Foreword

We are so overjoyed to be able to present The Iris Project’s first annual report, and huge thanks must go to all of our partners, funders and advisors for helping us get to this point. It is clear that the support currently being directed towards young people - whether financial or otherwise - is no way near commensurate with the role that they are playing in addressing the climate and ecological crisis, which is what The Iris Project is hoping to change.

If Iris had lived, she would have devoted her life in one way or another to nature, with which she had an innate fascination. She had a gentle way with animals and a special reverence for the sea, and since she was a small girl she always insisted that we collect plastic rubbish from any place that we stopped to picnic, swim or camp.

It is just so fitting that our inaugural Iris Prize winner Sam has held a similar lifelong dedication to this issue, running 3,000 miles across America to raise awareness about ocean plastic pollution, before co-founding Sungai Watch with his siblings to protect Indonesia’s waterways from ongoing plastic contamination.

The Iris Prize exists to find and lift up people like Sam, Steve and Maria - our 2022 prize winners who represent a swathe of impressive young activists around the world who are doing wonderful things to protect and restore nature where they live.

We have made an effort in particular in this, our first year, to reach applicants in marginalised - and especially indigenous - communities, who all too often lack access to the kind of funding that we provide.

And more than just providing funding to our prize winners and their work, The Iris Prize aims to support our winners with mentoring and practical guidance as they build up their projects - from advice on structuring future grant applications to training in community-based ecological mangrove restoration!

We have been blown away by the calibre of this year’s applicants and the extraordinary range of inspiring things they are doing. Whilst our judges had a hard time choosing the eventual winners, The Iris Project team will be working to support many of our runners-up as we seek to build a global community of empowered, effective young environmentalists who are rightly rewarded and celebrated for the work they are doing. Iris would have loved it, and we hope you do too.

By Ben Goldsmith, Iris’ Father

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1. Our year at a glance

6TH SEPTEMBER 2021
Contract signed between Ben Goldsmith and Global Greengrants Fund, confirming them as The Iris Project's fiscal sponsor.

DECEMBER 2021
Global Greengrants Fund’s ‘Next Generation Climate Board’ begins recruitment for the Iris Project Youth Panel.

1ST FEBRUARY 2022
Seven outstanding leaders are appointed to the Iris Project Youth Panel.

FEBRUARY 2022
Fundraising targets for Year One achieved.

14TH MARCH 2022
The Iris Project launches by announcing the opening of The Iris Prize, in partnership with Global Greengrants Fund and a global network of over fifty nominating partners.

14TH JUNE 2022
Applications close for the Seed, Stem and Iris Prize.

14TH JULY 2022
An expert judging panel reviews shortlisted applications.

16TH JUNE 2022
The Iris Project Youth Panel begin shortlisting applications against pre-agreed scoring criteria.

14TH SEPTEMBER 2022
Virtual Awards Ceremony. Our winners are announced!

6TH SEPTEMBER 2022
Virtual Awards Ceremony. Our winners are announced!

14TH SEPTEMBER 2022
The first Iris Prize winners receive their grants.

3RD NOVEMBER 2022
Prize winners begin a 6-month EXCELeRator Programme in partnership with CoalitionWILD.

6TH NOVEMBER 2022
Four Iris Project Advisors attend COP 27.

OCTOBER 2022
The mentorship and capacity-building programmes commence.

The Iris Project Annual Report 2022
The Iris Project was set up in March 2022 to honour the life of Iris Goldsmith, who died in a tragic accident on her family farm at the age of fifteen. Iris had a profound and lifelong connection with animals, and a deep and enduring love for the natural world. It is in her memory that The Iris Project was founded, and in her name that we have set up a global annual prize to support and lift up young environmental leaders between the ages of 14 - 24, as they work to protect and restore nature where they live.

We recognise that young people are already leading the way in finding solutions to the climate and ecological crisis - whether through opposing corporate greenwashing, mounting legal challenges against world leaders for their commitments to new oil and gas licensing, or trying to prevent the destruction of the world’s remaining tropical forests. We built The Iris Project to shine a light on that leadership, and to enable these outstanding individuals to take it further by providing access to the funds and support that, all too often, they find too difficult to access.
How we work

The Iris Project is run in partnership with our fiscal sponsor, the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF), who manage the Iris Project as a ‘pooled fund’. Alongside our Advisory Panel, GGF guides us in following a trust-based, participatory approach to grant-making, because they understand that local people and communities are best-placed to design and implement solutions to the problems that they face. As such, GGF helps us provide our grantees with both the tools and funds required to make their ideas a reality, without dictating an agenda from afar.

The Iris Project is also overseen by a Steering Committee, made up of Iris’ parents, the Iris Project Director, and several other environmental experts who meet quarterly to check in on progress, review finances and discuss key aspects of our grantmaking process.

The Iris Project is led by young people, for young people. As such, our full-time Project Manager works with a paid Youth Advisory Panel who sit at the heart of the Iris Project, and feed into every aspect of our work. This panel is made up of seven outstanding environmental leaders from Nigeria, United States/Iran, Ecuador, Liberia, Nepal, Fiji and the Macedonia. As well as identifying candidates for the annual prize and feeding into day-to-day project implementation, our advisors provide peer-to-peer mentorship to our prize winners, sharing their knowledge, connecting them with their networks and supporting our winners to implement the change they want to see.
3. Our impact so far

Our Theory of Change (TOC) outlines the journey we intend to take to translate our activities into impact. Whilst it is slightly too early in our journey to expect to observe tangible changes in the projects we support, we are fully committed to measuring our own impact along the way. We have detailed below some of the early indications that the outcomes proposed in our TOC are beginning to be realised. To understand more about our overarching approach, please see the Theory of Change and monitoring, evaluation, and learning sections of this report.

42 Countries reached

$30,000

Volume of grants disbursed

A global network of 56 nominating partners

Prize Winners

Our prize winners are a key focus in our efforts to empower and enable young people. As the project proceeds, we'll be working with them to get a better sense of how working with The Iris Project is benefiting them, and what more we can do to help. However, even at this early stage we are starting to see some positive benefits.

Maria Kameta

Maria has trained 100 school students in Malawi to construct energy efficient cooking stoves and is empowering local women with the knowledge and skills to make fuel briquettes. So far, 51 stoves have been built and 1,230 fuel briquettes have been made.

Steve Misati

With the help of 62 youth volunteers, Steve has already been able to plant 2,218 mangrove propagules geared towards conserving & restoring a mangrove ecosystem in Mombasa, Kenya.

Marina

"With the Iris Prize funding, we were able to grow our team with 5 new people! By being able to finance 5 team members, we can sort through a lot more waste and continue providing value and working opportunities to young local Indonesians."

Sam Bencheghib

Steve Misati

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Advisory Panel
We regularly check in with our advisory panel to ensure it benefits those on it, as well our prize winners. Some of the early results from our regular surveys can be seen here.

How has being on The Iris Project Advisory Panel benefited you?

Yazid Mikail
"Being on the [youth advisory] panel has given me the opportunity to closely work with advisors and new award winners from different parts of the world."

Ankica Sokolić
"Having The Iris Project on my CV has helped me to be accepted into workshops and share my experience with a wider audience from my region (e.g. UNDP Regional Workshop on Youth Environmental Activism for Europe and Central Asia)."

Training
To date, with partners, we have delivered and evaluated 8 training sessions on Mangrove Restoration, Digital & physical risk, Safeguarding, Planning and Managing Effective Conservation Standards, Media and Social Media. We have established a training evaluation form and tracker, and all of the participants have reported increases in confidence and knowledge as a result of the training they have received.

100% of participants rated trainings positively; reported increased knowledge; and feel confident to use what they have learned.

Training Partners
GREENHOUSE
COALITION WILD
open briefing
Our Theory of Change

The Iris Project exists to **empower and enable young people around the world** who are working to protect and restore nature where they live. Our Theory of Change enables us to monitor our progress against this goal.

### Activities
- Establish a **youth advisory panel** to inform ongoing project development and support and mentor Iris Prize winners
- Provide ongoing **media and commentary opportunities** for young environmental leaders
- Build a **global network of nominating partners** to help identify and support potential Iris Prize winners
- Provide **grant funding** to three young leaders each year via the Seed, Stem and Iris prizes
- Deliver **tailored capacity-building programs** for Iris Prize winners in collaboration with global network partners

### Outcomes
- **Advocate**
  - Raise global awareness about the efficacy of young people in addressing the climate and ecological crisis
  - Share best practice in participatory grantmaking for young people, by young people
- **Empower**
  - Improve access to networking and mentoring opportunities for young environmental leaders
- **Enable**
  - Increase the volume of philanthropic funding that is channeled towards youth-led environmental projects
  - Improve the capacity and confidence of prize winners to deliver tangible environmental gains

### Indicators
- Stories of youth-centred environmental leadership shared by target media outlets
- Profile opportunities created in target communications and networking spaces
- Learnings shared in The Iris Project annual report
- Volume and geographic spread of network partners, diversity of focus areas and number of engagement opportunities created
- Self-reporting from prize winners and Iris Project network
- Ongoing assessment of the global philanthropic landscape
- Individual and project-level performance indicators

### Impact
- Grow a **global community of young environmental leaders** who have the motivation, confidence capacity and resources to deliver tangible environmental gains within their local communities and beyond
4. The 2022 Awards Process

We have taken a three-fold approach to identifying candidates and spreading the word out about the inaugural Iris Prize.

**Our Network**

We have built a global network of over fifty Iris Prize **nominating partners**, which includes environmental, youth, indigenous and education-focused organisations and NGOs such as Save the Children, Youth4Nature, If Not Us Then Who and Nia Tero. These partners help us spread the word about The Iris Prize via their networks, and nominate individuals for the prize where they meet our eligibility criteria.

**Our Advisory Panel**

Our youth advisors engage in physical and digital outreach to support applications to The Iris Prize. They have presented in schools, at universities and on webinars, and have travelled to rural communities in their countries to share information about the opportunity with their peers.

**Our Digital Channels**

We also raise awareness through digital and social media, with support of our youth advisors and judging panel, as well as high-profile climate justice advocates.

In order to ensure that the Iris Prize is as open and inclusive as it can be, we have intentionally kept the application process as simple as possible, by limiting the number of questions applicants are required to answer, and making a commitment to accepting applications in any language.
5. The Iris Prize Inaugural Winners

In our inaugural year we received 170 applications from 42 countries in three different languages. Using a detailed scoring criteria, our youth advisors reviewed all of these applications and presented a shortlist of 19 projects to our expert judging panel.

The panel included: youth climate activists Clover Hogan and Elizabeth Wathuti, environmental and human rights activists Wanjira Mathai, Afroz Shah and Kumi Naidoo, National Geographic’s resident ocean explorer Dr Enric Sala and Iris’ mother, Kate Rothschild. Each of the winning projects excelled against the scoring criteria, demonstrating their potential to protect and restore nature whilst positively impacting their local communities. The final selections took place after conversations with each of the winners, and an extensive due diligence process.

The 2022 winning initiatives are based in Malawi, Kenya and Indonesia, and cover a variety of thematic areas including: clean energy, mangrove restoration and ocean plastic prevention.

With the support of our core funders, we have taken a trust-based participatory approach to grantmaking, which means that we let our winners decide - in partnership with their mentors from our youth panel - how they would like to receive their grant money and what they would like to spend it on. This is because we understand that our winners know their projects, capabilities and communities best, and are therefore better placed than we are to decide where these funds will have the most impact.

As well as grant funding, each winner receives US $10,000 of in-kind capacity-building support. The majority of this funding supports attendance on a core leadership development programme run by CoalitionWILD, with additional funds made available for bespoke capacity-building requests.

“The Iris Project is championing the integral role that youth can play in developing solutions to environmental degradation. We’re delighted to be partnering with them as we believe that youth have a pivotal role to play in combating the climate crisis. Young people are incredibly innovative, creative and willing to challenge the status quo - they have unique perspectives that bring richness and diversity to grassroots leadership within environmental and social justice movements. In supporting The Iris Project to establish their youth panel and channel funds to prize winners, we're thrilled to be a part of this exciting new journey for youth environmental activism.”

Greg Hilditch, Global Greengrants Fund
Awarded for an established project, with the potential to replicate and scale.

**Sam Bencheghib**, now 25-years-old, was awarded The Iris Prize for his project *Sungai Watch*, a youth-led initiative based in Bali, Indonesia that Sam started with his siblings in 2020. Sungai Watch works to protect Indonesia’s waterways by installing barriers that prevent plastic pollution from entering the Ocean. As well as working with the local community to collect, sort and upcycle plastic pollution from rivers and mangroves, Sungai Watch uses river barrier installation as a tool to educate local communities about plastic pollution, and build advocacy off the back of plastic data analysis.

**What the judges said:** The judging panel described Sam’s solution as simple, yet innovative. Their attention was caught by the scalability of the project, the clear and tangible impact that it is having on Balinese waterways and its role in driving community engagement around plastic collection. Combined, these attributes made Sungai Watch stand out as a clear winner of the Iris Prize.

*Grant: USD $15,000*

*"Clean rivers are the backbone of our community – good for our prosperity, our health, and for nature. Our waste barriers, installed in partnership with local communities, can help to reverse the trend of plastic waste while putting the plastic we catch to good use. Our model has global potential, and we can’t wait to see where we can take it with the support of the Iris Prize."*

**Sam Bencheghib**

**Where the funds are going:** Sam and his siblings are using the prize money to pay the salaries of five full-time staff members who work at Sungai Watch’s plastic sorting facilities. Additional capacity-building funds will be put towards the development of an official database which will host information about the trash that Sungai Watch collects (colour, materials, weight and brand), enabling them to identify Bali’s biggest polluters, and hold them accountable for their actions.
Awarded for an existing project, established on a small scale.

22-year-old Steve Misati was awarded The Stem Prize for his Mangrove Restoration Eco-Project in Mombasa, Kenya. Steve is working to recover a deforested coastal area which was formerly covered by mangrove trees and other marine plant species. A key focus of the project is running educational workshops which educate local communities about the importance of Mangrove ecosystems, including their ability to filter pollutants from the water, protect coastal areas from flooding and sequester vast amounts of carbon-dioxide.

What the judges said: The judging panel were particularly impressed by the clear youth leadership roles that Steve has created within his organisation. They also admired his articulation of the problem that his community faces as a result of mangrove degradation, and the methodical solution that he has provided for addressing it.

Grant: USD $10,000

Where the funds are going: Alongside community education workshops, the money will support the planting of over 6,000 mangrove tree seedlings along the Indian Ocean Coast to help improve defences against flooding and rising sea levels. Additional capacity-building funding has already been put towards Steve’s attendance at a 5-day residential ‘Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration’ course run by the Mangrove Action Project (MAP), to maximise the success rate of Steve’s replanting project. Steve has also received media training, and support for the development of a short documentary which he hopes will help spread awareness about the project.

“In my hometown of Mombasa, we are seeing floods and coastal erosion every day. My friends and neighbours are struggling to protect their homes and their livelihoods. The Stem Prize will help to protect my local community. My hope is that we can share our learnings far and wide so that other communities can replicate our project along their coastlines too.”

Steve Misati

The Iris Project Annual Report 2022
Awarded for a new idea, not yet established.

The winner of The Seed Prize is 21-year-old Maria Kameta from Malawi. Her Clean and Efficient Energy for All project aims to counter deforestation and improve community health by developing an energy-efficient cooking stove for households in the Chisinga community. Maria will be developing two types of fuel briquette for use in these new double-burner stoves. One will be made of agricultural waste and the other with waste sawdust, with both being bound by waste paper. As well as improving health through reduced smoke inhalation, these stoves will save women in Maria’s community hours a week in firewood collection.

What the judges said: The judging panel loved how clearly Maria presented the intersectional nature of her solution, and the co-benefits it provides including addressing gender equality, health, deforestation and climate change.

What the judges said:

“Our forests are home to amazing communities and ecosystems, but demand for firewood is accelerating deforestation at an alarming rate. The only way women in my community can feed their families is by walking long distances to collect firewood every day. This prize will enable us to provide alternative, cleaner ways of cooking for our community, saving time, improving health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I can’t wait to get started.”

Maria Kameta

Grant: USD $5,000

Where the funds are going: Maria will be using the prize money to train young people to make briquettes and stoves, and to supply those stoves to 700 local households. So far, Maria has elected to spend her additional capacity building funds on media training and photography. She has also been connected with experts on briquette making who are supporting the development of her training programme.
Alongside grant-funding, we offer mentorship and bespoke capacity-building to each of our prize winners to ensure they are able to make the most out of the funding they have received.

We feel passionate about our role as enablers rather than leaders of change, and do not therefore wish to impose additional work commitments on our prize winners if they do not perceive them to be useful. As such, we let our prize winners determine which aspects of our capacity-building programme they would like to engage with. This year, all three have signed up for everything.

"Last Thursday I attended the CoalitionWILD EXCELerator program, it was so amazing! We started with introductions, and I got to meet other youths with the same goal as mine - restoring nature. It's a wonderful program. By the end of 6 months, I will learn a lot of meaningful and helpful things which will strengthen my journey."

Maria Kameta, Seed Prize Winner.
Peer-to-peer mentorship

Each of our prize winners has been paired with two mentors from our youth panel, who are on-hand to discuss our winner’s projects, shape their bespoke capacity-building requests and respond to any concerns or questions they might have.

In light of the variety of the prize categories - and the different stages of our prize winners’ projects - we let our prize winners determine what support they need from their mentors, and how often they’d like to meet. Some groups meet twice a month, while others meet less regularly and prefer to communicate spontaneously via WhatsApp. We have already seen this approach having an impact, with some bespoke capacity-building support being implemented within three weeks of announcing our winners.

“The peer-to-peer mentorship has given us the opportunity to freely share our experiences and challenges with each other. Our group has built a strong relationship based on trust. This has strengthened our communication which makes it easier for us to know how Steve is doing, where he is having challenges and how we can help to offer support to ensure sustainable implementation of his project.”

Yazid Mikail, Stem Prize winner mentor
CoalitionWILD EXCELerator Programme

The intensive six-month leadership development and capacity-building programme is run by youth-led organisation CoalitionWILD, who developed the course with the objective of equipping emerging environmental leaders with the skills necessary to carry out action projects for the planet.

All three of our prize winners - as well as three shortlisted applicants - have elected to take part in this programme, alongside 40 others, all aged 35 or younger. Our prize winners will access bimonthly interactive webinars led by expert speakers which will focus on: project development and management, fundraising, budget creation, grant writing, monitoring and evaluation and effective communications. Participants will also have the opportunity to apply for additional funding through the programme, and to connect with other changemakers from all over the world.

"A trailblazer in supporting youth to protect and conserve nature, The Iris Project provides opportunities to advance youth-led initiatives through community-building, advocacy, and storytelling. CoalitionWILD could not be prouder to partner with such an organisation that believes in the ability of youth to create lasting change for the planet."

Yen Parico, Director of CoalitionWILD

The Iris Project Annual Report 2022
Open Briefing: Physical & Digital Risk Assessment Training

We recognise that, across the globe, the risks of defending community rights to a clean environment are increasing. Many governments and corporations are tightening their vice over civil society, and those in power continue to use violence to suppress activists who are standing up to protect the planet and their communities.

In response to these growing risks, we have worked with Open Briefing to provide our prize winners with holistic security and physical risk assessment training, as well as conducting risk assessments that are specific to their projects. This training took place with all of our prize winners in October.
7. Insights and learnings

Whilst we will not be able to implement a full monitoring and evaluation programme until next year - on account of having only recently awarded funds to our inaugural grantees - there are several core learnings that have shaped our approach this year, and will inform it going forwards.

1. We need to address the youth-shaped funding gap.

According to research done by the UN Secretary General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change and the team at The Hour is Late, only 0.76% of institutional climate funding is currently being directed towards young people. This reflects discussions that we have had with our youth panel and inaugural grantees, who have identified various barriers to finance including: a lack of trust in young people, inflexibility in funding mechanisms which make it hard for young people to apply and qualify for grants, and time-consuming reporting requirements which are more suited to the needs of funders than grantees. With guidance from Global Greengrants Fund, we have worked to overcome these barriers through a participatory, trust-centred approach to giving, through which we hope to inspire more philanthropic donors to support the work that young people are doing.

2. Supporting young people is not risky, it’s smart.

Whilst we understand that some funders may have hesitations about the risks of transferring funds to young people - especially those who live in vulnerable communities - we believe that this is a risk worth taking. In our experience, young people can be powerful forces for change. They are innovative, highly capable and entirely committed, and they understand more than anyone the devastating impacts of sticking to the path of emissions production and nature destruction that we are currently on.

Whilst we place trust in our grantees to spend their funds in the ways that will maximise benefits to their projects and their communities, we also recognise that we have a responsibility to keep them safe whilst doing so. As well as conducting a robust due diligence process in advance of awarding grants, we have implemented safeguarding procedures to ensure that our grantees are protected throughout this process, and that we are able to respond to any risks that emerge as a result of it. An example of this working in practice can be seen through one prize winner’s decision to receive funds in a series of instalments, to ensure that they are not targeted as a result of having more money than many others in their community.

3. Young people understand their impact better than we do.

Having held extensive consultations with our Advisory Panel, we have decided to keep the requirements on our grantees to a minimum when it comes to monitoring and evaluation. We recognise that it is not up to us to define what ‘good’ looks like in the context of our grantees’ projects, and that any attempt to do so would exacerbate the power imbalances that are all too pervasive in the funder-grantee relationship. We have therefore asked our winners to share videos, photographs and a blog post with us twice a year to keep us updated on how they think their projects are going, and offered them monitoring and evaluation training so that they can develop their own bespoke project impact evaluation frameworks if they wish.

In order to assess our own impact as an organisation, we have developed a series of evaluation forms and questionnaires to feed into our impact framework, including assessing the efficacy of our training sessions, the perception of our partners, and the impact of our funding on our grantees’ project objectives. Through this approach, we hope to hold ourselves accountable for our own impact, without placing undue burdens on those we are supporting. In light of having only just awarded our first grants, the first Iris Project impact report will be provided at the end of our second year.
8. Looking forwards

Whist we are thrilled with the progress that we have made in less than one year of running The Iris Project, there are a series of steps that we are looking to make to improve our impact and reach moving forwards, including:

**Building an Iris Project Ecosystem**

Whilst we are only able to provide a limited number of grants each year, we recognise that we are in a unique position to support young people in other ways, including through networking and information sharing. As such, we have developed an Iris Project Ecosystem, run through a private Slack channel, through which we will collate funding, capacity-building, networking and speaking opportunities for all Iris Prize applicants, rather than just our prize winners. As well as enabling us to expand the support that we are able to offer, it will also give us the opportunity to gather feedback from our community, which can inform The Iris Project moving forwards.

**Awards Process 2.0**

Whilst we were very impressed by the range and quality of applications that we received this year, we recognise that there are steps we can take to broaden the appeal and reach of The Iris Prize. This includes:

- **Targeting partner outreach** in places we didn't receive many applications from - such as Eurasia, Asia Pacific, South & Central America and Australasia. Some of our youth advisors will take on roles as network coordinators in their regions to help us increase submissions from these areas. We will also trial targeted digital promotion of Iris Project materials to support these efforts.
- **Broadening our appeal** by translating our application form into Spanish, Portuguese, French and Arabic, as well as accepting applications in written and voicenote format.
- **Increasing our outreach** by hosting regional online Q&A sessions to respond to applicants' questions during the application process.
- **Increase opportunities** for young people by providing micro-grants to three runner up projects each year.
9. Financials

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all of the foundations and individuals who have supported us through the first year of The Iris Project, not least for endorsing our participatory approach to grantmaking.

The majority (86%) of funding we received this year came from individuals and foundations providing unrestricted, multi-year grants. We are extremely grateful to be supported in this way, as it enables us to make financial decisions in line with the ongoing evolution of The Iris Project, without being constrained by pre-determined requirements from our donors.

We received a one-off restricted grant from The Solidarity Fund as part of The Nature Positive Campaign in October which enabled us to fully fund two of our Youth Advisors to attend COP27, raising awareness about their own organisations as well as The Iris Project.

Fortunately, we have not yet had to spend any money from our 'risk' contingency fund - which enables us to provide emergency funding relief to any grantee or Advisor who might require it. This money (£8,000) will therefore be carried across to Year Two, along with our remaining funds (£98,619) - the majority of which is forecast to be spent on our Year One winners, albeit in the second year of The Iris Project.
Iris Project Year 1 (Jan - November)

Expenditure Forecast Vs Spend (£)

**Operations**
Includes: Staff costs, website servicing and IT and office equipment.

**Direct Youth Support**
Includes: Grant funding and capacity-building, youth panel payments and outreach support, risk management and leadership coaching.

**Indirect Youth Support**
Includes: Iris Prize recruitment (including digital and media support), application translations, awards ceremony and fund handling fee.

**Forecast**
- Operations: £47,539
- Direct Youth: £148,630
- Indirect Youth: £50,411
- Underspend: £104,422

**Actual**
- Operations: £35,622
- Direct Youth: £70,778
- Indirect Youth: £35,759

Total Forecast: £246,580
Total Spend to Date: £142,159

Remaining from forecast £104,422

Our ‘risk’ contingency will be carried over to Y2 to support our advisors and prize winners in case of emergency.

The remaining underspend has already been allocated to Y1 winners to be spent in Y2.

The Iris Project Annual Report 2022
10. Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning

The importance of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) was recognised early in the establishment of The Iris Project. As well as wanting to be as effective as possible, we also hope to make a robust case for funding and supporting youth-led solutions to the climate and ecological crisis.

As such, we are led by sound evidence on what works, for whom, and under what conditions. This is essential in corroborating our original Theory of Change and the assumptions that it sits upon, as well as ensuring we provide the best support possible to our Advisors and Prize Winners. In support of this ambition, we have engaged an experienced MEL consultant to ensure we are collecting data that can provide key insights on our performance, and allow us to make course corrections where necessary.

The work we have done so far includes the development of key performance indicators monitored in a bespoke impact tracker; evaluation tools to gather data on the effectiveness of our training provision; and assessment tools to measure the quality of our engagement with the Advisory Panel.

Moving forwards, further work will be done to develop our impact tracker - particularly in relation to activities yet to commence. For example, new evaluation tools will need to be devised to assess the quality of our online networking space, and to better monitor relationships with our capacity building partners.
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