



# The ERM Foundation Annual Review 2016

Supporting sustainable development for more than 20 years



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# About the ERM Foundation

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The ERM Foundation was established in 1995 to enable ERM and its employees to provide technical, fundraising and volunteer support for non-profit organizations and social enterprises that share our commitment to creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

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**This year, we have undergone a process to align our activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in ways that make effective use of the professional skills and interests of ERM employees, globally.**

**The ERM Foundation focus areas are:**

- **Conservation and biodiversity**
- **Empowering women and girls<sup>1</sup>**
- **Environmental education**
- **Low carbon development**
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

<sup>1</sup> Enabling more women and girls to enter STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), and supporting female entrepreneurs who create sustainable livelihoods, particularly in developing countries.

<sup>2</sup> FY16: financial year ending 31 March 2016.

<sup>3</sup> All figures quoted in this document are in US dollars.

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**The ERM Foundation delivers support through four key programs:**

**Grant funding**

ERM employees engage in a wide range of fundraising activities in support of ERM Foundation projects. ERM employees have the opportunity to apply for company matching funds to amplify the money they have raised. Most organizations in receipt of grant funding also are supported by employee *pro bono* and/or volunteer time.

**Pro bono work**

ERM employees are able to provide professional support for selected non-profit organizations and social enterprises. We believe that by delivering technical assistance, we are able to make a greater impact than through grant funding alone. These *pro bono* projects, which are undertaken in collaboration with partner organizations, give our people inspiring and challenging opportunities to develop new skills while making a difference in the communities where we live and work.

**Regional flagship projects**

We aim to run a ‘flagship project’ in each of our regions. These longer term projects are undertaken in partnership with established non-profit organizations, and are led by employees from each region.

**Community volunteering**

ERM employees are encouraged to participate in community volunteering activities, typically organized by global environmental groups. These include annual events such as World Environment Day, the International Coastal Clean-up, Earth Day, and International Women’s Day. These activities are coordinated locally by ERM employees.

**Looking ahead**

As part of our re-alignment with the SDGs, we are in the process of identifying organizations with which to form longer-term strategic partnerships to make significant contributions to certain SDGs. This will include a focus on research-led initiatives and technology-based projects. We are also developing a more detailed monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the contribution we are making to the SDGs.

**During FY16<sup>2</sup>, ERM contributed more than \$1 million<sup>3</sup> globally to sustainability initiatives, primarily through the ERM Foundation and its programs.**

# CEO message



“In a year that saw COP21 and the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, there is now global consensus on the need to secure a more sustainable future for our planet. The ERM Foundation is one of the ways that we can make a direct contribution to this global agenda.”

John Alexander, CEO, ERM

As a business, ERM works with clients to address their sustainability challenges. Through the ERM Foundation, we have an opportunity to support non-profit organizations and social enterprises that share our commitment to creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

In a year that saw COP21 (Climate Change Summit in Paris) and the launch of the SDGs, there is now clear global consensus on the need to secure a more sustainable future for our planet. The ERM Foundation is one of the ways that we can make a direct contribution to this agenda.

We have prioritised eight of the SDGs that align most closely with our focus on water and sanitation, environmental education, conservation and biodiversity and low carbon development. We have also adopted 'Empowering women and girls' as a new focus area. In the year ahead, we will monitor and report on the contribution we are making to each of these eight SDGs.

This year we disbursed \$535,000 in grant funding, and ERM employees globally contributed more than 1,800 hours of *pro bono* technical support for non-profit organizations. The opportunity for ERM employees to participate in projects creates shared value by providing challenging and inspiring opportunities for our people, while delivering tangible results for our partner organizations, most of which would not otherwise be able to access the range of technical expertise that ERM can offer.

We have seen particular growth this year in projects with a strong technology focus, which reflects an emerging need for non-profit organizations to utilize modern technology to address the challenges that face our planet. For example, some of our Geographical Information System (GIS) experts have been working this year with a small Sierra Leone-based nongovernmental organization on a GIS modelling exercise to investigate suspected links between trends in forest fragmentation in West and Central Africa and animal-to-human transmission of the Ebola virus.

Our teams also have been working with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to create a sophisticated online inventory, onto which members of the public can upload data on spring migrant birds, enabling RSPB more effectively to build up a picture of where their resources should be targeted.

In addition to the many funding and technical support projects we undertake each year, ERM employees continue to volunteer their time in the communities where we live and work on activities associated with events such as Earth Day, World Environment Day and the International Coastal Clean-up.

I would like to thank all the ERM employees who give their time and energy to support the work of the ERM Foundation. This contribution really does make a difference to the many challenges we face as a global society.

**John Alexander**  
CEO, ERM

# The Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, the SDGs were adopted at a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. These replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 17 SDGs and 169 targets balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic.

These new SDGs are designed to guide governments, business, nongovernmental organizations and civil society for the next 15 years. The ERM Foundation will focus on eight SDGs and associated targets that align most closely with our priority areas.

## Priority SDGs for the ERM Foundation.

### Our approach:



Support female entrepreneurs who create sustainable livelihoods for women, particularly in developing countries



Enable access to clean, fuel-efficient cooking stoves in Africa, Latin America and developing countries in Asia



Provide access to environmental and sustainability-related education globally, particularly for young people, ensuring that girls are well represented



Improve access to 'STEM' careers for women and girls (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)



Promote access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, with particular emphasis on the needs of women and girls, including menstrual health and hygiene



Enable access to renewable energy products and services for off-grid communities, and improve energy efficiency by replacing carbon-intensive practices with more sustainable alternatives



Deliver education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity building on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction.



Encourage sustainable forest and natural resource management, restore degraded forests and protect biodiversity



SDG roundtable meeting for corporate foundations, hosted by the ERM Foundation in London, November 2015.

## Partnerships for sustainable development

We recognize the importance of global partnerships in realizing the SDGs, and work actively with other foundations and trusts to foster collaboration, and share insights and expertise.

The ERM Foundation is on the steering committee of an informal International Corporate Foundation Network, which arranges quarterly workshops and roundtables on a range of issues.

The objective of this network is to share information and best practice and enable greater collaboration between corporate foundations and other philanthropic entities.

As part of this network, the ERM Foundation hosted a meeting in London in November 2015 to discuss considerations for philanthropic institutions when deciding whether to align with the SDGs, and how organizations can work together to enhance their contribution to sustainable development.

# Empowering women and girls

As part of our alignment with the SDGs, the ERM Foundation has adopted 'Empowering women and girls' as a new focus area.<sup>1</sup> This recognizes the fact that female empowerment is not only a human rights obligation, it is also key to advancing sustainable development.

## Key issues for the ERM Foundation.

### Health and productivity

- Enable access to clean, fuel-efficient cooking stoves, so that women and girls spend less unproductive time gathering firewood, and are able to cook in more safe and healthy, smoke-free environments.
- Provide gender-appropriate toilet facilities and improve education related to menstrual health and hygiene, to enable more girls to attend school while they are menstruating.



### Economic empowerment

- Support female entrepreneurs who create sustainable livelihoods for women, enabling them to support their families and contribute to a productive economy.
- Enable more women and girls to enter STEM careers, to increase their earning potential and also improve diversity in an area that is currently under-represented by women.

<sup>1</sup> Existing focus areas of the ERM Foundation: Conservation and biodiversity, environmental education, low carbon development, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).



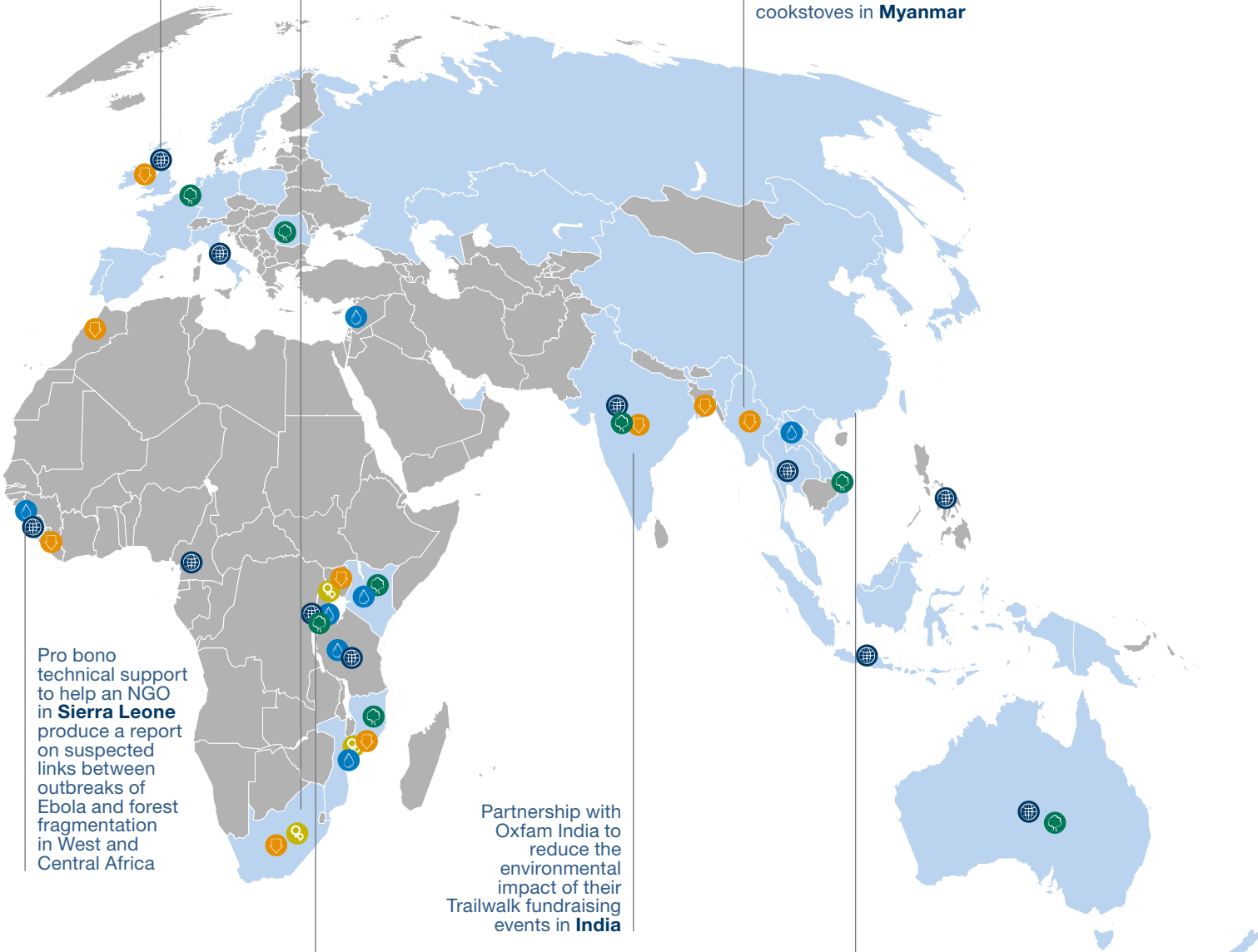


Pro bono technical support to create an online inventory for RSPB to help reverse decline in spring migrant birds in Europe and Africa

# \$16,000

grant to purchase solar lamps for 1,900 low income students in **South Africa**

New flagship project selected for Asia Pacific region to improve access to fuel-efficient cookstoves in **Myanmar**



Pro bono technical support to help an NGO in **Sierra Leone** produce a report on suspected links between outbreaks of Ebola and forest fragmentation in West and Central Africa

Partnership with Oxfam India to reduce the environmental impact of their Trailwalk fundraising events in **India**

# \$20,000

grant to provide clean water for 3,850 people in **Burundi**

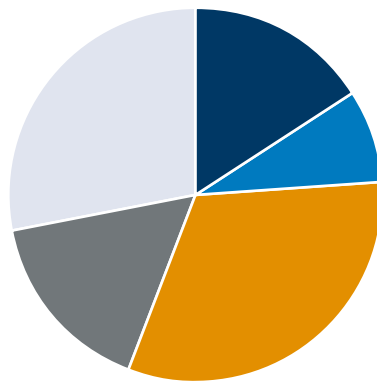
# \$10,000

raised at 'crowd funding' event to support young 'green' entrepreneurs in **Hong Kong**

# FY16 at a glance

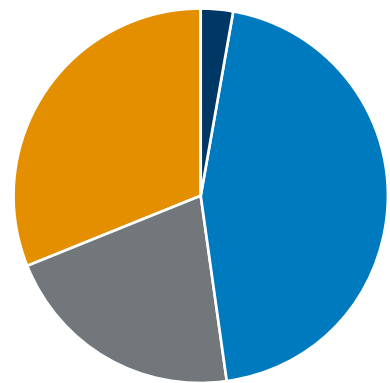
During FY16, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$535,000** in grants to support **59** projects in **26** countries.

Grants disbursed by project type (\$)



- Conservation and biodiversity 16%
- Empowering women and girls 8%
- Environmental education 32%
- Low carbon development 16%
- Water, sanitation and hygiene 28%

Grants disbursed by project location (\$)



- Asia-Pacific 3%
- Europe, Middle East and Africa 45%
- Latin America 21%
- North America 31%



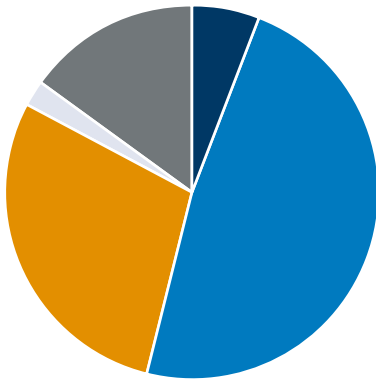
**\$4,000** grant for Ecologists Without Borders to co-fund a workshop in Mexico on Mangrove restoration. Employees from ERM's Mexico City office participated in the workshop and will provide ongoing *pro bono* support for this mangrove restoration initiative.



**\$9,700** grant to install a new water pipeline to the Masai village of Baraka in Tanzania, reaching 2,680 people. Previously the villagers, particularly women and children, had to walk long distances each day to fetch water.

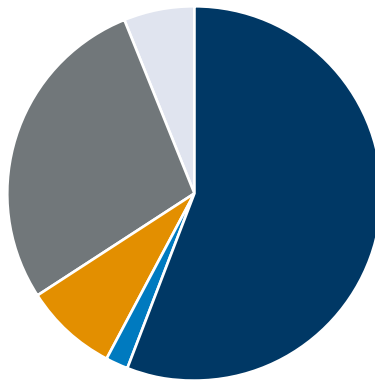


**Pro bono hours used by project location**



- Asia Pacific **6%**
- Europe, Middle East and Africa **48%**
- Latin America **29%**
- Multiple **2%**
- North America **15%**

**Pro bono hours used by focus area**



- Conservation and biodiversity **56%**
- Empowering women and girls<sup>1</sup> **2%**
- Environmental education **8%**
- Low carbon development **28%**
- Water, sanitation and hygiene **6%**

During FY16, ERM employees provided **1,800** hours of technical *pro bono* support for **45** projects located in **20** countries.

<sup>1</sup> New focus area adopted in FY16.



ERM Foundation team member from the United Kingdom presenting research into links between Ebola virus disease and forest fragmentation in Africa, at United Nations Development Program (UNDP) offices in Sierra Leone.



Sreemoyee Bhattacharyya and Anupreet Anand (ERM, India) received an award from Oxfam India for collaborating as an Environmental Partner in Oxfam's annual Trailwalker fundraising events. ERM employees in Mumbai and Bangalore have undertaken Environmental Impact Assessments and provided advice on how to reduce the impact of these activities on the environment.

# Regional flagship projects

We seek to operate a flagship project in each of our regions.

**These longer-term projects are nominated and selected by ERM employees and undertaken in partnership with established non-profit organizations, with the technical and fundraising support of ERM employees in each region.**

Last year we concluded our first flagship project in North America, which focussed on establishing a sustainable fishery in the Canadian Arctic. With our support, the project has now received significant external grant-funding for the next phase of the work. ERM employees in North America are in the process of identifying a new flagship project to start in FY17.

ERM employees in Latin America have selected a partnership with Waves for Water in Brazil as their new flagship project. This initiative will improve access to clean water for poorer communities in Brazil and neighboring countries.

## Flagship project in Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA): Conserving spring migrant birds in Europe and Africa

### 'Saving the Springtime'

Saving the Springtime is an EMEA-wide flagship project, aimed at reversing declining populations of spring migrant birds, with the common swift as the focus species.

The common swift breeds within Europe and migrates to central and southern Africa for the northern hemisphere winter. Loss of habitat and nesting sites has contributed to declines in breeding pairs. In 2009, the common swift became an 'Amber Listed' Bird of Conservation Concern.

ERM employees across Europe and Africa are working in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife International to raise funds and engage in awareness-raising activities, including working with school children to help them understand how they can protect spring migrant birds in their own communities.

In addition, a team of ERM's Geographical Information System (GIS), database development and web development experts are creating an intuitive on-line swift inventory for RSPB's website that will enable members of the public, initially in the United Kingdom, to upload data on locations of breeding swift populations. The site will provide a valuable tool to help the RSPB understand the reduction in swift numbers, and undertake measures to stem the decline.

Partner organization:  
Royal Society for the Protection  
of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife  
International partners  
<http://www.rspb.org.uk>





**ERM people profile**

Sergio Boggio, ERM, United Kingdom

“When the opportunity arose to serve as a project manager for the creation of a new online ‘Swift Inventory’ for RSPB, I was very excited. This combines my passion for conservation with an opportunity to develop new skills for creating web mapping applications. This project provides a unique collaborative opportunity for ERM’s GIS, Database Development and Web Development experts to create a completely customised web mapping experience that will integrate seamlessly with RSPB’s website and provide a powerful tool to support swift conservation.

I’m delighted to have the opportunity to lend my professional knowledge to make a meaningful and lasting contribution to this conservation initiative.”



# Regional flagship projects

This year, ERM employees in Asia Pacific have selected a new regional flagship project in Myanmar.

## Flagship project in Asia Pacific: Improving access to clean cookstoves in Myanmar

### 'Strengthening Improved Cookstove Access Towards a Better Quality of Life and Environment (SCALE) in Myanmar'

This project is being undertaken in partnership with GERES and seeks to promote large-scale access to efficient and cleaner biomass stoves for vulnerable populations in Myanmar.

GERES is a French nongovernmental organization, specializing in sustainable energy and environmental protection. GERES has been working for nearly 40 years to improve community living conditions and preserve natural resources.

More than 80 percent of Myanmar's 60 million population rely on wood or charcoal for their daily domestic energy needs, including cooking. This reliance can lead to high rates of respiratory disease and premature death caused by smoke inhalation, and also contributes to a 2 percent annual rate of deforestation. The use of inefficient cooking stoves in Myanmar has a particularly significant impact on women and girls, who are usually responsible for cooking and fetching firewood.

GERES aims to stimulate domestic demand for improved cookstoves in Myanmar and foster a policy environment that is supportive of positive climate and energy action.

#### The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees in Asia Pacific will collaborate with GERES on a number of key activities associated with the SCALE project, including:

- Create educational materials that can be used to target communities and help raise awareness about the benefits of adopting improved cookstoves.
- Design surveys to gather and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on user satisfaction and benefits relating to time-saving, cost-savings and reduced air pollution.
- Develop health and safety guidelines to inform and strengthen GERES' approach to systems and processes.
- Provide Geographical Information System (GIS) support to develop maps presenting data collected from the surveys, which will inform decision making.
- Design workshops to show potential distributors and/or customers how to use the stoves and the benefits associated with their use.

Partner organization:  
Groupe Energies Renouvelables,  
Environnement et Solidarités  
(GERES)

▶ <http://www.geres.eu/en/>



Women gathering firewood in Myanmar.

#### Cooking on open fires: global data

- 3 billion people cook on open fires
- 4 million premature deaths occur each year
- 800 million metric tons of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions arise each year
- 500 million tons of non-renewable wood are burned annually.

Source: Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves.





Most people in Myanmar cook on open fires, which contributes to deforestation, carbon emissions and respiratory disease caused by indoor air pollution.



# Conservation and biodiversity

During FY16, the ERM Foundation supported **29 conservation and biodiversity projects** with grant funding and/or *pro bono* professional support.



## Key issues for the ERM Foundation

Encourage sustainable forest and natural resource management, restore degraded forests and protect biodiversity

<b>Grants disbursed</b>	<b>\$88,000</b>
<b>Hours of <i>pro bono</i> technical support provided by ERM employees</b>	<b>1,030</b> hours
<b>Project locations</b>	Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States
<b>Conservation highlight</b>	<b>4,000</b> trees planted and more than <b>7,000km<sup>2</sup></b> of watershed restored in FY16

## Featured project:

### Investigating links between forest fragmentation and outbreaks of Ebola virus disease in Africa

The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) is a Sierra Leone-based nongovernmental organization, working since 1992 to facilitate community-led programs for sustainable forest management as a basis for poverty alleviation in Africa. The ERM Foundation has been working with EFA since 2012.

EFA approached the ERM Foundation at the height of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, to investigate suspected links between forest fragmentation in West and Central Africa and outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD). The results from this original research are potentially significant and suggest that a specific configuration of forest-fragmentation parameters may increase the likelihood of the Ebola virus passing from its wildlife host (frequently hypothesised to be bats) into the human population.

Central to the research was an ERM-led GIS modelling exercise that analyzed satellite imagery at the locations of seven EVD 'index case' locations. This provided understanding of the empirical conditions in which the initial animal-to-human transmission of the Ebola virus took place. In six out of seven of the cases we studied, EVD emerged where and when forest fragmentation parameters were within a narrow range of values. The report also analyzed bats' response to fragmented forest landscapes.

Partner organization:  
Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA)

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

The results suggest that in such conditions it may be more likely for unusual assemblages of species, including humans and bats, to come into closer and more frequent contact than would normally be the case – potentially in conditions favourable to disease transmission.

In September 2015, a report of the research findings was launched formally by EFA and the ERM Foundation in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

**The ERM Foundation has since co-funded an EFA-led workshop in Sierra Leone, which brought together regional technical experts to review the report findings and start identifying concrete recommendations to feed into post-EVD recovery planning in the three worst affected countries.**



Regional technical meeting in Sierra Leone to review research findings, December 2015.



**Partner profile**

**Jamison Suter. Chairman, Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA)**

“Working with the ERM Foundation allowed EFA to tap into the technical expertise of ERM staff, in ways that a small NGO could not otherwise have accessed. This enabled us to tackle a large, complex research project in real time as the Ebola crisis unfolded – and ensure that the research findings are inserted in strategic dialogue and planning in post-Ebola West Africa.”

Read the report: Ebola virus disease and forest fragmentation in Africa <http://goo.gl/71sTaj>

# Low carbon development

During FY16, the ERM Foundation supported 16 low carbon development projects with grant funding and/or *pro bono* professional support.



## Key issues for the ERM Foundation

Enable access to renewable energy products and services for off-grid communities, and improve energy efficiency by replacing carbon-intensive practices with more sustainable alternatives

### Grants disbursed

**\$83,000**

### Hours of *pro bono* technical support provided by ERM employees

**510** hours

### Project locations

Morocco, Myanmar, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States

### Low carbon highlight

**1,680** solar lamps purchased for young learners in South Africa who live in informal settlements

## Featured project:

### Solar energy for off-grid communities in rural Guatemala



ERM employees with Kingo team and customers in Guatemala.

Kingo Energy is a Guatemala-based social enterprise that provides affordable, pre-paid solar energy for off-grid rural communities. This presents poorer families with a cleaner, safer and more reliable alternative to burning candles or kerosene for household lighting.

In FY15, the ERM Foundation invested \$200,000 in Kingo through our Low Carbon Enterprise Fund (LCEF). This helped Kingo to expand its operations, hire new staff and complete 2,300 new solar installations, with more than 11,000 direct beneficiaries.

In FY16, ERM employees from the United States worked with Kingo, as part of a pilot ERM Foundation Entrepreneurship Development Program, in which ERM employees were given the challenge to work with a small social enterprise to address a specific business challenge.

This was not only beneficial to Kingo, but also provided the ERM team with a valuable opportunity to develop new leadership and problem-solving skills.

### Partner organization:

**Kingo Energy**

<http://kingoenergy.com/>

The team focussed on improving Kingo's data collection methods and helping them extend their reach outside of Guatemala. Specifically, after spending an intense week in Guatemala, the ERM team developed a sophisticated screening tool that Kingo can now use to determine which regions and countries would respond most effectively to their business model. By replicating Kingo's successful operations in other locations, they will be able to help bring affordable and reliable energy to some of the world's 1.4 billion people with no access to electricity, 30 million of whom live in Latin America.





**ERM people profile**  
**Suzanne Dolberg, United States**

“Prior to working on this project I had limited experience of the type of work we would be performing. The experience of stepping outside of my field of knowledge was both humbling and rewarding, and working out how to add real value to Kingo’s operations was a challenge. By rising to this challenge and delivering a useful tool for Kingo, my own self-confidence has grown. I’m grateful to have had this opportunity, as it has helped me develop personally and professionally.”





# Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

During FY16, the ERM Foundation supported 16 WASH projects with grant funding and/or *pro bono* professional support.



## Key issues for the ERM Foundation

Improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, with particular emphasis on the needs of women and girls, including menstrual health and hygiene

<b>Grants disbursed</b>	<b>\$148,500</b>
<b>Hours of <i>pro bono</i> technical support provided by ERM employees</b>	<b>103</b> hours
<b>Project locations</b>	Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Haiti, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Nicaragua, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tanzania
<b>WASH highlight</b>	<b>60,000</b> people with access to improved water, sanitation or hygiene facilities

## Featured project:

### Improving access to clean water in Burundi

Approximately 25 percent of Burundi's 10.7 million population does not have access to clean water. The majority of these people live in rural areas where they are forced to walk several kilometers each day to fetch untreated water. This contributes to a high prevalence of potentially fatal water-borne disease such as typhoid, and is also a major factor in limiting access to education and economically productive activities, particularly for women and children who bear the main burden of fetching water.

The Gazelle Foundation was established in 2006 with a mission to improve access to clean water in this often overlooked country. Since 2009 the Gazelle Foundation has constructed 28 spring-fed water systems in southern Burundi, reaching 54,000 villagers through 139 kilometers of pipeline.

This year the ERM Foundation provided a grant of \$20,000 to help the Gazelle Foundation install 14 water distribution fountains in the Bururi Province of Burundi, reaching 3,850 people. Prior to the installation, there was an infant mortality rate of nearly 20 percent, directly attributable to cases of diarrhoea and water-borne bacteria.



Partner organization:  
the Gazelle Foundation  
<https://gazellefoundation.org>

GAZELLE FOUNDATION

**\$20,000**

grant to bring clean water  
to 3,850 villagers in Burundi.



# Environmental education

During FY16, the ERM Foundation supported **25** environmental education projects with grant funding and/or *pro bono* professional support.



## Key issues for the ERM Foundation

Provide access to environmental and sustainability-related education globally, particularly for young people, ensuring that girls are well represented

## Grants disbursed

**\$170,000**

## Hours of *pro bono* technical support provided by ERM employees

**145** hours

## Project locations

Guatemala, India, Kenya, Netherlands, Romania, Uganda, United States

## Environmental education highlight

**63,000** people in receipt of environmental or sustainability-related education or training from ERM Foundation funding

## Featured project:

## Engaging urban youth in environmental stewardship programs in the United States

The mission of Conservation Corps is to help young people from diverse backgrounds engage in community-based conservation activities that connect inner-city youth to the natural environment, and prepare them for future employment.

The ERM Foundation has been working with Conservation Corps Minnesota since 2011. This year we co-funded a Youth Outdoors Program aimed at engaging urban youth in environmental stewardship and education through service-learning activities.

This includes planting rain gardens with native plant species, removing invasive species from parks, promoting recycling efforts in community centers and undertaking clean-up activities in recreational and other public places. Approximately 25 percent of the time utilizes Minnesota's environmental science curriculum, giving participants the opportunity to earn credits towards their graduation, while also providing an important environmental and community service.

Employees from ERM's Minneapolis office volunteer with Conservation Corps at events such as Earth Day and are also exploring opportunities to serve as Youth Mentors.

## Key project outcomes:

- 14,273 hours of job training, civic leadership and environmental service-learning provided for participating students.
- 56 percent of participating students received credit toward high school graduation.
- 3,833 trees planted.
- 341 acres of parkland cleared of waste.



Photo: Conservation Corps





Employees from ERM's Kenya office are working with local school children as part of the school's 'Wildlife Club', to provide hands-on education sessions on the importance of environmental conservation in Kenya. The team plans to provide one session each term, covering a range of activities including establishing a tree nursery and undertaking clean-up activities in the Ngong Hills Forest Reserve in Kajiado County.



# The Low Carbon Enterprise Fund

The Low Carbon Enterprise Fund (LCEF), an impact investment fund, was established in 2007 as a program of the ERM Foundation.

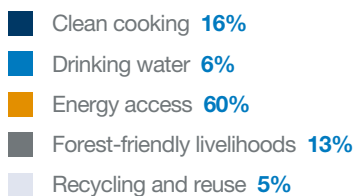
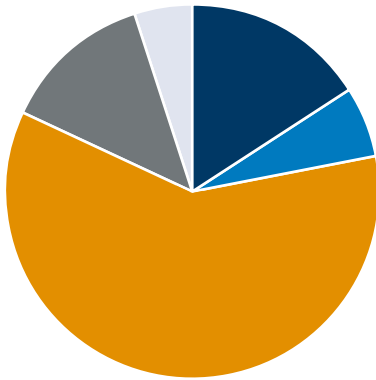
**The LCEF provides financial, technical and management support for low carbon entrepreneurs operating in developing countries.**

Globally, more than 1.4 billion people do not have access to grid-supplied electricity. This is a serious barrier to development and also contributes to carbon emissions and environmental degradation, as many people are reliant on firewood, kerosene or diesel for their basic energy needs.

In response to these challenges, the LCEF was established to build sustainable, commercially-viable businesses that create access to clean energy and/or reduce carbon emissions while supporting local livelihoods. The entrepreneurs the LCEF has worked with have been supported by ERM employees with the provision of technical support, on a *pro bono* basis.

Since 2008, the LCEF has invested **\$1.9 million** in **18** low carbon businesses in Africa, Latin America and developing Asia.

**Funds invested since 2008  
(total \$1.9 million)**



Nazava. Affordable water filters in Indonesia, replacing the need to boil water using firewood.



Kingo Energy: replacing Kerosene with solar energy in Guatemala.



Sustaintech. Fuel-efficient cookstoves for street food vendors in India.



Kamworks. Solar lamps for off-grid villagers in Cambodia (photo by Mathieu Young).



In FY16, the ERM Foundation provided a grant of **\$20,000** to support the conservation of the Omo, Shasha and Oluwa Forest Reserves in south-western Nigeria. These forests are situated in the transition zone between the biologically distinct Upper and Lower Guinea forests.

The funds will be used to establish forest base camps and provide training for staff. These Reserves are internationally recognised for their biodiversity importance including being home to threatened species including forest elephants.

30 percent of global forest cover has been cleared, while a further 20 percent has been degraded. Most of the rest has been fragmented, leaving only about 15 percent intact. Forest ecosystems play a critical role in stabilizing the climate, supporting biodiversity and providing livelihoods for more than 1 billion people.

Source: World Resources Institute



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

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

**Contact:** [foundation@erm.com](mailto:foundation@erm.com)

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

Cover photo: Water Collective, Kimber Jauss. In FY16, the ERM Foundation provided a grant of \$18,000 to the Water Collective, bringing clean water to 2,500 people in Cameroon.

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