
STICHTING ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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A note from John D. Liu

Dear Friends:

We live on a magnificent planet that provides us with all that is needed for life to flourish. The oxygenated atmosphere, the fresh water cycle, the fertile soils and amazing biodiversity are not magical or immutable but are the result of a long co-evolution of symbiotic life forms. Constant increases in biomass, accumulated organic matter and wondrous biological diversity emerging over evolutionary time gave rise to these systems that produce, constantly filter and continuously renew the ecological functions upon which our life depends.



Over historical time human beings have massively damaged the Earth's natural regulatory functions and this has brought us to the brink of disaster. We are facing biodiversity loss, climate change, and dangerous changes in hydrological and weather systems. At the same time we are experiencing global pandemics and the potential of economic collapse.

Over the last three decades of observing, documenting, studying and communicating about Ecosystem Function and Dysfunction on a planetary scale I witnessed that it is possible to restore degraded lands including those damaged over vast areas and over long historical time.

The Ecosystem Restoration Camps Movement was created to make it possible for everyone who chooses to immediately learn and work to ensure that we can avoid the worst possible consequences of our historical mistakes. If we are very effective we can bring human activities in line with evolutionary outcomes and even ensure that the Earth's ecological systems are completely restored.

Together we are strong. Let's become very good at camping and very good at Ecosystem Restoration so that we, our children and future generations can live on a beautiful, healthy biologically diverse Earth.

Thank you for all that you do in service of Humanity and the Earth.

John D. Liu
Ecosystem Ambassador





Foreword

Dear Ecosystem Restoration Camps members, followers, supporters, friends, practitioners,

On behalf of the Supervisory Board, I welcome you to the reading of our Annual Report.

2019 has been marked by a significant growth in our movement, both in terms of organization and in terms of impact. A number of new camps have popped up, enabling the movement to inspire more people by allowing them to participate in the restoration of ecosystems around the globe. The camp model has gradually evolved to be more inclusive and as the world is entering into the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the growing number of camps will allow more people to join forces to act on the ground and be part of the solution. The concept is going viral and this is what we had been striving for since the very beginning of this initiative.

Our staff team has been expanded and can count on the overflowing energy and motivation of 12 paid staff members and 12 volunteers. I take this opportunity to thank all people active in our movement. You are making it possible!

As I am writing these words, the world has entered into an unprecedented time with the Covid pandemic. Even though the pandemic is slowing down the impact of our work, as camps are closed and our income is dropping, the need for restoration remains, more than ever, a focus and I hope to see humanity seizing this opportunity to adopt a sustainable new 'normal'.

Sincerely yours,

François De Keuleneer
Chairman Supervisory Board
Brussels, March 28, 2020

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Ecosystem Restoration Camps (“ERC”) are locations for people around the world to experience ecosystem restoration. New and existing restoration projects can add this concept to their work to increase their impact, helping them to achieve their goal and reach out to people around the world. Our vision is aligned with those that partner with us to make ecosystem restoration happen. It reads:

VISION

We envision a fully-functional, peaceful, abundant, biologically diverse Earth brought about through cooperative efforts for the ecological restoration of degraded lands.

MISSION

1. To work together to restore ecological functionality (natural infiltration and retention of available rainfall and moisture, fertile organic soils and returning complete vegetative cover of trees and grasses) to designated areas;
2. To create “Research, Training and Innovation Centers for Ecological Restoration” to engage people in inquiry into ecological restoration;
3. To train people in existing techniques and for the innovation of new techniques for restoring degraded lands in perpetuity.

Restoring the Earth positively impacts both livelihoods and communities. To ensure that our contribution to humanity is ethically sound, we have embraced a set of core values that guide the work of the Foundation. These core values are reflected in our code of conduct and manifesto. We are a global movement of humble, passionate individuals driven to act to reverse humanity's negative impacts on the land that sustains life on earth.

- We recognise that without thriving ecosystems we are nothing and feel a profound obligation to preserve and restore degraded land



- wherever it may be found.
- We are not self-seeking but rather committed to working together towards a collective outcome that is bigger than any individual, that benefits us all, and that benefits future generations.
- We willingly share our knowledge, our time, our expertise and our labour, making it as accessible as possible, knowing that we are doing the right thing
- We treat one another with respect and as equals in our shared endeavour, no matter how much or how little each of us may be able to give.
- We communicate openly and honestly, celebrating our diversity, and embracing our differences without allowing these to impede progress towards our shared goal.
- We act an open mind, open heart and open will, prepared to learn new skills and methods for land restoration from those with knowledge and expertise in this area.
- We strive to communicate the essence of our work to others such that together we can build a movement that restores resilient abundance to land and ecosystems that we have degraded.



OUR ORIGINS

The idea for Ecosystem Restoration Camps originated from an online post by John D. Liu in July 2016: “Let’s go camping to restore Earth and ourselves”. An initial 200 supporters soon led to an energetic team of 30+ active volunteers from around the world. Slowly but surely, the group started to self-organise and smaller groups began to form around topics such as ecosystem restoration design, legal and organisational structure, communications, and more.

These exploratory discussions took place around campfires, through social media, emails, phone calls, and video conferences. It brought together expert practitioners in the fields of permaculture design, soil management, media and communications, mapping, ecology, and more, to reimagine the practice of restoration as an activity for all.

In 2016, as the organisation took its first steps, ERC members began to combine sociocratic principles with a non-profit legal structure. Six groups or “circles” were created, each of which dealt with a different aspect of the organisation’s goals.

Representatives of these circles met periodically in a “General Assembly,” with the premise that this structure could be reworked as the group developed. The circles provided transparency and a balance of power among many participants, but meetings became prohibitively long and lacked clear pathways to action. These challenges led us to pivot toward a hybrid approach that encouraged input from diverse stakeholder groups through regular meetings on restoration, communications, and fundraising.

In 2017, the ERC movement took steps to operationalise its ambitions by establishing a legal entity in the Netherlands that could obtain and manage the funds raised through membership-fees, donations and subsidies. This Stichting Ecosystem Restoration Foundation obtained a charity tax status (ANBI or Public Benefit Organisation) in the Netherlands and the Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) status. The Foundation hired a core team of two directors, and two paid staff members to ensure that the work needed to grow the ERC movement is done. In 2019 this team grew to 11 people in total. This structure is now helping us to take physical steps towards realising our vision and mission.

Highlights of 2019

Looking back, 2019 was the year where the Ecosystem Restoration Camps concept took flight. Below, find a short description of the activities that took place per camp:



Camps

Camp Via Organica

Camp Via Organica was the second camp to become part of the camps movement. This camp is a collaboration with the Organic Consumers Association ("OCA"), Regeneration International ("RI"), and Via Organica. These three organisations are existing partners, and Via Organica is a regenerative ranch in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, that OCA and RI have helped to create.

This ranch is where the camp takes place, inviting 25 people from Mexico and beyond for a 10 to 14 day experience where they learn all about how to restore degraded landscapes. Both theoretical and practical learning is involved, as the campers physically take part in the restoration of the land by planting pioneer species such as agave and mesquite, making compost and indigenous microorganisms. Campers also learn about water harvesting techniques, regenerative agricultural methods and Mexican culture.

In 2019 we had our first camp at Via Organica, marking a new strategic direction for us as we decided to work more with partner organisations, as opposed to starting camps from scratch ourselves. This method is more effective, cheaper and easier than the previous idea of starting camps from scratch. Camp Via Organica plans to hold 2 camps a year from now on.

Camp Paradise

Camp Paradise emerged out of the catastrophic wildfires that happened at the end of 2018. Concerned and frightened citizens came together to teach and learn how to restore degraded land in public places, as a way to build community and train to go out into the 'burnzone'. They held two camps in 2019, one in the spring and one in the Autumn, collaborating with the permaculture action network and celebrities such as Rising Appalachia.

Their camp is special as it moves from site to site, using portable infrastructure that acts as a 'camp in a box'. Everything needed for the camp is packed out of a van, such as cooking equipment and tools for digging and planting. Campers bring their own tents.

Camp Paradise is run by a committed group of volunteers. They intend to continue running camps twice a year for the community, moving closer to the burn zone each time. ERC provided Camp Paradise with €10,500 starter grant.

Camp Chocaya

Camp Chocaya emerged out of a partnership with Stichting Samay, Voserdem and Agroecologia y Fe (La Plataforma de Suellos). Based in the Bolivian village of Cochabamba, local villagers are supported to restore their degraded mountain slopes with agroforestry. The system is planted on contour, with apple trees, nitrogen fixing trees, native hardwoods, and alleys of flowers. Their new products not only sequester carbon, decrease erosion, improve rainwater infiltration and increase biodiversity and social organic matter, but they also provide villagers with a boost in their income and future food security. This camp runs during the planting season, from September - February each year. The 2019-2020 period was somewhat affected by the political unrest that took place in the area, restricting the number of campers that could attend.

In the 2019-2020 camp period the camp achieved impressive results, including the planting of 2.070 fruit trees (mostly apple trees), the planting of 2.000 native trees (Moto Moto, Aliso, Molle, Almus), the planting of 8.000 phalaris grass (to make the contour lines and create the terraces), the growing of 30.000 trees in the nursery of Quillacollo, which will be planted next year, from those 10.000 are for the Chocaya site next year (Aliso, Moto Moto, Molle, Almus, Senicio). The camp also built a water reservoir, a shower and toilet, and conducted a workshop about Agroforestry during a visit to Agroecologica y Fe. They also made a documentary film about their work, which you can watch [here](#).

Camp Uthai

Camp Uthai was the fourth camp partnership to emerge, and the third in 2019. Uthai Forest, an organisation run by Thai/Singaporeans has the aim to restore a highly degraded former paddy field into a lush, edible, tropical forest. They run volunteer camps for campers that last one week, where people can come together to take part in the restoration work. They are focusing on water retention, having created ponds, cover cropping, decompaction, the planting of pioneer species, and have recently installed a solar water pump that was paid for by the generous donors of our 2019 christmas campaign which raised 3860 euro.

The premise of Camp Uthai is to inspire and share knowledge with farmers who are still degrading their landscapes by using unsustainable agricultural methods.



Camp Terra Blossom

Camp Terra Blossom is a seedling camp started by Colette Kemp, a key player in the fight against desertification and invasive species removal in the Greyton area of South Africa. Having a wealth of knowledge about the little understood Afromontaine ecosystem, she has been growing hundreds of trees in her nursery to begin to rebuild the forest. She is also a big believer in the need to uplift the khoi people of Greyton who are the original forest dwellers of the area, to help them refind their identities in modern South Africa.

Camp Habiba

Camp Habiba is a site in the Sinai region of Egypt, where people are reversing desertification and greening the desert through food growing. Habiba is an organic farm and hostel that wants to regreen more of the desertified land surrounding them whilst empowering the bedouins who live there. In 2020 their first camp activities will take place.

Camp Altiplano

Things changed at Camp Altiplano in 2019. We started the year with a grant of €50.000 from the Mustardseed Trust to build a stable team at Camp Altiplano and to finish the infrastructure to host groups of volunteers. But some of the issues the existing team was confronted with were:

- A lack of income, forcing them to leave camp for extensive periods of time to earn an income;
- Lack of privacy (sharing a two bedroom house with 8);
- An unfinished camp;
- During the hot summer and cold winter an uninhabitable camp.

Mustardseed Trust enabled us to give long-term volunteers with clear coordination roles a small stipend, reducing their need to leave camp to earn money.

In 2019 the work on the bunkhouse was started. To see what happened, a video was published that shows how volunteers from the Netherlands built the bunk house.

Nevertheless due to the stated issues the original team decided not to stay. Having given their all for at least a year, had taken their toll. With deep gratitude and respect we said goodbye to Jonathan, Rachel, Jo, Dory, and Ides - the core team. They were soon replaced by people from Spain. Regretfully the transition was a bit chaotic, and that summer the conditions at camp were extreme. Allergies and the conditions at camp made the team leave quickly, with some notable exceptions. Jo had returned to help, Dory had returned to help. Maria, part of the second team took on the role of coordinator.

The two directors of ERC, Pieter and Jan Hein visited in September for a stakeholder dialogue. During this long weekend, it became clear that the camp's model was not fit for purpose. We decided to change the model in close cooperation with the land-owner. This was a difficult decision. We visited the camp often, and truly enjoyed being with the group of volunteers. ERC is deeply grateful to all the people who have tried to turn the model of volunteer-self governance into a success. There were great successes and the social experiment on community-building taught us a great deal. But for the purpose of ecosystem-restoration we have now chosen to follow the model in all other camps that emerged over 2019 and that seems to be very efficient in organising groups of people, locally and internationally, to contribute to ecosystem restoration.

We are pleased to state that now a paid coordinator has taken on the job of managing the camp, planning and carrying out activities together with the farmers in the region for groups of campers who stay short term. As winters are too cold, and summers too hot and dry there will not be activities at camp during those cold/hot periods. This also resolves the water issue during summers where multiple volunteers will need to drink and shower at camp, as well as plants need to be watered and that in a period where water is extremely scarce.



BUILDING THE ERC TEAM

The Foundation stabilized, with two experienced directors, Pieter Van der Gaag and Jan Hein van der Hoeven, and 9 staff members. This team still finds support from a dedicated group of volunteers focussing on events, communication, education, and ecosystem restoration. The team manages the fundraising, help coordinate the work of camps, onboard new camps, and communicates about all the great work done on the ground through our communication channels.

Education

Education is an important part of our mission. In 2019 we collaborated on an unsuccessful funding proposal with the Dutch Institute for Environmental Education to develop a set of tools for camps that could help them in explaining visitors on what they are doing. We are not giving up on this process, and in 2020 we are likely to apply for funding with other potential donors for this work.

In 2019, we did take significant steps in developing our Online Course together with Gaia Education. This course will be launched in May 2020.

Ecological, Social and Economic Impact going hand in hand

Ecosystem Restoration Camps tackle an array of issues around the world. The camps that were part of the ERC movement in 2019 for example focus on restoring badly degraded farmlands and pasture-lands (Camp Altiplano, Camp Via Organica and Camp Habiba). When (farm)land is degraded, livelihoods are lost and communities either disappear or continue to spend their lives in poverty.

Erosion, such as on the mountainsides near the village of Chocaya and farming-models that do not meet the needs of the locals, are being tackled by Camp Chocaya. Planting the mountainsides to prevent floods and soil-loss, and introducing agro-forestry models will help the local community improve their lives and improve the ecology of the mountain sides in the Andes.

Terrible ecological conditions sometimes make the world news. The fires in Paradise are such an example. The fires destroyed the forests, people's homes, businesses and farms. Camp Paradise works on restoring the lost ecosystems and introducing ways of working with the land that should help prevent fires and build an ecologically friendly future for the people of Paradise.

Impact through Inspiration

All camps that joined as partners in 2019 follow the example given by Camp Altiplano, which was started in 2016. And the inspiration continues, as more and more camps are founded across the planet. What these camps do is show people that we can take charge of our future on this planet by building economies and societies that have learned to live in harmony with nature, learn from nature, and mimic its brilliant systems. Agroforestry, Permaculture, Syntropic Farmer, Anastasia Farming, Holistic Grazing are all models that mimic natural systems. And when land is managed in such a way that it's ecological function is at its core, we see that livelihoods are restored and that communities get access to the abundance nature has to offer.

Ecosystem Restoration Camps are inspiring because they lead the way in creating a global economy of abundance, moving land and people away from the economies of scarcity they were part of for so long. Each camper that went to a camp reports a sense of inspiration and transformation. Some go and find land to work and restore themselves, and others go home with a spirit of hope and joy for a future that is upon us and that people around the world are realising

Personal transformation, restoration of livelihoods, thriving communities and healthy ecosystems is what camps are building.





By Numbers



Communication

In order to communicate our message to various audiences, we use several communications channels through our website as well as social media. This includes:

- A bi-monthly general newsletter sent to a wider audience of thousands of interested supporters and allies to share important updates and achievements.
- On Facebook, we manage a non-profit organisational page with more than 10800 (an increase of 3080) followers/fans. On Facebook, we also manage a group page that invites a broad exchange of information around ecosystem restoration and also provides a platform for sharing our story, campaigns, and other news. The reach of this group has been essential to sharing our message and building an online community. (21400 members (up 7000 members))
- The website received 40.179 unique visitors in 2019, which is an increase of 86% (in 2018 it was 21.600).
- Most of these visitors come from the United States, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and Spain. 98% of our visitors were on our website for the very first time.
- Through Twitter, we share restoration news from ERC and from the broader restoration community, reaching 1272 followers (2018: approximately 800).
- Our Instagram account shares updated images of our first camp in Spain and documents progress that campers are making daily to restore the land. Our number of followers has grown from 1500 in December 2018 to 2942 in December 2019.

Further: we found that our website was no longer fit for purpose. We rebuilt the website to fit our needs better. We removed the membership forum and we introduced a new membership and donor registration system (donorbox)

Finally we are proud that John D. Liu is our leading ambassador. He travels the world to spread the word on Ecosystem Restoration Camps. Interested in becoming an ambassador too, check our website on how you can represent us around the world.



Organisation

Supervisory Board

The articles and responsibilities of the Supervisory Board were adopted in 2017 and are available online. The composition of the Supervisory Board remained unchanged.

François De Keuleneer - Chairman
Marieke Karssen - Member
Steven Lang - Member
Erin Beasley - Member
Rhamis Kent - Member
Jane Wegesa - Member
Loucky Spit - Member

Advisory Council

In addition, the Foundation is supported by a volunteer Advisory Council of recognized leaders who support ERC's vision and mission, and who are available to provide strategic advice on a range of issues to the Boards and staff. John D. Liu is its Chairman. In 2019,

New Advisory Council Members in 2019:

- Amory Lovins: Founder, Rocky Mountain Institute
- Brock Dolman: Co-Founder: Program Director, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
- Alan Watson Featherstone: Founder, Trees for Life
- Andrew Langford: Founder, Gaia University
- Liora Adler: Founder, Gaia University

The ERC Team

Below short bio's of each of the team members. We believe it is important that you know us as we are being paid by your donations and contributions.

Pieter van der Gaag is ERC's executive director, using his experience in organisational development in the charity sector, communications and marketing with organisations such as IUCN and Triodos Bank. He also was vice-chair of the Global Reporting Initiative's Stakeholder Council, NGO focal point to the 2000 revision of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Executive Director of the Natural Capital Coalition and Head of Sustainability at the FMO, the Dutch Development Bank. He currently chairs multi-stakeholder initiative Trustone: an initiative to help ban bad labour practices and health and safety initiatives in the natural stone sector.

Jan Hein van der Hoeven is ERC's finance director, using his experience from working for the impact investment company, PYMWYMIC, and his own experience as an investor. He holds a double master's degree in Social and Organisational Psychology and a master's degree in Business. He now aspires to become a trainer in Social Permaculture.

Ashleigh Brown, one of the first people to join the conversation about setting up Ecosystem Restoration Camps back in 2016, decided to move to Camp Altiplano and lived there until October 2018. In January 2018 she formally became the Business Development Manager at the foundation, where she was responsible for income generation partnerships, strategies and applications to grow the organisation. In 2019 she took on the role of Camp Coordinator, where she supports the needs of the camps in the ERC movement.

Scott Israel, ERC's webmaster, fell in love with nature at a young age, and has dedicated his work to helping humans live in harmony with the natural world. After studying Sustainable Development at the University of British Columbia, Scott continued his learning in the fields of Permaculture, Biodynamics, Sustainable Design and Herbalism while working professionally in the field of software and web development. Scott believes deeply in the potential for humanity to restore our planet to a Garden of Eden through both cultural and technological innovation, and he is committed to being a part of this important work.

Kaytlyn O'Connor, a climate change activist from the west coast of the United States, is a Membership Liaison for ERC. Kaytlyn supports our members to organise events, birthday fundraisers, connect with each other and incorporate member ideas into our operations.

Gini Morandi, Gini grew up in Loughborough, UK, and studied Modern Languages at Durham University. After graduating in 2017 she worked as a business analyst at a software company in Leeds, but her growing concern for the environment led her to change paths and pursue a career that aligned with her values. She is now working on completing her MSc in Sustainable Cities at the University of Leeds alongside her work on the Ecosystem Restoration Camps communications team. She hopes to use her role to share her passion for the restoration of the world's ecosystems and inspire others to take action.

Egle Stropute. As a digital marketing and growth consultant, Egle had a chance to live and work in different countries and collaborate with agencies and organizations of all sizes. Egle's goal is to help mission-driven businesses and organizations to grow ethically and create a long-term positive impact. She believes that online marketing and advertising has the power to shift mass behavior and consumption patterns, and is determined to devote those skills to solving real social and environmental problems.

Inge Kerkhof. After being a consultant in circular and carbon neutral procurement for the government, where Inge got the chance to coordinate a part of the "Klimaatenvoloppe" nationally, she felt she wanted to help an organization which is focusing on restoring the earth from the bottom up. ERC is a wonderful movement with so much positive impact and opportunities. She is grateful she can use her coordination and creative skills for the ERC.

Cristina Pianca has joined ERC team as a fundraising coordinator, together with Fae Rinaldo. She previously worked with various NGOs in Jordan, Italy, and Greece, in the fields of social, economic and environmental justice. She truly believes that building a regenerative society, where the best economic decision will be also the best environmental and social decision, is possible. Together with her colleague Fae, she is using her skills and experience to coordinate fundraising strategies, identify new donors, and support major fundraising programs.

Fae Rinaldo has also joined the team as fundraising coordinator, together with Cristina Pianca. She joined ERC because she was inspired to join a movement that is so hopeful and ethical but also tangible and pragmatic! One that not only tackles climate change, but builds healthy communities and ecosystems – from the bottom up – the power is in our hands! Her experience lies in relationship building, communications and writing proposals, with a background in engagement and community building, campaign development and communications. Trained as an anthropologist she loves understanding and working with people, asking the right questions and sharing our story at ERC.

Ben Stromback (Intern) is a former signal officer of the Finnish Army, who after his service moved to the Netherlands to study at the Utrecht University College. He became inspired from agro-ecology and set up a volunteer based community composting organisation - Bagijnhof Composting. He joined ERC as a volunteer on communication. Currently he edits all our videos.

Yonah Berger-Barnett, is Personal Assistant to Advisory Council Chairman John D Liu. While studying Environmental Science and Ecology at Amsterdam University College, Yonah became intrigued by Ecological Restoration as a means to reconcile human activity with the essential natural systems on our planet. Yonah joined the ERC in November 2019 to study and contribute to holistic nature-based climate solutions that help restore the Earth. As John D Liu's PA, he assists with scheduling, communication, and logistics, and acts as a point of contact between John's network and the ERC foundation.

We are proud to be able to build on a solid and stable team of excellent volunteers who make it possible for us to achieve much more than our budget allows. Below is the list of volunteers and how they support ERC.

- Oliver Goshey (Restoration Coordinator)
- Paul Browne (Public Relations)
- Wil Crombie (Marketing/Video)
- Madelyn Madeiros (Administrator)
- Evangeline Grosrenaud (Administrator/Newsletter)
- Sophie Bastable (Events Coordinator, Western Europe)
- Spyros Nompilakis (Events Coordinator, Eastern Europe)
- Rachel Johanssen (Events Coordinator, USA)
- Shu-anne Po (Events Coordinator, South East Asia)
- Abbie Caldas (Online Course Developer)
- Inge Kujiper (Online Course Developer)
- Grace Kenney (Online Course Developer)

We are deeply grateful for their contribution and commitment!





Decision making

The Foundation was created on February 16, 2017 and structured so that power is evenly distributed throughout the organisation. The Board of Directors are paid individuals, accountable to a volunteer Supervisory Board. A volunteer Advisory Council links the work of the Foundation to the broader field of experts and organisations active in ecosystem restoration.

This structure allowed us to become an official Dutch Charity (In Dutch: ANBI, Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling).

[Download the articles of the Foundation in English](#)

The Board of Directors take the decisions steering the Foundation. Restoration Camps are autonomous entities affiliated with the Foundation. A set of criteria determine if a restoration activity will be recognized as part of the ERC community. The Foundation collaborates with Camps in an advisory and/or co-creational manner. When Camps need funding from the Foundation, that funding could be supplied based on well supported proposals that prove the alignment with the mission of the ERC.

Our process to select new camps is as follows:

1. Any interested party interested in becoming a Camp reads the 'Becoming an Ecosystem Restoration Camp' document;
2. Once they have a clear idea of what a camp entails, they fill in the 'Camp Application' form;
3. The ERC Foundation staff assesses if the potential Camp location meets the following criteria;
 - a. Located on/near degraded land with the intention to restore regionally and teach others about the process;
 - b. In a safe location;
 - c. Has access to its own resources (human, financial, infrastructure);
 - d. Able and willing to communicate progress and collect data.
5. The Camp Application Forms are then sent to our Advisory Council for comments;
6. If the Camp requests meet our criteria, a Zoom call is arranged to discuss details of the partnership;
7. A Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is filled in and signed.

New Camps can be added to the Foundation based on a Memorandum of Understanding. They can be affiliated Camps owned and operated by restoration-focused organisations around the world, or Camps initiated by ERC with an administrative legal registration in the country where the Camp will be based.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2019

The Foundation received funds from three primary sources: direct (larger) donations, grants and online payments (donations and monthly/annual membership).

Memberships and online donations

In 2019, we had 555 members and received €85.885,73 in donations through our website, the founding friends campaign, and through people raising funds for us for their birthdays. We strongly believe the number of members needs to grow as it shows public support for the work we are doing.

Direct donations

We are proud to have received €27.500 in the form of a corporate sponsorship by DEME, Belgium.

Income from Camps

Camps were able to generate €1.901,87 in revenue streams for ERC. These revenue streams will be used to support the work of camps.

Tree Schemes

In 2019 we received €800 from our Partner Gone West for the planting of trees

Grants from charitable institutions:

In 2019 we received a total of €183.426 in grants. Grant givers were Mustardseed Trust, Resurexit Foundation, Fondation Les Enfants Heureux, and Roskilde Festival.

OUR TOTAL INCOME IN 2019 WAS: €297.359 (2018: €76.972)

21 percent came from membership fees. 70 percent came from founding friends and from grants. The total income also included fees paid for our first PDC course held near Camp Altiplano. The remaining 9 percent came from other sources such as birthday fundraisers, and crowdfunding for camps.

EXPENSES

In 2019, €181.175 was spent on the activities of the Foundation (2018: €79.266). This included €137.048 in support of ERCs camps (2018: €56.046). €44.707 was spent on our knowledge exchange and educational work (2018: €0).

The directors received jointly €59.788 in stipends (2018: €26.785). €2.216 was spent on membership recruitment. The remaining overhead and administrative costs were €29.349 (2018: €30.613). This latter figure includes €3.498 in costs made for payment services such as Paypal, the bank and other payment service providers we use.

Our income exceeded the expenses by €25.195 (2018: €-34.981). This money was earmarked for our continuity reserve in 2020.

The ERC staff constantly strives to keep the overhead as low as possible. We do not rent an office, and worked either as volunteers or against minimal compensation. The majority of our meetings we do online to avoid travel costs as well as the associated emissions.

OUTLOOK FOR 2020

In 2019, ERC formulated its goal for the decade:

“By the end of 2030, 1 million people from around the world will have had a transformative experience at an Ecosystem Restoration Camp”

In this one long-term goal, the mission and vision of ERC is best captured. At least 1 million people will have had a transformative experience at a camp and through that, a deepened understanding of the value and potential of ecosystems to help humanity thrive. Spending time at a camp will empower people to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems around the world through newly acquired skills and insights. This will lead to a group, 1 million strong, that will be able to instill hope and help inspire the transition to sustainable and thriving human societies that value our natural capital around this planet. The impact of 1 million people volunteering at an ecosystem restoration camp will have increased the fertility and function of ecosystems around the world. More carbon will be stored in plants and soil, and water quality and biodiversity will have increased. With more fertile soils, local food systems will stabilise food security and the livelihoods based on them will return.

What will we do in 2020 to achieve the above goal?

ERC will increase the number of camps to 30, and so be well under way to our goal to have at least 100 locations around the world.

We will increase our membership to 2000. Members are the backbone of our organisation. They provide the camps with a steady stream of donations, and they provide the organisation with the legitimacy to have its voice heard in the public debate. We want to increase our membership to hundreds of thousands in the next few years, so in 2020, a modest step towards that will be made.

We wanted to have at least 10,000 people visit a camp. However the current Corona Pandemic is making visiting camps impossible. We are uncertain if we can reach this goal in 2020.

We will launch our online course, so that more people can be prepared to start restoring ecosystems.

We will start building a camper/camp matching platform, where camps can put their needs for people towards the audience of people who want to join in a camp.

We will implement our Monitoring and Evaluation framework at all camp locations. Through this framework we hope to be able to gather the data needed to show the world that ecosystem restoration is good for Soils, Souls and Societies - improving ecosystems, transforming people, and building thriving and strong communities in the areas being restored.

We will incorporate in the United States - we will establish a 501C3 institution.

Finally we are working towards a partnership with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which will start in 2021.



Financial Outlook

In 2020, we are confronted with an unprecedented global pandemic, not faced in the past 100 years. The COVID 19 pandemic is affecting our resources. Membership is not growing fast enough as we are gaining as many members as we are losing. We are offering members, who are cancelling their payment because of COVID a free membership, so that they can stay part of the movement, and so that once their own economic conditions improve they can start contributing again.

Camps were not able to organise activities in most regions of the world, due to the COVID pandemic. This affected their resources and ability to undertake their restoration plans.

Also our regular larger funders are diverting their resources to needed investments in the battle against COVID and its immediate impacts on the livelihoods of millions around the world.

At the time of writing of this report, it is unknown how the financial situation will develop. We are still fundraising. But it lies within reason to expect that 2020 will be a year when the anticipated financial growth will be difficult to achieve.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2019

(After proposal distribution of result)

Assets		31-12-2019		31-12-2018	
Current assets		€	€	€	€
Receivables					
Other receivables	1		4.386		-
Liquid assets	2		35.001		8.360
Total asset side			39.387		8.360
Liabilities		31-12-2019		31-12-2018	
		€	€	€	€
Freely disposable capital	3		29.519		5.258
Current liabilities					
Accrued liabilities	4		9.868		3.102
Total liability side			39.387		8.360

Profit and loss account for the year 2019

		2019		2018	
		€	€	€	€
Benefits	5	297.359		76.972	
Delivered project	6	-181.755		-79.266	
Other staff costs		-59.778		-26.785	
Gross operation result			55.826		-29.079
Cost of fundraising	7	9.825		785	
Office costs	8	392		2.265	
Overhead	9	17.850		2.154	
Total of sum of expenses			28.067		5.204
Operating result			27.759		-34.283
Financial income & expense	10		-3.498		-698
Result for taxes			24.261		-34.981
Taxes on the profit or loss			-		-
Result after taxes			24.261	8.360	-34.981

Notes to the financial statements

Entity information

Registered address and registration number trade register

The registered and actual address of Ecosystem Restoration Foundation is Wechelerweg 37, 7431 PD in Diepenveen. Ecosystem Restoration Foundation is registered at the Chamber of Commerce under number 68105800.

General notes

The most important activities of the entity

The activities of Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, having its legal seat at Diepenveen, primarily consist of develop common activities to restore ecosystems.

The location of the actual activities

The actual address of Ecosystem Restoration Foundation is Wechelerweg 37, 7431 PD in Diepenveen.

General accounting principles

The accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements

The financial statement is drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Title 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Accounting Standards, as published by the Dutch Accounting Standards Board ('Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving'). Assets and liabilities are generally valued at historical cost, production cost or at fair value at the time of acquisition. If no specific valuation principle has been stated, valuation is at historical cost.

Accounting principles

Receivables

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. If there is no premium or discount and there are no transaction costs, the amortised cost price equals the nominal value of the accounts receivable. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at banks and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognised as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is valued at nominal value.

Equity

When Ecosystem Restoration Foundation purchases treasury shares, the consideration paid is deducted from equity (other reserves or any other reserve if the articles of association allow so) until the shares are cancelled or reissued. Where such shares are subsequently reissued, any consideration received is included in equity (other reserves or any other reserve). The consideration received will be added to the reserve from which earlier the purchase price has been deducted.

Incremental costs directly attributable to the purchase, sale and/or issue of new shares are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

Other reserves

Other reserves are all reserves, except the legal and statutory reserves. Other reserves can freely be distributed to the shareholders.

Current liabilities

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs. This is usually the nominal value.

Accounting principles for determining the result

The result is the difference between the realisable value of the goods/services provided and the costs and other charges during the year. The results on transactions are recognised in the year in which they are realised.

Other operating expenses

Costs are determined on a historical basis and are attributed to the reporting year to which they relate.

Financial income and expenses

Interest income and expenses are recognised on a pro rata basis, taking account of the effective interest rate of the assets and liabilities to which they relate. In accounting for interest expenses, the recognised transaction expenses for loans received are taken into consideration.

Exchange differences that arise from the settlement or translation of monetary items are recorded in the profit and loss account in the period in which they occur, unless hedgeaccounting is applied.

Interest expenses and related expenses

Interest expenses are recognised on a pro rata basis, taking account of the effective interest rate of the liabilities to which they relate. In accounting for interest expenses, the recognised transaction expenses for loans received are taken into consideration.

Notes to the balance sheet

Current assets	31-12-2019	31-12-2018
	€	€
1 Other receivables		
Accrued assets	4.386	
2 Liquid assets		
Liquid asset STRIPE	1.075	
Liquid asset Paypal	305	
Bank account Triodos Bank	33.621	8.360
Total Liquid Assets	35.001	8.360
Liquid assets		
The balance of the accounts are freely available to the organization.		
3 Freely disposable capital		
Foundation capital	29.519	5.258
Foundation capital		
Balance at 1 January	5.258	40.239
Appropriation result financial year	24.261	-34.981
Balance at 31 December	29.519	5.258
Current liabilities		
4 Accrued liabilities		
Interest and bankcharges	35	35
Accountant costs	1.500	1.500
Remuration to be paid	-	1.567
Accruals and deferred income	8.333	-
	9.868	3.102

Proposal appropriation of result

The management of Ecosystem Restoration Foundation proposes to use the result as follows:
The result for 2019 ad €24.261 is entirely added to the foundation capital.

Notes to the profit and loss account

	2019	2018
	€	€
5 Benefits		
Institutional donations	183.426	12.997
Individual donations	85.885	37.508
Corporate sponsorships	28.048	26.467
	297.359	76.972
6 Delivered project		
Knowledge Exchange & Education	44.707	15.880
Support camps	137.048	63.386
	181.755	79.266
Other staff costs		
Work by third parties	-	10.231
Directors	59.778	16.554
	59.778	26.785
7 Cost of fundraising		
Travelling and subsistence costs	6.299	-
Advertising costs	2.216	619
Photography and design costs	680	-
Representation costs	630	166
	9.825	785
8 Office costs		
Office equipment	392	405
Communication and website	-	1.860
	392	2.265

**Let's restore the earth together.
The time is now!**

