

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

Island Reach

AGROECOLOGY

STORYTELLING

THE MORE-
THAN-
HUMAN

LAND
DEFENDERS

CHANGE

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report for Island Reach

Since IR's first inception in 2011 (wow! coming up on our 15th year!), our design has been to come alongside other groups/organizations/ communities - from Reef Check in Haiti, to the Vanua-tai Land & Sea monitors in Vanuatu, to Nari Jhuri in Bangladesh, to the Centre for Local Prosperity in Canada, to PELUM in Kenya - to be of service to their interests and local projects. In this way, we have always been there *to bolster* partners, rather than to build up an IR "brick & mortar" institution running its own programmatic agenda. We have always approached our work as a *relational process* in which we "pool resources", or perhaps follow the old allegory of "stone-souping" (but without the trickery!). Everyone contributes time, skill, and in many cases, matching finances. This has often led to our small nonprofit having a much bigger impact, without buildings and land, large salaried staff, extensive fundraising and upslope reporting.

Another long term feature of our work is video storytelling. Since our first year in Vanuatu, videos have played a key role in our work. There, we used video to help build peer to peer networking, so crucial across those remote islands. From those islands, we launched the production of Immuto: Change, IR's 2021 award winning documentary with a message of *reciprocity*. We believe that compelling storytelling is a vital part of engaging with people, no matter where they are.

In 2011, the widespread focus was on the impacts of the Anthropocene. Now, it is widely asserted that we have entered the time of Collapse. We have crossed 7 of the 9 planetary thresholds; we will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius; AI is now widely considered a real and imminent threat to human survival... well, the list is pretty long and is well reported elsewhere.

How do we live and work amidst Collapse?

This question, and everything that flows from it, occupies our thoughts and informs our shifting ground. Stay tuned!

In solidarity,

The Island Reach folks

While Island Reach will continue to work with partners and inspiring activists around the world, in 2025 our focus began to include North American collaborations around environmental protection and climate action.

- **Agroecology in Kenya**

Principle Partner: PELUM Kenya.

PELUM Kenya is a network of civil society organization/NGOs working across Kenya, with a membership of 63 Member Organizations. PELUM Kenya network promotes agroecological principles and practices through the following approaches: advocacy, networking, capacity development, information, and knowledge sharing. The various agroecological practices promoted include organic agriculture, sustainable agriculture, regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, permaculture, conservation agriculture, biodynamic agriculture, family farming, and bio-intensive agriculture.

This project was a nearly 2 year partnership with PELUM Kenya to support their advocacy, networking, knowledge sharing, and institutional communication capacities through documentary storytelling.

In 2025 we produced 6 documentaries for dissemination among partner organizations and the public, Africa-wide.

See one of these productions on the IR video page.

As part of the partnership agreement, final project funds were used to support the purchase of a video camera for PELUM to build their organizational capacity for documentary storytelling.

- **Forest conservation and video production Canada**

Principal Partner: Save Our Old Forests (SOOF)

In SOOF's words: Old forests are valuable in and for themselves. They also:

- shelter more life and store more carbon,
- slow flooding and improve water quality,
- soothe the soul and entice tourists

IR team spent 5 days in the field with conservationists protecting old forest and then produced a documentary about challenges and hopes around protecting nature. Watch the video listed on the IR video page.

This video is also the first in a series of forthcoming videos touching on the connections between people and nature.

- **Research and Development and Filming for a series of educational videos about connections between people in nature.**

Varied International Sites

IR's communications efforts in documentary filmmaking have been highly effective and broadly popular in the pursuit of our mission to advance community-driven biocultural resilience. This is the next step in developing this series of education videos about the connections between people and nature. This R&D included video production. Post production to take place in 2026 forward.

- **Small Grant programs**

In the last year Island Reach has collaborated with colleagues and friends to support grassroot activities from the protection of old-growth forests across North America, water security in Vanuatu, women's health with rural farmers in Malawi, and river conservation in Maryland. In every case, matching External Funds have made Island Reach's small contributions even more impactful.

Vanuatu - Supporting a community water security project in Unakap, Nguna

Malawi - Bringing revolutionary menstrual hygiene products to women

farmers and environmentalists that transform their ability to support their families and land

North America, multiple sites: community organizing, land defense, and stewardship:

- Yaak Valley Forest Council
- Mi'kmaq Land Defenders on Hunter Mountain
- Ecology Action Centre, Save West Mabou