

We express our deepest gratitude to all of our partner's incredible support and generosity towards our mission in 2022. We thank our new partner [@starseednatural](#) for donating 10% of their profits to our cause, [BCCI](#) for partnering with us in Darwin Initiative's Kaya Connect Project, [NULA](#) for the Race to Nature Initiative, and [Foundation Franklinia](#) for funding our new nursery through our Pwani Project. Your dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship is truly inspiring and we are honoured to have you as partners. With your help, we have made a positive impact on the world and achieved our goals. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to Little Environmental Action Foundation's cause.



Message from the Chair

Dr. Harry Fonseca Williams

Granted it is quite late for our annual newsletter, but we have really been very busy indeed - too busy some might say. This year has already entailed onboarding four amazing new trustees, welcoming our 2023 cohort of Junior Trustees (who are particularly excellent as you can tell from this outrageously attractive email) and excitingly... finalising our new CEO who starts next week and will hopefully bring us the funds we need to bring the plethora of projects we are all dreaming of to life. We welcome Dalila Frasson to help in steering this leafy ship.

2022 was an amazing year, our mangrove project gained some serious momentum (nearly 50,000 planted!), and restoring the entirety of Kilifi creek by 2030 now seems slightly too easy. With the help of our friends at the Darwin Initiative and Botanic Gardens Conservation International we are playing a lead role in Kaya Connect (see page 2) which has seen our nursery workforce grow by 7 and allowed us to take on 3 new education officers to help us begin our environmental impact in 11 underprivileged schools in Kenya.

We have expanded into country number #2 - Gabon, where the seed collecting has begun in earnest and 2023 promises to see us continue to help A2E, Massaha and NADA in restoring their logged rainforest and working towards our target of 1 million trees planted from 1,000 native species by 2030.

Our undying thanks go to you all, our friends and supporters for giving us the financial and emotional support to keep doing what we are doing, it is truly magic seeing it all grow and would not happen without you!

Meet Our New Trustees



Ben Raby, Trustee

"Hello! After graduation from the Junior Trustee program, I couldn't not stick around; I'm Ben, a researcher in Ecological Biotech and a passionate proponent for the LEAF. There's some fantastic stuff, both underway and in the pipeline. Very excited to be a part of it!"

Dr. Laura Vedovato, Trustee

"I am a researcher passionate about tropical forests, working with anthropogenic threats to nature in the past 7 years. I am very excited to be part of the Trustee board and to contribute to the vital work that LEAF is doing through restoration projects."



Mary Ndinda, Trustee

"I am a seasoned Fractional CFO joining the LEAF family! Mary brings exceptional financial acumen, strategic planning prowess, and a talent for maximizing profitability to the table. I believe that my expertise in navigating complex financial landscapes will undoubtedly propel LEAF to new heights."

Dr. Toral Shah, Trustee

"After recently completing a PhD in plant taxonomy and evolutionary history of an African plant group, and currently working for an organisation focused on nature-based solutions, I look forward to contributing to the impact of LEAF's essential work on restoration and livelihood projects on the ground."



Mariah Cristina Magallanes, Jr. Trustee Chair

"I am thrilled to take part in restoring the natural world through LEAF. After witnessing the devastating effects of environmental loss in my hometown Coron, Philippines, I knew I had to shift my business career and work for the environment. It has not been easy but this self-actualization for nature has been rewarding and outweighs the uncertainties."

Chloe Philpott, Jr. Trustee Vice Chair

"I graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a BSc (hons) Geography and was an executive officer at the Students' Union for the Environmental Sciences campus. With a passion for sustainability and environmental conservation, I am keen to enhance my knowledge and contribute to a meaningful cause while developing new skills at LEAF."



Sophia Herman, Jr. Trustee Treasurer

"I am a Development Economics Master's graduate who has recently finished a 6 month internship at the United Nations Environment Programme in New York. I am hoping to apply my knowledge in global climate action and biodiversity restoration and my theoretical background in carbon markets to take LEAF forward!"

Gabriel Horowitz, Jr. Trustee Secretary

"I am a Global Business bachelor student from Venezuela who has been living for several years now in Monterrey, Mexico. I am currently in the first year of my Global Business bachelor's degree. As a Junior Trustee in LEAF, I hope to gain valuable insight and experience in the world of conservation."



Emma Berwick, Jr. Trustee Outreach Ambassador

"I study Business with French at University of Birmingham, currently on a year abroad at Montpellier Business School and I sit on the student advisory board at the Sustainable Recruitment Alliance as the podcast coordinator. I hope to gain a greater understanding of conservation and projects while bringing some of my business knowledge to LEAF."

Patricija Karpaviciute, Jr. Trustee

"I am a double-bachelor student at Duke University & Duke Kunshan University and an intern at BOAS - a sustainable marketplace that donates all profits to charities. I am interested in Profit-For-Good business model and I can't wait to work with other Junior Trustees to achieve some great things at LEAF!"



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Positive Global News

UK. The National Trust are supporting seven more 'blossom' projects throughout the UK to aid in conservation these include West Cornwall; 2 projects in North Devon; Angel Square, Manchester; Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent; Horsey Windpump & Heigham Holmes; and Glastonbury Tor. These projects focus heavily on the restoration of natural areas and the flora and fauna surrounding, they are doing some great work and will continue to do so!

Philippines. Illegal reclamation and mountain quarrying projects by the local government in Coron, Palawan Philippines have been forfeited by the State, thanks to the help of civil society groups fighting for the security of the environment. These projects have damaged mangrove forests and threatened the national and food security of the people but collective action showed that it is possible to decentralise power and work towards a regenerative goal to save nature.

Albania. It became the first European country to protect a waterway by naming it a national park, making Vjosa, often called 'Europe's last wild river' and a great protector of many endangered species across 270+ miles, a permanent natural fixture. Plans had been developing to potentially dam the river, a risky proposition for wildlife, but this announcement protects Albania's treasured waterway from chaos.



Kaya Connect Project

Aiming to restore degraded forests in Kenya and promoting sustainable forest management practices, Kaya Connect Project encompasses infrastructure improvement, labour acquisition, seeds collection and propagation.

Started this year, LEAF has already achieved significant progress that includes the establishment of the indigenous tree nursery and sowing seeds for future plantations. Recently, three of our employees attended a workshop on seed handling and nursery management that was held at the LEAF's indigenous nursery. Six nursery workers have also been employed to help support the first year production target of 30,000 seedlings. Meanwhile, seed sowing and collection activities have taken place in various forests while a successful tree planting commenced at Mkwajuni. We also organised recruitment of education officers and visits to schools for environmental awareness. The Kaya Connect is definitely a project to anticipate for the next few months.



Kilifi Creek Mangrove Project

We reached our first anniversary since the Kilifi Creek Mangrove Project commenced! It has been a year filled with hard work from LEAF and our partners with the vision of restoring Kilifi, Kenya's coast with 100,000 mangrove seedlings!

In 2021, we planted our first round of seedlings and since then, we planted a total of 45,725 seedlings! This covered a restoration of 5.2 hectares of mangrove forest. We are also delighted to report a 76% survival rate of our planted seedlings from our last survey. This is a massive achievement, and we continue to keep in check our five species of mangroves.

On top of that, we have just established a functional Mangrove Community Nursery that currently nurtures more than 22,000 seedlings of six different mangrove species. This is a further step in supporting the work for our Kilifi Creek Mangrove Project.

Chasimba Nursery Establishment

We want to highlight the opening of the Chasimba Caves Association indigenous tree nursery that commenced at the end of last year. Funded by Starseed and the LEAF charity, this is a project that provides communities with tools and equipment that enables them to run an indigenous tree nursery.

This is inclusive of; a wheelbarrow; 4 shovels; 4 watering cans; a shade house; a nursery seed bed; record books and stationary; seeds from 8 tree species; and 500 potting bags. After establishment, Caroline Wanjiku, Wincate Wanja, and Lydia Kalunda hosted a workshop to educate local community groups on the operations and management of the nursery. The Chasimba caves association also entered into an agreement with LEAF and signed a memorandum of understanding to bind the agreements.



Pwani Project

LEAF's goals to restore the East African coastal forests, a highly threatened biodiversity hotspot, regularly inspire different projects and opportunities. In 2022, we continued working in collaboration with Pwani University in the areas of education and research, restoration of wildlife, and planting preparations. With extended unseasonal rains allowing trees to flourish and start fruiting, numerous volunteers from Pwani University were inspired enough to be involved in our tree-planting events.

These consist of the collection of indigenous species, then processing, transplanting, re-potting and finally planting them into threatened ecosystems, which empowers local communities by creating alternative means of livelihood and educating them on the value of natural resources. Perhaps the highlight of the year was our new nursery in Pwani, funded by the Franklinia Foundation! We are beyond excited about this achievement, which will facilitate the growth of over 70 threatened species.





Gabon Project

LEAF partnered with the Gabon A2E and ANM communities, and NADA charity, to protect Gabon's ancient rainforests. Home to endangered species and giant trees of biocultural significance, these paradises are in danger. Threats from industrial logging and mining cause unsustainable hunting, degradation, and human-elephant conflict. A2E established the first community forest in Gabon and ANM are working to establish their unlogged ancestral forest as Gabon's first Community Protected Area.

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Testimony #1 - Caroline

For Caroline, 2022 was focused on the indigenous tree nursery. She witnessed its infrastructure and production capacity improved, thanks to a partnership with the Botanic Gardens International Conservation (BGIC). A 10,000 litre tank was installed for water storage and backup. An additional shade house and bunk beds were also constructed to provide space for propagation. It provided seedlings for various events throughout the year. It supplied 546 seedlings of thirty-three species for a groundbreaking event at Chasimba limestone outcrop where the community trained for tree nursery establishment. During the most diverse tree planting event in East Africa, it contributed 611 seedlings of 40 species. The nursery was then consulted on at the Environmental Land and Court 10th anniversary where national leaders planted 5 seedlings of 5 species at Pwani University. Overall, Caroline is proud that our nursery produced 15,000 seedlings with 160 species.

Testimony #2 - Lydia

For Lydia, her highlight moments and impacts include her outreach activities in schools around Kilifi County, building networks with the County government, Rotary Kilifi, Ocean Sole and other organisations, and her engagement with Pwani University students on indigenous knowledge of trees and waste disposal. Through her rigorous work on the field, Lydia was a strong member of our team and made many significant contributions to increasing the number of species in the nursery through seed collections, increasing the number of participants, increasing the survival rate and providing regular monitoring of the seedling progress. Also, it is thanks to Lydia that we have strengthened our link with a key donor of ours, Star Seed.

Testimony #3 - Wincate

In 2022, Wincate had exceeded the previous tree planting record with 2657 individuals planted including 161 species; of which 21% were red-listed. In 2021, 124 species were planted meaning 2022 saw the most biodiverse tree planting. The main tree planting in 2022 consisted of 138 species and 1500 trees planted, the rest were planted over 3 other smaller tree plantings. Two of which were significant to LEAF as they involved the rotary club of Kilifi and the ground-breaking of one of our relic sites, Chasimba limestone outcrop. Following the construction of the Chasimba caves association indigenous tree nursery, Caroline, Wincate, and Lydia held a workshop to train the community on nursery operations and management. Well done Wincate, thank you for your hard work!

Testimony #4 - Baya

For Baya, the year 2022 brought great learning experiences and skill development. From starting out as a volunteer for LEAF, to eventually signing a contract as a member of the team, Baya has been able to contribute to various causes, from nursery management at Pwani University, to different botany related opportunities. Baya was tasked with providing an alternative cooking energy to communities in the Chasimba, Pangani, and Mwangea hills, and through hard work, an energy-saving wood stove and biogas for neighbouring schools were selected as prominent alternatives. Along with the LEAF team, Baya has conducted outreaches to communities to promote a cleaner agenda, with positive results thus far. For instance, in the Kilifi Creek restoration project there have been over 30,000 mangroves planted. Through a people-centred restoration approach, the creek was not only restored, but a resilient community was created. A great success!

Positive Global News

United Nations. After 10 years of negotiations, UN nations have finally reached a historic agreement to protect the world's oceans. The High Seas Treaty aims to help place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030, to safeguard and recuperate marine nature. Moreover, UN announced that the world had surpassed the goal of planting 10 billion trees, which was set in 2011 as part of the Bonn Challenge. The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030. The planting of 10 billion trees was a major milestone towards achieving this goal, as trees play a vital role in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Call to Action!

We urge you to join us in protecting our planet by donating to our green project in Gabon, Africa. With your contribution, you will directly support the conservation and restoration of the forests, saving Gabon's endangered and biocultural trees.

Donate any amount here:
theleafcharity.com/donate

100% of your money will go towards the improvement of the A2E seedling nursery and collection from unlogged Massaha forests, the establishment of a biocultural rboretum in Ebyeng-Edzuamenienne, and the restoration of ancestral village sites destroyed by industrial logging. Thank you for your support!

#BioCulturalGiants
 #Gabon



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