



A UNEP Partner

# Building Resilience

GRID-Arendal Annual Report 2020







*GRID-Arendal staffers Iliana Gkoutzou, Janet Fernandez Skaalvik, and Guendalina De Luigi celebrate United Nations Day.*

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# Foreword

The UN Environment Programme took on a complex set of challenges in 2020 – and GRID-Arendal was a critical partner with us throughout.

UNEP supported global efforts to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, while at the same time continuing to address the critical environmental crises that remain as urgent as ever. Importantly, we helped the world understand that the two issues are related: destruction of natural areas can pave the way for dangerous viruses to leap from animals to humans, and protecting biodiversity can help communities and countries build back better in the wake of COVID-19 and become more resilient to future disruptions and disasters.

GRID-Arendal worked with UNEP to communicate these concepts through, for example, the launch of our co-published global report on seagrasses. GRID-Arendal took the lead role in producing the report, “Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People”, which documents the importance of these undervalued coastal ecosystems. In releasing the report, we explained how healthy seagrass meadows can help to sustain communities hard-hit by stressors such as COVID-19, because preserving and restoring seagrass ecosystems protects food chains and creates jobs in industries such as fishing and tourism.

GRID-Arendal also kept important UNEP initiatives moving forward even as COVID-19 made work more

difficult – for instance, on our Vanishing Treasures project, which aims to protect iconic mountain species under threat from climate change. The pandemic made it challenging to study snow leopard territory in Tajikistan, but project researchers revised their plans and cautiously completed fieldwork, and GRID-Arendal reported on what they found. GRID-Arendal also shared information on new forms of funding that can support gorilla conservation in East Africa, as the coronavirus pandemic made it clear that income from gorilla tourism cannot always be counted on.

Throughout the year, UNEP appreciated GRID-Arendal’s continued focus on other priority projects, including building a public database of mine waste storage sites, documenting the need for more investment in sanitation and wastewater systems in Africa, and encouraging universities to use behavioural science insights to “nudge” their students towards more sustainable lifestyles.

All of the work UNEP and GRID-Arendal jointly undertook is moving the global community towards fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Though 2020 was a tough year, we emerged from it stronger, together.



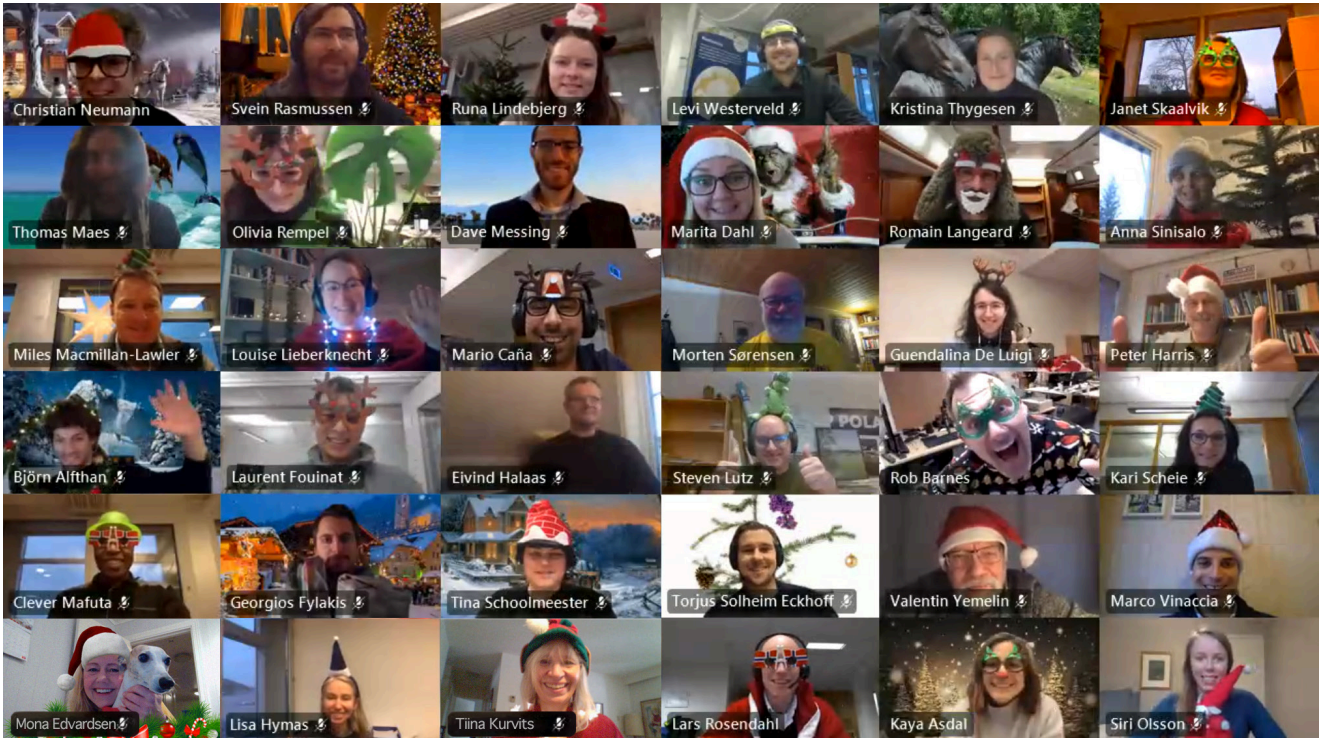
**Jian Liu**

Chief Scientist and Director of the Science Division  
UN Environment Programme





*Rob Barnes, Janet Fernandez Skaalvik, and Debhashish Bhakta attend a project kick-off meeting remotely.*



*The GRID-Arendal team gathers for a virtual holiday celebration.*



# Message from the Managing Director

The year 2020 brought home the importance of resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for systems, communities, and countries to be more resilient, able to adapt to changes and withstand shocks and disasters. The pandemic also demanded that we all become more personally resilient, being flexible and finding new ways to do our work and live our lives.

I'm proud to say that the GRID-Arendal staff showed exceptional resilience in 2020 – re-envisioning projects so they could be completed without travel or in-person meetings, and experimenting with virtual-reality technology and other innovative tools to enable communication among ourselves and with our partners and stakeholders. We will emerge from the pandemic a stronger, more creative organization, having learned valuable lessons. One of those lessons is that if we engage strategically with on-the-ground partners, we can successfully do our work with less travel, so our goal going forward will be for staff to take half as many international trips as we did in 2019.

As soon as the pandemic hit, we started looking for ways to explore and explain its environmental ramifications. We produced infographics with guidance to help workers in the waste industry keep safe. We updated and rereleased a map on potential hotspots for zoonotic diseases. We drew attention to the plight of fishing communities in West Africa that have been hard hit by COVID-19 restrictions. And we reinforced UNEP's messaging about the importance of building back better after the pandemic.

At the same time, we have been forging ahead with our core work on dozens of projects with partners across the globe. We are collaborating with coastal African nations to build capacity for better management of marine

areas through our Mami Wata project. We are doing strategic communications work on two Arctic climate change research projects, ECOTIP and Nunataryuk, funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. We are supporting investigative journalists to report on environmental crime, most recently exposing illegal logging in Bolivian national parks.

GRID-Arendal has been doing particularly strong work combatting marine litter and other forms of plastic pollution. Our staff scientists are conducting original research on the distribution of marine litter in coastal areas. Our GIS experts are developing a geographic model that predicts where litter accumulates on coastlines in Norway. Our communications experts are developing websites, videos, online courses, webinars, and more to share knowledge about marine litter and build momentum for global action to curtail it. We're joined in these efforts by partners ranging from UNEP to universities, from the Nordic Council to the Abidjan Convention Secretariat.

In these uncertain times, it's impossible to know when we might be able to resume more normal work patterns and in-person collaboration with colleagues and partners. But I am certain that our staff will continue to make real impact with our work no matter the circumstances. We've demonstrated that even a global pandemic can't slow us down.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter T. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Peter Harris**  
Managing Director  
GRID-Arendal



# Who we are

GRID-Arendal is a non-profit environmental communications centre based in Norway. We transform environmental data into innovative, science-based information products and provide capacity-building services that enable better environmental governance. We aim to inform and activate a global audience and motivate decision-makers to effect positive change. Our vision is a society that understands, values, and protects the environment on which it depends.

GRID-Arendal was established in 1989 by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment to support environmentally sustainable development by collaborating with the UN Environment Programme and other partners.

The launch of GRID-Arendal was an outgrowth of the World Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Commission.

We are supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Norway's Ministry of Climate and Environment (MoCE).

## **GRID-Arendal staff**

At the end of 2020, we had 41 staff members representing 20 countries on four continents – policy experts, scientists, GIS specialists, videographers, writers, designers, and more.

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## Our leadership team



**Peter  
Harris**

Managing Director



**Janet  
Fernandez Skaalvik**

Chief of  
Communications,  
Technology, and  
Innovation



**Kari  
Scheie**

Chief Culture  
Officer



**Miles  
Macmillan-Lawler**

Chief Scientific  
Officer



**Eivind  
Halaas**

Chief Finance  
Officer



# Women in science

At GRID-Arendal, we strive to make environmental science accessible to policymakers, so our staff includes many talented scientists. We're proud that half of our scientists are women, ranging from staffers in the early stages of their careers to experienced science professionals who've been working in their fields for decades. Meet a few of them.



*Tina Schoolmeester, a marine geologist, is head of our Polar & Climate Programme.*



*Tiina Kurvits, a wildlife biologist, is a Senior Specialist in Ecosystem Management.*



*Anna Sinisalo, a glaciologist, is a Principal Arctic Expert on our Polar & Climate team.*



*Kaya Asdal, a coastal ecologist, is an Associate Expert in Coastal Ecosystems.*



*Maria Potouroglou, a marine biologist, was editor-in-chief of the seagrass report published by UNEP and GRID-Arendal.*



*Ieva Ručevska, a chemist, is a Senior Expert focusing on waste management and environmental crime.*



*Maria Tsakona, an environmental engineer, is a Senior Expert on Waste and Marine Litter.*



*Tanya Bryan, a marine biologist, is a Senior Programme Officer and Ecosystems and Communities Lead.*



# What we do

GRID-Arendal works closely with a variety of strategic partners – UN agencies, multilateral institutions, regional organizations, national governments, NGOs, research groups, and universities – to create positive environmental outcomes and impact, particularly in developing countries.



*We strive in all our work to help attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*



*Our Resilient Mountain Solutions project, undertaken with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, helps women like these in Nepal to implement new farming techniques that are better adapted to a changing climate.*



# GRID-Arendal programmes

## Polar & Climate

**Objective:** Ensure healthy and resilient polar and mountain ecosystems and communities

**Example project:** Resilient Mountain Solutions: Producing a book and other communication materials about local-level solutions that empower residents of the Himalayas to adapt to climate change and other stressors, working in partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

**Head of Programme:**  
Tina Schoolmeester



## Marine Environment

**Objective:** Build capacity in developing countries to ensure a healthy marine environment

**Example project:** Blue Solutions Initiative: Developing a global platform to share replicable solutions for promoting healthy oceans as a component of sustainable development, with an emphasis on West Africa, supported by the German government.

**Head of Programme:**  
Lars Rosendahl Appelquist



## Transboundary Governance & Environmental Crime

**Objectives:** Ensure healthy environments in areas with transboundary natural resources and reduce environmental crime

**Example project:** MiningImpact: Creating communication products to explain the ecological impacts and risks of deep-sea mining, with support from the Belgian nonprofit JPI Oceans.

**Head of Programme:**  
Valentin Emelin



## Waste & Marine Litter

**Objective:** Prevent plastic litter from entering the oceans, especially in Africa

**Example project:** Marine Litter Calculator: Building a tool to identify marine litter hotspots, drawing on the latest science about the distribution of debris in ocean environments, supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

**Head of Programme:**  
Clever Mafuta



## Technology & Innovation

**Objective:** Transform environmental information into compelling, state-of-the-art communication products

**Example project:** Virtual Reality Exploration: Investigating the possibilities for using virtual reality technologies to communicate about environmental challenges and solutions.

**Head of Programme:**  
Rob Barnes



# Mentoring young scientists and changemakers

Every year, we welcome a handful of interns into our office and the GRID-Arendal family. We teach them new skills, advise them on dissertations, and give them opportunities to make substantive contributions to our projects. And thanks to their diverse backgrounds and perspectives, we learn a lot from them as well.

We're wistful when our interns leave us after a few months, but pleased that they're going out into the world to apply their experience and make meaningful change.

In 2020, we were thrilled to see one former GRID-Arendal intern gain major global recognition for her groundbreaking work: Kristal Ambrose, who interned with us in 2018, was named as a winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize, the world's most prestigious award for grassroots environmental activists. Ambrose was honored for her work convincing the government of the Bahamas, her home country, to ban many single-use plastic items. She had become alarmed at the plastic waste polluting the beaches of her island

nation, so she started the Bahamas Plastic Movement to engage local young people in developing solutions for plastic pollution.

Ambrose, who has a background in marine biology, spent her time at GRID-Arendal analysing data about the distribution of marine litter on one of the islands in the Bahamas and using predictive mapping to understand what drives plastic pollution onto local shorelines. This work led her to publish a paper in a peer-reviewed journal with two GRID-Arendal colleagues. Ambrose is now working towards a PhD focused on plastic pollution at the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. We can't wait to see what she achieves next!

## FAST FACTS

**\$8.5 million**

*amount potentially lost annually by the Bahamas tourism industry because of plastic beach pollution*

**5.25 trillion**

*number of plastic particles currently floating in the world's oceans*



*Kristal Ambrose, a former GRID-Arendal intern, won the Goldman Environmental Prize for her work fighting plastic pollution in her home country of the Bahamas.*



# Celebrating GRID-Arendal's interns

GRID-Arendal hosted six interns in 2020.



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**Laura Acevedo**, from Venezuela and Panama, researched marine litter along the west coast of Africa. She is a master's student at the University of Copenhagen working on a degree in climate change with a focus on waste management and plastic.



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**Sarah Palazot**, from France, contributed to our ResilienSEA project, which focuses on conserving seagrasses in the waters of West African nations. She recently earned a master's degree in international relations from Sciences Po Bordeaux in France.



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**Márk Aguera**, from Hungary, worked on GIS and database projects for us, including helping to build a platform for analysing the sources of marine litter. After interning for GRID-Arendal, he joined us on staff as a GIS project assistant. He is earning his second master's degree from the University of Bergen in Norway, in geography.



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**Fanny-Tsilla Koninckx**, from Denmark and France, worked on projects to combat marine litter in the Arctic and build resilience among mountain communities in the Himalayas. She recently completed her master's degree in international relations at Sciences Po Strasbourg in France.



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**Torben Deding**, from Germany, developed multimedia web stories using the ArcGIS StoryMaps application and did other GIS work for our projects. He is earning his master's degree in geoinformatics from Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany.



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**Dave Messing**, from the United States, worked on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and production of a video about marine litter in Africa. He is earning his master's of philosophy on ocean microplastics at the University of Bergen in Norway.



# Pushing mining companies to better manage their waste

In 2020, GRID-Arendal played a pivotal role in spurring mining companies to improve the safety of their waste disposal sites. Many mines around the world hold vast amounts of mine tailings waste behind tall dam walls, which can collapse and devastate human communities and ecosystems. One such collapse in Brazil in 2019 released a torrent of mine tailings that killed 270 people. It spurred institutional shareholders to launch a campaign to hold large mining companies accountable and press for global tailings dam standards, under the banner of the newly created Investor Mining and Tailings Safety Initiative. GRID-Arendal has been a key collaborator in the initiative, alongside the Church of England Pensions Board and the Swedish National Pension Funds' Council of Ethics.

In January, GRID-Arendal's Elaine Baker joined partners at Westminster Abbey in London for a high-profile event to launch the Global Tailings Portal, a database built by GRID-Arendal to publicly share information on the location, physical characteristics, and other details of major mining companies' tailings storage facilities, accessible online at [tailings.grida.no](http://tailings.grida.no). Since then, we have worked with industry partners to develop a system to automatically upload data into the database. GRID-Arendal also aided in the development of a Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management, released in August, which calls on companies to meet a higher bar for safety at their waste disposal sites. Coinciding with the release of the standard, we contributed to a compendium of papers on ways to improve tailings dam management.

## FAST FACTS

**1,862**

*number of tailings storage facilities in the Global Tailings Portal database*

**77**

*number of requirements in the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management for responsible mine operators to meet*



## ON-THE-GROUND IMPACT

In March 2020, China announced that it would limit the number of new mine tailings dams and move to improve safety at existing ones.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Debhasish Bhakta**, GIS expert, was a lead developer of the Global Tailings Portal database.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

The Global Tailings Portal and the Global Industry Standard were covered by major news outlets including the **Financial Times (UK)**, **The Times (UK)**, **The Guardian (UK)**, **South Africa Today**, and **Mongabay (US)**, as well as industry news sites including **Global Mining Review (UK)**, **International Mining (UK)**, **National Resources Review (Australia)**, **Australian Mining**, and **Creamer Media's Engineering Review (South Africa)**.





# Engaging video game companies in the fight against climate change

In 2019, UNEP, GRID-Arendal, and Playmob launched the Playing for the Planet Alliance, bringing together many of the biggest video gaming companies in the world to commit to act on behalf of the climate and the environment. In 2020, some of those companies made groundbreaking pledges. Sony Interactive Entertainment committed to energy-efficiency measures for its PlayStation 4 gaming console and built low-power modes into PlayStation 5. Most notably, Microsoft committed to become “carbon negative” by 2030 not just in its gaming division but across the whole company through a series of ambitious goals that media outlets called “astonishing” and “unheard-of”.

The Playing for the Planet Alliance, with the support of GRID-Arendal, is also inspiring companies to integrate environmental themes and messages into their games. The alliance backed the Green Mobile Game Jam in March and April, which virtually brought together developers and CEOs from 11 companies with a combined active user base of 250 million players. Working in tandem, they tested out “in-game activations” to educate and motivate their players around climate action and environmental protection. Gaming company Rovio, for example, announced that it will embed activations around sustainability and reforestation into its popular game Angry Birds 2.



*It’s fun to bring quirky, interesting, new, and exciting gaming experiences to people – but then to also be able to have a positive impact on global issues, that’s the icing on the cake.*

Ville Heijari, Chief Marketing Officer at gaming company Rovio



*We are excited to see the gaming industry throw its weight behind global efforts to reverse the climate crisis. The climate emergency needs all hands on deck.*

Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director

## PUBLIC RECOGNITION

The Playing for the Planet Alliance was a finalist in the 2020 World Changing Ideas Awards from the magazine Fast Company. It was also shortlisted for the 2020 Women in Games Global Games Advocacy Awards.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Trista Patterson**, Principal Expert in Economics, leads GRID-Arendal’s work on the Playing for the Planet Alliance.



## EVENT EXPOSURE

GRID-Arendal’s Trista Patterson spoke about the Playing for the Planet Alliance at the Game Developers Conference, one of the industry’s biggest gatherings. Playing for the Planet was also represented at Gamescom, the Unity for Humanity Summit, and the Pocket Gamer Connects conference.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

**Business Insider** interviewed GRID-Arendal’s Trista Patterson about Playing for the Planet and published its profile in editions in the U.S., India, South Africa, and Spain. The alliance was also covered by the **BBC** (UK), **MSN** (Spain), **The Hill** (US), **Technology Times** (Pakistan), **Green Report** (Italy), **Yahoo Canada**, and **GamesIndustry.biz** (UK).

## FAST FACTS

# 29

major video gaming companies that participated in the Playing for the Planet Alliance in 2020

# 1.2 billion

number of people the alliance members have the ability to reach each month



# Mainstreaming the critical concept of blue carbon

In 2020, GRID-Arendal helped the global community understand the importance of blue carbon through our work on numerous projects. We are coordinating the Blue Forests Project with the Global Environment Facility and UNEP, managing on-the-ground demonstrations of

the benefits of better coastal ecosystem management. We are key partners in the Norwegian Blue Forests Network, which conducts research, raises awareness, and implements projects to conserve and improve blue forest ecosystems. We are part of the coordinating group of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon. We also serve as an expert resource for policymakers and the media on the topic of blue carbon. For example, our infographics on oceanic carbon function, explaining how marine life such as whales help sequester large amounts of carbon dioxide and provide other ecosystem services, were used at prominent events and in numerous publications.

**Blue forests are the coastal and marine ecosystems that sequester carbon and provide a multitude of ecosystem services and co-benefits. They include seagrass meadows, mangrove forests, and kelp beds.**

**Blue carbon is the carbon stored in the biomass and sediments of blue forests.**



## HIGH-PROFILE IMPACT

GRID-Arendal's infographics on oceanic carbon function were presented at the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting** in Davos, Switzerland; at a T20 meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia to inform **G20 leaders**; at **Capitol Hill Ocean Week** in Washington, D.C.; and at the **EarthXOcean** digital conference based in Dallas, Texas.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

GRID-Arendal's work on blue carbon was cited in **Time magazine** (US), the **Latin American Post** (Colombia), **Nuestroclima** (Argentina), **Naturpress** (Norway), **Transit Magasin** (Norway), and **MPA News** (US). **The Economist** (UK) featured an interview with GRID-Arendal's Steven Lutz about blue carbon in its science podcast. **The Economist** also used GRID-Arendal footage in a video about a community-driven mangrove conservation and restoration project in Kenya.

## FAST FACTS

### 33 million

*estimated tonnes of CO2 equivalent stored in living biomass in Nordic blue forests*

### 3.9 million

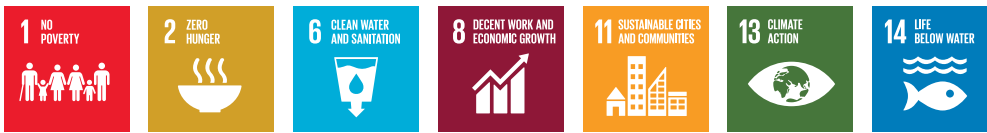
*estimated tonnes of CO2 equivalent sequestered each year in Nordic blue forests*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Steven Lutz**, Senior Programme Officer, leads our blue carbon work.







# Protecting seagrass

Through our work on the ResilienSEA project, funded by the MAVA Foundation, GRID-Arendal is building capacity in West Africa to better manage and conserve seagrass meadows — and laying the groundwork for seagrass conservation around the globe. Seagrass meadows are powerful but overlooked ecosystems that sustain robust ocean life and sequester carbon dioxide.

In 2020, Guinean researchers who had trained with GRID-Arendal as part of the ResilienSEA project made the first scientific discovery of seagrass in their country’s waters. To foster more such discoveries and promote local conservation efforts, ResilienSEA has sponsored scholarships for seven master’s students in West Africa to study seagrass.

GRID-Arendal also played a lead role in assembling UNEP’s first global synthesis report on seagrasses, “Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People”. The report, co-published by UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the World Seagrass Association, compiles evidence of the many ways that seagrasses contribute not just to a healthy environment but to the well-being of human communities – by nurturing fish populations, improving water quality, and protecting coastlines from storms, floods, and erosion. To get key messages and recommendations into the hands of policymakers around the world, the report was translated into French and Portuguese with support from the ResilienSEA project, and a related policy brief was published in the six UN languages.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

The global seagrass report attracted international media attention, including in the **Daily Nation** (Kenya), **The East African** (Kenya), **AllAfrica**, **Prokerala** (India), **Kathimerini** (Greece), **Observador** (Portugal), **El Periodico** (Spain), **Physorg** (UK), and the **Irish Times**.

## RESEARCH IMPACT

Tanya Bryan, Senior Programme Officer at GRID-Arendal, was the lead author of a paper on conservation of blue carbon ecosystems such as seagrass meadows in West Africa, published in the **Journal of Coastal Conservation**.

## FAST FACTS

**159**

*nations known to have seagrass meadows*

**61**

*experts who contributed to the global seagrass report*

**7**

*students in West Africa who have received ResilienSEA scholarships to study seagrass*



***Seagrasses represent powerful nature-based solutions to the climate challenge and sustainable development.***

—  
Susan Gardner, Director of UNEP’s Ecosystems Division



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Tanya Bryan**, Senior Programme Officer, leads GRID-Arendal’s work on seagrass conservation and restoration.

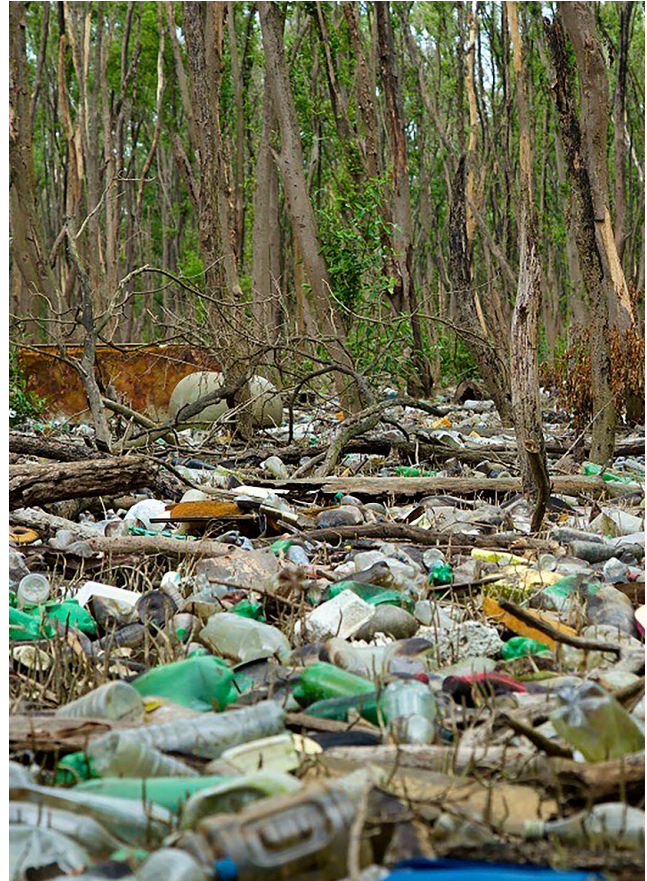




# Galvanizing global action to combat plastic pollution

GRID-Arendal is partnering closely with Norway's Ministry of Climate and Environment (MOCE) and the Nordic Council of Ministers to bring the international community together to tackle the plastic pollution crisis. Jointly, we launched a new report that lays out a potential framework for a global agreement to address the challenge, known as the Nordic Report. To help spread the message far and wide, GRID-Arendal produced the website [NordicReport2020.com](http://NordicReport2020.com), as well as other related communication products including policy briefs and a light-hearted explanatory video.

Simultaneously, we have been collaborating with the Secretariat to the Basel Convention to address the plastic waste challenge, with support from Norad and MOCE. GRID-Arendal staff have provided inputs on technical waste issues and produced knowledge materials about how to better manage plastic waste. In March, we joined the first meeting of the Plastic Waste Partnership, established under the Basel Convention, and presented reports we had produced, including a baseline report on plastic waste and an overview on plastic waste initiatives. In addition, we have contributed technical advice to guidelines on the environmentally sound management of household waste and plastic waste, developed under the Basel Convention.



“  
***This Nordic Report is a welcome contribution to the global policy discussion. We need to move faster towards reuse and recycling plastic, and towards a more circular economy. We look forward to engaging in discussions with other countries in other regions about the report and exploring how this can help ambitious governments respond to this growing environmental challenge.***

Lea Wermelin, Danish Minister of Environment and Chair of the Nordic Council of Environment and Climate Ministers

“  
***A survey from GRID-Arendal shows that only around 9 percent of the plastic waste in the world is recycled.***

NRK News, the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, citing a GRID-Arendal policy brief

## FAST FACTS

**6.3 billion**

*metric tons of plastic waste that have been generated to date*

**12 billion**

*metric tons of plastic waste projected to pile up in landfills or the natural environment by 2050 if current trends continue*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Runa Lindebjerg**, a staff expert on marine litter, directed GRID-Arendal's work on the Nordic Report.







# Mobilizing against marine litter

GRID-Arendal is engaged in numerous projects related to plastic marine litter, one of our key focus areas. Here are some highlights.

In 2020, GRID-Arendal joined the Global Environment Facility and other partners in launching the report “Addressing Marine Plastics: A Roadmap to a Circular Economy”, the capstone publication of a two-year project that developed a systemic approach to dealing with plastic pollution. We also produced a webinar and online event to introduce the report and its ideas to policymakers around the world.

We promoted cooperation between Norway and Russia to address marine litter. Working with UNEP and others,

we produced a Russian-language version of a massive open online course (MOOC) on marine litter, with a special focus on the Barents Sea. We also joined the new MALINOR project, which brings together Russian and Norwegian research groups to map, model, and study marine litter in Arctic seas.

In addition, GRID-Arendal partnered with the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment to develop a website highlighting the UN Environment Assembly’s resolutions on marine litter. With a combination of text and video, the site makes it easy for national leaders and policymakers to see the actions and goals to which UNEA member states have committed to reduce plastic litter in marine environments.



## FAST FACTS

**150 million**

*estimated tonnes of marine plastic litter in the oceans*

**8 million**

*estimated tonnes of additional marine plastic litter added to the oceans each year*

## REAL-WORLD IMPACT

**300**

*people who participated in Russian-language version of online course in marine litter*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Anna Sinisalo**, Principal Arctic Expert, leads our work on marine litter in the Arctic.





# Mapping permafrost in the Arctic

GRID-Arendal is a key partner in the Nunataryuk project, which studies permafrost thaw in the Arctic and its impacts on Indigenous people and local communities, with an eye to helping them adapt. The project, which is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, brings together world-leading specialists in natural science and social science and connects them with stakeholders from around the Arctic.

*Nunataryuk, loosely translated, means “land to sea” in Inuvialuktun, a Native language of northwestern Canada.*

As part of the Nunataryuk project, GRID-Arendal is leading development of an atlas that will explain the many impacts of fast-moving permafrost changes in the Northern Hemisphere. To that end, we have been making maps, including one that draws on the most recent data to show the current extent of permafrost in the Arctic, both on land and under the sea. The map has been translated into German, Norwegian, and Russian so it can be widely used by researchers and policymakers. Our partners have presented it at various online meetings. We also adapted it into a Dymaxion permafrost map that can be folded into the shape of a globe.

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## Permafrost and Periglacial Processes

**PRESS IMPACT**

Our map of permafrost was featured on the cover of the peer-reviewed journal **Permafrost and Periglacial Processes**. It was also featured as map of the month in the Arctic Institute’s newsletter.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Georgios Fylakis**, GIS expert, was the lead cartographer for the new permafrost map.



*The Nunataryuk foldable permafrost map.*





# Reporting on permafrost change

GRID-Arendal devised a creative new way to communicate about the science of thawing permafrost in the Arctic and its effects on local communities. Instead of publishing a traditional printed report, we developed an interactive, multimedia experience with a crowdsourced component. The result is a rich online product with dynamic maps and graphics as well as videos, photos, and text – a more engaging way to learn about the latest permafrost science.

**Permafrost is ground that remains frozen for more than two years.**

Part of our Rapid Response Assessment series with UNEP, this report, “Coastal and Offshore Permafrost in a Changing Arctic”, was compiled in concert with researchers at the Geological Survey of Canada and numerous other scientific and academic institutions. In addition to exploring and explaining new scientific findings about permafrost, the report highlights the perspectives and concerns of Arctic peoples and makes recommendations for further research and policy action.

## FAST FACTS

**87**

*experts who contributed to the coastal permafrost interactive report*

**7**

*countries represented by those experts*

**20%**

*estimated proportion of land mass in the Northern hemisphere that is underlain by permafrost*

## MEDIA COVERAGE

The report was featured by a number of media organizations in Canada, including **CBC News** (radio and online) and the First Nations news outlets **Nunatsiaq News** and **Inuvik Drum**.



### STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Tiina Kurvits**, Senior Specialist in Ecosystem Management, was project manager for the multimedia permafrost report.





# Nudging universities towards sustainability

GRID-Arendal partnered with UNEP and the UK-based Behavioural Insights Team to publish “The Little Book of Green Nudges: 40 Nudges to Spark Sustainable Behaviour on Campus” in both English and Spanish. This easy-to-use, evidence-based book explains how universities and other higher education institutions can harness the power of behavioural science to “nudge” their students and staff to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles. Nineteen universities contributed case studies to the book.

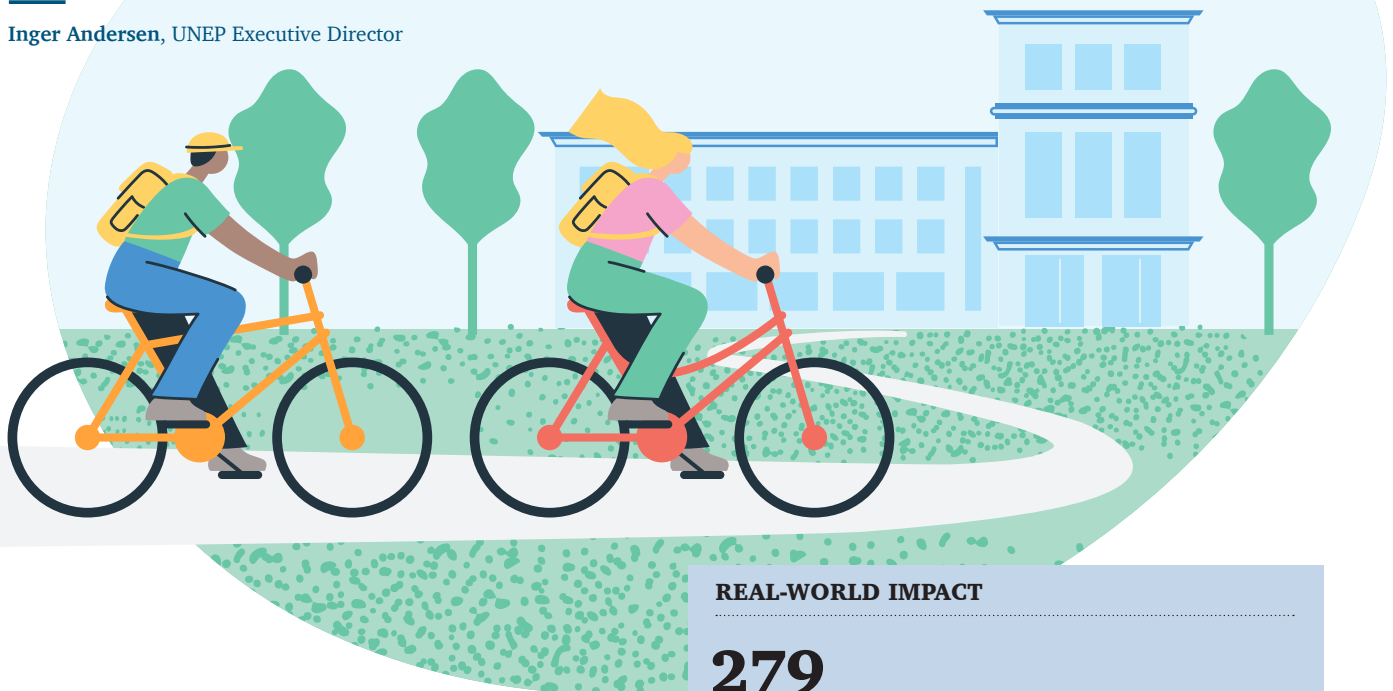
Nudging is based on the psychology of decision-making – for example, understanding that people often choose the easiest path and follow what others around them are doing. Examples of green nudges from the book include automatically signing students up for bike-share programmes, eliminating trays in cafeterias to discourage food waste, and making plant-based foods more prominent and easy to spot.

This is UNEP’s first publication focused on behavioural science and nudge theory, part of a campaign that is inviting universities to pilot nudging projects on their campuses and share success stories and lessons learned.



***Changing behaviour is critical if we are to stay within our planetary boundaries. We invite higher education institutions across the world to join us in employing green nudges on their campuses.***

Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director



## REAL-WORLD IMPACT

**279**

*universities engaged with UNEP’s nudging campaign in 2020*

**44**

*countries where those universities are located*

**2**

*international education conferences that featured online panel discussions about the book*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Lisa Hymas**, Senior Communications Expert, was lead editor and project manager for “The Little Book of Green Nudges”.







# Unleashing the positive power of drones and artificial intelligence

GRID-Arendal joined an esteemed team of Norwegian research institutions to kick off a groundbreaking new initiative that is creating an infrastructure using high-tech tools and methods to help map and study the Norwegian coastline in much more detail than ever before. The SeaBee project employs aerial drones, machine learning, and novel cloud storage solutions to research changes in the coastline and its biodiversity.

SeaBee, funded by the Research Council of Norway and led by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), is fitting sophisticated environmental sensors to small unmanned aerial vehicles, enabling collection

of high-resolution data at a large scale. The project will automate data collection and analysis, making the process more efficient and less costly. The resulting data will be shared broadly to benefit coastal industries, policymakers, environmental managers, researchers, and students. GRID-Arendal’s role is to share information about the project and research results with audiences in Norway and beyond.

Ultimately, SeaBee aims to provide an infrastructure model for researchers around the world to use drones and artificial intelligence for environmental observation, analysis, and mapping.



## FAST FACTS

**100,915**

length of Norway’s coastline in kilometres

**100**

number of metres drones fly above the ground to capture images with 1,000 times finer resolution than satellite images



*The Research Council of Norway is proud to fund this beyond-state-of-the-art drone-based infrastructure project, which will support the country’s industry and research communities, enable better environmental protection, and enhance Norway’s reputation as a hub for innovation.*

John-Arne Røttingen, then-Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Guendalina De Luigi**, Communications Officer, is coordinating internal and external communications for the SeaBee project.







# Reaching out within Norway

Though we have a global focus, GRID-Arendal values being part of the Norwegian community. We engage with local and national audiences, participate in environmental projects and events, and support U.N. campaigns in our home country. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we still did important outreach in Norway in 2020.

In the first quarter of the year, we organized and taught a master’s degree course at the University of Agder on coastal ecology. Ten GRID-Arendal staff members gave lectures and led discussions on topics including seafloor mapping, international maritime law, and stakeholder engagement.

In January, GRID-Arendal co-organized two side events at the Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø in northern Norway. One focused on the value of kelp, the other on fostering cooperation between the Arctic and Himalayan regions. Both events drew people from around Norway and other Arctic nations.



GRID-Arendal co-organized two events at Arctic Frontiers in January.



GRID-Arendal’s Lars Kullerud (left), president of the University of the Arctic, speaks at an Arctic Frontiers panel discussion about links between the Arctic and the Himalayas.





*GRID-Arendal staff in T-shirts supporting the NRK telethon.*

In October, we supported regional outreach for national broadcaster NRK’s annual telethon, which this year raised money for WWF’s efforts to combat marine plastic pollution in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the lead-up to the telethon, Managing Director Peter Harris spoke at Arendal’s Trinity Church to introduce an exhibit of children’s drawings of marine litter, organized by GRID-Arendal. We also supported a local school project that got 7th and 9th graders learning about marine science directly – by getting wet!

GRID-Arendal was a major supporter of the city of Arendal’s activities and celebrations leading up to United Nations Day on 24 October. We organized a

virtual screening of a documentary series about the ocean, staged a virtual parade, co-organised a children’s art contest, and prepared video messages, including a video about the Sustainable Development Goals that played on a large screen in the town square. We also virtually joined a national panel and seminar to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN.

In November, we collaborated in putting on Blue Forest Week, a virtual conference organized by the Norwegian Blue Forests Network, in which we’re a partner. Steven Lutz, a GRID-Arendal expert on blue carbon, joined a panel to discuss how blue forests offer nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity conservation.



*Schoolkids in Arendal dive into real-world science education.*



*Peter Harris (left), GRID-Arendal’s Managing Director, launched a local exhibit of children’s drawings of marine litter.*



# Publications and products

## Books, reports, and briefs

GRID-Arendal produced or made significant contributions to these publications released in 2020:

*Addressing Marine Plastics: A Roadmap to a Circular Economy*  
Publisher: UN Environment Programme

*Caspian Sea: State of the Environment* (English and Russian)  
Publishers: Tehran Convention and GRID-Arendal

*Ecosystem-Based Integrated Ocean Management: A Framework for Sustainable Ocean Economy Development*  
Author: Louise Lieberknecht  
Publisher: GRID-Arendal for WWF-Norway

*Elevating Mountains in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework 2.0*  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

*Getting Climate-Smart with the Mountain Gorilla in the Greater Virunga Landscape*  
Authors: Milena Beekmann, Pauliina Upla, and Johannes Refisch  
Publisher: UN Environment Programme

*Getting Climate-Smart with the Royal Bengal Tiger in Bhutan*  
Authors: Torjus Solheim Eckhoff and Hanna Gjerdi  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

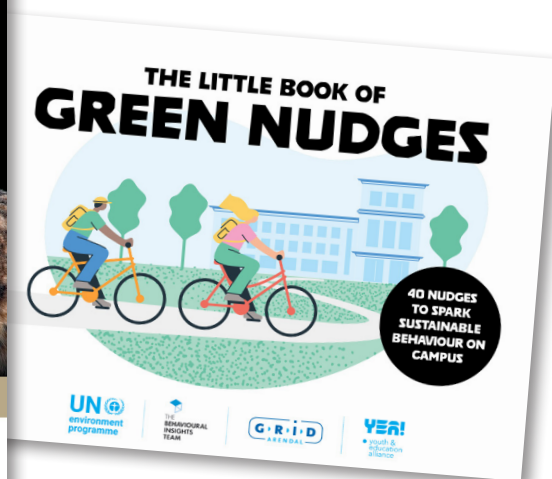
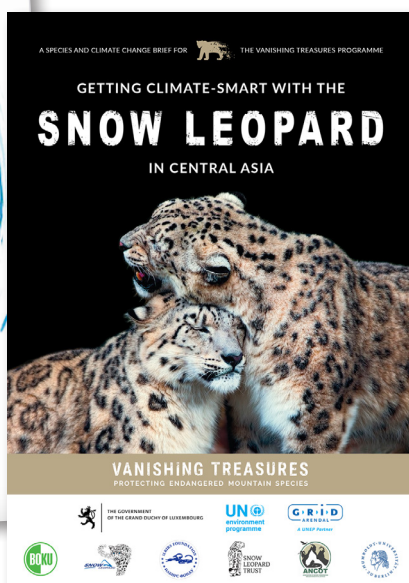
*Getting Climate-Smart with the Snow Leopard in Central Asia*  
Author: Laurent Fouinat  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

*The Illegal Trade in Chemicals*  
Authors: David Azoulay, Layla Hughes, Mikhail Malkov, Peter Maxson, Ieva Ručevska, and Olga Speranskaya  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

*The Little Book of Green Nudges: 40 Nudges to Spark Sustainable Behaviour on Campus* (English and Spanish)  
Publishers: UN Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal

*Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People* (English, French, and Portuguese)  
Editors: Maria Potouroglou, Gabriel Grimsditch, Lauren Weatherdon, and Steven Lutz  
Publisher: UN Environment Programme

*Towards Zero Harm: A Compendium of Papers Prepared for the Global Tailings Review*  
Editors: Bruno Oberle, David Brereton, and Antonia Mihaylova  
Publisher: Global Tailings Review





## Research papers and articles

GRID-Arendal staff authored or co-authored these papers and articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

*Blue carbon conservation in West Africa: a first assessment of feasibility*

Authors: Tanya Bryan, John Viridin, Tibor Vegh, Connie Y. Kot, Jesse Cleary, and Patrick N. Halpin

Publisher: Journal of Coastal Conservation

*The fate of microplastic in marine sedimentary environments: A review and synthesis*

Author: Peter T. Harris

Publisher: Marine Pollution Bulletin

*A Glossary of Terminology Used in Marine Biology, Ecology, and Geology*

Authors: Mark J. Costello, Peter T. Harris, Bryony Pearce, Andrea Fiorentino, Jean-François Bourillet, and Sarah M. Hamylton

Publisher: Encyclopedia of the World's Biomes

*Loosening the grid: topology as the basis for a more inclusive GIS*

Authors: Levi Westerveld and Anne Kelly Knowles

Publisher: International Journal of Geographical Information Science

*Økonomisk forskning har stort sett ignorert Arktis og nordområdene (Economic research has largely ignored the Arctic and the High North)*

Author: Lars Kullerud

Publisher: Magma

## Online communication products

GRID-Arendal produced these online communication products in 2020:

### Websites

Global Tailings Portal  
tailing.grida.no

Nordic Report  
NordicReport2020.com

Sanitation Myths and Truths  
www.sanitation.no

SeaBee  
SeaBee.no

UNEA Resolutions on Marine Litter  
unea.marinelitter.no

WorldWater  
worldwater.earth

### StoryMaps

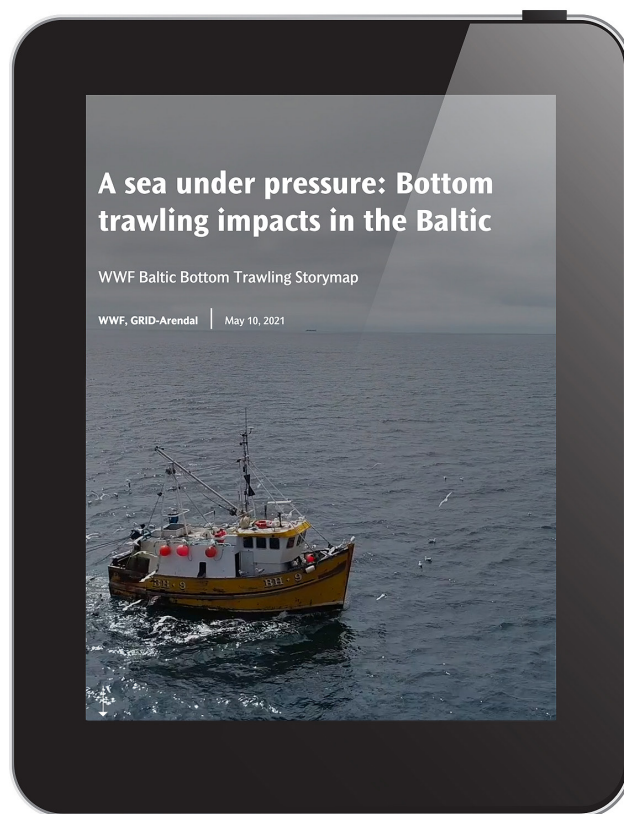
*Coastal and Offshore Permafrost in a Changing Arctic: A Rapid Response Assessment*

Publisher: GRID-Arendal

*Follow Sea Turtles in Their Search for Greener Pastures*

Producers: Maria Potouroglou, Marco Vinaccia, Georgios Fylakis, and Debhasish Bhakta

Publisher: GRID-Arendal



*A Sea Under Pressure: Bottom Trawling Impacts in the Baltic*

Producers: Louise Lieberknecht, Georgios Fylakis, Márk Aguera, Torben Dedring, Hannah Griffiths Berggren, Valerie de Leidekerke, and Ottilia Thoreson

Publishers: WWF-Baltic and GRID-Arendal

*Unsung Heroes of Our Oceans: Seagrass – All You Need to Know*

Producers: Maria Potouroglou, Levi Westerveld, and Georgios Fylakis

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 disseminates environmental information, produces communication products, and provides services to build capacity in environmental management, all with the aim of motivating decision makers to take actions that promote sustainability.

The foundation conducted its activities in 2020 in line with its bylaws, approved budgets, and work plan approved by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Its reports and websites describe the activities of the different programmes and the results achieved.

The year 2020 was financially satisfactory with healthy operations, leading to a surplus of NOK 1,273,715 which will be added to the previous year's equity, creating a new equity balance of NOK 13,751,345. In 2020 GRID-Arendal's grant from Norad was NOK 22,000,000.

GRID-Arendal is an organization that depends on traveling to implement its projects, so the COVID-19 pandemic was challenging for its operations in 2020. But thanks to close dialogue with donors, flexible employees, good local partners, and a high degree of digitization, the foundation nevertheless delivered good results with high impact.

GRID-Arendal's internal 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 of environmental impact. To offset the impact, GRID-Arendal is investing in carbon emission credits to finance concrete climate action in developing countries. GRID-Arendal is certified under the Miljøfyrtårn environmental programme and is a member of Climate Partners (Klimapartnere).

The foundation has its offices in an environmentally friendly building with good energy systems.

Long-term sick leave in 2020 amounted to 0.6% of total working days, while short-term sick leave was 1.6%. There were no injuries to staff in 2020, and there was no significant damage to the foundation's equipment. The leadership strives to reduce stress and improve teamwork and collaboration through efficient communication via staff representatives and the health and safety officer. GRID-Arendal's office has ergonomic furniture for all employees. Working conditions at GRID-Arendal are considered very good.

At the end of 2020, the Board consisted of 8 board members, 4 women and 4 men. The staff consisted of 41 employees, 18 women and 23 men. GRID-Arendal aims to be a workplace with 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 attempt to identify any differences in the ways women and men are treated.

Project funding for 2021 is satisfactory, adaptation to the pandemic situation is good, and the project activity level remains high, therefore the Board is optimistic about the outlook for 2021. The Board concludes that GRID-Arendal's activities are consistent with its mandate and that it has a competent staff for continuing operations and 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 the past year that had special impact on GRID-Arendal's development or position.

Arendal, 17 February 2021



Jan-Gunnar Winther  
Chair



Helga Flesche Kleiven



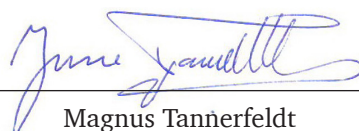
Christian Neumann



Karoline Andaur



Colin Daniel Martin



Magnus Tannerfeldt



Guri Enodd Hope



Cecilie Mauritzen



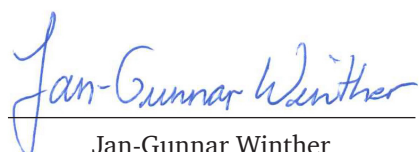
Peter Townsend Harris  
Managing Director

# Financial report

## Balance sheet (NOK)

Assets	Note	2020	2019
<i>Fixed assets</i>			
Equipment and other movables	3	13 114	44 588
Investments in subsidiaries	7	17 012 000	17 012 000
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>17 025 114</b>	<b>17 056 588</b>
<i>Current assets</i>			
Accounts receivable		1 652 562	2 766 244
Other short-term receivables		1 305 950	1 724 157
<b>Total receivables</b>		<b>2 958 512</b>	<b>4 490 401</b>
Cash and bank deposits	5	25 844 515	24 968 778
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>28 803 027</b>	<b>29 459 179</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>45 828 141</b>	<b>46 515 767</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<i>Equity</i>			
Basic capital	6	500 000	500 000
Other equity	6	13 251 345	11 977 630
<b>Total equity</b>	6	<b>13 751 345</b>	<b>12 477 630</b>
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Trade creditors		993 442	1 245 920
Public duties payable		1 970 737	1 637 616
Other current debt	4	29 112 617	31 154 601
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>32 076 796</b>	<b>34 038 137</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>45 828 141</b>	<b>46 515 767</b>

Arendal, 17 February 2021



Jan-Gunnar Winther  
Chair



Karoline Andaur



Guri Enodd Hope



Helga Flesche Kleiven



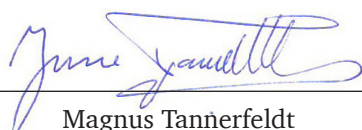
Colin Daniel Martin



Cecilie Mauritzen



Christian Neumann



Magnus Tannerfeldt



Peter Townsend Harris  
Managing Director



## Revenue statement (NOK)

<b>Operating income and operating expenses</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Operating income</b>		<b>63 246 655</b>	<b>67 917 342</b>
Project expenses		17 135 700	17 750 949
Personnel expenses	2	34 251 385	30 141 075
Depreciation of operating and intangible assets	3	31 474	31 474
Other operating expenses	2	10 084 697	18 178 858
<b>Operating expenses</b>		<b>61 503 256</b>	<b>66 102 356</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>		<b>1 743 399</b>	<b>1 814 986</b>
<i>Financial income and expenses</i>			
Interest income		64 677	126 361
Other financial income		1 181 404	1 022 268
Interest expenses		452 416	447 335
Other financial expenses		1 263 348	1 048 807
Net financial income and expenses		-469 684	-347 513
<b>Ordinary result</b>		<b>1 273 715</b>	<b>1 467 474</b>
<b>Annual net profit</b>	6	<b>1 273 715</b>	<b>1 467 474</b>
<i>Brought forward</i>			
<b>Net brought forward</b>		<b>1 273 715</b>	<b>1 467 474</b>

### 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.

#### 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 intended 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	2020	2019
Salaries	25 134 664	21 857 218
Employment tax	3 623 656	3 369 670
Pension costs	1 999 456	1 829 205
Other benefits	3 493 610	3 084 981
<b>Total</b>	<b>34 251 385</b>	<b>30 141 075</b>

Employed person-years	40	33
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#### Remuneration to leading personnel (NOK)

Remuneration	Chief executive	Board
Salaries	1 082 792	277 000
Other remuneration	17 642	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 100 434</b>	<b>277 000</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	2020	2019
Statutory audit (incl. technical support with annual report)	72 700	62 000
Other services & advisory	54 700	49 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>127 400</b>	<b>111 000</b>

### Note 3

#### Fixed assets (NOK)

Acquisition cost 01.01.2020	94 422
Addition of plant and equipment purchased	0
Disposal of plant and equipment sold	0
<b>Acquisition cost 31.12.2020</b>	<b>94 422</b>
Accumulated depreciation 31.12.2020	81 308
<b>Book value as at 31.12.2020</b>	<b>13 114</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 31.12.2020, Stiftelsen GRID-Arendal had a debt of NOK 8 500 000 to Teaterplassen AS. The interest rate is equal to the market rate.

### Note 5

Bank deposits	2020	2019
Of which tax withholdings (restricted funds)	1 276 123	1 036 501

### Note 6

#### Equity capital (NOK)

Equity capital	Basic	Other	Total
As at 01.01.2020	500 000	11 977 630	12 477 630
Result for the year		1 273 715	1 273 715
<b>As at 31.12.2020</b>	<b>500 000</b>	<b>13 251 345</b>	<b>13 751 345</b>

### Note 7

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

Investments in subsidiaries are valued using the cost method.

#### Teaterplassen AS

Municipality	Arendal
Owner-interest	100%
Acquisition cost	17 012 000
Book value	24 379 929
Share of result	1 403 882
<b>Carrying amount</b>	<b>17 012 000</b>



# Independent auditor's report



RSM Norge AS

Til styret i Stiftelsen Grid-Arendal

Frolandsveien 6, 4847 Arendal  
Org.nr: 982 316 588 MVA

T +47 38 07 07 00  
F +47 23 11 42 01

[www.rsmnorge.no](http://www.rsmnorge.no)

## Uavhengig revisors beretning

### Uttalelse om revisjonen av årsregnskapet

#### Konklusjon

Vi har revidert Stiftelsen Grid-Arendals årsregnskap som viser et overskudd på kr 1 273 715. Årsregnskapet består av balanse per 31. desember 2020, 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 2020, 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.

#### 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

#### THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD

AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING

RSM Norge AS is a member of the RSM network and trades as RSM. RSM is the trading name used by the members of the RSM network. Each member of the RSM network is an independent accounting and consulting firm which practices in its own right. The RSM network is not itself a separate legal entity in any jurisdiction.

RSM Norge AS er medlem av/Is a member of Den norske Revisorforening.

inneholder vår konklusjon. Betyggende 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.

For videre beskrivelse av revisors oppgaver og plikter vises det til <https://revisorforeningen.no/revisjonsberetninger>.

#### **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 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 i samsvar med lov, stiftelsens formål og vedtektene for øvrig.

Arendal, 17. februar 2021  
RSM Norge AS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Johan Thulin Bringsverd'.

Johan Thulin Bringsverd  
Statsautorisert revisor



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A UNEP Partner

GRID-Arendal

Phone: +47 47 64 45 55

Email: [grid@grida.no](mailto:grid@grida.no)

Website: [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)

Teaterplassen 3

N-4836 Arendal

Norway

