinator for International Affairs team, the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs
Welcome

“Don’t talk about guns after a massacre. Or climate change after storms. Or austerity after firetrap buildings burn. Talk when no one listens.”

So tweeted author and activist Naomi Klein as Hurricane Nate ripped through Central America last October. It was one of 17 named storms in 2017’s Atlantic hurricane season which left hundreds dead and upended the lives of millions.

It was also one of the many extreme weather events that defined the year.

The number of forest fires in Europe – fuelled by a scorching heatwave – more than trebled on their previous recorded high, affecting an area twice the size of Luxembourg, and leading to a state of emergency and more than 60 deaths in Portugal.

Meanwhile, the collapse of vast ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic accelerated. Previous models of global sea level rise – including the reports that the Paris Climate Agreement was based on¹ – didn’t account for this phenomenon, known as ‘marine ice-sheet instability’.² Higher sea levels means stronger storm surges. With two-thirds of the world’s cities sitting on coastlines, the implications are as obvious as they are chilling.³

Denial or delay cannot be countenanced, as Klein suggested. To meet the supreme challenge of our time – averting catastrophic climate change – we have to drive carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from burning fossil fuels down to zero as soon as possible.

Yet that won’t be enough.

Sustainable ways of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere must also be found – and forests, which absorb carbon dioxide when they grow and release it when they die – will be crucial.

The debate over how forests can best be deployed against climate change is in many ways embryonic, but Fern is firmly at the heart of it.

Throughout 2017, we highlighted how the path ahead is fraught with dangers, as well as laden with opportunities. And while we campaign on many different issues, climate change is a thread which connects them all.

The debate over how forests can best be deployed against climate change is in many ways embryonic, but Fern is firmly at the heart of it.

Ending the trade in illegal timber; stopping burning trees for energy; protecting the rights of forest communities – the best guardians of their forests according to extensive research; promoting community forestry; campaigning against deeply flawed European Union (EU) rules on how emissions from land and forests are counted; tackling the trade in agricultural commodities (such as soy and palm oil), which is the world’s biggest driver of tropical deforestation; exposing the aviation industry’s dangerous plans to use forests to offset its emissions. All this work will help keep forests standing and strengthen the rights of those who live in or survive off them. It will also take us a step towards tackling climate change.

In 2017 we have made this happen in different ways.

Improving governance of tropical forests

Rather than parachute into countries, we work with local NGOs who best understand the situation. This is why we prioritise giving support to our partners in tropical forested countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Laos, Liberia and Vietnam. All of these nations have either signed or are negotiating Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with the EU. VPAs are bilateral timber trade deals that aim to curb illegal logging.

The challenges they face vary. So does the progress they have made. Yet without exception, in all these places, as well as other countries which have signed VPAs with the EU, the democratic space for civil society has opened up, and marginalised communities have been given a voice. The lesson is clear: as the threats to forests evolve, forest communities and civil society groups must be included in efforts to tackle them.

¹ When the Paris Agreement was drafted, it was based on reports that ice sheets would remain stable and on the assumption that sea levels could rise by up to three feet two inches by the end of the century. See: https://www.lrb.co.uk/v40/n04/meehan-crist/besides-il-be-dead
² In 2017 the United States’ pre-eminent climate science agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), revised estimates up dramatically, stating that by 2100 sea levels could rise by more than eight feet. See: http://www.noaa.gov/explainers/tracking-sea-level-rise-and-fall
³ Global sea level rises through the expansion of ocean water as it warms; and the increased melting of land-based ice, like glaciers and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. See: http://www.noaa.gov/explainers/tracking-sea-level-rise-and-fall
Within the EU, we were at the centre of the intense policy debates which unfolded throughout the year in two areas with profound implications for forests and the climate.

**Taking pressure off EU forests**

The majority of the EU’s wood harvest is burnt and this is set to increase to meet EU renewable energy targets: such targets harm the climate, damage forests and reduce biodiversity. We have helped to dramatically raise awareness, and opposition has grown rapidly among the public and scientists. Yet, it is a message that European policy makers have so far failed to heed. Instead they have given way to pressures from the forestry and energy sectors, as well as those Member States – particularly Finland and Sweden – with a vested interest in relying on increased harvesting of their forests to feed their growing bioenergy industries.

The same pressures were at play in other major EU policies on climate and forests: how the EU accounts for emissions from its land and forest sector, otherwise known as LULUCF. Thanks to a groundswell of opposition, and overwhelming scientific evidence supporting Fern and its allies, the EU has chosen a path that will maintain its forest sink, (the amount of carbon its forests absorb). We will continue the battle to increase this throughout 2018 and beyond, as we persist in our efforts to get the EU to set a target to increase carbon removals through forests in the Governance Regulation.

Throughout the year, Fern assessed the impact of Brexit on our organisation and shaped our response, both in terms of our organisation and our campaigning.

We also started preparing for the imminent departure of our campaigns coordinator and co-founder Saskia Ozinga after 23 years, and the arrival of her successor Hannah Mowat.

Saskia’s legacy is an organisation which is internationally renowned for building NGO coalitions, and for its unflinching support of forest communities’ rights. Fern is also known for being ahead of the curve in detecting the threats to the world’s forests. This often means – to echo the sentiment at the start of this piece – talking when no one listens, before capturing policy makers’ attention through argument and evidence.

This is a legacy which we will fiercely protect and build on.

Change is inevitable, and on a personal level, the renewal and hope for the future it can offer was expressed in the number of new babies born to Fern staff in 2017, with three of our colleagues giving birth. The future is theirs. It is up to all of us to protect it for them – and for all future generations.

*Elisa Peter, Chair of Fern’s board, May 2018*
Fern was founded in March 1995 by Saskia Ozinga and Sian Pettman. As Saskia prepared to step down as campaigns coordinator in March 2018 after 23 years, she shared her reflections on a remarkable and unexpected journey – for her and Fern – as well as her hopes and fears for the future.

How did you become an environmental campaigner?

I used to teach biology and health care in Utrecht – but I didn’t want to be a teacher, I wanted to be an environmental activist. I knew this from the age of seven, probably because of my hatred of cars and the development I saw happening around me. The only organisation that I really wanted to work for was Friends of the Earth (FoE) though. I applied for a job there [FoE in the Netherlands] for many years before finally getting one setting up and running their environmental telephone service answering people’s questions. It was around the time Chernobyl blew up, so people would call up asking if it was safe to go on holiday in northern Italy, for example (where the fallout was very high) as we had published a map showing the impact.

Then one day an anthropologist called Jenne de Beer came in who had been living with the Penang people in Sarawak in Malaysia. He said these are the nicest people you could meet. They have totally shied away from modern life, but because so much of their forest has been destroyed by logging, they are blockading roads against bulldozers. He said all the timber is going to the Netherlands, and I want FoE to do something about it. And he was such a persuasive character that I thought we had to do something. So we started campaigning on forest issues. At first I was doing it voluntarily alongside my other work, then I became a forest campaigner.

I stayed there [at FoE] ten years, and then I fell in love with this funny English guy [husband Mark Gregory] who was working for the BBC World Service. Then he came back to the BBC [in England] so I moved my life here.

Why did you start Fern?

Sian [Pettman] was working in the European Commission on tropical forests but was frustrated that no NGOs were informing her about on the ground developments and was desperate for input from the Forest Movement Europe (FME) [which Saskia was facilitating]. We had realised that while we were busy campaigning in Germany, the Netherlands and England to stop tropical timber coming into these countries, none of the Member States had the power to restrict trade, as this was an area where the EU defines and implements joint policy. We just wanted to do something useful, be a vehicle for the FME, and as I knew the NGOs and Sian knew the policy people working on tropical forests in the EU, we came together.

We always tried to not become an organisation that cares about itself, but one that cares about the wider issues and movement. In other words, a vehicle to address these issues rather than an organisation that exists for purposes beyond the campaigns.

‘I would still like to see Fern as a vehicle which focuses on the issues, rather than an organisation that focuses on itself. I think that being nimble and fleet of foot is really critical.’

How different is Fern now to then?

Incomparable. When we started we were two people with no money. Sian had a desk in an office in Brussels and I had a desk in Marcus’s [Colchester, founder of the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)] shed in Oxford. I don’t think either of us ever thought it would become an organisation with a EUR 3 million budget and close to 20 staff – though it’s important to say that EUR 1 million goes to our partners. I didn’t see that coming. I certainly didn’t plan for it and neither did Sian.

And how do the global challenges differ from 23 years ago?

There’s both a good and a bad story to tell. The good story is that deforestation rates have gone down and that indigenous peoples have really come together as a strong force to be reckoned with. All those years ago, they were not as organised or strongly present as they are now.
The negative thing is that we’re really going in direction of planetary collapse. We knew we were twenty-five years ago, but it’s becoming much more apparent and visible every day. And to prevent that collapse will require drastic changes at all levels. I think it’s very unlikely we will be able to do that, so the threats are huge, and the time for us to deal with these threats is being used up every day.

**How do you see Fern’s future?**

It’s for others to decide, but I would still like to see Fern as a vehicle which focuses on the issues, rather than an organisation that focuses on itself. I think that being nimble and fleet of foot is really critical. What you see with big organisations is that they get caught in a long-term strategy and are unable to respond to needs from people on the ground nor adapt fast enough to external changes.

This is one of the challenges for Fern: to find that balance between being an organisation with the necessary procedures to be a sound, solid, financially stable organisation, while at the same time being fleet of foot and rooted enough in the wider world and the wider community working around it. There are people in Fern who want it to grow and those who want it to shrink, but it’s for them to decide.

**In the midst of this planetary collapse and all the other challenges, what gives you hope?**

Two things. First, you have to be Zen-like and second, I think the negative developments we are seeing from Duterte to Trump are in part caused by us, and we must now widen our movement to others to reach out beyond our own bubble and develop alliances to counter these trends. This is where hope comes in.
2017: at a glance

The first batch of timber considered legal under the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan (FLEGT) – the world’s most innovative anti-illegal logging policy – arrives in the UK from Indonesia (the first country to be awarded a FLEGT license). This is the culmination of years of work.

The Republic of the Congo’s government suspends Atama Plantation for illegal logging activities in the Sangha (northern Congo) following NGO campaigning, including by Fern’s partners. Together with the Finnish Association of Nature Conservation, Fern reveals the impact of Finnish forestry practices on the lives and livelihoods of the indigenous Sami people in Lapland – as well as the climate – through our investigative report Arctic Limits.

More than 45 European NGOs from 12 countries come together in Brasso, Romania for the annual Forest Movement Europe (FME) event, organised by Fern and the 2Celsius Network. The event is facilitated by Fern (more details, see FME section).

The Republic of the Congo’s government suspends Atama Plantation for illegal logging activities in the Sangha (northern Congo) following NGO campaigning, including by Fern’s partners. Together with the Finnish Association of Nature Conservation, Fern reveals the impact of Finnish forestry practices on the lives and livelihoods of the indigenous Sami people in Lapland – as well as the climate – through our investigative report Arctic Limits.

Fern and Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe publish a website ranking each Member State’s position on LULUCF, and encouraging them to adopt a better one. It grabs headlines in 12 EU Member States and leading countries agree to maintain their forest carbon sink. This coincides with the release of our short film, Why European forests matter for the climate?

Fern organises an event at the European Parliament on the links between the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and soy imports from South America – the cause of rampant deforestation.

The EU Foreign Affairs Council adopts the new European consensus on development, in which the EU and Member States reaffirm their support for the conservation and sustainable management of forests (SDG 15) – which Fern has been campaigning for.

40 prominent academics active in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) warn policy makers of the risks in weakening LULUCF accounting rules, reinforcing Fern’s message.

2017: Fern’s year in review

Consumption

Every year millions of tonnes of soy, beef, palm oil and cocoa are loaded off ships at European ports before finding their way to our supermarket shelves. The consumers of these agricultural commodities are by and large oblivious to the fact they are often tainted by human rights abuses and environmental destruction.

The razing of forests for land to produce commodities such as soy, palm oil, beef and cocoa, accounts for roughly half of global deforestation. And this forest destruction is frequently accompanied by human rights violations, such as land grabs.

The EU has regulations to ensure that fish, timber and minerals are legally sourced. Throughout 2017, Fern
has continued to work to ensure that it also has them for agricultural commodities.

Our urgent focus is getting the EU to adopt an Action Plan to protect forests and respect human rights, as well as a due diligence regulation for imports of Forest Risk Commodities (FRC) – that is, commodities which are associated with deforestation.

### Our year

As well as researching what shape these regulations should take, we also made – for the first time – the link between the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and forests. The CAP provides financial incentives for EU farmers to produce meat, but offers them little motivation to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Following Fern campaigning, the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee votes to increase removals of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by forests from 2030 onwards.</td>
<td>Most Fern staff take a well-deserved rest!</td>
<td>13 Member States sign the Soy Declaration, aiming to boost soy growth in the EU. Momentum for Fern’s arguments against importing soy that is destroying forests in Brazil and elsewhere builds.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ghana passes a new law to stop illegal deforestation and reduce the sale of illegal timber, achieving a long-standing campaign aim of Civic Response, our Ghanaian partner.</td>
<td>MEPs in the Energy (ITRE) and Environment (ENVI) committees vote for EU Member States to come up for the first time with a plan to achieve negative emissions and restore European forests. Fern is the only forest NGO involved in this area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Governments must create the conditions that enable companies to meet their commitments to stop deforestation and respect community rights.” Saskia Ozinga, The Grocer, April 2017.
produce sustainable feed. This means that it’s cheaper for farmers to rely on soy imports from countries such as Brazil, where its production is driving deforestation.4

The CAP is currently being reformed and throughout the year, Fern used the process to push for reduced illegal soy imports, and for increasing the diversity and amount of locally produced protein.

The CAP seminar we organised at the European Parliament in May generated much debate and helped push this issue on to the agenda, bringing together renowned researchers, academics and politicians. The seminar coincided with the release of our report on the subject.

Our work highlighting the pressing need to tackle deforestation caused by agricultural products also found expression in the number of occasions in which the European Parliament and Council called on the European Commission (EC) to act. Notably, this included the Own initiative report on palm oil by Kateřina Konečná which called on the EC to press ahead with developing an Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation, including concrete measures ensuring no supply chains and financial transactions linked to the EU result in forest destruction. The Parliament voted unanimously for this.

The European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights also commissioned a study on the

A day in the life of a Fern partner

Samuel Mawutor

I’ve always been fascinated by the natural environment. When I was a kid we would go bush camping and star gaze to make out the different constellations. I remember asking why we had to go to the hinterland to see stars that we couldn’t see in the city. I was told that it was because of the [light] pollution. It made me think: how much more harm are we also causing to the environment? From then my interest was sparked and so it seems logical that I ended up working to protect our natural resources.

After doing my national service I worked for a youth development NGO, before joining Civic Response in 2009.

I run the forest governance programme, which involves developing our campaign strategy, gathering evidence and research and mobilising forest communities so they can become their own advocates. Civic Response also works collaboratively with partners in collective advocacy campaigns.

No two days are the same.

When I am not in our Accra office, I can be working in the field, which involves being away for a week or two, working closely with forest communities. In Accra, I spend time following up advocacy actions from strategy meetings, engaging with officials in the Forestry Commission or the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources on community rights' issues. A lot my time also goes into writing reports, briefs and providing feedback to national documents.

In Ghana the people who live near the forests are often the poorest. Even though they own forests, they don’t have access to them or get any useful money from them. So this is a fundamental issue that Civic Response campaigns on.

The process of strengthening Ghana’s forests laws [bolstered by the signing of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU which was ratified in 2010] means that this is now starting to happen.

In 15 years Ghana lost a quarter of its forest cover, with much of this driven by cocoa production, Europe is the world’s leading cocoa importer.

For example, logging companies are engaging in Social Responsibility Agreements (SRA) with any community living within a five kilometre radius of their logging area. Previously, though it was a legal requirement, compliance was low. Under the SRA, communities get

---

4 The EU imports 98 per cent of all the soy it consumes, about 35 million tonnes (2013), representing 1.3 per cent of total world soybean production (2013). Almost three-quarters of EU imports come from Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. The increase in EU soy imports went hand in hand with the lowering of import tariffs, and the decrease in EU acreage of protein crops (4.7 per cent in 1961 to 1.8 per cent in 2013) – and an increase in meat and poultry production and consumption.
We try to make sure these agreements are respected by acting as a link between communities, timber companies and the authorities – and now 34 forest communities that we’ve engaged with over the past five years have received all or some of the logging benefits owed to them, which means they are seeing material changes to their lives, such as new buildings and vital amenities.

I also participate in national meetings on the National REDD+ process and the REDD+ Safeguards working group, pushing for stronger safeguards for local communities in areas identified for REDD+ projects. There’s nothing more inspiring than training community people to know their rights as outlined in the various forest laws, and seeing them use that knowledge.

Civic Response is structured in the same way as Fern, with strong campaigners working on different fronts.

Fern has been our staunchest external partner in our forest governance and VPA campaign. It’s not a typical donor relationship, but one based on mutual trust and respect. We both play to our strengths in Ghana and in Europe.
Company promises: How businesses are meeting commitments to end deforestation

This report follows a spate of recent work examining company commitments to reduce or end their role in deforestation. What makes this report different is that it looks at the issue from the companies’ perspective, asking them why they have made these commitments; how they monitor progress; the economic costs of these commitments and, importantly, what they perceive as the barriers to achieving their commitments.

The EU Common Agricultural Policy, soy, and forest destruction

This report looks at the linkages between the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the expansion of soybean cultivation, which has been the largest source of agricultural deforestation over which the EU has a direct influence.

Forests and climate

The fate of the planet’s forests and its climate are indivisible.

Forests hold around a trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide, and deforestation and forest degradation accounts for around a sixth of global greenhouse gas emissions.

As the world runs out of time to reduce its emissions sharply enough to avoid catastrophic climate change, so attention moves to the role of forests in cooling the climate and helping us meet this monumental challenge.

Two things are crystal clear.

First, forests must not be used to avoid cutting greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors.

Second, we must step up efforts to end the destruction and degradation of the world’s forests – and increase their density, resilience, and ability to store carbon.

“If we don’t measure emissions when trees are cut, we won’t measure them at all,” Hannah Mowat, New Scientist, May 2017.

In 2017 Fern placed itself at the centre of the emerging debate on forests and the climate by focussing on the following issues:

Bioenergy

Since 2009 the EU has allowed its Member States to subsidise the burning of wood for renewable energy. This has resulted in bioenergy producing 65 per cent of the renewable energy consumed in the EU. As evidence of this policy’s failings mount, resistance to it grows.

Fern’s message – that logging forests to produce energy is bad for biodiversity and the climate, that it reduces resource efficiency and that subsidising it distorts markets – is resonating more widely than ever.

“They [the EU] are shooting themselves in the foot, they are not taking into account that increased harvesting of trees will actually have an impact on the role that forests play as a carbon sink.” Linde Zuidema, BBC, February 2017.

In September 2017 a letter by more than 200 scientists stated: “Bioenergy is not carbon neutral and can have serious negative climate impacts”. And in October the Dutch government and the Wallonia region of Belgium announced an end to subsidies for large-scale co-firing of biomass with coal to produce electricity. In December our collaboration with key scientists led to the publication of an article in The Guardian supported by more than 800 scientists.

But despite some promising signs, EU policymakers still lag behind public opinion.

In 2016, the Commission proposed introducing sustainability requirements for the use of forest biomass for energy for the first time. This is an important recognition that bioenergy from wood can harm the environment and climate. However, Fern

5 This also includes biofuels for transport.
believes that the criteria go nowhere far enough. Throughout 2017, the EU discussed a policy on sustainable biomass for the period after 2020. It is positive that the European Commission proposal will no longer allow biomass to be burnt in large, inefficient power plants, though it remains to be seen if this ends up in the final legal text.

In 2017 we continued to be one of the key voices in the bioenergy debate, as we pushed for further restrictions on using forest biomass.

We did this by, among other things: organising and participating in public events on bioenergy, forests and the climate; undertaking speaking engagements; attending meetings at the European Parliament; penning opinion pieces in the media; briefing journalists on the issues; engaging NGOs in the EU and internationally, such as by co-organising ‘Big NGO Meetings’ on bioenergy; coordinating joint campaigning on the Renewable Energy Directive; and arranging a visit to Brussels from eminent scientists to raise their concerns about burning forest biomass. We used new reports and public events to underline the negative climate and health aspects of burning biomass.

We also produced the film Playing with Fire – Europe’s bioenergy future which brought the discussion to a new audience.

Our publications

What impact has the RED had on EU forests The EU Renewable Energy Directive was launched in 2009 to great fanfare and the promise that the EU would fulfil at least 20 per cent of its total energy needs with renewables. This is a summary of its impact on forests.

Bioenergy in the recast of the RED As the European Parliament discussed recasting the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), Fern and other NGOs highlighted some key areas of concern.

Presentation ‘How to improve the Commission’s bioenergy proposal’

Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

Until recently, discussions around LULUCF – the sector in which carbon is measured and accounted for from land and forests – was seen as a fringe area of climate policymaking. Yet past changes in land use and land cover are estimated to have accounted for 40 per cent of all warming between 1850 and 2010: a staggering amount.

Fortunately this relatively obscure policy is now at the centre of the EU climate debate, and Fern has played a big role in putting it there. As such we have become the go-to organisation on the subject for other NGOs, the media and climate and forests experts.

We were featured in more than 90 articles about LULUCF. This means that proper scrutiny is at last being placed on a sector whose complexity has long made it relatively easy for countries to tailor rules to hide emissions from their forests, or to avoid making more difficult emissions cuts in other sectors.

Throughout 2017, talks continued on how the EU accounts for its emissions and removals in the land and forestry sector.

Different countries adopted strikingly different positions, and in October the European Council bowed to pressure from a small nucleus of nations led by Finland in opting for accounting rules that, in essence, support a limited increase in logging and which will decrease the amount of carbon EU forests will hold in the future.

But without our campaigning – which included producing a widely-covered LULUCF website which ranked countries on their performance in the sector, galvanised scientific opinion, and targeted our advocacy and communications on key Member States – the current situation would be far worse.

We ensured that environmental integrity was at the forefront of Council decisions on LULUCF, in other words, that there is greater transparency in accounting and that there is now a proper baseline for the accounting of forest and land emissions.

The final outcome of the EU negotiations aims to ensure EU forests and land continue removing carbon at present levels. This is an important step forward, but still far from the outcome needed to achieve international goals to reduce climate change.

While we still need to battle for EU LULUCF rules which protect forests and the climate, Member States’ future ability to cheat their emissions in this sector has at least been stymied.
Negative emissions and forest restoration

To restrict global warming to 1.5 degrees, climate scientists say we will have to find ways to remove more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The ultimate aim is to achieve “negative emissions”, where we remove more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than we put into it.

Unfortunately, the 32-page Paris Agreement doesn’t include any plans for how to achieve this, leading world-renowned climate scientist Kevin Anderson to say: “The world has just gambled its future on the appearance, in a puff of smoke, of a carbon-sucking fairy godmother.”

In 2017, Fern made the case that communities already play an important role in restoring the world’s forests and must continue to do so. Fern presented this work at the 2017 Global Landscapes Forum.

“Why have emissions plans that rely on removing carbon from the air with unproven technologies when forests can do it today?” Julia Christian, Climate Home, March 2017

Arctic Limits

Finland is a test case in the fight against climate change. As the world edges closer to breaching the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees, forests have become increasingly important in discussions around how to battle climate change. Yet accounting for emissions from the forests sector is devilishly complex and riddled with loopholes. This briefing focusses on the case of Finland, Europe’s most heavily forested nation. It revealed through testimony, reportage and analysis how Finland’s forest policy not only threatens the climate, but the survival and culture of the Sámi people, whose ancient way of life is being destroyed by intensive logging and changes to the weather.
Our report **Unearned credit: Why aviation forest offsets are doomed to fail** attracted international media attention, eventually leading to Virgin Airlines pulling out of one of the forest offset projects it exposed.

We also built on our work in 2016 drawing attention to the disturbing plans of the UN International Civil Aviation Organisation’s (ICAO) attempts to offset rather than reduce the airline industry’s emissions: a proposal which will allow for almost unfettered growth in the aviation sector.

Our film **Airlines: stop dodging the Paris Agreement** was viewed more than 10,000 times on Twitter alone.

---

**Forests and development aid**

The EU and its Member States are collectively the world’s biggest development aid donor. This means they can have a positive or negative effect on the future of tropical forests and those whose survival depends on them.

Ending illegal logging has been on the EU’s agenda for nearly twenty years. In 2003 it took an ambitious step towards this goal by introducing the Forest Law, Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. The Plan was designed to clarify and improve the ownership and management of forests in timber producing countries and ensure that only legally harvested timber found its way into the EU market.

Its most ingenious element was to offer countries who reformed their forest laws (and implemented them properly) privileged access to EU timber markets through so-called Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) trade deals.

These forest laws are not imposed from outside, but evolve in the countries themselves with the participation of a broad range of men and women, including timber industry representatives, government, civil society groups and forest communities. This enables power to be dispersed in countries blighted by illegal deforestation, while stimulating international demand for timber from well-managed forests.

Democratic space has opened up in every country the EU has signed a VPA with – albeit to varying degrees – while illegal logging has dramatically reduced in some of them.

But times have changed, and so have the drivers of deforestation.

Timber harvested in tropical countries is increasingly coming from land which has been illegally stripped of its forests for agriculture. Meanwhile interest in FLEGT has waned and climate change is dominating policy debates.

In light of this, the EU needs to use lessons learned from FLEGT to craft new ways to tackle illegal deforestation in tropical countries and support climate objectives abroad, while combating poverty. At their core, these solutions must recognise that the best way to keep forests standing is to strengthen the rights of the men and women who depend on them, and ensure they have a meaningful role to play in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Throughout 2017 we have continued working with our partners in tropical countries to do this: eradicating the scourge of illegal logging by improving forest governance and giving a voice to forest communities so they can own and manage their forests.

---

**Our year**

**Cameroon**

The VPA process, which began in 2010, continued to lose momentum in 2017.

Its focus has been on developing a computerised forest information management system, SIGIFII – which has been to the detriment of strengthening key elements on forest governance.

Lack of progress and political commitment in mid-2017 led to the possibility of ending Cameroon’s VPA with the EU being discussed in the corridors, an option which was severely criticised by civil society organisations who pleaded to keep the VPA space open.

---

---

6 More than half all global development aid comes from the EU and its Member States.

7 A 2016 evaluation for the European Commission confirmed that FLEGT remains relevant, although implementation (including of the EUTR) needs considerable improvement.

8 A recent Chatham House illegal logging update stated that illegal logging has decreased by half in the period 2000-2013.
Fern and our local civil society partners have showed that despite serious difficulties and challenges, the VPA can bring significant benefits, and has already.

We instigated the visit by a delegation of MEPs to Cameroon to assess the country’s forest sector, which resulted in them producing a report recommending that the EU redouble its efforts to combat illegal logging and prioritise implementing Cameroon’s VPA, as well as the EUTR.

“In recent years the EU has been both a staunch defender of forests, as well as an agent of their destruction. The EU’s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme is the most ambitious, innovative global scheme ever to tackle the curse of illegal logging. Yet, European consumers’ voracious demand for agricultural products is driving the destruction of vast swathes of the world’s tropical forests.”


Further evidence that our arguments, as well as those of our Cameroonian partners, were heard came at the end of 2017, with the tacit continuation of the VPA, which keeps space for dialogue open and means critical voices will continue to be heard.

Since successfully implementing the VPA requires strengthening how the EUTR is applied, and preventing illegal timber from Cameroon entering the EU, we have stepped up our advocacy work in this area.

There have been important signs that EU authorities are acting on this. In the Netherlands a European court ruled explicitly for the first time – in a case concerning the import of Cameroonian timber – that it is not sufficient for timber importers to rely solely on government paperwork as evidence of due diligence when importing from countries with significant risk of corruption and documented illegal logging. The judge also ruled that the Dutch EUTR Competent Authority, the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA), was mandated to request that timber companies must make full supply chain documentation available, including logging permits, transport documents, and financial records associated with timber shipments throughout the supply chain.

Meanwhile, the bigger picture in Cameroon is worrying: forthcoming elections and the Anglophone crisis in the south west both threaten stability, while prospects for the nation’s forests remain perilous so long as agriculture and infrastructure projects continue to lay waste to them, and illegal logging grows and human rights defenders and environmental activists are threatened.

In this context, it is more important than ever that Fern and its partners continue to push for a widening of the democratic space created by the VPA.

The Central African Republic (CAR)

The aftermath of the civil war that killed thousands and displaced millions, continues to disfigure the country, including hindering efforts to reform the forests laws. Outside of the capital Bangui, the administration is largely absent, and armed groups still hold sway over large areas of the hinterland, with rape and sexual slavery being used as weapons of war with impunity.

In this context, the work of CAR’s civil society is to be applauded, both in calling for the newly established special criminal court to urgently deal with cases brought to its attention, and in staying at the forefront of efforts to keep forests on the political agenda.

While the precarious security situation has meant that the VPA process has slowed down, the groups set up under the VPA structures continue to meet and work.

Forest Movement Europe (FME)

Fern has facilitated the Forest Movement Europe (FME) – a network of more than 45 NGOs from 12 countries – since 1995. This year’s gathering was held amid the Gothic spires and magnificent baroque architecture of Brasov in Romania, not far from the fabled castle of Count Dracula. The event was hosted by Romanian NGO 2Celcius Network.

Over two days of meetings a range of pressing issues for Europe’s forests were covered: from the grave dangers to Romania’s primary forests to the EU’s bioenergy policy, from the ‘new’ paper campaign on packaging, to the campaign to prevent illegal timber being used to build Tokyo’s 2020 Olympic stadium, and much more. Knowledge, strategies and ideas were shared. Attendees were further inspired on the third and final day of the meeting when they undertook a field trip to the Piatra Craiului National Park, considered one of the most beautiful sites in the Carpathians.
With support from Fern, the Plateforme pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles et de l’Environnement (GDRNE) met in June to discuss their contribution to the EU FLEGT Conference and to urge the EU to provide the financial support necessary to reinvigorate the VPA. The platform also actively advocates for the participation of local communities and indigenous groups in the implementation of community forestry which is now a priority of the VPA roadmap.

Fern’s partner Centre pour l’environnement et le développement durable (CIEDD) is contributing to better transparency and governance in the forest sector through its independent monitoring work. A monitoring mission took place in August and findings will be presented to the forest administration, forest companies, civil society and other stakeholders later in 2018. CIEDD is also engaging with networks of environmental journalists so they can inform the public of the magnitude of forest destruction and the plight of forest inhabitants. This led to the publication of several articles in the local mainstream media and renewed interest in resolving issues around conflict and natural resources.

Local civil society groups are also pushing the national government to take a more ambitious stand on climate. Community forestry is now part of the country’s mitigation measures contained in its National Determined Contribution to the Paris Climate Agreement, making it the first country in Central Africa to make such a move.

Ghana

Since it began negotiating the VPA with the EU in 2009, Ghana has transformed the entire legal system governing its forests. It now stands on the cusp of being the second country in the world after Indonesia, and the first in Africa, to issue a FLEGT license, meaning that its timber has met the stringent standards necessary to enter the EU market.

Our partners have played a significant role in this. Ghana has completed the end-to-end testing of the electronic traceability system, from tree stump to export destinations in Europe, and is drawing lessons to improve and correct deficiencies.

Another significant milestone was passed in November, when a new legislative instrument was passed that cleared up a number of loopholes allowing illegal logging to continue. Another advance was that the Forestry Commission and civil society developed a web-based forest information hub, giving the public access to information.

Laos

VPA negotiations officially opened between the EU and Laos in April 2017. The first face-to-face negotiation between EU and Laos was held in April 2017 and a video conference negotiation session was held in October. When informal discussions started in 2012,
most people believed it would be impossible to pursue the VPA process in Laos because local civil society organisations and communities had no opportunity to participate freely and independently in decision-making, or to voice opinions that differed from the government line without risking serious personal danger.

The situation seems to have improved for the better. In May 2016, the Prime Minister released an order addressing illegal logging and improving domestic timber business operations. This has made a real, measurable change, and the public seems to have taken note. Illegal logging and exports have decreased significantly, as shown by analysis of Vietnamese customs data released by Forest Trends. For some observers, this clearly indicates some commitment on the part of Laotian top leadership to fight illegal logging.

Civil society themselves have made great efforts to increase their participation in technical working groups as the VPA process moves forward at a swift pace. In addition, they organised a training course to generate awareness of and interest in the FLEGT process by promoting accurate reporting of FLEGT concepts, priorities, and benefits in news media, and provide increased understanding of these concepts among the implementing organisations, through training news media professionals. The main output of this workshop was the production and broadcasting of radio programmes on the Lao FLEGT VPA.

Liberia

The general elections in October 2017, and the run-off between the top two finishers in December, overshadowed the year politically. Nevertheless, civil society and forest communities continued to make real progress in asserting their rights – supported by the structures established by the country’s Forestry Laws and enhanced by the VPA process.

Particularly noteworthy is that local NGOs have supported forest communities to successfully advocate for funds from logging that they have been owed, in some cases, from as far back as 1998.

A day in the life of a Fern Finance manager

Raphael Koenig

“It’s really important for me to work for an organisation which is doing and achieving things I’m interested in and care about. I’ve always had a strong desire to work in environmental and development fields, so Fern is a natural home.

Fern’s future hinges on its financial management, so you really need to keep your eye on the ball.

In some jobs if you don’t achieve your target, you might be able to put [the task] off or drop it. I can’t do that because if donor reports or funding proposals don’t get submitted, we don’t get paid. Fern is 100 per cent donor-funded, which increases the level of responsibility and the oversight needed.

It’s a constant challenge to make sure that the organisation is run sustainably, and budgets are well planned. There are also complexities around managing the finances of four different campaigns and working across two countries [Belgium and the UK], as well as having partners around the world.

Working with our partners in the global South is particularly interesting. Getting the chance to go to Laos and Vietnam to see how things are happening on the ground and to share best practice with our partners was brilliant.

Fern is 100 per cent donor-funded, which increases the level of responsibility and the oversight needed

On a typical day much of my time is taken up managing our internal budget and liaising with staff to make sure that their plans are accurately reflected in the budget, and that we have sufficient funds to achieve our aims. I also spend a lot of time liaising with donors and reporting to them. Donors have different requirements, schedules and ways of reporting as well as frequencies [for when they require information].

I work closely with my colleagues in finance and administration, Julie [Painting] and Viviane [Vandemeulebroucke] who help co-ordinate financial support across the two offices.
Compared to other countries in Africa, in Liberia, by law, communities should get a relatively high percentage: 30 per cent of land rental fees and $1.50 per cubic metre extracted in commercial concessions and up to 55 per cent of all logging revenues from (large-scale) community forestry operations.

This transfer of community funds from land rental fees into the National Benefit Sharing Trust account is a major impact of the VPA, achieved through effective NGO advocacy. As a result, in the past three years, three disbursements were made to the Trust’s accounts for a total of nearly US$ 2 million. Supported by local NGOs, affected communities are now using these funds to initiate local development projects, including building schools and health clinics; 22 projects have been funded to date, using US $735,430 of the disbursements. Specific attention is being paid to ensure that women are being heard in this process.

Liberian NGOs have been working with local communities to ensure that they receive these benefits, and that they have accountable structures in place to use these benefits in a democratic manner.

Liberia’s ground-breaking Land Rights Act, a piece of legislation that will determine who owns Liberia’s land, was delayed because of the elections, and now needs Senate approval. There is currently a strong push by local civil society to get the 2014 version of the Land Rights Act adopted as they see it as being far stronger.

**Republic of the Congo (Congo)**

As Congo endures a severe economic crisis, the need to fill the state coffers has become more pressing. While the government understandably tries to diversify the economy to lift the country out of recession, there is continuing impunity and illegality in the forest sector.

The VPA between Congo and the EU that came into force in March 2013, saw the Congolese government commit to ensuring that its entire timber system meets legality and traceability requirements.

In 2016, Congo signed an agreement to move towards sustainable palm oil production. Despite this, the government – and in particular the agriculture ministry – are sending mixed messages about their intentions.

I’m also involved in Fern’s management. Our flat structure means I have much more involvement in the overall running of the organisation than I otherwise would. I lead Fern’s Fundraising and Sustainability Team, working to secure and diversify our future funding.

Competition for funding is getting harder, and donors’ requirements are getting more stringent. But it’s important to stay focused and not just follow where funding is available: to stay true to what you want to achieve and your mission.

**Raphael Koenig**

joined Fern as Finance and Administration manager in April 2017. After gaining a degree in politics and international relations, he did post-graduate training in accountancy. Raphael’s background is in public sector audit. He previously worked for the Audit Commission and Grant Thornton, and more recently as the Finance Manager at the Cotswolds Conservation Board. Away from work, he enjoys mountain biking, climbing, hedge laying (he is a current Cotswold Beginners Champion) and spending time with his wife and two young children.

For me Fern is unique because of the openness of working in an organisation that’s small and honest, and where you don’t get ‘silos’ or hierarchies. You feel like you’re really all in it together. Everyone’s motivated and dedicated to their missions, which fit into Fern’s overall mission. And while my job can be intense, it is also flexible, which gives me time to spend with my family.
regarding commercial agriculture development. Disturbing reports from our partner OCDH, indicate that illegal conversion under the guise of agriculture expansion is robbing Congo of its forests and impoverishing local communities. This is one of the key reasons that the World Bank decided to delay approval of Congo's Emission Reduction Programme Document.

On a brighter note, after years of stagnation, the draft Forest Code was finally submitted to government bodies for endorsement. Civil society was consulted throughout the reform, but they have not yet seen the final draft and fear that their contributions on free, prior and informed consent, transparency, benefit-sharing and community forestry may have been watered down.

Civil Society is able to participate effectively in most components of the VPA process and actively contribute to regular meetings of the technical group. Civil society organisations were also invited to comment on the independent auditor’s manual, which guides the auditor in receiving and assessing complaints, an important step forward in a country where complaint mechanisms are a welcome innovation.

Fern and its local partner and NGO allies in the Congo Basin were able to influence the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund's position on the Republic of the Congo's Emission Reduction Programme Note. The Fund asked the Congolese government to review its analysis on national drivers of deforestation and to accelerate the forest reform prompted by the VPA as recommended by local and EU civil society organisations.

In addition, engagement with the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership bore fruit as both initiatives are committed to civil society and communities shaping and implementing policies that work for people, the environment and local livelihoods.

**Vietnam**

On 11 May 2017, Vietnam reached a landmark in its fight against illegal logging. After almost seven years of often exhaustive groundwork, the Vietnamese government initialled its VPA with the EU. Now they are in the process of preparing to ratify it.

Vietnam has also made steps to halt illegal logging within its own borders and in recognising the value of civil society contributions. Despite this, up until the initialling of the VPA at least, civil society’s input was limited, and access to VPA texts was restricted: the full VPA text and its associated annexes were made publicly available late, which made it impossible to comment on the text before the draft was initialled. This runs counter to the principle of including all relevant parties in the process.

**Other important work in 2017**

Along with our partners in Liberia and the Congo Basin – we investigated the potential for donors and governments to invest in community-led local development forestry models. Communities are rarely consulted when their land is given to industrial-scale logging and plantations, and they are also unlikely to receive any benefits. Community-led local development could, however, bring economic benefits.

Fern is a member of the NGO platform Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Watch Europe. In 2017 we participated at a SDG Watch Europe meeting regarding EU advocacy and supported several joint statements. In 2017 the Commission set up a Multi-Stakeholder Platform on SDGs, in which SDG Watch is represented.

In October 2017, Fern and its local partners hosted an event on how community forestry and forest and climate governance can benefit each other. One of the outcomes was agreement that areas dedicated to community forestry have the potential to strengthen forest governance and livelihoods, improve climate mitigation and protect the rights of local and indigenous men and women.
Our publications

**DFIs and Land Grabs**  A study by Mark Curtis highlighting the role of European Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in possible land grabs and questionable forestry projects in Africa.

**Improving Forest Governance in Laos**  An unreleased study for WWF found evidence, through case studies in the southern provinces of Laos, that actions on the ground around the timber trade are undermining Government commitments to enter VPA negotiations. Fern’s

briefing note aims to present the key findings of the WWF study to a wider audience, and highlight recent developments and recommendations by Fern that should be addressed.

**Analysis of gender impacts of the Ghana Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Union**  Fern and our partner Civic Response commissioned this study of gender issues in Ghana’s FLEGT VPA as a tentative first step to looking at gender issues which have to date received only scant attention.

---

**UK Forests Coalition: keeping UK forest policy on point**

The United Kingdom has played a key role in EU efforts to stamp out illegal logging and the destruction of the world’s forests.

It was one of the driving forces behind the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan; helping lay the groundwork for the policy with its 2002 Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia to combat illegal logging. It has also been a powerful ally in international negotiations on forest governance, and a large donor of development aid for forests.

But with the UK’s departure from the EU looming, and a backdrop of political uncertainty, there are fears that its commitment to ending deforestation and protecting the rights of forest communities could waver.

The UK Forests Coalition – whose 14 members include Fern, Friends of the Earth, Global Witness and Client Earth – is working to safeguard against this.

The Coalition aims to ensure that the UK continues its financial support for forests, and that the government has a coherent policy framework across UK Aid, trade, investment, climate change and biodiversity. It does so primarily by coordinating strategies on UK forests and climate and sharing intelligence.

In March 2017, the Coalition – which Fern provides both financial and strategic support for – agreed to continue beyond its pilot phase. Throughout the year it established itself as the go-to group and the major point of reference for civil servants working on the issues, maintaining structured and regular dialogue with many of them.

Among the signs of the Coalition’s burgeoning influence is that its Coordinator, Anna Collins, was invited to be a member the UK Roundtables on Palm Oil and Sustainable Soya. She was also asked by the government to coordinate inputs to various consultations, including that on new bank notes.

Perhaps most significant of all, the Coalition helped influence the Department for International Development’s (DFID) decision to continue with forest funding, and it has received written confirmation that post-Brexit the government will keep relevant legislation equivalent to the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).
A chance for change: A civil society briefing on the Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations between Vietnam and the European Union

This briefing takes stock of the VPA between Vietnam and the EU at a key juncture: as the Agreement formally moves from its negotiation to ratification phase.

Communities & forests in Kenya: Where are new laws taking them?

This Briefing Note, written in March 2017 looks closely at the national legal situation and how it affects the rights of Kenyan communities to own and manage forests on their lands.

Independent Forest Monitoring: a chance for improved governance in VPA countries?

This briefing outlines the lessons learned from Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, and the Republic of the Congo.

Making Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) work for forests, people and the climate: Civil society recommendations on the future of VPAs

This briefing reflects on progress after a decade of VPA implementation, including looking at multi stakeholder participation, increased transparency and reduced illegal deforestation.

Implementation of community forestry in the Republic of the Congo

This briefing looks into how community forestry is working in the Republic of the Congo.

Discussing a new paradigm for community forestry in the Congo Basin

During the 17th annual Meeting of Partners of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in Douala, Cameroon, Fern organised a side event on inclusive management of Congo Basin forests. The aim was to look at the role of community forestry in improving forest and climate governance. This paper offers reflections from civil society.

Trade

In 2017 our trade campaign was in the incubation phase. Throughout 2017 Fern researched and developed the campaign, driven by the principle that tropical forests must not be sacrificed for trade.

With the EU is in the midst of negotiating Free Trade Agreements with Indonesia and Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), this is more pressing than ever.

These deals could have grave consequences for these countries’ forests unless adequate environmental and social safeguards are in place.

Many trade deals are negotiated behind closed doors, so Fern is working to ensure that any agreements reached are negotiated inclusively and do not undermine the EU’s commitment to protect forests, respect rights and fight climate change.
## Fern’s finances

*(Jan–Dec 2017) – all figures are in euros*

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Income</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department for International Development, UK</td>
<td>1,424,254</td>
<td>963,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>822,994</td>
<td>1,491,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public institutions</td>
<td>146,620</td>
<td>139,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private institutions</td>
<td>781,160</td>
<td>580,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources (including interest and reimbursements)</td>
<td>42,071</td>
<td>123,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,217,099</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,297,694</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure by Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>952,405</td>
<td>983,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to partner organisations and networks</td>
<td>978,414</td>
<td>1,303,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and meetings</td>
<td>195,402</td>
<td>289,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and other costs</td>
<td>321,501</td>
<td>351,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>169,423</td>
<td>35,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>504,288</td>
<td>317,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,121,433</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,279,647</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To see a complete version of Fern's audited accounts, please visit: [www.fern.org/about-us/audited-finances](http://www.fern.org/about-us/audited-finances)
Acknowledgements

Fern would like to thank all our funders and partners without whom none of this work would have been possible.

In 2017 our funders were:

- Delegation of the European Commission in Liberia
- Delegation of the European Commission in Vietnam
- Department for International Development, United Kingdom
- Waterloo Foundation, UK
- LIFE+, European Commission
- Ford Foundation, United States of America
- David & Lucille Packard Foundation, United States of America
- James Goldsmith Foundation, United Kingdom
- Climate & Land Use Alliance, United States of America
- European Climate Foundation, Belgium
- UK NGO Coalition