



# 30 Years of Innovation and Excellence

GRID-Arendal Annual Report 2019



Established in 1989 as a non-profit foundation under Norwegian law, GRID-Arendal's mission is to create environmental knowledge that encourages positive change. We do this by organizing and transforming available environmental data into credible, science-based information products, delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity-building services targeting relevant stakeholders.

GRID-Arendal works closely with the United Nations Environment Programme and other UN agencies and partners around the world to connect science to policy. Our goal is to shorten the distance between the emergence of new science and policy actions. We seek to influence thinking and action at the level of the global community on issues that require collective efforts because many problems cannot be solved at the national level alone.

## Acknowledgements

GRID-Arendal would like to acknowledge the support of the Government of Norway and its other funders, partners, and supporters.

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# Foreword

For three decades, GRID-Arendal has had a thriving partnership with the UN Environment Programme, communicating about science to spur policy action. Together, we have worked to fight climate change, protect biodiversity, prevent pollution, and much more.

The next decade may be the most decisive yet, as we push to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and preserve a livable climate, and GRID-Arendal will continue to be a vital partner in these efforts.

GRID-Arendal's work spans across UNEP's priorities and around the globe. The organization is playing a leading role in assessing and advocating for nature-based solutions to climate change, from promoting protection of seagrass to facilitating community-led mangrove restoration. It is providing strategic support to the Tehran Convention, which aims to protect the Caspian Sea, and to the Abidjan Convention, which focuses on marine area protection in West, Central and Southern Africa. GRID-Arendal is playing a key role in our Vanishing Treasures project, which is fostering the health of endangered mountain species and nearby human communities. It is doing groundbreaking work

on waste, such as gathering local knowledge on marine litter in West Africa and exposing the unexpected links between gender inequality and waste management. These are just a few of the important projects we've undertaken together.

GRID-Arendal also played a critical role in producing flagship UNEP publications in 2019, including the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) and our "Global Linkages" report and graphics on the changing Arctic – outputs that helped tell the world about our environmental challenges and what we as a global community must do to address them.

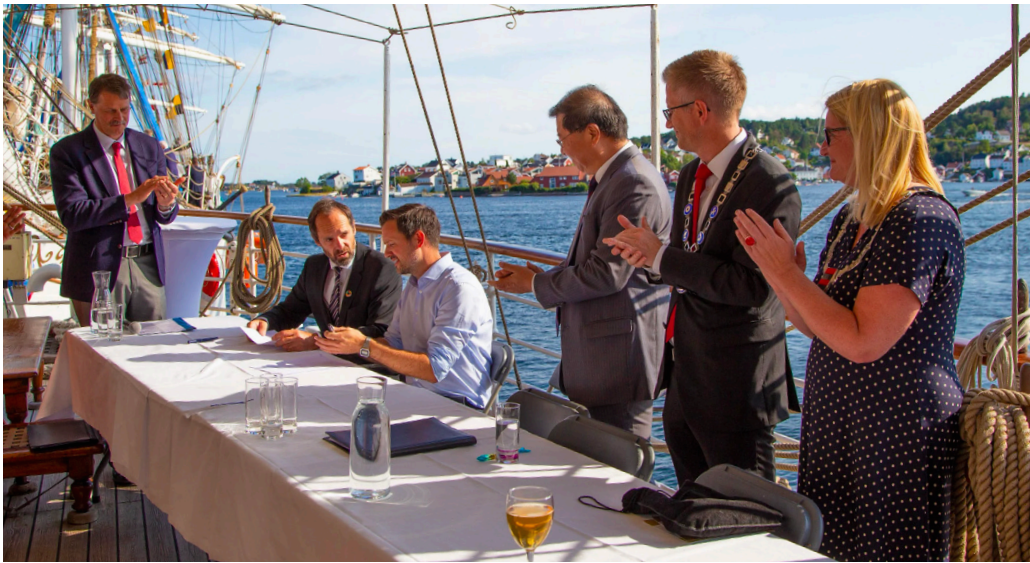
UNEP congratulates GRID-Arendal on 30 years of rigorous, creative, meaningful work. We look forward to collaborating in the crucial years ahead to build a future in which both people and nature thrive.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Liu', written in a cursive style.

**Jian Liu**

Chief Scientist and Director of the Science Division  
UN Environment Programme



*GRID-Arendal celebrates its 30th anniversary on the tall ship Sørlandet.*



# Message from the Managing Director

GRID-Arendal was launched in 1989 – the year the World Wide Web was born, the first handheld GPS device was sold, and the Nintendo Game Boy hit the scene. It was also the year the Exxon Valdez caused an epic oil spill in Alaska, fires in the Amazon rainforest triggered global alarm bells, and the newly formed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was hard at work on its first report, which would warn that climate change was “potentially the greatest global environmental challenge facing humankind”.

Three decades on, technology has advanced by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, our environmental challenges have advanced too, becoming more dire, urgent, and complicated.

This means the need has never been greater for GRID-Arendal’s work: deploying a wide range of technologies to develop environmental knowledge, communicate it to the public, and advance innovative and practical solutions.

Thirty years after the birth of the World Wide Web, GRID-Arendal used it to stream videos recorded by drones as part of the FishGuard initiative, which aims to deploy drone technology to stop illegal fishing.

Thirty years after GPS data became available to the masses, GRID-Arendal employed it to map biodiverse areas and track endangered species in Colombia, Kenya, Peru, and Vietnam.

And 30 years after Nintendo put video games directly into people’s hands, GRID-Arendal co-founded the Playing for the Planet Alliance, a coalition of major video game companies including Microsoft, Google Stadia, and Sony Interactive Entertainment. Launched at the UN Climate Action Summit, the alliance is harnessing the power of gaming to fight climate change,

reduce plastic waste, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

GRID-Arendal celebrated its 30-year anniversary with a ceremony on the tall ship Sørlandet during Arendalsuka, Norway’s national political festival. We marked the occasion by signing new agreements with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the UN Environment Programme, laying the groundwork for years of collaboration to come.

I am proud of the work our GRID-Arendal team did in 2019. In addition to the achievements mentioned above, we produced UNEP’s high-profile “Global Linkages” report on changes in the Arctic environment, contributed to the encyclopedic “Global Environment Outlook 6”, and provided critical support to the government of Norway in its successful sponsorship of an amendment to the Basel Convention that will help prevent low-quality plastic waste from being exported to developing nations that lack the capacity to deal with it effectively.

There’s not enough space on this page or in this annual report to feature all of the important initiatives we worked on 2019, but we’re pleased to be able to share highlights with you. There will be much more to come in 2020 and beyond.



**Peter Harris**  
Managing Director  
GRID-Arendal

# What we do

In 2019, GRID-Arendal's staff of 35 worked on more than 50 projects in countries around the world, communicating about environmental challenges and solutions. Our work provided critical information to policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and the public on topics ranging from climate change to plastic pollution to species conservation.

We produced maps, videos, photos, and infographics. We flew drones to capture data and imagery. We built databases and web portals. We convened scientific researchers and brought their contributions to wider audiences. We held capacity-building workshops, webinars, and training sessions. We did fieldwork and conducted original research. We wrote reports and policy briefs. And we did much more – always in close collaboration with partners, including major international organizations, research groups, universities, and on-the-ground NGOs.

Our work is made possible by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, and we are immensely grateful for their support.

The following pages feature highlights from our staff's work in 2019.



As a centre collaborating with the UN Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal strives in all of its work to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals that form a blueprint for building a better and more sustainable future for everyone. We are focused in particular on the environment-related goals, while also contributing to fulfillment of goals for peace, gender equality, economic growth, and more.





# Strengthening the Basel Convention with new rules for plastic waste

In May 2019, the governments of 187 countries adopted an amendment under the Basel Convention aimed at preventing low-quality plastic waste from being exported to unprepared developing nations, which will reduce the amount of plastic making its way into the oceans and other natural areas. Norway proposed the amendment, and GRID-Arendal played a key role in supporting it. Under the new changes, which go into effect in January 2021, cross-border trade in mixed and low-grade plastics will require exporting countries to get prior informed consent from importing countries.

Climate and Environment to provide Basel Convention delegates with information about the issue. We produced a policy brief with explanatory graphics and maps. We collaborated with the BRS Secretariat and the Norwegian government to put on four side events at the May meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. We had one-on-one conversations with delegates at Norway’s booth at the COP meeting. We also teamed up with the Geneva Environment Network to hold an open meeting at the UNEP offices to share information about the negotiations and the important issues at stake. The resulting adoption of what came to be called the “Plastic Amendment” will ultimately reduce harm to vulnerable people as well as the environment.

Leading up to negotiations on the amendment, GRID-Arendal worked closely with the Norwegian Ministry of

**POLICY IMPACT**  
GRID-Arendal’s work paved the way for the “Plastic Amendment” to the Basel Convention.

**KEY NUMBERS**

**4**  
side events that GRID-Arendal hosted or co-hosted at the 2019 meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

**187**  
number of nations that came together to restrict trade in contaminated loads of plastic trash

**9**  
estimated percentage of all plastic ever produced that has been recycled

**350 million**  
tons of plastic produced globally in 2017



The GRID-Arendal team at the 2019 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. From left: Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez, Ieva Ručevska, Peter Harris, Levi Westerveld, and Runa Lindebjerg.



# Leading the drive for improved mine safety

In 2017, GRID-Arendal recommended that a database be built to share information on mine waste storage sites around the world. In 2019, we got the opportunity to build it.

Our report “Mine Tailings Storage: Safety Is No Accident”, published in 2017, outlined the many risks associated with tailings dams, which hold mining waste slurry. Those risks came tragically to life again in January 2019 when a tailings dam collapsed in Brumadinho, Brazil, killing 270 people. The disaster galvanized institutional shareholders into action, notably the Church of England Pensions Board and the Swedish National Pension Funds’ Council of Ethics. The two organizations created the Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative, which asked publicly listed mining companies to release information on their

tailings dams. Up to this point, many companies were not even consistently tracking tailings dam data.

GRID-Arendal, a partner in the initiative, analyzed the information from the mining companies and used it to create the Global Tailings Portal, the world’s first public database of information on tailings sites. The portal can now be used by investors, governments, journalists, local communities, and the mining industry itself. The project puts pressure on all mining companies to be transparent about their waste facilities and reduce associated risks. GRID-Arendal is also participating in related efforts to create a new industry standard for tailings management and a global insurance system to safeguard communities and the environment potentially affected by any future tailings dam failures.

## KEY NUMBERS

### 1,700+

number of tailings storage facilities listed in the Global Tailings Portal

### 18,000

estimated number of tailings storage facilities around the world

### 110

institutions backing the Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative

### \$14 trillion

value of assets under management backing the Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative in 2019

### 45.7 billion

cubic metres of tailings stored in facilities listed in the portal

### 11,447

number of times London’s Wembley football stadium could be filled by tailings in facilities listed in the portal



*A joint report ... by the United Nations Environment Program and the Norwegian foundation GRID-Arendal found that in most [dam] failures, there had been ample advance warning signs.*

The New York Times

## INDUSTRY IMPACT

In September 2019, mining company **Almaden Minerals Ltd.** announced that it would build a safer type of tailings storage facility at a mine in Mexico, due in part to recommendations in the “Mine Tailings Storage” report by UNEP and GRID-Arendal.

## PRESS IMPACT

A **BBC** story featured GRID-Arendal’s Elaine Baker discussing the dangers posed by tailings dams.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Many media outlets covered the Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative and its effort to get data from mining companies, including **The Wall Street Journal** (US), **Reuters** (US), **Bloomberg** (US), and **ABC** (Australia).





# Video gaming for the good of the planet

An innovative report from GRID-Arendal and UNEP led to a groundbreaking industry alliance that is bringing many of the world’s biggest video game companies together to fight climate change and tackle other environmental challenges. The “Playing for the Planet” report, released in March 2019, spotlighted how gaming firms have enormous potential to help the world move towards sustainability. Six months later, CEOs from companies including Microsoft, Google Stadia, and Sony Interactive Entertainment gathered at the UN Climate Summit in New York City to launch the Playing for the Planet Alliance. Altogether, the 21 companies

participating in the alliance committed to measurable steps to cut, curb, and offset their greenhouse gas emissions, plant trees, nudge their players toward greener choices, and improve the energy management, packaging, and recycling of their devices.

Building on this strong start in 2019, GRID-Arendal and UNEP will continue strengthening the alliance and spurring more industry climate action in 2020.

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

The Playing for the Planet report and alliance were covered by news outlets around the world, including **BBC (UK), The New York Times (US), The Washington Post (US), ABC News (US), The Associated Press (US), Reuters (US), Talouselama (Finland), and ITavisen (Norway).**

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

GamesIndustry.biz declared the Playing for the Planet Alliance to be “People of the Year 2019”.

**POLICYMAKING IMPACT**

After we published the “Playing for the Planet” report, the Norwegian Ministry of Culture released a video game strategy.



*Trista Patterson, senior economist at GRID-Arendal, gives a talk at TEDxArendal about Playing for the Planet and the positive power of video gaming.*

**KEY NUMBERS**

**21**  
*video gaming companies that made measurable environmental commitments as part of the Playing for the Planet Alliance*

**30 million**  
*tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission equivalent that will be prevented by 2030 by companies’ commitments*

**2.3 billion**  
*number of people around the globe who play video games*

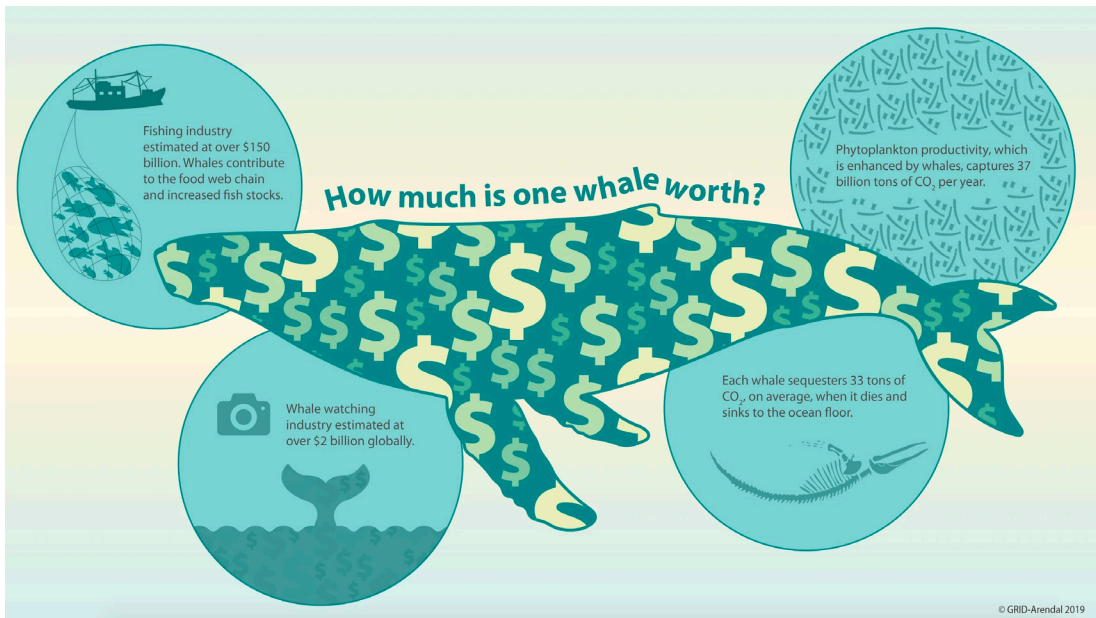
**1**  
*TEDx talk given about Playing for the Planet by GRID-Arendal’s Trista Patterson*



# Making a whale of a case for protecting marine life

GRID-Arendal's work helped to propel the concept of "whale carbon" into mainstream media and major policy discussions. In 2019, we completed an oceanic blue carbon pilot study for the United Arab Emirates, the world's first national assessment of policy options for promoting CO<sub>2</sub> storage by whales and other marine vertebrates. Three of our infographics on the topic were then featured in a high-profile article in the International Monetary Fund's Finance & Development magazine. The article made the case that the current population of great whales is worth about \$1 trillion

based on contributions to carbon sequestration, fishery enhancement, ecotourism, and more. That finding sparked extensive press coverage, and led to GRID-Arendal's whale infographics being featured in numerous media outlets as well as at the COP 25 UN climate conference, at the IMF, and on the World Economic Forum website. Our Blue Carbon Programme Leader Steven Lutz, who co-authored our "Fish Carbon" report in 2014, was interviewed by a number of reporters about the potential power of marine life to capture carbon and help us fight climate change.



“  
Terrific infographics that neatly illustrate the role of whales in carbon sequestration

Journalist Clive Thompson, BoingBoing

## INFOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE

Our whale carbon graphics were featured in publications including IMF's **Finance & Development**, **Popular Science** (US), **Daily Mail** (UK), **The Conversation** (in English and Indonesian), and **The Storm** (Taiwan).

## MEDIA COVERAGE

GRID-Arendal's Steven Lutz was quoted in many media outlets discussing oceanic blue carbon, including **National Geographic** (US), **The Week** (US), **MSN News** (US), **BoingBoing** (US), **El Diario** (Spain), **Nikkei Style** (Japan), **SVT** (Sweden), and the **Carbon Removal Newsroom** podcast (US).

## KEY NUMBERS

**33**

tons of carbon an average great whale sequesters when it dies and sinks to the ocean floor

**\$2 million**

economic value of the average great whale, considering its contributions to services like carbon sequestration, fishery enhancement, and ecotourism

**\$1 trillion+**

economic value of the current global stock of great whales





# Illuminating the ways that gender interacts with the environment

UNEP strives to achieve gender equality and incorporate considerations of gender into all of its work to protect our environment, and GRID-Arendal made significant contributions to this effort in 2019. Our team did fieldwork to study the gender dynamics of waste management in three Asian countries and produced a groundbreaking UNEP report, “Gender and Waste Nexus: Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal”, as well as a corresponding policy brief, videos, photos, and other communication products. We collaborated

with the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions to publish a “Pocket Guide to the BRS Gender Action Plan”, with guidance for integrating a gender perspective into management of chemicals and waste. And we produced two StoryMaps – multimedia stories with maps, charts, photos, and videos – to elucidate topics addressed in UNEP’s 2016 publication “Global Gender and Environment Outlook”. The StoryMaps tackle the issues of water and sanitation and of consumption and waste as they relate to gender.

## KEY NUMBERS

**16 million**

*collective number of hours that women spend each day obtaining drinking water in 25 sub-Saharan countries*

**71**

*percentage of water-collection burden that is carried by women and girls in sub-Saharan African households without piped water*



GRID-Arendal’s Ieva Ručevska conducting research on gender and waste at a dump site in Kathmandu, Nepal.





# Putting Arctic issues in the international spotlight

GRID-Arendal wrote and produced the high-profile UNEP report “Global Linkages: A Graphic Look at the Changing Arctic”, which highlighted challenges in the region from climate change to pollution to biodiversity loss. The report was launched in March during the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), at an event that featured environment ministers and other high-level representatives from Nordic countries. The report

generated extensive global news coverage and discussion on social media. GRID-Arendal’s robust polar program has continued to build connections and capacity that are helping it to raise the profile of the Arctic in other ways as well, including by working closely with UNEP on Arctic projects, representing UNEP at Arctic events, and running communications and dissemination for the EU-funded Nunataryuk project on permafrost.



Maps and graphics from “Global Linkages” are displayed during a seminar marking GRID-Arendal’s 30th anniversary.

“  
A stark picture of one of the planet’s most sensitive regions and one that is key to the fate of the world’s climate.

The Guardian on “Global Linkages”

**MEDIA COVERAGE**  
The “Global Linkages” report was covered by news outlets around the world, including **The Guardian** (UK), **CBC News** (Canada), **La Vanguardia** (Spain), **The Barents Observer** (Norway), **Vice** (US), and **The Times of India**.

**KEY NUMBERS**

**4 million**  
*number of people who live in the Arctic*

**21,000**  
*number of different species found in the Arctic*

**40%**  
*estimated decline in Arctic sea ice since 1979*

**1,672 billion**  
*estimated metric tons of carbon stored in Arctic permafrost*



# Highlighting innovative local solutions to droughts

GRID-Arendal collaborated with UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme to put together a visually compelling digital exhibition and publication entitled "Droughts in the Anthropocene". We produced 16 short videos about drought case studies around the globe, highlighting the different ways that communities are proactively coping with water shortages, from the Aral Sea

to Zambia. An accompanying publication features more detail on each case study. We unveiled the exhibition and the English/French version of the publication during the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris in November, then launched the English/Spanish version of the publication in December at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 in Madrid.



GRID-Arendal's *Hanna Gjerdi* (third from left), who led the "Droughts in the Anthropocene" project, joins collaborators in launching the exhibition and publication in Paris.

## KEY NUMBERS

**1.1 billion**

*number of people affected by drought-related natural disasters from 1995 to 2015*

**22,000**

*number of people who died in drought-related natural disasters from 1995 to 2015*

**30 million**

*number of people whose livelihoods rely on Lake Chad*

**6,300**

*litres of water that can be collected each day from an innovative fog-harvesting system in a mountain community in south-west Morocco*





# Exploring how drones and artificial intelligence can fight illegal fishing

GRID-Arendal has been pioneering high-tech solutions to halt illegal fishing in the waters around small island developing states. Through the award-winning FishGuard initiative, we are collaborating with partners to test use of drones with artificial intelligence, satellite data analysis, and other tools to help fishery-dependent countries protect their critical natural resources.

In 2019, we conducted pilot tests in the Seychelles at the request of its government, engaging coast guard officers and national park rangers in the process. The methods and equipment used in the FishGuard initiative could ultimately prove helpful in identifying other types of organized crime, including violations of marine protected areas and poaching of protected species on land.



*Valentin Emelin (left), head of GRID-Arendal's environmental crime programme, interviews a member of the Seychelles Coast Guard about the use of drones to combat illegal fishing.*

## KEY NUMBERS

**\$150,000**

*amount awarded to the FishGuard project when it won the National Geographic Society's Marine Protection Prize*

**\$36.4 billion**

*top end of estimated annual cost of illegal fishing around the globe*

**1.37 million**

*size in square kilometres of the Seychelles' exclusive economic zone, a vast marine area that could be better patrolled with use of drones*



*Rob Barnes (centre), a certified drone pilot and digital communications expert at GRID-Arendal, operates a drone alongside officers in the Seychelles Coast Guard.*



# Discovering and helping to conserve critical seagrass meadows

A notable scientific discovery happened during an expedition by experts from GRID-Arendal and Sierra Leone’s Environmental Protection Agency in 2019: they found seagrass in Sierra Leone for the first time. The finding came about through the ResilienSEA project, funded by the MAVA Foundation, which is working to protect and expand knowledge about seagrasses in seven West African countries. This discovery took place after national experts were trained during a regional technical workshop in Senegal in March 2019. During this workshop, more than 45 participants from all seven countries spent a week building their capacity to manage seagrass meadows. This workshop was then followed by a series of national trainings for a greater number of experts at the country level, with the first three taking place in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone.



Also in 2019, GRID-Arendal hosted seagrass experts from around the world at our office to work on a global synthesis report on seagrasses, to be released by UNEP

in 2020. The report will highlight the values, goods, and services that seagrasses provide to people around the world, serving as a call to action for managers and decision-makers. And we published “People of Seagrasses” profiles on our website to shine a spotlight on individuals working to preserve these vital ecosystems and the communities they serve.

## KEY NUMBERS

**7**

*countries that are home to ResilienSEA pilot projects*

**7**

*estimated percentage of the world’s seagrass habitat that is lost each year*

**72**

*number of known seagrass species*

**18**

*estimated percentage of the world’s marine carbon that is stored by seagrasses, though they only cover 0.1 per cent of the ocean floor*



GRID-Arendal seagrass scientist **Maria Potouroglou** on mission in Joal, Senegal.



# Sharing knowledge about marine litter in the Arctic

GRID-Arendal further established itself as an expert source of information on Arctic marine litter in 2019, and worked to spread this knowledge to the public. The Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine

Environment Working Group (PAME) commissioned us to produce its "Desktop Study on Marine Litter Including Microplastics in the Arctic" and present its findings at a UNEP-sponsored side event at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in March. We then built on those findings to draft a marine litter regional action plan for the Arctic. GRID-Arendal also presented information about marine plastic pollution in the Arctic at other events including the Arctic Frontiers conference and Arendalsuka, Norway's national political festival.

## KEY NUMBERS

**8 million**

*estimated tons of plastic added yearly to the world's oceans*

**150 million**

*estimated tons of plastic that have accumulated in the world's oceans since the 1950s*

**72**

*percentage of marine litter debris or particles that are plastic*

**640,000**

*estimated tons of fishing gear lost at sea each year*

We also worked on a Marine Debris Action Planner that predicts where litter will accumulate on coastlines, enabling cleanup crews to more efficiently target problem spots. We helped to foster cooperation between Norway and Russia on addressing marine litter in the Barents Sea, in part by working with UNEP to do a complete Russian translation of its massive open online course (MOOC) on the topic. In addition, we have been leading the University of the Arctic's Thematic Network on Arctic Plastic Pollution, through which we contribute to education and research initiatives, help experts collaborate and share knowledge, and ultimately support the Arctic Council working groups.



## PRESS IMPACT

Our maps on marine plastic pollution were featured in a cover story in CARTO magazine.



*Joan Fabres, head of GRID-Arendal's marine litter programme, collecting waste from a coastline.*



# Gathering knowledge about marine litter in West Africa

In 2019, GRID-Arendal made great strides in gathering local, national, and regional knowledge about the challenge of marine litter along Africa's Atlantic coast. Information about marine litter in this region is not widely published or accessible, so expert knowledge needs to be tapped and turned into published products.

To this end, GRID-Arendal teamed up with UNEP, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, and other partners to invite experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to workshops on marine litter. Experts from 23 countries participated in three sub-regional workshops held in Ghana, Morocco, and Namibia. The valuable knowledge shared at these workshops will be made publicly available in 2020 via a desktop study, which will then inform the development of the West Africa Marine Litter

## KEY NUMBERS

### 3

*West African countries where we convened workshops on marine litter*

### 23

*number of countries represented among the workshop attendees*

Regional Action Plan that has been called for by the UN Environment Assembly. GRID-Arendal is also producing a set of seven scientific papers on different aspects of marine litter challenges in Africa.



*Children on a littered beach in Joal, Senegal.*

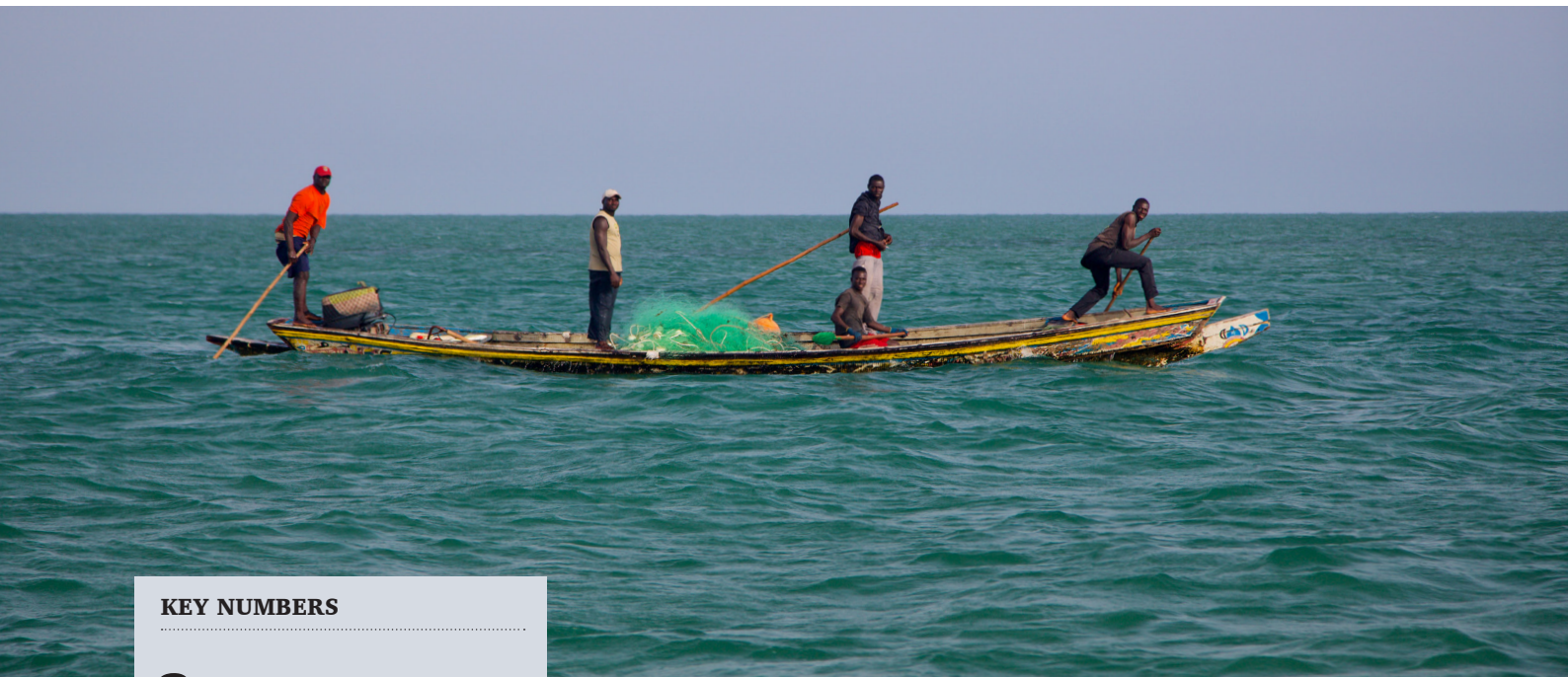




# Strengthening marine management along the Atlantic coast of Africa

Our Mami Wata project is supporting countries in West, Central, and Southern Africa with managing the variety of different uses of their ocean areas while protecting the region’s biodiversity hotspots and highly productive ecosystems. 2019 was a big year for Mami Wata, as we launched three pilot projects in Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, and Ghana. We’re supporting leaders in the countries to do marine spatial planning, assess the state of their marine environments, and identify

the most significant places for turtles, manatees, mangrove forests, and rich fishing grounds. We do that by providing technical advice, knowledge transfer, and capacity-development trainings, together with expert partners in Senegal, Sierra Leone, and South Africa. GRID-Arendal is implementing the project alongside UNEP’s Abidjan Convention Secretariat, with funding from the German government’s International Climate Initiative.



Artisanal fishers off the coast of Guinea-Bissau.

## KEY NUMBERS

**3**

Mami Wata pilot project sites

**22**

countries where Mami Wata is being implemented

**4.8 million**

approximate number of square kilometres in the combined exclusive economic zones of the 22 countries

**20**

number of new marine protected areas created in South Africa in 2019



Christian Neumann (left), who leads GRID-Arendal’s work on Mami Wata, with partners in Benin.





# Making mangrove conservation work for communities

In 2019, GRID-Arendal played a key role in boosting the sale of carbon credits from mangrove conservation and restoration efforts. Building on the success of a small project in Kenya’s Gazi Bay, we worked with partners to launch carbon credit sales from two new community-based mangrove carbon finance conservation projects, in southwest Madagascar and Vanga Bay, Kenya. Mangroves are highly efficient at storing carbon dioxide, so the projects are selling certified credits on the international voluntary carbon market to buyers who want to offset

greenhouse gas emissions. The resulting revenue goes to participating communities, enabling them to finance education, health care, and other critical services and to transition away from activities that destroy mangroves. With the projects launched in 2019, we’re demonstrating that this type of nature-based solution can be scaled up and spread. These initiatives have been developed under the Blue Forests Project, a collaboration between GRID-Arendal and UNEP with backing from the Global Environment Facility.



## KEY NUMBERS

**1,700+**

*hectares of mangrove forests now listed on the voluntary carbon market, thanks to the GEF Blue Forests Project*

**75**

*estimated percentage of commercially fished species that depend on mangroves for habitat or food*

**33**

*estimated percentage of mangroves that have been lost over the last century*



Above: A painting by artist **Hafidh Omari Salim** of a mangrove ecosystem in Gazi Bay, Kenya. At right: **Salim** (left) discussing his paintings with **Steven Lutz**, head of GRID-Arendal’s blue carbon programme.



# Explaining how satellite data can help countries affected by fragility

GRID-Arendal kicked off a public communications push for the Fragility, Conflict and Security project of the European Space Agency in 2019. The project – part of the Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EO4SD) initiative – demonstrates how data from Earth observation satellites can be used to reduce environmental and human insecurity in states affected by fragility. Satellite data can reveal crucial information about issues such as pollution, illegal logging, the

spread of disease, and refugee movements, which can inform planning and decision-making by governments and international financial institutions. GRID-Arendal built a website for the Fragility, Conflict and Security project, developed a communications strategy, produced an introductory video, and assembled other explanatory material, and we will be facilitating stakeholder involvement and capacity-building for the project through our existing networks and activities.

## KEY NUMBERS

**16**

*countries where the Fragility, Conflict and Security project has been active*

**80**

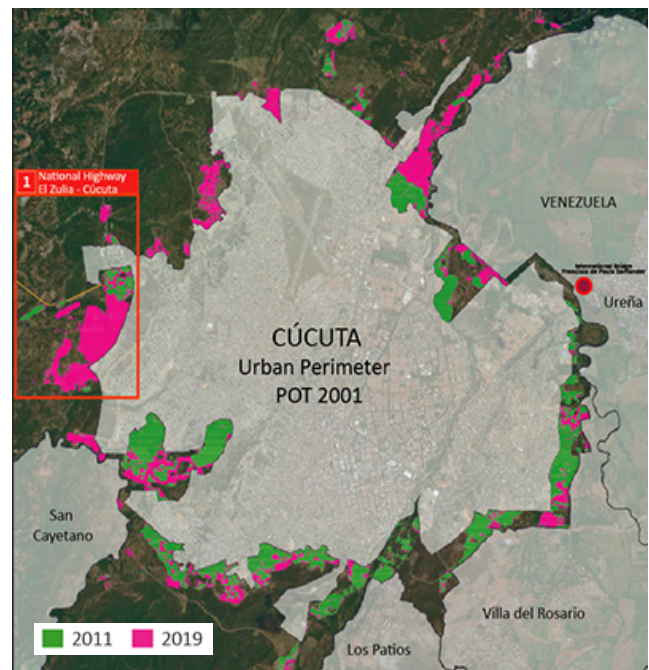
*percentage of humanitarian needs driven by conflict*

**2 billion**

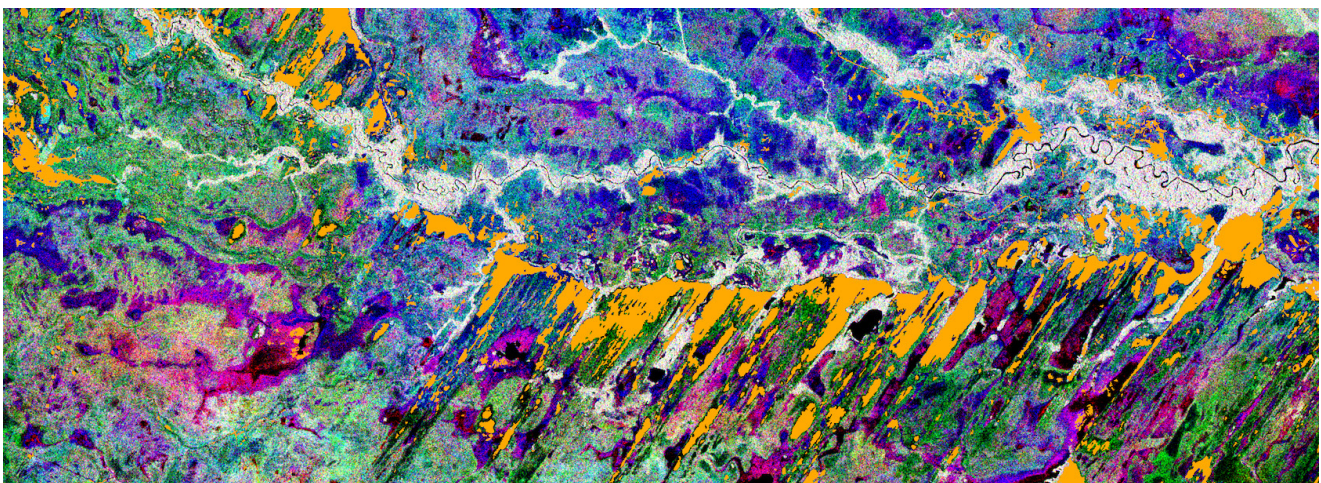
*estimated number of people who experience insecurity because their countries are affected by fragility, conflict, or violence*

**\$70–230 billion**

*estimated annual cost to developing countries of transnational criminal activity*



Earth observation reveals the areas where Venezuelan migrants are settling in the outskirts of Cúcuta, Colombia.



Satellite data contribute to a colourful ecosystem assessment in an area of central eastern Colombia.

# Contributing to UNEP's flagship GEO-6 report

GRID-Arendal was a key partner with UNEP in writing the sixth edition of “Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6): Healthy Planet, Healthy People”, which was launched at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in Nairobi in March. We contributed content and maps to the 708-page report, the UN's most comprehensive assessment of the state of the global environment. Our staff members served as lead authors of chapters on oceans and coasts and on cross-cutting issues, and as reviewers for other sections. GRID-Arendal's Elaine Baker also co-authored a commentary on GEO-6 that was published in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet*.

## KEY NUMBERS

**6**

number of GRID-Arendal staffers who contributed to GEO-6

**708**

number of pages in the GEO-6 report

**193**

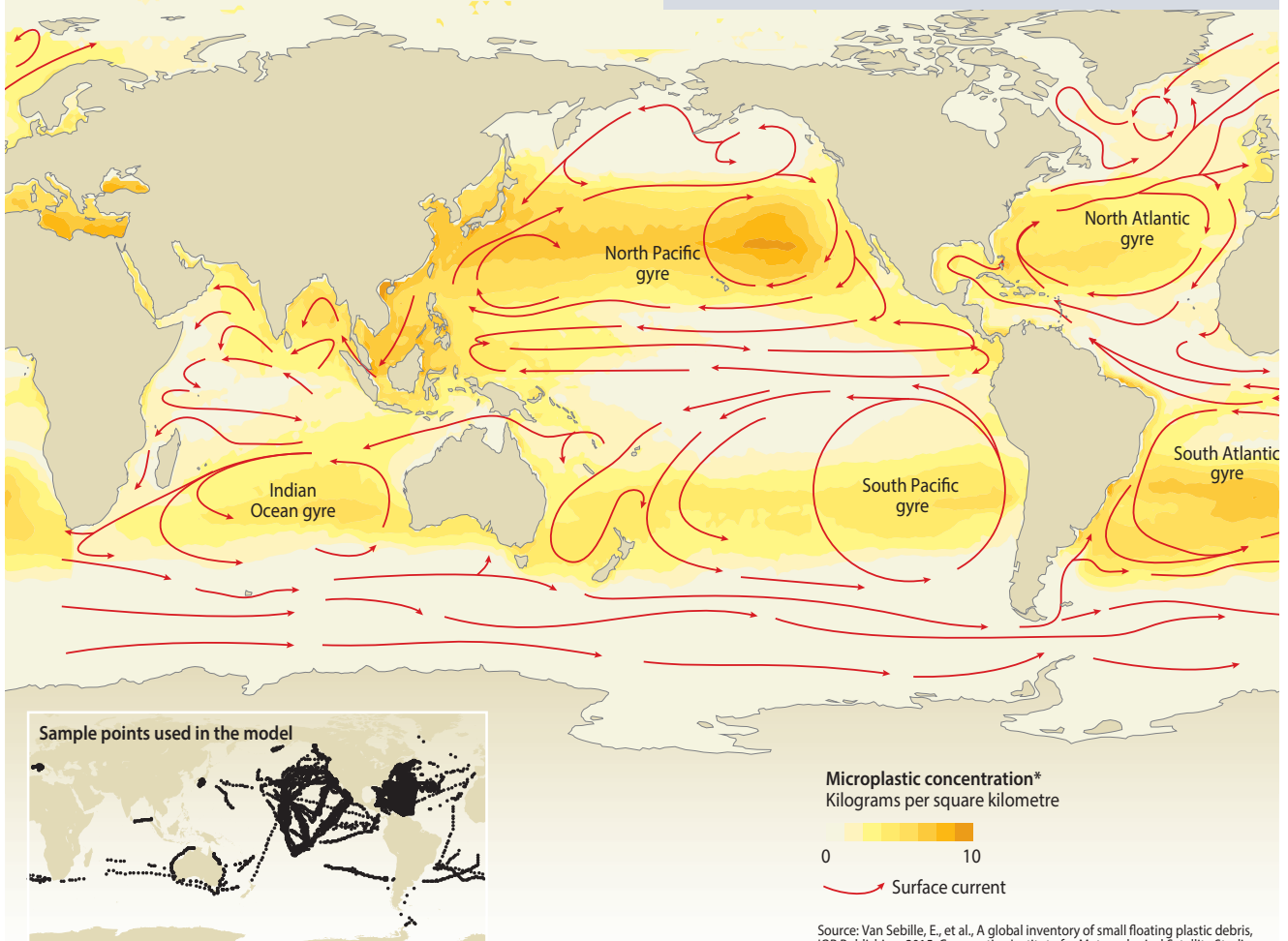
number of countries that adopted the report

**70**

estimated percentage of the world's poorest people who depend directly on ecosystem services for their survival

## Plastic currents

A giant distribution system for marine plastics



One of the maps GRID-Arendal contributed to GEO-6.



# Teaching GRID-Arendal’s local community about a Norwegian coastal treasure

Since Raet National Park was created in 2016 in southern Norway, just a few kilometres from GRID-Arendal’s office, we’ve been passionate supporters of this biodiverse reserve. We’ve taught students about its unique coastal geology and ecosystems, conducted two environmental assessments of the park, and captured photographs and drone footage of its beautiful landscapes. In 2019, we built on that legacy by collaborating with the Norwegian Blue Forests Network to publish “Raet National Park: What Does the Natural Environment of the Marine National Park Mean to Us Humans?”, a Norwegian-language report with original illustrations. The publication explains how people benefit from the park’s many species and ecosystems. We launched the report with a boat tour of the park during Arendalsuka, Norway’s national political festival, featuring expert commentary and local seafood delicacies.

## KEY NUMBERS

**607**

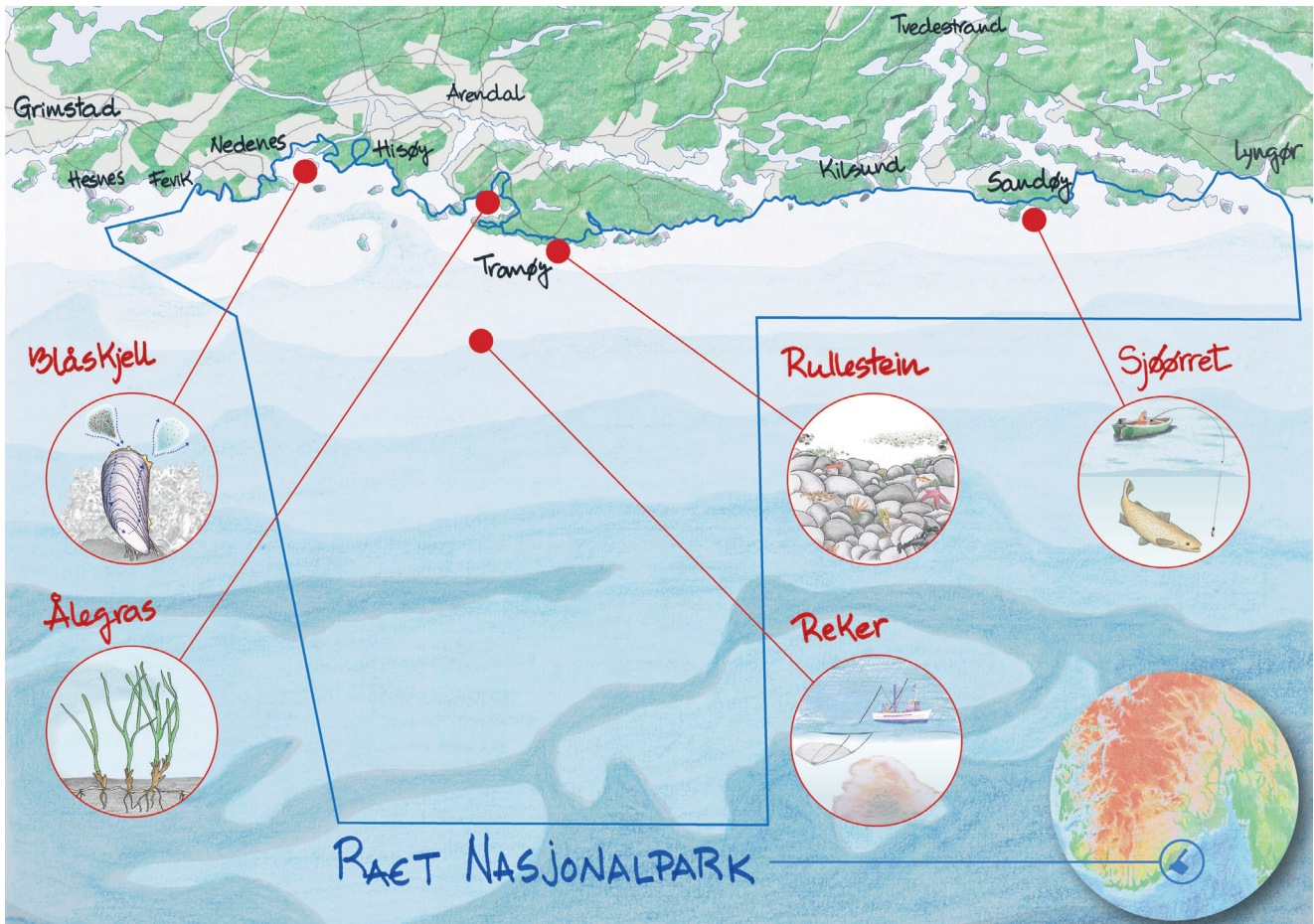
*number of square kilometres encompassed by Raet National Park*

**90**

*percentage of the park that is under sea level*

**17**

*estimated number of habitats thought to exist in the park*



A hand-drawn map and illustrations from our latest publication on Raet National Park.





# Investing in GRID-Arendal's future

As GRID-Arendal celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2019, we were also taking action to ensure that we can keep doing our work for many decades to come. We signed new framework agreements with our key partners, UNEP and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). We also became full owners of the building where our office is housed, Teaterplassen 3 – a big investment in our long-term future. Our real estate company, Teaterplassen AS, now manages the five-story, 2,200-square-meter building on the scenic waterfront of Tyholmen, the historic neighborhood in central Arendal. Built in 1965 and acquired by GRID-Arendal and the local city government in 2000, the building was given a thorough sustainability makeover in 2006. It now boasts energy-efficient systems for lighting, heating, and ventilation, as well as numerous other eco-friendly features, making it a showcase for our values and a home where we can comfortably work and grow in the years ahead.



*GRID-Arendal Managing Director **Peter Harris** (left) looks on as GRID-Arendal Board Chair **Jan-Gunnar Winther** (centre) and Norway's Minister of International Development **Dag-Inge Ulstein** (right) sign an agreement to renew cooperation between GRID-Arendal and Norad.*



*GRID-Arendal's headquarters at Teaterplassen 3.*



# Bringing environmental knowledge to the public in Norway

In January, at the annual Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø in northern Norway, GRID-Arendal co-hosted a side event on how to address the challenge of marine plastic pollution in the Arctic.

GRID-Arendal staff designed and taught a new course at the University of Agder in southern Norway, “Coastal Ecology and Global Change in the Anthropocene”, part of a new MSc degree program in coastal ecology. Ten staff members lectured or led discussions and activities on topics ranging from marine spatial planning to blue carbon to ecosystem services. We also organized a day of fieldwork for the students at Raet National Park.

In August, GRID-Arendal was an enthusiastic participant in Arendalsuka, Norway’s national political festival, which takes place in our hometown. We co-hosted an event with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on policy in the Northern Territories, which includes parts of northern Norway that are home to indigenous Sami populations. We organized and participated in panels on a wide range of topics, including environmental crime, climate change in Svalbard, marine plastic pollution, the Arctic Council, the Norwegian economy in the Arctic, and youth and schooling in northern Norway. And we hosted a boat tour of nearby Raet National Park, which taught attendees about the area’s unique geology and ecosystems.



*A drone’s eye view of University of Agder students doing fieldwork at Raet National Park under the direction of GRID-Arendal staff.*



*GRID-Arendal Chief Scientist Miles Macmillan-Lawler speaks at the Ocean Summit at Arendalsuka.*



*GRID-Arendal’s Christian Neumann on a boat tour celebrating the launch of our 2019 report on Raet National Park.*





*GRID-Arendal staff compete in the Clean Seas Challenge sailing race during Arendalsuka*

We also celebrated GRID-Arendal’s 30th anniversary during Arendalsuka with an event on the tall ship *Sørlandet*, which was attended by GRID-Arendal’s founders and board members, Norwegian Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein, UNEP Chief Scientist Jian Liu, and the mayors of Arendal and Agder County. The event provided the perfect opportunity for GRID-Arendal to sign new framework agreements with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and UNEP, setting the stage for continued cooperation and achievements in the future. In addition, we marked the occasion by hosting an event and panel discussion entitled “GRID-Arendal and the Global Environmental Agenda: The Next 30 Years Ahead”.

As part of the city of Arendal’s International Days festivities in October, GRID-Arendal organized two events for schoolchildren: a parade to celebrate United Nations Day and showings of a documentary on marine plastic pollution.

GRID-Arendal contributed to the Our Ocean 2019 conference in October in Oslo, which featured Prime Minister Erna Solberg and HRH Crown Prince Håkon. At one event, our chief scientist, Miles Macmillan-Lawler, discussed GRID-Arendal’s work applying Earth observation technology to maritime boundaries, marine spatial planning, and coastal inundation modelling.



*Staff and family members celebrate GRID-Arendal’s 30th anniversary.*



*GRID-Arendal’s Head of Communications Janet Skaalvik addresses students during a model UN event.*



# Publications

GRID-Arendal produced or made significant contributions to these publications released in 2019:

## [\*A Case of Benign Neglect: Knowledge Gaps About Sustainability in Pastoralism and Rangelands\*](#)

Authors: Kathrine I. Johnsen, Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Abdelkader Bensada, and Ann Waters-Bayer  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

## [\*Controlling Transboundary Trade in Plastic Waste\*](#)

Authors: Dylan George Marrs, Ieva Ručevska, and Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez  
Publisher: GRID-Arendal

## [\*Desktop Study on Marine Litter Including Microplastics in the Arctic\*](#)

Author: Arctic Council Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME)

## [\*Droughts in the Anthropocene\*](#)

Authors: Hanna Gjerdi, Tobias Gunn, Anil Mishra, Roger S. Pulwarty, and Justin Sheffield  
Publishers: UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and GRID-Arendal

## [\*Elevating Mountains in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework\*](#)

Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

## [\*Gender and Waste Nexus: Experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal\*](#)

Authors: Ieva Ručevska, Joni Seager, Tina Schoolmeester, Hanna Lønning Gjerdi, and Levi Westerveld  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme International Environmental Technology Centre and GRID-Arendal

## [\*Global Linkages: A Graphic Look at the Changing Arctic\*](#)

Authors: Tina Schoolmeester, Hanna Lønning Gjerdi, John Crump, Björn Alfthan, Joan Fabres, Kathrine I. Johnsen, Laura Puikkonen, Tiina Kurvits, and Elaine Baker  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

## [\*Marine Atlas: Maximizing Benefits for Fiji\*](#)

Authors: Philipp Gassner, Naushad Yakub, John Kaitu'u, Hans Wendt, Levi Westerveld, Miles Macmillan-Lawler, Kate Davey, Elaine Baker, Malcolm Clark, and Leanne Fernandes  
Publishers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Corporation for International Cooperation), International Union

for Conservation of Nature, and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## [\*Marine Atlas: Maximizing Benefits for Kiribati\*](#)

Authors: Philipp Gassner, Levi Westerveld, Riibeta Abeta, Miles Macmillan-Lawler, Kate Davey, Elaine Baker, Malcolm Clark, John Kaitu'u, Hans Wendt, and Leanne Fernandes  
Publishers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Corporation for International Cooperation), International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## [\*Marine Atlas: Maximizing Benefits for Solomon Islands\*](#)

Authors: Philipp Gassner, Levi Westerveld, Lysa Wini-Simeon, Rosalie Masu, Agnetha Vave-Karamui, Anja Nicolay-Grosse Hokamp, Miles Macmillan-Lawler, Kate Davey, Elaine Baker, Malcolm Clark, John Kaitu'u, Hans Wendt, and Leanne Fernandes  
Publishers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Corporation for International Cooperation), International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## [\*Marine Atlas: Maximizing Benefits for Tonga\*](#)

Authors: Philipp Gassner, Levi Westerveld, Eileen Fonua, Lilieta Takau, Atelaite L. Matoto, Taaniela Kula, Miles Macmillan-Lawler, Kate Davey, Elaine Baker, Malcolm Clark, John Kaitu'u, Hans Wendt, and Leanne Fernandes  
Publishers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Corporation for International Cooperation), International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## [\*Marine Atlas: Maximizing Benefits for Vanuatu\*](#)

Authors: Philipp Gassner, Vatu Molisa, Levi Westerveld, Miles Macmillan-Lawler, Kate Davey, Elaine Baker, Malcolm Clark, John Kaitu'u, Riibeta Abeta, Hans Wendt, and Leanne Fernandes  
Publishers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Corporation for International Cooperation), International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

## [\*Playing for the Planet: How Video Games Can Deliver for People and the Environment\*](#)

Authors: Trista Patterson and Sam Barratt  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

[\*\*Pocket Guide to the BRS Gender Action Plan: Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste\*\*](#)

Author: Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) Gender Task Team  
Publishers: BRS Secretariat and GRID-Arendal

[\*\*Raet nasjonalpark – Hva betyr naturmiljøet i den marine nasjonalparken for oss mennesker?\*\*](#)

Authors: Christian Neumann, Guri Sogn Andersen, Øivind Berg Hege Gundersen, Jan Atle Knutsen, Runa S. Lindebjerg, Frithjof Moy, and Maria Potouroglou  
Publisher: Norsk nettverk for blå skog (Norwegian Blue Forests Network)

[\*\*A Roadmap for Improved Mine Waste Management\*\*](#)

Authors: Elaine Baker and Kristina Thygesen  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

## Websites and StoryMaps

In 2019, GRID-Arendal designed and launched a number of new project websites and StoryMaps (multimedia stories with text, photos, videos, charts, and maps):

### Websites

Addressing Marine Plastics: A Systemic Approach  
[gefmarineplastics.org](http://gefmarineplastics.org)

Fragility, Conflict and Security: Earth Observation for Sustainable Development  
[eo4sd-fragility.net](http://eo4sd-fragility.net)

Playing for the Planet  
[playing4thepanel.org](http://playing4thepanel.org)

### StoryMaps

[\*\*A Case of Benign Neglect: Knowledge Gaps About Sustainability in Pastoralism and Rangelands\*\*](#)

Authors: Kathrine I. Johnsen, Levi Westerveld, Laura Puikkonen, Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Abdelkader Bensada, and Ann Waters-Bayer  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

[\*\*Nature from Space: How Satellites Are Safeguarding Europe's Biodiversity / An ECOPOTENTIAL Story\*\*](#)

Authors: Björn Alftan, Levi Westerveld, Silvia Giamberini, Antonello Provenzale, Carmela Marangi, Francesca Santoro, and Rob Barnes  
Publishers: GRID-Arendal and National Research Council of Italy

[\*\*Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Approach: Opportunities for Cooperation in Transboundary Basins\*\*](#)

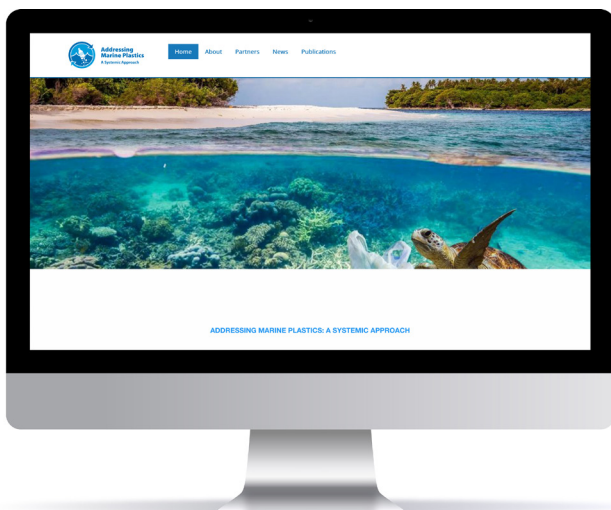
Authors: Tiina Kurvits, Miles Macmillian-Lawler, Debhasish Bhakta, Robert Barnes, Torben Dedring, Kimberly Aiken, Lucia De Strasser, Annukka Lipponen, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

[\*\*What's Gender Got to Do with It?: Global Gender & Environment Outlook – Consumption & Waste\*\*](#)

Authors: Joni Seager, Yehuda Shalem, Elaine Baker, Kristina Thygesen, Tina Schoolmeester, and Debhasish Bhakta  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

[\*\*What's Gender Got to Do with It?: Global Gender & Environment Outlook – Water & Sanitation\*\*](#)

Authors: Joni Seager, Yehuda Shalem, Elaine Baker, Kristina Thygesen, Tina Schoolmeester, and Debhasish Bhakta  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal







**Board report**

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**Financial report**





# Board report

GRID-Arendal is a foundation established by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment in 1989 to support the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The foundation produces environmental information products and provides communication services to build capacity in environmental management and motivate decision-makers to take sustainable actions.

The foundation conducted its activities in 2019 in line with its bylaws, approved budgets, and work plan approved by Norad. Its reports and websites describe the activities of the different programmes and the results achieved.

2019 has been financially satisfactory with healthy operations, leading to a surplus of NOK 1,467,474 which will be added to last year's equity, creating a new equity balance of NOK 12,477,630.

In 2019 GRID-Arendal's grant from Norad was NOK 22,000,000 based upon an agreement signed in 2019 covering the period 2019-2020.

GRID-Arendal's environmental policy is based on the foundation's "green" values and commitment to operate in an environmentally responsible and resource-efficient manner. Employee flights constitute the largest category for environmental impact. As compensation, GRID-Arendal is investing in emission credits to finance concrete climate action in developing countries. GRID-Arendal is a certified Miljøfyrtårn (environmental) organization and member of Climate Partners (Klimapartnere). We have our offices in an environmentally friendly building with good energy solutions.

Working conditions at GRID-Arendal are considered very good. Long-term sick leave in 2019 amounted

to 1.4 per cent of total working days, while short-term sick leave was 2.4 per cent. There were no injuries to staff in 2019, and there was no significant damage to the equipment of the organization. We strive to reduce stress and improve teamwork and collaboration via efficient communication through staff representatives and the health and safety officer. GRID-Arendal offices have ergonomic furniture for all employees.

At the end of 2019, the board consisted of eight members, four women and four men. The staff consisted of 38 employees, 20 women and 18 men, plus two interns, one employee on unpaid study leave, and four persons on temporary contracts. GRID-Arendal aims to be a workplace where there is full equality between women and men. It has incorporated provisions aimed at preventing gender discrimination in matters such as salary, promotion, and recruitment, and conducts regular employee surveys, which include attempts to capture any differences in ways the sexes are treated.

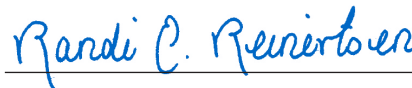
Project funding is satisfactory and activity levels are high, therefore the board is optimistic about the outlook for 2020. The board concludes that GRID-Arendal's activities are consistent with its mandate and that it has a competent staff for continuing operations and for planning further strategy-relevant operational activities in the future.

The financial statements are based on the assumptions of continued operations, as the board is aware of no factors that indicate otherwise. The board considers the financial statements to give a true and fair view of assets and liabilities, financial position, and results. There were no events in 2019 that had special impact on GRID-Arendal's development or position.

Arendal, 04.03.2020



Jan-Gunnar Winther  
Chair



Randi Eidsmo Reinertsen  
Vice Chair



Karoline Andaur



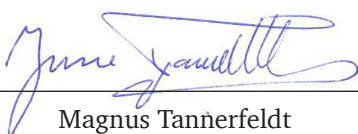
Helga Flesche Kleiven



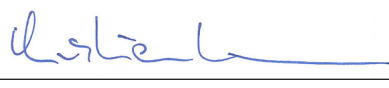
Colin Daniel Martin



Cecilie Mauritzen



Magnus Tannerfeldt



Christian Neumann  
Staff Representative



Peter Townsend Harris  
Managing Director



# Financial report

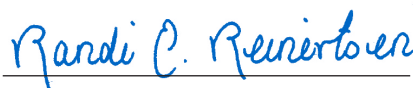
## Balance sheet (NoK)

| Assets                              | Note | 2019              | 2018              |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i>                 |      |                   |                   |
| Equipment and other movables        | 3    | 44 588            | 76 062            |
| Investments in subsidiaries         | 7    | 17 012 000        | 15 012 000        |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>           |      | <b>17 056 588</b> | <b>15 088 062</b> |
| <i>Current assets</i>               |      |                   |                   |
| Accounts receivable                 |      | 2 766 244         | 4 034 716         |
| Other short-term receivables        |      | 1 724 157         | 3 494 880         |
| <b>Total receivables</b>            |      | <b>4 490 401</b>  | <b>7 529 596</b>  |
| Cash and bank deposits              | 5    | 24 968 778        | 13 261 358        |
| <b>Total current assets</b>         |      | <b>29 459 179</b> | <b>20 790 954</b> |
| <b>Total assets</b>                 |      | <b>46 515 767</b> | <b>35 879 015</b> |
| <b>Equity and liabilities</b>       |      |                   |                   |
| <i>Equity</i>                       |      |                   |                   |
| Basic capital                       | 6    | 500 000           | 500 000           |
| Other equity                        | 6    | 11 977 630        | 10 510 156        |
| <b>Total equity</b>                 | 6    | <b>12 477 630</b> | <b>11 010 156</b> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>          |      |                   |                   |
| Trade creditors                     |      | 1 245 920         | 2 473 981         |
| Public duties payable               |      | 1 637 616         | 1 584 852         |
| Other current debt                  | 4    | 31 154 601        | 20 810 026        |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>            |      | <b>34 038 137</b> | <b>24 868 859</b> |
| <b>Total equity and liabilities</b> |      | <b>46 515 767</b> | <b>35 879 015</b> |

Arendal, 04.03.2020



Jan-Gunnar Winther  
Chair



Randi Eidsmo Reinertsen  
Vice Chair



Karoline Andaur



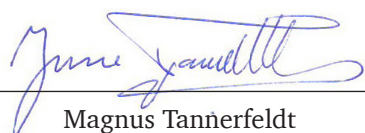
Helga Flesche Kleiven



Colin Daniel Martin



Cecilie Maurtzen



Magnus Tannerfeldt



Christian Neumann  
Staff Representative



Peter Townsend Harris  
Managing Director

## Revenue statement (NoK)

| Operating income and operating expenses         | Note | 2019       | 2018       |
|---|------|------------|------------|
| Operating income                                |      | 67 917 342 | 53 045 773 |
| Project expenses                                |      | 17 750 949 | 12 692 521 |
| Personnel expenses                              | 2    | 30 141 075 | 26 820 751 |
| Depreciation of operating and intangible assets | 3    | 31 474     | 18 360     |
| Other operating expenses                        | 2    | 18 178 858 | 13 699 564 |
| Operating expenses                              |      | 66 102 356 | 53 231 196 |
| Operating profit                                |      | 1 814 986  | -185 423   |
| <i>Financial income and expenses</i>            |      |            |            |
| Interest income                                 |      | 126 361    | 112 211    |
| Other financial income                          |      | 1 022 268  | 1 181 400  |
| Interest expenses                               |      | 447 335    | 376 656    |
| Other financial expenses                        |      | 1 048 807  | 544 518    |
| Net financial income and expenses               |      | -347 513   | 372 437    |
| Ordinary result                                 |      | 1 467 474  | 187 014    |
| Annual net profit                               | 6    | 1 467 474  | 187 014    |
| <i>Brought forward</i>                          |      |            |            |
| Net brought forward                             |      | 1 467 474  | 187 014    |

### Note 1

#### Accounting principles

The annual accounts have been prepared in conformity with the Accounting Act and NRS 8 – Good accounting practice for small companies.

#### Operating revenues

Income from the sale of goods is recognized on the date of delivery. Services are posted to income as they are delivered. Costs are expensed in the same period as the income to which they relate is recognized. Costs that cannot be directly related to income are expensed as incurred.

#### Tax

The foundation is defined as an ideal organization and is exempt from tax liabilities.

#### Classification and valuation of fixed assets

Fixed assets include assets included for long-term ownership and use. Fixed assets are valued at acquisition cost. Property, plant, and equipment are entered in the balance sheet and depreciated over the asset's economic lifetime.

#### Classification and valuation of current assets

Current assets and short-term liabilities normally include items that fall due for payment within one year of the balance sheet date, as well as items that relate to the stock cycle. Current assets are valued at the lower of acquisition cost or fair value.

#### Shares in subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are valued using the cost method in the company accounts. The investment is valued at acquisition cost for the shares unless a write-down has been necessary. A write-down to fair value is made when a fall in value is due to reasons that cannot be expected to be temporary and such write-down must be considered as necessary in accordance with good accounting practice. Write-downs are reversed when the basis for the write-down is no longer present.

#### Receivables

Receivables from customers and other receivables are entered at par value after deducting a provision for expected losses. The provision for losses is made on the basis of an individual assessment of the respective receivables.



### Foreign currency

Monetary foreign currency items are valued at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date.

### Pension liabilities

Pension schemes financed through insured schemes are not entered on the balance sheet. The pension premium is treated in these cases as a pension cost and classified together with wage costs.

### Note 2

#### Salary costs and benefits, remuneration to the chief executive, board and auditor (NoK)

| Salary cost    | 2019              | 2018              |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries       | 21 857 218        | 19 865 277        |
| Employment tax | 3 369 670         | 3 020 963         |
| Pension costs  | 1 829 205         | 2 215 626         |
| Other benefits | 3 084 981         | 1 718 884         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>30 141 075</b> | <b>26 820 750</b> |

|                       |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|
| Employed person-years | 33 | 28 |
|-----------------------|----|----|

#### Remuneration to leading personnel (NoK)

| Remuneration       | Chief Executive  | Board          |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Salaries           | 1 046 600        | 108 500        |
| Other remuneration | 18 744           | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1 065 344</b> | <b>108 500</b> |

The company is liable to maintain an occupational pension scheme under the Mandatory Occupational Pensions Act. The company's pension schemes satisfy the requirements of this Act.

| Auditor  | 2019           | 2018           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Statutory audit<br>(incl. technical support<br>with annual report) | 62 000         | 52 200         |
| Other services & advisory  | 49 000         | 54 700         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>111 000</b> | <b>106 900</b> |

### Note 3

#### Fixed assets (NoK)

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Acquisition cost 01.01.2019               | 94 422        |
| Addition of plant and equipment purchased | 0             |
| Disposal of plant and equipment sold      | 0             |
| <b>Acquisition cost 31.12.2019</b>        | <b>94 422</b> |
| Accumulated depreciation 31.12.2019       | 49 834        |
| <b>Book value as at 31.12.2019</b>        | <b>44 588</b> |
| The year's depreciation                   | 31 474        |
| Expected economic life                    | 3 years       |
| Depreciation plan                         | Linear        |

### Note 4

#### Inter-company balances between companies in the same group

As of 31.12.2019 Stiftelsen GRID Arendal had a debt of NOK 10 500 000 to Teaterplassen AS. The interest rate is equal to the market rate.

### Note 5

| Bank deposits                                   | 2019      | 2018    |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Of which tax withholdings<br>(restricted funds) | 1 036 501 | 976 441 |

### Note 6

#### Equity capital (NOK)

| Equity capital          | Basic          | Other             | Total             |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| As at 01.01.2019        | 500 000        | 10 510 156        | 11 010 156        |
| Result for the year     |                | 1 467 474         | 1 467 474         |
| <b>As at 31.12.2019</b> | <b>500 000</b> | <b>11 977 630</b> | <b>12 477 630</b> |

### Note 7

#### Subsidiaries, associates, joint ventures (NOK)

##### Teaterplassen AS

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Municipality           | Arendal           |
| Owner-interest         | 100%              |
| Acquisition cost       | 17 012 000        |
| Book value             | 22 976 047        |
| Share of result        | 674 266           |
| <b>Carrying amount</b> | <b>17 012 000</b> |

# Independent auditor's report



KPMG AS  
Strømsbuveien 61  
4836 Arendal

Telephone +47 04063  
Fax +47 37 00 52 25  
Internet www.kpmg.no  
Enterprise 935 174 627 MVA

Til styret i Stiftelsen Grid-Arendal

## Uavhengig revisors beretning

### Uttalelse om revisjonen av årsregnskapet

#### Konklusjon

Vi har revidert Stiftelsen Grid-Arendals årsregnskap som viser et overskudd på kr 1 467 474. Årsregnskapet består av balanse per 31. desember 2019, resultatregnskap for regnskapsåret avsluttet per denne datoen og noter til årsregnskapet, herunder et sammendrag av viktige regnskapsprinsipper.

Etter vår mening er det medfølgende årsregnskapet avgitt i samsvar med lov og forskrifter og gir et rettviseende bilde av stiftelsens finansielle stilling per 31. desember 2019, og av dens resultater for regnskapsåret avsluttet per denne datoen i samsvar med regnskapslovens regler og god regnskapsskikk i Norge.

#### Grunnlaget for konklusjonen

Vi har gjennomført revisjonen i samsvar med lov, forskrift og god revisjonsskikk i Norge, herunder de internasjonale revisjonsstandardene International Standards on Auditing (ISA-ene). Våre oppgaver og plikter i henhold til disse standardene er beskrevet i Revisors oppgaver og plikter ved revisjon av årsregnskapet. Vi er uavhengige av stiftelsen slik det kreves i lov og forskrift, og har overholdt våre øvrige etiske plikter i samsvar med disse kravene. Etter vår oppfatning er innhentet revisjonsbevis tilstrekkelig og hensiktsmessig som grunnlag for vår konklusjon.

#### Øvrig informasjon

Ledelsen er ansvarlig for øvrig informasjon. Øvrig informasjon omfatter informasjon i årsrapporten bortsett fra årsregnskapet og den tilhørende revisjonsberetningen.

Vår uttalelse om revisjonen av årsregnskapet dekker ikke øvrig informasjon, og vi attesterer ikke den øvrige informasjonen.

I forbindelse med revisjonen av årsregnskapet er det vår oppgave å lese øvrig informasjon med det formål å vurdere hvorvidt det foreligger vesentlig inkonsistens mellom øvrig informasjon og årsregnskapet, kunnskap vi har opparbeidet oss under revisjonen, eller hvorvidt den tilsynelatende inneholder vesentlig feilinformasjon. Dersom vi konkluderer med at den øvrige informasjonen inneholder vesentlig feilinformasjon er vi pålagt å rapportere det. Vi har ingenting å rapportere i så henseende.

#### Styrets og daglig leders ansvar for årsregnskapet

Styret og daglig leder (ledelsen) er ansvarlig for å utarbeide årsregnskapet i samsvar med lov og forskrifter, herunder for at det gir et rettviseende bilde i samsvar med regnskapslovens regler og god regnskapsskikk i Norge. Ledelsen er også ansvarlig for slik intern kontroll den finner nødvendig for å kunne utarbeide et årsregnskap som ikke inneholder vesentlig feilinformasjon, verken som følge av misligheter eller utilsiktede feil.

Ved utarbeidelsen av årsregnskapet må ledelsen ta standpunkt til stiftelsens evne til fortsatt drift og opplyse om forhold av betydning for fortsatt drift. Forutsetningen om fortsatt drift skal legges til grunn for årsregnskapet så lenge det ikke er sannsynlig at virksomheten vil bli avvirket.

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Statsautoriserte revisorer - medlemmer av Den norske Revisorforening

Offices in:

|         |              |              |           |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Oslo    | Elverum      | Mo i Rana    | Stord     |
| Alta    | Finnsnes     | Molde        | Straume   |
| Arendal | Hamar        | Skien        | Tromsø    |
| Bergen  | Haugesund    | Sandefjord   | Trondheim |
| Bodø    | Knarvik      | Sandnessjøen | Tynset    |
| Drammen | Kristiansand | Stavanger    | Ålesund   |



### Revisors oppgaver og plikter ved revisjonen av årsregnskapet

Vårt mål er å oppnå betryggende sikkerhet for at årsregnskapet som helhet ikke inneholder vesentlig feilinformasjon, verken som følge av misligheter eller utilsiktede feil, og å avgi en revisjonsberetning som inneholder vår konklusjon. Betryggende sikkerhet er en høy grad av sikkerhet, men ingen garanti for at en revisjon utført i samsvar med lov, forskrift og god revisjonsskikk i Norge, herunder ISA-ene, alltid vil avdekke vesentlig feilinformasjon som eksisterer. Feilinformasjon kan oppstå som følge av misligheter eller utilsiktede feil. Feilinformasjon blir vurdert som vesentlig dersom den enkeltvis eller samlet med rimelighet kan forventes å påvirke økonomiske beslutninger som brukerne foretar basert på årsregnskapet.

Som del av en revisjon i samsvar med lov, forskrift og god revisjonsskikk i Norge, herunder ISA-ene, utøver vi profesjonelt skjønn og utviser profesjonell skepsis gjennom hele revisjonen. I tillegg:

- identifiserer og anslår vi risikoen for vesentlig feilinformasjon i årsregnskapet, enten det skyldes misligheter eller utilsiktede feil. Vi utformer og gjennomfører revisjonshandlinger for å håndtere slike risikoer, og innhenter revisjonsbevis som er tilstrekkelig og hensiktsmessig som grunnlag for vår konklusjon. Risikoen for at vesentlig feilinformasjon som følge av misligheter ikke blir avdekket, er høyere enn for feilinformasjon som skyldes utilsiktede feil, siden misligheter kan innebære samarbeid, forfalskning, bevisste utelatelser, uriktige fremstillinger eller overstyring av intern kontroll.
- opparbeider vi oss en forståelse av den interne kontroll som er relevant for revisjonen, for å utforme revisjonshandlinger som er hensiktsmessige etter omstendighetene, men ikke for å gi uttrykk for en mening om effektiviteten av stiftelsens interne kontroll.
- evaluerer vi om de anvendte regnskapsprinsippene er hensiktsmessige og om regnskapsestimatene og tilhørende noteopplysninger utarbeidet av ledelsen er rimelige.
- konkluderer vi på hensiktsmessigheten av ledelsens bruk av fortsatt drift-forutsetningen ved avleggelsen av årsregnskapet, basert på innhentede revisjonsbevis, og hvorvidt det foreligger vesentlig usikkerhet knyttet til hendelser eller forhold som kan skape tvil av betydning om stiftelsens evne til fortsatt drift. Dersom vi konkluderer med at det eksisterer vesentlig usikkerhet, kreves det at vi i revisjonsberetningen henleder oppmerksomheten på tilleggsopplysningene i årsregnskapet, eller, dersom slike tilleggsopplysninger ikke er tilstrekkelige, at vi modifierer vår konklusjon om årsregnskapet og årsberetningen. Våre konklusjoner er basert på revisjonsbevis innhentet inntil datoen for revisjonsberetningen. Etterfølgende hendelser eller forhold kan imidlertid medføre at stiftelsen ikke fortsetter driften.
- evaluerer vi den samlede presentasjonen, strukturen og innholdet i årsregnskapet, inkludert tilleggsopplysningene, og hvorvidt årsregnskapet gir uttrykk for de underliggende transaksjonene og hendelsene på en måte som gir et rettviseende bilde.

Vi kommuniserer med styret blant annet om det planlagte omfanget av revisjonen og til hvilken tid revisjonsarbeidet skal utføres. Vi utveksler også informasjon om forhold av betydning som vi har avdekket i løpet av revisjonen, herunder om eventuelle svakheter av betydning i den interne kontrollen.

### Uttalelse om andre lovmessige krav

#### Konklusjon om årsberetningen

Basert på vår revisjon av årsregnskapet som beskrevet ovenfor, mener vi at opplysningene i årsberetningen om årsregnskapet, forutsetningen om fortsatt drift og forslaget til resultatdisponering er konsistente med årsregnskapet og i samsvar med lov og forskrifter.

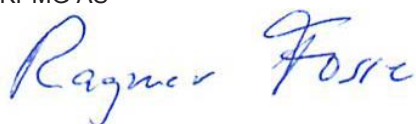
#### Konklusjon om registrering og dokumentasjon

Basert på vår revisjon av årsregnskapet som beskrevet ovenfor, og kontrollhandlinger vi har funnet nødvendig i henhold til internasjonal standard for attestasjonsoppdrag ISAE 3000 *Attestasjonsoppdrag som ikke er revisjon eller forenklet revisorkontroll av historisk finansiell informasjon*, mener vi at ledelsen har oppfylt sin plikt til å sørge for ordentlig og oversiktlig registrering og dokumentasjon av stiftelsens regnskapsopplysninger i samsvar med lov og god bokføringskikk i Norge.

#### Konklusjon om utdeling og forvaltning

Basert på vår revisjon av årsregnskapet som beskrevet ovenfor, og kontrollhandlinger vi har funnet nødvendige i henhold til internasjonal standard for attestasjonsoppdrag ISAE 3000, *Attestasjonsoppdrag som ikke er revisjon eller forenklet revisorkontroll av historisk finansiell informasjon*, mener vi stiftelsen er forvaltet og utdelinger er foretatt i samsvar med lov, stiftelsens formål og vedtektene for øvrig.

Arendal, 1. april 2020  
KPMG AS



Ragnar Fosse  
Statsautorisert revisor



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## GRID-Arendal

Tel: +47 47 64 45 55  
Fax: +47 37 03 50 50  
E-mail: [grid@grida.no](mailto:grid@grida.no)  
Web: [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)

*Visiting address:*  
Teaterplassen 3  
N-4836 Arendal  
Norway

*Mailing address:*  
P.O. Box 183  
N-4802 Arendal  
Norway

