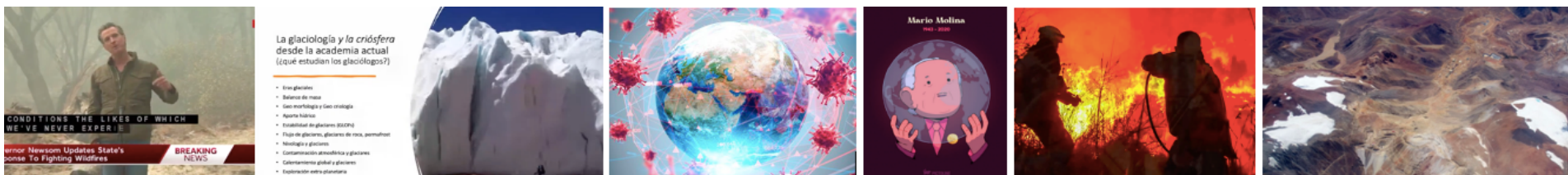




# Center for Human Rights and Environment

*Integrated Annual Report 2020*



## Letter from the Chairman



Jorge Daniel Taillant  
Executive Director, CHRE

In 2020 the world changed.

COVID-19, a deadly and rapidly contagious global pandemic reached nearly every community on the planet and fundamentally changed the way we relate to society, to each other and to our place on Earth.

This rampant disease occurred in the midst of a deepening and intensifying climate crisis that is becoming ever-more tragic, and which is already impacting billions. A [comparison of these two global events](#), one underway already for some time, and another appearing suddenly, reveals stark contrasts on how we respond to global threats, while also providing useful lessons that may help us tackle our climate emergency.

Our collective fear that this pandemic could suddenly kill us or our family members, stopped us cold in our tracks. Our response was historic, as it was uniquely universal. Planes were grounded, cars and trucks stopped circulating on roads, industries stopped producing, people all over the globe started wearing masks to protect themselves against the pandemic, we stayed home from work, human

physical contact outside of our homes mostly ceased. We might say that the response we had to the emergence of COVID was similar to what the planet needs to reverse climate change. Both tragedies, one playing out in decades and another in mere weeks, pose an existential threat.

But why do we act for COVID but not for climate?

That is a question we've been thinking about, and in fact it was the subject of an [OP ED piece](#) I wrote with one of CHRE's young stellar climate activists, Amelia Murphy, who joined us this year to conduct climate research and help edit a new publication we're working on, *Meltdown: The Earth Without Glaciers*.

We act for COVID and not for climate because we perceive the danger of dying or being greatly impacted from climate change to be less urgent than the danger of dying or being severely affected by COVID. It's all about fear. Despite this persistent shortsightedness regarding climate change, we did learn a few very important things with COVID that can help us with climate change, and they are worth mentioning here.

We learned that *we can* and *will* act collectively, and as a global society, to stop harm that is coming our way. We also learned that our collective action can rapidly fix the climate problem. When the cars stopped and the planes landed, when the industries ceased and we stopped going outdoors, something

magical happened and it happened quickly. The smokestacks disappeared and the air cleared, animals wandered back into urban environments and bay waters welcomed fish that had abandoned the filthy waters. Inhabitants of some towns in India were able to see the Himalayas for the first time in their lives, hitherto hidden behind a curtain of hazy pollution. The elimination of black carbon which affects glaciers, dirties our atmosphere, causes global warming, and deteriorates the health of millions of people, was the product of collective global action, the type needed to begin fixing our climate problem.

It's an important lesson learned for everyone, especially youth, who today inherit our collective generational failure to care for our planet. COVID has taught us an important lesson towards recuperating our climate, that if we work collectively, quickly and aggressively, we can fix the Earth's climate problem. We just need to understand how urgent and profound our climate crisis really is.

This is CHRE's Integrated Annual Report, prepared following the [Global Reporting Initiative's Sustainability Standards](#). It is reviewed by a professional and independent accountant.

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.



# HIGHLIGHTS from 2020

CHRE's programmatic advocacy areas are:

Climate Change and Human Rights  
Cryoactivism (protecting our world's ice)  
Reducing Oil and Gas Emissions  
Lowering Emissions from Traditional Brick Kilns  
Addressing the Impacts of Mining  
Promoting Corporate Accountability

Some of the key highlights and achievements for 2020 include:

- We began a concerted advocacy effort to engage more directly with US-based organizations and on US-relevant climate issues, through partnership with key US-based climate agencies, institutions, NGOs, policy makers, public officials, etc.
- We expanded and launched a suite of activities engaging with authorities of the State of California and the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery to learn from, further encourage, and devise ways to replicate California's experience with state-of-the-art climate policies and initiatives, as well as its efforts to accelerate fast climate action and promote the increased mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs).
- CHRE increased and centered much of its advocacy on exploring ways to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas, agriculture and waste.
- We are engaging strategically through our networks to achieve global policy convergence and an eventual global methane emissions reductions agreement.
- We've launched efforts to bring evolving global policy to reduce SLCP emissions to the local and municipal level through community-driven emissions reductions, exploring ways to harness GHG emissions reductions that can have significant environmental justice benefits.
- We began research and advocacy on avoided warming strategies such as promoting smart surfaces to address intense urban heat island effects.
- CHRE has embarked on a new institutional partnership with the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development on Climate Justice and SLCPs.

# Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022

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. We should note though that CHRE's institutional history dates back to 1999, when its previous incarnation and Spanish namesake (el Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente—CEDHA) was founded as an Argentine non-profit. CHRE's Strategic Plan for the 2019-2022 period includes the following institutional and programmatic objectives and priorities.

Without specific or prioritized order, this Strategic Plan was devised in January of 2019.

- to achieve medium-term institutional, programmatic financial and administrative sustainability for CHRE
- 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 maintain remuneration for staff and management at a competitive rate
- 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
- 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 engage on and expand CHRE's Florida-related issues and advocacy work
- to engage on and expand CHRE's general USA-related issues and advocacy work
- to deepen work on Glacier Protection, particularly in new countries (for example, USA, Peru, etc.) and achieve sustainable financing to do so
- to explore new, innovative and economically sustainable ways to continue to engage on reducing impacts of artisanal brick production in the Americas

CHRE activities for 2020 were all geared to comply and meet the objectives set out in the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

Photo: CHRE's Director JDTaillant at the Root Glacier in Alaska, where global warming is occurring up to 4 times faster than in other regions



Activities are presented by “program” below.

## Programs 2020

Alaska’s glaciers are rapidly retreating. Ice in the Arctic regions is melting quickly as temperatures rise four times faster than in other regions of the planet. Photo: The Matanuska Glacier, JDTaillant



# Climate Change

**“This is a climate damn emergency!”**

– Governor Gavin Newsom, from the Oroville State Reaction area, burned extensively in and intense climate wildfire during a record shattering fire season brought on by intensifying heat and prolonged drought in the state.

If there was ever a doubt that we were in a climate emergency, 2020 eliminated remnant skeptics. California was on a center global stage showing just how severe escalating climate change can be, facing intense fires, heat domes and prolonged droughts followed by atmospheric rivers causing historic floods.

This spiraling out-of-control climate emergency requires a fast and aggressive response, but one that is strategically targeted to leverage the greatest response with the resources available and in ways that can help the most climate vulnerable communities.

California is an experimental laboratory for climate policy, and CHRE’s work this year focused on the US State to learn, to help deepen and to replicate California solutions to climate change in other jurisdictions. The world’s climate scientists indicate that we must keep global warming to 1.5°C if we are to avoid utter climate collapse and irreversible tipping points which would make climate recovery impossible.

We all know that the solution is to decarbonize our economies, reducing and eventually phasing out fossil fuels in our energy mix. This is indeed



California Governor Newsom Delivers his “[climate damn emergency](#)” speech calling on the world to act faster and more aggressively to stop climate change.

a long-term answer to climate change which we must pursue, but what we’ve also learned (and this is less understood by most) that removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere is not the only strategy we have available. In fact even if we were to decarbonize entirely overnight, persistent carbon concentrations in the atmosphere and the entrapment of heat in the oceans for equally long periods, means we wouldn’t see improvements to our climate for centuries! We need more!

**In order to cool the planet quickly and aggressively in the near term by mid-century to avoid irreversible tipping points, we must reduce another set of pollutants, called Short-Lived**

**Climate Pollutants (or SLCPs for short).** SLCPs are gases that have enormous short-term global warming impact. These are methane, HFCs, black carbon, and ozone. Methane for example is 86 times more potent as a climate forcer than CO<sub>2</sub>!

CHRE has refocused much of its advocacy work in 2020 to specifically target these *super* pollutants by engaging, working alongside, and further pressing global agencies like the UN’s Climate and Clean Air Coalition (the only global agency with a mandate to focus solely on SLCP reductions), the State of California (the only jurisdiction to date on the planet with an SLCP emissions reductions law) to tackle SLCPs. We are also collaborating with our key networks and partners such as the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD), the Clean Air Task Force (CATF) and Earthworks to devise local actions to bring attention to and achieve SLCP reductions quickly and aggressively.





# Recovery for ALL

CHRE launched a new initiative to engage the State of California to leverage and replicate the state's climate policies to mitigate short-lived climate pollutant and promote climate justice.

In 2020, and at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom created the Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery through a virtual platform to respond to the COVID crisis but also to advance policy to accelerate climate actions that have strong social justice benefits and promote economic growth and job creation. The Center for Human Rights and Environment partnered with the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) to engage California and the Governor's Task Force submitting numerous policy guidance

proposals to leverage climate actions, jobs creation and environmental justice. These included policy recommendations to **address the oil and gas legacy**, including capping orphaned wells and transition jobs away from fossil fuel production to reducing emissions and cleaning up contamination, to promote **cooling in urban heat islands located in disadvantaged communities**, to promote **green job training and placement** for the exiting prison population, to encourage and assist youth to take up green employment through a green jobs educational program that would accompany youth throughout their schooling, and a build back better initiative promoting **more efficient use of cleaner cooling refrigerants**, among others.

In 2020 CHRE has established a close working relation with various California state agencies that are promoting some of the most cutting-edge policies to reduce climate pollutants, including the California's Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board, the California Public Utilities Committee and the Strategic Growth Council. We've targeted our work on specific state initiatives like AB617 in communities where air quality has been especially impacted and which are priority communities for California climate investments. **CHRE's efforts have focused on promoting policies that both help phase out short lived climate pollutants, but also tackle the need to reverse historical climate inequity.**

A person wearing a blue helmet and dark clothing is rappelling down a massive, blue-tinged glacier. The person is suspended by a red rope, and their arms are outstretched. The glacier's surface is textured with various shades of blue and white, showing signs of melting and crevasses. The background is a vast, icy expanse.

# Cryoactivism

## Glacier and Permafrost Protection

A term coined by CHRE, *cryoactivism* is activism geared to protecting our cryosphere, the Earth's frozen environment.

Building on our historical work to promote glacier protection and periglacial environment awareness and our recent engagement to promote awareness in California of its rich periglacial terrain, the CHRE recently became a member of the Sierra Nevada Alliance. We've also maintained close contact with advocates in South America that are on alert over the possible advancement of mining operations in glacier terrain. We are continuing to provide local communities with critical information about glacier vulnerability to climate change and to anthropogenic activities such as large-scale mining operations. In 2020, CHRE was invited to give the inaugural address for a Regional Conference on the Cryosphere which included a specific focus on cryoactivism held at the University of Concepción in Chile. We are also embarked on a new publication to be published in 2021 focusing on the diverse and climate system impacts of global glacier melt. In 2020, research intern Amelia Murphy took our advocacy to the primary school level and engaged with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Northeastern United States to raise awareness and help educate children on the relevance, importance and dynamics of frozen environments.

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% is stored in glacier ice, mostly in the North and South Poles. A very small percentage (but a very large amount in terms human consumption) of this water is also found in mountain glacier environments. Mountain glaciers perform a fundamental role in storing freshwater and supplying our rivers with critical water supply after the winter snow has melted. If it were not for the "rationing" function of mountain glaciers, which slowly melt during dry months until they recharge the following winter, we would not have water to meet ecosystem needs for the full year!

Melting glaciers around the Earth will cause innumerable impacts and destabilizes climate systems on every continent. Sea level will rise flooding coastal areas displacing millions of people in already climate vulnerable areas, intense inclement weather events will increase, the Earth's reflectivity will change as significant white glacier surfaces disappear resulting in increased warming, water supply will be diminished and air and ocean currents will be altered causing intense irregular weather events, and unstable glaciers will cause tragic flooding. These are just some of the impacts of increased glacier melt!

You can listen to California's EPA Head, Jared Blumenfeld, in his Podcast on Rock Glaciers, after his visit with CHRE to California Rock Glaciers in the Sierra Nevada Mountains!

<https://www.podshipearth.com/rockglacier>

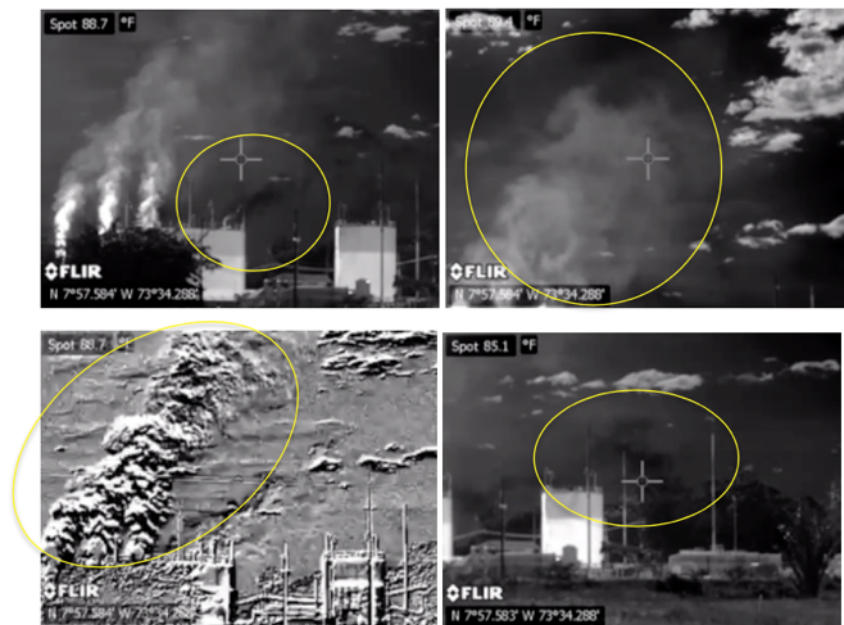


# Oil and Gas

CHRE works with partners such as the Clean Air Task Force, Earthworks, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, to **reduce GHG emissions from the oil and gas sector**. Methane and other gases from all phases of oil and gas production cause serious impacts to our atmosphere, as methane gas is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub> while other gases contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that cause health impacts to fence line and nearby communities, including respiratory diseases, skin and eye irritations, cancer and even death.

Our work centers on making invisible gases visible, showing where methane gas for example, is leaking into the atmosphere and where communities are at risk from emissions that could *and should* be captured and safely treated. We are pushing public officials around the world to **regulate oil and gas operations** so that they do not leak climate change causing gases into the air. We also push for a **long term complete phaseout of oil and gas production**. Contrary to what industry proponents have argued, **natural gas, for example, is not a clean fuel, nor is it in any way a transition fuel towards zero carbon energy**. Quite the contrary, natural gas is many times more contaminating than CO<sub>2</sub> and needs to be phased out along with other fossil fuels such as coal.

CHRE is working to promote global phasedowns of GHG emissions through replicable policies that should be applied to oil and gas companies by regulatory agencies. We have conducted field work to visualize emissions with infrared FLIR camera technology in Mexico, Colombia and in Argentina, **helping educate local communities and environmental activists on the climate and health impacts of oil and gas sector emissions**. The images below of invisible methane and associated gas as it becomes visible through a FLIR infrared camera, and the reaction of Estefany Grajales (a Colombian environmental activist) when she sees these otherwise invisible emissions for the first time is self-explanatory!



This is the typical reaction the first time you see otherwise invisible gaseous emissions from oil and gas operations. We call it the “WOW-ometer” reading! Pete Dronkers of Earthworks and local Colombian activist Estefany Grajales view dangerous invisible emissions from Ecopetrol’s infrastructure. Photo: Jorge Daniel Taillant

## The Earth Loses a Friend (1943-2020)



A close friend of CHRE, Mario Molina was a brilliant Mexican chemist, who shared the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his pivotal role discovering the threat to the Earth's ozone layer from chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases, and the resulting Antarctic ozone hole. His discovery and research lead to an international effort to solve the first great threat to the global atmosphere, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Without Mario's efforts, CFCs would have continued to destroy the ozone layer, and the incoming solar ultraviolet radiation would have led to countless cases of skin cancer, macular degeneration, cornea and conjunctiva cancer, while also suppressing our immune systems, damaging wildlife, and the environment. Mario's work saved millions of lives, and kept millions more healthy and strong. He was a brilliant scientist, a tireless advocate, and a gentleman who was always gracious. In times when humanity is being hit by a global pandemic and a climate emergency, we should let his spirit illuminate our path to act at the scale and the speed that we need to reduce climate impacts and build a more just and equitable world.



# USA-Related Activities

Since our relocation to the United States (from Argentina) in 2015 we have been progressively increasing our US-focused engagement, bridging our global efforts with active national groups where we can leverage even greater climate results. The year 2020 marked a significant shift in this direction. Our US work includes for example, **initial scoping and outreach efforts in the State of Florida, which included the development of a draft short-lived climate pollutant phaseout strategy as well as institutional outreach to local environmental groups in the State.** In 2020 we also carried out field work to contribute to an upcoming publication on the impacts of global glacier melt.

Building on work in 2019, CHRE continues to compile a rock glacier inventory for the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. [We invited the head of CAL EPA to visit the Sierra Nevada](#) in a reconnaissance mission to explore the critically important but little-known periglacial environment of the Sierras (permafrost regions). This report and engagement have led to new partnerships as with the [Sierra Nevada Alliance](#) where we've been able to continue our outreach and education of key local actors on the importance of the cryosphere.

The year 2020 marked a significant deepening of our US engagement, primarily driven by our intensive work and engagement with the State of California and its various climate-related agencies, to **explore ways to accelerate climate change action and to promote faster and more aggressive phaseouts of short lived climate pollutants such as methane and HFCs and to do this in ways to revert systemic and historic environmental injustice perpetrated in some of the most climate and environmentally vulnerable communities.**

CHRE has expanded its partnerships, engagement, and collaboration in the US with important climate and environmental organizations such as the **US Climate Alliance, Earthworks, the Clean Air Task Force, Environmental Defense Fund, the Sierra Nevada Alliance** and many other climate action groups.



An active Rock Glacier at Gibbs Peak flowing into Kidney Lake, just over the ridge from Dana Glacier, California Sierra Nevada.  
photo source: Connie Miller

Brief Date: August 19, 2019



**Rock Glaciers, the Periglacial Environments and the Related Hydrology  
of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California**

*This is a draft document in evolution. For more information, including Google Earth files of these rock glacier forms  
contact the author, Jorge Daniel Tallant ([dtallant@gmail.com](mailto:dtallant@gmail.com); +1 415 713 2309)*





CHRE's Amelia Murphy at Humantay Lake at the Salktantay Glacier. A few days after this picture was taken a glacier tsunami caused by massive pieces of the glacier breaking off and falling into the glacier lake caused devastating flooding of the Santa Teresa River.



# Administration

The Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE) is a legally established non-profit organization constituted 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 CHRE Fellow)**—see page 18 for bios of Board Members. CHRE functions in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. CHRE is a virtual organization with contributors, staff, volunteers and consultants operating remotely from their place of preference, in varying countries, as defined by their work and personal circumstances. **During 2020, CHRE's team was comprised by activists from Austria, Spain, Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Paraguay, Canada and the United States.** As CHRE is a virtual organization, documents are physically managed as is most practical—at present they are filed and stored in Palm Beach Gardens Florida, at the home of the Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director.

The CHRE team 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.

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 on a monthly basis. 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 registered electronically each month and receipts are kept physically and ordered by year. Minutes are signed and stamped by the Executive Director and contain a seal of the institution. Exact copies of bi-weekly minutes are sent to each member of the Board of Directors providing a copy/legitimacy check for their content and accuracy with hard copies of those minutes kept on office premises.



# 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. The Office Policies were reviewed and updated in 2016.

These are:

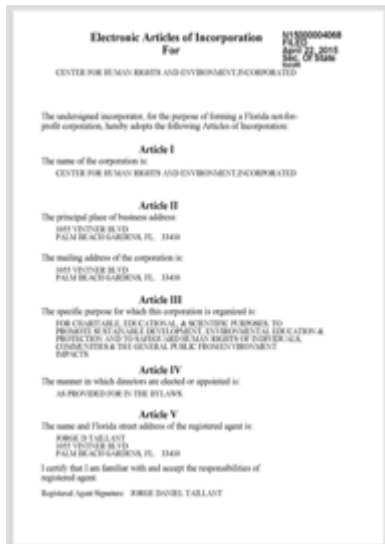
**Articles of Incorporation** ... which lay out the essential coordinates, governors, and objectives of the organization.

**Bylaws** ... which establish institutional due diligence.

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

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

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





# Communication

CHRE regularly communicates information about its activities and key issues in its fields of action. Part of our communication is carried out through several websites 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](http://www.center-hre.org). Some of the more active and targeted communications this year were on Oil and Gas, Mining, Glaciers, Brick Kiln Contamination and Abatement, Human Rights Defenders and Climate Change.

Past Websites that remain online (but that are no longer active; click below, links are live!)

<http://frackingflorida.org> ... is CHRE's page about fracking issues specifically focusing on the State of Florida

<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 officials, corporate and civil society stakeholders. More than 5,000 contacts receive communications in English or in Spanish (or both). E-mail lists are updated regularly. Press releases during 2020 were focused on programmatic activities, global climate change related issues, brick kiln contamination and abatement, mining impacts, glacier impacts, oil and gas, and periodic information drawing attention to the persistent illegal persecution of environmentalists in the region, as well as CHRE's team and our organization.

Below is a selection of these press releases with live Internet links so that the reader may consult them.



## Chilean Indigenous Groups Denounce Government for Burning Their Homes

January 17, 2020 0 Edit

Lonkimay, January 16, 2020 The mapuche indigenous community of Chile denounces that agents of the Chilean government have burned their homes and their belongings at...



## Bach and Gounod's Ave Maria youth duo call attention to the fire's of Cordoba, Argentina

December 3, 2020 0 Edit

Angelina Bella and Agustin Bramajo perform a piano and viola duo to raise the awareness of the destruction caused by forest fires in Cordoba, Argentina....



## Why for COVID and Not for Climate?

April 24, 2020 0 Edit

image source: GTM/Shutterstock Why for COVID and Not For Climate An inter-generational reflection on Climate Learning from the COVID-19 Crisis April 24, 2020 By Jorge...



## The Earth loses a friend

October 8, 2020 0 Edit

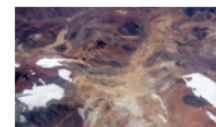
This is the story of child who converted a bathroom into his own little laboratory, using toy microscopes and chemistry sets, then looked up to...



## Debt for Climate Swaps

August 25, 2020 0 Edit

Lead climate policy experts at the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development examine the potential for highly indebted developing countries to exchange debt and debt...



## The Verdict is In and Glaciers Win: Barrick Gold's Controversial Pascua Lama Gets Last Nail in Coffin

September 28, 2020 0 Edit

Santiago Chile. Chile's Environmental Court ruled that Barrick Gold (TSX: ABX; NYSE: GOLD) must go in what marks the end to the miner's decade-long battle...



## California Governor Doubles Down on Climate

September 12, 2020 0 Edit

(excerpts from the Sacramento Bee: Sept 11, 2020)link to original article: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article245667580.html> To combat climate change, California must reach 100% green electricity much faster than...



## Argentine Activist Romina Picolotti Acquitted in Lawfare Case

March 11, 2020 0 Edit

Romina Picolotti, Argentine Environmental Activist, Acquitted in Lawfare Case March 11, 2020 - Buenos Aires Today, a federal judge dismissed a criminal case against Romina...



# CHRE's *Permanent Team, Volunteers, Fellows and Interns*

CHRE's team comprises persons from all walks of life, some contributing full-time commitment to our advocacy, but mostly our team is comprised of part-time volunteers that have other ongoing full-time commitments but that want to contribute in different ways to our overall sustainability objectives.

Whatever the form of engagement, CHRE's team members contribute incisively to our advocacy! Over the years we have been fortunate to have the assistance and commitment of hundreds of people, including seasoned professionals, students, career environmentalists, scientists, academics and human rights advocates, some conducting cutting edge research, others helping draft reports, or producing academic publications, while others work on international complaints we might file against a government or contaminating industry. Many offer their help anonymously because they are working for contaminators and would like someone to engage to make their companies more sustainable! Some like deskwork, while others prefer more hands-on engagement with local communities to help promote sustainable development and defend human rights. We've also benefited greatly from lovers of the outdoors who have contributed photography and onsite data collection of things like glaciers, mining projects or high mountain wetland systems.

While in the past CHRE offered *onsite* engagement in office environments, today our engagement with our team members is *virtual* and free from a geographically-defined location. This means that you can engage with CHRE anywhere in the world, adapting personal schedules and time and travel constraints, or targeting site-specific research or advocacy that you are interested in working on. In 2020, CHRE's team came from the Austria, Spain, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Canada and the United States, carrying out research, maintaining websites, generating communication, editing publications, assisting with academic research, and publishing some of our most incisive and important reports.



# CHRE's 2020 Team

## Andres Aranda (Mexico)



Andrés Aranda received his degree as a Environmental Chemical Engineer from the University of Wismar in Germany. He has specialized in technical cooperation projects to reduce emissions causing contamination to the atmosphere. He has contributed to the creation of projects in renewable energies, sustainable transport and climate change mitigation in Mexico and Latin America, and on accessing public and private sector finance from the Green Climate Fund. He has collaborated with multilateral agencies such as GTZ, Swisscontact and the CAF, and as a consultant on climate change mitigation. During the last several years, he worked for the Government of the State of Jalisco, Mexico, as Director of Clean Air where he promoted the creation of the first environmental norms for the State on the location and operation of artisanal brick kilns, promoting clean technologies, capacity building and the creation of an arsenal brick kiln industrial park. Andres contributes to CHRE to strengthen initiative promoting the transition to clean brick production in Mexico, seeking consensus building throughout the sector and improving air quality in Mexico's principal cities.

## Carl Arco (Austria/Paraguay)



Carl is a graduate of the University of Leoben, Austria. He completed his masters thesis on current state and evolution of the Brick Industry in Paraguay. He currently assisting the Paraguayan Government in the development to strategies to address sustainability of the artisanal brick sector in the country. He has worked at several quarries and for mining companies extracting coal and iron. The time he spent with "Engineers Without Borders Austria" awakened his interest in facilitating technical support in developing countries. He works with CHRE as Market Analyst for the Paraguayan Brick Sector.

## Camilo Quintero (Colombia)



Camilo is a chemist by trade with more than 20 years of experience in the ceramics sector. He is founder of Mintec Ceramic Ltd, a company offering services to the ceramics sector of Colombia, and to Central and South America. He has been a consultant for programs such as EELA (by Swisscontact), USAID and PAN LAC, actively participating on the characterization of clays and best practices in production processes in the bricks sector. He is a project collaborator at CHRE working with the PAN LAC (Latin American Policy Advisory Network for Clean Brick Production).

## Lucia Urrutia (Spain/Paraguay)



Lucia graduated from Goldsmiths University in London (United Kingdom) with a degree in Education, Culture and Society. Always very interested in social inclusion, Lucia has worked as a social, linguistic and cultural educator in places such as Turkana (Kenia), Kolkata (India), Yucatán (México), London (United Kingdom), Fuzhou (China) and Madrid (Spain). She is a passionate sociologist and educator in different cultures with an integral approach on inter-culturality, cultural respect and development. Her degree dissertation and master thesis (Master on Bilingual Education) focused on sustainable transformation on the basis that all changes in society need to be well planned and consider all stakeholders towards a positive and realistic transformation, taking into account cultural as well as social diversity. Now she is now engaged with CHRE on the empowerment and inclusion of the brick sector in Paraguay by promoting the national product and aiding in the smooth change of the sector in relationship to formalization, visibility and modernization.

## Amelia Murphy (United States / Canada)



Amelia is currently finishing a B.A. & Sc. in Science, Sustainability, and Society from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Prior to joining CHRE, Amelia worked in local governance researching and advocating for environmental justice programming in her hometown of Nantucket, Massachusetts. She is CHRE's Cryoactivism Researcher and Editor and is working with CHRE to promote awareness of the cryosphere and glacier melt, and the opportunity to halt global warming and avoid tipping points by mitigating short-lived climate pollutants. With CHRE and our partner, IGSD, Amelia has been focused on researching and promoting how the SLP agenda can intersectionally address environmental justice, air quality, climate, and COVID recovery goals in California.

Your picture could be here!



## Board

## Jorge Daniel Taillant



Daniel co-founded the CHRE in 1999, and served as Executive Director until 2006, as President from 2006 to 2008 and assumed Executive Director position again in 2012. He leads CHRE's work on Cryoactivism, in the promotion of Oil and Gas Emissions Reduction, and on CHRE's general advocacy, communications and management tasks. For this work, and particularly for CHRE's strategic advocacy opposing two controversial pulp mills on the Argentine-Uruguayan border, the CHRE received the 2007 Sierra Club's Earth Care Award, its highest international distinction for innovative advocacy in protection of the global environment. He has worked with numerous national and international organizations, including the United Nations, OAS, World Bank, and the European Community. He has published numerous papers on human rights and environment linkages.

## Romina Picolotti



Romina Picolotti is co-founder of the Center for Human Rights and the Environment (CHRE) and presently serves as Climate Advisor and Board Member of the USA based CHRE. Romina is a worldly recognized international environmental and human rights expert. She established Latin America's first human rights and environment legal clinic to defend underprivileged and marginalized communities from environmental degradation and has defended victims before international human rights tribunals. In 2006 she won the prestigious Sophie Prize for her unique contribution to sustainable development. She served as Argentina's Environment Secretary from 2006-2008 deepening environmental controls for hundreds of companies. She helped shape and create stronger environmental regulatory frameworks, led Argentina to pass a critical forestry law, established environmental insurance requirements for corporations, and ushered in the world's first ever glacier protection law. Through her collaboration with the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) she contributes extensively to address global climate change and phase-out short-lived climate pollutants, for which she won USEPA's Climate Protection Award in 2008.

## Stephanie Daveris



Stephanie graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a degree in International Political Science and a Public Policy minor. Through her career she worked on many different platforms including, international, state and non-profit sectors. Internationally, she worked in Argentina for CHRE assisting in the initial research for the Pulp Paper Mill case. At the state level, she served California Governor Schwarzenegger coordinating constituent affairs. In the non-profit sector, she worked in Vail, Colorado educating disadvantaged youth through the arts. Stephanie is very passionate about learning and helping her community. She serves as CHRE Board Member.



# 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

*\*Much of this text is taken and reedited from 2015 and other annual reports as the information is still very pertinent!*

Ironically, environmental and human rights organizations are rarely called out to show how *they* promote environmental and human rights protection within their own organization. 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 striving to create a healthy work environment for 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 1**. In fact, CHRE's founder and present Executive Director until recently sat on the [Global Sustainability Standards Board](#) of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Most companies and other organizations around the world utilize GRI as guidance 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 incorporate 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 on environmental, social, and economic sustainability. We also contributed to [GRI's Sector Supplement on NGO Reporting](#). These reports are still relevant today for helping NGOs define their sustainability materiality and reporting!



CHRE plants trees to offset CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions; image of tree planted by CHRE in 2016 (left), 2017 (center left), and 2018 (center right) and 2019 (right)



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? Also, what are its commitments to reduce impacts and the organization's system for monitoring and reporting progress?** NGOs should consider *who* their 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 team members 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 to follow.**



1. (left and center) CHRE plants two additional trees in Florida during 2017 to offset CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions; 2. (right) CHRE Director plants trees in Colombian *páramo*—wetlands (11/2018)

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 a team of 30 this consumption was more significant, but now that we are just a handful to team members, it is less material, *but not irrelevant* and it's always important to set example. 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. **Answering questions, responding to these public concerns, and gaining social confidence amongst our peers, with our beneficiaries and with our donors, 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 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



CHRE's Director drives a "zero emissions" fully electric vehicle, greatly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local travel

Few people ask NGOs about their *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 own team members against our own organizations. *We* are usually the ones filing complaints about others, but rarely do we look inwards to see if *we* are doing things as we should! 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 the example.

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 to carry out our advocacy work, our team members had traveled many times around the world, generating significant per-capita CO<sub>2</sub> 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 contaminating corporations we were targeting with pressure to be more sustainable!





Some of the Native Tree Seedlings Planted in Florida during 2017 (above)

Growth of accessible trees as viewed in November 2018 (below)

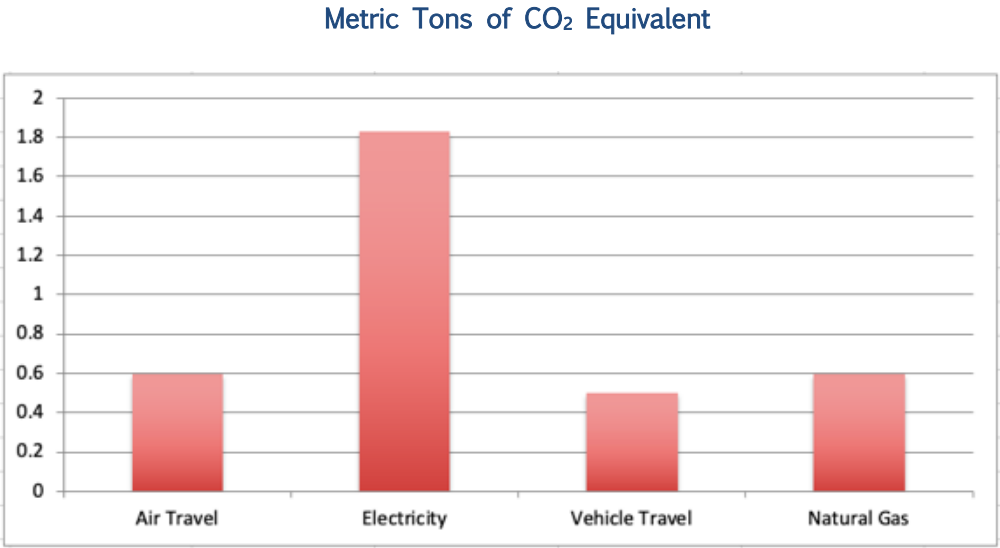
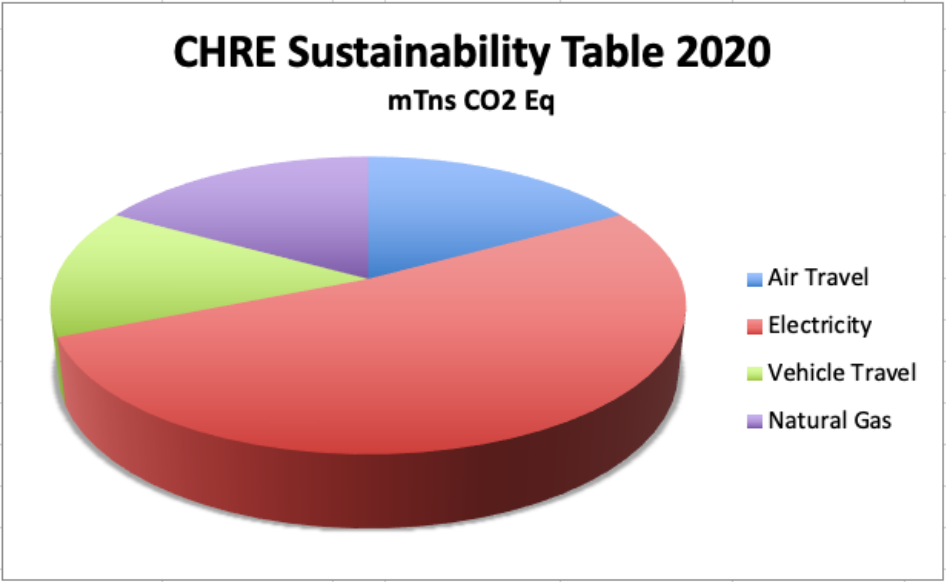


Our engagement with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) in the early 2000s, and thinking about how business should handle *their* reporting, helped us find a path towards defining our own dimensions of sustainability. And it was at that time that we developed our first [\*Office Policy\*](#), our first *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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 for reforestation and going ourselves to plant trees to offset our emissions. These outings had the added benefit of helping solidify team 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 team constraints, but always committed to the sustainability of our operations and to following our sustainability policies. In 2012 we decided to move CHRE into to a *virtual* work environment, eliminating the office we maintained in Cordoba, greatly reducing our material impacts from the office environment. In 2015 we moved to the USA and decided to introduce an “integrated” annual report, that is, a single 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. In 2015 we utilized GRI's G4 Guidelines as the framework for our report, and in 2016, we delved into GRI's new *Sustainability Standards* format (something that we helped create through membership in GRI's GSSB Board).

Utilizing a [web-based carbon calculator](#), we identified that in 2020 that we generated about 2.99 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent deriving from air and land travel for the year and from gas and electricity consumption. This is only 23% of emission compared to 2019, but we should note, because of the COVID pandemic, our travel has greatly decreased for the year 2020. For each year of our operations, we have been planting trees to offset our emissions. During 2017 and in 2018 we planted 5 trees each year (see pictures above). For our 2019 we planted four trees and in 2020, one. On the policy side of things, in 2016 we reviewed, adapted and updated [CHRE's Office Policy](#) and updated the [CHRE-Mandments](#) (our institutional rules to live by). Below are our sustainability tables which we update each year. To produce these we've created in-house methodologies (shown below) that we will use to monitor and report progress as time evolves.





## CHRE Environmental Footprint 2015 - 2019

	CO2 Eq					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Electricity (kWh)	1.69	1.68	1.91	1.84	1.92	1.83
Natural Gas (Therms)	0.12	0.14	0.1	0.06	0.06	0.06
Vehicle Kilometers	0.73	0.79	0.76	0.69	0.64	0.5
Air Travel	7.4	16.25	14.21	12.95	10.46	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.94</b>	<b>18.86</b>	<b>16.98</b>	<b>15.54</b>	<b>13.08</b>	<b>2.99</b>
<i>Water Use (gal)</i>	<i>21,200</i>	<i>40,200</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>36,400</i>	<i>33,200</i>	<i>45,600</i>
<i>Trees to Offset*</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>

carbon emissions / trees calculator: <http://treescharlotte.org/tree-education-resources/charlotte-tree-resources/>

### 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.

### Material Consumption

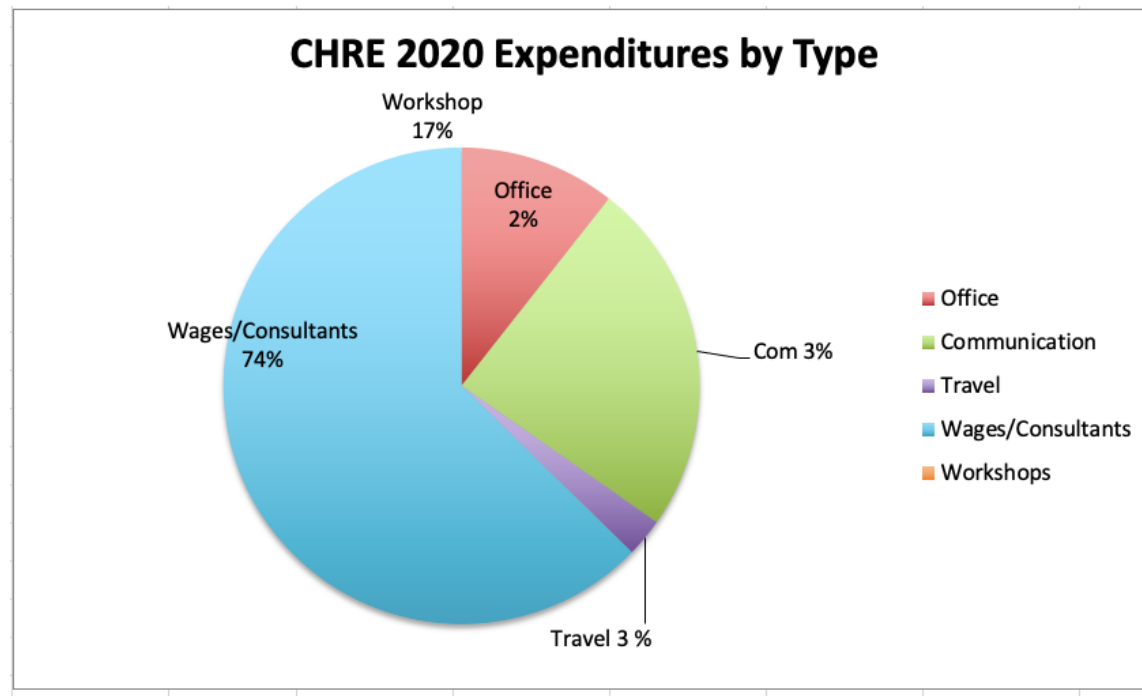
As a Human Rights and Environmental Organization dedicated to promote sustainable development, CHRE also encourages its own Team Members to live sustainably, reduce consumption whenever possible, and to promote the use of environmentally friendly products. As an organization, we promote environmentally 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 receives donor funds primarily from institutional donations as well as small individual grants. CHRE's budget has varied over the years (previously as Argentina-based CEDHA reporting to Argentine fiscal authorities) and since 2015 as a USA-based organization reporting to USA federal authorities.

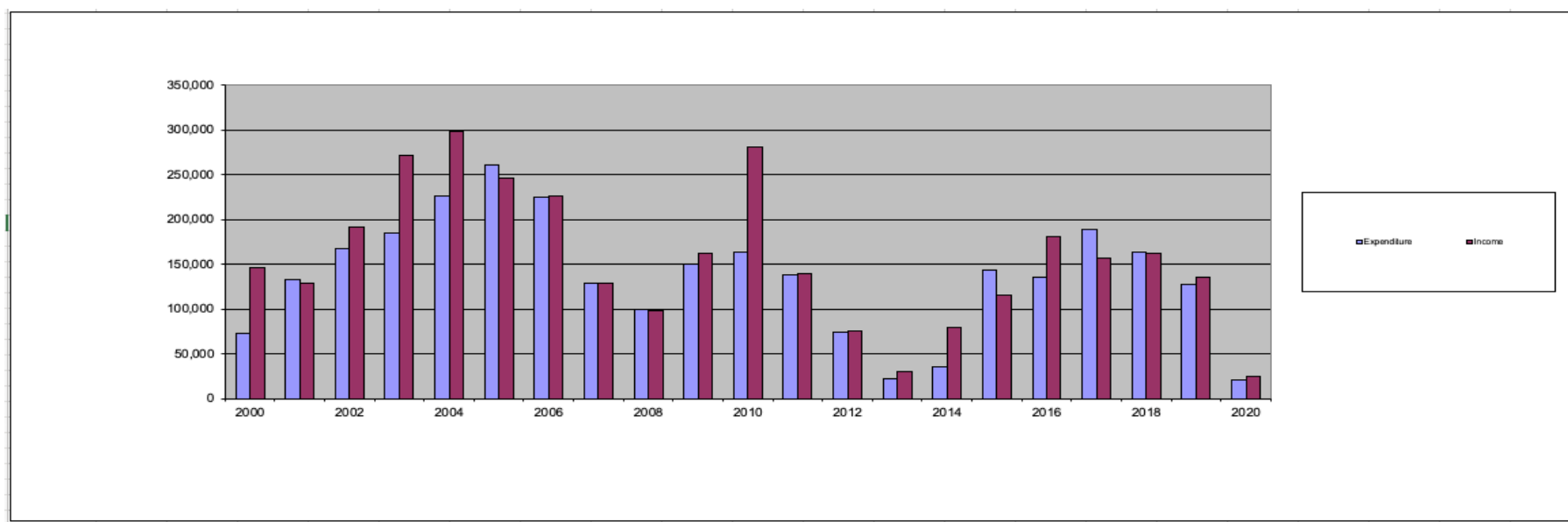
Below is the historic evolution of CHRE's finances, recalling that prior to 2015, these funds were granted to the previously constituted NGO in Argentina, CEDHA. As of 2015, funds are held and administered solely through a CHRE account in the USA. Average *historical* income for CHRE is US\$156,342, reflecting a slight decrease from last year. Expenditures for 2020 dropped significantly to only 16% of the previous year's expenses, to US\$20,534. While CHRE was on a steady income growth from 2013 through 2017, this year's sharp decrease in both expenditures and income marks not only a continued down trend, but also reflects a budgetary shift where salaries are no longer paid to full time staff. The main reason for this shift is the partnership established with the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, which is covering CHRE's salary expenses through a consultant contract directly with staff as opposed to going through CHRE's institutional budget. CHRE's current budget goes entirely to cover recurring institutional office expenses and/or passthrough financing to projects for which CHRE acts as institutional sponsor.





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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average
<b>Expenditure</b>	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	135,089	188,695	163,376	128,210	20,534	<b>136,342</b>
<b>Income</b>	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	180,550	157,238	162,636	136,200	25,003	<b>156,342</b>



# Third Party Tax Review and Filing

CHRE's legal tax review and filings, which include our yearly budget, expenses, income and other financial matters, is carried out by: Vault Financial LLC [2020 Return Filing Completed]. A Comfort letter is also provided to funders upon request, indicating that receipts and bank balances have been reviewed and that tax filings are as per national tax obligations for 501 c3 non-for-profit organizations.

Electronic Filing Information Worksheet		2020
▶ Keep for your records		
Name(s) shown on return Center for Human Rights and Environment Incorporated	Identifying number 47-3973062	
<b>Part I – State Electronic Filing:</b>		
Check this box to force state only filing for all states selected to be filed electronically <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Part II – Electronic Return Originator Information</b>		
The ERO Information below will automatically calculate based on the preparer code entered on the return.		
For returns that are prepared as a "Non-Paid Preparer" (XNP) or "Self-Prepared" (XSP) enter the EFIN for the ERO that is responsible for this return . . . . . ▶ 653820		
For returns that are marked as a "Non-Paid Preparer" (XNP) or "Self-Prepared" (XSP) enter a PIN for the ERO that is responsible for filing return . . . . . ▶		
ERO Name Vault Financial LLC	ERO Electronic Filers Identification Number (EFIN) 653820	
ERO Address 1983 PGA Blvd. #102	ERO Employer Identification Number 46-1275091	
City Palm Beach Gardens	State FL	ZIP Code 33408
Country	ERO Social Security Number or PTIN	
<b>Part III – Paid Preparer Information</b>		
Firm Name Vault Financial LLC	Preparer Social Security Number or PTIN P00191004	
Preparer Name David Price	Employer Identification Number 46-1275091	
Address 1983 PGA Blvd. #102	Phone Number (561) 223-3252	Fax Number
City Palm Beach Gardens	State FL	ZIP Code 33408
Country	Preparer E-mail Address info@vaulttax.com	



# Conclusion

The year 2020 has been a year of many changes. The COVID 19 pandemic has radically influenced and entirely limited our capacity to physically engage and participate in local action with a physical presence. As a result, we have little to no local activity to report. Nearly all of our activity for 2020 has been virtual. This has not however, limited our capacity to continue to engage on our priority advocacy agenda which we have been able to carry out successfully in the USA now for 6 years (following our previous 15 years in Argentina).

It is our sixth year in existence as a USA-based 501C3, and we are proud to report that we have established a smooth operational transition as a USA-based non-profit organization, meeting our legal and taxation requirements (at the federal and state level), and in compliance with local laws.

The year 2020 also marked a significant change in our staff and institutional engagement. A partnership between IGSD and CHRE is flourishing, focused on the promotion of fast climate mitigation and short-lived climate pollutant phaseouts, and our engagement with the State of California to promote and learn from the most advance climate policy being implemented today has become a central axis of our work. CHRE is no longer providing remuneration to any of its staff as such time payment is covered through our partnership and advocacy work conducted through our partnership with IGSD. Administrative and other costs are covered through projects and activities conducted through engagement with partners such as the Clean Air Task Force, or the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, among others. All CHRE income is currently being used to cover institutional expenses, travel, communications, website management, administrative costs, tax filings and other necessary institutional expenses.

In terms of our advocacy work programs, we are very much in line with our institutional mandate and objectives. Our priority areas continue to be climate change, cryoactivism, contamination from oil and gas and artisanal brick production, and increasingly, short-lived climate pollutant phaseout advocacy.

In 2020 we have greatly increased our North America engagement, bridging our regional and global advocacy work to key partners in North America, and we expect to continue to do so in 2021.

While our US and North America advocacy front widens and deepens alongside our global work, we are still very much in demand for our expertise on glacier protection, in particular on mining risks to glaciers as well as cryoactivism requests and assistance in brick kiln policy and efficiency, and advocacy on oil and gas sector emissions for the Latin America region. The year 2021 finds us immersed in a continued global pandemic that seems not to let up and which continues to limit our ability to carry out local actions, maintaining all of our work in the virtual realm. We will continue to focus on fast climate mitigation strategies, engaging key policy makers and officials in jurisdictions such as California, and intensifying efforts at tackling short-lived climate pollutants, while promoting environmental and climate justice.

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

# Annex: GRI Sustainability Standards with Index Table References

CHRE presents this report as its *2020 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 Sustainability Standards, 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 Vault Financial.

(Institutional descriptive portions of this section are taken in part from the 2016 and other reports as they are still relevant and applicable.)

## GRI 101: Foundation *and 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 Sustainability Section of this Integrated Annual Report (pp. 19-25), 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 in daily operations. Stakeholders for advocacy groups, particularly ones working for a general public interest are sometimes intangible and less understood. Our financial contributors (our funders) are stakeholders. We are also accountable to the general public as we are “public interest groups”. The communities we assist are also our stakeholders and could be considered the equivalent to a business organization’s “client”. Other NGOs (partners that we work with) could also be considered our “stakeholders” as they depend on, and are



affected by, our work. But 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.

### *Sustainability Context*

NGOs don't generate voluminous amounts of industrial waste like some of the actors we are engaging with and whom we push 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 virtual not too long ago, from a team of about 30 staff a decade ago with many volunteers also contributing to our work activities, to a mere handful of individuals, greatly reducing 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 and setting example for others to follow.

### *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. In considering this footprint, our "per capita" contamination will be more relevant than our overall contamination and should be a long-term indicator to determine where we can make a difference to reduce our footprint. We have a work environment with Team Members (including volunteers) and trust that they are happy in their work environment, and we travel quite frequently, generating *on a per capita basis*, significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We also consume office products, utilize utility resources (electricity, natural gas, water, etc.) and have work habits that contribute (or detract) from sustainable development. All our team members work from home, or from mobile satellite locations, such as public spaces. Calculating utility usage and expenses, hence, can be a challenge. For home-based work, we generally presume that a fixed percentage of utilities (about 20%) are consumed during working hours, which also means that about 20% of the home space utilized for work can and should be considered as utilized by the organization. That means that we take 20% of the home's electricity, water, and gas bills and tabulate them as belonging to CHRE. A similar formula is utilized for calculating vehicular usage. We've chosen to focus most of our attention in our sustainability reporting on the fairness and nature of our work environment (a core human rights issue) and on our efforts to measure and address what we consider to be our most significant environmental impact: emissions from travel (particularly air travel). We also consider our utility resource consumption (electricity, gas, water, etc.) and our material consumption although we recognize that our impact in quantitative terms in this area is frankly negligible. When we say that an indicator is "Not Material" it means that either it really is non-existent, or its' relevance is negligible for our operations, such as for instance, "Nitrous Oxide Emissions", so while there may be inherent NO<sub>x</sub> emissions indirectly related to our travel, it is not an area where we are generating significant impacts to the point that we consider that we should report these emissions. "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, we were obliged to cease reporting on sustainability. For 2015 and onwards, we decided 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.

## GRI 102: General Disclosures

### Disclosures

#### 102-1: Name of the Organization

The Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE); sometimes referred to by its Spanish name, *El Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente (CEDHA)*. One important clarification, as of 2016, the original Argentine NGO equivalent (El Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente) continues its activities under new and independent leadership *and management*. It was of mutual agreement with CEDHA Argentina's management and leadership that from 2016 onward, the Argentine NGO will be referred to as "CEDHA Argentina", while we in the United States will be referred to simply as CHRE or CEDHA. No formal, legal, administrative, financial or management ties between the organizations remain as of 2016.

#### 102-2: Activities Brands Products and Services

Environmental protection and advocacy, human rights protection and defense, research, educational publications, communication about human rights and environmental issues, complaint filings, public policy promotion, transparency promotion, stakeholder training, engagement with public authorities, engagement with corporate actors.

#### 102-3: Location of Headquarters:

Palm Beach Gardens, FL USA; as we have a virtual operating environment, we also utilize team members from locations around the world.

#### 102-4: Location of Operations

Non-geographic specific; This reporting year Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Mexico, Spain, USA; some activities are geared to address "globally" relevant topics

#### 102-5: Ownership and Legal Form

Non-profit corporation, established under Florida USA State and Federal law. 3-person board. (p.13)



#### 102-6: Markets Served

Environmentally affected communities usually in developing countries, some activity in industrialized countries.

#### 102-7: Scale of Organization

Employees: 2 Full time (Florida), o/w 1 volunteer; varying number of non-paid part time team members; occasional hired consultants; (p.18)

Net revenues in 2020: US\$20,534; (p. 26)

#### 102-8: Information on Employee and Other Workers

a) One permanent full time, one volunteer full-time, four part-time volunteers (p. 18)

b) Executive Staff: 1 male / 1 female; Board: 2 female / 1 male

c) Total Number of Employees by type two full time 4 males / 2 female

d) A portion of the work of the organization (10-30%) is performed by non-paid volunteers.

e) Variations in team composition is dependent on individual availability, sometimes related to off-school (University) months

f) Small number of team members does not need complex data collection and is provided by director knowledge of day to day management

#### 102-9: Supply Chain

Direct purchasing of office equipment; public services provided locally by main public service providers; flights bought online or from travel agent;

#### 102-10: Significant Changes to the Organization and its Supply Chain

Not Applicable

#### 102-11: Precautionary Principle Approach

Contained in Office Policy p. 8 for material consumption and stressed in all advocacy activity decisions

#### 102-12: External Initiative

Universal Bill of Human Rights and GRI Sustainability Standards (see Office Policy p. 4)

#### 102-13: Membership of Associations

OECD Watch, Banktrack, ESCR Net, AIDA, IUCN, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), PAN LAC (Latin American Policy Advisory Network on Clean Brick Production), ALFF (Alianza Latinoamericana Frente al Fracking), Sierra Nevada Alliance.

#### 102-14: Statement from Senior Decision-Maker

see P.2

#### 102-15: Key Impacts, Risks and Opportunities

see pp. 30-31 of this report.

#### 102-16: Values, Principles, Standards, and Norms of Behavior

A CHRE [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. Management consults/consulted with all Team Members in original development of policies. All new team members/volunteers receive and must confirm that they have read these policies and must accept each of these policies by signing a copy in order to begin engagement with CHRE.

Link to OFFICE POLICY 2016: <http://wp.cedha.net/wp-content/uploads/CHRE-Office-Policy-2016.pdf>

Link to CHRE-MANDMENTS: <http://wp.cedha.net/wp-content/uploads/CHRE-Mandments.pdf>

#### 102-17: Mechanisms for Advice and Concerns about Ethics

##### a. Description of internal and external mechanisms for:

- i. seeking advice about ethical and lawful behavior and organizational integrity;
- ii. reporting concerns about unethical or unlawful behavior, and organizational integrity;

Stipulated in Office Policy, grievance mechanism is explained. Internal relations managed internally. All perceived unlawful acts to be reported to police authorities.

#### 102-18: Governance Structure

##### a) Governance Structure of the Organization including committees of the highest governance body.

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

##### b) Committees responsible for decision-making on economic, environmental, and social topics

Executive team lead by Executive Director responsible for all decision-making on economic, environmental and social topics;

#### 102-19: Delegating Authority

##### a) Process for delegating authority of economic, environmental, and social topics from the highest governance body to senior executives and other employees.

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

#### 102-20: Executive-level responsibility for economic, environmental, and social topics

##### a) Whether the organization has appointed an executive-level position or positions with responsibility for economic, environmental, and social topics. Sustainability Officer not specifically contracted. Executive Director is Responsible for all sustainability performance.

##### b) Whether post holders report directly to the highest governance body.

Yes



120-21: Consulting stakeholders on economic, environmental, and social topics

a) Process for consultation between stakeholders and the highest governance body on economic, environmental, and social topics. Stakeholder engagement is carried out by Executive Director and an additional board member as needed.

b.) If consultation is delegated, describe to whom it is delegated and how the resulting feedback is provided to the highest governance body.  
Not Applicable

102-22: Composition of the highest governance body and its committees

a) Composition of the highest governance body and its committees by:

- i. Executive or non-executive;
- ii. Independence
- iii. Tenure on the governance body
- iv. Number of each individual's other significant positions and commitments, and the nature of the commitments;
- v. Gender
- vi. Membership of under-represented social groups
- vii. Competence relating to economic, environmental, and social topics;
- viii. Stakeholder representation

Board Member (Chairman): Jorge Daniel Taillant – Executive Director, remunerated – Male/Latin American; Expert Competence in all related matters, Dependent; not of under-represented social group

Board Member: Romina Picolotti – Climate Advisor / Volunteer (*ad honorem*) – Female/Latin American; Expert Competence in all related matters; non-executive, Independent, Works as Independent Consultant for IGSD (non-related); not of under-represented social group

Board Member: Stephanie Daveris, no Programmatic Functions, Volunteer (*ad honorem*) – Female/Latin American/Professional Competence in all related matters; non-executive, Independent; not of under-represented social group

102-23: Chair of the highest governance body

a) Whether the chair of the highest governance body is also an executive officer in the organization

b) If the chair is also an executive officer, describe his or her function within the organization's management and the reasons for this arrangement

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, in Argentina). He has at times been the sole employee of the organization and at others managed a team of 30+. He has at times worked as a volunteer and also as a paid staff member, as well as the non-remunerated President of CEDHA with another paid Executive Director (e.g. 2006-2012).

102-24: Nominating and selecting the highest governance body

a) Nomination and selection processes for the highest governance body and its committees.

- b) Criteria used for nominating and selecting highest governance body members, including whether and how:
  - i. Stakeholders (including shareholders) are involved
  - ii. Diversity is considered
  - iii. Independence is considered
  - iv. Expertise and experience is relating to economic, environmental and social topics are considered

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

#### 102-25: Conflicts of Interest

- a) Processes for the highest governance body to ensure conflicts of interest are avoided and managed
- b) Whether conflicts of interest are disclosed to stakeholders, including as a minimum:
  - i. Cross-board membership;
  - ii. Cross-shareholding with suppliers and other stakeholders;
  - iii. Existence of controlling shareholder;
  - iv. Related party disclosure.

By legal requirements of the US Tax authorities (IRS), CHRE has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy, which is reviewed and signed yearly by board members. While conflicts of interest are not disclosed, none of the minimum listed issues (i. – iv.) is pertinent to CHRE. One issue that was disclosed to tax authorities in the creation of the CHRE is the marital relationship between two of the board members. However, as these two individuals are independently globally recognized for their environmental advocacy, and as they have worked together on environmental issues and advocacy for over two decades, this issue was explained to the authorities and accepted by them, allowing for the organization to be created and to operate, disregarding this relationship. This relationship is of common public knowledge to our stakeholders and has never presented any manifest concern either to the public, to stakeholders or to authorities overseeing the organization.

#### 102-26: Role of the highest governance body in setting purpose, values, and strategy

- a) Highest governance body's and senior executive's roles in the development, approval, and updating of the organization's purpose, value or mission statements, strategies, policies and goals related to economic, environmental, and social topics.

CHRE's Board receives, reviews, and approves mission, values, strategies, policies, etc. Executive Director is generally responsible for overseeing the development of these policies including purpose, values, strategy, etc.

#### 102-27: Collective knowledge of highest governance body

- a) Measures taken to develop and enhance the highest governance body's collective knowledge of economic, environmental, and social topics  
Board members were/are chosen with knowledge of sustainability issues; information about CHRE's sustainability engagement are sent regularly to board members.



#### 102-28: Evaluating the highest governance body's performance

- a) Processes for evaluating the highest governance body's performance with respect to governance of economic, environmental, and social topics.
- b) Whether such evaluation is independent or not, and its frequency.
- c) Whether such evaluation is a self-assessment.
- d) Actions taken in response to evaluation of the highest governance body's performance with respect to governance of economic, environmental and social topics, including as a minimum, changes in membership and organizational practice.

No evaluation of performance has been stipulated to date for highest governance body. An evaluation may be developed in the future.

#### 102-29: Identifying and managing economic, environmental, and social impacts

- a) Highest governance body's role in identifying and managing economic, environmental, and social topics and their impacts, risks, and opportunities – including its role in the implementation of due diligence processes.
- b) Whether stakeholder consultation is used to support the highest governance body's identification and management of economic, environmental, and social topics and their impacts, risks, and opportunities.

The CHRE Board Chairman (as Executive Director) is charged with risk management; stakeholder consultation not utilized although may change in future

#### 102-30: Effectiveness of risk management processes

- a) Highest governance body's role in reviewing the effectiveness of the organization's risk management process for economic, environmental and social topics.

CHRE's governance body is informed yearly of risk management issues through bi-weekly updates on executive activity, in yearly sustainability reports and in other related CHRE documents.

#### 102-31: Review of economic, environmental, and social topics

- a) Frequency of the highest governance body's review of economic, environmental, and social topics and their impacts, risks and opportunities.
- The CHRE's governance body is informed yearly of EES issues.

#### 102-32: Highest governance body's role in sustainability reporting

- a) The highest committee or position that formally reviews and approves the organization's sustainability report and ensures that all material topics are covered.

CHRE's Executive Director (who also serves as governance board chairman) prepares, and sends to Board for Review and Approval

#### 102-33: Communicating Critical Concerns

- a) Process for communicating critical concerns to the highest governance body.

Anyone at CHRE or in the general public may contact the Board to present concerns; contacts are provided to all team members, partners, etc.

102-34: Nature and total number of critical concerns

a) Total number and nature of critical concerns that were communicated to the highest governance body.  
None for the reporting period.

b) Mechanism(s) used to address and resolve critical concerns.

Not Applicable

102-35: Remuneration Policies

a) Remuneration policies for the highest governance body and senior executives for the following types of remuneration:

i. Fixed pay and variable pay, including performance-based pay, equity-based pay, bonuses, and deferred or vested shares:

ii. Sign-on bonuses or recruitment incentive payments;

iii. Termination payments;

iv. Clawbacks;

v. Retirement benefits, including the difference between benefit schemes and contribution rates for the highest governance body, senior executives and all other employees.

b) How performance criteria in the remuneration policies relate to the highest governance body's and senior executives' objectives for economic, environmental, and social topics.

Pay to the Executive Director was ceased in 2020 due to a new consulting partnership that paid for the ED's time for CHRE

No sign-on bonuses are offered, or recruitment incentive payments.

No termination payments are offered to CHRE team members.

No clawbacks are paid.

No Retirement benefits offered.

Board members are not paid for their "board" related services. They may be paid if they take on executive functions (as is the case for the executive director) either as full time team members or as consultants.

Board members or senior executives are paid based on experience, qualifications in the topics of activity and as per funding availability and approval of work by funders.

102-36: Process for determining remuneration.

a) Process for determining remuneration

CHRE pays team members (when necessary) and consultants competitive rates for the non-profit sector and for similar international advocacy activity at international organizations (such as UN, OAS, World Bank, etc.)

b) Whether remuneration consultants are involved in determining remuneration and whether they are independent of management

Not involved and independent of management.



c) Any other relationships that the remuneration consultants have with the organization.

None

#### 102-37: Stakeholders Involvement in Remuneration

a) How stakeholders' views are sought and taken into account regarding remuneration

The only stakeholders that may weigh in on remuneration are funders, who on occasion may approve/observe team salary rates provided in grant information. Such rates are generally displayed in grant applications sent to funders.

b) If applicable, the results of votes on remuneration policies and proposals.

Not Applicable

#### 102-38: Annual total compensation ratio.

a) Ratio of the annual total compensation for the organization's highest-paid individual in each country of the significant operations to the median annual total compensation for all employees (excluding the highest paid individual) in the same country.

- identify the highest paid individual for the reporting period, as defined by total compensation.
- calculate the median annual total compensation for all employees, except the highest paid individual.
- calculate the ratio of the annual total compensation of the highest paid individual to the median annual total compensation for all employees.

CHRE had no regular paid staff or employee in 2020. All staff/volunteers were taken on for short term projects. Fees for consultants, if any, are determined by project so this indicator is not applicable.

#### 102-39: Percentage increase in annual total compensation ratio

a) Ratio of the percentage increase in annual total compensation for the organization's highest paid individual in each country of significant operations to the median percentage increase in annual total compensation for all employees (excluding the highest paid individual) in the same country.

Not Applicable

- Not applicable for this calendar year.
- calculate the percentage increase in the highest paid individual's compensation from prior period to the reporting period; Not applicable.
- calculate median annual total compensation for all employees except the highest paid individual; Not Applicable
- calculate the percentage increase of the median annual total compensation from the previous reporting period to the current reporting period; Not Applicable
- calculate the ration of the annual total compensation percentage increase of the highest paid individual to the median annual total compensation percentage increase for all employees. Not Applicable

#### 102-40: List of all stakeholder groups

a) a list of all stakeholder groups engaged by the organization.

Partners, networks, funders, general public

102-41: Collective bargaining agreements

a) Percentage of total employees covered by collective bargaining agreements.

0%

102-42: Identifying and selecting stakeholders

a) The basis for identifying and selecting stakeholders with whom to engage

Partners/networks/funders that have worked or work closely w/CHRE or which have known of our operations for considerable time

102-43: Approach to stakeholder engagement

The organization's approach to stakeholder engagement, including frequency of engagement by type and by stakeholder group, and an indication of whether any of the engagement was undertaken specially as part of the report preparation process.

Not systematized; occurs as necessary. For this past reporting period, we sent CHRE's 2015 report to a group of about 20 persons to receive feedback. Responses were very limited (2). CHRE will work on developing more systematized and better targeted stakeholder outreach in the future.

102-44: Key topics and concerns raised.

None.

102-45: Entities included in the consolidated financial statements

a) An explanation of the process for defining the report content and the topic Boundaries.

b) An explanation of how the organization has implemented the Reporting Principles for defining report content.

Report content is defined by management led with previous CEDHA staff engaged in consultation, research and drafting. A report was produced in mid 2000s examining sustainability relevance for non-profit sector. That [report](#) initially informed and guided the definition and constitution of CHRE's report boundaries. New boundaries have been developed or redefined over the years as needed and as issues were identified and arose. This report covers CHRE activities/finance/impacts for 2019 although in some cases, data is available from the 2000-2015 period, which has been included. Some specific references are made throughout to former Argentine embodiment CEDHA related to 2000-2014 period as relevant to evolutionary nature of activities and past issues that may have carried over to US-based CHRE.

102-47: List of material topics

a) List of the material topics identified in the process for defining report content.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel, utilities consumption (electricity, natural gas, water, etc.), human right/office policies, sustainability of material consumption, smear campaign against CHRE

102-48: Restatements of information

a) The effect of restatements of information given in previous reports, and the reasons for such restatements.



For the most part, the same sustainability issues are monitored and reported on for each subsequent year. The only significant issue that has come up in the past that we have been grappling with for a number of years is the smear campaign leveled against our founder. This has been a recurring issue that we are addressing through communication and transparency.

102-49: Changes in reporting

a) Significant changes from previous reporting periods in the list of material topics and topic boundaries.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel increased considerably from 2015 to 2016 (10 to 19mtns) but dropped for 2017 to 17 mtns and then again down to 15.54 mtns in 2018 and subsequently down to 13.08 in 2019, due to reduced travel by CHRE's Executive Director. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel in 2020 to 0.6 (less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 2019 emissions) were greatly reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. The increase in 2016 is due to the fact that CHRE moved and was established as a new organization in 2015, with activities starting up midway through that year (implying that CHRE's operations were reduced to about 60% of normal activity during the 2015 reported year). More engagement and activity in 2016 resulted in more travel to international destinations, while a slight decrease occurred in 2017 and 2018, along with a reduced proximity of distance traveled to engaged countries. As we do each year, we are addressing our footprint by continuing our retribution to the environment through tree planting. Additionally, in 2016, CHRE's Executive Director purchased a fully electric vehicle, lowering emissions to *zero* for local travel. CHRE planted trees in Florida and in Colombian *paramos* (*high mountain wetland areas*) during 2018 (see p.21 photo).

102-50: Reporting period

a) The reporting period for the information provided.  
Calendar year 2020.

102-51: Date of most recent report

a) If applicable, date of most recent previous report.  
The 2019 report was made public in March of 2020.

102-52: Reporting cycle

a) Reporting cycle  
Annual.

102-53: Contact point for questions regarding the report

Jorge Daniel Taillant, Executive Director, CHRE

[jdtailant@gmail.com](mailto:jdtailant@gmail.com)

+1 415 713 2309

102-54: Claims of reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards

This report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards: Comprehensive option

#### 102-55: GRI Content Index

This section of the report is intended to be the GRI Context Index. When deemed appropriate, or where information is not provided in this section, a page reference is included with each indicator to identify the location of the information requested.

#### 102-56: External Assurance

CHRE obtains financial assistance of its financial reporting to the tax authorities through local tax services providers. For 2020 Vault Financial reviewed and assured our financial information to ensure that it is in proper form and content. The report is generally updated with this assurance after it takes place. See p. 28.

## GRI 103: Management Approach

#### 103-1: Explanation of material topic and its boundary

For each material topic, the reporting organization shall report the following information:

a) An explanation of why the topic is material.

b) The Boundary for the material topic, which includes a description of:  
where the impacts occur;

the organization's involvement with the impacts. For example, whether the organization has caused or contributed to the impacts or is directly linked to the impacts through its business relationships.

c) Any specific limitation regarding the topic Boundary.

Material topics are explained in detail on pages 19-25 and 30-34 of this report. Management studies (and *monitors*) the evolution of CHRE's impacts in each area of impact, and devises institutional policies (such as CHRE Office Policies, or CHRE-mandments) to address team behavior that influences institutional impacts in these areas with a view to help reduce these impacts over time. PP. 7-8 of the CHRE Office Policies outline CHRE's approach to material consumption and sustainability responsibility.

The preparation of an integrated sustainability report such as this one is an example of a way we chose to monitor this impact and evaluate our own progress towards achieving greater levels of sustainability.

In sum, material topics are:

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel and utilities consumption

Utility resource consumption (electricity, gas, water, etc.)

Human rights of team members

Sustainability of material consumption (paper, cups, ink, etc.)

Ethical integrity

103-2: The management approach and its components

For each material topic, the reporting organization shall report the following information:

a) An explanation of how the organization manages the topic.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel and utilities consumption: Management monitors emissions (CHRE Office Policy p. 13) and establishes policies/practices to reduce them (CHRE Office Policy and CHRE-Mandments); emission quantities are taken from online calculators utilizing point of departure and arrival as variables for calculating CO<sub>2</sub>.

Human rights of team members: Management developed non-discrimination and human rights policies (CHRE Office Policy p.3) and ensures team reads, understands and abides by them (each team member receives and signs policies at first engagement)

Sustainability of material consumption: Management developed CHRE [Office Policy](#) [CHRE-mandments](#) to define institutional culture (CHRE Office Policy pp.7-8)

Ethical integrity as per smear campaigns against CHRE team members: Regular communication to the public about continued persecution

b) A statement of the purpose of the management approach.

Management sets policy to steer team culture and practice. The idea is that each team member understand, agree to, and assume the institutional culture that is sought by the policy, such as, respecting each other's rights, or attempting to reduce excessive material consumption or choosing a less contaminating means of transportation.

In the CHRE Office Policy (p.4), the following statement sets out the guiding elements and goals of institutional culture:



### **Team Member Relations**

CHRE and CHRE Team Members strive to create a unified, collaborative, and harmonic team, respecting individuality, privacy, cultural differences, in a general atmosphere of tolerance and respect. Our objective is to promote and advance towards CHRE's institutional goals and mandate, grounded on the idea of creating a more sustainable global and local environment, respectful of human rights and the environment, which we also apply to the work place and to CHRE Team relations.

c) A description of the following, if the management approach includes that component:

- Policies (CHRE [Office Policy](#) guides institutional behavior and establishes rules about resource use, [CHRE-Mandments](#) sets out a general approach to inter-team behavior and expectations)
- Commitments: abiding by the precautionary principle (OP p.8), respecting anti-discrimination and human rights (OP p.3), minimizing resource consumption (OP pp.7-8), opting when possible for low-emissions travel (OP p.8)
- Goals and targets: Overall goals and targets are set in the CHRE Office Policy, such as in cited above statement (OP p.4)
- Responsibilities: While generally not mandated by law, CHRE voluntarily aims to set an exemplary standard on its approach to sustainability culture within the institutions and of its team members. We promote a work environment that we expect to be responsible, and that all team members abide the expected responsibility of the organization. Our internal rules for internal and external behavior are set generally throughout CHRE [Office Policy](#) and are generally observed by management and all team members. Team members are regularly asked to give their views, opinions and suggestions for team relations. Review occurs on an ongoing basis.
- Resources: Resources devoted to sustainability issues are mostly human resources in time allotted to preparation of reports, collection of data, and other analytical exercises to develop reports and implement sustainability actions. Some minor economic resources may be devoted to offsetting impacts, such as the purchase of plants/trees for reforestation to offset emissions. Reports are generally not printed, but rather placed online for public access.
- Grievance mechanisms  
CHRE has a grievance procedure in its Office Policy on pp. 13-14  
(see image). Management of the grievance mechanism is handled directly by the Executive Director. Over the 20 years of the existence of CHRE

(previously CEDHA), only a handful of grievances have been presented, addressed. Most of them were minor team relation issues. All of them have been successfully resolved. One (dating back to 2005) involved a labor dispute after justified termination of a contract and was resolved in an out-of-court agreement to the mutual acceptance of the parties. We have not determined that a more active, engaged or independent grievance mechanism is necessary for the size and nature of CHRE operations. Our present system suffices to handle the types of issues that may arise in our day-to-day activities.

- Specific actions, such as processes, projects, programs and initiatives  
Yearly tree planting to offset emissions.

### 103-3: Evaluation of management approach

For each material topic, the reporting organization shall report the following information:

- a. An explanation of how the organization evaluates the management approach, including:
  - i. the mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of the management approach;
  - ii. the results of the evaluation of the management approach;
  - iii. any related adjustments to the management approach.

Because of the present small size of the organization, the director evaluates the effectiveness of management approach and adjusts policies and programs accordingly on a regular and unsystematic basis. In the past, when staff was > 20 team members, a specific committee or program (usually the Corporate Accountability Program, or a team of interns specifically brought aboard for this task) was tasked with preparing sustainability reports. Either CHRE-wide retreats, or staff meetings were arranged to carry out such evaluation. On one occasion an external team evaluated CHRE's performance and shared results. At present, no such approach is included or programmed, until CHRE size and team scope might change.

### **Grievances/Complaints/Conflicts**

CHRE shall attempt to resolve all work-related conflicts between Team Members in work related scenarios. Those Team Members involved in the conflict shall attempt to communicate their unease with the Team Member they have the conflict with, in a respectful, friendly and professional manner in order to avoid escalation of the conflict and act by the following means.

- a. When circumstance permits, those involved in a conflict shall strive to resolve it amicably between each other without need of having others intervene.
- b. If this is not possible, the Team Member with the complaint shall approach management and present the issue.
- c. Management shall attempt to resolve the problem through a means deemed appropriate which may include bringing the parties of the conflict together to seek a mutual resolution.
- d. Management shall attempt to maintain the conflict confidential when this is possible and advisable.
- e. All conflicts involving illegal activity perpetrated by a CHRE Team Member shall be reported to the competent authority.

## GRI 201: Economic Performance

### Management Approach:

CHRE's Economic Performance is managed by its Executive Director in consultation with the Board. Besides the general and overall goals of utilizing our resources (obtained solely through donations) wisely and to the benefit of the public good, and specifically to promote environmental protection

and related human rights protection, we also aim to utilize our resources with the intent to minimize as best as possible the environmental and social impacts caused by the utilization of those resources. Utilizing the guidance set forth in our CHRE [Office Policy](#) and [CHRE-Mandments](#) is one way to achieve these goals. Additionally, in 2015, at the onset of our embodiment as a US based 501 C3 non-profit organization, we also set out a 4-year Strategic Plan (covering 2015-2018) and revised this plan in early 2019 to cover the 2019-2022 period (see page 4). In this plan (as well as the former) we also laid out some *economic goals and targets*, oriented to ensure our economic performance and sustainability over time. For 2019-2022 these include:

- to achieve medium-term institutional, programmatic financial and administrative sustainability for CHRE
- 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 maintain remuneration for staff and management at a competitive rate

In order to achieve these goals, CHRE's management team (lead by its Executive Director) is consistently working to achieve these targets. In 2017, we moved steadily to achieve these goals. Not only has our transition from Argentina to the USA been completed but we have been operating sustainably in terms of income and expenditures. In 2016 we had a slight surplus of revenues vs. expenditures (approximately 25%: well above our 15-20% target), which was offset in 2017 with a modest deficit of \$31,457 (or about 20% of income). In 2018 we showed a negligible deficit of \$740 (or about .05 of 1% of income) indicating a fully balanced budget. For the 2019 period we have a surplus of US\$7,990 (or nearly 6% of income) and in 2020 a smaller surplus of \$4,460 although our financing structure was largely altered with our staff time covered through an independent consulting contract by each staff with IGSD that does not run through CHRE's budget. See p.27 for budget evolution 2000-2020.

While we have generally been able to pay our management team a competitive wage, increasing steadily towards a competitive market rate each year since 2015 (when we were unable to pay a wage for select months), in 2019 we had to substantially reduce our Executive Director pay due to lack of institutional financing and in 2020 the ED's salary was eliminated completely. For future budgetary scenarios, we have decided to eliminate all permanent waged staff, and will now only pay our hired team members as consultants and as funding permits.

#### 201-1: Direct economic value generated and distributed

a) Direct economic value generated and distributed (EVG&D) on an accruals basis, including the basic components for the organization's global operations as listed below. If data are presented on a cash basis, report the justification for this decision in addition to reporting the following basic components:

- i. Direct economic value generated: revenues; US\$25,003 (grant income)
- ii. Economic value distributed: operating costs, employee wages and benefit, payments to providers of capital, payments to government by country, and community investments; US\$20,534 (operational expenses)
- iii. Economic value retained: 'direct economic value generated' less 'economic value distributed'. US\$4,469

b) Where significant, report EVG&D separately at country, regional, or market levels, and the criteria used for defining significance.

Not applicable



## 201-2: Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change

a) Risks and opportunities posed by climate change that have the potential to generate substantive changes in operations, revenue, or expenditure, including:

- i. a description of the risk or opportunity and its classification as either physical, regulatory, or other;
- ii. a description of the impact associated with the risk or opportunity;
- iii. the financial implications of the risk or opportunity before action is taken;
- iv. the methods used to manage the risk or opportunity;
- v. the costs of actions taken to manage the risk or opportunity.

As we have a climate advocacy program, increased climate change trends stands to increase available grant financing for advocacy. As such, one of our more robustly funded programs is our engagement on traditional brick contamination done with the UN's Climate and Clean Air Coalition, as well as work by our non-remunerated board member working with partner IGSD on Short Lived Climate Pollutants (such as methane, black carbon, HFCs, etc.). Much of CHRE's work is hence oriented to address climate change from an advocacy perspective. Our actions, on the contrary, do not have a significant climate impact, although as we have indicated, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from our team travel are our most significant sustainability impact area, for which we are devising actions (such as reducing emissions, or tree planting) to offset our emissions. The costs of these measures/actions is negligible to the organizational budget.

## 201-3: Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans

The reporting organization shall report the following information:

- i. If the plan's liabilities are met by the organization's general resources, the estimated value of those liabilities. NO
- ii. If a separate fund exists to pay the plan's pension liabilities: NO  
the extent to which the scheme's liabilities are estimated to be covered by the assets that have been set aside to meet them;  
the basis on which that estimate has been arrived at;  
when that estimate was made.
- iii. If a fund set up to pay the plan's pension liabilities is not fully covered, explain the strategy, if any, adopted by the employer to work towards full coverage, and the timescale, if any, by which the employer hopes to achieve full coverage. NO
- iv. Percentage of salary contributed by employee or employer. 0%
- v. Level of participation in retirement plans, such as participation in mandatory or voluntary schemes, regional, or country-based schemes, or those with financial impact. NONE

CHRE does not offer benefits plans, although we have provided some assistance to cover limited optical expenses including glasses, eye exams, etc..

#### 201-4: Financial assistance received from government

a) Total monetary value of financial assistance received by the organization from any government during the reporting period, including:

tax relief and tax credits; NONE

subsidies; NONE

investment grants, research and development grants, and other relevant types of grant; NONE

awards; NONE

royalty holidays; NONE

financial assistance from Export Credit Agencies (ECAs); NONE

financial incentives; NONE

other financial benefits received or receivable from any government for any operation. NONE

b) The information in 201-4-a by country. Not Applicable

c) Whether, and the extent to which, any government is present in the shareholding structure. NONE

In previous years some government grants have been received.

## GRI 202: Market Presence

### Management Approach:

CHRE competes with other NGOs in similar areas of work, particularly on fracking, mining, and climate change issues. CHRE promotes collaboration with partners and respect for territorial presence of partners where we operate. (See Office Policy pp.10-11). While in the past, we've had a much larger team, of over 30 individuals, and dozens of interns in a given calendar year, today we are a handful of individuals in our team, with only one remunerated team member and several volunteers, and an occasional short-term consultant paid for very time and product specific work. Given this small operational team, there is not much depth involved in the financial management of our team or in the extent of our considerations of market presence, areas or regions of operations, etc. For the most part, we are engaged in regional issues throughout Latin America such as mining, bricks, fracking, glaciers, etc., global issues such as climate change or oil and gas contamination, and also glacier protection, some emerging locally specific issues such as fracking in Florida and now as a Sierra Nevada Alliance member, we have partners and institutional colleagues in the Western United States. Our team members are extracted from around the globe, and hence are not tied to a locally specific ethnic, professional or gender-based criteria. We hence operate on an activity-based dynamic, taking on team members, remunerating them when applicable, as projects arise and as the need occurs. Over CHRE (and CEDHA's) history, women have dominated the gender profile of our management teams, or our programmatic teams and of our intern base. We have also been a very diverse group in terms of gender and sexual preference, having no conflicts related to any discrimination of any type whatsoever.

#### 202-1: Ratios of standard entry-level wage by gender compared to local minimum wage

- a) When a significant proportion of employees are compensated based on wages subject to minimum rules, report the relevant ratio of the entry - level wage by gender at significant locations of operations to the minimum wage. NOT APPLICABLE
- b) When a significant proportion of other workers (excluding employees) performing the organization's activities are compensated based on wages subject to minimum wage rules, describe the actions taken to determine whether these workers are paid above the minimum wage. NOT APPLICABLE
- c) Whether a local minimum wage is absent or variable at significant locations of operation, by gender. In circumstances in which different minimums can be used as a reference, report which minimum wage is being used. NOT APPLICABLE
- d) The definition used for "significant locations of operation". NOT APPLICABLE

CHRE does not have a "minimum wage". We pay our team members according to their qualifications at competitive market rates that are in all cases, always above minimum wage. As of 2020, we have eliminated all wage earning staff, and move to consultant payment only for hired help.

#### 202-2: Proportion of senior management hired from the local community

100%; our only hired full time senior manager (non-remunerated) is the Executive Director. He resides in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, USA, where CHRE is constituted.

## GRI 203: Indirect Economic Impacts

#### Management Approach:

Our programmatic work aims to improve community knowledge and capacity, among other issues, about industrial activity taking place at or near the community. We pick engagement in opposition to industrial projects or confronting government or industry to reduce contamination of these projects according to various criteria, including significance of impact, relevance of the issues to sustainability, the potential of the case to influence the sector to have some greater value to society. Due to financial constraints, we cannot always make management decisions based on what we would consider to be the *best* projects to engage on. Sometimes management decisions on which cases we engage on follow the likelihood of funding availability to engage on the project. In some cases, CHRE will utilize its own institutional resources to pursue an issue irrespective of whether or not there is sustained funding to do so (such as in our advocacy around glacier protection), but these cases are not the majority, since without sustained funding for a program, it is difficult to sustain advocacy around a case or topic in the medium/long term. We periodically review areas of engagement regarding to large industry projects that affect local communities and which would have direct or indirect economic impacts to those communities, positive or negative, long or short-term.

#### 203-1: Infrastructure investments and services supported:



a) Extend of development of significant infrastructure investments and services supported.

CHRE provides advisory assistance to communities about third party investments (such as a mining company wishing to exploit a mine and establish local infrastructure operations, or an oil and gas company intending to drill and set up industrial operations in the locality) but does not make any infrastructure investments itself.

b) Current or expected impacts on communities and local economies, including positive and negative impacts where relevant.

Areas where we are more actively engaged to avoid negative local environmental and social impacts (and where economic investments could be stalled due to our advocacy) presently include:

Argentina generally due to existing artisanal brick kiln operations (climate impacts, air quality, human health, biodiversity, etc.)

San Juan Province (Argentina), related to intended mining operations such as Pascua Lama, Veladero, El Pachon, Los Azules, Altares, Del Carmen, Constelación, and other mining projects

Catamarca Province (Argentina), related to intended mining operations such as Filo Colorado, Agua Rica, et.al. as well as potential future lithium mining

La Rioja Province (Argentina), related to intended mining operations such as Famatina.

Neuquén Province (Argentina), related to intended fracking operations for the Vaca Muerta project

Kyrgyzstan, related to intended mining operation at the Kumtor mining project

Mexico (Jalisco, Oaxaca, Morelos, Guanajuato, Michoacan, Veracruz) – due to existing artisanal brick kiln operations (climate impacts, air quality, human health, biodiversity, etc.), and potential fracking operations

Paraguay – engaging on contamination from artisanal brick kilns could affect producers

Colombia – due to oil and gas infrastructure and to potential fracking operations

Chile– due to mining operations affecting glaciers, and possible fracking operations in southern region

Uruguay – due to a nascent interest in addressing contamination from artisanal bricks kilns (something that CHRE spurred on) could affect producers

Florida, USA – due to possible fracking operations

California and Western United States generally.

Other US States (California, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Pennsylvania) due to ongoing and future fracking operations.

c) Whether these investments and services are commercial, in-kind, or pro bono engagements.

All are pro-bono engagements. CHRE never charges local communities for our services.

203-2: Significant indirect economic impacts:

a) Examples of significant identified indirect economic impacts of the organization, including positive and negative impacts.

b) Significance of the indirect economic impacts in the context of external benchmarks and stakeholder priorities, such as national and international standards, protocols, and policy agendas.

Our programmatic work aims to improve community knowledge and capacity, among other issues, about industrial activity taking place at or near the community. This knowledge may result in local opposition to local industrial/commercial investments, which in turn, if community opposition is generated, may result in major projects to stall. One example is the recent stalling of a US\$10 billion+ mining project investment in San Juan Argentina (Barrick Gold's Pascua Lama Project or its Veladero gold mining project). CHRE contributes to the development of local knowledge and education about the impacts of such projects. While we are not the sole cause of the stalling of these projects, we do contribute significantly to generating information and alarming society to the risks and impacts these projects cause. We understand that while communities may lose out on such investments because of our activity, particularly the short-term economic benefits they may provide (such as job creation), many negative economic externalities caused by such investments are actually *positive externalities* in the long term, as the typical environmental contamination and negative social impacts caused by these investments make them unsustainable in the long term.

## GRI 204: Procurement Practices

Management Approach:

CHRE's Office Policy informs procurement practices and management, focusing on sustainability in material purchasing of office consumption. (see p.25)

204-1: Proportion of spending on local suppliers

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

## GRI 205: Anti-Corruption

Management Approach:

CHRE has no specific policy or management approach on anti-corruption nor has corruption been identified as a material topic for CHRE's management, team members, or institutional history, nor have there been any cases meriting action. The only issue ever brought to CHRE involved non-CHRE activities but related to one of the founding board members, accused in 2007 by a political opposition party (for past activity when she served as Environment Secretary of Argentina for alleged misappropriation of Funds). Despite lack of merit rulings, she has been unfairly persecuted politically and judicially for 10 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 perceived integrity as a public interest institution. Also CHRE has moved from Argentina to the USA in 2015 due to the persecution, harassment and threats faced by CHRE and staff. We occasionally publish communication related to her case to showcase the persecution she has suffered. The 2015 Annual Report had a page dedicated to this issue.

205-1: Operations assessed for risks related to corruption; NOT APPLICABLE

205-2: Communication and training about anti-corruption policies and procedures. NOT APPLICABLE

205-3: Confirmed incidents of corruption and actions taken. NONE

## GRI 206: Anti-Competitive Behavior

### Management Approach:

CHRE promotes open, transparent and collaborative engagement with partners in field (Office Policy on pp. 10-11), emphasizing the importance of sharing information, respecting territorial presence of other institutions, valuing historical institutional relations, citing partner activity and academia, etc. CHRE has no specific management approach on anti-competitive behavior nor has this been identified as a material topic for CHRE's management, team members, or institutional history, nor have there been any cases meriting action.

206-1: Legal actions for anti-competitive behavior, anti-trust, and monopoly practices. NONE/NOT APPLICABLE



# GRI 301: Materials

## Management Approach:

Management developed [CHRE Office Policy](#) [CHRE-mandments](#) to define institutional culture (CHRE Office Policy pp.7-8). In these documents, expected institutional culture regarding material consumption is detailed and outlined. (see image to right). The principle underlying our approach is that as an environmental policy organization dedicated to sustainability we should set an example to others, despite the relatively insignificant contribution we make as a small service organization to global impacts. We also encourage our team members to adopt our sustainability approaches in their own lifestyles.

301-1: Materials used by weight or volume  
NEGLIGENT or NOT APPLICABLE

301-2: Recycled input material used  
CHRE recycles printed paper in preparation of travel report, in registering receipts, etc.

301-3: Reclaimed products and their packaging materials  
NOT APPLICABLE

### 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.

- a. Electricity
  - i. All appliances used for CHRE activities shall be turned off when not in use.
  - ii. CHRE will purchase low-energy appliances whenever possible.
- b. Plastics and other Petroleum derived products
  - i. CHRE shall avoid whenever possible the purchase of petroleum derived products
  - ii. CHRE shall avoid the use of disposable supplies whenever possible.
- c. Paper
  - i. When available, CHRE shall utilize chlorine free, non-white, or other types of environmentally friendly printing paper for its printing needs.
  - ii. CHRE Team Members shall recycle paper utilized for CHRE activities whenever possible.
  - iii. Whenever possible, CHRE Team Members will prefer to use digital documents instead of printed ones.
- d. Water
  - i. CHRE is committed to reducing water consumption whenever possible.
  - ii. CHRE upholds the right to water in all of its activities.
  - iii. CHRE Team Members commit to reporting water leaks to the responsible authority.
- e. Travel
  - i. CHRE and CHRE Team Members commit to utilizing renewable energy source travel whenever possible and reasonable to do so.
  - ii. CHRE Team Members commit to utilizing local public transportation whenever possible and reasonable to do so.
  - iii. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. All Team Members shall apply the precautionary principles in all of CHRE's activities both within and outside of the organizations.

## GRI 302: Energy

### Management Approach:

CHRE has identified electricity, natural gas used in office operations as material, and monitors utility bills/consumption on a yearly basis. We have explored office environment adjustments such as closing shades, opening windows, installing natural ventilation options to avoid air conditioning during working hours. We have also installed shaded screens on certain sun-facing windows to avoid heat capture in specific rooms. One very effective measure taken in 2017 was to install a garage screen door to allow opening the garage door facing opposite sliding doors with screens, to promote airflow in the building. This has greatly improved conditions lowering indoor temperature and reducing reliance on air conditioning. CHRE's Executive Director purchased an all electric zero emissions vehicle in early 2016, reducing our land vehicular emissions in half by the end of 2016 and to zero in 2017. Our management approach is informal, exploratory, and constantly seeking ways to reduce energy consumption through creative day-to-day solutions.

### 302-1: Energy consumption within the organization

- i. Total fuel consumption within the organization from non-renewable sources, in joules or multiples, and including fuel types used.  
Gasoline: 2,971 km traveled in 2020 (5,032 km traveled in 2019 and 4,712 km in 2018), utilizing vehicular gasoline of 93 octane, equivalent to 0.50 tns of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (vs. 0.64 in 2019 and 0.69 in 2018)  
Natural Gas: 11.48 Therms in 2020 (vs 10.84 in 2019 and 11.44 in 2018), equivalent to 0.06 tns CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (approximately equal to consumption in 2019 and 2018 vs. .1 tns in 2017 and .14 tns in 2016)  
the significant reduction in 2018 of 40% was due to the purchase of a more sustainable electric water heater;
- ii. Total fuel consumption within the organization from renewable sources, in joules or multiples, and including fuel types used.  
In March of 2016, the Executive Director purchased an all electric zero emission vehicle, traveling for CHRE. For this mobility, 20% of the vehicle use is attributed to CHRE related activity.
- iii. In joules, watt-hours or multiples, the total:
  - i. electricity consumption (3,842 kWh in 2020, vs. 3,907 kWh in 2019, 3,811 kWh in 2018; 3,813 in 2017; and 3,297 in 2016)
  - ii. heating consumption (NOT APPLICABLE)
  - iii. cooling consumption (NOT APPLICABLE)
  - iv. steam consumption (NOT APPLICABLE)
- iv. In joules, watt-hours or multiples, the total:
  - i. electricity sold (NOT APPLICABLE)
  - ii. heating sold (NOT APPLICABLE)
  - iii. cooling sold (NOT APPLICABLE)
  - iv. steam sold (NOT APPLICABLE)
- v. Total energy consumption within the organization, in joules or multiples.  
2.99 in 2020, vs. 13.08 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2019 vs 15.54 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2018 (a 77.2% drop from the previous

- year largely due to eliminated travel during the COVID pandemic). Previously there was a 8.5% decrease between 2018 and 2017.
- vi. Standards, methodologies, assumptions, and/or calculation tools used.  
<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>
- vii. Source of the conversion factors used.  
<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

#### 302-2: Energy consumption outside the organization

- a) Air travel 0.60 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, vs. 10.46 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2019, 12.95 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2018 or a near 96% decrease since the previous year explainable due to COVID-19 air and other travel restrictions (see page 25).
- b) <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>
- c) <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

#### 302-3: Energy intensity

- a) 2.99 tns of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, vs. 13.08 tns in 2019, and 15.54 tns of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2018 / 2 full time persons; 6.54 tns per person vs 7.77 tns in 2018, 8.13 in 2017 and 9.43 in 2016
- b) full time staff
- c) fuel (kms traveled), electricity (kWh), natural gas (therms), air travel (jet fuel), all converted to CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent
- d) both inside and outside

#### 302-4: Reduction of energy consumption

#### Summary CHRE Energy Consumption 2015-2020

	CO2 Eq					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Electricity (kWh)	1.69	1.68	1.91	1.84	1.92	1.83
Natural Gas (Therms)	0.12	0.14	0.1	0.06	0.06	0.06
Vehicle Kilometers	0.73	0.79	0.76	0.69	0.64	0.5
Air Travel	7.4	16.25	14.21	12.95	10.46	0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.94</b>	<b>18.86</b>	<b>16.98</b>	<b>15.54</b>	<b>13.08</b>	<b>2.99</b>



a) following a spike in energy consumption between 2015 and 2016, energy consumption decreased in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, in 2017 from 18.86 to 16.98 and then again in 2018 to 15.54 and down further to 13.08 in 2019. The spike in 2015 had to do with two main factors, the principle being that CHRE activities in early 2015 were greatly reduced, having just moved to the USA including the late creation of the organization in late April of 2015. As activities began to regularize in mid to late 2015, we got back into full swing. Hence, measurements for 2015 should more appropriately be considered as a half-year cycle. In 2016, CHRE had a “normal” year of operations, with increased air travel in 12 months compared to the relatively few trips in 2015 due to a late start. In 2017, the slight decrease has to do with the proximity of activities carried out in the year vs. those in the previous years. If we consider kms traveled locally, we see a reduction from 8,518 to 4,712 in 2018 and then slightly higher to 5,032 in 2019. The large drop off in 2020 is explainable by the travel restrictions, with near complete air travel elimination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

b) The type of energy reduced during the period was vehicular gasoline (93 octane).

c) Calendar Year. CHRE always measures impacts on a calendar cycle. See note in point (a) above regarding late 2015 start.

d) <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

302-5: Reductions of energy requirements in products and services  
NOT APPLICABLE

## GRI 303: Water

Management Approach:

CHRE monitors volume of water utilized, calculated as 20% of residency consumption. Our water consumption is negligible in real terms. We nonetheless check for leaks, attempt to minimize running water use in bathrooms and kitchen.

303-1: Water withdrawal by source

a) Total volume of water withdrawn, with a breakdown by the following sources:

i. Surface water, including water from wetlands, rivers, lakes, and oceans;

ii. Ground water: 45,600 liters, taken from municipal water supply (up considerably from 33,200 liters in 2019, and from 36,400 liters in 2018 and as well as 40,000 in 2017; possibly explainable for more time spent in the office environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown)

iii. Rainwater collected directly and stored by the organization;

iv. Waste water from another organization;

v. Municipal water supplies or other public or private water utilities.

b) Standards, methodologies and assumptions used.

Information taken from Seacoast Utility bill.

303-2: Water sources significantly affected by withdrawal of water: “0”

303-3: Water recycled and reused: “0”

## GRI 304: Biodiversity

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material for Sustainability Reporting

304-1: Operational sites owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas  
CHRE rents/shares home in authorized Residential Ecological Reserve - OK for homes

304-2: Significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity; N/A – “0”

304-3: Habitats protected or restored

Habitats Protected/Restored; CHRE is promoting protection of freshwater turtles in area; produced report in 2015 and engaged public officials. In the 2017 calendar year, CHRE took action on protecting the Florida Panther.

304-4: IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations

## GRI 305: Emissions

Management Approach:

CHRE determined that one of its areas of main concern is CO<sub>2</sub> Equivalent Emissions from travel, we are monitoring, reporting, and working to lower emissions/reduce travel as much as possible. To this end, we measure our emissions each year and offset them through tree planting each year. Emissions are measured by collecting information from utility bills and monitoring local vehicular travel as well as international travel.

305-1: Direct (Scope 1) GHG Emissions

a) Gross direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Equivalent: 2.99 in 2020, down considerably from 13.08 in 2019, as well as from 15.54 in 2018; from 16.98 in 2017 and from 18.86 in 2016)

b) Gases included: CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>,

c) Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: N/A

d) Base year for calculation: 2015 (9.94)—see 302-4 (a) for explanation of significant increase

e) Source of the emissions factor, vehicular and air travel, office environment heating, office electricity consumed;

f) Consolidation approach for emissions; whether equity share, financial control, or operational control; N/A

g) Standards, methodologies, assumptions, and/or calculations tools used.

<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

305-2: Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG Emissions

As CHRE's consumed energy is negligible, to avoid any double counting, all energy related emissions are reported in 305-2

305-3: Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG Emissions

N/A

305-4: GHG Emissions Intensity

2.99 tns of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent / 2 full time persons = 1.49 tns average tons per person; down from average 6.54 tns in 2019, 7.77 tns in 2018, 8.49 tns in 2017 and 9.43tns in 2016);

Gases included: CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>;

305-5: Reduction of GHG Emissions

See 302-4 (a) for explanation of increase/reduction of emissions from 2015 to 2016

305-6: Emissions of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

CHRE does not specifically calculate emissions of ozone depleting substances, while some emissions may be included in natural gas consumption (CH<sub>4</sub>) and in air conditioning utilized which would fall under electricity consumption. These emissions are not a significant portion of our emissions. Nonetheless, we have reduced air conditioning use considerably in 2016 (and subsequently for 2017 and for 2018) by introducing natural air flow patterns in our office environment by placing a screen garage door opposite sliding doors in the office environment. This creates air circulation, helping considerably in not needing to utilize artificial air conditioning.

305-7: Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), Sulfur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), and other significant air emissions

N/A

## GRI 306: Effluents and Waste

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material for Sustainability Reporting; we only provide a basic description of water and office materials used and procedures for disposal

306-1: Water discharge by quality and destination

Ground water: 45,600 liters in 2020, up from 33,200 liters in 2019, 36,400 liters taken from municipal water supply for normal office/garden use (up from 40,200 in 2016 and from 40,000 in 2017)



306-2: Waste by type and disposal method

Standard office waste, paper, ink cartridges, cardboard, plastics, metals (municipal collection and recycling); CHRE recycles letter sized paper for reuse in monthly finances, reports, etc; non-recyclable waste goes to local landfill administered by municipality. CHRE recycles ink cartridges with local supplier (Office Depot);

306-3: Significant spills;

N/A

306-4: Transport of hazardous waste

N/A

306-5: Water bodies affected by water discharges and/or runoff

N/A; wastewater goes to municipal sewer or drainage treatment

## GRI 307: Environmental Compliance

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material for Sustainability Reporting

307-1: Non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations

CHRE has no cases on non-compliance

## GRI 308: Supplier Environmental Assessment

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material for Sustainability Reporting

308-1: New suppliers that were screened using environmental criteria

N/A

308-2: Negative environmental impacts in the supply chain and actions taken

N/A

## GRI 401: Employment

### Management Approach:

Over the course of CHRE's past history (previously as CEDHA in Argentina), with 30+ team members, employment was an important dimension of our sustainability reporting. Today, in a virtual environment, with only one remunerated full time team member and one volunteer full time member, as well as only a handful of international volunteers and an occasional consultant hired for very short term assignments, our employment reporting has taken on a less significant relevance. CHRE's [Office Policy](#) and [CHRE-Mandments](#) provide the framework for our employment criteria, rules, sustainability issues, etc. Each new team member receives copies of these policies. They are reviewed and formally accepted by each team member at the onset of engagement. These policies set out human rights obligations, and provide a guidance for general team relations to guide employment practices and team interaction.

### 401-1: New employee hires and employee turnover

During this period, CHRE took on 1 new non-remunerated team members to work on diverse programmatic activities and outsourced consulting services through IGSD for permanent staff and other staff related expenses. Other team members have left the organization after completing their internships/volunteerships.

401-2: Benefits provided to full-time employees that are not provided to temporary or part time employees. NONE

### 401-3: Parental leave

N/A [all full and part time remunerated employees are entitled to parental leave]

## GRI 402: Labor/Management Relations

### Management Approach:

N/A Not Material for Sustainability Reporting

### 402-1: Minimum notice periods regarding operational changes

N/A Not Material for Sustainability Reporting

## GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

403-1: Worker representation in formal joint management-worker health and safety committees

N/A

403-2: Types of injuries and rates of injury, occupational diseases, lost days, and absenteeism, and number of work-related fatalities

CHRE has never had a work-related injury

403-3: Workers with high incidence or high risk of diseases related to their occupation

N/A

403-4: Health and safety topics covered in formal agreements with trade unions

N/A

## GRI 404: Training and Education

Management Approach:

CHRE team member occasionally undergo training or education. The nature of our work involves permanent education on the matters and issues we address. CHRE is open to any proposed training as our programmatic agenda evolves.

404-1: Average hours of training per year per employee

N/A for reporting period

404-2: Programs for upgrading employee skills and transition assistance programs

N/A for reporting period

404-3: Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews

N/A for reporting period

## GRI 405: Diversity and Equal Opportunity

### Management Approach:

CHRE is an equal opportunity employer, and we have had diversity in terms of gender, race, sexual preference and religion on our team since our founding (originally as CEDHA in Argentina, in 1999).

### 405-1: Diversity of governance bodies and employees

Currently our board includes 2 females and 1 male (all in 40s) of which three Latin Americans. In terms of project team members, this number is constantly changing. Presently, there are 4 males and 4 females between board and other team members. In 2017 there was a slight majority of females.

### 405-2: Ratio of basic salary and remuneration to women.

N/A for reporting period; only one full or part time remunerated team member

## GRI 406: Non-Discrimination

### Management Approach:

CHRE is an equal opportunity employer, and has a specific policy of non-discrimination (Office Policy p. 3)

#### **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

- a. 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.
- b. No person working at, for or with CHRE shall be deprived of the right to express their opinion or share their ideas.
- c. 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.

### 406-1: Incidents of discrimination and corrective actions.

CHRE has never registered an incident of discrimination.



## GRI 407: Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

407-1: Operations and suppliers in which the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining may be at risk

N/A Not Material

## GRI 408: Child Labor

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

408-1: Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of child labor

N/A Not Material

## GRI 409: Forced or Compulsory Labor

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

409-1: Operations and suppliers at significant risk for incidents of forced or compulsory labor

N/A Not Material

## GRI 410: Security Practices

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

410-1: Security personnel trained in human rights policies or procedures  
N/A Not Material

## GRI 411: Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Management Approach:  
N/A Not Material

411-1: Incidents of violations involving rights of indigenous peoples  
N/A Not Material

## GRI 412: Human Rights Assessment

Management Approach:  
CHRE is a human rights organization. Our Office Policy leads with a commitment to human rights protection (p.3). Human rights are infused in everything that we do.

### **Human Rights**

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

412-1: Operations that have been subject to human rights reviews or impact assessments

N/A Not Material

412-2: Employee training on human rights policies or procedures

CHRE's work is focused on human rights protection, so much of our engagement, team advocacy etc. centers on human rights issues and training.

412-3: Significant investment agreements and contracts that include human rights clauses or that underwent human rights screening

N/A Not Material

## GRI 413: Local Communities

Management Approach:

CHRE works to protect local communities. Generally, our advocacy that involves local communities is demand driven. That is, local community representatives contact CHRE for our assistance to address social and environmental impacts caused by industrial or other activity. On occasions, we take on actions by our own choosing without invitation, in which case we generally seek out allies and representatives in those communities who are aware of or interested in engaging on the advocacy issues we promote. An example is our work on glacier protection. Since glaciers are oftentimes very far from communities, we may seek out communities downstream from glaciers to engage. We do not conduct social impact assessments or community impact assessments, as our activities are designed precisely to help those communities avoid impacts from other actors.

413-1: Operations with local community engagement, impact assessments, and development programs

Glacier Protection in San Juan Province (Argentina), Catamarca Province (Argentina), La Rioja Province (Argentina), California, Washington State  
Advocacy to Reduce Fracking Impacts in Patagonia, Mexico, Colombia, USA et.al. involve community engagement.

Brick Kiln Impacts in Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Guatemala, Brazil, Uruguay, et.al. engage local producers and government officials

413-2: Operations with significant actual and potential negative impacts on local communities

N/A Not Material

## GRI 414: Supplier Social Assessment

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

414-1: New suppliers that were screened using social criteria

N/A Not Material

414-2: Negative social impacts in the supply chain and actions taken

N/A Not Material

## GRI 415: Public Policy

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

415-1: Political contributions

N/A Not Material

## GRI 416: Customer Health and Safety

Management Approach:

N/A Not Material

416-1: Assessment of the health and safety impacts of product and service categories

N/A Not Material

416-2: Incidents of non-compliance concerning health and safety of products and services

N/A Not Material

## GRI 417: Marketing and Labeling



Management Approach:  
N/A Not Material

417-1: Requirements for product and service information and labeling  
N/A Not Material

417-2: Incidents of non-compliance concerning product and service information and labeling  
N/A Not Material

417-3: Incidents of non-compliance concerning marketing communications  
N/A Not Material

## GRI 418: Customer Privacy

Management Approach:  
CHRE's activities and engagement with communities, victims of human rights violations or environmental contamination are maintained in secrecy if so desired by the individuals we engage.

418-1: Substantiated complaints concerning breaches of customer privacy and losses of consumer data  
CHRE has never had a complaint concerning breaches of client privacy.

## GRI 419: Socioeconomic Compliance

Management Approach:  
N/A Not Material

419-1: Non-compliance with laws and regulations in the social and economic area  
CHRE has never had a complaint concerning social or environmental non-compliance.