

## MEDIA FACTSHEET

### Ecosystem Restoration Camps

Together we are restoring the earth

#### Who we are

Ecosystem Restoration Camps is a global movement of organisations that are restoring degraded ecosystems and introducing regenerative techniques in managing lands and waters.

Ecosystem Restoration Camps enables ordinary people to play a role in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, halting biodiversity loss, restoring water-systems, improving food-security and reducing poverty through the return of sustainable livelihoods in degraded areas.

In 2016 we established Camp Altiplano in Spain, the first Ecosystem Restoration Camp. We now support **37 camps** in **26 countries** across six continents.

The camps are living labs where local people and international volunteers (“campers”) learn about and take on the task of restoration, in the move towards regenerative systems which are now becoming central to our survival.

To date the camps have contributed to the restoration of 2,700 hectares, with more than **185,500 plants and trees** planted by over **9,200 campers**.

Our goal is to have **one million people come together by 2030** to reverse ecological destruction and restore abundant biodiversity in 100 camps around the world.

We are a non-profit foundation supported by individual donors from over 30 countries and guided by an Advisory Council comprising leading figures in the earth restoration field.

#### Why ecosystem restoration?

*“Regeneration is emerging as humanity’s transformative response to the converging ecological, economic, and social crises we are facing.”*

Daniel Christian Wahl, Ecosystem Restoration Camps advisory council member

Healthy ecosystems underpin everything that humanity needs to sustain life on this planet, yet almost three quarters of our planet’s land is degraded, and more than 3 billion people are affected by soil erosion which is caused by land mismanagement and unsustainable agricultural techniques.

The United Nations has declared 2021 – 2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, recognising that it is vital that we act now to reverse the effects of land degradation that is bringing about biodiversity loss, a lack of food and water security, compromised livelihoods and a reduction in carbon sequestration, which is essential to stave off the worst effects of climate change and to create a safe CO<sub>2</sub> level in the atmosphere.

There is a chance for us to restore massively degraded land and **turn the tide on climate change**. By rehabilitating damaged and degraded forest and wetland ecosystems and practising regenerative agriculture, we can restore natural function to the land so that local wildlife returns, soil-fertility is increased, soil erosion is reduced, and entire food webs re-establish themselves.

### Restoration camping experiences

Joining an Ecosystem Restoration Camp is a great way to give back to the planet and make a positive impact on a local region. The camps offer a range of short to long-term learning opportunities for everyday people to learn how to **restore and rehabilitate degraded landscapes**. They are places where people can physically take part in bringing land back to life. With so many people suffering from eco-anxiety and not knowing how to act in the face of the major environmental and social issues humanity is confronted with, the rediscovery that each individual can have a positive impact on our planet brings hope and empowerment.

Activities at camps include planting and growing native and food-producing plants, creating water catching and holding earth structures, re-building soil health, monitoring progress, collecting seeds and generally learning about the land.

The **camps are self-organised and self-governing** with facilities, cost, minimum stay length and restoration activities varying from one camp to another. Camps also host events throughout the year (Covid-19 permitting!) and weekend stays are often possible.

Campers have the chance to **learn and practice new ecosystem restoration skills** – such as how to produce organisms for soil building in Mexico, agroforestry practices unique to the Altiplano region of Spain, or techniques to regreen the desert in Egypt.

### What do our camps bring to their local area and the planet?

- Camps are places where local people (farmers, fishermen, landowners, and anyone else living in an area) and experts come together to **design and implement plans to restore the ecosystems** on which they depend and start with introducing regenerative farming techniques.

- Camps provide the opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together for a meaningful, hands-on restoration experience that changes the way they see their relationship with earth.
- Camps help **sequester carbon in plants and in soil**, contributing to mitigating global climate change.
- Camps **physically cool places** – an effect of vegetation on the ground – bringing down temperatures and creating healthier micro-climates.
- Camps help create places where biodiversity – plant and animal species – are no longer threatened with extinction but can thrive and **maintain a robust natural system** and a strong local web of life.
- Camps help **restore hydrological cycles**, filling streams and rivers with water and, when large enough, even encouraging rain.
- Camps restore and **build sustainable livelihoods**. Through regenerative agricultural techniques, people and their economies can thrive. The camps have an immediate positive effect on the local service economy through an influx of people travelling to these often desolate places.
- Camps provide a **stable food supply** – regenerative agriculture in healthy ecosystems significantly increase the food production of land.
- Camps **revitalise communities and societies**, through working together and building a sustainable future.
- Camps are **learning centres** where skills and knowledge can be transferred that can then be used to restore ecosystems around the world.
- Connections are made between local communities, global citizens and experts. Through this collaboration, camps are building a **strong global community** and a home for all to live well and thrive.
- Camps make important environmental action accessible, inspiring, and fun!

### How can people get involved?






Becoming a member of Ecosystem Restoration Camps is a great way to take immediate action and play a role in restoring degraded ecosystems. With monthly contributions from our members, we can get new camps off the ground and expand restoration projects at existing camps.

## Ecosystem Restoration Camps

Europe		
Country	Nearest town	Camp
France	Brive	Virsoleil
Spain	Caravaca de la Cruz	Altiplano
Belgium	Genappe	Pachaland
Portugal	Grandola	Mama Adama
England	Exeter	Embercombe
Ireland	Carrickmacross	Siolta Chroi
Turkey	Koycegiz, Mugla	Functional Forests
Germany	Schwanebeck	Schwanebeck
Africa		
Country	Nearest town	Camp
Somalia	Garowe	Dryland Solutions
Egypt	Wahat	Sekem Wahat
Egypt	Nuweiba	Habiba
Kenya	Mombasa	Mombasa Mangroves
Gambia	Kartong	Sandele
South Africa	Greyton	Terra Blossom
South Africa	Cape Town	Greenpop
Tanzania	Kitongo	Mainsprings
Morocco	Marrakesh	Chichuoa
North America		
Country	Nearest town	Camp
USA	Paradise, CA	Camp Paradise
USA	Oregon	Camp Community Woodlands
USA	Hotlum	Camp Hotlum
USA	Los Angeles	Camp Birdhouse
USA	Marshall	Camp Watershed Forest Farm
USA	Morgan Hill	Camp Coyote

Central America		
Country	Nearest town	Camp
Mexico	San Miguel De Allende	Camp Via Organica
Guatemala	Livingstone	Camp Contour Lines
South America		
Country	Nearest town	Camp
Colombia	Santa Marta	Camp Mundo Nuevo
Brazil	Caseara	Camp Farm of the Future
Peru	Chirapa-Lamas	Camp Pachakuti
Bolivia	Cochabamba	Camp Chocaya
Brazil	Caçapava	Camp Desperto
Brazil	Sao Paolo	Camp Sinal Do Vale
Colombia	Santa Marta	Camp Jaguar Siembra
Asia		
Country	Nearest town	Camp
Thailand	Uthai Thani	Camp Uthai
Sri Lanka	Mirahawatte	Camp Belipola
India	Durdih Village, Bihar State	Camp Khetee
Oceania		
Country	Nearest Town	Camp
Australia	Byron Bay	Camp Reforest Now
Australia	Buntine	Camp Regenerate WA
Australia	Kyogle	Camp Arcoora

#### Online

-  @Ecosystemrestorationcamps
-  @ecosystem.restoration.camps
-  @EcoResCamps
-  Ecosystem Restoration Camps
-  Ecosystem Restoration Camps

[www.ecosystemrestorationcamps.org](http://www.ecosystemrestorationcamps.org)

#### Who to contact for more information

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