

Rainforest Foundation Norway Annual Report 2015



The 2015 Telethon in pictures

The annual Telethon arranged by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) is the world's biggest charity campaign in terms of funds collected per capita and the number of volunteers involved. The aim is for 100,000 volunteers with collection boxes to visit 2.3 million households throughout Norway in the course of two hours on one Sunday in October. In 2015 the NRK Telethon was devoted to Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN). The result: an impressive total of NOK 190 million (more than €20 million) for the preservation of the rainforest!



IN THE RAINFOREST: Emma Årvik with Congolese children, in connection with a trip arranged by RFN for three of our supporters in September 2015.



NEW RECORD: The P3 radio station collected NOK 3.5 million during the campaign – a new record.



COUNTRYWIDE: The NRK Telethon campaign covered all of Norway. Here from Fjellstua, Ålesund.



THE FOUNDER: Sting, who established the Rainforest Foundation in 1989, was our guest during the 2015 NRK Telethon.



THE CHILDREN'S TV-CAMPAIGN: No doubt about it: children do care about the rainforest!



CHILDREN OF THE RAINFOREST: Ineida (8) and Jeferson (6) were the faces of the NRK Telethon. They live in the village of Demini in the Brazilian Amazonas.



2015: An historical year

THE YEAR 2015 was a very special one for Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN). After having applied for 15 years running to the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) to be allocated their annual charity telethon event, in June 2014 we received the good news: NRK's Telethon 2015 would be devoted to the rainforest and its people. That marked the start of lengthy preparations – to ensure a successful telethon in Norway and to pave the way for work in the five countries that were to benefit from the generosity of the Norwegian people.

A unique arrangement

The NRK Telethon is unique. Many TV channels around the world occasionally set aside broadcasting time to create awareness and raise funds for a good cause. But only the NRK Telethon aims to contact every single household in the country, and spread the message to the entire population. I doubt that any other TV channels arrange anything comparable in terms of scope, involving a rich mix of reporting, entertainment and door-to-door campaigning.

An honour – with responsibilities

It was both an honour and a great responsibility for us to arrange NRK's 2015 Telethon. With this unparalleled opportunity to reach the masses with our message came the responsibility for helping to strengthen the annual NRK Telethon as the most important charity arrangement of the year. Indeed, we succeeded on both

counts. Never before have so many Norwegians learned about the rainforest, its pivotal role for the earth's climate and biodiversity, and its importance for the millions of people to whom it is home. The essential message – that we must protect the rainforest together with those who live there – mobilised the Norwegian population. For generations, the people of the rainforest have taken care of their forests, to the benefit of us all. Today, facing massive pressure from powerful forces, they need our help and support. This work requires equality and reciprocity in ways that differ from the approaches of many other humanitarian campaigns. That our message got through, at a time marked by dramatic humanitarian crises in Syria and neighbouring countries, and unprecedented flows of refugees and asylum-seekers, says much about the maturity and commitment of the Norwegian people.

Impossible without assistance

The door-to-door canvassing throughout the country, the massive media coverage, the impressive engagement shown by children and young people – none of this would have been possible without the many thousands of volunteers who worked to prepare the campaign locally, who carried the collection boxes and knocked on doors, and who contributed cash and other gifts – creativity not least. A further essential factor was the deep involvement of the skilled staff of the TV campaign secretari-

at with whom we had the privilege of working throughout the year. Let me also thank our own staff at RFN, for efforts and inputs far beyond the call of duty.

A world record

The result was a record-breaking NOK 190 million (well over €20 million) collected for the rainforest, in the course of a single day. That was also in line with our budget, which means that we can keep our pledge to the Norwegian people: to help one million rainforest dwellers to maintain and conserve rainforest areas the size of the UK, Ireland and Portugal together.

For us at RFN, the Telethon was not the only event of the year 2015. This annual report presents a brief overview of our recent struggles, challenges and victories. It is a multi-faceted picture that can stimulate further efforts as well as giving some grounds for optimism. Working closely with our partner organisations, we are achieving important results all around the world.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lars Løvold". The script is cursive and fluid.

Lars Løvold
Director, Rainforest Foundation Norway



Photo: RFN

JANUARY: Secrecy in the Ministry of Finance

In 2010, the Council on Ethics for the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global recommended that two oil companies, Repsol and Reliance, be excluded from the Fund, because their oil exploration activities in the Peruvian rainforest threatened the existence of as yet uncontacted indigenous groups. January 2015: it emerges that the Ministry has kept the matter secret for more than three years, while oil exploration has continued unabated.



Photo: RFN

FEBRUARY: Big demonstrations in Brasilia

In December 2014 the indigenous peoples' movement in Brazil won a major battle when they managed to stop a controversial bill that would have serious consequences for the country's indigenous peoples and for rainforest protection. February 2015: the powerful landowner lobby in the Brazilian Congress demands that the bill be re-introduced; massive demonstrations ensue in the capital, Brasilia.



Photo: Florent de La Taille

MARCH: International Festival of Indigenous Peoples

In March indigenous peoples from the whole world gather in DR Congo to discuss issues of rights and discrimination. Representatives of the Congolese government urge the adoption of a bill to protect the country's indigenous people and ensure their rights, noting the importance of recognising and protecting the rights of indigenous people to their territories and natural resources.



Photo: Julius Langhoff og Jon Arne Berg

APRIL: Children's books printed on rainforest paper

We reveal that the paper used in 11 of the 24 children's books from Norwegian publishers sent for laboratory investigation came from the rainforests of Indonesia. As the survey was a random sample, the overall figures are probably much greater. We instigate a petition campaign demanding Norwegian publishers to stop using rainforest paper in their books.



Photo: RFN

MAY: No to violations of human rights

Throughout spring 2015 we work together with various partners to get the Bank of Norway to adopt a human rights strategy for the Government Pension Fund Global, as several companies in which the Fund has invested are involved in serious violations of human rights. In May, a unanimous Norwegian Parliament instructs the Bank to establish such a strategy.



Photo: RFN

JUNE: Massive forest fires in Indonesia

In June, forest fires sweep Indonesia, due not least to palm-oil producers who burn off vast tracts of rainforest to make room for palm-oil plantations. The forest fires – hundreds of them – lead to major health problems, and the CO₂ emissions are nearly as great as the annual emissions of the USA. Enormous areas of rainforest and peatland are destroyed.



Photo: Forest Heroes

JULY: Palm oil company ups its game on rainforest

After pressure from RFN and others, First Resources – a major producer of palm oil in Indonesia – introduces new, stringent regulations aimed at preserving the rainforest and protecting human rights. The company owns more than 1900 km² of palm-oil plantations in Indonesia.



Photo: RFN

AUGUST: Pension Fund excludes palm-oil companies

After pressure from RFN and others, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global divests itself of holdings in four palm-oil companies responsible for rainforest destruction in Asia: IJM Corp Bhd, Genting Bhd, POSCO and Daewoo International. A statement from the Bank of Norway explains that this follows an assessment of the risk of serious environmental damage.



Photo: RFN

SEPTEMBER: Decline in deforestation in Brazil

Figures released in September show that deforestation in Brazil in 2014 was the second lowest since registration began in 1988: between August 2013 and August 2014, deforestation stood at 5,012 km², down 15 % from the previous twelve-month period.



Photo: RFN

OCTOBER: Highly successful Telethon results

The NRK 2015 Telethon nets almost NOK 190 million for our activities. The funding is earmarked organisations and individuals working to save the rainforest for coming generations. For details, see the feature in this issue of the annual report.



Photo: James Ewen

NOVEMBER: Orkla to combat deforestation

None of the Orkla Group conglomerate's raw materials, products or packaging shall contribute to deforestation, according to the Group's strategy document. Orkla 'wishes to protect the rainforest and other important natural forests, and will work systematically and purposefully to prevent our products from contributing to deforestation.' Suppliers of palm oil must comply with these requirements by 2017, and all other suppliers by 2020.



Photo: RFN

DECEMBER: Christmas present for the rainforest

Norwegian Minister of Climate and the Environment, Tine Sundtoft, announces that the country's rainforest initiative will be extended for 10 more years, from 2020 to 2030, because deforestation is responsible for 10%–15% of annual global emissions of climate gases. 'We are very glad that Norway is extending its rainforest initiative till 2030. This is and remains a vital climate effort', says RFN director Lars Løvold.

Important victories for indigenous peoples

THE DIFFICULT POLITICAL CLIMATE in the Amazonas region presented challenges for us and our partners in 2015. In both Brazil and Peru, the framework conditions for the rainforest and its peoples were weakened. In Peru, legislation protecting the rainforest was repealed in order to attract large investments in vulnerable areas. In Brazil, the authorities attempted to weaken the rights of indigenous peoples. All the same, many of our major milestones in 2015 concerned precisely the rights of indigenous peoples.

Indigenous people:

own government and constitution

The Wampis people of northern Peru won a great victory: in late 2015, they became the first indigenous nation in Peru to establish its own constitution and elect a government. The Peruvian government has not recognised this constitution, but RFN, our partner organisations and other supporters are working to achieve this. We hope that the Wampis nation will go on to join hands with neighbouring indigenous groups, so that nine currently divided areas can become one connected rainforest territory the size of Portugal.

Checkposts and forestry legislation

Illegal logging, infrastructure construction, industrialised agriculture and petroleum extraction are among the forces driving deforestation in Peru. With our support, several organisations have established a network of checkposts aimed at protecting the territories of isolated and vulnerable indigenous groups. In 2015 the indigenous peoples' movement and regional indigenous peoples' organisations got the authorities to provide partial funding for 8 of the 10 checkposts, thereby ensuring greater protection. After a consultation process involving several of our partners, Peru also adopted a regulatory framework for its forestry legislation. Deforestation in Peru remains very high, so we hope that this regulatory framework may help to slow down the destruction.

Working together to halt mega-projects

In the Amazonas region we are working together with several organisations to put a halt to mega-projects affecting the lives of thousands of indigenous peoples – projects involving new motorways and major dams in the

FACTSHEET

- The Amazonas region extends for more than 5.5 million km². It contains over 20% of the world's running freshwater, one third of all known species of plants and animals, and 10% of the globe's total biomass.
- The forests store massive amounts of carbon which, when destroyed, is released into the atmosphere. Thus the rainforest has a vital function, not only for those living there but for the global climate as well.
- RFN works to achieve recognition for the territorial rights of indigenous peoples. This has proven a highly effective way to protect large areas of forest.



heart of important indigenous areas. In 2015 we succeeded in establishing dialogue between the BNDES (the national development bank that finances several mega-projects) and civil society actors from Brazil and neighbouring countries. As the processes behind such projects are far from open, our partners are working for greater transparency in decision-making procedures, to enable better possibilities for influence.

Alternatives to logging

Our partners are working to develop alternatives to logging. In Brazil's Rio Negro Basin, a project for sustainable production of chillies has been a success: two new production sites have been established, the number of retail outlets has risen from 29 to 37, and 350 families are now involved. And in the Xingu River Basin,

a certification arrangement for several sustainable local products has been well received.

Recognition of isolated indigenous peoples

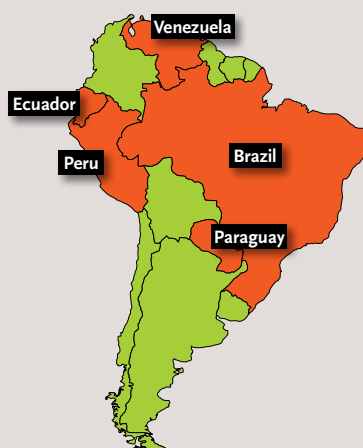
Also in Paraguay, work on the rights of isolated indigenous peoples has borne fruit. The authorities had disputed that the Ayoreo people of the Chaco area were as numerous as they actually are, but in 2015 the Ayoreo were officially recognised, and various protective measures put in place. Together with partner organisations, we are now working on a management plan to prevent extraction activities in the areas where the Ayoreo live. The Paraguayan authorities have also introduced anti-discrimination legislation and prepared better guidelines for dealing with forced displacement and conflict. All this means some improvement in the rights of Paraguay's indigenous population.

Establishing territories and management plans

In 2015 our partners in Venezuela completed a proposal for establishing territories for the Yanomami people. Surprisingly, a large territory – 21,000 km² – for indigenous peoples was also established in Brazil, as part of one of the world's greatest mosaics of protected rainforest. Our partner IEPE has played a central role in this work. Moreover, the various management plans now introduced in Brazil, Peru and Ecuador will help our local partners to protect their territories for future generations.

RFN in SOUTH AMERICA

We support projects in Brazil, Peru, Paraguay, Ecuador and Venezuela.



MAJOR VICTORIES: In 2015 we accomplished much in the field of indigenous rights in the Amazonas, including the establishment of several indigenous peoples' territories.



Good news for the indigenous peoples of the Congo

RAINFOREST in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is still relatively untouched, when compared with other rainforest areas of the world. Much of the work done in the course of 2015 will help this situation to continue. With our partners, RFN has long worked to get the authorities to recognise the rights of the indigenous peoples living in the DRC. This was a central concern in 2015.

Important award to our partner organisation

Our partner DPGA is a network of 43 organisations spread throughout the DRC. Founded 10 years ago, it has long been working on legislation to protect the country's indigenous people and secure their rights. In 2014 the bill was approved by indigenous peoples' representatives from communities all over the country, and was then forwarded to the Parliament. It was put on the parliamentary agenda in 2015, and has been awaiting debate. In 2015, DPGA was awarded the Equator Prize for its work with the rights of indigenous peoples. This prize is awarded by the UNDP every second year, to selected organisations for outstanding local and indigenous initiatives that are advancing innovative solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. DPGA was awarded the prize for its work on legislation that will recognise the rights of the Pygmies, the most heavily discriminated ethnic group in the DRC. The DPGA network had earlier managed to halt plans for logging permits in an area of rainforest covering altogether 600,000 km² – almost double the land area of Norway.

Greater awareness of legal rights

In 2015 a festival of indigenous people held in the DRC gathered indigenous people from all over the world, to discuss rights and discrimination. Also attending were representatives of the DRC government, who urged the adoption of bill mentioned above. In addition, on behalf of the president and the entire government, the importance of recognising and protecting indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources was emphasised.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: The 2015 festival of indigenous people, the award of Equator Prize, and several court cases have all helped to raise awareness of the rights of Central Africa's indigenous peoples.

Important complaint issue

For centuries, the Batwa Pygmy people of the eastern DRC have lived in and from the rainforest. Then, some 30 years ago, they were brutally evicted from the forest in connection with establishment of Kahuzi-Biega National Park. In 2015, together with the organisation ERND, they lodged a formal complaint with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, citing breaches of their rights to land and natural resources. This will be dealt with in the course of 2016.

Norway to contribute NOK 400 million annually

In late 2015 it was announced that Norway will provide NOK 400 million in annual support to the DRC through CAFI (Central African Forest Initiative), beginning in 2016 and

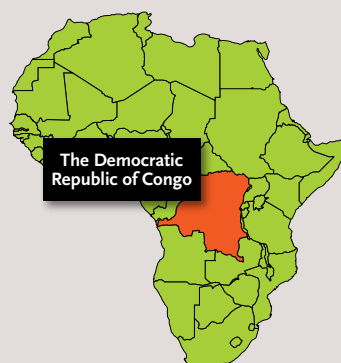
running until 2020. The money will be used to support the REDD+ process for limiting deforestation in the DRC. France, Germany and the UK are also involved in this arrangement.

Moratorium under heavy pressure

A major challenge in the DRC concerns a logging moratorium prohibiting the issuance of new logging permits. The moratorium introduced in 2002 was under heavy pressure throughout 2015, due not least to greater pressure from logging companies and lower revenues from mineral extraction. Repeal of the moratorium could have massive consequences, loss of control over the forestry sector in particular. RFN and our partners are working hard to keep the moratorium in effect.

RFN in CENTRAL AFRICA

We have supported projects in the DRC since 2003. The world's second largest rainforest areas lie in the Congo Basin.



FACTSHEET

- The rainforests of Central Africa cover some 2 million km² – 18% of all rainforest in the world.
- Central Africa's rainforests lie in the Congo Basin, with areas in seven countries: Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of Congo (Brazzaville).
- Some 60% of these rainforest area are located in the DRC, whose rainforests are still relatively untouched, compared with the situation elsewhere in the world.

Hope and optimism in Myanmar

IN 2013 MYANMAR was declared a new RFN project country. Since then we have initiated collaboration with various environmental and indigenous peoples' organisations in the country. In addition to supporting the establishment of a national network for indigenous peoples, we are working to document and strengthen locally-driven management of natural resources in the south of Myanmar, and civil society participation in an improved conservation plan for Natma Taung National Park in the west of the country. Further, we support capacity-building and strengthening of local management of forest and watercourses. The goal is for the indigenous groups to gain influence over the protection of forests and conservation areas. In 2015, the people living along two rivers challenged companies and gold-miners who were polluting these watercourses. In November 2015 came other good news: the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi won a clear election victory, gaining a majority in both houses of the national parliament. High hopes attend the new government, and the room for manoeuvre of the media, organisations and indigenous peoples seem to be expanding. If the new government supports indigenous rights and forest protection, that could mean a major breakthrough.

Indonesia: Successful palm-oil campaigns

Further to the south, in Indonesia, we can note important breakthroughs in 2015. As palm-oil production is the major driver behind deforestation there, RFN and our partners focused on the big producers – including Astra Agro Lestari, Indonesia's second-largest producer of palm oil. An important political actor, it has been involved in the deforestation of vast tracts of land. Our campaign was a success: after one month, the company halted all deforestation, and followed up with new guidelines for sustainable activity. Furthermore, RFN issued a report on management of the palm-oil sector in Indonesia, with recommendations for how the authorities can strengthen regulation of the sector, to prevent deforestation. The work done in 2015 leads us to hope that other producers will follow suit.

Catastrophic forest fires

Forest fires in autumn 2015 blanketed much



NEW HOPE: The party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi won a clear election victory in 2015, gaining a majority in Myanmar's national parliament. If the new government supports indigenous rights and rainforest protection, this could mark a major breakthrough.

FACTSHEET

- The rainforests of Southeast Asia and Oceania cover areas in many countries, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. It is in these three, plus Myanmar, that we are active.
- The rainforest of this region are among the most complex and species-rich ecosystems in the world.

of Indonesia in smoke. When rainforest is logged and destroyed, the soil dries out, becoming highly inflammable – a severe threat in peatbog areas. Our local partners documented how palm-oil companies deliberately set fire to forests, to clear new plantation areas. The 2015 fires are recognised as among the world's gre-

atest environmental catastrophes that year, resulting in CO₂ emissions almost as high as the annual emissions of the USA. Half a million people suffered acute respiratory problems. Later that year, a presidential unit was established to work on conserving and restoring peat areas, to prevent future catastrophes.

In 2015, RFN partners constructed five new 'jungle schools' on Sulawesi, Sumatra and Mentawai, with room for 150–200 new pupils. These schools provide indigenous peoples with local access to instruction in their own tongues. In addition to the '3 Rs', pupils learn about local culture – and that they are entitled to stand up to those who try to exploit them and their areas.

Papua New Guinea: big challenges remain

In Papua New Guinea, foreign logging companies have access to 150,000 km² of the country, through logging concessions and Special Agricultural and Business Leases (SABL). The latter allow logging of tropical forest if oil palms are planted or other agriculture introduced. Earlier investigation of these agreements revealed swindle and corruption, and a new report shows that logging companies employ 'creative bookkeeping' to evade sales taxes and duties. Not only are tropical forests vanishing from one of the world's poorest countries, the local people are also robbed of billions in revenues every year. The government had pledged to cancel all SABL agreements previously declared invalid, but that promise was not kept in 2015. RFN and our partners have kept working to achieve this, not least through major campaigns in the social media.



No fairy-tale happy endings for the rainforest?

“Little Red Riding Hood, Pinocchio and Postman Pat are destroying the rainforest!”

...RFN declared in April 2015, after investigating whether books on the Norwegian market contained paper from rainforest logging. More and more Norwegian publishers have been moving their book production to China, for economic reasons. China is a major importer of timber and paper from Indonesia, where vast tracts of rainforest are felled each year, to meet the global demand for paper.

We sent paper samples of 24 children's books to a laboratory in the USA for testing – and 11 of them were found to contain rainforest material. Our ensuing campaign to get Norwegian publishers to clean up their act received broad media coverage, and 3019 signatures on a petition to publishers to stop printing children's books on rainforest paper. In late spring the issue was taken up in the Parliament. In June, Egmont – a major Scandinavian media concern – declared that they found the matter highly regrettable and would investigate why rainforest paper was being used in their books.

RFN issued the following advice to publishers:

1. Find out where your printers get their paper.
2. Require them not to use paper that contributes to rainforest destruction.
3. Make sure that your suppliers follow up.

Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global to respect human rights

For years, we have pursued constructive dialogue with Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM) on how the Government Pension Fund Global, through its investments, can help to prevent or counteract rainforest destruction, climate change and human rights violations. In 2015 two important results emerged. In March, the NBIM updated its Climate Change Strategy: Expectations to Companies to include specific points on tropical deforestation. Companies in the Pension Fund Global are required to reduce their contribution to deforestation; following an intervention by RFN, this applies to sub-contractors as well. This is positive, but there must also be an action plan

with time-specific goals and clear priorities and measures for the Fund to follow in reducing the deforestation impacts of companies in its portfolio.

The second result came in June, when a unanimous Parliament instructed Norges Bank

RFN'S POLICY/CAMPAIGN WORK

- Our Policy and Campaign Division is a central actor in the Norwegian policy debate on rainforest conservation and assistance to indigenous people and the environment, keeping a close watch on REDD+ and Norwegian rainforest support, the state budget and the investment policies of the Norwegian Pension Fund Global.
- Further, the division works on identifying products that contribute to rainforest destruction, and informs producers and the public how to avoid them

to develop a new Human Rights Expectations document. This was after RFN, with other major interest groups, had informed MPs of human rights violations committed by several companies in the Pension Fund portfolio. Parliament responded by instructing the Fund to require all companies in its portfolio to respect human rights, including those of indigenous peoples and workers. Later that year, NBIM began work on its human rights document, which was released in early February 2016. Targeted coordination among RFN and like-minded organisations, plus active involvement of all political parties in the Parliament, proved decisive for achieving these important results. Our annual study of the Fund's portfolio had revealed investments worth NOK 137 billion in sectors that contribute to rainforest destruction. New requirements and expectations from such a major actor should motivate companies towards more sustainable practices.

Orkla announces zero tolerance of deforestation

We maintain ongoing dialogue with the business sector, aimed at discouraging deforestation activities. After lengthy consultations, the Orkla Group launched a zero deforestation strategy in November 2015. No raw materials it uses are to contribute to deforestation – this includes soya, cacao, paper and cardboard, throughout the production chain. In 2014 Orkla announced plans for traceable and sustainable palm oil by 2017 – in 2015 it became the first Norwegian company with a zero deforestation policy for all its raw materials and products.

As well as direct dialogue with specific business actors, RFN works to promote better understanding of the causes of deforestation. With the Ministry of Climate and the Environment, in cooperation with the Federation of Norwegian Food and Drink Industry, in October we arranged the conference 'Cutting ties between business and deforestation', attended by business representatives, politicians, Scandinavian NGOs and international experts, aimed at getting leading Nordic companies and investors to commit to removing rainforest-destructive activity from their suppliers and portfolios. Practical information was exchanged on how to accomplish this, and the conference helped to motivate companies to support Nordic work on rainforest protection.

Dramatic budget cuts prevented

Norwegian foreign aid and development policy is decisive to Norway's effort to save the rainforest, and considerable funding has been earmarked for this work. Sadly, the government's proposed national budget for 2016 indicated major cuts, like a 67% reduction in long-term assistance channelled through civil society organisations (CSOs). This was dramatic, as such assistance has been shown to be effective and well-controlled, helping to strengthen democratisation and civil society in the Global South. The government also proposed serious cuts in support to rainforest protection. Through coordinated strategic lobbying of the Parliament and media, RFN, with other

CSOs, made clear the long-range developmental importance of promoting strong civil society in developing countries. As a result, several of the proposed cuts were removed from the final budget.

New climate agreement: hope for the rainforest

RFN has long provided inputs to the UN climate negotiations and attended climate summits. In 2015 came good news: the Paris summit resulted in an historical climate agreement. Greenhouse gas emissions are to be cut, and rainforest protection is specifically mentioned as central for achieving the agreed climate goals. Here the agreement sends a clear signal to rainforest nations, and that the wealthy North must continue funding rainforest protection. The agreement further specifies the duty to respect human rights, indigenous rights, food security and eco-system preservation. These are crucial to success in climate efforts focused on people and livelihoods. Until the agreement enters into force in 2020,

the world's leaders will continue negotiating the implementation details. It is still uncertain whether forest preservation will be included in a future quota market that would enable the fossil-fuels sector to evade some emissions responsibilities by purchasing green quotas from rainforest countries. We intend to follow developments here.

We are present in Geneva when our project countries are evaluated by the UN Human Rights Council. All UN member-states are assessed every four years as regards human rights, and in 2015 Myanmar was up for evaluation. RFN, our partner organisation POINT and the Coalition of Indigenous Peoples in Myanmar/Burma delivered a joint report and lobbied in Myanmar and Geneva prior to the evaluation. We achieved our aim of getting other states to pressure Myanmar to protect the rights of indigenous peoples: three of our recommendations were accepted by Myanmar.

Photo: Julius Langhoff og Jon Arne Berg



NO FOREST-DESTRUCTIVE BOOKS, PLEASE: We produced this illustration after an investigation revealed that 11 of 24 Norwegian children's books sampled contained paper from rainforest logging.

Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) is an organisation working to preserve the world's rainforests and secure the rights of indigenous peoples. We collaborate with more than 70 local environmental, human rights and indigenous organisations in Southeast Asia, Oceania, Central Africa and the Amazon. In Norway we work to raise awareness about the rainforest, prevent Norwegian policy and business interests from contributing to its destruction, and strengthen policies and practices that preserve it.

Founded in 1989, RFN ranks among the world's leading organisations within rainforest protection. We are part of the international Rainforest Foundation network, with sister organisations in the USA and the UK. Our operations are funded by public authorities, private donors and sponsors, as well as collaboration with the business sector and funds outside Norway. We have five Norwegian organisations as members: Friends of the Earth Norway, Young Friends of the Earth Norway, Children's Friends of the Earth Norway, the Development Fund, and The Future in Our Hands. Our offices are located in Mariboes gate 8 in downtown Oslo.

Continued operations

These annual accounts build on the assumption of continuation of RFN's operations, as there are no factors, in the view of the board, which would indicate otherwise. To a significant degree, RFN's finances are based on multiyear contracts with the Norwegian authorities on long-term development cooperation. In all these contracts, grant amounts stated are subject to parliamentary budget decisions. Possible shifts in aid policy priority that affect the granting of funds therefore represent the biggest risk to RFN's financial development. Gre-

ater international fundraising and increased income from the business sector and private donors in Norway have, together with revenues from the 2015 Telethon, considerably reduced our dependence on public funding. Despite the loss of MFA support for our work in the Amazon, we expect an increase in means made available for our work.

Market risk for RFN primarily concerns the possibility of reputational risk that could affect our ability to raise public and private funds. RFN is not highly exposed to financial risk, as our funds as of 31.12 are all placed in bank deposits or similar. Relative large amounts of currency are transferred, but our contracts with local partners all contain a clause ensuring maximum amounts in NOK in relation to the approved budgets.

Work environment and staff

RFN maintains internal control for health, safety and environment, with a special set of safety instructions and a Code of Conduct. Physical working conditions are good: the RFN office is housed in modern premises, with facilities like massage chair, staff wardrobe and showers. The working environment committee held three meetings in the course of 2015. Throughout the year we had an additional secretariat in connection with the Telethon, with a staff increase of some 10 persons for much of the year. Adjacent office premises were rented, and one division moved, to provide space for the Telethon secretariat. Staff members are organised in the Norwegian Union of Commerce and Office Employees (HK); RFN is a member of the employers' organisation Virke.

Total sick leave in 2015 stood at 5.89%: 1.06% self-reported sick leave and 4.83% medically certified sick leave; this represents a 1.15%

decrease from 2014. There were no reports of serious injuries or accidents in connection with our operations in 2015.

Equal opportunities

RFN seeks to provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender or ethnicity. At the end of 2015 our staff consisted of 15 men and 30 women; our Board had four male and six female members.

Environmental scoresheet

RFN is certified under Norway's Eco-Lighthouse system and follows its guidelines. In 2015 we recycled 54% of our refuse (65% in 2014). Total amount: 2672 kg (as against 4333 kg in 2014). Air travel: 115 return flights (90 in 2014). Energy consumption: 125 kWh/m²; paper consumption in 2015 was 4456 kg (5946 kg in 2014).

Annual accounts

The Annual Accounts accurately reflect Rainforest Foundation Norway's allocations and position as of the close of FY 2015.

Financial situation (all figures in NOK)

In the opinion of the RFN Board, the financial situation of Rainforest Foundation Norway is satisfactory. Equity stands at 184,158,070, as against 22,850,338 at the end of 2014; total assets are 204,454,728 in 2015, against 34,659,864 in 2014. Net income for the year increases the operating fund (unrestricted equity) by 231,072 to 6,138,586, while the project fund increases by 6,000,000 to 22,942,824. Revenues from the 2015 Telethon are NOK 155,076,660, and this is equity with externally imposed restrictions. RFN has no mortgage debt, and liquidity is sound.

Oslo, 1 June 2016



Axel Borchgrevink
(Chair)



Anne Hege Simonsen
(Vice-Chair)



Regine Andersen



Åsmund Aukrust



Maria Lundberg



Trygve K. Norman



Jan Thomas Odegard



Jenny Kosberg Skagestad



Marit Kristine Veia



Anne L. Grønland
(Staff representative)



Lars Løvold
(Executive Director)

Rainforest Foundation Norway 2015

Restricted funds (all values in NOK)	2015	2014
The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	100 242 838	100 890 183
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	24 076 205	24 292 960
Other grants	14 094 627	9 664 985

Generated funds		
Rainforest Guardians (regular private donors)	9 283 345	7 077 595
Other individual contributions	3 313 804	3 041 640
Choice Hotels	3 328 000	3 046 690
Hafslund	8 265 980	2 055 669
Rema 1000	2 500 000	
Other contributions from business	970 600	575 065
Financial revenues	317 127	823 383
Total incoming resources	166 292 526	151 468 170

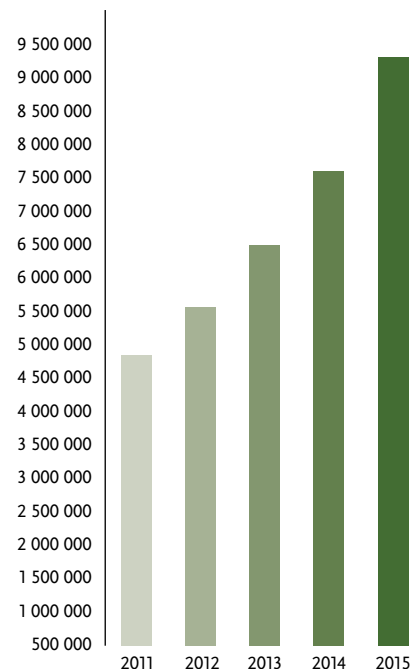
Expenses		
Procurement of funds	7 953 010	7 091 176
RFN programs (*)	133 006 097	128 862 504
Communication	5 816 864	3 321 445
Administration/operations	13 285 483	10 804 045
Total resources expended	160 061 454	150 079 170

Activity profit/loss for the year	6 231 072	1 389 000
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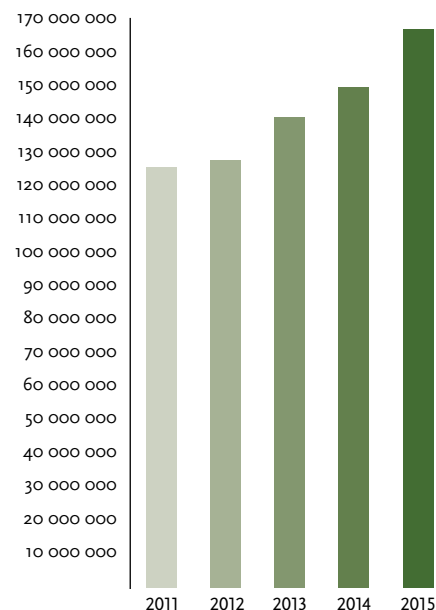
RFN programs (*)	2015	2014
Rights-based rainforest protection, the Amazon	16 368 064	18 024 825
Contiguous territories, the Amazon	22 292 782	22 521 981
Indigenous peoples' rights	20 076 172	20 526 882
Rights-based rainforest protection, Africa	17 422 980	15 011 300
Rights-based rainforest protection, Asia and Oceania	29 988 024	24 153 723
Global policies for rainforest protection	11 575 171	14 450 810
Climate and rainforest	15 282 904	14 172 983
Total projects	133 006 097	128 862 504

The 2015 Telethon	
Revenues, the 2015 Telethon*	189 789 685
Expenses, the 2015 Telethon	34 713 025
Net result, the 2015 Telethon	155 076 660

Income from Rainforest Guardians 2011-2015



Turnover 2011-2015



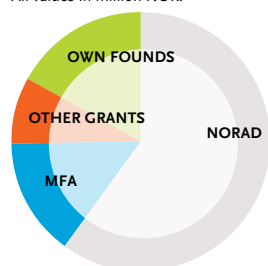
* The revenues of the 2015 Telethon are listed in a separate item and not listed in the column for generated funds and turnover.



Rainforest Foundation Norway is a member of the Norwegian Control Committee for Fundraising in Norway.

Where does the money come from?

All values in million NOK.

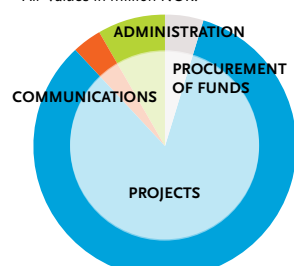


■ Norad: 100,2 (60,2 %)
 ■ MFA: 24,1 (14,4 %)
 ■ Other grants: 14,1 (8,4 %)
 ■ Own funds: 27,9 (16,7 %)

TOTAL INCOME: 166,3

What is the money spent on?

All values in million NOK.

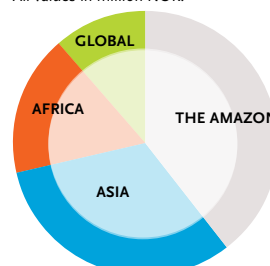


■ Procurement of funds: 8 (5,0 %)
 ■ Projects: 133 (83,1 %)
 ■ Communications: 5,8 (3,6 %)
 ■ Adm/operation: 13,3 (8,3 %)

TOTAL EXPENSES: 160,1

Where does the money go?

All values in million NOK.

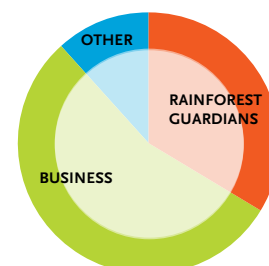


■ The Amazon: 52,7 (39,6 %)
 ■ Asia: 42,5 (31,9 %)
 ■ Africa: 22,8 (17,1 %)
 ■ Global: 15,1 (11,3 %)

TOTAL PROJECT RESOURCES: 133,1

Generated funds

All values in million NOK.



■ Rainforest guardians: 9,3 (33,3 %)
 ■ Business: 15,1 (54,7 %)
 ■ Other: 3,2 (11,6 %)

TOTAL OWN FUNDS: 27,6

Major Telethon for Rainforest Foundation Norway

WE NEED INVOLVEMENT on the part of the Norwegian people, if RFN is to play an active and significant role in protecting the world's rainforests. The 2015 Telethon raised knowledge and awareness of the importance of the rainforest among the general public. Now we must translate involvement into practical action and financial support.

Rainforest Guardians

We want to be visible to the public, and offer a simple, practical way of supporting our work – thus our regular donor programme, Rainforest Guardians, based on monthly autogiro payments. As much as possible goes directly to our activities. Most communication goes via digital media, to save paper. In the course of 2015, the number of Rainforest Guardians increased by 1466, yielding a total of 8197 active members by the end of the year. They contributed altogether NOK 9,3 million, or approx. €985,000.

Our partners in the business world

Nordic Choice Hotels: for nearly eight years, this major Scandinavian chain has contributed

considerable sums in support of rainforest conservation, while also practising a clear strategy for abolishing the use of palm oil in its hotels.

Rema 1000: in January 2015 this large supermarket chain signed a cooperation agreement with RFN, and has shown considerable willingness and engagement in developing close relations built on shared awareness of the importance of sustainable management of the world's rainforests. This economic/professional cooperation includes awareness-raising among all Rema customers.

The power supply company **Hafslund Strøm** and RFN began working together in 2010. Through the company's 'Green Choice' option, financial support to rainforest preservation has reached new heights. Never before has a commercial actor contributed so much to preserving the rainforest through its own customers – NOK 100 each year per participant, which Hafslund doubles the first year. In addition, RFN provides these customers with information on the importance of the world's rainforests. The

support from Hafslund goes, inter alia, to a project on Sumatra that supplies local communities with electricity from micro-powerplants in rivers.

Also important are the members of the **Norwegian Union of Commerce and Office Employees (HK)**, who earmark NOK 10 of their annual membership fee to rainforest preservation. In addition, HK cooperation with RFN involves a focus on climate and environmental issues of common interest.

Other supporters

Children and young people, clubs and associations, birthday parties and weddings – all represent opportunities for contributing, through involvement, enthusiasm and donations. Kindergarten groups often come to our offices, bringing money they have collected. On birthdays and other occasions, guests are sometimes requested to give a donation to the people of the rainforest instead of a conventional present. Interest for our work is indeed great!

Give a donation on www.rainforest.no/en



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