



**Leave it in the Ground Initiative  
(LINGO e.V.)  
Annual Report 2019**

**Highlights of our work in 2019 have been:**

**1. Gastivist Collective**

We helped facilitate a solidarity response to the murder of Mexican anti-gas activist Samir Flores.

We co-facilitated another international Beyond Gas Conference in Brussels, hosted by the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung.

We successfully raised about 90,000 EUR for the Gastivists short-term financial needs in a record time (3 months) and with a record success quota - 9 out of 11 applications were successful.

We held a grassroots gathering for gastivists from around Europe in Amsterdam.

We organized the „Flamedown“ action in protest of the gas industry's flagship conference „Flame“.

We published a report on new fossil gas terminals in English, Portuguese and Indonesian with case studies Indonesia and Mozambique. The latter we also presented at a seminar of the Koordinierungskreis Mozambik.

Kjell participated at the annual IEEFA conference in New York, and at the second meeting of the Global Gas and Oil Network in Hollyhock, Canada.

We supported the civil disobedience action „Folk mot Fossilgas“ (People against fossil gas) in Gothenburg, Sweden, financially and in communications and were very happy to see that the project was denied authorization by the Swedish government on climate grounds shortly thereafter. We helped communicate this success to ten thousands of people.

We created several short animations about fossil gas and a zine for activists, as well as a brief about the „methane wildcard“ framing which sees shutting down fossil gas extraction as a key measure to address the climate emergency.

We held events on fossil gas at climate camps and a „toxic tour“ at COP25.

**2. PhD**

Kjell researched into the academic aspects of keeping fossil fuels in the ground and came up with a new concept: the Keep it in the Ground (KING) movement.

Kjell held a presentation about keeping it in the ground in protected areas at the Beyond Oil conference in Bergen, Norway in October.

### **3. Carbon Entanglement**

We published the reports on fiscal revenue from fossil fuel companies for Mexico and BRICS countries together with IISD.

### **4. Mexico & Chiapas**

We visited the municipalities of Palenque, Salto de Agua, Tila, Huitiupán and Sabanilla in Northern Chiapas to inform about the threat of oil and gas drilling and held presentations in front of community multipliers, hosted by the catholic church, in Salto de Agua and Huitiupán.

Our partner Nichim Dios, A.C. implemented two more workshops for traditional midwives, on medicinal plants and perinatal health care, and the project financially supported the state-wide congress of traditional midwives organized by the Movimiento de Parteras Nich Ixim which brought together over 150 midwives. We ended the project with a slight minus (1163.21 EUR). LINGO's own funds will be used to cover the shortfall in the project budget, until we can recover this from donations, most likely in connection with a future project.

Kjell held a presentation about fracking and climate change at a forum hosted by the Mexican Environment Ministry (Semarnat) with the objective to advance towards the definite prohibition of fracking in Mexico.

### **5. Climate Bailout**

We commissioned an animation on the Climate Bailout (cost: 500 EUR) and shared it over twitter where to date (25.5.2020) it was viewed 2.9k times and got 220 engagements (an amazing engagement rate of 7.6% for this newly created account). The original plan to „boost“ it on facebook has not yet been implemented, due to bureaucratic hurdles by facebook for „political ads“.

### **6. Malawi**

We supported Joseph's efforts in Malawi to build the national campaign against oil drilling in Lake Malawi with a total of 977.30 EUR and he managed to raise the profile of demands for energy transition and protecting Lake Malawi in an election year and even secure a favourable response from a presidential candidate. However, the success of this candidate in the elections was voided by electoral fraud.

### **7. Fundraising**

Over the course of 2019, we submitted 22 funding applications, 11 of which were successful (50%), for a total of 107,000 Euros, most of this for the Gastivists. A small amount for the work on the Climate Bailout and co-funding for the work on protected areas was also secured. We also received a total of 791.05 Euros in donations, plus administration fees from fiscal sponsorships (see below).

## **8. Fiscal sponsorships:**

We accepted fiscal sponsorships for a total of five projects related to our work and a total of about 40,000 EUR, establishing an administration fee of 3% of the grant amount with most sponsees. With the Gastivists, where LINGO's role could also be considered a sort of fiscal sponsorship, we agreed that the Gastivists will make a cost-based contribution, covering the essentials for maintaining LINGO as an organization through Kjell's invoicing administration work to the Gastivists at the normal day rate (100 EUR per 8 hours). Other administration expenses such as for the website and an accountant to check the books will also be covered by the Gastivists.

## **9. Administrative issues**

We hired an accountant to check the books for 2019 and produce the overviews which will be required at some point by the fiscal authorities.