

"Our inability to think beyond ourselves or to be able to cohabit with other life forms in what is patently a massive collaborative quest for survival is surely a malady that pervades the human soul."

Dr. Lawrence Anthony

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





CONTENT

01	Message from our International Executives	Pg 1-2
02	Our Mission Statement	Pg 3
03	LAEO Head Office South Africa	Pg 4-9
04	LAEO United States	Pg 10-18
05	LAEO France	Pg 19-20
06	LAEO New Jersey	Pg 21-22
07	LAEO Uganda	Pg 23-24
08	Reptile and Amphibian Chapter South Africa	Pg 25-26
09	Concluding Remarks	Pg 27
10	A message to our Sponsors	Pg 28



Although we all anticipated the pandemic being over by now, 2021 continued to present major challenges. Sadly, in most regions where our chapters operate, we did not bid farewell to lockdowns and restrictions until well into the year, and this heavily impacted the operations of the majority of our chapters. However, the resilience of many of our chapters shone through as they continued to create new solutions to some of the environmental issues that we face on our planet.



Yvette Taylor

Our chapters continued to work on land restoration and protection, food and water security, and species protection. As raising awareness of environmental issues and solutions is fundamental to all that we do, each of our chapters worked to bring our Cooperative Ecology™ message to all. Be it sharing wisdom we've gained on scientific issues or bringing about an appreciation in youth for the part we each play in caring for each other and the natural world, we continue to make progress in each of the issues we've taken on.

Most of our supporters are familiar with our term Cooperative Ecology. But for those who aren't, a simple definition is below.

Cooperative = performed together for shared benefit Ecology = the study of interactions between living creatures Cooperative Ecology^M (CoEco^M) = the study of the mutual interdependency and cooperation of all life forms.

This term was created by Dr. Lawrence Anthony to describe when all parts of an ecosystem, including people, work well together and cooperate toward the mutual benefit of all. To the degree that any one life form, including an individual person, makes decisions or takes actions that are more constructive than destructive towards the world, it helps to bring things into natural balance and alignment, and, as a result, that person or life form's own potential to live a long and healthy life is enhanced.

The $CoEco^{M}$ message underpins all we do and the importance of it cannot be overstated. It is what humankind must achieve if we are to ensure the survival and health of our planet and ourselves, individually and as a species.

We hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments of 2021.



MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

It is a demonstrable fact that any life form only brings about a successful life for themselves by actively enhancing the life and things around them upon which they depend. Our Cooperative Ecology concept is not only the guiding principle of our organization, but it is an indispensable tool with which potential solutions can be assessed as to their actual value.



Barbara Wiseman

Whether environmental sciences, for example, bring about a steady improvement

for life forms and the material world or whether they create imbalances determines their usefulness in resolving problems.

By necessity, our Cooperative Ecology approach takes into consideration all parts of any issue we take on in order to find workable solutions that benefit those involved: all life forms affected; impacts on the natural world; economic, scientific, and regulatory policies; effects on businesses; and the interdependent relations between each. This comprehensive approach gives us the highest probability that solutions we develop and implement will truly and stably advance conditions towards far greater wellbeing. And the real results we achieve through our step-by-step method of finding and implementing all-embracing, CoEco solutions are what make The Earth Organization both unique and effective in improving environmental situations.

Whether you are an active supporter of our work, or someone who cares and is concerned about the health of the environment, we hope you'll be pleased to read about our progress and accomplishments for this year. I would sincerely enjoy hearing what you think and invite you to send feedback, once you've had a chance to review this year's achievements.

Here's to a healthy, habitable world for us all!



OUR MISSION

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization is an international non-profit conservation organization that seeks to reverse the decline of the plant and animal kingdoms and our environment through education and action. We are committed to the creative and responsible rehabilitation of Planet Earth and bring new solutions to this field.

We created a term for the basic principle underlying everything we do: Cooperative Ecology (CoEco). Through the application of this principle to each of the projects we take on, we are seeking to instill in people a sense and understanding that all life is interdependent, and that the decisions we all make affect the natural world, and then, in turn, circle back to affect the health and quality of life of each one of us. Basically, CoEco demonstrates that all life does best when it works together with other life towards mutual survival. When this concept is implemented, it better connects everyone to nature, and is a way of getting people to better co-operate with each other and the natural world around them.

Our purpose in working to infuse the concept of CoEco into society is to bring about a NEW ERA of constructive decision making.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 504 HECTARES (1,250 ACRES) CLEARED OF DESTRUCTIVE ALIEN PLANTS
- 3,927 DAYS OF WORK CREATED FOR DISADVANTAGED RURAL ZULU STAFF

LAND RESTORATION

Invasive alien species (IAPs) are plants, insects, fungi, bacteria or animals that can be found in a country or region that they are not native to. They are "alien" as they are from somewhere else, and they are "invasive" as they take over an area, pushing out the natural vegetation. Indigenous plants are plants that are native to an area and are adapted to their local environment.

IAPs can be found in every country in the world. With the movement of people and goods across the globe, seeds are accidental passengers in animal feed, goods and even under people's shoes, leaving their country of origin and being deposited in all corners of the globe. Many seeds germinate in their new homes and have a considerable advantage, as the indigenous insects, bacteria, fungi, birds, and animals do not eat them and they are able to multiply and take over their new habitat.

Reduction in biodiversity – As IAPs spread, unchecked by natural predators, they push out natural vegetation. When an area has been invaded, indigenous species lose their habitat as they are unable to eat the IAPs. Biodiversity rapidly drops, making the area vulnerable to many other negative impacts. In some cases, some indigenous species may feed on the seeds of an IAP, spreading it even further as well as altering their diet and preventing them from spreading indigenous seeds as they normally would.

Water loss caused by IAPs – Many alien plants are found along water ways and use considerably more water than indigenous plants. Water levels can drop precipitously, and sometimes even dry up resulting in soil erosion and fire risk.

Poisonous intruders - Many of the invasive plants are toxic, causing severe health problems in both humans, farm animals, and wildlife. There are IAPs in every region of South Africa that have taken hold and it has become a race against time to rid indigenous areas of these IAPs. The process of alien plant removal is a critical action in the restoration of land and the conservation of water, and it takes knowledge, expertise and diligence to do it effectively so as not to inadvertently spread their seeds even further.



Because the task of removing IAPs is a long and labor-intensive activity, the one plus is that it has become an important job creation vehicle for poor communities with limited skills. In 2021, LAEO conducted projects paid for by the South African government to remove IAPs from a heavily infested natural area in KwaZulu Natal. Plants that formed the majority of the infestation are Lantana Camara, Solanum mauritianum (common name bugweed), Melia azedarach (common names are Syringa or chinaberry), Senna didymobotrya (common name peanut butter cassia or popcorn weed) and Chromolaena odorata (common name triffid weed).

We cleared 315 hectares (780 acres) as an initial treatment, opening these areas up for the first time to allow the natural vegetation to recover. We also revisited 189 hectares (470 acres) to remove regrowth of IAP as a result of seed banks that remain in the soil often for years. This activity provided 3,927 days of work (51 working days for 80 people), economically supporting approximately 800 people in the community.



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS (EMs)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 14 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS TRAINED AND EMPLOYED
- 400 YOUTH ATTENDED 3-DAY ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPS

The South African Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries program has funded our Environmental Monitors (EMs) Project, helping us to employ 14 Environmental Monitors who are trained on and tasked with taking environmental education to the community. Our EMs carried out numerous educational activities in 2021, most notably helping us to conduct environmental school camps. They enrolled 13 primary schools in the KwaXimba area in our environmental education program. Learners from the program are afforded the opportunity to enter an art and essay competition with prize winners getting to participate in a 3-day environmental camp in a wilderness area.

Between lockdown regulations and whilst adhering to strict COVID protocol, 400 learners attended our camp held on a farm in the Umkomaas Valley called Nyala School Camp. During the drive to camp, the youth were filled with trepidation and excitement, but they



LAEO SOUTH AFRICA

soon overcame their fears and the three days were filled with fun activities, learning experiences and personal growth.

The program includes: name games and ice breakers; preparing a team dinner; camp fire storytelling; wildlife walks; water studies; litter and pollution lessons; a lesson called We Are Part of Nature; fun obstacle course & team-building games.

This experience is the best possible way to immerse them in nature, raise their awareness of it, and to inspire their responsible care of it. It gives young people a chance to begin to understand the natural world, their impact on it, and what they can do to preserve our planet.

This is a truly life-changing experience for many, and the beginning of a healthier environment for us all.

Thanks to Peter Eastwood and the Tanglewood Foundation for their generous grant that has allowed a total of 600 young learners over the past two years to experience the sheer joy of being in nature and learning the importance of caring for it and the part they play in ensuring its sustainability.





LAEO SOUTH AFRICA

EDUCATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- DISTRIBUTED 2000 WILDLIFE EDUCATION BOOKLETS ALONG WITH 120 BOXES OF CRAYONS
- 2000 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN RHINO ART COMPETITION
- 2000 STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT RHINO POACHING AND PLASTIC POLLUTION

We were once again a recipient of the children's environmental educational booklets created by Blue Sky Society. This year's edition is beautifully illustrated and packed with activities. The children loved them and learned more about nature and the importance of protecting the natural world. Our sincere thanks to Blue Sky Society Trust for donating the books to us, and for the beautiful graphic design work created by Stephanie de Wit.

A rhino art competition was held in 14 schools with over 2000 learners. The goal of the art competition is to raise awareness of the scourge of rhino poaching that plagues Africa.

Along with the art competition, there were also theory classes on rhino poaching and how that impacts conservation. Learners were also thoroughly trained on the impact of plastic pollution on the planet.











HELPING A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY MOVE TO A SAFER AREA

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• 12 LIONS AND 2 TIGERS IN A NEW FOREVER HOME

Ubuntu is a South African phrase that means "I am because you are". It is a deeply meaningful and poignant message that fosters an attitude of humanity. In 2021, a lion and tiger sanctuary called Ubuntu needed to move their operation from the far north of the country, where vicious wildlife poaching was out of control, to a safer area in the Western Cape, an area of South Africa near Mossel on the Indian Ocean. We were delighted to be able to assist them in this cross-country expedition.

The move included 12 lions and two tigers. Five of the lions had previously been rescued and relocated there by LAEO from Ukraine in 2019. The move transferred these animals 1200 km (750 miles) via 28 vehicles in convoy on a 22-hour drive across the country. No small feat with that many large predators.

The cats all arrived safely at their new home and, after medical checks and habituating them to the new area, were released into their large, new, outdoor enclosures where they will live out their lives in a beautiful natural-habitat area. Unfortunately, when lions and tigers have been habituated to humans, they can never be fully released back into the wild; but they are now happy in their new and very humane home, being well cared for by Ubuntu staff.





LAEO SOUTH AFRICA

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR 120 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM KWAXIMBA

LAEO South Africa ended the year with a joyful day for the children of the KwaXimba community when all the creches (nursery schools) from the area got together for an early Christmas celebration.

It may have been a difficult year for many, but spirits were lifted when Santa's helpers started to hand out parcels filled with toiletries, clothing, educational toys, stationary and yummy treats. Bringing laughter and goodwill, some of the toys were almost as big as the children.



A big "Thank you!" to Anne of Seedlings Montessori Preschool who engaged the whole school to work on creating the gift parcels. Laddsworth Primary School and many Hilton school families also participated. A very special "Thanks" to the Bozas family who work throughout the year to make these events memorable and meaningful, and especially to Kaz Bozas who baked a huge and delicious cake.

Great goodwill and happiness was generated for the children and their teachers in this endof-the-year celebration.





LAEO UNITED STATES



Barbara Wiseman – LAEO U.S. Executive Director



Debra Schreib – LAEO U.S. Deputy Executive Director



Diane Stivey – LAEO U.S. Managing Director Operations

OVERVIEW:

While there are many critically important environmental issues that need to be addressed, with our existing resources, the U.S. Headquarters of The Earth Organization is currently focused on three key issues of critical importance:

1) RESOLVING WATER ISSUES: clean water supply scarcities caused by severe drought, water contamination, and flawed water management practices that are threatening the health of habitats;

2) THE RESTORATION OF DYING LAND, SOIL AND HABITAT: faulty technologies and toxic land and soil management practices that are reducing the health of ecosystems; and

3) RAISING AWARENESS OF CONSTRUCTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICES: We conduct education programs that change the underlying cultural attitudes that throw people out of harmony with the natural world.

Following are our key areas of focus and progress this year.

SOLUTIONS TO THE GROWING WATER CRISIS

We worked intensively this year to codify and implement remedies for what we have identified as the most severe environmental problem humankind currently faces: the steep decline in clean water and healthy soils with ensuing desertification, impacting all life.

While many years ago, discoveries were made regarding massive freshwater resources coming up from depths far below the shallow aquifers that the vast majority of water wells traditionally tap into, the existence of this enormous supplemental resource and the knowledge of how to access it has not been broadly known. "...the most severe environmental problem humankind currently faces: the steep decline in clean water and healthy soils with ensuing desertification, impacting all life."



LAEO UNITED STATES

Thus, our primary focus this year was on our Deep Seated Water Technology. While sections of this tech have been known and used by a handful of other scientists over the last 80 years, no one has adequately documented the full scope of the technology and its results, nor been able to overcome antiquated and fixed ideas in this field that have blocked its worldwide use and even hindered raising awareness of its existence. It was in danger of becoming a lost tech.

And yet the awareness of this alternative source of water and how to access it is the key to solving devastating drought and deteriorating farms, ranches, and other ecosystems.

WHAT IS DEEP SEATED WATER TECH™?

Deep-seated water is high-quality groundwater that is typically sourced from deep aquifers that are located below the shallow aquifers normally tapped into with water wells (see chart). Our Deep-Seated Water Technology (DSW Tech[™]) is a systematic method for locating previously-hidden, near-surface access points to these abundant alternative water resources. DSW Tech is the missing piece in water management strategies, and the full technology includes diverse techniques that each help to protect and preserve environments.





BENEFITS OF DEEP-SEATED WATER

- It provides an alternative source of fresh water to resolve a looming water crisis in a drought-stricken area.
- As a supplemental resource, when sustainably managed, it can complement existing water conservation measures in a region.
- It provides clean, fresh water that has not been impacted by surface pollution.
- By accessing fresh water from deeper sources, it relieves stress on shallow aquifers and surface waters such as rivers, streams, and reservoirs, enabling them to recharge.
- By adding a supply of deep-seated water to a region's water inventory, we can bolster water, food and general ecological security, as well as diminish political and economic conflict.
- It can improve water quality and quantity and restore healthy ecosystems.

ADVANCED REGIONAL WATER STUDIES FOR AUSTRALIA AND THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES

Our hydrogeology team – Senior Hydrogeologist Dr. Tigran Sadoyan, Chief Hydrogeologist Arlin Howles, and Director of Field Operations Clark Carr – worked to improve technical methods by which regional studies are performed to identify the most likely, near-surface areas where deepseated water can be accessed. This method arrives at the highest probability areas where in-the-field water exploration should be done. This work is helping landowners and regional governing bodies lower the risk of drilling dry boreholes in areas highly prone to extreme water scarcity.



Clark Carr, Dr. Tigran Sadoyan, Arlin Howles Conducting a Field Study



ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• AUSTRALIA - 11 ADVANCED, DEEP-SEATED-WATER-ACCESS STUDIES COMPLETED IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has been experiencing devastating drought for at least eight years. Our research has been providing critically important information for landowners, ranchers, and

communities desperate to efficiently find adequate sources of good water. To help in their efforts:

- We completed advanced regional studies for most of the province of South Australia, including the Adelaide Region, Port Augusta and the Flinders Ranges Region and mapped out several potential areas for further deep-seated water exploration.
- We developed regional mapping for the Murray Basin and several large cattle/sheep stations (very large Australian ranches) including the Monash Station, Kokatha Pastoral, Roxby Downs, Purple Downs and Andamooka Stations.
- We completed regional mapping of the Port Lincoln area and documented the salinity intrusion within the region, as well as a detailed evaluation of the Tod River Reservoir.

Red Ovals Designate Areas with High Potential for Further Exploration to Find Deep Seated



Example above: After conducting our first phase regional study of an area in South Australia, we identified Areas of Interest (AOIs) for further, more in-depth analysis in the red oval circles.

SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• 12 ADVANCED, DEEP-SEATED-WATER-ACCESS STUDIES COMPLETED IN THE U.S.

The Southwestern U.S. has been undergoing severe drought for several years. Individual landowners as well as regional planners are in desperate need of more effective water management strategies. This year our progress in this region included:

• Conducting advanced regional studies in 12 regions of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada in preparation for more in-depth analysis on projects developing in those areas of interest we have identified.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

LAEO UNITED STATES

 Through remote analysis, we first identified several areas of interest for further exploration on a property in mid-Texas; then, using our advanced seismic equipment to assess the geology on-site, we detected a fractured rock pathway coming up from deep-water resources. Using the information acquired, we were able to pinpoint, within one yard, exactly where to drill for the most likely access point to a source of abundant deep-



seated water. (As of the writing of this report in 2022, a highly successful water well was drilled with a flow rate potential of between 800 to 1,000 gallons per minute.)

- This R&D project added to our knowledge and the documentation and codification of our Deep-Seated Water Technology including a soil restoration study by our Chief Environmental Scientist, Bettina Koch, for a section of the land that was highly contaminated.
- Through several field studies in California and Texas, we customized a process using
 instruments and specialized software for mapping below-surface geology and
 prospective DSW locations and documented the information for future training
 purposes. As the average reported success rate for most water well drilling
 operations is about 40%, our advancements in analysis techniques are a significant
 leap forward for the science of water location and drilling. Enabling far more precise
 well drilling operations is in line with our efforts to resolve severe environmental
 issues in this case, acute water shortages.

WATER QUALITY SOLUTIONS

A necessary part of accessing groundwater supplies from any source is ensuring they are free from contamination. This year we continued researching best available technologies for cleaning water supplies and assuring that any contamination can be removed without destroying the natural health of the water. After several years of vetting water filtration and structuring systems, we are now close to having a water testing and treatment protocol for which we can confidently advocate. There is more testing to do but, thus far, our research has had excellent outcomes for improving the quality of groundwater, when necessary.





PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• EXPERT PRESENTATIONS AT THREE LARGE GROUNDWATER CONFERENCES

As the global water crisis expands, "solutions" being proposed and implemented are often so extreme that they are more destructive than constructive to economic health and, thus, from a CoEco viewpoint, cannot be considered real solutions – but real solutions do exist. Regional water management plans around the world are missing key elements to truly achieve sustainability and we have taken on the redesigning of current, widely accepted but inadequate water management strategies to bring them into alignment with natural laws and greatly enhance their ability to create truly sustainable water security for their communities. In coordination with AquaterreX, our largest Corporate Sponsor, our experts were key presenters at three large groundwater conferences.



Clark Carr and Tigran Sadoyan meeting with Senior Middle East Officials

SOIL RESTORATION SOLUTIONS

"Desertification" is the process by which fertile land becomes desert, typically because of drought, deforestation, and unsustainable agriculture practices. It is alarming to see the seemingly relentless advancement of desertification around the world. At the time of this writing, over one-third (38%) of the world's land is under threat.* Without healthy soil, desertification ensues, and more of our lands become desert and drought-stressed dead zones. Along with ensuring the availability of clean freshwater, restoring soil health is a fundamental factor in rehabilitating healthy landscapes, restoring streams, rivers and lakes and their interdependent ecosystems.

*Citation: Núñez, Montserrat; Civit, Bárbara; Muñoz, Pere; Arena, Alejandro Pablo; Rieradevall, Joan; Anton, Assumpció. "Assessing potential desertification environmental impact in life cycle assessment" International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment 15(1): 67-78, January 2010.



LAEO UNITED STATES

In 2021, our Chief Environmental Scientist, Bettina Koch, began an extensive R&D program to acquire additional technology for the design of a complete soil restoration program based on Cooperative Ecology principles. This included:

- soil testing and analysis to determine the extent of contamination;
- then, precise scientific protocols necessary for full remediation.



We are currently integrating a range of complementary soil restoration methods and technologies that restore and self-maintain soil fertility and productivity without the use of toxic, synthetic chemicals. We can now facilitate the swift and entirely safe removal of many of the most prevalent soil contaminants from Ag chemicals. In addition, we are expanding our research into methods to enhance the activity of a plant's own internal processes.

UPDATE ON OIL SPILL CLEANUP PROGRESS

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• EFFECTIVE TOXIC SPILL CLEANUP METHODS BEING UTILIZED IN OVER 70 COUNTRIES

In 2010, inspired by the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, we researched the subject of the wholly inadequate toxic spill clean-up procedures currently utilized by the spill clean-up industry with an eye to finding and advocating for efficient, non-toxic clean-up solutions. After in-depth comparison of products officially authorized for use at that time, LAEO identified and recommended an optimum solution for cleaning up oil spills: Enzymatic Bioremediation. This highly effective method has no environmental trade-offs or other

negative impacts and effectively converts oil into benign substances.

Continuing to gain traction in the oil spill clean-up industry, it has now been adopted and used in over 70 countries by parties responsible for the clean-up of spills, including some of the most major oil companies. The effectiveness of Enzymatic Bioremediation (which has the proprietary product name of Oil Spill Eater II (OSE II) and is manufactured and distributed by the OSEI Corporation), was documented and published in our investigative report: "A Twenty-First Century Solution in Oil Spill Response." This vitally important paper continues to be used to raise awareness of real solutions available to all for effectively cleaning up toxic spills.





COOPERATIVE ECOLOGY EDUCATION

Underlying all environmental problems created by humankind is a lack of awareness of each person's vital, but often ignored, partnership for mutual wellbeing with the natural world. Thus, contained in the original directive for our organization was the mandate that, no matter what issues we work to resolve, we must, at the same time, conduct educational campaigns to raise awareness of how to protect and live in harmony with each other and nature, starting from a young age. The most fundamental concept that must be imbued into society to truly reverse worsening environmental situations is a deeply held and personal understanding of how one's own survival is interwoven with, and interdependent upon the health and survival of those life forms and things around one. Our trademarked terms "Cooperative Ecology™" and its abbreviation, "CoEco™", embrace this concept and we are creating educational materials, books and courses for schools and home-schools, as well as the general adult public, based on this principle.

This year, we continued to refine and expand our CoEco educational materials, particularly for the ages of 8- to 14-year-olds. Working together with a teacher in Pixley Middle School in the Kern County California Public Schools system, with a school population of primarily underserved migrant farmworker families, we piloted a new study manual and its orientation guide, to very good results with the attending students.

How do you bring about awareness in youth of how the whole world operates on this CoEco principle? We first set the stage by making it personal, getting them to look at how families, their school, their local community, and nature itself all work best when each individual

within those groups work to make life better, happier and safer for each of the others. Then we have them do projects to enhance those groups, and then observe how their own life got better as a result.

The children who learn and apply even the most fundamental CoEco principles are far more cognizant of the world around them, have raised awareness of their impact on the environment, and they realize that those individuals and species who live most successfully are those who actively work to enhance the life and things around them upon which their own life depends.





LAEO UNITED STATES

Here are just a few examples of responses we got from students after completing the CoEco Course:

"I view the world a little bit differently because the project takes your ideas and mind and shines light on a new topic, allowing you to be more open and aware of everyday things in our wildlife and ecosystem."

"I see more the impact of the things we do, and the things we can do to lessen that impact."

"It changed my outlook when I read about those three [conservationists]. If you really wanted to, you can make a difference."

"Now I make sure that I don't waste water and when I am at places I look and see if they have lots of nature."

Additionally, we wrote a basic book for adults called <u>*Cooperative Ecology: How to Live a</u></u> <u><i>Successful Life* and conducted a pilot of an extension course for it. We are now in process of fine tuning the materials based on those results and look forward to their broad publication in 2022.</u></u>

We are currently fundraising to expand our resources in 1) manpower, 2) the creation of digital publications and, 3) the printing and shipping of hard copies of our CoEco educational materials to make it possible to expand this program to an entirely new level by next distributing it to schools and general public through our 12 international chapters.

IN SUMMARY

We sincerely thank our dedicated staff, our skilled volunteers, and our corporate sponsors and donors, without whom we could not have achieved 2021's results.

There is so much more to do. We ask that you continue your support to enable us to greatly expand our work, speed our progress, and widen our circles of influence in helping to bring about a healthy, thriving, aesthetic world for the benefit of all.



LAEO FRANCE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 99 KILOS (218 POUNDS) OF CORK COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING
- PUBLICATION OF A NEW BOOKLET FOR THE PROTECTION OF
 WOLVES
- EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES WRITTEN AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON HOW TO RECYCLE MATERIALS

LAEO France continues to focus primarily on spreading their environmental educational messages through books, social media and blogs, and through supporting the efforts of aligned, effective groups.

Throughout the year, we continued to encourage people to change their lives to live more sustainably through:

REPLACING plastic with eco-friendly material, whenever possible;

REDUCING water and energy use, and raw materials and waste. Just one example of this was that we helped to promote the reduction of electricity consumption through switching off streetlights after prime time – a practice that is now being followed by a third of all French municipalities;

REUSING materials, when possible, and thereby saving energy, water, raw materials and money. For example, annually nearly 20 billion corks are produced worldwide. This product is harvested from cork oak trees, which heavily impacts this plant species. We promoted the reuse of corks for thermal insulation and decorative projects and, as a part of this project, collected 99kg (218 pounds) of cork to be recycled.

RECYCLING - Recycling cans, for example, saves 95% of the energy needed to make new cans; 60% for paper; 30% for plastic and glass. The creation of Tawashi, a Japanese word meaning "dishcloth", is an effective way to recycle old sweaters, socks and T-shirts by weaving them into cleaning cloths, a useful item that decreases the waste of trees for paper towels.







LAEO FRANCE

Our educational blogs and other writings also raised awareness about captive animal cruelty and promoted the creation of protected marine reserves.

Our Chapter Director, Noelle Septier-Saugout, expanded our involvement in the issue of wolf protection in the forests of France through membership on a committee, called CAP Loup, tasked to find solutions to wolf-human conflict. As a part of our work on this issue, we collaborated to publish a booklet on the protection of wolves called Loups IIs Sont, Leur Retour en France (Wolves Are Back in France).

The following are key organizations whose efforts we helped to support in 2021:

- Andidote Europe working to stop animal experimentation
- European Elephant Haven Sanctuary
- Meles working to protect badgers
- SPA Calais focused on the care of wounded or orphan seals
- Refuge de l'Arche a wild animal shelter

Additionally, we participated in the Bonn challenge by coordinating the efforts of volunteers to plant 15 new trees in a private garden.







ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• COMPLETED AND PUBLISHED OUR LATEST EDUCATIONAL BOOK, THE ARTIST & THE PLANET

Our New Jersey Chapter continues to utilize art education to raise awareness of wildlife conservation issues. Developing visual landscapes that equate biodiversity with beauty while emphasizing the importance of the responsible care of wildlife through forwarding the concept of Cooperative Ecology is at the core of all our efforts.

In 2021, we completed and published The Artist & The Planet, the third book in our Art & Wildlife book series. The book comments on and illustrates the flora and fauna of "the Garden State", as New Jersey is commonly known. From opulent sunflower farms to the amazing biodiversity of the Jersey Shore—141 miles of oceanfront bordering the Atlantic Ocean—themes of art, wildlife and advocacy are juxtaposed to present a portrait of Andrea, a fictional young artist who becomes interested in the eco-art of her peers.



ELAINE TORRES-TINEO







LAEO NEW JERSEY

In June 2021, we celebrated World Ocean Day with the very young students of One River Art School in Englewood, New Jersey. The theme was the coral reef environment, and the students were invited to create their own seascapes of coral reefs using a variety of colourful illustrations as a reference. Following the ethos of the school, the students were encouraged to create art tailored to their subjective vision, with the goal of having every student create a unique coral reef illustration.



NEW EDUCATIONAL ART BOOK IN THE WORKS

We dedicated the last months of the year to developing our soon-to-be-launched Passerine Project. Passerine are birds which have feet specialized for grasping branches and similar structures, with the first toe facing backward. About 50% of bird species, including songbirds and certain other groups, belong to this order and our educational materials focus on passerine birds from all continents—a stunning array of color and biodiversity that provides exciting creative inspiration for the young artist. Many of the birds included in the project are local passerines, and the goal is to encourage young urban students to become more mindful of this bird type and their habitats by participating in bird-watching activities. The Passerine Project will be launched in the autumn of 2022 and will include a picture book, workshops, street art and posters that promote bird conservation efforts.

We are excited about this project and looking forward to its launch.





2021 ANNUAL REPORT

LAEO UGANDA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- COFFEE PLANTATIONS CREATED TO BUFFER FORESTS AND WETLANDS ARE NOW ECONOMICALLY ENHANCING LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- 15 COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED AND MOBILIZED TO COLLECT AND SELL RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

COFFEE TO PROTECT FORESTS

In 2016, our Uganda chapter launched a project to protect local natural forests by planting a buffer of coffee plants. Previously, local forests were being heavily impacted as the only source of income for many impoverished communities who harvested trees to make charcoal to sell, or by draining swamps and wetland areas to farm. Over the past several years, we have had numerous engagements with farmers and students and the project has reduced the dependency of local communities on nearby natural forests for their survival. The coffee plantations we've worked to create are providing an alternative source of income for these communities and this is creating an economically productive buffer zone resulting in greater protection of the forest areas.

As the coffee market is established and available, and returns are dependable,



our "Plant Coffee to Conserve the Environment Project" is now scaling up and we are moving on to the next phase of education to teach people how to harvest, dry and store the coffee beans. This form of agroforestry is making a significant difference to our local forests.

As we planned, this has become an excellent example of an "everybody wins" Cooperative Ecology solution.



LAEO UGANDA

COMMUNITY RECYCLING

Our other vital project is working to mobilize our community to pick up and recycle useable materials.

In this project we have activated our local community by educating them on the importance of cleaning up and recycling plastics, polythene materials, and other useable rubbish. We then provide garbage bags for them to collect these materials.

Once the bags are full, waste collectors deliver them to buyers who purchase the waste material, and the profits are then shared with all involved, once again providing an alternative income source to community members, while cleaning up and preventing the negative impacts of plastic litter and pollution.

The high cost of fuel has presented some challenges as the limited funds restrict travel, but, so far, we have provided 15 community members with durable, reusable bags for recyclable rubbish collection and trained and activated them.

We are looking forward to greatly expanding both of these programs as we continue to train more community members in workable methods of protecting and preserving the environment through practical CoEco solutions to our local issues.







ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• 206 VENEMOUS SNAKES CAPTURED AND MOVED TO SAFE, ISOLATED AREAS

It's been a busy year for Nick Evans, the head of LAEO's Reptile and Amphibian Chapter. He is one of a handful of people in South Africa who rescues, rehabilitates and relocates snakes and other large reptiles.

In December alone, Nick had over 30 calls to rescue a variety of snakes. In just that month, 21 snakes were captured and moved to an isolated area and released.

In 2021 Nick, personally, captured a little more than 100 Black Mambas (the second



largest venomous snake), which contributed to his ongoing research into reptile behaviour.

Many people fear snakes and think that snakes attack and kill humans but in the Greater Durban Area of South Africa, which has a population of close to 3.5 million people, there have only been two confirmed Black Mamba bites in 2021. One was a freak accident in which a juvenile mamba crawled into a gumboot and the inevitable happened. The second was when a man was trying to kill one. Need we say that attacking a mamba is a bad idea? With no option to flee, they are forced to defend themselves and will attack. Fortunately, the patients in both incidents survived.

Nick teaches people not to fear snakes as well as what the correct actions are when one comes upon a snake, such as, back away slowly; do not try to capture or kill the snake; and then call a snake catcher. This ensures the safety of both people and snakes. These reptiles play a critical role in the world's ecosystems, keeping down rodent populations, and in South Africa, for instance, getting rid of alien invasive rats that can heavily damage ecosystems where they have no significant predators.



SNAKES SPECIES AND NUMBERS RESCUED IN 2021

Over 100 Black Mamba, 18 Green Mamba, 14 Vine or Twig snakes, 7 Green Water snakes, 9 Brown House snakes, 5 endangered African Python, 1 Forest Cobra, 28 Mozambique Spitting Cobra, 6 Nile Water Monitor, 14 Boomslang, 1 Rhombic Night Adder, 2 Short Snout Grass snake and 1 Puff Adder.



ACCOMPLISHMENT:

• SEASON 2 OF THE TV SERIES ABOUT NICK'S REPTILE RESCUE WORK AIRED NATIONALLY

Nick was once again featured on a national TV station, which made a series about his work as a snake rescuer, called "Snake Season 2". The TV channel reaches over a hundred thousand people per week. This entertaining series follows Nick on some of his daring adventures to rescue a variety of highly venomous snakes, sometimes under extremely difficult circumstances. It was a powerful educational opportunity for Nick to bring about heightened awareness of the importance of reptiles and amphibians to the health of the natural world.

As a part of Nick's on-going educational work, he gave numerous talks at schools and rural factories, for farmworkers, and much more. And his snake ID poster was published in three newspapers.





Our alliance of chapters around the world has continued to push forward, despite the extreme challenges created by the pandemic. Our sincere thanks to our supporters, staff, volunteers, and our many allies for their dedication to restoring a healthy planet that we can all be proud to leave as a legacy to future generations.

If this is an area of concern and interest for you, we invite you to join forces with us in meaningful ways to bring about a healthy, flourishing, and vibrant world for the benefit of all life.".

International Headquarters:

info@earthorganization.org https://www.earthorganization.org +27 787279591 10 Portman Ave Westville, Durban South Africa, 3629

U.S. Headquarters: info@TheEarthOrganization.org https://www.TheEarthOrganization.org +1 (818) 330-9528 16215 Askin Dr., Suite 201 Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222-6842 USA



A MESSAGE TO OUR SPONSORS

We want to give special thanks to our largest supporters this year. Thank you for helping us to make our achievements possible.

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Photographers: Clark Carr Eleonora Crenna Yvette Taylor Barbara Wiseman



REPORT END



2021 ANNUAL REPORT