



THE ERM FOUNDATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

Supporting sustainable development
for more than 20 years



ERM employees in Germany participating in volunteer event on Earth Day. This is part of the team's ongoing work with local nongovernmental organization, HGON, which is focused on maintaining local orchards near ERM's office outside of Frankfurt.



CEO MESSAGE

“As part of our alignment with the SDGs, we have increased our focus on empowering women and girls as a cross-cutting theme. This is in recognition of the fact that female equality is not only a human rights obligation, it is also key to advancing sustainable development.”



ERM's stated purpose is to 'shape a sustainable future with the world's leading organizations'. The ERM Foundation is an important part of who we are and what we do. Through the ERM Foundation we expand our impact beyond our core business activities, by providing funding and technical support for nonprofit organizations and social enterprises that share our commitment to creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

What makes the ERM Foundation different from many other corporate foundations is that it is employee-led. Our people not only help to nominate, review and oversee funding applications, they also have the opportunity to work directly with some of our nonprofit partners in a *pro bono* capacity. This enables grassroots organizations and larger nongovernmental organizations alike to tap into the range of professional and technical sustainability expertise that ERM offers. It also provides our people with challenging and inspiring opportunities to make a real difference in the communities in which we live and work, and further afield.

Partnerships of this type between the private sector and civil society are increasingly important in a rapidly changing world that faces myriad sustainability challenges relating to how the planet supports a growing population within planetary boundaries. It is for this reason that we have begun to measure the contribution we are making to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the ERM Foundation. We have published preliminary output data in this report, and will be able to report next year in more detail about project outcomes that relate to specific SDG targets.

As part of our alignment with the SDGs, we have increased our focus on empowering women and girls as a cross-cutting theme. This is in recognition of the fact that female equality is not only a human rights obligation, it is also key to advancing sustainable development. For example, in FY17 we entered into a new multi-year partnership with Africa Development Promise, which works with women-led agricultural cooperatives in Rwanda and Uganda, helping them transition from subsistence farming to build sustainable, profitable agribusinesses. We have also approved an initial grant for Solar Sister, to provide training and build capacity among female entrepreneurs in Nigeria, who sell affordable clean energy products to remote off-grid communities.

I am always impressed and inspired by the passion and commitment that ERM employees bring to their work with the ERM Foundation. I would like to thank all those who have donated their time and energy to support these activities. Together we are making a real difference.

KERYN JAMES
CEO, ERM

ABOUT THE ERM FOUNDATION

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

ERM Foundation focus areas



- Conservation and biodiversity
- Empowering women and girls
- Environmental education
- Low carbon development
- Water, sanitation and hygiene.

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The ERM Foundation is committed to making a measurable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in 2015 at a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The SDGs are designed to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the environmental, social and economic.

The ERM Foundation has prioritised 11 intersecting SDGs that align most closely with our focus areas:



The ERM Foundation works with a range of partner organizations to deliver support in the following ways:



Grant funding

The ERM Foundation operates a small grants program. Employee donations are matched by the company, enabling us to disburse c. \$500,000 in small grants each year. ERM employees participate in a variety of fundraising activities, ranging from payroll giving to sponsored bike rides and office bake sales. Most of the grants we disburse are leveraged by professional support from ERM employees, which is provided on a *pro bono* basis.



Pro bono work

ERM employees can apply to undertake *pro bono* professional support for selected nonprofit organizations and social enterprises. We believe that by providing technical assistance, we are able to make a greater contribution than through grant funding alone. This approach also provides our people with inspiring and challenging opportunities to develop new skills, while making a positive contribution to society. ERM provides an annual budget of \$210,000 to fund *pro bono* work.

Areas of technical expertise provided by ERM employees on ERM Foundation projects during FY17

- Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Cultural heritage
- Data analytics
- Decontamination
- Due diligence
- Energy and climate change
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Human rights
- Impact assessment
- Information solutions
- Marine systems
- Product stewardship
- Safety services
- Social performance
- Watershed management
- Water services



Regional Flagship Projects

We aim to run a 'Flagship Project' in each of our four regions. These longer-term and more impactful projects are undertaken in partnership with established nonprofit organizations, and are selected and led by employees from each region.



Technical research

ERM employees are invited to submit research project proposals, which are undertaken in response to a need identified by one of our nonprofit partners. These technical research projects are designed to advance an issue that the partner organization would not be able to undertake independently.



Community volunteering

ERM employees are encouraged to participate in community volunteering activities, often aligned with international events such as Earth Day, the Annual International Coastal Clean-up, and World Environment Day. These activities are coordinated globally and adapted to the local context by ERM employees.

\$4,500 grant for University of Virginia Alumni Association, to install ceramic water filters to improve access to clean water for **5,000** people in South Africa, and create jobs for **15** local workers.



¹ FY17: financial year ending March 31, 2017

² All figures quoted in this document are in US dollars

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

ERM employees are at the center of the ERM Foundation. There are many ways for our people to get involved, ranging from participation in fundraising events, reviewing grant applications, undertaking technical research, and providing *pro bono* professional support for some of our nonprofit partners. ERM employees also sit on internal committees, where they coordinate local Foundation activities and select and oversee Regional Flagship Projects.

PRO BONO WORK

Luciana Mascarenhas,
Junior Consultant,
Brazil

“ When I was applying for a job at ERM I read about the ERM Foundation and I was instantly interested. For me it’s a way to help others through my work, which is something that I’ve always wanted to do. I first became involved in an environmental education project, involving solid waste, working with low income children in São Paulo. More recently, I am part of the team that’s leading our Regional Flagship Project in Brazil, which consists of installing water filters in low income communities with a high prevalence of water-borne disease. We are also working with these communities to provide education and advice on sanitation and hygiene, as a way to prevent disease.”



REVIEWING FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Jon Perry,
Managing Partner,
New Zealand

“ As co-chair of the Foundation’s Project Review Committee, I am part of the global team that reviews and provides feedback on all employee applications for matching funds or *pro bono* time. Until I took on this role, I wasn’t fully aware of all the great things ERM employees are doing around the world. Being part of this Committee has made me immensely proud of all the time and effort our people devote to great initiatives. Two areas where I think we can achieve the greatest impact are environmental education and empowering women and girls. This is about positioning for the future and making sure upcoming generations are both more informed of the key issues and more empowered to effect change.”





PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

**Stuart Mackenzie,
Senior Consultant,
Hong Kong**

“ I’ve been active in the ERM Foundation committee for Asia Pacific region since 2014. It’s been a great way to collaborate with colleagues in other ERM offices with whom otherwise I wouldn’t have come into much contact. We’ve identified several interesting initiatives locally where ERM employees are actively involved, ranging from crowd funding for social entrepreneurs, to providing sustainability advice for students who are trying to tackle waste management issues in Hong Kong. Internationally, we are now planning a new project for next year that will raise funds and provide technical support to install solar panels and a rainwater harvesting system for a school for low income children in Mongolia.”



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Jennifer Hasel,
Principal Consultant,
Germany**

“ Last year I participated in ERM’s Aspire program, which is a leadership development program for high potential employees. As part of this, I worked on an ERM Foundation project to create a resource bank of educational materials that can be used and adapted by ERM employees to deliver community-based environmental education through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We developed an SDG data platform – for each SDG we identified educational materials and other relevant information that could be used by employees. One thing I will never forget is a fact related to SDG 3 (Good health and well-being): every one hour spent cooking over an open fire is equivalent to inhaling the second-hand smoke of 400 cigarettes!”



Volunteers from ERM’s Manchester office in the United Kingdom participating in ‘Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge’ to raise money for the ERM Foundation.



FUNDRAISING

**Harriet Bisdee,
Team Administrator,
United Kingdom**







“ I first became aware of the ERM Foundation during my corporate induction in 2015. When the position of local Foundation representative became available in my office, I jumped at the opportunity to get involved. Last year, I helped to arrange and participated in the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, to raise money for the ERM Foundation. This involved climbing Yorkshire’s three highest peaks in one day. Despite terrible weather, we all felt a massive sense of accomplishment – with the added bonus of raising \$1,000 for our Regional Flagship Project.”

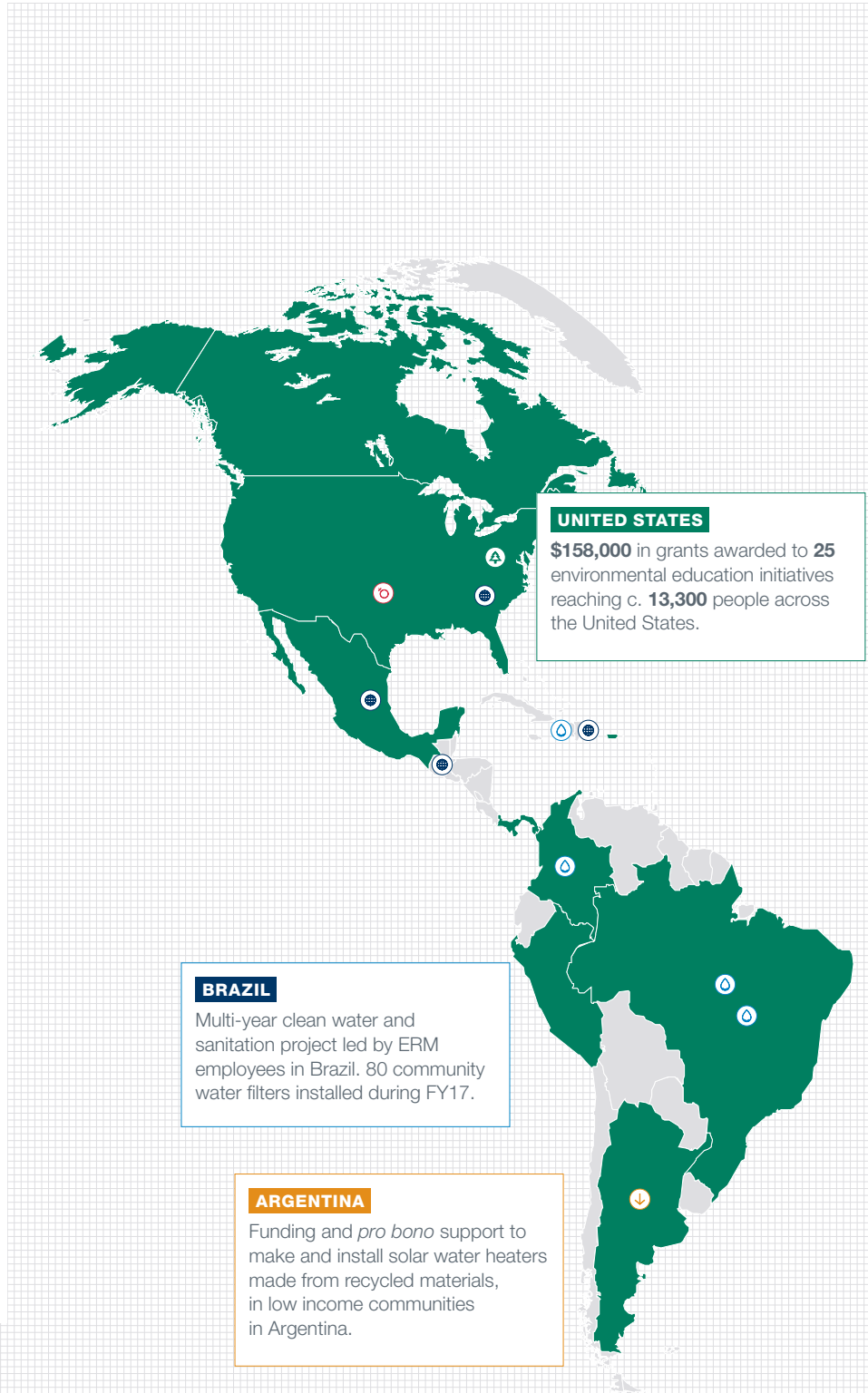
WHERE WE WORKED IN FY17

In FY17, the ERM Foundation supported projects and programs in **30 countries** in the Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Argentina | Kenya |
| Australia | Malawi |
| Brazil | Mexico |
| Cameroon | Morocco |
| China | Nigeria |
| Colombia | Philippines |
| Dominican Republic | Romania |
| Ethiopia | Rwanda |
| Ghana | Senegal |
| Guatemala | Sierra Leone |
| Haiti | South Africa |
| Hong Kong | Spain |
| India | Uganda |
| Indonesia | United Kingdom |
| Italy | United States |

Key

-  Conservation and biodiversity
-  Empowering women and girls
-  Environmental education
-  Low carbon development
-  Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
-  Countries/territories with ERM offices



UK

Working with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to create an online tool to record data on spring migrant birds, using the common swift as a focal species. **6,475** swift records were submitted by members of the public during the soft launch in FY17.

INDIA

Partnership with Oxfam India to provide advice and recommendations on how to reduce the environmental impact of fundraising activities.

SIERRA LEONE

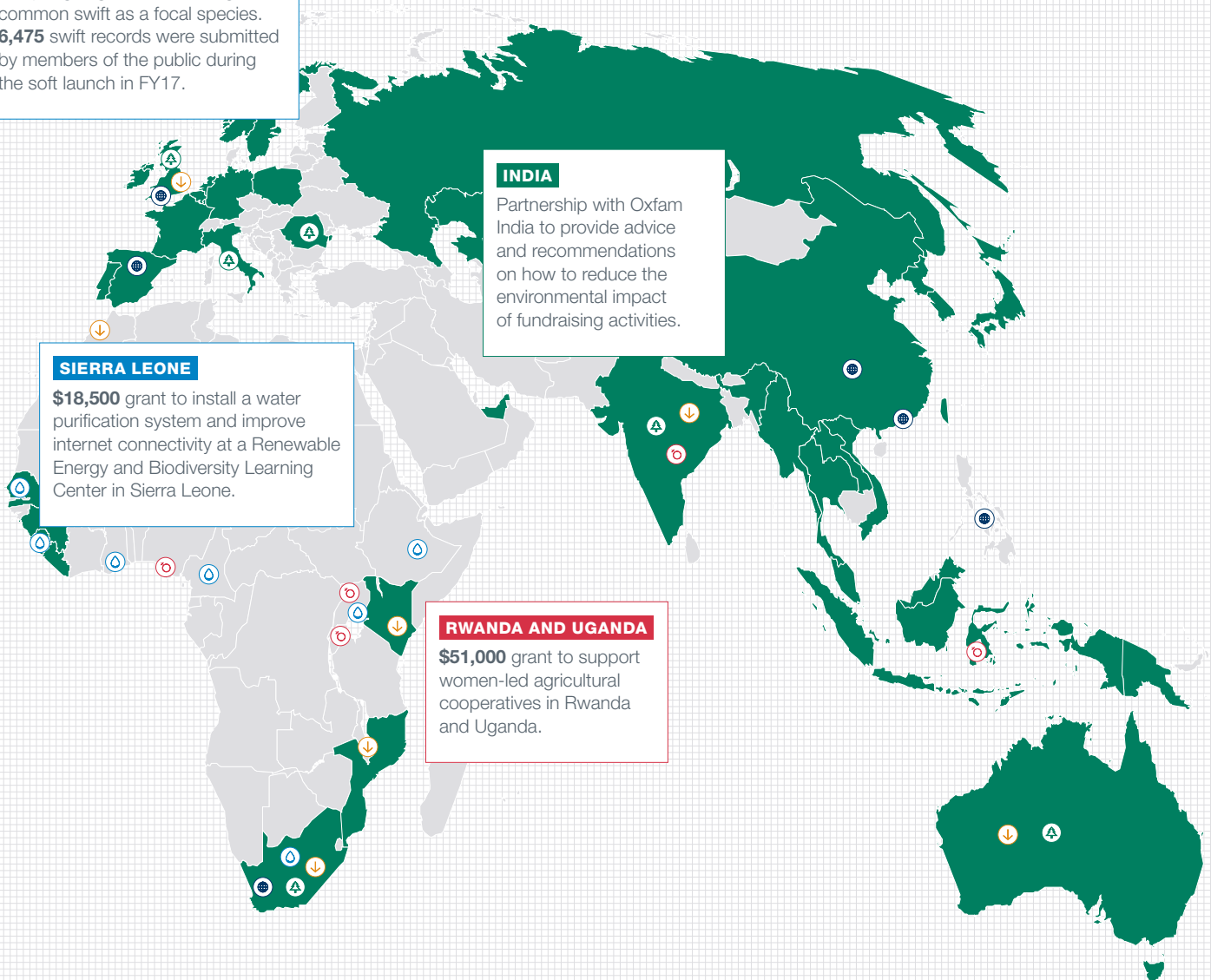
\$18,500 grant to install a water purification system and improve internet connectivity at a Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Learning Center in Sierra Leone.

RWANDA AND UGANDA

\$51,000 grant to support women-led agricultural cooperatives in Rwanda and Uganda.

AUSTRALIA

Funding a *pro bono* support to provide environmental field trips for indigenous children.



FY17 AT A GLANCE

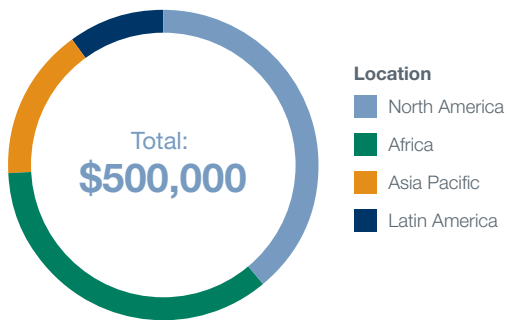
Grant funding

During FY17, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$500,000** in grants, to support **51** organizations working in **18** countries.

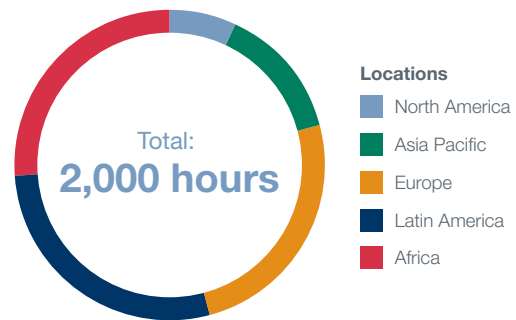
Pro bono professional support

During FY17, **128** ERM employees from **17** countries contributed **2,000** hours of professional *pro bono* support for **38** projects in **26** countries.

GRANTS DISBURSED, BY PROJECT LOCATION


















PRO BONO TIME USED, BY PROJECT LOCATION



Environmental education in the United States

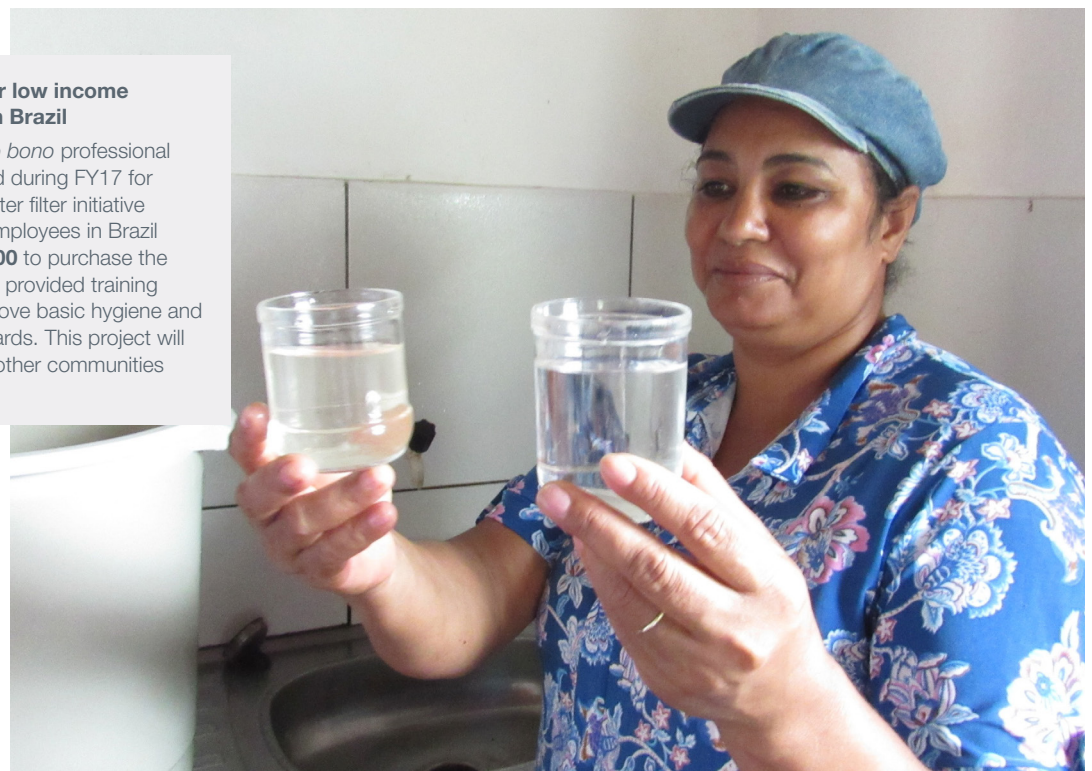
\$15,600 grant to Montana Roots to create an aquaponics greenhouse and learning laboratory for high school students in the United States. ERM employees in Livingston provide year round volunteer support.

The projects and activities supported by the ERM Foundation during FY17 will make the following contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ERM Foundation Focus areas	FY17 outputs	Related SDGs
Conservation and biodiversity	4,130 acres of natural habitat restored or protected 5,500 native trees and shrubs planted	  
Empowering women and girls	1,587 female livelihoods supported, including clean energy livelihoods	    
Environmental education	13,500 people participating in environmental education programs 649 people receiving professional training or capacity building for sustainable development	    
Low carbon development	30,170 people with access to clean energy products and services	   
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,700 people with access to clean water and / or improved sanitation, including through use of solar technologies	   

Water filters for low income communities in Brazil

430 hours of *pro bono* professional support provided during FY17 for a community water filter initiative in Brazil. ERM employees in Brazil also raised **\$1,500** to purchase the water filters, and provided training sessions to improve basic hygiene and sanitation standards. This project will be expanded to other communities during FY18.



HOW WE WORK

Building effective partnerships for sustainable development

We recognise that more can be achieved when we develop on-going partnerships and leverage traditional grant funding with technical and practical support. One of the ERM Foundation's core strengths is our ability to utilise the professional expertise of ERM's global network of sustainability consultants, some of whom work directly with our nonprofit partners in a *pro bono* capacity.

PARTNERSHIP CASE STUDY:

ENVIRONMENT PARTNER FOR OXFAM INDIA

Partner organization:

Oxfam India

▶ <https://www.oxfamindia.org/>

Through the ERM Foundation, ERM in India is the official 'Environment Partner' for Oxfam India's annual Trailwalker fundraising events. These events involve teams of volunteers walking 100 kilometres along a rural trail within a 48 hour period. The funds that are raised support Oxfam's work to end poverty and inequality.

The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees in Mumbai and Bangalore have been working with Oxfam in India since 2013, conducting environmental audits of the trail before and after the event, with the objective of confirming that it has been conducted in an environmentally responsible manner in accordance with Oxfam's principles and philosophy. This involves an assessment of waste disposal, disturbance of vegetation, and soil compaction. The results are presented to Oxfam India in an environmental impact assessment report, along with recommendations on how further to improve the environmental sustainability of future events.

ERM employees have also worked with Oxfam in Australia to support local Trailwalker fundraising events in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, and Brisbane.



Local children on the route of the Mumbai Trailwalker event.



Landscape on the route of the Mumbai Trailwalker event

“ Our partnership with the ERM Foundation helps us take forward Oxfam’s commitment to reducing human impact on the environment. Oxfam has been able to take practical and concrete actions based on evidence gathered and knowledge shared by ERM employees. Their advice on waste disposal and other key environmental issues has helped Oxfam Trailwalker realize its goal of being a sustainable event. It is a valuable partnership for us and has been a pleasure working with Sreemoyee, Pooja and their teams”

**VIKAS DHIR, OXFAM INDIA,
(MANAGER - BRAND, EVENTS AND CELEBRITY ENGAGEMENT)**



ERM employees from Bangalore participating in environmental audit for Oxfam Trailwalker fundraising event.

LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT

During FY17 the ERM Foundation invested in programs that will improve access to affordable, clean energy products and services for more than **30,000** people.



Investing in community-based renewable energy solutions



FEATURED PROJECT:

ACHIEVING CLEAN ENERGY SECURITY AT A REFUGE FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Partner organization:

Kingsway Center of Concern

▶ <https://kingswaycenterofconcern.wordpress.com/>

The Kingsway Center of Concern is a South Africa-based nonprofit organization that runs a school and separate refuge for disadvantaged children in Johannesburg. The ERM Foundation has been working with Kingsway since 2009. This year, we helped Kingsway address the issue of regular power outages at the Thandanani House of Refuge, which were caused by load shedding and illegal connections to the electricity grid, resulting in dependency on an expensive and polluting diesel generator.

The role of the ERM Foundation

A team of ERM employees in South Africa and Germany have worked together to raise funds and provide professional support to purchase and install a new 10kw solar system, which provides sufficient energy to fulfil the refuge's basic energy needs. This off-grid energy solution will not only save money, but also enable Kingsway's staff to run the refuge and its educational programs more smoothly. The ERM team is also creating a management plan for Kingsway's staff to ensure that they are able to maintain the system in the longer term.

We will monitor the carbon and energy savings in the year ahead, to gain a clearer understanding of the social, environmental and economic impacts of this intervention. The ERM team will also work with Kingsway staff to create a targeted education program for the students, focussed on raising awareness and knowledge about climate change and the importance of clean, renewable energy solutions.



Children at the Thandanani House of Refuge in Johannesburg, which is run by the Kingsway Center of Concern.

ERM EMPLOYEE PROFILE

James Hubbard,
Consultant,
United Kingdom



“ There’s a unique feel to being involved with a Foundation project. I am enjoying working with the Millennium Community Development Initiatives (MCDI), supporting their biogas latrine initiative in Nairobi, Kenya. MCDI have asked us to undertake a small project with the potential to unlock a lot of value for them in reducing greenhouse gas emissions using innovative and effective technologies. I think that may be the most rewarding aspect – that our inputs can create the potential for MCDI to access more funding, to build their projects, and ultimately reduce carbon emissions. That seems to take on added importance when working in areas where the nature of future development matters so much. Supporting real people in doing that is a great opportunity.”

FEATURED PROJECT:

CONVERTING HUMAN WASTE INTO BIOGAS IN KENYA

Partner organization:

Millennium Community Development Initiatives

▶ <http://www.mcdikenya.org/>



Biogas latrines at Dagoretti market, Nairobi.

Each year the ERM Foundation provides *pro bono* support for some of the winners of the annual SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development. One of the 2016 winners was Millennium Community Development Initiatives (MCDI). MCDI is working with a local women’s group in Nairobi to convert human excreta from market toilets into biogas in the sprawling Dagoretti Market on the outskirts of Nairobi. The biogas is used to fuel a local restaurant, which provides jobs while reducing dependency on firewood. This enterprise is financially self-sustaining thanks to the small charge paid by market workers to use the toilets. Income is also generated from the restaurant and from solar powered mobile phone charging and mobile money services that are operated by the women.

The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees are working with MCDI to calculate the carbon savings associated with transitioning from firewood to biogas. They are also analysing the wider social, environmental and economic impacts of converting human waste into energy, including reduction in levels of open defecation. MCDI seeks to use this information to make a strong case for installing a larger biogas generator in the market, with capacity to convert abattoir and other organic market waste into a source of clean energy. This would serve the combined purpose of reducing dependency on firewood, while also improving hygiene and environmental standards in and around the market.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

During FY17 the ERM Foundation invested in programs that will improve access to clean water and/or sanitation facilities for more than **8,000** people.



Using solar technology to improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities



FEATURED PROJECT:

SOLAR WATER PURIFICATION AND PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION IN SIERRA LEONE

Partner organization:

The Environmental Foundation for Africa

<http://www.efasl.org/site/>

Children participating in environmental education sessions at EFA's Learning Center in Freetown.



Solar panels and water tanks installed at EFA's Learning Center in Freetown.



The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) is a Sierra Leone-based conservation NGO that has been working since 1992 to facilitate the establishment of community-led programs for sustainable environmental management as a basis for poverty alleviation in Africa. EFA's flagship project is its Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Learning Center, which is located on the outskirts of the capital, Freetown. The Center was constructed using 'green' building principles, and serves as a repository for environmental best practice in Sierra Leone and the wider region. EFA also runs environmental education programs at the Center for local school children. The ERM Foundation has been working with EFA since 2012.

The role of the ERM Foundation

This year, we provided funding for EFA to purchase new water tanks with a total capacity of 20,000 liters, and a solar powered water pumping and purification system. This will ease the Learning Center's dependency on bottled water, which is expensive and produces unnecessary plastic waste. Limited recycling and waste disposal facilities in Freetown have created a serious problem with plastic bottles and water bags being discarded on the streets and beaches, often clogging drains. The new water purification system also serves as a demonstration facility for local institutions, who are seeking solutions to the city's poor water supply.

Approximately 2,000 people will benefit from the Learning Center's year-round access to clean water, including school children, EFA staff and local community members. The water purification system will save EFA approximately \$1,500 per year, which this small NGO can now invest in its education and conservation programs.

ERM EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Carlos Pereyra,
Regional CEO,
Latin America and Caribbean



“ Working with Sumando Energías combines my three passions: renewable energy, recycling, and social purpose. After more than 25 years of professional experience I finally found this small NGO. By working in these very low income villages, I know that we are making a difference by installing solar hot water and shower facilities - especially for the mothers, since improved sanitation underpins the health of their children and families. My hope is that all new shelters that are built in low income communities will incorporate this sustainable approach to using recycled materials to improve sanitation and hygiene.”

FEATURED PROJECT:

USING RECYCLED MATERIALS TO BUILD SOLAR WATER HEATERS AND SHOWERS IN ARGENTINA

Partner organization:

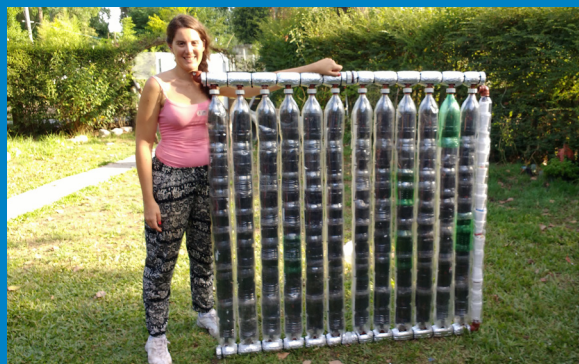
Sumando Energías
<http://www.sumandoenergias.org/>

Sumando Energías is a small, grassroots organization that works in low income communities in Argentina to provide sustainable solutions for some of the energy, water and sanitation challenges that underpin rural and peri-urban poverty. ERM employees in Buenos Aires are working with Sumando Energías on an initiative that recycles discarded plastic bottles and other waste products, to build solar water heaters and showers for some of these families.

The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees in Buenos Aires have provided *pro bono* and volunteer support to build shower cubicles, including designing a new more resilient support structure to hold the water tanks and solar panels. The ERM Foundation has also provided a \$4,000 grant to purchase materials, tools and personal protection equipment required to undertake the installations safely and professionally.

To date, 10,000 PET bottles, 4,000 aluminium cans and 2,000 Tetra Packs have been recycled to create the solar panels, providing 250 people in off-grid communities with access to hot showers and improved sanitation.



Ximena Cabrera from ERM's Buenos Aires office with a solar water heater panel made from recycled plastic bottles.



ERM Regional CEO for Latin America and the Caribbean, Carlos Pereyra, providing onsite support to install solar showers and toilets.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

During FY17 the ERM Foundation invested in programs that will support the livelihoods of more than **1,500** women in developing countries.



Investing in female livelihoods as a basis for poverty alleviation and sustainable development



NEW PARTNERSHIP:

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING FOR CLEAN ENERGY, FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS IN NIGERIA

Partner organization:

Solar Sister

<https://www.solarsister.org/>



A 'Solar Sister' selling energy efficient cooking stoves at market. Image: Joanna Pinneo, Ripple Effect Images, Solar Sister ©.

Solar Sister's mission is to eradicate energy poverty by empowering women with economic opportunity. The organization combines the potential of clean energy technology with a women-centered direct sales network to bring light, hope and opportunity to even the most remote communities in rural Africa.

The role of the ERM Foundation

The ERM Foundation has provided a \$55,000 grant for a new 'train the trainers' program in Nigeria, which will strengthen the capacity of Solar Sister's team of local Business Development Associates (BDAs), who provide ongoing support for their growing network of female

entrepreneurs. These BDAs ensure that the women have the agency, skills and support required to run successful micro-enterprises, that in turn scale clean energy access in underserved communities.

This program will provide capacity building for 20 BDAs who will then be able to train 400 new 'solar sisters'. This will equip the women with the skills and confidence they need to bring affordable clean energy products to up to 30,000 people in remote areas of Nigeria. Upon completion of this pilot, Solar Sister plans to roll out the training for BDAs in other parts of Africa.

PARTNER PROFILE

Monica LaBiche Brown,
Founder and Executive Director,
Africa Development Promise



“ADP’s goal is to strengthen the collective action of entrepreneurial women but we know that long-term partnerships are needed both in-country and with our funders. We are so encouraged that the ERM Foundation has joined us on this journey. Not only was the Foundation willing to take a risk as our first funder and first multi-year funder, but also support our organizational capacity. We are grateful to the employees who have volunteered their expertise and time.”

MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP:

BUILDING WOMEN- LED AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN EAST AFRICA AS A PATHWAY TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Partner organization:

Africa Development Promise

▶ <http://www.africadevelopmentpromise.org/>

Africa Development Promise (ADP) works with women-led agricultural cooperatives in Rwanda and Uganda, providing the investment and training required for the women to transition from subsistence farming, to build sustainable and profitable enterprises. The ERM Foundation has been working with ADP since 2014.

The role of the ERM Foundation

The ERM Foundation provided early-stage grant funding for ADP during 2014 – 15 to support their initial work with two cooperatives in Rwanda and Uganda. This year, we confirmed a \$125,000 four-year partnership with ADP, supporting their ambition to work with more than 650 women farmers representing ten cooperatives by 2020. The cooperatives that are currently supported will become demonstration projects



ERM's Claire Cummins (third from right) participating in site visit with cooperative members and ADP staff in Bugesera district, Rwanda.

serving as 'field-schools' for joint learning and sharing experience. As cooperatives grow and offer beneficial services to their members, the hope is they will attract more people to join the cooperative thus having a positive ripple effect in the local economy.

In addition to grant funding, ERM employees are working with ADP to provide advice on environmental best practice in farming techniques – including how agricultural cooperatives can respond to climate change.

In FY17, the ERM Foundation provided a \$51,000 grant to support sustainable farming techniques and capacity building for 140 female cooperative members in Rwanda and Uganda.

CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

During FY17 the ERM Foundation invested in programs that will protect more than **4,000** acres of natural habitat and plant **5,500** native trees and shrubs.



Harnessing data and technology to support conservation



REGIONAL FLAGSHIP PROJECT:

CREATING AN ONLINE INVENTORY TO SUPPORT THE CONSERVATION OF SPRING MIGRANT BIRDS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

Partner organization:

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>



ERM employees in Frankfurt making swift nest boxes on Earth Day.

The ERM Foundation's 'Flagship Project' in the Europe Middle East and Africa region (EMEA), is a partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) that seeks to reverse the decline of spring migrant birds in Europe and Africa, using the common swift as a focal species. In 2009, the common swift became an 'Amber Listed' bird of conservation concern.

The role of the ERM Foundation

Last year, a team of ERM's Geographical Information System (GIS), database and web development experts created a new online 'swift inventory' for RSPB's website, onto which members of the public can upload data on swift sightings, nesting sites, and also report absences of previously occupied nest sites. This will help RSPB to capture more accurate data and target

their conservation efforts more effectively. Following a soft launch in 2016, the site was launched formally in May 2017, to coincide with the start of the breeding season in Europe. During the soft launch period, 6,475 swift records were submitted by members of the public.

As part of this three-year partnership, in 2017-18 the ERM Foundation will fund a swift tagging program, to provide RSPB with a greater understanding of swifts' migration route across Europe and Africa. The objective is to obtain a clearer understanding of the potential factors contributing to their decline in numbers. This will commence in Spring/Summer, 2017.

Online swift inventory:

<https://swiftsurvey.org/Rspb/Home/Index>

ERM EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Wairimu Mwangi,
Project Engineer,
United States



“ I was drawn to the project with NSEA because it was a way to give back to the community I grew up in, using the skills and expertise from my current work. It has also provided a great opportunity to work with colleagues across ERM who understand and are passionate about habitat restoration and reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. I’ve really enjoyed how collaborative this project has been and the opportunities to learn more about the wider benefits of habitat restoration.”

REGIONAL FLAGSHIP PROJECT:
DEVELOPING A CARBON CALCULATOR TO MEASURE THE NET POSITIVE IMPACTS OF HABITAT INVESTMENT

Partner organization:
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
▶ <http://www.n-sea.org/>

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) is a US-registered nonprofit organization that works to improve river, creek and riparian habitat while educating people of all ages on how best to restore and conserve the habitat of Pacific salmon. ERM employees in Washington State have provided volunteer support for NSEA over a number of years, participating in a range of restoration activities.

The role of the ERM Foundation

The ERM Foundation’s North America ‘Flagship Project’ is a new partnership with NSEA. We are developing a carbon calculator that will enable NSEA and other habitat restoration groups to calculate and communicate the net positive carbon impacts of habitat investment. The objective is to provide an intuitive tool that can be used by a range of organizations to understand the wider benefits of habitat restoration, and build a strong case to restore and protect the natural environment. The calculator should be finished and available for use in 2019.



NSEA restoration activities in Washington State.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Inspiring the next generation of young learners to be responsible custodians of the natural environment

During FY17 the ERM Foundation invested in programs that will engage more than **13,500** people in environmental education.



FEATURED PROJECT:

CONNECTING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN WITH NATURE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Partner organization:

Millennium Kids

<http://www.millenniumkids.com.au/>



Millennium Kids 'On Country' program, Western Australia.

Millennium Kids is run by young people for young people in response to their demand to have a say about their environment and planet. This is achieved through partnerships that empower young people to explore, identify and address key environmental challenges and make change in their communities.

ERM employees in Perth, Australia have been working with Millennium Kids since 2013. This year we partnered on a program whereby indigenous children from Coolgardie, Western Australia, were taken on field trips to the Great Western Woodlands, to learn about its rich biodiversity. The objective is to re-connect the town-based children with their natural environment and re-establish the tradition of 'on country' learning. Ultimately, the Kids on Country team seeks to develop

the capacity to run 'Sharing Culture on Country' tours for visitors to the area. Young adults in the community have been trained in leadership and science skills to be able to turn this vision into a real, sustainable and independently run venture.

The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees in Perth have provided professional *pro bono* support and volunteer time to provide health, safety and environmental risk management support for weekend field trips into the woodlands - and also provided guidance during field events to help the children explore native species and take members of the public on bird spotting tours. The ERM Foundation also provided funding for the project to purchase camping equipment and pay the running costs of field events and tours for the next twelve months.

ERM EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Adam Birr,
Project Consultant,
United States



“ I am a former Peace Corps volunteer, a role that involved providing environmental education with a focus on water resource management in El Salvador. Now back in the United States, the ERM Foundation provided an opportunity to continue this type of work, through a relationship I forged with H2O for Life. The start of the Race2Reduce Water project has gone really well. After the successful completion of the pilot phase this year, we are looking to strengthen this partnership by expanding the project framework to other ERM offices in the United States and their local schools. We are all are looking forward to exciting and impactful times ahead!”

NEW PARTNERSHIP:

WORKING WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT WATER CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

Partner organization:

H2O for Life

▶ <https://www.h2oforlifeschools.org/>

H2O for Life provides service-learning opportunities for schools in the United States that help teachers and students raise awareness about the global water crisis, while taking action to raise funds for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) education programs for partner schools in developing countries.



Children from Matoska Elementary IB World School, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, participating in H2O for Life event.

The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees in Minneapolis are working with H2O for Life on a pilot project called 'Race2ReduceWater'. This initiative engages grade school children in service learning activities designed to improve understanding of water conservation and resource protection issues. ERM employees are delivering H2O's WASH framework within two schools initially, with a view to expand this program to other ERM offices in the year ahead. A grant of \$7,500 has also been provided by the ERM Foundation to support these activities.

ERM has more than 160 offices across the following countries and territories worldwide:

Argentina	Indonesia	Norway	Spain
Australia	Ireland	Panama	Sweden
Belgium	Italy	Peru	Switzerland
Brazil	Japan	Poland	Taiwan
Brunei	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Thailand
Canada	Kenya	Puerto Rico	United Arab Emirates
China	Malaysia	Romania	United Kingdom
Colombia	Mexico	Russia	United States
France	Mozambique	Senegal	Vietnam
Germany	Myanmar	Singapore	
Hong Kong	Netherlands	South Africa	
India	New Zealand	South Korea	

Contact: foundation@erm.com

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Cover photo: Africa Development Promise. Photo by LaChance Pickett Photography

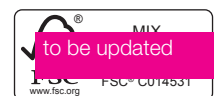
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