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Following his graduation with an MA in Economics from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, where he worked as a graduate research and teaching assistant, Mr. Riley began his career as a Program Manager for communications systems manufacturer Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Florida. Motivated as an entrepreneur he helped found and was a principal in several technology startups in the late 1990's.

In the mid 1990's Mr. Riley worked in a consulting capacity for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on an initiative to adapt Internet based technologies to STS Shuttle processing. During this period, he began research in mangrove ecosystems and into the failure modes that ubiquitously characterized mangrove restoration projects. Mr. Riley ultimately developed methodologies for the successful long-term establishment of mangroves in non-native environments. The findings of his research have been published in peer-review journals, which include the research that challenged commonly held conventions in accepted practices and limits of mangrove restoration:

“Riley encased methodology: principles and processes of mangrove habitat creation and restoration”, Robert W. Riley, Jr & Chandra Salgado Kent, *Mangroves and Salt Marshes 3*: 207-213, Kluwer Academic Publishers, December 1999.

Applications of his methodologies in Afforestation have also been successfully applied in humanitarian efforts to establish economic base where indigenous coastal populations are in poverty and suffer due to a lack of natural resources. This groundbreaking development is now being applied as a model for sustainable economic development targeted at impoverished regions of the world:

“A Novel Approach To Growing Mangroves On The Coastal Mud Flats Of Eritrea With The Potential For Relieving Regional Poverty And Hunger”, Gordon Sato, Robert Riley, et al. *Wetlands, The Society of Wetland Scientists, Volume 25*: 776–779, September 2005.

Subsequent research guided Mr. Riley in the development of patent pending technology (US Patent and Trademark Office Application Number 61036269). This innovative technology for planting mangroves enables reliable and long-term establishment of reproductively mature, self-sustaining mangroves and mangrove forests along high-energy shorelines, seawalls, revetments, bulkheads, in non-native environments and environments where natural recruitment cannot occur. The technology has particular applicability in areas destroyed or degraded, or where topography and hydrology has been artificially changed, such that physical conditions are no longer favorable for natural mangrove recruitment.

In 1996, Mr. Riley established *mangrove.org* as an organization with a mission to conduct research and development, promote education and the application of technology in mangrove afforestation, habitat creation and restoration. The organization has evolved into an internationally known authority that has been proactively involved in environmental and humanitarian projects in the Americas, Africa, Australia and the Caribbean.

In 2008, *mangrove.org* continues its dedication to improving ecology, reducing pollution and relieving poverty and hunger on a global scale.

Today, cooperative efforts with government agencies, educational institutions and NGOs strengthen *mangrove.org* and its mission. Mr. Riley and the mangrove.org staff have provided environmental consulting and project management services to City and County Governments, State and Federal Agencies, the US Army Corp of Engineers and private property owners.