



The ERM Foundation
**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2021**

Creating impact through our people and partnerships

The
ERM
Foundation

Sponsored
by



CONTENTS

ERM CEO message	Page 3
About the ERM Foundation	Page 4
Where we worked in FY21	Page 5
Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic	Page 6 - 7
FY21 project highlights:	
 Protecting and restoring biodiversity	Page 9 - 12
 Improving access to low carbon products and services	Page 13 - 14
 Investing in women's livelihoods in the 'green' economy	Page 15 - 16
 Improving access to clean water and sanitation	Page 17 - 18
Looking ahead and FY22 targets	Page 19



Celebrating Earth Day in our local communities

Archana Somasekharan from ERM's Bangalore office planting trees with children from local orphanage - Pazhassi Balamandiram - to raise awareness about this year's Earth Day theme: Restore our Earth

ERM CEO MESSAGE



“During such a difficult year, I am very proud of all the ERM employees who have continued to volunteer their time to support the work of the ERM Foundation... Our combined efforts really are making a difference”



During the past year, COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the world. In addition to the immediate public health crisis, the pandemic has damaged some of the world's most fragile economies and the livelihoods that depend on them. This year, we made a conscious decision to change how the ERM Foundation operates. We invested in a designated COVID-19 Recovery Fund – ‘Standing Together’ - to provide unrestricted funding and *pro bono* professional support, to help some of our longer-term nonprofit partners navigate the pandemic and build resilience.

Last year we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the ERM Foundation – and this year we mark ERM's 50th Anniversary. Our Foundation has always been central to ERM's purpose: *shaping a sustainable future with the world's leading organizations.*

The support we have provided this year has helped frontline organizations continue their important work: protecting and restoring biodiversity, investing in women's livelihoods in the ‘green’ economy, improving access to renewable energy, and ensuring that some of the world's least advantaged communities have access to clean water and sanitation.

During such a difficult year, I am very proud of all the ERM employees who have continued to volunteer their time to support the work of the ERM Foundation.

One of the things that makes our Foundation so special is that ERM employees are at the heart of what we do. They work directly with some of our nonprofit partner organizations, providing access to the breadth of technical and professional expertise that ERM can offer. They also get actively involved through fundraising and community volunteering - and helping us to select and review funding applications.

I would like to thank all the ERM employees who have volunteered their time or donated to the ERM Foundation during the past year. Our combined efforts really are making a difference.

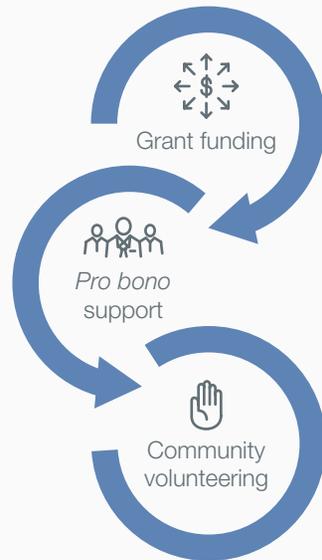
Keryn James
CEO, ERM

ABOUT THE ERM FOUNDATION

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

How we work

We work in partnership with smaller nonprofit organizations and social enterprises. We blend funding with professional support to increase our impact. ERM provides an annual budget to the ERM Foundation for grant funding and in-kind *pro bono* support, which is further leveraged by employee donations and volunteer time.



Our focus areas

We concentrate on four focus areas that align with the interests and professional expertise of ERM employees. We are particularly interested in supporting organizations and programs that create impact at the intersection of biodiversity protection, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and investing in women and young people as agents of change.

- 

Protecting and restoring biodiversity (including environmental education)
- 

Improving access to low carbon products and services
- 

Investing in women's livelihoods in the 'green' economy
- 

Improving access to clean water and sanitation (including hygiene and sanitation education)

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

The ERM Foundation is committed to making a measureable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs provide a framework to focus the contributions we are making to the global sustainable development agenda. We have identified ten intersecting SDGs where we can have the greatest impact.



WHERE WE WORKED IN FY21

During FY21*, the ERM Foundation provided funding and professional support for 28 organizations working in 22 countries



The projects and programs the ERM Foundation supported during FY21 will contribute to the following outcomes



Key

- Protecting and restoring biodiversity (including environmental education)
- Improving access to low carbon products and services
- Investing in women's livelihoods in the 'green' economy
- Improving access to clean water and sanitation (including hygiene and sanitation education)

*FY21 relates to financial year 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021. All figures in this document are in US dollars.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world during the past year. In addition to the public health crisis, lockdowns and closed borders have harmed already fragile economies, infrastructure and the livelihoods that depend on them. The ERM Foundation has responded to this crisis in a number of ways.



'Standing Together' program

This year we established a designated COVID-19 Recovery Fund: 'Standing Together', with two components:

- \$100,000 in unrestricted grant funding and \$50,000 *pro bono* professional support to help some of our longer-term nonprofit partners navigate the pandemic and build resilience.
- \$50,000 *pro bono* professional support for thought leadership to develop research collaborations that advance understanding of ways to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$200,000

invested in 'Standing Together' program

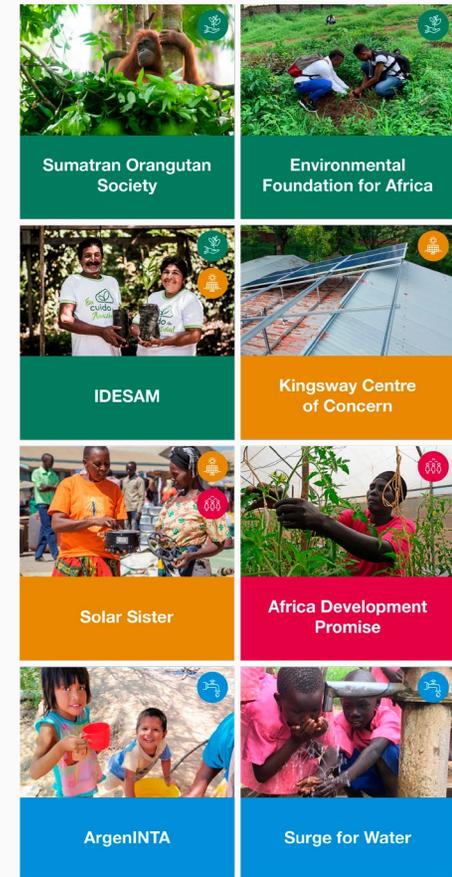
Unrestricted funding and *pro bono* professional support for nonprofit partners

This year we invited some of our longer-term nonprofit partners to apply for unrestricted funding and targeted *pro bono* professional support to help them navigate the pandemic. We prioritised organizations working to support livelihoods in the 'green' economy, protecting and restoring biodiversity, and maintaining access to clean water, sanitation and PPE for some of the world's poorest communities.

Thought Leadership

We also supported two research-led collaborations to advance understanding of ways to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. ERM teams around the world were invited to submit expressions of interest. We selected two projects for funding:

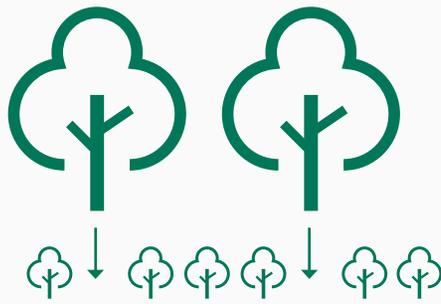
- A collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Thailand to research the impacts of COVID-19 on plastic waste and carbon emissions, and policy recommendations to address this.
- A collaboration with the Capitals Coalition to improve understanding of the impact that natural, social, human and produced capital has on community well-being and resilience in response to the pandemic.



Nonprofit organizations we have supported through the 'Standing Together' program

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

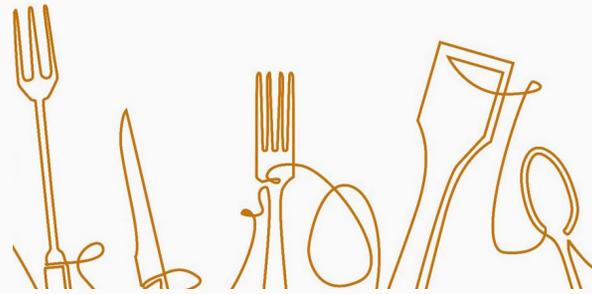
In addition to our ‘Standing Together’ program, this year we have adapted in other ways in response to the pandemic. This ranged from simplifying our application and reporting requirements for our nonprofit partners, to re-thinking how we engage employees and raise funds.



COVID-19 contributes to surge in employee interest in biodiversity

‘Holiday E Card’ supports forest-friendly livelihoods

This year, we ran a series of short surveys to reassess which focus areas and programs were of most interest to ERM employees. Feedback from this process united around biodiversity as the most important topic. This represents a shift from previous years, with greater appreciation for the natural environment during extended periods of lockdown. Our 2020 ‘Holiday E Card’, which is emailed to clients and suppliers each December, this year raised \$15,000, which was donated to two of our biodiversity partner organizations: the Environmental Foundation for Africa, and the Sumatran Orangutan Society.



Raising funds and engaging employees during the pandemic

ERM’s ‘Around the World Cookbook’

With so many people working remotely this past year, we have found new ways to engage employees and undertake fundraising activities remotely. One example was our ERM ‘Around the World Cookbook’. We invited employees across 40 countries and territories to submit their favorite local plant-rich recipes, which we compiled into a cookbook. During the December holiday season, we sold digital copies, which raised \$6,000 for one of our partner organizations, Solar Sister.



Investing in sustainable farming in the United States

With ERM Foundation support, this year The Food Project in Boston, MA grew and distributed more than 90,000 kilograms of fresh food for low income communities.

ERMers and their families participated in a volunteer work event planting 65 trees with Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, United States

FY21 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Protecting and restoring biodiversity

[Page 9 - 12](#)



Improving access to low carbon products and services

[Page 13 - 14](#)



Investing in women's livelihoods in the 'green' economy

[Page 15 - 16](#)



Improving access to clean water and sanitation

[Page 17 - 18](#)



Helping to protect a biodiversity-rich wildlife sanctuary in Sierra Leone

© EFASL photo archives

Partner organization

Environmental Foundation for Africa

www.efasl.org

- The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) is a Sierra Leone-based nongovernmental organization (NGO), working to facilitate community-led programs for sustainable forest management as a basis for poverty alleviation in West Africa.

Role of the ERM Foundation

- Since 2012, the ERM Foundation has been working in partnership with EFA, providing financial and technical assistance on various projects including, developing a business and sustainability plan for its Biodiversity and Renewable Energy Learning Center; upgrading the EFA and Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary websites, and securing funding from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) to implement a multi-stakeholder renewable energy fair in Sierra Leone.



© EFASL photo archives

Supporting application for UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary

This year, a team of ERM's biodiversity experts has provided technical *pro bono* advice to support EFA's application to the UNESCO World Heritage Commission for the enlistment of Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary as a World Heritage Site. This builds on work undertaken in 2012 to add Tiwai Island to the tentative list of World Heritage sites. The final application will be submitted to UNESCO in January 2022.

We have also provided unrestricted funding to EFA as part of our 'Standing Together' program to support local staff salaries, organizational running costs, and incentives to the Tiwai Island forest-edge communities while revenue from ecotourism has been on hold. This has helped to curb local poaching as well as provide much needed income and basic supplies during the height of the pandemic. The ERM Foundation has also supported EFA's ongoing efforts to reforest degraded areas of the Western Area Peninsula National Park.



4,000

Seedlings planted



Partner profile
Tommy Garnett
 Executive Director, EFA



"Building on a 10-year partnership, ERM Foundation support to EFA in 2020 has enabled us stay operational and engaged with forest-edge communities surrounding Tiwai Island. We are greatly inspired by such a generous and timely gesture and hope EFA has in some ways also inspired the ERM team in working for a sustainable planet."





© IDESAM

Sustainable farming to protect the Amazon rainforest in Brazil

Partner organization

Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Amazon

www.idesam.org

- The Institute of Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Amazon (IDESAM) is a nongovernmental organization, with a mission to promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the Amazon, and seek alternatives for environmental conservation and social development of the most vulnerable forest communities – while mitigating climate change.

Role of the ERM Foundation

- The ERM Foundation is providing funding and professional *pro bono* technical expertise to help IDESAM purchase supplies and support with the regeneration of degraded land in the Amazon rainforest.



© IDESAM

Supporting forest farmer livelihoods and calculating greenhouse gas emissions

This year, the ERM Foundation has provided funding to plant two hectares of agroforestry within the Amazon rainforest, with native species and Conilon coffee. The agroforestry shade-grown coffee has led to an increase of income for participating farmers, which is around 300 percent higher than farmers who were not part of the program.

The ERM Foundation team in Brazil is also providing professional *pro bono* support to help IDESAM to improve its greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory methodology and CO2 emissions calculations. In addition, the ERM team has developed a robust methodology to monitor the socio-environmental impacts of these activities.



3,860

Trees planted



ERM employee profile
Flavio Coelho
 Partner, Brazil



"I am so proud that we are able to take action through the ERM Foundation to protect the Amazon rainforest and support local forest farmers. This is also a great opportunity for ERM employees to develop new skills and make a difference through pro bono work and other forms of engagement."





© Andrew Walmsley for Sumatran Orangutan Society

Restoring the forest habitat of endangered Orangutans in Sumatra

Partner organization

Sumatran Orangutan Society

www.orangutans-sos.org

- The Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS) was founded in 2001 with the objective to create a safe future for wild orangutans and their forest home. Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and without urgent action they could be the first Great Ape species to become extinct. SOS is dedicated to turning this situation around.

Role of the ERM Foundation

- The ERM Foundation has been working with SOS since 2019, combining grant funding and employee fundraising with professional *pro bono* support, including support for improve SOS's habitat modelling work, through the provision of high-resolution land cover maps to help identify high priority areas and at-risk zones of deforestation.



© Binsar Bakkara for Sumatran Orangutan Society



9

Livelihoods supported

Alternative forest-friendly livelihoods for forest guides

This year, the ERM Foundation provided unrestricted funding and professional support to help SOS remain focused on their vision to protect wild orangutans thriving in safe forests. We have provided funding for a program to provide alternative livelihoods for forest guides in the absence of tourism revenue due to global travel restrictions. ERM funding enabled the employment of 9 people to plant 671 trees in the buffer zone of the national park, part of SOS's response to support forest guides and their families during the pandemic.

In addition to grant funding, we have also provided technical support from ERM's Geographical Information System (GIS) team to analyze data sets tracking deforestation across 2.6 million hectares of the Leuser Ecosystem in Sumatra. This data will help SOS to see if the rate of deforestation has increased during the pandemic and to target forest protection efforts more effectively.



ERM employee profile
Jacob Noel
 Consultant, United States



"Through the ERM Foundation I have developed a great relationship with Helen Buckland, the Director of the SOS. Together we have worked to increase awareness and protections of native orangutan populations in Sumatra. We are excited to continue working together to help sustain the fragile biodiversity of orangutan habitats in Indonesia"





Planting seedlings to support reforestation in Sumatra



671 tree saplings planted

“Providing unrestricted funding during the pandemic demonstrates a welcome understanding of the challenges facing small organizations, and has enabled us to direct more of our limited resources towards the development of impactful conservation strategies.”

Helen Buckland
Director, Sumatran Orangutan Society



© Solar Sister

Investing in female solar entrepreneurs in Nigeria and Tanzania

Partner organization

Solar Sister

www.solarsister.org

- Solar Sister's mission is to eradicate energy poverty through women's sustainable energy entrepreneurship and climate change leadership. Solar Sister does this by recruiting, training, and supporting Solar Sister Entrepreneurs (SSEs) in Nigeria and Tanzania who operate clean energy businesses, bringing renewable energy access to the most remote and underserved communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Role of the ERM Foundation

- The ERM Foundation has supported Solar Sister since 2016, when we funded a pilot 'train the trainers' program in Nigeria. The objective was to strengthen capacity among Solar Sister's team of Business Development Associates (BDAs), who would then go on to provide ongoing support for the growing network of female entrepreneurs.



© Solar Sister

Helping female solar entrepreneurs conduct business safely in Nigeria through COVID-19

This year, the ERM Foundation provided Solar Sister with unrestricted funding to support local livelihoods and purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for their staff and Solar Sister Entrepreneurs (SSEs) in Nigeria. This helped the women to stay safe while continuing to sell their solar products to last mile communities. This also helped Solar Sister to restart some in-person training sessions.

This funding has helped the female entrepreneurs in Nigeria and Tanzania to sell 63,554 clean energy products, reaching more than 222,127 people with the benefits of access to clean, affordable energy.



63,554

clean energy products sold



Partner profile
Female Solar Sister Entrepreneur from Tanzania



"COVID-19 is still here, but I don't have a choice, my family depends on me so I need to keep working to provide for them. So every day I take precautions and continue with my business"





Creating access to solar power for a school and orphanage in South Africa to create energy independence



100% energy independent

The Kingsway Center of Concern helps to support underprivileged youth through their school and refuge center. The ERM Foundation has been working in collaboration with Kingsway since 2009 to support them with the installation and maintenance of solar power, creating energy independence from the expensive and unreliable grid.

This year, we provided critical funding to help support Kingsway's day-to-day operations during the pandemic, with essential provisions such as food, transport and education for the children.



© Africa Development Promise

Supporting women-led agricultural cooperatives in East Africa

Partner organization

Africa Development Promise

www.africadevelopmentpromise.org

- Africa Development Promise (ADP) works with women-led agricultural cooperatives in Rwanda and Uganda, providing investment and training to help the cooperatives transition from subsistence farming to build sustainable, profitable agri-business.



© Africa Development Promise



170

Kitchen gardens created



Partner profile

Monica LaBiche Brown

Founder and Executive Director, ADP



“The ERM Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of ADP since our launch in 2014. The financial and pro bono support has been critical to our success and our ability to improve the livelihoods of rural women and their families”

Role of the ERM Foundation

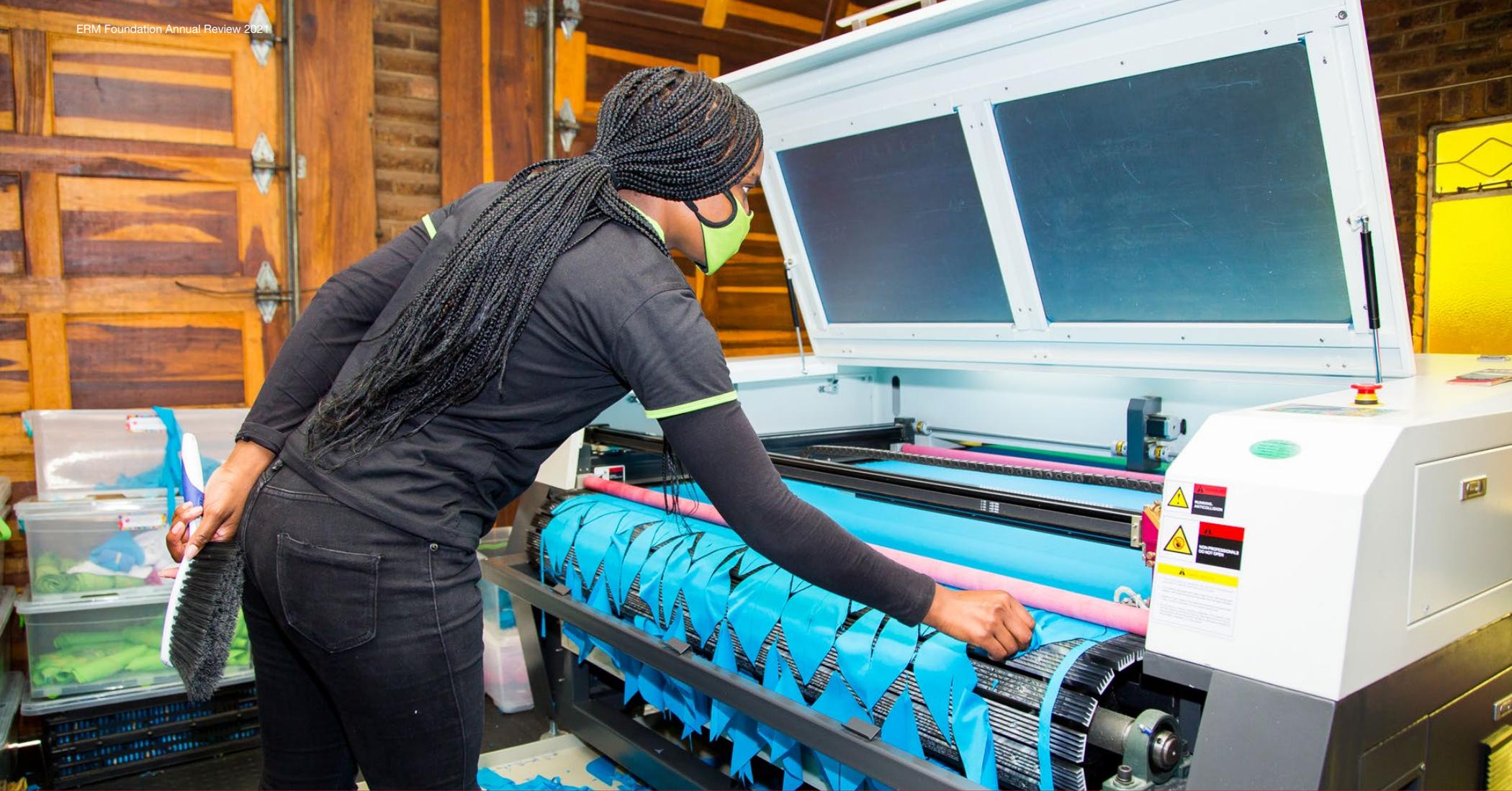
- The ERM Foundation has been working with ADP since 2014 when we were a founding funder for this early-stage nongovernmental organization. During the last seven years, we have provided a combination of funding and *pro bono* professional support for the installation of new greenhouses, freshwater wells, renewable energy sources, and helping develop the organization’s monitoring and evaluation framework.

Adapting programs to support female farmers during COVID-19

During the pandemic, travel restrictions made it difficult for agricultural cooperatives to sell their products at local markets and there was a drop in demand from hotels and other local businesses. This resulted in reduced incomes and increased levels of community malnutrition.

This year, the ERM Foundation provided unrestricted funding to support ADP to shift their focus to develop 170 kitchen gardens that are helping to feed approximately 680 family members. Through this project, the female cooperative members are being trained on how to create kitchen gardens using permaculture practices. Initial results show that cooperative members have increased food security, helping to ensure families are eating at least two meals a day, and the women have benefitted from the food and nutrition training.





Reducing waste from the production of reusable sanitary pads in South Africa



50%

reduction in waste from manufacturing process

Palesa Pads is a South Africa-based social enterprise that makes affordable, re-usable sanitary pads which can last up to five years, replacing nearly 1,000 disposable pads.

Last year, the ERM Foundation provided funding for Palesa Pads to purchase a new laser cutter, which improved efficiency and reduced waste from the manufacturing of the reusable sanitary pads.

This year, we provided additional funding to further increase productivity of the equipment. In the year ahead, a team of ERM employees from South Africa will be providing professional *pro bono* support to help install a photovoltaic system, which will help Palesa Pads become energy-independent.



© Cecilia Thomas, former ERM Consultant

Improving access to clean water for indigenous communities in Argentina

Partner organization
Fundacion ArgenINTA
www.argeninta.org

- The ArgenINTA Foundation is a nonprofit organization that belongs to INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology). ArgenINTA's mission is to promote autonomous sustainable development within low income communities in Argentina.



© Cecilia Thomas, former ERM employee



300

People with improved access to water



ERM employee profile
Carla Zannol
 Project Accountant, Argentina



“The work in the North of Argentina has a decisive impact since we provide a water resource that native communities lack or is extremely difficult to obtain. It improves the quality of life of the population, through health and economic development through irrigation. During 2021 will continue working through the ERM Foundation and ArgenINTA to reach more communities”

Role of the ERM Foundation

- The ERM Foundation has been working with ArgenINTA since 2019. We have provided funding and *pro bono* support for their ‘Water for Life’ project. To date, this has improved access to clean water for more than 600 people through the installation of a new rainwater harvesting system, an extended water supply network and solar powered underground pumps. In addition, ERM employees have contributed to workshops and capacity building to ensure the community can maintain the system.

Expansion of water distribution network for rural communities

This year, the ERM Foundation provided funding from our ‘Standing Together’ program to support the expansion of the water distribution network from the schools to local homes. The intervention increased the distribution of a clean water supply by 4,000 meters, which has contributed to 62 additional families having access to clean water. In addition, the local ERM team supported the installation of two new solar powered pumps for the local school water well. The combined efforts this year have improved access to clean water for more than 300 community members.

In the year ahead, the ERM team in Argentina will continue to expand this partnership to ensure more low-income families have access to clean water.





Improving access to clean water, sanitation and menstrual health and hygiene education for girls in Uganda



1,900 students impacted by access to clean water and hygiene education

The ERM Foundation provided unrestricted and programmatic funding to help Surge for Water provide 4 months' salary for 12 critical global field program staff in Haiti and Uganda during the pandemic, plus the installation of gender specific sanitation facilities in a local school.

"The ERM Foundation's adaptation to nonprofit organizational needs in 2020, through the opening of this COVID-19 funding, was critical to helping Surge meet its goals for infrastructure and education across Haiti and Uganda, and ultimately, all of its field countries."

Surge for Water

LOOKING AHEAD AND FY22 TARGETS

As part of our contribution to the United Nations 'Decade of Action', the ERM Foundation sets annual targets aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These targets help to concentrate our resources and provide a reporting framework.

<p>Our focus areas</p>	 <p>Protecting and restoring biodiversity</p>	 <p>Low carbon products and services</p>	 <p>Women's livelihoods in the 'green' economy</p>	 <p>Access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene</p>
<p>Our FY22 targets</p>	<p>20,000 trees planted 10,000 hectares of forest (and other natural carbon sinks) protected or restored.</p>	<p>5,000 people with improved access to low carbon products, services and initiatives.</p>	<p>1,000 women's livelihoods in the 'green' economy created, supported or improved.</p>	<p>10,000 people with improved access to clean water and sanitation, including menstrual health and hygiene education.</p>
<p>Priority SDGs</p>				
<p>SDG targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and capacity building on climate change mitigation 15.2 Promote sustainable forest management, and restore degraded forests 15.C Combat poaching and trafficking of endangered species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Access to affordable, reliable modern energy 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and capacity building on climate change mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.A Give women equal rights to economic resources 8.5 Ensure decent work for all women (and men), including for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Access to safe and affordable drinking water 6.2 Access to equitable sanitation and hygiene



Creating impact through our people and partnerships

ERM has more than 150 offices worldwide, across the following countries and territories.

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
France
Germany
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan

Kazakhstan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Norway
Panama
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Romania
Russia
Singapore

South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
The Netherlands
United Arab Emirates
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 (tax I.D 23-2792333)

Front page image
© Andrew Walmsley for Sumatran Orangutan Society

Back page image
© Sasha Xu, ERM China