June 28, 2021

Dear Friends,

We have some exciting news. The EcoHealth Network has hired its first Executive Director, Dominique Cagalanan. When our path crossed with Dominique, we knew she'd be a perfect fit. She started on June 1, 2021, relocating to the Boston area, where the three Steering Committee members reside – even James! He moved from France to Massachusetts in April 2021.

Dominique has a PhD in Geography; is the co-founder and Executive Board Vice President of the Filipino nonprofit, Restoration Initiative for Sustainable Ecosystems (RISE); serves as a Senior Associate Scientist for the World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF) Philippines; and more. Feel free to get in touch with her at Dominique@ehnglobal.org.

As many of you know, Adam Cross has been EHN's Science Director for the past year. He has several EHN-related research papers in the hopper, is coordinating the production of others, and has helped shape EHN's first Regional Network, the Four Islands EcoHealth Network (FIEN). Read more about FIEN in the Hobart Declaration or in this recently published paper: Bradby K, Wallace KJ, Cross AT, Flies EJ, Witehira C, Keesing A, Dudley T, Breed MF, Howling G, Weinstein P, Aronson J. 2021. Four Islands EcoHealth Network: An Australasian initiative building synergies between the restoration of ecosystems and human health. Restoration Ecology, p.e13382.

We have been working on several other publications, including a white paper on ecological restoration and carbon. In our 2020 paper, "A World of Possibilities: Six Restoration Strategies to support the United Nation's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration," we proposed six others to follow. Building blocks for these 6 research papers include the 2020 paper “Ecosystem Restoration: A Public Health Intervention”, the 2020 paper “Hands-On Ecological Restoration as a Nature-Based Health Intervention: Reciprocal Restoration for People and Ecosystems”, and the 2019 paper “Time for a paradigm shift toward a restorative culture”. Check out our publications page for more papers.

In the U.S., Dominique is exploring potential sites and hubs in the southeast, and Eve Allen, an EHN intern and MIT graduate student, is doing a survey of restoration activities in the northeast with an emphasis on the greater Boston area and Massachusetts.

Sites and hubs remain the heart of our work. To help bring them together and build synergies, we are working to design and roll out a WorkNet platform that we are calling EHN Connect. Over the next several months, we will be reaching out to you with news on this and inviting your collaboration.

The pandemic affected all of us in myriad ways, and we acknowledge the profound ways it might have impacted you. We stand with you as a friend and ally in your work to advance ecological restoration wherever you are, within a framework that we co-create, with heart, livelihoods, and ecohealth in mind.

The EcoHealth Network Steering Committee

James Aronson, Neva Goodwin, and Laura Orlando