Annual Report 2016

A Message from our Director

2016 was a year of dramatic change. If its political upheavals appear to take us some steps back on the pathway towards planetary wellbeing, at Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) we chose to focus on solutions to attain justice, respect and dignity for all beings. We are happy to share this Annual Report, filled with good news from our programmes and with exciting plans afoot for 2017!

In all of GDF’s programmes, we spent time in 2016 for internal reflection, strategising and programme development. We tilled the soil and sowed the seeds, and as I write this in early 2017, we have clear indications that we can expect a bumper harvest this year.

In our North America regional programme, we began organising two Indigenous-centred Global Environments Network (GEN) events which will take place in rapid succession in the Spring of 2017, also launching a new theme of interest for GDF: arts for social and environmental justice. In the Mediterranean, our programmatic focus in 2016 was on consolidating our vision and strategy for the High Atlas Cultural Landscapes programme, which we launched this Spring with a number of new projects and collaborations. Here, we have also begun planning for two GEN events to be held in Autumn of 2017, the first of a 6-year series planned in the Mediterranean.

For the Global Environments Network, we established a concerted internal communications strategy that culminated in early 2017 in the launching of our state-of-the-art online communications platform for Network members, began organising a GEN reunion-cum-symposium at the Conservation Optimism Summit that took place this April and set the date for our 6th Global Environments Summer Academy in Oxford in 2018.

None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support of our funders - The Christensen Fund, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Darwin Initiative, MAVA Foundation and Salvia Foundation, as well as the generosity of numerous private donors. Thanks to them and all our supporters, 2016 was a year of incredible change and evolution for GDF, in which we set the stage for the amplification and realisation of our mission to protect diversity, enhance wellbeing and promote learning in the years to come.

Gary J. Martin
In 2016, we concluded two major collaborative projects, funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Darwin Initiative, that supported High Atlas communities as they seek to reinvigorate their traditional water management systems with innovative techniques, and to enhance their livelihoods while addressing threats to vulnerable plant resources (in particular, wild-crafted medicinal roots) in the unique and biodiverse High Atlas montane ecosystem. Drawing on in-country expertise and Indigenous knowledge and practice, water and plant resources are now being managed more sustainably in two rural communes—Ait M’hamed in Azilal and Imegdale in Al Haouz—resulting in improved local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. A key element of our approach is the establishment of community plant nurseries, which are designed according to permaculture principles and managed in a participatory manner. These nurseries are the source of useful plants for sale to enhance household incomes and also where threatened plants are cultivated for enrichment planting and ecological restoration efforts.

With these two projects we launched the High Atlas Cultural Landscapes programme that is now being amplified and extended in space, including within the Toubkal National Park buffer zone and agdals (large-scale community-conserved pasturelands) throughout the High Atlas. This forms part of our expanding Mediterranean programme that started in 2016. Building on existing projects, we continue to focus on addressing the conservation and sustainable use of wild useful plants, cultural practices of conservation and community conserved areas in the Moroccan High Atlas. In early 2016, we launched a 3-year project, with funding from the MAVA Foundation, that integrates the three strands of our work in the High Atlas – agroecology, biodiversity conservation and water management. We carried out new activities, including documenting local cultural practices of conservation, climate change modelling and ecological monitoring of agdals, while also expanding and enhancing processes begun under the Darwin Initiative and CEPF projects.

Also in Morocco, we expanded the scope of our school gardens project by creating a model ethnobotanical garden at Dar Taliba boarding house. Introducing permaculture increased the amount of produce grown on the grounds, ensures sound ecological practice in garden management and continues to strengthen the boarding girls’ connection to their source of food. This project adopts a participatory approach that applies the traditional ecological knowledge and know-how of nearby High Atlas Amazigh communities while introducing new ways of doing things to complement customary and local methods in a changing world.
North America highlights

In 2016, Angela Easby (GESA 2015 alumna) assumed the role of North America Regional Programme Coordinator. Together, Angela and Susannah McCandless (International Programmes Director) developed a vision for the North America programme that highlights our commitment to support Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination as we work to revitalise biocultural landscapes. The updated vision centres around our role as facilitators and conveners, creating spaces for Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, professionals and practitioners to learn and problem-solve together using a peer-to-peer methodology.

This was a year of strategic planning and relationship-building, laying the groundwork for events in 2017 and beyond that will expand our network and range of activities in North America. We collaborated with GDF US board member Octaviana Trujillo, GDF Mesoamerica Co-coordinator Claudia Camacho and others to offer a North American Community Environmental Exchange (NACELE) in Sonora, Mexico. This event, held in February 2017, provided a training, networking and discussion space for Indigenous community leaders on topics including territory defense, coalition building, Indigenous rights, food/water sovereignty, and more.

In 2016, our North America team also developed a relationship with IndigenEYEZ, an Indigenous youth empowerment organisation in British Columbia, Canada. We are partnering with IndigenEYEZ to plan an art- and land-based environmental leadership camp for Indigenous youth, from 18 to 30 years old, in the Okanagan region of British Columbia, in June 2017.

We enthusiastically welcomed Darcie Houck (GESA 2012 alumna) to the GDF US Board of Directors in 2016. We also said goodbye to Board members Dr. Christine Padoch and Dr. Thomas Carlson, and thank them for their years of service and support to our North America programme.

At the core of our work, we believe that the well-being of Indigenous communities, land and waters are fundamentally interlinked: North American environments benefit from the stewardship of Indigenous peoples and the careful application of traditional knowledge. In turn, the land nourishes the people. Please join us in supporting our Indigenous collaborators: read our statement of support to bring Standing Rock water protectors to Loma de Bácum in Sonora, Mexico.

As we gear up for the second Americas-based regional academy (June 2017, Okanagan), we are inspired by feedback from organisers, mentors and participants from the Latin American Regional Socio-Environmental Leadership Academy.

The dynamic at ALLSA was extraordinary, it had something that many academic spaces still struggle to create: a collective spirit. (…) We had spaces to re-connect with nature with closed eyes, to find ourselves through ecopsychology in the contemplation of nature and education, to be frustrated, to race against time trying to share readings and prepare presentations, to philosophize with hermeneutic practices to discuss a text and generate reflection and discussion, to learn different strategies and policies through play (…). (Merelyn Validivia Díaz, Perú)

Read more testimonies here.
Connecting for change

In 2011, GDF organised the very first Global Environments Summer Academy in Munich. In the four years that followed, four more summer academies (one more in Germany and the following three in Switzerland), a regional academy in Latin America and two community exchanges in North America were carried out under the auspices of the Global Environments Network. Ever since the inaugural gathering, we have been inspired by the strength of connections formed among participants from diverse academic, geographical and professional backgrounds. Through all these events, the Network has grown to approximately 200 people who continue to collaborate, learn from each other and create change across the globe, building on the vibrant connections made. Network alumni are collaborating as organisers and/or resource people in GEN events and join forces to implement projects funded by the GEN Alumni Innovation Fund.

2017 brings much excitement, with the third North American Community Environmental Leadership Exchange recently held in Sonora, Mexico (February), and upcoming events: the Okanagan Environmental Leadership Camp in Canada (June), the European Community Exchange on Seed Diversity and Sovereignty in Barcelona, Spain (September) and a Mediterranean Regional Academy in Morocco (November).

Community newsletter

We launched the GEN Newsletter in 2016, a quarterly internal publication for GEN members. Each edition includes GEN Stories written by members, members’ personal or professional updates and a section for resources and opportunities. Feedback in 2016 taught us that members are most excited to receive updates and see the Newsletter foremost as a tool to strengthen and increase interconnection within the Network. In 2017, we are incorporating this feedback, introducing thematic Newsletters that include 2-3 GEN Stories on a chosen theme, with an expanded Updates section.

Online platform for members to collaborate

Following GEN members’ request and eagerness to stay in touch and carry on the energy and sense of purpose generated at GEN events, we have created the InterNetWork (INW): a dedicated space for collaboration, exchange and debate among members. The INW is comprised of four main spaces (Members, Working Spaces, Library, Conversations) and three supporting tools (Calendar, Conference Room, GEN organisation). It was tested by the GEN Team and some members in 2016, and officially launched early 2017.

GEN interviews: Where are we going, and how should we get there?

In April 2016, the GDF team began to conduct interviews with members with questions on the impact, relevance, and accessibility of GEN. We conducted eight in-depth interviews in 2016 which have proved invaluable for offering a glimpse into GEN members’ experiences in, and visions for the network.

To learn more about our interview process and member responses, read our GEN story.
GDF is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1080731) and a 501(c)3 nonprofit in the U.S. (tax ID: 20-8772517).

Income and expenses are reported separately for these independent legal entities.

**Global Diversity Foundation US**

Income and expenses for GDF-US are presented below:

**GDF US Income 2016**
- $7,225 (8%)
- $40,007 (61%)
- $50,000 (51%)

**GDF US Expenses 2016**
- $18,746 (36%)
- $99,145 (84%)

**Supporters:**
The Christensen Fund, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and generous individual and business donors.

**Global Diversity Foundation UK**

Income and expenses for GDF-UK are presented below:

**GDF UK Income 2015**
- £86,213 (57%)
- £28,580 (19%)
- £13,774 (9%)
- £23,139 (15%)

**GDF UK Expenses 2015**
- £16,036 (8%)
- £392,134 (92%)

**Supporters:**
Darwin Initiative, MAVA Foundation, Salvia Foundation and generous private donors.

Figures for GDF-UK are taken from Trustees’ Annual Reports and Accounts submitted to the UK Charity Commission. GDF-US figures are taken from accountants’ year-end reports to be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service. At the time of circulation of this report, 2016 figures for GDF-UK are not yet finalised.

**Get involved**

**Support us**

Make a donation via cheque, credit card or Paypal by following the instructions found here. You can choose to designate your contribution to a specific programme, region or cause. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law in the U.S., England and Wales.

**Sign up**

Join our conversations and spread the news!

GDF on Facebook
GDF on YouTube
GDF on Twitter
E-newsletters
GEN on Facebook
GEN on Twitter

**Support an online campaign**

- **Benefit 700 Moroccan Girls through School Gardens**
- **Support 100 Global Emerging Environmental Leaders**
- **Help Communities in Borneo Protect their Heritage**

**Join us**

GDF accepts applications for internships, in particular for postgraduate students wishing to carry out their fieldwork in our regions of work and thus contribute to our ongoing field programmes. See our guidelines here.
Our People

GDF & GEN Team Members

Gary J Martin
GDF Founder & Director
/ GEN Founder & Executive Director

Susannah McCandless
GDF International Programme Director
/ GEN Co-Director

Emily Caruso
GDF Regional Programmes Director
/ GEN Co-Director

Hassan Rankou
GDF Mediterranean Regional Programme Coordinator

Mohamed El Haouzi
GDF North Africa Director of Projects

Abderrahim Ouarghidi
GDF Morocco Field Coordinator

Angela Easby
GDF North America Regional Programme Coordinator / GEN Coordinator

Claudia Camacho
GDF Mexico Programme Coordinator

Carlos del Campo
GDF Mexico Biocultural Territories Coordinator
/ GEN Facilitator & Digital Consultant

Ronny Roma
Mexico Field Coordinator

Silvia Forno
GEN Strategic Advisor

Ugo D’Ambrosio
GEN Coordinator for European Events

Inanc Tekguc
GDF/GEN Media Director

Marina Aman Sham
GDF/GEN Communications Director

GDF Boards

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Dr. John Hemming
Norma Ketay Asnes
Isabel Goldsmith-Patiño
William Carey
Vanessa Branson

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US BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dr. Christine Padoch (term concluded, 2016)
Dr. Thomas Carlson (term concluded, 2016)
Dr. Rick Stepp
Norma Ketay Asnes
Dr. Octaviana Trujillo
Darcie Houck, J.D., LL.M. (term began, 2016)

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