



UBUNTU FOUNDATION 2021

PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE



FOREMOST

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thanks to Ubuntu Foundation's ongoing support for our projects, the first half of 2021 has seen us further develop our existing programs through engaging new partners, strengthening our digital presence and increasing our capacity on the ground. Ubuntu's funding of our core staff has allowed us to support our teams in Australia and India during these challenging times, whilst the extension of our Development Manager's initial contract has led to new funding opportunities, which have resulted in the expansion of our International Development work to the Solomon Islands.

At the heart of Ubuntu's support are our existing projects in India. Over the past 6 months the India team have created and trialled an organic waste composting program for households, farms and businesses, centred around our target region - one of the country's poorest coastal communities. This program has developed an innovative and unique way to manage organic waste (including fish scraps), preventing it from polluting waterways and the ocean, whilst addressing a range of associated human health issues. The end-product produced from these systems was recently certified as organic compost by the Kerala Agricultural University.

Further to the above, Ubuntu's funding has enabled us to support our team in Australia, rolling out our ecologically-focused River Warriors program in order to survey, map and highlight conservation challenges and solutions in key waterways. This work is currently exploring Blue Carbon and its potential to sequester carbon from the atmosphere - mitigating warming, whilst restoring and protecting vital seagrass, saltmarsh and mangrove habitat.

We couldn't have achieved any of this without Ubuntu Foundation's support. From the bottom of the PCFML team and I's hearts, thank you! We are very excited to see what the future has in store for this partnership and where it can take our vital work for people and planet.

Karl Goodsell
Karl Goodsell
Founder & CEO

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MARINE POLLUTION PROJECTS

TURNING WASTE INTO WEALTH

Our team have visited and worked in a number of developing coastal communities around the world. In every one of these nations it's clear that the challenges facing the ocean and the communities themselves are linked. In both India and the Solomon Islands locals overwhelmingly agreed that waste management (especially plastic pollution) was the most pressing localised threat to the health of the ocean. Without addressing it first, they believed that there would be an uphill battle to solve other major environmental challenges such as waterway degradation and collapsing fisheries.

Given this local insight, our first Global Program in India focused first on addressing solid waste-related issues, through what have now become a range of *Waste to Wealth* programs. These include the four priority programs mentioned on the facing page, as well as advocacy, lobbying, in-depth data collection, monitoring and reporting to ensure that our programs can be self-managed at a local level and replicated in other coastal communities around the world. They also help us to measure outcomes - highlighting strengths, challenges and opportunities, which ensure maximum program effectiveness.



HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION SERVICE

Putting solutions back into the hands of communities through setting up a free door to door Waste Collection Service.



LEAVE NO TRACE SOURCE REDUCTION

Eliminating harmful plastics at their source by working with local businesses to transition to ocean-friendly supply chains.



COMPOSTING & AQUAPONICS (CAP)

Producing food and income from waste. Decentralising local economies, while taking the pressure of marine ecosystems.



ACTIV8 TRAINING PROGRAMS

Developing the foundations for new economies and ideas. Providing a platform for conservation-focused employment.



ADVOCACY & LOBBYING

Working with companies and government to create ocean and community-friendly policies that support our programs.



DATA COLLECTION & MONITORING

Using state of the art GIS technology to capture program metrics, informing impact across our priority areas.



Despite an incredibly challenging year for communities around the world, Ubuntu's support in India has helped our programs to grow and thrive.

In spite of ongoing lockdowns and the limited access that we have had with our target communities, over the past six months our team in India have:

- ✓ Run four trial programs of our Black Soldier Fly home composting units, which turn household organic waste into a usable and sellable organic compost;
- ✓ Been successful in obtaining organic certification for our compost end-product from Kerala Agricultural University;
- ✓ Begun running trials with the compost at 2 commercial farms, 2 businesses and within 10 household garden plots to determine success and scalability;



In addition, we've been exploring new opportunities, including rolling out our River Warriors river restoration projects on the Gangaya Estuary and engaging our target community in developing a well managed, sustainability-focused fishing cooperative (with potential for coral reef reconstruction). We are excited to explore these programs with the support of Ubuntu over the coming months.

- ✓ Developed a COVID-safe zero contact version of our Waste Collection Service;
- ✓ Developed a step-by-step Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) composting manual in English and Malayalam to be distributed among the local community in order to allow them to set-up the organic waste composting program at home;
- ✓ Conducted training programs for women to stitch bags out of soft plastics to be sold at the fish market. So far they have produced 80 bags as a trial, with positive sales results and customer feedback;
- ✓ Run trials to test the production of beams for our *Waste to Wealth* household aquaponic systems, utilising results to inform a new design;;
- ✓ Engaged a team of local engineers to design a larger extrusion machine to turn collected soft and hard plastic waste into aquaponic systems through the creation of larger plastic beams and a new lock-in assembly mould design;
- ✓ Identified and engaged further street food vendors and businesses to participate in our *Leave No Trace* plastic-free programs, which will recommence once COVID restrictions and the monsoon season eases.



Thanks to Ubuntu's ongoing support, we've been able to secure funding to develop our *Global Programs* in the Solomon Islands. Ubuntu funds are also supporting the employment of two full-time PCFML team members from the community. This exciting new project officially commenced in May, 2021 with seed funding by the *Pacific Development and Conservation Trust* - an initiative of the New Zealand Government.

Our work in the Solomons is allowing us to replicate the model that we developed in India and follows the theme of '*coastal communities teaching coastal communities*', with our India team training the Solomon Islands team to lead their local projects. At present, the Solomon Islands team is focused on delivering the following outcomes over a 12-month period to April, 2022:

- Running door to door surveys of our target region on Gizo Island to understand the community and to be able to track our progress via interactive GIS maps. This will enable us to determine where more training and education programs are needed, as well as setting a solid foundation for our weekly collection service as the program evolves;
- Implementing a *Waste Collection Service* program on Gizo Island, engaging, training and employing 10 local women leaders to roll the program out across 100 households by April 2022;
- Developing a Waste Bank program with the 100 participating households to allow funds received from recycling to be pooled into a social and environmental grants program, which participating households are eligible to apply for every quarter;
- Opening a Marine Conservation Centre, Training and Waste Management Facility on Gizo Island with our local partners *Strongim Bisnis* and *Plasticwise Gizo*;
- Designing and building plastic shredding and extrusion machines to shred and repurpose collected hard and soft plastic waste from our Household Collection Service;
- Designing a trial of our first locally manufactured Composting & Aquaponic (CaP) systems, built with collected plastics via our shredding & extrusion machines.



Our *Global Programs* demonstrate how everyday household and business waste can be repurposed to create social, environmental and economic benefits. By combining income generating activities with social and environmental outcomes, our goal is to create much needed waste management services driven by communities, for communities and funded through the projects themselves.

With Ubuntu's support, we are excited to take our programs beyond our *Waste to Wealth* model over the coming 12 months and beyond. We've been exploring opportunities for waterway remediation and sewage treatment, fisheries management and coral reef restoration programs and have been in talks with numerous engineering firms, government agencies and partner NGO's to turn these dreams into a reality. We're excited to continue working with Ubuntu towards these aims, creating truly unique and life-changing programs that redefine our economies based on a *conservation over exploitation* approach.

RESTORATION & CLIMATE PROJECTS

CREATING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF A CHANGING PLANET

With the most recent IPCC report outlining that limiting global warming to the crucial 1.5-degree threshold set out in the Paris Agreement is now virtually impossible, extreme weather events could put billions at risk by 2100. Despite these apocalyptic predictions, the report also offered a glimpse of hope. One that



could only be made possible by decarbonising our economies at a rapid rate over the next few decades.

Since 2019 we've been working towards a plan to play our part in addressing the biggest threat to global marine life. One that will help to combat climate change, increase habitat and ensure a more resilient future for the coastal communities with whom we work.



Thanks to the additional capacity that Ubuntu funds have provided, we've been able to bring the planned evolution of our River Warriors project to life! Shifting our focus from marine debris and water quality, the program has now expanded to include a more holistic approach to the management of estuaries and rivers that are facing a variety of threats along the east coast of Australia.

Our current pilot River Warriors ecosystem restoration project commenced in January, 2021 with joint funding from Australian Ethical, Southern Cross Credit Union and the Byron Shire Council. Ubuntu's support has co-funded the program Coordinator and is helping us to achieve the following:

- An in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the river through an ongoing monitoring and mapping program, which is highlighting vegetation coverage, bank erosion, water quality and marine debris and pollution hotspots;

- The development of long-term relationships between a range of stakeholders in the region. Bringing fishers, farmers, scientists, government and business together to protect our rivers;
- Developing a Blue Carbon methodology and feasibility study into what a voluntary Blue Carbon credit scheme could look like and how we could implement it at a local level (an Australian first, if successful);
- Identifying priority areas for restoration, based on our research and mapping, existing datasets, as well as input from our range of partners.

With Ubuntu's ongoing support, we aim to commence our Blue Carbon seagrass and mangrove restoration work on the Brunswick River, as well as expanding the program to the Sunshine Coast region in 2022.

As mentioned earlier in this report, we're also very excited by the potential that Blue Carbon programs have in developing communities. Given reduced program costs and the increased relative carbon credit income, we see a bright future for broad-scale restoration in the mangrove forests of Kerala and the Solomon Islands - expanding habitat, mitigating extreme weather events and sequestering tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere. We hope that Ubuntu will join us to make this dream a reality!



ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE

INTEGRATING SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND LONGEVITY INTO OUR MODEL

The biggest challenge facing the non-profit sector in Australia is funding and resource-related, with many charities not making it through their first 12 months of operation. With demand for charitable services ever-growing, especially since the onset of COVID-19, it's worrying to see how little there is for the vital services that charities provide for our communities, environment and climate.

Like many Australian charities, PCFML's journey has been a challenging one. When we formed in 2012, we had \$100 in our bank account and not a great deal of understanding as to how to run a successful non-profit. Relying solely on volunteer support and pro-bono services, we worked late at night and on weekends to keep the charity afloat. In time, this paid off as we were lucky enough to increase our growth over the years to a point where our CEO was able to be employed on a part-time basis in 2018. Since then we have grown rapidly - expanding our programs and networks, as well as our core paid staff team from one to seven, as well as an additional fifty or so casual women that we now employ in India and the Solomon Islands.

Over the past two years The Ubuntu Foundation's support has been a vital part of our continued growth. It has enabled us to fund our CEO and Development Manager's wages, whilst assisting with program funding gaps to ensure that we can keep the rest of our core team members employed. This has allowed us to increase program efficacy and scope, refine our strategic plan, improve our Governance structure, develop a long-term Development Strategy, engage a range of new partners and sponsors, as well as paving the way for a new Brand Ambassador Program, which we are now discussing with a range of well-known ocean-based extreme sports athletes.

In line with the virtues of compassion and humanity that make Ubuntu so unique, your support has been unequivocally the most beneficial and exciting opportunity that we have had during our (almost) 10 years of operation. The potential that Ubuntu brings to our programs and the people, wildlife and systems that benefit from them is beyond words. We are so thankful for your generosity and passion and are looking forward to continuing to create a lasting legacy that makes this world a better place for all life, not just the marine kind!





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