

Leave it in the Ground Initiative (LINGO)

Annual Report 2018

2018 has been a year of growth for the Gastivists Collective and further consolidation of LINGO as an organization. Highlights of our work in 2018 have been:

1. Gastivist Collective

We continued to send the monthly Gastivist newsletter, facilitate meetings online and in-person and visit meetings and conferences of other networks and organizations to link our struggles together and generate synergies. Kjell participated in a conference organized by Patagonia, our first funder, in Bosnia and used the opportunity to visit Krk island to connect with the resistance against the LNG terminal there, and on the way back met a group of young activists in Berlin who subsequently named their group „Gastivists Berlin“ and have been very active against policies favourable to gas in Germany.

Speakers Tour „United Beyond Gas“

We organized a tour with Oli from a Mexican group fighting against the Tuxpan-Tula pipeline that visited Barcelona and Perpignan (MidCAT pipeline resistance), Geneva, Ghent and Melendugno (NoTAP resistance) in Southern Italy. This led to the establishment of new local groups.

Gasdown

On October 13th, we facilitated the Global Gasdown-Frackdown Day of Action together with Food&Water Watch, with over 100 actions on 6 continents. This was the first time that the global anti-gas movement became visible. The video calling for the Gasdown was viewed 26,000 times on facebook. Here is a video showing some of the activities: <https://www.facebook.com/gastivists/videos/312838679543666/>

Actions at the UNFCCC

At the intersessionals in Bonn in May we had a delegation which lobbied governments to account for methane on a 20 year as well as 100 year timescale („dual accounting“). We published and distributed a brief about the topic and held a strategy session



on gas in collaboration with Climate Action Network (CAN) International. We also organized several actions, including an internationally coordinated action along the fracking supply chain.

For COP24 in Katowice, we accredited Gastivists, such as Roscoe, one of the activists who was sentenced to prison in the UK for a non-violent (and effective) action against fracking („FrackFreeThree“) and Carol from Catalunya who has successfully fought against the MidCAT pipeline which is now basically cancelled. We also accredited a Swedish documentary filmmaker and a UK labour politician (who had to cancel his attendance because of Brexit). We organized a successful side-event on fossil gas together with UKYCC and MOCICC.

A meeting at COP on the topic of LNG resulted in the creation of the new global network Goodbye LNG which we facilitate.

2. China Investments

We conducted research into and published 5 case studies of positive examples of Chinese overseas investor responsibility. A field trip to China resulted in contacts with friendly NGOs, but the state-owned enterprises mentioned in the case studies proved impossible to contact for comment or insights. Early in the year, Kjell presented the case studies at a lunch meeting at IUCN Netherlands, the funder of the study. On a trip to China in September, he held a well-visited session of the Beijing Energy Network, presenting the cases. The case studies were later launched as a joint publication between LINGO and IUCN NL.

3. PhD Scholarship

Kjell won a scholarship from Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation to realize his PhD studies on „Successfully keeping fossil fuels in the ground“ at the University of Leeds under the supervision of Prof. Paul Routledge and James van Alstine. He will start in January 2019 and will have four years (three years standard time, plus one year extra for being a parent) of subsistence funding to complete the degree. This will allow him to explore the academic dimension of the LINGO work as well as get training in academic methods and explore many interesting ideas that synergize with the LINGO work, without having to worry too much about fundraising.

4. Carbon Entanglement

Kjell collaborated with IISD in preparing country studies on fossil fuel revenue in Brazil and China. These will be part of a report looking at BRICS countries plus Indonesia. Subsequently, Kjell approached Iniciativa Climática de México to repeat the approach for Mexico, which is starting a political transition with the election of Andrés Manuel López Obrador as new president.

5. Mexico and Chiapas

Kjell collaborated on an IISD study on the electricity sector in Mexico as a consultant and prepared inputs on fossil fuel subsidies in Mexico, getting a better understanding of fiscal issues surrounding fossil fuels in Mexico. Later he signed a contract with Iniciativa Climática de México to write a report on „carbon entanglement“, or the fiscal revenue from fossil fuels in Mexico.

We created a flyer informing about the dangers of a gas pipeline along the coast of Chiapas which was sent to multipliers along the coast along with a more general flyer about the dangers of pipelines and fracking from the Mexican Alliance against Fracking.

We fundraised for a project to inform communities in Northern Chiapas about the negative impacts of oil and gas drilling on their lands and built a physical model of the land around Ostuacán, Chiapas, where hydrocarbon extraction is already taking place. This model will be used for visits to communities. The project is a collaboration with the laboratory of local research institute Ecosur and the NGO Centro de Lengua y Cultura Zoque, which has been instrumental in organizing the successful resistance against oil and gas drilling in the Zoque region of Northern Chiapas.

We successfully raised 6000 Euros for a project of workshops for traditional midwives in Las Margaritas, Chiapas, in cooperation with the NGO Nichim Dios and already organized a first workshop out of a series of five. The further development of the project was then hampered by the challenge for Nichim Dios to open a bank account which is connected with a significant amount of paperwork which was not anticipated.

6. Submissions, co-signed letters and statements

We made a submission to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Energy Sector Strategy review together with Food & Water Europe in February, co-signed an open letter to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors in March, co-signed a declaration on the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline in April, an open letter to German Economy and Energy minister Altmaier in May and co-published a 20-page brief with Oilchange International and other organizations to debunk the „Clean Gas Myth“ for the G20 in June.

7. Fundraising

The following table gives an overview of the 23 funding applications submitted in 2018, 8 of which were successful (35%), for a total of 147,178 Euros. The PhD scholarship of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation is not paid through LINGO, but to Kjell in a personal capacity. The same applies to the funding for the Mexico Entanglement report, which was formalized as a consultancy

contract with Kjell directly. The support by IUCN NL for the travel to Beijing to hold a presentation at the Beijing Energy Network was also paid directly to Kjell. These three entries are included here for giving a fuller picture of activities, not for accounting purposes.

Success #	Project	Foundation	Amount requested	Date submitted	Result	EUR Funding	Comments
1	1Gastivists	Network for Social Change	6k GBP	4.1.2018	6.1k GBP	6891	
2	Oil Pollution Model & Tour Chiapas	IDEAS for US Solutions Fund	1k USD	15.1.2018	negative		
3	Gastivists	Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken Inlandsprojekte	9.9k EUR	29.1.2018	negative		
2	4Gastivists	Patagonia	10.4k USD	30.1.2018	9k USD	7245	
3	5Gastivists	ODG mini grant	30k EUR	12.3.2018	30k EUR	30000	
6	Gastivists	Bewegungsstiftung	13k EUR	3.4.2018	negative		
4	7LINGO PhD	Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung	50k EUR	15.4.2018	90k EUR	90000	direct support to Kjell
5	8Maqueta Zoque	Global Greengrants Fund (Rainforest Action Network)	2.5k USD	21.4.2018	2.5k USD	2142	
9	Gastivists	EU Make Europe Sustainable for All	7k EUR	6.5.2018	negative		
6	10Nichim Dios	Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken Auslandsprojekte	6k EUR	19.5.2018	6k EUR	6000	
11	LINGO in protected areas	Minor Foundation for Major Challenges	60k EUR	30.5.2018	negative		
12	Gastivists	LUSH UK	10k GBP	31.5.2018	negative		

13	Game Changers	Engagement Global	10k EUR	14.6.2018	negative	
14	Polen-D-Aktivistenaustausch	Stiftung für Deutsch-Polnische Zusammenarbeit	15k EUR	15.6.2018	negative	
15	LINGO PhD	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung	50k EUR	19.7.2018	negative	
7	16	Beijing Energy Network Presentation	IUCN NL	0.7k EUR	1.8.2018	700 direct support to Kjell
8	17	Mexico Entanglement	Iniciativa Climática de México	80k MXN	6.8.2018	90k MXN 4200 direct consultant contract with Kjell
18	Gastivists	Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	60k EUR	19.8.2018	negative	
19	Keep it in the Ground Fund	asb-Aktion Selbstbesteuerung e.V.	4k EUR	20.8.2018	negative	
20	Gastivists	Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken Inlandsprojekte	5.2k EUR	20.8.2018	negative	
21	Gastivists	Umweltbundesamt	35k EUR	31.08.2018	pending	
22	Shenzhen Ecodesign Workshop	Robert-Bosch-Stiftung	35k EUR	23.09.2018	pending	
23	Beyond Gas Network	KR Foundation		8.12.2018	negative	
35%	Success ratio					Total: 147178
24	Climate March Barcelona	LUSH	7k EUR	23.10.2018	7k EUR	Fiscal sponsorship 7000(Kevin) 350 EUR admin donation

25	COP24 Art Space	LUSH	3k EUR	08.11.2018	3k EUR	Fiscal sponsorship 3000(Kevin) 150 EUR admin donation
26	Pont Valley Protector Camp	Guerrilla Foundation	5k EUR	20.08.2018	5k EUR	Fiscal sponsorship, no contribution 5000
Grand Total						162178

8. Administrative issues

We finally received UNFCCC accredited observer status by decision of COP24. We assumed fiscal sponsorships for a climate march in Barcelona (7000 EUR), the COP24 art space (3000 EUR) and a grant to the Pont Valley Protection Camp, a protest camp against a planned new coal mine in the UK (5000 EUR). From the former two we received a total of 500 Euros for covering administrative work.