



Global
Forest
Generation

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

GLOBAL FOREST GENERATION'S MISSION:

We restore forest ecosystems.

For climate resilience, water security, biodiversity, and to benefit the livelihoods of indigenous communities, GFG brings grassroots conservation leaders, their organizations and communities together to create regional and multi-country forest restoration initiatives that share a common ecosystem and vision for long-term forest regeneration and protection.

We work directly with our local partners, building a comprehensive support system so their restoration projects can grow dramatically. And we seek opportunities to engage, mentor, and support the next generation of local eco-restoration leaders.



Global
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Generation

Message from the President



George Fenwick, President



Silver Lining of Our Restoration Efforts In These COVID-19 Times

The pandemic in 2020 provided a window into how well Global Forest Generation’s model of ecosystem restoration can weather a major challenge. Fundamental to our holistic approach to forest restoration is establishing and maintaining strong relationships of mutual trust and respect with local (often indigenous) communities, which we believe are essential to large-scale, long-term success.

Our local conservation partners responded with meaningful support to communities, as even the most remote Andean villages were not remote enough from COVID-19. In the early days of the pandemic, many shops were unable to stock their shelves with basic staples that local farm families couldn’t otherwise provide for themselves. And as relatives left the cities to return to their native villages, they brought the virus with them.

In Ecuador and Peru, conservation leaders distributed emergency care packages to families. They provided information, along with face masks, disinfectant gel and soap, on how to stay healthy. People were more grateful than ever for part-time jobs in the tree nurseries. In Ecuador, as word travelled of the conservation leaders’ empathy and responsiveness, tremendous good will has been generated. Community leaders are asking how their people can participate in reforestation. In fact, so many new communities asked to participate in reforestation that not all of them could be accommodated in the 2020 planting season. But they will be in 2021.

The situation is a little different In Argentina and Chile, which don’t have indigenous communities as in the northern Andes. There, our on-the-ground restoration partners rely upon volunteers. In Argentina, students. In Chile, the Army, and employees of local businesses. Despite the safety protocols of social distancing, which resulted in many fewer volunteers able to plant together, these volunteers are highly motivated and fulfilled their planting goals.

The true test of a model is how it withstands stress. We are gratified that our partners have been able to fulfill this year’s ambitious reforestation goals despite the pandemic. And that, thanks to strong on-the-ground leadership – which is the foundation of our model of ecosystem restoration – Acción Andina passed the 2020 stress test with flying colors!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Fenwick".

George Fenwick, President

Review: From the Executive Director



Florent Kaiser, Executive Director

While there are many global pledges to protect forests, there's a huge gap between recognizing what needs to happen and actually turning great intentions into positive results on the ground. Global Forest Generation is filling that gap. We are gratified that our approach to bringing capable, committed local conservation leaders into ambitious restoration initiatives across multiple countries is proving to be effective.

In 2019-2020, **GFG invested in local leaders** who can restore their forests but require support. We've provided - and will continue to provide - training, salaries, and technical and management assistance that enable grassroots leaders to fulfill their potential and sustain their conservation projects.

GFG continued to strengthen Latin-led Acción Andina, our regional restoration partnership in South America, which we co-founded in 2018 with Peruvian conservation nonprofit, ECOAN (Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos). This initiative is based upon a vision shared by grassroots conservation leaders and their communities throughout the Andes of restoring their lost forests, and protecting what remains. While realizing that vision will take many years, we are making great strides in creating a strong

foundation for the Initiative. We are continuing to facilitate its evolution as a growing, multi-country conservation program. In the last year, we grew the five organizations working with 40 local communities to eight organizations working with over 60 local communities.

GFG developed significant partnerships with donors whose support can make enduring large-scale ecosystem restoration a reality. Planting the right native trees in the right places and nurturing the growth of new forests while ensuring that standing forests actually remain standing will continue to require far-sighted funders and investors who understand that long-term gains require long-term investments. GFG is going beyond traditional donor-implementor relationships: in order to make long-term restoration work we are building long-term, diversified and blended finance of philanthropic, public, multilateral and Payment for Ecosystem Services from the ground up.

GFG actively engaged in the global conversation about ecosystem restoration. We are advocates for planting the right native trees in the right places. We are advocates for quality, effectiveness, and transparency, for accurately communicating all costs involved in comprehensive ecosystem restoration. Key performance indicators cannot be limited to the number of trees planted. They must include tree survival, retention of fresh water, creation of healthy soils, and sequestration of carbon. They must, of course, include protection of biodiversity. Critically important is compensation to the people responsible for regeneration and protection of their native forests.

Our support for community reforestation in these COVID times is demonstrating that ecosystem restoration is a viable job generator. GFG looks forward to helping improve the livelihoods of remote, rural (often indigenous) communities as we continue to replicate our community reforestation model and expand our efforts to restore and protect native forests globally.

Florent Kaiser, Executive Director

Investing in the capacity of local leaders



Latin-led Acción Andina - GFG's first multi-country large-scale forest restoration initiative - is committed to restoring the high altitude native forests of South America's Andes. Acción Andina's goal is to restore 500,000 ha (approx. 1.24 million acres) of this critical ecosystem by 2045, while saving the remaining 500 ha of vitally important old-growth Polylepis forests that spans seven countries.



The largely unknown Polylepis forests grow at the highest elevations where trees can survive - up to 5000 meters (16,450 feet) above sea level, just beneath the Andean glaciers. Their watersheds feed the headwaters of the Amazon.

The capacity of Polylepis to absorb enormous quantities of mist from clouds, even in the dry season, transforms eroded landscapes into healthy soil, streams, and wetlands - critical to the water security of nearby villages as well as lowland cities. Indigenous communities of the high Andes are highly motivated to restore their forests as they witness their glaciers shrink dramatically and can no longer take for granted access to fresh water.



Building the Initiative

Latin-led Acción Andina - GFG's first multi-country large-scale forest restoration initiative - is committed to restoring the high altitude native forests of South America's Andes. Acción Andina's goal is to restore 500,000 ha (approx. 1.24 million acres) of this critical ecosystem by 2045, while saving the remaining 500,000 ha of vitally important old-growth Polylepis forests that span seven countries.

-  Together with our local partners, GFG increased the native reforestation capacity of Acción Andina from 297,000 native trees in 2018 (our first year) to **1.165 million trees in 2020**.
-  GFG assisted our grassroots restoration partners in securing significant local and regional funding to sustain and grow restoration programs. In 2020, local partners raised approximately **30% of local funds**, compared to 18% in 2019.
-  GFG provided support, training and capacity building to over **30 local restoration leaders** and their organizations, including providing salaries, project management, conservation, fundraising and communications support, and introductions to monitoring tools and technology.
-  GFG supported the improvement or building of **40 community-managed plant nurseries** with a total plant capacity of more than 500,000 seedlings. (One of the biggest challenges to scaling up reforestation efforts globally is the availability of native seed stock at affordable prices. On-site community tree nurseries are economical and provide local employment.)
-  GFG established and staffed a **permanent Acción Andina administrative unit** hosted by the Initiative's chief implementing partner, ECOAN.
-  **GFG amplified local leaders' voices**, success stories, recommendations and concerns in national and international conservation forums to increase recognition and support for grassroots eco-leadership.





Acción Andina Achievements

As a result of GFG's capacity building with our on-the ground Acción Andina partners, the Initiative achieved measurable growth:

🌿 **Native reforestation increased from 297,000 native trees in 2018 to 1.165 million trees in 2020.**

🌿 **In the last year, Acción Andina partnership grew from five NGOs working with 40 local communities, to eight local partners with over 60 local communities across five countries.**

Where Acción Andina Worked in 2019-2020



Acción Andina's Local Partners in 2019-2020

ECOAN Peru

Andean Adventures Ecuador

Armonia Bolivia

Aves y Conservación Ecuador

FONAG Ecuador

Ecosistemas Argentinos Argentina

Sierras de Córdoba Argentina

CONAF Chile

New Partner Profile



FONAG: Acción Andina’s First Water Fund

The Ecuadorian water protection fund, FONAG (*Fondo para la Protección del Agua*) joined Acción Andina in April 2020. The organization was established in Quito in 1998 to create sustainable water conservation areas that could provide sufficient water for the growing population of the country’s capital. FONAG ensures that potable water is available for the 2.5 million people living in Quito while simultaneously protecting biodiversity by conserving and restoring native forests and wetlands.

FONAG’s ecosystem restoration, key to its integrated water resource management, includes conversion of exotic to native forests and recovery of soil and ground cover in high Andean forests. Also central to FONAG’s holistic approach is strategic land acquisition through conservation agreements with private and community owners, restoration of wetlands and degraded forests, and impact and evidence monitoring. FONAG views the training of community leaders (as well as students and the general public) as essential for long-term nature conservation and water availability.

More than twenty years ago, FONAG recognized the value of protected conservation areas as 80% of Quito’s water came from watersheds within buffer zones of protected areas. FONAG will now share its invaluable knowledge of water protection and monitoring with Acción Andina restoration partners throughout the Andes.



Polylepis nursery



Polylepis reforestation



Quito, Ecuador

2 Uniting local projects across large regions

As a project developer and capacity builder for ecosystem restoration, GFG creates networks of local restoration partners as well as donor partnerships to finance and manage our multi-country initiatives. Our approach is rooted in the fundamental commitment and proximity to local restoration leaders and recognition that long-term support is necessary for long term success.

Uniting local projects into regional partnerships helps access resources unattainable by individual grassroots implementers. Building locally sustainable restoration economies providing real benefits and opportunities to communities is our priority.

And we work across large, unique, vital ecosystems where other organizations have either not succeeded or not remained long enough to achieve significant results.

By bringing together forest restoration projects across the continent and uniting them under a shared vision, GFG is able to accelerate their growth. We drive collaboration and foster innovation among our on-the-ground restoration partners. By sharing ideas of what works best as well as learning and sharing what doesn't, grassroots leaders know we have their back.



Community meeting in Vilcanota, Peru



"Polylepis Production: Best Practices" webinar presented by ECOAN staff on May 15, 2020

ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are several ways we connected Acción Andina partners:

International Polylepis Congress / Acción Andina Partner Workshop *Quito, Ecuador - September 2019*

Acción Andina held its third Partner Workshop concurrently with the meeting of the International Polylepis Congress in Quito, Ecuador. GFG brought together 22 Acción Andina restoration leaders for three days of intense discussions. The objectives, achieved by the workshop:

- Strengthened the Acción Andina partnership by facilitating opportunities for Acción Andina leaders to strategize on how to work together to build a network of integrated landscape management programs through reforestation and protection of standing forests.
- Assessed partner commitment and capacities to deliver on Acción Andina goals.
- Advanced necessary procedures for successful collaboration; for example, adoption of common Acción Andina metrics and indicators of success.

Acción Andina Partner Workshop *Cusco, Peru - March 2020*

Acción Andina's fourth Restoration Implementers' Workshop was hosted by ECOAN in Cusco, just before international travel to and from Peru was shut down by the pandemic.

The purpose of this workshop was to:

- Ensure that Acción Andina partners master all the elements required to expand their projects, including reviewing contractual agreements and deliverables and anticipating and mitigating obstacles related to donor requirements.
- Familiarize Acción Andina partners with cutting-edge remote sensing solutions that can be a powerful tool for local conservation leaders to monitor and manage their restoration programs.

When in-person workshops were no longer possible due to COVID-19, Acción Andina offered webinars, which enabled the staff of our partner organizations, their leaders, and government officials to participate:

- Polylepis Production - Best Practices presented by ECOAN staff on May 15, 2020
- Government Relationships - Challenges & Opportunities for Restoration of High Altitude Andean forests - presented by ECOAN and GFG on May 29, 2020
- Mapping and GIS - presented by ECOAN on June 12, 2020
- Natural & Cultural Conservation - presented by Acción Andina partner CONAF (part of Chile's National Forestry Corporation) on June 24, 2020.



Acción Andina partners at the International Polylepis Congress

3 Developing funding partnerships

GFG continued to develop our relationships with companies, foundations, and multilateral organizations committed to creating a sustainable planet by saving forests. Among our special donor partners in FY19-20:

Corporate Partner - Salesforce

Salesforce announced in 2020 that the company is “working with incredible partners” like Global Forest Generation to meet its goal of planting 100 million trees in the next 10 years, doing “everything we can to step up to the urgent challenge of climate change.” GFG is gratified to be partnering with a global corporate leader that embraces the necessity to “Stop Talking And Start Planting! The high-profile leadership of Salesforce enables our partnership with the company to serve as a model, inspiring other major corporations and global leaders to invest in the conservation of old growth forests while regenerating lost and degraded native forests.



Nonprofit Partner - One Tree Planted

Global Forest Generation grew its partnership with One Tree Planted (OTP) in 2020, becoming One Tree Planted’s principal partner in the Andes. We are gratified that One Tree Planted is supportive of the many factors comprising our holistic strategy for reforestation, including addressing drivers of deforestation and providing benefits to local economies to strengthen long-term community engagement and commitment to forest conservation.



Nonprofit Partner - Arbor Day Foundation

Long before reforestation became a global priority, it was the single focus of Arbor Day Foundation. GFG is grateful to Arbor Day Foundation for being an early and steady supporter of Acción Andina.



4 Shaping the global conversation

As the restoration movement percolates with new ideas, models, projects and opportunities for action on the ground, GFG is fully engaged with global audiences as a vigorous advocate for effective forest conservation and restoration strategies, principles, metrics and methods.



Global Landscapes Forum

United Nations, New York - September 2019

GFG Executive Director Florent Kaiser and Acción Andina Executive Director, Constantino (Tino) Auca were invited by the Global Landscapes Forum to speak at the United Nations in New York City in September 2019 about mountain forest ecosystem restoration. This event, on September 28, 2019, was the culmination of the NY Climate Action Summit.



Constantino (Tino) Auca addresses the Global Landscapes Forum at the United Nations

“All the great work to restore our lost forests is possible by practicing three Incan principles: The Ayni, the Minka and the Mita - a deep sense of working together. Today I help you and tomorrow you help me. And not just person to person or community to community, it is among the entire people. These ancestral practices apply to all of us, not just those of us of Incan descent. We are convinced that only through large-scale reforestation campaigns, working closely together for the common good, can we fight the effects of Climate Change . . .

. . . We come together to show that we can restore thousands of acres of native forests and their wetlands. In this way we guarantee more water for the people, capturing the water from our melting glaciers- the principal water reserves for much of the continent - and even more: giving hope to humanity and to all the species that live in these ecosystems. On behalf of everyone who loves life, I invite you to join in our native ecosystem restoration, so that we can have some Human Dignity in having done something concrete for the planet, leaving new generations a planet with life and not a big dead rock.”

ACHIEVEMENTS

Recognition as Nature-Based Solution by the United Nations

GFG registered Acción Andina as an official UN Nature-Based-Solutions contribution to Reverse Climate Change, leading to GFG's inclusion in the UN's Nature Based Solutions (NBS) Coalition in September 2019.

Early participation in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)

Representing GFG, Executive Director Florent Kaiser was invited by the UN Secretary General's Office to participate in a 20 person, high-level workshop of "key stakeholders from the UN, civil society, the private sector, as well as the WEF" in Geneva, Switzerland (December 2-3, 2019). The workshop was co-organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) to help shape the WEF's Trillion Tree campaign and its connection to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Based upon our input and practical on-the-ground experience, GFG was invited to join the Global Advisory Council of the WEF's 1T.org campaign to forge powerful public-private alliances that can significantly speed up conservation and restoration of a trillion trees within this decade.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Profile of Acción Andina

Following the UN workshop on the Ecosystem Restoration Decade, UNEP featured our "Ambitious Project to Restore Andean Forests" on its blog (December 24, 2019). <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ambitious-project-restore-andean-forests>

World Economic Forum (WEF) Spotlight on Acción Andina

The WEF released a video on July 28, 2020 about Acción Andina on its social media channels.

Click the thumbnail to view the video.



FINANCIALS

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Supporters

Global Forest Generation is deeply grateful for the support we have received from the following individuals, foundations, nonprofits and businesses, enabling us to significantly increase our impact on the ground.

\$500,000+

Salesforce

\$100,000+

Arbor Day Foundation
Leslie Danoff & Lawrence Robbins
Mycorrhizal Fund

\$50,000+

Emmons-Bradlee Foundation
One Tree Planted

\$20,000+

George & Rita Fenwick
Michael P. Fenwick Trust
Jonathan Franzen
Jeniam Foundation
TenTree International

\$10,000+

Model Foundation
ShineMaker Foundation

\$5,000+

James & Yuko Brumm
Ryan Conroy
Marjoe Sale Arundel Fund for the
Earth

\$1,000+

Nonie & Larry Akman
Donald & Anne Ayer
Bender Family Foundation
RF Binder
Brett Byers
Valerie Cooke
Ulf Dammann
Andrew Frey
Dan Gropper
Mike and Becky Gillett
Joan Hero
David Harrison & Joyce Millen
Gary & Robin Orseck
Alan Untereiner & Karen Donfried

\$500+

James Jones
Richard Lazarus
Jeremy Robbins
Pam & Richard Sauber
Steven & Deanna Taubman

<\$500

Alison Barnes
Chimu Adventures
Louis Cohen
Alan Friedman
Mark Friedman
Alexandra Graylin-Frey
David Hiller
Cody Jackson
Walter Klamser
Emily Nissley
Sabin Schreiber
Alan Strasser
Beth Turner
Isabell Wesp
Vicki & Andrew Wittenstein
Jeroen Wolfslag
Katherine Young
Nolan Zemanski



Vicuña - Chimborazo, Ecuador:

The wild ancestor of domesticated alpaca, the vicuña is native to the high Andes of Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile. Poaching remains a constant threat because of the animal's prized wool and most of Ecuador's vicuña population is endangered.

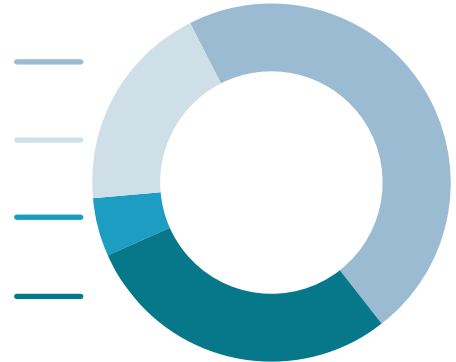
FINANCIALS

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Revenue and Expenses

Annual Revenue

Corporations - 46.8%	\$503,375
Nonprofits - 18.8%	\$202,546
Foundations - 5.3%	\$57,500
Individuals - 29.1%	\$312,655
Total Annual Revenue	\$1,076,076



Annual Expenses

Conservation Program: Acción Andina - 73.5%	\$567,565
General Administration & Fundraising - 10%	\$77,198
Communications - 2.7%	\$21,119
Conservation leadership capacity building - 13.8%	\$106,806
Total Annual Expenses	\$772,688



Net Assets on June 30, 2020	\$368,996
Overhead	10%

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Board of Directors

JAMES BRUMM

Board Chair

President, Glastonbury Commons, Ltd.
NEW YORK, NY

AMY BINDER (July 2018 - Dec 2020)

Board Treasurer

RFBinder Partners, Inc.
NEW YORK, NY

LESLIE DANOFF

Board Secretary

GFG Co-founder & COO
NORTH HERO, VT

GEORGE FENWICK

GFG Co-founder & President
THE PLAINS, VA

MILES FREELAND (Oct 2020 -)

Global Head of Communications,
Pangaia
NEW YORK, NY

RICHARD LAZARUS

Professor of Environmental Law
Harvard Law School
CAMBRIDGE, MA

Staff

George Fenwick, Co-founder & President

Rita Fenwick, Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer

Leslie Danoff, Co-founder & Chief Operating Officer

Florent Kaiser, Executive Director

Constantino Auca, Co-founder & Executive Director, Acción Andina

Erin Lebbin, Director of Program Development

Nathan Johnson, Director of Communications

Anna Allen, Development Officer



*The **Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant** (*Anairetes alpinus*, Tyrannidae family) is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species. The bird's habitat in the high Andean Polylepis forests of Peru and Bolivia is severely fragmented. The population of this neotropical Tyrant-flycatcher is thought to have dwindled to 150 - 700 individuals.*

Photo Credits

COVER

Constantino Auca

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Gregorio Ferro

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ECOAN

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Constantino Auca (*left*)
Hernán Torres (*right*)

PAGE 6 (*from top*)

Andean Adventures
Aves y Conservación
Constantino Auca

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FONAG

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ECOAN (*left*)
Acción Andina (*right*)

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Celia Kaiser

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Constantino Auca

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Fabrice Schmitt

BACK PAGE

Darwin Miranda

Reversing the tide of forest loss.

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