



Foundation for
International
Law for the
Environment

**POLICY PLAN 2020 - 2025 FOR FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT (FILE)**



Name institution:

Stichting Foundation for International Law for the Environment

Public name:

FILE Foundation

RSIN:

859230818

KvK number:

72770368

Rechtsvorm/Legal person:

Stichting

Statutaire naam/Statutory name:

Stichting Foundation for International Law for the Environment

Statutaire zetel/domicile:

Amsterdam

Besechers/physical address:

Keizersgracht 555, 1017 DR Amsterdam, Netherlands

Eerste inschrijving handelsregister/first entry Chamber of Commerce:

05-10-2018

Datum akte van oprichting/date of incorporation:

05-10-2018 Activiteiten

SBI-code/Objects SBI-code:

91042 – Natuurbehoud Milieubescherming/Environmental Protection

Website:

www.filefoundation.org

Board:

Chairperson: Jasper Teulings

Director: Chris Sheasby

Executive director:

Stefan Raubenheimer

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1. Introduction

The Stichting Foundation for International Law for the Environment (to be known as FILE) is a foundation established in the Netherlands. This document sets out the Policy Plan for the Foundation from 2020- 2025.

FILE's Vision is to strive towards a world where:

- Legal and economic systems acknowledge that humans are intrinsic to and dependant on the natural environment
- Healthy ecosystems receive protection irrespective of their immediate utilitarian value
- A truly post-carbon, regenerative society has replaced one dominated by fossil fuels and extraction
- Human and nature rights are cherished, and indigenous knowledge is valued
- An interconnected, empowered community of practice ensures legal protection of the environment, allowing both nature and people to flourish.

The foundation was registered in Amsterdam on or after 5 October 2018.

The foundation website is: www.filefoundation.org

2. Mission and Principles

FILE's Mission

FILE was established to accelerate legal action globally to address the climate and nature crises.

Through a combination of grant-making and in-house legal expertise, FILE collaborates with international partners who are driving legal innovation and bringing high impact legal action and emblematic precedent-setting cases.

FILE seeks to create the enabling conditions for successful outcomes from legal action by supporting growth and diversity in the climate legal field, improving access to research and knowledge, ensuring strategic communication and campaign alignment, and supporting capacity building.

FILE's Principles:

- Face the global environmental crisis with creativity and courage;
- Take risks to confront the scale of the challenge;
- Create impact through systemic changes;
- Celebrate and enable our partners;
- Protect our partners and frontline communities;
- Support movements and shift power to communities;
- Support collaborative, diverse, decentralised networks;
- Foster inclusive, trust-based partnerships;
- Provide good stewardship of our resources;
- Increase access to diverse knowledge.

3. Main Objects

The objects of the foundation are to protect the environment, including biodiversity, the climate, and human health, by supporting the development and enforcement of governance instruments that enable and promote climate change mitigation and the conservation and restoration of biodiversity worldwide all to be interpreted in the broadest sense.

The foundation seeks to achieve this by:

- Supporting interventions that advance the foundation's mission;
- Resourcing the necessary research and preparation of evidence to support effective interventions that support the foundation's mission;
- Supporting advocacy, media, communications and campaigns that strengthen the foundation's mission;
- Resourcing the growth of learning within the environmental law and policy community of practice.

Everything that is related to the above or may be conducive thereto.

The foundation operates on a non-profit basis. If the foundation is closed, any remaining funds after dissolution will be allocated to an ANBI institution with a similar objects.

4. Activities

The activities of the foundation are grouped into four work-streams:

- **Legal Intervention** – Supporting partners that conduct or facilitate legal interventions to increase rapid carbon mitigation and environmental protection;
- **Evidence** – Supporting research and investigative activities to provide evidence for precedent-setting laws and policies;
- **Communications and advocacy** – Embedding legal interventions within a wider political and communications strategy;
- **Learning** – Capturing and disseminating precedents, evidence, lessons and legal strategies and building the capacity of the field.

Foundation partners in various geographies, jurisdictions, and thematic areas deliver these activities.

Grants to partners sometimes enable them to regrant at a local level. The foundation also, in certain circumstances, grants direct support to research institutions, media and advocacy organisations and others, in pursuit of the four activity workstreams.

5. Funds

The Foundation's funding is from private philanthropies. Funds are managed by the foundation, with oversight by the board. The Board makes all decisions related to the raising of funds and acceptance of donations, and the grants made by the Foundation. Funding is deposited in, and administered from a bank account from which the costs of the foundation are drawn. The foundation does not retain more liquid assets than reasonably required for its activities. No individual or legal entity is able to access or manage the foundation's assets as if they were their personal assets.

6. Spending Policy

There are two expenditures from the foundation: grants made in furtherance of the foundation's objects and strategies, and the operational costs of the foundation.

Grants are made from the capital on a depleting fund model. Interest on the capital is ploughed back to capital.

Operational costs per annum are kept to a level deemed reasonable by the Board.

7. Governance and Operation

A Board of Directors acting as the trustees govern the foundation. The Board currently consists of two Directors and will be expanded in due course. At least four Board meetings will take place in Amsterdam (or virtually if restrictions apply) in each year of operation of the foundation, travel permitting.

Operations of the foundation, including engagement with partners and furtherance of the foundation goals and strategies are through an Executive Team. An Executive Director leads the foundation. Staff or consultant appointments and costs of operations are all subject to Executive Team approval.

No individual or legal entity can treat the assets of the institution as if it were his/its own capital and all expenditure is approved by a minimum of two Directors of the Board.

Board Directors may not receive any remuneration other than an costs for travel and accommodation. Where directors expenses aren't covered by other institutions, remuneration includes a minimum attendance fee of Euro 250 per meeting and Euro 250 for each preparation day spent before Board meetings.

8. Conclusion

FILE commits itself to the furtherance of effective environmental governance and to the effective management of funds for the purposes set out in the main objects.