2018

Annual Report

Restore the Earth
FOUNDATION

Restore the Earth
FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

2018 was a whirlwind of exploration, innovation and opportunity at Restore the Earth Foundation!

Working with our valued Board, staff, corporate, philanthropic, and public collaborative partners, Restore the Earth continued to deploy landscape scale environmental restoration initiatives that produce measurable environmental, economic and social benefits and value.

Inspired by the vision to live up to our name “Restore the Earth” we continued restoring critical ecosystems within the Mississippi River basin while increasing our focus on the socially restorative aspects of our work.

We believe that to be successful in the long run, environmental restoration must go hand in hand with the restoration of our social fabric. You’ll see on pages 23-25 how we are continuing our work to ensure the integration of restoration and social impact in the “Restore the Earth In the Community” section.

In early fall, we spearheaded an exciting partnership to bring **10 billion gallons** of fresh river water per year to the Pointe-aux-Chenes wetland restoration project (pages 16-17). By retrofitting existing infrastructure, this simple, cost-effective solution will demonstrate how hundreds of existing pumps along the gulf coast could be utilized to sustain, expand and begin to reverse wetland loss when not being used for flood or storm events.

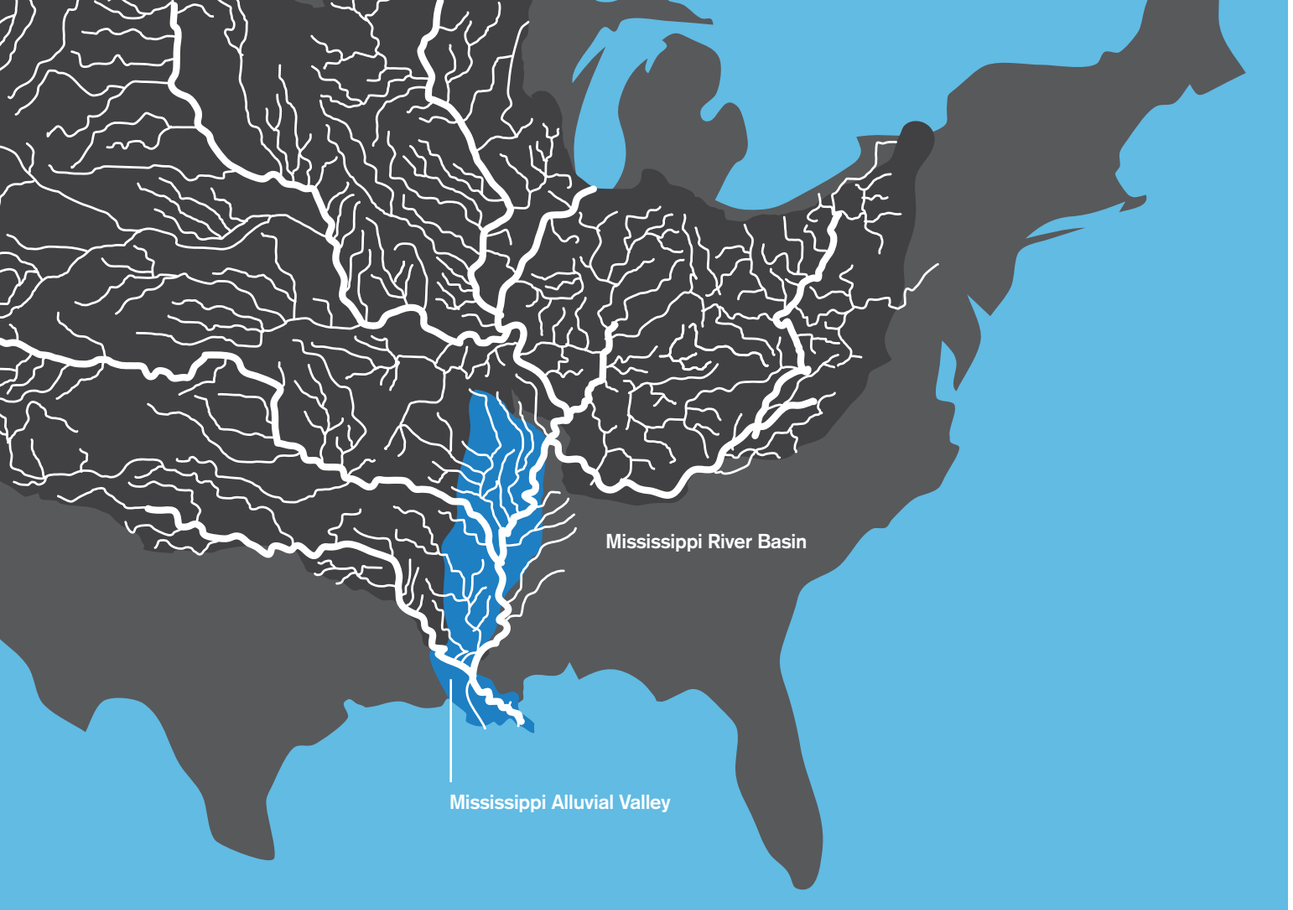
In 2019, with the Impact Investment Fund, US BCSD Collaborative Fund, China Global Philanthropy Institute and our diverse group of partners, we will continue to extend and amplify our work to reforest more of the **1 million acres of degraded land in “North America’s Amazon”**. This is an area with the largest concentration of underserved communities in the United States, and the need for environmental and social restoration go hand and hand.

Connecting the dots between environmental restoration and social and economic resilience is a key component of our work. By demonstrating the intricate value created for local communities, economies, and the environment, we can “unlock” the case for the needed investments in landscape scale restoration.

We cannot do this work alone, and are deeply grateful for the amazing partnerships we have created throughout our journey to restore the Earth! We look forward to deepening existing partnerships and creating new ones throughout 2019, and to all the amazing work that lies ahead.

P.J. Marshall
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Marv Marshall
Co-Founder & CEO



North America's Amazon

At Restore the Earth we know that it's possible to go beyond just protecting our environment; it's possible to restore it. And when you restore the environment at a landscape scale, it creates incredible value for business, communities and the Earth. We are restoring 1 million acres in the Mississippi River Basin, North America's Amazon. We have the business case to support major private investment in restoration with verifiable returns. We're leading a movement that recognizes we can do more than just protect the Earth—we can restore it.

The Million Acre Opportunity

Iconic, vast and essential, the Mississippi River Basin is the third largest watershed on Earth.

It is considered "North America's Amazon," in the very heart of our nation. It encompasses over 40% of the contiguous US, spanning 31 states & two Canadian provinces. 60% of all the fresh water flowing into the Gulf of Mexico comes through the Mississippi River. The importance of this ecosystem is not just national, it plays a global role in climate change, the water cycle and ocean acidification. It's an economic and environmental powerhouse. Millions of people and billions of dollars depend on the benefits it provides, from national and international commerce and transportation, recreation and tourism to hurricane defenses, clean air and water and climate change mitigation.

The Challenges

North America's Amazon generates significant value to the national economy despite the fact that over the last 100 years it has been depleted, altered and degraded. The southernmost region of the river basin is the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, the most ecologically degraded region in North America - originally 24 million acres of forest, now only 5 million acres of forest remain.

In Louisiana's coastal areas alone, we are losing wetlands the size of a football field every hour. Imagine the value it could provide if we restore it.

#1
most ecologically degraded region in North America

80%
of forested wetlands have disappeared

6,400yd2/h
Louisiana loses wetlands the size of 1 football field every hour

#1
largest concentration of underserved communities in the US

The Opportunity

Restore the Earth is restoring 1 million acres of ecosystems in North America's Amazon over the next 15 years through private/public partnerships. Restoring these natural systems will reduce America's climate footprint by 2%, start to reverse the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico by 12%, reduce business risk, make communities more resilient, enhance health and well-being, create jobs and improve livelihoods. US Fish and Wildlife Service and their partners have identified every acre of the million waiting to be restored. This is not just talk, this work is already under way!

2%
reduction in US emissions

$11.9B
integrated value generated

12.5%
reversal in the impact of the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico

2018 Highlights

China & the Sister Rivers Alliance

In April 2018, Restore the Earth and the Changjiang Conservation Foundation signed a MOU as an official commitment to share, collaborate and bridge reforestation initiatives on the Mississippi & Yangtze Rivers. We accepted an invitation by the Foundation and China Global Philanthropy Institute to spend 3 weeks in China in August. We were delighted by the culture, history, hospitality, food and GREEN! Over 66 billion trees planted and 66 billion more committed. Read about our adventures here.

EcoMetrics Milestones

We know that planting 1 million acres of trees is good for the Earth, but in order to attract major investment to make reforestation happen, we needed to account for the impact and value created for communities, economies and the environment. That's what EcoMetrics does.

EcoMetrics is an innovative suite of analytic and reporting tools. Stakeholder based and scientifically driven, EcoMetrics accounts, in monetary terms, for the full value of environmental, social and economic impacts of investment in natural capital and green infrastructure.

In 2018, EcoMetrics became its own LLC, led by Ed Piñero, President. Richard Landry, REF's Chief Strategy Officer, completed assurance requirements with Social Value International for SVI's accreditation of EcoMetrics. He also completed alignment elements with the International Integrated Reporting Council's framework for EcoMetrics. Development of an accessible digital platform is underway.

Click here for SVI's Interview with our Chief Strategy Officer

Making Headlines

In 2018 we had a lot to say about how reforestation is a critical solution to climate change, and why investing in landscape scale reforestation is good for business. Our op'eds, blogs and interviews were featured in Forbes, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, 1% for the Planet and other publications.
Click here for links to our articles and blogs.

GreenBiz · 1% FOR THE PLANET · LEONARDO DICAPRIO FOUNDATION · Forbes · THE HUFFINGTON POST

Around the World Events Highlights

We work with exceptional partners all over the globe, and we feel that big impact often starts with sitting around the table in person, listening and learning from each other. In 2018, Restore the Earth Foundation participated in some exciting opportunities to engage partners and share our million acre reforestation mission.

East-West Philanthropy Summit, Big Island of Hawaii, January. PJ and Marv Marshall received the "Pioneers of the Planet" award.

Stanford Carbon Round Table, Palo Alto, California, February. Restore the Earth, co-sponsored with Stanford, VMware and Latham & Watkins, shared and explored carbon emission reduction strategies with corporate environmental and sustainability executives.

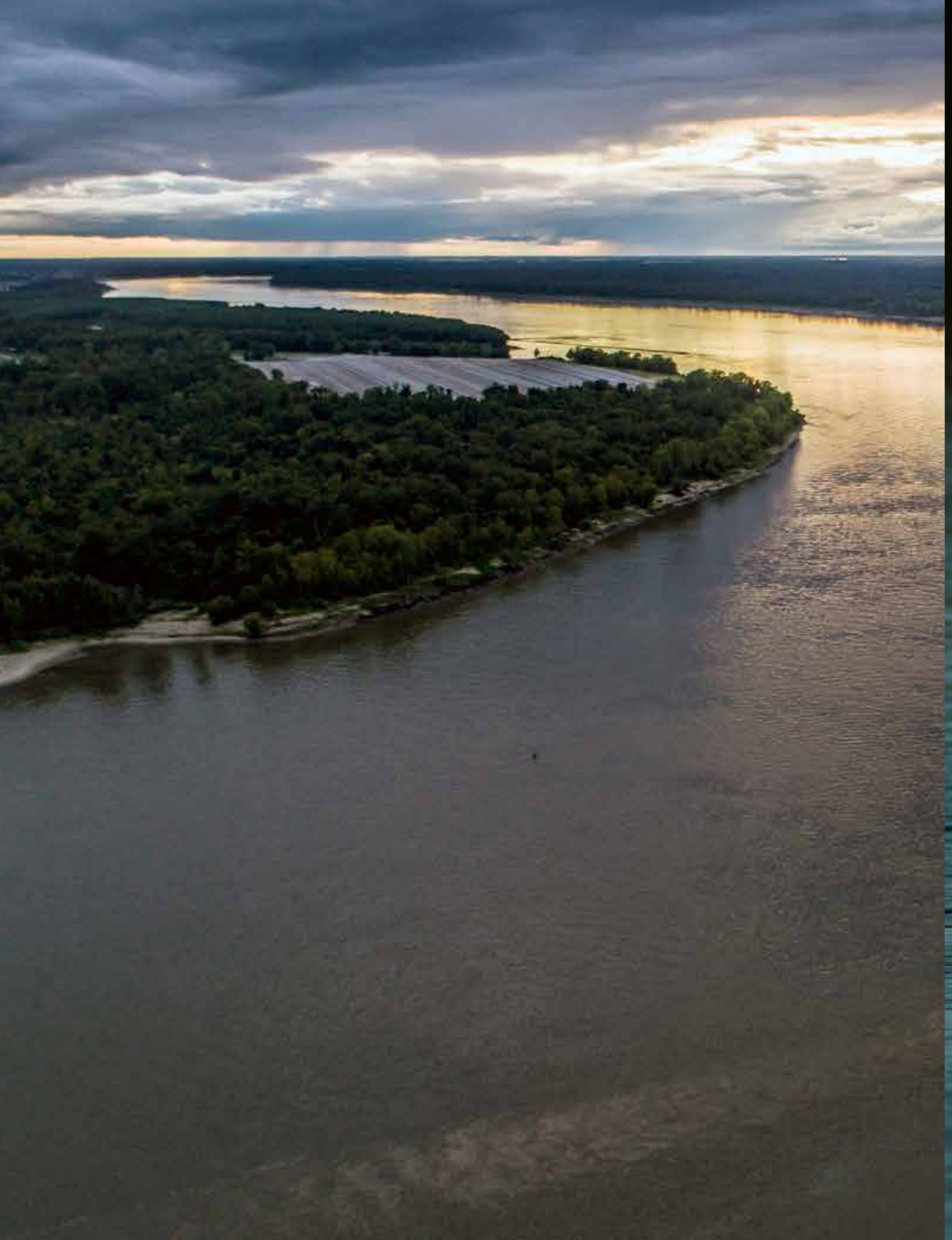
State of the Coast, New Orleans, Louisiana, May. Restore the Earth, along with its regional partners, updated attendees on our continuing restoration projects along the coast as well as our 1 million-acre initiative in the Mississippi River Basin.

Walton Arts Center Artosphere, Fayetteville, Arkansas, June. Restore the Earth was featured on a live interview about nature based solutions to climate change.

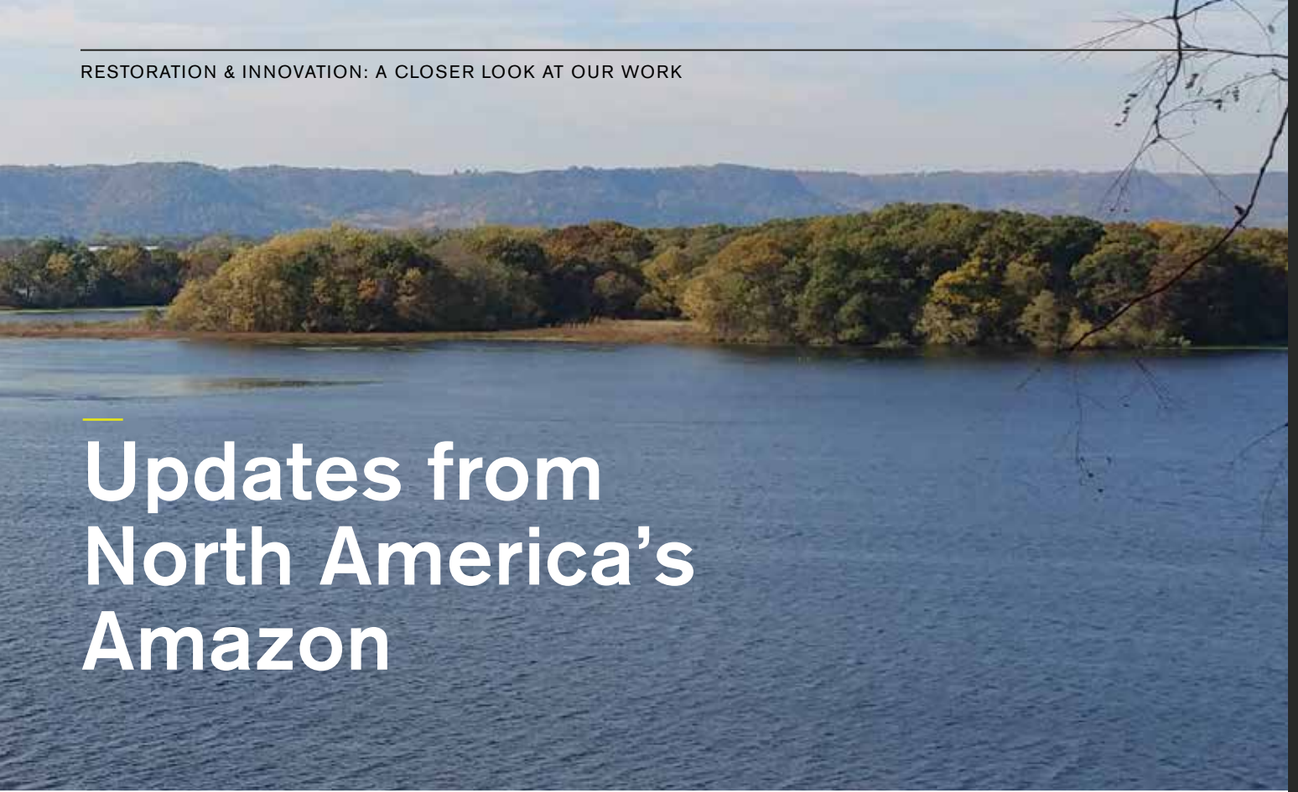
China Global Philanthropy Institute, All over China, August. As guest of GCPI, Restore the Earth presented its Visionary "North America's Amazon" initiative, and visited and learned about multiple environmental initiatives underway throughout China.

Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco, California, September. Restore the Earth officially launched its $50 million Impact Investment Fund, while taking part in national and international discussions focused on forest carbon, a cost effective, nature based solution to climate change. The Summit highlighted the importance of national and international partnerships to address critical environmental issues.

Stanford Investment Forum, Palo Alto, California, November. Restore the Earth was back at Stanford at a convening of family offices and philanthropists to discuss how EcoMetrics supports the business case for major investment in nature based solutions like reforestation, and introduce the features of our $50 million Impact Investment Fund.



Restoration & Innovation:
A Closer Look at Our Work



Updates from North America's Amazon

Since launching Restore the Earth's 1 million acre initiative in 2016 across the Mississippi River Basin, "North America's Amazon", we continue to work closely with our public and private partners toward accomplishing more:

US Business Council for Sustainable Development + Restore the Earth Collaborative Fund is in Phase II. As funding has become available, reforestation has been implemented on the 1,000 acre Phase II site.

Restore the Earth officially launched its $50 million Impact Investment Fund at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, attracting resources to amplify investment, and accelerate reforestation.

Restore the Earth received its 13th USDA funding award, supporting and continuing its 9 year partnership of reforestation along the Mississippi River coastal forested wetlands.

Restore the Earth's visionary initiative gained international recognition, by the China Global Philanthropy Institute, inviting the REF team to China to share, collaborate and bridge initiatives on the Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers.

Landscape scale restoration has been making headlines recently, as a significant cost effective nature based solution to address climate change. Major commitments have been announced globally & nationally, supporting our work and highlighting that these solutions also provide for quantifiable environmental, social and economic benefits.

California Climate Action Reserve launched its Climate Forward Program, driving a "new market option to accelerate climate action".

Restore the Earth, with technical support and guidance from Climate Action Reserve and Carbon Disclosure Project, produced an informational white paper, "Forests: The Carbon Removal Technology for Today".

There is growing recognition for the ability of landscape scale restoration to address climate change and excess carbon in the atmosphere. Microsoft recently called forest carbon "the crown jewel" of their carbon offset portfolio, Royal Dutch Shell announced its "Sky Scenario", Amazon its "Shipment Zero" and IUCN stated that nature based solutions are key to keeping global temperature increases under 2°C.

Restore the Earth's EcoMetrics was accredited by Social Value International and the International Integrated Reporting Council, and is aligned with the Alliance for Water Stewardship standards. These milestones provide enhanced incentives for corporate investment in North America's Amazon along with the metrics to track and measure achievement towards corporate targets and goals (i.e. social impact, water replenishment, carbon reductions, etc.).

The Business Case Supporting Restore the Earth's North America's Amazon Project Features

Portfolio of 1 million acres of identified, prioritized and shovel ready projects

Innovative Funding Mechanism, match $1 of private funding to public funding to total $3, to amplify investment and acres restored

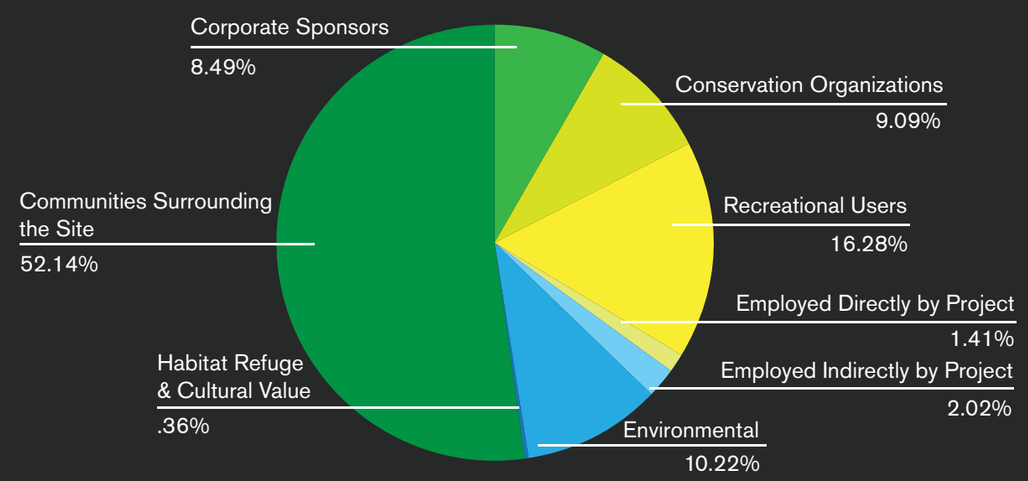
Revolving Fund, allowing REF to recapture and redeploy funds to scale restoration

Stakeholder Based & Scientifically Driven

Charismatic Carbon Offsets, cost effective carbon emission reduction with valuable co-benefits

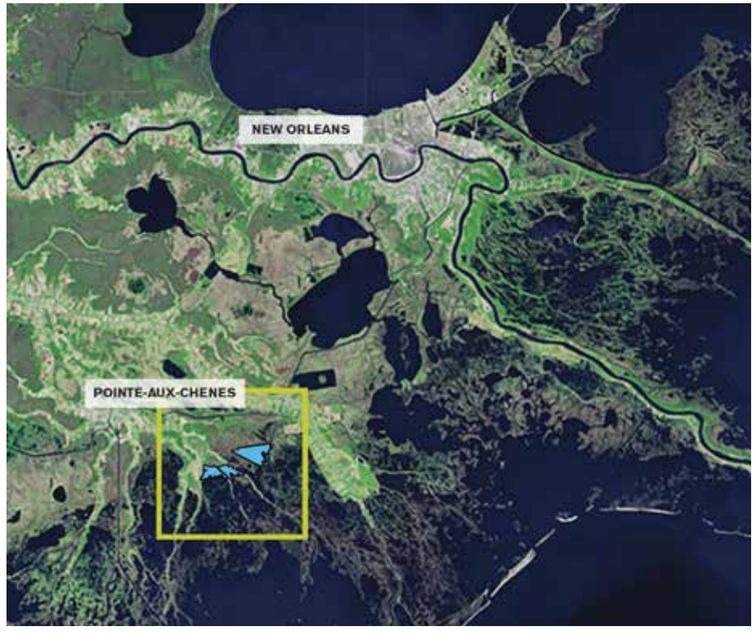
Restoring at landscape scale results in major impacts. Restore the Earth can measure Impact with its EcoMetrics, accounting, in monetized terms for the Full environmental, social and economic value creation

Social Value Benefits By Stakeholder Group Tensas River Project



Application of EcoMetrics to restoration project in Tensas demonstrates substantial value created for the community as a result of reforestation.

Pointe-aux-Chenes Historic Bald Cypress Restoration



What's at stake

- Threatened, critical and/or endangered species
- Recreational activities: hunting, fishing, bird watching
- Support of heritage and culture: two native tribes located adjacent to the WMA
- Economic value for commercial and recreational fisheries
- Critical fish and bird habitat

Our focus on landscape scale restoration - all 1 million acres - is a huge undertaking. At Restore the Earth we love a challenge, but we know we cannot do it alone. We work closely with our private, state and federal partners to identify large-acreage project sites that will have the most meaningful impact in the landscapes, ecosystems and communities where we work.

One of these sites is the Pointe-aux-Chenes reforestation project, a 5,000 acre historic bald cypress forested wetland located at the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Montegut, Louisiana. It's the most utilized WMA in Louisiana, so it's an area that's accustomed to visitors. Located in the delta of the Mississippi River Basin, it serves as wintering and migration habitat for 15 species of waterfowl and 300 species of Neotropical birds traveling to North America from South America, since it is one of the first fueling stops after a long journey. Pointe-aux-Chenes is home to the American alligator and a variety of other game and fur-bearing species. It is also the beginning of the food chain for the whole Caribbean Basin and the finfish, shellfish, dolphins and others who depend on this area.

This project, brought to us by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), also serves as critical storm protection and aids in community resilience for 200,000+ residents of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. These 5,000 acres represent the last large landmass protecting these Parishes from the open water of the Gulf of Mexico.

With collaboration being at the core of our project ethos, Restore the Earth and our Strategic Alliance partners, the US Business Council for Sustainable Development (US BCSD), developed a Collaborative Fund. Corporate members of the US BCSD and others joined together to invest in the fund to restore the first 1,000 acres and have the greatest collective impact.

Helping to restore the forest at Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA enhances and protects the overall health, resiliency and sustainability of human and animal communities.

"This restoration helps protect lives and property, and provides critical habitat for a variety of wildlife so vital to the livelihoods, identity and culture of the residents of this parish."

Mart Black

Director
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Office of Coastal Restoration & Preservation

Benefits of landscape-scale restoration

- Enhanced coastal wetland and watershed systems
- Restored native wildlife and fisheries
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Local jobs created, to initiate and implement the project
- Protected local communities and indigenous nations/tribes from risks associated with storm and flood events
- More opportunities for sustainable hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife watching
- Increased economic opportunities generated by recreation and tourism
- Improved water quality

Partners making this innovative project happen:

Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries · United States Business Council for Sustainable Development · South Louisiana Wetlands · Terrebonne Parish · National Fish and Wildlife Foundation NFWF · res · ERM · Freeport-McMoRan · The Coca-Cola Foundation · Grove Collaborative · vmware · The Water Institute of the Gulf · Shell · Eileen Fisher · Citgo · lyft · Entergy · Timberland PRO

Bayou Terrebonne Freshwater Diversion Project

For residents in Terrebonne Parish along coastal Louisiana, flooding is a part of life - with extensive impacts on friends and families' livelihoods and property. To help deal with this, the Parish operates an extensive system of drainage pump stations and conveyance channels in an effort to keep its residents dry. Currently, the system operates as a drainage system approximately 40 days per year as needed during rain and storm events that might cause flooding.

Restore the Earth Foundation has been working in Terrebonne Parish for a decade, and while our work focuses on restoring forest and wetland ecosystems, we know that the community is inextricably intertwined with those natural ecosystems. So when we learned that our partners in the Parish had been working to figure out a way to utilize their drainage system more efficiently, with benefits to both residents and the surrounding wetlands and ecosystems, we jumped on board. Encouraged by the attention and success of our 5,000 acre bald cypress reforestation underway at Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area (WMA), our partners brought to us the Bayou Terrebonne Freshwater Diversion Project.

We already had the community partners ready and willing to help, the project just needed a jump-start. Restore the Earth gathered everyone at the table - Terrebonne Parish, corporations, local businesses, regional utility, State and Federal agencies, and not for profits.

The project, designed by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Terrebonne Parish, and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), takes a common sense approach, retrofitting existing pump infrastructure to create an innovative, integrated and coordinated system that serves the dual purposes of community flood management and introduction of freshwater back into the degraded system for wetland restoration.

Retrofitting existing pump infrastructure creates a diversion to move approximately **10 BILLION gallons of freshwater per year,** including the nutrients and sediments originating from the Mississippi River into the Pointe-aux-Chenes wetlands in Central and Eastern Terrebonne Parish. This freshwater diversion will enhance conditions for the creation of wetlands to support Restore the Earth's 5,000 acre cypress restoration at Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

We love being part of a win-win solution for communities and our ecosystems that can be easily scaled and replicated across the coast, supporting resilience and storm protection.

Benefits

Improved water quality and quantity

Protection of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish communities

10 Billion Gallons per year input of nutrient rich freshwater into the Pointe-aux-Chenes bald cypress reforestation site

Protection of adjacent native tribes including the Point au Chien and United Houma Nation

Enhanced healthy freshwater habitat which promotes the creation of emergent wetlands and the maintenance of land

"This project's use of an existing drainage system's infrastructure for the dual purpose of providing flood control and coastal restoration benefits is the first of its kind in Louisiana. Using the existing infrastructure for mutual benefit is a common sense approach to building synergy into the coastal communities' approach to both coastal restoration and protection. This project will demonstrate how collaborative partnership between private/public efforts can serve to improve efficiencies within the community to mutual benefit and multiple purposes. It is an approach we are confident can be replicated across the gulf coast, starting with 20 Parishes right here in Louisiana."

Ron Boustany
Natural Resources Specialist
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Partners making this innovative project happen:

Terrebonne Parish · Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries · NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service · Ducks Unlimited · The Water Institute of the Gulf · The Coca-Cola Foundation · Entergy · Shell · Associated Pump & Supply LLC

Water Quality Trading Program

Similar to the voluntary carbon market gaining traction in many states throughout the country, Water Quality Trading is a trend on the rise with many states such as Arizona, California and Colorado. Water Quality Trading (WQT) is an innovative, market-based and cost-effective mechanism to help achieve local water quality improvements as directed by EPA standards.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is currently developing a WQT program, supported by state legislation and consistent with the Clean Water Act, and state and federal law. Water Quality Trading programs allow for the adoption of point-to-point and point-to-non-point Water Quality Trading within a watershed, for companies looking to offset and/or improve their impacts.

We are excited that Restore the Earth Foundation's Pointe-aux-Chenes Bald Cypress Restoration project and Bayou Terrebonne Freshwater Diversion Project are both listed as WQT pilot projects through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. These are coastal restoration and freshwater replenishment projects that are scalable and replicable across the coast. By participating in the WQT program pilot process, these projects will inform the final program principles and guidelines, providing the foundation for future investment in similar projects as means of achieving WQT needs, all while providing for meaningful restoration and protection across Louisiana's coast.

Our partners at The Water Institute of the Gulf will be monitoring, measuring and reporting on our projects' impacts to water quality and quantity in the wetlands and watershed. The results in their reports will help inform the final rule-making for the WQT program as it relates to the ability of coastal wetland restoration activities to assimilate effluent and improve water resources within a watershed.

The creation and finalization of a WQT program in the State of Louisiana will be yet another significant tool in our tool box to incentivize and mobilize large-scale investments in landscape scale projects.

Significance

The Pointe-aux-Chenes project is already vetted and approved by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

"On the ground" impact demonstrated through independently verified and third party validated reporting formats

Provides insight into the ability of coastal restoration to create and provide for water quality and watershed benefits and co-benefits

Corporations consider investment in this project as an impactful and cost-effective way to address water quality concerns, while addressing coastal resilience and protection

Partners making this innovative project happen:

DEQ LOUISIANA

United States Business Council for Sustainable Development

THE WATER INSTITUTE OF THE GULF

Carbon Offsets

Restore the Earth's work is not only good for the environment, it's good for our corporate partners, too – because a natural byproduct of landscape-scale restoration is the sequestration of forest carbon and the resulting creation of carbon emission reduction offsets.

Restore the Earth has developed and put in place all the components needed to provide the business case for corporations to make major investments in landscape-scale restoration.

Portfolio of Projects

Restore the Earth has 1 million acres that are legitimately shovel ready for restoration.

Innovative Funding Mechanism

When an organization or corporation invests in the reforestation of North America's Amazon, every $1 of private investment accesses public funding for a total of $3, to amplify the investment, the number of acres of forest restored, and the number of carbon offsets created.

Highest Quality Forest Carbon Offsets

Restore the Earth takes great care in the design and accounting of its forest carbon offsets, which are developed using the Climate Action Reserve (CAR)'s reforestation module methodology for forward-crediting accounting in its Climate Forward Program. Restore the Earth's first Climate Forward project, registered on CAR, is the Pointe-aux-Chenes, 5,000 acres historic cypress reforestation. This project is projected to **remove over 1,000,000 metric ton of carbon from the Earth's atmosphere.**

This assures that the forest carbon offsets delivered are:

Real: carbon stock represents real emission reductions that are third-party validated, monitored, measured, verified and registered using best practices

Measurable: verified reduction or removal from the atmosphere in terms equivalent to one metric tonne of carbon dioxide (CO_2e)

Additional: carbon sequestered or emissions reduced would not have occurred without the reforestation project – above and beyond business as usual

Assured Against Leakage: all projects include a risk adjust buffer to offset any potential "leakage"

Permanent: all Restore the Earth reforestation projects have permanent, in perpetuity conservation easements along with sustainable forest management programs

Registered: all carbon offsets are registered on the American Carbon Registry in the funding partner's name and are retired.

These forest carbon offsets (along with water, phosphorus and nitrogen offsets, proportionate to the investment) are assigned in perpetuity to a corporate funding partner, to become part of its strategic carbon offset portfolio.

CARBON OFFSETS & ECOMETRICS

EcoMetrics: Capturing Charismatic Co-Benefits

The business case for supporting Restore the Earth's landscape-scale restoration goes beyond the economic benefits of carbon offsets, to include a full slate of multi-dimensional "charismatic" environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits. The co-benefits these restoration projects creates for the local communities and economy are fully accounted for and third-party verified in a report ready for audit.

Restore the Earth's EcoMetrics, a stakeholder based and scientifically driven model, accounts for, in monetized terms, the co-benefits provided by investing in restoration – co-benefits that create great value for communities, economy and the environment.

Among these co-benefits are:

Restoring a self-sustaining system, with enhanced communities, habitat and biodiversity, ensured by the continued delivery of ecosystem services provided by healthy forests

Clean air and water, erosion control, improved soil, jobs, and creation of social and economic opportunities

Climate stabilization, nutrient mitigation, water and biodiversity protection, poverty reduction, community resiliency and generational equity

Loyalty, goodwill and reputational capital with multiple stakeholders: investors, employees, customers, vendors and society at large

Strengthened community and governmental relations that can enhance a business' license to operate

Restore the Earth's EcoMetrics is built around and aligned with the guiding principles of:

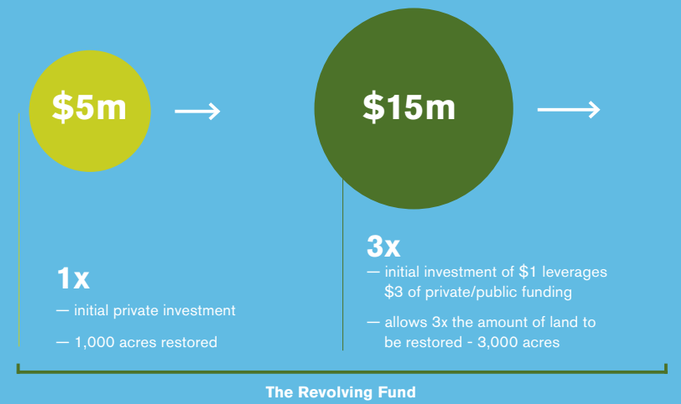
Social Value International (SVI)

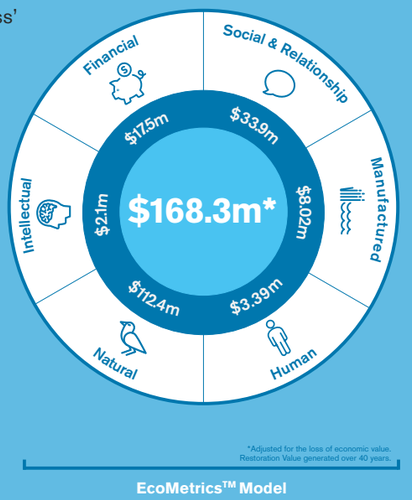
International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC)

Six of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

International Financial Corporation's Performance Standards

Climate Action Reserve's Climate Forward Program, American Carbon Registry, Verified Carbon Standard





Restore the Earth In the Community

Restore the Earth Field Trips

Restore the Earth in the Field with our current and potential partners highlighting project progress, success and new restoration opportunities. Joined by local government agency partners, local community partners and land managers.

School Trips

Education is a critical component in creating awareness and support for environmental and coastal restoration initiatives. Partnering with New Orleans school Young Audiences Charter School, Restore the Earth hosted an educational experience for students at Pointe-aux-Chenes.

Getting in the Mud

Volunteer tree plantings remain a critical engagement tool for our corporate partners and their employees. Restore the Earth hosts 2-3 volunteer events a year in an effort to get folks out in the mud to take part in the restoration and learn more about the project and its on-the-ground outcomes for the environment, wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Community Workshops

Restore the Earth and partners The Water Institute of the Gulf host community workshops as part of our effort to collect meaningful and relevant social, economic and cultural baseline data for our EcoMetrics. Community-based input is critical to understanding and reporting on the variety of co-benefits and value created by restoration and reforestation efforts.

Partner Spotlight: Jonathan Foret

Executive Director South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center

Tell us about your personal connection to the coast.

I had the good fortune to grow up with parents and family that were intimately connected to the Louisiana coast. We had regular seafood boils and fish frys with family and friends. We worked hard to catch the seafood...and laughed just as hard when we enjoyed it together as we ate it. My favorite pastime was playing in the ditch in front of our house. I caught all kinds of things in there, from snakes to crawfish to small fish. When I was 7, my parents gave me a minnow trap for Christmas. After that, they always knew they could find me playing in the ditch. I only got in trouble when I would take too much bread from the pantry to use as bait to catch all my specimens. That ditch was my first lab.

How did you become interested in working to educate communities about the plight of Louisiana wetlands and coast?

I had a brief contract with the United Nations and wanted to pursue a career in International Development. After graduating with a Master in Public Administration from University of New Orleans with intentions of going back overseas, a mentor of mine approached me and said, "Why are you going overseas to help people in a different country when your own people need your help more than you know?" I never thought about it in those terms. I asked, "What are you proposing?" I've been at the Wetlands Discovery Center since then...and I can't imagine being any place else.

Jonathan Foret pictured above. Right: Restore the Earth Board and staff at the Rougarou Ball where REF Founders PJ and Marv Marshall were honored with the John W. Woodard Award for service to the preservation and restoration of coastal Louisiana.

Wetlands Youth Summit volunteer tree planting.

Tell us a little about what the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center does.

The mission of the Wetlands Discovery Center is to revolutionize how we think, teach and learn about Louisiana's disappearing coast. We fulfill this mission by implementing several educational programs, and we're working to develop an educational campus that would help us to educate K-12 students and the general public on these issues. I think we've done a solid job on educating students on the science behind coastal land loss and restoration...but we're now adding the focus of educating our students on the politics of restoration. We're proud to work with reputable organizations and companies to deliver our programs. We're currently working with National Center for Atmospheric Research, NOAA, National Academies of Sciences, BHP, Restore the Earth Foundation, ConocoPhillips, Greater New Orleans Foundation, Chevron, Terrebonne Parish, and many others to bring our programs to life.

Architectural Drawing of Future Wetlands Discovery Center

What are some of the most important projects you've worked on?

There are so many success stories from our projects, but the Wetlands Youth Summit has been the most important one I've worked on. Our students from the Wetlands Youth Summit decided to work with federal agencies to present Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) projects for coastal restoration. Two juniors in high school presented a multi-million dollar restoration project to rebuild the Dularge Ridge - and it was funded. This project works to protect the family homes of these students, which is why they selected it to present. This is how we integrate the politics with the science of coastal restoration. Another important program we implement is Coastal Classroom, using Louisiana Science Standards as the foundation for what we teach. Our Program Director, who is amazing, took the standards and developed a wetlands-based curriculum with lesson plans to fulfill multiple needs. For example, if there is a lesson that covers soils, the kids learn all they need to know about soils. But we incorporate lessons on alluvial soil, soil that was deposited by a delta. They learn what they need to know for the test, but they also learn what they need to know as a resident of coastal Louisiana. This program is fortunate to be sponsored by the Rougarou Fest, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and Chevron. Because of their generous support, we can buy microscopes and science equipment that we can take with us to multiple schools in the region. None of these schools can afford to buy one of these microscopes, but all of them can allow their students to experience using one of them because of this program. Our goal is to inspire the imaginations of the next generation to become our engineers and scientists of the future.

We know the task of addressing land loss is daunting – what gives you hope?

I get hope from the educational programs that the Wetlands Discovery Center is implementing along with the physical work that Restore the Earth is doing. Our job is to teach what we should be doing while Restore the Earth is doing what we should be doing. This way, our next generation will understand the stewardship role they have for the environment Restore the Earth is now re-establishing.

How does your work tie in with Restore the Earth Foundation's work?

People often ask me, "What can I do to save coastal Louisiana?" My response is typically, "Educate yourself and those that you love." Through this education, you'll begin to understand the challenges we face. You'll recognize potential strategies we can use to overcome those challenges. You'll come to understand what is likely to work...and what might not. You'll come to learn that the work of Restore the Earth is in alignment with the strategies we are using to live successful lives in coastal Louisiana.

If you look at the Strategic Development Plan of the Wetlands Discovery Center, one of our goals is to get other regions in the United States to recognize the challenges we face as a coastal community in the Mississippi Delta. Restore the Earth has gone beyond recognizing the challenges we face - they are knee deep in the little bit of mud we have left working to stabilize the soil so that we have a place to call home.

If you weren't working to educate communities in coastal Louisiana, what would you be doing?

Honestly...If I thought I could pay my bills easily...I would be a commercial fisherman. Unfortunately, there are too many things that make that a challenge. Maybe I would be in international development, but my heart would always be here. I know that.

What's your favorite Louisiana cultural tradition?

I've had the privilege to live in several states and multiple countries over the past few years. While serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Kingdom of Tonga, I realized how much of a Cajun I really was. Our traditions were similar and so very different. I was living the life of my grandmother's stories of when she was young - no electricity, a cistern, drying clothes on a line and using an outhouse. While in Tonga, I was most comforted by the things that made me feel at home. I helped to catch and prepare seafood with others, filet fish with others, shell beans with others, eat with others...maybe it's food. Food is my favorite Louisiana cultural tradition, but it goes beyond consuming. It's catching or growing it together. It's preparing it together...and eating it together - that's my favorite.

What is your favorite coastal critter? (We hear you have a soft spot for nutria :)

When I was studying in the English department at Nicholls State University, a buddy of mine became fascinated by the Naturalist authors of the late nineteenth century. That is how I see my relationship with my nutria. Okay...nutria are bad for the environment in coastal Louisiana, but I have an affinity for this one particular nutria. Not all nutria mind you, just this one. His name is Beignet, and this one doesn't eat the marsh. As in most Naturalist fiction, this story just focuses on a regular man and his nutria, but it typically has a tragic end. I may have to get Beignet an Instagram account so you can all watch the story unfold. Long story short - I love my nutria - and I'm pretty confident he loves me.

Jonathan and his pet nutria Beignet

THANK YOU

Restoring 1 million acres of ecosystems cannot be accomplished by one organization alone.

Partnerships are the true cornerstone of Restore the Earth's work - it's how we get things done. We are able to restore at a landscape scale only as a result of who has joined with us around the table.

Community based organizations, local business and governments, federal and state agencies, corporations, philanthropists, foundations and investors, are established Restore the Earth partners. All are working toward a Big vision of historic restoration ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

Our partners, funders and supporters are the true lifeblood of our mission and we are grateful they continue to join us on this mission.

Paul Aaronson
Alliance for Water Stewardship
Associated Pump & Supply
Charles Brown
Buckland Co.
Caesar's Foundation
Carol Cone On Purpose
CITGO
Clif Bar
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana
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South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center
Starry Night Fund
Terrebonne Parish
The Water Institute of the Gulf
Tierra Resources
Timberland PRO
U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Warshawsky Family Philanthropic Fund
Wells Fargo
William H. Donner Foundation
Yvonne Schell

We are grateful to our dedicated Board members, staff, and interns who make our 1 million acre mission possible.

Marvin Marshall
Co-Founder and CEO
Restore the Earth Foundation (See staff bio on pg 34)

P.J. Marshall
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Restore the Earth Foundation (See staff bio on pg 34)

Ed Piñero
President, The Piñero Group LLC

Mr. Piñero is President of The Piñero Group LLC, providing consulting services to clients in areas of sustainability such as best practices, strategy, metrics, reporting, awareness building, collaborative efforts, and policy. Prior to starting The Piñero Group, he was Senior Vice President for Sustainability for Veolia North America (VNA), and liaison to Veolia's worldwide Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Affairs departments. In his role at Veolia, Mr. Piñero oversaw all efforts related to sustainability, in regard to outreach, client issues, and internal practices, including the water, energy, and waste business lines.

Over his 36-year career, Mr. Piñero has worked in the private and public sectors as a consultant to many clients on sustainability, environment, and energy. He has also served in the public sector at both the Federal and state levels addressing sustainability issues. During his service as the White House Federal Environmental Executive, he focused on developing and implementing sustainability policy and practices within the US Federal government. Mr. Piñero served in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as both the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Sustainability as well as holding the office of Pennsylvania State Energy Director.

Mr. Piñero has been an Adjunct Professor at Duquesne University and the University of Arizona, and is currently a Visiting Scholar with George Washington University's Environment and Energy Management Institute. He has Bachelors of Science degree in Geology from the State University of New York and Masters of Science degree in Geology from Texas A&M University.

Chairman
Don Blancher Ph.D.
Supervising Coastal Scientist, Moffatt & Nichol

Dr. Don Blancher is a nationally recognized expert on estuarine ecology, habitat assessment, water quality, and biological impacts of discharges to ecosystems. He received his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida and is a Board Certified Environmental Scientist with the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He currently works for Moffatt & Nichol, a coastal engineering firm which also specializes in ecosystem restoration activities.

He previously worked with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and focused on both assessment and restoration issues associated with the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Dr. Blancher has authored over 50 technical reports and papers and numerous presentations at national and international meetings. He was formerly chairperson of Ecology and Aquatic Resources Committee of the Water Environment Federation, and was adjunct associate professor in the Environmental Toxicology Program at the University of South Alabama. He also serves on the Board of The Groundwork New Orleans Trust.

Amelia Wing
Stuart Consulting Group

Amy Wing has educated thousands of national and international volunteers on the issues and urgency of wetland loss and restoration in Southeast Louisiana. She began her work in conservation at the world famous San Diego Zoo while earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at San Diego State University. As acting director and education curator at the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, she began ecosystem restoration in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and worked to restore and rebuild the Nature Center and its surrounding ecosystem. She mentored teachers on the importance of water quality through the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and facilitated Whooping Crane Reintroduction program teacher workshops through the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Ms. Wing is a certified Project WILD instructor and facilitator, a Certified Leave No Trace instructor, and a fellow of Loyola University New Orleans' Institute for Environmental Education. She is a founding member of the board of the Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater New Orleans. Ms. Wing currently works as a Subject Matter Expert in Federal Disaster Recovery grants management and closeout.

P.J. Marshall
Co-Founder and Executive Director

PJ leads Restore the Earth Foundation in creating and developing the cross-sector partnerships that are at the heart of the REF strategy and business model. She is the visionary in bringing together sometimes unlikely partners, inspiring creative solutions for groups working toward the same goals for a healthy Earth.

Marv Marshall
Co-Founder and CEO

Building on his years of experience as a top real estate executive and visionary, Marv has been leading the charge at Restore the Earth in creating some of the organization's most innovative and cutting edge assets - Restore the Earth's EcoMetrics for valuing the environmental, social and economic return of restoration and our Impact Investment Fund. Marv also leads Restore the Earth's work on carbon offsets and related projects and partnerships.

Taylor Marshall
Director of Sustainable Programs

Taylor represents Restore the Earth in the Gulf Coast region, responsible for creating, managing and sustaining key partnerships with corporate partners, local non-profit partners, land managers and state officials. Taylor also functions as a project manager for Louisiana-based projects. Taylor Marshall has dedicated her professional life to identifying and promoting solutions to environmental issues and opportunities nationally and internationally.

Jessica Ristow
Development Director

Jessica oversees fundraising and administrative operations for Restore the Earth Foundation, working to connect individual donors, as well as corporate, foundation and non-profit partners to the mission. She serves as the Board of Directors liaison, and leads communications and special projects for all members of the Executive Team.

Richard Landry
Chief Strategy Officer

Richard assisted the organization in the development of the groundbreaking EcoMetrics™ Model and its Revolving Fund investment model. He authored two white papers on the EcoMetrics platform, and is currently leading a fundraising campaign for the development of the EcoMetrics digital platform.

Ed Piñero
President, EcoMetrics LLC

Mr. Piñero promotes uptake of the EcoMetrics approach by those seeking quantification and monetization of ecosystem services and green infrastructure solutions. He works to establish EcoMetrics as a credible and accepted standard by other standards groups and formally accepted frameworks.

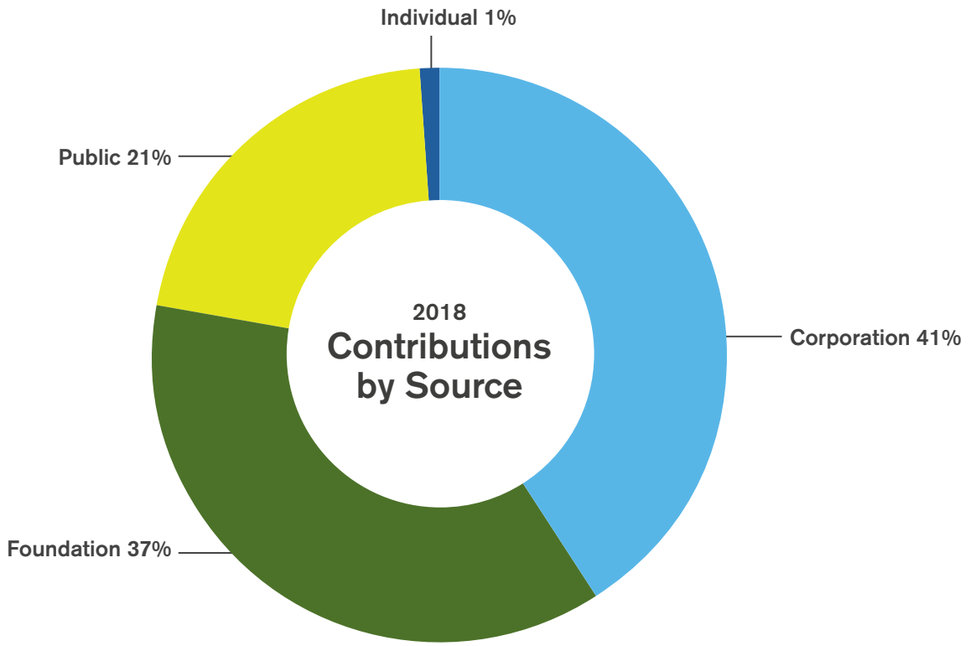
David Pilger, CAIA
Director of Impact Fund Management

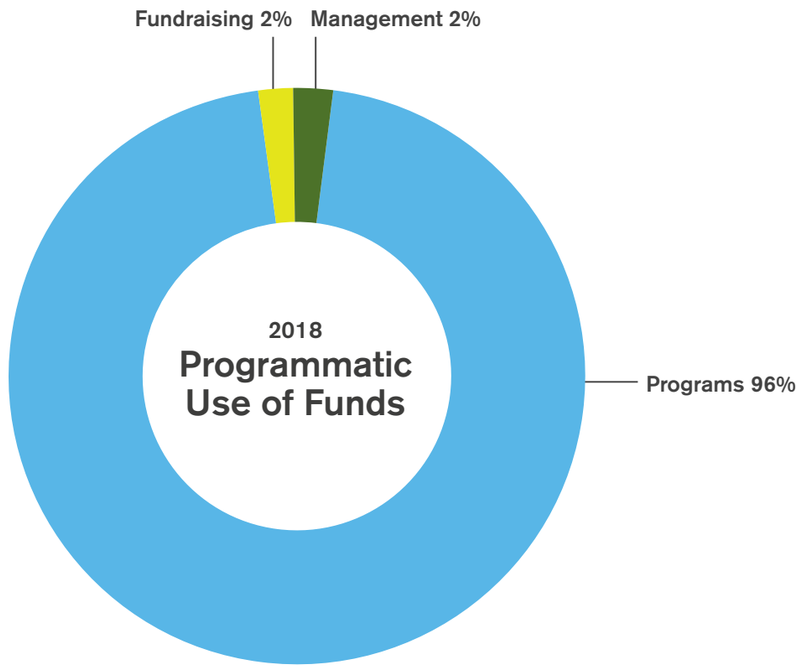
David oversees and manages Restore the Earth's Impact Investment Fund, which evaluates and invests capital in climate and other environmental opportunities across the United States and abroad.

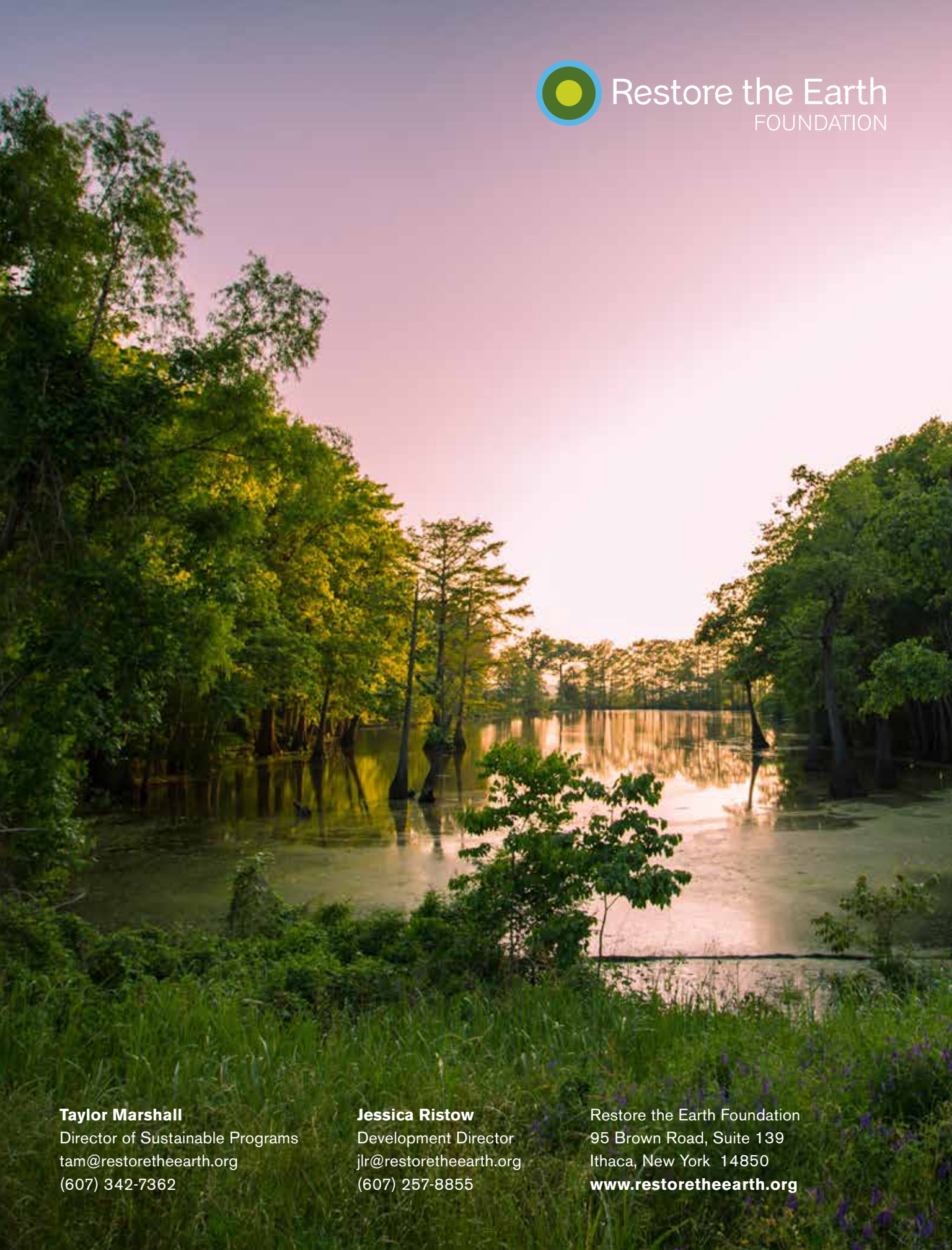
Victoria Nachman
Intern

Victoria Nachman is an intern in the New Orleans office. She is primarily focused on communications and social media, sharing information about REF's mission, vision, and work, as well as general environmental and scientific news, to their followers and to a broader audience.

Financial Summary







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