



# Annual Report 2023



## Foreword

The IRHA team is pleased to present the annual report for 2023.

We would like to thank all the donors, sponsors and partner institutions who have placed their trust in us by supporting the implementation of sustainable responses. We would also like to thank the hard work of our local partners, who face up to the difficulties on the ground every day and work wonders in support of the project communities.

Finally, we invite anyone who would like to help spread the word about rainwater management to join the Alliance or support our work.

## Glossaire

APAF: Association for the promotion of fertile trees, agroforestry and forestry.

BV: Bassin Versant

CTA: Agroforestry Technical Advisor

CVA: Village Agroforestry Committee

EAF: Exploitations Agricoles Familiales (family farms)

EbA: Ecosystem Based Adaptation

GRD: Risk and Disaster Management

GEP/RWH: Gestion des Eaux de Pluie /Rainwater Harvesting

IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management

IRHA: International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

IWRM: Integrated Water Resource Management

KN: Kanchan Nepal

## Credits

- Cover: Blue school kids Tobang (Nepal)@KN, 2023
- P.2: Landscapes (Senegal), Credits© IRHA, 2024
- P.5: Blue school Sketch by Knit Camille, Credits© IRHA, 2023
- P.7: Cistern Sketch by Knit Camille, Credits©IRHA, 2023
- P.8: 3D Mapping, Tobang (Nepal) Credits© KN, 2023
- P.9: Deep Bed Farming Sketch by Knit Camille Credits©IRHA, 2023
- P.10: Woman Leader, Senegal, Credits© IRHA,2024
- P.11: Watershed Sketch by Knit Camille, Credits©IRHA 2023
- P.12: Mangrove Nursery, Senegal, Credits©OD 2023
- P.13: Gabions, Senegal: Credits©IRHA, 2023
- P.14: Community Tobang Nepal Credits©KN 2023
- P.15: Urban Rainwater Harvesting Sketch by Knit Camille Credits©IRHA 2023
- P.16: Rain Tag, Geneva Credits©IRHA, 2024
- P.17: Regional Conference on RWH,Nepal Credits©KN 2024
- P.18: Alliance Map, Credits©IRHA 2024

IRHA's mandate is to promote rainwater as an effective and sustainable solution to water scarcity and climate extremes.

As such, rainwater management is fully in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17), which we are putting into practice through the implementation of international projects, support for municipalities and local authorities and awareness-raising projects.

## SDG1/SDG4/SDG5

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## SDG 6 /SDG13

Strategic rainwater management is proving to be an innovative and effective response to the water shortages faced by communities, as well as to the increasingly frequent droughts and floods that are exacerbated by climate change. Rainwater can be used as drinking water to cover the daily needs of families and improve hygiene, in addition to other sources of supply.

## SDG 2/ SDG 15

Rainwater harvesting can thus serve domestic, institutional, agricultural and even industrial needs, and thus relieve the growing pressure on groundwater and freshwater resources. Rainwater strengthens the resilience of rural communities in the face of climate disruption.

## SDG11

Managing rainwater in towns and cities is certainly one of the highest added-value measures of the 21st century (and all the more so in a development context).

Managing rainwater in towns and cities allows nature to be reintroduced into the city,

aquifers to be recharged, urban areas to be cooled, run-off and intense rainfall events to be managed more effectively, and living conditions in towns and cities to be significantly improved.

## SDG17

Working in partnership and synergy with the players involved at national level is the very essence of our ALLIANCE. Connecting initiatives in Mexico, the United States, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Senegal, Malawi, Somalia, Cambodia, Brazil and South Korea, and taking the message to national decision-makers.



## Word of the President



The IRHA Alliance participated in the 2023 United Nations Water and Sanitation Conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York. IRHA supported this effort and is committed to the UN Water Agenda to improve water security by promoting rainwater harvesting and storage for households, schools and health centres, for agriculture and ecosystems, and for urban climate resilience.

In 2024, we will scale up support to the Alliance to ultimately develop national capacity [for rainwater harvesting] to close the gap with universal coverage of MDG 6.1, and contribute to more climate-resilient agricultural practices, watershed restoration, ecosystem protection, and a water-sensitive urban transition by 2030. The Alliance is well placed to do this, as it has the excellence, expertise and experience in water-smart practices.

The Alliance continues to grow. For example, at a training programme on ferrocement pumpkin storage techniques in Mahiyangana (Sri Lanka) in May 2023. Ten participants from Iran, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Malawi took part in coordination with the South Asian Rainwater Network (SARNET), followed by a two-day regional conference offering participants a better understanding of the potential of rainwater harvesting in South Asia, as well as many new friendships and contacts.

At the IWA Congress on Water and Development (Kigali, 2023), the need for rainwater harvesting was raised. Africa seems ready to tackle climate change adaptation by paying more attention to rainwater management. The IWA also recognises the potential of rainwater harvesting as a 'future-proof solution to bridge the gap between water supply and demand'.

The IRHA has been hard at work in 2023, with more activities in the field, more associate members and effective promotion. We are counting on your support in 2024 and beyond, to deliver on our commitment to water security for all.

Han Heijnen – Président

## Word of the Director<sup>1</sup>



I am delighted to be able to share the 2023 Annual Report, which brings to a close a year rich in achievements both in operational and organisational terms.

In 2023, in the face of extreme weather conditions, rainwater is more than ever at the heart of adaptation issues on the international agenda.

New projects have been launched in Nepal to manage catchment areas and restore ecosystems. Two initiatives have been launched in Geneva: the PluiË project, which aims to raise public awareness of the issue of rainwater and the realities of development projects in the South. The PartageÖ project aims to build the capacity of NGOs in the Food Sovereignty Platform of member organisations of the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC).

In this respect, 2023 will have been extremely rich in events, workshops, conferences, knowledge-sharing and advocacy actions to promote this alternative voice and call for profound change.

In addition, the International Rainwater Management Alliance continues to grow. In 2023, we were proud to welcome the Association Sénégalaise de gestion d'Eau de Pluie (Senegal) and Rain for All (South Korea).

In 2024, we intend to continue this momentum and welcome sister organisations in Somalia and Nepal, while also continuing to share and disseminate knowledge to truly unleash the potential of local initiatives.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the unfailing support of our institutional backers, foundations, platforms and partners, who support us in implementing these responses and are committed to working alongside us for a world where rainwater has its rightful place. Thank you for your trust!

We will not stop! See you in 2024

Marc Sylvestre – Directeur

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<sup>1</sup> Article - Avril 2024 du magazine Source sur la sécurité de l'eau

# > The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

## Who we are:

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance is a Swiss based non-governmental organisation founded in 2002 in Geneva. The NGO implements rainwater harvesting projects in developing countries in order to improve the health and living conditions of communities and to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems to climate change.

## Why we do it:

Rainwater is a good quality resource, available free of charge, and is proving to be an effective and sustainable lever, both in terms of access to and provision of a quality resource and adaptation to climate change. Rain, considered as a nuisance and/or a threat, thus becomes an instrument of resilience, a risk management strategy and a development lever for communities.

## How we do it:

IRHA's mandate focuses on a) implementing concrete solutions and pilot projects in the field to demonstrate effectiveness, but also on b) raising awareness and training in water resource management and c) promoting the relevance of integrated water resource management in local, national and even international plans and policies, in response to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17). IRHA's response is based on a 5-pronged strategy: 1) Rainwater, Hygiene and Sanitation (RHS), 2) Rainwater, Agriculture and Food Security, 3) Rainwater, Risk and Ecosystem Management, 4) Urban Rainwater 5) Rainwater, Awareness and Advocacy.

## What we do:

Our work is based on the implementation of rainwater management projects in developing countries where access to clean water and vulnerability to the risks of climate change are daily problems, directly and negatively impacting the lives of thousands of people.

## What we offer :

The IRHA intends to position itself as a support to our partners and as such offers :

- > Expertise in planning, developing and implementing stormwater management systems. A contextualised response to the problems of the field.
- > Support and development of decision-making tools to enable local decision-makers and communities to have the information they need to make decisions and manage infrastructure properly, thereby ensuring the sustainability of investments;
- > Training in rainwater management to strengthen the technical and management capacities of local decision makers, technical services and young professionals;
- > Support for the development of local and regional water conservation and management policies/strategies to build resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change.
- > A network of several dozen professionals working in the sector (universities, private sector, individuals, etc.)

## Towards a 2022-2030 strategy - A new strategic framework was formulated.

This will aim to draw lessons from the 2017-21 strategy, position the IRHA on current issues, define solid and appropriate results and performance indicators to continue to grow the IRHA and respond efficiently to current challenges.

Prog.1 - Rainwater, Hygiene and Sanitation

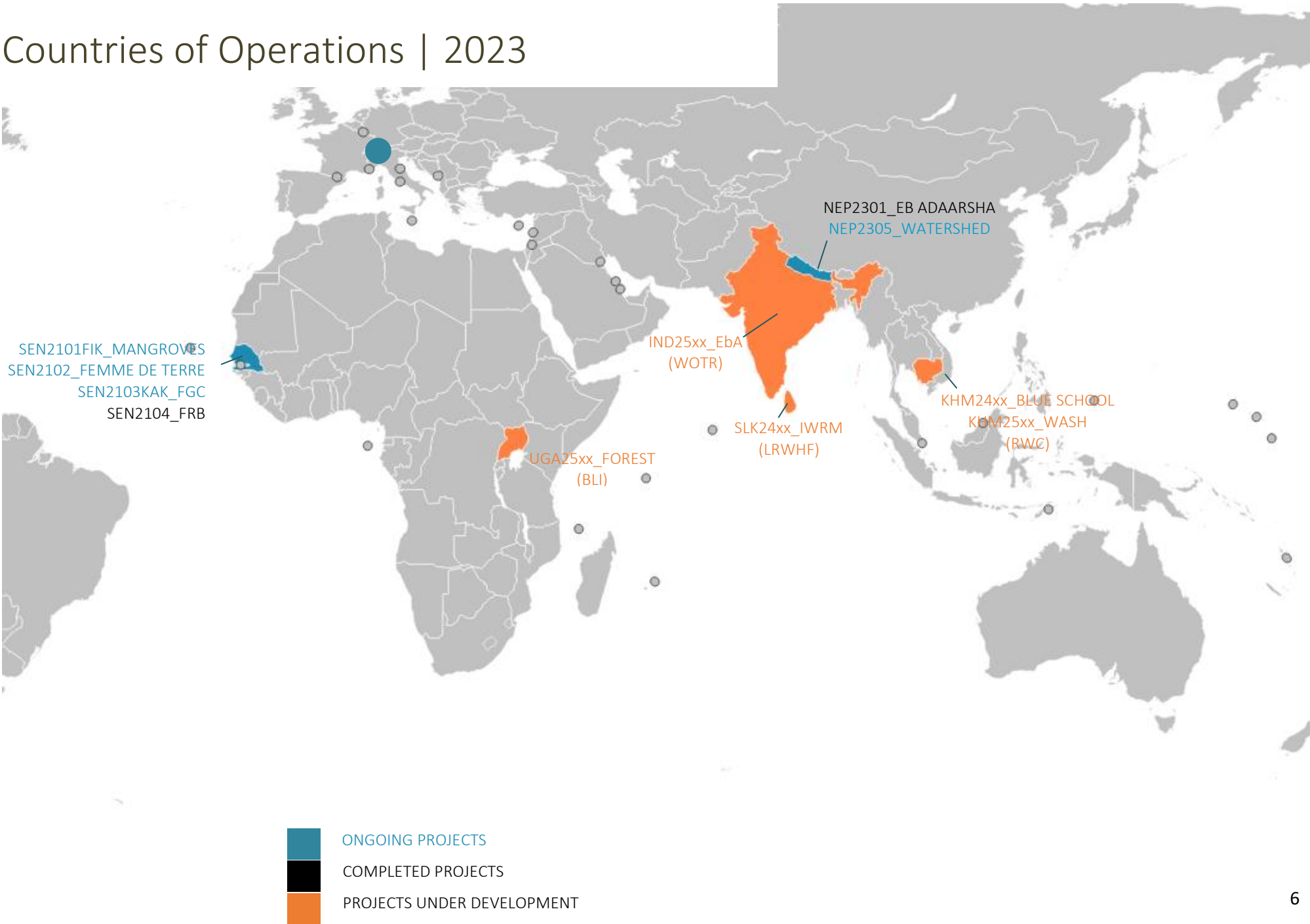
Prog.2 - Rainfed Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Prog.3 - Risk management and ecosystem restoration

Prog.4 - Rainwater in the City

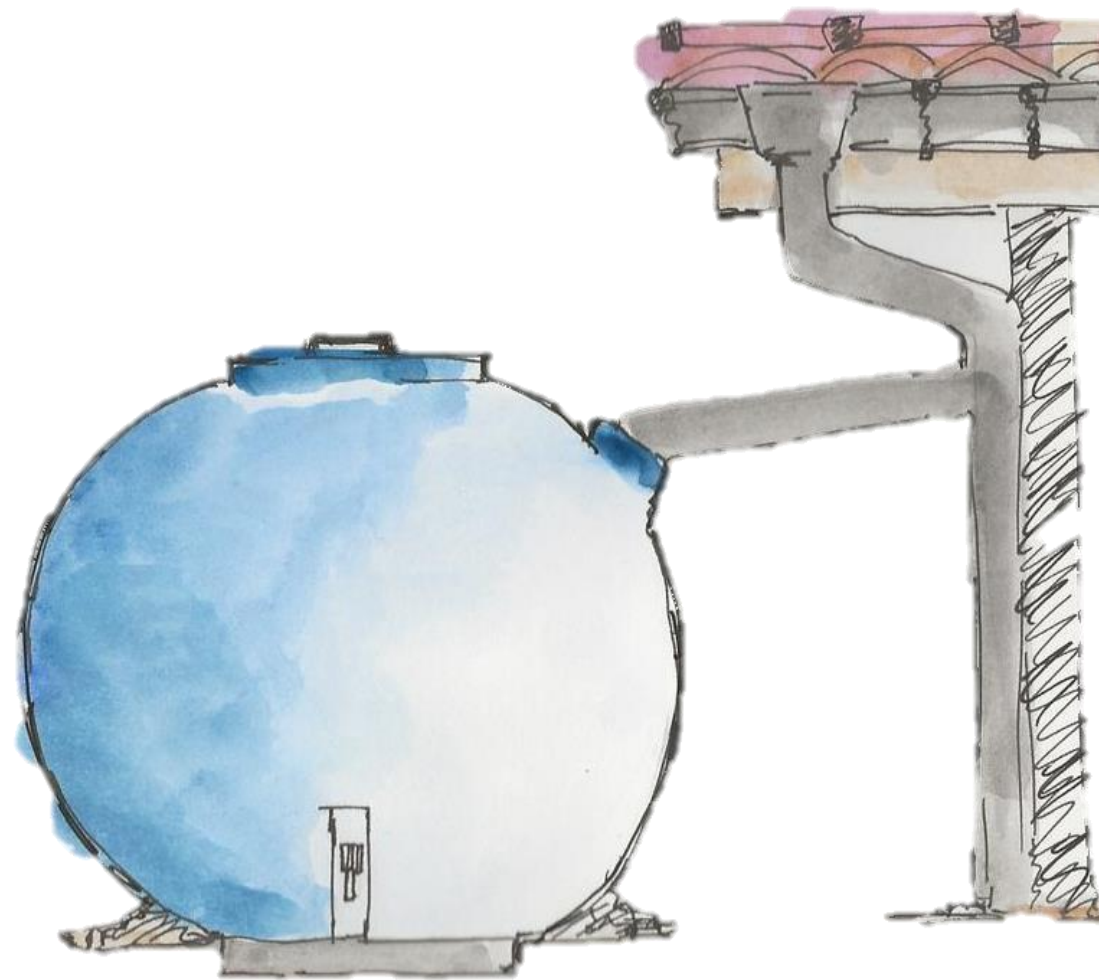
Prog.5 - Alliance

# Countries of Operations | 2023



# Prog.1 - Rainwater, Hygiene and Sanitation

Strengthen access to drinking water services, sanitation and appropriate hygiene practices, while respecting ecological balances and raising the awareness of local actors to better manage rainwater (RWH).



## > Rain management for secure water access



> NEP 2301\_ Ecole Bleue\_Adarsha

Partners : Kanchan Nepal

Donors: SITSE, HIRZEL

Location: Tobang region, Nepal

Status : Completed

Link <https://youtu.be/LDf0fSoRLSg?si=QtHgTC84pw5RQM1N>

### Context

Kanchan Nepal has been working in the Kalika Majhtana Hansapur region and the Rupakot, Thumki region due to the water problems faced by these two belts.

With financial support from IRHA since 2013, Kanchan Nepal has been able to continue working on programmes to build resilience and adapt communities to climate change in the Pokhara region (Nepal), and in particular the Ecole Bleue programme.

Since 2013, we have developed 12 Blue School projects, combining rainwater harvesting to provide access to drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene practices, as well as the introduction of school gardens, tree planting and waste management.

### Results achieved

- > Installation of 2 collection systems (20m<sup>3</sup> + 8m<sup>3</sup>)
- > Construction of 8 non-mixed latrines and a hand-washing system
- > Creation of a school garden co-managed by the pupils
- > Creation of a participatory map
- > Creation of a participatory 3D map
- > Planting of 250 trees on the school's concession.
- > Implementation of 1 waste management system
- > Partnership with the Water and Forestry Service (FECOFUN) in the intervention zone.
- > Establishment of a management committee comprising parents, children, teachers and authorities.



## Prog.2 - Rain-fed agriculture and food sovereignty

To strengthen the resilience of farming communities and their food sovereignty in the face of climate change, by improving the natural resource management capacities of local stakeholders and promoting the sharing of knowledge.



# > Rain in support of women's groups



SEN2102\_Femmes de terre

Partners : APAF Senegal

Donors: Canton of Aargau, Canton of Basel, Foundations: 3M, Plan les Ouates, Temperatio

Location: Fatick, Kaolack, Senegal

Beneficiaries: 8 women's groups

Status: Ongoing > extension - Feb. 2024

## Context

As in other Sub-Saharan African countries, rural Senegalese women produce, process and market most of the food consumed in their households. Their contribution to food security is clearly very significant (up to 80%). This contribution could be even greater if they had the same equal opportunities as men in terms of access to resources (land, finance, etc.). In a country like Senegal, where 76% of the poorest people live in rural areas, giving rural women greater access to essential production factors (land, finance) is clearly a powerful lever for the country to achieve food sovereignty.

The right to adequate food, the right to land and natural resources and gender equity are fundamental to food and nutrition issues. This is why we have developed this 'Femmes de terre' project, to work on the very causes of this vulnerability.

## Results

- > 275 people educated
- > 8 women's groups formed (2 groups withdrew from the project)
- > 8 rainwater harvesting systems installed (10m3)
- > 6.83 ha restored and 900m of anti-erosion barriers erected
- > Support for women groups in the transition to agro-ecology, responsible production and water resource management



## Prog.3 - Risk management and ecosystem restoration

Strengthen the resilience of communities exposed to climate change and major hazards by improving water and soil conservation through ecosystem restoration, reforestation and integrated water resource management (IWRM) initiatives.



# > Rain management for ecosystem restoration



SEN2101\_The forest of the sea

Partners: OCEANIUM Dakar

Donors: AP Foundation

Location: Djilasse, Fatick, Senegal

Beneficiaries : 30 nurserymen, 30 EAF, 30 CVA, 15 members of Djilasse, 15 members of the Water and Forestry Service, 20 Local Development Support Centres (CADL) in Fimela

Status: Ongoing > mid 2024

Link: <https://youtu.be/FC2IKvnHN0I?si=1vs16wc9yKeYNL03>

## Context

In the Sine Saloum, the advance of saline land is one of the main causes of the loss of plant cover, land degradation and contamination of aquifers, which form the basis of the ecosystem. The combination of droughts in the late 70s and 80s and population growth, which increased human pressure on natural resources, is the main cause of this phenomenon, which has been accelerating at a worrying rate since 2015.

Mangroves are a central link in the ecosystemic and socio-economic balance. The retreat of the mangrove threatens the resilience of the entire estuarine ecosystem, of which humans and their activities are an integral part.

## Results obtained

- > 28 Family Farm Managers (FFMs)
- > 2 Agroforestry Technical Advisers (CTA)
- > between 2,000 and 3,000 people attended awareness-raising sessions
- > 2,500 schoolchildren made aware of the water cycle and the role of mangroves (frescoes in schools)
- > 2 CVM (mangrove village committee) trained in mangrove restoration (8 people)
- > 44 heads of family farms (vegetated cordons)

> 247 households benefited from agroforestry fruit tree plantations



# > Community resilience for an agro-ecological transition

SEN2103\_Transition to agro-ecological ecosystems

Partners: Caritas Kaolack

Donors: Geneva Cooperation Federation (FGC)

Location: Kaolack, Senegal

Beneficiaries: 320 producers, 1,500 households, 6,280 community members, 3,100 pupils, students, 48 university students and teachers, 255 municipal and technical staff, 48 staff.

Status: Ongoing > end 2024 with extension



## Context

The Kaolack region is a poor, predominantly agricultural area that is having to cope with a change in the production paradigm. This situation of vulnerability and food insecurity is compounded by climate change, which is accentuating extremes (drought, variability/intensity of rainy periods), accelerating the gradual loss of biodiversity, soils and ecosystems.

The aim of the 'agro-ecological transition' project is to support the transition from rain-fed agriculture to resilient peasant farming that strengthens food sovereignty while respecting the balance of ecosystems. The sustainable restoration of production bases, control of the water cycle and easy access to land are key drivers of this desired transition.

## Expected results

- > 4 market garden, rice-growing, tree-planting and bee-keeping areas supported
- > 50% of the sites identified for the installation of anti-erosion systems have been treated
- > 3/6 retention areas have been rehabilitated restoration of ecosystems
- > A School of Ecosystems has been reforested
- > Technical studies to build capacity in terms of management of facilities, support for agro-ecological technical courses and definition of commercial strategies have been carried out.
- > Awareness-raising campaigns on agro-ecological transition are underway
- > Environmental education initiatives



# > Community resilience through water security and ecosystem restoration

NEP2305\_Rain communities

Partners: Kanchan Nepal, Li-Bird, SVSI, FECOFUN, Pokhara Metropolitan, DWSS

Donors: Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), Services Industriels de Genève (SIG), L'Effet Papillon, Swisslos Aargau

Location: Tobang, Nepal

Context

The 'Rain Communities' project aims to improve the resilience of Nepalese populations to the hazards of climate change by restoring ecosystem functionality, improving water availability, consolidating agricultural practices and promoting collective and sustainable management of natural resources at catchment basin level by local stakeholders in the intervention region.

## Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries :

- > 2000 households in 10 rain-fed communities
- > 75 households equipped with rainwater harvesting tanks
- > 35 households equipped with greenhouses for market gardening
- > 300 households benefiting from the rehabilitation of springs
- > 4,500 households benefiting from the rehabilitation of retention ponds (pokharis)
- > 7,500 households benefiting from a reforestation campaign
- > 100 members of the local authorities

Indirect benefits :

- > 3000+ households in the Tobang region, Chitwan district
- > 5000+ households in the Pokhara region, Kaski district

Status: Ongoing > end 2026



## Prog.4 - Rainwater in cities

Rainstorms, flooding, the creation of islands of coolness: in recent years, rainwater management in cities has become an essential nature-based solution (NbS) in the management of a sustainable city.



## > Making the city 'transparent for water'

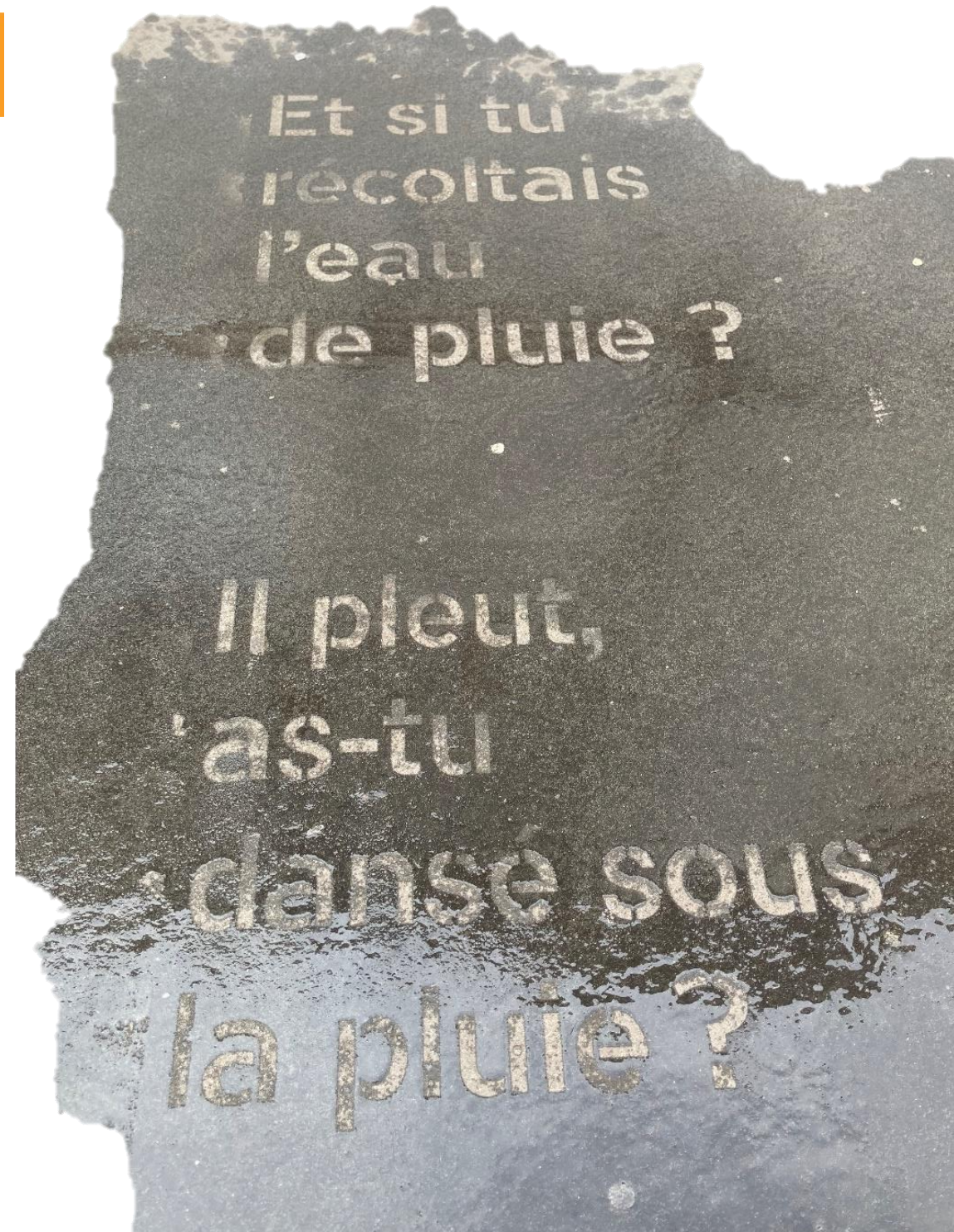


This is what we want to achieve. This involves 3 principles:

- o Infiltrate by maintaining the infiltration capacity of the soil on urbanised surfaces or in their immediate vicinity
- o Preserve the vegetation cover by maintaining the vegetation on the site, and making sufficient water available to this vegetation.
- o Combating run-off by infiltrating rainwater where it falls
- o Rainwater should be disconnected from the sewage system and, wherever possible, reused. In practice, pipes should no longer be the exception when it comes to managing rainwater.

It's time to act - Let's disconnect! #unplugged

In 2023, the PluiË project was launched in Geneva, with the aim of breaking down taboos and [re]questioning the way we manage natural resources, particularly rainwater, by involving local people in the co-production of tomorrow's territory, the spaces in which we live together, and thus enabling full appropriation of this resource at all scales (house, plot, city, etc.).



## Prog. 5 –Alliance

Building an Alliance of partner organisations involved in the implementation of sustainable rainwater management solutions on all continents

Over the 20 years of its existence, IRHA has built an Alliance of partner organisations involved in implementing sustainable rainwater management solutions on all continents. The Alliance aims to be a movement open to Non-Governmental Organisations, local authorities, private sector companies and individuals convinced that rainwater is a solution to the problems of the 21st century.

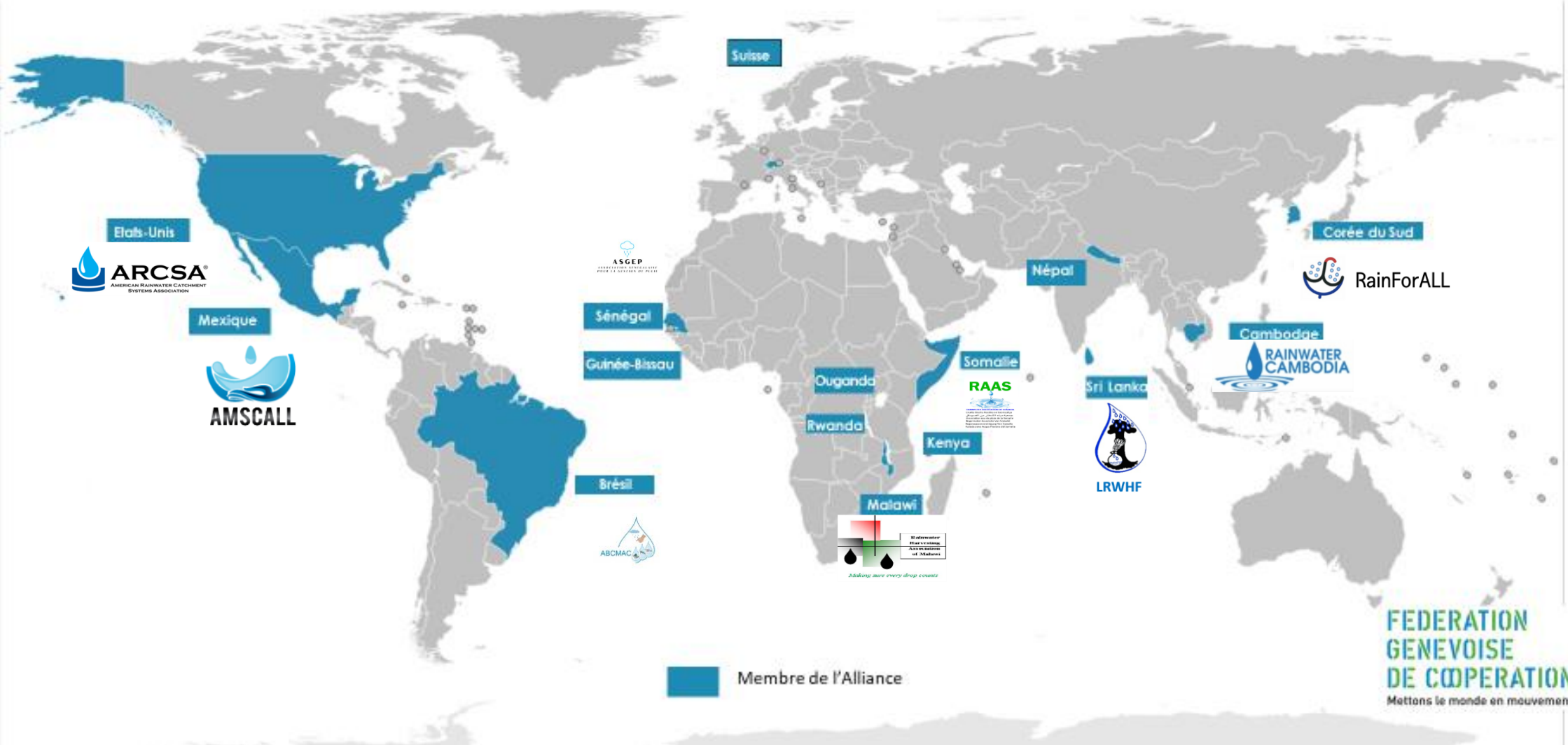
In 2023, the IRHA developed the PartageÖ initiative, which aims to provide a practical and operational response to the Member Organisations of the Platform for Food Sovereignty (PSA), by creating synergies between initiatives in the field and the expertise, contacts and networks that Alliance Members can bring to the table.



# IRHA NETWORK

**PSA**

Plateforme souveraineté  
alimentaire d'organisations  
membres de la FGC



## COMITTEE



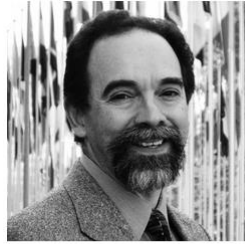
Han Heijnen -  
President



Anne-Marie Khetib  
- Treasurer



Clara Ariza -  
Secretary



Salvano Briceno -  
Member



Bob Boulware -  
Member



Giulio Castelli -  
Member



Margarita Pacheco  
- Founding  
member



Rachel Nisbet -  
Member

## SECRETARIAT



Marc Sylvestre -  
Director



Arnaud Bourgeois  
- Admin & Finance



Florian Bielser -  
Programme  
Manager



Marion Dunand -  
project officer



Darja König PhD -  
Resource  
mobilization

# Financial Statements

## Balance Sheet

as of 31.12.23\*en CHF

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and bank	367'427	269'568
Accounts receivable	44'461	399
Accrued income	4'348	0
Prepaid expenses	4'746	3'825
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>420'982</b>	<b>273'792</b>
<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>2'257</b>	<b>2'246</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>423'239</b>	<b>276'038</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	16'595	14'592
Accrued expenses and deferred income	2'200	2'200
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>18'795</b>	<b>16'792</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Deferred income - projects funds	399'031	254'982
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>399'031</b>	<b>254'982</b>
<b>Own funds</b>		
Accumulated result	4'265	3'124
Result for the year	1'148	1'141
<b>Total own funds</b>	<b>5'413</b>	<b>4'265</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS</b>	<b>423'239</b>	<b>276'038</b>

\* The audited and approved version is written in English.

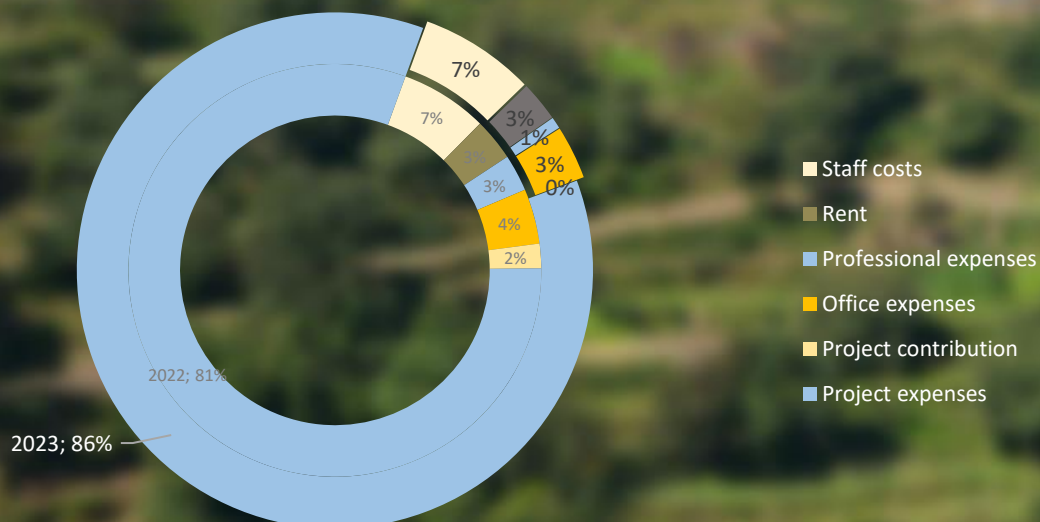
\*\* The full annual financial statements audited by our auditors are available on the website

## Source of funding 2022/23



## Cost allocation 2022/23

### Other Financial Informations



Members of Committee

**67 days** for a value of

**CHF 12'240**

Employees

**299 days** for a value of

**CHF 99'576**

# Statement of Operations au 31.12.23- \*en CHF

	Notes	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
		CHF	CHF
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations/Contributions	3.1.	64'167	56'042
Projects income - FGC	3.2.		
GENEVE		107'309	
DDC		76'218	41'324
CAROUGE		49'250	49'250
MEYRIN		44'016	
LANCY		39'400	
THONEX		14'000	
PREGNY-CHAMBESY		12'805	16'881
ANIERES		10'000	
CORSIER		6'000	
BERNEX			21'276
VERNIER			68'950
Projects income - institutional contributions		26'380	
Projects income - other donations		152'848	
Other operational income		429	451
<b>Total income</b>		<b>602'822</b>	<b>254'174</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Personnel costs		32'966	21'709
Office premises		11'444	10'495
Professional fees		3'304	9'152
General and office expenses		15'327	13'649
Project expenditure	3.4.		
- local costs		254'953	127'742
- personnel costs IRHA Geneva		75'057	69'881
- administrative costs IRHA Geneva		64'167	58'009
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>457'216</b>	<b>310'637</b>
<b>Intermediate result</b>		<b>145'606</b>	<b>-56'463</b>
Financial result		-409	-347
<b>Operational surplus/deficit (prior to allocation)</b>		<b>145'198</b>	<b>-56'810</b>
<b>CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Allocation	3.4.	-538'226	-197'681
Use	3.4.	394'176	255'632
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>1'148</b>	<b>1'141</b>



Make a change

Harvest Rainwater

Every drop counts!

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