



LUSH
SPRING
PRIZE
2023

5 YEAR REVIEW



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lush Spring Prize is a biennial £200,000+ prize fund and other support activities that seeks to build capacity for those repairing the earth's damaged systems, leaving the world lusher than they found it. Why? Because sustainability is no longer enough in the context of the multiple, interconnected challenges people and ecosystems face.

The Lush Spring Prize is a joint venture between Lush Cosmetics and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with both organisations shaping the development and coordination of the project, whilst integrating feedback from those that participate in its processes.

The project has run for five prize cycles; has received and analysed nearly 2000 applications; distributed £1,055,500 to 67 regenerative projects around the world; and has hosted five co-learning events that have explored the topic of regeneration with prize recipients and others. It has also supported learning visits, financed representatives from projects to attend strategic national or international events, and birthed two sister organisations: Regenerosity: www.regenerosity.world and Re-Alliance: www.re-alliance.org.

For every Spring Prize pound spent, approximately 57p has gone directly to grassroots regenerative projects, 20p has gone on bringing projects together through prize and skill-sharing events and learning visits, 3p to storytelling, and 20p to running a deliberative prize process.

This five-year review pulls together survey data from prize recipients and feedback from the five Spring Prize years in order to:

- Pull out key learnings and insights.
- Reflect on how the Spring Prize has progressed its original five aims and evolved in the process.
- Suggest recommendations going forward for both the Spring Prize and for other funders that wish to support holistic and regenerative social and environmental justice work.

Key insights and learnings

The following aspects of the Lush Spring Prize are valued, working well and hold potential for further development:

- The unrestricted and grassroots nature of Spring Prize funding.
- The global recognition and credibility offered from the Prize.
- The networking, co-learning and skill sharing opportunities offered through in-person events and the Spring Prize decision-making processes.
- The exploration of regeneration through project stories and in multiple languages.
- The emergence of a supportive ecosystem around the Spring Prize.

When analysing project responses, it was astounding to understand how much can be achieved by these organisations. Collectively, projects support community building, learning, and campaigning alongside practical landscape restoration, e.g. through holistic reforestation approaches, seed saving, and producing food using truly regenerative principles. Whilst strengthening their foundations, many projects have also expanded and supported many more people. Victories have also been won in the political sphere to strengthen food sovereignty and land rights.

Many organisations do this work in the face of immense challenges – conflict, persecution, the increasing impacts of the climate and ecological crises, the global pandemic, and economic instability.

Despite these challenges, and in many ways necessitated by them, their collective vision for the future paints a picture of ecosystems restored, cultures revived and celebrated, connections forged, movements strengthened, and policies brought in line with the need to repair the earth's damaged systems.

Spring Prize projects also understand the importance of internal strength and resilience. They show a desire to invest time and effort into continuing to work regeneratively, and to participate in knowledge and skill sharing processes to strengthen this further.

Although the Spring Prize will continue to support this work, much more support is needed. Many projects highlight a lack of resources and funding as a major challenge. This forms the basis for some of this review's key recommendations: to increase the flow of money, other resources, and support into regenerative working.

“The root of the Spring Prize was to bring coherence and alignment around the topic of regeneration. What it has achieved is bring people from different movements together to answer the question ‘what is regeneration’ by living this question. The other elements that Spring Prize has offered is accessibility and participation and a global platform for grassroots groups. The more I talk to funders, the more I see how little money is getting to the grassroots and the real work on the ground. What Spring Prize does is special, it gives unrestricted funds to support the collective power of grassroots groups”.

RUTH ANDRADE, LUSH

Recommendations

For other funders

- Create unrestricted and flow funding opportunities for grassroots regenerative projects – those that are holistically working around environmental and social justice issues – and in a way that enables emergence, responsiveness, autonomy, empowerment, greater wellbeing, resilience, and innovation.
- Create more opportunities for investment in organisational capacity building, not just new projects and predicted outputs.
- Join the Spring Prize as a collaborative funder and/or the wider Regenerosity network to invest in regenerative work and approaches to giving. Regenerative processes take time and often require shifts in mindsets. This calls for long-term relationships and support that goes beyond typical funder-grantee relationships. The Regenerosity network offers the opportunity to undertake and support this learning journey.

Suggestions for growing and evolving the Spring Prize

- Continue to offer unrestricted funding to grassroots regenerative initiatives and seek to leverage additional support through collaborative prizes, media partners, Regenerosity, Re-Alliance, and other potential partners.
- Embed ongoing feedback cycles into the Spring Prize to facilitate development processes that are project-led and that seek to address common power imbalances often embedded in funder-recipient relationships.
- Support outreach activities that welcome and integrate more funders, media partners, researchers, and others into the Spring Prize network to support themed collaborative prizes, follow-year activities, and shared learning and doing around regeneration.
- Host in-person prize and other events in collaboration with Spring Prize applicant(s) (and other organisations) that embed a place-based approach, facilitate networking, knowledge, and skill sharing around regeneration.
- Offer skill shares and other requested support that enables capacity building for regenerative initiatives, including within prize-recipient and shortlisted organisations.
- Support regenerative projects to attend strategic regional, national, and international events and raise the profile of projects' work in order to increase credibility and leverage additional support for holistic, grassroots, regenerative approaches.
- Facilitate perennial storytelling around regeneration that is led by grassroots projects, in multiple languages, and with support from media partners, LUSH PR, and LUSH shops.
- Invest in developing an active network, or alliance, that keeps connected through informal comms channels, funded learning visits, skill shares, and knowledge exchange events across Spring Prize years and between prize recipients and shortlisted applicants.
- Develop the Spring Prize website as an accessible educational resource that profiles a diversity of regenerative projects and partners and identifies ways to support/get more involved.

If you are interested in learning more or collaborating around the development of the Spring Prize and any of the recommendations listed above, please email the Spring Prize coordination team at: lushspringprize@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

What is the Lush Spring Prize?

The Lush Spring Prize is a biennial £200,000+ prize fund and other support activities, that seeks to build capacity for those repairing the earth's damaged systems. It is a joint venture between Lush Cosmetics and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with both organisations shaping the development and coordination of the project, whilst integrating feedback from prize applicants, shortlisted projects and prize recipients, shortlisters, judges, event attendees, media partners, and collaborative prize partners (organisations that have contributed support, solidarity, and funds towards themed prizes, e.g. Permaculture Magazine and Be The Earth Foundation).

Initiated in 2017, the Lush Spring Prize has now run for five prize cycles; has read and analysed nearly 2000 applications; distributed £1,055,500 to 67 regenerative projects around the world and has hosted five co-learning events that have explored the topic of regeneration with prize recipients and others.

This has resulted in a diversity of shortlisted projects and prize recipients – as highlighted through project profiles and case studies at springprize.org – and in the 'Spring Prize Projects: who are they?' table in the Appendix.

This in turn has led to a diversity of stories that explore the concept of regeneration in a variety of contexts and in multiple languages.

The Spring Prize has also supported learning visits, financed representatives from projects to attend strategic national or international events, and birthed two sister organisations: Regenerosity: www.regenerosity.world and Re-Alliance: www.re-alliance.org.

The Spring Prize's aims (updated in May 2024 following this review) are:

1. To help develop and increase the integrity of the 'regenerative' movement – by awarding, celebrating, and profiling those that are engaging in the process of regeneration and by facilitating ongoing co-learning and the emergence of an active network that keeps connected through informal comms channels, funded learning visits, skill shares, and knowledge exchange across Spring Prize years.
2. To provide unrestricted funding and other support – to build the collective power of grassroots groups whilst enabling capacity building of both organisations and the network as a whole.
3. To raise the profile of regeneration and its potential to move livelihoods and economies beyond the sustainable – by holding inspiring, participatory, inclusive, and regenerative gathering(s) and prize events and through facilitating perennial storytelling around regeneration that is led by grassroots projects and with support from media partners, LUSH PR, and LUSH staff.
4. To be used as a vehicle of discovery that could lead to direct relationships between all partners, and a deepening of people's radical understanding of regeneration.
5. To attract additional resources into the regenerative movement by way of contributions to the prize from other organisations, to support the Spring Prize in creating a win-win-win process.

PRIZE RECIPIENT FEEDBACK

Who responded?

Over five Spring Prize years, 67 projects have been awarded at least one Lush Spring Prize and prize money totalling £1,055,500 has been distributed. After receiving prize funds, projects are contacted ten months later with a light touch progress report (the questions from which are reflected in this five-year review).

All 67 projects were sent a Spring Prize five-year review survey in autumn 2023, with 57 (85%) completing the survey,¹ the findings from which are shared below. In reading this review, it should be noted that it captures a static moment in time. For example, during the writing of this report, some projects' circumstances have changed dramatically – especially those of projects working in Gaza and the West Bank where violence toward Palestinian communities has intensified to catastrophic levels.

Prize recipient achievements

Their answers were cross referenced with their answers to the question 'How would you spend the prize money to overcome your challenges and move towards your goals?' from the projects' original application to the Lush Spring Prize. 57 projects answered the question 'What has your project achieved since receiving a Spring Prize?'

Did prize recipients achieve their original aims?

All the respondents shared achievements and progress related to their projects.

56% of all respondents, 32 projects, had achieved what they suggested they would in their application forms. 18 of these also highlighted other achievements they had made.

28% of respondents, 16 projects, demonstrated they had achieved some of the aims from their applications and half of these also highlighted other achievements they had made.

16% of respondents, 9 projects, did not specifically refer to the plans laid out in their application forms but did provide examples of other achievements they had made.

¹ 66 projects were sent a Spring Prize five-year review survey in autumn 2023 and one project was sent the review survey in January 2024. 57 projects (85%) completed the survey, with all projects from 2023 responding and all from 2021 responding except one that wishes to remain anonymous.

An additional five projects (7.5%) got in touch but did not complete the survey, two of which are no longer running and three of which intended to complete the survey but just never got round to it. No response was received from five projects (7.5%), one of which no longer appears to be active.



A few of SOIL's staff of nearly 100 in Northern Haiti.

© Tony Marcelli

“We asked the Lush Spring Prize for support to go towards operations and infrastructure at our two composting facilities in order to ensure we could keep providing safe, regenerative sanitation access to the 1,000 families we served at the time while also adding additional new families to the service to increase our impact. We are pleased to report that since our progress report in June 2019, SOIL removed over 2150 metric tons of human waste from the communities we reach with our toilet service. Over the same time period, SOIL's composting sites produced over 550 metric tons of compost that has been used to support reforestation, cultivate climate resilience, and grow school gardens.” **SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC INTEGRATED LIVELIHOODS (SOIL)**

“The funding managed to make great strides in pursuing the awareness and visibility of Agroecology to communities and stakeholders. We have managed to initiate new platforms for the dissemination of information to a wider range and solidify our position as the Agroecology hub of not just Zimbabwe but of sub-Saharan countries.” **FAMBIDZANAI PERMACULTURE CENTRE**



Members of Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre receive their banner and award in 2021.

“Permatil now has made a lot of progress since receiving the Spring Prize. Permatil has restored over 300 water springs and is now working in over 500 communities across Timor-Leste. Have trained over 1,000 young people with another five PermaYouth camps in five districts.” **PERMATIL**

Permatil Tree Planting.



What have projects achieved since receiving a Spring Prize?

The activities and achievements that respondents shared could be categorised as follows:

72% Sharing knowledge and skills (41 projects).

67% Movement building, networking and outreach (38 projects).

61% Achieving practical aims (35 projects).

42% Organisational strengthening (24 projects).

30% Creating political change and advocacy (17 projects).

18% Scaling out (10 projects).

16% Gaining knowledge and skills (9 projects).



Beejvan regenerating land in Maharashtra, India.

Practical aims

61% of respondents discussed the practical regenerative work they had achieved since receiving a prize. This included things like regeneration of soils, land and forests; using techniques like agroecology and agroforestry to grow and provide food to communities; setting up or expanding herbal medicine centres; setting up solar energy capabilities for remote communities; saving seeds; setting up community toilets; and restoring springs.

“We definitely achieved what we aspired to with the award. Our core goals were creating a biodiverse plantation on the demonstration farm, working with groundwater recharge structures, and accessibility and networking to a worldwide network of regeneration warriors. All of which were implemented thanks to the intentional award. We also created a community toilet at the farm for farmers, since the village has no sanitation facilities. Work on water is slow but steady and will be a gradual process to witness results. Over 200 varieties of plants have been planted.” **BEEVJAN**

“Guba has developed a very successful herbal wellness service, focussing on tailor made herbal tea blends to assist people living with some of the most common health issues: type II diabetes, hypertension, stomach ulcers & more.” GUBA



Eswatini based Guba's Bonginkosi Mndzebele and Sam Hodgson.



Creek restoration work by INSO in Oaxaca, Mexico.

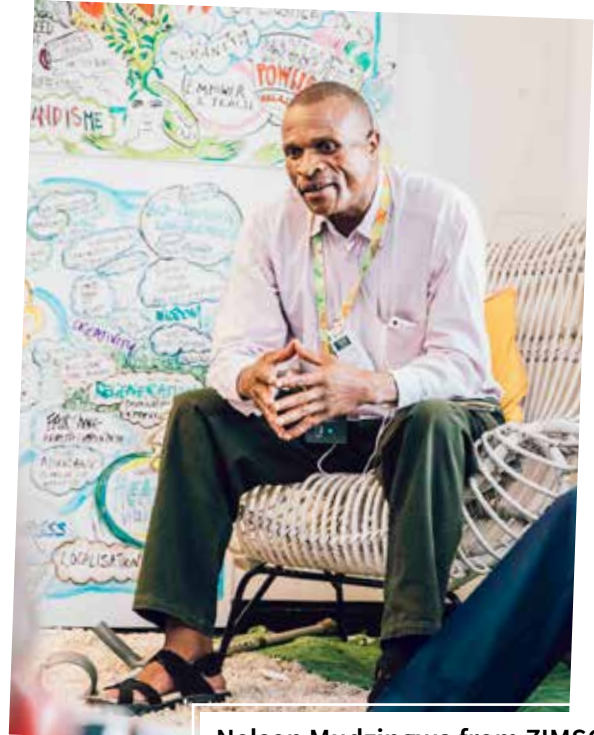
“The permaculture program has widened to other sustainable actions, such as water harvesting and reforestation – our Creek regeneration initiative – involving 20 communities. Now, thousands of people benefit from the improvement of their social and natural conditions.” INSTITUTO DE LA NATURALEZA Y LA SOCIEDAD DE OAXACA (INSO)

Political change and advocacy

30% Alongside practical work, 30% of respondents had also been pushing for political change or advocating for regenerative practices or the rights of the communities they represent.

“ZIMSOFF strengthened its direct political and social development of organized smallholder farmers’ organizations that promoted developing living examples of agroecology and farmer-led seed systems that increased local mobilization and collaboration within and among members. The living examples acted as a catalyst to engaging and dialoguing with stakeholders across the board and policy makers for policy shifts. The movement is gradually growing, emphasizing collaboration with diverse like-minded stakeholders and allies whereby smallholder farmers have space to showcase their living ecological agriculture examples and also to contribute to dialogues.”

ZIMSOFF



Nelson Mudzingwa from ZIMSOFF
2019 Spring Prize event.

“ECVC managed to be very present in several public debates over the past months. Working against the proposal to deregulate new GMOs and reform of seed marketing legislation in the EU, ECVC is mobilised to raise our members’ concerns and avoid the adoption of two legislative proposals which would have long-lasting consequences for farmers and their rights to seeds in the EU.”

ECVC

“The money has allowed us to energize our presence in the scenarios of consultation with the National Government, since a lack of money limited our presence in the capital.”

MUSU RUNAKUNA

Sharing knowledge and skills

72% of respondents discussed how they had been sharing their regenerative knowledge and skills with their communities or other organisations through training programmes or resource creation.



Yice Uganda

“Our Regenerative farming program has grown to impact over 3,000 small holder farmers from the 1,200 we had at the time we received the Spring Prize award. We have also scaled to work with refugees in Uganda and specifically have reached over 800 refugee households in Nakivale refugee settlement. We have continued to provide practical training in regenerative farming, providing farming tools, indigenous seeds, and fruit trees for planting. Our beneficiaries has reported positive results in good security, increased incomes and improved adaptability to climate change effects” **YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (YICE UGANDA)**

Members of Alianza Ceibo including Hernan Piaguaje who attended the 2019 event.



“Trained 200 members of our communities belonging to 17 Indigenous territorial guards with advanced technologies to protect 800,000 hectares of primary forest through participatory territorial monitoring and mapping [...] Through an innovative intercultural education model, we increased access to quality education for hundreds of Indigenous youth and children in 3 of our nations, strengthening the resilience of our cultures.” **ALIANZA CEIBO**

“Our initial focus was on empowering young people and adults with disabilities through planting and harvesting, but the journey expanded as they inspired us with their profound questions, leading us to offer various artistic workshops and share our knowledge of agriculture with disadvantaged communities through training courses in spaces occupied by open-air rubbish dumps and setting up the vegetable garden with community leaders.” **INSTITUTO COMPASSOS**

16% of projects also shared how they had been working on gaining more knowledge or skills, with some also mentioning the Spring Prize event as an example of where this had happened.

“During the award ceremony we have been able to learn about new experiences, form new alliances and plan new projects.” **ASHINIAWKA**

Alessia and Gloria accept Ashiniawka's award.



Movement building, networking and outreach

67% 38 projects discussed progress they had made around movement building, networking and outreach. Ten projects also discussed significant scaling-out of their projects (e.g. expanding into new areas).

“When we applied for the Spring Prize, our ambition was to strengthen our community and implement initiatives on the ground. [We have been successfully] mobilising new members of the community: we've succeeded in attracting new members to our community, strengthening our team and our capacity for action.”

TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP

“ We have managed to grow as an organization, establish ourselves and give life to our first four networks, including the birth of the "Our Park" network in which the project submitted to the Lush Spring Prize is located.” **TEKIO**

Women planting at Mount Oku.



“ Since receiving the Spring Prize, the center has become active and has realized projects within and without the target location for her activities and has built a lot of collaborative networks spreading regenerative practice across the North West Region of Cameroon.” **MOUNT OKU CENTRE FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

How has funding from the Lush Spring Prize supported this work, if at all?

Did funding from the Spring Prize support projects in their achievements?

100% Of the 57 projects that responded, all stated that the funding from the Spring Prize had supported them in their achievements.

14% Eight of these projects suggested the funds had been extremely important or crucial to them achieving their aims or continuing their work at all.

2% One project stated that the funding was only somewhat helpful due to it being a comparatively small amount compared to their budgetary requirements.

“The prize strengthened our outreach and technical capacities in a very critical moment: the beginning of the pandemics; without the Spring Prize, we would have probably been forced to close our organisation. We mean financial support, of course, but also inspiration and reassurance, for example during the fantastic meeting in GB.” INSO

Pedro, Juan and Laura
from INSO at 2019 event.





Permaqueer event
in Australia.

“The impact for us was huge. We have been bottlenecked in our capacity and had no investment into what we were doing so weren't able to activate the structural and systemic change we knew we could. This funding opened a space for deep and considerate development of our processes, structure, and approach so that we could re-approach with more impact. I don't know where we would be without this funding, times have been extremely tough and if we had not had this funding injection, I fear we may have folded as an entity and suffered deep personal and emotional harm.” **PERMAQUEER**

What difference did it make that the funding was unrestricted?

49% Of the 57 projects which responded to the survey 28 (49%) indicated that the unrestricted nature of the funding was important for them being able to achieve their aims.

19% 11 of these projects (19% of total respondents) indicated that it was very important or crucial for them.

While the remaining 29 projects did not directly refer to the unrestricted nature of the funding in their answers, none of the projects stated that it was not useful or that it posed any problems.

What unrestricted funding enabled:

- Responsiveness – Allowed projects to respond quickly to changes and switch direction to address shifting needs.
- Empowerment – Meant they were less reliant on forms of funding they found restrictive or disempowering.
- Wellbeing – Reduced stress and burden – not having to provide excessive paperwork or having to ask permission before spending funds meant projects could focus more on the actual work they were doing.
- Resilience – Projects could use funds for core costs or keep it as a reserve. This has enabled some projects to gain more funding from elsewhere.
- Innovation – Allowed projects to experiment with new ideas and creative projects.

Eriel Deranger Heather Horsefall-
Milton from Indigenous Climate
Action at the 2017 event.

"The ripple effect of unrestricted funding is significant and cannot be understated. It strengthens organisational capacity, enhances the ability to respond to emerging needs, and drives innovation within programs and services."

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION



"The unrestricted nature of the funding is radical and cannot be undervalued. Utilising these funds carefully and considerately but without the bureaucratic restrictions of normal donor funding allowed us to respond to the Guba team's development needs, investigate our strategic direction and perhaps most significantly use these funds as a springboard to raise additional funds." **GUBA**

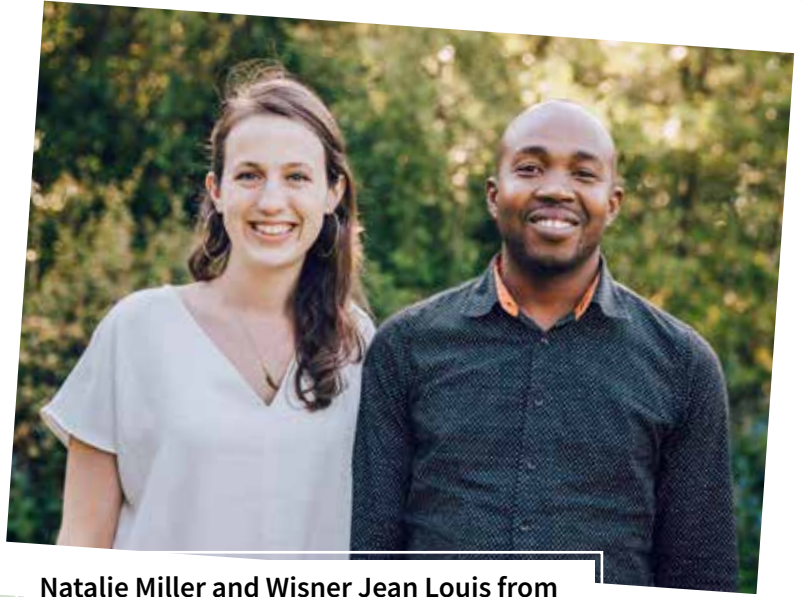


Training at the Guba permaculture site.

"Unrestricted funding greatly contributes to our ability to pursue our work amidst a challenging context marked by extreme colonial oppression, structural inequality, ecological degradation, and many interconnecting forms of injustice. It provides us with flexibility to respond to changes on the ground; it lets us rely less on disempowering forms of funding that impose conditions and limit local decision making; and it passes onto the community the feeling that more solidarity and trust-based forms of support are possible." **RAWA FUND**

"Unrestricted funding is critical in allowing organisations to be adaptive and responsive to the needs of the communities served. This is particularly essential in fragile states such as Haiti where the ability to pivot is key to providing uninterrupted basic services. Unrestricted funding also builds morale by establishing trust-based relationships."

SOIL



Natalie Miller and Wisner Jean Louis from Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL) at the Spring Prize event.



Soft Food Alliance's first rain jar. Local builders Charles Nyoni and Alfred Sibanda plastering the rainwater collection jar along with permaculture trainees.

"The funding allowed us to break out of the funding moulds that are very restrictive when doing work that is deeply interconnected, it allowed us to follow our hearts, and this is important in regenerative work."

SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE



Diego Ferraris, Karina Salazar Venegas and Nicola Di Giulio from teKio receive their award from Lush Staff member Alex Unwin.

"The fact that there was freedom in the use of the funding and there was no time limit on its use makes all the difference in the world. It has given us time to organise, talk to our population, respect our times and those of the communities with which we work. It is surely one of the aspects that makes the Spring Prize a true support for projects planned in difficult contexts like the one where we live."

TEKIO

Recommendation

- Continue to offer unrestricted funding to grassroots regenerative projects and seek to leverage additional opportunities for other support through collaborative prizes, Regenerosity and Re-alliance.

What have projects learnt from their achievements and the work that led up to them?

57 projects shared their key insights and learnings since having received a Spring Prize Award. Answers could have been grouped in multiple ways, including under the following common themes:

- **46%** Importance of building good communication, reach, and depth of relationships. (26 projects)
- **35%** Regenerative processes take time as they require shifts in mindset. (20 projects)
- **11%** Importance of embedded monitoring and evaluation. (6 projects)
- **9%** Working at different scales to build International solidarity. (5 projects)
- **9%** Approaches to training and learning. (5 comments)
- **28%** Funding approaches and investing in capacity building. (16 comments)
- **18%** Emergence and the importance of adaptation. (10 comments)

Importance of building good communication, reach, and depth of relationships.

46% 26 projects shared different learnings around the importance of building good communication and reach (internally and externally and at different scales), whilst also deepening relationships and trust within the communities that an organisation is based in and serves.

Interesting insights were shared around the importance of honest communication; in developing an organisation's own commitments and strategy and then using this to influence policy makers and funders; and the importance of partnerships, collaborations, alliances, and ultimately healthy relationships in bringing about regenerative work.

A couple of organisations also shared the benefits a prize can bring in raising the profile of their work amongst different partners.



African Biodiversity Network

“Global recognition (through a prize) catalyses wider action amongst partners and communities in the regeneration of natural ecosystems and healing of communities as they connect to their land and cultural practices.” **AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK**

“It is worth being bold and standing firm in our principles as we work to de-exceptionalize Palestine in the progressive philanthropy space”. **RAWA FUND**



Instituto Janeraka – Mother and son, Matuja and Time'i Assurini exchanging affection based on sacred geometry in body painting.

“Writing the application helped us to better articulate and process our ideas and activities, strengthening our relationships internally with our group, and with close partners that were already supporting us before this prize. The strengthening of these relationships, and our deeper understanding of our roles as a group, allowed us to become more confident and prepared to start our fundraising campaign following the prize.” **INSTITUTO JANERAKA**

“Transformation is held in relationships. None of these achievements could be achieved without the deep tending to regenerative relationships and growing trust and capacity”. **PERMAQUEER**

“We have continued to strengthen our core strategy and to advocate among policy makers and funders and we can now see a shift in perspective that is helping us to refocus on our core vision”.

EAMON O'HARA,
CODIRECTOR AT ECOLISE

ECOLISE event.



Alianza Ceibo.



“Among the most outstanding achievements, our deep appreciation of the importance of exchanges between the diverse territories and communities that make up our alliance stands out. The exchanges organized between the territorial guards of different territories have been extremely rewarding and inspiring. These positive experiences have led to the creation of the Regional School of Territorial Defense in 2023, a project that currently involves 45 representatives from 30 guards and 22 communities belonging to six indigenous nationalities” **ALIANZA CEIBO**

Regenerative processes take time as they require shifts in mindset.

35% 20 organisations (35% of respondents) referenced learnings linked to regenerative processes taking time, sustained effort, and commitment as they involve shifts in mindsets. This is true for both an organisation itself and the wider networks and systems they are part of and, ultimately, funders such as LUSH and the Spring Prize. If regenerative work is slow, long-term work, it raises the need for funding that also shows commitment and takes a slow, long-term approach.



Agnes Chirima completes a Diploma in Agroecology course with Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre

“Work around upscaling and outscaling Agroecology should be a long-term process, not a one-off activity, that works on shifting mindsets across value chain actors.”

FAMBIDZANAI PERMACULTURE CENTRE

“Transition has to be in phases, it cannot be done overnight. We experienced how change can be achieved with a combination of good ideas and practical experience; curiosity for new approaches and long-term consistency up to the targets are achieved”.

AMRITA BHOOMI

“ Being in the field of social and ecological transformation, there is a pace with which trust travels, and it has been very clear which spaces are not listening to this pace. Our achievements are bound in the slowing of our pace and trusting that economic and social transformation will benefit from this even if in the moment we aren't rewarded for it. This has been a struggle as we're working predominantly on paradigm shifts for regeneration. We have learned to do this best we must accept lateral outcomes and not be driven by KPIs or OKRs but rather leading the right experiences that communities need to have. The quality of relationship they then seem to want to bring to our and other relationships seems to ignite the deeper work of building capacity for pattern and systems change. It has been a pretty backwards learning but as designers of queer theory, that couldn't be more aligned”. **PERMAQUEER**

Guy Ritani at Permaqueer's organic veg stall.



“ I have learnt to slow down a bit more. Enthusiasm helps, but letting things take their own course, and observation of small but impactful measures is important. That's how one grows. Patience is key.” **BEEJVAN**

“We learned to value the effort, the dedication, the time that has been invested in the reforestation work and above all to value our Pachamama (Mother Earth).” **SACHA KUYRANA MALTAKUNAS**



Maritza from Cooperativa Tonanzintlalli presents ceremonial cacao to Bella from Jupago Kreká Collective.

“In our culture we say ‘To reap, you must first sow.’ And I feel that we have reaped the harvest of 10 years of hard collective work. The prize was the recognition and gratitude of other conscious and generous human beings with our sacred mother Earth and her children who carry out the work of guardians for the good of humanity. We reaffirm that working collectively in the long term brings benefits and well-being for everyone. It invites us to continue taking care of our forests, our common home, and our ways of relating to the diverse lives that coexist in our community”. **COOPERATIVA AGROPECUARIAS DE SERVICIOS TONANZINTLALLI R.L**

“Initially, we saw ourselves as 'us' and 'them', but today we understand that we are all part of a single 'us'. This journey has transformed us into more aware and hopeful individuals. Now, we seek to strengthen projects that promote a culture of sustainability, empowering everyone to unite in the fight against climate change and for socio-environmental justice” **INSTITUTO COMPASSOS**

Importance of embedded monitoring and evaluation.

11% Six projects (11%) directly mentioned monitoring and evaluation and the importance of embedded approaches in increasing impact and influencing policy. One project also shared how monitoring and evaluation can be hard when working with decentralised networks, perhaps highlighting the need for a skill share around approaches to working in this context with limited capacity.

“Evidence-based really influence the policy makers on water restoration, environmental rehabilitation and Permaculture Youth movement” PERMATIL

Kenyan Peasants League -
Political Education.



Working at different scales to build International solidarity.

9% Five projects (9% of respondents) shared learning around working at different scales and the importance of international solidarity. The following quotes from projects show insights into the different perspectives shared:

“Collaboration is critical both locally, regionally, and internationally”. KENYAN PEASANTS LEAGUE



Guba's Bonginkosi Mndzebele and Sam Hodgson presenting their work at Spring Prize event in 2019.

“That transnational permaculture networks are best served and most effective for collaborative working at global region scale (e.g. Europe; Australasia & SE Asia; Africa; etc) rather than full global scale)”. INTERNATIONAL PERMACULTURE EDUCATION NETWORK (IPEN)

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“We've learnt of the ever-increasing relevance of permaculture to the development of individual, family, and community resilience in eSwatini. In an environment with high levels of unemployment, low standards of essential service delivery from the state, political repression, and state violence against those calling for change the value of self-reliance and community scale interdependence is central to people's wellbeing and quality of life. Bringing the focus of action back to self, home, family, and immediate community allows people to action real tangible change at a level that is minimally encumbered by the wider issues at national level.” GUBA

“Giving each other words of encouragement that we need so much, and condensing everything to be a network of brotherhood that our planet needs.” TEJIENDO FUTUROS ONG



Tejiendo Futuros.

Approaches to training and learning.

9% Five projects discussed insights and learnings around training and what they have found to work. Responses highlighted the importance of identifying ‘leverage points’ for change unique to each context when shaping approaches to education, with peer-to-peer knowledge, skill sharing, and demonstration sites being emphasised over more formal ‘expert’ training.

Rawa Fund.



“Grassroots initiatives in Rawa networks want peer-to-peer connection, knowledge and skill sharing (including around challenges) rather than receive professional technical workshops from so-called ‘experts’.” **RAWA FUND**

“To strengthen the movement, and experience through advocacy work with institutions, ECVC decided to provide dedicated general political training among members, especially for young farmers, ensuring financial indemnities to guarantee farmers’ presence at political and institutional level; strengthening the communication and administrative secretariat in Brussels; enhancing members’ engagement in the governance of the organisation via bilateral conversations and training; and increasing outreach to new membership”. **ECVC**



OWAP – Silvana Nihua Yeti at the Spring Prize 2023 event.

“ A thriving, collaborative, and dynamic educational approach has been effectively implemented, largely thanks to the invaluable support and insights contributed by our esteemed elderly community members. Both parents and grandparents enthusiastically engaged in every educational workshop, demonstrating their commitment to nurturing their children's learning and embracing these innovative methods. Community engagement in education is key to transfer traditional knowledge and practices to the newer generations. Food sovereignty: we have identified an exciting opportunity to enhance community skills in the preparation of hygiene and health products derived from traditional food and medicine gardens established across our communities. While previous attempts faced challenges due to limited knowledge of food sovereignty, promoters in basic mathematical operations and proportions, starting this October, we will engage 30 Waorani high school graduates supported through our education program in the production of hygiene and health products, including soaps, tinctures, ointments, and syrups. High school graduates will collaborate in groups, embarking on research with elders on medicinal plants and creating innovative products, such as ‘floripondio ointment’ and ‘wild garlic syrup’, as part of their graduation project. This initiative not only elevates the skills of our youth but also fosters intergenerational knowledge exchange, creating a positive ripple effect in our communities.” **WAORANI ORGANIZATION OF PASTAZA (OWAP)**

“There are emerging ‘centres of excellence’ in agroecology that are providing a framework for understanding ‘levels’ for the transition to sustainable food systems. Grassroots organizations and movements of smallholder farmers are consciously embracing this tension as a dance of creativity and appropriation. They are struggling for autonomy and ecological integrity for specific social and cultural contexts that anticipates the goal of achieving a foodsovereign community whose social and cultural diversity are respected.”

ZIMBABWE SMALLHOLDER ORGANIC FARMERS FORUM (ZIMSOFF)



Nelson from ZIMSOFF.

Emergence and the importance of adaptation.

18% The importance of taking emergent, flexible, and adaptive approaches and to seize opportunities, was mentioned by ten projects (18%) as being key to their success. Two projects directly mentioned the role unrestricted funding can play in supporting this.



Volunteers and staff at
Taniale Regenerative Camp
in Madagascar.

“ We have learned that effectiveness can be achieved at different scales, that adaptability is essential to overcome unforeseen challenges, and that visibility and impact are crucial to playing a major role as an innovator and leader in our field of action ... Efficiency in size: We've realised that efficiency doesn't necessarily lie in the size of our projects. Our initial aim was to prove that significant achievements can be made with limited resources. However, once in the field, we were confronted with unforeseen circumstances that required us to adapt our ambitions. Readjusting expectations: the obstacles we encountered taught us the importance of flexibility. It is essential to know how to readjust our expectations when unexpected challenges arise. This ability to adapt is crucial if we are to persevere and succeed in complex environments”.

TANIALE REGENERATIVE CAMP



Members of Alianza Ceibo mapping their territory.

“Adaptability and flexibility in the face of unexpected challenges have proven to be key elements to our continued success. Although we are not a humanitarian organization by nature, the 2020 pandemic motivated us to intervene in this context. We distributed more than 1,000 emergency kits in our communities, promoted health and safety practices, facilitated access to reliable pandemic information, and fostered community solidarity. In addition, we highlighted our adaptability in providing direct support to the Kichwa Indigenous nationality, which, although not formally part of the Alliance, received our assistance during a significant crisis triggered by a spill during the pandemic”. **ALIANZA CEIBO**

“Our achievements are examples and lessons of how small organisations with limited resources can seize real opportunities to influence political decision-making spaces that are typically biased towards industrial agriculture actors. **ECVC**

Funding approaches and investing in capacity building.

28% 16 projects (28% of respondents) discussed various learnings around grant funding and capacity building. Economic security and financial resilience were clearly important for allowing organisations to invest in capacity building, to have space for creativity and innovation and to dedicate themselves to their core work.

Approaches shared for building financial resilience included modular approaches to fundraising, using unrestricted funding for capacity building and to leverage additional resources, partnering with funders aligned with regenerative values, developing income streams, and offering market assurance for agroecological produce. Insights also highlighted the potential impact of unrestricted funding.

Investing in organisations that have the energy and commitment to do the work already, that are not reliant on funding or perhaps have never received grant funding before, can also lead to ongoing work rather than stop-and-start projects.

“Unrestricted funding played a role in ICA’s growth and success by allowing us to allocate resources where we needed it most. It provided flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging needs. [It allowed us to invest] in organizational capacity building. Building a strong team and infrastructure is essential for sustained growth and impact in the field of climate justice”. **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION**

“We have learned the importance of adaptation during ongoing crises, supporting our staff, being responsive to the needs of our clients and risk mitigation. (Unrestricted funding enabled this adaptive approach).” **SOIL**

“Our minimum achievement on food production and supply to the community would have still been a dream to this very day had we not received the Lush Spring Prize 2021. This affirms that funding is a critical obstacle to many dreams in local community settings and organisations like Lush Spring Prize should continue touching thousands of lives around the globe to support community aspirations for a better world for everyone to respect People Care, Earth Care, and Fair Share.” **VICE UGANDA**

“Modular approach to funding: The total project is modular and has separate modules (school gardens, tree nurseries, small scale urban farming) that can function independently. For each school and module, it is possible to find individual and group donors. In this way, the larger project is not dependent on a large sum and the results are an accumulation of successful initiatives based on the FSSA entrepreneurial and sustainable model”. **FOOD SECURED SCHOOLS AFRICA. (FSSA)**

“To keep looking for support from those who have a heart for regeneration as to work in a truly regenerative way we need to do this even from the funding level”.

SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE



Soft Foot Alliance Ndawonye Herders Mp3 Ncube and Tedious Ncube making mobile predator-proof livestock stokades, along with Mathilda Moyo and Sharai Munkuli.

“A lot of great conservation and regeneration work is done by passionate individuals serving in a professional capacity in different groups. But many times, this work can be compromised by funding and projects that come and go. The continuity of the Brigadas and the way it has grown organically has to do with many people doing what they love to do (together), and keeping it simple has allowed it to thrive and adapt to many different places, rhythms, and ways of becoming engaged” **BRIGADAS DESEUCALIPTIZADORAS**

“An economic base, not necessarily a large one, allows grassroots movements like ours not to lose energy, but rather to acquire more for each new project we aim to organise”.

**COMUNITÀ FRIZZANTE:
FARE BEVANDE PER FARE
COMUNITÀ (MAKING
DRINKS TO MAKE
COMMUNITY)**



**Comunita Frizzante –
Mulberry picking.**



**Malawi Schools Permaculture
Clubs – Chinguluwe primary
school in their 2nd year of MSPC.**

“Lack of capacity of coordinators hinders the project, and lack of capacity within clubs hinders thriving/innovation”. **MALAWI SCHOOLS PERMACULTURE CLUBS**

Other learnings shared:

Other learnings shared included the importance of tools for empowering individuals to take action, of working with young people and the role of spirituality, and the challenges of accessing passports for indigenous peoples.

“The untapped potential and active engagement of young people in and out of schools towards land regeneration and nature conservation. We have learnt that young people are sidelined in development work, and especially in matters to do with land regeneration and ecosystem conservation. This has been a wakeup call for SCOPE Kenya, development partners and government to rethink on how best this potential can be tapped and put into good use.” **SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES PERMACULTURE PROGRAMME (SCOPE) KENYA**

SCOPE Kenya – Sharing local seeds at the Spring Prize local event 2021.





Associação Centro de Cultura Sabuká Kariri Xocó.

“Human development and spiritual connection are the great driving force for resilience and climate justice.” ASSOCIAÇÃO CENTRO DE CULTURA SABUKA KARIRI-XOCÓ

“We have learned that many people want to be collaborating agents in the regeneration of their ecosystems, but they do not know how to do it. That is why it is so important to continue the development of this project, so that it becomes a pro-solution tool for the climate crisis and the deterioration of ecosystems. Thus, inspiring more young people and inhabitants of territories to empower themselves in their action for the Regeneration of their territories.” FUNDACIÓN CUIDEMOS PARAÍDOS

Recommendations

- Develop Spring Prize’s ability to raise the national and international profile of projects’ work in order to offer credibility and attract additional support.
- Consider running skill shares and offering other requested support in fallow years that enables capacity building within prize recipients and shortlisted organisations.

How has the Lush Spring Prize supported organisations to develop?

57 projects answered the survey question around ‘How has the Lush Spring Prize supported organisations to develop?’ Answers were grouped under the following themes which are listed in order of the number of times organisations mentioned them. Some comments fell into multiple categories.

- **68%** Built organisational capacity. (39 projects)
- **37%** The Prize gave groups a confidence boost and credibility. (21 projects)
- **25%** Increased the visibility of projects/organisations. (14 projects)
- **23%** Unrestricted funding offered autonomy to focus on mission/dream/needs. (13 projects)
- **19%** The Prize supported groups in becoming better connected. (11 projects)
- **11%** The Award attracted other funding. (6 projects)
- **7%** The Prize process (application and discussions at the event) supported organisations in gaining clarity/setting new intentions. (4 projects)
- **7%** Learnings from work funded by the Prize money has informed other work. (4 projects)
- **7%** The Prize process offered some organisations the opportunity to help mainstream regeneration in their own contexts and sparked curiosity to explore this concept further. (4 projects)

Built organisational capacity

68% of projects referenced different ways the Spring Prize had helped build organisational capacity, from building the capacity of individuals that then supported the organisation’s development, and giving a financial and confidence boost, through to enabling organisational development and raising the profile of an organisation which in turn increased organisational capacity.

“One of the highlights of the Spring Prize was the opportunity to have several members of our organization travel to receive the prize. The chance to bring two people meant we were able to pair a member of the development team with our human resource manager in Haiti, who at the time did not speak English. Wisner, our HR Director, is still with the organization four years later and he is part of the Executive Team. His engagement with the Lush Spring Prize network gave him an opportunity to see how the organization is viewed by partners and supporters outside of Haiti and this was incredibly inspiring and impactful”. **SOIL**

“We were able to institutionalise our work by registering our organisation as a not-for-profit company”. **BEEJVAN**

Confidence boost and credibility

37% of projects directly stated that the prize has boosted their profile, confidence, boldness, or credibility, as highlighted in some of the following quotes:

“The recognition and credibility that receiving this award has offered me has been invaluable to Mycorama's development, and I think this has been almost as valuable as the funds for equipment and training. It has also provided a kind of accountability and sense of responsibility to my fellow recipients and to continue doing the work I think is important, because as an intentional project, it's very easy to lose momentum before you've begun. If I think about it, before the Spring Prize news, Mycorama was a set of experiments taking place in a little Greek village with a big dream, and now it's a project with momentum, that people interact and share with and is contributing to the development of a fungi culture and regenerative culture in Greece”. **MYCORAMA**

Resguardo Indígena Musu Runakuna. Concluding a meeting at the casa de Cabildo.



“We have managed to make visible in consultation scenarios with the government our dream of rebuilding Musu Runakuna as a small town that will place special emphasis on its own architecture, its own health and others that will allow us to strengthen the Inga culture, which is recognized as a culture in Ways of extinction. On the other hand, our struggle has made us visible to the point that I was elected President of the ZONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION OF PUTUMAYO – OZIP, which represents 11 Indigenous peoples in our department.”

RESGUARDO INGA MUSU RUNAKUNA

“Receiving the Lush Spring Prize has served as a powerful reminder to our organization of the remarkable achievements we have accomplished throughout our history. It has reaffirmed our potential to further enhance and scale our model, allowing us to better support our communities in their efforts to address mounting threats and thrive within our precious rainforest territories. This prestigious award has not only provided crucial financial support but has also granted us a renewed sense of purpose and validation for our mission. With this backing, we are inspired to continue our journey of empowerment, conservation, and community unity, leveraging our collective strength to create a lasting positive impact in the lives of the Waorani people and the preservation of our rainforest home”. **OWAP**

“The face-to-face visit, the invitation to get together, was a turning point for the leadership that was there. It really showed that it pays to persist”. **ASSOCIAÇÃO CENTRO DE CULTURA SABUKA KARIRI-XOCÓ**



Group photo at
Spring Prize event.

Increased the visibility of projects/organisations

25% of organisations referenced how the Spring Prize had given grassroots networks, small-scale farmers, and organisations visibility and a digital presence.

“This [Spring Prize] has, to a large extent, contributed to ABN profiling thus attracting additional funds from both the existing and new funders making it possible to widen its reach on partners and communities across the region, creating awareness on the resolution ...” **AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK**

“The publicity KPL got by winning the prize has enabled us to get access to other opportunities. For example, in our suit against the lifting of the ban on GMOs in Kenya, it was easy to rally international support for our suit due to the publicity.” **KENYAN PEASANTS LEAGUE**



Walking through woods,
2018 Spring Prize Event.

“The Spring Prize gave much needed visibility to the Organization which is a local grassroots Organization. This helped in augmenting the networking of the Organization especially in community conservation. The prize is mentioned in our annual reports and main project proposals causing credibility on a global platform and probably attracted financial assistance. We also encountered the possibility of being part of making regeneration a mainstream concept.” **TIMBUKTU COLLECTIVE**

Unrestricted funding offered autonomy to focus on mission/dream/needs

23% The value of the unrestricted nature of the Spring Prize funding is discussed in other sections of this review and was once again highlighted in answers to how the Spring Prize had supported projects.

“The Spring Prize came at the perfect time in our organization and allowed us the flexibility to explore innovative ways of social movement building, strengthen our core farmer network as well as strengthen the evidence base”. **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TANZANIA**

Janet Maro from Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania.



“The funding had a huge impact on our viability. This seed investment was definitely what kept us alive for a while as we were testing some very emergent theories of change and social development. Beyond that the validation and recognition of the prize and the following media attention enabled us to get a lot of publicity, build more of an audience and get our message out more internationally. We have been contacted now by communities and organisations all over the world. We were able to present at the World Community Development Conference where the global CD leaders said the work was the innovative edge of community development and also at permaculture and climate conferences. It's incredible how much this support empowered us to take the message out to the world, and more incredibly, how this framework and methodology holds up across many different global stages. We're a complex organisation but we have only had one major injection of funds and that was the Lush Spring Prize. We are considered thought leaders in a lot of spaces, we have been approached to present, consult and advise on many intersectional issues and contexts due to the frameworks we've developed, and we would not be here if the Spring Prize didn't resource us financially and socially to overcome some existential threats to our org's viability”. **PERMAQUEER**

The Prize supported groups in becoming better connected

19% of projects described how the Spring Prize had enabled them to become better connected at both a policy, national, and community level – through the events and media exposure.

“Through the Prize, we have been included in the Re-Alliance network which is providing us with immense knowledge and networking. We have been able to secure additional funding through this network and have expanded our influence to support internally displaced persons’ settlement through introduction of regenerative urban gardening”. **MOUNT OKU CENTER FOR GENDER AND SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

“The Prize supported ZIMSOFF to develop the center pin that is pivoting movement building for agroecology and food sovereignty in Zimbabwe”.
ZIMSOFF

The Award attracted other funding

11% of projects discussed how the Spring Prize process had enabled them to attract other funding: through forming funding relationships at prize events, through the Re-Alliance network or through a raised profile following media exposure.

“The impact of the Spring Prize on our organization has been remarkable, especially in terms of international visibility and recognition. This award has played a key role in raising our credibility as an Indigenous organization, highlighting the effectiveness and significant impact of our projects. Thanks to this distinction, we have experienced a substantial increase in interest from donors and partners, consolidating our positioning and facilitating the expansion of our initiatives”. **ALIANZA CEIBO**

The Prize process (application and discussions at the event) supported organisations in gaining clarity/setting new intentions

7% of organisations described how the prize process itself had supported them in gaining clarity and a renewed sense of process, as highlighted by the following quotes:

“Strengthening our vision: the award gave us the opportunity to take a step back and consolidate our vision. We are now convinced that our project has a promising future, reinforcing our determination to work towards the regeneration of the planet”. **TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP**

Tahina delivers training at Taniala Regenerative Camp.



“The writing exercise was the first learning for this prize. To collectively write for this prize helped us to become more aware of how we express ourselves, how to process and integrate our visions and our activities in what we share, strengthen our relationships with our existing partners, and made us become more intentional in how we present ourselves to the world outside of our community”. **INSTITUTO JANERAKA**

“When we won the Spring Prize and, more importantly, when we participated in the dynamics and interactions with other participants, our vision and understanding expanded significantly. This impact manifested itself tangibly when we started participating in other calls for proposals. We noticed a remarkable change in our approach. We began to look for more quality in our proposals, prioritising elements such as originality and innovation, coherence, and consistency, as well as the impact and relevance of our projects. The Lush Spring Prize encouraged us to raise our standards and align our initiatives with a clearer focus on environmental regeneration and the promotion of mental health. The exchange of experiences and ideas with the participants motivated us to explore more innovative and effective approaches. In short, the Lush Spring Prize not only recognised our efforts, but also pushed us to mature and improve our ability to create a lasting positive impact on our community and the environment.” **INSTITUTO COMPASSOS**

Learnings from work funded by the Prize money has informed other work (4)

7% of projects shared examples of how learnings from Spring Prize funded work had informed how their work had developed/other work had emerged. For example:

“Significantly. The feeling of failing to deliver on our intentions in the earlier stages was hard – this has eventually been balanced by achieving significant outcomes through a circuitous route in the long term. The learning from IPEN for Lachlan has contributed to thinking for Permatil Global; for Steve it has contributed to his lead role in output coordination for the iACT project, as well as helping inform PAB's new international coordinator on opportunities and challenges for working to promote and support permaculture internationally”.

IPEN

The Prize process offered some organisations the opportunity to help mainstream regeneration in their own contexts and sparked curiosity to explore this concept further

“ [The Spring Prize] has contributed to the development of a fungi culture and regenerative culture in Greece”. MYCORAMA

“ Lush has stimulated our curiosity by encouraging us to learn more about regeneration. We're keen to keep learning and exploring new ways to help restore the planet”. TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP



Maritza from Cooperativa Tonanzintlalli sets up a traditional cacao ceremony at the event in Berlin with her mother Lucia.

Other comments shared:

“The fabric banner that was given to us too is a very good promoting material. It is unique, beautiful, and environmentally friendly. The extra mile work you put in to make the banner is well-appreciated, and it captured the attention of our participants and visitors.” **THE BLUE RIBBON GLOBAL**



Blue Ribbon Global, E4CAP –
The Garden Spring team.

“We would appreciate it if we could link up with different people who could volunteer with us on the ground and co-design together our regenerative demonstration sites while sharing their wisdom to strengthen our capacity building in different aspects for example in syntropic, agroforestry, etc., we also believe that regeneration takes time for people to see the lasting change and for this to happen, we need to make follow-up and get extra funds, thus we call upon your help to provide or recommend us to others opportunities, organizations, or donors who could support our efforts.” **UNIDOS SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTER**

“It has helped me expand my open-mindedness, have greater self-awareness and become more resilient.” **TEJIENDO FUTUROS ONG**

Has the Lush Spring prize brought projects extra publicity, interest, support or funds from other groups and organisations?

57 projects answered the survey question “Has the Spring prize brought projects extra publicity, interest, support, or funds from other groups and organisations?”. Participants were given the option to click ‘Yes’, ‘No’ or ‘Sort of’ and then provide more comments if they wished.

- **61%** 35 chose ‘Yes’
- **28%** 16 chose ‘Sort of’
- **11%** 6 chose ‘No’.

52 of the projects provided further information which was also analysed. Many gave examples of what the Lush Spring Prize had brought them in relation to this question. These could be grouped as follows:

- **21%** Funding (14 projects)
- **28%** ublicity or increased visibility (29 projects)
- **18%** Collaboration opportunities (18 projects and increasing)
- **18%** Credibility (10 projects).

Funding

21% of projects clearly stated that the prize had led to them being able to gain more funding. Two further projects implied that this was the case although their answers were not as clear. This was due to projects having more financial stability as well as increased credibility. In some cases, projects had received further funding from sources affiliated with the Spring Prize, such as Lush Charity Pot or Regenerosity.

“We are certain that the Spring prize has contributed to our fundraising requirements over the last six years.” **TIMBUKTU COLLECTIVE**

“We were able to use a part of our prize money as the starting point to raise further funds to buy a portion of wetland next to our farm. This unrestricted funding that we committed to the purchase was vital in attracting further support. Without this we would’ve been starting from zero, a much harder sell to other supporters.” GUBA

However, it should be noted that the majority of respondents did not state that they had received further funding due to the Spring Prize. Some did point out that it was not possible to always know whether the prize had impacted a funding decision or not, one project was more sceptical that it would impact at all.

“It is not easy to obtain funding from other actors by winning other prizes.” COMUNITÀ FRIZZANTE

On the whole it shows that in some cases projects could use their status as a Spring Prize recipient to gain more funding, but that this is also an area where the Lush Spring Prize might be able to provide further support to projects to help leverage this effectively.

Publicity and increased visibility

51% of projects clearly stated that receiving a Spring Prize had led to them gaining more publicity or greater visibility. One further project implied this, but their answer was not as clear.

“The prize came just a year after the project started, and it gave a lot of notoriety and helped expand the base of volunteers even further. It also brought quite a bit of academic interest” VERDEGAIA (BRIGADAS DESEUCALIPTIZADORAS)



SCOPE Kenya – Look and learn field visit at 2021 local event.

“After winning the Lush Spring Prize Award, SCOPE Kenya gained increased publicity at the local and international level. This brought about the recognition of the organisation based on the work on integrating permaculture education in schools, addressing land regeneration, food security and climate change mitigation.”

SCOPE KENYA

“The Spring Prize has certainly helped to raise our profile and generate interest in our initiative”

TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP

“Being awarded the Lush Spring Prize has enhanced our visibility and garnered increased interest from other groups and organisations. It has also served as a catalyst for broader engagement and has reinforced the importance of our work across our communities, enabling us to further our mission of protecting Waorani communities and our rainforest territories internally.” **OWAP**

Collaboration Opportunities

28% of projects mentioned collaboration opportunities as another benefit of receiving the prize. A further two projects implied this, but their answers were not as clear.

“The connections made at the Lush Spring Prize event have facilitated ECVC's work in a number of ways. By introducing ECVC to a network which is related to the sustainable food systems, creating new relations and collaboration, ECVC has been able to strengthen and widen its holistic and participative approach.” **ECVC**



Jupago Kreká Collective.

“We are starting a project with the FAO for Biocentric Restoration based on the visibility we received at the awards in Berlin” **JUPAGO KREKÁ COLLECTIVE**

“We have become engaged in other active networks that support global sustainability through regenerative practices. For example, we are now a member of the Re-Alliance network. We were also included in the UNDP Tadamon Accelerator program and this has helped us build a business model for our activities.” **MOUNT OKU CENTER FOR GENDER AND SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

Credibility

18% of projects mentioned how the award had given their project extra credibility or acted as a useful endorsement of their work. One further project implied this, but their answer was less clear.

“We always use the reference of the award as something to be proud of, something that validates our work.” ASSOCIAÇÃO CENTRO DE CULTURA SABUKA KARIRI-XOCÓ

“This recognition has certainly put us in a privileged position to negotiate additional support from the government and other funding agencies. Has also meant a quite attractive international endorsement for our work, very useful for networking, outreaching, disseminating” INSO

“The award demonstrated the beauty and influence of ABN’s work.” AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK (ABN)

“The Spring Prize has been listed among our supporters and its acknowledgement was an element of recognition of our work” AMRITA BHOOMI

Recommendations

- Develop the Spring Prize core aims to include supporting attendees to attend strategic regional, national, and international events.
- Develop the Spring Prize core aims to include perennial storytelling around regeneration and Spring Prize projects (during prize years and fallow years) externally through media partners and LUSH, and internally through LUSH Staff comms, training channels and shop floors.



Women leaders at Amrita bhoomi.

Have projects maintained contact or built connections with people or organisations that they met through the Spring Prize process?

57 projects answered the question “Have you maintained contact or built connections with people or organisations that they met through the Spring Prize process and events?”. Participants were given the option to click ‘Yes’, ‘No’ or ‘Sort of’ and then provide more comments if they wished.

- **56%** Yes (32 projects)
- **30%** Sort of (17 projects)
- **14%** No (8 projects).

28% of all respondents, either stated that they had met others in person since the event, currently had plans to meet in person or were on the list of projects that the Spring Prize was funding to meet in person as part of its follow-year activities.

“Two of our team members plus a representative from an agroecology initiative that received a grant from our organisation attended the awards ceremony and made connections with the other Prize winners as well as staff and jury members who have reached out to know more about the work or other work in our area. We would like to see how we can deepen some connections to the current and past prize winners particularly in ways that can bring some of our supported initiatives (initiatives who received grants from Rawa) together with other global movements to share strategies and tools, bridge capacities, and build solidarity.” **RAWA FUND**

“Contacts are maintained with the co-winners from Zimbabwe. They made a visit to the Collective to see our work especially in community conservation. We also learned from them about savannah ecosystems. Discussions with them were also helpful for us for conceptualising and setting up the Timbaktu Bush Camp.” **TIMBUKTU COLLECTIVE**

While we did not ask specifically, many projects provided examples of barriers to them staying in contact. Not having the time and capacity to maintain connections was the most common reason given (nine projects (16%) of all respondents), others also mentioned distance, poor internet connections and language barriers.

It was also interesting to see that some projects highlighted the fact that they had not attended an event in person (either due to the pandemic forcing the 2021 event online or due to not getting a visa). A number of projects reiterated the importance and impact of being able to meet fellow prize recipients in person.

"The experience of meeting other prize-winning organisations at the event was incredibly special to myself and my colleague Bonginkosi. The learning and inspiration that came from hearing other people's stories and other organisations work is invaluable." **GUBA**

"One of the major benefits from being a recipient of the Spring Prize was being invited to the major event in London, UK. There we were able to profile ICA to a diverse audience and came away with new donor relationships as well as strategic partners whom we have worked with on shared media and communications strategies. Further, we were able to meet other movement organisations and strengthen intersectional connections and understandings for the value of centering Indigenous rights within strategies for social justice." **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION**

"It is important to emphasise that the lessons learned and connections made during the Spring Prize were enriching and continue to shape our work and direction." **INSTITUTO COMPASSOS**

It should also be noted that 23 prize recipients are now members of Re-Alliance, a sister organisation of the Spring Prize. Re-Alliance is a coalition of field practitioners, policymakers, educators, community leaders, and humanitarian and development workers, sharing skills and experience to grow the influence and impact of regenerative development in the humanitarian field. This is currently only accessible to English-speaking participants and was not referred to directly by any non-English speaking groups.

Recommendations

- It appeared that most projects were keen to stay in touch and the Spring Prize could do more to facilitate this. For example, in the 2023 prize cycle a WhatsApp group was created for participants. One group could be created for all recipients or a number of groups based on language and/or locations. Shortlisted projects could also be included.
- Develop the Spring Prize core aims to include the development of an active network that keeps connected through informal comms channels, funded learning visits, skill shares, and knowledge exchange across Spring Prize years and between prize recipients and shortlisted applicants. As part of this aim to financially support the actual time it takes for recipients to maintain connections or visit other projects.

External context: What major changes outside of organisations have affected (positively or negatively) progress since receiving a Spring Prize?

57 projects answered the question “What major changes outside of organisations have affected (positively or negatively) progress since receiving a Spring Prize?”

The answers were analysed and categorised into groups for both positive and negative changes. Please note projects were not given categories so their answers reflect what they consider to be the most important changes or factors rather than everything that might have changed (for example, we know from question 5 that more than two projects received more external funding since receiving a prize).

Answers could also fall into multiple categories.

External changes with negative impacts:

- **28%** Covid-19 and associated lockdowns. (16 projects)
- **23%** Lack of access to resources, loss of funding, poverty. (13 projects)
- **18%** Politics, e.g. lack of government support or opposition from government. (10 projects)
- **16%** Conflict, war, violence, or political unrest. (9 projects)
- **16%** Climate crisis or extreme weather. (9 projects)
- **11%** Structural inequality and marginalisation. (6 projects)
- **9%** Unstable economy and inflation. (5 projects)
- **5%** Lack of understanding from local community. (3 projects)
- **5%** Bureaucracy or restrictive environment, (3 projects)

External changes with positive impacts:

- **21%** Increased government alignment (12 projects)
- **16%** Increased community alignment (9 projects)
- **12%** Increased interest/reach/network (7 projects)
- **5%** Increased security (3 projects)
- **4%** Increased funding (2 projects)
- **2%** Reduced conflict (1 projects)
- **2%** Reduced impacts of pandemic. (1 project)

Covid-19

This was by far the most mentioned external factor and clearly had a big impact. It should also be noted that as we asked for changes since receiving a prize, none of the 17 prize recipients of the 2023 prize cycle mentioned the Covid-19 pandemic which likely reflects the fact they received a prize well after the height of the pandemic rather than because it did not have a significant impact. One project (which received a prize in 2021) also highlighted the lessening impacts of the pandemic as a key change.

A number of those that mentioned the pandemic spoke of the fact that its impacts were felt in multiple ways. Alongside the direct impacts on ways of working were the less direct impacts it had on the funding, political, and community environments the projects work within.

It was also notable that many projects, while acknowledging the difficulties, also pointed to how they had managed to adapt to the situation and find some positive outcomes such as learning new ways of working or reaching more people through online events.

“The outbreak of COVID-19 and its subsequent consequences affected our ability to grow and scale our impact rapidly. Movement of our staff was affected, donor funding areas changed, and others cut off their funding. For example, we had a grant approved, agreement signed and completed all the due diligence through the UKAID, but this was not paid as UKAID changed its funding priorities.” **YICE UGANDA**

“Perhaps the biggest change being the pandemic and its political, social and economical consequences, some of them still in progress, most negative: crisis, fear, attempts of political control, infodemics, etc., but also exploration of new styles of work or the realisation of the absurd way of life in modern societies.”
INSO

“As can be expected, COVID19 was an unexpected situation that drastically impacted our planning and programming. The global pandemic shifted our work quite drastically, especially in regards to the gatherings and in-person training at the time. We have had to learn a lot about how best to pivot to online engagement for programming that would normally be in person. Though the change was very challenging, we were able to reach more people through online training that would not have been able to attend in-person sessions. We are now offering in-person training in addition to our online offerings.” **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION**

Politics and governments

18% of the projects highlighted a lack of government support or active opposition from their governments as a significant challenge. However, at the same time twelve projects also stated that they have seen an increase in government support or a more favourable political environment.

“The victorious referendum held on 20th August 2023 in Ecuador, which permanently banned oil drilling in the national park Yasuni in the Ecuadorian Amazon which overlaps Waorani ancestral territory, provides a potent tool for safeguarding the Yasuni, and simultaneously bolstered our mission as OWAP to protect our ancestral lands. This park holds both ecological and ancestral significance, as it is the home of the Waorani people of Tagaeri and Taromenane, who are found to be in voluntary isolation. As OWAP, we supported the successful referendum campaign and continue to advocate for its implementation. However, the Ecuadorian government is currently defying the referendum result. The President's refusal to abide by the outcome and intention to expand oil extraction poses a grave threat. Urgent collective efforts are needed to defend Yasuni, and we remain committed to this cause to protect our heritage, lands, and the Yasuni for future generations.”

OWAP

“The Government of Zimbabwe has developed a National Strategy and Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2022-2032) that takes into account the contributions by the indigenous communities and considers issues of resilience and sustainability in food and nutrition security. The strategy and action plan is strengthening ZIMSOFF's vision towards developing a national farmer-led movement for agroecology and food sovereignty through promoting smallholder farmers participation, decision making, and contributions to plant genetic resources conservation and sustainable use.”

ZIMSOFF



Fundación Cuidemos Paraísos meeting in the forest.

“ In Chile, an Ecological Constitution was on the verge of being approved, but unfortunately it was rejected, in an unusual event that was a very hard blow to the global climate emergency and environmental movements. And by rejecting the possibility of this new constitution, the political right has positioned itself strongly in power in Chile, generating many obstacles for environmentalist movements and actions. Decision makers have zero interest in these relevant issues, but despite this, as an organisation we continue working hard to make visible the importance of caring for the nature we inhabit and generating a Forest culture. We are swimming against the current. And it's hard. But we remain firm in the cause.” **FUNDACIÓN CUIDEMOS PARAÍDOS**

“ Malaysia's bipartisan parliamentary body for SDGs appointed us to provide permaculture training and solution providers for food security in urban settings.”
THE BLUE RIBBON GLOBAL

“ There [is a] continued recognition of culture and application of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices in the national laws and policies of most of [the] governments in countries ABN is operating.”
AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK

Conflict, violence, and unrest

16% of the projects discussed the impacts of conflict and violence. In some cases, this is experienced indirectly, such as the impacts the invasion of Ukraine has had on supply chains. A number of projects are impacted by conflict, violence or unrest in their countries including in Ethiopia, eSwatini and Mexico.

“The eSwatini context and the global context has shifted radically between May 2019 and September 2023. Globally Covid-19, accelerating climate emergency and in eSwatini in 2021-2022 and ongoing political unrest and state violence have been major factors of challenge in our reality. Collectively these macro forces have reduced opportunities for people in eSwatini to find employment, weakened the formal state delivered service provision (health care, education, etc.) and created an increased atmosphere of fear regarding the ruling political elite.” **GUBA**

“Our country is still having different kinds of conflicts and tribalism consuming us and political instability [is] affecting our work.” **FOOD SECURED SCHOOLS AFRICA**

“Violence between ‘gang’ groups in the city has forced citizens to remain locked up on several occasions. We do not give up and we are acting to weave and defend peace.” **TEKIO**

A number of Indigenous groups also spoke of targeted attacks and violence. Some of these projects have asked for their comments not to be made public due to safety concerns.

“Indigenous peoples face daily threats in the defence of the Amazon rainforest. In 2021, more than 40% of fatal attacks on environmental defenders were against Indigenous leaders, such as Eduardo Mendua, a Kofan leader and our ally, killed for opposing oil operations.” **ALIANZA CEIBO**

Two projects from Gaza filled out the survey before October 2023 when Israel launched a full-scale invasion of Gaza, and while both still cited an increase in Israeli violence in their answers, the scale of this is now significantly worse.

“Palestinian communities continue to face extreme violence and oppression and limited access to resources (including clean water, land, pesticide-free food, etc.) from the Occupation and from the Palestinian Authority. The Israeli government has increased raids of Palestinian villages and camps, which include extrajudicial killings, and supports increased land dispossession and settler attacks. There is only a continuing shrinking Palestinian civil space, especially after the increased Israeli targeting of Palestinian and other human rights organisations who report on Israeli war crimes and protect civil society. This context makes it challenging for us and our partners to plan ahead and maintain progress on specific initiatives, since a settler attack or occupation force raid can quickly destroy work that took months to achieve. At least our and our partners' work to build community resilience and solidarity support helps keep up a sense of hope and unity amidst the ongoing colonial violence.” **RAWA FUND**

“The evolution of local and global direction towards strengthening local food systems, localization, and linking them with the SDGs and indicators has created opportunities for GUPAP to build new partnerships at the local, international, and global levels; however, the conditional funding and the lack of financial options is undermining its progress; besides, the shrinking of NGOs due to internal division is representing a challenge; also, the continuous Israeli escalations is causing security concerns to the staff and women agriprenuers and breaking the efforts towards resilience and development interventions; in addition to the environmental factors, climate change, and COVID-19 implications is threatening the mandate of enhancing the resilience of the women-led MSEs.” **GUPAP**

Climate crisis and extreme weather

16% of the projects stated that extreme weather events, often attributed to the worsening climate crisis, had also had a significant impact. Wildfires, drought, desertification, heatwaves, cyclones and hurricanes, flooding, and landslides were all mentioned.

“ In September 2022, our region, Santa Catarina, was impacted by an extratropical cyclone that brought with it intense rainfall and devastating windstorms. Our city, Florianópolis, suffered particularly badly from the effects of this weather phenomenon. Winds with speeds of over 100 km/h, together with heavy rain, triggered landslides, flooding, falling trees and rising river and sea levels. The electricity supply was interrupted and our vegetable garden, which was fundamental to our activities, was completely destroyed, as was the outside toilet that was washed away. As a result, we faced the arduous task of rebuilding our garden and facilities from scratch.” **INSTITUTO COMPASSOS**

“ From 2021 and 2023, Kenya has experienced prolonged drought, which has affected SCOPE Kenya work in schools especially in semi-arid areas, due to lack of adequate water to irrigate the gardens. This has compromised the organization work.” **SCOPE KENYA**

“ Haiti has experienced a series of ongoing crises since the award was received in 2019 ranging from natural disasters (earthquakes and hurricanes), deadly disease outbreaks (cholera), insecurity, unprecedented inflation, gas shortages, and human resource constraints due to increased emigration.” **SOIL**

“ Climate change. Our village is in a region that will be largely affected by the desertification process, and this is worrying us a lot.” **ASSOCIAÇÃO CENTRO DE CULTURA SABUKA KARIRI-XOCÓ**

While many projects were having to deal directly with these effects, it was also noted that some had witnessed an increase in engagement due to more people realising the pressing need for regenerative work.

“Fires continue to be a big issue in Galicia and Portugal. While these are tragic, they have also awakened people to become engaged, and this explains one of the most interesting recent developments, which is the growth of the Brigadas project [from Spain] into Portugal in 2022.” **BRIGADAS DESEUCALIPTIZADORAS**

“The mounting evidence of climate change and the ongoing policy responses, albeit too slow, are leading to greater recognition and support for the work we are doing. But again, it is unfortunate that much of this is too little, too late!” **ECOLISE**



Project banners made by Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KAFRED) Seeds & Stories hanging in the event space in Berlin 2023.

Resources, funding, and the economy

23% of the projects highlighted increased problems accessing resources, such as land and water, as well as loss of funding or reduction in funding opportunities.

“This year the Guatemalan elections were held, and this year has been very controversial due to the persecution of the elected candidate by the corrupt government. Many foreign organisations do not want to invest in Guatemala. And this has made it more difficult to get donations and help from abroad. Another is that Panajachel is considered a municipality that cannot be prioritised by tourism, but the reality is there is a high percentage of multidimensional poverty. So many organisations are not helping the few organisations that work in this area and there is no help from the government.”

TEJIENDO FUTUROS ONG

“Funding remains a constant challenge for organisations such as ours and some key funders have stopped funding organisations such as the LWA while they review their positions regarding how they have received their wealth. We are fully in support of this work that funders are doing, however wish that it was not to the detriment of organisations that are doing active anti-racist and anti-colonialist work.”

LANDWORKERS ALLIANCE

“Our pressing need is the lack of sustainable water supply to the project as we are currently using tap water supplied by a local company on a monthly bill. We need a solar-powered borehole for sustainable water supply and be able to expand our food production operations to feed more families. Although our minimum efforts in supplying fresh vegetables is appreciated, we are not near to meeting community demand due to water constraints hindering project expansion.”

ANONYMOUS

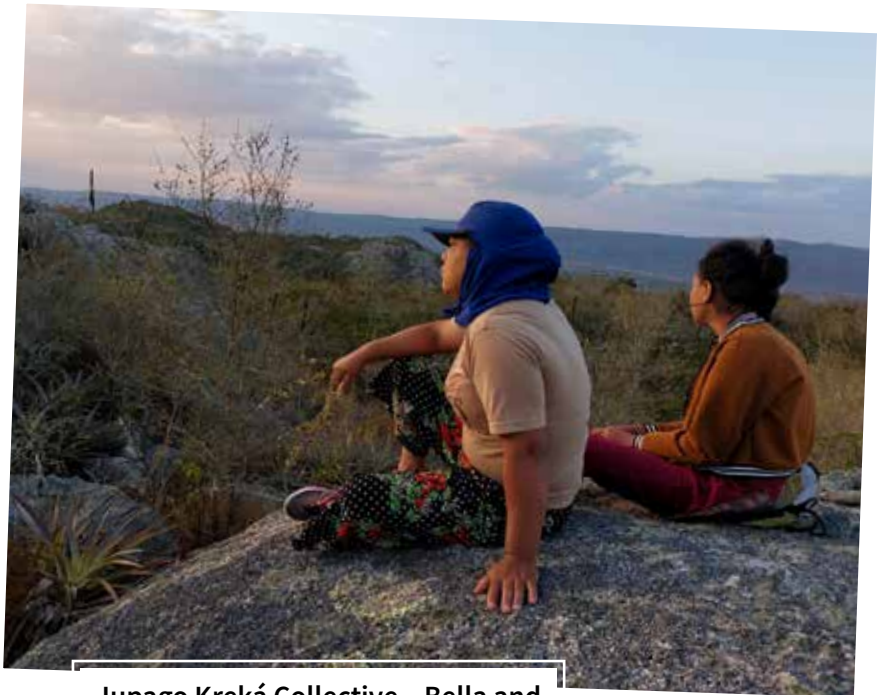
9% of the projects (four not included in the aforementioned thirteen) also highlighted the worsening economic environment and the impacts this had on their communities and/or beneficiaries.

“Hyperinflationary environment which limits buying power and health consumption.” **FAMBIDZANAI PERMACULTURE CENTRE**

“[The] cost of living is very high” **FOOD SECURED SCHOOLS AFRICA**

Some projects did, however, highlight increased funds and three projects gained important security in terms of land.

“Our territory was threatened by a lawsuit brought by ex-farmers who had stolen our land in the past, threatening to remove 150 families from their homes in which they had lived for more than 30 years. Fortunately, we won this legal case.” **JUPAGO KREKÁ COLLECTIVE**



Jupago Kreká Collective – Bella and Raianire watching the Boa Vista.

“ We are super excited to see this project bring more change and open-minded farmers to start shifting from traditional agriculture to regenerative one. Farmers are now able to assess their land before planting crops and apply organic fertilizer and animal manure in their farm. This encourages us and gives us confidence that we are stepping ahead to Shift Towards Organic Farming, and we can't wait to witness a promising shift in the cultivation of organic food within the community. Waste food recycling from different markets around Nakivale is ongoing to be able to increase the production of worm or organic fertilizer to meet the growing demand from the refugee community. We are excited to report again that the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda (OPM) offered us another plot of land that will be our demonstration site in Juru village we have started exploring ways to co-create with the community of Juru different regenerative designs of agriculture and assess the land fertility.” **UNIDOS SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTRE**

Unidos Paulinho Muzaliwa
– Harvesting time on the demonstration site near the center.



“ Having achieved a prize with the Lush Spring Prize places us at another level in which other donors have known of our achievements, which is why they do not hesitate to trust with their donations.”

INSTITUTO MESOAMERICANO DE PERMACULTURA (IMAP)

“ Am happy that what was a challenge to me has been solved. It [Rwamwanja Rural Foundation] was using the land of OPM and now it is solved. We have secured land for the project. There will be no more challenge over land”

RWAMWANJA RURAL FOUNDATION

Community support

5% 3 projects highlighted a lack of understanding from the community

16% However, more projects spoke about increased support from the communities they were working in. Nine projects stated this as a positive change in their internal context.

“A strong bond with the agroecological farmers has been built with a group of supportive consumers, media representatives, committed activists from different sectors, local and state bureaucrats.”

AMRITA BHOOMI

“Engaging in the local seed movement made a big change for us. Nowadays we are leading a Bolivian network of seed guardians. We believe this is possible because we kept the focus on putting the seed-saving topics in the agroecological agenda in our context.”

SUYARI SEMILLAS ORGÁNICAS (TERRENA)

“We have had good acceptance in the places where we have come to work, thanks to the work we do, several people are impacted since in our Province there are no groups of young people who work for the improvement of climate change.” **SACHA KUYRANA**

It should be noted that the three projects which discussed potential issues with the wider community were all Indigenous and/or grassroots projects and the issues were not caused by trying to impose on an existing community of which they were not part. This has been noted because the Spring Prize aims to fund projects which demonstrate strong connections and involvement of the beneficiary community in the design, implementation, and direction of the project. It would therefore be a concern to see issues arising due to a project or organisation imposing their work onto a community of which they are not part.

Internal context: What issues inside organisations/projects have affected progress (positively or negatively) since receiving a Spring Prize?

The review asked the question 'What issues inside organisations/projects have affected progress (positively or negatively) since receiving a Spring Prize?'. One project left the question blank, and others simply wrote 'no', which was taken to mean that no major changes had happened within their organisations.

Answers were analysed and the issues that projects suggested were posing challenges fell into the following categories:

- **28%** Funding and resource issues. (16 projects)
- **25%** Staff or stakeholder retention, change or shortage. (14 projects)
- **4%** Overwork or burnout. (2 projects)
- **4%** Internal divisions. (2 projects)
- **4%** Managing growth. (2 projects)

Projects also highlighted positive changes in their internal context. These could be categorised as follows:

- **26%** Internal stability or a strong team – respondents who simply answered 'no' or left this question blank were included here (15 projects).
- **21%** Organisational strengthening and improvement of internal systems. (12 projects)
- **11%** Growth or expansion. (6 projects)
- **11%** Opportunity from crisis. (6 projects)
- **11%** Increased collaboration. (6 projects)
- **7%** Diversification. (4 projects)

Funding and resource issues

28% of projects highlighted funding and resource issues. Despite the vital work being carried out by regenerative projects and organisations, there is still a huge gap in the amount of funding available and what needs to be done to repair the earth's damaged systems. There is also a need to provide longer term, sustainable funding.

"Since we received the prize, we have achieved a lot but the money we received was not enough to cover all schools in Addis Ababa alone – still there are a lot of schools with huge areas of unused land, we want to regenerate the land." **FOOD SECURED SCHOOLS AFRICA**

Eskender Mulugeta – Food Secured Schools Africa.



"In addition, we are facing financial challenges. It has become clear that we cannot rely solely on what we grow and produce and on calls for proposals to sustain our organisation. The financial difficulties are reflected in our high turnover of agronomists, due to low salaries and the intensive nature of our activities during the week. This makes it complex to maintain a team dedicated to discussing and creating solutions to these issues." **INSTITUTO COMPASSOS**

"Since the Green Spot project, and the support of the Spring Prize, the organisation has strengthened its bases, its team is well cohesive, inspired, and motivated. And we are just looking for funds to continue this work." **FUNDACIÓN CUIDEMOS PARAÍOS**

Staff or stakeholder retention, change or shortage

25% of projects highlighted difficulties with having enough people involved or being able to retain staff or ensure adequate cover when key people were not able to work. This is also linked to issues with financing this work.

GUPAP's geographically limited scope to the Gaza Strip remains a challenge, although it is benefitting from its local, national, regional, and global networks' membership to share knowledge and experience and learning. Also, GUPAP's lack of core funding is causing job instability, noting it has divided roles and responsibilities within three main units under the supervision and leadership of its General Coordinator, considering adaptive management.” GUPAP

“The internal problem is directing the project alone, that is, I am the community contact in the city, but many times working alone on a project as important as this can be a little overwhelming, especially when most of the work is voluntary.”

RIPANU



Gloria and Ruben, Ripanu.

Overwork and burnout

4% of answers suggested signs of overwork or burnout.

“We've been working other intersecting jobs that support this work and creating larger structures to support the viability of our organisation. This is very challenging though and we will be seeking further funding to help mature through our seeding/startup phase. With the compounding reality of climate change, the housing crisis and rising cost of living it has been challenging financially and emotionally to maintain PermaQueer, that being said we have grown so much and are adapting to the challenges” PERMAQUEER

" Internally this prize had an impact since we continue to be an important reference in our community, allowing us to have more support locally, but we have been experiencing work and emotional overload still."

INSTITUTO JANERAKA

Members of Musu Runakuna, Instituto Janeraka and Ashiniawka receive their prize in 2023.



Internal stability and strong teams

26% of projects indicated that they had actually experienced periods of stability since receiving a Spring Prize. Projects which answered 'no' or similar to the question were also included in this number, however the below quotes also illustrate the importance of strong teams here.

" Since the Green Spot project, and the support of the Spring Prize, the organisation has strengthened its bases, its team is well cohesive, inspired, and motivated" **FUNDACIÓN CUIDEMOS PARAÍOS**

" Through all of the external crises listed above [referring to question 7] our team has remained committed to one another and our mission. Our work has brought us inspiration and motivation in what would otherwise be very dark times." **SOIL**

" Being able to start the Youth Internship Program and starting to have the resident group of young people has injected their positive energy in our team work." **AMRITA BHOOMI**

Organisational strengthening and improvement of internal systems.

21% of respondents (12 projects) had invested time in strengthening their organisations and improving internal systems.

“The motivation among staff, which was brought about by the Lush Spring Prize award, has enabled the organization to strengthen, and remain focused in integrating permaculture education in schools, to benefit more young people.” **SCOPE KENYA**



Kenyan Peasants League – working on the land.

“KPL is currently undergoing Institutional Strengthening which is aimed at making the movement more efficient. [We have also] established Finance and Communication Departments” **KENYAN PEASANTS LEAGUE**

“Since receiving the award, our organization has been dedicated to offering an increasing variety of training to our members, focusing on technologies and skills fundamental to organizational management. While we have made significant progress, we recognize the need to implement more focused training to highlight and consolidate internal organizational strengthening.” **ALIANZA CEIBO**

Growth and/or expansion

11% of projects indicated that they had managed to grow or expand their operations since receiving a Spring Prize.

“Internally, our team has continued to grow and their capacity to deliver on the programs has improved. We have built a motivated team over time that offers exceptional services to the communities we serve.”

YICE UGANDA

“I have resigned from my corporate work to focus on TBR's work since Jan 2023. Garden Spring has progressed tremendously since then and we are expanding to another state.”

BLUE RIBBON GLOBAL (E4CAP)

Two further projects also discussed difficulties in managing a growth in interest in their work.

“Growth of the project (=more schools wanting to join and start clubs) has proven challenging to fund year on year, as more schools = greater cost, and additionally the joining schools tend to be further from our base and more remote. That means longer travel times (and higher transport costs) so visits are trickier, and it has been harder to implement the full programme at those schools.” **MALAWI SCHOOLS PERMACULTURE CLUBS**



Malawi Schools Permaculture Club members working on their tree nursery.

Collaboration

11% of projects discussed the importance of new collaborations or strengthening existing collaborative work with those outside of their organisation.

" ABN through the sub-regional node approach, partners and other allies in the same region are keen on building collaborations and synergies and are jointly planning and influencing actions at the country and regional level " **AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK**

" We decided not to continue to promote IPEN, but also not to shut it down, so that we could work in more tactical ways, through small, targeted activity that allowed more substantial work to happen through partnerships and connections." **IPEN**

Diversification

7% of projects discussed diversifying. This included diversifying what they offer and/or increasing diversity amongst stakeholders.

" A positive development within the organization is a growing implication of young farmers within the organizational structure. This is certainly due to additional training opportunities through which ECVC was able to attract more young farmers from member organizations and to increase their understanding of ECVC's political representation work." **ECVC**

" The main element that will bring about a big change in the internal structure of Comunità Frizzante is the fact that the people who have followed the project for these four years will be engaged in new projects in 2024. This is why we are trying to expand our team, looking for a way for Comunità Frizzante to expand, also in terms of product offerings, beyond sparkling drinks, by involving local actors engaged in experimental food initiatives. Certainly, the new partnership with the BIO Debiasi farm will play a key role." **COMUNITÀ FRIZZANTE**

Opportunity from crisis

11% of projects indicated they had taken this approach. It was interesting to see how projects would discuss adapting to challenges and creating opportunities from crisis.

“ In 2022, our long-standing fiscal sponsor, Polaris Institute, made the difficult decision to dissolve their organization. As much as it could have been a challenging time, we leaned into it as an opportunity to explore and expand ICA’s organizational structure and model. In consultation with our National Steering Committee, Executive Steering Committee, and the ICA team we made the decision to incorporate as a non-profit organization in so-called Canada and aligned with the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples as a new 501(c)3 partner south of the medicine line.” **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION**

“ We went through a huge internal crisis: lack of money, change of personnel, adjustments in our working style related to restrictions (and also opportunities) of the pandemic. We have learnt from it all and became stronger as an organization and strengthened our links with partners, particularly communities.” **INSO**

Other

A number of organisations mentioned their current priorities and time being focused on improving a current situation, e.g. transitioning to a new fiscal sponsor, restoring a village, deciding on a business structure that functions now whilst being fit for the next economy.

“ As all of us at the Soft Foot Alliance live and work in our own community and develop skills from within, this takes time and understanding and people-people relations and building peace are just as, if not more, important than people-wildlife.” **SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE**

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

What are projects' plans for the future?

57 projects responded to the question 'What are your plans for the future (for example, the next five years)?'. The answers were analysed and categorised under the following themes (most answers fell into multiple categories):

- **56%** Practical regenerative work. (32 projects)
- **56%** Network strengthening and movement building. (32 projects)
- **42%** Sharing knowledge and skills. (24 projects)
- **39%** Organisation strengthening and increasing resilience. (22 projects)
- **35%** Outreach and publicity. (20 projects)
- **26%** Scaling out or expanding operations. (15 projects)
- **18%** Lobbying or campaigning for political change. (10 projects)
- **18%** Gaining knowledge and skills. (10 projects)

We can see that the values of the Spring Prize – fostering connections, increasing the profile of regeneration, sharing knowledge, building resilience – are well represented in respondents' future plans. These things appear as equally important to the more practical sides of regenerative work, and all are key to ensuring a regenerative movement that continues to grow and flourish.

“Ultimately, our vision is to co-create a new renaissance where regenerative agriculture serves as the foundation of a flourishing civilization. We believe that, through sustainable farming practices, refugees can not only improve their own lives but also play a pivotal role in revitalising the local economy and contributing to a more sustainable future. In summary, three years from now, our group aims to be at the forefront of a regenerative agricultural movement in Nakivale, fostering self-sufficiency, empowerment, and economic growth among refugees while nurturing the land and environment. We are committed to bringing about lasting change and envision a brighter future where regenerative agriculture thrives, benefiting both the refugee community and the broader society.” **UNIDOS SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTRE**

Recommendations

- Ensure that the Spring Prize continues to fund and support all of the aspects listed above, as well as continuing to collaborate with other funders and stakeholders to generate more support.

Practical regenerative work

56% of respondents told us about the practical, on-the-ground regenerative work they had planned. This included regeneration of land and forests but also included the creation of places for cultural and social regeneration.

“Buy 7 hectares of land that is currently very damaged and valued at 70,000 dollars, with the intention of regenerating it and converting it into an ecological and regenerative agricultural school that is accompanied by a spiritual healing center. This is a great dream, the area with the intention of purchasing is currently for sale and is located in the highest part of the community and where water recharge is generated.” **COOPERATIVA AGROPECUARIAS DE SERVICIOS TONANZINTLALLI**

“Continue with the regeneration of the forest in areas affected by climate change through agroforestry and continue with the rescue of traditional uses of the forest. We have a plan to make a retreat house for women and young people for our Sapara community movement”

ASHINIAWKA



Women taking part in Ashiniawka workshop.

“Our goal for the next 5 years is to create field schools for the center, organize each community into a cooperative and to setup access to solar-powered internet serving women and girls in over 15 villages around Mount Oku Region.” **MOUNT OKU CENTER**

FOR GENDER AND SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (MOCGSE)

“Continue engaging young people to restore natural water sources, replanting native trees, strengthen local food production through annual district PermaYouth camp. Continue implementing Permaculture garden in every Primary Schools across Timor-Leste.” **PERMATIL**

Network strengthening and movement building

56% of respondents were looking to strengthen their networks or stakeholder groups.

“We believe in the power of collaboration, we will continue to cultivate local and international collaborations from which we can learn, scale and create sustainable impact for our target beneficiaries.”

YICE UGANDA

“Within the next years INSO plans to remain deeply grass-rooted while its Oaxacan Water Forum gets stronger to bring community stakeholders together with NGOs, the private sector, government, and academic institutions. We see ourselves keeping on re-weaving” INSO

Sharing knowledge and skills

42% of projects discussed processes for sharing their knowledge and skills with others (e.g. educational programmes, demonstration sites, etc.).

“[Over the] next five years I will have train[ed] more than 20,000, and in five years my farm will be the first ecotourism and learning farm ever across EA refugee settlement”

RWAMWANJA RURAL FOUNDATION



Bemeriki and Peruth from Rwamwanja Rural Foundation find their organisation displayed at a Lush Shop in Berlin.

“Building a regenerative skills hub for Hwange and KAZA to teach permaculture and holistic management in connection to developing other skills and economic opportunities based on life.”

SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE

“A stronger body of knowledge is gathered, co-created, documented and used by farming communities [...] Practising farmers are supported to lead in spreading and promoting practice in agroecology, food sovereignty and climate justice” ZIMSOFF

“Establishing a research and resource centre with financial autonomy and sustainability to host researchers, students and learners from across subjects from around the world.” BEEJVAN

18% A further ten projects also outlined plans for learning from others to gain the knowledge and skills needed to move their projects forward.

“After the learning programme, I plan to reflect on the year's learnings and achievements, all the activities I'm doing, and start to focus on one area within mycology where I can really make an impact on my community. And perhaps help a partner start a project in a different area which I have knowledge and skills but cannot focus on for the time being. I hope to continue learning and growing, and sharing with my community everything I've learnt about mycology, mushroom growing, and regeneration over this year.” MYCORAMA

Emily Antoniadi,
founder of
Mycorama, with
a mushroom.



Organisation strengthening and increasing resilience

39% of projects spoke about strengthening their organisation through improving internal systems, securing funding, or gaining financial independence. This was seen as actions taken to improve the long-term resilience of organisations.

“The LWA are currently developing our five-year strategy with our members. As our membership has grown significantly since we wrote our last five-year strategy, we are developing systems to enable grassroots engagement in this strategy development. This is making the process of setting our strategy a bit longer and slower, but extremely valuable.”

LANDWORKERS' ALLIANCE

“Establishing organisational best practices for good governance, staff management, and mentorship for secure and thriving teams.”

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION

“GUPAP pays attention to institutional sustainability; it aims to consolidate its functioning and sustainability; for that, GUPAP focuses on developing its organisational systems, building its staff and volunteers capacities, and strengthening partnerships and cooperation at the institutional and community levels.”

GUPAP

“Our commitment to sustainability is not just restricted to environmental issues; it extends to financial and organisational sustainability. We are reviewing and reformulating our fundraising strategy, seeking out new partnerships and diversifying our sources of funding. This proactive approach aims to ensure that we have the necessary resources to keep our projects and programmes running. [...] Our vision for the next five years is to build a solid foundation, extending partnerships, which will allow us to expand our impact and continue to serve communities.”

INSTITUTO COMPASSOS

Outreach and publicity

35% of projects discussed plans to increase outreach or generate more publicity or awareness of their work.

“Establishing KPL [Kenyan Peasants League] TV and Radio that broadcasts across the country” **KENYAN PEASANTS LEAGUE**

“We will launch the permaculture music project, including a crowd funder and see what happens.” **IPEN**

“National recognition as regeneration experts: We aspire to be recognised as an organisation specialising in soil regeneration and regenerative development at a national level. This will enable us to play a leading role in promoting regenerative solutions nationally.” **TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP**

Evolution of The Spring Prize.



Lobbying and political aims

18% of projects had plans to continue to influence the policy landscape to protect or support regenerative systems or ways of life.

“The Ceibo Alliance has ambitious plans to strengthen the protection and sustainability of indigenous communities and ecosystems in Ecuador and Peru. We are working on ongoing titling claims and collaborating on reforming policy frameworks to secure land tenure for indigenous peoples on 4.5 million hectares of forest in both countries. Among our key actions, we plan to take legal action and launch an international campaign with the Siona people of Buenavista to defend Siona forest defenders and protect 58,000 hectares of rainforest in the midst of armed conflict and expanding oil extraction in Colombia.” **ALIANZA CEIBO**



General Assembly of ECVC
in Viseu Portugal in 2022.

“To continue to put peasant agriculture at the centre of public policies which are based on social, economic, and environmental sustainability and the agroecological farming model as a response to the needs of small- and medium-sized farmers and European society as a whole. To continue to work at a policy level to achieve changes in public policies that support peasant agriculture and the necessary processes of change towards agroecology. To continue to work on achieving recognition of the concept of Food Sovereignty as a real alternative that farmers and European society need in the face of the many global challenges we face. The UN declaration of the Right of Peasants’ rights and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) will remain one of the priorities and we will continue to work on achieving progress on the implementation of the Declaration” **ECVC**

What training or other support needs do organisations have?

57 projects responded to the question ‘What training or other support needs do organisations have?’. Answers were analysed and categorised as follows (answers could fall into multiple categories):

- **35%** Fundraising, funding, and more resources. (20 projects)
- **28%** Practical skills. (16 projects)
- **25%** Governance, strategy, and organisational management. (14 projects)
- **25%** Networking, collaborations, and co-learning. (14 projects)
- **23%** Publicity, communications, and storytelling. (13 projects)
- **12%** Monitoring and evaluation, demonstrating impacts and research. (7 projects)
- **7%** Lobbying, campaigning, and politics. (4 projects)
- **4%** Psycho-social/psycho-emotional support. (2 projects)
- **7%** Other. (4 projects)

Fundraising

35% of projects stated they needed more funding or support with fundraising.

“Access to stable and adequate funding is crucial for sustaining the organisation's work and achieving long-term impact. The availability of funding sources, competition for grants, and shifting funding priorities can present obstacles to financial stability and resource allocation.” **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION**

“Establishment [of a] sustainability fund and unrestricted fund reserves to support [our] partners’ initiatives and development of learning centres.” **AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK (ABN)**

Practical skills

28% of respondents, mentioned specific practical skills they needed training in.

This included ecology and conservation, sustainable land management, permaculture, reforestation, herbal medicine, seed saving, natural building and bioconstruction, biological plant protection, IT, soap-making and essential oils, syntropic agroforestry, mushroom cultivation, languages, beekeeping, and vegan cooking.

“Our organisation, the Ceibo Alliance, identifies two key areas in which we require support and training. First, we need to strengthen the technical skills of our team, especially in the use of computers and other office tools. Training in these technological capabilities is essential to improve our operational efficiency and optimise project management.” **ALIANZA CEIBO**

“Practical and technical training: We are very interested in practical and technical training. In particular, we would like to attend organisational coaching sessions to move our organisation towards a regenerative approach.

- **Strengthening language skills in English and Brazilian Portuguese:** in order to better interact with other actors on an international scale and seize opportunities, it is essential to strengthen our language capacity in English and Portuguese, especially for Taniala's office members.
- **Training in syntropical agroforestry:** practical training in syntropical agroforestry, whether in Brazil, New Caledonia, or elsewhere in the tropics, would be a valuable opportunity for our technicians. This would enable us to acquire advanced skills in this essential area for our regeneration projects.
- **Training in mushroom cultivation:** we are convinced that mushroom cultivation can solve many problems in Madagascar. We would therefore like to receive practical training in this field in order to develop this expertise within our organisation.
- **Vegan cooking:** to make the most of the vegetables and cereals available in Madagascar and to promote a vegan diet among our fellow citizens and project beneficiaries, we would like to develop our vegan cooking skills. This will also enable us to offer vegan menus to visitors to our Camp.”

TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP

Governance, strategy, and organisational management

25% of all respondents, stated they were in need of support with governance, strategy, organisational and financial management.

“OWAP is dedicated to continuously enhancing the skills and organisational capacity of our team and leadership, vital for effectively addressing the intricate challenges confronting our communities and territories. As we navigate the multifaceted terrain of environmental conservation, territorial defence, and sustainable development, the need for elevated expertise in areas such as monitoring and mapping technologies, legal advocacy, community mobilisation, and sustainable land management is evident. Moreover, as our organisation continues to expand its reach and influence, fortifying our organisational capacity becomes paramount. This encompasses the improvement of our resource management, collaboration facilitation, and adaptability to evolving circumstances. Through precisely targeted training and capacity-building endeavours, OWAP is committed to equipping both our team and community members with the knowledge and skills required to safeguard our heritage and nurture sustainable growth for generations to come.” **OWAP**

“Training in communication and media to increase visibility and impact reporting. Support in crafting strategic thinking/ planning that puts sustainability at the heart of the organisation.”

FAMBIDZANAI

PERMACULTURE CENTRE

Networking, collaboration, and co-learning opportunities

25% of respondents, highlighted a need for support with networking and collaboration, often to support co-learning opportunities.

“Anything that strengthened our – and our partners – autonomous capacities would benefit the project. We especially value networking, experience exchanges, and expertise.” **INSO**

“Networking and Partnerships: building connections with like-minded organisations and seeking partnerships for knowledge exchange and resource sharing will be a priority.” **UNIDOS SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTRE**

“It would be great to be able to organise international exchanges: bringing people from areas affected by similar projects to get to know the Brigadas on the ground, and also to go and share the project experience in other places”
BRIGADAS DESEUCALIPTIZADORAS

Publicity, communications, and storytelling

23% of respondents, highlighted a need for support with publicity, communications, and storytelling.

“We would also benefit deeply from marketing training or access to in-kind marketing/financial management support. We're trying to put together a revamped PermaQueer Branding suite so that our values, messaging, and framing are consistent but currently they are not so if there's any support/training that can be offered here that would be so great.” **PERMAQUEER**

“We also look for training for public speaking, to become better at presenting what is needed to decolonise the behaviour of the colonised people.”
INSITUTO JANERAKA

Monitoring and evaluation, demonstrating impacts and research

12% of respondents, stated they needed support with monitoring and evaluation or research that would help them understand and demonstrate the impacts of their work.

“We would like to have training in Monitoring and Evaluation: We want to establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of our vermicomposting initiatives, ensuring that our efforts are effective and making necessary adjustments when needed.” **UNIDOS SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTRE**

“Permatil does need more training in data collection through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team.”
PERMATIL

“Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) support to create documentation of case studies, stories and data”
HIMALAYAN PERMACULTURE CENTRE

Lobbying, campaigning, and politics

7% of respondents, highlighted a need for more support with lobbying or campaigning for political change.

“Second, we recognize the importance of political training for our team. We seek to develop skills that will enable us to make informed and strategic decisions in the context of various political junctures. We aspire to be solid political references for our communities and local authorities, thus contributing to informed and effective leadership on critical issues for the region.” **ALIANZA CEIBO**

“Effective policy dialogues and engagements for proactive policy shifts.” **ZIMSOFF**

“Engagement with local, regional, and international instruments to enforce peasants’ rights.” **KENYAN PEASANTS LEAGUE**

Psycho-social and psycho-emotional support

4% of projects stated they needed psycho-social or psycho-emotional support. Both of these requests were from Indigenous groups that have been greatly impacted by colonial violence. One of these requested to remain anonymous due to safety concerns.

“Find more support with structures that offer social psycho-support and psychological therapy for indigenous people and activists of the forest.” INSITUTO JANERAKA

When reflecting on their Spring Prize experience, what recommendations would respondents share for improving the Spring Prize process going forwards?

57 participants shared their recommendations on how to improve the Lush Spring Prize process going forward. The following were the most common suggestions.

- **42%** Network building. (24 projects)
- **21%** Hosting the event at a recipient project and/or in the Global South. (12 projects)
- **18%** More post-prize support for projects. (10 projects)
- **12%** Improve/increase links to other funders. (7 projects)
- **9%** More continuous comms around projects and progress. (5 projects)

Recommendations

- Lush Spring Prize, sister organisations, and other partners consider offering a programme of skill sharing and mentoring support for Spring Prize recipients and shortlisted projects that addresses raised training and support needs.

Network building

42% By far the most suggested area for improvement was to do more work on ensuring an active network of Spring Prize projects. Some suggested this could be by theme/focus (e.g. Indigenous groups). It was also suggested to include applicants and shortlisted projects as well as prize recipients. A number of people suggested virtual meetings could work and many projects also stated they would value in-person exchanges with other projects. This is something the Spring Prize has already started facilitating in fallow years, but it shows that it is needed. Another common suggestion was to invite former recipients to the event to help build a network across different prize years and provide more opportunities for learning.

“The Spring Prize should strengthen connections between prize winners to enhance experience and knowledge exchange.” ZIMSOFF

“It would be beneficial for the Spring Prize to serve as a bridge between organisations with similar goals, especially in the years following receipt of the award, in order to encourage the creation of strategic alliances.” ALIANZA CEIBO

Hosting the event at a recipient project and/or in the Global South

21% This is something the Spring Prize has been considering but it is also clearly something many projects are keen to see happen, with 21% of respondents making this suggestion.

“It could be interesting to have previous Prize winners host the next award ceremony gathering and include site visits to deepen the connection to place.” **RAWA FUND**

“It was sad that we could not get the visas to attend the Spring Prize Award in person. We believe the process of securing a visa to the UK is a hectic one and there are higher chances that participants from low developing countries would get an opportunity to attend the events. We would recommend that Spring Prize hosts some of these events away from the UK; possibly from countries in the Schengen region or other African regions whose access is easier. We hope we will attend a spring prize event one day.” **YICE UGANDA**

“We are looking forward to the event coming to developing countries. We also hope former recipients could be invited during the award to share testimonies. It is also important to provide mentorship to recipients so that they can grow.” **MOUNT OKU CENTRE FOR GENDER AND SOCIOECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

Mount Oku display certificate with handmade crafts.



“ Holding the event in the country of a prizewinner: an important suggestion would be to hold the Spring Prize in one of the countries of the prizewinners. This approach would enable participants to experience a more hands-on immersion by visiting the activities of a Spring Prize-winning organisation in the field. This would enhance understanding of the projects and create invaluable opportunities for sharing experiences.” **TANIALA REGENERATIVE CAMP**



Tekio – Neighbour looking at the new bio-construction in the Cuxtital Park.

“ It might be a good idea to have the celebration take place on a different continent each year. The logistics would probably be more complicated for you, but for the majority of the projects that receive the award, being in Latin America, Asia, Africa or Oceania would be, on the one hand, a learning experience, and on the other, not having to feel the impact of a celebration with characteristics – despite the wonderful and effective effort made by the team to make it more inclusive – very Western.” **TEKIO**

More post-prize support for projects

18% of projects felt that more active support of projects after the prize would be beneficial, suggestions included mentoring, training, assisting with funding and providing more on-going funding.

“Long-term support: extended long-term mentorship and support for recipients beyond the initial award could include access to resources and networking opportunities to help recipients sustain and expand their work.” **INDIGENOUS CLIMATE ACTION**

“Compared to other funders, we were pretty 'hands off' once the prize was awarded. We loved the unrestricted nature of the funds and the freedom that afforded us and appreciated the trust placed in us to use that money as we saw fit. We would have welcomed being connected with a suitable mentor to help us navigate the potential shift from being tiny and surviving (struggling) on a shoestring to being recognised, larger scale, and adequately funded (which we still haven't achieved the latter). There is also potential to utilise and strengthen the network of prize winners. A helping hand to nudge more connection and collaboration and sharing of challenges and good practice directly between prize winners could be extremely fruitful. The Spring Prize Family Facebook group is/was good but there could be much more networking and connection, e.g. sharing a list of email addresses of winners (sorry if we missed that) but also some facilitation to get a network established. Also linking winners with the amazing network of wise and wonderful people and organisations. More nurturing of winners? One other suggestion would be to offer to work with winners to develop their project futures and strategies (or link them to people who can help with that). This could be via mentors or other means.” **MALAWI SCHOOLS PERMACULTURE CLUBS**

“Continue monitoring those organisation already received the Spring Prize. Provide some sort of management training to strengthen the capacity of organisations.” **PERMATIL**

“It would be wonderful to have a platform where all the award-winning projects could interact more. And perhaps follow up and provide greater support to winning projects, to help them achieve their full potential, before generating more winners.” **FUNDACIÓN CUIDEMOS PARAÍDOS**

12% Improving and increasing links to other funders

“While we already had the opportunity to connect with some individuals during the Prize process, we believe that further increasing the presence of philanthropists within the audience would be highly beneficial in future instances. This would offer awardees an even greater chance to connect and engage with philanthropic individuals who share a profound commitment to supporting initiatives like ours. We are deeply grateful to the Lush Spring Prize Team for all your effort put into the event and process.” **OWAP**

“For organisations that are growing and spreading in truly regenerative ways to nurture support from other regenerative donors/foundations to see the work flourish.”

SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE

“It was an excellent experience, well organised and thought out. Inspiring and moving. Only need not met was to be able to directly create links to funding sources, but that hopefully may gradually happen” **HIMALAYAN PERMACULTURE CENTRE**

9% More continuous comms around projects and progress

“Oh, we think it would be wonderful if the Spring Prize (like spring itself) could be more perennial in terms of raising the visibility of awardees. Such a positive global brand and sharing awardees updates on social media and through news reports would be incredibly valuable for implementers. We are honoured to be associated with and would love more opportunities to share that. We also welcome the chance for our staff, especially those based in Haiti, to travel and learn from other awardees through conferences or learning exchanges.” **SOIL**

“I think the prize fund is probably not as important as the recognition. I would encourage you to strengthen the recognition aspect, and to make visible the amazing work being done by organisations and individuals.” **ECOLISE**

Other suggestions

“ Perhaps you could experiment with a participatory or flow funding method of awarding the Prize, or offering follow-on funding, so the winners are also more engaged in the funding aspect. We would love to see more conversations amongst the Prize community about funding – how movements can use different community-driven funding and resource mobilization models to grow and sustain their work in ways that increase independency, resilience, and autonomy.” **RAWA FUND**

“ It was amazing to see the breadth of spring prize winners at the awards ceremony. I think this awards ceremony was a really interesting event, and interesting to hold in during COP26. I think there’s some potential there to link up Spring Prize awards ceremonies with major international events like this to help groups with advocacy and potentially access to events like COP.” **LANDWORKERS ALLIANCE**

“ Research on contemporary issues affecting the communities”
AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY NETWORK

“ Increase the Lush Spring Prize budget to touch more lives around the world and be able to cover most if not all funding needs from prize-receiving projects.” **ANONYMOUS**

“ Spring Prize to keep close touch with prize recipients after the ceremony. This could be through having virtual meetings for updates or where possible have physical visits to some of the award recipients, just to verify progress and nature of work on the ground. Spring Prize team to identify key people who can work on a voluntary basis in the various regions of the world, in verifying the work on the ground before selections of the winners is done. Lush Spring Prize team to also link up the recipients with potential funders, who can support the recipients in raising more money to support the work with schools’ community.” **SCOPE KENYA**

Recommendations

- Host the final in-person events in collaboration with Spring Prize applicant(s) and embed a place-based approach into designing the events that facilitates networking, knowledge, and skill sharing around regeneration.
- Support outreach and engagement activities that welcome, onboard and embed more funders and media and research partners into the Spring Prize network to support themed collaborative prizes, fallow-year activities and shared learning and doing around regeneration.

HOW HAS THE LUSH SPRING PRIZE EVOLVED?

In 2016, Ethical Consumer completed a feasibility study to help inform the initial design of the Lush Spring Prize. This work involved conducting interviews with stakeholders aligned with the regenerative movement, along with a survey and desk-based research.

Since the feasibility work, the Spring Prize process has continuously evolved through an annual review process and in response to feedback. This has been guided by five key aims and has resulted in an application process, decision-making process, and final events that receive praise and have been adopted and adapted by the Permaculture Magazine Prize and the African Food Sovereignty Network Prize.

What language should and do we use?

Due to misunderstandings of what regeneration means and who it is relevant to, in 2016 it was initially suggested by ten interviewees (67%) that neutral and simple language be used to describe what regeneration is, but without necessarily having to use the term. 'Tribal' languages specific to any one movement such as Permaculture should be avoided, and simple language should be backed up by stories, examples, and images.

This has resulted in project profiles being created, developed, and publicly shared for all shortlisted projects in each prize year – to collectively explore the different faces and approaches to regenerative working. Prize recipient stories and their different understandings and experiences of regeneration are now shared through videos and with the support of Lush PR teams and Spring Prize media partners and during workshops and skill shares at Prize events and other aligned events e.g. Lush Showcases, at Re-Alliance events and other international events e.g. COP.

Spring Prize stakeholders have also participated in various skill shares around 'regenerative storytelling' in order to inform how stories are shared, by whom and using what language.

Prize Themes

In 2016, it was recommended that prize themes should emphasise how a project works or its stage of evolution, rather than what a project is, keeping the projects whole and showing growth and development rather than fragmentation. Applications should draw out a project's holistic approach, that they are engaging with the process of regeneration, and that they are willing to share and support learning, adaptation, and replication.

This has resulted in a Spring Prize application that draws out the holistic nature of projects and their willingness to support others through a series of specific questions. Prize categories focus on the age of a project (Intentional, Young, Established), plus an Influence category which seeks to support projects that are working to shift the wider context we all are working in.

Themed categories were added from 2021 onwards to complement the above approach and in response to other funders wanting to collaborate with Spring Prize but having a specific funding interest, e.g. Ancient and Indigenous Knowledge or Permaculture.

Designing the Spring Prize project to be regenerative in itself

2016 feasibility interviewees emphasised the importance of the project itself evolving in response to feedback and that everyone should gain something from entering the application process or engaging with the project. Examples included:

- Embedding feedback loops into project processes to support constant learning and adaptation.
- Events emphasising networking, co-learning, and participatory activities.
- The application process is designed to offer benefits to projects such as the opportunity for self-reflection or promotional opportunities.
- Offering projects support before, during an event, or after, to identify where they are on the regenerative continuum and what they need to do to move towards regeneration.
- Events should be inclusive and benefit the place it is held in and should model the principles of regeneration.

Many of the above suggestions are now part of the Spring Prize's culture.

Reflection sessions are now held at every stage of the Spring Prize process to ensure feedback is captured and integrated into the project's design as it evolves. Feedback from applications has shared how valuable the application process has been for their project or group to gain clarity and a deeper understanding of their purpose. The decision-making process – at both the shortlisting and final decision-making stage – has supported co-learning about regeneration and, in some cases, shifted decision makers' own practices, whilst developing relationships amongst decision makers.

Spring Prize events have been designed to support networking, relationship building, skill sharing and knowledge sharing, whilst forming connections with aligned venues, caterers, musicians, artists, and projects in the locality of the final event venues. Events and the whole Spring Prize process have been run in multiple languages, with interpreters aligned with the values of the prize. Facilitation processes have been designed to actively build inclusion and emergence into events, allowing space for the event programme to adapt and change to meet emerging needs/wants of participants.

Storytelling around the Spring Prize shortlisted projects and prize recipients has developed over the years with the support of Lush's PR team and Spring Prize media partners. Follow up years have started to be used to support ongoing co-learning and networking for example by supporting learning visits between projects and supporting projects in joining strategic events or training.

Seeing beyond 'judges' and 'winners'?

"A broad coalition of people, especially those from groups who are often most poorly represented in discussions on regeneration. The judging should preferably be done in stages with those drawn from the skill area involved in judging the categories and those from the social group judging categories based upon social grouping". 2016 survey applicant.

"Inevitably the environment should be the winner, coupled with an improvement in well-being and capacity to contribute to those who the project identifies as 'chief beneficiaries'." 2016 survey applicant.

During the 2016 feasibility work it was advised that the judging panel contain individuals with backgrounds in:

- Whole systems thinking.
- Regenerative and permaculture design networks.
- Specialists in proposed category areas, including someone with good business skills and someone who understands social justice issues and group dynamics.

It was also advised that the panel contain a mix of ages and ethnic groups in addition to a couple of strategic wild cards, e.g. someone from the United Nations Committee of Sustainable Development Goals.

In response, the Spring Prize judging panel has been designed using a complex matrix that ensures maximum diversity and representation of a wide range of movements aligned with regenerative approaches and ways of being. The main Spring Prize categories have a decision-making panel of 12 people (including one Lush customer and one Lush staff judge). The themed, collaborative prizes, have a smaller decision-making panel of 5-7 people, two of which are linked to the main Lush Spring prize judging panel, and the rest are specific to the theme. Profiles of all Spring Prize judges can be found on the website: springprize.org/about/judging-panel

In order to support meaningful connections and to facilitate group learning amongst decision makers, groups of judges serve for three years with the exception of a Lush staff and customer judge which are rotated annually and are selected using an open recruitment process. After three prize years, two judges continue to share the group's learning with a new panel of judges – ensuring new connections continue to be cultivated and the reach and understanding of the Spring Prize increases through the judge's networks.

Similarly, the shortlisting stage designs co-learning into the process: bringing a wide range of staff from across Lush's business together with the Ethical Consumer team to read, discuss, question, and shortlist applications.

To move away from binary 'winner and loser' mentalities, over time the Spring Prize has moved away from the term 'winner', using 'prize recipient' instead, and it increasingly has held the intention to support as many applicants (and especially shortlisted projects) as possible each year, whether financially, through comms work, or by offering other requested support. As part of this exploration, in 2021 the prize money was made more flexible and judges were given the power to distribute and split it in different ways. Although this meant more projects were funded, it meant less money per project and more admin work for both the coordination team and projects where they received only a small amount of money. We received feedback from some organisations who received smaller grants that the prize didn't cover their administrative costs.

The intention to create a win-win-win process has also led to the creation of sister organisations Re-Alliance and Regenerosity, media partnerships, increasing numbers of collaborative prizes and fallow-year activities.



Participants eating lunch at a Spring Prize event, including one of Lush's co-founders Rowena Bird; Spring Prize judges Filipa Pimentel (Transition Network) and Andy Goldring (Permaculture Association); and Geraldine Ovando from Spring Prize recipients Apthapi.

HAS THE SPRING PRIZE PROGRESSED ITS ORIGINAL AIMS?

The Spring Prize's **Aims 1, 2 and 3** (to develop and increase the integrity of the 'regenerative' movement; to raise the profile of regeneration and its potential to move livelihoods and economies beyond the sustainable; to bring together diverse stakeholders in order to develop a greater understanding of regeneration amongst participants and the wider public), have progressed as evidenced by the following:

The first three Spring Prizes were run annually in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and the last two were run on a biennial basis in 2021 and 2023. Each year has been run in 5+ languages and has seen an increase in reach through website visits and press coverage around Spring Prize recipients and shortlisted projects and their approaches to regenerative working.

Each Spring Prize received hundreds of applications from regenerative projects and practitioners around the world, resulting in a diversity of shortlisted projects and prize recipients being highlighted through press and comms work. Prize recipients are highlighted in the Appendix, and all can be explored through the map, project profiles, and case studies at springprize.org.

Prize recipients and applications have collectively offered insights into what regeneration means to a diversity of organisations and projects, whilst sharing barriers, successes, learnings, and challenges to working towards regeneration in a variety of different contexts. These have been analysed and shared via project reviews (such as this five-year review), at events and through communications work during prize cycles.

Insights and other learnings have informed the development of the Spring Prize as a project, and other work and organisations that have emerged along the way, including:

- **Regenerosity:** www.regenerosity.world. This initiative is a partnership between the Lush Spring Prize and the **Buckminster Fuller Institute's Fuller Challenge**, www.bfi.org/challenge, and other partners. It welcomes all shortlisted Spring Prize applicants, with their consent, into a network that aims to source further funding and resourcing for them. Regenerosity connects regenerative projects to funders, and also flows funds through from generous donors. In doing so, it aims to move as much capital as possible over the next ten crucial years in support of the regenerative movement.
- **Re-Alliance**, www.re-alliance.org, is a network of regenerative practitioners working in the humanitarian and development sectors. Re-Alliance asks the question, 'how can we create resilience and abundance, even in times of crisis?' The organisation acts as a network convener for grassroots practitioners, and also has been contracted by several humanitarian agencies to host Permaculture and Regeneration capacity building programmes, and peer-to-peer learning sessions.
- A **Closing Loops REconomy project**, foodfutures.org.uk, in North Lancashire seeks to cultivate a regenerative economy and distribute funds, using participatory budgeting approaches, to new and emerging regenerative enterprise ideas and community-led initiatives. The feasibility work for this project directly drew on an analysis of Spring Prize learnings.

Each Spring Prize year has also seen a multi-day event bring together representatives from Spring Prize projects, judges, Lush and Ethical Consumer staff, aligned organisations and networks to support knowledge and skill sharing around regeneration. All have been held in person with the exception of 2021, where the main prize ceremony and skill shares were held online due to restrictions posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and local celebrations were financially supported instead of one international gathering.

Fallow years (the years between prize years) have started to be used for rest and for offering other support to applicants, e.g. paying for learning visits, attending strategic events, training, and mentoring. Some of the emergent outcomes and learnings are highlighted in the graphics below.

This ongoing learning and support around regenerative approaches has also been supported by welcoming applicants into the Re-Alliance network.

LUSH SPRING PRIZE

FALLOW YEAR Learning Visits

LUSH SPRING PRIZE RECIPIENTS, FAMBIDZANAI PERMACULTURE CENTRE (FPC), ATTENDED COP28

Lush Spring Prize funded FPC's attendance at COP28 as part of the award's fallow year program. This gave FPC the opportunity to learn and adopt new insights and initiatives, as well as interact with like-minded regenerative organisation leaders.

LEARNINGS

At COP28, FPC became a member of the Agroecology Coalition and shared information about their school of agroecology. FPC received scalability recommendations and were exposed to financing opportunities, particularly around funding a new generation of young female leaders in climate change initiatives.

FPC MAKING A PRESENTATION AT THE COP28 LOSS & DAMAGE CONFERENCE

Our visit to COP28 opened doors for knowledge and enabled us to form linkages, partnerships, and friends among others. It paved the way for the ignition of new ideas, perspectives, and views on Climate Change mitigation.

FAMBIDZANI PERMACULTURE CENTRE

LUSH SPRING PRIZE

FALLOW YEAR Learning Visits

THE LUSH SPRING PRIZE FUNDED ASSOCIAÇÃO CENTRO DE CULTURA SABUKÁ KARIRI XOCÓ TO VISIT FELLOW PRIZE RECIPIENTS JUPAGO KREKÁ COLLECTIVE AND MEET THE FAO (FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS)

LEARNINGS

The visit allowed the opportunity for the groups to strengthen their relationship and learn from one another. The visit was also timed to coincide with an FAO visit to Jupago Kreká (having met at the Spring Prize 2023 event) so the representatives from Sabuká Kariri Xocó had the opportunity to meet them as well.

The FAO signed a pilot project with Associação da comunidade indígena xucuru (Jupago Kreká)

Our visit to the Xucuru of Ororuba was pure inspiration. We went in a group of young people - Kayane, Kawer, Kayra and Verena - and were able to meet the political leaders and their policies for the development of the Xucuru territory, more specifically the actions in the area of agriculture and restoration of the territory. We also had the opportunity to meet the FAO and give their representatives a presentation on the urgent needs of our Caatinga. Sabuká Kariri-Xocó.

ASSOCIAÇÃO CENTRO DE CULTURA SABUKÁ KARIRI XOCÓ

FOLLOW YEAR

Learning Visits

LEARNINGS



Rawa Fund members benefited from visiting one of two major international funder conferences. They moved donor advocacy and networked with similar global community/grassroots movements and participatory grant-makers. Rawa Fund had the opportunity to amplify their work at the event by contributing to one of the sessions

“ The session we co-organized with A Growing Culture and Regenerosity, featuring Yara and Soheir from Rawa and movement comrades from Brazilian and South African landless people’s movements, went exceedingly well. It was incredibly well attended and there was great engagement from the audience, highlighting land-based struggles in the Global South, how to increase South-South power building, and how funders can better commit to supporting and being in such struggles, rather than containing or disrupting them.”

RAWA FUND



THE LUSH SPRING PRIZE SUPPORTED MEMBERS OF RAWA FUND TO JOIN THEIR COLLEAGUES AT EDGE FUNDERS GATHERING



FOLLOW YEAR

Learning Visits

LEARNINGS

The visit provided the opportunity for members of teKio and Tejiendo Futuros to cement the connections made at the 2023 event. It also allowed members of IMAP to meet fellow Spring Prize recipients in person as they only attended an online event due to covid restrictions in 2021.

“ The experience was very enriching. In particular, as a newborn association, it was nice to see the trajectory of civil associations that were formed in the past in a social context very similar to teKio’s, to listen to and learn about the challenges they have encountered along the way and the ones they still face, to see how their spaces have taken shape thanks to the presence and the constant affection of their population, how they have managed to create economic sustainability and how they receive love and support on a daily basis from the beneficiaries of their projects.

This visit is surely the beginning of a more direct and constant collaboration with these collectives. The time spent together has brought us together and given us the opportunity to explore themes and connections that can unite and strengthen us.

”

TEKIO



teKio, Tejiendo and IMAP applied in the Intentional, Young and Established categories respectively. This means they’re all at different stages. teKio is just starting out, while IMAP has been running for over 2 decades



THREE GROUPS MET IN GUATEMALA - TEKIO NETWORK WEAVER FROM MEXICO AND GUATEMALAN ORGANISATIONS TEJIENDO FUTUROS AND INSTITUTO MESOAMERICANO DE PERMACULTURA (IMAP) WHICH ARE BOTH LOCATED NEAR LAKE ATITLÁN.



Aim 4 (to be used as a vehicle of discovery that could lead to direct relationships between Lush and prize winners, and a deepening of Lush’s own understanding of regeneration) has progressed as evidenced by the following:

The Lush Spring Prize has grown its engagement within Lush during each prize cycle and has supported the learning of Lush team members.

Growing from 17 Lush guests in 2019, to 94 Lush attendees in 2023, The 2023 event was run in partnership with the Lush Events team, as a trial of a Lush Socials concept, focused on building Lush’s post-pandemic community.

For the first time ever, in 2023 the Lush Spring Prize was featured in Lush shop windows, in partnership with the Rewild Your Routine campaign. This highlighted the Lush Spring Prize to customers and staff with more visibility than ever before. 2023 prize recipients Peruth and Bemeriki from Rwamwanja Rural Foundation are shown in the photo on [page 82](#) – both were happy to see their organisation highlighted in the Berlin Alexanderplatz shop window.

In a review of Lush staff attendees over the years, participants commented:

“I found it to be the most rewarding experience, and I learned so much.”

“The knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer connection is super important.”

Fire gathering at a Spring Prize event.



“It provides tangible real-world application of genuinely regenerative practices, and I love getting to meet all the prize winners and hearing from them directly.”

Aim 5 (to attract additional resources into the regenerative movement by way of contributions to the prize from other organisations, to support the Spring Prize in creating a win-win-win process) has progressed as evidenced by the following:

Lush Cosmetics is the primary funder of the Lush Spring Prize, and Lush's financial contributions have started to be supported by other organisations. For example:

- Abundant Earth Foundation contributed £10,000 towards a Youth In Permaculture Prize in 2021.
- Be The Earth Foundation contributed £10,000 in 2021 and 2023 towards an Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award and have committed to ongoing support, including in the fallow years.
- The Permaculture Magazine contributed £15,000 towards a Permaculture Magazine Award in 2023 and has also committed to an ongoing partnership.

All funders have also fed into the development of the Spring Prize as a project through sitting on decision-making panels and feeding into reflection and re-design processes.

The Spring Prize has also started to become a filter, screening applicants and recommending projects to other funders connected to Lush, Regenerosity, and Re-Alliance.

Non-financial support has been offered through the Re-Alliance and Buckminster Fuller Institute, who have offered forums for ongoing co-learning around regenerative approaches and storytelling.

nRhythm also partnered with the Spring Prize in 2023 to pilot offering subsidised places on its Re-design Lab for Spring Prize recipients.

Spring Prize 2017 event attendees applaud a performer.



SUGGESTIONS FOR GROWING AND EVOLVING THE SPRING PRIZE

In response to project feedback raised during this five-year review process, the Spring Prize should consider the following:

- The current application process, decision making, feedback, and storytelling processes are working well. Continue to build on these and make tweaks in response to feedback; including inviting more Lush staff to participate in the shortlisting process.
- Continue to offer unrestricted funding to grassroots regenerative initiatives and seek to leverage additional support through collaborative prizes, media partners, Regenerosity, Re-Alliance, and other potential partners.
- Embed ongoing feedback cycles into the Spring Prize to facilitate development processes that are project-led and that seek to address common power imbalances often embedded in funder-recipient relationships.
- Support outreach activities that welcome and integrate more funders, media partners, researchers, and others into the Spring Prize network to support themed collaborative prizes, fallow-year activities and shared learning and doing around regeneration.
- Host in-person prize and other events in collaboration with Spring Prize applicant(s) and other organisations that embed a place-based approach, facilitate networking and knowledge and skill sharing around regeneration.
- Facilitate perennial storytelling around regeneration and Spring Prize projects externally through media partners and LUSH, and internally through LUSH Staff comms, training channels and shop floors. As part of this, learn from Campaign windows to do non-commercial Brand exercises for Spring Prize that manifest Spring Prize in the day to day lives of shop staff and customers.
- Develop an active network that keeps connected through informal comms channels, funded learning visits, skill shares, and knowledge exchange across Spring Prize years and between prize recipients and shortlisted applicants. Consider setting up a Spring Prize WhatsApp group and inviting prize recipients from past years to future events and skill shares; consider providing funding for the actual time it takes for recipients to undertake learning visits or maintain connections.
- Offer skill shares and other requested support that enables capacity building for prize-recipients and shortlisted organisations.
- Support regenerative projects to attend strategic regional, national, and international events, to support shifts in the wider context they are working in. Develop further the Spring Prize's ability to raise the national and international profile of projects' work to offer credibility and attract additional support for holistic, grassroots, regenerative approaches.
- Develop the Spring Prize website as an accessible educational resource that profiles a diversity of regenerative projects and partners and identifies ways to support/get more involved.
- Consider language and structural changes that reframe 'winners' and 'losers' and 'judges' to create win-win-win situations that build a supportive community of advisors and mentors.



Marino Peña Jamiy from Musu Runakuna presents Spring Prize judge Gamelihle Sibanda with his traditional headdress to symbolise him becoming an ambassador of their project abroad.

Recommendations for other funders

- Create unrestricted and flow funding opportunities for grassroots regenerative projects – those that are holistically working around environmental and social justice issues – and in a way that enables emergence, responsiveness, autonomy, empowerment, greater wellbeing, resilience, and innovation.
- Create more opportunities for investment in organisational capacity building, not just new projects and predicted outputs.
- Join the Spring Prize as a collaborative funder and/or the wider Regenerosity network to invest in regenerative work and approaches to giving. Regenerative processes take time and often require shifts in mindsets. This calls for long-term relationships and support that goes beyond typical funder-grantee relationships. The Regenerosity network offers the opportunity to undertake and support this learning journey.

APPENDIX: SPRING PRIZE RECIPIENTS: WHO ARE THEY?

Prize recipients are highlighted in the table below, and can be explored through the map, project profiles and case studies at springprize.org.

Prize recipient name & location	Prize received	Description of their work
The Timbaktu Collective (India)	2017 Established Prize: £25k	The Timbaktu Collective works for sustainable development in the drought prone Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, India. The Collective works in over 172 villages of Chennekothapalli, Roddam and Ramagiri mandals, reaching and serving about 20,000 marginalised families.
Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)	2017 Established Prize: £25k	SAT works with small-scale farmers face-to-face, in a holistic way, to facilitate, exchange and refine agroecological methods through dissemination, application and research, to strengthen livelihoods.
La Via Campesina (LVC) International	2017 Influence Prize: £25k	LVC is an autonomous, pluralist, and multicultural movement that promotes agroecology as a path to social justice and dignity. It represents millions of peasants, small- and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants, and agricultural workers.
Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) (Canada)	2017 Young Prize: £25k	ICA is an Indigenous-led initiative that inspires Indigenous-led climate justice, supporting Indigenous communities to be drivers of climate solutions. It equips Indigenous communities with tools, education, and assets to ensure Indigenous knowledge is driving climate solutions that work for everyone.
Soils, Food and Healthy Communities (SFHC) (Malawi)	2017 Young Prize: £25k	SFHC is a non-profit organisation in Malawi that works to support smallholder farmers to build healthy, equitable, and resilient communities using farmer-led participatory research, ecological approaches to farming, local indigenous knowledge, and democratic processes.
Mining Watch Romania – no longer running	2017 Young Prize: £25k	Mining Watch Romania was a monitoring network designed to organise civil society and local community actions on proposed mining projects in Romania.
Soft Foot Alliance (Zimbabwe)	2017 Intentional Award: £10k	The Soft Foot Alliance is dedicated to improving the lives and landscapes of people living on the boundary of Hwange national Park, Zimbabwe, while achieving a sustainable coexistence with wildlife. They use permaculture design and holistic land management to apply long-term solutions that are regenerative and uplift people whilst protecting the environment.
Bena'a (Egypt)	2017 Intentional Award: £10k	Bena'a aims to empower Arabian youth to build sustainable development projects and create an interactive enabling environment in the MENA region.
Regeneration Project: Granada (Spain) – no longer running	2017 Intentional Award: £10k	Regeneration Project: Granada aimed to grow a collective of refugees, migrants, local people, and international participants who work together to develop a project that seeks to find new ways to respond to migration.
MontBio (Spain) – no longer running	2017 Intentional Award: £10k	MontBio sought to recover 'waste' wood from forestry operations that would otherwise be burned, in order to create biochar; bringing back the ancient tradition of making charcoal in the coastal mountains of Montnegre i El Corredor natural park.
Instituto Compassos (Brazil)	2017 Intentional Award: £10k	The Compassos Institute debates ideas related to the marginality of youngsters and adults with special needs that cannot enter the labour market. It is multidisciplinary and works in different spheres, the main one being biodynamic agriculture.
Center for Justice and human Rights in the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua (CEJUDHCAN) (Nicaragua)	2018 Established Prize: £25k	CEJUDHCAN secures indigenous land rights and promotes sustainable land management with communities on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

Prize recipient name & location	Prize received	Description of their work
Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL) (Haiti)	2018 Established Prize: £25k	EkoLakay is SOIL's growing household sanitation social business. Customers pay an affordable monthly user fee which covers waste collection and maintenance. All wastes from SOIL's toilets are collected and safely transformed into compost, which then returns back to land restoration projects.
African Biodiversity Network (ABN) (Kenya)	2018 Influence Prize: £25k	ABN has 36 active partners in 12 countries across Africa, and has incubated a number of important regional initiatives, including the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). It grew out of a commitment to nurture a new leadership in Africa, dedicated to enhancing biological and cultural diversity, and social and ecological justice. It uses exchange programs, training, and knowledge-sharing to strengthen rights, policy, and legislation.
Amrita Bhoomi Peasant Agroecology Centre (India)	2018 Influence Prize: £25k	Amrita Bhoomi is a peasant agroecology training centre. It was launched in 2013 by Indian farmers to find solutions to the agrarian and ecological crises in India. It carries out training for farmers on Zero Budget Natural Farming and has a special focus on youth.
AGROECOPOLIS (Greece) – no longer running	2018 Young Prize: £20k	AGROECOPOLIS was the first Greek grassroots NGO to focus on food sovereignty, access to land, and agroecology.
International Permaculture Education Network (IPEN) (United Kingdom)	2018 Young Prize: £20k	IPEN is a member project of the UK Permaculture Association. It aims to increase the coherence and effectiveness of permaculture education globally.
Malawi Schools Permaculture Clubs (MSPC) (Malawi)	2018 Young Prize: £20k	MSPC empowers primary teachers in rural northern Malawi to run after-school student permaculture clubs. Each student works on an individual permaculture plot and collectively they implement a school design.
AAQ – Agentes Agroflorestais Quilombolas (Brazil)	2018 Intentional Award: £10k	AAQ aims to recover the ciliary forest of the Igarape Simauma, in the Quilombola territory St. Rosa dos Pretos, through the planting of native trees. It also seeks to collectively develop an agroforestry system in close dialogue with subsistence farming practitioners of the Quilombo.
Guaracy (Brazil)	2018 Intentional Award: £10k	Guaracy focuses on the production of sustainable food products through syntropic agriculture (planting like nature does in the forest). It connects the producer to the organic marketplace and provides socioeconomic opportunities for the new generation of rural youth in agriculture.
Jewels in the Desert (Algeria) – no longer running	2018 Intentional Award: £10k	Jewels in the Desert aimed to support the creation of enterprises that leverage existing waste streams, close loops, and nurture collaborative growth while stimulating the local economy of Sahrawi people living in 'temporary' camps in the Sahara Desert.
Terrena, Cocreating with Nature (Bolivia)	2018 Intentional Award: £10k	Terrena is developing a system that trains producers on the technical and management skills needed to organise a Bolivian organic seed guardian cooperative.
Guba (eSwatini)	2019 Established Prize: £25k	As a permaculture training centre, Guba offers education programmes for children, youth and adults on homestead agriculture, food security, ecological capacity building and income generation, with a view to promoting increased resilience and wellbeing in eSwatini (Swaziland).
INSO (Mexico)	2019 Established Prize: £25k	INSO was founded in 1991 to support communities with regenerative social and ecological initiatives in the diverse state of Oaxaca, Mexico. It takes an integrated approach by combining traditional wisdom and community organisation with modern knowledge and techniques.
ECOLISE (France/Europe)	2019 Influence Prize: £25k	ECOLISE facilitates a collaborative platform for knowledge sharing and developing awareness of existing initiatives, advocating for policy development that will nurture, not hinder, grassroots, community-led action for climate and sustainability.
Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF) (Zimbabwe)	2019 Influence Prize: £25k	ZIMSOFF is farmer-owned and farmer-led and envisions improved livelihoods of organised and empowered smallholder farmers practising sustainable and viable ecological agriculture. It is using farmer-to-farmer training to hone and spread proven techniques, whilst campaigning to influence policies and public awareness towards agroecology and smallholder farmers' rights on access to healthy soils, clean water, and seed.

Prize recipient name & location	Prize received	Description of their work
Alianza Ceibo (Ecuador)	2019 Young Prize: £20k	Alianza Ceibo is comprised of members from four indigenous nations in the western Amazon that are together building a holistic movement to prevent the destruction of their cultures and rainforest territories.
Sfruttazero (Diritti a Sud) (Italy)	2019 Young Prize: £20k	Diritti a Sud (DaS) is an Italian association that promotes a multicultural society through encouraging the meeting and exchange of different cultures – through public events, living libraries, language school for migrants and more! Sfruttazero aims to change the system with a direct alternative: a tomato sauce that is grown using agro-ecological farming methods, that is produced by DaS in collaboration with the Association Solidaria in Bari. A proportion of sales from Sfruttazero goes towards a fund for supporting the struggle of migrants that still live in Southern Italy's ghettos.
YICE Uganda (Uganda)	2019 Young Prize: £20k	YICE Uganda works with refugees in Bukompe refugee settlement and the neighbouring communities, providing smallholder farmers with access to regenerative agricultural training and flexible financial services to reduce hunger and poverty.
Apthapi Comunidades del Vivir Bien (Bolivia)	2019 Intentional Award: £10k	“Escuela del Vivir Bien” (School of living well) is an initiative of four organisations that are combining their experiences to carry out activities in the districts of Achocalla, El Alto and La Paz in Bolivia.
Laboratorio Sicilia 2030 (Italy)	2019 Intentional Award: £10k	Laboratorio Sicilia 2030 seeks to actively support individuals and organisations in Sicily to regenerate and grow sustainably following the UN 2030 Agenda.
Ripanu (Ecuador)	2019 Intentional Award: £10k	Ripanu is exploring the role of ecological tourism as a strategy for halting oil drilling on their lands. They are co-developing a centre based in Sapara lands, that is focused on the conservation of the rainforest, the teaching of controlled dreaming, and the emotional, mental, and spiritual healing and rejuvenation of visitors using ancestral and natural medicine.
Brigadas Deseucaliptizadoras/ Verdegaia (Spain)	2019 Intentional Award: £10k	Verdegaia is based in Vigo, Galicia's largest city. It started the “Brigadas deseucaliptizadoras” (or “De-eucalyptization Brigades”) as a grassroots, environmental activism project that emerged after a catastrophic wave of forest fires desolated Galicia and Portugal in 2017, killing over 120 people and burning over half a million hectares. The Brigadas have grown in numbers and show how people working together can bring about change in restoring landscapes and natural habitats.
Instituto Mesoamericano de Permacultura (IMAP) (Guatemala)	2021 Established Prize: £25k	IMAP was created by a group of Maya Kakchiquel folk with the desire to use native seeds, permaculture, traditional Indigenous knowledge and education to create social healing after 36 years of internal armed conflict that wiped out hundreds of communities and displaced millions from their land and disrupted the transfer of their culture and ancestral knowledge. IMAP's work revolves around providing communities with access to land, seeds, and excellent permaculture education.
Permatil (Timor-Leste)	2021 Established Prize: £25k	Permatil has been empowering people through community-driven permaculture projects since 2001. Their work includes training of future trainers – including NGO and government staff, community leaders and local farmers – in water and soil conservation, agro-ecology, agro-forestry, aquaculture, and organic farming; establishing a national farmer's food sovereignty network and producing the Tropical Permaculture Guidebook.
Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (Zimbabwe)	2021 Influence Prize: £20k	Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre was established in 1988 in Zimbabwe to pioneer climate sensitive multifunctional agriculture in the region such as permaculture, agroecology, and other sustainable practices.
Gaza Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP) (Palestine)	2021 Influence Prize: £20k	GUPAP aims to enhance resilience, build institutional capacity, and support collaboration amongst its eighty-member Community Based Organisations; including advocacy and policy influencing campaigns and sharing of knowledge, success stories and experience at local, regional, and global levels.

Prize recipient name & location	Prize received	Description of their work
Landworkers' Alliance (LWA) (UK)	2021 Influence Prize: £10k	LWA is a grassroots, member-led union of farmers, growers, foresters, and land-based workers. It was set up in 2012 to fill the gap in the representation of small-scale agro ecological landworkers in the UK – creating a better food and land-use system for everyone based on agroecology, food sovereignty, and sustainable forestry that furthers social and environmental justice.
Comunità Frizzante (Italy)	2021 Young Prize: £15k	Comunità Frizzante is a diverse network of organisations and informal groups who are passionate about the Vallagarina valley in the Italian Alps. The group mobilises the participatory production of fizzy drinks to challenge individualised ways of life and alienation from the mountains they are based in, focusing on ecological respect.
Education for Climate Action for Peace (E4CAP) (Malaysia)	2021 Young Prize: £15k	E4CAP was birthed in October 2019 to combat adverse climate change and to provide sustainable living education and livelihood preparedness training to refugees and stateless teens and youths that don't have access to mainstream education and cannot work legally in Malaysia.
Food Secured Schools Africa (FSSA) (Ethiopia)	2021 Young Prize: £15k	FSSA offers technical support and seedlings to low-income parents who access the unused land of schools to produce chemical-free vegetables and fruit. Their work becomes a source of income for parents and a source of fresh and nutritious food for the children enrolled in education programs. Instead of handing over aid or charitable giving that is typical for the NGO approach, FSSA looks at people and resources and makes the best of them.
Kenyan Peasants League (KPL) (Kenya)	2021 Young Prize: £15k	KPL is a social movement of Kenyan Peasant farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and consumers, whose main aim is to promote smallholder farmer agroecology and resist neoliberal policies that threaten local agriculture. This is done by conducting political education, people's research, technical training, and national advocacy. KPL promotes indigenous seeds, livestock and plant varieties and the creation of an alternative economy that is driven by provision for livelihoods.
Fundación Cuidemos Paraísos (Chile)	2021 Intentional Prize: £10k	Fundación Cuidemos Paraísos is an organisation that is made up of young people determined to work in balance with nature, that strives to actively collaborate in the recovery of native forests by raising awareness of the intrinsic natural and cultural wisdom of a territory.
PermaQueer (Australia)	2021 Intentional Prize: £10k	PermaQueer's community education unpacks systems of consumerism, white supremacy and colonial binaries to restructure communal systems of resilience. They are collaborating on a decolonising and re-indigenising cell for the global permaculture movement with @LiberationPermaculture.
Sacha Kuyrana Maltakuna – Young Kichwa Defenders of the Forest (Ecuador)	2021 Intentional Prize: £10k	Sacha Kuyrana Maltakuna plan to buy a one-hectare property, build a simple office with local materials, and map, design, and plant an ancestral home garden with dozens of fruit, nut, palm, medicinal, and hardwoods, including traditional species which help to improve soils, and short cycle plants and fungi, such as edible mushrooms collected from the forest. They will develop an online Kichwa vegetarian recipe book, full of traditional foods and recipes, to share with young people in the region.
The Mount Oku Centre for Gender and Socioeconomic Empowerment (Cameroon)	2021 Intentional Prize: £10k	The centre serves as a platform to market food and household items locally produced by women, as well as for self-help microfinance services. Key activities involve training and community investment activities such as bee farming, forest regeneration, and medicinal plant processing. In time it aims to become a registered women's cooperative.
Associação Centro de Cultura Sabuká Kariri Xocó (Brazil)	2021 Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award: £4.5k	The Centro de Cultura Sabuká Kariri-Xocó was born with the mission of fighting for the preservation of their life and that of all the beings that live there. It gathers children, young people, and elders to be together, as their ancestors did. In addition to nurturing culture, they plant community gardens, harvest and feed themselves in groups of up to 100 people a day, and hold their Torés, dialogues, games, football, and other activities.
The Marginalized Mirror (Namibia)	2021 Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award: £3k	The Marginalized Mirror provides knowledge sharing around responsible investments in agriculture and food systems for the marginalized Ovazemba communities in Namibia to produce their own organic food through regenerative agriculture for resilience to climatic instability.

Prize recipient name & location	Prize received	Description of their work
Anonymous project	2021 Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award: £2k	Anonymous project
Education for Climate Action for Peace (E4CAP) (Malaysia)	2021 Youth in Permaculture Prize: £2k	See description on page 111 (2021 Young Prize)
Malawi Schools Permaculture Clubs (Malawi)	2021 Youth in Permaculture Prize: £3k	Malawi Schools Permaculture Clubs (MSPC) trains teachers in northern Malawi to run after-school student permaculture clubs. Through the clubs, students learn permaculture concepts and skills and apply them directly on their school grounds and create polyculture garden patches to grow indigenous food crops.
Sacha Kuyrana Maltakuna – Young Kichwa Defenders of the Forest (Ecuador)	2021 Youth in Permaculture Prize: £2k	See description on page 111 (2021 Intentional Prize)
SCOPE Kenya (Kenya)	2021 Youth in Permaculture Prize: £3k	Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE Kenya) is a local capacity building and networking development organisation, that promotes permaculture/agroecology education, in schools and communities.
Himalayan Permaculture Center (HPC) (Nepal)	2023 Established Prize: £25k	HPC is a grassroots, permaculture-led NGO operating in remote, poor, and resource-depleted farming communities in Western Nepal. It is run by farmers from Surkhet and Humla districts.
Jupago Kreká Collective (Brazil)	2023 Established Prize: £25k	The Jupago Kreká Collective was born in 2005 after the indigenous Xukuru people reconquered their traditional territory. The collective took on the challenge of regenerating both the environment and the mind based on the principles of Lymolaygo Toype (Living Well) with the commitment to break away from the system of land exploitation left by the colonisation process.
Rawa Fund (Palestine)	2023 Influence Prize: £25k	Rawa works to advocate for and strengthen an emancipatory, resilient Palestinian grassroots social ecosystem capable of resisting the Israeli colonial regime, strengthening the social fabric, and demonstrating the potential of creative community-led change.
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	2023 Influence Prize: £25k	ECVC is a grassroots collective of peasants farmers across Europe. ECVC fights for food sovereignty, agroecology, and peasants' rights.
Cooperativa Agropecuaria de Servicios Tonanzintlalli R.L (Nicaragua)	2023 Young Prize: £20k	Cooperativa Tonanzintlalli was founded by 23 indigenous Matagalpa women to cultivate and add value to organic regenerative coffee grown under the tree canopy, in the right relationship with the land and the people in the community.
Organización Waorani de Pastaza (OWAP) (Ecuador)	2023 Young Prize: £20k	OWAP unites 30 Indigenous communities of the Waorani territory of Pastaza in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Under the leadership of Waorani activist Nemonte Nenquimo, OWAP's global campaign and legal battle resulted in a historic legal victory against the Ecuadorian government, protecting ancestral territory and setting an important legal precedent in the region.
Rwamwanja Rural Foundation (Uganda)	2023 Young Prize: £20k	Rwamwanja Rural Foundation is a Ugandan based, refugee-led grassroots organisation. It works specifically with communities in refugee camps and other marginalised communities affected by climate change in East Africa. It brings together permaculture, Indigenous farming techniques, local languages, and modern, affordable, easily accessible digital technologies to enhance reach and overall impact; empowering refugee youth to fulfil their potential and enable them to transform their lives.
Mycorama (Greece)	2023 Intentional Prize: £10k	Mycorama's work centres on "the infinite potential of fungi to restore our damaged earth systems, reduce animal suffering and support human health." The project began by growing oyster and shiitake mushrooms on logs, and soon expanded to Lion's Mane and Reishi. It is exploring the opportunities mycelium provides for degrading plastic cigarette butts (a big pollution problem in the area). It is also exploring ways to create fully circular products out of Reishi e.g. a lampshade prototype has been made.

Prize recipient name & location	Prize received	Description of their work
teKio (Mexico)	2023 Intentional Prize: £10k	teKio is committed to setting up and nurturing “everyday-life purpose networks”. This includes local networks of people and organisations wanting to work collectively to achieve a rapid, tangible, and sustainable impact in their neighbourhoods. This fosters autonomy and improves living conditions for the most vulnerable population in the communities and working-class districts.
Beejvan (India)	2023 Intentional Prize: £10k	Beejvan is a farmer-led community based in the tribal village of Khanand, in Karjat, Maharashtra, India. Beejvan aims to promote three basic ideas and principles of Permaculture – Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share – through its seed conservation, regeneration, and livelihood projects, securing food and nutrition security.
Taniala Regenerative Camp (Madagascar)	2023 Intentional Prize: £10k	The Taniala Regenerative Camp promotes regenerative land use practices in Madagascar that are locally adapted, accessible, and sustainable. It aims to support the forest to regenerate through sustainable agriculture techniques, and to bequeath living soil to future generations in Madagascar.
Ashiniawka – Asociación de Mujeres Sapara (Ecuador)	2023 Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award: £7k	Ashiniawka – Asociación de Mujeres Sapara (Sapara Women’s Association) is an association of indigenous Sapara women in Ecuador. It has been working to defend the Amazon, and the rights of indigenous peoples and women, for more than ten years.
Instituto Janeraka (Brazil)	2023 Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award: £7k	The Janeraka Institute was born in the Amazon region, Altamira, from the Awaete ancestry in the resistance of a population with less than 50 years of contact with the global society.
Musu Runakuna (Colombia)	2023 Ancient and Indigenous Wisdom Award: £7k	Musu Runakuna is a Resguardo of the Inga people, made up of 43 families and 170 people. Their first ancestral territory dates back to the 19th century in the department of Cauca. It is in the process of setting up the first Ancestral Environmental and Entrepreneurial Village; Returning to the Inga Origin to recreate the millenary lifestyle of their ancestors.
Sol Haven (UK)	2023 Permaculture Magazine Award: £5k	Sol Haven’s vision is to create a blueprint for sustainable permaculture care hubs across the UK that are a showcase for rural arts and crafts while providing a sustainable local source of food.
Tejiendo Futuros NGO (Guatemala)	2023 Permaculture Magazine Award: £5k	Tejiendo Futuros ONG (Weaving Futures NGO) was founded in 2018 in the municipality of Panajachel, Guatemala. They seek to overcome various challenges and meet local needs by developing a comprehensive work model focused on four priority issues: holistic education, agroecology, psychosocial care, and health.
Unidos Social Innovation Centre (Uganda)	2023 Permaculture Magazine Award: £5k	Unidos Social Innovation Centre is a refugee-led initiative that came together to help create livelihood-opportunities and food security in the community, after food rations were drastically reduced for refugees in Uganda. All activities are based on inclusive education and empowerment through entrepreneurial skills.



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