



AROHA

geneva

Annual Report 2020

AROHA is a young and independent NGO based out of Geneva, Switzerland, working to help government and private institutions safeguard the world's most vulnerable people, ecosystems and regions.

AROHA is a young and independent non-profit international organization based out of Geneva, Switzerland, working to help government and private institutions overcome global environmental and sustainable development challenges.

Our aim:

To support public and private institutions to advance the interests of the world's most vulnerable people and regions.

We support our partners in:

- Multilateral cooperation and dialogue
- International partnerships
- Public communications
- Research initiatives
- Sustainable development financing

Our key activities currently include:

- Supporting countries vulnerable to climate change
- Assisting the private sector to improve the state of the world
- Helping the Pacific to be better represented in international affairs
- Mobilizing financial know-how for the climate

What's in a name:

The word AROHA signifies **compassion**, **concern**, **empathy** and **love** in te reo Maori, an official language of New Zealand, the home country of our lead founders.



Key facts about us:

- **Founded:** 23 October 2017
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Focus:** Climate, environment and sustainability; diplomacy and finance
- **Approach:** Expertise and activity support to public and private actors for enhanced contributions to environment/sustainable development
- **Legal Form:** International non-profit association under Swiss law
- **2020 budget:** CHF 435,000

From our founding statutes:

AROHA PROMOTES

EQUITABLE AND INTEGRATED ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

TOWARDS ACHIEVING GLOBAL PROSPERITY,

SAFEGUARDING NATURAL RESOURCES, AND

REDUCING HUMAN SUFFERING AND VIOLENT CONFLICT.

AROHA AIMS

TO PARTICULARLY CONTRIBUTE
TO ENHANCING SOLIDARITY WITH

AND PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE OF,

THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE
PEOPLE AND ECOSYSTEMS.

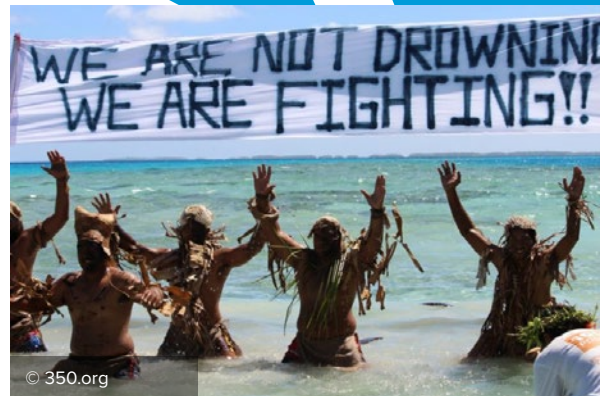
AROHA SEEKS

TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT ENTITIES,

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS,

THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PUBLIC

TO REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO SUCH AIMS.



Words from us

ROSS MOUNTAIN, Governing Board Chair

“Aroha’s third year was challenging but also fruitful in terms of impact. With all the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, our experience organizing the first ever virtual summit of leaders in 2018 was very much turned to advantage. Aroha notably worked to facilitate international cooperation for ambitious climate action through active virtual dialogues throughout 2020.

I am particularly pleased that this meant we have been able to strengthen our engagements supporting climate threatened nations as Bangladesh assumed leadership of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and V20 Finance Ministers Group from the Marshall Islands. Bangladesh took the helm amid all the difficulties of the unfolding pandemic and the postponement of the annual UN climate in Glasgow, now expected to be held this November. Working with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) in partnership with which Aroha has been supporting the CVF and V20, the vulnerable nations nevertheless managed to lead calls for more ambitious efforts under the Paris Agreement while also demonstrating their own growing appetite for bold action.

Aroha opened a new chapter by launching the ‘Climate Prosperity Plans’ program to mobilize investment for and clarify the benefits of national development efforts programmed to address climate issues. We also launched the Financial Futures Center, as this initiative’s host, to support developing countries to catalyze a sustainable economic transformation.

The advisory work of Aroha on corporate social responsibility was also sustained in 2020. We closed another year in sound financial shape, well positioned for the scaling up of activities we anticipate for 2021. Our warm appreciation to the growing number of partners and donors with whom we collaborate.”

MATTHEW MCKINNON, Executive Director and Member of Governing Board

“2020 was a litmus test year for the Paris Agreement. Since the world was way off-track in 2015 to limit warming to 1.5°C, the saving grace of Paris was the pledge to return every five years with more ambition. Though this and other Paris tests failed, the ‘Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate’, which Aroha supported, did manage to rally momentum that ultimately saw some 70 nations bring forward new national climate action commitments, known as ‘NDCs’, by the end of 2020. With an online tool called the ‘2020 Climate Survival Leadership Barometer’, we also enabled real-time monitoring of whether every country’s latest NDC was more ambitious or not.

We kept up similar momentum on several fronts: helping business to leverage the Miami Super Bowl LIV to raise awareness about the plight of coral reefs in the global climate crisis and supporting the Marshall Islands to build traction at the UN Human Rights Council for the creation of a Special Rapporteur dedicated to climate change. With the GCA and IPU, we also helped the CVF to open a new workstream among parliamentarians of climate threatened nations. We likewise initiated the collaborative work behind the first ‘Climate Prosperity Plan’, being developed in Bangladesh, as a blueprint for driving investment into a greener and more resilient future for the most climate threatened nations of the globe.

We are especially grateful for the support and confidence of our donors and partners and look forward to further strengthening our work together moving into 2021 and beyond.”

Views from the team

“ With Aroha, 2020 saw the initiation of important new work to incubate economic and financial research on the accelerated reversal of systemic climate vulnerability towards systemic climate resilience through the launch of the Financial Futures Center. ”

Sara Jane Ahmed, V20 Finance Analyst

“ Aroha is making a really valuable contribution by supporting platforms that work closely with countries at the forefront of the threats of climate change as they strive to overcome those threats. I look forward to continuing being a part of its vision. ”

Muniyat Fabbaha, Program Analyst

“ Through my work at Aroha in 2020, I had the opportunity to touch upon a range of projects related to climate vulnerable communities. I was particularly excited to support the Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate campaign and the call for an urgent increase in climate ambition by all countries. I am convinced of the necessity for such a call and was humbled to contribute to it. ”

Pauline Seppey, Program Assistant

“ In Aroha, training and growth are non-stop. It never failed to let me experience the challenges, excitement, and fulfilment of international NGO work, albeit remotely. ”

Alexandra Rosas, Program Assistant

“ It has been an amazing experience that an energetic team from all around the globe, from South America to South East Asia, from Asia to New Zealand, could meet together through virtual meetings, and work together with the unique goal of safeguarding the world's most vulnerable communities and ecosystems. ”

*Katherine Wong, Administration
& Human Resources Consultant*

Snapshot of the year

Our activities around the world in 2020

Legend

- Climate Vulnerable Countries
- Corporate Social Impact
- Financial Futures Center

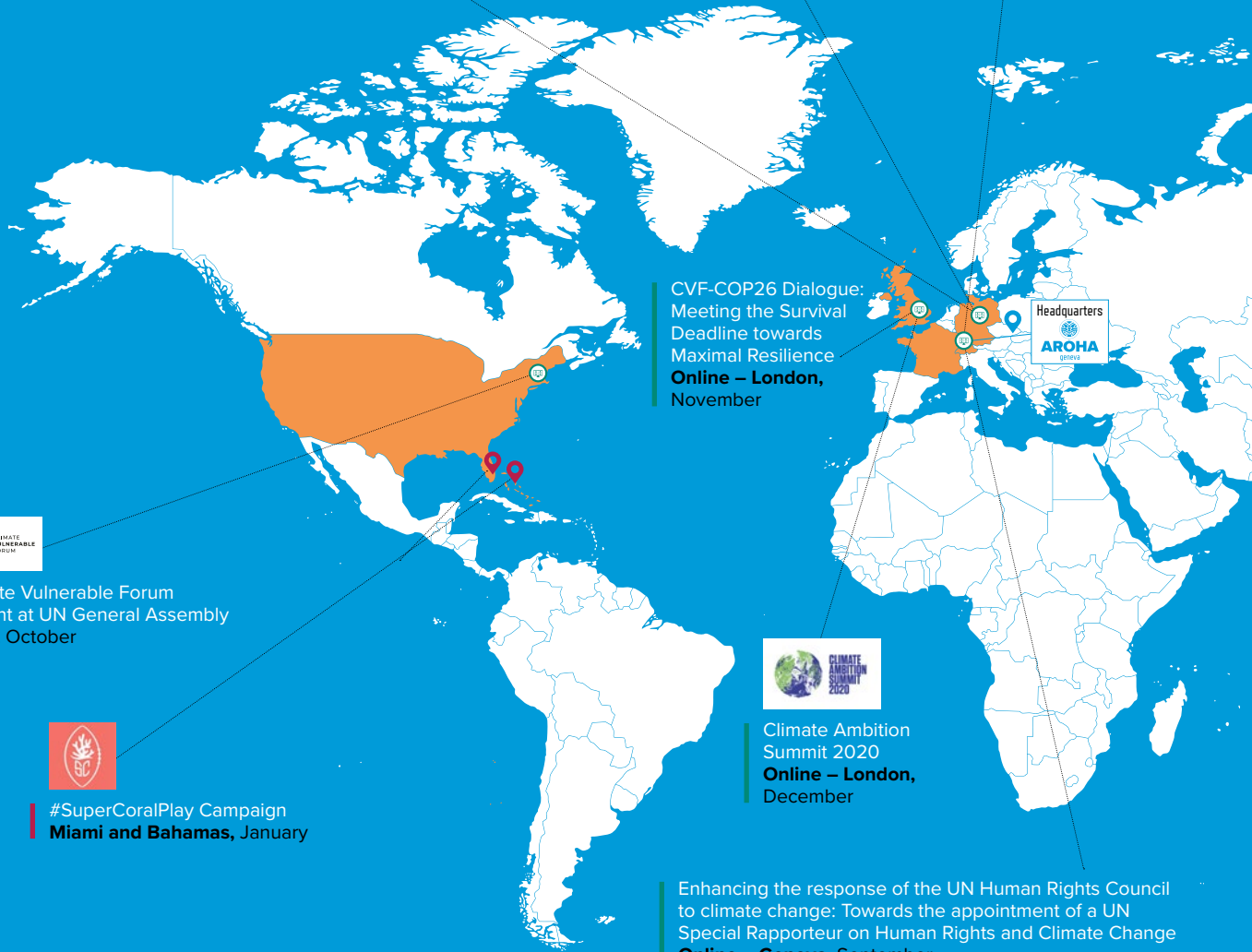


G20-V20 InsuResilience
High Level Consultative Group
Online – Germany, September

CVF Briefing on NDC Preparation
and Submissions (in collaboration
with UNFCCC Secretariat)
Online – Germany, December



Inaugural Global Meeting
of CVF Parliamentarians
Online – Geneva, November



Virtual Climate Vulnerable Forum
Leaders Event at UN General Assembly
Online – NY, October

CVF-COP26 Dialogue:
Meeting the Survival
Deadline towards
Maximal Resilience
**Online – London,
November**



#SuperCoralPlay Campaign
Miami and Bahamas, January



Climate Ambition
Summit 2020
**Online – London,
December**

Enhancing the response of the UN Human Rights Council
to climate change: Towards the appointment of a UN
Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change
Online – Geneva, September



We **doubled** the offset

of our **11 tons of CO²** generated by our air and rail travel in 2020 to **22 tons of CO²** in order to become carbon negative. In doing so, we supported emission reduction projects to tackle global climate change such as:

The Haiti Clean Water project:

This project works with local communities to implement clean water filtration systems in Haiti. Access to clean drinking water means families contract fewer illnesses and avoiding the burning wood indoors for boiling water means less household and ambient air pollution, which improves health and wellbeing for families. Both cleaner water and cleaner indoor air are particularly important for the health of children under the age of five. Avoided deforestation helps preserve habitats and biodiversity and means families – most often women and girls – spend less time gathering firewood.



Offset certification provided by:



Launch of the Financial Futures Center
Philippines, September



V20 Senior Officials Meeting
Online – Bangladesh, December

Establishment of the CVF-V20
Joint Multi-Donor Fund
Online – Bangladesh, December

How we work

We help others to work faster, further, and more effectively for the people and planet put at risk by developments that are global in nature.

We are a compact organisation that brings:



OUR DIRECT SUPPORT TO ACTIVITIES

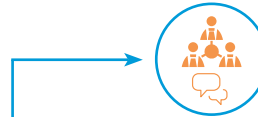
WORKING FOR

**HIGH IMPACT,
BIG CHANGE,**

WE HELP BUILD
AND SUSTAIN PARTNERSHIPS



SUCH AS THE  **CVF** | CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM



WE ASSIST MULTILATERAL
COOPERATION, DIALOGUE, AND
COMMUNICATIONS, SUCH AS THE



#MINDINGATCLIMATESURVIVAL

OUR BASE FROM INTERNATIONAL GENEVA

HOME TO THE
UNITED NATIONS,



NGO'S,

AND MANY
OTHER

IMPORTANT
ACTORS

WE ARE CARBON NEUTRAL:



WE OFFSET
ALL OUR TRAVEL,



AND OUR OFFICE
RUNS ON

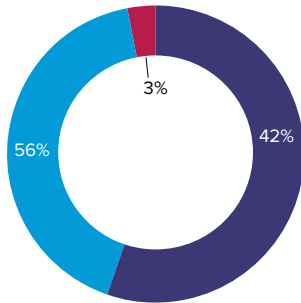
100%
renewable energy

Our supporters and financials

Our supports

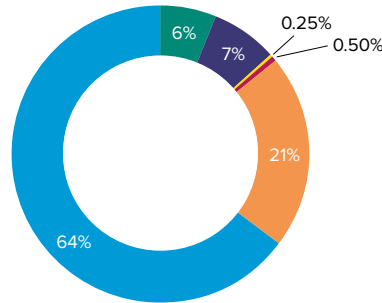
As a not-for-profit entity, we devote all our funds to our own projects and activities.

Where our support came from in 2020



Foundations: 56%
International organizations : 42%
Public sector: 3%

Where we invested our resources in 2020



Climate vulnerable countries: 64%
Corporate social impact: 21%
Office costs: 7%
General administration: 6%
Pacific small islands: 0.50%
Financial Futures Center: 0.25%

State and Canton of Geneva



In 2020, we benefited from a subsidy provided by the State and Canton of Geneva towards the costs of our office premises in the Maison de la Paix. This generous contribution has enabled us to operate from the heart of international Geneva, facilitating our forging of partnerships with UN member states, as well as international and non-profit organizations.

Balance sheet

On 31 December 2020

	2020 CHF
ASSETS	
Cash	198'214.66
Other assets	1'335.19
2019 grants received in 2020	4'363.41
Guarantees and deposits	6'020.00
Current Assets	209'933.26
Total Assets	209'933.26

	2020 CHF
LIABILITIES	
Other liabilities and accruals	22'195.29
Wages and social benefits	52'343.13
Grants received in advance	102'441.64
Short-term external assets	176'980.06
Carried over capital	32'953.20
Capital	32'953.20
Total liabilities	209'933.26

Result account

From 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020

	2020 CHF	2019 CHF
Total donations	434'959.13	259'248.59
Consultants	105'073.38	–
Travel expenses	3'237.57	10'994.57
Financial expenses	629.10	–
Project expenses	108'940.05	10'994.57
Gross wages	222'004.50	178'609.25
Social benefits	39'745.65	23'512.80
Staff costs	261'750.15	202'122.05
Gross result	64'268.93	46'131.97
Office charges	31'021.56	31'541.96
Administration fees	7'663.65	7'852.25
Insurance and authorizations	1'822.00	894.20
Third party fees	10'118.89	3'176.32
Other overheads	8'752.19	1'400.00
Overhead	59'378.29	44'864.73
Net operating margin	4'890.64	1'267.24
Creditor interests	24.62	33.17
Financial products	24.62	33.17
Exchange rate loss	6'898.42	186.92
Financial costs	1'130.59	735.58
Financial expenses	8'029.01	922.50
Covid-19 – Reduced work compensation	3'200.20	–
Non-operating products	3'200.20	–
Capital account result	86.45	377.91
Carried over capital	32'953.20	32'866.75

Our Work

Spotlight 2020 activity: Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate



#MIDNIGHTCLIMATESURVIVAL

Our aim:

During the last quarter of 2020, we supported the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) in the launch and implementation of the initiative **“Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate”**. The initiative was launched on the 7th of October 2020 by CVF Chair H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh at the CVF Virtual Leaders Event at the UN General Assembly, and it ran all the way to midnight on December 31st.

2020 was a crucial year for climate ambition within the international community. According to the timeframe set out by the Paris Agreement, this year was the deadline for parties to submit an updated and more ambitious version of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – their commitments for national climate action targets. With the world turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic, there were strong concerns that countries would miss the deadline and undermine the much-needed momentum of the Paris Agreement.

As a response, the CVF created the Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate initiative to encourage as many countries as possible to deliver on UN commitments and submit their revised NDCs by the end of 2020. Through the initiative, the Forum aimed at building momentum

behind those countries that submitted NDCs; accelerating adaptation efforts; and celebrating countries that delivered on ambition by the **“Midnight”** deadline of the 31st of December.

The name of the initiative underlines the urgency of the situation: this deadline for more ambitious NDC submission is a matter of survival for climate vulnerable countries, who cannot afford waiting another half decade and the next deadline to increase ambition. With each year that passes without stronger commitment, the 1.5°C target set out by the Paris Agreement becomes harder to achieve. As Bangladesh Prime Minister, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Chair of the CVF, put it during the launch event: **“Today we are at the most important crossroad of human history, facing the gravest global challenges of our time. Adverse impacts of climate change are harming our civilization, destroying our planet and threatening our very existence.”**

The Covid-19 pandemic, far from discouraging action, should give the world all the more reason to act urgently. The President of Ethiopia and CVF Troika Member H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, said: **“The submission of the NDCs by parties to the Paris Agreement, before the end of December 2020, can be considered a critical moment for raising ambitions, as well as ensuring a green recovery from COVID.”**

The initiative consisted of a call to action starting at the CVF Leaders Event and echoed by CVF Heads of State and officials throughout the last months of the year at every international event. A tracker was set up to illustrate the progress of NDC submissions, showing countries that have submitted their new NDC and whether they have increased ambition or not. The initiative also had an important social media component, with the **#MidnightClimateSurvival**. Countries who submitted their ambition were praised and encouraged. A series of campaign videos were produced to strengthen the social media engagement.

The initiative delivered the following outcomes:

- Contribution to a stronger momentum around the delivery of renewed NDCs by the end of the year, with the number of submissions going from 11 on 7 October to 73 on 31 December, with 69 countries actually strengthening commitments with regards to adaptation, mitigation, or both.
- Generation of social media engagement around the importance of the deadline, with the **#MidnightDeadlineSurvival** being used by figures such as former President of the Maldives, H.E. Mohamed Nasheed, UNFCCC chief Patricia Espinosa, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet or Director General of the IOM António Vitorino, among others.

- Despite absence of submission by half of the signatory countries, reinforcement of strong advocacy towards bold and urgent climate action and respect of agreed-upon targets set by the Paris Agreement, as well as making the case towards a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Aroha worked with the Global Center on Adaptation and partners such as atoll. communications and the Content Engine to support Bangladesh and the CVF in developing, launching and running the initiative, ensuring its success through continued engagement with relevant partners.



Virtual CVF Leaders Event © CVF 2020

Our Work

Climate Vulnerable Countries: supporting countries vulnerable to climate change to overcome its threats



Virtual summit on five-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement © Climate Ambition Summit

Background

Established in 2009, the CVF is an international cooperation body comprised of 48 developing country governments highly vulnerable to climate change. The Forum, and its Finance Minister's body, the V20, serve as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.

Learn more at: <https://www.thecvf.org>



Part of our mandate is to provide support to partners in the area of transnational cooperation to facilitate progress towards achieving the goals set out in the Paris Agreement on climate change. Our project under this mandate is the provision of advisory and operational support to the Member States of the Climate Vulnerable

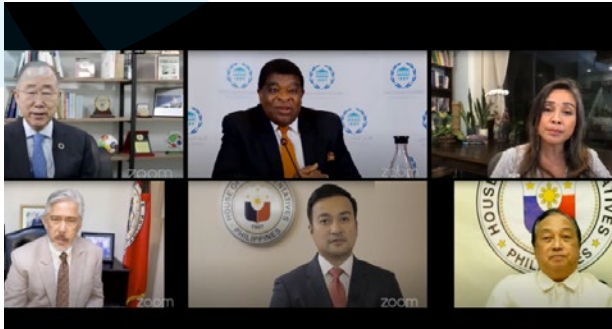
Forum (CVF) and Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20), as well as hosting the office of the Forum's Advisor and Representative.

What are the project objectives?

- Enhance the ability of government representatives and institutions of the CVF and V20 to shape more effective international policies relating to climate change
- Support the CVF and V20 initiative to secure enhanced assistance and support for national climate change actions
- Assist the CVF/V20 to network and liaise with relevant international partners in advancing its objectives

Concretely, what do we do?

- **Policy:** we provide policy and technical advice to Forum leadership and member states, liaising with Forum partners and expert bodies and supporting the development of Forum-commissioned technical reports
- **Member and partner relations:** we assist the Forum leadership in maintaining communications and relations with Forum member states, sustaining and developing relations with donors and institutional partners



CVF Global Parliamentarians Meeting © CVF 2020

- **Operational:** we support the Forum leadership in planning and implementing global and regional member and partner events, representational engagements, research activities, and communications initiatives

2020 activity highlights:

- We supported the virtual briefing and discussion on Enhancing the response of the UN Human Rights Council to climate change for the appointment of a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change in September 2020, with the aim of enabling key actors of the Climate Vulnerable Forum to present this proposal to civil society actors.
- We supported the implementation of the G20-V20 InsuResilience project in September 2020, which aims to close the protection gap and use climate and disaster risk finance and insurance solutions to facilitate more timely and reliable post-disaster responses.
- We organized the Virtual Climate Vulnerable Forum Leaders Event at the UN General Assembly in October 2020, to highlight the urgency for parties to the Paris Agreement to update their NDCs.
- Also at the Virtual CVF Leaders Event, we launched the Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate Initiative.



CVF COP26 Virtual Dialogue © CVF 2020

- We helped organize the Inaugural Global Meeting of CVF Parliamentarians that took place in November 2020, to broaden the mandate for enhancing global climate ambition by federating parliamentarians of CVF member countries and partners.
- We supported the organization of the CVF-COP26 Dialogue on Meeting the Survival Deadline towards Maximal Resilience in November 2020, opening a dialogue between London High Commissioners of member countries and COP26 officials to highlight CVF priorities.
- We supported the participation of the CVF Chair and Troika members at the Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020, underlining the need for urgent action.
- We supported V20 members in developing innovative financing instruments and partnerships for climate actions at the V20 Senior Officials Meeting in December 2020.
- We assisted the launch of a CVF-V20 Joint Fund in December 2020, supporting the implementation of the Forum's priorities and objectives.
- In collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat in December 2020, we provided CVF members with the tools to effectively update their NDCs to reflect more ambitious objectives by organizing a briefing on NDC preparation and submission.

Our Work

Corporate Social Impact: assisting the private sector to improve the state of the world

MSC FOUNDATION



One of our other areas of focus as an organization is the issue of corporate sustainability and social responsibility. The successful realization of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals relies on a whole-of-society approach, in which the efforts and contributions of the private sector are indispensable. We therefore provide support in the areas of sustainability and corporate social responsibility, including philanthropy, to business entities to help increase and accelerate the contributions of the private sector towards global sustainable development targets.

Our initial project under this program is to support the **Mediterranean Shipping Company (M.S.C)** in the creation of a new philanthropic foundation, MSC Foundation, essentially focused on ocean protection.

What are the project objectives?

- Drive the creation and establishment of the forthcoming MSC Foundation as an effective new philanthropic actor with a special focus on promoting the protection of the seas

- Effectively support the administrative, legal, managerial, and communications processes for the establishment of the MSC Foundation

Concretely, what do we do?

We act as a lead advisor and exercise the management function for the Foundation creation process, and perform the following roles:

- **Institutional:** we provide expertise and advisory support for the establishment and institutional, legal constitution of the Foundation and creation of a core MSC Foundation team
- **Communications and programmatic:** we advise on communicating the creation of the Foundation to internal and external audiences in maintaining communications and on the development of the programs of the Foundation and projects to be supported
- **Operational:** we advise and provide activity support for rendering the Foundation operational, including through MSC stakeholder engagement and giving systems and project activation (grant-making)

Find out more at: www.msccfoundation.org

2020 activity highlights:

- In partnership with the Miami Superbowl Host Committee and NFL players, we launched the #SuperCoralPlay Campaign in January 2020 in the Bahamas, to raise awareness of the need to take action in protecting and preserving coral reefs.



Larry Fitzgerald
© 2020 MSC Cruises/MSC Foundation



Our Work

Pacific Small Islands: working for enhanced Pacific representation in international Geneva

Our third program area is focused on support to Pacific Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) efforts within multilateral cooperation in Geneva. The contributions of SIDS to international environmental regulations, including the Paris Agreement, consistently demonstrate how the contribution and voice of SIDS has strengthened protection of the environment and of vulnerable groups. In Geneva, a major global hub for international relations and development, small islands and especially the Pacific SIDS nevertheless continue to be the most under-represented group of UN member states.

We therefore provide technical and advisory support to Pacific small islands towards becoming more adequately represented on a permanent basis in Geneva, and with a view to enhancing the representational capabilities of these countries within International Geneva. Strengthening Pacific small islands' representation in Geneva would enable Pacific interests and values to have a more significant role in shaping international assistance and the outcomes of decision-making bodies in cooperation areas such as disaster risk reduction, environment, climate change, and human rights.

What are the project objectives?

- Support Pacific small island nations to achieve universal representation in International Geneva
- Leverage partnerships and resources to enhance the representational capabilities of Pacific small islands to best advance the interests of this group in Geneva's international policy-making system

Concretely, what do we do?

In collaboration with Swiss and international partners, we provide direct policy assistance, communications and partnership building support, as well as operational assistance to Pacific small island developing states seeking to establish permanent representation in Geneva or looking to enhance representational capabilities in the world's second United Nations hub after New York.

2020 activity highlights:

- In 2020, our activities and related events in support to Pacific Small Islands slowed down due to the global Pandemic. Nevertheless, we are excited about future projects taking place in 2021.

Our Work

Financial Futures Center:
working to mobilize financial know-how for the climate



Tackling the climate emergency requires a mobilization on all fronts: the financial and economic implications of the crisis need to be addressed head on. This is why Aroha is currently incubating the Financial Futures Center – a center which will provide know-how on financial climate risks and support informed decision-making in developing countries. The knowledge and data produced will also be mobilized to enhance resilience and support the development of climate prosperity investment plans, aiming to both address the climate crisis and secure economic growth.

What are the project objectives?

- Support developing country governments, civil society/ development partners, and the investment community with different types of economic and financial climate risk-based analysis and data to support informed decision-making on investment and technological pathways to achieve maximal resilience and high shares of renewable energy.

- Provide analytical support to catalyze sustainable economic transformation in developing countries by enabling effective access to climate finance, mobilizing strategic responses from the economic and finance community and scaling up financial resources for climate action in developing countries.
- Support climate prosperity investment plans in order to secure economic growth, resilience and stability in developing countries despite anticipated constraints imposed by the climate crisis.

Concretely, what do we do?

Our advisors support our partners by conducting research, analyzing data and providing the necessary elements for informed decision-making.

2020 activities highlight:

- In September 2020 we launched the **Financial Futures Center** in the Philippines.

Our board



ROSS MOUNTAIN
Governing Board Chair

Work highlights:

- UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Lebanon
 - UN Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and Director of Geneva Office of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
 - Special humanitarian envoy of the Secretary-General for the East Timor crisis and floods in Mozambique
 - Senior Advisor to the Secretary General on Cholera in Haiti
 - Held senior UN functions in Liberia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Fiji, and Barbados
-



ROBERT WATKINS
Governing Board Vice-Chair

Work highlights:

- UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan
 - UN Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon
 - UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Representative in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Georgia, and Lebanon
 - Head of the ECHO Regional Office for the Middle East
 - Head, and Deputy Head of Mission, for IFRC in Iraq and Turkey
-



JAVIER DIAZ CARMONA
Executive Committee Chair

Work highlights:

- Costa Rican Ambassador for Climate Change and Global Environmental Affairs overseeing the creation of the AILAC negotiating bloc in the UN climate talks for progressive Latin American countries that was first chaired by Costa Rica, and chairing the Forest-Eleven alliance of tropical forest nations
 - Ambassador of Costa Rica to Guatemala
 - Director General for Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica
 - Chairing the G77 Group as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN Office at Geneva during the restructuring of UNCTAD
 - Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UNESCO at Paris
-



MATTHEW MCKINNON
Executive Director

Work highlights:

- Supporting the establishment of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20, managing its secretariat and acting as the Forum's Advisor and Representative
 - Architect of the “#1o5C” campaign for inclusion of a 1.5 Celsius goal in the 2015 Paris Agreement, and the “tcktcktck” campaign ahead of the 2009 UN Copenhagen Climate Summit
 - Advisor on Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Maldives, and Philippines delegations to the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) negotiations
 - Speechwriter and programmatic advisor to former UN Secretary-General and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, the late Kofi Annan
 - Edited several global reports on climate vulnerability and low-carbon development, such as the Climate Vulnerability Monitor and Low Carbon Monitor
-

Where to find us



Maison de la Paix

We are proud to be housed at the Maison de la Paix right next to the Geneva headquarters of the United Nations in the heart of the international quarter of this global city which is also home to the Red Crescent and Cross, the World Health Organization and the headquarters of dozens of other international organizations. The Maison de la Paix, or “house of peace”, was designed by Swiss architect Eric Ott to resemble the unfolding petals of a flower and is a centre for study, dialogue and collaboration to address global challenges. The building is a part of the campus of Geneva’s Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the first university school to solely teach international affairs created in 1920 together with the UN forebear, the League of Nations.

Our office is a high performance (Minergie) building running on 100% renewable energy from Swiss hydro



facilities with triple glazed windows and a system to regulate inside temperatures that uses water from Lake Geneva and no fossil fuels.

Next to us are the offices of the Right for Livelihood Award Foundation (<https://www.rightlivelihoodaward.org>), the Global Survivors Fund (<https://www.globalsurvivorsfund.org>), whose founders, Dr Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, were awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for their work supporting survivors of wartime sexual violence in Central Africa, as well as the Center for Civilians in Conflict (<https://civiliansinconflict.org>) and Universal Rights Group (<https://www.universal-rights.org>), a unique think tank focused on the human rights work of the United Nations. These partners and many others at Maison de la Paix are a constant source of inspiration for our work.



MINERGIE®

100%
renewable energy

Taniwha: behind the logo

The symbol incorporated into our logo is the “Taniwha”, literally signifying “shark” in a number of Polynesian languages native to the Pacific, but often representing a water-dwelling being of mythical nature. Taniwha are thought to have followed the vessels of Pacific explorers in many island to island migration, at once a menace and a guardian. We found the two-fold character of this interaction point of people and nature an apt symbolic analogy to global challenges facing the world today.



Front cover photo:
Dhaka, Bangladesh, October 23rd 2009
© www.flickr.com | Marufish



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geneva

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Pauline Seppey and Aiyana Caballero
were the editors of our report working
with inputs from the whole team

We hope you also love the report
design and layout by Kathleen Morf



Our printed report uses paper
sourced from forests that are
managed to stay put and was produced
by an environmentally conscious printer