



**Policy Plan 2023 - 2026 for Stichting  
Foundation for International Law for the  
Environment**



**Foundation for  
International  
Law for the  
Environment**

**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

**Beseechers/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](http://www.filefoundation.org)

**Supervisory Board:**

Chairperson: Jeremy-Garrett-Cox

Directors: Ana Yang (vice chair), Eliane Koelmans, Jolene Lin & Sonia Medina

**Management Board**

Sophie Pullan (chair)

**Executive director:**

Sophie Pullan

**Contact:**

[info@filefoundation.org](mailto:info@filefoundation.org)

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	4
2. Mission and Principles .....	4
3. Main Objects .....	4
4. Activities .....	5
5. Funds .....	5
6. Spending Policy .....	5
7. Governance and Operation .....	6
8. Conclusion .....	6

## 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 2023-2026.

FILE's Vision is to enable legal action to support a just transition away from an extractive towards a regenerative economy and legal system which ensures a liveable planet and upholds human rights.

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

The Foundation website is: [www.filefoundation.org](http://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 and nature 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
- **Empower** our partners and frontline 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 1) Enforce the reduction of net global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions; 2) Safeguard Nature and 3) Deliver climate and environmental justice.

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 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, safeguard nature and deliver climate and environmental justice;
- **Research, Evidence and practice** – Supporting research and investigative activities to provide evidence for precedent-setting laws and policies and support an increase in capacity, skills and knowledge availability among practitioners;
- **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, known as the Supervisory Board. The Board currently consists of five Directors. The Supervisory Board oversees and supervises the activities of the Management Board. The Supervisory Board's primary role is to provide oversight, guidance, and strategic direction. Members of the Supervisory Board have a duty to oversee the Management Board's activities, ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards, and safeguard the broader interests of stakeholders, the organization, and its mission.

At least three Supervisory Board meetings will be held each year, and will be held in the Netherlands, travel permitting.

The Management Board is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the organisation, and consists of at least one member, being the Executive Director. The Executive Director is supported by the Senior Leadership Team in managing the organisation's operations, including engagement with partners and furtherance of the Foundation goals and strategies.

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 in line with the Foundation's Schedule of Delegation, itself approved by the Supervisory Board.

Board Directors may not receive any remuneration for their role on the Board other than any costs for travel and accommodation. Where directors' expenses are not covered by other institutions, directors can claim a minimum attendance fee of €331.00 per quorate Board meeting (€430.30 for Chair) from 1 January 2024. The same amount is reimbursable for days spent preparing for such 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.