Dr. Jamie Bechtel, our CEO, was recognized as a member of Fast Company’s League of Extraordinary Women: 60 Influencers Who Are Changing The World. She shares this honor with Hillary Clinton and Melinda Gates, among others.

A Message from our CEO

Over the past year, I have traveled back and forth between coasts to talk about New Course. I talk about New Course to just about anyone who will listen, from business executives to the guy sitting next to me on the airplane. I tell the story of the women in the world who rely on the environment for survival. The story of the women who bravely and proudly face their long, arduous days of securing water, feeding their families, and eking out a living using resources derived from our natural world. These are the women who have the most to gain and New Course works hard to ensure that their voices are heard, that their ideas are incorporated into conservation efforts, and that the resources they and their families depend on for survival are secured. I tell their story over and over, because it is a story worth being told.

Today, on a flight from Seattle to Atlanta, I told Kevin this story and how so many different people have been working tirelessly through the year to make New Course a success. At the end of my yarn, Kevin said, “Well, it sounds like your organization is Between Trapezes.” And then he shared a poem describing the process of clinging tightly to one bar and then letting go to take the leap to the next. It details that moment you reach out expectantly to grab the next bar and hope that your grasp is secure and strong. It is a moment of uncertainty and of hope, of strength and conviction.

That moment was what everyone at New Course experienced in 2012. We let go of our start-up phase and we moved to full scale operations. We worked harder, we worked faster, we worked better and we were rewarded for our efforts. We had impact in the field, our advocacy efforts began to attract new organizations interested in learning about the links between women and the environment, and we began working with global thought leaders, most notably, the Clinton Global Initiative, to help shape large scale investments and influence international conversations.

As I reflect on the past year I remember shaking hands with Bill Clinton and hearing him say, “Thank you for your efforts,” and thinking it was very cool. Having New Course recognized for its efforts in Fast Company was unquestionably exciting. But what really keeps us going are words of encouragement that we receive from women in the countries where we work, words such as these: “I see what you see. Women have to be involved and conservation has to be aimed at helping them meet their felt needs. I am writing this just as a fellow woman who shares in your mission and passion and to encourage you.”

2012 was indeed a year spent "between trapezes". However we are confident in our approach, our business model is excellent and our ever growing network of supporters and partners continues to help us engage women and drive change. Change that we know will ultimately benefit the millions of women living in ecologically vulnerable areas. Thank you for sharing this journey with us. We will continue to work hard, fast and effectively. We owe it to you. We owe it to women whose lives depend on our success.

Dr. Jamie Bechtel
Selected Highlights
2012

Advocacy

New Course became an advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative providing a powerful platform to further highlight our mission, an opportunity to influence change on a global scale, and a network of donors and partners whose work on the ground will engage women because of the information and data New Course provides.

New Course continued its role as an advisor to the Alliance for Global Conservation. This relationship provides the ability to influence legislation and policy through an alliance with one of the largest conservation organizations in the world. The Alliance advisory board includes leaders in the field of conservation such as E.O. Wilson and Jane Goodall among others.

New Course is serving as an environmental partner to organizations such as The Meridian Institute and The Foundation for Women in the development of a project in Liberia designed to address key health, economic, environmental, and social challenges for women and for the country as a whole. This is providing New Course with the ability to use its research and knowledge to influence policy at the highest levels on strategies for engaging women in environmental conservation.

From the Field

New Course was awarded a grant by the Arcus Foundation and will partner with the African Wildlife Foundation and local nonprofits in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We will help them improve efforts to conserve Bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees) and meet the development needs of communities by better integrating gender into project planning and implementation. This project provides a powerful opportunity to show how engaging women improves outcomes and will influence future programming of one of the largest conservation organizations in Africa.

New Course provided a small grant to the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group to support sustainable agriculture efforts in pilot villages in the East Usambara region of northeastern Tanzania. This project is providing opportunities for households to increase income and food security, while improving land and water use practices. It also serves as a good entry point for New Course to potentially scale up efforts across an important biodiversity landscape.
Statement of Activities
(for the year ended June 30, 2012)

Income
Grants and contributions
  Individuals and Board $148,981
  Corporations & Foundations $69,893
Interest income $16
Other income $30

Total Income $218,920

Expenses
Awards and grants $10,000
Management and Operations $156,143
Development $3,687
Other expenses $207

Total Expense $170,037

Net Income $48,884

FY12 Income
- Corporations & Foundations 32%
- Individuals and Board 68%
- Interest income 0%
- Other assets 0%

FY12 Expense
- Management and Operations 92%
- Development 2%
- Other expenses 0%
- Awards & grants 6%
Supporters and Partners  (for the year ended June 30, 2012)

John Alden
Cezanne Allen
Deborah Allen
Beth Allgood
Laurie Bauman
Bruce Beard
Alex Beehler
Zane Behnke
Teri Bellamy
Lisa Benaron
Brenda Berry
Teresa Bigelow
Alex Beehler
Zane Behnke
Teri Bellamy
Lisa Benaron
Brenda Berry
Jane Bowman
Diane Brintzenhofe
John Buchanan
Maureen Buckley
Carolyn Burger
Tina Cachules
Jennifer Campbell
Samuel Campbell
Dave Carley
Leslie Carothers
Kate Carruthers
Justina Chen
Icheng Chi
Patty Christensen
Lindsay Clothier
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Niels Crone
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Cathy Golden
Rick Golden
Constance Golon
Gary Grabow
Jon Green
Howard Green
Karen Hall
Molly Hasson
Tom Hudson
Victoria Irwin
Susan James
Peter Jamieson
Kate Janeway
Cathy Johnson
Susan Jones
Jodi Kelly
Thomas Kelly
John Keppeler
Sue Kerrigan
Paridee Kositchiranan
Jonathan Kroman
Denise Laevastu
Sara Lake
Chappel Langemack
Judi Leader
Joshua Leggett
Jessica Lind-Diamond 
Ellie Linen
Low
Sallie Lumley
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David Middleton
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Juliana Perez
Elizabeth Phinney
Karla Piecuch
Judy Pigott
William Pope
Marja Preston
Robert Quon
Ann Reinhart
Ann Reis
Nancy Ritter
Julie Rogers
Christine Rolfes
Cameron Ross
Cary Roth
Eric Rozendhal
Deborah Rudnick
Alex Sanso
Ciaran Scallan
Paula Schmidlin
Leslie Schneider
Winsome Schwalbach
Sue Schwalbach
Jennifer Sheldon
Pauline Simon
DeeAnn Sisley
Dinah Slattery
Sean Slattery
Lynn Smith
Jean Sonnenfeld
Ellin Spenser
Naomi Spinak
Sarah Spenser
Jay and Karrie Stemmler
Math Studer
Barbara Supplee
Robin Supplee
Shelley Supplee
John Swift
Lee Tan
Brian Taylor
Betty Terpsstra
Jorgen Thomsen and Amie Brautigam
Angela Tinker
Pablo Trejo
Kerry Tye
Cecilia and Leif Utne
Paul Van DerStaay
Mario Velez
Michael Vila
Eduardo Villalon
Mark Vogel
Randall Villalobos and Debra Benator
Kate Walton
Krista Webb
Julia vom Wege
David Whittlock
Louisa Woodville
Stephanie Yonker
Courtney Young
Curtis Young
Melinda Young
Peggie Dickens Zuckerman
Corporate Donors (for the year ended June 30, 2012)

Asani LLC**
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Google Inc**
Heavy Restaurant Group**
Karass Creative**
Local Harvest
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*
Microsoft Corporation*
Productive Edge**
SalesForce.com Foundation**
Stowell Co LLC**
SuBI

Foundations (for the year ended June 30, 2012)

Ann B. and Thomas L. Friedman Family Foundation
Arcus Foundation
Clovis Foundation
Elevate Destinations
Green Cohan Foundation
Green Options Fund
The O’Keefe Family Foundation
The Washington Women’s Foundation

*Matching Donation
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Professional Photographer

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Chief Programme Officer
New Course

Lincoln Spoor
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Morrison & Foerster, LLP

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Managing Partner
Productive Edge

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Kate Janeway
Vicky Marsing
Rachel Payne
Winsome Schwalbach