



FY25 Annual Report

**Reflecting on a Transformative
Year – Looking Back, Moving
Forward**



86%
of all durable
carbon dioxide
removal deliveries
came from biochar
in 2024

- cdr.fyi

Why Biochar?

Biochar not only removes carbon from entering the atmosphere; it also provides valuable economic, environmental, and social benefits for agriculture, the built environment, and other sectors.

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Update from the Team and Board of Directors

June 30, 2025 marks the close of a remarkable year for the International Biochar Initiative (IBI)—a time of transition, reflection, and renewed purpose. Now is a moment to take stock of where we've been, acknowledge the progress we've made, and chart the course ahead with clarity and conviction.

During this past year, IBI has grown, both in terms of reach and relevance. We've deepened our engagement with communities, strengthened our leadership role in the carbon removal ecosystem, and expanded our educational and strategic impact around the world. The results are tangible: new alliances, greater visibility, and a more resilient, better-equipped organization ready to take on new challenges.

At the same time, we've navigated an increasingly complex global landscape. Recent developments in the United States have introduced uncertainty for many working in climate and carbon removal, prompting IBI to take proactive steps to safeguard our work and ensure continuity. These measures reflect our long-term commitment to responsible stewardship and will continue to shape our planning and reporting in the year ahead.

Progress

Momentum is building. Biochar is gaining recognition as a key climate solution—and this year, the global biochar community received well-earned validation. NetZero, an IBI member with operations in Cameroon and Brazil, was named First Runner-Up in the prestigious XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition. The company's roots trace back to Guy Reinaud, who served on the IBI board long before NetZero was founded, helping to lay the groundwork for a generational legacy in the biochar sector. Three other biochar ventures also made it into the Top 20. These aren't just accolades—they're powerful signals of confidence from the broader climate innovation ecosystem.

Biochar is also making its mark in cultural and design spaces, including a standout exhibit at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition (Venice Architecture Biennale) in 2025. The installation highlighted the expanding relevance of biochar beyond agriculture and climate action. Led by IBI Board Vice Chair and Associate Professor Harn Wei Kua—an early pioneer in biochar-based construction materials at the National University of Singapore—the exhibit was a product of a high-impact collaboration with Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Konstantin Novoselov. It was brought to life by a skilled team under the direction of Abhimanyu Goel, Senior Research Associate in Sustainable Design and Materials at NUS. Together, they explore how biochar-infused mortar, 3D printing, and nature-inspired geometries can place biochar at the heart of sustainable architecture.

On the ground, we've seen a surge of national and regional momentum. The creation of the International Biochar Asia Pacific Association (IBAP) and the revitalization of the Africa Biochar Partnership (ABP) are strong signals that the movement is scaling, diversifying, and taking root in new regions with emerging leadership. Notably, both initiatives are being led by alumni of the IBI Biochar Academy—underscoring the lasting impact of targeted capacity-building. IBI has actively

supported these efforts by sharing resources, fostering connections, and helping amplify their reach on the global stage.

A Vision for Action

This year, IBI adopted its 2024-2030 Strategic Plan and reaffirmed its mission: *To empower communities and inspire industries to integrate biochar-based solutions toward healthier ecosystems and economies worldwide.*

In parallel, we've taken concrete steps to strengthen our governance and organizational capacity. We introduced new policies, began a Board selection process to better reflect private sector perspectives, and welcomed two new Board members (Sebastian Manhart and Mike Werner). We also completed a leadership transition, appointing a new Executive Director. These are significant milestones in our stewardship of the organization and in our commitment to deliver on IBI's mission with renewed energy and accountability.

Education remained at the heart of our mission. From the Biochar Academy and international study tours to webinars, online courses, and tailored training programs, our educational offerings expanded.

IBI's footprint also widened: new collaborations were established in Italy, Japan, Colombia, and Kenya, adding to ongoing efforts in the U.S., Thailand, Switzerland, and Pakistan. More is on the horizon, with new engagements underway in India, Washington State, Wales, and South Korea.

Standards and Sectors

This year marked the beginning of a revision of the IBI Biochar Standards—the first was globally published in 2014 and is still a cornerstone for soil-related applications. At the same time, we've been shaping new value propositions for membership and exploring strategic partnerships in sectors like sustainable palm oil and coffee, where biochar can deliver significant environmental and social returns. These next steps will be guided by real-world engagement: case studies, pilot projects, and industry roadmaps to demonstrate how biochar and biochar carbon removal can accelerate net-zero transitions while delivering ESG-aligned benefits.

IBI turns 20

Looking ahead, we're preparing to celebrate a major milestone: IBI's 20th anniversary in 2026. But this is more than a celebration. It's an opportunity to renew our commitment, refine our identity, and envision the next 20 years of biochar innovation, systems change, and global sustainability.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We're just getting started.

IBI Team and Board of Directors

What We Do

Founded in 2006, the International Biochar Initiative (IBI) provides a platform for fostering stakeholder collaboration, good industry practices, and environmental and ethical standards to support biochar systems that are safe and economically viable.

As the global network for a rapidly-scaling biochar industry, IBI supports its 600+ members across 56 countries through networking, education, and demonstration initiatives.



Education

IBI events and programming supports the generation, review, and dissemination of information on all aspects of biochar.



Advance International Collaboration

IBI aims to advance international collaboration of science, industry, agriculture, government and non-governmental organizations to discover and demonstrate biochar use, and develop policy incentives, quality standards, and market diversity.



Increase Biochar Usage in Key Industries

IBI works to create demand for biochar use in agriculture, the built environment, soil and water remediation, renewable power generation, and other priority industries as an essential route to scaling the global biochar industry.



[The Biochar Academy] expanded my thinking about what biochar can be used for. Before the program I only thought of using biochar for agricultural and soil health purposes, but now I am exploring non-agricultural uses for it."

– IBI program participant

Programs and Workstreams

In FY2025, IBI's education and training efforts were guided by our 2024–2030 Strategic Plan, with a focus on expanding global access to knowledge, strengthening regional capacity, and building a collaborative ecosystem of practitioners.

EDUCATION



Our programs reflected this mission by offering inclusive learning opportunities—both online and in person—and creating spaces for shared learning, local innovation, and long-term engagement across the biochar community.

As part of our mission to catalyze the sustainable scaling of biochar globally through education and collaboration, IBI organized and hosted three in-person events, co-hosted the Global Biochar Exchange event in Japan, launched two online courses, and delivered nine free webinars.

These programs addressed a wide range of biochar-related topics and were tailored to diverse audiences – from producers and researchers to project developers and policy-makers – because we believe

that advancing the biochar sector requires engagement on all fronts. Topics included small-to large-scale biochar production, market development, carbon credits, certifications, project implementation, and cutting-edge research, all with an emphasis on collaboration and the power of networking.

In alignment with IBI's Strategic Plan, our education programs have also evolved to foster deeper connections with regional partners, expand our digital learning infrastructure, and build capacity among practitioners in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Participant feedback from our programs consistently highlights the value of IBI's educational offerings.

In-Person Training Highlight

Biochar Academy 2025: Thailand

IBI's Biochar Academy is an immersive in-person, multi-day, hands-on workforce development course designed to equip emerging and seasoned biochar professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to champion biochar's myriad benefits in their communities and beyond.

The second Biochar Academy in Thailand took place in February 2025, welcoming 32 participants from 14 countries across Asia, Europe, and North America. Hosted at the ECHO Asia Impact Center, the program offered six days of immersive, place-based learning designed to deepen participants' understanding of biochar production, application, and its broader environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The curriculum included expert-led lectures on biochar systems and sustainability frameworks, interactive sessions on carbon markets and certification pathways, and live demonstrations featuring various low-tech and

semi-industrial kilns. Participants engaged in hands-on learning, peer-to-peer exchange, and real-world application through site visits to local farms experimenting with biochar-enhanced agriculture and agroecological methods.

The Academy emphasized empathy, collaboration, and mutual learning as key pillars of leadership development.

This year's Academy also marked a significant milestone in IBI's capacity-building efforts: past participants returned not only as supporters but also as contributors, helping expand the Academy's reach and impact across the region.

"Peer-to-peer learning, shared experiences, and true companionship—this is the heart of the Biochar Academy! At its core, the Academy embodies a simple yet powerful principle: treat others as you would like to be treated. This approach fosters not just knowledge exchange but deep connections built on empathy and mutual support. This marks the 3rd Biochar Academy, and I am truly honored to be part of it once again. In the first year, I joined as a student, eager to learn. Over the past two years, we have stepped up as a sponsor and supporter, doing our best to give back and empower others in the biochar community."

— Returning Academy participant



EDUCATION

Online Training Highlight

Biochar 101: What is Biochar? Free Micro Course

We're committed to building an inclusive, informed community by making quality educational resources accessible to everyone on their biochar journey.

That's why we created Biochar 101: What is Biochar? – a free, self-paced micro-course designed to provide a strong foundation in biochar science and the broader biochar industry. Designed to be accessible and beginner-friendly, Biochar 101 introduces foundational concepts: what biochar is, how it's produced, its environmental, social and economic co-benefits, and its role in carbon removal and soil health. The course serves as both an induction resource for IBI's deeper programs (such as the Biochar Academy and Virtual Lecture Series) and a standalone primer for farmers, students, technicians, and early-stage entrepreneurs.

756 students registered in the first year of the course, who represent a wide range of backgrounds, with a notable share from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Their motivations are diverse: some are preparing for in-depth technical training, while others are seeking to understand how biochar could benefit their communities or agricultural practices.

As IBI expands its global education footprint, Biochar 101 remains a cornerstone of our inclusive learning strategy, lowering barriers to entry and sparking new interest in biochar across sectors and regions.



909
new virtual
learning
students in
FY25

**"Very insightful.
Looking forward to
learning more about
biochar production
and application for
improved productivity
and carbon sink."**

– Course participant

**"I enjoyed this session
of information on
biochar. And as the C-
sink manager of our
biochar project in
Ghana, this has helped
and given me more
knowledge on biochar."**

– Course participant

EDUCATION

Virtual Graduate Lecture Series

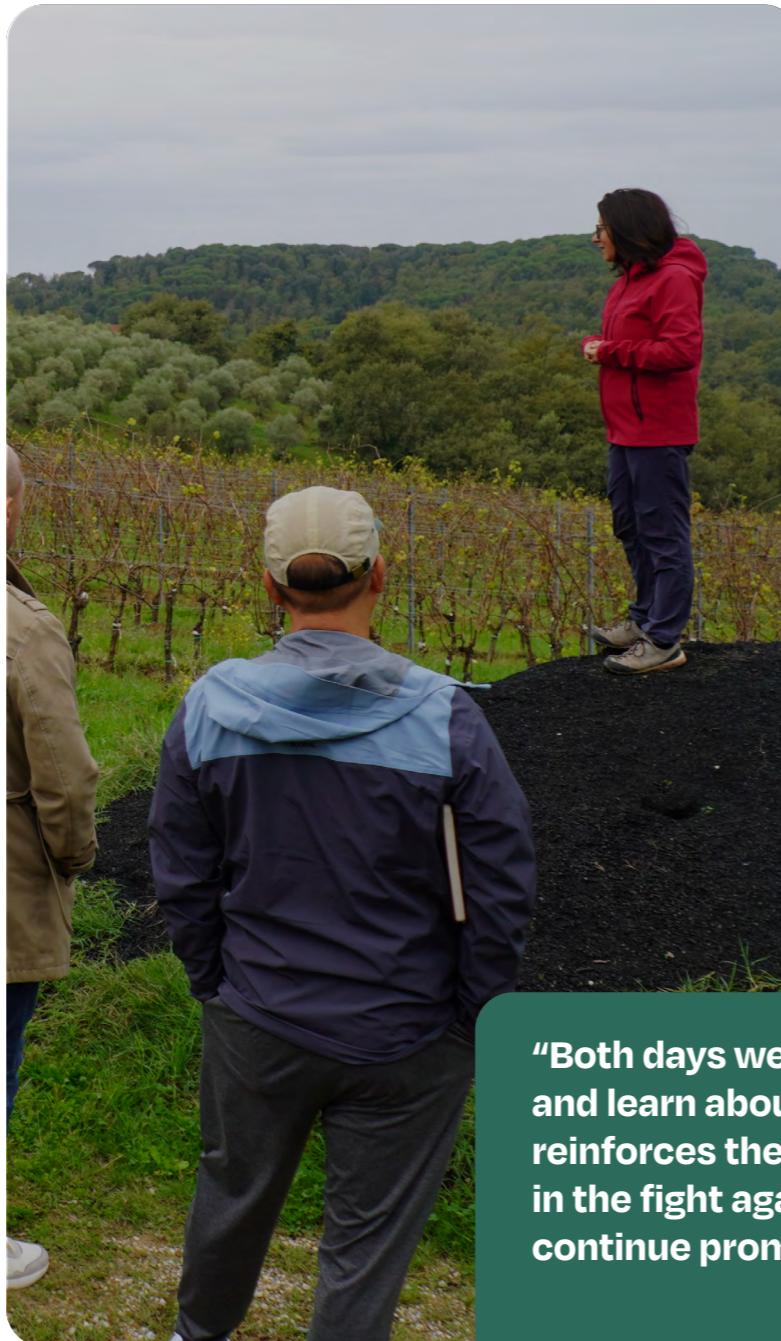
In FY2025, IBI launched its first Virtual Graduate Lecture Series in partnership with Washington State University, a bi-weekly online program designed to deepen the academic understanding of biochar among graduate students and researchers.

Spanning from February to September 2025, the 15-part series brings together some of the world's leading experts in biochar science, from universities, research institutes, and national labs, to deliver a comprehensive curriculum rooted in cutting-edge research and practical application.

Topics range from biomass chemistry and thermochemical processes to reactor technologies, advanced characterization methods, and biochar interactions with soils, microbes, and composite materials. Sessions also explore modeling, catalysis, and real-world engineering applications, offering a holistic and rigorous foundation for academic and applied biochar research.

With 124 participants registered, primarily graduate students and early-career researchers, the series reflects IBI's commitment to bringing biochar into the classroom, supporting the development of the next generation of scientists, innovators, and practitioners.

As interest in biochar continues to grow within academia, this initiative plays a key role in connecting emerging researchers with global experts, building a shared language and understanding that can bridge science and practice.



15
countries
represented



Biochar Study Tour 2024: Italy

In October 2024, IBI hosted its second European Biochar Study Tour in the heart of the Chianti region in Tuscany in partnership with ICHAR (Associazione Italiana Biochar). The tour gathered 30 participants from 15 countries across four continents, offering a unique opportunity to explore biochar's role in sustainable agriculture and viticulture within one of the world's most iconic wine-producing landscapes.

Over two days, the Study Tour featured site visits to leading institutions and farms actively applying biochar in the field. Participants visited the RE-CORD research center to learn about innovative R&D in

renewable energy and bio-based technologies, and the Yanmar Consortium to witness containerized pyrolysis systems converting farm waste into clean energy and agricultural by-products.

In the vineyards of Felsina and Badia a Coltibuono, participants observed how biochar is being used to enhance soil health, increase grape yield, and support precision agriculture. These visits were complemented by practical demonstrations, soil spectroscopy workshops, and expert-led discussions on carbon sequestration, soil fertility, and climate adaptation.

"Both days were an excellent opportunity to network with international biochar experts and learn about the global challenges facing the industry. In addition, this experience reinforces the great potential of biochar for atmospheric carbon removal and its key role in the fight against climate change. We return with new learnings and a lot of motivation to continue promoting the development of the biochar industry in Chile."

– Study Tour participant

EVENTS

Partnership Highlight

Global Biochar Exchange co-hosted with TOWING Ltd. Co.

In April 2025, IBI co-hosted the Global Biochar Exchange in Nagoya, Japan, a landmark international gathering that brought together over 200 participants from 13 countries.

The two-day event featured 33 sessions and 40 speakers, covering cutting-edge research, policy developments, market trends, and practical applications of biochar in Asia and beyond.

The Exchange was designed as a forum for learning and collaboration, with sessions tailored to scientists, producers, policymakers, and educators. It also included optional site visits and demonstrations of Japanese kilns and pyrolysis technologies, offering hands-on experience and strengthening regional knowledge exchange.

The success of the event underscored growing momentum for biochar in Asia and affirmed IBI's role in convening cross-sector stakeholders to accelerate climate solutions and sustainable land use.

"Thank you IBI for hosting such a great event! All speakers were very informative and engaging. I am so honored to have had a chance to contribute to the discussion."

– Chisa Osigura, event attendee

Masterclass: Biochar for Climate Action

On March 7, 2025, IBI co-hosted a hybrid Masterclass titled "Biochar for Climate Action", featuring two of the most influential experts in the field: Dr. Johannes Lehmann (Cornell University) and Dr. Stephen Joseph (University of New South Wales).

Held in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the country's most prestigious public-academic institution, the event offered both in-person and virtual participation. The in-person session took place at UNAM's main campus in Mexico City and was attended by 70 students, researchers, and professionals from across Latin America.

The half-day session brought together over 370 participants globally, with more than 300 who joined virtually from across the globe, exploring topics such as soil-carbon interactions, biochar's role in regenerative agriculture, and its relevance in global carbon cycles.

This high-level event marked the launch of IBI's 2025 educational programming and bridged the gap between scientific research and real-world impact, empowering a new generation of biochar practitioners.



370
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
IN-PERSON AND
ONLINE

9
total webinars
hosted across
FY25

Board and Staff Retreat, Colombia 2025

In May 2025, IBI held a two-day Board and Staff Retreat at La Palma y El Tucán, an agroecological farm and biochar site outside Bogotá, Colombia.

This in-person gathering brought together leadership, staff, and partners to align on strategic priorities and the path to 2030.

Over the course of the retreat, participants reviewed the 2024-2030 Strategic Plan, discussed budget alignment, and finalized a new fundraising strategy. Key sessions focused on enhancing member engagement, expanding global visibility, and clarifying IBI's role in standards, communications, and governance.

Notable outcomes included:

- Membership Model Redesign: Simplified tiers, updated fees.
- Communications & Fundraising: Formation of new task-based committees and approval of a roadmap positioning IBI as a "global newsroom" for

biochar.

- Governance Strengthening: Updated board skills matrix, proposed term limits for officers, and clearer committee structures.
- 2030 Goals reaffirmed, including educating 20,000 learners, co-hosting global conferences, and supporting smallholder biochar adoption.

The retreat also included field visits to a local biochar facility and biodiverse coffee producers, reinforcing IBI's commitment to sustainable, inclusive practices on the ground.

This event strengthened the foundation for IBI's continued leadership in the biochar ecosystem and marked a renewed phase of collaboration, accountability, and ambition toward global climate goals.



Looking ahead, IBI is excited to continue this momentum with a rich lineup of educational programs and convenings. Upcoming events include the Biochar Academies in India, Latin America, and Thailand, each building local capacity through hands-on, context-specific learning.

IBI will also co-host the Latin American Biochar Conference in Colombia, a major regional gathering for science, policy, and practice. Two new Study Tours, in Washington State and Wales, UK, will offer immersive learning experiences centered on pyrolysis technologies, carbon markets, and field applications.

In addition, IBI will contribute to global dialogue on soil and environmental remediation at ICHMET & ICOBTE 2025 and continue advancing the visibility of biochar as a climate solution at COP30 in Brazil. These programs reflect IBI's ongoing commitment to collaboration, innovation, and the scaling of biochar education worldwide.

Impact Snapshot

\$146,000

AWARDED IN ONLINE BIOCHAR
EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

143

SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

across virtual courses and
in-person events

4,372

PARTICIPANTS

trained through IBI events,
education programs, and
online courses

756

PEOPLE TRAINED

through new online course
“Biochar 101: What is
Biochar?”

56

countries
represented in IBI
membership

265,269

impressions
across social
media

25K+

newsletter
subscribers

Development and Strategic Partnerships

In FY25, IBI significantly expanded its engagement in collaborative fundraising, co-developing grant proposals with organizations such as Iowa State University, Yale University, USDA-ARS, and the University of Washington, BAIF, Big Valley, and others.

These efforts included proposals to programs under the USDA, The Conservation, Food & Health Foundation, and the Bezos Earth Fund, focused on biochar research, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture.

These efforts were instrumental in strengthening IBI’s relationships with leading research institutions and climate actors, and in aligning IBI’s priorities with major funding landscapes. Notably, IBI was selected as a winner of the Bezos Earth Fund Greenhouse Gas Removal Ideation Prize – Phase II.

Biochar Atlas: Supporting Data Collection

In FY2025, IBI was honored to receive the Bezos Earth Fund Greenhouse Gas Removal Ideation Prize (Phase II)—an award to advance the development of the International Biochar Atlas. This tool is designed to become a global resource connecting farmers, extension agents, researchers, and other stakeholders with biochar products tailored to their specific soil health needs.

Developed in collaboration with USDA-ARS, American Farmland Trust, and the US Biochar Initiative, the Atlas builds on Phase I groundwork and integrates international soil maps (e.g., EnvirometriX) and characterization data from the US and European Charchive. Users will be able to input soil data and receive recommendations for compatible biochar types, making biochar application more accessible and effective across diverse geographies.

The project is a key step in scaling climate-smart agricultural practices, expanding biochar market access globally, and supporting biomass utilization in low- and middle-income countries. IBI has contributed significantly by coordinating producer engagement in Latin America—specifically in Mexico and Colombia—ensuring the inclusion of diverse regional data and practices.

The Biochar Atlas represents a foundational step toward harmonized data collection, enabling science-based policymaking, transparent carbon markets, and greater confidence in biochar as a robust climate solution.



PARTNERSHIPS

In FY2025, IBI continued advancing key initiatives that support the long-term growth and credibility of the biochar sector. Our development efforts focused on building strategic alliances, streamlining standards, and contributing to tools that enhance transparency and scientific integrity.

Harmonizing Standards: IBI + CSI

In May 2024, IBI and Carbon Standards International (CSI) officially merged their respective biochar standards, creating a unified framework that strengthens scientific rigor and builds market confidence. IBI's role in this process included co-leading the technical review process, with Dr. Johannes Lehmann chairing the joint standards committee. This collaboration helps producers navigate certification pathways more easily, while ensuring the integrity and permanence of carbon removal claims.

Strengthening the Biochar Community: The Biochar Alliance & CDR30

IBI participated in the early development of the Biochar Alliance, a multi-stakeholder initiative focused on collaboration, knowledge sharing, and alignment across the biochar space. IBI led and facilitated internal coordination and subgroup activities focused on structure, communications, and permanence. In parallel, IBI joined the CDR30 Initiative, a coalition preparing for COP30 in Brazil to elevate carbon removal solutions. Through CDR30, IBI contributed to planning a dedicated CDR pavilion, event design, and fundraising efforts, while helping ensure biochar is part of the broader climate conversation.

Building Regional and Thematic Partnerships

IBI also continued to develop and nurture partnerships that support our mission and expand our reach:

- Partnered with Biochar Today on a featured interview series spotlighting global experts.
- Collaborated with CRIA (Carbon Removal India Alliance) to support national-level initiatives for biochar awareness and market development.
- Deepened collaboration with CBEN through joint programming, particularly the Biochar Academy in Kenya.
- Strengthened ties with the African Biochar Partnership (ABP) by supporting the establishment of a strategic planning committee and co-developing a roadmap to grow the biochar ecosystem across Africa.
- Supported the creation of the International Biochar Asia Pacific (IBAP) by co-developing a concept note outlining the steps to formally establish the organization. IBI also formalized a partnership with IBAP to co-host the 2026 Biochar Academy in Bangkok, including field visits to demonstrate the full biochar value chain, from production to application, on the ground in Thailand.

These efforts reflect IBI's broader development strategy: to drive systems-level impact by building trusted partnerships, supporting credible standards, and creating the enabling conditions for the global biochar industry to thrive.



Ongoing Fundraising Efforts

In late FY25 (May–June), IBI submitted several high-profile funding applications to support the organization's global mission and communications work. These include:

Zayed Sustainability Prize – Climate Action Category

A prestigious international award recognizing impactful solutions addressing climate change through innovation and scalable action.

Climate Communication Fund

A proposal focused on strengthening IBI's capacity to communicate the climate benefits of biochar to global stakeholders.

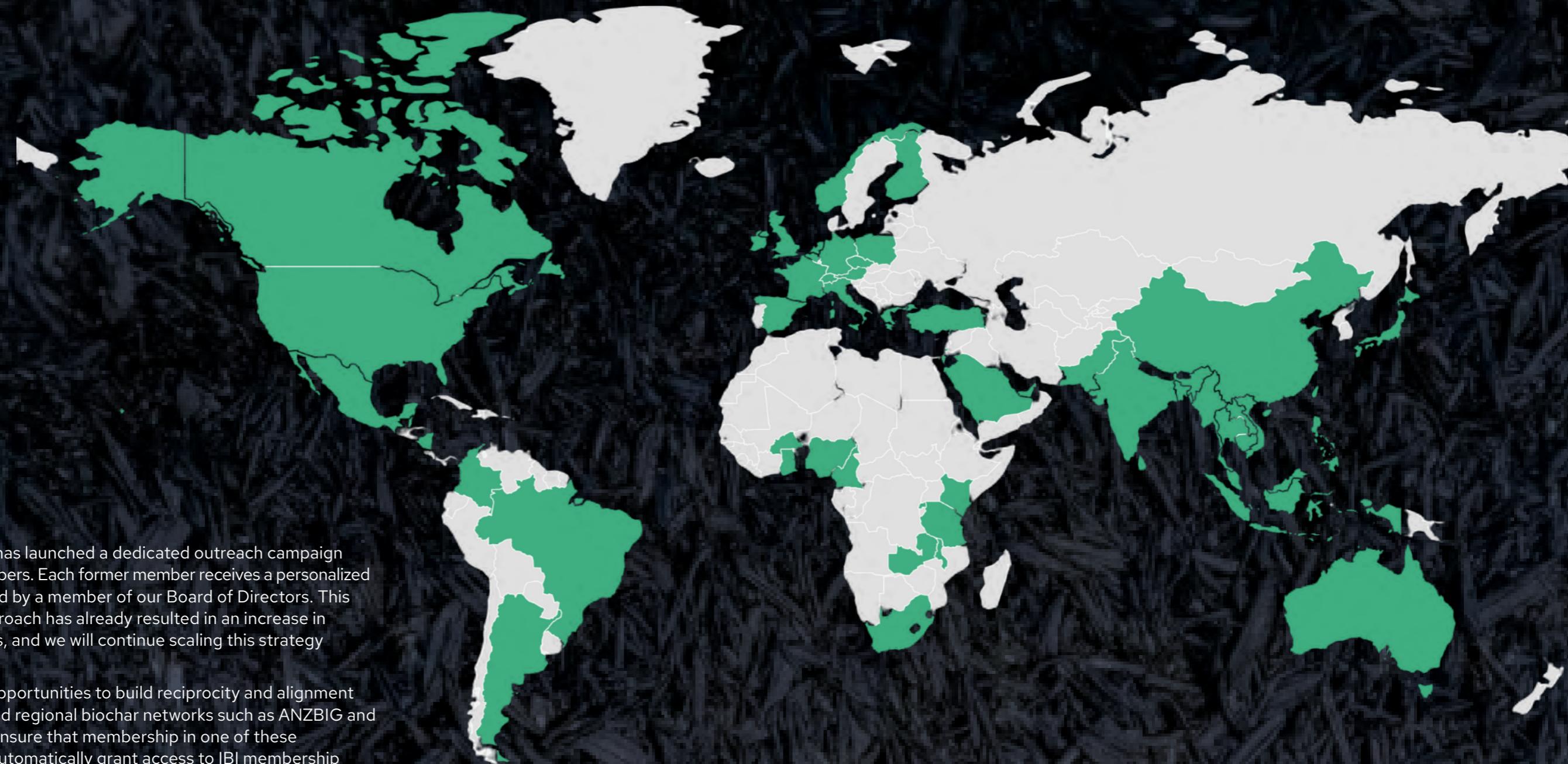
Food Planet Prize

A major global prize supporting initiatives that tackle the interconnected challenges of food systems and environmental sustainability.

While these proposals are currently under review, they reflect IBI's ongoing commitment to elevating biochar's visibility and impact at the global level.

IBI Membership Network

600 MEMBERS



Since April 2025, IBI has launched a dedicated outreach campaign targeting lapsed members. Each former member receives a personalized invitation letter signed by a member of our Board of Directors. This human-centered approach has already resulted in an increase in membership renewals, and we will continue scaling this strategy throughout the year.

IBI is also exploring opportunities to build reciprocity and alignment with other national and regional biochar networks such as ANZBIG and USBI. The goal is to ensure that membership in one of these organizations could automatically grant access to IBI membership benefits, and vice versa—creating a more integrated and supportive global biochar community.

These efforts reflect IBI's broader commitment to increasing member value, expanding global reach, and cultivating a stronger, more engaged community. As part of this, we have initiated a review of our communication and engagement practices to ensure that members feel more connected to IBI's mission, activities, and global network.

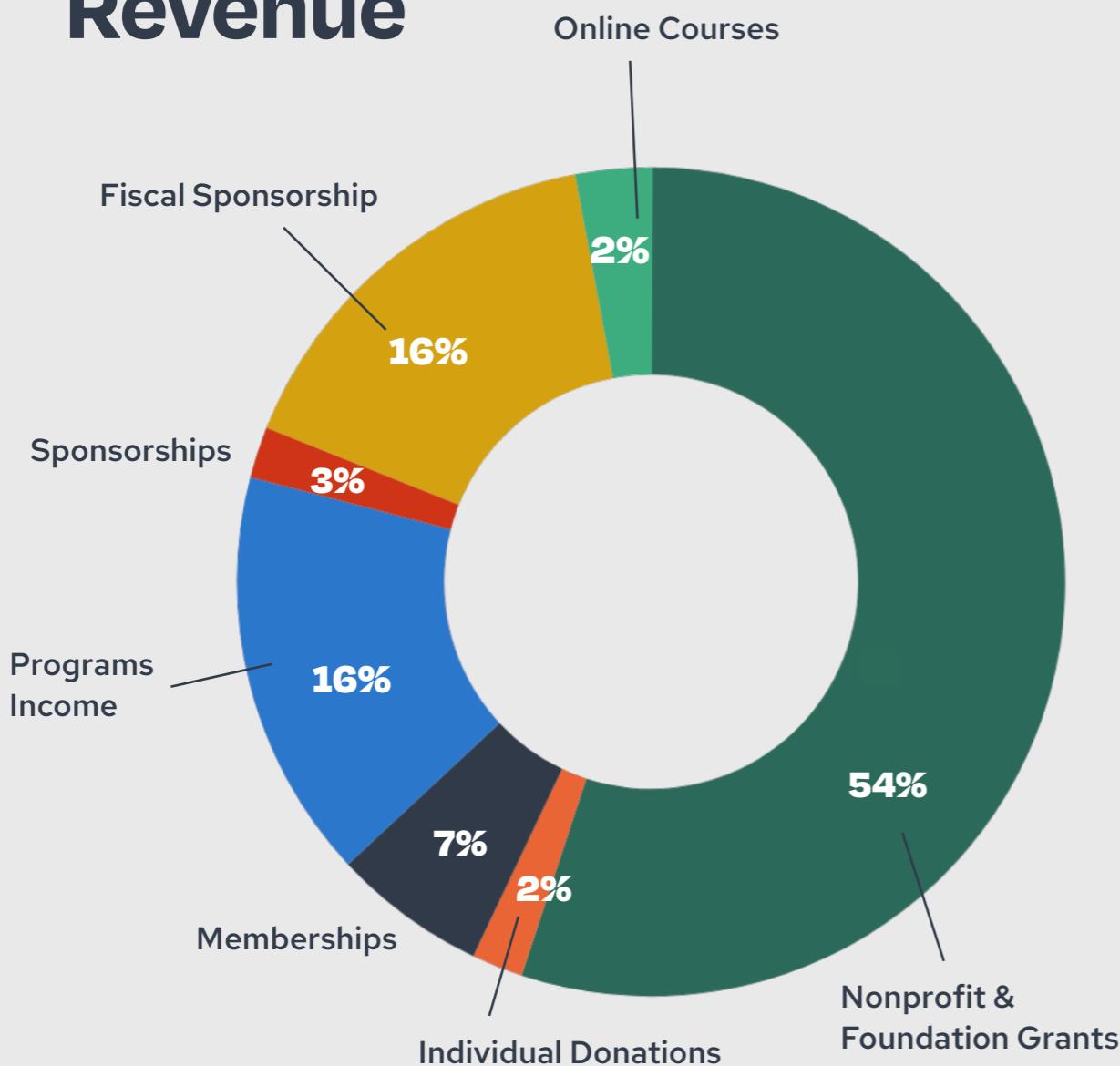
56

**COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED**

Financial Snapshot

IBI has made progress in developing strategic partnerships and exploring funding opportunities to diversify our financial support.

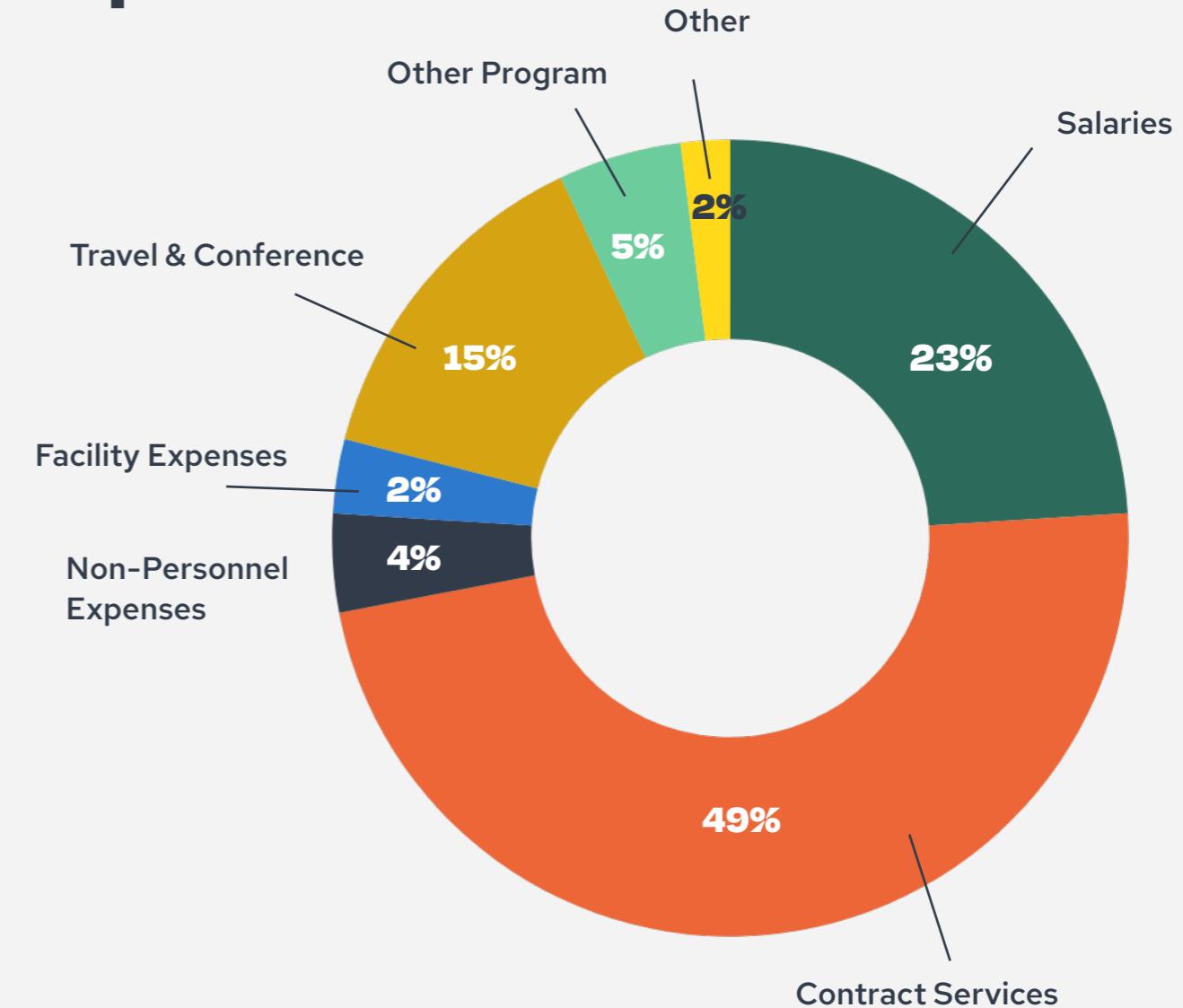
Revenue



\$152,419.49

**in scholarships granted
for IBI programs and
courses**

Expenses



Biochar & the SDGs

All United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which provides a roadmap for the world to achieve peace and prosperity. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the Agenda's blueprint call all nations to action – and biochar plays an important role in achieving progress toward several of the SDGs.

Indirect Contributions

Direct Contributions



Our Organization

Board of Directors



LUCIA BRUSEGAN
Chair of the Board, Starter
Italy



HELOISE BUCKLAND
HUSK
Cambodia



CLAUDIA KAMMANN
Hochschule Geisenheim
University
Germany



**VERONICA AGODOA
KITTI**
ASA Initiative
Ghana



HARN WEI KUA
Vice Chair of the Board,
National University
of Singapore
Singapore



CRAIG LEE
Board Treasurer,
Long Lake Road LLC
United States



**JOHANNES
LEHMANN**
Cornell University
United States



SEBASTIAN MANHART
Carbonfuture
Italy



HAILONG WANG
Foshan University
China



MIKE WERNER
QUALTERRA, INC.
United States



NADAV ZIV
Earth Biochar
Israel

Team



**VALERIA ARAICO
CORDERO**
Programs &
Operations Senior
Manager



**LAUREN BORITZKE
SMITH**
Climate Change
Communications
Lead



**SOFIA FARIAS
BARONA**
Programs &
Operations
Coordinator



**LUISA MARIN DE
BLOCK**
Executive
Director



QUESTIONS? Reach out to info@biochar-international.org