ERM Foundation

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

CREATING IMPACT THROUGH OUR PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS
Next year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ERM Foundation. We used this upcoming milestone to invite employees to provide input into our future direction, to ensure that we are continuing to meet the needs of all stakeholders including ERM employees and the nonprofit organizations and social enterprises with whom we work. This employee consultation has contributed to a refreshed approach, which we started to implement during FY19.

At the heart of our refreshed approach is a more clearly defined purpose, which prioritizes working in partnership with smaller nonprofit organizations and social enterprises, for whom our level of funding and professional support can have the greatest impact. We recognize that for smaller organizations in particular, the ability to access the breadth and depth of professional expertise that ERM offers can sometimes have greater impact than grant funding alone.

We have also revised our focus areas to place greater emphasis on capacity-building, livelihoods and women’s empowerment. These cross-cutting themes underpin our core focus areas, and are designed to guide the way we work.

What hasn’t changed is that the ERM Foundation remains employee-led, which is one of the things that makes our Foundation so special. This year’s Annual Review catalogues the impact that is delivered through the skills, expertise and donations of our employees.

Each year I am truly impressed by the passion and enthusiasm that employees bring to the ERM Foundation. Our refreshed approach will ensure that we are achieving the maximum social and environmental impact in the communities where we live and work.

Thank you to all of the ERM employees who have contributed their time to the ERM Foundation during the past year. Our combined efforts really do make a difference.

KERYN JAMES
ERM Chief Executive Officer.

“At the heart of our new approach is a more clearly defined purpose, which prioritizes working in partnership with smaller nonprofit organizations and social enterprises, for whom our level of funding and professional support can have the greatest impact”

ENVIRONMENT PARTNER FOR OXFAM INDIA

ERM employees in India have been working in a pro bono capacity with Oxfam India since 2013, to conduct environmental audits for Oxfam’s annual “Trailwalker” fundraising events. The ERM team produces an annual impact assessment report, which is used by Oxfam India to make environmental improvements year-on-year, including how to minimize plastic waste from the events.

Archana Somanath, from ERM’s Bangalore office, conducting the environmental audit for Oxfam India’s annual “Trailwalker” fundraising events.

CEO MESSAGE
ABOUT THE ERM FOUNDATION

The ERM Foundation was established in 1995 to enable ERM and its employees to provide funding and professional support for nonprofit organizations and social enterprises that share our commitment to creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

Our purpose
We work in partnership with smaller nonprofit organizations and social enterprises. We blend funding with professional support to maximize our impact and help our partners build local capacity, and scale their operations, sustainability.

Our focus areas
We concentrate on three focus areas that align with the interests and professional expertise of ERM employees.

In addition to these core focus areas, we have identified three cross-cutting themes, which guide the way we work:

- Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Pro bono professional support
- Community volunteering

HOW WE WORK

Grant funding
The ERM Foundation operates a grants program, comprising employee donations and company matching funds. Many of the grants we distribute are leveraged by pro bono professional support which is provided by ERM employees. Last year we launched a new seed funding program, to develop longer-term partnerships with local nonprofit organizations in each of our Business Units, particularly in geographies where employee-led fundraising is more challenging.

Pro bono professional support
ERM employees can apply to undertake pro bono work with nonprofit organizations and social enterprises. We recognize that for smaller organizations in particular, the ability to access professional and technical support on a pro bono basis can be critical. This approach also provides ERM employees with challenging and inspiring opportunities to expand their networks and develop new skills, while making a positive contribution to the planet and society.

Areas of technical support include:
- Biodiversity and ecological services
- Cultural heritage
- Data analytics and visualization
- Due diligence
- Energy and climate change
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Human rights
- Impact assessment
- Information solutions
- Marine systems
- Product stewardship
- Safety services
- Social performance

Community volunteering
ERM employees are also encouraged to participate in community volunteering activities, often aligned with international days of action such as Earth Day, the International Coastal Clean-up and Global Goals Week.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT: Global Goals Week
During FY19, ERM employees around the world participated in a week of action to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. This produced more than 240 actions and initiatives, with common themes including sustainable commuting, community volunteering, reducing single-use plastics from home and office, and active employee health and well-being initiatives. Some of these themes are now being incorporated into the Sustainability Actions Plans that are developed by employees in each of our Business Units as part of ERM’s wider approach to sustainability.

240 employee-led actions and initiatives for Global Goals Week
WHERE WE WORKED IN FY19

In FY19, the ERM Foundation supported projects and programs in 30 countries and territories across Asia Pacific, North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Africa.

- Hong Kong
- Argentina
- Chile
- United States
- Canada
- Mexico
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Guyana
- Panama
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- Dominican Republic
- Russia
- Japan
- Taiwan
- China
- Ireland
- Portugal
- Spain
- The Netherlands
- Germany
- Italy
- Hungary
- Belgium
- France
- Kazakhstan
- South Africa
- Mozambique
- Tanzania
- Australia
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Zambia
- Uganda
- Rwanda
- Ethiopia
- Brunei
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Myanmar
- Vietnam
- India
- Indonesia
- New Zealand
- Sweden
- Norway
- Poland
- Romania
- Kenya
- UAE
- United Kingdom
- Guatemala
- Fiji
- Guinea
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Senegal

$324,000
$227,000

Measure in grant funding

Value of the professional pro bono support

ERM FOUNDATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2019
Creating impact through our people and partnerships

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH AN ERM OFFICE

- Protecting the natural environment
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Improving access to clean water and sanitation
- Providing education, training and capacity-building
- Empowering women and girls
FY19 AT A GLANCE
During FY19, the ERM Foundation disbursed $551,000 in grant funding and professional pro bono support for 69 organizations working across 30 countries.

Funds invested by focus area
$551,000
- Protecting the natural environment: 17%
- Reducing carbon emissions: 9%
- Improving access to clean water and sanitation: 21%
- Providing education, training and capacity building: 25%
- Empowering women and girls: 29%

Funds invested by project location
$551,000
- Africa: 32%
- Asia Pacific: 28%
- Europe: 15%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 13%
- North America: 9%

Creating healthy cooking environments for women and girls in Peru, through fuel-efficient, smoke-free cookstoves

Each year, employees around the world vote for ERM Foundation-supported projects to fund with the money raised from our annual “Holiday E Card” fundraising appeal. One of this year’s winners was Fundación Energía Sin Fronteras (https://energiasinfronteras.org/). We are supporting ESF’s work in Peru to improve access to clean-energy products or services, which are creating healthier cooking environments for women and girls, and reducing carbon emissions.

Recipient of this year’s “Holiday E Card” fundraiser:
Fundación Energía Sin Fronteras
https://energiasinfronteras.org/

The projects and programs supported by the ERM Foundation during FY19 will make the following contributions to the SDGs

- PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
  - 7,000 seedlings, trees, plants and shrubs planted

- REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS
  - 35,000 people with improved access to clean energy products or services

- IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
  - 12,500 people with improved access to clean water and/or improved sanitation

- PROVIDING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING
  - 6,000 people participating in education and/or training to support sustainable development

- EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS
  - 900 female livelihoods supported
**AN EMPLOYEE-LED FOUNDATION**

The ERM Foundation is led by employees. Individuals and teams nominate organizations for funding, provide hands-on pro bono professional support, arrange local fundraising and volunteer events, and help us to review funding applications. Employees also help shape our strategy, through their involvement in regional Foundation Committees.

**FUNDRAISING**

ERM employees from China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Myanmar participating in a sponsored bike ride in Mongolia to raise money for disadvantaged children.

**PRO BONO WORK**

ERM volunteers in Puerto Rico building new shelters for families made homeless by Hurricane Maria.

In addition to participating in Foundation Committees, ERM employees also volunteer in their local communities.

**INTERNAL COMMITTEES**

ERM employees participated in Foundation Committees or grant review panels during FY19.

**PEER-LEARNING NETWORK**

UK-based foundations participating in peer-learning workshops, co-led by the ERM Foundation.

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FOCUS ON: SPECIES PROTECTION

The world is undergoing the largest period of species extinction in 60 million years. Nearly 60 percent of the world’s primate species are threatened with extinction, and 40 percent of bird species are now in decline. The drivers of this significant decline include habitat loss, deforestation and climate change.

Protecting endangered swift populations in Europe

Partner organizations: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and Natagora

Since 2014, ERM employees across Europe have been working on a variety of initiatives to support the conservation of swifts, which are an amber listed bird of conservation concern. This started with a pro bono project to build an online swift inventory for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which went live in 2016. This site enables members of the public in the United Kingdom to upload data on swift sightings and nesting locations. This year, we are supporting RSPB’s work to build a Swift Tower in Oxford, United Kingdom to provide a home for breeding pairs of swifts. We are also partnering with Natagora in Belgium to provide guided walks for local communities to raise awareness about how to protect the species, and ERM employees in Germany are holding events to build swift nesting boxes.

Supporting the conservation of chimpanzees in Guinea

Partner organization: Project Primates France

The ERM Foundation is working in partnership with Project Primates France (PPF) to assess potential sites to release rehabilitated orphaned chimpanzees back into the wild. We have provided funding and pro bono professional support to assess the environmental conditions and potential human-animal conflict in pre-selected sites. In addition, we supported the delivery of workshops with local communities on the topic of habitat protection and anti-poaching awareness to encourage co-habitation in advance of the release of orphaned chimpanzees back into the wild.

“After performing several environmental and social impact assessments for mining projects in Guinea, I was very keen to make the most of my on-the-ground knowledge by supporting local conservation efforts. With the ERM Foundation, I could make this happen. This was a thrilling opportunity. I deeply encourage my colleagues to get involved with the Foundation!”

Sépanta Aguado (France)

Protecting the natural environment

21,700 swift records submitted by members of the UK public to RSPB’s online swift inventory, which was developed by ERM employees

$17,000 grant funding and professional support invested in chimpanzee conservation in Guinea

$21,700
21,700
$17,000
15,000
6,000

Protecting the natural environment

**FOCUS ON: MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION**

8.3 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced since the 1950s, most of which still exists today because plastic does not biodegrade. 91 percent of plastic waste is not recycled. This contributes to approximately 8 million tonnes of plastic entering our oceans each year. Without a significant change, we are on track to have more plastic in our oceans than fish by 2050. Plastic pollution is something about which ERM employees feel very strongly, and are taking action to address.

**Global participation in the International Coastal Clean-up**

**Partner organization:** Ocean Conservancy  
@ [https://oceanconservancy.org](https://oceanconservancy.org)

Each year, ERM employees and family members around the world participate in ERM’s Annual Coastal Cleanup. This year, employees from 11 countries took part in 22 events collectively removing more than 245 bags of plastic and other waste from our coastlines and inland waterways.

| 245 | bags of waste removed from locations and waterways by ERM employees |

**Engaging children in marine conservation in the United Kingdom**

**Partner organization:** Incredible Oceans  
[https://www.incredibleoceans.org](https://www.incredibleoceans.org)

Employees in the United Kingdom are working with Incredible Oceans to raise funds and volunteer their time to support Incredible Oceans’ mission to highlight problems, showcase solutions, and provide education to help everyone become more ocean literate — including understanding the problems associated with marine plastics. This year, we provided funding for Incredible Oceans to purchase an ‘Ocean Dome’ which can be used at events around the country, raising their money from free equipment, and reach more children through interactive events.

$7,000 raised through employee-led fundraising events for Incredible Oceans
Reducing carbon emissions

**FOCUS ON: DRIVING INVESTMENT DECISIONS AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE THAT REDUCES CARBON EMISSIONS**

The ‘2018 Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was a timely reminder that deep emissions reductions are essential to prevent dangerous levels of global warming. The ERM Foundation provides **hands-on technical support** to help nonprofit organizations understand the **carbon savings** that can be achieved through specific actions or investments.

**The Low Carbon Enterprise Fund (LCEF)** is a former program of the ERM Foundation, which has since merged with the OPES fund, and now operates independently of the ERM Foundation. We remain committed to their mission to invest in enterprises in developing countries that improve access to low carbon products and services, and deliver broader social benefits to those at the base of the economic and social pyramid. This year, an ERM team has developed a comprehensive carbon calculator tool that enables OPES LCEF to quantify the net carbon savings of potential investments. This will help them understand where they can have the greatest carbon reduction impact. The ERM team has also supported the development of a wider framework to track the social and environmental impacts of investee companies.

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**Helping a social impact investment fund quantify the carbon savings of their investments**

**Partner organization:** OPES LCEF

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**Encouraging personal behavior change to reduce carbon emissions**

**Partner organization:** The DoNation

The DoNation helps people make small changes that add up to a better world, through online pledges for “do actions”. The ERM Foundation first worked with the DoNation in 2012, when we provided pro bono support to undertake many of the platform’s underlying calculations that translate individual actions into carbon savings. This year, we’ve been working with the DoNation to add additional actions to the site, to drive further behavior change in relation to reducing emissions, and additional water saving measures.

“**I designed a bespoke carbon calculator tool and methodology for OPES LCEF. It was rewarding to see the project through from start to finish and understand the positive impact it will have for the client. The project has allowed me to develop my project management and technical skills. I thoroughly enjoyed working on this and look forward to doing more Foundation work in the future.”**

Vicky Hudson (United Kingdom)

**3,254**

 gnome of CO2 saved per year, via the “do actions” that the ERM team has calculated and contributed to

[https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/]

**$10,000**

Professional pro bono support to create the calculator and methodology

[https://www.opesfund.eu/]

LCEF investee company, Kamworks provides access to clean, affordable solar energy in rural Cambodia

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FOCUS ON: EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO IMPROVE HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Globally, 2.1 billion people lack access to safe, readily available water at home, and 4.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation. This puts the health of billions of people at risk, particularly young children.

Increasing access to clean water and education on sanitation for schools in Argentina and Colombia

Partner organization: Agua Segura
Website: http://www.aguasegura.com

An ERM team in Argentina has partnered with the social enterprise Agua Segura to pilot a flagship project to purchase and install microbiological water filters to improve access to safe and clean water for vulnerable communities. In addition, the ERM team also provided educational workshops at five pilot schools, focused on the importance of clean water and hygiene and healthy habits, to prevent disease.

During 2018, the filters delivered in the schools of the provinces of Buenos Aires and Corrientes, reached 755 children from 3 to 16 years old and their families. In the year ahead, Agua Segura will be expanding this project to areas in Colombia, supported by funding from the ERM Foundation’s annual ‘Holiday E Card’ fundraising appeal.

Improving water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene for girls in Uganda

Partner organization: Surge for Water
Website: http://surgeforwater.org

The ERM Foundation has been working in collaboration with Surge for Water since 2017 to help provide access to safe water and implement hygiene solutions for children and adults in Uganda. Our funding has contributed to the distribution of water filters that provide clean water for 3,695 community members, the construction of new gender appropriate latrines for school girls, and training on menstrual hygiene and how to make reusable sanitary pads both for personal use and for selling to generate additional income.

Menstrual Hygiene Management training, to empower girls through storytelling, role playing, conversations and empowerment exercises

© Lindsay West, Photoserve

“It has been a truly humbling experience to be given an opportunity by the ERM Foundation to make a difference in the lives of thousands. Partnering with Surge has given my team a chance to impact Ugandan communities by providing safe water and sanitation solutions. In addition, we have the chance to develop an environmental curriculum that focuses on sustainable environmental solutions.”

Maya Zein (United States)
Empowering women and girls

FOCUS ON: WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AS A BASIS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Gender equality is not only a human right, it is also key to advancing sustainable development. Women’s economic empowerment is a central theme that intersects through many of the programs and projects that are supported by the ERM Foundation.

From founding funder to strong partner: building women-led agricultural cooperatives in East Africa

Partner organization: Africa Development Promise
https://www.africadevelopmentpromise.org/

We have been working with Africa Development Promise (ADP) since 2014, when ADP was a start-up NGO. The organization strives to empower women farmers in Uganda and Rwanda to develop profitable agricultural cooperatives, and achieve economic independence. ERM Foundation funding and pro bono professional support has supported the installation of new greenhouses, improved irrigation, and the establishment of a maize milling operation. Financial training for more than 200 women farmers has enabled them to sign contracts with local hotels, contributing to an increase in the cooperative’s profits by up to 200 percent. We have also provided assistance with ADP’s monitoring and evaluation infrastructure, so that they are better able to understand and communicate the impact of their programs – which will in turn make it easier for them to attract additional donors.

“Working on Foundation projects is a great way for ERM consultants to see the results of their work in practice. Working with the Asian University for Women has been an amazing collaboration for ERM Hong Kong. I have met some great people through the project who all seem to share the same sustainability values that I do. I know many of these students will go on to make a difference in the communities they have come from, realizing the AUW purpose.”
Stuart MacKenzie (Hong Kong)

Working with high achieving women from low income backgrounds to pursue careers that contribute to a sustainable future

Partner organization: Asian University for Women
http://asian-university.org

An ERM team in Hong Kong is partnering with the Asian University for Women (AUW) to provide annual workshops for selected students. The objective is to explore with the students some of the sustainability challenges and opportunities facing the private sector – including climate risk, and sustainable growth - so that they are equipped to translate this into their future professional careers after graduation.

This year’s workshop included ten women from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India. We look forward to expanding this partnership in the year ahead, to incorporate a second workshop, and additional internship and mentoring opportunities for some of these very talented young women.

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ERM FOUNDATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2019
Creating impact through our people and partnerships

20 21

Creating wildlife corridors in Melbourne

ERM employees in Melbourne, Australia are volunteering with the Tree Project, to plant seedlings, which are eventually transplanted to rural areas which have been damaged by erosion, disease, agriculture or harvesting. The replanted trees grow and become windbreaks, wildlife corridors, and provide tree cover and a hospitable environment for birds and wildlife.

https://www.treeproject.org.au/

300 saplings planted by ERM employees

LOOKING AHEAD

This year we launched the new ERM Foundation Awards, to showcase some of the excellent employee-led work that is undertaken with our nonprofit partners. In next year’s Annual Review, we will share the winners across the following categories:

Partnership awards
To showcase the most impactful collaborations across our three focus areas:
• Reducing carbon emissions award
• Protecting the natural environment award
• Creating access to clean water and sanitation award

Employee awards
To showcase some of the work that employees undertake to support the mission of the ERM Foundation:
• Community volunteering award
• Fundraising award
• Outstanding achievement award

We would like to thank all the ERM Employees and partner organizations we have worked with during the past year.

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1 Source: Impending extinction crisis of the world’s primates: Why primates matter, Estrada et al, 16 Jan 2017 : e1600946
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ERM HAS MORE THAN 160 OFFICES WORLDWIDE ACROSS THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

Argentina  Brazil  Canada  Chile  Colombia  China  France  Germany  Guyana  Hong Kong  
Australia  Belgium  Brazil  Canada  Chile  China  Colombia  France  Germany  Guyana  Hong Kong  
Cambodia  Colombia  Denmark  Estonia  Ethiopia  Finland  France  Germany  Guyana  Hong Kong  
Hong Kong  Indonesia  Iran  Israel  Japan  Korea  Malaysia  Mexico  Mozambique  Myanmar  
The Netherlands  New Zealand  Norway  Panama  Peru  Poland  Portugal  Puerto Rico  Romania  
Russia  Singapore  South Africa  South Korea  Spain  Sweden  Taiwan  Tanzania  Thailand  
UAE  United Kingdom  United States  Vietnam  

The ERM Foundation is a registered charity in the United Kingdom: 1113414
The ERM Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States

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