

Rivers.Global Annual Report 2021



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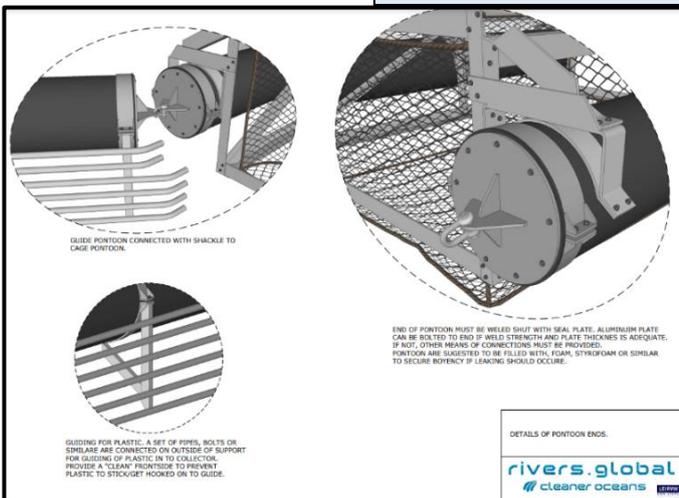
1. The River Cleaner

A pilot of The River Cleaner, a device designed to collect floating plastic waste from rivers and streams, was build and tested in 2021. SINTEF Ocean acted as consultants, providing us with technical advice on the design. SINTEF Ocean recommended that we build and test a prototype in a river. Due to the pandemic, this was performed in Norway rather than in Southeast Asia. We selected the river Etne in Western Norway. The **pipe floats** were welded by Scale AQ, the **aluminium frame** welded by Halleraker Mek, and the **netting** sewn by volunteers at TAM, on the islands of Bømlo and Sotra. The **ropes** and **anchoring** infrastructure were installed by Bremnes Seashore.



The River Cleaner was transported to the river Etne, launched and tested between the 2nd and 6th of October, 2021. Roughly 50 members of the public were present at the launch on October 5th. Students and staff from Moster school organised the release of 46 plastic cans and bottles upstream of the device. Two tests were performed, and The River Cleaner successfully collected all 46, both times! So, the device works!

We thank Etne Elveigarlag who allowed us to test the device in the area.





2. “Fighting Plastic in Mekong”

In 2021, Rivers.Global continued to support the “Fighting Plastic in Mekong” led by the Mission Alliance in Vietnam. The project aims to increase local awareness about waste management in schools, women’s groups, and local welfare associations, with a focus on single-use plastics. The image below shows a women’s group who have replaced single-use plastics with baskets.



In 2019, two Board members of Rivers.Global took part in a clean-up action in one of the areas “Fighting Plastic in Mekong” works in. The clean-up action involved the planting of flowers. Below you can see the difference in the same stretch of road between then, and now!



2019

2021

We are in a continuous dialog with the Mission Alliance, and considering further collaboration on projects in other countries. Below is an excerpt from a recent “Fighting Plastic in Mekong” project:

Tieu Can Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has built many cement containers to collect agricultural fertilizer bottle from farmers. There were 1,408 farmers participating on this campaign. Up to Feb 2021, more than 3,150kg of plastic bottle collected. It has been contributing to reduce big number of plastic bottles throwing into to channels, rivers and reduce environmental pollution.



Many people, especially women, now say no to single-use plastic. They are aware that if using many plastic things, it will bring bad impacts to the ocean and rivers, causing damage to fish as well as dangerous for next generations.

3. Collaborators



Collaboration with Greåker high school continued in 2021, but the pandemic resulted in fewer fundraising activities.

We also welcomed new schools as Rivers.Global ambassadors in 2021, including Bømlo Folkehøgskole (pictured), Møster school in Bømlo, and St. Olav high school in Sarpsborg. We are inspired by the engagement of today's youth towards cleaner oceans!

Bømlo Folkehøgskole has raised over 10,000 kr for Rivers.Global!

In connection with the development of The River Cleaner, Rivers.Global welcomed new partners who contributed with donations (both in terms of goods and services, as well as financially).

- The TAM project, led by Kenneth Bruvik, found a fishing net washed up on Sotra. They donated it to Rivers.Global, and it formed part of The River Cleaner prototype.
- Bremnes Seashore sponsored several short films documenting the development of The River Cleaner. These were uploaded to our YouTube channel. In addition, they donated ropes and an anchoring system for the prototype, as well as 50,000 kr.
- Scale AQ sponsored the pipe floats and the welding work.
- Leirvik AS provided technical drawings of The River Cleaner.
- Norvald and Karsten Alvsvåg worked long days for a whole week in preparation for the testing of The River Cleaner.
- Etnes Elveigarlag, led by Sven Ove Retland, granted us access to a section of the river Etnes to test the device. They also offered a free storage space to store the device after testing.
- Prokons and Frode Fjørtoft provided great IT-help.
- Trine Rønning has volunteered her time to help us with accounting matters.

En big thank you to you all!

4. Accounts for 2021

In 2021, Rivers.Global had a revenue of 245,000 kr and costs of 260,000 kr, a net loss of 15,000 kr. The River Cleaner accounted for nearly all costs in 2021.

We expected much higher costs for the development and testing of The River Cleaner. Costs were much lower than expected thanks to the volunteer work of our collaborators. Our biggest sponsors were Bremnes Seashore, who sponsored the production of several short films and made a donation of 50,000 kr. CFS Invest donated 25,000 kr. The Glomma Festival ends with a round of donations each year, from which Rivers.Global received 15,000 kr. Several churches also made donations in 2021.

The number of members was maintained at around 300 members. We are certain that Rivers.Global will welcome many new members when we begin our work building and installing a River Cleaner in the Philippines and Vietnam.

The yearly membership fee was kept at 200 kr since 2018. The Board suggests that we maintain the same membership fee in 2022.

Rivers.Global does not have many regular donors, but those we do have are incredibly faithful to our cause! We are incredibly thankful for their contributions.



Students at one of many schools participating in the “Fighting Plastic in Mekong” initiative collecting plastic waste around their school.

5. The Board

Rivers.Global has had 10 board meetings in 2021, in addition to the annual meeting. Six newsletters were sent to our members.

The Board of Rivers.Global has consisted of the following members since the Annual Meeting on April 20th, 2021:

Martin Alvsvåg (Chairman)

Aurélien Delaval (Vice-Chairman)

Janne Hillersøy

Arild Fehn

Christian Dubrau

Ellen Sandvik Mikkelsen

Nghia Trinh

Maja Bernhoff



• Ellen Sandvik Mikkelsen, Oslo (Fredrikstad)



• Martin Alvsvåg, Sarpsborg (Bømlo)



• Aurélien Delaval, Bodø (Frankrike, Thailand)



• Christian Dubrau, Oslo (Tyskland)

<https://rivers.global/styret>

• Nghia Trinh, Trondheim (Vietnam)



• Maja Bernhoff, Tromsø (Helgeland)



• Arild Fehn, Manila (Trondheim, Vietnam)



• Janne Hillersøy, Stord



Arild Fehn, Ellen Sandvik Mikkelsen, Maja Bernhoff and Nghia Trinh were elected for 2 years last year, and are not up for election this year. Janne Hillersøy, Christian Dubrau, Aurelien Delaval and Martin Alvsvåg are up for election this year. Each member of the Board wishes to continue in their current roles.

 **post@rivers.global**

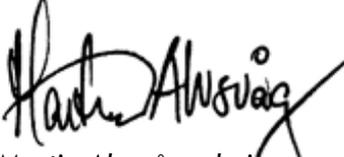
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*Sarpsborg 25 March 2022, on behalf of the Board of
Rivers.Global:*


Martin Alvsvåg, chairman.