

2012

## Chapter Summary





2012

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL



*In conservation, I have always worked hard to spread the good news about all the hard work and success that we as a group achieve. Unfortunately this year, the bad news cannot be avoided. What was to be an incredible year for Lawrence Anthony, became a tragic loss for all of us. Lawrence's untimely passing left the Earth Organization reeling and it was with some resolve and courage that we had to get ourselves through this and move forward.*

*So, my first thank you is for all the support and strength that came from all our chapters and supporters, which gave us the motivation to carry on and carry Lawrence's touch forward, for the greater good of this planet. It has been tough without him but at the same time incredibly inspiring. The support that we had this year has been unprecedented and we have seen the fastest growth of our organization to date. Everyone took up the conservation challenge and saw the vital necessity of making Lawrence's goals a reality.*

*We also had the opportunity to honour our founder by including his name in our title and a new logo was designed. The new design has been highly praised and will serve us well into future.*

*I want to thank you all for the incredible support and hard work and may 2013 be our best year yet. Going forward, it is my intention to make sure that all the goals laid out by Lawrence are met and that we carry out his conservation legacy.*

# IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE ANTHONY

*Do not stare at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints of snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
When you awaken in the morning hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry -  
I am not there, I did not die*

By Susan Bellis

Hamba Kahle Nkosi wa se Ndlovu kha Thula Thula  
(Go well chief from the elephants of Thula Thula)





# HEAD OFFICE PROJECTS – SOUTH AFRICA

## *Public Awareness:*

This year we gained more public awareness than ever before. In Durban alone:



6621 Learners were educated on pollution and recycling  
2363 Learners learned about other environmental issues  
8500 Learners visited an Expo where we had a stand  
2234 Rural Community members learned about the environment  
1256 People learned about LAEO and the environment  
1.747 million People heard about us every week on the radio and will continue to do so over the next year.



## *Functions:*

The year started with the famous South African rugby player, James Small, making a short documentary on Lawrence and his work, it was aired after Lawrence passed away.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwPvivNpX\\_M&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwPvivNpX_M&feature=relmfu) \*



### *Tribute Dinner:*

On the 29th of March, at a function at the Durban International Convention Centre, the third and last of Lawrence's books was released. At an emotional tribute dinner held in honour of our founder, his incredible book, *The Last Rhinos*, was seen for the first time. The release was attended by community leaders, politicians and friends. The book was a best seller within 5 days of its release and has continued to exceed all expectations.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_f8uz9hbLJI&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_f8uz9hbLJI&feature=plcp) \*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC7okGGOW64&feature=plcp> \*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK6avYEOswc&feature=plcp> \*



### *Doctor Lawrence Anthony:*

Before Lawrence passed away he was notified that he had earned a doctorate degree. His family had the honour of accepting the Doctorate, Doctor of Science (honoris causa) DSC, for his incredible work in conservation.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54JJHO-mNVk>

*Dylan Anthony accepts a  
Doctorate Degree in honour of  
his father*





### *Golf Day:*

As part of our fundraising and marketing, the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization (LAEO) hosted a golf day at a very prestigious golf estate called Zimbali. The day was a huge success and was attended by a number of sport celebrities and business leaders. We raised money for LAEO and raised awareness of the work we do.



### *Recycling projects:*

Our recycling project rolled out to the next 5 schools, bringing the total number of schools to 10. We did seminars with the learners to make sure that they understood the value and importance of recycling waste material. We visited schools throughout the year to maintain interest from the learners, who were briefed on recycling and this was also followed by a visit from a very charming mascot called Izwe, which means 'our world'. Izwe was very well received and became somewhat of a celebrity guest with the learners, who were inspired and enthusiastic about participating in the cleaning up of the environment.



As a key partner in the COP 17 Climate Change Response Expo, the organizers donated most of the waste bins used at the Expo, for us to distribute to deserving groups. This amounted to 70 wheelie bins and 60 large 75 litres bins. We decided to donate 6 wheelies bins and 5 x 75 litre bins to 10 schools within our program and the remaining bins to other schools we came across who needed bins. We chose schools that were already doing some form of recycling but lacked funds to acquire all the materials needed. We identified the well deserving schools, notified them of the donation and sent out our volunteers to deliver the bins. The schools were delighted with the donation and worked even harder at their recycling projects.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d7aEDCn-38&feature=plcp> \*



### *Sustainable Living Expo:*

LAEO Head office once again participated in the Sustainable Living Expo held in the Durban Exhibition centre in September. This year our stand was even more impressive than before. Using the panels from COP17, we once again embarked on teaching visitors about the harmful effects of pollution to our environment, as well as the use of recycling as an effective solution. The expo had approximately 12 500 visitors, over 3 days, of which 8500 were school learners.





### *Coronation Advert:*

The Elephant Whisperer became the subject of a touching ad, which is aired in prime TV viewing time several times a week. The ad tells the story of Lawrence and the Thula Thula elephants and is narrated by his wife, Francoise. It has been a major talking point throughout South Africa. The company called Coronation Fund Management has the slogan “trust is earned”, which they felt fitted Lawrence’s story perfectly. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df0XeFhd058>

### *Rhino poaching World rhino day:*

The scourge of rhino poaching has become a massive environmental issue in South Africa. The figures are shocking and disturbing:

RHINO'S POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA 2008 = 83

RHINO'S POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA 2009 = 122

RHINO'S POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA 2010 = 333

RHINO'S POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA 2011 = 448

RHINO'S POACHED IN SOUTH AFRICA 2012 = 668

South Africa has 95% of the world’s rhino population which totals 22 000 white rhino and about 4000 black rhino. In the rest of Africa rhino and many other species have been poached to extermination.

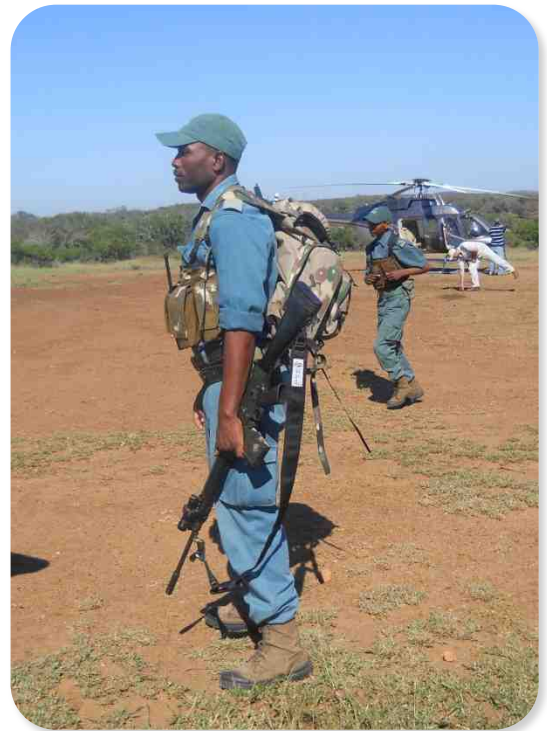
To raise awareness and as a show of solidarity with all those game rangers who put their lives on the line, LAEO put together a flash mob for World Rhino Day (a flash mob is a choreographed danced that is pre-planned but executed as if spontaneous in a public area). Learners from local boys’ and girls’ high schools spent time with a local choreographer, putting together a dance which was a resounding success. The dance was done in a public area and then at a show in front of 1400 people.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ud2osux30&list=WLwyQ5TGjODHBVc0MaaP\\_UrV\\_60tmSczQ3f&feature=mh\\_lolz](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ud2osux30&list=WLwyQ5TGjODHBVc0MaaP_UrV_60tmSczQ3f&feature=mh_lolz) \*



### *Rhino Watch:*

The images of dead rhino with their faces hacked off, has been a constant source of distress for the South African public. One of the solutions that proved to be very successful in combating poaching is the use of helicopter support. Stats have shown reductions of up to 80% in poaching activity, in areas where helicopters are deployed. The helicopters had been protecting one of our Province's key game reserves which have the highest ratio of rhino, until they were grounded due to lack of funding. When LAEO were called on by a regional radio station to help, we immediately suggested the helicopter project. LAEO partnered with East Coast Radio to raise public awareness about the situation and to raise the necessary funds to get the helicopters back into the air. The helicopters were back in the air within 2 days. After three weeks, eight hundred and twenty thousand rand had been raised. A great many people offered their help and many started their own campaigns to raise funding; from a group of car fanatics, who did a "drive for rhino", to a 9 year old boy, who donated the money for his birthday party and many more. East Coast Radio has a listenership of 1.74 million people, who have now heard about how they can help and who have since learned about LAEO. The radio station now has a slot every Wednesday called "rhino watch", in which we have updated reports about the program. One million rand was raised in just over 3 months.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hrg0uTrrXuA&feature=plcp> \*

<http://www.ecr.co.za/kagiso/content/en/east-coast-radio/east-coast-radio-kzn-rhino-watch?oid=1778361&sn=Detail&pid=1744635&KZN-Rhino-Watch--Week-7>



### *Community Game reserve:*

Lawrence spent many years changing the face of conservation and a pioneer project he had worked on extensively is the development and establishment of community owned game reserves. Several communities and tribes have agreed to amalgamate their reclaimed land with the purpose of creating game reserves, from which they could benefit. LAEO have continued this work to expand the game reserves in South Africa and secure as much land as possible for conservation. Over this last year, LAEO has had extensive community interaction and participation, to create a thorough understanding of conservation and ensure community “buy in” and commitment. The three game reserve areas are Royal Zulu Biosphere 18 000 hectare, linking Thula Thula to Umfolozi, Mayubuya Community Game Reserve 5000 hectare and Buhle Bemvelo 12 000 hectare.



Workshops were done with the community to teach them about pollution, biodiversity, conservation, animal care and sustainable living. The community have been incredibly committed to the process and shown strong interest in all the information presented. Immediately after our seminars, the community started to collect waste for recycling.

Other community programs have included soccer and netball cups and the care of over 500 pre-school children providing them with 2 meals a day.





### *Earth for Elephant Division:*

With Lawrence incredible relationship with elephants, it is very appropriate that we started an elephant research division under the guidance of a leading South African elephant scientist. With elephant listed on the IUCN's Red Data list as "Vulnerable", this research is vital to the future of this species.



Additionally, elephant poaching levels are currently at their worst in a decade with a loss of 25 000 elephants in 2011. With limitations to the size of available natural habitats and restriction to movement between conservation areas, elephant populations are under enormous strain.

The EARTH for ELEPHANTS Working Group was formed with the aims of providing fundraising and management support to projects primarily relating to the protection of the African

Elephant and also other related biodiversity issues.

Key programme objectives relating to elephants are:

- Educational outreach to traditional communities living alongside game reserves;
- assists with elephant human conflict in such rural areas;
- provides academic research to underpin elephant population management strategies
- provides general reserve management advice and support
- assists with land expansion to accommodate growing herds and support to elephants in crisis
- the group has already submitted a number of high profile proposals to assist elephant projects, including projects related to the application of immuno contraception and census counts, in the greater Maputoland-Zululand region of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa encompassing a number of private and state owned reserves;
- the Tembe Elephant Park research programme in partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife which will form part of the a Transfrontier Park Area which starts in Mozambique and runs through South Africa all the way to Swaziland
- The Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Park Area between South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe
- The reintroduction of elephant in a new community owned game reserve in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa which will bring an additional 30,000 ha under conservation and in which the last elephant were shot out 150 years ago.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/EARTH-for-ELEPHANTS/100487076776382>

For further information on the activities of The Earth Organization visit:

<http://www.earthorganization.org>

## LAEO CAMEROON

The “Reforestation in Schools” project, which was started in 2007, has now become a success in two school institutions, including The Government primary school, BIDJONG, in Meyomessala. Further projects are also underway to start a nursery and continue with planting.



There are also plans in motion for a WFW Life event in February next year, as well as the much awaited Miss Earth Cameroon contest. This will be done together with the Miss Cameroon Committee.



LAEO has also been collaborating with a local radio station, "RADIO ETOILE - MEYOMESSALA FM 91.6" at the invitation on UNESCO and the aim is to create further awareness about environmental issues and global changes. A journalist from the radio station contact LAEO Cameroon's Director who is a Geographer and a renowned Environmentalist in the area. As part of the project the radio programs were recorded on CD, explaining environmental issues to local people. Locals are encouraged to reforest their areas. The radio program also promotes the work of LAEO.

For further information on the activities of the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization Cameroon visit:

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

# LAEO FRANCE



The French chapter have continued their excellent work with planting trees and this year, together with school kids from Picardie, 250 trees were planted in the Retz forest.

Additionally the incredible campaign to protect amphibians continues; this involves getting them across a major road where many are killed every year. Every year a multitude of amphibians are destroyed in their attempt to cross a major road and this year, these vital indicator species were greatly assisted when 8000 amphibians were safely transferred across the road. Agile frog, toads and Alpine newts were all saved from certain death.



As part of the educational strategy LAEO France invited people to learn more about local birds and their calls. The event was a success and people learned about the many birds in the area.

France has spear headed the Wildlife in War Zones resolution and have given it a significant boost with 6000 new signatures supporting this revolutionary initiative. There is a lot more happening with this campaign and we hope to have a very conclusive report next year.

A wonderfully successful campaign was carried out with Air France who, thanks to the dedicated work of LAEO France, has agreed not to transport any monkeys to laboratories for testing!

LAEO France sponsored the national weight-lifting competition where they also had a booth for 3 days. They had a great many visitors, one of which is a French member of parliament who has now become a member of LAEO and who has invited the chapter to discuss solutions for the environmental at a National Environmental conference.

LAEO also joined the “Gathering for the Planet” (Rassemblement pour la Planète) to contribute to the national environmental conference on energy transition in order to get a nationwide move to sustainable energy resulting in less polluting. Twenty seven groups belong to this vital coalition.

For further information on the activities of the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization France visit: <http://www.laeo.fr/>



## LAEO GHANA

This chapter puts a great deal of work into keeping their beautiful beaches clean and this year was no different. During the year they held a beach clean-up with selected school in Accra, with over 110 learners participating in the clean-up.

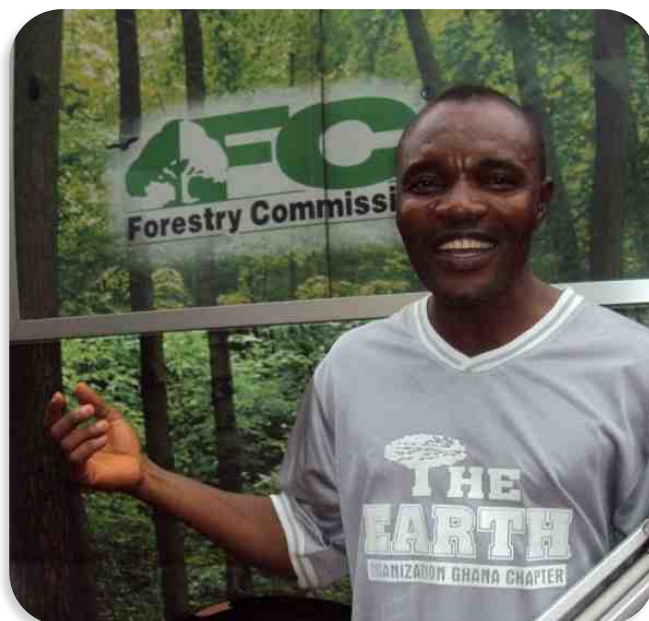


The environmental education program was continued with children from several schools in Accra and this year well over a 1000 learners were educated on the environment. Ghana Education Service has recognized LAEO Ghana for their work in education.

Eco Clubs were started in many schools and as a reward for their dedicated participation many of these children visited the Kwame Nkrumah (the First President of Ghana) Mausoleum in Accra central.

The schools program was also strengthened by the introduction of recycling programs in three schools, with each school receiving 6 bins to start their recycling project. This was followed by continued environmental education to encourage children to continue their participation.

LAEO Ghana also embarked on reforestation with support of the Forestry Commission of Ghana. Reforestation was carried out in the Northern part of Ghana in an area called Banda. A total of 3000 square meters of land was reforested with the help of a hundred and seventy seven members of the community the project took three months to complete.



The LAEO Ghana's board members visited and educated people in the Oboasi and Ashanti regions on a common sense moral code. 504 people were given booklets, after which they adopted the precept "Help and improve your environment". The community then went round the area collecting refuse, approximately 5 tons of refuse was collected with all 504 people participating.

## LAEO INDIA - HYDERABAD

### *HarithOn 2012 – Green Run:*

HarithOn is a 5km Green Run organized by LAEO Hyderabad along with Planet 3 Protection Alliance (P3PA). The aim of the Green Run was to involve people in taking social responsibility and ownership at all levels of society for the environment. The event was a huge success with a crowd of over 4500 people in attendance.



Over 35 corporates and 125 educational institutions participated. The event was sponsored by 8 corporates, 3 media houses and 5 government institutions. The first 2 winners won bicycles and all the participants received certificates. The Mayor of Hyderabad shot the starting pistol for the run. A market was set up by companies who promoted green living. There was a variety of stalls such as 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 and organic Farming.



### *Ganesh Idols – Seminar:*

Prior to the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi, seminars were conducted at schools in order to teach kids how to make their religious idols from clay, rather than using plaster of paris (POP) or other harmful materials which pollute the oceans. The children were taught that many materials they use pose a threat to marine life, during the immersion of the idols.

### *Green Economy Market:*

A Green Economy Market was held to promote eco-friendly products and to spread awareness about the harm which is caused by plastic and other environmentally hazardous material especially in the corporates and Multi-National Corporations (MNC's) sectors of Hyderabad. The venue (The V IT Park and CyberPearl IT Park) was sponsored by Ascendas, a company known to construct environmental friendly IT parks. The stalls were set up at various IT campus parks for a period of 1 week. There are over two hundred Corporates and MNCs working in these IT parks and approximately three hundred thousand of their employees visited the stalls with many purchasing the eco-friendly goods.



Some of the popular stall were, bags made of jute by The Earth Organization Hyderabad, potted vegetables, recycling stalls, rain water harvesting, khadi and jute dress materials, vermi compost, medicinal and fruit plants, eco colors and natural dyes and organic farm products.

A recycle campaign was also organized by LAEO Hyderabad for a period of 20 days at the campus with the support of Ascendas team.





### *Miss Earth India Earth – helps to educate:*

The enchanting Prachi Mishara stepped up to help the LAEO team in Hyderabad to conduct a seminar for the students of Pallavi Model School. Prachi and the LAEO team educated kids about simple and easy methods to make their daily habits eco-friendly. Cloth bags autographed by Prachi were given to the kids. Later, some of the school representatives along with Prachi planted saplings as the first step towards a greener future.

### *Plantation Drive:*

The plantation project held at Pallavi Model School, Alwal was a joint event by LAEO Hyderabad and Dell Ltd., India. The event was held on 22nd September, 2012 and the LAEO members, Dell Employees and the school students all did their share to contribute to the Earth's greening.

The event was opened with the Project Manager of Dell Ltd. giving the students a valuable lecture on the environment and ways to use and conserve it. The speech was followed by planting fruit saplings like pomegranate, papaya and guava. A total of 200 saplings were planted in the school premises by students and members of the attending organizations. Pallavi Model School has yet again proven their immense support to the organization and showed their dedication towards Green Projects and Mother Earth.



For further information on the activities of the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization  
Hyderabad visit: <http://www.teosecbad.org.in>

# LAEO MALAYSIA – THE ASIA NATURE CONSERVATION TRUST

This has been a very productive year for The Asian Conservation Trust (TANC) with several project successes in the conservation of the Malaysian Peninsula. TANC had been seeking Government support since 2007 to aid in conserving the Linggi mangrove. The site is a 'Ramsar Site' as it has highly sensitive status being the last mangrove habitat for many wild endemic species.

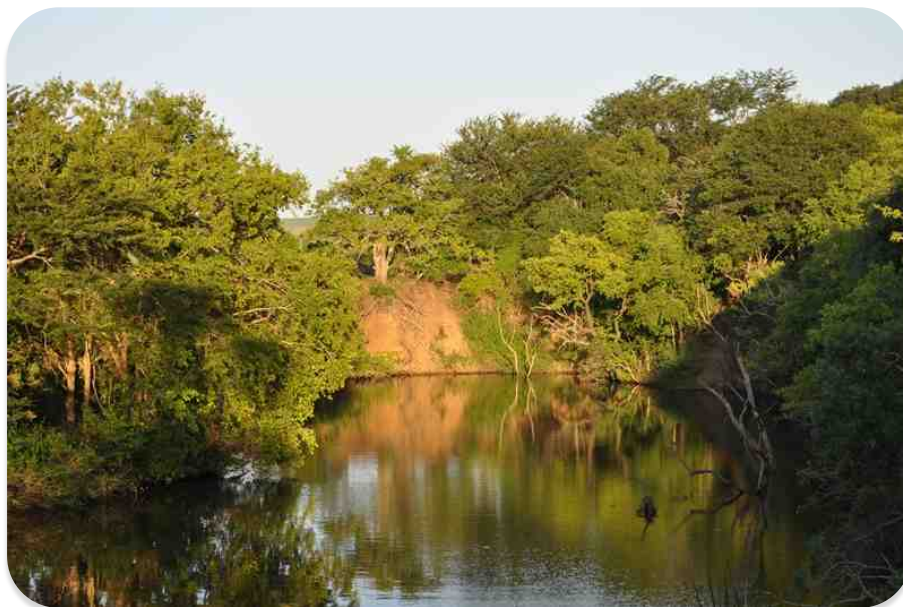


The project came to a deadlock when a land survey conducted by TANC technical staff on the Mangrove Forest Reserve revealed that the entire Reserve Land had been sold to private landowners. The Government was unaware of this information which resulted in the Economic Planning Committee EPU Department being unable to proceed.

But TANC persevered looking into many avenues to keep the forest intact. An in depth study of the mangroves was required. The site is home to endemic congregated firefly species and a study was needed to establish the habitat requirement for the survival of the species.

In 2011 Taylor's University received a Government grant for student scholarships to study 'Balancing the Escalating Growth of the Tourism Industry with the Preservation of the Environment'. TANC invite DR Vickneswaran Nair, the Associate Professor from Taylor's University to direct some funding for an in-depth study on the 'Conservation Potential in advancement of Sustainable Tourism' for the Linggi River in Negeri Sembilan. On the 7th of January 2012 a tour was conducted of the site to with Professors of Taylor's University and nine Post Graduate students from the University of Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) resulting in the study finally going ahead. This study is now well underway and the results will be compiled in a case study book which TANC can then present to the State Government to preserve the Linggi Mangrove site.

In the second quarter of the year TANC endeavoured to establish a wildlife rescue and reintroduction project with the Penang State Government. Jerejak, an island located close to Penang Island was previously used as a 'human quarantine' site during the early 20th century. But since the late 1980s the island was abandoned and subsequently a resort was built. Due to its history 90% of the island forest is intact and 75% is protected as a forest reserve. Mr Edwin Wiek, founder of the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand was approached to partner on the project. Several meetings have been held with the stakeholders and these findings are currently being presented to Government.



Another on-going annual project is the kids' education program which is conducted with schools and uniformed groups. TANC is currently working closely with the Dignity for Children Foundation and an international group of refugee children at a school located at Harvest Centre Sentul where they are providing nature studies. Ninety percent of the children from the centre are from South Asian countries like Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. TANC is in the initial stages of collaborating with the Harvest Centre School to form a 'Nature for South Asia Kids' Program which will teach all the children below the age of 17 to champion the environment and the protection of nature.



# LAEO NAMIBIA

This year LAEO Namibia was awarded their status as a Non-Profit Corporation. LAEO Namibia focused on programs which concentrated on education and partnered with like-minded groups on projects which address conservation and environmental issues. Their primary goal is to ensure that the Namibian Constitution is upheld in its protection of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and the biological diversity of Namibia through the sustainable use of natural resources. LAEO has also focused its efforts on upholding international environmental laws as well as environmental management.

Additionally LAEO Namibia endorsed the Earth Charter declaration and has committed to the implementation of these fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century.



Currently, The Earth Organization Namibia is focusing on the following programs:

## *Law and Enforcement:*

This program offers pro-bono assistance on environmental law and this year LAEO Namibian advised, assisted, trained and unified enforcement officers on the various environmental laws and policies in Namibia in an effort to increase capacity in the government and NGOs. Support was offered to assist with a wide array of environmental issues including inter alia: poaching, illegal collection of wildlife for the pet trade, off-road driving, mining, and unsustainable industrialization and development.

Specifically LAEO Namibia:

- Co-authored the Dorob National Park regulations and lobbied for the Environmental Management Act regulations, both passed and gazetted in 2012;
- Gave specialised training courses in the environmental laws of Namibia to strengthen capacity within government Ministries and projects as well as non-profit organizations;
- Wrote new fine lists to assist officers to have a quick reference list of offenses and fines;
- Educated public prosecutors on Namibia's environmental laws and briefed them on enforcement issues;

- Assisted in writing new permits for the Dorob National Park;
- Compiled a brochure to educate the public on environmental laws pertaining to Dorob National Park;
- Edited law enforcement and crime scene training manuals;
- Advised the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as well as the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources at a local level, the Directorate level, and the Ministerial level on implementation of Namibia's environmental laws;
- Served as the legal advisor to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources at the local level as well as the Contingency Management Committee for Dorob National Park, the Dorob National Park Enforcement Committee, the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management Project (NACOMA) and Save the Rhino Trust Security Committee;
- Represented the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources as their legal advisor in public and private meetings with proponents of proposed industrial developments;
- Wrote reviews of and commented on Environmental Impact Assessment documents for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management Project (NACOMA);
- Collaborated with other non-governmental organizations including Save the Rhino Trust, Earthlife Namibia, the Coastal Environmental Trust of Namibia, Swakopmund Matters, various Residents Associations and Friends of the Earth Australia to increase environmental law and policy knowledge and awareness.

### *Action Campaigns:*

This served to tackle the larger issues of unsustainable heavy industrialization in Namibia and to be sure that the public is fully informed, consulted, and active in all decision making processes. Any developments that take place in Namibia must be sustainable according to the Constitution and environmental laws of the country. Therefore the government must uphold the Constitutional provision to sustainably protect the environment and its biodiversity for current and future generations as well as all of the environmental laws

LAEO Namibian was effectively able to substantially increase community awareness, participation, action and leadership and the three main campaigns included the Gecko Vision Industrial Park, Marine Phosphate Mining, and Uranium Mining giving the Namibian public a voice which reached the international community.



The Gecko Vision Industrial Park was proposed for an area of 4,000 hectares inside the Dorob National Park, in the locale of several endangered, indigenous, migratory and endemic species, within the zone of world-renowned lichen colonies, and near the major tourism town of Swakopmund. Potential pollution

became a major concern in Namibia due to the large size of the proposed Industrial Park (the largest one in the world with the same facilities is only 164 hectares); the location inside of a National Park; socio-economic concerns; and the high sensitivity of the environment to pollution. A campaign was run which included an educational talk about the proposed Vision Industrial Park.

LAEO Namibia also raised concerns about the proposed marine phosphate mining development which would remove 3-4 meters of the seafloor of the ocean. Leading marine scientists worldwide have warned of the potential irreversible impacts of deep sea mining and thus this new type of mining is very controversial. This proposed development would be a world first, which meant that Namibia's coastal waters would be the testing ground for marine phosphate mining with potentially serious implications of pollution, irreversible damage to the marine ecosystem and loss in sustainable opportunities. Having adequately considered these issues the chapter started a campaign to deal with the marine phosphate mining.



The third issue of increased problems caused by uranium mining due to the impacts of hazardous waste on the health of people and the environment (including National Parks) was also dealt with. Hazardous waste storage facilities for uranium mines in Namibia are located in areas of water catchment systems which cause underground water to become contaminated with hazardous radioactive metals and toxic chemicals. In addition, windblown dust transporting these hazardous radioactive substances is of major concern. Most uranium mines and their hazardous waste storage facilities in Namibia are situated in National Parks, areas which have been purposefully reserved for preservation of wildlife and nature and for the benefit and enjoyment of people. Uranium mines directly threaten wildlife during operations and pose long term health risks to the wildlife, the people and the entire environment through hazardous waste storage and leaks.

LAEO was chosen to be the leader in this movement by the people, the people have taken ownership and the community has been actively engaged in raising their concerns with the responsible companies, in the newspapers, on the internet,



with government officials, and with other community members. As a result of this movement, people are standing firm on their principles that the health of the environment and the people over the long term should not be compromised for short term economic gain that will only benefit a few. A larger number of people are talking about sustainable options that will benefit all people over the long term, rather than leaving a legacy of pollution and poor health.

Specifically, as part of the action campaigns, the following initiatives took place through direct community action and involvement:

- Three community organized Facebook pages were started. “Industrial Swakopmund: What Future Do You Want?”, “We Say No to Gecko’s VIP Industrial Zone near the Namib Coast” and “Occupy Namibia” to increase awareness of social and environmental issues in Namibia with the international public. In total all three sites maintain about 3,000 readers.
- “Swakopmund Matters” collaborated with the Namibian chapter and the community at large to raise awareness this group has a readership of over 15,000 people. In addition, they initiated press releases and responses to articles about industrial developments in the Namibian press.
- Aaron Peirsol, Olympic swimmer and 7 times Olympic medallist (5 gold, 2 silver), Oceana Ocean Council Member and Ocean Advocate assisted LAEO Namibia by co-authoring a petition on Change.org called “Listen to the Scientists, Don’t Let Phosphate Mining Threaten Namibia’s Ocean.”
- A ground-breaking march for a clean environment took place in Swakopmund as part of Coastal Biodiversity Week with the theme "Green Economy Does It Include You?" LAEO Namibia collaborated with the NACOMA as well as several local schools and community groups to send a message that the people of Namibia are united for a sustainable environment. People created signs, posters and banners to address heavily polluting industry. The message was that we must all take responsibility and lead the world into a cleaner future, one that is based on caring for renewable resources and limiting non-renewable options.
- A series of educational talks about industrial developments were presented to the public, schools, community centres, underprivileged groups, government institutions and NGOs to raise awareness.

### *Environmental Education and Awareness*

This program aims to educate children and adults on all aspects of the environment and conservation. Throughout the year, educational talks were delivered on the topics of National Parks, the conservation of wildlife, poaching, illegal collection of wildlife, litter, solid waste and recycling, general environmental issues, Namibia’s environmental laws, the Vision Industrial Park, marine phosphate mining and uranium mining.

During 2012, the Namibian chapter launched a website, a blog and a Facebook page in order to educate and inform the local and international community on various environmental issues. An outreach and education program aimed at leading a paradigm shift in thinking in relation to the intrinsic value of the environment was carried out with churches and pastors.

In addition, LAEO Namibian collaborated with (NACOMA) in screening numerous environmental films as well as moderating and discussing them. These films were presented to primary schools and high schools and environmental issues were then discussed to encourage critical thinking and problem solving with regard to environmental issues.



LAEO Namibian took part in a panel discussion /debate about the potential impacts of marine mining on the ocean as well as the Namibian society, including the youth. Our panellist was asked to assist NACOMA on the panel. Other panellists included the: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Mines and Energy, the fishing industry, the phosphate mining industry, as well as youth representatives. This debate was presented to schools and the public in order to increase awareness about marine mining.

### *Combined Programs*

Outside of combined programs discussed two additional combined programs were done these were Biodiversity Week I and II to raise awareness and education on the conservation of coastal biodiversity. Biodiversity Week Part I was held in celebration of World Environment Day and World Oceans Day for one week in June. Biodiversity Week Part II was held for one week in September to celebrate International Coastal Clean-up Day. During both weeks, environmental education events were held each day. LAEO Namibia assisted in organizing the events as well as leading some of the outreach efforts.



The International Coastal Clean-up Day was the largest national and voluntary clean-up in the history of Namibia to take place. The clean-up event was held along the entire Namibian coast as part of the International grass roots annual clean-up effort through the Oceans Conservancy. This year, more than 1,000 volunteers cleaned Namibia's beaches. LAEO Namibia assisted with organizing the clean-up day, delivered an educational talk about waste, rubbish, and pollution and was responsible as the team leader for certain sections of the coast.

In addition, the Director of LAEO Namibia was asked to be the keynote speaker and a judge of the Mr And Ms Coastodian 'young environmental ambassadors' competition in order to promote leadership in conservation for grade 9 to 11 learners. This competition was initiated by the NACOMA.





### *Awards*

Marcia Stanton, the Founder and Director of LAEO Namibia received two prominent awards this year. The first was given as a special award by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism created especially for her in recognition of her valuable contribution towards law enforcement in Dorob National Park. The second award, the prestigious Custodian award, which was granted by the Minister of Environment and Tourism was in recognition of individuals who have contributed significantly through outstanding service to the conservation of coastal biodiversity and protection of nature.

According to a national newspaper, that evening Stanton was described as an "angel", who has lived four years in Namibia and has since used her time to protect the environment on the coast. "We in Namibia have the opportunity to make a difference and develop the country in a sustainable way. We have the opportunity to be a model for the rest of the world," Stanton said.



Another national newspaper stated that “Ms Stanton is an environmental lawyer from America and since her arrival in Namibia she volunteered her services to provide major contributions to the Namibian environmental legislation and regulations and the creation of awareness among people. Her contributions include assisting with the drafting of the regulations for the Dorob Park. She also has brought an awareness and understanding of certain developments along the coast. She helps law enforcement officers from various agencies to better understand Nature Conservation. Only then will law enforcement be improved in Dorob Park.”

“Without her we wonder where we would be with the Dorob Park regulations or how many people would be aware of the Vision Industrial Park. She does her work not only for Namibia's nature, but also to educate the people to make the right decisions about the environment," according to the letter of motivation for her receipt of the award.

For further information on the activities of LAEO Namibia visit:  
<http://earthorganizationnamibia.blogspot.com/>

## LAEO SOUTH AFRICA - EDUWILD

Eduwild's has worked closely with LAEO Head Office and have assisted the success of many Head Office projects. Additionally they are skilled film makers and have made all the visual material used by LAEO. All links in this report marked with a "\*" were created by Eduwild.

Early in the year Eduwild initiated a relationship with Westville Boys High, LAEO donated several copies of Lawrence's new book *The Last Rhinos* in recognition of the school Rugby team who wore armbands at rugby matches to raise awareness about the Rhino Crisis.

Eduwild also created a variety of short productions to promote the work of LAEO which have been used on Facebook, YouTube, during the Spogweni Music Festival and the Imagine Durban Sustainable Living Exhibition.

Eduwild will launch a highly informative DVD & poster campaign for which designs are done and awaiting final artwork. This will be followed by the reproduction of educational DVD's which will be distributed with the poster. The purpose of this campaign is to educate children about conservation and their link and dependency with nature. Man has lost its relationship with the environment and Eduwild are working to establish that connection.

With access to excellent editing facility to create and reproduce these DVD's the process will be significantly faster and plans are to provide the first schools with the media package for the start of school term 1 in January 2013.

With a passion for rhino conservation an educational story has been developed to educate those that live in the East and Far East to raise awareness of the futility of the rhino massacre as well as showing the impact on the people of Africa. The film is in pre-production and an agreement has been made with both Chinese and Vietnamese officials in Durban to assist in the translations and filming of the production. Funding has already started to come in for this project.



For further information on the activities of the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization Eduwild visit: <http://eduwild.webs.com/>

## LAEO SOUTH AFRICA - KLOOF

LAEO Kloof continued their now well established Youth Environmental Club at the Youth Development Centre at Inanda dam, funded by Durban Green Corridor and DUCT (Duzi Umgeni Conservation Trust). Classes are conducted on Friday afternoons and Saturdays.

Many educational topics were covered in the Mission Rescue Earth workshops which were delivered by Jenna Trollope, Project Coordinator, for the children from Molweni. Topics ranging from animal care, to pollution, to the big five, were covered, followed by practical exposure, such as taking the children on an excursion to the SPCA. All learners were given certificates on completion. The dedication of these learners became evident when two of the young girls failed to show up at the taxi rank to be collected. The lecturer waited about ten minutes but they didn't show, so she left with the other kids to carry on with the next training section. Approximately an hour later, the two little girls arrived at the gate. They had walked for miles to get to the workshop and although they were running late and had missed their lift, they were not going to be stopped, no matter how far they had to walk; they just wanted to learn.



A competition was held for the learners to design a group poster regarding litter and pollution. The winning group was taken on a day trip to the African Birds of Prey Sanctuary to learn about the birds and they were also treated to lunch. The kids were blown away by their close encounter with birds of prey.

Students participated in a competition to design an eco-system, which taught them to build their own eco system out of recycled materials. The winner received a cash prize and all the learners were taken to see the mangroves, as this type of eco-system was what the majority of the learners had built.





On the 16th of June, Youth Day, the Youth Development Centre hosted an all-day event for the running club, at which the Enviro Club were asked to make individual and group posters related to the things they had learnt. The event was supported by Donnie Walker, MD of Sharing Abundant Life Together (SALT) organization. The kids made posters using phrases like “children are the salt of the earth” etc. The MD was so moved by the work which the children had done, that he awarded each one a small monetary prize and the posters were taken to

SALT’s head office to be displayed. Since the learners come from very disadvantaged communities, they were delighted with this acknowledgment.

LAEO Kloof approached the Wild Life Campus to sponsor nine students, in their twenties, for a full game ranger course to be facilitated by the Director of LAEO Kloof. Wild Life Campus immediately agreed and offered to further assist by getting the media to promote the successful completions of the students, in the Field Rangers Association Newsletter, the aim being to secure sponsorship for the students to do their next 3 levels.

The students have just completed the exam for the first module of the course and all passed this particularly difficult module with flying colours. It is worth mentioning that Nomonde Magwa a long standing and dedicated LAEO volunteer got +80 %. Doing this training will help the students to find work in the future and will also give them a deep love and passion for the environment.

LAEO Kloof also embarked on an inspirational art project, to create two rhinos made from recyclable items, for a competition that is being run by the Wildlands Conservation Trust.

LAEO Kloof is passionate about their programmes having seen the incredible changes in the learners and communities in which they work. A full feature was published in the Association for Science in Education magazine in the UK on the work of this chapter. Journalist, Kierra Sewell, wrote a powerful and informative article on this success as well as on Lawrence and his incredible understanding of the importance of education. The magazine gets distributed to nearly 30 000 members in the UK.

For further information on the activities of LAEO Kloof visit:  
<http://www.kidzforconservation.net/>

# LAEO SOUTH AFRICA – PIETERMARITZBURG

LAEO Pietermaritzburg partnered with Impact Sports and the YDF program, which is sponsored by G.I.Z (Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit), with the aim of contributing positively to social change in our country.

The aim of the Youth Development through football program (YDF) which was designed by Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (G.I.Z), the Department of Sports and Recreation and South African Football Association (SAFA), is to support socially disadvantaged boys and girls so that they are able to mature into responsible individuals and shape their lives positively.



Impact Sports and the LAEO PMB Chapter established a relationship prior to 1994 and were very pleased to partner with LAEO PMB to form part of the soccer coaching team for The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization. YDF works within communities to educate our future leaders about the environment as well as reducing violence and corruption in Africa by using “the beautiful game” (soccer) as the primary platform for this positive change.

Coaches from local communities were identified to participate in a three day coach’s workshop. The “Guidelines for Teaching Football and Life Skills” workshop for coaches empowered 20 coaches who will each work with +- 20 young children between the ages of 9 and 14years old. This amounts to a projected number of 400 young people’s lives that have been impacted by a workshop of this nature. The workshop comprised of coaches/volunteers who are from the UGU and uMgungundlovu districts in the Province of KwaZulu Natal.



The successful completion the course allowed volunteer and professional coaches in the communities to transfer the knowledge and skills gained into the young lives they influence. LAEO sees the “guidelines for teaching Football and Life Skills” coach’s workshop as a basic foundation for volunteers/football coaches to participate in, before engaging in the environmental and violence prevention programs designed by G.I.Z. through the YDF program.

Subsequently a proposal will be made to the G.I.Z. to roll out the environmental and violence prevention programs within communities by empowering the same set of coach’s who were part of the “Guidelines for Teaching Football and Life Skills” coach’s workshop.



## LAEO UGANDA

LAEO Uganda have done amazing work with their 80 member crew. They started the year with an environmental conservation awareness campaign in 10 churches in the Nyantungo province, Kyenjojo District Western Uganda. Where over 670 people were educated on environmental issues. This resulted in the donation of land behind Nyarukoma Primary School where LAEO Uganda planted vegetables as one of their projects.

The churches that participated are Nyarukoma Church of Uganda, Burrarro Catholic Church, Kidoda Catholic Church, Kidudu Catholic Church, Kanyandahi Christian Fellowship Church, Kanyandahi Church of Uganda, Nyakayubu Catholic Church, Ntoma SDA, Nyantungo Archdeaconry Church, New life Presbyterian Church.



With funding secured the LAEO Uganda team got T-shirts printed and bought the equipment to launch their spring garden to provide both food and education to the participants. The money was wisely invested in a 220 lit water tank, a wheel barrow, a spray pump, a 600 metre roll of barbed wire, a 10 meter measuring tape, 2 watering cans, 6 Jerri cans, 2 hoes, a spade, a rake, nails, hoe handles and some office cleaning equipment. Additionally tomato seeds, cabbage seeds, beet root seeds, carrot seeds, water melon and many more were purchased. The beds for the tomatoes, cabbages and carrots were created and have started to grow along with some Irish potatoes.

The remaining beds will be created to supply people with food during the time of year when food is scarce. As part of their goat rearing project the group even managed to raise the funds to help a local woman buy a goat to start her own small farming project. Facing enormous challenges such as unpredictable weather and funding constraints, LAEO Ugandan have done very well.

Their future plans are to increase their memberships by 20 %, get two full time workers to tend their gardening project, start an agricultural seedling program growing coffee, oranges, lemons, mangoes, passion fruit and more.



# LAEO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

After intensive research, LAEO USA decided to primarily focus on issues relating to effectively cleaning up the waters of the world, a key issue on Planet Earth at this time. There are over 10,000 reported oil spills in U.S. navigable waters every year. When you compound this by all of the spills that occur around the world each year, one begins to see the enormity of this problem.



The Gulf of Mexico oil blow out is included in this research and is considered a trial of cleaning up the waters of the world. Despite reports to the contrary, fresh oil continues to come up in massive amounts from the fractured seabed floor. In the past 2 ½ years we have researched and isolated a real solution to cleaning up the negative impacts of oil. To do this, they had to look at every aspect of the problem: from government regulatory requirements, to existing laws, to ensuring that the solution will economically, effectively, and swiftly clean up 100% of the oil spilled, as well as decontaminate toxic chemicals.



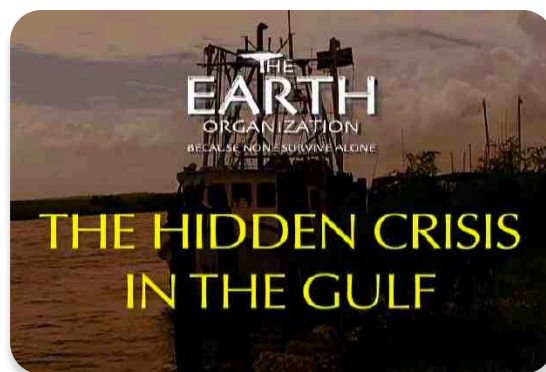
They have been working to educate oil companies, the government, civic leaders, and the public on:

- 1) The disastrous consequences to public health, the wildlife, and the environment when using toxic chemical dispersants to try to address an oil spill, and
- 2) Realistic, non-toxic solutions that would bring oil-spill clean-up methods into the 21st Century.

This year's efforts have included:

- Meeting with senior oil company officials to educate them on how they can save billions of dollars in future litigation and clean-up costs by demanding that the U.S. government allow them to use this non-toxic method that already has full government certification.

- several educational articles and press releases have been written, with many being published by the media as well as being broadly quoted on the internet;
- Helped the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science and Technology Subcommittee to re-write the government documentation regarding the use of non-toxic products as government documents were antiquated, inaccurate, and misleading.
- Our Science and Technology Advisory Board has researched and written an important white paper (an authoritative report issued by an organization) that includes the re-written government documents, and is launching a campaign to get this paper into the hands of thousands of government officials who are decision makers. It will educate industry leaders, the media, and other environmental organizations, not just in the U.S., but around the world on how oil spill technology.
- The scientific paper that was written last year by our scientists has gone through a gruelling peer-review process and is now in the hands of a publisher. We expect to have it published officially within the next 2 months.
- We continue to get our 30-minute documentary Hidden Crisis in the Gulf out broadly to the public.
- Our educational efforts have contributed to chemical dispersants being scrutinized more carefully and, in some instances banned, in several countries.
- Our educational efforts have contributed to the largest oil company in the world agreeing to utilize bioremediation (non-toxic products which use natural processes to clean up pollution) as their main method of oil spill clean-up. They will be storing these products on every port they own, every ship, every rig and every refinery. This is a tremendous accomplishment which we are very proud of, as it will set a standard for all of the other oil companies.



A highlight of the year was an Eco Safari to Thula Thula Game Reserve. In additionally 2 beach clean-ups in the local Los Angeles area were carried out.

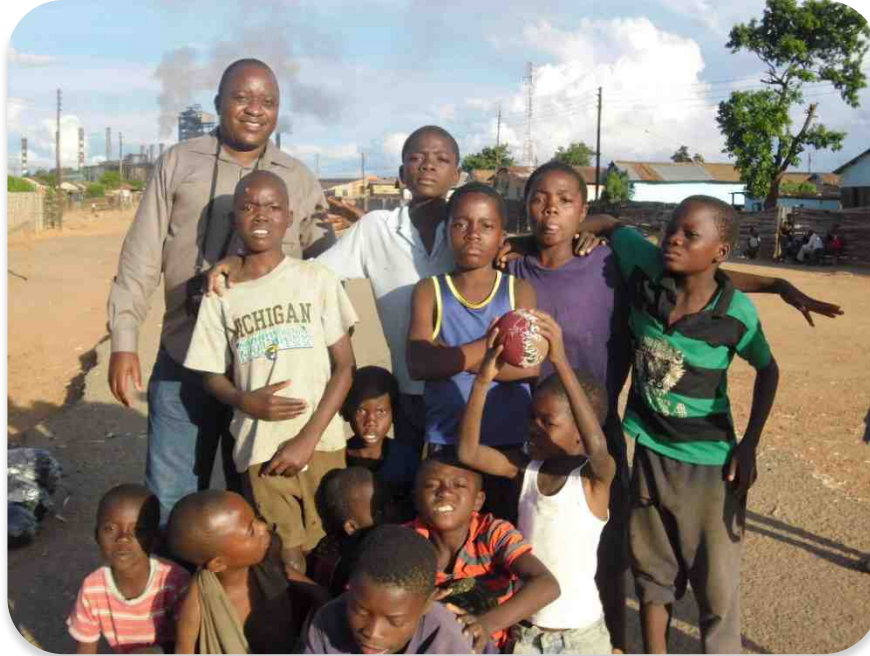
For further information on the activities of The Earth Organization USA visit:

<http://www.theearthorganization.org>



## LAEO ZAMBIA

LAEO Zambia has signed an agreement with Civil Society Environment Fund (CSEF) to provide training to communities in mining areas; the training is aimed at giving an in-depth understanding of the environmental rights pertaining to Zambian legislation, policies and local bye laws.



The program is an important step in the development of an inventory of salient community environmental issues which the communities would document and subsequently use to engage the mines for environmental equity and justice as well as map out key policy community action.

The pilot project was launched in Musele in Solwezi and will enable the Community to provide evidence based advocacy for setting priorities for the Kalumbila Mine Corporate Social Responsibility which will recognize environmental policy and plans (long-term and emergency response), Developing a community based environmental social and health audit tool.

LAEO Zambia has started a process of engaging the Bench Marks Foundation with several interactions having taken place, including community training. Most recently LAEO Zambia and the Bench Marks Foundation spent 4 days at Solwezi and visited Musele for a field visit engaging with the Royal Establishment and the community on mining related issues.

## CLOSING REMARKS

The considerable impact that LAEO had this year is due to incredibly loyal and generous supporters without whom none of our work would have been possible. In the year going forward we hope to continue to rely on your support. It now falls on all our shoulders to carry forward the work of Lawrence Anthony, not simply because he was loved but because he was a visionary and a monolith in the field of environmental conservation and if we carry out only a quarter of his purposes our planet already has a much better chance of survival.

Here is a summary of some of our bigger supporters:

- Coronation Fund Managers who duplicated the elephant whisperer and told this story beautifully in an advert viewed by many South Africans and followed this with a generous donation.
- Maddy and John Matthee for their generosity and friendship. What started out as a very generous donation introduced me to two incredible souls.
- Bridgehouse Africa for their financial support, guidance and hard work.
- Moore Stephens Certified Chartered Accountants for all their hard work to make us a bona fide none-profit company with trustworthy accounting.
- Barkers Attorneys whose legal guidance and willingness to help at any time has been invaluable.

To our very important anonymous donor and to all those companies and private individuals who have contributed to LAEO over this and many years before a heartfelt thank you.

The End