



AURUM

2025 Embedded Impact[®] Report

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

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On the cover

The Gigantes limestone frog is native to Gigantes island in the Philippines and is the only Philippine amphibian listed as critically endangered by the IUCN. The frog has been successfully captive bred by Project Palaka sponsored by Synchronicity Earth and the hope is that these frogs will help to form the basis for boosting wild populations. More information can be found on page 9. *Image credit: Jayson Madlao.*



An introduction from our Chairman

The last 12 months witnessed a series of significant geopolitical developments, each with profound implications for the global order. This year also marked a significant demographic shift, as India surpassed China to become the world's most populous country, presenting new challenges and opportunities for global economic and environmental sustainability.

Aurum Fund Management Ltd.'s ("Aurum") view has always been that ESG should be approached in a considered and human-focused manner, and this is implemented at a firm level via our Embedded Impact® approach. Under this approach, donations are structured to proportionately increase as firm AUM increases. In addition to donations made from Aurum's bottom-line profits, donations are made by Aurum from the management fees of our two Embedded Impact Funds to a range of environmental and humanitarian programmes.

In 2023 for the first time ever, our firm-level donations surpassed our fund-level donations, reflecting our vision to share our success to help address some of the world's most pressing environmental and humanitarian challenges. To date, we have donated more than \$31m to such programmes. Aurum is an Embedded Impact® business where donations are made to selected environmental and humanitarian charities via the Aurum Kaleidoscope Foundation ("Aurum Kaleidoscope") (see page 47 for more information).

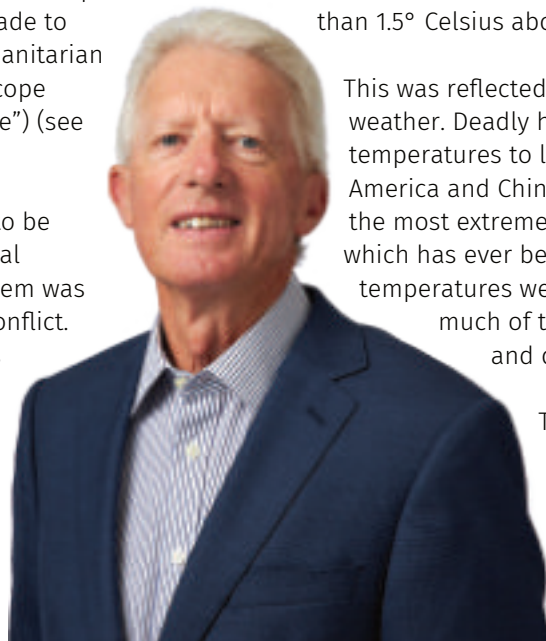
The global landscape continues to be shaped by intensifying geopolitical tensions, most notable among them was escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict. Meanwhile, the enduring impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict continued to reverberate through global energy markets and supply chains, highlighting the vulnerability of our interconnected world to regional tensions.

The environmental front was no less dynamic. The year's geopolitical tensions were mirrored in the realm of climate action, where the persistence of global challenges demanded innovative responses. Amid these trials and tribulations, the expansion of the BRICS bloc and the diplomatic engagements between major powers hinted at the potential for new alliances and collaborations aimed at addressing pressing global issues.

2023 was the warmest year on record and was also the first year when on a global average every day was over 1°C warmer than its counterpart in the pre-industrial period. The annual average global temperature approached 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels. This is particularly symbolic because the Paris Agreement on climate change aims to limit the long-term temperature increase (averaged over decades rather than an individual year, like 2023) to no more than 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

This was reflected in an increase of extreme weather. Deadly heatwaves brought extreme temperatures to large regions of Europe, North America and China for weeks on end and led to the most extreme wildfire season in Canada which has ever been recorded. Sea surface temperatures were at record-breaking highs for much of the year, accompanied by severe and damaging marine heatwaves.

The extent of Antarctic Sea ice was the lowest on record, both for the end-of-summer minimum in February and end-of-winter maximum in September.



At the beginning of the year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”), made up of the world’s leading climate scientists, published its sixth assessment report. This included a “final warning” on the climate crisis and called for immediate action to limit carbon emissions. The report found temperatures were around 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels and that if emissions are reduced rapidly, it may still be possible to avoid the worst ravages that would follow a 1.5°C rise.

In November, the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (“COP28”) was convened in Dubai. Against a backdrop of scepticism, the conference reached landmark agreements. These were primarily setting a clear ambition to transition away from fossil fuels and around implementation details from COP27.

After lengthy and difficult debate nearly two hundred countries for the first time agreed that all countries should transition “away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science”. Although this was not the outcome many had hoped for, it was still a significant step forward.

Another step forward was made around providing financial support for ‘Loss and Damage’ which is the name given to policies that supports vulnerable, developing countries manage their loss and damage due to climate change. Over \$650 million was pledged by wealthy nations to support a ‘Loss and Damage’ fund which will initially be managed by the World Bank. This initiative is a positive step to

ensuring funds to repair damage from climate breakdown are available, but significant work to build capacity is still required.

From a corporate perspective, over Summer 2023, we were excited to welcome our bursary recipients into the London office for their second and final internship programme. They worked on a number of projects across the business that were aligned with their individual interests and career aspirations, and we’re excited to see how their future careers develop.

Through our Embedded Impact® approach, we look to create meaningful and real-world tangible impacts. We hope you enjoy reading about these projects and seeing the positive change they are making in this Impact Report. If you would like to take a more direct role, you may wish to fund these endeavours directly or via Synchronicity Earth and The Seneca Trust – two of the principal charities that Aurum Kaleidoscope uses to effect the change that we would choose to see in the world.



Dudley Cottingham
Chairman, Aurum Fund Management Ltd.



Aurum's 2023 ESG timeline



Environmental

Amphibian Programme



2
new species
discovered

IUCN*



\$1.1m
donated since
inception

Buglife



129.5 ha
of wildflower-rich
habitat created or
restored

More Than Carbon



40 ha
of forest in
Ecuador reforested

* International Union for Conservation of Nature

SUMMARY

Earth is home to more than 8,000 species of amphibians – frogs, toads, salamanders, newts and worm-like caecilians. These fascinating animals exhibit a remarkable diversity of colours, forms and appearances and have inspired human cultures around the world for millennia. Unfortunately, amphibians are by far the most threatened group of vertebrates, with 41% threatened with extinction.

OVERVIEW

Synchronicity Earth's Amphibian Conservation Programme aims to: catalyse conversation about the need for conservation action, and support efforts for threatened amphibians through the mobilisation of new resources and information. This is achieved through three goals:

- Improve the knowledge base to guide amphibian conservation.
- Fund and support increased amphibian conservation on the ground.
- Support the development of amphibian conservation organisations.

OUTCOME

The Amphibian Programme currently supports 22 partners with the help of Aurum Kaleidoscope's funding.

This was used to support:

- Amphibian conservation work in Mexico, carried out by Conservación de Anfibios, a new organisation protecting eight hectares of Mexican cloud forest, with a focus on the many amphibians who call it home.
- The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Threatened Amphibian Programme, which is the only South African NGO to include amphibians as a specific

conservation focus. This is despite 30% of the country's amphibian population being threatened with extinction.

- Project Palaka, the first ex-situ amphibian conservation program in the Philippines, which is dedicated to improving and utilising captive breeding efforts to help protect endemic and native Philippine amphibians.

IMPACT

Over 2023, the Amphibian Programme supported partner organisations to enable:

- The rediscovery of two Branch's Rain Frogs in South Africa that had not been seen since 2008 by The Endangered Wildlife Trust
- The discovery of new species by Conservación de Anfibios, including a new Chiropterotriton species in Mexico that is currently in the process of being identified as a new species of dramatic-looking black salamander.
- Successful breeding in captivity of the Gigantes Limestone Frog by Project Palaka.

Sustainable development goals:



Image: Insulatus Frog. Credit: Jayson Madlao

Synchronicity Earth Asian Species | Conservation

SUMMARY

Southeast Asia has an incredibly rich and vibrant diversity of wildlife and boasts some of our planet's most extraordinary natural wonders. The region is home to a vast range of unique terrestrial and freshwater species, while its seas teem with life and are some of the most biodiverse marine ecosystems on Earth. But this extraordinary natural heritage faces unprecedented threats from habitat destruction, climate change, and overexploitation. Without direct, on-the-ground species conservation action, this amazing biodiversity will likely be lost forever.

OVERVIEW

Aurum Kaleidoscope provides funding to Synchronicity Earth's Asian Species Programme, which aims to support local leaders and communities to catalyse conservation efforts for the most threatened and overlooked species. The programme currently focuses on three strands:

- Conserving species - providing direct support, particularly to locally led conservation groups, for some of the most threatened and overlooked species in Asia.
- Developing the Southeast Asian conservation sector - supporting organisational and individual development and autonomy to achieve species conservation goals.
- Advancing knowledge - building the knowledge base on Asian species and their conservation needs, thus enabling actions to be prioritised.

OUTCOME

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's funding has been used to support:

- An initiative with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment ("ATREE") targeting the white-bellied Heron, a critically endangered species in India.
- The recruitment and training of the Saola Foundation's field team and their scent detection dogs to launch its intensive search to find the critically endangered and elusive Saola in the Annamite Mountains of Laos. Given the Saola is so rare, the dogs have been general scent trained to seek out all hoofed mammals.
- A seven-day ecological survey carried out by GreenViet in a very remote forest in Phu Yen Province, Vietnam.

Since 2019, the Asian Species Programme has supported 20 partner organisations with the help of Aurum's funding.

IMPACT

In 2023, the Asian Species Programme has supported partner organisations to enable:

- 19 critically endangered species received targeted conservation action through the programme.
- A new white-bellied heron nest was discovered in Walong, India, as a result of the ATREE initiative. It is the first record of a new nesting site in India and only the fourth known nest globally.
- The Saola Foundation team is now trekking through the mountain range using scent detection dogs with hopes to encounter the first Saola since the last confirmed sighting on a camera trap in 2013.

Funding of the GreenViet survey facilitated the discovery of a new population of the Critically Endangered grey-shanked douc langur, made up of eight groups and a total of 30 individuals. This is the most southern population of the species and therefore expands the range of their known habitat.



Image: Giant pangasius. Credit: Wildlife Reserves Singapore

Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

80% of Earth’s remaining terrestrial biodiversity lies within land managed or governed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (“IPLCs”). IPLCs are, typically, ethnic groups who are descended from, and identify with, the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have colonised the area more recently. Research has shown that biodiversity often flourishes in areas where these groups are able to remain in their territories and defend them from external threats. Despite this, less than 1% of all climate funding globally reaches the IPLC organisations who form the pillars of environmental stewardship.



OVERVIEW

Recognising the vital relationship between nature and culture, Synchronicity Earth’s Biocultural Diversity Programme works to support partners to:

1. Defend IPLC ‘Territories of Life’ as insecure land tenure fuels poverty, social and gender inequalities, food insecurity, conflict and environmental degradation.
2. Protect and revive biological and cultural diversity.
3. Increase understanding of how biocultural approaches are integral to delivering conservation.

The programme focuses on regions where this diversity is greatest and most threatened, providing increased funding to grassroots partners, whilst establishing strong, long-term relationships and supporting Indigenous leadership growth.

OUTCOME

In In 2023, funding was used to finance:

The Keepers of the Earth Fund (“KOEf”), an Indigenous-led fund within the NGO Cultural Survival. KOEF awards grants directly to traditional Indigenous communities, collectives, organisations, and governments, to support

their self-designed development projects based on Indigenous values. It is often the first source of external funding that some organisations and communities have ever received.

A collaborative community awareness programme in Papua New Guinea, organised by Eco Custodian Advocates and Ailan Awareness, for coastal communities focused on traditional marine management systems. The aim is to decolonise marine conservation and empower communities from the grassroots level to use a mix of traditional and scientific methods to manage marine and cultural resources.

During the year, the Biocultural Diversity Programme supported 28 partners across the Amazon, the Congo Basin, Melanesia, and Asia.

IMPACT

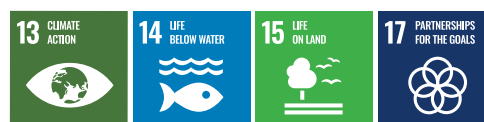
In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation supported:

The onboarding of five new partner organisations to the programme. Increasing the number of partners receiving multi-year funding from four to 14, helping to strengthen long-term relationships and support.

Provision of a second-year grant to the KOEF fund, which has been used in part to cover the costs of the Indigenous staff members and to allow the fund to award 63 grants to Indigenous-led community projects.

The provision of satellite phones to five partner organisations in Papua New Guinea. This support allowed the partners to remain in touch and to assist in cases of emergency in remote and challenging parts of the country.

Sustainable development goals:



Synchronicity Earth Congo Basin Programme | Conservation

SUMMARY

The Congo Basin is home to the world's second largest rainforest and Africa's second-longest river. This region contains an incredible array of species, as well as acting as a major carbon sink while supporting the livelihoods of 40 million people. For generations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities ("IPLCs") have safeguarded the Congo Basin's biocultural diversity. However, lack of secure land tenure for IPLCs combined with government economic ambition, leaves much of this landscape and the life it supports vulnerable to destruction from industrial-scale activities, such as logging and agribusiness.

OVERVIEW

Conservation work in the area faces huge challenges, but empowering IPLCs to defend their territories is essential for biodiversity, ecosystems and human wellbeing in the long term.

Synchronicity Earth's Congo Basin Programme supports its partners working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Cameroon to:

- Empower civil society to resist and reduce threats to ecosystems and biodiversity from destructive developments.
- Secure the rights of forest peoples to remain on their territories and defend them from threats.
- Support IPLCs to revive ecosystems and biodiversity through regenerative approaches to development, for example, by championing agro-ecological approaches to food production.

OUTCOME

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's funding helped Synchronicity Earth to continue to provide financial and capacity building support to 19 partners and offer a new grant initiative implemented by the AgroEcology Fund.

This supported the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa has continued to advocate and promote policy changes across Africa. This group organised the first Congo Basin Convening in August 2023 in Kinshasa, DRC. The objective was to identify challenges related to food systems, biodiversity conservation and climate change and to provide policymakers and funders with recommendations for sustainable food systems and biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin.

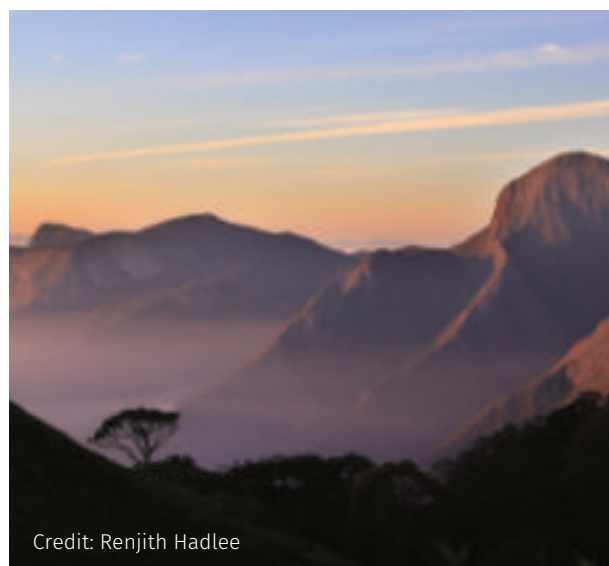
This funding has also been used by Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones to produce a guide and picture book to disseminate legal texts explaining the new national law to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the DRC to Congolese citizens, including IPLCs.

Synchronicity Earth's partners also continued to advocate for alternative solutions to the Grand Inga Project (a hydropower scheme) in the DRC by raising awareness of its potential detrimental impacts.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation supported:

- Ten partners to receive additional funding support.
- Three new community forests, covering more than 115,000 hectares, were secured for Indigenous Peoples in the Kasai province.
- 230 participants collectively contributed to the Kinshasa Declaration. This sets out actions for the potential of agroecology as a fundamental solution for establishing food systems resilient to climate change and strengthening IPLCs.



Credit: Renjith Hadlee

Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

Freshwater habitats host some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems on Earth. They are of critical importance for global biodiversity, human prosperity, and climate mitigation and adaptation. Despite this, wetlands are being destroyed three times faster than terrestrial forests and are among the most threatened environments globally. The people and wildlife that are most impacted by their rapid loss and degradation are not receiving the attention or support they need to avoid further decline.

OVERVIEW

Synchronicity Earth’s Freshwater Programme is committed to addressing the challenges facing freshwater ecosystems. The programme focuses on catalysing collaborative conservation action through advancing knowledge systems and empowering local communities to advocate for, and protect, freshwater ecosystems. This programme is based on ten years of institutional knowledge gained from funding, engaging with, and researching freshwater conservation, as well as working with a network of scientific and grassroots advisors.

OUTCOME

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation helped to fund the work of 19 organisations including:

Yayasan Bumi Sawerigading, a non-profit organisation located in Sulawesi, Indonesia. Funding from Synchronicity Earth facilitated a workshop with the members of Tole village, next to Lake Mahalona, to turn an invasive fish, the flowerhorn cichlid into commercial products such as fish sauce and fertiliser. Creating an economic incentive for the local population accelerates the removal of the species and helped to restore native flora and fauna.

The Taskforce against Kaiduan/Papar Dam strengthened local capacity to advocate for and protect freshwater ecosystems in the Ulu Papar Valley, Borneo. This group focuses on the preserving the area’s biocultural diversity, and freshwater ecosystems. They do this through shared responsibilities and management for rivers and adjacent ecosystems.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation helped to deliver:

- The restoration of native fauna and flora in Lake Mahalona, Indonesia through education and the creation of an economic incentive to fish the invasive flowerhorn cichlids.
- The onboarding of five new grassroots partners in Ecuador, Peru, and Malaysia to continue their work protecting freshwater habitats. All of these are led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and most have not previously had access to multi-year core support.
- An increase in the percentage of multi-year grants from 25% in June 2022 to 50% in June 2023 due to six new multi-year grants being provided through this programme. This has been made possible by the stability of Aurum Kaleidoscope’s grant making.



Credit: Yayasan Bumi Sawerigading (YBS)

Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

The ocean is fundamentally important to life on Earth, making up 97% of the liveable space on our planet. The ocean is home to an estimated 2.2 million species and supports the livelihoods of over three billion people. Ocean currents are key to global weather patterns, processes in the ocean produce half of the world's oxygen, and ocean ecosystems absorb a quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted by humanity. Ocean conservation work only receives a very small percentage of total environmental funding from UK trusts and foundations, demonstrating an urgent need to increase support to the blue heart of our planet.

OVERVIEW

Synchronicity Earth's Ocean Programme focuses on critical yet less familiar and vastly underfunded conservation challenges for the global ocean. The programme encompasses three strands:

- Communities and Culture - promoting local community and Indigenous knowledge, culture and experience in ocean conservation and fisheries management.
- Species and Ecosystems - supporting targeted conservation action for some of the most threatened yet overlooked marine species and ecosystems.
- Research and Policy - addressing key research gaps and systemic changes in policy that are falling through the cracks of ocean conservation work.

OUTCOME

The programme currently supports 21 partners across the three strands. It channels support to grassroots organisations whilst simultaneously funding strategic research and advocacy to build a united response to key threats and challenges facing the ocean.

Synchronicity Earth has been funding the policy development of a The United Nations Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty ("High Seas Biodiversity Treaty") for the past eight years, with partners working for over two decades to secure this agreement. The High Seas Treaty will allow the establishment of marine protected areas in the high seas at global level, safeguarding the ocean from human pressures in a major contribution to reducing climate change, to protecting biodiversity and achieving the objective to protect at least 30% of the planet by 2030. The treaty thus addresses a glaring gap in ocean protection, as only about 1% of the high seas is currently protected.

Over the last year, Synchronicity Earth has also helped fund the campaign work by the Deep-Sea Conservation

Coalition ("DSCC"), which drives action to protect vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems. DSCC aims to move and mitigate the greatest threats to life in the deep sea and to safeguard the long-term health, integrity and resilience of deep-sea ecosystems.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation supported:

- The funding of eight new partners (five one-off small grants and three new long-term partners).
- The official adoption of the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty in June 2023 by United Nations member states, a landmark moment for ocean conservation and global biodiversity. This demonstrates the crucial value of long-term support and commitment to conservation action.
- A call for the halting of deep-seabed mining by 22 countries, 38 companies and numerous public figures, either through supporting a moratorium or the exclusion of deep-sea metals from their procurement and/or investment policies. This has significantly slowed the rush into this type of mining due to the DSCC's campaign work.



Credit: Alifa Haque

Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

Freshwater ecosystems are at the sharp end of the global biodiversity crisis, with an 81% decline in species abundance since 1970. This is a more severe decline than for any other ecosystem type, yet funding, policy and action for freshwater biodiversity is minimal. SHOAL is a programme of Synchronicity Earth and Re:wild to address these issues.

OVERVIEW

Through SHOAL's work it seeks to engage a wide range of stakeholders to accelerate and escalate action to save the most threatened fish and other freshwater species, SHOAL aligns with and extends the work of Synchronicity Earth's Freshwater Programme.

The SHOAL 2032 Strategy has clear targets to shift and transform freshwater species conservation in the next 10 years from being almost entirely neglected, to receiving global levels of attention proportionate to the crisis these species face. The five current priority regions are: Mexico, the African Rift Valley Lakes, the Western Ghats in India, the Mediterranean, and Southeast Asia.

To achieve SHOAL's 2032 vision, they have set the following goals:

- Inspire as many people as possible globally to appreciate and take action for the amazing and vital life that freshwater supports.
- Mobilise a global action network, built from the communities that care, to take action for freshwater fish species.
- Act to make a direct and immediate difference for at least 1,000 of the most threatened freshwater fishes.

OUTCOME

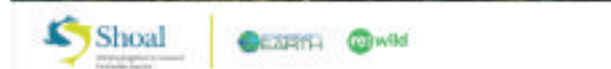
In 2023, some of SHOAL's activities included:

- Working with the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, and Zoo Outreach to mobilise action to bring the Denison's Barb back from the brink of extinction.
- Working with the IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) and Mandai Nature to produce a Strategic Framework report to accelerate the urgent conservation action of ASAP Freshwater Fishes in Southeast Asia.
- The SHOAL Alliance of Zoos and Aquaria was developed to raise awareness of freshwater species and habitats, establish and collaborate on captive breeding programmes, provide capacity building and technical support for partners acting to halt extinctions, and provide funds the SHOAL fund.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's funding has supported:

- 67 freshwater species being directly supported by SHOAL and action being mobilised for a further 144 species.
- The protection and restoration of habitat in 20 project sites over seven countries.
- Strong community participation in all the field-based projects. Examples of this include members of the Orang Asli community helping with peat swamp management in Malaysia, and the harnessing of local fishing practices in Sulawesi, Indonesia to help save endangered yet overlooked freshwater species.



Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

As the most populated country in Africa, Nigeria needs urgent environmental action to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of its resources. Over 80% of environmentally protected areas in Africa are insufficiently funded, with Nigeria being largely uncharted territory for most environmental organisations. This is despite it being one of the most biodiverse countries in the continent with exceptional levels of amphibian, primate and floral diversity.

OVERVIEW

Established in 2018, Africa Nature Investors (“ANI”) Foundation is an African founded, African-led not-for-profit organisation committed to bringing best-practice nature conservation to West Africa. It aims to promote the participation of African opinion leaders in conservation to make sure efforts are relevant to Africans. By being African, ANI understands how to navigate stakeholders and politics in Nigeria from community to state and Federal Government-level.

ANI is working to protect and restore landscapes that are facing serious threats from human activity including: illegal logging, farmers practising slash and burn agriculture, and expanding palm oil and rubber plantations. Currently this work is focusing on two precious landscapes in Nigeria: Gashaka Gumti National Park on the border with Cameroon, and the Okomu Landscape in southern Nigeria (comprised of Okomu National Park and two adjoining forest reserves).

OUTCOME

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation helped to progress ANI’s work in the Okomu landscape, one of the last surviving rainforests in southwest Nigeria covering over 1000km² and harbouring one of Nigeria’s last populations of critically endangered forest elephants.

ANI’s work in this landscape is multi-faceted:

- Community engagement: ANI works with local communities to ensure they understand and support the project, and to allow them to communicate effectively about their expectations. In addition to recruiting its rangers from local communities, ANI has commenced conservation education in schools to build empathy in children for nature conservation. Additionally, ANI has set up savings and loans groups to help improve household incomes to help establish business enterprises that do not rely on exploitative activities such as logging and poaching.



Credit: Africa Nature Investors Foundation



Credit: Africa Nature Investors Foundation

- Stakeholder engagement: ANI strives to involve relevant stakeholders in its workplan and facilitated the first Local Organising Committee meeting for Okomu National Park alongside representatives from the Federal Ministry of Environment, National Park Service, Okomu National Park and local communities.
- Infrastructure development: in 2023, ANI established its headquarters at the Arakhuan Outpost within the national park, including building an operations room to support patrol deployment and effective monitoring of ranger teams in the field.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation has helped support the following achievements in the Okomu National Park:

- 38 rangers from local communities around the landscape were recruited, trained and equipped to run anti-poaching patrols.
- 50.5% of the Okomu National Park now has patrol coverage, with 106 patrols taking place lasting for 210 patrol days and covering a total distance of 2,712km. This resulted in the arrest of 48 loggers and hunters and the destruction of 35 illegal logging camps during the year.
- 17 schools in the region were provided with conservation awareness sessions.
- Six savings and loans groups were established with 180 beneficiaries (123 female and 57 male) across

four communities in the Okomu landscape to support local business endeavours.

- The construction of the operations room at the Arakhuan ANI Outpost Headquarters in the national park.



Credit: Africa Nature Investors Foundation

Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

Invertebrates are vitally important to a healthy planet. The food we eat, the fish we catch, the birds we see and the flowers we smell simply would not exist without bugs. Invertebrates underpin life on earth and without them the world's ecosystems would collapse. Today, thousands of invertebrate species are declining with many heading towards extinction. There are more than 40,000 invertebrate species in the UK, and due to changes in land use and other human impacts, many of these are under threat as never before.

OVERVIEW

Buglife is the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates. Founded in 2002, Buglife is the very first conservation organisation that incorporates all aspects concerning the preservation and protection of invertebrates. Its aim is to halt the extinction and achieve sustainable populations of invertebrate species. The overall vision is for a wildlife-rich planet where other species thrive alongside people.

OUTCOME

Aurum is Buglife's first 'Emperor Dragonfly' corporate sponsor, providing unrestricted funding to help Buglife achieve its aims. Some of the work undertaken by Buglife in 2023 included:

- The continuation of the B-Lines programme, which aims to create and restore at least 150,000 hectares of flower-rich habitat across the UK. The B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through the countryside and towns creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones that link existing wildlife areas together. This will provide large areas of brand-new habitat benefiting bees, butterflies and other invertebrates.
- The extension of its campaign against light pollution. Its work in this area included the launch of the 'Nurture the Night Shift' campaign, to support nocturnal wildlife going about their lives playing vital roles in our ecosystems. It also helped prepare Duncan Baker, the Member of Parliament for North Norfolk for a 'Protection of Dark Skies' adjournment debate in the House of Commons in October 2023.
- The continued campaigning to save sites of environmental importance from development across the UK. This included campaigning against the development of Swanscombe Marshes into the London Resort Theme Park and the protected dunes of Coul Links into a golf course. Buglife have also campaigned in 2023 for the granting of Site of Special Scientific Interest ("SSSI") status to the threatened Ardeer Peninsular in Ayrshire.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation to Buglife contributed to:

- 129.5 hectares of wildflower-rich habitat created or restored to help reverse the fortunes of the UK's declining pollinators, 412 people trained in pollinator and botanical identification and surveying, and 52 land management training sessions delivered.
- Adoption of the B-Lines principle by the European Union, who plan to roll out 'Buzz Lines' across Europe.
- Two significant development projects (the London Resort Theme Park and the Coul Links golf course) are now undergoing review due to the ongoing wildlife concerns raised by Buglife's campaigning.



Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

Aurum Kaleidoscope supports the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. IUCN harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,400+ member organisations and the input of some 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. IUCN provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

OVERVIEW

Donations from Aurum Kaleidoscope help to cover IUCN core costs. These contribute to the delivery of a range of activities, from maintenance of the Red List of Threatened Species, to innovation, programme development and delivery, to championing nature’s role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation to core funding allows the organisation to remain strategic and deliver its mission to ‘Influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.’

OUTCOME

Aurum Kaleidoscope has provided over \$1,100,000 in donations to assist in covering IUCN core costs since 2012.

IMPACT

IUCN’s impact is vast and therefore difficult to quantify. As the world’s leading association of conservation agencies, IUCN is in a unique position to reflect and promote the priorities of the global conservation community, on behalf of its members. IUCN is the only

environmental organisation with Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly, delivering the membership’s policy perspectives at the highest international level of diplomacy. The concept of “Nature-based Solutions” to development challenges was introduced by IUCN as far back as 2012, and has progressively been adopted at all levels. Many major international conventions have their roots in IUCN, like the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (“CITES”) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (“CBD”).

In 2023, IUCN Red List assessments continued to grow, with 157,190 species being assessed. More than 44,000 species are threatened with extinction, including 41% of amphibians, 70% of cycad plants, 27% of sharks and rays, 36% of reef building corals, 34% of conifers, 26% of mammals and 12% of birds.

Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

2023 was a decisive time for international climate action. Temperature records were repeatedly broken and climate impacts felt in unprecedented wildfires, floods, storms and droughts worldwide. The UN reported that much more must be done to meet the goals of the landmark Paris Agreement with policy engagement at conferences, such as the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (“COP28”), presenting a critical opportunity to put the world on a more sustainable path.

OVERVIEW

IUCN actively participated in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“UNFCCC”) COP28, which took place from 30 November to 13 December 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (“UAE”). This conference was the conclusion of the

first ‘global stocktake’ of the world’s efforts to address climate change under the Paris Agreement, including a call on governments to speed up the transition away from fossil fuels.

In 2023, IUCN was also heavily involved in the agreement of the High Seas Treaty, continued working on the development of the Plastic Pollution Treaty and advocated for a moratorium on deep seabed mining. All these initiatives played a vital role in influencing change in both climate change and biodiversity and in addressing the triple planetary crisis in a more consistent way.

OUTCOME

IUCN’s involvement at COP28 was significant with the IUCN Nature Pavilion “Unite for Nature” hosting over 70 events on nature-climate topics during the two-week duration of the COP28. It also continued advocating for more and better financed Nature-based Solutions (“NbS”) to address the climate crisis, with an increased attention on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. NbS promote working with nature to address societal challenges, providing benefits for both human wellbeing and biodiversity.

The Act30 initiative, a global collaboration involving governments, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, was launched by IUCN at COP28 and seeks to chart diverse and effective pathways for conserving 30% of the planet for future generations.

Another initiative that IUCN implemented was the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative, which aims to recognise and support Indigenous peoples’ contributions to the conservation of biodiversity and climate solutions through their Indigenous knowledge systems. In this initiative.

The IUCN has been heavily influential since the start of formal High Seas Treaty discussions in 2018 through the provision of scientific and legal advice to negotiators.

The legally binding agreement of the High Seas Treaty in 2023 contributes towards the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s (“GBF”) ‘30x30’ goal, to effectively conserve and manage 30% of land and sea by 2030.

In 2023, IUCN continued to actively participate in the negotiations surrounding the granting (or not granting) of deep seabed mining licenses. As a result of this sustained advocacy through galvanizing the voice of civil society and leveraging the strength of the Union, more and more countries are calling for a moratorium on deep seabed mining.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation helped to support IUCN’s policy engagement work in 2023, including:

- The signing of a legally binding agreement of the High Seas Treaty after two decades of negotiations.
- A growing recognition of Indigenous Peoples voices at COP28, including the launch of the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative and Act30. This is an important development as Indigenous Peoples’ deep-rooted knowledge and experience is vital to the success of global efforts to address biodiversity loss and climate change, with both new initiatives placing this wisdom at their core.
- Increased attention to, and aligned financing, for NbS to address climate change, exemplified by the recognition and momentum, at COP28, for linking efforts to address the climate and biodiversity crises.

Sustainable development goals:



More than Carbon | Alternative approach to carbon offsetting

SUMMARY

Aurum takes a holistic approach to carbon balancing which focuses on building resilience and regenerating ecosystems alongside sequestering carbon, while avoiding some of the pitfalls associated with some lower quality schemes.

OVERVIEW

In 2015, the regeneration programme was created as a collaboration between Aurum and Synchronicity Earth and continues to be supported by Aurum. Over time this project has evolved into the More Than Carbon programme which Synchronicity Earth use to support a range of projects which provide carbon balancing.

More Than Carbon places equal emphasis on nature, climate, and people, supporting work to protect biodiversity, reduce the impacts of climate change and contribute to human security, health, and wellbeing. Contributing funding to the More than Carbon initiative helps businesses to balance their impact on the natural world, both in terms of their carbon emissions and their impact on nature, thereby contributing towards meeting environmental and social responsibilities.

Aurum Kaleidoscope directly supports Hutan, which is a locally-based conservation organisation in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Hutan's reforestation team, made up almost entirely of women, is working to restore a key wildlife corridor that has previously been decimated through many years of ownership by a large Malaysian oil palm plantation.

Following two years of negotiations with Hutan, this plantation agreed to allocate 45 hectares of land for Hutan's restoration project in August 2018 to support the conservation of important local species, such as Bornean orangutans and pygmy elephants.

OUTCOME

This year, Hutan's reforestation team completed the planting of trees in the 110-acre Genting Wildlife Corridor, a key plot of land that connects two tracks of forest. As the trees mature, these trees will sequester carbon and support the long-term survival of biodiversity in the region. By securing this corridor, wildlife can now move safely along the Kinabatangan River between different areas of forest. This will contribute to reducing damage caused by wildlife (particularly elephants) on plantations and settlements, thus reducing human/wildlife conflict as well as supporting biodiversity.

Hutan saw a major increase in funding in 2023 thanks to Hutan being a finalist for the 2022 Earthshot Prize. This

boost, alongside increased funding from Aurum, has allowed Hutan to focus on filling key capacity gaps in its small team, including setting up a management team to cover finance, HR, administration and fundraising.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation directly supported:

- The completion of the reforestation planting of the Genting Wildlife Corridor by Hutan's reforestation team after five years of work.
- The welcoming of two new permanent Hutan team members.
- Multi-year funding to enable Hutan to evolve their organisation structure to reflect their growth from three research assistants 25 years ago, to 127 in 2023 with almost 80% of the local community involved.
- The average survival rate of all saplings planted since the inception of the project is 78%, with the 2022 survival rate being 86%. The survival rate is reported in arrears as it is labour intensive and time consuming to calculate.



Sustainable development goals:



More than Carbon | Inspiring others

SUMMARY

Scientific evidence demonstrates that the most effective way to reinforce the Earth’s capacity to draw down carbon is by protecting existing intact ecosystems. As the saying goes, “prevention is better than cure”, and this is the guiding principle which underpins the More than Carbon initiative.

OVERVIEW

The More than Carbon initiative is designed by Synchronicity Earth for businesses committed to caring for the natural world and reducing their carbon footprint. It maximises ecological and social value by supporting six partner local organisations to protect and restore natural ecosystems. It looks beyond the carbon benefit towards holistic, positive impacts for nature, people and climate and aims to:

- encourage more funding from the corporate world for environmental projects.
- provide long-term funding for selected conservation organisations, targeting the “triple win” of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and improved community livelihoods.
- motivate funders to embrace the fundamental importance of protecting and restoring the natural world, and to mitigate their own environmental impact.

OUTCOME

To date, the initiative has provided funding totalling approximately \$1 million to on the ground partners, from organisations looking to balance their carbon footprint.

IMPACT

The initiative delivered vital funding for partners working on the programme priorities in Latin America and Southeast Asia:

- In Ecuador, the initiative has supported the reforestation of 40 hectares of forest with 38 species of tree and the planting of 25,742 seedlings.
- In Brazil, the initiative helped fund the effective and equitable protection of 13,000 hectares of rainforest, as well as 12 oxbow lakes.
- In the Philippines, the initiative has supported the protection of healthy mangroves and the restoration of abandoned fishponds in Mindanao.
- In Malaysia, it supported the protection of one of the largest remaining peat swamp forests in continental Southeast Asia.

- The consistent support over many years by Aurum and now Aurum Kaleidoscope has enabled Synchronicity Earth to extend the scope of the More than Carbon Initiative from terrestrial to marine (blue carbon) biodiversity through two new partnerships focusing on the restoration of mangroves and the protection of peat swap forests.



Sustainable development goals:





Humanitarian

KEY STATS

Vision Bermuda



226

individuals provided with vision rehabilitation

Africa Food for Thought



75

children attending Aurum supported pre-schools

One to One Children's Fund



3,400

children provided with monthly nutritious porridge packs

Adara - Baby Ubuntu



1665

children and families provided with early care and support

Adara – Baby Ubuntu | Child protection and wellbeing

SUMMARY

It is estimated that globally 53 million children live with a disability, with 95% living in low- and middle-income countries with little access to specialist services. It is vital that we raise awareness about disability at all levels; supporting individual carers to be empowered to better care for their children, promoting acceptance and inclusion at a community level and lobbying for community-based rehabilitation services to reach families in rural areas globally.

OVERVIEW

'Ubuntu' is the African philosophy of togetherness and is deeply rooted within cultural concepts of community and humanity. Adara, an international development organisation focused on maternal and child health, implements the 'Baby Ubuntu' programme in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine ("LSHTM"). This programme is an early-intervention, community-based programme that supports children aged between six months and four years with a disability and their caregivers. It ensures caregivers understand their child's disability and provides them with practical skills to help feed, communicate and play with the child.

OUTCOME

By supporting Adara, Aurum Kaleidoscope is helping to improve the lives of affected children and their families, particularly those in rural communities. The focus is on supporting all children in the crucial first 1,000 days after birth. This has the potential to ensure all children not only survive, but thrive. It empowers families to care for their children and to transform communities by improving circumstances for disabled children and their families.

In 2023, the programme had several achievements including:

- The implementation of group physiotherapy sessions, which have had positive impacts on empowering both parents and training facilitators in basic physiotherapy techniques.
- The introduction of 'check-in' calls with parents in the Baby Ubuntu programme to provide tailored support with the challenges of parenthood. Positive feedback from the parents contacted reports a sense of relief and positivity after speaking with someone who is willing to listen, answer their questions and allow them to feel more connected to the community.
- The extension of the Baby Ubuntu programme to the siblings of children within the programme so they can engage and learn more about how they

can support their siblings and improve overall family cohesion and happiness.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's funding has helped the Baby Ubuntu programme to:

- Provide 1,665 children and families with early care and support.
- Train 18 implementation partners over seven countries, as well as 39 Ubuntu Master Trainers and train 345 Baby Ubuntu facilitators.
- Grow the number of 'community of practice' members to 535 over 94 countries.



Sustainable development goals:



Africa Food for Thought | Child protection and wellbeing

SUMMARY

Africa Food for Thought (“AFFT”) provides food security for children, in support of education. Currently, they support nearly 17,000 children in the West Rand of Johannesburg, South Africa.

OVERVIEW

AFFT believes in supporting families caring for orphaned and vulnerable children. Early Childhood Development is the most important time in a person’s life and access to good nutrition and a nurturing environment are critical. By removing food insecurity, children are able to focus more on their education and significant improvements can be observed in academic, sporting, and social performance.

OUTCOME

AFFT focuses on providing food to Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (“OVCs”) and Early Childhood Development (“ECD”) centres.

The OVC recipients are children who live in households affected by challenges such as unemployment, disease, loss of a parent, and severe poverty. Many live with grandmothers, or in child-headed households. A monthly delivery by AFFT’s volunteers provides enough food to sustain the whole family on condition that they all support the sponsored child in their studies. This delivery also helps to build long-term trusted relationships and provide wider support as and when required.

The ECD recipients are based around ECD teachers who have proven track records. The attendees are children who would otherwise not have access to any sort of education until they reach six. The programme ensures all children receive two cooked meals and two healthy snacks every day. This removes food insecurity and sets a foundation of good eating habits and life- long nutrition.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation has enabled the following:

- Meaningful change has been brought to the lives of more than 150 people this past year.
- Ten families are able to care for orphaned or vulnerable children. Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation allows these families to now eat at least two meals per day with no family members suffering from malnutrition (in comparison to some family members suffering from malnutrition before Aurum Kaleidoscope started funding AFFT’s work).

- The high school aged children in these families can attend subject and career choice workshops where they can access individualised assistance in planning their futures, including practical plans for transitioning out of school.
- The number of children attending the two Aurum Kaleidoscope supported pre-schools continues to grow, increasing to 75 children due to having enough food for the nurseries to ensure that they are well nourished.
- An inaugural Pre-school Principal’s Camp was hosted, which allowed the hardworking principals to have a well-deserved break from their demanding roles, making them feel highly valued and appreciated.



Sustainable development goals:



Hope and Homes for Children | Child protection and wellbeing

SUMMARY

Over 80 years of evidence from across the world has demonstrated the significant physical and emotional harm that orphanages and other institutions can cause to the children who inhabit them, despite having been set up with good intentions. Care within these spaces lacks consistency, permanency and continuity and often results in the children being excluded from the wider communities and lagging behind. To avoid the negative impacts of institutionalisation, children need to be placed within families or alternative family-type arrangements.

OVERVIEW

Hope and Homes for Children (“HHC”) is a UK-based organisation that works across Europe and Africa with a vision of a world in which children no longer suffer institutional care, working towards a day when every child can grow up in a loving family. It works alongside local partners, governments and civil society organisations in over 30 countries to dismantle orphanage-based care systems. The charity moves children out of institutions into family-based care, helps keep together families who are at risk of breakdown due to the pressures of poverty, disease, or conflict, and works to prevent child abandonment.

OUTCOME

During the year, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s funding has been focused on the closure of Centre Saint Vincent Institution, an orphanage for children and adults with disabilities, located in the Musanze District, Rwanda. The project is working to re-integrate the 30 residents into family-based care.

The re-integration process involves ongoing assessment of the specific needs of the children and adults in the institution to ensure that support is well-tailored to help them when they are received into the homes of their parents or foster carers. Once placed into families, progress assessments are carried out to help tailor the continued support provided. The comprehensive support also extends to home renovation where needed (such as to toilets, kitchens and connecting homes to an electricity supply), support with rent payments, and providing furniture and equipment such as beds, mattresses, chairs, clothing and school materials.

HHC are also working to improve perceptions, attitudes and behaviour towards people with disabilities among communities and policymakers in the Musanze District. In 2023, it has run awareness-raising activities to help dispel myths and prejudice, promoted the inclusion of all children in development policies and hosted a Christmas celebration event to bringing together 280 people, including 90 children and adults with disabilities.

To improve families’ financial security and reduce the risk of family breakdown, HHC also train community volunteers on how to establish income generation groups in the communities. These are small microfinancing groups, whereby members contribute their own capital and savings to a central fund which is then loaned out to enable them to start income generation activities. Once their activities start to generate an income, they repay the loan over an agreed period with interest. Some examples of income-generating activities which group members are currently involved in are growing and selling fruits and vegetables, rearing hens, goats and pigs, and sewing and knitting.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s funding has supported:

- 16 children and adults previously living in the Centre Saint Vincent Institution to be re-integrated into family care (over 50% of the residents).
- Training for nine staff members from the institution, alongside four local government representatives so they can facilitate the re-integration process, including assessments, family tracing and preparing the children and adults as well as their families and communities.
- The creation of 35 income generation groups to support the families to earn a living and stay together in future, and many have already started providing loans.

Sustainable development goals:



One to One Children's Fund | Child protection and wellbeing

SUMMARY

Around the world, children are living with trauma and disease. The impact on their life chances can be devastating. In the Eastern Cape, where 24% of pregnant mothers are HIV positive, that impact is all the more critical. Half of all infant mortality in South Africa occurs within the first month of life. These children are exposed to HIV in utero and are at even greater risk of infection, low birth weight and infant mortality.

To improve the health and life chances of these children, studies have shown that interventions are most successful if introduced during the first 1,000 days after conception. This is the period of a child's life that the foundations for optimum health, rapid brain growth and child development are laid.

OVERVIEW

One to One Children's Fund aims to rebuild and transform the lives of vulnerable children. One to One identifies the greatest risks children and adolescents face and then works with partners to pilot and deliver cost-effective interventions in healthcare, psychosocial services and education. It trains and empowers people who can best fill the critical gaps in care for those children by providing relatable role models to make healthcare more inclusive.

In the rural Eastern Cape, South Africa, the Enable Project targets the most vulnerable mothers and children up to the age of five, through door-to-door visits. Local women are empowered and equipped with skills and knowledge to carry out basic health checks. These women are referred to as Mentor Mothers.

OUTCOME

Aurum has been supporting One to One with regular donations since 2004, this support has allowed One to One Children's Fund to focus on core gaps in care for some of the world's most vulnerable children, providing support to children and their families.

The Mentor Mother programme in the Eastern Cape, South Africa has been able to continue to provide a range of health interventions. Their support includes ensuring pregnant women attend all their antenatal care appointments, know their HIV status and that those living with HIV adhere to treatment and deliver HIV negative babies. The programme also mentors mothers to exclusively breast feed for six months and ensures that women and children under five years are healthy and have access to timely medical attention where necessary.



One to One Children's Fund | Child protection and wellbeing



One to One’s mobile clinic began operating, this year making it the first mobile clinic to provide the full suite of HIV care and management to rural communities who otherwise have no access to nearby healthcare facilities. Within this mobile clinic people can be tested, know their status, be initiated onto anti-retroviral therapy (“ART”) collect their ART and receive access to counselling and support. It delivers services to 80 to 120 people each day, visiting 20 communities each month.

The Enable Play Learning (“EPL”) Programme was expanded to the rural Eastern Cape during this year. The ELP programme is designed to support the parents and caregivers of children under five years who have been affected and/or infected by HIV. During group sessions, EPL Mentor Mothers educate caregivers on the importance of supporting their children’s cognitive development and growth, and how to stimulate this through the use of play learning. The sessions included the distribution of toys, books and vegetable seedlings to all caregivers to be used in play learning.

This year, One to One also launched the Enable Male Engagement intervention, which aims to engage men to inform, equip and transform them to actively protect and support the health and wellbeing of themselves, their partners and their children. Part of their curriculum was focused on their roles as males in child caregiving and rearing, in support of the objectives of the EPL programme.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s funding helped:

- The Mentor Mothers support 1,977 women and 2,215

children with critical health services. Of the 1,977 pregnant women and mothers – 97% are now aware of their HIV status, 94% of the 500 women who tested HIV-positive are receiving ongoing treatment and 95% of newborns from HIV-positive mothers obtained PCR test results.

- Provided 3,400 children with monthly nutritious and filling porridge packs to ensure they grow up healthy and well nourished.
- Rehabilitated 91% of the 113 children who were underweight for their age before One to One commenced its programme, as well as rehabilitating 93% of 56 babies who were born with a low birth weight.
- The mobile clinic provided 2,000 men, women and children with healthcare services.
- Provided EPL sessions to 1,006 caregivers from across 11 villages.
- Recruited and onboarded ten Mentor Brothers (Champions of Change) to engage and support men as well as to be agents of change in their communities.

Sustainable development goals:



Fair Play playground | Disability and inclusion

SUMMARY

Playgrounds across the UK are not inclusive in the way they need to be, preventing disabled children from obtaining the health benefits and socialisation that most other children and families take for granted. Making playgrounds accessible and enabling children of diverse abilities to be able to play together promotes a healthier society for all.

Fair Play playground opened in February 2024. It was installed as a model playground for local authorities and landscape designers in the UK to be able replicate in part or in whole and is part of a campaign for all playgrounds across the UK to become more inclusive.

OVERVIEW

The Seneca Trust supported by Aurum Kaleidoscope spearheaded the development of Fairplay Playground partnering with Barnet Council in February 2022 to design a new public playground, project manage the build and run the administration around funding and fundraising.

Fair Play is, the first of its kind, as an accessible and inclusive playground in the UK, has been purposefully designed to enable people of all ages and abilities to play together. This playground is located in Barnet, North London. It was designed in co-ordination with disabled residents, parents, carers and accessibility experts, and features enjoyable play equipment that everyone, able-bodied or with cognitive or physical disabilities, can use.

The playground features:

- Wetpour safety surfacing across the whole play area to ensure that it is wheelchair accessible and is not hard. There is a textured path for the visually impaired.
- Single entrance and exit to prevent users leaving without their carer's knowledge.
- Accessible equipment allowing children of all abilities to play alongside one another. Equipment that enables rocking, swinging, spinning, climbing and sliding.
- Customised communications boards for non-verbal people, people who don't speak the same language or have dementia. Pictures are easier to process than words. People can point to the relevant picture to communicate their wants, needs and feelings. This playground is one of the first public spaces in the UK to feature these boards.
- Accessible facilities as well as quiet spots for downtime and fully wheelchair accessible picnic area and seating allowing families and friends to sit together.

The vision is that inclusive play will reduce stigma, through positive experiences in a society where social integration and physical fitness are important to all of us.

OUTCOME

The Fair Play accessible and inclusive Playground was officially opened on 13 February 2024 with nearly 300 people, spanning the range of diversity, attending the joyous opening ceremony. Both the band, Electric Umbrella band (see page 31), and the food stand team were made up of people with learning disabilities and many were excited to be able to use the playground equipment.



Fair Play playground | Disability and inclusion

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation has enabled the following achievements:

- Fair Play is presented as the model inclusive playground the in UK government’s Disability Action Plan 2024.
- The playground has become a destination playground which is regularly full with repeat visitors of all abilities with many disability and mainstream groups arranging to host events there.
- Siblings with a disabled member of the family are able to play together, disabled children can play and have fun amongst peers, parents of disabled children are able to meet up with other parents to enjoy mutual understanding and support. Children of all abilities can play and grow up together accepting and not being afraid of their differences.

The impact of this project extends beyond the playground itself, acting as a pilot in the campaign for more accessible playgrounds across the UK. The team behind Fair Play are receiving copious requests from various stakeholders asking for advice on how they can replicate this positive work. The campaigners are happy to consult with councils and public landscape

developers to help them with designing and sourcing for accessible and inclusive playgrounds. To ensure this is achievable, they have prepared a comprehensive information pack to share with other parents to approach their local councils and MPs. The hope is that this will be the first of many accessible playgrounds across the UK.



Accessible music and theatre | Disability and inclusion

SUMMARY

There are 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK. Access to meaningful activities is often limited for learning-disabled people resulting in these adults and children feeling excluded and all too often falling behind their peers.

The arts are able to inspire and include people of all ages and from all walks of life. Through the arts, learning-disabled young people and adults can acquire the freedom to express themselves, learn new skills, develop confidence and gain communication and social interaction skills. In doing so, they can feel empowered to be who they are – and consequently challenge societal perceptions.

Given the right support, and fantastic opportunities such as those provided by Aurum Kaleidoscope’s allied charities described below, everyone can be a superstar!

FROZEN LIGHT

OVERVIEW

Frozen Light creates exciting and original multi-sensory theatre for learning-disabled audiences and tours it to theatre venues and arts centres nationwide. Founded in 2013, Frozen Light has created 7 shows which have toured to over 70 venues across the UK. It strives to build safe spaces in which to take risks and transport its audiences to sensory worlds filled with awe and wonder. Frozen Light works to create theatre you can touch, theatre you can smell, theatre that happens during intimate one-to-one interactions and theatre that is collective.

OUTCOME

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s support in 2023 helped Frozen Light to run monthly sessions at its Sensory Studio to provide a unique space where learning-disabled people have the opportunity to share their expertise, engage in creative processes and contribute to the developing narrative of sensory shows as artists in their own right. To mark Frozen Light’s first decade of reaching audiences, it helped a Sensory Symposium in May 2023 to share learning from the Sensory Studio and to explore what the next decade of multi-sensory theatre could bring. Attendees included 37 learning-disabled people and 42 carers.

In December, Frozen Light was shortlisted for the ABTT Stephen Joseph Awards 2023, which recognise innovative and inclusive theatre excellence as well as the relationship built between performer and audience member.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation helped achieve the following:

- A ten-week tour of the ‘The Bar at the Edge of Time’ production, reaching an audience of 1059 people, including 494 learning-disabled members, over 82 performances. Ticket sales reached 99.2%.
- 205 venue staff and volunteers across 33 venues across the UK completed a ‘Venue Access Training’ course to educate them about the needs of learning-disabled attendees.
- 225 learning-disabled audience members and their carers enjoyed ‘Night Out in Nature’ over 21 performances, with 100% of audiences surveyed feeling that the multi-sensory performance enhanced the wellbeing of the person they support.



Accessible music and theatre | Disability and inclusion

HEAD2HEAD SENSORY THEATRE

OVERVIEW

Head2Head Sensory Theatre (“H2H”) is a registered special needs and disability theatre charity based in Oxted, Surrey. H2H aims to widen participation in the arts for children and young people with a wide range of learning disabilities through education, training, and employment opportunities. It incorporates diversity, equity and inclusion in all its activities. Established in 2006, H2H is led by volunteers and professional actors who are passionate about making theatre accessible to all.

Captivating the senses, every experience is designed to bring young imaginations to life. H2H provides opportunities for learning-disabled young people and their families to engage in interactive educational shows and workshops designed around their needs both live, and online through its YouTube learning channel.

OUTCOME

H2H supports the movement for change and inclusiveness within theatre. Working with learning-disabled schools and colleges, it provides support so that these young people may change their outcomes in life.

H2H’s Work Experience Programme offers a supported path to employment providing practical experience of working in a theatre in a nurturing and supportive environment. During filming the young people work as Guest Presenters and Stage Crew. When on tour they undertake Front-of-House and Stage Manager roles. They are provided with mentoring, guidance, and life skills – a great way to kickstart a theatrical career and to provide them with the skills necessary for a customer-facing job.



IMPACT

With the help of Aurum Kaleidoscope’s funding, the Head2Head Sensory Theatre achieved the following impact in 2023:

- 386 live performances with 5,000 people attending these performances in person.
- Three filmed performances uploaded to the H2H YouTube channel, which has 359 subscribers.
- 84 workshops hosted both in-person and online.
- 15 people completed the work experience programme.
- 80% of children felt less anxious, 92% felt a greater sense of wellbeing and 87% demonstrated improved confidence following attendance of a Head2Head activity according to a recent survey.



Accessible music and theatre | Disability and inclusion

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

OVERVIEW

Electric Umbrella create amazing, live interactive music experiences with learning-disabled people. Over the past ten years Electric Umbrella have been running music sessions across Hertfordshire to combat social isolation and create meaningful experiences.

The charity was founded by a musician and an art therapist, who recognised there were few opportunities for learning-disabled people to take to the stage. Its mission is to challenge the way people think about learning-disabled people through the creation and performance of music whilst increasing confidence, creating a sense of purpose and decreasing loneliness across its community.

OUTCOME

Electric Umbrella sessions are run by professional musicians and tailored to the members so they can have fun, get creative and embrace the life of the rockstars. Together, they write, experience, learn to play and then perform music at small venues, big theatres, festivals, live radio, schools and everywhere else on the road to rock'n'roll. A community of more than 2,000 people take part in the programme.



As part of the programme, Electric Umbrella deliver specialist live music experiences for hundreds of Special Educational Needs (“SEN”) schools across the UK, as well as offering mainstream schools unique tour visits with its member ambassadors, all part of the mission to change society’s perspective of learning-disabled people.



Thanks to Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation, Electric Umbrella has been able to grow its work even further by developing its resources and building its programmes and capacity to enable it to reach even more children in more schools whilst providing an increased number of opportunities for more learning-disabled adults to be a part of its programmes delivery.

IMPACT

Since January 2022, Electric Umbrella has visited over 150 mainstream primary schools across Southeast England to impart its message that ‘There is No Such Thing as Normal’, reaching over 40,000 children.

The schools visited are provided with the language and social literacy information to ensure they carry on these hugely important conversations long after Electric Umbrella’s visit. This is in order to witness disabled people as leaders, harness inclusion and integration, celebrate difference, reduce prejudice and aspire everyone to be ‘a little more Electric Umbrella’.

Sustainable development goals:



Sierra Leone Autistic Society | Disability and inclusion

SUMMARY

Sierra Leone remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with almost one in five children not reaching their fifth birthday. Those with rare and complex conditions face little prospect of getting support and treatment. Within this resource-poor context, those with disabilities, particularly those with neurological conditions and intellectual disabilities, often face devastating social exclusion, with profound educational and livelihood consequences, contributing significantly to ill-health and poverty.

OVERVIEW

The Sierra Leone Autistic Society (“SLAS”) started in 2014 as a Community Based Organisation (“CBO”). It became a national NGO in 2017, with the aim of facilitating access to health, education, psychological and social interventions and strategies for people with disabilities, with a specific focus on those with Autism Spectrum Condition (“ASC”). Today, SLAS provides much needed services in various parts of the country, and many families who receive its services claim it is a ‘lifesaving’ and one-of-a-kind organisation in Sierra Leone.



Sustainable development goals:



Sierra Leone Autistic Society | Disability and inclusion

PROJECT OVERVIEW – SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE

SLAS have established a garage work enterprise scheme for people with learning difficulties, including Autism.

The need for and benefits of this scheme are twofold. Firstly, there is very little representation of autistic people and those with intellectual disabilities in daily life in Sierra Leone. There are no workplaces or services where autistic people are employed, no representation in social or mainstream media, no discussions that take place in policy forums where the perspectives of people with neurological disabilities are sought. Secondly, cars in Sierra Leone need constant maintenance due to the poor infrastructure within the country, meaning that services to keep cars on the road are always in demand.

The garage scheme therefore enables SLAS to train their apprentices in a variety of skills that both benefit wider society through provision of a useful service. This in turn enables participants to set up small business of their own or find employment in the future.

OUTCOME

In 2023, SLAS has seen its trainees go from being complete novices in the automotive industry, to being able to undertake some activities by themselves or with minimal support.

Repairs of customer vehicles started in April 2023 commencing the income generation of the centre, which has increased each month since due to growing awareness and popularity of the garage and its services. The income generated this year has been invested into both advertising for the centre and expanding the centre's offering into catering.



SLAS viewed offering a catering service as an opportunity to diversify the skills training options as well as boost income generation as the area is frequented by tourists and locals. A second-hand food van was purchased and re-sprayed by trainees. A solar freezer and a display fridge were purchased which have added huge value as the town of Bureh has no electricity, so customers are now able to buy cold drinks and ice due to this new business offering.

IMPACT

The value of the garage cannot be underestimated, with Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation supporting:

- 25 trainees to attend the garage for training sessions in various areas: auto mechanic, auto electrician, panelling and spraying, and catering.
- Young people with autism who have traditionally faced stigma to gain financial independence and to have the ability to start their own business.
- The repair of the Browne-Penn Special School's bus after it was almost 'written off' was made possible by the skilled garage team. This minimised the cost and time taken to repair the bus and reduced disruption of the children's transportation to school in a way that would not have been possible without the garage.

The income generated by the garage and the refreshments mean the centre should be financially self-sustainable by the end of its third year of operation.



Sierra Leone Autistic Society | Disability and inclusion

PROJECT OVERVIEW – BROWNE-PENN SPECIAL SCHOOL

Across Africa, fewer than 10% of children with disabilities receive any form of education and only 2% attend school. As a solution to this, SLAS established the Browne-Penn Special School (the “School”) in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 2017, which provides education tailored education for children with autism and intellectual disabilities.

SLAS faced huge challenges in 2017 when it was trying to rent a school building due to profound stigma from landlords. As a stopgap solution, one of the co-director’s family members lent SLAS a property which it was able to adapt. However, this space was both temporary and too small for the level of demand that the school is seeing for places. Therefore, to increase capacity above 30 children, it needed to relocate.

OUTCOME

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation has enabled SLAS to build a new, bigger dedicated school building, which was completed in September 2023 and increases the school’s capacity from 30 to 150 students. There are currently 90 children enrolled, with this number expected to increase to 100 by the end of the current school term (as at February 2024). The plot of land selected is also large enough for future expansions.

The School is made up of a large school hall, multiple classrooms, a computer room, a library, a sensory room, a nursery, a playground, a garden, accessible toilet and shower facilities, a medical room and an administration office. The School is powered by solar thanks to the installation of solar panels and the school garden allows the growing of fruits and vegetables for meals.

The school hall has been used across a broad range of school activities, including lunch times, learning activities due to its big digital screen, staff meetings and for music and drama as there is a stage. The wider community have also been renting the hall for use, including by the headman (local leader) and his team for their weekend meetings and by other schools for their celebrations or activities.



IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation has helped:

- Complete the construction of the new school building.
- Increase capacity from 30 children at the previous school to 150 in the new school building, with 90 children currently enrolled.
- Provide 16 accessible toilets, all equipped with shower facilities.
- Provide all necessary resources for each classroom (chairs, tables, cupboards, white boards etc), the admin office (computers, printer, cupboards for files etc) and the library and computer room.
- Reduce stigma of persons with neurological disabilities and enhance inclusion through the use of the school garden for joint gardening classes with neighbouring schools.



Vision Bermuda | Disability and inclusion

SUMMARY

In 1954, the Beacon Club began as a social group for people who were blind and vision impaired. It was officially established by the Bermuda Society for the Blind Act in 1957. It was officially registered as a charity in 2013 and began promoting vision health through education and offering specialised professional vision rehabilitation services to assist in promoting independence. The name was subsequently changed to Vision Bermuda to more accurately reflect the mission to serve anyone whose vision loss impacts their day-to-day activities.

OVERVIEW

No major renovation had taken place at Beacon House, where Vision Bermuda operates from, since the early 1960s. The physical plant had deteriorated over the years, with electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems becoming out-dated.

It was no longer possible to provide the full range of in-house services required due to safety, modern building code requirements and practical considerations.

Therefore, an extensive renovation of Beacon House was required.

OUTCOME

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation is sponsoring the Beacon House renovation project to transform the building to be fully accessible, conforming to the international standards for universal design. The aim of the renovation is to create an environment that is more usable for everyone, not just those with vision impairments but also their families and carers.

The renovated building will include:

- An adapted kitchen fitted to train people for safety and independence in their own homes.
- An assistive technology room equipped with screen readers and other essential technology for independence at home and at work.
- A warm and welcoming ‘social exchange’ area for relaxing and socialising. This will have a resource area, audio book library, hospitality station and will house displays of available specialist equipment available for retail purchase.

2023 has seen excellent progress with this renovation project and at the time of writing the official reopening had happened in April 2024.

Sustainable development goals:



IMPACT

The renovated building will enhance existing services including:

- 226 individuals served for vision rehabilitation and critical needs this year to help restore functional ability and improving quality of life.
- 256 people attended awareness presentations in 2023, with these sessions promoting visual health through public education and outreach.
- 481 people attended classes and social activities in 2023, with these gatherings allowing people with similar challenges the opportunity to connect and socialise and to learn new skills, such as computer usage or skills to help with independent living.



“Vision Bermuda has been life-changing for me. After a serious accident left me with brain damage and severe vision loss, I felt like I'd lost my independence. I couldn't drive, and even a simple trip into town felt daunting. Thanks to Vision Bermuda, I've regained my confidence and independence. With their long cane training, I can now walk into town, buy groceries, and crossroads safely.”



Camp Simcha | Disability and inclusion

SUMMARY

When a child has a serious illness, their lives and the lives of their whole family are turned upside down. It is often difficult for caregivers to find normality in daily life, such as providing hot meals on the table. Each member of the family may struggle with different emotions when a child has a serious illness, and often they need a safe space to process these feelings.

OVERVIEW

Camp Simcha is an organisation who supports seriously ill children and their families in the UK. Its mission is to provide bespoke, unconditional, practical and emotional support to these families and to bring hope and joy by providing powerful, positive experiences.

Bringing fun and laughter to seriously ill children and their siblings makes a huge difference and can give them strength to face the challenges ahead. Camp Simcha believes the power of positive experiences, such as parties, retreats and outings, can have a hugely therapeutic impact for children dealing with difficult treatments and siblings struggling with worry and unsettled family life.

Camp Simcha trains its Family Liaison Officers (“FLOs”) to assess what family members need to get them through dark days, often before the families themselves do. Whether it is a lift to hospital when parents are juggling multiple appointments with the needs of their other children, or overnight respite for a much-needed break, they work to ensure that Camp Simcha is always there to lighten the heavy load.

OUTCOME

Aurum Kaleidoscope's support over the past year has helped Camp Simcha continue to provide 23 practical, emotional and therapeutic support services to the whole family, whether it is through counselling, talking to their FLO or via its range of therapeutic art activities. Camp Simcha is currently able to support children with over 50 different chronic conditions as well as babies born very prematurely.

Camp Simcha was able to offer a bespoke package of care to more than 1,500 family members across the UK and reached many more children through its hospital outreach programme.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation helped Camp Simcha:

- Support over 1,500 family members from 251 families suffering with their child's serious medical condition with a range of practical, therapeutic,

psychological and uplifting services.

- Relative to last year, delivering 2,300 hours of overnight respite care (+11%), 4,100 hospital journeys (+21%), 4,900 crisis meal portions (+12%), 3,500 counselling and arts at home therapy sessions (+30%).
- Expand its service team capacity, increasing the number of hours delivered by its two social workers by approximately 20% to respond to the increased need from a growing number of families across the UK. This included responding to 97 new family referrals (a 21% increase from the same time last year).



Sustainable development goals:



SUMMARY

Access to Assistive Technology (“AT”) deserves greater attention now than ever before. The global report on AT published by WHO and UNICEF in May 2022, found that 2.5 billion people require one or more assistive products, and this need is expected to grow to over 3.5 billion by 2050 as the rate of non-communicable diseases rises and the global population ages.

Access to appropriate, quality assistive technology can mean the difference between enabling or denying education for a child, participation in the workforce for an adult, or the opportunity to maintain independence and age with dignity for an older person. Access to assistive technology empowers and enables individuals and communities and is a key pre-condition for realisation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Put simply, assistive technology is a life changer.

OVERVIEW

The Essl Foundation is an Austrian non-profit organisation, working to find, promote, and support the implementation of innovative solutions worldwide that can significantly improve the lives of disadvantaged people. Since 2012, the annual Zero Project Conference has worked to identify and research innovative projects focusing on solutions that can benefit those with disabilities. At the heart of many of these projects lies Information and Communication Technology (“ICT”) and AT due to the potential it has to support persons with disabilities.

OUTCOME

Due to the recognised importance of technology in finding innovative solutions that can benefit those with disabilities, the inaugural Zero Project Technology Forum took place in February 2023, in parallel to the Zero Project Conference.

During the technology forum, stakeholders from global business companies, ICT multinationals, investors, partners, and multipliers met with an outstanding group of innovators. The forum had a clear mission to find ways to support and finance ICT-based inclusive and accessible innovations for people with disabilities. The in-person event was attended by investors and partners such as Google, Tata Consulting, World Bank, and WHO amongst others.

The forum drew from a pool of more than 10,000 experts from over 100 countries. Over 800 award-winning innovations that had been carefully selected by the Zero Project for their innovativeness, scalability, and impact to improve the lives and legal rights of persons with disabilities.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation was used to co-sponsor the conference alongside Microsoft and Google. The main impact of this event was the opportunity that it presents innovators to get exposure to such a high calibre of investors from the technology sector who can help them scale their life-changing innovations.

Some examples reported from event attendees were:

- Three companies have received specific advice or mentoring from partners or multipliers.
- 11 companies have benefitted from new contacts or discussions with government, technology companies including Google, Apple and Microsoft and NGOs including UNICEF and WHO
- Four companies have been referred to additional sources of investment.

The success of the Zero Project Technology Forum means it will now be hosted for a second year in February 2025.



A partner commented that “I was surprised, to be honest. I have seen efforts to bring us together, but this felt so engaging and actually beneficial to the awardees. I had several tell me that they had never been given such great advice and support. I thought the innovations were fascinating”

Sustainable development goals:



Safe Passage | Refugee support

SUMMARY

Every day, men, women, and families are forced to make a gut-wrenching decision—abandoning their homes to escape war, persecution and human rights abuses. Surviving such suffering should be their only concern, not the uncertainty of whether they will reach their destination alive.

Since 2019, at least 70 people, including lone children, have died attempting to cross the Channel, according to official figures. No one should risk their lives simply for needing somewhere safe to rebuild their lives, but the lack of safe routes only pushes refugees into the hands of smugglers and these perilous journeys.

OVERVIEW

Safe Passage believe every person has the right to be safe – both safe to be with their family and safe to rebuild their lives. Its vision is a world where the people who need it have safe passage to a place of safety, family, and justice.

Safe Passage champions the rights of refugees and displaced people as they flee persecution, using the law to help them access a safe route to a place of safety. It works alongside refugees to campaign for change and build public support for safe passage for all.

Since Safe Passage started in 2016, it has supported nearly 3,000 children and their family members to reach safety.

OUTCOME

Aurum's support in 2023 helped Safe Passage to continue its award-winning crisis response projects for people fleeing Afghanistan and Ukraine. Safe Passage has legal teams in France, Greece and the UK who work to help child refugees reunite with their families through a safe route to a safe destination, so they do not feel forced to embark on dangerous journeys to reach safety. These legal teams provide essential family reunion casework, legal assistance, and holistic arrivals support to ensure that families can be together again.



Safe Passage has also been held accountable to its 'work with, not for' ethos, by nominating refugees as 'experts by experience' and ensuring that they contribute at every level of the organisation including at board and leadership level. It has also continued to run an award-winning Young Leaders advocacy programme for 16 to 25 year-old refugees.

During the year, Safe Passage continued to campaign for a fairer and more humane response for refugees; as the current system provides no adequate safe routes for refugees, and leaves unaccompanied children trapped and alone in vulnerable situations.

IMPACT

Thanks to the Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation, in the past year, Safe Passage:

- Assisted 935 people with essential legal advice and casework and represent 537 children in legal cases for family reunion.
- Supported 149 people to arrive in a place where they can be safe and be with family.
- Mobilised 6067 supporters to engage with its 'Routes to Safety' campaign.
- Assist 935 people with essential legal advice and casework and represent 537 children in legal cases for family reunion.
- Support 149 people to arrive in a place where they can be safe and be with family.
- Mobilise 6067 supporters to engage with its 'Routes to Safety' campaign.

Sustainable development goals:



Choose Love | Refugee support

SUMMARY

An estimated 100,000 ethnic Armenians fled their home in Nagorno-Karabakh, after Azerbaijan seized control of the enclave in September 2023. Many thousands gathered in a makeshift camp in the town of Goris, with 30% of these people said to be children. This came after civilian areas were targeted with heavy shelling from the Azeri authorities, following a nine-month blockade that Azerbaijan imposed on the area, blocking humanitarian aid and cutting off access to essentials such as food, fuel and hospital supplies. Even though the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, it has been governed by Armenia as a self-declared republic (the Republic of Artsakh) since the early 1990s, with a 95% ethnic Armenian population.

OVERVIEW

Choose Love is a UK-based non-governmental organisation which provides humanitarian aid to, and advocacy for, refugees around the world. It provides fast, flexible, transparent, accountable funding and support to refugees in areas where the need is greatest. It works with agile local community organisations doing the most vital and effective work to support refugees along migration routes globally.

OUTCOME

In response to the Nagorno-Karabakh (“Artsakh”) conflict, Choose Love partnered with the following five community-based frontline organisations:

- Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development
- All for Armenia
- Miaseen
- Partnership and Teaching NGO
- KOORYIGS, an Armenian women-led non-profit

IMPACT

With the help of Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation and Choose Love’s funding co-ordination, these five partner organisations were able to provide humanitarian aid to the vulnerable people displaced by the Artsakh conflict. This aid included housing, food, hygiene supplies, clothing and basic medication. Petrol was also supplied to those who undertook the 30+ hour journey into Armenia, and child-friendly spaces and wraparound support for displaced children were facilitated by Partnership and Teaching NGO.



Sustainable development goals:



Mercy Ships | Life-changing healthcare provision

SUMMARY

Every two seconds, one person dies from a surgically treatable disease. Globally, it is estimated that five billion people lack access to safe surgical care, with approximately 1.7 billion of those being children. This burden is felt especially heavily in sub-Saharan Africa, where people are deprived of years of healthy life, for conditions that are easily treatable, due to this lack of access to affordable surgical care.

OVERVIEW

Mercy Ships are a pioneering international health charity, who deploy hospital ships to provide free, life-changing surgeries in sub-Saharan Africa. Alongside this they also train healthcare professionals and build stronger medical services for everyone, creating change for decades to come. This new educational and advocacy pillar of work builds on the Dakar Declaration, which sets out a strategic roadmap to improve surgical care for African nations by 2030.

Since 1990, Mercy Ships has conducted 42 field services in 14 African countries, most of which are ranked by the United Nations Development Index as the least developed in the world. Each year, more than 3,000 volunteers from more than 60 countries serve onboard the world's two largest charity hospital ships, the 'Africa Mercy' and the 'Global Mercy'. The inspiring crew includes surgeons, nurses, dentists, cooks, engineers and teachers who all dedicate their time to give patients expert and vital medical care.

OUTCOME

In the first half of 2023, the Global Mercy served patients from both Senegal and The Gambia from the Port of Dakar. Both safe surgical care and surgical education were provided and the newly equipped professionals will continue to strengthen Senegal's surgical systems, long after the Global Mercy sailed away in June 2023.

Mercy Ships hope to continue to develop the relationship with the Senegalese government in the years to come.

In August 2023, crowds cheered as the Global Mercy sailed into Freetown, Sierra Leone. Before the arrival of Mercy Ships, Sierra Leone only had 5 surgeons to serve a nation of 8 million people with the infant (under five years old) mortality rate of one out of ten. While direct surgical care is urgently needed for so many across the country, there's an even greater need: for trained and equipped medical professionals who can bring about lasting change in access to safe surgery. Onboard the Global Mercy, a world-class floating training centre and surgical ship, both needs were addressed.

IMPACT

During 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation helped Mercy Ships provide:

- 3,295 surgeries for 2,953 patients in eight countries.
- 94,076 hours of training provided by volunteers for 1,297 professional healthcare workers, including training for 56 dentists.
- Nearly 800 surgeries and the training of more than 600 healthcare professionals in Senegal and The Gambia through the combined offerings of safe surgical care and surgical education.
- Over 1,900 people in Sierra Leone with free, safe surgery onboard and approximately 450 healthcare professionals received training to improve the country's surgical systems.



Sustainable development goals:



Medical Justice | Aiding persons in immigration detention

SUMMARY

Immigration Removal Centres (“IRC”) are full of detained men, women and children including those who have been victims of torture, trafficking and rape. Some people in detention have lived in the UK for decades, whilst others have recently arrived off small boats having survived long perilous journeys. They have complex health needs with detention exacerbating existing conditions and contributing to mental illness. Despite this, healthcare provision in these centres is inadequate with medical neglect contributing to the deaths of detained persons.

OVERVIEW

Medical Justice offers independent medical advice and assessments to people held in immigration detention. The charity was founded in 2005 by a Zimbabwean asylum seeker, who was on the verge of organ failure following a hunger strike in a UK IRC, and the volunteer doctor who saved his life. After he recovered, these two men went on to found Medical Justice with the aim of assisting others in detention, organising more doctors to volunteer and to encourage people to campaign for the end of medical mistreatment in detention. The vision of Medical Justice is that “immigration detention in the UK does not harm anybody’s physical and mental health in the UK as it no longer exists” highlighting its ultimate goal as an organisation to end immigration detention entirely.

OUTCOME

In 2023, Medical Justice had 38 volunteer doctors, 20 volunteer interpreters and 18 staff members and was the only UK charity to send independent clinicians into all the IRCS. The charity upholds the health and associated legal rights of detained people and provides medical evidence so that the devastating health consequences of detention are understood and acted on.

In the past year, Medical Justice received 511 referrals for detained people. The clinicians completed medico-legal reports, documenting clinical evidence of past torture, trafficking, or other trauma as well as the health impact of immigration detention in the UK. This enabled the clients to present this physical and psychological evidence they live with every day, to the Home Office and the courts. Medical Justice casework also entailed documenting serious medical conditions and injuries sustained during deportation attempts, assessing fitness to fly, challenging instances of medical mistreatment and helping clients access the healthcare they need.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation has helped Medical Justice to provide medical evidence to those

incarcerated to fight for their medical and legal rights, to get a legal representative who can help them protect themselves from unsafe conditions. As well as being able to regain their liberty and safety, to get released and to be protected from persecution in the UK.

Furthermore, the evidence produced from casework is pivotal to effective policy work and strategic litigation, making Medical Justice a key player in the movement campaigning against the injustice of being detained indefinitely with no charge and no judicial oversight.



“The difference I would underline between them and any other charity I have worked with is that they are honest. They have faith in what they are doing and are fighters for injustice. They are not just doing a job – for them it is a mission.”

- From a volunteer



Sustainable development goals:



iheart | Cultivating mental health resilience

SUMMARY

A 2022 NHS study found that at least one in six children in England have a probable mental health problem, with over half of all mental health problems starting by the age of 14. Huge attention and resources have been placed on the youth mental health crisis in recent years. Yet, the crisis is getting worse, not better.

This is because existing solutions have assumed that today's youth have a resilience deficit, thus creating programmes to 'build' or 'create' resilience. However, this is not the case as resilience is built-in and innate to every human being. Therefore, to help address this problem today's youth need coaching to realise they do not lack the qualities required to deal with the challenges they face.

OVERVIEW

iheart's mission is to help youth and the community around them to uncover their innate mental wellbeing to become resilient, contributing members of society. It educates young people that they do not have a resilience deficit and empowers them with the confidence that they can uncover their built-in mental health and resilience so that they can overcome their challenges and realise their extraordinary potential.

The charity, founded in 2017, has developed a series of innovative, evidence-based mental wellbeing educational programmes which challenge current practices and outlooks. Over the past seven years, iheart services have reached and impacted over 55,000 young people in 22 countries.

OUTCOME

iheart has intensified its efforts over the past year to work with many individuals, schools, organisations and communities experiencing serious difficulties and in different levels of crisis. Examples include:

- Supporting evacuee youth and families from the Israel-Gaza border.
- Training and providing mental health educational resources to the Early Help Team which provides support to 200 vulnerable and struggling families in Powys, Wales.
- Delivering programmes to pupils at inner-city schools from deprived backgrounds considered at-



risk and vulnerable due to issues in their home/ community life such as knife crime, domestic abuse, poverty, addiction, past trauma and neglect.

- Training the staff at an orphanage in Uganda in order to help the children deal with loss and trauma, whilst providing them with greater hope and confidence.
- Training the staff of Lifelink, a mental health charity providing acute support to deprived communities and youth in Glasgow, Scotland.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope's generous match-funding donation via The Seneca Trust played a significant role in helping iheart achieve its financial targets in the 2023 Annual Fundraising Campaign. As a result of this campaign, the charity was able to achieve the following impact over the past 12 months:

- 3,090 young people aged 9-13 were reached through the ignite programme, a highly innovative digital resilience and wellbeing programme that provides an essential foundation for young people to learn about their innate mental wellbeing in a fun and dynamic way.
- 1,500 youth reached through in-person delivery and 120 teachers and staff participated in training.
- 105 people have completed the iheart's 'train the trainer' course.

Through educating children about their innate resilience, iheart has found that 98% of children noticed a positive change in themselves at the end of the programme and 90% saw increased emotional resilience for dealing with adversity.

Sustainable development goals:



Aurum bursary | Education and social mobility

SUMMARY

As part of Aurum’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, we have awarded two university bursaries to promising ARK Academy students who have chosen to follow one of two career streams; one in finance and one in environmental conservation.

OVERVIEW

The Aurum bursaries combine financial support to cover both tuition fees and living expenses with practical support in the form of a comprehensive internship programme and ongoing mentoring. This combined approach will remove the financial burden of higher education and provide excellent opportunities for the students in two competitive fields. From this ongoing relationship, we are building an enduring association with these students.

The internships provide an insight to both Aurum and our allied charity Synchronicity Earth. As part of the internship programme, the students have attended internships at both Aurum Research Limited and Synchronicity Earth. This has expanded their experiences by providing insight into another industry. And, by collaborating with Synchronicity Earth, we will continue our work to enhance the links between finance and conservation.

OUTCOME

The candidates have successfully completed their second year of their respective university courses. They are now both in their final year and are on track to graduate in Summer 2024.

During Summer 2023, they successfully completed their second internships working on projects tailored to their individual career aspirations.

IMPACT

The impact on the candidates of the Aurum bursary has been:

- Work experience to increase their employability upon graduation.
- Financial security while they are studying and enable them to concentrate fully on their studies.
- Increased aspirations for their future job roles gained from working directly with their mentor from Aurum Research Limited.



“No number of words can express the difference the Aurum bursary has made.

The financial security of the bursary and the worries this has alleviated have truly been a blessing.

Overall, the bursary has completely changed my university experience and I am forever grateful for being selected.

- Amera



Receiving the bursary has significantly alleviated the financial burden that comes with pursuing higher education. It has not only eased my immediate financial struggles but has allowed me to focus more on my studies without the

constant weight of financial concerns the average student struggles with.

I am extremely thankful for the bursary and the lasting impact it's made on my academic journey. It has not only changed my present but provided me with stepping stones for the future.”

- Stella

Sustainable development goals:



Acumen | Changing the way the world tackles poverty

SUMMARY

More than two billion people around the world lack access to basic goods and services—from clean water and electricity to an education and the freedom to participate in the economy. A new approach is needed to address the root causes of poverty and increase equity of opportunity.

OVERVIEW

Acumen is a global non-profit that invests in sustainable businesses leaders and ideas. This is done by supporting grass roots projects to reduce poverty and create opportunities for marginalised communities across healthcare, energy, agriculture, financial inclusion and education.

Acumen’s vision is a world based on dignity, where every human being has the same opportunity. Rather than giving philanthropy funds away or investing in traditional capital, Acumen invests in philanthropic, or “patient,” capital that provides start-ups the flexibility and security to grow their business.

OUTCOME

By making seed and early-stage investments, this enables social enterprises to validate assumptions, bring products and services to market, and begin to scale. To help their invested companies grow and scale, Acumen provides guidance in the areas of strategy, governance, customer insights and fundraising.

A key part of Acumen’s offering is their Academy - where they provide courses to young social entrepreneurs across the globe to become social leaders and go on to operate their own NGO’s or other initiatives to tackle challenges within their local communities. This is about supporting change at a fundamental level by ‘growing’ social entrepreneurs and facilitating their development. Acumen Fellows run programmes in countries such as

Senegal, Uganda and Nigeria addressing issues to tackle the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

IMPACT

In 2023, with the support of Aurum Kaleidoscope’s donation, the Acumen team have been able to:

- Support 11 new investees and 11 existing investees around the world with “Pioneer Capital” and follow-on support to help scale their impact across healthcare, agriculture, energy and financial inclusion.
- Exit four companies and recover over \$800,000 in philanthropic capital that it can reinvest into new social enterprises.
- Further drive systems change through the release of three key insight reports focusing on lessons learnt from investment in India, the impact of clean cookstoves and lessons learnt from 22 years of investing in philanthropic capital.
- Continue developing the next wave of social enterprise leaders through its Acumen Academy programmes, with its range of courses receiving 28,848 attendees.

Sustainable development goals:



HelpFilm | Promoting philanthropic impact

SUMMARY

78% of charities see improving their website, digital presence or social media as the greatest digital priority for the next year. Video plays a fundamental role in all these areas, as it can engender a closeness and transparency to what the charity is doing more than any other medium. People can see with their own eyes what it is the charity is doing so it offers social proof, who it has helped and where donor money is going. However, many charities who are striving to change the world for the better are struggling to be seen due to unaffordability of conventional film production companies.

OVERVIEW

HelpFilm uses professional filmmakers or video producers to create high-end videos and animations and to provide productions and editing services at no cost to small and medium sized charities across a broad range of valuable causes. HelpFilm strives to tell creative and compelling stories. Videos that highlight a variety of causes and achievements, as a well told story will move an audience to think, reflect and then act - to enable those charities to further their purposes and achieve their goals.

OUTCOME

Aurum Kaleidoscope's funding has supported HelpFilm to continue to cover all the expenses involved in its video production services, so there is no cost to the charities it works with. Therefore, any registered charity with an income of under £1 million can request these filmmaking services by completing an online referral form. In 2023, there was a 400% increase in demand for HelpFilm's services.

In addition to producing and editing high quality videos for charities, this year HelpFilm has begun educating the sector on how charities can create their own impactful films. This has been facilitated through the provision of free workshops, which aim to provide guidance on how to produce in-house video content, practical money saving tips on the process and advice on marketing once the films are complete.

IMPACT

Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation has helped HelpFilm accomplish its most successful year to date, with its achievements including:

- Aurum Kaleidoscope's donation has helped HelpFilm accomplish its most successful year to date, with its achievements including:
- The completion of 17 films (including 7 international productions) with another 4 in post-production.
- Five films nominated for the Smiley Charity Film Awards in March 2023. HelpFilm won the People's Choice Award for its Birch Tree Cafe film.



Sustainable development goals:



Engagement

KEY STATS

Innovative financing



> \$31m
donated since inception

UN PRI



No. 1
Aurum ranked as top of its peer group globally

Aurum team



of receiving gold quality mark

Business operations



100%
of Aurum's suppliers have committed to environmental sustainability

SUMMARY

Aurum Kaleidoscope Foundation (“Aurum Kaleidoscope”) was formed in April 2022 as a charitable incorporated organisation which receives substantial donation income from Aurum. Aurum Kaleidoscope is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and conducts a grant-making process intended to promote the advancement of environmental conservation, social welfare and education.

OVERVIEW

Aurum is an Embedded Impact® business that looks to provide profit with purpose. Aurum’s purpose is to grow and protect its client’s capital alongside environmental capital; the planet and species and social capital; healthcare and education. More information on Aurum’s innovative financing approach can be found on page 48.

Over many years, Aurum has selected worthy beneficiaries and has donated to them directly becoming a solid supporter of a wide range of organisations in the process. The growth of the Embedded Impact Approach itself then led to a realisation that, in order to maximise positive environmental and social impact, the due diligence of beneficiaries should be performed by a suitably qualified entity that is structurally designed to exist for the public benefit.

Aurum Kaleidoscope is not a company; it is formed as a corporate body directly regulated by the charities commission. This means Aurum Kaleidoscope is subject to the legal framework that applies to charities and so refines the focus of the trustees to the pursuit of their charity’s charitable purpose. With the power to do anything which furthers its charitable purpose, Kaleidoscope is thus freed of the conflict that many companies face under the doctrine of shareholder primacy. This functional segregation provides the perfect balance for Aurum to carry out its Embedded Impact Approach.

Aurum Kaleidoscope has minimised operational expenses due to the resource support provided by Aurum and its subsidiaries (the “Aurum Group”). Aurum Kaleidoscope does not employ any staff and does not require office space so can instead concentrate on identifying and verifying the beneficiaries of its grant-making process.

Aurum Kaleidoscope’s Trustees are predominantly made up of Aurum Group colleagues but there is also an independent member who provides additional insight and oversight.

OUTCOME

The segregation of duties is designed to disperse the critical functions of a process as a basic building block of sustainable risk management and good governance.

Aurum believes that incorporating such segregation at its core provides the most responsible and transparent way to achieve profit with purpose.

For simplicity all donations including cumulative donations which were made before the inception of Aurum Kaleidoscope via Aurum, are grouped for reporting purposes as Aurum Kaleidoscope.

IMPACT

Since inception, Aurum Kaleidoscope has made grants of £9.7 million in pursuit of its charitable purpose. The Aurum Group as a whole, has donated in excess of \$31m to environmental and humanitarian programmes.



Sustainable development goals:



Aurum Embedded Impact | Innovative financing

SUMMARY

One of the biggest challenges for the NGO sector is in securing stable multi-year annuity style funding. To fill this gap, Aurum has worked to pioneer innovative financing models, creating a selection of endowment funds to secure unrestricted, stable multi-year programmatic funding for our allied charities.

OVERVIEW

Aurum is a fully Embedded Impact business, meaning that donations are structured to proportionately increase as firm AUM increases.

Aurum also offers two specific Embedded Impact Funds where Aurum uses part of the revenue it generates from these funds to finance donations to environmental and social causes:

- The first Embedded Impact investment fund launched in 2002. Aurum makes donations from the investment advisory fees earned from this fund predominantly to environmental charitable causes including Synchronicity Earth, a registered charity that supports the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and species at risk around the world.
- The second Embedded Impact fund launched in 2019, Aurum makes donations from the investment advisory fees earned from this fund to social causes including The Seneca Trust a charity focused on disability, health, displacement and education and environmental causes including Synchronicity Earth. This is achieved by Aurum Kaleidoscope providing grants and direct assistance to charities and organisations.

Since inception, the Embedded Impact approach has given more than \$31 million to support charitable endeavours around the world.

ENDOWMENT FUND APPROACH

Synchronicity Earth has five expandable endowment funds that can receive donations, four of which are restricted to specific conservation issues; Asian Species, Amphibians, Apes, Oceans (via the Neptune Fund).

The Synchronicity Earth Living Fund supports the long-term work of the organisation. The intention is that the endowments will spend down over a period of ten to fifteen years, while supporting core costs for organisations that are delivering effective conservation outcomes.

In practice, this means that a single donation is invested into one of the Embedded Impact funds..

This investment is then drawn down over time to

support long-term income streams for key conservation work.

Unlike most traditional endowments, both income and capital can be used. The choice to create expandable endowment funds significantly assists Synchronicity Earth's mission to escalate conservation action dramatically over a ten-to-twenty-year period, to protect precious ecosystems and support wide-scale regeneration of degraded ecosystems.

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope topped up the endowments across all the five Synchronicity Earth endowment funds: Amphibian, Ape, Asian Species, Neptune and Synchronicity Earth Living Fund.

IMPACT

The endowment funds are used to secure multi-year funding for Synchronicity Earth's allied charities including core operational support, such as staff costs and equipment. This is often the most difficult type of funding for many charities to access. This allows for freedom to work strategically towards conservation goals and provides a substantial buffer against unforeseen future circumstances and adverse events.

For organisations supported by these funds, it means better planning for annual funding cycles by providing a degree of security, ultimately making them more effective at achieving their conservation goals.

Sustainable development goals:



Mobilising the hedge fund industry | Advocacy and engagement

SUMMARY

The hedge fund industry deals with complexity and risk every day. Fundamental to the industry's success are analysis of data and the need to understand the impact of trends and systemic change. By extending this approach to environmental impact, the industry is ideally placed to both understand the problems and be part of the solution.

OVERVIEW

Aurum has a goal to galvanise the hedge fund industry to have a net positive environmental impact. To achieve this Aurum engages and collaborates with external stakeholders including underlying managers. This primarily involves candid discussion and providing educational materials and guidance on how environmental philanthropy can benefit both their businesses and wider society.

OUTCOME

In 2023:

- Synchronicity Earth's More than Carbon's partner projects result in a net carbon sequestration of 4,519 tonnes CO2e per annum, approximately equivalent to 2,275 return flight journeys from London to New York in economy class (~1.99 tonnes CO2e per return flight).
- On the engagement side, Synchronicity Earth provided a webinar to one of Aurum's underlying managers on Synchronicity Earth's Freshwater, Biocultural Diversity and Amphibian programme partners.

- Synchronicity Earth utilised donations from Aurum Kaleidoscope and provided a two-year grant of GBP 60,000 to ShareAction a charity that promotes responsible investment, from 2023 to 2025.

IMPACT

In 2023, Aurum Kaleidoscope helped to facilitate:

- A London-based hedge fund manager continue its support to a nature reserve in Ecuador.
- Two UK-based hedge funds to continue to provide and increase their annual unrestricted funding to Synchronicity Earth.
- An introduction of a US based hedge-fund to Synchronicity Earth, who were approached for support.

Sustainable development goals:



Manager data | Advocacy and engagement

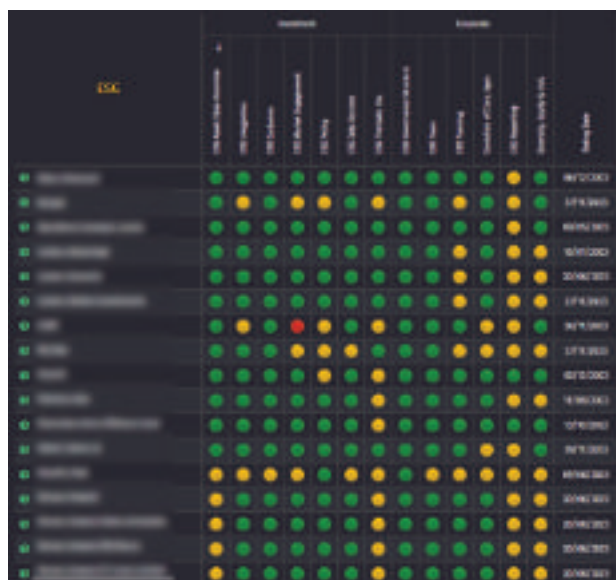
SUMMARY

Aurum’s research subsidiary Aurum Research Limited’s (“ARL”) ESG team engages with Aurum’s underlying managers on ESG topics to drive evolution within the industry. The focus is on both the corporate and investment approach of the managers and how this is evolving through time.

OVERVIEW

ESG issues are incorporated into the investment decision-making process when Aurum considers prospective investments and when monitoring portfolio positions. To do this effectively, there is regular engagement with underlying managers.

As part of its due diligence process, ARL provides a “Red-Amber-Green” heatmap of different ESG considerations across Aurum’s underlying managers. The heatmap ratings are amalgamated into ARL’s research system SONAR:



The review focuses on ESG approach from both a corporate and investment perspective. As this is a rapidly evolving area, we also look at direction of travel and commitment to future developments as well as current status.

Underlying managers complete an online ESG questionnaire, and the results are aggregated to ensure effective engagement topics are identified and progress is measured.

This qualitative approach is used as the underlying managers are not directly comparable meaning it is difficult to have a proper quantitative assessment.

This qualitative monitoring is conducted on an ongoing basis for managers that Aurum invests with. The

heatmap approach enables ARL’s ESG team and Aurum’s directors to be able to see the overall ratings of each Aurum portfolio and where underlying managers are performing well and where there is room for improvement.

OUTCOME

ARL’s ESG team produces an independent report for each of its underlying managers that is reviewed by Aurum. A key part of this is building trusted relationships to collaborate and engages and seek to positively influence and evolve ESG approaches. This differs from strategy to strategy and approaches are tailored accordingly.

IMPACT

Ongoing dialogue regarding ESG issues in 2023 has resulted in:

- One underlying manager adding Diversity and Inclusion language to the equal employment opportunity section of its employee manual, as well as using inclusive language in the careers section of its website.
- One underlying manager starting to produce detailed annual carbon reporting on their business operations.
- ARL’s Head of ESG hosted a webinar for all of Aurum’s underlying managers on the topic of ESG Due Diligence and how to approach ESG considerations on both the investment and corporate side.
- Engagement with all related stakeholders on the topics raised in the Global Canopy 500 report, which tracks the policies and performance of the 350 most influential companies and 150 financial institutions.

Sustainable development goals:



Aurum team | Giving back

SUMMARY

Aurum encourages its employees to support charities that are important to them and to use their skills and efforts to make a difference.

OVERVIEW

The Aurum Group runs a programme that supports group employee fundraising by up to £1,000 annually per employee.

Group employees are also able to give a £50 birthday donation to a charity of their choice.

In 2018 the Aurum Group introduced an employee volunteering programme, where staff are allocated two days per year to volunteer. This was enhanced in 2021 from providing London based volunteering opportunities, to the following options:

1. For colleagues who already have volunteering commitments, to be able to use these days for charity of their choice.
2. To provide group volunteering opportunities to facilitate team building.

OUTCOME

In 2023, ARL maintained an HM Government Payroll Giving Gold Award for the fifth year running. The Payroll Giving Quality Mark is an official government-backed accreditation which celebrates the organisation's decision to foster a culture of philanthropy and committed giving in the workplace by making Payroll Giving available to employees.

Gold is awarded to employers that achieve 10% or more employee participation in Payroll Giving and either pay the administration charges, match donations or actively promote Payroll Giving.

IMPACT

In 2023:

- Four colleagues volunteered at a local drop-in centre that helps homeless and other disadvantaged people. The centre provides a cooked lunch, a food bank service, allows users to have

a shower and receive post to help them open bank accounts. It also provides advice on areas such as getting into accommodation and submitting asylum applications.

- Thirteen colleagues took part in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge, a 5.6km run in Battersea Park. An incredible £10,000 was raised for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, who provided treatment to a colleague's close family member.
- One colleague took part in the Prudential 100 mile 'Ride London' event to raise money for Bliss, a charity working towards ensuring that every baby in the UK that is born prematurely or sick has the best chance of survival. This charity was on hand to help this colleague during their time of need.



Aurum team | Giving back



- One colleague completed a 160ft abseil from the top of St Thomas' Hospital to raise funds for Evelina Children's Hospital to give back to the hospital that performed life-saving surgery on their son when he was born and was the number one fundraiser at the event.
- One colleague ran the London Marathon to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK, following the death of a close family member due to this disease.
- Five colleagues attended the Sport Inspired Children's Sports Day to provide a fun, inclusive and impactful community sports day programme. Each sports day event works with 200 disadvantaged children aged seven to ten and aims to help motivate and inspire the young children to have confidence to participate in the different sports.
- One colleague took part in GAIN's (Girls are Investors Network) inaugural investment challenge to provide young women and non-binary students in years ten to 13 with the skills and desire to pursue a career in investing and two colleagues were GAIN internship mentors over the summer.



- ARL's IT team members both volunteer their skills to improve the IT infrastructure and provide ongoing IT support to their chosen charities, with one volunteering for Sarcoma UK and the other for Revival, a mental health charity based in Kent.
- One colleague volunteers to teach people Polish during their free time.
- ARL's annual bake-off competition raised funds for Breast Cancer Now. There were a wide range of entries including both savoury and sweet bakes, with the winner being a delicious carrot cake, second place going to an orange and lemongrass meringue pie followed by a choux à la crème in third place!
- ARL's Christmas jumper day raised funds for Save the Children, to help children facing serious issues like war, hunger and poverty.
- In December, Aurum Group colleagues were given the opportunity to donate to 'Crisis at Christmas' via payroll giving to provide accommodation, healthcare, food and specialist advice for people facing homelessness at one of the toughest times of the year.



SUMMARY

Aurum became a signatory to the PRI in 2014. The PRI works to understand the investment implications of ESG factors and to support signatories in incorporating these factors into their investment ownership decisions. The PRI acts in the long-term interests of its signatories, the financial markets, and economies in which they operate and ultimately of the environment and society as a whole.

OVERVIEW

The PRI reporting is assessed using a numerical grading system ranging from 1 to 5 stars. The questions are weighted by their relative importance to responsible investment practices and/or the PRI's overall mission, with a multiplier applied to questions that are deemed to be of moderate or high importance.

5 star rated



OUTCOME

In 2023, Aurum were awarded the maximum 5* rating for their investment approach "Indirect – Hedge Funds".

Aurum was also ranked as the top of its peer group for Investment Managers between \$1 – 9.99 billion globally.

This is a significant achievement as the PRI grading system ensures the highest scores are awarded to those signatories with more mature ESG programs that demonstrate leading practices within the responsible investment industry.

IMPACT

Aurum is committed to work towards all six of the Principles of Responsible Investment. Further detail on how this is implemented in practice can be found in our ESG Policy.

Sustainable development goals:



Cyber security | Reducing the risk

SUMMARY

While controversial, the biggest cyber security threat to an organisation is via its people. Humans are the easiest route for a malicious programme to bypass a company’s network. This can be either through giving their details to the ‘bad actor’ or by running an application that should not be run. A smaller risk is that of poor system configuration that allows a ‘bad actor’ to use a backdoor. The Aurum Group has multiple systems to reduce the risk of human error or system misconfiguration.

OVERVIEW

Comparing the last six months of 2023 to the same six months of 2022, incoming email level volumes remained broadly similar. However, there was a significant reduction in malware and phishing emails of 30% and 40% respectively. This reflected a material improvement in the processes of the upstream providers.

The overall level of cyber-attacks remains at a high level and to reduce the risk to the Aurum Group, the group runs a multi-supplier security model utilising independent breach databases with over 30 million events currently being reviewed every month.

OUTCOME

This multi-level approach to cyber security is supported by:

- mandatory bi-annual security training
- monthly phishing email simulations

These are both run using the KnowBe4 system which is managed in-house. KnowBe4 remains a market leading provider and the world’s largest integrated platform for security awareness training with over 65,000 customers of which over 4% are in the finance, banking and insurance sectors. Bite-sized nano training continues to be used in the form of posters to ensure all colleagues understand the potential risk of cyber events. Should any colleague click through on a simulated phishing email campaign, they are required to complete an additional mandatory training course. Colleagues who click on two or more phishing simulations in 12 months are required to retake all their security training. Over 70% of colleagues report the phishing simulations as opposed to just deleting them.

The continuous vulnerability scanning provided by intruder.io was further enhanced during 2023 to now scan 22 servers for circa 161k checks compared to the 144k check in 2022. Exploits continue to be scanned as soon as the information becomes available.

Any suspected data leakage is formally documented and reviewed by ARL’s Head of Infrastructure, Chief Legal

and Compliance Officer and Operational Due Diligence team who if applicable will escalate to ARL’s CEO.

Given the importance of cyber security, as part of the research process with Aurum’s underlying manager’s, ARL’s Head of IT Infrastructure continues to undertake a comprehensive meeting to drill down into any cyber security concerns.

IMPACT

Cyber security remains at the forefront of ARL’s focus, with colleagues now being very aware and more cautious about incoming emails.

ARL’s Head of IT Infrastructure’s meetings with underlying managers have three common themes:

- Access to email on non-corporate devices.
- Access via remote devices and required polices.
- Storing data in the public cloud when not using conditional access restrictions to only allow access from known networks.



Sustainable development goals:



Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures | TCFD

SUMMARY

Reflecting the Aurum Group's focus on climate change and support for the Paris Agreement's aim of keeping the increase in global average temperatures to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, Aurum is a supporter of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("TCFD").

Aurum have always been cognisant of the environmental challenges of climate change and both the risks and opportunities this has for us as a business. This TCFD reporting is an important step to strengthening our reporting and transparency in this area.

GOVERNANCE

Aurum believes a robust ESG approach is both our moral and fiduciary duty. ARL's Head of ESG is responsible for identifying climate risks and opportunities in collaboration with the Aurum Group's investment research and operational due diligence teams. This information is provided to the senior management team and Aurum's board who are able to opine on these matters. This is from both a corporate and investment perspective.

As well as having this formal process in place, Aurum also believes ESG is the collective responsibility of all group employees. This is reflected in ESG considerations being integrated into all Aurum Group employee objectives. These objectives range from limiting personal and professional environmental impact, ensuring inclusivity in all we do and looking to drive industry and wider societal change by collaborating with other industry participants.

At a business level, the Aurum Group have taken opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and are particularly cognisant of our suppliers and their impact on society. Further details on this can be found in the "Business Operations" section on page 57.

STRATEGY

The TCFD's framework around climate risks and opportunities has been a useful guide to overlay our existing processes.

Given the nature of Aurum's investments, we primarily consider climate risks associated with the transition to a lower-carbon economy rather than physical climate risks. These consist of policy and legal risks such as carbon pricing and reporting obligations, market risks associated with changing consumer behaviour and reputational risks around increased stakeholder concerns.

Aurum also consider climate related opportunities. These consist of resource efficiency opportunities around improving recycling and increasing building

efficiency, development of new products related to low emission goods and services, as well as participating in renewable energy programs and adopting energy-efficiency measures.

Aurum's approach regarding climate risks and opportunities is to work with underlying managers to increase awareness and understanding of how these can be utilised in their investment processes. Given the nature of the investments it is difficult to be precise in terms of objectives in this area. Acknowledging this and wanting to support and collaborate with the wider industry, ARL's Head of ESG is a member of the Alternative Investment Management Association's Responsible Investment Working Group which covers the TCFD approach.

RISK MANAGEMENT

From a business perspective, each entity within the Aurum Group manages climate change risks and opportunities in the relevant departments with oversight from senior management and the board. For example, each entity takes best practice with regards to efficiency opportunities and renewable energy.

From an investment perspective, the Aurum Group discusses the provision of TCFD information from all the Aurum Funds' underlying managers and this is an area we are focusing on developing. We question the underlying managers and seek to understand their approach to climate-related risks ahead of investment. This is included as part of our provisional due diligence reports and manager assessments.

As part of the Aurum Group's ongoing monitoring process, we include an assessment of how the underlying managers approach to climate-related risks has evolved through time.

Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures | TCFD

METRICS

2023 was the Aurum Group’s ninth consecutive year of carbon offsetting across our offices and the activities of group staff. We have been offsetting the Aurum Group’s carbon emissions through a regeneration portfolio since 2014 as detailed on page 57. We have taken this approach as we believe environmental regeneration of degraded ecosystems is an impactful way of offsetting carbon.

Aurum believes it’s important to have transparency around the emissions associated with our business activities, which is included below. In 2023, there was a full return to normal business operations following the COVID-19 pandemic so there is a natural adjustment from 2022 and Aurum continue to retain 2019 as our benchmarking year. From an investment perspective it is not currently possible to use quantitative climate related metrics meaningfully due to the nature of the strategy pursued and the assets the Aurum Funds are invested into, Aurum are working with underlying managers on this point to address the data challenges. However, until it is possible to accurately quantify this, Aurum will continue to include a multiplier to our corporate footprint to ensure we are offsetting sufficient carbon to account for the Aurum Group’s activities.

	2019 (Pre-Covid Benchmark)	2022	2023
Scope 2			
Office Utilities ¹	14.8	9.4	12.4
Data Centres ¹	0.2	0.1	0.1
Scope 3			
Office Utilities ¹	199.1	121.9	130.7
Business Travel	217.5	145.9	269.6
Employee Commuting	21.8	7.7	10.5
Working from Home ²	-	12.3	11.4
Total	453	297	435
Tonnes of carbon per \$m AUM³	0.17	0.06	0.08

¹ The Aurum Group’s London office and data centres use renewable energy, but for transparency we have included the contribution of these in our emission calculations. The office utilities included in Scope 2 are purchased electricity for business purposes. All other utilities, such as water, waste disposal and recycling, are included in Scope 3.

² Since 2021, we have included an allowance for the carbon emissions generated by employees working from home in line with the framework detailed in EcoAct’s Homeworking Emissions Whitepaper (2020).

³ All emissions are calculated using the UK Governments Greenhouse Gas Reporting 2023 Conversion Factors. To ‘normalise’ emission data and allow comparison year on year against growth, Aurum are using \$m AUM as a normalisation factor.

⁴ Given the global lockdowns and associated emission reductions over 2020 and 2021, we benchmark against 2019. The Aurum Group continues to strive to reduce its carbon footprint and continually look at ways to continue to maintain low emissions wherever possible.

Sustainable development goals:



Business operations | Reducing our negative impact

SUMMARY

At Aurum, we believe it is important to consider how our day-to-day operations can have an impact on environmental and social issues.

OVERVIEW

The Aurum Group continually reviews its operations, seeking ways to improve efficiency and decrease negative impact.

OUTCOME

BERMUDA OFFICE

Energy saving:

- A 25-kwh solar panel system on the office building significantly reduces the amount of electricity bought from the grid.
- Rainwater runoff is captured in a large water tank built underneath the building, which provides all necessary water for the office.

LONDON OFFICE

Energy saving:

- Deliveries are kept to a minimum and with the same supplier to aid reducing our carbon footprint.
- Most office lighting is LED and heating runs on proximity sensors, ensuring that only occupied areas are lit and heated.
- All PC monitors are LED lit and desktop computers are shut down overnight.
- Following the removal of three printers from the London Office in 2022, mindful printing has been encouraged and colleagues have reduced printing volumes.

Environment:

- The travel section of ARL's Expenses Policy ensures that business travel is as sustainable and carbon efficient as possible.
- Balcony space has been converted into a garden to attract wildlife. It is also used to grow a variety of plants, such as sunflowers and tomatoes.

Social:

- Aurum Group offers enhanced parental leave for both primary and secondary carers. Since this was introduced, all eligible colleagues have taken or are in the process of taking this additional leave.
- Aurum Group has a Menopause Policy to support colleagues through a phase in their lives which can be very challenging.

- To aid colleagues to build resilience, training has been provided in the iHeart Resilience Framework. This focuses on the "Learn, Apply, Use" method, working to understand how the mind works and progresses to applying this to specific challenges and culminates in implementing the gained skills.

Suppliers:

- The Aurum Group has developed an Environmental Purchasing Policy to encourage the purchase and use of materials, products, and services that incorporate environmental, social, community, and performance goals. In 2023, a questionnaire was distributed to significant suppliers to establish if they meet one or more of our social and environmental certification criteria.
- Some results from this survey included:
 - 100% of Aurum Group's suppliers have made a commitment to environmental sustainability, with 43% having an ESG policy in place.
 - 67% of Aurum Group's suppliers have a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ("DE&I") in place, and 89% have made a DE&I commitment.
 - 89% of Aurum Group's suppliers have a commitment to paying the living wage to all the employees related to its business operations.
 - 56% of Aurum Group's suppliers have a Modern Slavery policy in place, with a further 22% considering implementing one in the near future.
- 100% of Aurum Group's suppliers recycle and 67% have reduced their use of single use plastics and energy usage.

Sustainable development goals:



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