

# Annual Report 2019



Since last year's annual meeting on 19.5.2019, the board has consisted of the following persons:

Martin Alvsvåg (chairperson)

Janne Robberstad (vice chairperson)

Aurélien Delaval

Phung Hang

Arild Fehn

(Janne Hillersøy has participated in many board meetings as an active member, as proposed during last year's annual meeting)

Janne Robberstad will be leaving the board after the annual meeting on 2 May 2020.

The board wishes to increase the number of board members to 5 or 6. The following persons are up for election, and are presented at the end of this report:

Janne Hillersøy

Christian Dubrau

2019 was Rivers' first complete calendar year. The highlight was Arild and Martin's participation in World Clean-up Day in Vietnam, as part of the **"Fighting Plastic in Mekong"** project. The engagement among school students and the local community for a cleaner environment, both on a local and global scale, was truly inspiring. We visited several schools and towns, and strengthened our collaboration with NMAV (Norwegian Mission Alliance Vietnam), who have been leading the project.

*Students at this school in Mekong showed up at 7:30am on a Saturday to clean up their school campus and learn about the environment and pollution. Here Martin is getting to know the students, with Tham from NMAV helping to translate.*





*We joined in for local clean-up events, and in good spirits! It was wonderful to be welcomed in Vietnam with open arms.*

A major goal for 2019 has been to contact and build partnerships with different companies with technical expertise and for funding. This will continue in 2020. KPMG's donation of 136,500 NOK was especially valuable, and made our involvement in the "Fighting Plastic in Mekong" project possible.

Our contact with Egersund Group and its subsidiary companies Nofir and Markleen have also been promising.



*Rivers has been growing steadily, and we now have over 260 members. The Korsvei festival in Seljord on its own attracted almost 100 new members! A real boost for Rivers! However, we are a bit short of reaching our goal of 500 members by the Annual Meeting in 2020.*



*The Student Council at Greåker high school entered a partnership with Rivers in 2019 for a duration of 3-5 years. Rivers is thus supported by Greåker's 1200 students!*

In 2019, two high schools decided to support Rivers.Global as part of a community project: Greåker high school and St Olav high school (both with roughly 1200 students) in Sarpsborg, south of Oslo. We are very excited for what the future holds! Unfortunately, all large school projects in Spring 2020 have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rivers entered a partnership with Solidus, a Customer Relationships Management (CRM) provider, in Summer 2019. Fredrikstad Webdesign also designed our new website, which now has both a Norwegian and English version. We have also printed a roll-up and brochures for public events.

**The Norwegian Retailers Environment Fund** (a plastic bag fund) accepted applications to support overseas projects for the first time in 2019. We applied for two of our prospective projects in Vietnam, but unfortunately these weren't granted. A tough pill to swallow, but we were not alone. Only 10 out of 133 applications were accepted.

*"We received 133 applications, totalling the amount of NOK 262 million. There were many good projects, and we were only able to award a grant to 10 projects due to the announcement being for NOK 20 million."*

But we didn't come out of this empty handed! In developing our proposal for one of these projects, to **install a plastic skimmer in Thu Bon River**, we came into contact with IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature), who are actively engaged in an environmental project in a river delta and wetland near Hoi An, in Vietnam. This is a highly populated area which produces a lot of

waste, much of which is plastic. IUCN welcomed our idea to install a “plastic skimmer”, which can divert waste in a river onto land, and we are currently communicating with them and the local community. We have also come into contact with Scale AQ, a Norwegian company that produces equipment for the aquaculture industry. They have a factory in Nha Trang, Vietnam, with everything needed to produce a plastic skimmer. This would make production and delivery of such a facility much easier than one produced in Norway. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought all of our activities and those of our contacts to a near standstill, but our current trajectory is promising once activities return to normal.

## Economy

Revenue: A grant of 136,500 NOK from KPMG amounted to nearly 70% of our revenue in 2019. Memberships and member donations increased from 30,000 NOK (2018) to 60,000 NOK (2019). We are extremely grateful to all of our engaged members, and are working hard to make you proud! Expenses: Support for the “Fighting Plastic in Mekong” and travels to Vietnam related to this project amounted to roughly 90,000 NOK. Website development, CRM-services, and visibility on social media amounted to roughly 45,000 NOK. A deficit of 7,000 NOK in 2018 turned into a surplus of 31,000 NOK in 2019 (as of 31.12.19).

Here is an overview of all our activities in 2019:

- 15.1 Aurelien meets with Nofir i Bodø.
- 17.-20.1 Martin visits NMAV and the Mekong project on a work trip to Singapore.
- 29.1 Lecture (Martin) about Rivers.Global at «Grønn Dialog», Moss.
- 30.1 Board meeting.**
- 5.2 Meeting with Egersund Group (Martin).
- 15.2 Skype-meeting with Nofir and Markleen (Martin).
- 13.3 Skype-meeting med Nofir and Markleen (Martin).
- 13.3 Seminar, Oslo, Circular Clean-up (Martin).
- 14.3 Lecture (Martin) at Tomb high school, Råde.
- 2.4 Seminar, Oslo, about «Digital Fundraising» (Martin).
- 3.4 Board meeting.**
- 9.4 Skype-meeting with NMAV in Vietnam (Martin).
- 25.4 Aurelien keynote speaker NU, "Sustainable development goals and climate change"
- 30.4 Skype-meeting with Nofir and Markleen (Martin).
- 30.4 Lecture (Martin) for Sarpsborg diakoniutvalg.
- 19.5 Annual meeting, Moster Amfi.**
- 21.5 Seminar, Oslo, about communication, Proviso (Martin).
- 25.5 Meeting in Oslo (Arild and Martin).
- 3.6 Seminar, Oslo, “Future Innovation Day» (Martin).
- 17.6 Board meeting.**
- 16.-21.7 Stand at Korsvei, Seljord (Martin).
- 7.8 Board meeting.**
- 27.8 Seminar, Oslo, about plastic waste, organiser: Handelens Miljøfond (Martin).
- 5.9 Meeting with Solidus, our new CRM-provider.
- 9.9 Lecture (Martin) at Greåker high school.
- 16.9 Board meeting.**
- 17.-23.9 Arild and Martin visit “Fighting Plastic in Mekong”, with photographer E. Yang.
- 19.10 Martin interviewed about Rivers at Furulydagene, Råde.
- 29.10 Start-up meeting community action at Greåker high school (Martin).
- 5.11 Meeting with Solidus, Oslo (Martin).
- 7.11 Martin participated with info about Rivers at SOL-concert, Greåker high school.
- 14.11 Board meeting.**
- 3.12 Lecture about Rivers at St Olav high school (Martin).

10 newsletters were sent to our members and supporters in 2019.

*Sarpsborg 16 April 2020, for the board: Martin Alvsvåg, chairperson.*

## Presentation of new candidate board members:

Name: **Janne Hillersøy**

Age: 49

Civil status: Lives with her partner and 4 children

Education: Teacher, master-degree in IT, master-degree in public governance and management

Profession: Responsible for procurement and communications at SIM (Sunnhordland Interkommunale Miljøverk). Earlier; Journalist for Bømlo-nytt and Haugesunds Avis. Teacher at Fitjar high school.

Interests: Outdoor life, mountaineering, paddling, and literature.



**Christian Dubrau (37)**

Originally from Germany, but has lived in Norway since 2004. Married with 4 children.

Master degree in accounting and auditing, and has worked in auditing for KPMG from 2008 to 2014.

Worked for Save the Children since 2014, acting as leader of the economy department since 2017.

A hobby bee-keeper and was involved in founding BYBI Oslo in 2012. Involved in starting up the social enterprise Epleslang AS.

Board-member of Cultura Sparebank, Norway's most ethical bank, since 2015.

Enjoys cycling and spending time with family.

