



2014



ANNUAL REPORT

Lawrence Anthony

EARTH ORGANIZATION



Because None Survive Alone

Lawrence Anthony
(17 September 1950 – 2 March 2012)

The great Lawrence Anthony was an international conservationist, environmentalist, explorer and bestselling author.

He was the long-standing head of conservation at the Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand, South Africa, and the Founder of The Earth Organization, a privately registered, independent, international conservation and environmental group with a strong scientific orientation. He was an international member of the esteemed Explorers Club of New York and a member of the National Council of the Southern Africa Association for the Advancement of Science, South Africa's oldest scientific association.

Lawrence had a reputation for bold conservation initiatives, including the rescue of the Baghdad Zoo at the height of the US-led Coalition invasion of Iraq in 2003, and negotiations with the infamous Lord's Resistance Army rebel army in Southern Sudan, to raise awareness of the environment and protect endangered species, including the last of the Northern White Rhinoceros.

Details of his conservation activities appeared regularly in regional and international media including CNN, CBS, BBC, Al Jazeera and Sky TV and featured in magazines and journals such as Readers Digest, the Smithsonian, the Explorers Journal, Africa Geographic, Men's Journal, Shape magazine, Elle magazine and others.

Following his tragic death in 2012, there were reports that some of the elephants he worked to save came to his family's home in accordance with the way elephants usually mourn the death of one of their own



Foreward



2014 was a very focused year with big projects coming to fruition. Each of these projects enhance and assist the survival of the environment and thus man. With a growing awareness in the general public of the interrelationship of man and nature LAEO is set to reach even further with education across the boards and this is the vital role that we play.

A vast majority of people look around their environment and see trees, insects and perhaps rodents and believe that nature is doing just fine. Many don't realize that they are looking at invasive alien plants that have pushed out indigenous flora and have only enhanced the survival of invasive fauna. A lack of real understanding of the environment gives a skewed perception of what is really happening on our planet and without understanding the status quo is maintained and the deterioration continues.

When people understand the vital necessity of biodiversity they can adapt and assist so that the maximum number of species can survive and thus improving the survival of man. It is vital that LAEO continue to bring understanding to ordinary people as well as experts and leaders. I thank all the chapters for their continues dedication and hard work. We thank all our supporters for their ongoing commitment to our cause.

Yvette Taylor
Executive Director

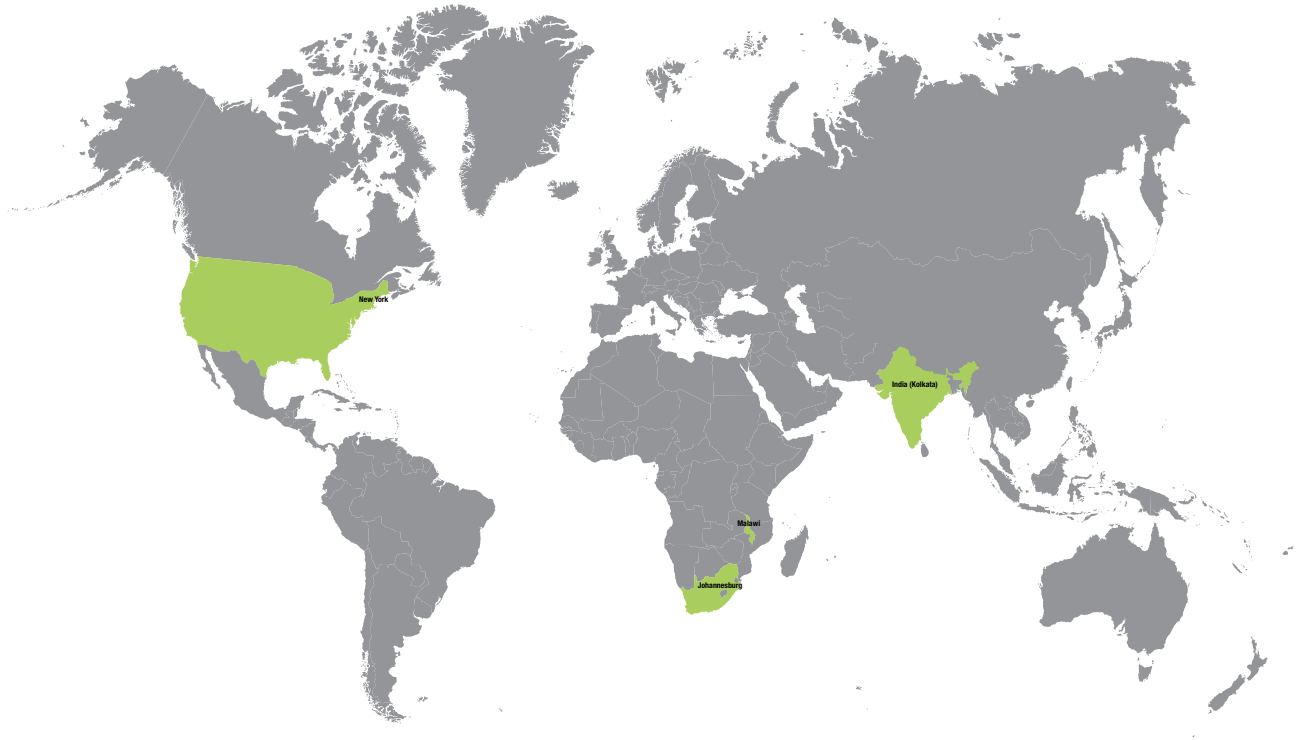
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Head Office South Africa

New Chapters: Welcome to the new chapters: Malawi, New York, Johannesburg and India (Kolkata)



Fundimvelo Thula Thula Rhino Orphanage

South Africa's rhino poaching crisis is being driven by well-funded, highly organized criminal syndicates that stretch far beyond the country's borders. Since 2000 the number of rhino poaching incidents in South Africa has steadily increased, with 2014 ending at 1215 rhino killed for their horn.

As the death toll of poached rhino continues to rise, each individual rhino has become vitally important to ensure the survival of the species and keep genetic viability. In the Kwa-Zulu Natal area there was no facility to take in and care for orphaned baby rhinos, so it was with this objective in mind that the Fundimvelo Thula Thula Rhino Orphanage was built. Adult female rhino often fall victim to poaching as they are less inclined to run far and are slowed down by the baby. Baby rhino have no horn and are often left alive were they stay by their dead mother until rescued.

The objective of the rhino rehabilitation facility is to rescue and rehabilitate healthy, viable, self-sustaining rhino and release them back into suitable habitat to ultimately breed and successfully rear young.

Baby rhinos are extremely stressed and traumatized when they survive a poaching incident and need intensive specialized care to recover from their ordeal. The orphanage was built away from noise and human interference where the baby rhino can recover and receive the care needed to help them in their rehabilitation back into the wild. This gives these magnificent creatures, which form such an iconic part of Africa's heritage, the opportunity to return to the wilderness where they belong.

The orphanage:

The orphanage consists of staff quarters and offices, volunteer rooms and ablutions, a large security wing with security accommodation as well as 2 fully equipped high care clinics, laboratories, a decontamination room, storage and food preparation spaces and recovery bomas. This is in a highly restricted area with state of the art security. A lot was learned from experts in the field to create this purpose build facility to give the baby rhino the best possible chance of survival.

Funders – Four Paws, iMake, SavingRhinos and private donors, ABE??

Kloof South Africa

In 2014 LAEO Kloof had their focus for the year on water. The theme was Water for life.

They worked with a number of rural schools in the uMzinyathi area as well as the Mapepetene area. These schools are all very close to the Inanda dam. LAEO did presentations and talks on water to the children mostly after assembly, as well as individual classes from grade 9 up covering Primary Schools and High Schools.

LAEO invited some of the schools to come down to the Inanda dam where children were taken on a small hike and had practical water education in the field during the hike which of course included the history of the dam.

One of the schools Ingcukwini primary in Mapeptene had a small group of children who named themselves the water detectives. These children check the schools outside taps, bathrooms and toilets for any leaks or taps left running. Any leaks found will be reported to the principle. This is done every day of the week and these children are very proud of what they are doing.

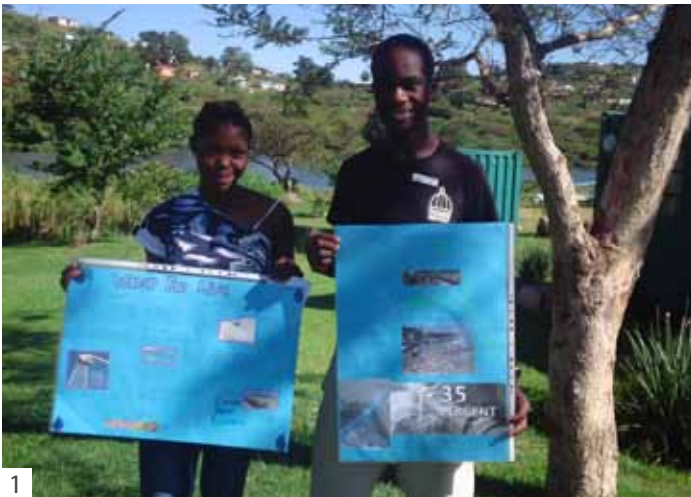


The Inanda Enviro club took their water for life projects very seriously they made water awareness posters and also researched problems with water in the area. The kids send in a lot of information, from pictures of the pollution in the uMzinyathi river, washing being done in the river by the community, to pictures of badly leaking pipes with water running constantly and no one coming to repair.

Some of these pipes run for weeks before they are attended to. Some of the children found out that about 5 of the schools in the area have no school bathrooms or toilets. So the kids from the school have to use the bush if they need the toilet. We learned from some of the children just how far many of them have to walk to fetch water either from the river or wait for water trucks. When the water truck comes and the buckets are filled some still have to walk 5km plus to get the water home. This water is used for household purpose.

There was a lot of emphasis on teaching the learners that South Africa is a water scarce country with many of our river ecosystems under severe threat. Water is a natural resource that cannot be made by humans. One of the water topics discussed which had the children in awe was how much water is used to make various products like, clothing, cell phones, motor vehicles, to name a few.

The objective was for learners to fully understand that if there is no water in this world or if it is all contaminated the result is that nothing will survive, from the smallest to the biggest creature and humans included.



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2-4 - Inanda Adventures; 5-7 - Mapepetene; 8 - Rhino Girls

Camperdown

Two game reserves are being created between Durban & Pietermaritzburg they are Mayibuye and Buhle Benvelo community game reserves.

The land in question which will be part of the Mayibuye-Ubuhle Bhemvelo Game Reserve which will be 25,000ha in extent once fully incorporated, and consists of three distinct components:

- The local community, the Ximba people, were awarded a land restitution claim in terms of a settlement agreement in April 2007. The land was restored to the Mayibuye Community Trust, the land use had to include either eco-tourism, agriculture or informal settlement or all three if appropriate to the beneficiaries which are the land claimants. After extensive consultation, the Mayibuye Community Trust entered into a 99 year lease with the developer and the strategic development partner, the land will be developed into a game reserve with a component of residential property, commercial sites and hotels, not exceeding 10% of the land, to be sold for commercial gain. The developer, in turn, agreed to develop the game reserve and the residential sites component and endeavour to secure neighbouring land in order to increase the size of the game reserve to allow for the introduction, ultimately, of elephant.

- The Developer has also agreed and engaged in large scale community upliftment initiatives within the Mayibuye villages which include sports programmes and child care to date, and in the future will include education facilities, agricultural expansion and sustainable farming. Through the land expansion component of this project, named Ubuhle Bhemvelo, Eskom and local municipalities have been engaged to bring water to 250 homes and power to 500 households/families previously unable to secure these services.
- The community surrounding the initial 4,680Ha Mayibuye area is represented by the Mayibuye Community Trust as a 50% shareholder with the developer.

This project has brought together conservation, communities and commerce to support the creation of the game reserves. This development of a 25,000ha big 5 community-owned game reserve; eco-estate development and sales; wildlife introductions for ecotourism; breeding and sale of high value wildlife species; eco-tourism; consumptive utilization; light retail manufacturing and supplier to housing construction industry.

Talks: Schools + Lotus FM x 3, ECR, 50/50, Carte Blanche

Rhino Art Thula

In an effort to get local communities involved and art competition was held in schools around the Thula Thula Game Reserve. LAEO partner with Rhino Art 4000 learners got the opportunity to submit their art work with the winner getting a bicycle as a prize.

- WRA: LAEO's partnership with the Wildlife Resource Association paid off this year when the LAEO flag was taken on a climb to Everest Base camp as part of a rhino fundraising effort which raised R100,000
- Climb Moses Mabida: One of LAEO's intrepid fundraisers, saturation diver Steven Entwistle, decided to climb the 500 steps of the Mosses Mabida Stadium in a 70kg 1900's diving suit. It was the first time something like this had been achieved.
- Golf Day: LAEO fundraising golf day was a huge success and was sold out very rapidly and the day was a huge success.

- East Coast Radio Rhino Watch: this year saw the last year of the partnership with East Coast Radio to raise fund for helicopter surveillance. The reason that the projected ended was an exciting one: Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (parks department) made government aware of the vital necessity of the project as well as the successes that had been achieved. The government felt obliged to give its full support and funded the helicopters with contracts in place with two aviation companies.

The Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAP Wing) will continue to be our eyes in the sky to keep watch over our precious resources. ZAP-Wing continues to assist rhino anti-poaching operations at a regional level, currently benefitting 24 game reserves (+300,000ha of protected area) and contributing significantly to the conservation of over 3,000 White and Black Rhino. It is pioneering a new way of using aviation as an important resource for conservation and wildlife crime needs.



World Youth Rhino Summit & Project Rhino

As an affiliate of Project Rhino, LAEO had the privilege of participating the World Youth Rhino Summit which brought together young conservation leaders aged 15-17 years from all over the world. Delegates, educators, and conservation leaders met at the symbolic iMfolozi Game Reserve to address the issue of rhino poaching crisis and develop and propose resolutions to counter rhino poaching.

Wildlife crime has exploded in recent years and is estimated to be a US\$19 billion industry annually. Demand for rhino horn particularly in China and Vietnam has risen dramatically over the past four years.

The goal was to engage youth conservation leaders in rhino/wildlife conservation & protection strategies and empower delegates to become Ambassadors for wildlife & conservation. Youth delegates attended the inaugural World Youth Rhino Summit at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve as part World Rhino Day. Teenagers from 20 countries debated the current

status of rhino and wildlife poaching that resulted in the forming of six hard-hitting resolutions and the signing of the World Youth Wildlife Declaration which included demand reduction, education and awareness, The human tragedy and links between poverty and poaching, fighting wildlife crime, commercialization and hunting.

Leading the debate were Dr Ian Player, Kingsley Holgate, Dr William Fowlds, Dr Paula Kahumba and other acknowledged wildlife and conservation experts from South Africa, Kenya and Swaziland. The 140 delegates from countries including Vietnam, China, Portugal, Botswana and Mozambique were faced with tough questions and had to come up with possible solutions to solve the rhino poaching pandemic. Presentations included debates, emotion-packed messages and an exciting anti-poaching demonstration by the Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing.

Elephant & Rhino March

Africa loses 4 elephants to poachers EVERY HOUR, EVERY DAY of the year. It is estimated that less than 300,000 survive today. Africa loses 3 rhinos to poachers EACH DAY; of the 5 species of rhino, less than 25,000 survive today.

With so few of these species left, and such a slow rate of reproduction, these species are rapidly heading for extinction, unless we do something to ensure they survive.

The upsurge in the killing spree over the last 8 years has been driven by the demand for ivory and horn in Asian countries – China is the biggest consumer of ivory (70% of the world's ivory ends up as trinkets for the Chinese middle class), and Vietnam is the main consumer of rhino horn.

The money made from the illicit trade in ivory and rhino horn supports terrorist organizations in Africa and fuels civil strife and instability.

The global march for elephants and rhinos on Oct 4th brought the world's attention to this crisis with over 137 cities in 40 countries participating. The march in Durban was hosted by LAEO with several hundred people marching through the center of Durban chanting. The march ended at the steps of the City Hall where a memorandum was handed over to wildlife officials. The memorandum demanded action from the government demanding: the implementation of stricter laws and enforcement to deter poaching, harsher sentences, stringent legislation in transit countries, a ban in consumer countries, a real show of political will and more.



The 2014 Sustainable Living Festival

The Sustainable Living Exhibition was hosted by the Durban Municipality and has been hailed a huge success with more than 15 500 people visiting the exhibition over the 3 day period.

More than 300 exhibitors showcased their products and services making it a hub of innovation and inspiration, a one-stop greening shop. The exhibitors, representing industry, non- profit organisations, schools, and government departments showcased everything from water and energy

saving devices, solar powered gadgets and ozone friendly appliances, to worm farms, organic gardening, and recycling. LAEO participated by doing and rhino art competition and an educational displays focused on man's abuse of animals with a focus and rhino and elephant poaching.

Happy Earth Botanic gardens

This hands-on forum invites children to learn about the environment, conservation and sustainability in the Pietermaritzburg Botanical Gardens. There are 20 stations for children to do hands-on activities to really get them in touch with nature with a focus on sustainability. Four hundred learned attended a broad variety of activities.

LAEO focused on rhino art and education on the topic of pollution and recycling.

These educational stands created by various different organizations were then featured at the annual Events – Garden & leisure show in Pietermaritzburg, where the LAEO Executive Director International was asked to judge the stands and a winner was crowned at a prize giving dinner.



USA

Our LAEO U.S. headquarters continues to work intensively on expanding their involvement with and influence into key environmental and conservation situations around the world. 2014 was an extremely productive year.

Most people don't realize that between 80-90% of the planet's oxygen doesn't come from trees, but rather it is generated by microorganisms that populate the top 1½ feet of ocean waters. To the degree that spills from oil and other hazardous chemicals are not quickly cleaned up, they are demonstrably impacting and killing off these microorganisms - the generators of the very air we breathe. And, as shortsighted human activities kill off microorganisms with toxic pollutants, this impacts every life form on the food chain above them. If we all began to consider that every individual choice we make influences other lives downstream, this could bring about vast improvement and ecosystem recovery.

With the objective of safeguarding all life forms, LAEO U.S. has continued to expand its Change Oil Spill Response Global Campaign for the implementation of non-toxic bioremediation clean up technologies to address oil and other harmful spills in open water and ocean environments.

Our in-depth research in 2013 of basic internal guidance documents published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency resulted in our publishing a position paper that revealed out-of-date and faulty science contained in those documents that were coloring the decision making of key government officials.

In 2014, LAEO US continued its work to close knowledge gaps that government regulators have on the subject of bioremediation and, through this, we are opening the door to getting far better oil spill response methods into standard use throughout the oil and gas industry.

In alignment with this thrust, our Science and Technology Committee engaged with key officials in the U.S. EPA, Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration culminating in a major meeting held in Washington D.C. in June of 2014 between senior officials from each of these agencies and LAEO principals Diane Wagenbrenner (LAEO U.S. Vice-President of Operations and Public Information), Barbara Wiseman (LAEO's International President and U.S. Director) and members of LAEO's Science Advisory Board to discuss our paper. As part of this collaborative process, we conducted additional extensive literature reviews and produced a new edition of our oil spill response guidance research: "A Call for a Twenty-First Century Solution in Oil Spill Response - 2014 Edition" available for download at our website dedicated to this issue: www.protectmarinelifenow.org

LAEO U.S. filed two Freedom of Information requests in 2014 regarding the EPA and Coast Guard's contingency plans to utilize toxic chemical dispersants in future spill response. More than 900 pages of government documents were delivered to us, which are now being reviewed by our Science Advisory Board.

Clean Ocean & Water Solutions - Change Oil Spill Response Now! A Lawrence Anthony Science and Technology Award Board Initiative



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1 - Barbara Wiseman and Diane Wagenbrenner at EPA headquarters; 2 - Barbara Wiseman with EPA and NOAA officials; 3 - Diane Wagenbrenner and Barbara Wiseman in front of U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.



CHANGE OIL SPILL RESPONSE GLOBAL ALLIANCE **ALASKA DELEGATION**

LAEO U.S. continues our backup and support of the Alaska Delegation of the Change Oil Spill Response Alliance, assisting all stakeholders with science-based research and information regarding non-toxic technologies to add to their “toolbox” of response methods. Additionally, we spearheaded a petition drive and helped Tribal and community groups in Alaska expand their public awareness and education campaign

regarding the dangers of toxic chemical dispersants as an inferior and outdated method of spill cleanup. The paper we published on this issue, entitled “Chemical Dispersants and the Clean Water Act” is dedicated to and in honor of one of our well-loved Advisory Board members, Walter Parker, who passed away this year.

Chemical Dispersants and the Clean Water Act



Dedicated to and in Memory of Walter B. Parker (1926-2014), an invaluable advisor to the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization

A lover and guardian of Earth's seas and complex ecosystems, Mr. Parker, who internationally opposed the use of dispersants since 1968, peer reviewed this paper and asked that we continue our work to implement effective non-toxic solutions in oil spill response. Mr. Parker held many key positions including serving as Oil Spill Commission Chairman in 1990 and was appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission in 1995. He helped to oversee Alaska's progression as a young state, influencing the formulation and implementation of such major legislation as the National Fisheries Act, Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act, and the Oil Pollution Act.

Mr. Parker's unwavering devotion to Alaska was accentuated by his service as a senior fellow at the Institute of the North at Alaska Pacific University. He recently served on the boards of the Prince William Sound Science Center, Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, Pacific Environment, and North Pacific Research Board and was awarded the Alaska Center for the Environment Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002.

His guidance will be sorely missed but lives on through this work and the work of many dedicated groups carrying forth his important environmental protection legacy.

A special information package was compiled and distributed to key U.S. Senators; and we presented the package and disseminated the information they contained at public hearings and conferences related to these issues.

LAEO U.S. Work in Nigeria

LAEO U.S. is part of a team that has made tremendous headway in bringing effective oil spill response methods to the challenges of cleaning up 50 years of spills by oil companies in Nigeria – particularly in the Niger Delta where over 6 million people's lives have been horribly impacted by the long-term devastation to their fishing industry, ground water, and agricultural lands.

Non-profits connected with the United Nations, and funded by Shell Oil to consult with them on potential steps to take to address the problems, were not bringing forth solutions that would effectively address the spilled oil which has spread far and wide throughout delta waters, ocean shorelines, riverbeds, streambeds, and land. In partnership with industry and local groups, LAEO U.S. compiled and published a science-based documentation package providing comparative information regarding all facets of application, efficiency, and cost, and introduced them to what we found to be the best current technology for this situation, a product called Oil Spill Eater II (OSE II).

Several major oil companies have now adopted the spill response methods we have advocated for, including one company in Nigeria who used OSE II to clean up a 150,000 gallon oil spill of significance that spread in open Atlantic ocean waters, over 13 miles of ocean shoreline with sensitive mangrove habitats, and 25 miles upstream into delta waterways.

This was historic because no spill like this has ever been fully addressed. The “norm” to be considered “cleaned up” is less than 25% of a spill actually handled. In just 29 days, this spill and its toxic effects were removed from the environment.

This safeguarded the natural surroundings, the marine life, wildlife, and public's health, and prevented long-term environmental damage to the area. Full documentation with test results from before, during and after were completed through U.S. laboratories. This and other similar clean ups completed in Nigeria in 2014 utilizing this superior technology are rave success stories that we've been subsequently publicizing to educate oil spill response professionals and organizations into better practices.



Based on the track record of this successful partnership with industry, resulting in community relief and important ecosystem restoration, LAEO has begun collaborative projects with major shipping port authorities, green chemistry groups and oil spill response organizations in California and other forward thinking U.S. states, Mexico, the Philippines and Arctic nations to get these successful applications implemented broadly.



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LAEO U.S. Working to Find Solutions to Fracking Pollution

Expanding our Clean Water Campaign out beyond open-water oil spills, LAEO U.S. has been working to build partnerships with key industry groups and stakeholders to address other hazardous chemical spills including frack water pollution remediation. In the same vein as our work in isolating and authenticating non-toxic, modern-day alternatives to current sub-standard methods of oil spill response, we are now working to isolate products and technologies that can effectively eliminate the pollution caused by fracking.



New Chapters

LAEO U.S. signed up two new chapters in 2014. Elaine Torres-Tineo has contracted to open a chapter responsible for the state of New Jersey, focused on children's education projects; and John Merrit has contracted to open a chapter in Costa Rica, creating a large facility where he will be working with the government to rehabilitate and release, where possible, caged wildlife back into the wild. We look forward to great things from each of them this coming year!

LAEO U.S. Eco Safaris

LAEO U.S. has conducted an Eco Safari to Lawrence Anthony's game preserve in South Africa this year. As part of our Cooperative Ecology Education Program now launching, we will be partnering with corporate sponsors to make this experience available to students involved in this program.

1 - Devastating oil spill in Niger Delta; 2 - Ariel view of a small portion of the impacts of spills in Nigeria;
3 - Oiled Nigerian marshland

New Websites

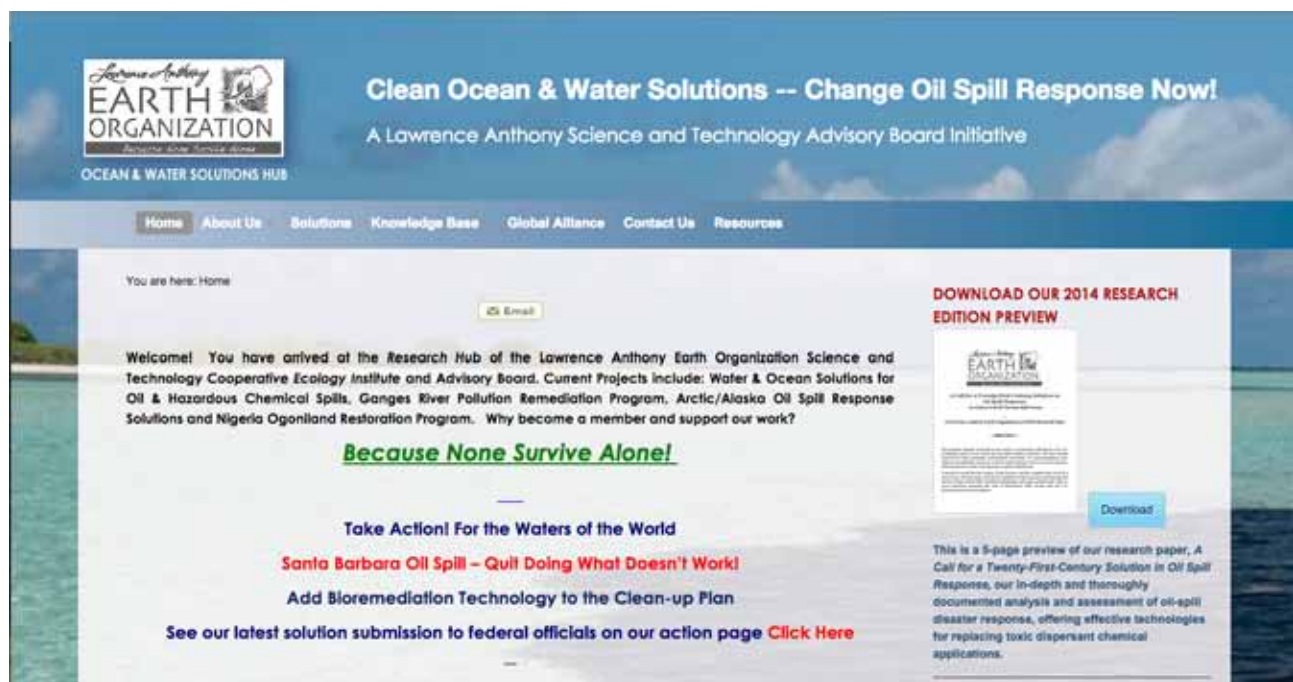
LAEO U.S. has two new web sites under construction – www.TheEarthOrganization.org, and www.ProtectMarineLifeNow.org - focused on educating and enlightening the public on Cooperative Ecology solutions.



...Because None Survive Alone

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization Mission Statement

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization is dedicated to raising Mankind's awareness of his vital partnership for survival with the natural world. We are science-based, and through hands-on projects and education, we work with industry, commerce, government





Hyderabad

LAEO Hyderabad continued the projects that they have been implementing over the last few years and which have proven to be successful.

HarithOn 2014 – Green Run:

HarithOn is a 5km Green Run organized by Planet 3 Protection Alliance (P3PA) in association with LAEO. The aim of the green run was to make people aware of their socio-environmental objectives and taking responsibilities in society by asking them to take the required initiatives, as individuals to save the environment. The event was a huge success as a crowd of over 9000 people turned up for the marathon.

Over 35 corporate and 125 educational institutions participated. The event was supported by 10 corporates, 7 media houses and 5 government institutions. The first 3 winners were awarded with bicycles and certificates. All the participants were also provided with participant certificates. The event was flagged off by our chief guests.

Stalls were set up at the venue by companies who promoted green living. Stalls like:

- Potted vegetables
- Bi-cycles
- Rain water harvesting
- Khadi and jute dress materials
- Vermi compost
- Medicinal and Fruit plants
- Eco colours and natural dyes
- Millet stall
- Organic Farming



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1-4 - The HarithOn 2014 - Green Run

Clay Ganesh distribution and workshop

Ganesh Chaturthi is one of the huge festivals in India where people worship the idol of Lord Ganesha. These idols are usually made of Plaster of Paris and decorated with harmful chemicals. When these idols are immersed in the lakes at the end of the festival, they pollute the waters of the lake. Hence, our volunteers, with the help of the state government sold eco-friendly Ganesha idols made out of clay to the public and also organized a workshop at CALPS Public School on making of clay Ganesha's.

<http://www.teosecbad.org.in/>



India (Kolkata)

LAEO India (Kolkata) is in its infancy being only about a couple of months old. They did however; make some progress by setting up the official website which is now functional.

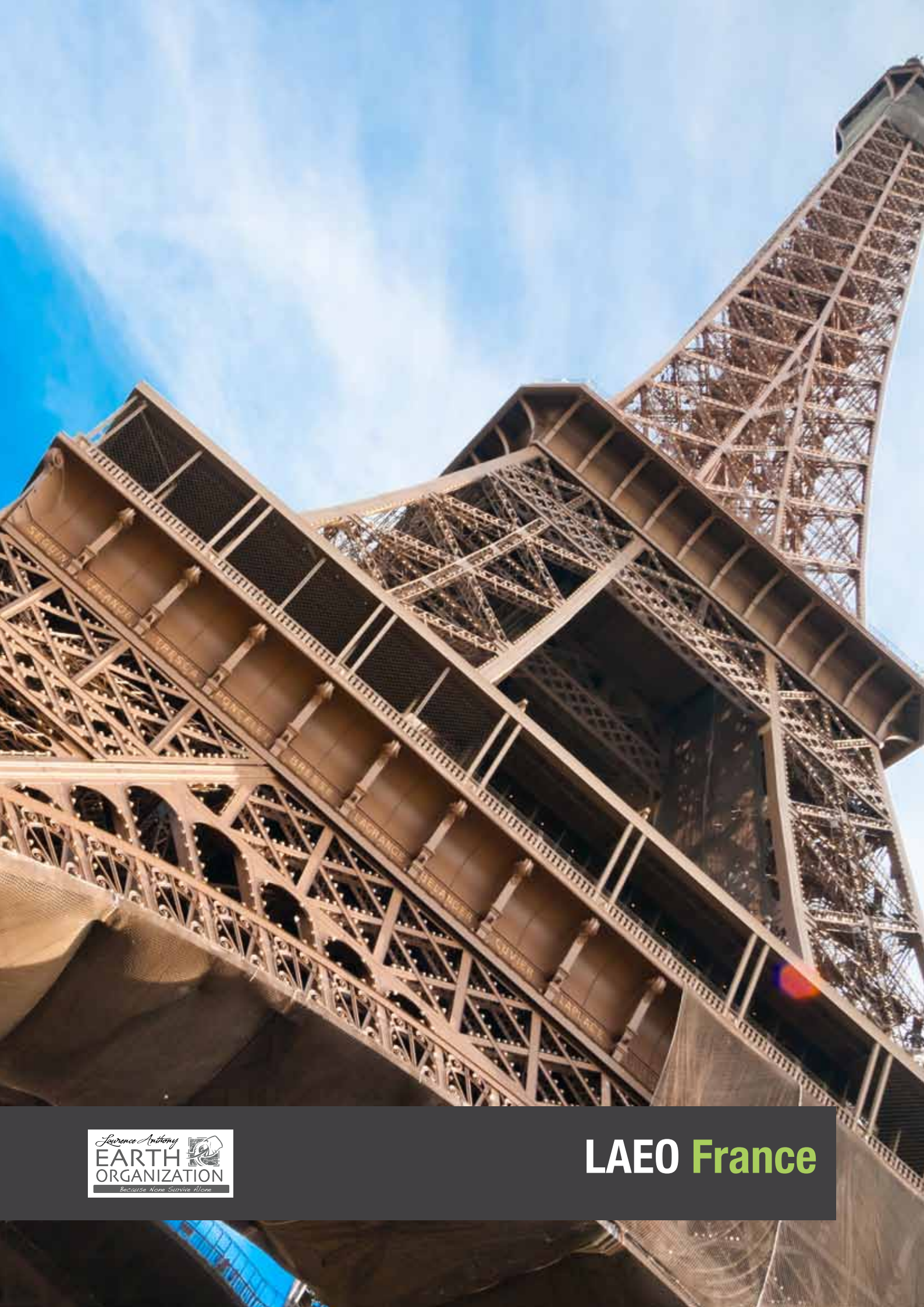
They are building a team of like-minded people, who can take the vision forward.

Talks are on with a few educational institutes regarding the implementation of Environment Education in the curriculum, conducted by the LAEO.

In the coming months, they aim to have a fully functional unit. An Innovations Division has been set up that aims to find solutions to environment issues at grassroots level.

<http://earthorg.in/>





France

The year started with a bang when in January, the Wildlife in War Zones resolution created by the late Lawrence Anthony, was presented to Member of Parliament Corinne Lepage to be included in the proposition of law against Ecocide in Europe.

In February, a tree planting was done by LAEO's members with UPS staffs as guest. About 20 UPS staff members came to learn how to plant a tree and planted THEIR tree, teaching their children how to do it and why it was important for Earth and air. The UPS staffs were so happy with what they learned that the director proposed to sponsor a much larger tree planting event with more than 60 trees.

LAEO France have continued the frog rescue project that was started in March 2007 when they built a fence to stop the frogs from crossing the road and getting killed by traffic. The fence channels the frogs into a bucket and they are carried to the other side of the road. This will continue until a tunnel has been completed that will take them under the road to reach their breeding ground.



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On April 7th, for the francophone day, a workshop has held to create a glossary of words used in official directives on environment. They also studied the government protocols and customs of the country in order to understand what is needed and wanted in order to provide suitable information.

LAEO France also stepped in to help the plight in the Ukraine, they were able to raise \$1000 to help feed the lions in Crimean and build a bigger enclosure for the bears.

With a further focus on education a composting workshop was help at the famous college of landscape and horticulture.

Next it was a visit to Cerza Wildlife Park, were Francoise Malby Anthony gave a lecture on Thula Thula Game Reserve and on the resolution for the UN organized. A number of zookeepers attended and many of them bought Lawrence Anthony's book The Baghdad Zoo.

In September, LAEO France had to present their work and that of other organizations to the people of the area. It was a great PR action. Along with this the Director and Treasurer of LAEO France had a booth at the Book Festival.

This was followed by a march for Climate (5000 people in Paris) and another march on October 4th for Elephants and Rhinos which was also a great success.



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1 - Frog (Rescue Project); 2-3 - Elephant and Rhino March



Ghana

LAEO Ghana's main focus for the 2014 was to intensify our educational campaign in schools in collaboration with the government.

Funds were raised to start an anti-litter campaign in schools with the first 25 bins delivered. Although funding constraints restricted the number of schools reached the program was well received and very successful.

LAEO Ghana also collaborated with the Ghana Education services and authorization was granted to reach out to all schools in Accra, the Capital city of Ghana. The program will then be rolled out into other regions of Ghana.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Ghana) has recognized LAEO Ghana which has been included in their extensive data base. This will enable LAEO Ghana to create further awareness of environmental concerns like deforestation, illegal mining activities, air pollution, water pollution and sand mining on the beaches of Ghana. Additionally LAEO Ghana is increasing pressure on Government to rectify the negative effects and harm caused to the environment

through outdated and incorrect practices.

LAEO Ghana had an educational outing with some schools which were taken to the Volta River Authority which is Ghana's water works to give the kids firsthand experience on how to protect natural water resources and conserve energy.

The allocation of 182 hectare piece of land situated in Banda, a suburb of the Northern Region, for a reforestation project in collaboration with the Forestry Commission of Ghana are well underway.



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Namibia

This year the Earth Organization Namibia concentrated on the various issues surrounding rhino conservation. In 2014, the Namibian chapter of the Earth Organization took a stand against black rhino hunting, rhino horn trade and the increased poaching of rhinos in Namibia.

On the topic of rhino conservation in Namibia, the Founding Director was interviewed by several international media organizations including CNN, NBC, BBC, the NY Times, Deutsche Welle, Lifestyle Magazine and Polish Public Radio. She was also selected to represent Namibia at the International Conference on Assessing the Risks of the Rhino Horn Trade. LAEO Namibia thus became a member of the International Rhino Coalition and continued to liaise with other international NGOs on rhino conservation concerns.

In 2014, Namibia saw an increase in wildlife criminal syndicate activity with a sharp increase in rhino poaching. There have been at least 26 poached rhino carcasses discovered to date and there is concern that there could be more carcasses that were not yet discovered. As a result of an increasing threat, the Founding Director, Marcia Fagnoli, assisted the Legal Assistance Centre in organizing the National Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Law and Preventing Wildlife Crime. Following this, she resigned from Save the Rhino Trust in order to better make use of her skills as an environmental lawyer tackling wildlife crime. She assisted in forming the new Conservancy Support Project under the Legal Assistance Centre in order to follow up on the strategies derived from the workshop. These strategies include: grassroots level support, law enforcement and justice system support, demand reduction support and coordination and collaboration support.

As part of this new project, she:

- assisted in organizing a Parliamentary Meeting to address the increase in rhino poaching at a grassroots level;
- assisted the State Prosecutor on rhino poaching cases;
- served on the Northwest Wildlife Security Working Group as a legal assistant;
- helped to patrol the areas most under threat from rhino poaching;
- assisted the Prosecutor General's office in gathering information about the poaching threat;
- drew up a policy brief to combat wildlife crime;
- spoke at a national Interpol workshop on addressing wildlife crime;
- assisted with investigations of criminal syndicate activity;
- assisted the State Prosecutor in researching wildlife crime threats, national laws and international agreements to be presented at the Annual Prosecutors Conference;
- offered guidance to other patrolling units aimed at protecting rhinos from poachers



The Namibian March for Elephants and Rhinos

This march represented the only march held in Namibia and was part of a global effort to raise awareness on wildlife crime. Some 137 cities and 40 countries marched on the same day. The Namibian chapter spoke to schools, local businesses, sport clubs, NGOs (SRT, IRDNC) the NACOMA Project (MET), local police and tourism companies to seek their involvement and gain support. They received an overwhelmingly positive response from the local public. More than 200 people from all walks of life marched. It was well-attended by school children who took the lead. They received a lot of publicity from this event and there was coverage in most local and national newspapers (Namib Times, Allgemeine Zeitung and Travel News) as well as two local radio stations (West Coast FM and NBC). We also received media coverage internationally and people commented about how wonderful it was to see the youth so active. This made the Swakopmund march stand out.

Coverage of this event still continues internationally.

In addition to her assistance on rhino conservation initiatives, the Ms Fargnoli continued to play a role in educating coastal schools and teachers about environmental sustainability. This year she was given an award for her service towards environmental education initiatives at the coast. She also continued to offer her assistance in training coastal authorities to combat environmental crime at the coast.

<http://earthorganizationnamibia.blogspot.com/>



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1-6 - Nambian March for Elephants and Rhinos



Uganda

The Ugandan chapter focused their conservation work mainly on a) Environmental conservation Education b) Nursery beds Project.

Environmental conservation Education;

LAEO Uganda conducted training course using the Mission: Rescue Earth Booklet to school going children mostly from upper primary schools and Secondary schools students. Thus far in this project we have trained over 600 students who were awarded certificates. Recently we trained over 90 students with 81 of them completing the course and qualifying for the certificate awards.

This has continued with students enrolled for the third term training at the end of 2014.



Nursery Beds Project (Coffee)

This is intended to avail and supply environmental friendly tree species and teach members and students the nursery beds practices. This project is a skills transfer project which gives entrepreneurial skills to all members of the community. The current nursery bed project is focused on growing coffee. The reason for this is that it was found that coffee plants can serve to reforest areas well as providing the community with a source of income. In studying the issue of deforestation it was found that people were destroying this natural resource to as a way to survive and make income. A lot of the trees that were being destroyed were in fact being used as fire wood to cook food. So if coffee is planted in the near future it will

start giving a harvest with an already existing market which is readily available. This will reduce man's pressure on natural resources.

In conjunction with this the next project which is proposed is energy saving stoves;

These stoves use less firewood compared to traditional methods of cooking and heating. Which will reduce the rate of firewood consumption and hence the rates at which trees are cut for firewood.

LAEO Uganda will soon establish another nursery bed in another location where the need is greatest.





Ukraine

When the economic and political turmoil in Ukraine escalated in March of 2014, LAEO U.S. Headquarters began receiving calls from concerned citizens regarding starving Ukrainian zoo animals. Their government had to make extremely difficult economic choices and the zoo had fallen off the priority list. At the Nikolaev Zoo, there were 6000 animals on the brink of starvation. When LAEO intervened in March of 2014 there was only enough food left for the carnivores for two days and the herbivores had enough to last two more weeks. Medical supplies had run out and the zoo did not have the resources to take care of these needs until the end of April when the weather gets warmer and the fees from zoo attendance go into a viable range.

Recalling Lawrence Anthony's courageous rescue of the Baghdad Zoo in 2003, people asked if there was anything we could do to help. One of the people who called was Lionel de Lange, a South African bush war veteran with a passion for animals, who had been living in Ukraine for three years. The LAEO USA quickly secured emergency funding and Lionel head up a new chapter in the Ukraine.

With a great deal of help from LAEO USA funds were raised to support and feed 10,000 animals until longer term solutions could be put in place. LAEO Ukraine provided the needed food, medical supplies and veterinarian attention.

With amazing team effort the Ukraine, South African, Europe, and US supporters, LAEO delivered over 16 1/2 tons of food and medical supplies to four different facilities over this initial period.

The plight of the animals generate a lot of media attention with a wide variety of print, on-line, radio and TV news coverage, including, most notably, articles in the Huffington Post, Environmental News Service, Mashable, Yahoo News, Vice News, and an 8-minute piece on Carte Blanche, which is a South African program comparable to 60 Minutes news program and 50/50
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QbCk6wROZ8>

Barbara Wiseman, International President and U.S. Executive Director, flew to Ukraine on an inspection tour of some of the facilities that were being aided to meet with Lionel and his team, as well as the South African Ambassador to Ukraine, Ambassador Christian Basson, and the Mayor of Kherson. Lionel toured them through 1) ex-President Yanukovich's billion-dollar estate where he, Yanukovich, housed over 2,000 animals, abandoning them when he fled the country; 2) the Nikolaev Zoo; 3) the Kiev Zoo; and 4) the Kherson Zoo. Because of the touchy border crossing between Ukraine and

Crimea, they were not able to tour the Taigan Safari Park in Crimea where Lionel saved 52 lions from starving during a period in which the park was not able to access their bank funds. See the short video that shows a portion of the 3½ tons of meat that we delivered to that park.

The Kherson Zoo - Dnieper River Island (July 2014)

Next was to help the animals in the Kherson Zoo. This "zoo" is situated on an island on the Dnieper river sadly the animals are living in horrendously inhumane conditions. There are 5 Brown bears living in a combined area of 42 m². It is "a prison" made completely of steel and metal bars which includes a steel floor with temperatures dropping to -25C in winter and 40C in the summer. The bears are divided into 2 enclosures one has an adult male in a 4 x 6m cage and the other 4m x 6m cage has 2 adult females and two cubs, these bears have been living in these cages for over 24 years or from before the fall of the Soviet Union. There is also a family of 8 wolves that share 2 areas of 2.5m x 2.5m. These are just some of the 200 animals at this zoo. None of these animals have ever set foot on natural ground.

The goal is to create more humane conditions for the animals to live in while helping educate the public on how to better live side by side with all life on earth. The bear enclosure is being refurbished and increased in size so that these magnificent animals can at least get around outside of their cages and even have a pool in which to swim, something they have never done before.

The wolf enclosure will also be increased substantially giving them opportunity to venture out of their tiny enclosures so they can run around and experience some quality of life. In order to improve the cages for the bears and the wolves \$40 000 was raised on an internet based crowd funding platform. The zoo is on an island which is not accessible by motor-vehicle and can only be accessed by foot traffic or small boat so all materials needs to be carried, dragged or pushed to the construction site which is at least 600m from a delivery area. There is some urgency to complete construction before winter sets in and the ground freezes, which would leave the animals to endure another freezing winter in their metal cages.



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1-3 - The Kherson Zoo (Wolves); 4 - Lionel de Lange, Barbara Wiseman and Director of Ex-President Yanukovych's Zoo; 5-12 - The Kherson Zoo (Monkey, Raccoon and Bears)



MISSION STATEMENT

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization is an independent, non-profit group which seeks to reverse the dwindling spiral of the plant and animal kingdoms and our environment through education and action.

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