

Lawrence Anthony EARTH ORGANIZATION

2013

ANNUAL SUMMARY



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Lawrence Anthony EARTH ORGANIZATION

Message from the Executive Director and President

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization (LAEO) is an independent, non-profit whose mission is to raise mankind's awareness, through education and hands-on projects, of each person's vital partnership for survival with the natural world. LAEO helps individuals, companies, and governments take action to achieve a more successful partnership for survival with the natural world.

We are science-based, and work to implement rational solutions to restore a healthy thriving planet for all life. We support industry, commerce, the economy and the public's health, as well as the survival of the Plant and Animal Kingdoms and the environment.

We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished in 2013 and look forward to moving ahead towards our goals with even greater speed and resources in 2014.

There is no question that there is much work to do to bring health back to the planet; but there is a lot of good news and forward progress to report.

The impact of the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization increases every year and 2013 was no different. The following report is a brief overview of our most active chapters biggest accomplishments in 2013. On a global scale we have seen growth and an increasing international influence through the accomplishments of our chapters.

With Lawrence Anthony's vision to guide us, we have worked tirelessly to lift mankind's awareness of environmental issues and implement realistic and stable solutions. From the creation of game reserves to benefit local indigenous communities and rehabilitate their respect for animals, to our work in bringing the world community to adopt our resolution protecting wildlife in war zones, to our work in educating government regulators and the international oil industry about efficient and constructive methods of oil spill cleanup, we are moving ahead with issues we feel will bring enormous benefit to all life on this planet.

We have more people to thank for their help and support than we could possibly name in this annual report. From our chapter staff and volunteers, to our science, administrative, and legal advisors, to our financial supporters, each one of you has a share in our accomplishments and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

On to 2014!!

Very Sincerely,

Yvette Taylor
International Executive Director
&
Barbara Wiseman
International President

Head Office



WALK FOR WILDLIFE:

LAEO re-launched the Wildlife in War Zones project this year in a partnership with Sun Coast Casino and uShaka marine world. The walk was attended by about 350 people and turned out to be a very successful and exciting day for all involved. The awareness and fund raising day attracted the attention of TV and 50/50, a well-known South African show, made a program about the Wildlife in War Zones issue as a whole. The program, aired to approximately 4 Million people, covered the subject in depth and included interviews of Yvette Taylor, well known elephant expert Bruce Page and Dominic Moss, manager of the Johannesburg Zoo. The walk was also featured by local newspapers and made front page in the Witness, the Daily News and page 3 of the Mercury.

SCHOOLS & RECYCLING:

LAEO gave talks to over 4500 children about recycling and the importance of recycling to the environment. This year Enviro Serv extended this recycling program by buying a truck for the project which enabled better collections allowing faster growth of the project. Currently it is active in 10 schools but will expand to 20 in the first term of 2014.

Head office was extensively involved in other school projects. One of these included a team speaking contest focusing on environmental issues with Yvette Taylor acting as one of the judges. The finals were held at the Durban International Convention Centre with Isipingo Secondary school taking first prize.

In partnership with the South Durban Basin, a rhino art contest was held in 18 underprivileged schools in the South. The art was very moving and highlighted clearly the children's perception and sadness at the relentless slaughter of Africa's rhinos.

BUHLE BEMVELO COMMUNITY GAME RESERVE:

LAEO have put great effort and work into the creation of this vast community owned game reserve along with continuing the community education programs and the community soccer tournament. The tournament and finals this year were an incredible success and created excitement throughout the community and surrounding areas. BFG and partners funded the event adding generous prizes and a cash prize for the winning team. The incentive was motivating the teams even more and some superb soccer was played which had the crowd on their feet throughout.



A proposal has been submitted to the National Lottery for 2 Million ZAR to enhance sustainable living around the game reserve with the outcome still to be decided. LAEO in partnership with River's End Consulting have also submitted a funding proposal for 63.7 Million ZAR to develop the Mayibuye and Buhle Bemvelo Game Reserves in Camperdown. The proposal has made it through all other levels and is now at the final adjudication.

AWARDS:

The coveted 'Keep Durban clean' award was won by LAEO due to a motivation submitted by the Department of Waste Management of Durban. The motivation reads as follows:

"In the recent past, issues of animal rights were seen as elitist environmental concerns; however today we realize the interdependence of the environment and environmental issues. The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization is bridging the gap between welfare and social justice issues. The nature of their projects brings attention to the root of environmental issues, such as overconsumption, attitudes of people, and in turn creating a caring ethic towards the interdependence of all life. They actively network to create environmental awareness by working with other like-minded organizations and their volunteers and affiliates across the country and worldwide..."

Project Rhino KZN is an affiliation of groups who are all working together on stopping the current rhino poaching crisis. LAEO as an affiliate to Project Rhino KZN shares in winning the prestigious Mail and Guardian Greening the Future Awards.

GOLF DAY:

This year's golf day was very successful raising nearly R100 000 for LAEO and its projects.

EAST COAST RADIO RHINO WATCH:

Rhino Watch continued to air every week on a Wednesday with LAEO mentioned each time as the non-profit partner of the campaign. East Coast Radio has a listenership of 1.9 million people and as a result over half a million ZAR was raised for aerial surveillance and protection over Zululand this year. KZN is seeing one of the lowest escalations in poaching nationally and as a result of the projects success Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife pledged support and secured 2.5 Million ZAR to fund two helicopters for a period of 2 years. The Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAP Wing) was formed consisting of two helicopters and two fixed wing aircrafts showing the amazing operational advantage of having 'eyes in the sky'. Rhino Watch money is still generously being donated and a portion is used to extend the flight range of one of the fixed wing aircrafts by 10 hours a month. Through the media awareness of ECR Rhino Watch LAEO has become a source of news for many media outlets. Statements and Interviews on environmental issues, the extinction of the Western Black Rhino, canned Lion hunting or Elephant poaching by Yvette Taylor, have been published in newspapers and radio stations across the province.



VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

LAEO volunteers have been very active and successful this year. They assisted in various projects supporting CROW, Centre for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, planting gardens and cleaning out beds. A series of beach clean ups to remove piles of glass and litter were followed by a visit to the Monkey Helpline building new cages and improving the clinic facilities.

RHINO REHABILITATION CENTRE:

Due to the need for the rehabilitation of orphaned baby rhino, Thula Thula decided to step up and create a rehabilitation centre. They have already successfully rehabilitated 2 orphaned rhino and now mean to extend their work. Their rhino nurse was sent for special training in Johannesburg run by one of South Africa's top rehabilitation expert and returned with a wealth of knowledge. The general public have been very supportive about the creation of the new rehabilitation and release centre for orphaned and injured rhino, donations poured in with a quarter of a million rand raised this year. The chapter then approached a leading animal welfare group for support, Four Paws immediately saw the necessity for the facility and did not hesitate to give much needed support. They donated three hundred thousand euros for the building of a state of the art centre.



WRA

WILDLIFE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

WILDLIFE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION (WRA):

Through close LAEO partnerships the Wildlife Resource Association was established in 2013. This group is an affiliation of 14 of the top environmental professionals in South Africa in order to combine their skills and expertise in Wildlife management and natural resource conservation and make them available to the wildlife and conservation sector. Funding generated by WRA will be managed by LAEO and adds great value to the scientific base we pride ourselves in.

Kloof

Abalindi Old Age Home & Orphanage performing a play on conservation as a thank you for The Earth Organizations' efforts.



Abalindi Old Age Home & Orphanage

LAEO Kloof conducted a Christmas Party for the community of the Abalindi Old Age Home & Orphanage. After the gift-giving and a conservational message from LAEO, the youth of Abalindi Old Age Home & Orphanage performed a play to express their gratitude.

LAEO Kloof continued their game ranger training initiative, having completed all but the two remaining modules. An excursion to the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary saw trainees broadening their knowledge, most notably concerning raptors. Their examinations on the bird of prey section were exceptional, further highlighting how far they had come, with the trainees providing better and better results throughout the course of the programme.

An introduction to public presentation was the next project, each trainee was required to speak on what they had learned through the week to the class as a presentation. The students were then encouraged to quiz the speaker, and overall this proved to be an effective exercise for establishing self-confidence and public speaking skills. The next objective is to send the trainees into the bush for some hands-on experience learning practical skills in the wild.

Debbie Dobaston Bennett was approached by The Mercury for an article on her work, the piece is called Women Who Care, and it focuses on all of the positive work that she and Nononde Magwa had done over the course of the year for LAEO Kloof.

This year the Kloof chapter focused on educating children about the interconnectedness of all living things. In life the balance of giving and taking is vital to healthy and sustainable living in a community and everyone can contribute in some way no matter what their circumstances are. The children are being taught that giving does not have to mean a financial contribution, but can be something as simple as a warm greeting on a cold day, assisting an elder across the road, feeding a hungry animal. LAEO Kloof believes that children and young adults cannot feel empathy or respect for nature if they don't feel the same for themselves or their fellow men. Focusing on these fundamental basics has shown positive change to the lives of the children the chapter worked with this year.

TEAM LEADERS:

After careful preparation, four environmental team leaders were appointed who each have a team of 5 children with whom they work. Each leader has chosen a name for their group: The River Rangers, The Green Team, The Wildlife Team and The Photolysis Team. The team leaders are responsible for registering attendance and preparing environmental activities and projects. For example, the teams studied the water and life of the Inanda Dam; many hours were spent in the bush identifying insects followed by placing them into the eco system. For World Rhino Day the teams made up awareness posters, and collected litter around the Dam, which was reused to make beautiful pieces of art.

Kloof Chapter's aim with this initiative is to help guide and prepare future conservation leaders within the surrounding communities.



United States

2013 has been LAEO U.S.'s most productive year, to date. Our team worked extremely hard, infused with passion about the issues we've taken on, and have been making fantastic headway.



*Barbara Wiseman (2nd from top left) at temple celebration of organic farmers
in Lucknow, India – Photo by Kamyra O'Keefe*

IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR OIL SPILLS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

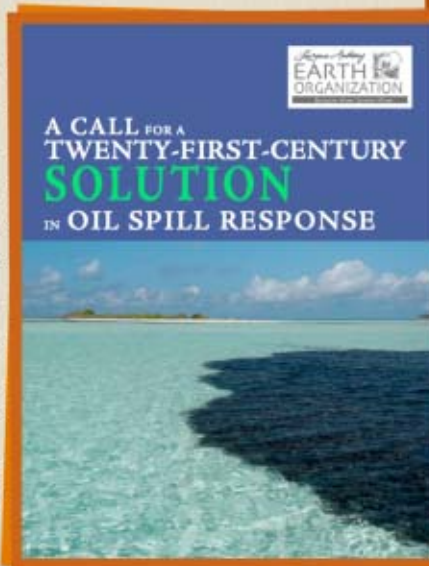
There are tens of thousands of reported oil spills around the world every year in navigable waters. As over 70% of the oxygen we breathe comes from the algae and microbes in the top foot and a half of ocean waters, to the degree that we are infusing the oceans with toxic oil spills and other pollutants, we are killing off the very microbes that support all oxygen-breathing life on this planet. Our U.S. headquarters continues to be primarily focused on resolving this issue, globally, and achieved the following in 2013:

At the request of LAEO U.S. and the Louisiana Economic Foundation, in September of 2010, Dr. Paul Sammarco, a Senior Scientist of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, brought together a team of scientists who co-authored a scientific paper laying out their factual research data of the Gulf of Mexico BP oil blowout disaster's on-going impact on the Gulf's water and marine life. After an intensive peer-review process, the paper was published in 2013 in a well-respected scientific journal, the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. The data revealed alarming contradictions between information being portrayed through the mainstream media, that the impact of the blowout was negligible and resolved, and what these independent researchers were finding. The fact that these scientists all did this work with no financial exchange and based solely on their personal integrity and deep concern for what they were seeing was happening to the Gulf, gave the paper even more credibility. LAEO then headed up the media campaign to get the information out broadly which resulted in our press releases being picked up by over 120 different news sites including the New York Times and several well-respected oil and gas industry journals with several media interviews of Dr. Sammarco regarding the issue.

Diane Wagenbrenner, our Vice-President of Programs and Public Out Reach, conducted an exhaustive review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) internal guidance documents related to oil spill cleanup. Her incisive work resulted in unearthing faulty science that was being purveyed by the U.S. EPA and erringly utilized by decision makers around the world. These documents are the source of the justifications used for the on-going, destructive decisions to utilize highly toxic chemicals that not only do not clean up oil spills, but make the negative impacts of oil spills exponentially worse. We were then asked by a member of a sub-committee of the EPA's Science and Technology Committee, to help them review the EPA's internal guidance documents and offer suggestions for improvement.

When that process was complete, we wrote an in-depth position paper on the issue, *A Call for a Twenty-First Century SOLUTION in Oil Spill Response*, and included our recommended re-written and corrected EPA documents. The paper not only corrects the EPA's faulty science, but it additionally provides a suggested set of common sense guidelines for decision makers dealing with oil spills as to how to effectively evaluate and choose technologies that will result in spills thoroughly and rapidly being cleaned up.

Further, the 44 page work documents how, over the past 25 years, despite over 200 products being EPA approved for oil spill clean up, when actual spills happen in U.S. navigable waters, the only product that the EPA and other federal agencies permit and favor to be used is Exxon's highly destructive dispersant product called Corexit. This paper was then sent out to over 2000 EPA officials, other government officials, and oil industry leaders to educate them on the issue.



Coincidentally, shortly after the release of our position paper and challenge to EPA's outdated science, the EPA put out a press release announcing the set up of a Science Integrity Officer Network to insure a higher standard regarding internal conflict of interest issues and outside contractors/vendors. We are continuing to work with government agency officials overseeing oil spill preparedness and emergency response to enact reforms and to pave the way for effective, non-toxic oil spill cleanup solutions to be implemented.

Concurrent with the publication of our oil spill response solution paper, we launched an education campaign with a new website where the paper can be downloaded with other educational materials and accurate information related to hazardous spills cleanup can be made broadly available. The site: www.ProtectMarineLifeNow.org also features our 30 minute documentary film, *Hidden Crisis in the Gulf* and a YouTube advert that can be used to promote the campaign and drive people to our education site. The interest in this subject and in the work we are doing was so strong that we got over 50,000 hits to our web site in the first two weeks. This is an extraordinary number of hits for a brand new site. The release of the paper and campaign received international press coverage.

After reading our position paper, we were contacted by members of the Alaskan Inter-Tribal Council (AITC), in the hopes that we could help give them a voice in their on-going efforts to prevent oil and other hazardous spills in Alaskan waters and safeguard the health and well being of the peoples, mammals and all interdependent life in this critical ecosystem and the whole Arctic Region. This includes work to get the Exxon Valdez spill effectively cleaned up after 25 years since it happened. We are helping with educational and public awareness campaigns to strengthen protections of their water and natural resource rights.

The U.S. EPA and the U. S. Coast Guard representatives in Alaska have become so dependent upon utilizing toxic chemicals to deal with oil spills, they have proposed expanded pre-authorization for their use in Alaskan waters should a spill happen. This, despite tremendous concern and protest by the Alaskan tribes who have lived in the region for more than 10,000 years and long witnessed the disastrous impacts toxic waste and oil spills have had on their subsistence fishing and food gathering, as well as their groundwater.



CHANGE OIL SPILL RESPONSE GLOBAL ALLIANCE
ALASKA DELEGATION

As part of our ongoing campaign, we initiated the formation of the Change Oil Spill Response Global Alliance, and, at several different public hearings held by the EPA and Coast Guard officials, an Alaskan Delegation (made up of the Alaskan Inter Tribal Council, the Alaskan Center for Water Advocacy, the Alaska's Big Village Network, and LAEO U.S.) has presented an impressive series of scientific documents detailing why chemical dispersants should be abolished and demanding that real, non-toxic alternative solutions be adopted to replace the destructive dispersants.

At this time, we are continuing our work with the Alaskan Delegation for Change in Oil Spill Response, are continuing to distribute educational materials to 229 different Tribes and Alaskans to raise awareness while escalating our requests to national level in D.C. to overturn the EPA and Coast Guard's efforts to implement chemical dispersant pre-authorization in Alaska. Detailed information on this program can be found at: <http://protectmarinelifenow.org/alaska-alliance>



A tiny portion of the Niger Delta oil spill disaster

CLEANING UP THE WATERS OF THE WORLD:

After finding that real solutions do exist for cleaning up hazardous spills swiftly and effectively, we have expanded our work to encompass all waterways and are working on several projects around the world.

NIGERIA:

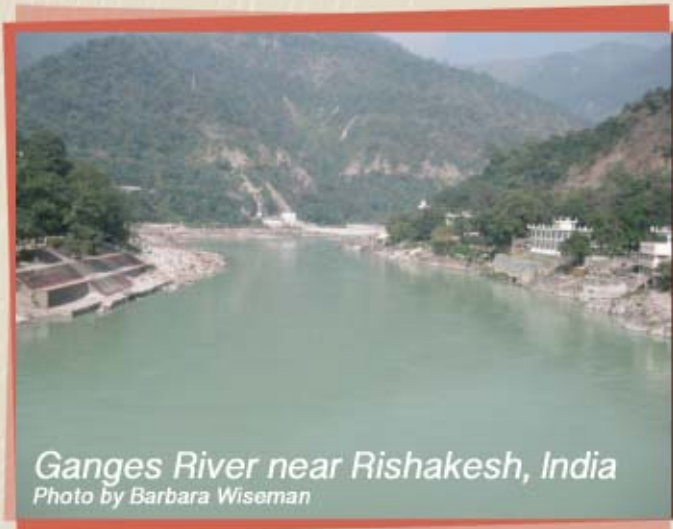
For the past 2 years we have been part of a team working to get the Niger Delta cleaned up. This is one of the largest environmental disasters on the planet – an enormous area where on-going spills over the past 50 years have created massive damage to the public's health, the ground water, soil, fishing grounds, and wildlife. It is a fundamental reason that wars and brutal skirmishes, criminality, and human suffering abound there and make it a truly dangerous environment. It is impacting the lives of 6 million people who live in the area. We have provided information to the United Nations regarding effective solutions to cleaning up the disaster areas, and have been providing accurate data and profit-protecting solutions to the oil companies there that will make it possible for all stakeholders in these equations to benefit from real and effective cleanup of the mess.

INDIA:

Based on the information in our position paper, we have been asked by leading visionaries in India to join their team in cleaning up the highly polluted Ganges river. We are now in phase one of that project and have launched an investigative and data analysis team to isolate the best way forward that will result in effective improvement.

AUSTRALIA:

The TV news program 60 Minutes Australia put out an excellent expose about the toxic chemical dispersant called Corexit that made the Gulf of Mexico BP oil blow-out disaster exponentially worse and was the cause of devastating health impacts to humans, the marine life and environment. They showed how Corexit was stockpiled around Australia for when they have major spills. Much of the information in the program aligned with data LAEO has broadly publicized since April of 2010 when the Gulf of Mexico blowout started. The program caused uproar among the Australian people and 5 days later the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) put out a press release that they will no longer allow Corexit to be used in Australian waters. We are currently working with oil spill response professionals who have been welcomed by Australian officials to get more effective non-toxic solutions implemented. We will broadly publicize this good example for industry and governments around the world to follow.



Ganges River near Rishakesh, India
Photo by Barbara Wiseman

CHINA:

Barbara Wiseman, International President of LAEO and Executive Director of LAEO U.S., traveled to Beijing to meet with Tom Wang of Greenpeace China. Greenpeace brought attention to the need for improved response worker protective measures - during the Chinese government's clean-up of the Dalian oil spill 2 years ago. Mr. Wang was extremely appreciative for the information LAEO provided Greenpeace regarding effective, non-toxic solutions that can be implemented to enhance cleanup efforts.



COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: We have launched an internship program for college students whereby they can work for LAEO U.S. in areas of need and interest while getting valuable experience working for an environmental non-profit. The qualifications for being part of our group are high, and the elite students who make it through that process are helping us to build a passionate, fun, and valuable "Get 'Er Done!" team.

LAEO U.S. was invited to participate in and be a presenter at this year's annual UPLIFT festival and pre-festival gathering in Byron Bay, Australia in December. Barbara spent 10 days working along side of such world-renowned visionaries as scientist Bruce Lipton, scientist, philosopher and activist Vandana Shiva, leading anti-GMO activist Jeffrey Smith, religious leaders Guru Singh, Guru Par Karma, and Sadvi Baghavati Saraswati, THRIVE movement leaders Foster and Kimberly Gamble, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize for Economics Helena Norberg-Hodge, Dr. Patch Adams, and many more. She spoke about the work LAEO is doing around the world and the basic philosophy upon which LAEO bases its work and the term LAEO coined for that philosophy: Cooperative Ecology.

France

LAEO France worked all year to stop experimentation on animals and in March the law was finally changed! It banned experimenting on animals for the cosmetic industry throughout Europe.



STOP VIVISECTION:

To achieve this LAEO France supported a European citizen's initiative and in November an impressive figure of one million signatures were collected and sent to the European Commission. The petition demanded the replacement of experimentation on live animals, with in-silico experimentations, which are simulated experiments generated by a computer. It was a huge victory for animals in Europe and after years of hard work in partnership with a number of other organizations another victory highlighted last year's efforts when Air France signed an agreement to stop the transportation of monkeys to laboratories.

ANIMALS:

LAEO France made their voices heard by supporting petitions to save Australian horses, White bears, wolves, bees, sharks, elephants and rhinos as well as stopping the use of psychotropic drugs on pets. This project is still going on and aims to stop the use of psychiatric medicine on animals.

FROGS:

For a number of years now LAEO France has been working hard to save thousands of frogs during their migration across roads to breed and this year was no different. Volunteers and staff saved approximately 7000 frogs enabling them to reproduce securely in their habitat.

RECYCLING:

A recycling project has been implemented at a sport club where bottles, cans and corks are now collected for recycling. LAEO France is also working in conjunction with the government to recycle green waste in towns. The ED has studied the issue of green waste (organic waste) management in order to motivate people to transform their kitchen waste into compost.

WILDLIFE IN WARZONES INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE:

The LAEO's petition against Wildlife in War Zones has been heavily promoted and is consistently collecting new signatures. Press releases and promotions have gained extensive media interest and LAEO is focusing and communicating with the UN about the Wildlife in War Zones Resolution. The Director has been collecting all the written material on the subject, especially the material written by Lawrence Anthony. In early 2014 LAEO will take the material to the European Commission in Brussels to assist in writing the law on the matter.

A new European citizen initiative on Ecocide aims to gather one million signatures to have a law passed on saving the environment and wildlife in hostile war zones (www.endecocide.eu). Press releases have been sent to the European parliament to make them aware of the resolution and the international day for environment in war zones on the 6th November.

OCEANS:

LAEO volunteers and staff have assisted surfers to clean beaches along the South France coastline and participated actively in the government's program launch to safeguard the oceans. The LAEO France director translated all the documents and send press releases to the media on the protection of marine life, a program which was started by LAEO USA. The French chapter supports this program by spreading the word and motivating the public to sign petitions for this cause.

AFRICA:

LAEO's French missionary Micheline Vercoutere visited LAEO in Togo to help promote and raise awareness on the topic of agriculture without the use of pesticides.



MEDIA AWARENESS:

A popular French TV program “*Echappée Belle*” aired a show featuring Thula Thula Private Game Reserve and Francoise Anthony, who has carried on with the supervision of Thula Thula after her husband Lawrence passed away in 2012. The last book written by Lawrence and his co-writer Graham Spence, *The Last Rhino*, was published in French and press articles introducing the book and the organization were released.

ENERGY TRANSITION:

LAEO France is an active member of a watchdog group keeping an eye on Shell Oil industries to not pollute the environment. A launch was organised for ‘Promised Land’ Gus van Sant’s latest movie with the aim of educating people on the use of green energy. LAEO France has advised the Minister of Environment on a proposed contractual agreement with Shell Oil which was rejected by the ministry. If the agreement had been signed the implications would have been very destructive to nature and the environment. The chapter has assisted in producing a short movie to educate and show the public the problematic and polluting dangers of shale oil. The movie was shown at the Gaumont private theatre and turned out to be a great success. With the support of a member of parliament, a famous French economist and Josh Fox, an event was organised to educate and teach oil companies about the impacts of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Two demonstrations were held in front of the oil company’s building, one on 19th November, Global Fracking Day, which gathered great support for the cause.

TREES:

A tree planting event was held where kids planted 270 trees in a forest area in the South of France. Another forest area was saved from destruction due to LAEO’s public opposition and pressure fighting it.





SKY LANTERN FESTIVAL:

Diwali/Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, is a massive annual celebration in India. Deepavali translates to "A row of lights" and the people of India light lamps and burst fire crackers all over the country. According to the Hindu mythology the festival marks an end to the year of terror inflicted by a demon that was killed by Lord Krishna. In the joy of celebration, the people ignore the massive pollution caused to the environment through the crackers and lamps. To remind the people of the essence of "The Festival of Lights" LAEO Hyderabad held a Sky Lantern Fest at Necklace Road around Hussain Sagar. Sky lanterns have far less impact on the environment and animals and 35 volunteers gathered, to light lanterns soaring high into the night sky in a few different localities.



DISTRIBUTION OF SWEATERS:

As the chills of winter approached Hyderabad, the volunteers of LAEO Hyderabad distributed sweaters and blankets to the orphaned children of the Medha Foundation. The children showed great interest in education and the volunteers took to distributing books on recycling, some stationary, and some candy to spread smiles and happiness. Afterwards they held an educational session on ways to protect the environment and nature.

BICYCLE RALLY:

“Burn calories, not fuel!” was the powerful slogan of the LAEO Hyderabad bicycle rally at Necklace Road this year which rallied a huge crowd with over 70 students participating. Cycling as a form of travel not only improves health and fitness, but also helps serve the environment by reducing fuel consumption releasing harmful gases into the air. The rally was a great success serving its purpose of making people more aware of environmentally friendly options “to move forward.”



GREEN RUN:

The 5km Harithon is a one-of-a-kind “green run” held every year at Necklace Road, Hyderabad. LAEO Hyderabad is the event partner for the run with 2013 being the 3rd year in a row. The runners participating in the race promoted going green whilst running along the race route which was framed by countless stalls. Conservationists, entrepreneurs and enthusiasts displayed eco-friendly products and ways of living, teaching spectators and others about going green. The event was covered by 7 major and 4 minor media houses and drew a crowd of over 9000 people.

ECO FIELD TRIP FOR ORPHAN KIDS:

The volunteers of LAEO Hyderabad took the children from the Medha Foundation on a field trip to the Birla Science Centre and Planetarium. It was an informative and entertaining, awareness-raising experience, allowing them to participate and perform science experiments. The visit exposed the children to natural farming and irrigation, water harvesting and more about their environment. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and went home inspired to protect their only home – Earth.





WEEK-LONG TREE PLANTING:

A one-week tree planting drive was held in nine government schools in Keesara Mandal of Hyderabad, which was the largest planting event held by LAEO Hyderabad, to date. The first two days the volunteers taught the children about the importance of conserving the environment and nature and also demonstrated how to dig pits before planting saplings. Thereafter, the children spent two days drawing pictures, painting, and writing essays related to environmental topics to enter the different competition categories. The response and creativity of the youngsters was overwhelming and left LAEO volunteers and staff humbled and inspired. The next day, LAEO organised a rally around the school premises with the focus on environmental conservation. The students had to walk to houses and shops sharing their knowledge and the importance of going green with residents. The next day of the tree planting drive, happened to be India's Independence Day and the schools and volunteers celebrated this day together. The winners of the competition were announced and prizes awarded. On the final day LAEO volunteers distributed fruit-bearing, shade-giving saplings amongst the children to be planted in the pits that had been dug. Once a month the volunteers check on the children and how they take care of their trees. Next year the Government of Andhra Pradesh state, will be awarding prizes to those children that have taken good care of their saplings. The incentive ensures that the children don't just plant a tree but also take good care of them while they grow.

CLAY GANESH DISTRIBUTION:

The Ganesh Chaturthi is a huge festival in India whereby people worship the idol of Lord Ganesha. The idols are usually made of Plaster of Paris and decorated with harmful chemicals. At the end of the festival the idols are immersed in the lakes, polluting the waters heavily. With the help of state government, LAEO volunteers sold eco-friendly Ganesh idols made of clay to the public and distributed the rest free of charge to the students of Gitanjali School.

India - Kolkata



LAEO Kolkata has only been established in the last few months. The chapter created a functional website and are now in the process of accumulating a team of like-minded people and volunteers, to take their vision forward. Negotiations are being held with educational institutes to implement environmental education conducted by LAEO into the curriculum. The aim is to have a fully functioning unit set up in the coming months. The intention of the new innovations division is to find simple, easy to implement solutions to environmental issues.

Malawi

Daniel Mwakameka brought LAEO Malawi to the grassroots level emphasizing international objectives and their importance in the Malawian context. Meetings with different stakeholders were held to create awareness of the problems facing wildlife and natural resources in Malawi. The youth of Traditional Authority Makata, in Blantyre District, are being trained to take responsibility for environmental degradation and to take appropriate actions to counteract, for example forestation. LAEO encouraged the youth to create an environmental youth club to effectively organise and manage environmental efforts.

Through different field meetings, LAEO Malawi is working together with the local chiefs to encourage community members to protect wildlife and natural resources.

Ghana

LAEO Ghana has been educating pupils about recycling, with 18 schools reached this year. The process is slower than we would like, as the educational process needs to be completed before the recycle bins are donated to the schools.

The director of LAEO Ghana has focused largely on addressing the issues of oil contamination supported by a position paper released by LAEO USA. Twenty eight oil companies and affiliates have been addressed with amazing response and interest. LAEO's International President, Barbara Wiseman, and her staff are working to reform the oil spill clean-up industry, educating government agencies, oil industry executives, other environmental groups, and the broad public regarding the use of cutting-edge, non-toxic methods as opposed to the highly toxic and ineffective methods currently being used. See more on this under the U.S.A. chapter section.

Namibia



In 2013, LAEO Namibia focused on programs which concentrated on education, partnering with like-minded groups, and on projects which addressed conservation and environmental issues.



A primary goal of LAEO Namibia 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 maintenance of natural resources and their utilization on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future. LAEO Namibia also aims to promote and ensure that international laws, environmental laws and principles of environmental management are widely upheld throughout Namibia. In addition, LAEO Namibia has 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.

ACTION CAMPAIGNS:

This program aims 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. The main goal is to ensure that the public and the government 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 of the country. These campaigns are used to educate the wider public, give a voice to the public, and get the public more active in changing the course of the future to a bright one. This program aims to increase participation by the public in the processes of environmental management, Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, conservation and socio-economic concerns (incl. health).

Through community action campaigns, the public is given an opportunity to express themselves in what the people wish for the future of Namibia to look like. Throughout this process, the Namibian chapter has interacted with the international community to collaborate and obtain support for the protection of Namibia's environment for current and future generations.

In 2013, the Namibian chapter was effectively able to substantially increase community awareness, participation, action and leadership through this program. In 2013, the main action campaigns included Marine Phosphate Mining and Uranium Mining.

As a continuation of the work from 2012, the Namibian chapter 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 people of the potential irreversible impacts of deep sea mining and thus this new type of mining is very controversial. Thus proposed development would be a world first. The Namibian chapter raised numerous concerns with public and government agencies as Namibian coastal waters were facing the hazard of being the testing ground for marine phosphate mining with serious implications of pollution, irreversible damage to the marine ecosystem and loss in sustainable opportunities. Due to concerns having not been adequately considered, the Namibian chapter started an action and lobbying campaign which included many critical stakeholders. Working groups were formed to strategically address the issues. The main argument that came from these discussions is that the precautionary principle must be used as this is Namibian law. With the assistance of critical stakeholders, a moratorium on marine phosphate mining was signed by Cabinet in September 2013, effectively banning this practice in Namibian waters for 2 years. During this two year ban, the government calls for a strategic environmental assessment to be conducted so that a thorough understanding of the potential negative effects can be understood before proceeding further.



The Namibian chapter continued to address the issue of uranium mining impacts by raising awareness of the effect of hazardous waste on the health of people and the environment (including National Parks). 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 a 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. These hazardous wastes are dangerous to human and wildlife health and increase the risk of cancer and genetic defects.

The Namibian chapter continued to run its campaign to deal with the issue of increased hazardous and radioactive waste contamination. These community action campaigns arose from the Namibian people becoming more aware of the concerns surrounding the proposed Gecko Vision Industrial Park in 2011. The threat of the Gecko Vision Industrial Park caused a large number of Namibian's to start voicing their concerns about toxic industry and this led to a widespread environmental movement of the people that dealt with the Vision Industrial Park, Marine Phosphate Mining and Uranium Mining. Although the Namibian Chapter 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, the Gecko Industrial Park has been placed on hold and has not been pursued further as of yet. People continue to stand 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.

LAW & ENFORCEMENT:

This program offers pro-bono assistance on environmental law. In 2013, the Namibian chapter advised, trained and unified enforcement officers on the various environmental laws and policies in Namibia in order 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.

Law and enforcement efforts included work with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Dorob National Park Contingency Management Committee, the Dorob National Park Enforcement Committee, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Namibian Police, the Namibian Police Traffic Department, the Municipal Traffic and Police Departments, the Namibian Defence Force, the Namibian Coast Conservation & Management Project of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (NACOMA), Save the Rhino Trust, Swakopmund Matters, Earthlife Namibia, and various Residents Associations.

Specifically, as part of this program, in 2013 the Namibian chapter:

- Gave specialised training courses in the environmental laws of Namibia to strengthen capacity within government Ministries and projects as well as non-profit organizations
- Updated fine lists to assist officers in having a quick reference list of fines and offenses
- Educated public prosecutors on Namibia's environmental laws and briefed them on enforcement issues
- Advised the Ministry of Environment & Tourism as well as the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources at the 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 & 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 & Management Project (NACOMA) and Save the Rhino Trust Security Committee
- Represented the Ministry of Environment & 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)
- Assisted in leading a street procession with the youth to raise wider public awareness of the issues
- Collaborated with other NGOs 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

SAVE THE RHINO TRUST:

Marcia Fagnoli, the Founder and Director of the LAEO Namibia became the CEO of the Namibian NGO Save the Rhino Trust in June 2013. She continues to lead efforts in law and enforcement, action campaigns and environmental education and awareness while in addition also now focussing strongly on rhino conservation. She continues to collaborate on several key initiatives, uniting communities, NGOs and government on many aspects of conservation and environmental and social concerns.



COMBINED PROGRAMS:

There are ongoing combined programs with several other like-minded NGOs/environmental programs in relation to conservation and the protection of wildlife, environmental justice and environmental health. The Namibian chapter collaborates with the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management Project of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (NACOMA), Save the Rhino Trust, Earthlife Namibia, Swakopmund Matters, the Coastal Environmental Trust of Namibia and various Residents Associations.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

This program aims to educate children and adults on all aspects of the environment and conservation. These programs are aimed at discussing environmental and conservation issues from local, national, and international perspectives. 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.



This year the Namibian chapter delivered a seminar training course to primary and high school teachers about Education for Sustainable Development as part of a collaboration between the Swakopmund Municipality and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Afterwards a new way forward was established for environmental education, as there was a greater understanding of what it means to be sustainable.

Through this seminar, a new initiative called the Hummingbird Programme was started by the Earth Organization Namibia to honour teachers, students and other leaders in sustainability. The hummingbird story is an African story often told by Dr Wangari Maathai, the founder of the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. The story tells of a forest fire where the tiniest animal of all tried as best as it could to put out the forest fire by picking up drops of water and spreading them over the fire. All the larger animals stood by and taunted the hummingbird but did nothing because they said it was impossible to put the fire out.

A new youth environmental leadership group called the Environmental Champions was also founded in 2013 as a result of a talk given about environmental law and mining by the Founder and Director, Marcia Fagnoli. She was invited to be an advisor for the group and she offered guidance and assistance to this initiative which was founded by concerned coastal high school students. The students joined a youth leadership conference where they won the debates on all environmental issues. The group's main initiative is to spread environmental awareness amongst youth and develop environmental leadership throughout the country.

The founder and Director of the Namibian chapter was invited to write a series of weekly articles in a coastal newspaper, *The Namib Times*, in order to raise awareness and develop a greater understanding of environmental and social issues and concerns. These articles were published weekly in the newspaper and were also placed on the website of the newspaper and the LAEO Namibia blog site which reached over 40,000 views from every continent in 2013.



“As individuals we are responsible for more than just ourselves and our own kind. There is more to life than just these. We must each one of us also bring the natural world back into proper perspective in our lives, and realize that doing so is not some lofty ideal, but a vital part of our personal survival.”

- Dr Lawrence Anthony, Founder

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization would like to express their gratitude to each and every individual, corporate company or organization that has supported us throughout the year and beyond.

We are committed to making 2014 an even greater year focusing on our current projects and expanding them.