From Our Co-Founders/Directors

2015 was a year we ventured into some new exciting projects and had a resurgence of previous programs. Much of our time was spent reaching out, working on grants, discussing collaborations and sharing new insights about sustainability to the general public. Our 2015 highlights included participating at the UN General Assembly UAC Ebola Fundraiser, CGO 2015 Conference in Detroit, Green Festivals LA, COP 21 Paris Summit, and Claremont College Know Tomorrow event. Our ERI Living Lab Guatemala program awaits for the perfect partner while our Udemy online course Become a Leader in Sustainable Development has educated over 65 individuals from 11 countries. Our Executive Director for ERI West Africa, Dr. Dramane Toure, has worked tirelessly to bring international awareness of the atrocities that have existed in his country. Together we are urging the Ivory Coast government to fulfill their pledge for peace and support programs that address climate change for the entire West African region. We are happy to add to our new partnership with Madame Diaby, to eradicate poverty in her homeland the Comoros Islands.

Every year, we are sad to see some of our volunteers leave yet we are proud to see them soar onto new prosperous career opportunities. Just a few examples: Margot Brahim, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, moved to Tahiti; Isabella Levin and Nadine Lafeber, Claremont Summer Interns are immersed in the French culture in Paris; Jamie Loken, Manager of Website and Social Media, is back in Wisconsin, and Kayla Casavant, former 2010 intern got a new job at the American Refugee Committee.

We are thrilled with the small and large strides we have made this year. Having our new volunteers like Elizabeth Bogumil in charge of our grants program, Anita Gill assisting in the Administrative work and outreach, Judy Adams working on our ERI film and events, and Kevin Villagran researching important information keeps us moving forward. And we are always appreciative to have our other volunteers like Ovidio Alvarez and Izhar Manzoor continue to give their time. Their efforts and support is what keeps ERI going!

We look to 2016 in hopes of making more headway with our initiatives and establishing a more solid financial base for us to launch and expand our educational programs, support our West Africa climate change initiative, land rights program and provide services in designing sustainability campaigns, conducting educational training programs and customizing online sustainability courses for both local and international organizations.

We hope you will take the time to look over our report and read our latest accomplishments by liking us on Facebook or subscribing to our e-newsletter to see what great things we are doing at Earth Rights Institute. Our richness and success these past 15 years is due to each of you being part of our community. We thank you! And we look forward to many more years of sowing seeds of change!

Green blessings and peace!
Annie Goeke and Alanna Hartzok
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Earth Rights Institute Overview
The Earth Rights Institute is a prominent international organization working on a multifaceted approach to sustainability for areas in need. The main focus of the organization is developing creative and informed leaders, resulting in the implementation of policies and programs that strengthen the global sustainable development movement.

Education and Research
ERI’s Living Lab provides the opportunity for hands-on education in sustainable development. We create a space of exchange between villagers, students, researchers, professors and experts from both Africa and around the world. Our program offers fully accredited academic study abroad semesters in sustainable development and microfinance.

Building Ecologically Sustainable Communities
Much of our work focuses on the promotion and implementation of the Eco-village, a model of development which encourages communities to minimize their ecological footprint through conservation and effective use of natural resources, such as permaculture and Jatropha plantation. Eco-villages are a model that supports healthy human development. In accordance with the social norms and values of each community, eco-villages govern by consensus decision-making, based on an active choice to respect diversity.

Advocacy
ERI participates in and organizes awareness and advocacy campaigns that promote a healthy and sustainable world for all its inhabitants. ERI advocates a fair market economy, and is concerned in large part with land rights and land value capture/taxation policies that promote easy access to land and ownership, fundamental elements of sustainable development policies. To learn more about Land Rights issues and how you can make a difference sign up for the Earth Rights Institute Land Rights online program.
The Living Lab

Earth Rights Institute Living Lab offers innovative sustainable development programs that use a variety of powerful tools and processes to develop creative and informed leaders in the global sustainability movement.

The Online Course is seven weeks long (2 to 3 hours per week). One can take the course at their own pace. The online course is a unique learning opportunity that includes learning about the U.N. Sustainable and Millennium Development Goals and grass roots sustainability through virtual observation of a group of indigenous entrepreneurs by applying our Holistic Action Planning for Innovation (HAPI) methodology. This methodology draws upon multiple proven tools such as Human Centered Design, Productive Thinking, and Strategic Planning to generate sustainable, grassroots solutions. While taking the course, participants will interact with classmates across the globe.

Click on the following links to view videos about the HAPI Methodology.
HAPI Video 1
HAPI Video 2
HAPI Video 3

Currently, 88% of the Online Courses students are from the United States, Guatemala, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. 12% of students were from other locations across the globe.

The Living Lab Eco-Tour is an educational experience where small groups of participants will have the opportunity to engage in the HAPI method and sustainable project development with local communities in Guatemala. The tour can be retrofitted to reflect you or your teams’ personal interests and may also include a Spanish class. The tours are available for individuals, volunteers, businesses, community groups, non-profits, students, and educators. If you are taking the tour as part of an educational experience, one can earn 4 credits for our Spanish class and up to 10 credits for your field work. This is a great opportunity to build your resume, engage in field work, learn about development, social justice, sustainability and international NGOs.
Our Team – United States

Annie de la Bouillerie Goeke, Co-Founder/Director of Earth Rights Institute has 25 years of leadership and experience in planning, developing, and maintaining programs using sustainable, holistic approaches for social enterprises and community building worldwide. She is a well-known international consultant for sustainable development and has presented at international conferences and forums on climate change, sustainable development and women in leadership roles.

Alanna Hartzok is the Co-Founder/Director of Earth Rights Institute. Her specific approaches include fair land tenure and public finance from a local-to-global framework. Under contract with the UN HABITAT’s Global Land Tool Network she developed an online course and training program that had nearly 900 people enrolled from 95 countries. She is Administrator Director and an UN NGO Representative for the International Union for Land Value Taxation. She is the author of the award-winning book The Earth Belongs to Everyone.

Nola D. Force is Co-Founder and CFO of Earth Rights Institute Living Lab. Nola Force has over 40 years of experience in business. She is known as an innovator, change maker and visionary in her circles. Combining her legal experience and training during the 1990s with her negotiation skills, over the next 20 years Nola reinvented herself as a national consultant, working with clients as she traveled. Today she is considered a leader in her field in designing win-win situations for her clients, with a long record of successes. Nola continues to offer mediation counseling as well as being an interpreter/advisor for individual clients, organizations and businesses not clear about strategies and options, or faced with a challenge/opportunity not fully understood.
Our Team – Guatemala

Zachary Towne-Smith is the Co-Director of Earth Rights Institute Living Lab. He is an empathic and multi-faceted creative leader. He has lived in Guatemala for the past 14 years, co-founding a wide array of ventures, including his non-profit, Imagitlán, dedicated to awakening creativity and facilitating social innovation. He co-founded a business dedicated to creativity workshops and innovation consultancies. Zachary created an internationally successful Latin folk band, his own freelance photography business and the first capoeira group of Guatemala. He has also collaborated on a number of public health and educational projects. His participation on the ERI team brings a wealth of experience and many relationships throughout diverse sectors of Guatemala including public, private, and non-profit.

Daan Lambrecht is the Program Coordinator of Earth Rights Institute Living Lab. He studied politics and international relations. He currently heads Imagitlán, an organization of young artists whose goal is to promote creativity. Daan has extensive experience in issues of development and community organizing, having done consulting work with various organizations in themed community organization and project management, among which may be mentioned the development and research design, problem trees and solutions, logical framework, schedule of activities, stakeholder mapping, fundraising plan, regulations and administrative manuals, monitoring plan, among others. After many business trips and leisure, he has gotten to know a lot about Guatemala.
Our Team – Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and African Diaspora

Dr. Dramane Toure is the Executive Director of Earth Rights Institute West Africa located in Abidjan. For the past few decades, Dr. Toure, president of the Ivory Coast Green Party (Ecologist Parties) has worked to develop sustainability through numerous initiatives and develop eco-villages in his homeland in order to curb climate change. From 1990-2010, he served the Director of Operations at the Ministry for Women's Affairs. During that time, he was also a Special Counselor for the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry of Agriculture. In 2004, he was the Ivory Coast’s first Green Party Presidential candidate. Currently, Dr. Toure is the Professor of Planning and Projects in the Department of Geography for the University of Abidjan. Dr. Toure also serves as the Director of the Cabinet of Studies for AID and Director for the Institute for Strategic Studies in Abidjan. Dr. Toure is the Chief of the great tribe Longo of the North.

Gordon Abiama is the Director of Earth Rights Institute for Nigeria. Gordon was born in the town of Odi, Bayelsa State in Nigeria’s oil rich region. He is the leader of the local Odi Ecovillage team that is currently developing a Living & Learning Centre as part of an overall ecovillage project. He is also the Director of Africa Centre for Geoclassical Economics, a local based non-governmental organization that is dedicated to sustainable development practices and eco justice pedagogy.

Francis Udisi is the Director of Earth Rights Institute in Nigeria from the United States. Francis is a Bayelsa State indigene from Odi, in Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA but a resident in Philadelphia, in the USA. He is also adept at donation project management, professional employment/ student counseling, job recruitment of young university graduates and secondary school leavers for multinational oil and gas companies as well as into universities and banks, especially the Oil Companies. (Pictured: Francis Udisi on the right with His Excellency Governor Henry Seriake Dickson of Nigeria).
Sidique Abou-Bakarr Wai is the President and National Spokesperson for the United African Congress and is a Partner of Earth Rights Institute. Sidique, originally from a lineage of Chiefs in Sierra Leone, is the Administrative Staff Analyst to the NYPD Police commissioners and advises on policy for effective community outreach. He has also served as a 2009 Sierra Leone Delegate to the UN General Assembly and provided counsel to elected officials, Presidents, civil society practitioners, diplomats, and grassroots organizations.
Presentations, Talks, and Events
TedxGuatemala City
Zachary Towne-Smith presented at TEDxGuatemala City in April 2015. His presentation focused on the need for community to foster creativity. The presentation is in Spanish, but there is an English transcript in the comments section.

Council of Georgist Organizations Conference

The Green Festival
Annie Goeke spoke at The Green Festival hosted at the LA Convention Center in September 2015. She participated in a panel discussion with Devon Hartman of C.H.E.R.P. and Lestor Crafton of Renew: Spreading Good Energy (later called Ovanova). The discussion allowed Annie, Lestor, and Devon to share their organizations and the work they are doing to promote sustainability in a variety of ways. Members of the ERI team came to support the cause. ERI had the opportunity to network with other organizations. Approximately 20,000 participants attended The Green Festival event.

Know Tomorrow
In October 2015, Annie Goeke spoke on a panel with fellow sustainability leaders at Pomona College. Pomona College hosted Know Tomorrow, a student-run event demanding a national call to action on the current issues of climate change.
Ending Ebola and Building for the Future
ERI Co-Directors/Founders, Annie Goeke and Alanna Hartzok attended the UN General Assembly and United African Congress hosted event on April 2, 2015. Sidique Abou-Bakarr Wai co-hosted with the UN the event and presented on behalf of the United African Congress.

In the center, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, flanked by Samantha Power (left), Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN; and his wife, Yoo Soon-taek, poses for a group. Those pictured include: Anthony Banbury (fourth from left), former Head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER); Marjon V. Kamara (fifth from left), Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the UN; Angelo Antonio Toriello (sixth from right), Deputy Permanent Representative of São Tomé and Principe to the UN; Sebastiano Cardi (third from right), Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN; and Siddique Abou-Bakarr Wai (far left), President of the United African Congress.
COP 21 Conference – Paris Summit 2015

Dr. Dramane Toure, Executive Director ERI West Africa presented at the COP 21 Climate Change Conference in Paris. From November 29\textsuperscript{th} to December 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2015, around 180 countries came to discuss solutions to the global climate change crisis. Dr. Toure submitted and presented 35 ERI projects at COP 21, showcasing some of the brilliant work he is completing in the Ivory Coast to combat climate change. He has actively participated in the World Climate Change Summits since 1992.

French President François Hollande allocated 2B Euros for African States within the Dakar-Ndjamena, to build the Great Green Wall and renewable energy. Our ERI projects focuses on reforestation, adapting renewable energy and sustainable development in Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. This subsidy will allow Dr. Toure and other African nations to make more progress with the environmental challenges in the region.

Besides our Climate Change Initiative, Dr. Toure has courageously provided the official 2015 report to Amnesty International of the atrocities done to his people in the northern region of in the Ivory Coast during the 2002-2010 internal conflict to be added to the reparations and peace initiative of President Alassane Ouattara. Currently, we await the acceptance of this document from the Ivory Coast government.
Partners

Earth Rights Institute continues to support and work in collaboration with other groups. By being a partner and fiscal sponsor to organizations that support ERI’s mission, ERI extends our nonprofit status to their causes. In addition to beneficial structural support, ERI also offers ongoing leadership and guidance. We’re proud to have them as extensions of ERI. In 2015, we had one new program join our organization:

Share The Care

Since 1995, National Share The Care has been empowering ordinary people with everything they need to create and maintain volunteer caregiving circles to help someone they know in need of support no matter the circumstances. Workshops, presentations and lectures are offered; accreditation training for nurses as well.

We continue to represent the following programs:

Shining a Light Productions

Co-founded by Ros Gentle and Carrie Zivetz, Shining a Light Productions is a creative theater production that brings awareness about human trafficking and violence against women.

Association of California Commissions for Women

Chaired by Suzanne Doty, the Association of California Commissions for Women provides a voice for women of all races, creed and economic status throughout the State of California. It is a membership organization focused on improving the quality of life of our mothers, sisters and daughters.
We Need to Talk

Founded and directed by Mette Lampcov, We Need to Talk is a world-wide project dealing with gender based violence and giving women a voice who have experienced violence. We helped raise funds for her work so that she could travel to India and meet up with various women who wanted to tell their stories.

Kilimanjaro Children’s Project

Founded and directed by Christine Dun, Kilimanjaro Children’s Project, located in Tanzania, helps fund and support a Day Care and Nursery for vulnerable children.

Servicing Wildflowers International (SWF)

Founded and directed by Nina Smart, SWF works to eradicate FGM in Sierra Leone and recently helped raise funds for Ebola victims and their family.

Supporting Multitudes in Life and Education (SMILE)

Founded and directed by Michael Sebastian, SMILE provides free education, food, and healthcare to underprivileged students lacking funds and/or resources for quality education and nourishment located in Laos.
New Volunteers
In 2015, Earth Rights Institute Living Lab had several new volunteers and interns donate their time and expertise to the organization. Our volunteers helped in a number of ways including:

- Conducting outreach for our different programs at study abroad fairs
- Networking with partner organizations
- Drafting and submitting grants
- Spearheading development programs in new locations such as the Comoros Islands
- Developing a schedule for project development and funding for the next year
- Coordinating funding projects in conjunction with other programs
- Sending newsletters to keep our mailing list abreast of Earth Rights Institute’s accomplishments
- Contacting current leaders in sustainability to promote possible collaborative efforts

Here are some of the great things our volunteers have to say about donating their time and energy to Earth Rights Institute.

“Annie introduced the new members—business owners, film-makers, graduate students, and financial planners—all here to donate their skills. ‘This is starting to become something!’ I thought. It’s exhilarating to witness growth, to connect with individuals with common altruistic goals.”
-Anita Gill, M.A. from “Earth Rights Institute Living Lab and Their Innovative Approach to Sustainability”

“Becoming part of ERI Living Lab two years ago had a positive effect on my outlook of the great work that is done locally and abroad by non profits. I would like to encourage others to take part locally as well as abroad. Change comes one step at a time.”
-Ovidio Alvarez
“In my experience with ERI Living Lab, I was able to connect with people and programs that are actively making a difference in the world. Seeing the direct impact of my time and energy invested, provided immediate gratification in knowing that my efforts and energies are received, accepted and actually put to use. It provides immediate feedback in knowing that my efforts were not in vain and that many people stand to benefit in making change in their lives, as a result of my efforts.”
-Ricky Cappe

“I have been volunteering at Earth Rights for a few months now and a key highlight for me was working on the Green Festival. It was exciting to help bring together all of the key partners and their projects together in order to launch the Green Initiative and demonstrate how through collaboration, a greener tomorrow is possible.”
-Jade Pearce, M.A.

“Earth Rights Institute is a dynamic, strong global community of passionate sustainability and social justice leaders. Annie gathers such a diverse group of individuals together for a common cause – a love of the earth’s environment and people. While working on grant development at ERI I have enjoyed integrating projects promoting local sustainability with projects promoting social justice. Throughout the process, I am supported by the creative ideas and support of ERI’s team members who have varied expertise and come from diverse walks of life. It is teamwork, creative problem solving, and diverse members that make ERI a wonderful team to be a part of.”
-Elizabeth Bogumil, M.A.

"I have been happy with assisting ERI in the various project that we've undertaken. It's given me an opportunity to develop different aspects of my professional developments. This has included everything from drafting emails to representing ERI at local events."
-Izhar Manzhoor, M.P.P.

“I had the great pleasure of interning at Earth Rights Institute. Here I got to understand the inner workings of a nonprofit, engage with other stakeholders and members of the organization, all while working towards perpetuating a culture of sustainability and environmentally focused community building. Serving as an ERI team member was an amazing experience, I felt a part of a wonderful group of dedicated sustainability advocates that create change and learned so very much along the way!”
-Isabella Levin
Revenue

A majority of our revenue is used to support fiscal sponsor programs. This is a benefit of fiscal partnership.
Supporters
Bayelsa State Government
Books for Africa
Campaign for People’s Goals for Sustainable Development
Colectivo No’j
Council of Georgist Foundations
Driscoll’s
Global Land Tool Network
Huairou Commission
Imagitlán
LVT Campaign
Prout Research Institute of Venezuela
Robert Schalkenbach Foundation
Seeds for a Future
The Arkay Foundation
The International Union for Land Value Taxation
Tides
UCLA Latin American Institute
UN Habitat
UN Sustainable Development Goals
United African Congress, Inc.
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