

Annual Newsletter



MANGROVE PROJECT | KENYA

2023: OUR MOST EXCITING YEAR YET

What a year 2023 has been! Our newsletter might be arriving a tad late, but don't be fooled – it's been our most fruitful year yet. Thanks to the generous El Niño rains, Kenya has been flourishing after some very dry years. Our year has been amazing, and it's all been made possible by your incredible support!

A huge round of applause goes to our esteemed partners: [Botanical Gardens Conservation International](#), [the Darwin Initiative](#), [Star Seed](#) and [T&SWF](#). Your invaluable contributions, alongside those of our generous private donors, dedicated volunteers, and the tireless efforts of our junior trustees and trustees, have propelled us to new heights.

We must admit, communication isn't our strongest suit (we're better with plants than with emails), and for that, we apologize. As a charity committed to keeping overheads low and currently spending £0 on any staffing aside from at our Kenyan projects, our comms team is definitely lacking...

This year has been a **breakthrough for our mangroves**, which have burst into life spectacularly. We're also buzzing with excitement about a potential corporate sponsor who could bring a wave of change in 2024. Meanwhile, our community tree planting schemes are gradually transforming the landscape, steering it away from charcoal and maize towards a greener future.

Looking ahead, we're hopeful for more corporate partnerships that can amplify our impact. To get a glimpse of our collaboration with StarSeed, do check out our [ExplorerLand profile](#).

Your support, enthusiasm, and connections have been the lifeblood of LEAF. We can't thank you enough for being part of our journey. Here's to growing together in 2024 and beyond.

Much love,
Harry
xxx *H.F. Williams*

In this newsletter:

Environmental Education and Tree Planting

Mangrove Restoration Efforts
80,000 seedlings and counting!

LEAF Indigenous Nursery
Showcasing the propagation of over 20,000 seedlings, including those of threatened species

Breaking down the numbers
How many flights will our efforts offset?

Cultivating a Greener Future: LEAF's Environmental Education & Tree Planting Initiatives



In 2023, LEAF made significant strides in environmental education and tree planting, reaching over 1,400 students across 19 schools.

Our educational programs went beyond classroom lessons, inspiring a new generation of environmental guardians. Students were not only taught about the importance of conservation but also actively participated in transforming their schools into green sanctuaries by planting 1,602 indigenous and fruit seedlings.

These efforts are crucial in fostering environmental stewardship among young minds and creating a lasting impact on the communities we serve. By integrating education with tangible actions like tree planting, we're sowing the seeds for a sustainable future.

This hands-on approach not only enriches the students' learning experience but also instills a sense of responsibility and connection to the natural world. As these young environmentalists grow, so too will the trees they've planted, serving as a living testament to their commitment to a greener planet.

Restoring Vital Ecosystems: Our Mangrove Restoration Efforts

In 2023, LEAF's mangrove restoration efforts reached new heights with the planting of a further **39,316 mangrove seedlings**, bringing our total to over 80,000! These efforts were not just about planting trees; they were community-led celebrations of environmental stewardship, with everyone playing their part in returning mangrove forests to their historic range.

Mangroves are crucial for coastal ecosystems, providing habitat for diverse marine life, protecting shorelines from erosion, and offering livelihoods for local communities. By restoring these vital ecosystems, LEAF is not only contributing to biodiversity conservation but also significantly enhancing carbon sequestration. These efforts are a testament to the power of community engagement in environmental conservation and the positive impact it can have on our planet.



Nurturing Biodiversity: The Success of LEAF's Indigenous Nursery



Our Indigenous Tree Nursery in Pwani continued to flourish, propagating over 20,000 seedlings, including those of more than 30 threatened species.

Our Nursery continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts to conserve local biodiversity and offset carbon emissions.

Focusing on endangered and critically endangered species, the nursery plays a crucial role in ensuring the survival of these precious plants. By nurturing these seedlings and eventually reintroducing them into their natural habitats, we can continue to contribute to the restoration of ecological balance and the preservation of our planet's genetic heritage.

The success of this nursery is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our team and

volunteers, who work tirelessly to care for and propagate these important species. Their efforts are not only helping to green our world but also to safeguard it for future generations.

Carbon Sequestration: Breaking down the numbers

The collective impact of our tree planting efforts to date, including the 39,316 mangroves and 8,257 native terrestrial trees, is a powerful testament to our commitment to combating climate change. These trees are estimated to sequester approximately **5,339 metric tons** of CO₂ over their lifetimes, equivalent to the emissions from around 1,000 economy passenger flights between New York and London.

This significant contribution to carbon sequestration highlights the importance of reforestation and afforestation as tools in mitigating the impacts of climate change. By investing in green initiatives like these, LEAF is not only restoring ecosystems but also creating a healthier planet for future generations.

Through these efforts, we hope to demonstrate the tangible benefits of environmental stewardship and the vital role that each planted tree plays in our global fight against climate change.



The Impact:
1,000
Economy Flights between
New York & London

Beyond LEAF: Good news around the world giving us optimism

LEAF is not *all* that is good in the world, even if to some it may seem like it!

1. **Sumatran Rhino Birth**: A beacon of hope, a rare Sumatran rhino calf was born in Indonesia, vital for the critically endangered species with fewer than 50 remaining.
2. **Solar Canals in Arizona**: The US's first solar-covered canal launched in Arizona, marrying renewable energy with water conservation in a groundbreaking project.
3. **Global Freshwater Initiative**: UNEP's Freshwater Challenge set to be history's largest wetland and river restoration, aiming to revive 300,000 km of rivers and 350 million hectares of wetlands by 2030.
4. **High Seas Treaty**: A historic treaty adopted by the United Nations extends environmental protections to two-thirds of the ocean beyond national jurisdictions for the first time.

Young NGO's giving us some inspiration:

1. **Junglekeepers** | *using the community to conserve huge swathes of the Peruvian Amazon*
2. **Youth Land Trust** | *an inspiring group of youths protecting 244 acres of tropical cloud forest amongst other amazing sites!*

Your Continued Support Is Vital: How you can help

- **Monetary Support & Partnerships**
 - Donate! Help us by directly funding our projects. We rely on monetary donations to continue our mission around the globe. If you can, consider a monthly donation and support us on an ongoing basis. [Click here to donate.](#)
 - Buy some [Star Seed](#) products and get 10% of your purchase back to us that way!
 - Help us create corporate partnerships, are you a small or medium sized business looking to do some good in the world? Get in touch.
- **With Your Time**
 - **Volunteer with us:** email hello@theleafcharity.com and we will try to get you involved, either in Kenya or from your desk wherever that may be!
 - **Interested in becoming a Trustee?** Become a junior trustee or apply to be a board member, we are specifically looking for someone currently to lead the charge for philanthropy for the charity.

Thank you!

The LEAF Team

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