

Annual Report 2020



The board of Rivers.Global has consisted of the following persons since the previous annual meeting on 2 May 2020:

Martin Alvsvåg (Chairman)
Aurélien Delaval (Vice-Chairman)
Janne Hillersøy
Phung Hang
Arild Fehn
Christian Dubrau

Since March 2020 the world has been in a state of emergency due to COVID-19. This has also affect Rivers.Global. Nonetheless, the organisation has been very active this year, not least with the development of The River Cleaner.

We have had 10 board meetings in addition to the annual meeting in 2020. We sent six newsletters, four via Mailchimp and two by regular mail.



2020 was the first year in which Rivers.Global received VAT refund. It was the first year in which the organization qualified for tax deduction for any donations exceeding 500 NOK.

In 2020, Rivers.Global received donations from Fjellhamar Church and a number of generous private individuals, many of which exceeded 1,000 NOK. Furthermore, the number of members increased by almost 300 this year. This has been extremely motivating for Rivers!

Like last year, we supported the “Fighting Plastic in Mekong” project coordinated by the Norwegian Mission Alliance in Vietnam (Misjonsalliansen), this time with a 25,000 NOK contribution. The photo shows one of the events organised: a school competition to make creative sculptures out of plastic waste! We are in talks with Misjonsalliansen to determine whether we can develop our cooperation further, as the organization actively works in a number of countries with plastic waste issues.



Greåker Videregående high school contributed 125,000 NOK to Rivers.Global in 2020. A great achievement, considering many of their activities were cancelled due to COVID-19.

These photos are from an action day (top, 30 January) and the SOL-concert (bottom, 27 October), during which funds were raised for Rivers.Global.



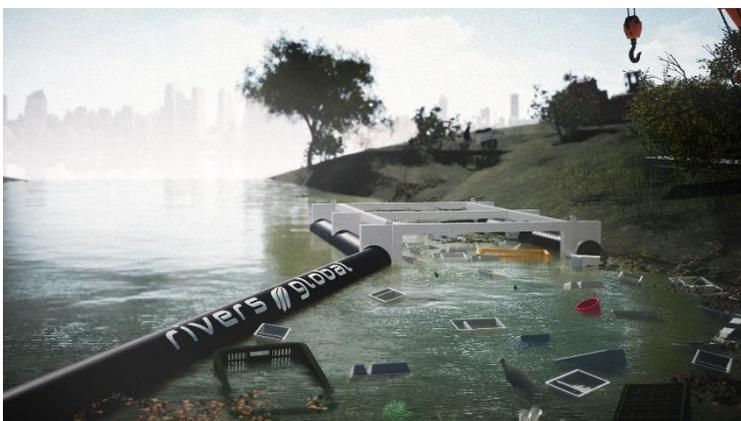
St. Olav Videregående, another school in Sarpsborg that was supposed to support Rivers in 2019, had to delay their activities in 2020.

The cooperation with Greåker high school will continue moving forward, hopefully with fewer COVID restrictions!



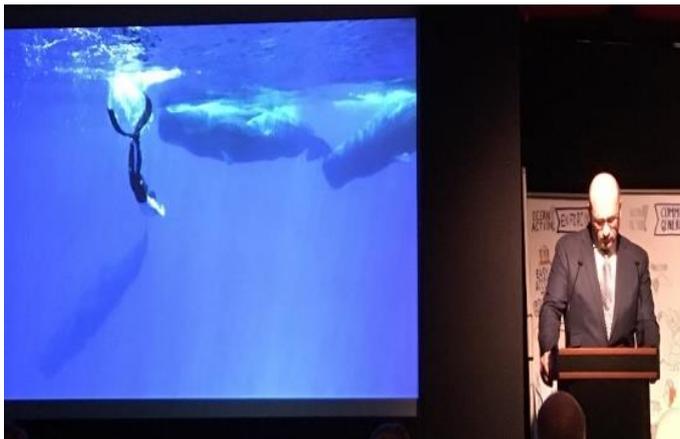
As part of Norway's 'TV-aksjonen', several municipalities that wished to support the initiative to tackle ocean plastic waste, but did not wish to support WWF due to a debate on predator management, could choose from a number of other organizations to support. The following municipalities donated to Rivers.Global: Tynset (60,000), Skjåk (20,000), Lesja (15,000), Ringebu (10,000), Bardu (8,000) and Hattfjelldal (3,000). Independent fundraisers were also organised in Alvdal, Snåsa and Rena municipalities,

with donations provided through VIPPS amounting to a total of 150,000 NOK. Furthermore, several new members and donors have come from these municipalities.



We sent two applications for funding to Handelens Miljøfond in 2020: one as a 'start-up' fund to develop and test The River Cleaner with modelling programmes in collaboration with SINTEF, and another to have one pilot River Cleaner built in Vietnam in cooperation with IUCN. Unfortunately, both applications were unsuccessful. As a result, we have instead decided (in

consultation with SINTEF) to build a scaled-down model of The River Cleaner and test it ourselves. In parallel, we are raising the funds needed to build a full-scale pilot in Vietnam.



Representing Rivers.Global, Aurélien participated in the OceanAction! Conference in Brussels on 5 February 2020, organised by Seas at Risk. Aurélien actively participated in workshops about marine conservation issues at the EU level.

We do not prioritize participation in such conferences, since travel is costly and involves a hefty carbon footprint. However, we do prioritize networking

opportunities. Participation in such conferences also make it easier to apply for international funding. The conference also included a powerful speech from the makers of BBC's Blue Planet II documentary series (pictured).

Here is an excerpt of Aurélien's conference report:

"The main purpose of the conference was to put forth a road-map to 2030 for the EU to adopt, written and signed by NGOs that are members of Seas at Risk, which made up the majority of the conference attendees. The road-map is called the Blue Manifesto, and was the focus of talks, workshop activities, and debates during the conference. Also present were EU representatives at different levels, academics, and artists of various disciplines."

Economy.

Our financial resources grew from 30,000 in 2019 to 300,000 in 2020. This is largely thanks to donations from Greåker high school, the municipalities involved in the TV-aksjonen, membership fees, and individual donations. Our costs were reduced due to limited travels, both domestic and international. We printed 'eco-friendly' T-shirts and roll-ups of The River Cleaner, and otherwise invested in developing our website and social media presence. A growing organization requires activity and visibility, which will be easier post-corona!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Martin Alvsvåg'.

Sarpsborg 13 April 2021, on behalf of The Board: Martin Alvsvåg, Chairman.

Presentation of the committee's proposed new board members:

Phung Hang and Arild Fehn are up for election this year. Phung does not seek re-election. Arild wishes to continue. The board wishes to expand from six to eight members. This will make us less vulnerable in case of inabilities to join board meetings (e.g. due to illness). This is especially important given that we don't have deputy members in our board.

The current board has acted as the election committee. We suggest that the following persons be elected as new board members during the Annual Meeting on 20 April 2021:



Nghia Quoc Trinh (d.o.b. 1972)

Nghia Trinh was born and raised in Vietnam. He is a hydro-engineer with a Bachelor from Hanoi, and a Master and PhD from NTNU in Trondheim.

He speaks fluent Vietnamese and English, and is improving in Norwegian. He has experience and a large network in Vietnam, and broad knowledge in engineering, hydraulics, and Vietnamese culture. Currently works at SINTEF in Trondheim.



Ellen Sandvik Mikkelsen (d.o.b. 1980)

Born and raised in Oslo and Lørenskog, and has lived many years in Fredrikstad. Studied sociology and management, and will start a Master's degree this autumn. Speaks Spanish in addition to Norwegian and English. Years of experience in volunteer work, both political and organisational, working on environmental, sustainability, and conservation issues. In the last 5 years, Ellen has mainly worked on marine waste, as a scientific advisor, political advisor, and project leader. Ellen now works as a scientific advisor for Norwegian Society for Conservation of Nature as a project leader for marine waste.



Maja Bernhoff (d.o.b. 1994)

160 cm tall and often smells like campfire smoke, Maja comes from Helgelandskysten.

Maja has a Bachelor in Geology and a Master in Environments and Natural Resources. Maja works as an advisor on plastic waste management for Naturvernforbundet in Troms and Finnmark. Passionate about the sustainable relationship between humans and nature. Maja enjoys good conversation, dog-sledding, campfires, and clean nature.