

Center for Human Rights and Environment Integrated Annual Report 2015



The Pascua Lama and Veladero Mining Projects on the Argentine/Chilean Border are a Threat to Glaciers and Permafrost Areas



Letter from the Chairman of the Board



Jorge Daniel Taillant
Chairman and
Executive Director,
CHRE

We are thrilled to announce that the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) launched its first year as a 501 (c)3 non profit organization under United States Law! CHRE began operating *defacto* on January 1, 2015, was legally established on Earth Day April 22, 2015 in the State of Florida, and was officially recognized by the US Federal Tax Authority as a public charity on August 13 of the same year.

For those that know of our advocacy work, CHRE's activities on human rights and environmental protection are not recent. Founded originally in 1999 also as a non-profit but in *Cordoba, Argentina* as its Spanish namesake "*el Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente (CEDHA)*", CHRE has been working to protect and defend people and communities affected by environmental degradation, and to promote more sustainable public policy dedicated to human rights and environmental protection, for nearly two decades. While this is CHRE's first annual [*integrated report*](#) as a US-

based organization, it's now our 17th year devoted to environmental and human rights protection!

Our Programs include initiatives to help our planet reverse climate change and to contain and reduce the atmospheric emissions of Short Life Climate Pollutants, which also spur on climate change as well as damage our ozone layer. These pollutants include black carbon that spews from diesel exhaust, HFC gas refrigerants found in air conditioners, methane that leaks from oil and gas operations or that is released from untreated waste or melting permafrost, and other gases emitted, for example, by traditional cook stoves or brick kilns.

We also work to protect glaciers and permafrost (frozen ground) in mountain environments. These delicate "cryogenic" fresh water resources not only hold our water in reserve but also act as water basin regulators for when we need the water most. Climate change and irresponsible anthropogenic activity on the ground like smoke emitted from traffic, or impacts from mining, are causing accelerated melt of permafrost, placing millions, even billions of people's water supply at risk.

We work to promote corporate accountability and respect for human rights, and to contain hydraulic fracturing (fracking) which is an industrial activity that is unfortunately extending our dependency on fossil fuels, and generating enormous risks and impacts to our drinking water, to our health and to our ecological systems.

CHRE's work takes place locally, regionally and internationally and has been recognized by our peers through awards such as Sierra Club's most distinguished international advocacy award and the very distinguished Sophie Prize, given to our founder for her and our unique contributions to linking the human rights and environmental fields.

We've had an exciting first year in the USA, not only moving and reconstituting CHRE, getting to know our new environment in places like Florida where we are pushing to keep out fracking and California where we've started a glacier and permafrost inventory, but we've also made some great inroads to developing policies to lower emissions from brick kilns in Latin America, we've drawn attention to the human rights impacts of fracking, and we've been able to successfully help implement the world's first and ONLY glacier protection law which we helped pass in Argentina.

This is CHRE's Integrated Annual Report, prepared following the [*Global Reporting Initiative*](#) Guidelines. An "integrated" annual report brings together program and sustainability information, evaluating institutional progress towards sustainable environment. Financial report content has been assured through *Dorothy's Affordable Accounting Services*.

It is to the best of my knowledge and to the best capacity of our team, a thorough, transparent, and fair representation of our work and impact.

Why We Moved

(Political Persecution in Argentina) ...

Our recent move from Argentina to Florida is not circumstantial, and unfortunately responds to risks and threats that are all too common in the world of environmental and human rights advocacy placing human rights defenders and environmental activists in personal danger. CHRE's founder, climate adviser and Board member Romina Picolotti is a victim of this sort of political persecution for her convictions and her actions to promote a more sustainable world. Romina is a winner of numerous global prizes for her and our environmental advocacy. She is a distinguished environmentalist and human rights defender, recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Climate Protection Award for her achievements in negotiating a global agreement to phase out climate pollutants. She won the distinguished Sophie Prize 2006 in Norway, for her (and CHRE's) unique achievements in linking human rights and environmental advocacy, and American University's Peter Cicchino Award for outstanding international public service.

But unfortunately, the types of actions we engage in to protect the environment and to defend communities of environmental degradation around the world oftentimes make us powerful enemies, both from the corporate world but also from the public sphere, where ironically, public *officials* aren't always on our side.

Because of CHRE's successful plea for increased environmental protection and our global advancement in this arena we gained the recognition of the political leadership of Argentina in the early 2000s, and in 2006, Romina was invited to serve as Argentina's highest environmental authority. We were achieving what we set out to do, which was to bring environmental compliance and protection to Argentina and to the region.

Before Romina's tenure as Environment Secretary, Argentina didn't even have vehicles to carry out environmental audits. Between 2006 and 2008, with the help of the US's EPA, Romina hired and trained a new environmental police force, equipped the Environment Secretariat with state-of-the-art environmental technology and began to force polluting companies to comply with environmental law. She buttressed environmental regulations and clamped down on big polluters. In under 3 years while she served as Environmental Secretary, her new environmental police carried out nearly 9,000 acts of environmental compliance and enforcement, fining or shutting down over a hundred very visible polluting companies, including multinationals with *hundreds* of violations of the environmental code. Argentina had never controlled contamination of industry and this began to change with Romina's stewardship.

She authored and ushered in Argentina's new forestry law, and helped get passed the world's first glacier protection law. She introduced new environmental insurance regulations, and promoted public policy, that for the first time defended human rights affected by environmental degradation and promoted environmental sustainability in the corporate sphere. She tackled Argentina's historical challenge of cleaning up one of the most contaminated rivers in the world, the Matanza-Riachuelo River Basin, home to millions of people living in poverty and to thousands of contaminating industrial companies and devised creative and innovative legal mechanisms to steer public policy and multi-jurisdictional approaches to carry out the clean up.

These environmental advances did not come without a price, however. Polluting industries and corrupt political officials that stood to lose from environmental compliance actions, immediately reacted against her as multi-billion dollar programmed investments were all of a sudden having to go through environmental controls, making some of them no longer viable. Some of these actors began waging a media campaign attacking Romina's administration, questioning her credibility and even falsely accusing her of illicit activity.

Unfortunately, Argentina's relatively new and still very weak democratic system is plagued by political and judicial corruption, with one of the highest global indices recorded by Transparency International's corruption index (today at #107 highly corrupt), a dangerous backdrop for the type of advocacy we carry out. And the

more successful our advocacy and ability to get issues like mining impacts to glaciers or the risks of fracking, into the public sphere, the stronger the political persecution against us and against Romina became.

After intervening polluting mining, pulp mills, and large oil companies, she and her staff, *and her family* received death threats. Baseless political accusations and media smear campaigns were leveled at her and at CHRE including current and former staff. CHRE's offices were searched for no reason by judicial officials aiming more for media coverage than to carry out real investigations. Despite initial lack-of-merit rulings over initial accusations, an already errant investigation went on incessantly. Accusations were suddenly changed, new anonymous and alleged evidence materialized in her case but the Court would not show it to Romina or to her attorneys. Ironically, the media gained free access to this alleged evidence circulating it publicly. With no warning, CHRE's bank accounts were closed, making it impossible to receive grants or manage our funds. Romina and CHRE staff phones were tapped and confidential legal information was leaked by Court officials to the media. Romina's attorney was banned from representing her and a Court-appointed lawyer tried to force control of her defense, without even letting her know the legal strategy behind it! Argentina's judicial system violated due process over and over again, in what seems to be an attempt to thwart her advocacy to hold polluters accountable.

Most of our institutional partners began receiving anonymous letters accusing CHRE and Romina of fraud and other illicit activity, questioning our integrity, discouraging them from working with us or funding our programs. Although *neither Romina nor any CHRE staff were ever found guilty of any wrongdoings*, the silent persecution continued. As a consequence of this smear campaign, CHRE lost most of its funding and was forced to reduce staff to a handful of volunteers. The forces behind this persecution were obtaining what they were seeking, that we turn our energy away from our human rights and environmental advocacy.

The Inter-American Human Rights System has noted its concern for this sort of political persecution against human rights advocates, describing the systemic persecution faced by human rights defenders with chilling similarity to what Romina and CHRE's have been facing for nearly a decade (emphasis added):

The IACHR considered ... the following obstacles [faced by Human Rights Defenders] (a) extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances, assaults, **threats, and harassment**; (b) **smear campaigns and baseless judicial actions**; (c) **home raids and other arbitrary interference**; (d) **intelligence activities directed against human rights defenders**; (e) **restrictions on access to information and habeas data actions**; (f) **abusive administrative and financial controls of human rights organizations**; and (g) **impunity in the investigations of attacks suffered by human rights defenders**".

It is for many of these reasons that we finally decided that it was best for our safety, for the safety of our staff and collaborators and for our families, that we transfer CHRE's operations outside of Argentina and with that objective in mind, we moved to Florida. We are grateful that along the way and through this hardship we received assistance from a number of people, who never ceased to support us and to help us get through these difficult times. Durwood Zaelke and his team at the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development and Lewis Gordon at the Environmental Defender Law Center (EDLC) have been especially helpful over the course of the last few years. Their continued support and belief in us has been unwavering!

Romina is now (in addition to continuing her defense in Argentina) preparing a complaint against the government of Argentina at the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, centered on the numerous violations of her human rights and of due process before the law, as well as against the more than 8 year of persecution she has faced with not so much as a citation to hear charges against her or to proceed to trial.

Despite these hardships, our commitment to our advocacy, to the protection of the environment and of human rights of people and communities affected by environmental degradation remains strongly in place and we hope from our new home and new institutionalization to be able to continue to contribute our efforts to promoting human rights protection and to creating a more sustainable society. JDT

Highlights of 2015 Accomplishments

So here we are in Florida at the end of 2015, our first year as a US-based non-profit, and what a year it has been! Not only have we been able to successfully set up the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) as a legally recognized non-profit in record time (thanks for your help Lewis Gordon at EDLC!), and seamlessly transferred operations from Argentina to the United States, but we have been able to sustain and expand our advocacy!

While we are getting to know our new home, Florida, where in time we hope to develop more locally-relevant activities, we have already addressed *three* Florida-specific topics, *keeping fracking out, climate change policy and fresh-water turtle protection*. More Florida-related advocacy is surely to come!

The year 2015 has seen a steady and invigorated advancement on CHRE's key focus advocacy areas:

Climate Change and Human Rights

Cryoactivism (protecting our world's ice)

Regulating and Containing Fracking

Lowering Emissions from Traditional Brick Kilns

Addressing the Impacts of Mining

Promoting Corporate Accountability

Some of the key highlights for 2015 include our incisive global contribution to reverting climate change through including the **elimination of Short Life Climate Pollutants** such as black carbon, methane and refrigerants (HFCs) in global climate negotiations. It seems like a big attribution to make, but the fact is that CHRE's team, and in particular Romina Picolotti, working with our partners such as IGSD and the UN's Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), for which Romina serves on the Steering Committee, we've been able to help steer governments and policy makers around the world to move to phase-out these short life climate pollutants from industries around the world. That contribution alone is slated to have one of the most significant, most immediate and most lasting impacts today on global efforts to reverse climate change trends.



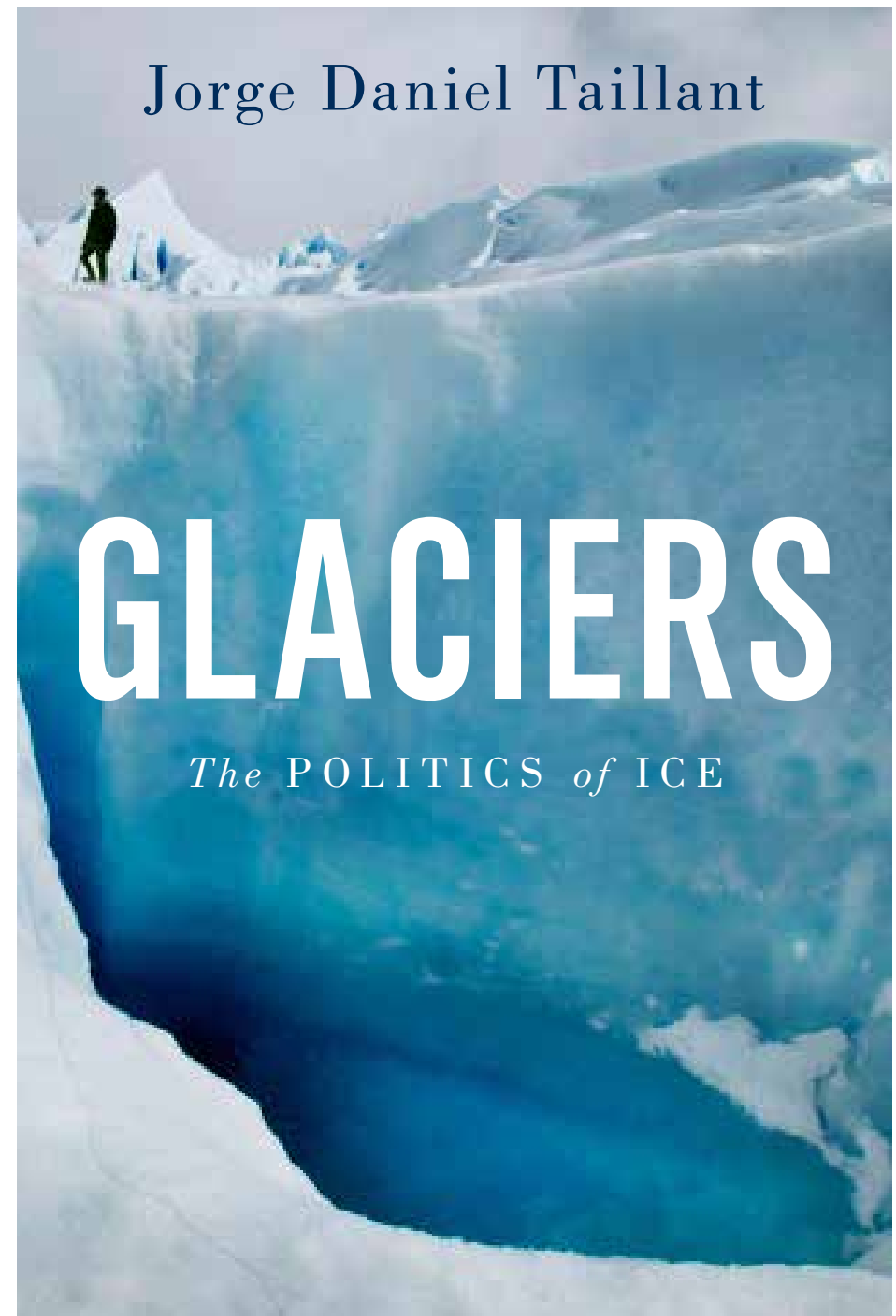
Romina Picolotti with CHRE-partner IGSD works globally on the CCAC's Steering Committee to phase out climate pollutants

Our work on **Cryoactivism** (an advocacy area we have coined and have helped introduce at a global scale) to promote glacier and permafrost protection, which is critical to the sustainability of our freshwater management, has been continuously expanding, from the Andes of South America to Eastern Europe (Kyrgyzstan) to the Sierra Nevada of California. Our publication this year of [Glaciers: The Politics of Ice](#), geared to educate the general population about glaciers and glacier protection, as well as tell the story of how the world's first glacier protection law was passed (something we had a heavy hand in achieving), has had a positive public reception selling nearly 2,000 copies, and is now widely distributed in libraries and other outlets around the world. We are now envisioning an expansion of our work bridging social and political advocacy to protect glacier resources with scientific researchers to draw global attention to the social and environmental vulnerabilities caused by melting permafrost.

Another area of our 2015 agenda is our effort to draw attention at a global level to the **human rights implications of hydraulic fracturing (fracking)**. This highly controversial industrial procedure, which involves the extraction of gas and oil from the ground through breaking up the geology under high pressure by injecting large quantities of water and toxic chemicals, has been shown to cause earthquakes and is a significant source of freshwater, soil and atmospheric contamination. We are working to contain fracking, prohibit it where possible, and regulate it strongly where it is taking place. This year, CHRE produced a [globally significant and unique report](#) and guidelines for government, business and civil society groups on the human rights impacts of hydraulic fracturing operations.

In Florida, CHRE has tackled the vulnerability of freshwater turtles in Palm Beach County (specifically in Jupiter and Palm Beach Gardens, *our home*). We have engaged with local authorities on the State's climate policy, and are reaching out to other like-minded groups and to the Florida Legislature, to contain any and all possible advancement of fracking in the State, particularly its' possible advancement into the highly vulnerable Florida Everglades, home to most of Florida's freshwater resources.

These are just some of the activities that the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) has undertaken in 2015 and which surely will continue to be at the heart of our ongoing advocacy for the years to come.



Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018

As the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) launched activities as a 501 (c) 3 organization under the laws of the United States and the State of Florida in 2015, it assumed and carries forth the tasks and objectives of its former embodiment and Spanish namesake, *el Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente (CEDHA)* originally based in Argentina and founded in 1999. The present Strategic Plan for the 2015-2018 period merges former CEDHA objectives and priorities with newly institutionalized CHRE objectives.

Institutional priorities for the 2015-2018 period are (without specific or prioritized order):

- to legally establish the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) as a non-profit organization in the United States
- to ensure a smooth programmatic/administrative/financial transition from CEDHA (Argentina based) to CHRE (USA based)
- to successfully phase-out CEDHA agendas/activities and constitute CHRE's priority agendas and programs
- to achieve medium-term institutional, programmatic financial and administrative sustainability for CHRE
- to effectively communicate (in a public and private realm) the transition from CEDHA to CHRE, including our defense against persecution
- to diversify CHRE's financing base, to include foundations, governments, and individual donors
- to generate savings of 15-20% of CHRE's average budget to secure operations during funding shortfalls
- to increase remuneration for staff and management
- to maintain and expand CHRE's presence in national and international spheres
- to maintain CHRE's innovative tradition and reputation on human rights and environmental issues
- to maintain an active and engaged website for CHRE's activities and build new CHRE-specific sites
- to promote constructive, engaged and collaborative advocacy work building on partner relations
- to bring CHRE's advocacy work closer to and more engaged with the academic community
- to sustain a steady flow of volunteers through CHRE's virtual internships
- to attract new volunteers to help consolidate CHRE's USA presence
- to learn of and expand CHRE's Florida-related issues and advocacy work
- to learn of and expand CHRE's general USA-related issues and advocacy work
- to expand CHRE's programmatic work (Glacier Protection, Fracking Containment, SLCP reduction) to the USA

CHRE activities for 2015 are all geared to comply and meet the objectives set out in the 2015– 2018 Strategic Plan. Activities are presented by “program” below.

Chilean brick kiln operators produce 1000s of bricks daily by hand. Maule, Chile

Programs

Local community members learn of and gain access to a mining site to visit glaciers affected by the Pascua Lama mining project. Photo Jhon Melendez



Climate Change

There is no more pressing environmental issue today than the collapsing global climate.

Our society is finally coming to terms with the fact that the climate crisis we put in motion during the industrial revolution and which we have accelerated more recently through evermore-intense fossil fuel extraction and consumption, has reached critical and irreversible levels. For the first time in planetary history *humanity is crafting geological times, forcing climate conditions in what many now called the “the Age of the Anthropocene” – a new geological era determined by anthropogenic impacts (impacts caused by humans).*

The irreversible recent dismembering of Thwaites Glacier in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet will cause a sea level rise of 4 ft in the coming decades. This will cause death, disease and housing havoc for millions of coastal community dwellers around the world. Already in many coastal areas local governments are banning new construction near the coast and making plans for flooding, which eventually will happen.

Climate change will produce *and is already producing*, countless environmental disasters, increasing multifold the number of environmental

refugees and incurring society billions of dollars in clean up and emergency expenses—the burden of which disproportionately will affect poorer countries, communities and societies.

In this dire context we have many environmental priorities, including not only to attempt to reverse *or at least slow* this climate emergency, but perhaps more worryingly, our immediate need is to conserve and salvage what remains of our very vulnerable natural resources, including our air and our water, two fundamental natural elements that are at enormous risk due to climate change trends.



Melting arctic ice washes up on the beach, a sign that our climate is deteriorating beyond repair. Photo: Lorenzo Montezemolo

The anthropogenic deterioration of our environment has profound consequences not only for the balance of our ecosystems and environmental resources, but it also has dire consequences for some of the most vulnerable communities around the world, particularly coastal communities in low lying areas or communities hit by changing local climates affected by prolonged droughts, flooding, or irregular temperatures and rain precipitation, that profoundly alter and

diminish local capacity to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

CHRE has been working on climate-related agendas for a number of years, bringing a human rights perspective to the discussion, highlighting the problems faced by the most climate-vulnerable communities and stressing

the importance of introducing more progressive and equitable public policy to address this growing global problem. The richer you are the more you will be able to afford to adapt to your changing climate. Conversely, the poorer you are, the harder it will be to do so and for this reason we need differentiated approaches to addressing climate change impacts.

Climate change advocacy infuses and guides several of CHRE's activities in other programmatic areas, such as our work to protect melting glaciers and permafrost, or when we address the black carbon emissions from brick kilns. These too are "climate change" agendas.

Our work to address the impacts of Fracking is also a "climate" related issue, since very significant fugitive methane from fracking operations is hundreds of times more climate-polluting by volume than CO₂.

Our more *general* policy work on climate change has several dimensions, including **promoting global human rights and climate change debate and policy**, and on this front, CHRE has over the years generated [academic debate and writing](#) on the topic, such as our contribution to introduce climate dimensions to key UN human rights agencies and organizations. We've also helped pass [resolutions](#) at regional human rights agencies (see below, a resolution we co-drafted), such as the OAS, to bring political governmental focus on the human rights implications of climate change, geared to convince governments of the social impacts of climate change as they might not otherwise think climate change is important to them.

[AG/RES. 2429 (XXXVIII-O/08)]

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 3, 2008)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that the international community has recognized the adverse effects of climate change at the international level, principally in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

Much of our work on global climate change policy (which can translate into local policies adopted by governments) takes place through the recently created UN multilateral group, the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition \(CCAC\)](#). This multi-stakeholder global coalition, of which CHRE is a Lead Partner participating in the steering of this network, is promoting key policy around the world to address issues such as diesel emissions from transport, brick kiln contamination, emissions from fire burning cook stoves, fugitive methane from the oil and gas sector, as well as agricultural and urban waste contributions to global warming. The CCAC is focused primarily on phasing out Short Life Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon, methane, and HFCs found in common refrigerants. CHRE's work with the CCAC on many of these agendas is some of our most active advocacy on climate change issues. Not only have we been one of the original promoting founders of this coalition, but we've taken on a leadership role on overall management and a particularly active role in introducing public policy to address contamination from traditional brick kilns.

On this front, CHRE is leading an effort to promote governmental discussions on developing key public policy tools to address brick kiln contamination. We've created the Policy Advocacy Network (or PANLAC) for Clean Brick Production, launched in 2015 with an inaugural capacity building session held for public officials in Maule Chile this year. Maule is at the heart of Chile's traditional brick sector. Other policy tools developed this year by CHRE include the [CCAC's Regional Strategy for Brick Kilns and a Public Policy Course](#) prepared for training public officials on brick kiln related policy.





CHRE is sponsoring site visits, workshops, training and exchanges of public officials with brick kiln experts to develop public policy to reduce emissions from brick production. Photos: JD Taillant

Glaciers

this is the TORO 1 Glacier on the border between Argentina and Chile. Every section of this image is actual ice that is part of the glacier, but it is completely covered by dust and debris from nearby mining activity. Originally, the mining company proposed to dynamite this glacier and haul it away so that it could get at the gold they found beneath (see the company's cartoon below). See the image below of the company's cartoon depiction of its proposal to dynamite the glacier and haul it off in dump trucks! We are working to stop this irresponsible behavior.



Cryoactivism

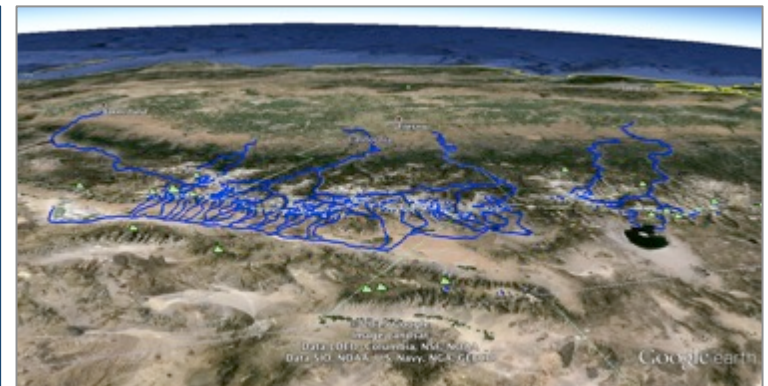
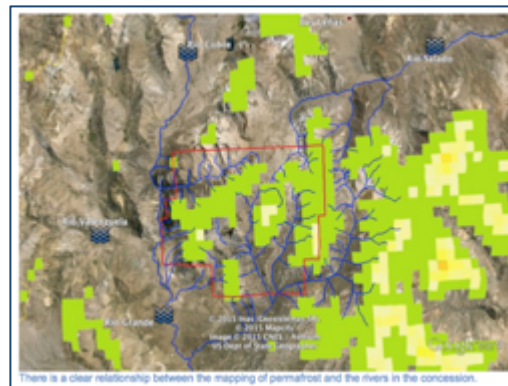
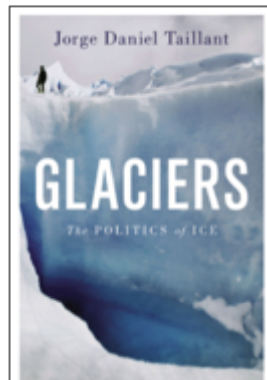
Glacier and Permafrost Protection

It's surprising to realize that 98% of our planet's water is not freshwater and that only 2% is apt for human consumption, agriculture and industrial use. Of this miniscule amount of water available to us, 75% of it is stored in glacier ice, mostly in the North and South Poles. A very small percentage (albeit a very large amount in terms human consume value) of this water is also found in mountain glacier environments. Mountain glaciers perform a fundamental role in supplying our rivers with critical water after the winter snow has melted. If it were not for the "regulatory" function of mountain glaciers, which slowly melt during dry months, until they can be recharged the following winter, we would not have water to cover ecosystem needs for the full year! A key example are the glaciers of the Sierra Nevada in California, which have been feeding Californians water for all of its recent extended drought.

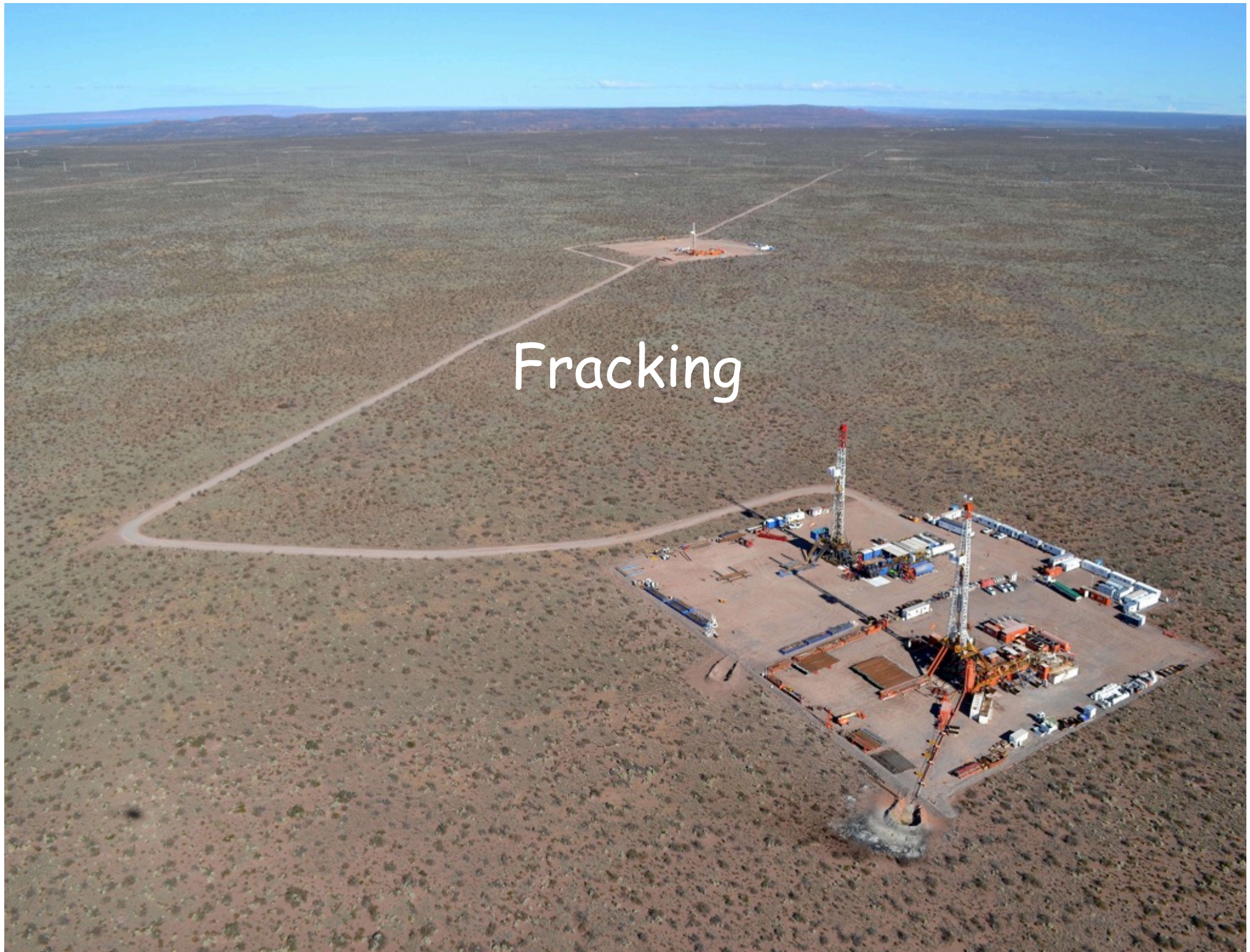
Many communities and even greater regional areas depend on glacier water and water from permafrost areas (broad swaths of frozen lands in high altitudes—that also contribute seasonal melt to downstream environments). Glaciers, and other frozen hydrological resources (such as permafrost) come in many shapes and sizes. Glaciers and permafrost region areas are adapted to their "[glaciosystems](#)"—a term we invented to refer to the natural ecosystem conditions necessary for glacier formation and sustainability, and their integration into the surrounding (and downstream) environments.

Consider a few novel facts about glaciers that may surprise many ... there are *invisible* glaciers hidden from human sight but very much alive underneath the surface of the Earth! There are glaciers that can cause tsunamis that can take the lives of thousands of people in minutes due to their collapse and the subsequent enormous deadly waves they cause that rush down through mountain gorges. These types of tragic accidents will recur in places like Nepal and Peru, as climate changes and glaciers melt, altering their stability and creating risks of collapse into glacier lakes. Glaciers help slow climate change, as their white color reflects sunlight. When glaciers and permafrost areas melt they accelerate climate change due to the sudden decay of organic matter that rests beneath them, releasing large amounts of methane into the atmosphere, a much more potent climate change gas than CO₂.

CHRE's **Cryoactivism** work (advocacy to protect glaciers and permafrost) centers on policies to protect glaciers and social education about a glacier's role and vulnerability. We are pushing for glacier protection laws in places like Chile, Peru and Kyrgyzstan, and helped get the [world's first and only glacier protection law](#) passed in Argentina and are now helping to promote its implementation. During 2015 we published a report on glaciers and permafrost at a proposed mining project in Argentina (see/click below), which convinced local government to block mining permits at the site until glacier safety is guaranteed. We published [Glaciers: The Politics of Ice](#), a book telling the environmental advocacy story behind the Argentine Glacier Law, which also educates non-experts about glacier vulnerability. We carried out glacier and permafrost inventories in places like the Central Andes and began new work in California, where glaciers and permafrost are key in water supply.



Fracking



Fracking

As a global society, over the past several decades and particularly in the early 2000s, we came to the collective realization that we need to move away from fossil fuels, namely oil, but also away from energy derived from natural gas, which while cleaner *on some fronts*, is actually a potent greenhouse gas, up to 30 times more potent as a climate polluter than CO₂. Natural gas *is not* a solution to our climate crisis as the oil industry would have us believe. Renewable energy such as solar and wind should be the growing and expanding focus of our energy sector, instead, because modern horizontal drilling techniques have created opportunity to more easily extract oil and gas from shale reserves, much of the world is again looking at expanding the fossil fuel horizon. Incredibly, we are expanding oil and gas production instead of constraining it!

Hydraulic Fracturing (or simply *fracking*) is a method of extracting fossil fuel by digging deep into the Earth, and horizontally *fracturing* the geology with enormous quantities of pressurized water, toxic chemicals and targeted explosives. The procedure gets at source oil and gas (where the conventional oil and gas was produced in the first place), but where its' extraction is not possible through conventional drilling and extraction methods. Instead, a *non-conventional* technique is used in which over 10 million liters of fresh water mixed with solvents and other chemicals (per well) are pumped into the ground bursting open laminated rocks that contain fossil fuel (either natural gas or oil) in between their lamina. When the pressure is released the mix of water, petrol, gas and chemicals pushes back up to the surface of the earth, bringing up fuel, the contaminated water and the chemicals.



A single fracking pad can have up to as many as 11 wells and contaminate 120 million liters of water

The problem with *fracking* is multifold. First of all, it's basically *more oil*, when what we need to address our climate problem is *less oil*. Methane gas leakages are one of the adverse impacts of *fracking*, and at current leakage rates, methane contamination far exceeds any climate-friendly benefit of burning natural gas instead of coal. Second, *fracking* impacts and places our water reserves at great risk. Drilling to the shale oil and gas reserves perforates our aquifers. While industry tells us not to worry about impacts to fresh water aquifers because they have the casing technology under

control, experience has shown, *and the oil sector confirms it*, that the drilling and piping technology is not trustworthy and is likely to fail.

Third, *fracking* utilizes a vast amount of fresh water in the hydraulic fracturing procedure. Up to 11 million liters of water are used per well, and a single *fracking* pad can have

up to 11 wells! (see the picture above) That's about

121 million liters of water used per pad. This *clean* fresh water is *contaminated* with solvents and chemicals that are favorable to frack but permanently bad for the environment and for the water. That water is then pumped into the ground and pressurized. Finally, when the rock has been broken (fractured) the pressure is released and the water is pumped back to the surface, generating a colossal amount of what the industry calls "produced water", which is **not** water but rather, *industrial effluent*. This must be disposed of, usually in large holding ponds or deep in the geology, representing a large and permanent risk for the local environment.

Given the little information in the public domain about fracking, including amongst policy makers, legislatures, stakeholder communities, and other social actors, and practically NO information in Spanish, CHRE has decided to generate and disseminate information to society about the risks and impacts of hydraulic fracturing, focused primarily on the risks to water resources, to other natural resources like soil and nearby sensitive ecological environments, to climate change and to human health.

We are also reaching out to other colleagues in other countries in this effort, in order to generate discussion and build knowledge in communities in Colombia, Mexico, and others.

We can summarize CHRE's objectives on fracking as follows:

- to deepen social awareness of the risks of hydraulic fracturing operations,
- to improve local and national laws and regulations to control hydraulic fracturing, as well as
- to promote community access to remedies and recourse in cases involving social and environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing operations.

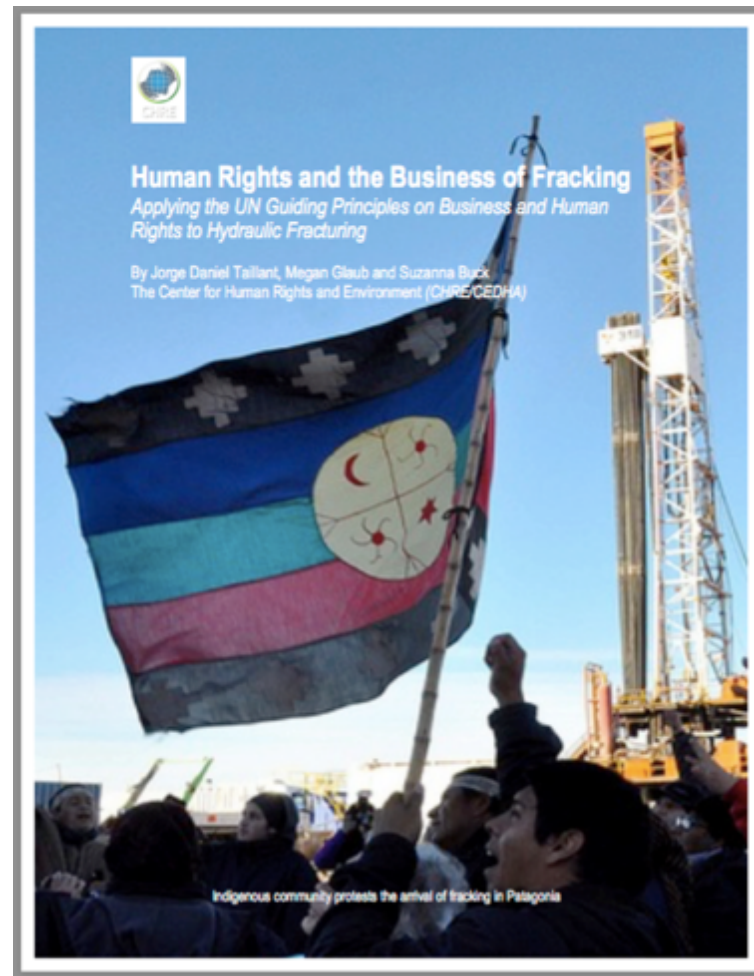
One of the principal focuses of our work on hydraulic fracturing during 2015 was to bring a discussion on human rights into the fracking debate. In this endeavor we published an in-depth analysis of human rights implications of fracking. This report

examines fracking operations from the view of implementing the UN's newly released UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This 100+ page report (click on image) provides governments, companies and communities a technical understanding of just how each step of the fracking process can potentially affect human rights. The annex of the report is a due-diligence check-list and guidance that helps actors apply human rights analysis in a very detailed and easy-to-understand manner, to hydraulic fracturing.

As the year came to a close, we also centered our attention on the debates currently underway at the Florida State Legislature, which was considering a bill to allow for fracking to evolve in the State if properly regulated. We opposed this initiative, preferring that fracking be entirely kept out of Florida's sensitive ecological environment. Our efforts along that of many local activists who engaged the State's legislative representatives paid off just as this report went to press, and the bill in the Florida Senate was halted.

Some of our key achievements during 2015 were:

- publication of Human Rights and the Business of Fracking: Applying the The UN Guiding Principles to Hydraulic Fracturing
- publication of Fracking Argentina
- publication of Fracking for Legislative Authorities (in Spanish)
- An up to-date-website on the evolution of fracking in Argentina and around the world



Corporate Accountability and Human Rights

CHRE's objective in the area of Corporate Accountability is to promote responsible corporate behavior that is respectful of human rights and that is environmentally friendly at the international, regional and local level. To do this we work to influence laws, call out companies that are violating human rights or environmental law, push governments to hold companies accountable for human rights and environmental impacts, and when needed file legal or extra judicial complaints at the local or international level to seek justice for victims in cases of corporate irresponsibility.

CHRE has been one of the global leaders contributing over the years to promoting a "human rights and business" agenda, concerned that less-committed and more philanthropically oriented Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts fell short of ensuring human rights protection. In fact, we helped the United Nations establish its' [three essential pillars](#) in the human rights and business arena focused on:

- 1) strengthening the state's **Duty to Protect** and promote the observance of human rights in a business context
- 2) promoting the **Corporate Responsibility to Respect** human rights and
- 3) improving **Access to Remedy** for victims impacted negatively from business activities

CHRE is helping promote these pillars through its ongoing Corporate Accountability advocacy.

CHRE monitors business activity and its impacts to the environment and to human rights. We research and collect information about business impacts to human rights. We produce reports about corporate social and environmental impacts and promote stronger legislation to protect human rights affected by corporate activity. And we push companies to develop policies to monitor, manage and report on impacts.

During 2015 we worked on several corporate contamination cases, contributed incisively to the growing evolution of sustainability reporting standards around the world, particularly in the transition of GRI's G4 Reporting Guidelines to its new and deepened role evolving into a solid global sustainability reporting "standard" and worked with partners such as OECD Watch to improve the content of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Some of the highlights of our 2015 advocacy work on Corporate Accountability and Human Rights:

- Published: [Human Rights and the Business of Fracking: Applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to Hydraulic Fracturing](#)
- Prepared two Requests for Clarification to the OECD on Timeliness of Governmental Handling Cases and on Substantiating Evidence
- Researched and prepared a memo evaluating the potential of filing an international complaint against a major oil company fracking in Patagonia
- Monitored OECD Guidelines Governmental National Contact Points in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica and Mexico)
- Maintained communications with Glencore Xstrata on a past OECD Guidelines Case involving glacier impacts at El Pachon copper project
- Provided input to communities in Chile advocating for the cancelation of mining permits to Barrick Gold for Pascua Lama's impacts to glaciers
- Produced press materials regarding police violence against crowds opposing mining and fracking operations in Argentina
- Produced press materials regarding a large cyanide spill at Barrick Gold's Veladero mining project in Argentina

Florida and USA-Related Work

It is important for CHRE to begin to look at its new home and identify some of the priority issues that our advocacy can help influence in the State. Home to one of the most important sea turtle nesting grounds in the world, CHRE is located in the heart of this sea turtle nesting. Nonetheless, alongside these fabulous creatures of the sea, a distant cousin of sea turtle are freshwater turtles, unprotected by local laws, suffering persistent impacts from human invasion into their territory. Soon after our arrival we witnessed this problem right in our area, and during 2015, we documented this situation, producing a report about the vulnerability of freshwater turtles. We contacted local authorities in Palm Beach County and circulated information about freshwater turtle deaths and ways to help improve their habitat and minimize the anthropogenic risks and impacts they face. Some examples include the suggestion to place proper signs along roadways.

CHRE also contacted Florida public officials both to engage on discussions to promote sustainable climate change policies As well as with the Florida State Legislative Body, to discourage the evolution of Fracking activity in the State

Finally we should mention the initiation of work to inventory glaciers and permafrost areas in the Sierra Nevada of California. This is a new work underway in our effort at advancing global cryoactivism.

In time, we hope to see more of CHRE's advocacy work take place in Florida and in other parts of the United States.

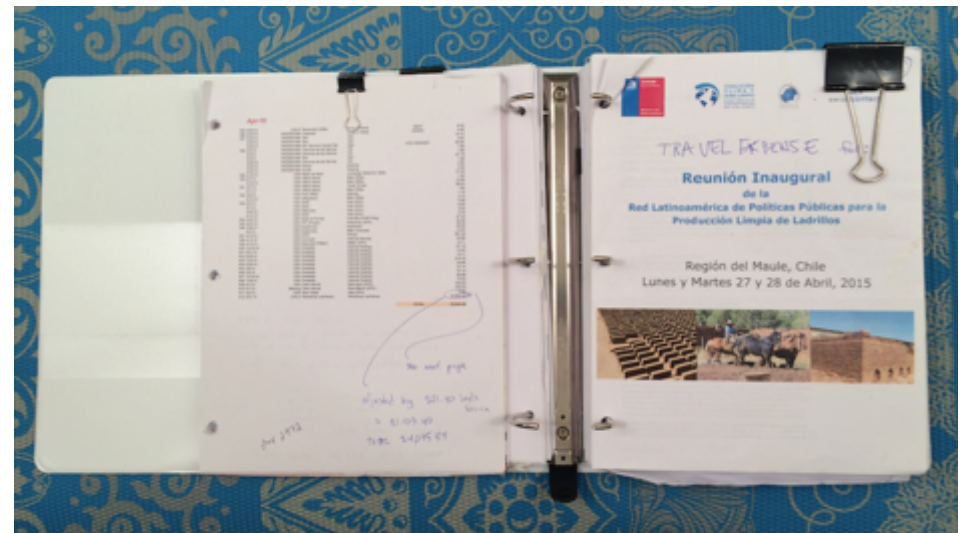
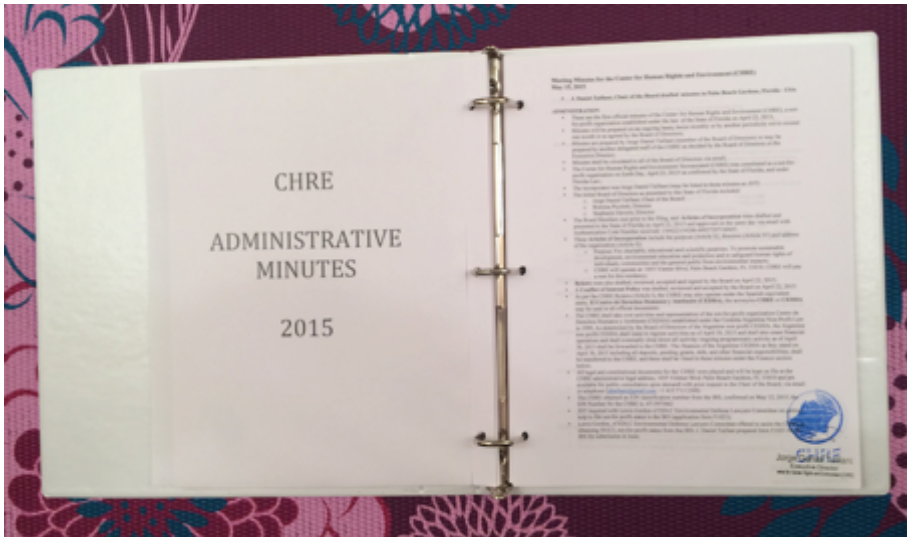


Administration

The Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) is a legally established non-profit organization under Florida State law and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States as a non profit charity 501 (c) 3. The CHRE Board of Directors is a three-person board, as mandated by Florida law. The board, which may expand in the future, consists of three Florida residents: Jorge Daniel Taillant (founder), Romina Picolotti (founder), and Stephanie Daveris (former CEDHA Fellow). CHRE functions in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. CHRE is a virtual organization with contributors, staff and volunteers operate remotely from their place of preference, in varying countries, as defined by their work and personal circumstances. During 2015, volunteers to CHRE were from Argentina, Switzerland and the USA. CHRE documents are filed and stored in Palm Beach Gardens Florida, at the home of the Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director.

CHRE Staff is comprised of its Executive Director (Jorge Daniel Taillant), *ad hoc* consultants hired (as funding is available) to carry out specific programmatic activities and volunteers who also take on a considerable portion of activities, contributing as needed to CHRE's various programs and initiatives. Romina Picolotti serves as Climate Advisor on a non-remunerated basis coordinating CHRE's Climate Change Program.

CHRE activities are logged in Institutional Meeting Minutes prepared bi-monthly containing administrative, financial and programmatic information. These minutes are sent to CHRE's Board of Directors electronically. They are logged by year and kept by the Executive Director. Minutes contain details of programmatic activity as well as a summary of financial standing and movements for the period comprised. Monthly expenses are logged in a separate binder also ordered by year. Both are signed and stamped by the Executive Director and contain a seal of the institution. Exact copies of these documents are sent to each member of the Board of Directors on a monthly basis providing a legitimacy check for their content and accuracy.



Legal Documents and Policies

The Center for Human Rights and Environment has specific foundational legal documents mandated by the State of Florida and by federal agencies, as well as internal operational policies that guide the organization, establish its mandate and institutional objectives and govern staff and board behavior.

These are:

Articles of Incorporation ... which lay out the essential coordinates, governors, and objectives of the organization.

Bylaws ... which establish institutional due diligence.

Conflict of Interest Policy ... which define the relationship between the board members and CHRE.

Office Policies (2016) ... which help guide the nature of our Team Relations, our ethics and institutional character.

CHRE-Mandments ... which are basic rules to live by.

Many of these legal documents and policies were inherited from CHRE's former embodiment CEDHA, but all were reviewed, translated, updated and approved by the CHRE's Board of Directors following our constitution in April of 2015.

Electronic Articles of Incorporation
For
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT, INCORPORATED

101000004008
FILED
APR 29 2015
SEC. OF STATE

The undersigned incorporator, for the purpose of forming a Florida not-for-profit corporation, hereby adopts the following Articles of Incorporation:

Article I
The name of the corporation is:
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT, INCORPORATED

Article II
The principal place of business address:
1015 VENTNOR BLVD
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33409

The mailing address of the corporation is:
1015 VENTNOR BLVD
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33409

Article III
The specific purpose for which this corporation is organized is:
FOR CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL, A SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, TO PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, A PROTECTION AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC PROGRESS/IMPROVEMENT

Article IV
The manner in which directors are elected or appointed is:
AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BYLAWS.

Article V
The name and Florida street address of the registered agent is:
JORDIE DOWNS
1015 VENTNOR BLVD
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33409

I certify that I am familiar with and accept the responsibilities of registered agent.

Registered Agent Signature: JORDIE DOWNS, TALLAHASSEE

BYLAWS
of the
The Center for Human Rights and Environment Incorporated
(as amended July 26, 2015)

ARTICLE I
Name

The name of the corporation shall be The Center for Human Rights and Environment Incorporated. The business of the corporation may be conducted on the Center for Human Rights and Environment. Because of its numerous activities in Spanish-speaking communities, the corporation may also conduct its activities in its translated name (El Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente). The acronym CHRE and CEDHA, corresponding to English and Spanish, respectively, may be used and referenced in official corporate documents.

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The specific purpose for which this corporation is organized is for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, to promote sustainable development, environmental education and protection and to safeguard human rights of individuals, communities, and the general public from environmental impacts.

ARTICLE III
Members

The corporation shall have the power, directly or indirectly, alone, in conjunction with or in cooperation with others, to do all lawful acts necessary or convenient to carry out its charitable purpose for which the corporation is organized and to act in and/or assist other persons, communities or organizations through activities which also result to achieve the purpose. The power of the corporation may include, although not be limited to, the acceptance of contributions, be they financial or in kind, from the public and private sector, from individual persons or from philanthropic institutions, from governments or other public or private institutions which also seek to achieve the purpose or similar purposes of the corporation. The corporation may also receive principal and income in the name and representation of other similar organizations with similar purposes and according to the regulations and conditions mentioned in the Articles of Incorporation and in these Bylaws.

Conflict of Interest Policy
The Center for Human Rights and Environment, Incorporated

Article I
Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the not-for-profit organization's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible conflict of interest. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofits and charitable organizations.

Article II
Definition

1. Interested Person
Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, in an interested person.

2. Financial Interest
A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

a. the ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement;

b. a compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement; or

c. a potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect compensation as well as gifts or favors that are not noncharitable. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article II, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III
Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose



CHRE Mandments

CHRE

- Respect your colleagues and Team Workmates always.
- Be on time.
- Share information that is pertinent with other members of the team.
- Strive for excellence in all you do, be proactive and lead by example.
- Listen to others at least as much as you speak.
- Be an excellent role model.
- Respect others, especially people that think differently and be tolerant.
- Give notice a month, by the 15th of the month and give notice to your supervisor.
- Be on time to work a full day if you're not sure or don't know something.
- Respect of meeting times, and if you cannot, let others know you will be late.
- Keep to schedule on all activities and projects you engage in.
- Comply with the rules you are assigned to and follow up with those assignments.
- Respond to emails promptly and adequately.
- Keep printing documents whenever possible, and keep your office supply use to a minimum.
- Use recycled paper whenever possible, and recycle paper that still has good use in it.
- Use Hubs, Blackboard, Blackboard, Blackboard.
- Be aware that your work is for CHRE and all of CHRE's Team Workmates.
- Be on time on the line of office.
- Ask other members of the team how what you are working on.
- Be aware of and try to reduce your social and environmental impact over time.
- Turn off appliances when they are not in use.
- Be mindful of your personal appearance when working at an representing CHRE.
- Be proud of the CHRE Mandments every time in a work.

Communication

Communications are at the heart of nearly every advocacy organization, and it is no different for CHRE. The year 2015 was a foundational year for CHRE. It was a year in which we moved from one country to another, and in which our actions were largely defined by significant political dimensions and by the troubling consequences of our operations and advocacy. It was also a year of very active programmatic activity in all of our main advocacy areas. Communication about our activities for 2015 was a fundamental dimension of our work. As derives from our Strategic Plan (see above) for the 2015-2018 period, *communicating* information about the transformation from CEDHA (in Argentina) to CHRE (in the USA), is a central institutional objective.

CHRE maintains several email lists and manages various websites through which CHRE communicates to its direct stakeholders as well as to the general public about what it is doing and what is going in the world on issues we focus on. This year, mailing lists were reviewed, edited and updated, incorporating numerous USA-based contacts. CHRE's websites, as has been the case for many years, are a rich source of information about advocacy issues.

One of the visible changes of this transformation was the replacement of the Spanish language logo and former institutional name and acronym with their English versions. This logo and name change was important to our move and will be significant to the long-term recognition of our brand name, particularly considering that CEDHA has 16 years in existence prior to CHRE and has very extensive name brand recognition amongst our colleagues and peers in our field around the world. The challenges of sustaining this Spanish to English name change is helped by the fact that we have used the English namesake in many of our English communications in the past, although we had never employed the English acronym CHRE. We expect this element to remain a challenge.



Websites

CHRE manages and maintains a number of websites and Facebook pages devoted to disseminating information about our work activity and about specific issues related to our programmatic agendas. CHRE's main website is www.center-hre.org and points to CEDHA's previous website <http://cedha.net>

Website pages: (click below, links are live!)

<http://center-hre.org> ... is CHRE's main website (which points to CEDHA's historical website, [www.cedha.net](http://cedha.net))

<http://fracking.cedha.net> ... focusing on the evolution of fracking in Argentina and around the world

<http://Redracc.org> ... focusing on eliminating short life climate pollutants in Latin America

<http://casopasteras.cedha.net> ... recounting an extensive CHRE advocacy case involving pulp mill contamination on the Argentine-Uruguayan border



Facebook pages: (click below, links are live!)

<https://www.facebook.com/minargentina/> ... a page about mining impacts in Argentina

<https://www.facebook.com/Glaciares-Argentinos-122562527824381/> ... a page about glacier vulnerability in Argentina and around the world

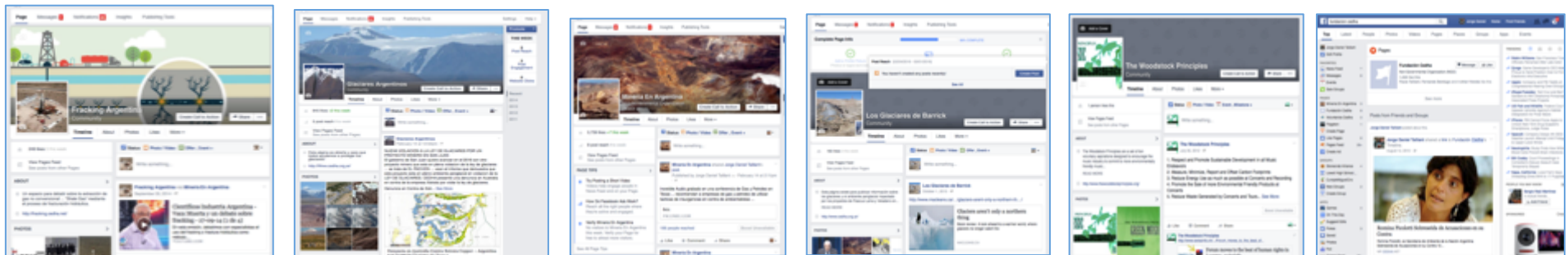
<https://www.facebook.com/Fracking-Argentina-499891123423652/> ... a page about the evolution of fracking in Argentina

<https://www.facebook.com/Los-Glaciares-de-Barrick-350139245096392/> ... a page about Barrick Gold's impacts to glaciers and permafrost

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Woodstock-Principles-265359213577526/> ... a page about sustainability in the music industry

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fundacion%20cedha> ... a page following CEDHA activities (in Spanish)

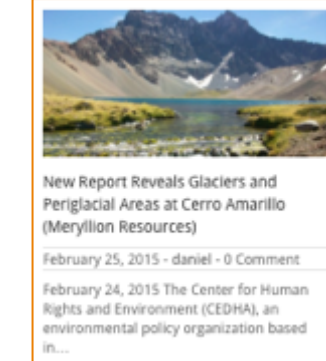
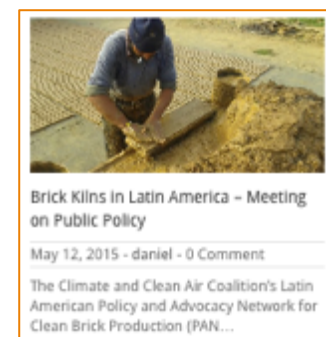
<https://www.facebook.com/VoluntariosCedha/?fref=ts> ... a page for CHRE Volunteers (Spanish)



Press Releases

Our press statements have always been an important part of our institutional outreach. They are generally produced and circulated both in English and in Spanish. CHRE maintains several email lists focused on media contacts, interested government, corporate and civil society stakeholders. We have accumulated nearly 5,000 contacts over CHRE's nearly two decades of existence (previously as CEDHA). They are divided into English vs. Spanish language contacts. These lists were updated in 2015, incorporating a significant number of USA/Florida based contacts. Press releases during 2015 were focused on programmatic activities, global climate change related issues, mining impacts, fracking evolution, newly published CHRE documents and periodic information drawing attention to the persistent illegal persecution of environmentalists in the region, as well as CHRE's staff and our organization.

Below is a selection of these with live internet links so that they may be consulted by the reader.



Volunteers/Fellows/Internships

CHRE's volunteers contribute incisively to our advocacy ... *and they do not serve coffee!* Over the years (previously with CEDHA), CHRE has seen hundreds of volunteers come through our organization, each of them contributing directly to our advocacy work in very tangible ways, from conducting critical research to substantiating our reports, to drafting an international complaint against a company, to engaging with local communities to find ways to help them promote sustainable development and defend human rights.

While in the past CHRE offered *onsite* volunteerships at one of its four offices in Latin America, since 2012 CHRE moved into a virtual *modus operandi*, and now volunteerships are free from a geographically-defined office location. While on the one hand, volunteers no longer benefit from "office" relations the good news is that they can now travel anywhere in the world to do their work, either adapting to their economic, time and travel constraints, or targeting site specific research or advocacy. CHRE publishes information about available volunteerships and institutional needs on its [website](#).


In 2015, volunteers helped CHRE from the USA, Switzerland and Argentina. They carried out research and helped publish some of our most incisive and important reports, including work on glacier protection, Fracking impacts to Human Rights and general information about oil and gas impacts.

Click on image below to see CHRE's available internships!

2015 Interns




Megan Glaub
Esta entrada también está disponible en: [Spanish](#)



Megan is currently a 2L student at American University, Washington College of Law (WCL). Her studies focus on International Sustainable Development, particularly the inclusion of environmental and human rights considerations in business and corporate practice and the law. A fluent Spanish speaker, she received her B.A. in Spanish and Linguistics from the University of Virginia, and became interested in Global Sustainable Development during her senior year there. Megan considers herself a native Washingtonian, and grew up just outside D.C. in Woodbridge, VA. While at the CHRE she assisted in the production of the guidebook *Human Rights and Fracking: Applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to Hydraulic Fracturing*.

Suzanna Buck
Esta entrada también está disponible en: [Spanish](#)



Suzanna Buck currently works with the National Environmental Law Center in Boston, MA, focusing on the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act citizen suits. Her interests center on environmental and public health. Suzanna received her B.A. from Columbia University in New York in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She previously worked with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the NYC Parks Department and performed original research on host immune interaction in Lyme disease. She is co-author of CHRE's *Human Rights and Fracking: Applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to Hydraulic Fracturing*. She also assists CHRE with communications about fracking issues.

Sustainability



“An integrated report is a concise communication about how an organization’s strategy, governance, performance and prospects, in the context of its external environment, lead to the creation of value in the short, medium and long term.”
- [Integrated Reporting](#)

Sustainability at CHRE

Ironically, environmental and human rights organization, are rarely called out to show how *they* promote the very tenets that they insist should be followed by corporations and governments. Questions of legitimacy and representation oftentimes come up in discussions about non-profit advocacy, including NGO commitments to labor rights or to human rights or to environmental sustainability inside their spheres of influence. We of course should be considering *our own* social and environmental impacts caused by our travel, through our material purchases, and we also should be looking out for the well being of our Team Members. And yet, we only rarely hear of efforts by non-profit organizations to report on their own sustainability.

CHRE has addressed this issue nearly since our founding, because the global promotion of sustainability for ALL organizations no matter their size, shape or form, has been at the heart of our advocacy from day one. In fact, CHRE's founder and present Executive Director sits on the [Global Sustainability Standards Board](#) of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Most companies and other organizations around the world utilize GRI to develop their sustainability reports. CHRE has been a key proponent and leader along with GRI in helping evolve global sustainability reporting for all organizations since the early 2000s, helping GRI tackle the incorporation of human rights in their reporting framework in 2002. In 2003, CHRE became one of the first NGOs to produce a *sustainability report*, and with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) we published [a report](#) analyzing why civil society organizations should *also* report their triple bottom line. We also contributed to [GRI's Sector Supplement on NGO Reporting](#). These reports and guidance are still relevant today for helping NGOs define their sustainability materiality and reporting!

The first and most important question for sustainability reporting for any organization is defining what is *material* to the organization's activity that merits reporting. What does the organization do about its own impacts and what is the organizations' policy to address it?



Tree planting is a way CHRE offsets CO₂ Emissions generated by travel

Also, what are its commitments to reduce impacts and the organization's system for monitoring and reporting progress? NGOs should consider who its primary stakeholders are and how those stakeholders engage (or may not engage) with the organization in evaluating its sustainability progress and influencing its policy to address it. NGOs don't generate industrial waste like some of the corporate actors we engage with to promote corporate accountability (mining companies, oil and gas operations, pulp mills, etc.) nor do we have anywhere near their industrial levels of emissions, even from our most contaminating activities. And whether an NGO has 30 staff as we did several years ago, or just a handful as we do today, what is most important in all cases is that at our own level and in our own sphere of influence, we act responsibly and set the example for the rest of society.

Sustainability "materiality" (what is important for us) for an NGO like CHRE has to do mostly with emissions generated from travel (principally air and car travel), and to a lesser degree also with the environmental friendliness (or not) of the materials we consume in the office environment. When we were 30 staff, this consumption was more significant, but now that we are just a handful, it is less material, but not irrelevant and always important to set example. *Also*, and sometimes overlooked, sustainability for an NGO *also* has to do with human rights applied in our office environment. What governs our office relations? How do we manage relations? And how do we resolve our disputes? These human relations issues are "material" to our sustainability.

Another issue that came up in the last few years that related to our public image and which has brought up legitimate questions for our stakeholders is the political persecution that we have suffered with the false accusations and persistent judicial persecution of our founder and the relationship that it has had with CHRE. Our partners or colleagues that may not know us well may have doubts about our integrity when they read information about us in smear campaigns that have been leveled our way. Responding to these public concerns are also an important part of our own social responsibility.

One sustainability area that is always difficult for any organization, and this is perhaps even more difficult for public interest focused NGOs is **defining stakeholders** that might be concerned about the organization's social and environmental impacts. Generally speaking, crowds don't usually gather at our doorstep to condemn us for not carpooling, or for not recycling or for buying bleached printer paper or for not offsetting our CO₂ emissions. No one asks us about our discrimination policy or if we have a human rights policy, or if we have a grievance mechanism to deal with complaints that might be filed by our team members. These sorts of public inquiries about institutional operations which would more naturally occur for large multinational companies, simply do not occur for NGOs, except for a few instances where a partner may ask us about whether or not we've offset emissions, or maybe a funder asks us about the details of our legal documents because they are important for their capacity to give us a grant. No funder or partner, for example, has ever asked us if "we" uphold human rights or if we take actions to reduce our emissions. We are mostly left to ourselves to act as responsibly *or as irresponsibly* as we like, an unfortunate reality that may lead to lax practices amongst the very groups that should be first to set an example for society.

In the early 2000s (keeping in mind that back then society was not as attune to these issues as it is now), we identified *international global travel* as our key area for concern. In just a very short time, and in order to carry out our advocacy work, our staff had traveled many times around the world, generating significant per-capita CO₂ emissions as compared to a person that did not regularly travel for work. We also realized that we were consuming a significant per-capita amount of styrofoam cups in our daily coffee and lunch consumption. We didn't recycle paper nor did we reutilize ink cartridges. More worrisome however, is that CHRE didn't have a human rights policy, or an anti-discrimination clause in our charter or in our bylaws. We were simply living and working as we saw fit, with little or no institutional guidance to help us set a course for achieving our own institutional sustainability. In fact, we were operating in a way quite similar to many of the corporations we were targeting with pressure to be more sustainable!

Our engagement with GRI in the early 2000s, and thinking about how business should handle *their* reporting, helped us find a path towards defining our own dimensions of sustainability. And it was at that time that we developed our first Office Policy, our first Human Rights Commitments, an Anti-Discrimination Policy, and that we set targets for impact reductions. We talked to our local coffee and lunch suppliers to stop utilizing Styrofoam cups

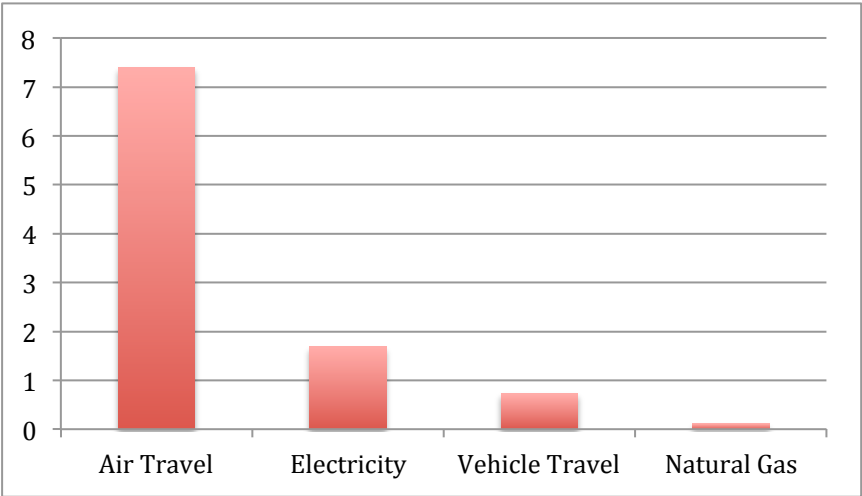
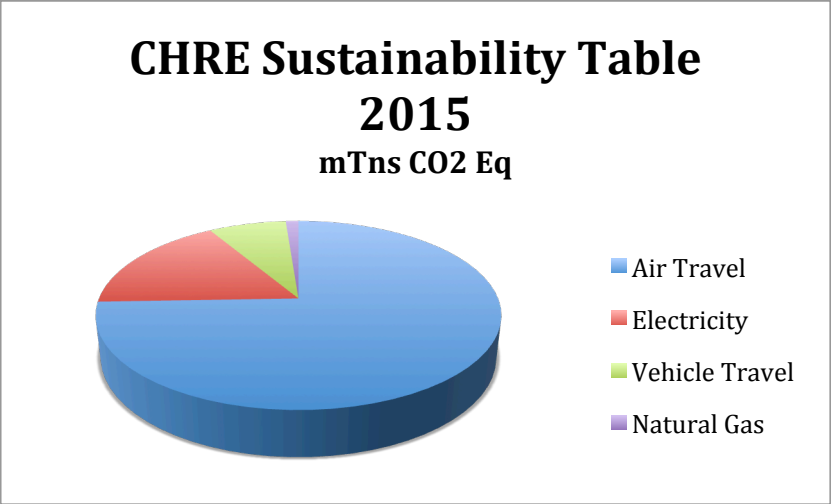
and began utilizing more sustainable office products. We began reducing printing and started recycling office paper. We also began recycling our printer ink cartridges, monitoring our water use, and quantifying our emissions. Our CO₂ emissions concern led us to identify a local organization working on reforestation in the highlands of Cordoba Province in Argentina, and we began a yearly exercise of donating to this local NGO to replant trees to offset our emissions. These outings also helped solidify staff relations with extracurricular outdoor activity.

Since then, we have produced a yearly Sustainability Report, suspending this activity at certain times unfortunately due to budget and staff constraints but always committed to the sustainability of our operations and to following our sustainability policies. In 2012, in large part as a response to the political persecution we were facing in Argentina but also due to our own institutional evolution towards a more reduced and more flexible team size, with more environmentally friendly operations, we decided to move CHRE into to a *virtual* work environment, eliminating the office we maintained in Cordoba.

As we launch the newly US-based CHRE, we decided to bring back sustainability reporting and start CHRE with an “integrated” annual report, that is, a report that *not only* reports on financial and programmatic activity but that also informs on sustainability evolution, social and environmental impacts and progress to meet sustainability targets. It makes for a longer report, but in the end, we are glad to devote a little extra digital space if we can focus on sustainability issues alongside our programmatic reporting. We chose to utilize GRI’s latest sustainability guidelines, the G4 Guidelines and provide an index at the back of this report to indicate where in this report each of the material indicators for the G4 are located.

In sum, utilizing a [web-based carbon calculator](#), we identified that we generated about 10 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent deriving from air and land travel for the year and from gas and electricity consumption. Part of that (1mTn) was offset by one of our partners. We hence will aim to offset 9mTns by planting 9 trees this coming year. We have already planted 4 during 2015 in our immediate area (see picture above of one of them). On the policy side of things, we have reviewed, adapted and updated CHRE’s Office Policy to its new English 2016 version, we’ve updated the CHRE-Mandments (our rules to live by), and we’ve produced key tables and methodology (shown below) that we will use to monitor and report progress as time evolves.

Metric Tons of CO₂ Equivalent



CHRE Environmental Footprint

		CO2 Eq
Electricity (kWh)	2,922	1.69
Natural Gas (Therms)	22.96	0.12
Vehicle Kilometers	8,518	0.73
Air Travel		7.4
TOTAL		9.94
Office Water Use (liters)		80,560

Human Rights

- CHRE upholds, protects and promotes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Universal Bill of Human Rights and all internationally accepted human rights treaties, conventions, resolutions, etc. in and outside the work place and in all of its administrative and programmatic activities.
- CHRE and CHRE Team Members shall not tolerate or accept witnessed human rights violations, and shall strive within their power and responsibilities to make such violations visible and work to address them.
- If knowledgeable of a human rights violation CHRE Team Members shall inform the appropriate authorities of such violations, including, where necessary, local or international police or judicial authorities.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

- CHRE and CHRE Team Members shall not tolerate any form of discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, civil status, or internal administrative hierarchies.
- No person working at, for or with CHRE shall be deprived of the right to express their opinion or share their ideas.
- CHRE Team Members shall strive to obtain the opinions of all Team Members in all matters and circumstances where they would like to offer an opinion.

Measuring Our Impact

CHRE shall measure its social and environmental impacts on a yearly basis and produce a sustainability report along with its regular institutional reporting, based on the Global Reporting Initiative standards (or equivalent reporting framework).

CHRE shall strive to identify the material aspects of sustainability pertinent to its work, and also consider the view of interested stakeholders, including (but not limited to) the general public, partner organizations, other public interest groups, direct beneficiaries of CHRE activities (communities, individuals, etc.) or funders.

Material Consumption

As a Human Rights and Environmental Organization dedicated to promote sustainable development, CHRE also encourages its own Team Members to live sustainably, reduce consumption whenever possible, and to promote the use of environmentally friendly products. As an organization, we promote environmentally friendly consumption whenever possible.

- Electricity
 - All appliances used for CHRE activities shall be turned off when not in use.
 - CHRE will purchase low-energy appliances whenever possible.
- Plastics and other Petroleum derived products
 - CHRE shall avoid whenever possible the purchase of petroleum derived products
 - CHRE shall avoid the use of disposable supplies whenever possible.
- Paper
 - When available, CHRE shall utilize chlorine free, non-white, or other types of environmentally friendly printing paper for its printing needs.
 - CHRE Team Members shall recycle paper utilized for CHRE activities whenever possible.
 - Whenever possible, CHRE Team Members will prefer to use digital documents instead of printed ones.
- Water
 - CHRE is committed to reducing water consumption whenever possible.
 - CHRE upholds the right to water in all of its activities.
 - CHRE Team Members commit to reporting water leaks to the responsible authority.
- Travel
 - CHRE and CHRE Team Members commit to utilizing renewable energy source travel whenever possible and reasonable to do so.
 - CHRE Team Members commit to utilizing local public transportation whenever possible and reasonable to do so.
 - CHRE is aware of the impacts caused by the work related travel of its Team Members. To this end CHRE shall monitor the impacts of this travel and carry out activities to offset them, such as planting trees or other equivalent activity.
- Repairing our damage. CHRE realizes that its own actions cause social and environmental impacts and we shall take measures within our reasonable reach to offset such impacts.
- All Team Members at CHRE shall carry out CHRE related activities in the most sustainable way possible within the reach of the organization and in a reasonable context.
- All Team Members shall apply the precautionary principles in all of CHRE's activities both within and outside of the organizations.

Finances

CHRE's Financial report content has been audited and assured through *Dorothy's Affordable Accounting Services*.

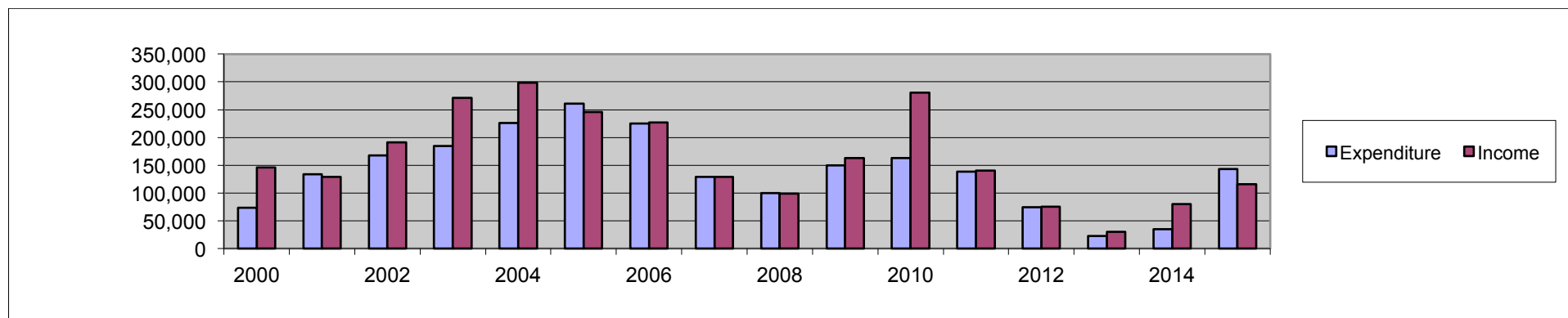
CHRE receives donor funds primarily from institutional donations. This year a small individual grant was added to our grant portfolio. CHRE's budget has varied over the years (previously as Argentina-based CEDHA reporting to Argentine fiscal authorities) and now USA-based CHRE (reporting to USA federal authorities).

During the 2012-2014 period, management of our funds in Argentina became an almost impossible administrative task, as CEDHA's accounts at local banks in Argentina were arbitrarily closed due to the never-ending political persecution against our founder and the smear campaigns waged against CHRE. For this reason, we were forced to rely on a fiscal sponsor (IGSD), which came to our assistance at a critical moment, receiving funds on our behalf. In 2015, now in the USA, CHRE opened new bank accounts in the United States and once again we began managing our own finances with no need of a fiscal sponsor.

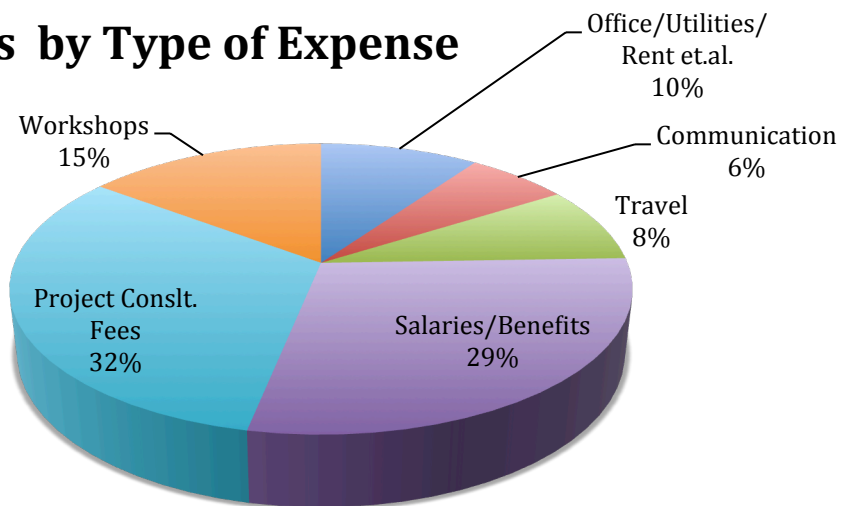
Below is the historic evolution of CHRE's funding, recalling that prior to 2015, these funds were granted to the previously constituted NGO in Argentina, CEDHA. As of 2015, funds are held and administered solely through a CHRE account in the USA. Average income in the 2000-2015 period was US\$163,847 while average expenditures were US\$139,205. We note that for our first year in operations as a US-based 501 (c)3, and despite the hardships of having to move and begin in an entirely environment, we were able to keep income level near historical average. Also noteworthy is the steady income growth CHRE has experienced since our low-point following our significant reduction in staff, budget and physical size in 2013, where we touched our historical income bottom US\$29,845. Confirmed grants for 2016 continue a recuperating trend at approximately US\$213,000.

CHRE Historical Income and Expenditures (Figures in US\$)

CHRE/CEDHA Budget - Income & Expenditures 1999-2015 (US\$)																
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Expenditure	73,129	133,238	167,949	184,338	226,329	261,291	225,372	128,848	99,940	150,084	163,349	138,275	74,700	22,408	34,932	143,099
Income	145,936	128,800	191,539	271,565	298,645	246,063	226,795	128,848	98,677	162,561	281,014	140,229	75,677	29,845	79,888	115,467

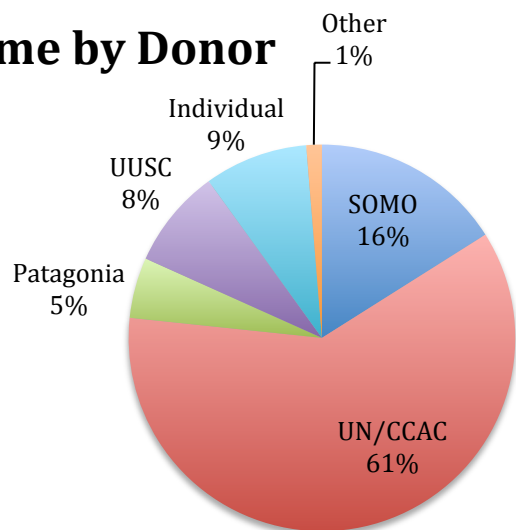


Expenses by Type of Expense



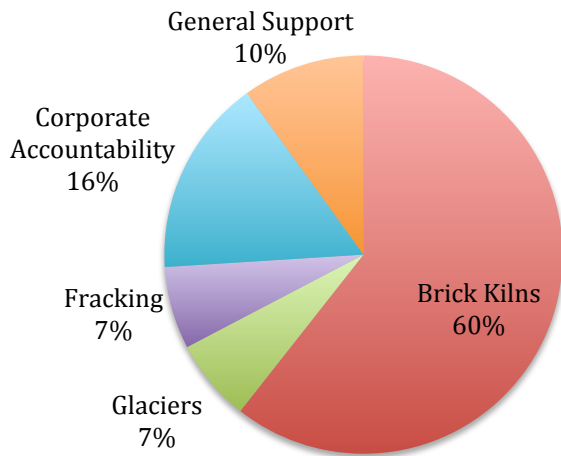
Expenses by Type of Expense		%
(in US\$)		
Office/Utilities/Rent et.al.	13,990	10%
Communication	8,967	6%
Travel	12,038	8%
Salaries/Benefits	41,113	29%
Project Conslt. Fees	45,887	32%
Workshops	21,103	15%
Total	143,098	100%

Income by Donor



Income 2015 By Donor	
(in US\$)	
SOMO	18,518
UN/CCAC	70,000
Patagonia	5,850
UUSC	9,600
Individual	10,000
Other	1,499
TOTAL	115,467

Project Funding



Funding by Project	US\$	%
Brick Kilns	70,000	61%
Glaciers	7,725	7%
Fracking	7,725	7%
Corporate Accountability	18,518	16%
General Support	11,499	10%
Total	115,467	100%

Anticipated Income Expected for 2016		
UUSC	10,000	Confirmed
Patagonia	12,000	TBC
UN/CCAC	39,996	Confirmed 2014-2015 Project
UN/CCAC	163,664	Confirmed 2016-2017 Project
Permafrost Project	40,588	TBC
TOTAL (A)	266,248	Total including not confirmed
TOTAL (B)	213,660	Total confirmed

as prepared and audited by Dorothy's Affordable Accounting Services, Inc. - Hobe Sound FL 33475

[illegible]

Conclusion

The year 2015 will be remembered at the Center for Human Rights and Environment as the year we took the bold decision of moving our operations from Argentina to the United States. It is our first year operating as a US-based 501 (c) 3. It is also a year in which we have markedly deepened our global contributions to promoting human rights protection and environmental sustainability.

During this inaugural year for CHRE, we've secured a significant level of funding from our supporters, to ensure sustainability for the immediate future, and to guarantee that we will be able to carry out some of the most influential activities we are engaged on to help reverse climate change trends, to protect glaciers and permafrost and to draw global attention to the risks and impacts of expanding our fossil fuel horizons through dangerous oil and gas activities such as hydraulic fracturing.

CHRE is re-launching this year with a view to deepening and expanding our global advocacy efforts. We are confident that the years to come will provide numerous opportunities to continue our active work on promoting sustainable development alongside our friends and partners in this endeavor.

Jorge Daniel Taillant
Chairman and Executive Director
The Center for Human Rights and Environment

Publication Date: April 2016
CHRE ©

Annex: GRI G4 Content and Index Table

CHRE presents this report as its 2015 Integrated Annual Report, offering information on programmatic activities, financial data and sustainability data. It is intended to be a "Comprehensive" report, as established by the GRI 4 Guidelines, containing the organization's reporting of core indicators as well as the organizations' strategy and analysis, governance structure, ethics and integrity. Financial data is assured by *Dorothy's Affordable Accounting Services*.

Reporting Principles

GRI establishes "reporting principles" to guide the reporting process and content of all organizations.

Principles for Defining Report Quality

Stakeholder Inclusiveness

Sustainability Context

Materiality

Completeness

Principles for Defining Report Quality

Balance

Comparability

Accuracy

Timeliness

Clarity

Reliability

Stakeholder Inclusiveness

As explained in the main content of this Integrated Annual Report (pp. 25-27), the identification of the main stakeholders for a non-profit public interest oriented organization and their engagement is not always a simple task. Stakeholders for a non-profit dedicated to environmental advocacy and human rights protection do not generally have community stakeholders knocking on their doors to demand accountability, to reduce contamination or to be more sustainable. Stakeholders for advocacy groups, particularly ones working for a general public interest are more diffused and less understood. Nonetheless, one can consider funders, other partner NGOs and communities receiving support as "stakeholders". Because we have little demand for accountability from these groups, we try to publish as much information as possible about our work, offering transparent information about our income and expenditures,

about our governance and about our own internal policies governing our behavior. In 2016 we will be conducting further sample outreach to funders and to friends in the public realm to gather insight about how they view our activities and our own commitments to sustainable development.

Sustainability Context

NGOs don't generate industrial waste like some of the actors we are engaging with to promote corporate social and environmental accountability (mining companies, oil and gas operations, pulp mills, etc.) nor do we have anywhere near industrial levels of emissions, even from our most contaminating activities that are generally related to travel. In the specific case of CHRE, we should also stress that we have gone from a staff of about 30 a few years ago with many volunteers also contributing to our work activities, to a mere handful of individuals, which also greatly reduces the significance of our environmental and social footprint, as well as the challenges of managing it. Nonetheless, we continue to focus on internal sustainability as a priority.

Materiality

Since we are not a large industrial polluter, we must carefully identify those areas where we do leave a footprint, and also in which by policy and action, we can make an important contribution to creating a more sustainable society, and setting an example of conduct for our peers and for the greater community. We have a work environment with Team Members (including volunteers) and hope that they are happy in their work environment, and we travel quite frequently, generating on a per capita basis, significant CO₂ emissions. We also consume office products and have work habits that contribute (or detract) from sustainable development. We've chosen to focus most of our attention in our sustainability reporting on the fairness and nature of our work environment (a human rights issue) and on our efforts to measure and address what we consider to be our most significant environmental impact: emissions from travel. We also consider our material consumption although we recognize that our impact in quantitative terms, is frankly negligible. When we say that an indicator is "Not Material" it means that its relevance is negligible for our operations, such as for instance, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions", so while there may be inherent NO_x emissions indirectly related to our travel, it is not an area where we are generating significant impacts to the point that we should report on them. "Not Applicable" however is different, and refers to indicators that simply have no relevance or relationship whatsoever to CHRE's operations, such as "Human Rights Security Personnel Training".

Completeness

We chose the route of a "comprehensive" report, offering in each issue case and on each indicator where we feel we can and should evaluate our performance, information about our sustainability, even if simply to indicate that these indicators are not material in our case.

Comparability

Over the years, and since 2003, CHRE has collected sustainability data. For a few years in more recent times, and due to budgetary and staff constraints, were obliged to cease reporting on sustainability. For 2015 and onwards, we will seek to reinstate this practice, offering year-by-year data showing where and how our sustainability issues and results are evolving.

Other Principles

CHRE is committed to providing a publicly accessible yearly account of its sustainability that is Accurate, Timely, Clear, and Reliable for our stakeholders to be able to evaluate our performance, engage with us if they identify areas where we should improve.

Standard Disclosures ([Online link to GRI for General Standard Disclosures](#))

Strategy and Analysis

G4-1 Chairman statement: (see p. 2, pp.24-28)

G4-2 Sustainability Key Impacts risks and opportunities (see pp.24-28)

Organizational Profile

G4-3 Organizational Name: The Center for Human Rights and Environment, Incorporated (CHRE)

G4-4 Primary Services: Environmental advocacy, human rights defense, research, educational publications, communication, complaint filings,

G4-5 Location: Palm Beach Gardens, FL USA; also utilize volunteers from outside locations around the world; current staff in Argentina

G4-6 Countries operate in: USA, Argentina, Chile and other with no specific location; many activities are geared to address "globally" relevant topics

G4-7 Nature of ownership/legal form: Non-profit corporation, established under Florida USA State and Federal law. 3-person board. (pp. 18-19)

G4-8 Markets served: affected communities usually in developing countries (particularly Latin America) , some activity in industrialized countries.

G4-9 Employees: 2 Full time (Florida), 2 part time (Argentina and USA), varying number of volunteers; Net revenues in 2015: US\$115,467; (pp. 29-31)

G4-10 Gender balance: 1 Male/3 Females; volunteers vary (3 females, 0 males in 2015)

G4-11 Collective Bargaining Agreements: 0

G4-12 Supply Chain: Direct purchasing of office equipment; flights bought online or from travel agent;

G4-13 Significant changes of location from last reporting period: (moved from Argentina to USA; see p. 3)

G4-14 Commitment to Precautionary Approach: Contained in Office Policy p. 8 for material consumption and stressed in all advocacy activity decisions

G4-15 International Policy Commitments: Universal Bill of Human Rights and GRI Reporting Guidelines (see Office Policy p. 4)

G4-16 Networks/Partnerships: OECD Watch, GRI (GSSB), Banktrack, ESCR Net, AIDA, IUCN, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Identified Material Aspects and Boundaries

G4-17 Entities: Report covers CHRE activities/finance/impacts for 2015 and Spanish namesake CEDHA (Argentina based) for 2000-2014.

G4-18 Process for defining report content/scope: Management led with previous staff engaged in consultation, research and drafting.

G4-19 Material aspects: CO₂ emissions from travel, human right/ office policies, sustainability of material consumption, smear campaign against CHRE

G4-20 Aspect Boundary: material for the organization internally and in its relationship with the general public (the last aspect above)

G4-21 Outside Boundary: The political persecution and smear campaign leveled against CHRE is the only aspect applicable outside the organization

G4-22 N/A

G4-23 N/A

Stakeholder Engagement

G4-24 Stakeholders: Partners, networks, funders, general public

G4-25 Basis for identification of Stakeholders: Partners/networks/funders that work closely w/CHRE

G4-26 Approach to engagement: not systematized; occurs as necessary. CHRE will work on developing systematized stakeholder outreach in the future.

G4-27 Key topics raised: Anonymous letters sent to partners/networks repeating accusations leveled in smear campaigns and political persecution against CHRE and CHRE founder; provided stakeholders with explanations/context of smear campaigns

Report Profile

G4-28 Reporting Period = Calendar Year 2015

G4-29 Recent Reports: Annual Report 2014 (in Spanish only); Sustainability Report: 2010 (in Spanish only)

G4-30 Reporting Cycle: Annual

G4-31 Contact point for matters in this report: Jorge Daniel Taillant (jdtailant@gmail.com)

G4-32 In Accordance Choice: Comprehensive; Context Index Provided here; only financial external assurance (will explore other in future)

G4-33 Policy for assurance: CHRE obtains financial assurance of its financial reporting through *Dorothy's Affordable Accounting Services*, a certified CPA that reviews and validates CHRE's books and federal tax authority filings;

Governance

G4-34 Bylaws (Art.5&7) w/Three - Person Board of Directors; Jorge Daniel Taillant (Chairman); Romina Picolotti (Director); Stephanie Daveris (Director)

G4-35 Board delegates authority to Executive Director (Jorge Daniel Taillant); see Bylaws Art.7 (d)

G4-36 Sustainability Officer not specifically contracted. Executive Director is Responsible for Sustainability Reporting.

G4-37 Stakeholder engagement is carried out by Executive Director and an additional board member as needed.

G4-38 Board Member (Chairman): Jorge Daniel Taillant - Executive Director, remunerated - Male/Latin American; Expert Competence

Board Member: Romina Picolotti - Climate Advisor / Volunteer (ad honorem) - Female/Latin American; Expert Competence

Board Member: Stephanie Daveris, no Programmatic Functions, Volunteer (ad honorem) - Female/Latin American/Professional Competence

G4-39 Chair/Executive; Yes Jorge Daniel Taillant is both Chair of the Board and the Highest Executive Office, and is in charge of all programmatic and administrative responsibilities and activity. JD Taillant is the founder of CHRE and its most active officer since its founding in 1999 (as CEDHA).

G4-40 Nomination criteria: In Bylaws Article V; Conflict of Interest Policy is considered in naming; no stakeholder participation in decision. Knowledge of environmental/human rights background is a traditional (but not mandatory) precondition. Independence for a balanced number is preferred.

G4-41 Conflict of interest policy is reviewed and signed yearly by board members.

G4-42 Board receives, reviews and approves mission, values, strategies, policies, etc.

G4-43 Measures taken to enhance boards sustainability knowledge; they were/are chosen with knowledge; no further targeted action taken;

G4-44 No evaluation of performance stipulated for highest governance body. No actions (first year in legal existence)

G4-45 Chairman (as Executive Director) is charged with risk management; stakeholder consultation not utilized although may change in future

G4-46 Governance body's role in review of risk management; informed yearly

G4-47 Governance body's frequency in review of risk management; informed yearly

G4-48 Executive Director prepares, and sends to Board for Review and Approval

G4-49 Anyone at CHRE may contact the Board to present concerns; contacts are provided to all staff, volunteers, partners, etc.

G4-50 Number of Critical Concerns sent to highest governance body: "0"

G4-51 Competitive consulting fee rate paid to the Executive Director; misc consultants hired for some tasks (bricks); no other paid staff in 2015

G4-52 Fees for consulting and Executive Management are based on competitive rates; Board Members not paid for "board" service.

- G4-53 CHRE Funders are presented with budgets for programs/initiatives and approve fee approximation *ex-ante*.
- G4-54 ratio employees in different countries: N/A; only one permanent staff (Executive Director); Others volunteer; Consultant fees determined independently.
- G4-55 ratio of percentage salary increase: N/A

Ethics and Integrity

- G4-56 Office Policy governs Team Member relations, methods and conduct of work, ethics, banning discrimination and human rights violations, etc.. CHRE-mandments are rules to live by encouraged for Team Members.
Bylaws and Conflict of Interest Policy govern Board Member behavior.
- G4-57 Management consults/consulted with all Team Members in original development of policies. All new staff/volunteers read and accept.
- G4-58 Stipulated in Office Policy, grievance mechanism is explained. Internal relations managed internally. All unlawful acts to be reported to authorities.

Specific Standard Disclosures [\(online link to GRI for Specific Standard Disclosures\)](#)

A) ECONOMIC

Economic Performance

- G4-DMA N/A - Not Material
- G4-EC1 Revenues: US\$115,467; see pp. 29-31 for details and breakdown
- G4-EC2 As we have a climate program, increased climate change trends stands to increase available grant financing for advocacy
- G4-EC3 Benefit Plan Obligations: N/A
- G4-EC4 Financial assistance received from government: "0" - although some funds may come "indirectly" received by SOMO which is in turn financed by the Dutch government (pp. 29-31)

Market Presence

- G4-DMA CHRE competes with other NGOs in similar areas of work, particularly on fracking, mining, climate change issues. CHRE promotes collaboration with partners and respect for territorial presence of partners where we operate. (See Office Policy pp.10-11)
- G4-EC5 Ratio of standard entry level wage by gender: N/A; only have one paid staff (Executive Director)
- G4-EC6 Portion of Senior Management / Board hired from Local Community = 100%

Indirect Economic Impacts

- G4-DMA N/A
- G4-EC7 N/A (Development and Impact of Infrastructure)

G4-EC8 Our programmatic work aims to improve community knowledge and capacity;
we target the sustainability of foreign investment generally warning of negative impacts (causing major projects to stall);
we empower local communities, NGOs, and other leaders to engage on and defend sustainable development

Procurement Practices

G4-DMA Office policy promotes sustainability in material purchasing of office consumption. (see p.28)

G4-EC9 100% Nearly all or most supplies purchased are purchased locally. Some occasional internet purchases derive from other regions.

B) ENVIRONMENTAL

Materials

G4-DMA CHRE promotes environmentally friendly purchasing (see p. 28) and reducing emissions/impacts, etc. (see Office Policy pp. 7, 8, 13)

G4-EN1 N/A (Packaging Materials)

G4-EN2 CHRE recycles printed paper in preparation of travel report, in registering receipts, etc.

Energy

G4-DMA CHRE has identified electricity, gas used in office operations as material, and monitors utility bills/consumption on a yearly basis.

G4-EN3 Electricity 2,922 kWh (1.69 CO₂ equivalent); method: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> (see p.27)

Natural Gas 22.96 Therms (.12 CO₂ equivalent); method: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> (see p.27)

G4-EN4 Energy Consumption Outside the Organization; Air Travel 7.4 CO₂ equivalent); (see p.27)

G4-EN5 Energy Intensity Ratio: 4.97 (Total CO₂ 9.94 Divided by two principal staff)

G4-EN6 Reduction of Energy Consumption: N/A (first year of reporting)

G4-EN7 Reduction in Energy Requirements of Products and Services; N/A

Water

G4-DMA CHRE monitors volume of water utilized, calculated as 20% of residency consumption.

G4-EN8 Total withdrawal by source: 80,560 liters from municipal water supply

G4-EN9 Water source significantly affected: "0"

G4-EN10 Percentage of water recycled and reused: "0"

Biodiversity

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material

G4-EN11 Sites owned/managed/leased in protected areas; 1 (CHRE rents home in authorized Residential Ecological Reserve - OK for homes)

G4-EN12 N/A - Significant impacts: "0"

G4-EN13 Habitats Protected/Restored; CHRE is promoting protection of freshwater turtles in area; produced report and engaged public officials

G4-EN14 IUCN Red List Species: "0"

Emissions

G4-DMA	CHRE determined that one of its areas of main concern is CO ₂ Equivalent Emissions from travel, we are monitoring, reporting, and working to lower emissions/reduce travel as much as possible
G4-EN15	Total CO ₂ Equivalent emissions = 9.94 mTns; method: http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx base year = year 1 (2015) source: Air travel, electricity, natural gas; (see p.27);
G4-EN16	N/A: Energy indirect GHG
G4-EN17	N/A: Other Indirect GHG
G4-EN18	Greenhouse Gas emissions intensity = 4.97 (Total CO ₂ 9.94 Divided by two principal staff)
G4-EN19	N/A: Reduction of GHG; This is first year reporting
G4-EN20	N/A: Emissions of Ozone Depleting Substances
G4-EN21	N/A: NO _x , SO _x et.al emissions.

Effluents and Waste

G4-DMA	N/A - Not Material
G4-EN22	Total Water Discharged by Quality and Destination: (Municipal) = 80,560 liters; domestic use not treated
G4-EN23	Total Weight of Waste and Disposal Method; Standard office waste, recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, metals (municipal collection)
G4-EN24	N/A - Not Material; Total number and volume of significant spills
G4-EN25	N/A - Not Material; Weight of Transported/Treated Waste
G4-EN26	N/A - Not Material; Protected Water Bodies Affected

Products and Services

G4-DMA	CHRE is offsetting CO ₂ emissions of travel related to advocacy (services)
G4-EN27	Extent of Impact Mitigation - Replanting trees to offset emissions; aim to replant 8 to offset 2015 Emissions; 4 already at time of report Staff utilizes hybrid vehicle for car travel Staff bikes whenever possible
G4-EN28	N/A - Not Material; Percent of Products Sold Reclaimed

Compliance

G4-DMA	N/A - Not Material
G4-EN29	N/A - Not Material; Monetary value of significant fines

Transport

G4-DMA	CHRE determined that one of its areas of main concern is CO ₂ Equivalent Emissions from travel, we are monitoring, reporting, and working to lower emissions/reduce travel as much as possible
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G4-EN30 Significant environmental impacts of transporting products/workforce
 Total CO₂ Equivalent emissions from Air Travel for 2015 = 7.4 mTns;
 method: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>
 Replanting trees to offset emissions; aim to replant 8 to offset 2015 Emissions; 4 already at time of report
 Utilize hybrid vehicle for car travel
 Bike whenever possible

Overall

G4-DMA CHRE does not expend money for environmental protection, and instead purchases environmentally friendly when possible

G4-EN31 Total environmental protection expenditure and investment by type: "0"

Supplier Environmental Assessment

G4-DMA Not Material

G4-EN32 Not Material; Percentage of new suppliers screened

G4-EN33 Not Material; Negative environmental impacts in the supply chain

Environmental Grievance Mechanisms

G4-DMA CHRE has an internal grievance policy stipulated in its Office Policy on pp.13-14

G4-EN34 Number of Grievances Addressed: "0"; none received

C) SOCIAL

Labor Practices and Decent Work

Employment

G4-DMA This indicator was *more* material in past years, now only one permanent staff at present; one permanent volunteer working part time

G4-LA1 New hire and turnover (two volunteers in 2015 started; one ended internships; both as scheduled)

G4-LA2 Benefits to full time employees: none provided accept parental leave offered to FULL and PART time

G4-LA3 Not Material for this reporting period: Return to work retention rate after parental leave

Labor/Management Relations

G4-DMA Not Material

G4-LA4 Minimum notice period regarding operational changes; hire periods predetermined by grant timeline; no permanent hires

Occupational Health and Safety

G4-DMA

G4-LA5	N/A - Not Material: Percent of workforce in Health Safety Committees
G4-LA6	Not Material: Injuries; CHRE has never had a work related injury
G4-LA7	Not Material - High Risk of Disease has never had a work related disease
G4-LA8	Not Material - Health and Safety Topics Covered with Formal Trade Union Agreements

Training and Education

G4-DMA	Training is provided when available and/or when needed or when transfer of knowledge is needed; no predetermined programs available
G4-LA9	Average hours of training per employee in 2015: "0"
G4-LA10	Programs for skills management and lifelong learning in 2015: "0"
G4-LA11	Percentage of employees receiving performance reviews in 2015: "0"

Diversity and Equal Employment

G4-DMA	CHRE Office Policy 2016 stipulates anti-discrimination policy on p.3 (see Report p. 30)
G4-LA12	Percentage by gender/age/minority/other for Governance Board and Employees; Staff M = 25%; F = 75%; Board M = 33%; F = 66%

Equal Remuneration for Women and Men

G4-DMA	CHRE Office Policy 2016 stipulates anti-discrimination policy on p.3 (see Report p. 30)
G4-LA13	Not Material for this reporting period; Only one paid staff (Male)

Supplier Assessment for Labor Practices

G4-DMA	N/A - Not Material
G4-LA14	N/A - Not Material; Percentage of New Suppliers Screened for Labor Practices
G4-LA15	N/A - Not Material; Significant negative impacts for labor practices in the supply chain and actions taken

Labor Practices Grievance Mechanisms

G4-DMA	N/A - Not Material; CHRE has a Grievance Mechanism Procedure established in Office Policy 2016 on pp. 13-14
G4-LA16	Not Material: Number of Grievances about Labor Practices

Human Rights

Investment

G4-DMA	Not Material
G4-HR1	Contracts with Human Rights Clauses: 0
G4-HR2	Hours of employee training on Human Rights: 0

Non-Discrimination

G4-DMA CHRE has an anti-discrimination policy in its Office Policy on p.3 (see this report p. 30)
G4-HR3 Total number of incidences and corrections taken: 0

Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material
G4-HR4 N/A - Not Material; Operations / Suppliers at risk

Child Labor

G4-DMA N/A - No policy in place; it would be highly unusual for a legal policy organization to have child labor; we do not.
G4-HR5 N/A - Not Material; Risks for Child Labor

Forced or Compulsory Labor

G4-DMA N/A - No policy in place; it would be highly unusual for a legal policy organization to forced labor; we do not.
G4-HR6 N/A - Not Material; Risks for Forced Labor

Security Practices

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material; No policy in place
G4-HR7 N/A - Not Material; Security Force Trained

Indigenous Rights

G4-DMA N/A CHRE works to protect indigenous rights; no indigenous staff and no policy specifically related to indigenous peoples
G4-HR8 N/A - Incidents involving indigenous rights

Assessment

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material
G4-HR9 N/A - Not Material; Number and percentage of operations subject to human rights impact assessments

Supplier Human Rights Assessment

G4-DMA Not Material
G4-HR10 Not Material; Suppliers screened for human rights criteria
G4-HR11 N/A - Not Material; Actual human rights impacts and actions taken

Human Rights Grievance Mechanisms

G4-DMA CHRE has a grievance procedure in its Office Policy on pp. 13-14
G4-HR12 N/A; Human rights grievances filed and resolved through grievance mechanisms: "0"

Society

Local Communities

G4-DMA	N/A - Not Material;
G4-SO1	N/A - Not Material; Percent engagement and impact assessment with local community
G4-SO2	N/A - Not Material; Operations with significant local impacts

Anti-Corruption

G4-DMA	CHRE has no specific policy on anti-corruption
G4-SO3	N/A - Not Material; Operations assessed for risks
G4-SO4	N/A - Not Material; Communication and training on anti-corruption
G4-SO5	Confirmed instances of corruption: Board member accused in 2007 by political opposition party (for past activity when she was Environment Secretary of Argentina for mis-appropriation of Funds; despite lack of merit rulings, she has been unfairly persecuted politically and judicially for 8 years, long surpassing statute of limitations; she is defending herself in an Argentine federal court and will file international complaint against Argentina at Inter-American Commission on Human Rights); CHRE is helping her to clear her name as it has strongly influenced our situation; also CHRE has moved from Argentina to the USA due to the persecution, harassment and threats faced by CHRE and staff (see p. 3 of this report for details)

Public Policy

G4-DMA	N/A - Not Material; Political contributions
G4-SO6	N/A - Not Material; Political contributions

Anti-Competitive Behavior

G4-DMA	CHRE promotes open, transparent and collaborative engagement with partners in field. Office Policy on pp. 10-11
G4-SO7	Not Material; Legal actions for anti-competitive behavior

Compliance

G4-DMA	Not Material
G4-SO8	Not Material; Fines for Non-Compliance with Laws

Supplier Assessment for Impacts on Society

G4-DMA	CHRE has an Office Policy encouraging when possible to purchase environmentally friendly products. Office Policy on pp. 7-8
G4-SO9	N/A; Suppliers screened for social impact

Grievance Mechanisms for Impacts on Society

G4-DMA	Not Material
G4-SO10	Not Material; Grievances received and addressed on impacts on society

Product Responsibility

Customer Health and Safety

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material

G4-PR1 N/A - Not Material; Products assessed for health and safety

G4-PR2 N/A - Not Material; Incidences of non-compliance

Product and Service Labeling

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material

G4-PR3 N/A - Not Material; Type of information required for labeling

G4-PR4 N/A - Not Material; Incidences of non-compliance

G4-PR5 N/A - Not Material; Results of services measuring customer satisfaction

Marketing Communications

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material

G4-PR6 N/A - Not Material; Sale of banned or disputed products

G4-PR7 N/A - Not Material; Incidences of non-compliance

Customer Privacy

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material

G4-PR8 N/A - Not Material; Number of complaints

Compliance

G4-DMA N/A - Not Material

G4-PR9 N/A - Not Material; Monetary value of fines