



Foundation for
International
Law for the
Environment



Policy Plan 2018 to 2020



Foundation for
International
Law for the
Environment

Name institution:

Stichting Foundation for International Law for the Environment

Public name:

FILE

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

Bezoekadres/physical address:

Kraanspoor 24, 1033SE Amsterdam

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: Sonia Medina Gomez

Director: John Hugo Willem Loudon

Executive director:

Stefan Raubenheimer

Contact:

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Introduction

1. The Stichting Foundation for Law for the Environment (to be known as FILE) is a new foundation established in the Netherlands. This document sets out the Policy Plan for the foundation for the first 3 years to end 2020.
2. The statutory objective of the foundation is to protect and enhance the climate and biodiversity systems of the earth by supporting the development and enforcement of environmental governance instruments that are supportive of climatechange mitigation and the conservation and restoration of biodiversity worldwide. The foundation does not aim to make any profit, and any remaining funds after dissolution will be allocated to an ANBI institution with a similar objective. The goal of the foundation is to create a public good in the form of support to the development and enforcement of environmental governance instruments, development and mobilisation of scientific and legal knowledge, and use of public media to promote the initiative's mission. All its activities will serve the public interest.
3. The foundation was registered in Amsterdam on or after 5 October 2018.
4. The foundation website is: www.filefoundation.org

Missions and Objectives

5. Our global environment is in deep crisis. Science paints a bleaker picture daily of increasing global warming and catastrophic climate, as well as widespread biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. These natural capitals are our heritage, yet human action is degrading them at a rapid rate - we are closing in on irreversible tipping points in many ecosystems.
6. The development and enforcement of governance instruments that drive and regulate the actions required to stabilise our deteriorating ecosystems and then restore them, including the very difficult challenge of stabilising the climate, are urgent tasks. Progress has been achieved through international collaboration in the creation of conventions and treaties, such as the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biodiversity. Domestic laws now need to align fully with the objectives of international law, and common laws and judicial decisions need to reflect them as well.
7. The way the development and enforcement of governance instruments is communicated to communities has become crucial. As environmental understanding is often involves complex scientific and engineering concepts, it becomes increasingly relevant for society to understand and embrace this knowledge and collectively participate in the implementation of sound environmental norms.

Main Objects

8. The objects of FILE 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 climatechange mitigation and the conservation and restoration of biodiversity worldwide.

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 and in the public benefit.

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Activities

9. The activities of the foundation will be grouped into four work-streams:

- Interventions: Support partners that conduct or facilitate interventions to promote the development and enforcement of environmental governance instruments;
- Evidence: Supporting research and investigative activities to provide evidence for precedent-setting laws and policies;
- Communications and advocacy: Embedding the promotion of environmentally sound governance within a wider political and communications strategy;
- Learning: Capturing and disseminating precedents, evidence, lessons and legal strategies and building the capacity of the field.

10. Foundation partners in various geographies, jurisdictions, and thematic areas will deliver these activities. The Board will select foundation Partners from time to time.

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

Funds

11. Funding will be from philanthropies and other donors or sources, managed by the foundation.
12. The Board will make all fundraising decisions related to the raising of funds and acceptance of donations.
13. Funding will be deposited in, and administered from, a bank account from which costs of the foundation will be drawn.
14. The foundation will not retain more liquid assets than reasonably required for its activities.
15. No individual or legal entity will be able to access or manage the foundation's assets as if they were their personal assets.

Spending Policy

16. There are two expenditures from the foundation: grants made in furtherance of the objectives and workstreams, and the operational costs of the foundation.
17. Grants will be made from the capital on a depleting fund model. Interest on the capital will be ploughed back to capital.
18. Operational costs per annum will be kept to a level deemed reasonable by the Board.

Governance and operation

19. A Board of Directors, acting as the trustees, will govern the foundation. At incorporation, the Board will consist of two Directors and may be expanded within 6 months of incorporation.
20. At least 50% of the Board will at all times be of Dutch residency.
21. At least four Board meetings will take place in Amsterdam in each year of operation of the foundation.
22. Operations of the foundation, including engagement with partners and furtherance of the activity work-streams will be through the engagement of a management team. An Executive Director will lead the foundation. Staff or consultant appointments and costs of operations will all be subject to Board approval.
23. No individual or legal entity may treat the assets of the institution as if it were his/its own capital and all expenditure will be approved by a minimum of two Directors of the Board.
24. Board Directors may not receive any remuneration other than an expense allowance or a minimum attendance fee.

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.