

LINKING SCIENCE AND PRACTICE FOR A BETTER WORLD

2017
ANNUAL
REPORT



ABOUT SER

In 2017, SER welcomed over 2,500 new and returning members representing 76 countries.

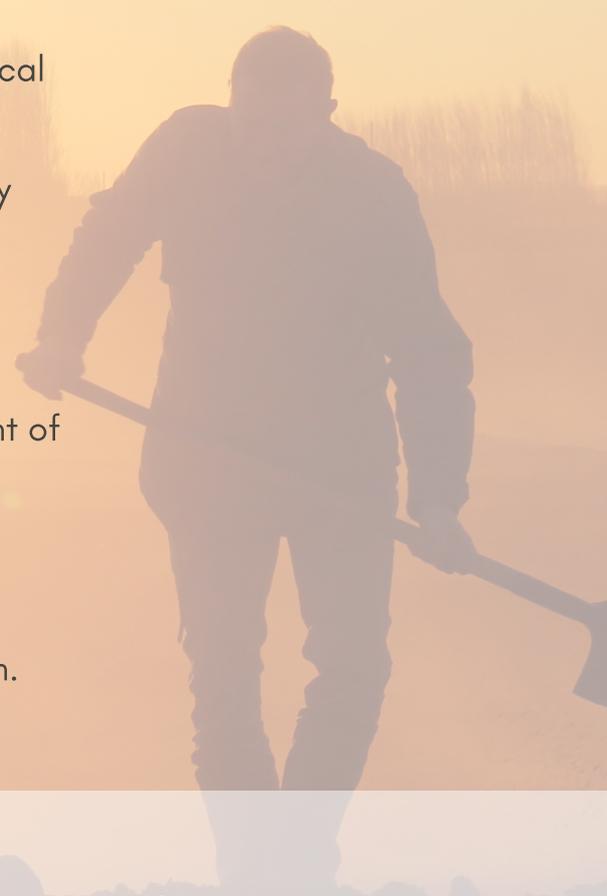
Across the globe, centuries of unsustainable activities have damaged the aquatic, marine, and terrestrial environments that underpin our economies and societies and give rise to a diversity of wildlife and plants. SER is dedicated to reversing this degradation and restoring the earth for the benefit of people and nature.

Our Mission

SER advances the science, practice and policy of ecological restoration to sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate, and re-establish an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.

Our Vision

Ecological restoration becomes a fundamental component of conservation and sustainable development programs throughout the world by virtue of its inherent capacity to provide people with the opportunity to not only repair ecological damage, but also improve the human condition.



WHAT WE DO

Advance
policy

Facilitate
networking

Share
information

Credential
the field

“[SER's CERP program] elevates the importance of ecological restoration work globally. By being part of SER I can support the importance of ecological restoration.”
- Graham Gidden, CERP

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Leadership: Bethanie Walder
Supporters: Nancy Aten, Tom Kaye
Back cover: SER

**as of January 2018*

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Benchmarks, milestones, goals... no matter which term you use, 2017 was a notable year for SER. We awarded the first certifications in our Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) Program, we delivered our first World Conference in South America (and our 7th overall World Conference on Ecological Restoration), and we continued to increase our global impact to improve the field of ecological restoration via new publications and the year-end launch of our Restoration Resource Center. The CERP program exceeded our expectations in its first year of operation, with the approval of more than 150 CERPs! And our World Conference in Iguassu Falls, Brazil drew more than 1,000 delegates from nearly 60 countries around the world. At the closing of the conference, SER and our two co-hosts released a Call to Action pushing for increased implementation of, and investment in, ecological restoration globally.

But these weren't our only 2017 accomplishments. We also saw the impact of SER's *International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration* continue to grow, with graduate students testing its applicability, practitioners beginning to implement projects in concurrence with the Standards, and international bodies considering the Standards as important tools for implementing restoration plans. SER expanded our international policy advocacy by partnering with the Convention on Biological Diversity and others to develop and deliver a policy brief outlining the importance of natural regeneration as a tool for ecological restoration. And, SER sent staff and board representatives to a variety of global meetings, from Ethiopia to Germany to China and many points in between.

This progress wouldn't have been possible without the extraordinary dedication and participation of SER members and volunteers, especially board members. This reciprocity and member dedication to the field of restoration is what makes the Society such an inspiring organization to work for.

Thank you, to every member of SER, for helping make 2017 such a successful year!



BETHANIE WALDER

Executive Director

ELEVATING A PROFESSION

In January 2017 SER launched the first certification program for restoration professionals after nearly 20 years of research and development. The CERP program fulfills a global need for professional development and certification in the field. Applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of academic and professional expertise, and can either be designated a **Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP)**, or a **CERP In Training (CERPIT)**.

During the two application windows of 2017, 179 practitioners applied to the program. Though the majority of applicants were from North America, 2017 included applicants from Australia, India, Ghana, Europe, and South America. A total of 165 individuals received certification.

In its second year, SER will continue to promote certification for practitioners, while engaging those who implement and fund restoration to recognize CERPs in their hiring and funding priorities. We are also increasing continuing education opportunities, establishing CERP presence at international conferences, and exploring partnerships with academic institutions. Certification demonstrates the highest standard of professionalism of restoration practitioners, and the CERP program will continue to grow and develop as *the* global standard for restoration professionals.



In its first year, SER approved 138 CERPs and 27 CERPITs.



"This certification will be the industry standard for practitioners in a global community."

Rob Monico, CERPIT

CERPs/CERPITs represent nine countries in six continents.

SER2017

SER2017 was SER's 7th World Conference and the first World Conference ever held in South America. Over 1,000 researchers, practitioners and students, representing 55 countries, attended the program, representing the tremendous reach and diversity of the field. The conference theme, Linking Science and Practice for a Better World, included 10 plenary speakers, 545 oral presentations, and 310 posters for five days of collaborative exchange. The local organizing committee ensured a full Iguassu experience for SER through cultural events, food, traditional dance, and field trips to the regional natural wonders.

Plenary addresses ranged from the intersection of restoration and business to the role of socioecology in restoration. An anticipated highlight of the conference was the awards ceremony, where SER honored individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the field. The conference closed with a call to action to the world: stop degradation, and fulfill the promise of restoration. With significant press coverage in Brazil and internationally, SER2017 further cemented SER's role as the global leader in the field.

SER2017 also debuted new Spanish and Portuguese translations of important SER texts: *Ecological Restoration: Principles, Values, and Structure of an Emerging Profession* from Island Press and the *International Standards for the Practices of Ecological Restoration*.

Global Forum on Biodiversity and Forest Restoration at SER2017

Immediately before the conference, SER and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management's Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group convened a group of experts from around the world for an international Forum on Biodiversity and Global Forest Restoration. With 52 experts from 15 countries, representing every continent, the Forum explored challenges and opportunities in forest restoration, identifying 18 Priority Actions designed to increase the delivery of biodiversity outcomes from global forest restoration, while still delivering essential ecosystem services. We are now working with several different partners to implement those actions.

ADVANCING GLOBAL RESTORATION POLICY



SER continues to promote a global restoration agenda, especially in the context of current international targets (e.g., the Aichi Biodiversity Targets) and initiatives (e.g., the Bonn Challenge) that challenge governments to initiate ecological restoration at large scales. These commitments provide important opportunities to secure sustainable livelihoods, ensure ecosystem services, maintain biodiversity, and mitigate climate change.

Members of SER's Science and Policy Committee, Board, and staff, as well as SER Global Restoration Ambassadors represented SER at meetings around the globe. In addition, many SER chapters engaged in high level national and international policy within their geographic regions. SER focused our international engagement on two key priorities in 2017:

- Promoting SER's *International Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration*
 - SER representatives gave presentations about and received feedback on the International Standards at meetings in Brazil, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Kuwait, and Puerto Rico. We translated the International Standards into three other languages and we also featured them at the Global Forum on Biodiversity and Forest Restoration.
- Coordinating with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative and with People and Reforestation in the Tropics to develop a new natural regeneration policy brief, *Partnering with Nature: The Case for Natural Regeneration in Forest and Landscape Restoration*
 - Completed in December 2017, **Partnering with Nature** outlines the role of natural regeneration as a powerful and cost-effective tool for restoration projects and provides specific policy recommendations to enhance its role. We helped promote the policy brief in both Canada and Germany immediately following its publication.

ADVANCING GLOBAL RESTORATION POLICY

Other 2017 policy activities carried out by SER and its chapters and sections included:

- A distinguished and interactive panel with representatives from SER, The World Bank, Convention on Biological Diversity, Permian Global, and Brazilian Biodiversity Fund at SER2017 to address both the challenges and opportunities associated with implementation restoration at the landscape scale to achieve global restoration targets.
- A global call to action issued by over 1,000 SER2017 delegates, to elevate and commit to restoration programs at all scales around the world.
- The launch of Restoration Conversations, an online global community forum to support the restoration community.
- Issuing regional action alerts to bring attention to policy issues such as Waters of the United States rule (SER and the Society for Wetland Scientists) and prescribed burns (TXSER).
- Participation in IUCN-FAO Mediterranean Forest Week and contribution of a review by SER Europe to the Agadir Commitment.
- Participation in the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, Germany.
- Signing a collaboration agreement between SER Europe and Eurosite, the European network of nature management practitioners.
- Adoption of the International Standards for restoration funding and outcomes in Australia.

CONNECTING THE FIELD

SER Chapters & Sections focus on local issues and create opportunities for restorationists to meet and share expertise. In 2017, regional chapters and sections brought constituents together to explore a range of topics at workshops, field trips and annual symposium, including:

- Waldo Canyon Fire (Central Rockies)
- High Altitude Revegetation Scientific Meeting (Central Rockies)
- Community Assembly and Restoration (Midwest-Great Lakes)
- Red Hill Creek Parkway - 10 Years Later (Ontario)
- Invasive Biology: Paths to Conservation & Restoration Success (Mid-Atlantic)
- Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail (Ontario)
- Bath Nature Preserve (Midwest-Great Lakes)
- Courtcliffe Park Creek Restoration Project (Ontario)
- Prairie and Pollinator Habitat (Central Rockies)
- Native Seeds in Restoration of Dryland Ecosystems (INSR / Kuwait)
- Resilience & Connectivity (Texas)
- Sponsoring clubs to encourage student participation in 18 colleges and universities

SER also continued its **webinar series** and connected top thinkers with an international audience to disseminate critical new findings on restoration practices and research. SER and its chapters held bimonthly free open-access webinars to the restoration community on local projects and international initiatives throughout 2017.

The archived webinars remain housed online and are available for members to access at any time.



VCU student SER club members removing invasive species at the student association event.

Photo: Melissa Davis.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

One of SER's most important goals is to serve as a clearinghouse of restoration information and resources, connecting practitioners and restorationists across the globe.

Restoration Ecology, SER's flagship peer-reviewed journal, continues to serve as the leading-edge publication for rigorous restoration research. In 2017, 136 papers were published out of 373 manuscript submissions from 48 countries. Papers ranged from case-based (technical and practical), opinion and strategic, and review articles, accounting for 28% of new submissions (69% were research articles). Citations to *Restoration Ecology* totaled 4,174.

SER continued to publish its quarterly thematic newsletter, **SERNews**, in addition to a monthly news roundup. Issues of SERNews featured multiple original articles by members and other experts on: **The International Standards, Climate Change and Restoration, Innovations in Monitoring**, and **Botanic Gardens**.

In December 2017 SER launched the **Restoration Resource Center**, an online platform featuring both a projects database and a resources database. At launch, the projects database had approximately 250 projects from across the world. The resources database housed over 1,000 resources including peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, reports, videos, webinars, and other websites. As a crowd-sourced resource, the RRC provides information on how to submit materials.

Finally, SER utilized multiple social media platforms to **disseminate information and new developments in the field of ecological restoration** to an ever-growing international audience.

Restoration Ecology

THE JOURNAL OF THE
SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Volume 25, Number 2, March 2017

SPECIAL SECTION: 25 YEARS OF PEATLAND RESTORATION
GUEST EDITORS: ROXANE ANDERSEN, LINE ROCHEFORT
AND EVA-STINA TUTTILA



WILEY
Blackwell

ISSN 1061-2971



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION - INCLUDING PRINCIPLES
AND KEY CONCEPTS

FIRST EDITION: December 2016

Tain McDonald, George D. Gann, Justin Jonson,
Kingsley W. Dixon



SER in collaboration with SER Australasia

Partnering with Nature

THE CASE FOR NATURAL REGENERATION
IN FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



OUR MEMBERS

SER brings together academics, researchers, practitioners, artists, economists, advocates, legislators and regulators to define and deliver excellence in the field of ecological restoration. Members can opt to participate in **2 international networks** focused on large-scale ecosystem restoration and seed based restoration, **13 regional chapters** across North America, Europe, and Australasia, and **18 student associations**.

"Working with restoration and conservation sometimes brings the feeling of 'running against the wind', but being connected with more people having the same issues, increased my motivation and my enthusiasm to keep working in this amazing field."

- SER member Emanuela W. A. Weidlich on the value of attending SER conferences

Top areas of expertise

- Biology
- Botany
- Conservation
- Environmental Planning
- Environmental Science
- Forestry and/or vegetation management
- Invasive Species Management
- Landscape Ecology
- Revegetation
- Watershed Management

Members belong to SER for

- Career & professional resources
- Conferences
- Networking
- Practitioner Tools & Resources
- Local Chapter connections
- Journal & publications
- Leadership opportunities
- Policy information

Members by type

- Individuals: 51%
- Businesses/NGOs: 13%
- Students: 14%

LEADERSHIP

2017 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

At-large

Al Unwin, Niagara College

Jim Hallett, Eastern Washington University

Nancy Shaw, US Forest Service

Stuart Allison, Knox College

Kingsley Dixon, Curtin University

Directors-at-large

Joe Berg, Biohabitats

Karen Keenleyside, Parks Canada

James Aronson, Missouri Botanic Garden

Kris Decler, Research Institute for Nature and Forest

Carol Maxwell, AECOM Sacramento

Student Director

Patricia Bass, University of Wyoming

Hannah Boone, University of Maryland

Regional Directors

Australasia

Latin America & Caribbean

Europe

Northeastern North America

Southeastern North America

Midwest North America

Pacific Northwest North America

Rocky Mountains/Great Plains North

America

Kingsley Dixon, Curtin University

Vera Lex Engel, Universidade Estadual Paulista

Anne Tolvaven, Natural Resources Institute & Thule Institute

Jim Furnish, Forestry Consultant

Connie Bersok, Florida Dept of Environmental Regulation

Mary Beth McCormack, Cleveland Montessori School

Dave Polster, Polster Environmental Services Ltd.

Dan Spencer, University of Montana

Staff

Executive Director - Bethanie Walder

Program Manager - Levi Wickwire

Membership Director Marguerite Nutter

Certification Coordinator - Jen Lyndall

Communications & Operations

Associate - Rebecca Shoer

"Ecological restoration is a dynamic field, and there is a real need for a forum where practitioners can share their successes and failures."

Alan Unwin, Board Chair, on SER's work facilitating knowledge sharing among restorationists.

PARTNERS

As an international professional society, SER partners with other organizations and entities to implement our programs and achieve our mission. SER currently has formal agreements with the following organizations:

Ecosystem Services Partnership

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

National Park Service (United States)

Society of Wetland Scientists

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

SER also collaborates with organizations to create policy reports, present special series webinars, and more. These partners include: **UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature**, and others.

We also partner with regional organizations to co-host our World Conferences. Recent partners include **Sociedade Brasileira de Restauração Ecológica (SOBRE) and Sociedad Iberoamericana y del Caribe de Restauración Ecológica (SIACRE)**. We would like to recognize the generous support of the SER2017 conference sponsors: **PROFOR, World Bank Group, BNDES, Government of Brazil, WRI BRASIL, Funbio, The Nature Conservancy, and Suzano Papel e Celulose**. We also received special support from **CAPES, CNPq, FAPESP, Convention on Biological Diversity, Itaipu Binacional, and LWARCEL Celulose**.

In 2017, SER launched a **corporate sponsorship program** to partner with businesses that are committed to cutting edge science, a greener planet and a sustainable future. We proudly welcomed our first sponsor **GZA, GeoEnvironmental, Inc.** at the *Advocate level* this year.



SUPPORTERS

Luis Acosta-Vargas	Joe Caterino	Michael Hagen	Jeffrey Klausmann	LJaime Polania	Alan Unwin
Sherri Albrecht	David Chenoweth	<i>James Hallett*</i>	Henn Korjus	Christopher Polatin	Gordon Usipiuk
Edith Allen	Bart Chezar	David Hancock	Kurt Kroesen	David Polster	Kersti Vaino
Stuart Allison	Alexander Christianini	Zackary Harris	Joshua Larsen	Mircea Preoteasa	Amanda Van Houtte
Valter Amaral	Anna Dabros	Ted Harris	John Lepore	Ann Redmond	Judith Vezeau-Shipp
Evelyn Anemaet	Jack Dalton	Presley Hatcher	Michael Liptak	Jodi Refsland	Karen Viste-
Asa Aradottir	Carla D'Antonio	Les Hatton	Meizhen LIU	Aimee Rogers	Sparkman
Peter Ardill	Paul Davis	Doug Hennick	Larry Loftis	Blaine Rothouser	<i>Bethanie Walder*</i>
James Aronson	Gillian Donald	Luise Hermanutz	Larry Loftis	Rex Rufor	Steven Washington
<i>Josh Aronson*</i>	James Dougan	Robert Hevey	Michael Lucey	Katrina Sachse	Heidi Windell
Buzz Avery	Peter Easton	Anita Higgins	Tara Mabon	Keith Schindler	Celia Winters
Robert Ayres	Stephen Edwards	Matthew Hilliard	Steven Martin	Peter Schulze	Kathleen Winzer
Rebecca Barak	Robin Eisman	Ray Hinchman	Carol Maxwell	Leonie Seabrook	William Young
Jerry Benson	James Evans	Karen Holl	Greg Mazer	Nancy Shaw	Stanford Young
Keith Bergeron	Donald Falk	Martha Holzheuer	Therese Meyer	Patrick Shea	
Lara Berkley	Johannah Fine	<i>Kris Houle*</i>	Melanie Milanich	Wesley Silva	<i>*members of the</i>
Wouter Beyen	Kimberly Forbeck	Evelyn Howell	Daniel Miller	Charles Simenstad	<i>2017 Restorationists</i>
Joel Bingham	Donna Foster	Jake Hughes	Tatiana Minayeva	Marc Smith	<i>Circle</i>
Hannah Boone	Kansie Fox	Shelley Hunt	James Montgomery	Daniel Spencer	
Ashley Bordelon	Elaine Freeth	Cord Hute	Takayoshi Nishio	Michelle Stevens	
Ben Breedlove	David Freudenberger	Rhonda James	Enrique Nunez	<i>Roger and Victoria</i>	
Peter Bugoni	<i>James Furnish*</i>	Yari Johnson	Sonya Oetterich	<i>Stubbs*</i>	
Robert Burton	<i>George Gann*</i>	Robert Kaleta Jr	Gerhard Overbeck	John-Christopher	
Gerard (Hans) Buys	Steve Glass	Laura-Jean Kelly	Laura Paulette	Taft	
Diego Mauricio	Paul Gobster	Thomas Kelly	Jennifer Payne	Melanie Tluzcek	
Cabrera Amaya	Spencer Goehl	Quy Khuc	Michael Perring	Suzanne Tuttle	
Carianne Campbell	Dan Gregory	Peter King	Vickie Pierce	Will Unsworth	

2017 Lifetime Members

Kestin Campbell
 Thomas Kaye
 Flavia Mochel
 Rocky Smiley
 Dan West

2017 Restorers (Friend of SER)

Carlene Bahler
 Nancy Gleason



"My personal commitment to habitat restoration and conservation, coupled with a deep respect for the Society for Ecological Restoration and its role linking science and practice, made a lifetime membership in SER the right choice."

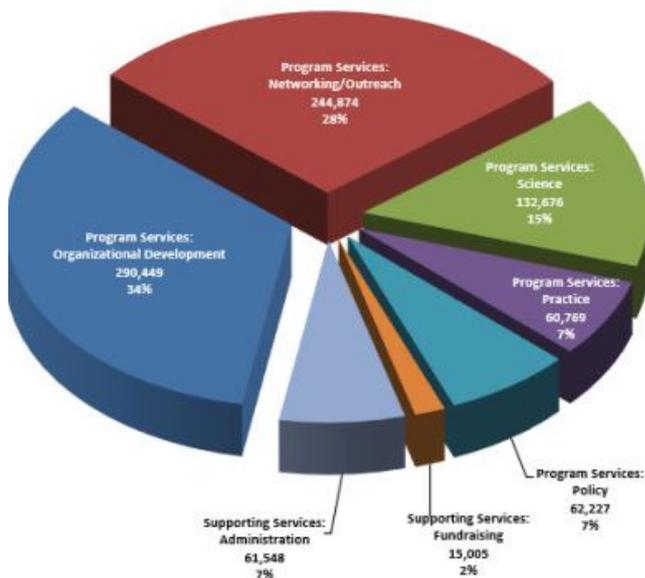
*Tom Kaye, Institute for Applied Ecology
 Lifetime Member*

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Individual Charitable Contributions	13,540
Organizational Grants and Contributions	22,427
Certification Fee Revenue	43,488
Conference Revenue	34,076
Publication Revenue	199,648
Membership Dues	110,851
Gifts In-kind: Services	183,716
Investment Revenue	58,264
Other Revenues	53,489
Net assets released from restrictions	11,286
	730,785
Program Services: Organizational Development	290,449
Program Services: Networking/Outreach	244,874
Program Services: Science	132,676
Program Services: Practice	60,769
Program Services: Policy	62,227
Supporting Services: Fundraising	15,005
Supporting Services: Administration	61,548
	867,548
	-136,762
Restricted Contributions	5,510
Net assets released from restriction	-11,286
Decrease in Net Assets	-142,538
	710,893
	568,354

Program & Supporting Services Expenses

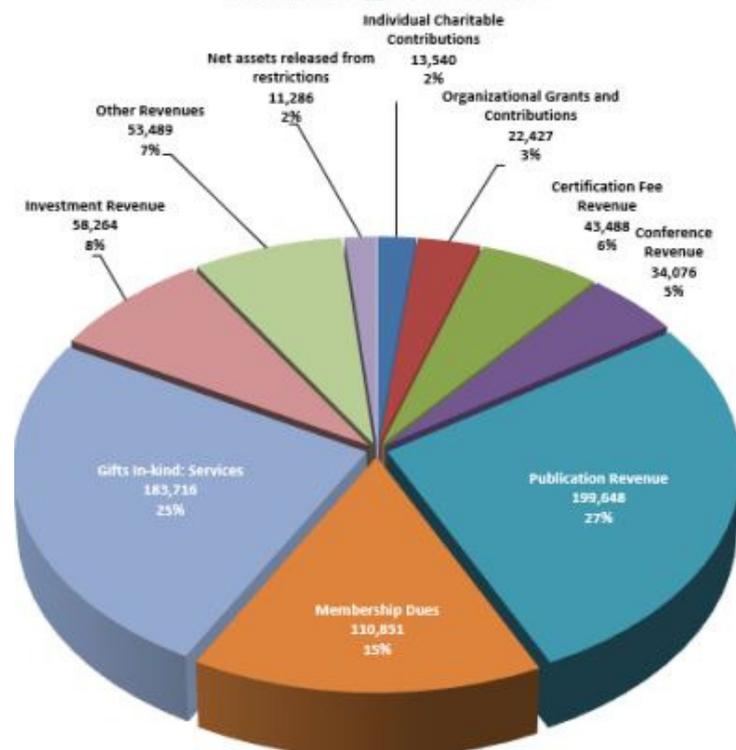


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2017

Cash and Cash Equivalents	60,168
Marketable equity securities	494,924
Accounts Receivable - Trade	78,293
Due from related party	0
Property and Equipment, net	0
Other Assets	35,943
	669,328
Accounts Payable	23,703
Accrued Expenses	9,647
Deferred Revenue	40,806
Chapter Conferences	26,818
	100,974
Designated	6,235
Undesignated	562,120
Board Designated	0
	568,355
	669,329

Unrestricted Support and Revenue





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