



restoration
era

Annual Report 2024





The Transform Life Project site leader in Guatemala. This community is earning their first income in 5 years to restore devastated lands along the coast of Guatemala.

Restoration Era focuses on life transformation, environmental restoration, and poverty alleviation, with its impact resulting in restored environments, restored livelihoods, and restored lives. Restoration Era serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Restoration Era is set up as a project under New Horizons Foundation which is a 501(c)(3). New Horizons Foundation is rated as a Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator and is listed as a platinum-level participant by GuideStar.

© Restoration Era, LLC 2024

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form, except for brief excerpts in reviews, without prior permission of the publisher.

Published by Restoration Era in December 2024.

All photos © Restoration Era

Comments and inquiries are welcome.

Our Mission

- We **Restore the Environment** by reforesting lands whose ecologies have been devastated.
- We **Create Jobs** by hiring marginalized people to reforest their lands and stimulating additional community-based businesses.
- We see **Transformed Lives** by treating people with dignity, caring about their wellbeing, and helping them thrive.

CEO's foreword

Restoration Era was created to see lives and communities transformed and thriving. Many regions in the world have lands that once were productive for agriculture and coastal fishing, but can no longer support those livelihoods as their forests have been destroyed. People end up slipping into poverty and experience increasing desperation.

Reforestation alone will not solve the problem. Tree planting initiatives do not always help local communities. In fact, done poorly, reforestation initiatives can displace people, and if the income generated from the restored lands all goes to foreign investors, then the impoverished local community may be worse off than ever.

Restoration Era is a triple focused initiative to:

- Restore the Environment
- Create Jobs
- Transform Lives

It has been such a joy to launch Restoration Era this year. I am so thankful to my colleagues, the communities, and our generous sponsors who have made this transformative work possible.

One of the things that has been an amazing surprise this year is just how much ownership the local communities we are working with have taken ownership of the projects. Hundreds of volunteers, local governments, and local businesses have become involved in the projects making large-scale change possible in our inauguration year.

I cannot wait to see what the future has in store.



Gregory Hahn
Restoration Era's Founder and CEO



Gregory Hahn, CEO of Restoration Era learning about pioneer tree species for regenerating degraded lands with a community we work with in Guatemala.

Our work, a holistic solution

Jobs to Restore the Planet

Era employs communities to restore their environment. Era works in places where jobs are hard to come by. For many of the people hired, this work is their first sustainable employment opportunity. Jobs create socioeconomic benefits for individuals, families, and communities.

Enriched Biodiversity

From birds to insects to mammals to plants, a natural forest provides habitat, food, and resources for all life in the region to thrive. When the ecosystems' natural symbiotic relationships return the area can be considered successfully restored.

Healthier Soil

The regions Era works in are facing desertification. This is the slow process of a once healthy forested area turning into a desert. During this process the quality of the soil greatly diminishes making agriculture difficult. By reforesting the region it improves local agriculture and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Purified Water

Acting as Earth's water filters, mangroves capture pollutants from groundwater, swamps, and brackish coastlines. On top of this forests help stabilize water tables and make water more easily accessible.



Our work, a holistic solution

Sustainable Livelihoods

Jobs to restore the environment are a great short-term solution for the communities involved in restoration projects, but long-term sustainable industries need to be established. Era works closely with the communities to build sustainable community cooperatives to improve livelihoods.

Carbon Sequestration

Trees store carbon in their roots, trunks, and branches. By restoring the forest you can help offset your carbon footprint and be a part of tackling climate change. Reducing your carbon footprint in day to day life is incredibly important on top of restoring nature.

Flood & Erosion Control

Forests help slow down natural disasters. Forests prevent erosion that causes mudslides and blocked water channels. Forests also slow the fall of water and prevent floods.

Agroforestry

Native and naturalized fruit tree species are grown in the area which serves the families planting the forest with food for themselves and food that they can take to market.



Mangrove Restoration, Guatemala

Era is restoring heavily degraded mangrove areas in Southern Guatemala. Communities in this area traditionally rely on fishing to consume themselves and sell to their families. The degradation of the estuary has led to a loss of habitat for fish, crab, shrimp, and mussels that the community relies on. The majority of the community has not been able to fish for years leading many to have to emigrate to other countries in search of an income.

The community is thrilled to be restoring the environment that directly affects their livelihood. Income to restore the mangrove estuary takes care of the communities immediate need, money to use to survive today. Many young people in the community no longer have to emigrate in search of income and can stay with their loved ones. With the restoration of the estuary the biodiversity of the area will increase and the community will be able to sustainably fish the area again.

The area is a bird sanctuary and serves as home for many endemic species and is a popular spot for migrating species. The restoration of the area is attracting bird-watchers to come and visit the area which creates a new tourism income source for the community.

The project is also bringing several women in the community their first jobs and women are being promoted into leadership positions creating a shift for gender equality in the region.

For 90% of the planting team at this site this is their first income in at least 3 years.

91% of the mangroves have survived the first year.

Over 200 local volunteers have supported the project as they know the project will bring benefits to everyone in the region.



Highlands Restoration, Guatemala

Era is restoring the heavily degraded cloud forests in Guatemala's central mountains. The project provides jobs for communities to restore their native forest, create nature parks that can be enjoyed by communities, and provide jobs for those who need it most. This model provides immediate and long-term solutions that benefit both communities and environment. This region has had record high temperatures, flooding, erosion, and forest fires leading the community at large to want to make a change.

The planting team is made up of individuals who have struggled to find work as the majority of the team is illiterate and some have handicaps that affect their ability to gain work elsewhere. The planting team pulled some of their income together to invest in a loom. They use the loom to make traditional indigenous fabrics that they sell to nearby markets.



Over 1,500 local people have volunteered to restore this area.

Local Guatemalan organizations have donated 80,000 trees to this project.

Era is working with the local government to turn this restored area into a protected natural park so that generations to come can enjoy their natural forests.

This new forest will protect erosion from entering the nearby rivers that flow into some of Guatemala's most populated and agriculturally productive areas.

The new forest has an 87% survival rate in the first year.

Transform Life Projects, Guatemala

Many families in Guatemala are still recovering from the devastating effects of a 36 year long civil war in the region. Communities have lost their loved ones, livelihoods, and land. Guatemala's Fondo de Tierras department has been providing those most affected by the war with new land to restore their livelihoods. However, much of that land is devoid of its natural forest and good soil, making even basic agriculture difficult and unsustainable.

By working with the local families to restore the land they now call theirs, and by implementing sustainable agricultural practices, Era is providing them with the first source of income their community has earned in at least 5 years. The community is planting a mix of native forest and native agroforestry species to transform this area back into the lush tropical forest it once was.

This project is sponsored by individuals who are donating towards small restoration plots.

The income from the jobs is helping the families here send their children to school, access transportation, and even allowed one team member to access life saving health care services.



Blue Amazon Restoration, Brazil

The Blue Amazon mangrove reforestation site is along the Southern border of the Amazon, which is facing alarming rates of deforestation. The community, whose primary livelihood is fishing, is primarily made up of Quilombolas—people groups descended from escaped slaves.

The project is located in the Province of Maranhao, which has the lowest Human Development Index Score of any part of Brazil. Providing income to the communities will help the Quilombola people keep their way of life and enjoy the area their families have been settled in for centuries.

This project will improve the livelihoods of local fishers, create jobs in areas with minimal employment opportunities, and restore some of the most carbon rich forests on the planet.

Era only began this project in December 2024. The majority of planting will begin in 2025 with large amounts of trees already in line to make a big impact in the region and create many jobs.

This region serves as a vital habitat for critically endangered marine species that use the mangroves as a breeding ground. The area is also part of a jaguar corridor that we are working on restoring.



887,247 native trees restored

1,299,800 square meters of our planet are being restored

38 new jobs created

183 working days provided

3 community businesses started

1,983 local volunteers have become involved

6 communities impacted

47% of hires are women

84% of hires are receiving their first job in at least 3 years



Thank You



Two members of our Guatemala team, excited for their first job ever.

restorationera.com