A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to share our newest annual report with the Ecosystem Restoration Camps community. Through the generosity of our donors, we have been able to expand our restoration impact in 2022 with local restoration leaders in the US and around the world. Our partners continue to demonstrate the energy, joy, and purpose that comes from regenerative land stewardship, and I hope you will see that reflected in the articles and stories on the following pages.

The partners in our network are showing that solutions for land stewardship to recover and maintain ecosystem functions already exist: but they can only be realized through taking action: adding more trees into the landscape, adding organic material in the soil, directing water, propagating plants, mulching, harvesting, and more. Restoration is not a spectator sport! As these initiatives gain experience and grow, a new, regenerative economy becomes visible: tree nurseries, education and workshops, site planning and design services, adapted tools and machines, energy production, data and monitoring technologies, ecotourism, recreation, new food products and markets. A world-class example of these regenerative economies in action is ERC Sinal do Vale in Brazil. Through a partnership with Sinal, ERC USA, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), we supported their growing initiative to recover and reforest land outside of Rio de Janeiro through a combination of agroforestry and ecotourism.

Many of the leaders in this emerging regenerative economy are young people. We increasingly hear from our network that young people want to align their careers with their values to work in service with the land, to grow healthy food for their communities, and to recover ecological diversity and abundance within human systems. In 2022, with donor support, ERC USA launched a brand new internship program to provide university students with experiences at hands-on restoration initiatives in Colorado and California.

Looking towards the future, there is a great opportunity to expand the impact of regenerative land stewardship through training programs led by ERCs in the US and around the world. We hope to provide more access to these practices and skills through on-site training programs and greater capacity to develop and run educational programs. By using the power of our network, we hope to increase the overall community of practitioners who have the knowledge and experience to include restoration and regenerative management in their land management. I hope that we can count on your continued support to push this work forward better and faster than ever before!

Marieke Karssen
Chair, Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA
This document details the 2022 activities of Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the state of New York.

Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA (ERC USA) was established in 2020 to support the implementation of site-based restoration through both theoretical and applied education on ecosystem restoration design and practices. ERC USA operates in direct collaboration with Stichting Ecosystem Restoration Camps Foundation in the Netherlands. We support restoration activities that are part of the global Ecosystem Restoration Camps movement. This includes connecting volunteers with camps and providing technical, educational and financial support to camps, such as developing opportunities for camp teams to strengthen their own capacities, supporting camps to prepare and administer individual or joint proposals for US-based public and private grants, and coordinating crowdfunding campaigns and other donor-led support to camps. Further information on global activities and camp events are detailed in a separate report filed annually in the Netherlands.
HOW WE WORK: A SYSTEMS APPROACH TOWARDS REGENERATIVE CHANGE

The idea catches on with more camps asking to collaborate, more campers participating in activities on the ground, and more supporters joining the movement.

The first camp is started proving that people dedicated to restoring ecosystems can - with very little means - have a great impact.

The movement grows to hundreds of camps and inspired neighbours/local communities, resulting in more and more people restoring degraded ecosystems and introducing regenerative practices - both inside and outside the camps.

Conditions for successful scaling are put in place at the ERC Foundation, such as IT infrastructure and a lean support organisation.

Dozens of new camps join, each one inspiring the campers (personal transformation) and the surrounding local community who witness the effectiveness of regenerative practices (proof-of-concept).

The camps collaborate, share information, learn from each other, and use this learning to get better at what they do.
SECTION ONE
ORGANIZATION UPDATE
ERC USA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marieke Karssen
Chair

Rhamis Kent
Vice Chair

Erin Beasley
President & Executive Director

Santiago Cortés
Treasurer

François de Keuleneer
Secretary

Jason Funk
Member

ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE

With the growing success of the Ecosystem Restoration Camps movement around the world, the Dutch-based Stitching Ecosystem Restoration Foundation decided to expand the global nature of Ecosystem Restoration Camps, through the incorporation of an independent public charity in the United States. Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA (ERC USA) is a nonprofit organization that works in close cooperation with the Netherlands foundation to expand the reach and impact of restoration activities around the world.

ERC USA follows the restoration priorities and policy setting established by the global team and is independently responsible for raising and administering funds through US-based donations. We work directly with ERC camps in the US and abroad to provide technical, volunteer, and financial support to achieve their restoration objectives. This means supporting crowdfunding campaigns for camps, providing grant support, developing opportunities for camp teams to strengthen their own capacities, and supporting camps to prepare and administer individual or joint proposals for US-based public and private grants.

ERC USA received 501(c)(3) status as of May 2020 and the founding board members adopted the organization’s bylaws in September 2020. These bylaws identify an independent board of directors with representation from the Supervisory Board of Stitching Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, as well as a president and executive director role to manage the day-to-day and executive functions of the organization.

MISSION

To support the implementation of land-based restoration sites, primarily through theoretical and applied education on ecosystem restoration, design, and practices.
Erin Beasley, President and executive director. As director, Erin brings 15 years of nonprofit and sustainable development leadership with work experience in more than ten countries in the Americas, Africa and Asia including proposal development, grants management, project design, international policy advocacy under the UNFCCC and participatory community development. Prior to her current position with Ecosystem Restoration Camps, Erin worked with Conservation International to ensure the inclusion of nature in international climate action under the Paris Agreement and in national development policies. She studied at the Yale School of the Environment and worked as a Program Officer at the Yale Tropical Resources Institute. Erin previously served as board member to Stitching Ecosystem Restoration Foundation.

Katie Weintraub, Fundraising and development advisor. Katie is a sustainable development professional with 8 years of experience with social and environmental nonprofit management, multi-stakeholder partnership development, and project and fundraising strategy. Her focus is on regenerative agriculture, ecosystem restoration, environmental education, and social entrepreneurship, primarily in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where she is based. She has a degree from Harvard University in Government and Global Health and Health Policy and has a masters in Sustainable Development Practice from the Universidade Federal Rural de Rio de Janeiro with a focus on policy for forest conservation and food security.

Ofelia Garcia, Operations and grants volunteer. Ofelia has experience in research, outreach, and global nonprofit initiatives through previous work, volunteer, and educational experience. While studying for a degree in Psychology and Spanish, she supported community-based projects in the U.S. and in Latin America that addressed topics including women’s health and immigration. Most recently, Ofelia managed outreach and recruitment at a New York University psychology lab. In addition to her support to ERC USA, she is taking science courses and learning to play the piano.

Glenroy Wood, Bookkeeping. Glenroy is the accounting manager with Edge Accounting LLC, providing support to ERC USA with bookkeeping, payroll services, and nonprofit financial reporting. Glenroy ensures the smooth operation of financial processes while delivering customized solutions for nonprofit accounting. In addition to his nonprofit work, Glenroy provides tax accounting services for a range of individual and business clients in the New York area.

Morgan Shawfield, Communications and social media. Morgan hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and studied English and Creative Writing at Penn State University. Her two passions are captivating storytelling and the beauty of the outdoors. Recognizing the importance of effective communication in creating awareness, Morgan worked to incorporate actionable opportunities into social media messages for the community to contribute to restoration in their own lives.
RESTORATION CAMP PARTNERS

Paradise
Paradise, California
Community projects for ecological resilience in a post-fire landscape.

Coyote
Coyote Valley, California
Fire risk mitigation practices, edible hedgerows, food forests, tree propagation and community engagement.

Elk Run
Boulder, Colorado
Agroforestry strategies and agroecology farm design in semi-arid climates.

Beloved Emergence
Clark County, Washington
Ecological restoration, festival events, resilient systems, regenerative agriculture, land-based trauma healing.

Hotlum
Mt Shasta, California
Forest restoration and ecological leadership development in a post-fire landscape.

Birdhouse
Los Angeles, California
Urban restoration, arts, and increased biodiversity in a network of community-managed green spaces.

OLCERI
Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota
Natural building and permaculture home gardens for local food sovereignty and resilience following Lakota values.

Watershed Forest Farm
Marshall, North Carolina
Forest gardening and watershed management in a temperate forest ecosystem.

ERC USA supports a growing network of over 56 camp partners in the United States and around the world. As of 2022, this included a community of 8 independently run camp partners across the US.
SECTION TWO

ACTIVITIES 2022
In 2022, Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA provided funds to seven partner sites to support their specific restoration priorities. We are proud to collaborate with each organization to support the realization of their vision for restoration to support pathways for the ERC community to support on-the-ground regeneration initiatives, and to achieve tangible, joyful results towards an emerging form of land stewardship around the world. These are the highlights, but you can always read more in the detailed grant reports that we prepare with each partner throughout the year.

**SINAL DO VALE, BRAZIL**

**Agroforestry and Food Security in Brazil - $579**

Sinal do Vale trained local, low-income women in food preparation, household nutrition, and local food security as part of their larger jackfruit processing and agroforestry project. Jackfruit is a superfood, perennial tree crop that can grow alongside native forest species, providing farmers with income while protecting the biodiverse Atlantic Forest. To bring these agroforestry systems "full circle" to local markets, Sinal do Vale started a women-led enterprise called "Madre Frutos" that provides training and job skills to create value-added food products from jackfruit. The project educates local people from marginalized communities in how to utilize this superfood in their diets, increasing demand for the tree crop. From October 2022 to January 2023, SINAL successfully harvested and processed three tonnes of green jackfruit, trained and employed eight local women to prepare and process the fruit, and raised awareness on food security and nutrition with 80 adolescents.
Camp Virsoleil advanced Phase II of a multiphase renovation that is transforming a historical barn into a space to hold regenerative training workshops, accommodate campers, and share restoration techniques with a growing community. Funds covered the costs of tools, materials, and labor to install stone flooring in the main hall, renovate the stairs to the upper loft, and improve the water management system of the barn. The rainwater harvesting system serves as an example for teaching campers about sustainable water practices and complements the dry bathroom that was built last year. The funds also allowed Virsoleil to purchase a used van to transport visitors and event participants around during camps, enabling visits to nearby farms to learn about regenerative agricultural practices in the region. Learn more at www.virsoleil.org.

CAMP COYOTE, USA

Restoring Fire Safe Communities - $7,485

EcoCamp Coyote hosted a three-day educational event, full of camping, learning, restoration, and fun, at Indian Canyon, sacred and sovereign lands of the Ohlone/Costanoan people. The event was made up of a series of hands-on forest restoration sessions using a practice known as fire mimicry, along with basic chainsaw safety, principles of stream restoration, and discussions and presentations on the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of the California Ohlone people. Thanks to the grant from ERC to support keynote speakers, instructors, and event costs, the event had the largest attendance yet, with 78 participants learning and taking part in the restoration activities.

One of the more memorable sessions of the weekend was a half-day session on fire mimicry, which included forest thinning and clearing of woody understory. The hills of Indian Canyon were alive with 40 or more participants collaboratively and creatively working together to lop, cut, prune and move woody understory to provide space and nutrients for a healthy oak tree population. The collected material was set aside to dry and be prepared for burning into ash or biochar during the winter months. The hillsides immediately appeared more fire-safe and many oak trees suddenly came into view that had previously been obscured by overgrowth.
In 2022, Ecosystem Restoration Camps published a revised monitoring and evaluation framework to help local restoration partners measure the ecological and social changes in their sites. This funding supported three international sites in Egypt, Spain and France to test the improved framework, purchase equipment needed to perform low-cost soil tests and host a cohort of volunteer data-gatherers to facilitate testing. With new equipment such as a soil penetrometer, data logger, and precise scales, the camps were able to independently test soil pH, soil moisture levels, soil temperature, soil organic matter (SOM), topsoil depth, and the water infiltration rate. Tests for microbiological activity and biodiversity were also conducted. In Spain, where Camp Altiplano has been taking soil measurements since 2018, the revised framework allowed them to measure improvements in soil quality and evaluate which restoration strategies had been most effective. In Egypt and France the tests provided baseline data for future impact measurements and for designing effective restoration practices.
Investing in social connections encourages active participation in restoration efforts and fosters a sense of collective responsibility towards the wellbeing of the environment and society. Events and community partnerships help to promote sustainable practices and also cultivate a collective connection between people to the natural world. Over time, these social relationships enable communities to share knowledge, resources, and experiences, creating a supportive network and leading to more impactful land stewardship efforts. The following stories from ERC partners show a multitude of approaches that restoration initiatives can use to leverage community involvement in land stewardship for the benefit of restoring forests, regenerating grazing and agricultural lands, and encouraging young people to develop life-long work and service in regenerative land management.

By forging social connections and inviting others to participate, we empower individuals to take ownership of the land, fostering a collective commitment to its long-term health and resilience.
ERC partner Camp Elk Run collaborated with indigenous-led organization, Harvest of All First Nations (HAFN), to pilot an Indigenous Foods Garden and launch a Fall Festival to provide local pathways for BIPOC community members to reconnect with traditional lands and ancestral foods. With support from ERC, Elk Run developed a three-month program along with community members of HAFN to get first-hand experience with regenerative farming practices.

"The garden was so bountiful that all the volunteers were able to take home fresh produce for themselves and their families."

INDIGENOUS FOODS GARDEN

By Amy Scanes-Wolf, Research Director at Drylands Agroecology Research

As agriculture has become increasingly global, and food production more standardized, reconnecting communities with local food systems and cultivating traditional crop varieties is a practical way to recover cultural and ecological diversity. When people are in contact with local food – both through hands-on practices and celebration – participants develop a deeper understanding of plants that have been tended from one generation to the next, fostering a sense of belonging with food, family, and place. This reconnection empowers people to reclaim control over their food sources, and works to repair broken connections between people and the landscape.

““
INDIGENOUS FOODS GARDEN (CONT.)

Promoting and preserving ancestral crop varieties can also protect biodiversity, safeguard genetic resources, and enhance resilience in a changing climate. Ultimately, localized food systems encourage sustainable land stewardship, foster community bonds, and promote healthier and more diverse diets for people, families, and society.

Camp Elk Run is the pilot farm for a non-profit called Drylands Agroecology Research (DAR), which designs, installs and researches holistic dryland farm systems that sequester carbon, retain moisture, support biodiversity, and produce viable agricultural yields. The Elk Run Farm is situated on 14 acres of previously dry and degraded fields in the rolling hills and grasslands of Longmont, Colorado.

This region was once inhabited by native peoples of the Ute, Cheyenne-Arapaho, Comanche, Apache, Hopi, Dine, and other tribes. Over the past seven years, the Elk Run Farm team has transformed the land using techniques such as water-harvesting earthworks, dryland agroforestry, intensive livestock management, and drought-resilient grain crop trials and breeding. Camp Elk Run aims to restore over 1000 hectares of land within the next decade so that these lands can once again teem with the spirit they used to hold.

Over the course of three months of the fall planting season, volunteers learned to plant and harvest indigenous crops, integrate livestock into the gardens, and were even able to take home the bountiful harvests to share with their families and communities. Funding helped to provide stipends for HAFN volunteers to compensate for time away from work and transportation costs to the site.
As part of the project, Camp Elk Run also hosted the first Harvest of All First Nations Festival with partners at Yellow Barn Farm. Over 660 people participated in the weekend event, with more than 75% representation from BIPOC communities. For many participants who have been separated from their traditional lands and foodways, this was a unique opportunity to engage with regenerative agriculture and celebrate ancestral cultivation practices. The panels and workshops were led by BIPOC community members, in which a range of food sovereignty topics were discussed. Panelist Monserrat Matehuala spoke about nixtamalization, which is a traditional process from Mesoamerica used for the preparation of corn. Ana Chavez de Quintana & Jason Auguste spoke on soil health and regenerative agriculture. Andrea Valeska & Ava Hamilton, the Indigenous Food Garden leads, discussed land acknowledgement & corn harvest.
In recent years, due to the close proximity to downtown Rio de Janeiro, the area in which Camp Sinal do Vale is located in the Atlantic Forest has faced increasing real estate speculation, illegal division of land, and uncontrolled construction of houses and condominiums, which are impacting water resources and threatening the habitats of native species. In 2022, Camp Sinal do Vale acquired funding from the International Union for Conservation of Nature to purchase and preserve an adjacent property at-risk for degradation, adding 92 hectares of land to their site, and augmenting their ongoing restoration and environmental education work, while preventing further degradation due to inappropriate land use. ERC USA entered with co-funding to support the implementation of a series of educational and environmental conservation activities as part of the incorporation of the new property in SINAL’s larger land stewardship project.
This partnership reflects ERC’s systemic approach to restoration, in which engaging different types of actors, from international foundations to local community organizations, can unlock more action and scale an intervention’s impact. By combining the financial support of IUCN to secure vital land and the contributions of Ecosystem Restoration Camps towards community education and conservation practices, in partnership with SINAL’s long-term local commitment to land stewardship in the Atlantic Forest, the initiative demonstrates how diverse actors can link complementary resources and expertise to achieve more holistic restoration outcomes.
The newly acquired land at SINAL, which adjoins the current property, is made up of 14 hectares of degraded pasture and 78 hectares of dense ombrophilous forest in intermediate stages of conservation in the Atlantic Forest ecosystem. Importantly, it is home to the endangered Golden Lion Tamarin and channel-billed toucan, as well as other endemic and at-risk species. ERC supported important initial activities for the restoration and conservation of this land, including land mapping and georeferencing to identify priority areas for ecological interventions; implementing protective methods around fresh water springs; developing a biodiversity monitoring plan for endangered and threatened species; hiring and training of new land stewards; convening a series of trainings on biodiversity and conservation for community members; and exploring collaborative partnerships with park managers from other remaining Atlantic Rainforest protected areas along the Atlantic coast of Brazil.
Notably, the new land will also be part of SINAL’s new regional ecotourism initiative, the Guanabara Bay Trail, a 100 kilometer, long-distance trail that will promote forest restoration and community-based tourism in the region, passing through nine protected areas and five municipalities. With funding from ERC, SINAL organized and hosted series of public events to mobilize and engage the local community and to present the project and talk about the importance of conserving the remaining forested areas in the region. Local tourism guides, park managers, community leaders, and organizers of outdoors sports and recreation groups all attended. In addition, the mountaintop has a breathtaking 360-degree view of the Guanabara Bay and the surrounding forest, making it a perfect site for paragliding, which is a popular way to bring visitors to the area, and also engages the tour companies in promoting the protection and sustainable use of this space. Restoration on these additional 92 hectares is part of SINAL’s greater vision to scale a model of integrated land stewardship across the Green Belt of the Guanabara Bay.
Forging a model for land stewardship
Young people are increasingly interested in connecting their career aspirations with climate and environmental action. According to a 2021 Accenture report, 52% of United States youth surveyed aspire to work in the green economy in the next decade. Yet a combination of lack of opportunities, skills training, and institutional encouragement results in many youth struggling to build a climate-oriented career. As part of our mission to train the next generation of land stewards, ERC USA launched for the first time in 2022 our country-wide internship program. Through the support of our donors, ERC USA supported four aspiring young land stewards and three restoration partners, providing the students with living stipends to support their 4-6 month placements. The internships allow these young people to have meaningful and concrete learning experiences in ecosystem regeneration and open the doors for building careers in the restoration economy.

Beyond the personal and professional growth of interns, the program provides critical support to the partner sites by strengthening relationships with local universities, colleges and vocational skills, and through the contributions of the interns with their host organizations. Camp Elk Run, Camp Birdhouse, and Camp Paradise all hosted interns.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Lucy is a student in Horticulture and Soil Science at Pierce College in Woodland Hills, California, who also has a background in landscape design and permaculture. Lucy was interested in the opportunity to intern with The Birdhouse as a way to transition her line of work to her budding passion for Earth care and ecosystem restoration. During her time, Lucy developed a Restoration Concept Design for a neighboring piece of degraded land. Her design features an array of native and other climate-appropriate plants, designed to mitigate hillside erosion, create habitat for native wildlife, and establish a partially shaded, food-bearing canopy for humans.

LUCY LOPEZ
ERC Student Intern
The BirdHouse
The interns participate in the day-to-day tasks of the partner sites, getting firsthand experience in regenerative farming and restoration practices. Planting, pruning, fertilizing, seed saving, and composting are just a few of the activities interns take part in. Though they may seem like simple, mundane tasks, often these are some of the most meaningful experiences for interns, as many have never had a chance to participate in such a hands-on way. Interns also have the chance to engage in more scientific endeavors and apply their academic knowledge in practical ways. For example, at Elk Run, the interns worked alongside the Research Director to collect, record, process, and interpret data on soil health and insect biodiversity. Finally, interns also are able to take part in the community building and educational programming of camps, whether that is local outreach for education and environmental awareness or building up a network of volunteers and donors.

The pilot program sought to strengthen relationships between camps and local colleges, universities, and technical schools, and to connect students with opportunities for practical work experience in the restoration economy. The pilot program also developed capacity with ERC partners to identify internship roles, provide oversight and guidance, and host students in an effective way to benefit the local organization and the student's career growth. With continued support from donors, ERC USA looks forward to expanding this program in future years.

**INTERN SPOTLIGHT**

Augie Dunne grew up a large city and was surrounded by ecological damage caused by people, leading him to want to find ways to do better. His interests lie in developing methods that restore ecosystems to health, studying insect biodiversity, improving carbon sequestration and forging resilient food systems. Augie had the opportunity to put his academic experience into practice with soil testing, biodiversity research, and hands-on regenerative agriculture while at Elk Run Farm in Colorado.

**AUGIE DUNNE**

ERC Student Intern
Drylands Agroecology Research
ERC USA celebrates the collaborations with partners during 2022 to strengthen the call to join restoration efforts near and far, and to expand this work with opportunities for learning and exchange. A few of these events are highlighted here.


**New York City annual community dinner.** ERC community building dinner with restoration partners and supporters.

**Climate Agriculture Rooftop Dinner.** Hosted by Rolling Regenerative and keynote address by Mark Shepard.
PLANS FOR 2023

SECTION THREE
PLANS FOR 2023

Support the work
Maximize financial, technical, & capacity building support to promote leadership and self-sufficiency of local restoration partners

Scale out training
Involve youth, practitioners in hands-on restoration training activities in the US

Track our progress
Provide consolidated baseline and monitoring information from partners using the ERC framework of restoration indicators

Fundraising + Core Administration
Scale up our funder portfolio in consortia with local restoration communities, maintain best practices for financial & administrative management of ERC USA

Getting Involved
Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/ecorestorationUSA for information on upcoming volunteer events and restoration experiences.

Make a donation online at www.erc.earth or by check to Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA 4 Breck Drive, Leetsdale, PA 15056
2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION CAMPS USA INC
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

REVENUE
DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS  $160,633
TOTAL REVENUE 2022  $160,633

EXPENDITURES
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES*  $93,516
CAMP SUPPORT SPENDING  $68,564
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2022  $162,080

CARRYOVER TO 2023 BUDGET  $55,308

ADVISORS
A special appreciation goes out to the following advisors who shared their expertise and experience to ensure the success of our organization:

Paloma Caro
Joe Cox
Janet Dowell
Eugene Eccli
Chinesom Ejiasa
Ellen Farmer
Lee Gillespie-White
Enrique Gutiérrez Carreras
Elias Kohn
Jessie Maguire
Karena Mahung
Dena Marshall
Randall Navarro
Robert Strock
Stephanie Tanny
Page Thomas

HONORING
Several donors dedicated their support in honor of a friend, family member or colleague, and we recognize the inspiration that these individuals bring to ensuring healthy, thriving ecosystems for nature and people around the world:

Milo Redwood
George Feuerschwenger
Gilles
Thais & Katie
Dan Bindofer
Aimee Beasley
Jessie Ryan Fisher

DONOR SUPPORT
From Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA, we know that this work cannot go forward without the many donors who support us on a monthly or yearly basis to work towards a brighter future for the way that people steward land in the US and around the world. Our partner sites are leading the way to restore land through practical, transformational examples that meet local needs and priorities. We believe these efforts can be an inspiration and catalyst for rapid change to regenerative relationships between humans and the living world.

Thank YOU for your contributions to this work!

*Includes ERC USA staff time for programmatic activities including capacity building, planning, proposal writing and reporting services with our restoration partners.