

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

October 2024



ANNUAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

REPORT

2023



WHAT'S IN A NAME

The word “Aroha” signifies in te reo Maori the compassion, concern, empathy and love that is so vital to overcoming the challenges facing people and our planet today.



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.

CONTENTS

A WORD FROM THE TANIWHA	4
OUR IMPACT IN 2023	6
ABOUT US	7
SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR	16
SPOTLIGHT 2023: FAIR SHARE PATHWAYS TO COMBAT GLOBAL CLIMATE BREAKDOWN	18
WHAT WE ACHIEVED	22
FINANCIALS	28
SUSTAINABILITY	34
WHERE TO FIND US	36
SUPPORT OUR WORK	37

A WORD FROM THE TANIWHA

As Taniwha reflects on the events of 2023, it's undeniable that the climate crisis continues to escalate at an alarming rate. This year marked record-breaking temperatures, exacerbating the already dire state of our environment. Droughts, wildfires, and extreme weather events surged, while El Niño heated our oceans. A study revealed that over 70% of the world's biodiverse regions are now threatened by rising temperatures. Will this wake-up call prompt global action? Mess with nature and nature fights back.

Yet, in the face of these mounting catastrophes, Aroha remains unwavering in its commitment to averting climate chaos. With 2023 designated as the Global Stocktake year under the Paris Agreement, the need for urgent action has never been more pressing. Hence, Aroha, in collaboration with partners across the globe, launched the Fair Share Now campaign - a bold initiative aimed at catalyzing momentum behind ambitious course corrections, particularly among the world's largest polluters - **Taniwha approved** ✓. The campaign is based on the Traffic Light Assessment's findings, which serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need for action: while the majority of countries are already striving to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal, the same cannot be said for the nations responsible for 80% of climate pollution. The current national climate targets (or Nationally Determined Contributions known as "NDCs") of the G7 and G20 countries, if left unchecked, could lead to a catastrophic 4°C rise in global temperatures. But there lies a glimmer of hope, the resonance of the Fair Share Now campaign and Traffic Light report, reaching nearly 13 million people, underscores its crucial importance in the fight against climate change - **Taniwha approved** ✓.

In parallel to calling out those countries not doing their part to save the planet, Aroha was steadfast in its support for climate-vulnerable countries, including Benin, Ghana, and Lebanon, in paving the way with the development of ambitious national climate strategies (including Climate Prosperity Plans and Paris Agreement long-term strategies).

But mess with nature and nature fights back.

Aroha remains unwavering in its commitment to averting climate chaos.

These trailblazing plans, led by countries most affected by climate change, serve as great examples of how prosperity can be harmoniously coupled with respect for Mother Nature. Building upon the momentum generated by Sri Lanka's launch of such a strategy in 2022, the nation took a further step in demonstrating its commitment to a sustainable future by submitting its Plan as its Long Term Strategy under the UNFCCC. **Taniwha approved** ✓

We must not forget that nations ravaged by climate catastrophes urgently require adaptation measures to survive the impacts inflicted by major polluters. So, I was glad to see Aroha collaborating with the Global Center on Adaptation on the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) Compacts for Benin, Ethiopia, Senegal and Tanzania. This joint effort signifies a crucial step towards equipping vulnerable nations with the tools and support needed to confront the challenges of climate change head-on.

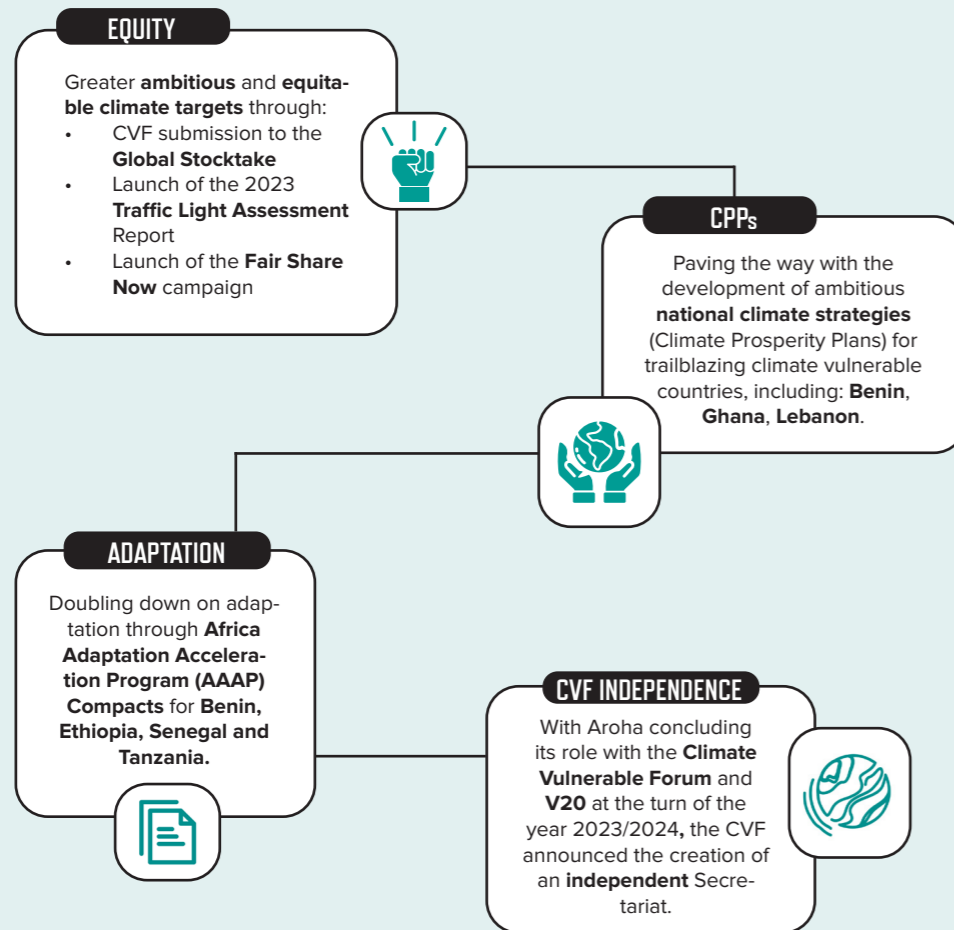
Finally, 2023 marked a significant transition for Aroha as it bids farewell to the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). What began as a program evolved into an independent force in its own right, thanks to the ambitious efforts of its members. As the CVF spreads its wings to chart its own course, Taniwha extends its best wishes for continued success to the Forum and recognizes all the secretariat team members and partners who have helped the CVF and V20 to be successful these past years. Now, Taniwha eagerly anticipates Aroha's new adventures on the horizon.

Taniwha approved ✓
Kia kaha there's still much work to do,
Aroha's Taniwha



OUR IMPACT IN 2023

In 2023, we continued to bring forward our mission to avoid climate chaos. Our collaborative efforts led to:



ABOUT US

Aroha is an independent NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, operating worldwide working towards **averting climate chaos.**

As part of our work, Aroha operates as a global platform mobilizing support for climate threatened communities and nations as key champions in overcoming a global crisis of the climate.

KEY FACTS ABOUT US

FOUNDED

2017
23.10

HEADQUARTERS

GENEVA
SWITZERLAND

MISSION

AVOIDING
CLIMATE
CHAOS

OBJECTIVES

Limiting warming to
1.5°C

Safeguarding

climate-threatened
people and ecosystems

Maximizing

transition benefits

2023 BUDGET

CHF 3'779'565

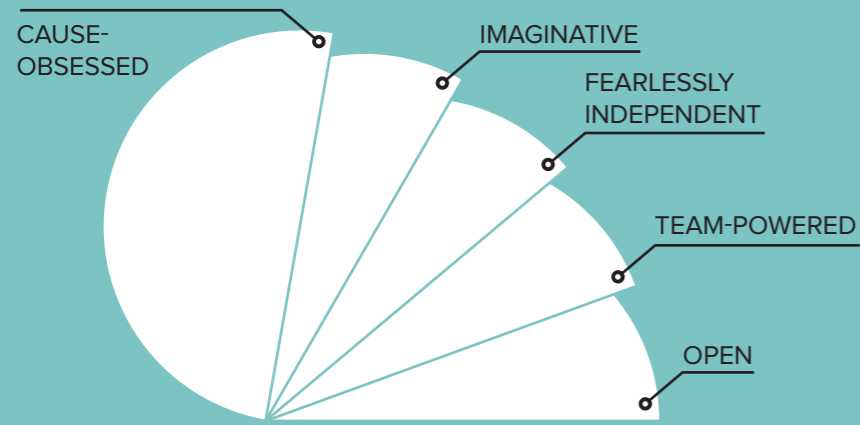
LEGAL FORM

International, tax-exempt

non-profit association

under Swiss law

OUR VALUES



OUR TEAM*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MATTHEW MCKINNON
Executive Director

AILÍN BENÍTEZ CORTÉS
Program Officer

BHHAVYA KAPOOR
Program Assistant

COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

PIERRE CONILLE
Senior Digital Officer

AIYANA CABALLERO
Program Officer

JULIA TOMAZI
Program Assistant

ELISA HU
Program Assistant

PAUL ROBERTS
Senior Communications Advisor

POLICY SHIFT

AGRIPINA JENKINS
Manager

AVRIL CHANEL
Program Officer

NOOR SAGHIR
Program Officer

PAULINE SEPPEY
Program Officer

SARAH OKORNO
Program Assistant

HADJA WONE
Program Assistant

MASA AWAD
Program Assistant

ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

MASAMI KAWAMOTO
Administrative Officer

FIONA LENTÉ
Administrative Officer

ADÉLA HRUBCOVÁ
Administrative Officer

ADITI JOSHI
Administrative Assistant

FINANCING & IMPLEMENTATION

MUNIYAT FABBIHA
Senior Program Analyst

Aroha operates as a global platform mobilizing support for climate threatened communities and nations as key champions in overcoming a global crisis of the climate.



HOW WE WORK

Aroha’s mission can be summed up in three words: avert climate chaos. We do so by mobilizing actions towards limiting global warming to 1.5°C, enhancing protection of vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and maximizing benefits of the transition to a climate resilient future. Towards these objectives, Aroha operates in partnership with public and private entities across four principal work domains.

POLICY SHIFT

Contributing to the development of policies to ensure action consistent with averting the climate crisis and advancing the interests of the most vulnerable nations in a variety of international fora.

We provide operational and technical support to vulnerable nations in the articulation of their interests in such international platforms. This includes the duties we performed as partners to the GCA-hosted Secretariat of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) from 2017 to 2023, as well as the development of national climate strategies.



FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Contributing to the effective financing and supporting the implementation of actions to avoid the climate crisis. We hosted the Financial Futures Center until 2023 – an economic and financial research initiative supporting developing countries to catalyze a transformation by optimizing core economic and climate responses together within the real economy.

Through our work on national climate strategies we support country-led strategic investment plans that put socio-economic outcomes first, while simultaneously embedding climate resilient and zero/low carbon results as intrinsic by-products of “climate smart” design.



COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Translating climate issues and policies into impactful communications and advocacy campaigns, amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable communities as well as creating and fostering relationships with partner organizations and exploring ways to expand collaboration opportunities.

We contribute to awareness and understanding vital to preventing climate catastrophe through synergies and joining forces to achieve greater change – which is why partnerships are an important part of our work. In particular, we foster our ongoing partnership with the MSC Foundation (which we helped establish) by providing continued support to their activities.



SUSTAINABILITY

The **Communications and Partnerships** and **Administration and Operations** teams work together to ensure that Aroha's sustainability goals are integrated into all aspects of the organization's operations, such as enforcing the sustainability policy and working towards Aroha being carbon neutral.

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

Supporting Aroha’s programs in the policy, financing and implementation, and communications and partnerships domains with effective internal finance and administration systems. Like any other organization, our activities require a strong administrative and operational support framework to ensure their successful implementation.

Under this pillar of our work, we ensure all of the front to back office services – from correspondence, travel arrangements, personnel support, procurement and hospitality – are fully functioning and supporting the organization's mission and work priorities. This work also includes monitoring Aroha's finances, donor reporting and budgeting, and arranging an annual independent audit.



Major emitters must enhance their ambition in 2023 and make their utmost fair-share effort to reduce emissions during this critical decade by reviewing and strengthening their 2030 NDC targets in order to safeguard the 1.5°C limit.



Photo Credit: Aroha

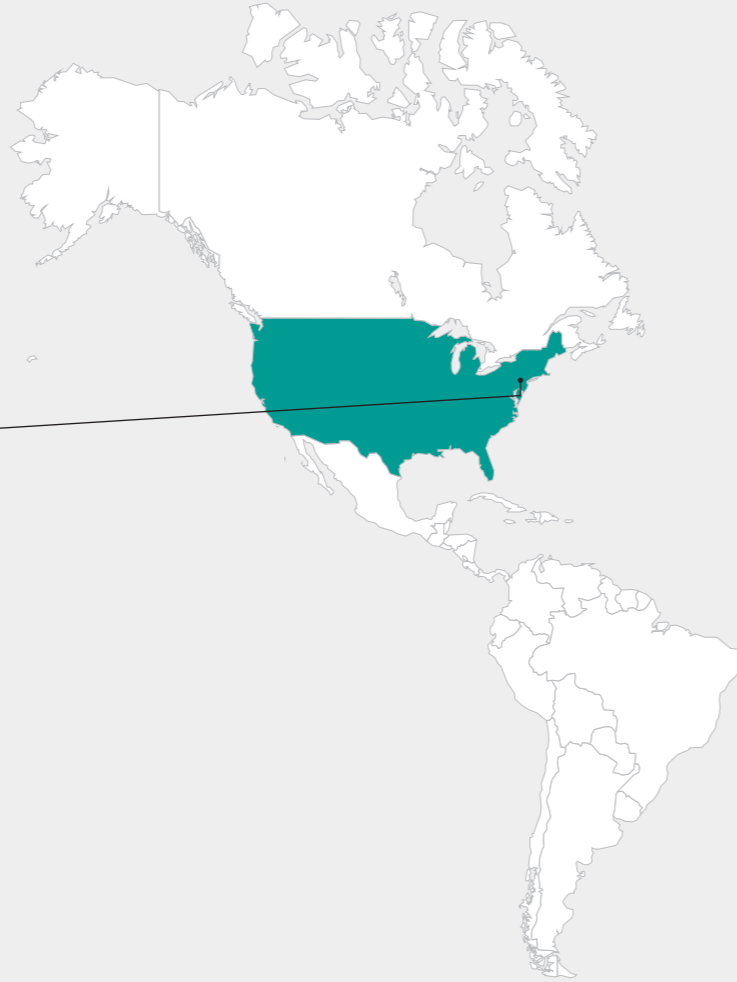
SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR

Our activities around the world in 2023.

🖥️ Online | 📍 On site

UNITED STATES

📍 CVF High-Level Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters, New York • July



SWITZERLAND

📍 CVF-Lancet Countdown Climate Health Side Event to the 76th World Health Assembly, Geneva • May



🖥️ Launch of the 2023 Traffic Light Assessment Report • October



🖥️ Launch of the Fair Share Now campaign • October

🖥️ CVF-OHCHR side-event in conjunction with the Human Rights 75 initiative: "Advancing Equity and Rights for People and States on the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis" • November



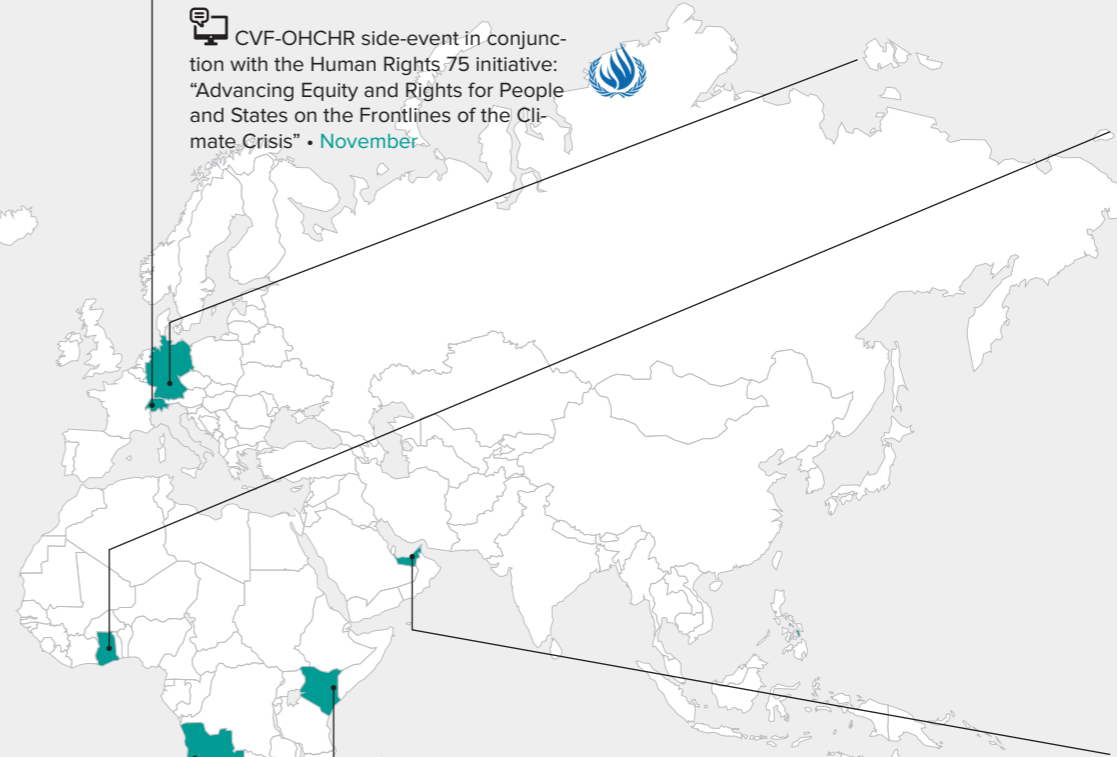
GERMANY

🖥️ CVF Submission for the Paris Agreement Global Stocktake • March

📍 Support to CVF Capacity-Building Fellows at the UNFCCC 58th session of the SBs, Bonn • June



📍 CVF Heads of Delegations Dinner Meeting at the UNFCCC 58th session of the SBs, Bonn • June



GHANA

🖥️ CVF Regional Consultations • May

🖥️ CVF-UNITAR Capacity-Building Fellowship Training • May

🖥️ CVF Senior Officials Meeting • July

📍 CVF-UNITAR Climate Diplomacy Training for Capacity-Building Fellows, Accra • October



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

📍 Presentation of the Migrants4Climate Award 2023 at COP28, Dubai • December

📍 Support to CVF Youth and Capacity Building Fellows at COP28, Dubai • December

📍 Parliamentary Accountability Summit at COP28, Dubai • December



KENYA

📍 African Parliamentarians Dialogue at the Africa Climate Summit, Nairobi • September



ANGOLA

📍 CVF-GPG 2nd Annual Dialogue at the IPU General Assembly, Luanda • October



SPOTLIGHT 2023

ACTIVITY

Fair Share Pathways to combat global climate breakdown

In 2023, we called for greater fair share efforts to combat the climate emergency and deliver the Paris Agreement through our 2023 edition of the Traffic Light Assessment report and the Fair Share Now campaign.

4°C
of warming

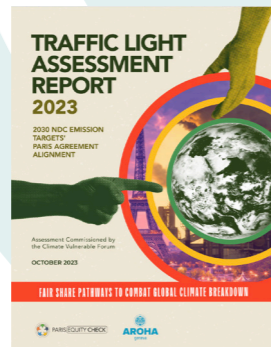


The **Traffic Light Assessment Report** highlights that nearly all G20 and G7 countries and the EU are not doing enough on their Paris Agreement commitments to reduce emissions. Their 2030 climate targets would **warm the planet by 4°C** if equity parameters are taken into account.

Commissioned by the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), we developed the report in collaboration with experts from the Paris Equity Check and the University of Utrecht. The study combines **population, capability and responsibility for past emissions** to determine what targets countries should set to reduce climate pollution by 2030.

"As vulnerable nations, we are convinced it is only fair that those, who polluted the most in the past, must make a greater effort to tackle climate change, especially when they are also the richest and most capable to act."

Nana Akufo-Addo,
President of Ghana, Chair of the CVF



CVF Youth Capacity-Building Fellows showcasing their support for the campaign at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai.

FAIR SHARE NOW

Based on the findings of the 2023 Traffic Light Assessment, we supported the launch of the **Fair Share Now campaign**, calling for full recognition of the current **inequity of NDC targets** in the overall effort for 1.5C, and for this to be recognised and rectified through **stronger emission targets from rich and polluting countries.**



Fair Share Now Campaign Social Card

+13M

#FairShareNow and the Traffic Light Assessment reached nearly **13+ million people**, generating international media attention, including a dedicated op-ed by President Akufo-Addo published in EuroNews.

"With such an alarming gap between what is being done and what must be done, the red light is flashing, and it now falls on those most responsible and capable to step up and deliver."

Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo, in an exclusive op-ed for Euronews



Photo Credit: Aroha



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

For Aroha, 2023 saw a culmination of many years of work supporting climate vulnerable nations. Thanks to the determination and dedication of our partners and colleagues across the globe, we were able to achieve the following advancements.

Through a dedicated partnership agreement from 2019-2023 with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), Managing Partner and secretariat host of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20), Aroha collaborates to deliver advice and support to activities of the CVF and V20, inclusive the domains of policy and analysis, partnerships and communications, events organization and administration.

1.5°C

- Since its inception, the CVF has been a pioneering advocate for limiting global warming to 1.5°C or below. In 2023, we supported the CVF in their Submission of Information for the First Global Stocktake of the UNFCCC. Our efforts emphasized the urgent need for all nations to enhance their climate targets, crucial for safeguarding the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.
- In New York, we assisted with the issue of the CVF High-Level Communiqué, which was informed by half a year of regional and global consultations among CVF members and observers, demanding major polluting nations to “course-correct” in order to safeguard the 1.5°C “survival” limit.
- Along with partners from the Global Center on Adaptation and the Financial Futures Center, we developed ambitious national climate strategies for Benin, Ghana and Lebanon. These strategies serve as blueprints for sustainable development within CVF countries, aligning with the 1.5°C target. Furthermore, Sri Lanka’s national strategy, published in 2022, was submitted as part its long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) at the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC in Bonn.

"1.5°C is a survival limit for the most vulnerable – some CVF members stand to lose substantial or virtually all their national territory above this level of warming."

High-Level Communiqué of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, 24 July 2023

EVOLUTION OF THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

- The V20 Ministerial Dialogue X held during the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings announced the establishment of an Independent CVF and V20 Secretariat. This landmark decision marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of the Forum, which has long relied on the Global Center for Adaptation and Aroha as its principal implementing partner since 2017.
- After years of collaboration, the Forum is now taking steps to enhance its autonomy by establishing its own independent Secretariat. This move reflects the Forum's commitment to amplifying the impact of its country-led coalitions and advancing its mission to address the challenges posed by climate change on a global scale.
- As Aroha bids farewell to its role as the principal implementing partner of the CVF-V20 we also embrace the prospect of new beginnings. Looking forward, we are energized by the prospect of exploring new avenues for impact in our mission to avert climate chaos.



CLIMATE **VULNERABLE** FORUM
FORO DE **VULNERABILIDAD** CLIMÁTICA
FORUM DE LA **VULNÉRABILITÉ** CLIMATIQUE
منتدى **المعرضين** مناخياً

Current logo of the Climate Vulnerable Forum

First logo of the Climate Vulnerable Forum



Climate Vulnerable Forum
Foro de Vulnerabilidad Climática
Forum de la Vulnérabilité Climatique

DYNAMIC ACTORS OF CLIMATE ACTION

- We worked with the CVF, UNITAR and the GCA as part of the CVF-V20 Capacity-Building and Youth Fellowship Program. The Fellowship empowered fellows to enhance their capabilities in supporting national endeavors towards advancing strategic climate change priorities within CVF member nations and in global policymaking arenas. We are proud to highlight that one of our fellows was appointed as a co-facilitator on gender and climate change at UNFCCC COP28.
- In Dubai during COP28, we held the first ever CVF Global Parliamentary Group Accountability Summit, bringing together parliamentarians to take stock of existing policy choices and processes to ensure enhanced political commitment for climate actions.
- Along with the CVF, IOM and GFMD, we launched the first edition of the Migrants4Climate Award, spotlighting the invaluable contributions of migrants and diaspora communities to climate action. Over 110 nominations were received from 56 countries.



From left to right: Agripina Jenkins, Aroha; Malini Mehra, Globe; MP Emmanuel Marfo, CVF-GPG; Jamal Saghir, GCA
Photo credit: Aroha

CLIMATE FINANCE

- We supported the V20 with the adoption of the Accra-Marrakech Agenda (A2M) as a vision for international financial reform including: i) Harnessing debt for climate action; ii) Transforming the international and development financial system; iii) A new global deal on carbon financing; and iv) Revolutionizing risk management for our climate insecure economy.
- In collaboration with the Global Center on Adaptation, we strengthened our commitment to adaptation finance with the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) Compacts for Benin, Ethiopia, Senegal, and Tanzania.



MSC FOUNDATION

- We facilitated the MSC Foundation's (MSCF) partnership with UNICEF for the Green Yoma programme, allowing training for 412 young social entrepreneurs.
- We supported the MSCF's work on corals through fostering collaboration with the IUCN and the Super Coral Programme partners. This led to the assessment of over 400 Indo-Pacific coral species and 85 Atlantic species, as well as the successful growth of 94 fragments of endangered elkhorn coral.
- We led the drafting of the Foundation's Strategy for thriving people and oceans, guiding the MSCF's operations and projects.

Dr. Owen O'Shea, Marine Research Program Manager, MSC Foundation working on a coral nursery at Ocean Cay, Bahamas
Photo credit: MSC Foundation



The M4C Award aims to counterbalance negative narratives on migration by giving visibility to initiatives led by or - inclusive of and targeting - migrants and diaspora and that feature a strong engagement in climate action.



Photo Credit: Aroha



FINANCIALS

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

BALANCE SHEET

On 31 December 2023

ASSETS	2023 (CHF)	2022 (CHF)
Cash	439'671	1'164'953
Grant receivable	294'601	-
Other assets	127'144	55'841
CURRENT ASSETS	861'416	1'220'794
Operating equipment	62'800	-
Guarantees and deposits	722	6'020
FIXED ASSETS	63'522	6'020
TOTAL ASSETS	924'938	1'226'814
LIABILITIES	2023 (CHF)	2022 (CHF)
Accounts payable	165'777	50'363
Accrued Expenses	26'400	105'430
CURRENT LIABILITIES	192'177	155'793
FUND CAPITAL	729'003	928'175
ORGANIZATION CAPITAL	3'759	142'846
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	924'938	1'226'814

924'938

Total assets

INCOME STATEMENT

From 1 January 2023 until
31 December 2023

	2023	2022
TOTAL GRANTS / INCOME	3'498'815	3'355'665
Consultants and Contractors	1'034'920	704'325
Travel expenses	794'818	574'325
Direct project costs	296	176'616
Independent subgrants	530'969	350'120
Salaries and social benefits	980'563	715'623
Office charges	110'084	38'752
Administration fees	54'952	48
Insurance & authorizations	11'129	22'784
Events and conferences	119'190	-
Third party fees	152'524	47'963
Other administration fees	345	-
Depreciation	12'034	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3'779'565	2'630'555
FINANCIAL CHARGES	6'721	4'151
Exchange differences	50'788	18'458
Commissions	-	1'772
FINANCIAL RESULT	57'509	16'078
ANNUAL RESULT (before change in programs capital)	338'259	741'189
Change in programs capital	199'173	708'899
ANNUAL RESULT (before allocation to the capital of the organization)	139'086	32'290

3'498'815

Total Income

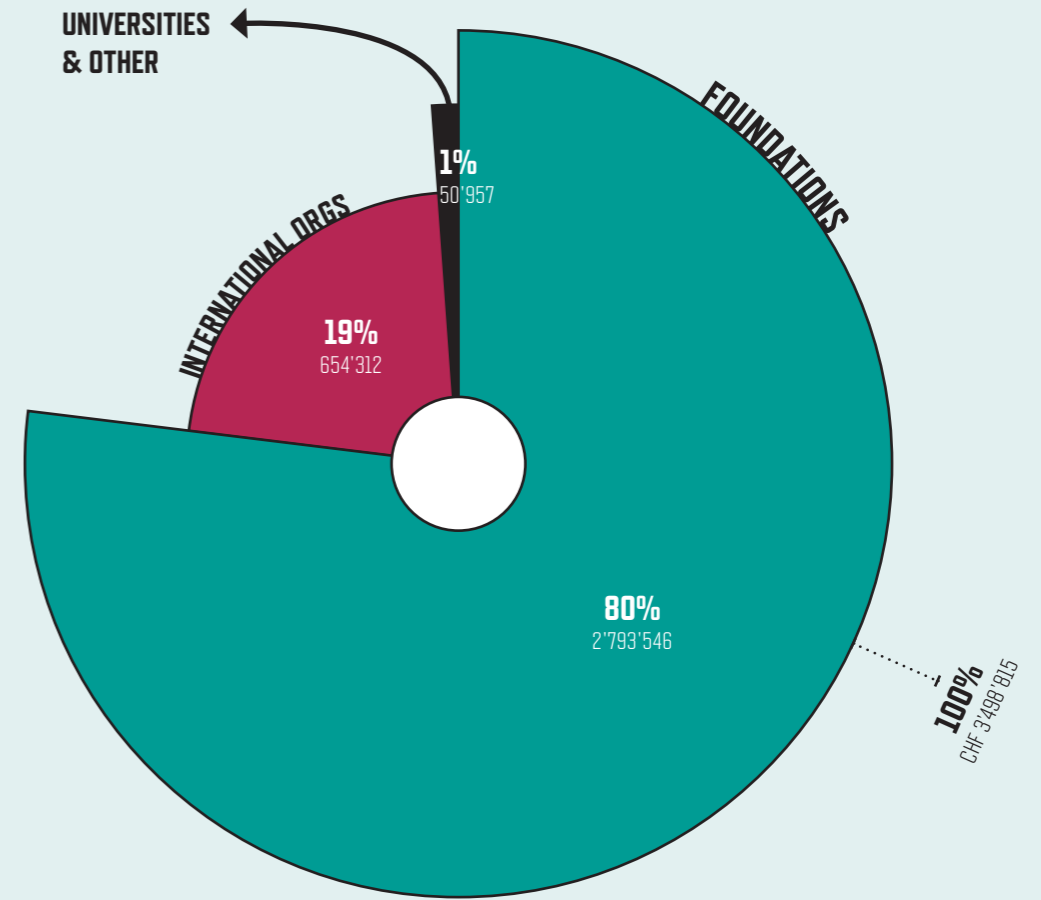
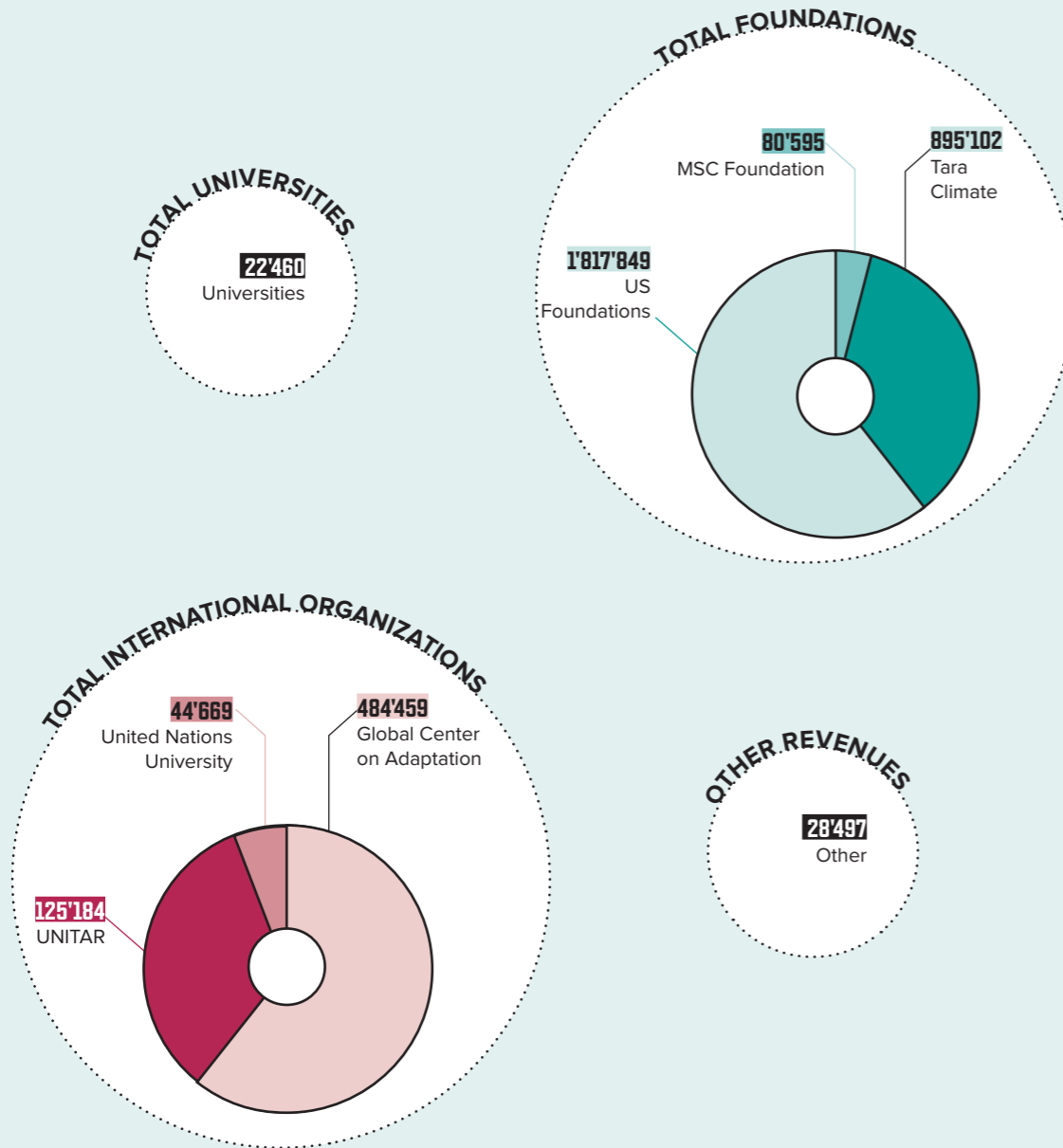
3'779'565

Total Expenditures

139'086

Annual result

WHERE OUR SUPPORT CAME FROM IN 2023



We thank our valued partners and donors for allowing us to carry out our mission to avert climate chaos.

The new “Traffic Light” Assessment Report highlights that nearly all G20 and G7 countries and the EU are not doing enough on their Paris Agreement commitments to reduce emissions.



Photo Credit: Jimmy Jin/ Unsplash

SUSTAINABILITY

At Aroha we are working day in and day out to promote protecting the planet and are constantly working on improving the way we manage our environmental impact as an organization. Here is our approach



OUR OFFICE

Aroha believes in and aims to be a climate and biodiversity positive organisation that is sustainable and socially responsible. Our office is committed to sustainability and reducing our environmental footprint. We are proud to utilize resources such as water and electricity sourced from 100% renewable energy. In line with our Sustainability Policy, we have implemented various initiatives to promote eco-friendly practices within our workspace.



MOBILITY

Aroha encourages alternative mobility and public transportation through team subsidies and we also apply a flexible home-office policy to reduce commuting and any associated environmental impact.



PROCUREMENT

We apply sustainability criteria to all procured goods and services, such as certified sustainably sourced paper or by evaluating potential partners on their own sustainability commitments.



SERVERS

Our servers are hosted with Google and are carbon neutral.



TRAVEL

Travel is our biggest challenge in terms of sustainability. Our travel policy covers the criteria that should be taken into account when deciding whether or not one of our employees should travel, giving consideration to the necessity of the trip, video conferencing options and any other steps that can be taken to make the trip more sustainable. We also promote ground and rail travel over air where possible.

WHERE TO FIND US

Located in the **heart of Geneva**, our operations benefit from being situated at the epicenter of **multilateral processes**.

Being headquartered here allows us to engage closely with representatives from diverse countries and UN missions, fostering **collaboration** and **exchange of ideas**.

Moreover, our proximity to key international bodies such as the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the World Health Assembly (WHA) provides us with unparalleled access to **decision-making forums** where critical discussions on global issues take place.

This strategic positioning enables us to actively contribute to **shaping policies and initiatives that have a meaningful impact** on the world stage.

Our offices are located in the heart of Geneva at rue du Stand 53.



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Aroha is mainly supported by international organizations and philanthropic foundations interested in promoting climate action and sustainability.

For donors or potential partners who would like to see more of the work that we are doing, our team would be pleased to explore and discuss options for supporting our work.

Modalities

Aroha mainly works with project agreements with funding directed towards specific activities. We can also accept core funding and are open to explore different options case-by-case.

Donations in Switzerland are fully tax deductible.

IMPRESSUM

Aroha
53 Rue du Stand
Geneva 1204 - Switzerland

info@aroha.ngo
aroha.org

T: +41 22 740 44 00
F: +41 22 740 44 40



Aiyana Caballero was the editor of our report working with inputs from the whole team.

We hope you also love the report design and layout adapted from Blou Design (www.blou-design.ch)

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



53 Rue du Stand
Geneva 1204 - Switzerland

info@aroha.ngo

aroha.org

T: +41 22 740 44 00

F: +41 22 740 44 40

