

FRANCE LIBERTÉS - DANIELLE MITTERRAND FOUNDATION

2017 Highlights



Contents

Editorial - p.3

'Prix Danielle Mitterrand' - p.3

The Year at a Glance - p.4

2017: Key Figures - p.5

Campaigning against the Extractive Industries - p.6

Championing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - p.7

Protecting the Right to Water for All - p.8

Water and the Climate - p.9

Young People in Iraqi Kurdistan - p.10

Financial Transparency - p.11

The Board of Directors - p.11

Get involved - p.12

Editorial

Within the next few months, Emmanuel Poilane will be stepping down as Director General of the Foundation and moving on to pastures new. Having contributed so much to our activities over the years, it is only fitting that he introduce this latest annual report.

Michel Joli, General Secretary of the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation

The 2017 Highlights report provides a brief overview of the activities conducted by the France Libertés Foundation in 2017.

Wherever and with whomever we work, our team strives to promote the values and commitments held dear by Danielle Mitterrand. To ensure that justice, respect and solidarity do not remain rhetoric but are translated into tangible action for each and every one of us. To ensure the right to water becomes a reality in France, especially for the

most vulnerable. To ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognised and respected throughout the world. To ensure that local people are consulted on public interest projects and, for example, have the right to reject any mining projects planned on their land.

Each and every day, we help to promote climate change mitigation policies; we support campaigns and alternatives both at home and abroad; we work alongside Indigenous Peoples to promote their solutions to our

current major social and environmental challenges. And every day, in Kurdistan, we provide assistance to the youngest victims of war as they seek to claim their inalienable right to childhood and to happiness. These are just small steps, but together they help to shape the society we want both for today and for tomorrow.

*Emmanuel Poilane,
General Director of the
Danielle Mitterrand -
France Libertés Foundation.*

'Prix Danielle Mitterrand'

The 'Prix Danielle Mitterrand' award ceremony was held on 25th November at the *Festival des Solidarités* launch event in Paris.

The 2017 Winners

The *Or de Question* movement, represented by Nora Stephenson (right), brings together people and organisations campaigning against the *Montagne d'Or* mega-mining project in French Guiana.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (left), a Mbororo Indigenous People representative from Chad, works to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples at international forums.



The Year at a Glance

9th February

Avignon Magistrate's Court found Veolia guilty of illegally disconnecting a customer's water supply. Veolia was also found guilty of the same offence in Toulon on 10th April, in Nanterre on 27th April and in Lens on 13th June.

22nd March

The participatory fundraising campaign 'On ne se taira pas' (we will not shut up) was launched to help France Libertés fight the defamation case brought against us by Veolia. The money raised has enabled us to cover our legal fees.

19th April

The cooperative game *Otoktonia* was made available for sale. It has been designed for all adults and children interested in finding out more about Indigenous Peoples.

8th September

As part of its *Complément d'enquête* television programme, France 2 broadcast a report that showed how France Libertés works on a daily basis to support people who have had their water supply disconnected.

5th September

The first 'Noneau et Bubulle' comic strip was published on our website. This series, designed by Jérôme Eho, raises awareness of the relationship between water and climate change.

30th April

The non-formal education training for trainer programme was launched in Iraqi Kurdistan.

13th September

This date marked the 10 year anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and provided an opportunity for campaigners around the world to review the progress made.

8th November

In the run-up to COP23, the International Rights of Nature Tribunal in Bonn condemned the *Montagne d'Or* mega-mine project and denounced it as a clear violation of the rights of nature.

18th November

The 2017 'Prix Danielle Mitterrand' was awarded to Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim and the *Or de Question* movement at a highly moving ceremony in Paris.

2017 : Key Figures

FIVE

new convictions and a total of 30,000 euros in fines handed down to water distribution companies for illegally disconnecting customers or restricting water supply

4

field projects to uphold people's right to water in areas near mining projects

More than
5,000
refugee children took part in informal education activities in Iraqi Kurdistan

15,000 euros were collected during the participatory fundraising campaign to mount our defence against Veolia
#OnNeSeTairaPas

TWO

interactive digital programmes were developed for the *Une seule planète* platform: 'Rendre l'eau à la terre pour restaurer le climat' and 'Exploitation intensive des ressources naturelles' (available in French only)

9,000 fans on our Facebook page

287,000 signatures on the 'Share Stevia' petition to urge Coca-Cola to recognise the rights of the Guarani People

EIGHT
Indigenous Peoples in the cooperative game 'Otoktonia'

A more accessible website

A number of changes have been made to the France Libertés website this year to make it easier to find more of the content, including the latest news, theme-based analyses and campaign information, etc.

We hope you enjoy visiting our website: www.france-libertes.org

Campaigning against the Extractive Industries

Supporting field projects that are making a difference

We are supporting four field projects with the aim of upholding people's right to water in areas threatened by mining projects.

- ECUADOR

The *Corporación Acción Ecológica* has tested water pollution levels in the area surrounding the Libertador oil field, which is being mined by the state-owned company, Petroamazonas. The association has helped create an assembly of 25 communities to lead the campaign.

- URUGUAY

The *Red de Ecología Social* provides legal expertise to promote policies that protect the right to water for citizens of Uruguay. It implements sustainable development alternatives for the country's rural areas, notably through agro-ecology.

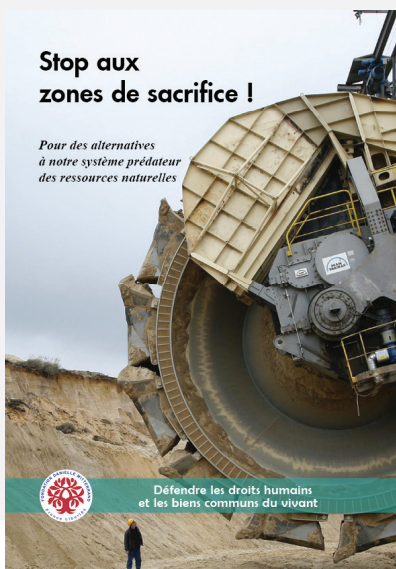
- UNITED STATES

The *Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund* (CELDF) campaigns against hydraulic fracturing. It provides community charters that recognise the right to water. These charters are essential legal tools in the fight against mining companies.

- PAN-AFRICAN

Gaia Foundation trains civil society stakeholders (in Uganda, South Africa, Ghana and Kenya, etc.) to claim their right to water. The 'Water is Life' campaign kit provides local communities with vital information to help them in their fight.

Explaining extractivism to campaign against it more effectively



France Libertés has published a brochure entitled 'No More Sacrifice Zones! For Alternatives to Our Predatory Natural Resources Model', which is available for free download from our website. This brochure explores the foundations of extractivism, a system that is linked to our consumer society.

Extractivism involves excessively exploiting and sacrificing land all over the world to create mines without consulting the people who live there.

To supplement this publication, there is also a web-documentary on the same topic available on the *Une seule planète* platform.

Championing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

A game to learn more about Indigenous Peoples

Otoktonia is a cooperative board game in which players work together to try to save the planet and its inhabitants from a range of threats, including the destruction of forests, climate change and intensive agriculture, etc. Players get to meet Indigenous Peoples (the Mundurucu from Brazil, the Mentawai from Indonesia and the Pygmies from Central Africa, etc.) and work with them to overcome these threats, notably by using the indigenous traditional knowledge.

This entertaining and immersive game is aimed at both adults and children over 9 years of age. Designed with input from experts and indigenous organisations, the game fosters open-mindedness, discovery and respect.

To accompany *Otoktonia*, there is also an illustrated booklet entitled *Nous peuples de la Terre* that contains 20 pages of activities: Snakes and Ladders, dot-to-dot drawings, and word games based on indigenous languages, etc.



Otoktonia has been developed in partnership with the Les Petits Citoyens association and Fédération Léo Lagrange. It was jointly designed with Learn in Fun and produced with the support of the Caisse des Dépôts.

Campaigning against the 'Montagne d'Or' mining project



The *Montagne d'Or* project would lead to the creation of a mega open cast gold mine in the forests of French Guiana. This huge mine would have a catastrophic impact both on the environment and on human rights. This is why France Libertés went to French

Guiana and then raised the case of the mining project with the International Rights of Nature Tribunal in Bonn during COP23. The Tribunal condemned the *Montagne d'Or* mega-mine project and denounced it as a clear violation of the rights of nature.

Protecting the Right to Water for All

Fines for illegal water supply disconnections and flow restrictions handed down by the courts

In 2017, there were 5 successful court cases brought against water utilities, which were ordered to pay a total of 30,000 euros in fines for illegally disconnecting customers' water supply and restricting water flow:

- Veolia – 9th February – Nimes Court of Appeal – 2,000 euros (case led by *Collectif Eau d'Avignon*);
- Veolia – 10th April – Toulon Magistrates Court – 3,000 euros;
- Veolia – 27th April - Nanterre District Court - 19,000 euros;
- Veolia – 13th June - Lens Magistrates Court – 1,000 euros;
- Saur – 17th August - Nanterre District Court – 5,000 euros.

Our work is starting to bear fruit: water utilities are changing their practices and there are fewer and fewer people contacting us to say they have been the victims of illegal disconnections and water restrictions.



The last court case was covered by the France 2 TV programme 'Complément d'enquête' in a report entitled 'Coupures d'eau et pompes à fric', which was watched by 1,087,000 people (source: *Mediametrie*).

Reacting to SLAPPs by affirming that: 'we will not shut up'

Veolia reacted to losing its court cases by filing four suits for defamation against France Libertés and Coordination Eau Ile-de-France on 6th January 2017. We consider these to be SLAPPs 'strategic lawsuits against public participation' as they have been filed more with the

aim of silencing us than in any hope of winning in court. Nevertheless, these suits mean that we will need substantial financial resources to mount our defence.

A participatory fundraising campaign was launched through

which we received financial support from a large number of organisations, public figures, communities and sympathisers. People donated a total of 15,000 euros to our 'we will not shut up' campaign, which is the amount required to cover our legal fees.

Raising Awareness of the Links between Water and the Climate

Noneau et Bubulle, talking about water and climate change in a different way

Water and the climate are linked, but how? This is the question posed in the comic strip series *Noneau et Bubulle* by the two characters created by the illustrator and scriptwriter Jérôme Eho.

Noneau and Bubulle question and criticise our current system and propose solutions. They learn how human beings change their environment but also discover how, on a daily basis, we can take steps to integrate our activities into the water cycle and thus restore the climate. All of the comic strips are available on our website (in French).



Alternatives for tackling climate change

Desertification is caused by human-induced disruption of the water cycle and the climate. In order to promote solutions to this problem, which affects millions of people around the world, France Libertés took part in the International Summit on Desertification held in Strasbourg in June.

Alternatives are also highlighted in the *Rendons l'eau à la terre pour restaurer le climat* web-documentary (available in French only).

By sharing these good practices, we want to show that we can all play a part in tackling climate change.

Campaigning for climate justice

France Libertés has joined the campaign being run by the association *Notre affaire à tous*, which is examining the legal means available for holding the French government accountable for its lack of action in tackling climate change.

Young People in Iraqi Kurdistan

In 2016, France Libertés launched an ambitious 3-year programme in Iraqi Kurdistan to help the victims of conflict. The programme has two main components: training for adults and educational activities for children.

Learning activities for children in the camps



In the refugee and displaced persons camps, activity leaders are trained on public education and organise educational activities for children between 6 and 15 years old.

France Libertés has trained 23 activity leaders to conduct 'resilient' educational activities. These activity leaders have since organised activity sessions for over 5,000 children in 7 camps in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Where we are working

In 2017, we worked in two Syrian refugee camps, Arbat and Kawrgost, as well as in five displaced persons camps:

- Bardarash, a camp housing displaced Shabaks
- Ashti, a camp housing displaced Shabaks, Arabs, Yazidi and Turkmen
- Bahirka
- Hassan sham 2
- Sharia, a camp housing displaced Yazidi.

The partnership between the France Libertés Foundation and Fédération Léo Lagrange was renewed in 2017 in order to further develop our activities in Iraqi Kurdistan.



Training on non-formal education methods

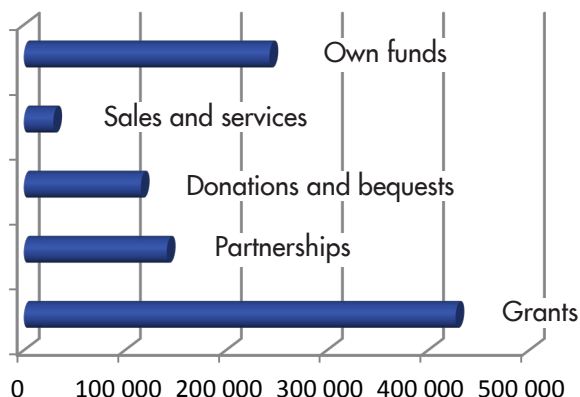
In May, France Libertés launched a non-formal education training for trainer programme. Fifteen Kurdish trainees will receive 18 months of training.

Along with Kurdish NGOs, the aim is to provide Kurdistan with trainers able to organise and deliver activity leader training using adapted non-formal education methods.

Who We Are

Financial Transparency

- Where our funds come from

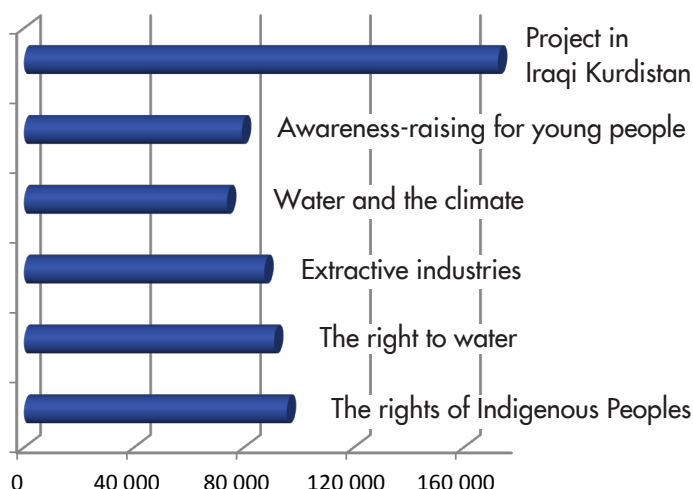


In 2017, we received slightly less funding from grants than in 2016. This shortfall was offset by funding from the Foundation's own financial resources, which are the investment earnings on our endowment funds.

- How our budget is spent



- Budget breakdown



The Board of Directors

- **Board**

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Vice-President:
Jacqueline MADRELLE
Treasurer:
Achille DU GENESTOUX
General Secretary:
Michel JOLI

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Ministry of the Interior Representative

Alexandra CLAUDIOS

Auditor

Vincent DOMON

2017 saw the passing of Georges Abadie who, for the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation, will always remain one of our Board of Director's most loyal and committed founding members.



Get involved

Make a donation

Provide us with the means to take action! As France Libertés is a registered charity, you will benefit from 66% tax relief on your donations. This applies to donations of a value of up to 20% of your taxable income.

Visit the donations page (Dons) on the www.france-libertes.org website.

Subscribe to our newsletter

Keep up to date with our activities and receive invitations to our events, etc.

Follow and share our news on social media

Facebook : /FranceLibertes

Twitter : @FranceLibertes

Shop at our online store

All the profit from our online shop sales are used to fund awareness-raising campaigns, advocacy and field activities to defend human rights and the commons.

Visit our shop by clicking on 'Boutique' on the www.france-libertes.org website.

Contact Us

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Defending human rights and the commons

Created by Danielle Mitterrand in 1986, France Libertés is a non-profit foundation and registered charity that has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

In order to help create a world of greater solidarity, the Danielle Mitterrand Foundation defends both human rights, especially the basic right to universal access to water, and the commons.