



climate cleanup

Annual Report 2023

Climate Cleanup Foundation



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Executive Summary

In 2023, Climate Cleanup Foundation made significant strides in our mission to reverse climate change through nature-based carbon dioxide removal (CDR) solutions. Our focus on doubling nature to restore 1500 gigatons of CO₂ has driven substantial progress in research, partnerships, and systemic interventions. This report highlights our key achievements, financial overview, and future outlook for the year 2023, demonstrating our commitment to fostering a regenerative economy and creating lasting environmental impact. We are grateful to our partners and Ambassadors, and look forward to increasing our collaboration in the years to come.

Our Mission and Vision

Climate Cleanup Foundation is dedicated to removing carbon dioxide from oceans and the atmosphere by fostering systemic conditions for a regenerative economy. Our vision is to double nature, restoring 1500 gigatons of CO₂ to contain the climate crisis. We believe that by harnessing the power of people and natural systems and innovative technologies, we can create a sustainable future for all.



Introduction

2023 marked a year of significant change and progress for Climate Cleanup Foundation as we continued our mission to reverse climate change through nature-based carbon dioxide removal (Nb-CDR) solutions. A notable development this year was the relocation of our Natural Climate Solutions Lab and offices from the Port of Amsterdam to Tolhuistuin, a vibrant cultural hub in Amsterdam Noord. This move has not only provided us with a new base of operations but has also opened up exciting opportunities for collaboration and community engagement.

At Tolhuistuin, we've established a living exposition of natural climate solutions in our own backyard, creating a tangible showcase of our work and vision. This new location has allowed us to better connect with the public and demonstrate the practical applications of our research and initiatives.

Despite the challenges of relocation, our focus on doubling nature to restore 1500 gigatons of CO2 has remained unwavering. We've made substantial progress in research, partnerships, and systemic interventions, all aimed at fostering a regenerative economy and creating lasting environmental impact.

As we reflect on the achievements and learnings of 2023, we're excited to share the strides we've made in our key areas of focus: research and development, systemic interventions, and expanding our network of partnerships. This report highlights our key achievements, provides a transparent financial overview, and outlines our ambitious plans for the future.



Key Achievements

In 2023, Climate Cleanup Foundation made substantial progress in several key areas:

1. **The Double Nature Summit 2023** was a 4-day participatory event organized by Climate Cleanup Foundation, bringing together various stakeholders to discuss and plan for regeneration and natural carbon restoration at scale. The summit focused on doubling nature through regenerative practices to restore carbon dioxide in land and oceans¹.

Key aspects of the summit included:

- Domain-Specific Conferences (May 22-24): These focused on four areas of nature-based solutions:
 - Land
 - Oceans
 - Rock weathering
 - Bio-based construction
- The Double Nature Day (May 25): This day united all domains, providing an overview of the regenerative economy, workshops, and networking opportunities¹.
- Construction Day: Discussed making the construction sector regenerative through material transitions, focusing on five Carbon Design Principles¹.
- Ocean Day: Explored various nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration in oceans, with a focus on seaweed farming and other marine ecosystems¹.
- Rock Weathering Day: Showcased increased research in olivine weathering for carbon sequestration in marine and terrestrial environments .
- Land Day: Was postponed due to weather conditions affecting farmer participation .
- Double Nature Day: Featured workshops on topics such as blended finance, regenerative leadership, decolonizing regeneration work, and storytelling for regeneration .
- The summit aimed to create concrete actions for doubling nature, collected in the Double Nature Plan. It emphasised entrepreneurial drive and distributed

scaling to work towards a regenerative economy. A visual report is found below.



2. **Enhanced Weathering:** As part of the Double Nature Summit, we successfully hosted the 4th Global Enhanced Weathering Conference, building on the momentum from previous years. This event brought together leading researchers, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss the latest advancements in enhanced weathering techniques for carbon capture. Key outcomes included:

- Identification of promising new mineral sources for enhanced weathering
- Development of improved application methods for agricultural settings
- Establishment of a global network for data sharing and collaborative research



3. **Seaweed Carbon Capture:** Our collaboration with The Seaweed Company has advanced research in ocean-based solutions for carbon sequestration.

Highlights of this partnership include:

- Successful pilot projects demonstrating the carbon capture potential of large-scale seaweed farms
- Development of new seaweed strains optimized for carbon sequestration
- Creation of a comprehensive life cycle assessment model for seaweed-based carbon removal

4. **Regenerative Agroforestry:** Partnerships with local farmers have demonstrated the potential of combining tree planting with crop cultivation for increased carbon storage and biodiversity. Our efforts in this area have resulted in:

- Implementation of pilot projects across 500 hectares of farmland
- Development of a best practices guide for regenerative agroforestry
- Quantification of carbon sequestration potential, showing an average increase of 5 tons of CO₂ per hectare per year

Read more at <https://climatecleanup.org/double-nature-summit-2023/>



Systemic Interventions

Construction Stored Carbon Credits

In collaboration with ASN Bank and Built by Nature, we've further developed our financial metric for carbon storage in the built environment. This initiative has gained significant traction in 2023, allowing financial institutions to account for and invest in carbon storage in construction projects. Key developments include:

- Refinement of the Construction Stored Carbon metric to include a wider range of building materials and construction methods
- Pathway towards integration of the metric into ASN Bank's lending criteria for construction projects
- Pilot implementation with three major construction firms, demonstrating the feasibility and impact of the approach
- **SDG's**
-

ONCRA (Open Nature Carbon Removal Accounting)

Our open carbon accounting tool, ONCRA, has seen increased adoption among entrepreneurs in the nature-based solutions sector. This tool has been crucial in simplifying carbon removal calculations and verifications. In 2023, we achieved:

- A 200% increase in ONCRA Removers, with over 25 entrepreneurs now utilizing the scheme
- Development of sector-specific modules for agriculture, forestry, and marine ecosystems
- **SDG's**

Koolstofopslag.nl - Rapid Carbon Storage Valuation Tool

In 2023, we developed and launched koolstofopslag.nl, a innovative web-based tool designed to quickly assess the value of carbon stored in agricultural systems. This tool represents a significant step forward in our efforts to promote and incentivize



carbon sequestration in agriculture. Key features and achievements of koolstofopslag.nl include:

- **User-Friendly Interface:** The tool provides farmers and land managers with an easy-to-use platform to input their agricultural practices and land characteristics.
- **Rapid Assessment:** Users can quickly obtain an estimate of the carbon storage potential and value of their agricultural practices, encouraging informed decision-making.
- **Integration with Dutch Agricultural Data:** The tool incorporates data specific to Dutch agricultural systems, ensuring relevance and accuracy for local farmers.
- **Economic Valuation:** By assigning a monetary value to carbon storage, the tool helps farmers understand the potential economic benefits of adopting carbon-sequestering practices.
- **Support for Policy Implementation:** Koolstofopslag.nl aligns with the Dutch climate agreement's target for agricultural soils to sequester an additional 0.4-0.6 Mton CO₂ per year by 2030 .
- **Complementary to ONCRA:** While ONCRA provides detailed carbon accounting, koolstofopslag.nl offers a quick, accessible entry point for farmers to engage with carbon storage concepts.
- **SDG's**

The development of koolstofopslag.nl demonstrates our commitment to creating practical, accessible tools that bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and on-the-ground implementation. By making carbon storage valuation readily available, we're empowering farmers to make informed decisions that benefit both their operations and the climate.



Partnerships and Collaborations

In 2023, we significantly expanded our network of partners and collaborations, including:

- **ASN Bank:** We continued our collaboration with ASN Bank to develop and implement the Construction Stored Carbon metric.
- **Dutch Provinces:** We worked closely with several Dutch provinces, including South-Holland and Gelderland, to promote and implement nature-based solutions for carbon capture. This collaboration included: Development of the bio-based comparison web-app, allowing policymakers to assess the carbon impact of various land use decisions Implementation of pilot projects in urban greening and coastal ecosystem restoration Creation of a policy framework for integrating nature-based solutions into provincial climate strategies
- **European Commission:** Through our participation in the development of the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF), we strengthened our ties with the European Commission, contributing to broader climate action strategies across Europe.
- **Bamboologic:** Partnership focused on developing bamboo-based construction materials with high carbon storage potential.
- **The Seaweed Company:** Collaboration on large-scale seaweed farming for carbon sequestration and sustainable biomass production.
- **Scave:** Joint efforts to develop innovative carbon removal accounting solutions for small-scale farmers in and outside Europe.
- **Boer in Natuur:** Partnership aimed at integrating nature-based solutions into traditional farming practices.
- **greenSand:** Collaboration on enhanced weathering projects using olivine for carbon capture.
- **Built by Nature:** Joint development of sustainable construction practices and materials.

These collaborations have been instrumental in scaling our impact and reaching new audiences. Our partnerships span across various sectors, from financial institutions to governmental bodies and innovative startups, all working towards the common goal of reversing climate change through nature-based solutions.

Financial Overview

After the challenging covid years, the Foundation substantially increased its income and our financial health became strong again. Financial highlights for 2023 include:

- 86% increase in overall funding compared to the previous year
- Diversification of funding sources, with a growing proportion coming from public partnerships and grants

The financial statement below has been prepared on an on-cash basis, due to grave illness and unexpected death of our accountant, which hit our small-scale accountancy agency intensely. Waiting for financial numbers for 2023, we publish these preliminary on-cash results.

	2023	2022	2021
INCOME			
Grants	€ 150.000	€32.498	€37.046
Sponsorships	€ 28.189	€0	€3.000
Donations	€ 69.068	€130.339	€190.024
Project income	€ 123.582	€36.408	€77.080
Total income	€ 370.839	€199.245	€307.150
EXPENSES			
Salaries and fees	€ 219.977	€159.209	€124.480
Project costs	€ 71.376	€98.689	€81.791
Office and rent	€ 46.458	€54.994	€28.960
General costs	€ 11.279	€6.902	€26.649
Total expenses	€ 349.090	€319.794	€261.880
RESULT			
Surplus / reserve	€ 21.749	-€120.549	€45.270

Board

The board is comprised of five people, registered at the Dutch Chambre of Commerce. Board meetings are conducted on a quarterly basis. Current board members are: [Sven Jense](#) (secretary), [Ruud Koornstra](#) (chairman), [Ruurd Priester](#) (board member), [Laura Rooseboom](#), treasurer,, [Donald Pols](#) (board member).



Looking Ahead

For 2024, Climate Cleanup Foundation will focus on the following key areas:

1. **Expanding ONCRA:** We will continue to develop and promote our open carbon accounting framework to support more entrepreneurs in the nature-based solutions sector. Plans include:
 - Integration of machine learning algorithms to improve the accuracy of carbon removal estimates
 - Development of a mobile app version of ONCRA for easier field use
 - Expansion of the framework to cover a wider range of ecosystems and intervention types
2. **Scaling Nature-Based Solutions:** We aim to bridge the funding gap for natural climate solutions, which currently receive only 3% of climate-focused funding despite their potential to provide over 30% of the solution to reverse climate change. Our goal is to:
 - Increase awareness among policymakers and investors about the potential of nature-based solutions
 - Develop new financial mechanisms to channel investment into large-scale nature restoration projects
 - Launch a global campaign to highlight the importance of doubling nature for climate mitigation
3. **Connecting the Network with a New Global Conference:** Building on the success of our Double Nature Summit, we are excited to announce plans for a new global conference in 2024. This event will aim to:
 - Bring together our expanding network of partners, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from around the world.
 - Showcase the latest advancements in nature-based carbon removal solutions across all domains: land, oceans, rock weathering, and bio-based construction.
 - Facilitate cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing to accelerate the scaling of effective solutions.



- Develop a global action plan for doubling nature, with concrete commitments from participants.
- Highlight success stories and best practices from different regions to inspire and guide future projects.
- Engage with global climate initiatives and align our efforts with European climate goals and policies.

This conference will serve as a catalyst for our global expansion efforts, helping to establish the Climate Cleanup Foundation as a leading voice in the nature-based solutions movement worldwide. It will also provide a platform for launching new initiatives, partnerships, and funding mechanisms to support our mission of doubling nature and restoring 1500 gigatons of CO₂.



Conclusions

Climate Cleanup Foundation has made significant strides in 2023 towards our goal of doubling nature and restoring 1500 gigatons of CO₂. Through our research, partnerships, and systemic interventions, we are creating the conditions for a regenerative economy. Our achievements this year have laid a strong foundation for future growth and impact. Although the impacts of climate change are being felt across the world, we remain grateful for the opportunity to work on actual solutions.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ONCRA (Open Nature Carbon Removal Accounting). This open removal certification scheme has become a cornerstone of our efforts to standardise and simplify carbon removal accounting in the nature-based solutions sector. We believe that ONCRA's continued development and widespread adoption are crucial for scaling up carbon removal projects globally. By providing a transparent, accessible, and reliable method for carbon accounting, ONCRA empowers entrepreneurs, researchers, and policymakers to make informed decisions and accelerate the implementation of effective climate solutions. Our ongoing investment in ONCRA reflects our dedication to fostering an open, collaborative approach to addressing the climate crisis.

As we look to 2024 and beyond, we remain committed to our mission of reversing climate change through nature-based solutions. We are inspired by the growing global recognition of the importance of our work and are determined to accelerate our efforts in the coming years.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, partners, and the entrepreneurial individuals who make our work possible. Your commitment and dedication are crucial in our collective effort to create a sustainable future for all. Together, we are not just mitigating climate change – we are actively working to reverse it, restoring balance to our planet's ecosystems and ensuring a thriving world for generations to come.