



September 2022: Volume 7 Issue 3

ESRAG Charts Climate Road Map for Rotarians

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

As catastrophic floods imperiled thirty-three million Pakistanis – more than the entire populations of 190 other countries - UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres implored high-emitting nations to take responsibility for the harm those emissions cause. This issue is packed with news of how ESRAG members are striving to do exactly that, and then to inspire their communities, regions, and nations to join that work. You'll read:

- Pakistan's RI Director Faiz Kidwai's urgent call to action, and his hope in 1.4 million Rotarians
- ESRAG's Climate Action Road Map to galvanize them, starting with Europe
- How Canadian high school students convinced 300 Rotarians to offset their emissions
- How YOU can inspire world-wide action through the "I Fix the Planet" contest.



Learn and take hope from the Sept. 25 Adopt a River webinar and the Rotary Environmental Tour in México in October. Design your next project from the options in Rotary's new Environment Global Grant Guidelines. And finally, read how you can find Rotary funders through the [matchinggrants.org](https://www.matchinggrants.org) website, to ensure you can implement it.

Above: the NetZero Heroes Club from Our Lady of the Snows unpacking seedlings for Rotarians to plant offset their travel home from District Conference in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. Photo by Luc Arvisais.

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Rotary Leader's Roadmap for Recovery in Pakistan

By Ariel Miller

By mid-September the worst flooding in Pakistan's recorded history had



plunged over 33 million people into crisis. Action Against Hunger estimates that 127 million Pakistanis were already food-insecure before the floods. Far more suffering now looms from homelessness, crop loss, massive economic disruption, and likely epidemics.

“I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I have never seen climate carnage on this scale,” said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at a [press conference in](#)

[Karachi](#) on Sept. 10 after touring southern Pakistan. “I have simply no words to describe what I have seen today.”

But architect Muhammad Faiz Kidwai, the first Rotary International Director from Pakistan, takes strength from Rotary’s ethics and worldwide influence. In the midst of weeks of work documenting the disaster, he made time for an interview to inform and encourage fellow ESRAG members.

Faiz sees Rotarians and Rotaractors as uniquely equipped to rally international action. He described how to catalyze sustainable, equitable reconstruction by combining local communities’ strengths with Rotarians’ expertise. As founder and chairman of CG Global, an architecture, engineering, and urban planning firm, he draws on decades of results in socially-responsive development that prove his hope is realistic. This includes volunteering to create Rotary Pakistan’s first model sustainable community, Rotary Jo Goth, after the 2010 floods, winning funding from both Pakistani and overseas clubs and districts. And Rotarians, he says, should mobilize the enormous potential of people power – especially women – in our communities.

Photo: RI Director Faiz Kidwai (on right) offering school supplies to a student at the literacy center in Rotary Jo Goth.

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NetZer0 Heroes: Youth in Action

By Avey Herlihy,

Class of 2022

*Our Lady of the Snows School, Canmore,
Alberta, Canada*

Born in the rise of the pandemic, our Net Zer0 Heroes sustainability club at Our Lady of the Snows School has embraced the mission of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and shrinking our carbon footprint. By being aware of our impact, we can find ways to offset the harm that we have created to earth’s atmosphere, and aim to prevent it in the future. Last spring, our six members put our plans to action, and embarked on a carbon calculating journey. We submitted a

report on the Rotary adventure I'm about to tell you about, plus our re-wilding project, for the Earth Prize 2022, and we landed a spot in the Top 34 of over 600 teams!

Our club was able to attend the Rotary District 5360 Conference in Cochrane this past May, where we collected and presented data from over 300 guests on the parameters of their trip: vehicle transport type; return distance in kilometers; and number of registrants in each vehicle. Then, utilizing Tree Canada's Carbon Calculator, we were able to calculate the tonnes of CO₂ being emitted from this transport, and the number of trees needed to offset these emissions. In total, with registrants travelling over twenty-six thousand kilometres to return from the conference, they emitted nearly 6.6 tonnes of CO₂. That means 42 trees were needed to offset their travel home.

Along with offsetting through the planting of trees, our club also listed a series of other offsetting organizations and renewable energy research development companies that could be donated to on behalf of the Net Zer0 Heroes. We informed conference participants about OCO, cleanO2, ESRAG and Yellowstone 2 Yukon, all running out of Alberta. As guests exited the District Conference, they were able to vote on the offsetting option of their choice. Out of the \$2,500 conference participants donated, their votes allocated \$910 to TreeTime, \$300 to Tree Canada, \$400 to Yellowstone to Yukon Wildlife Conservation Initiative, \$421 to ESRAG, \$184 to CleanO2, and \$140 to Captured Carbon Studio.

Above: NetZer0 Heroes celebrating their success in inspiring 300 Rotarians to take climate action.

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ESRAG's Climate Road Map

By Ariel Miller

Led by ESRAG Chair-Elect Yasar Atacik of Turkey, the Climate Road Map Working Group is building a strategy to equip Rotarians worldwide to take effective action on the climate crisis. Aligned with Rotary's strategic goals of increasing our reach and expanding our impact, the Climate Road Map has six goals:



- Goal One: equip clubs and districts worldwide to reduce their carbon emissions
- Goals Two and Five: formalize Rotary's role in

[COP](#) and international [biodiversity conventions](#) through full representation, including becoming an official member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- Goal Three: Motivate the Rotary Foundation, districts, and clubs to adjust their investments in fossil fuels in alignment with world trends and COP 26 commitments
- Goal Four: Increase Rotary's partnerships with reputable international climate solutions organizations to achieve greater reach and impact together.
- Goal Six: Create an eight-year Rotary Climate Change theme to equip Rotarians to implement climate solutions -particularly nature-based - in alignment with the [UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).

Yasar gave a progress report on the Climate Road Map to ESRAG's Climate Solutions Task Force on Sept. 8, generating tremendous excitement.

Photo: The mangrove project of RC La Puntilla on the coast of Guayaquil, Ecuador is an example of a nature-based climate solution.

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Show the World how YOU Fix the Planet!

By Ludwig Kalthoff, MD



With our environment in a growing and accelerating crisis, Rotarians around the world are growing more and more concerned, and asking how to help. They need inspiration and practical advice from fellow Rotarians who are already carrying out many kinds of highly effective projects. You're in the perfect position to bring hope by sharing what you are doing that's *Saving Us*, in the words of climate scientist [Dr. Katherine Hayhoe](#). Tell the world by creating a 70-100 second video on your smartphone, and submitting it to ESRAG's "[I Fix the Planet](#)" contest. Videos must be uploaded by Oct. 31.

The videos will be streamed for an eminent and influential audience including RI President Jennifer Jones at the Rotary Institute "Our Future

is Now" in Basel, Switzerland, Nov. 4th-6th. However, the sooner you record your story and share it on social media, the faster your ideas will empower people all around the world.

The top ranked films will get new prizes this year, including a VR headset for the first prize winner and exhibit space for the top three in ESRAG's Virtual Reality [EXPO](#). ESRAG's Regional Chapter Chairs will serve as the contest judges, AND there's a People's Choice component. The more people you get to

watch and vote for your video, the more points you get. Even better, the more people see your film, the faster your good ideas will spread and be replicated. You can make environmental solutions – and Rotary's role – go viral.

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Adopt a River Webinar Sept. 25 9 am Pacific Time, 4 pm UTC

By Salvador Rico

In honor of World Rivers Day on September 25, ESRAG partners with the United Nations Environment Program to offer a webinar on strategies to support healthy watersheds and clean rivers.

The speakers are :

- Leticia Carvalho, Chief, UNEP Marine and Freshwater Branch
- Gavin Reynolds, Programme Manager, UNEP Freshwater Ecosystems Unit
- Salvador Rico (D5130), Co-Founder of [Cleaning the Rivers of the World](#)
- PDG Ernesto Benitez (D4170), Editor of Rotary Magazine Mexico
- PDG Dr. Bricia Elawar (D5330), President of the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo Initiative
- Engr. Vicente Paredes Almanza, (D4140) Co-Founder, Cleaning the Rivers of the World



[Adopt-A-River for Sustainable Development](#) is an effective way for Rotary clubs to catalyze community and stakeholder action to protect, restore, and sustain rivers and freshwater ecosystems. Adopt-A-River has been successfully piloted in District 9212 in East Africa for the last two years. We are advocating to restore freshwater ecosystems, rivers, lakes, and watersheds, from the mountains to the ocean. River projects are more successful through building partnerships with all stakeholders: residents, businesses, industry, government at all levels, Rotary Clubs, and NGOs.

Adopt-a-River combines UNEP's global mandate and technical expertise with Rotary's global reach and community partnerships. Together we raise public awareness and inspire collective action to reduce chemical pollution, raw sewage discharge, and solid waste, including plastic, before it arrives in the ocean. Watershed restoration is a climate solution, due to the role of forests and wetlands in sequestering carbon. As the Little Akaki project in Ethiopia illustrates, Adopt-a-River projects also promote peace by reducing conflict.

Join us Sunday, September 25 to learn how your club can be part of the Adopt-A-River program. Invite your Rotary and Rotaract friends to make new partnerships with Rotary Clubs to protect the waterways in your region and around the world. [Register at this link](#) in advance for this webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Rotary Environmental Tour México Oct. 20-26!

By Salvador Rico

Rotary Districts 4140, 4170, and 4186 invite you to visit high-impact environmental projects being carried

out by Rotarians in México! The 2022 Environment Tour México includes the world-famous Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary in Toluca, wastewater treatment, riverbank and watershed restoration on the Río Lerma, a water catchment system for schools, and reforestation. You'll enjoy hands-on service and opportunities to learn about projects your club or district can

sponsor. These Rotary projects are inspiring examples of Action Goals in Rotary's new Environmental Global Grants guidelines, including biodiversity, preventing pollution by plastics, chemicals, heavy metals, and sewage, and climate solutions. Wetlands are an important carbon sink.

Rotary environmental grants are now LIVE! We'll visit the Save Lake Iguala-Tuxpan project which has just been awarded a Global Grant. You'll also see the artificial coral reef in the Sea of Cortez, for which a Global Grant application has been submitted and is now under review.

This is a first-of-its-kind Rotary tour which we hope many other countries will replicate. Rotarians from the USA, Canada, Spain, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Ecuador are already registered. Club Rotario Industrial in Guadalajara invites you to start your trip Oct. 18 or 19 and stay with Rotary host families as you discover this historic, beautiful city. You can also extend your trip to take part in the Rotary Project Fair in Zapatlán from Oct. 27-Nov.2, including the city's famous Day of the Dead festival on an island in a lagoon.

Our Rotarian friends in México in districts D4140, D4170 and D4185 have been working really hard to make this Environment Tour a success, including promoting it with a full-page ad in Rotary Magazine México to give it national coverage. Use the links below to register, receive more information and to be part of this historic event, restoring the environment one project at a time.

- [2022 Environment Tour Mexico Registration](#)
- [Project Fair Registration](#)
- [Travel Insurance](#)



Rotary Releases Environmental Global Grant Guidelines

By Karen D. Kendrick-Hands, JD



This summer The Rotary Foundation (TRF) released [guidelines for environmental global grants](#) which both expand and fine-tune the initial Environment Policy statement from July 2021. The guidelines offer sound advice to equip applicants to achieve a “positive, measurable, and sustainable influence” in reducing the harm of environmental hazards on communities and regions. While only Global Grant Projects *must* comply with these guidelines, districts and clubs will create more effective and durable environmental projects by following strategies in this guidance.

To be eligible for a global grant, a project needs to fit at least one of the four Rotary objectives for the environment. The guidelines include twelve Action Goals that applicants can address under the Objectives. Action Goals 1-8 are essentially the same as in the July 2021 policy statement. New action goals 9-12 invite applicants to address land use planning, enhancing environmental innovation, graduate school scholarships for environmental careers, and including the environment in Global Grant projects that advance other Rotary humanitarian Areas of Focus in protected natural areas. The policy's interdisciplinary approach is most welcome.

Most noteworthy is the frequent discussion of advocacy, going beyond just education and awareness-building. Past RI presidents Ian Riseley and Barry Rassin have both encouraged advocacy in your local communities as part of Rotarian service. "When you attend a community meeting," Ian says, "wear your Rotary pin; it will make a difference in how they listen when you speak." The guidelines also underscore the importance of working with appropriate governmental agencies and NGOs in community assessment, permitting, funding, and institutionalizing the interventions of the project so that the change is long-lasting and sustainable. This is a departure from Rotary's historic preference to develop projects without engaging government.

Read more for a summary of TRF's four Environment Objectives, eligible Action Goals, and guidelines for community needs assessment, budgeting, and evaluation.

Photo: DG Kikis López de Arbesú, D4185, describing the artificial reef in the Sea of Cortez for which the Rotary Foundation is now reviewing a Global Grant application. Participants on the Rotary Environment Tour sponsored by three Rotary Districts in México (see related article) will get to see this project.

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Eminent Rotarians Share Website to Match Projects to Donors

By Ariel Miller

Eminent Rotary leaders PDG Shab Elawar (D 5340, USA) and PDG Deepak Gupta (D 3012, India) gave a joyous tour of the website www.matchinggrants.org to ESRAG's Projects + Seminar on Sept. 8. Developed by Shab and fellow Rotarians in California, this [website](#) connects project teams to clubs or districts with funds ready to put to work. Choosing either the Global Grants or District Grants option, you post a description of your project and the matching funds you need to implement it.



PDGs Deepak Gupta and Shab Elawar speaking to the ESRAG Projects + Seminar Sept. 8



In addition, a team of Rotarians hold an online Global Grants Project Fair on the third Tuesday of every month. You can pitch your project for this forum by emailing ESRAG member [Nagiyoti Bollapragada](#) of India.

Both PDG Shab and PDG Deepak are dedicated philanthropists and Arch Klumpf Society members. They described the huge satisfaction Rotary donors receive from connecting with excellent projects through this website. "India now has the second highest per capita giving to Rotary in the world," said Shab, a Platinum Trustees Circle donor who has aided hundreds of global grants as a participant or technical adviser. "It's because they understand the need and see the impact of Rotary projects on their communities." PDG Deepak reported that global grants in his district have inspired several Rotarians to donate \$250,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

"I've seen it take 15 minutes on this website to find Global Grant partners for a project: previously it would have taken six months," said PDG Deepak, who is the Rotary Foundation's Endowment and

Major Gifts Advisor for Zone 4. “It’s because people get to know each other. That’s why giving in India has increased so much.

“These relationships have really helped,” he added. “For example, an HPV vaccination project originally planned for 2019-20 had to be postponed because of the pandemic. The vaccine cost increased three times. The partners were so patient: they kept increasing their support and the project finally took place.”

“Please do not leave any World Fund dollars on the table!” said Dr Chris Puttock, Past Chair of ESRAG. “Only \$2.3 million has been allocated since July 1, 2021 in Rotary Environmental Global Grants. If districts do not spend their District Designated Funds within five years, they lose the money.”

**Visit the [ESRAG website](#) for a wealth of resources to equip you to become
People of Action protecting the planetary conditions on which we all depend for life.**

**The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group
operates in accordance with Rotary International policy,
but is not an agency of, or controlled by,
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