

With thanks for the entire HNP Intl. community, for their ongoing dedication to the org.

Projects | Future Plans | Research | Podcast



Annual Report HNP Intl.

humannatureprojects.org



Human Nature Projects

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Connecting people for the planet

1500 Volunteers, 105 Countries



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From the Founder

In my view, Human Nature Projects is proof of one thing: that together, we can guarantee a prosperous future for this Earth. And it is thanks to each and every one of our volunteers, each staff member, each donor and partner group that this statement can be made.

There are precious few things more inspiring than waking up each morning to the promise of conversations with two dozen like-minded passionate environmentalists from as many countries. But it is precisely that opportunity that Human Nature Projects makes possible. Few now doubt the truth that community and conservation must combine, to which end HNP points at a precise mechanism by which this can be achieved. We look to see many great things ahead, even whilst we look back...

- Founded in 2019, the mission of Human Nature Projects is to nurture the role of community within the environmental movement. It is an entrypoint for all concerned citizens to make a difference in the future of our planet, and to feel supported and empowered in doing so.




About the Organisation

Human Nature Projects (HNP) is an international environmental NGO pioneering an innovative model of community management for inclusive conservation actions and design. Initiated in June 2019 by its founder and CEO Elliot Connor, it was formally recognized as a charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission effective as of 30th August 2019. Altogether the network encompasses over 1500 volunteers across 105 countries.

HNP can be considered a semi-decentralized agglomeration of passionate environmentalists, each volunteer taking part in local activities through their respective National Team and on a skills basis via any one of ten international working groups. This model ensures tailoring of the experience to an individual's interests and requirements, maximizing impact on issues of high community importance whilst adapting to address topical issues globally as they arise. In other words, this theory of change allows for grassroots impact to be scaled sustainably to apply across all country contexts and beyond.

The overarching objective of HNP is to heighten public interest and engagement in environmental management as a prerequisite for reframing our human relationship with the natural world. The organization's philosophy seeks to tackle this root cause of anthropogenic destruction of wild places by shifting community perspectives towards mutual respect, appreciation and compassion for other lifeforms.



**WE NEED NATURE.
NATURE NEEDS US.
LIFE IS AT STAKE.**

Summary

In the past 12 months, Human Nature Projects has grown enormously as a global community, now encompassing some 1500 volunteers across 105 countries. Microgrants have allowed for leading national teams to initiate highly successful campaigns, whilst the intl. working groups have occupied themselves with complementary actions as opportunity arose.

The bushfire season in Australia saw a sensitization campaign launched and solidarity from the entire network. Meanwhile, the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic necessitated some rapid pivoting by all parties to the rapidly changing circumstances: activities moved online, including the celebratory anniversary livestream event, and many chapters lent their assistance to community resilience programmes against this zoonotic disease, whilst taking the opportunity to promote environmental education. More detail on all this will follow...

Media and Links

Media coverage for national teams will not be included below, but the Lesotho and Mali national teams deserve special mention for repeat appearances in TV and radio platforms.

Website: <https://humannatureprojects.org/>

Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/elliott-connor>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/406706943>

Podcast Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1nylfsXICM>

Livestream: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HF2bK_719Ls&list=PLatq0shSNxoMmijYihh8jDwTJqhsCVolj)

[v=HF2bK_719Ls&list=PLatq0shSNxoMmijYihh8jDwTJqhsCVolj](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HF2bK_719Ls&list=PLatq0shSNxoMmijYihh8jDwTJqhsCVolj)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HumanNatureProjects/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JoinHumanNature>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/humannatureprojects/>



Further Updates

In spite of prevailing circumstances, HNP volunteers have been busy at all levels. Updates from the 4 Months In and 9 Months In reports respectively will not be referenced, and readers should review these [here](#) and [here](#) for such information.

National Teams have organized online events, community outreach calls and consultations in line with the International Youth Day, World Rainforest Day, World Bee Day, world Otter Day, World Snake Day, the World Day to Combat Desertification and plenty else besides. Meanwhile, the international arm was recognized as a member of the intl. youth task force for World Environment Day in June.

HNP Canada has launched its own website, creating environmental awareness through blogging, similar to HNP Australia's response to the bushfire crisis.

HNP Uganda is facilitating intl. research programmes to monitor populations of chimpanzees, elephants and giraffes in the rainforest biome. HNP Thailand is planning a climate camp for youth leaders, HNP Lesotho arranging a school debating competitoin, and HNP South Africa investigating the feasibility of creating an Illegal Wildlife Trade hotline.

HNP Congo has partnered with a chimp rescue sanctuary for community awareness raising activities, and HNP Rwanda has adapted to the COVID pandemic by providing aid in the form of food packets to desperate citizens. HNP Cameroon put in a radio appearance whilst arranging for local school clubs to be formed, forming part of a larger intl. working group on the subject. And capacity building programmes have been carried out across the board, seeing staff and volunteers rapidly upskilled.



Further Updates

At the International level, an educational toolkit has been crafted over several months with input from a working group specially assigned to the task. It is set to enter its pilot phase in late July, with school clubs formed across half a dozen countries to provide feedback on the usability of the resources provided and overall experience.

Following this one-month trial period, the toolkit will be made openly available to the entire network, allowing widespread environmental education programmes. Accepted community groups will be provided with opportunities to connect with counterparts across the globe, with exclusive activity plans for world days, and with full access to the toolkit materials with regular updates and meeting invites.

Another avenue that has been strongly pursued is research. The ECO-IQ Survey conducted throughout April-May gathered the views of 1000 members of public towards contemporary environmental issues. All people who participated were environmentally literate and well-educated on basic ecology.

Despite this, the average score for the multiple choice was 2 out of 8. Given three possible responses for each question, that is worse than random chance. Not one person got 100%, and the highest score of 7/8 came from a Nigerian chap who retook the quiz. Only a tiny handful attained scores of 6 or 7, and variation in non multiple-choice questions was even greater. Hence the need for further actions to improve this knowledge gap was shown.

The Human Nature podcast launched in early June, with some highly successful early episodes having been released. All profits from the show support the charity, whilst doubling up as an effective form of awareness-raising for environmental issues. Guests to date have included a Belgian astronaut, an Australian tree-kangaroo conservationist, a field guide writer, an American comedian, a National Geographic explorer and an internationally acclaimed author. They are interviewed about a chosen animal and their work, then compete against several listeners in a 10-question trivia quiz on the same subject. See media and links for show details.



" It's good to be human! "

" -yes, but still... "

Future Intentions

At the one-year mark, it is a fitting time to review structures in place and make the necessary adjustments to ensure ongoing success. Fortunately, all HNP members and 3rd party reviewers agree on the effectiveness of the governance structure employed. We intend to maintain the national teams and international working groups within the HNP Brand, whilst providing further engagement opportunities in the form of elite project task forces.

A major rebranding of the charity was conducted at the anniversary mark, and the logos, palette and typography contained within this document will be those used by the intl branch of operations henceforth. National teams may continue to use the prior brand kit during a period of six months to prevent disruption in the handover, but are encouraged to adopt the new format at the earliest opportunity. For revenue, prior crowdfunding will be continued, with other paths explored.

Goal Setting

Having roundly achieved and surpassed its prior goals for the 12mo period, HNP seeks to create new ambitious targets for growth. The following will be used as metrics for success over the course of the year to follow:

- Expand the network to encompass more than 5000 volunteers across at least 115 countries.
- Raise \$50,000 USD to assist in ongoing actions and support the work of national teams through the international board.
- Gain representation at 15 top-level international environmental gatherings in person or online.
- Reach 100,000 people through awareness-raising activities including school clubs, blogging, podcast listenership and the actions of national teams.
- Provide training to 50 teachers &/or community leaders towards the formation of HNP clubs.



Closing Remarks

Recent crises have brought into stark contrast the dire state of our human relationship with the natural world. Flawed fire management practice created the Australian bushfires, and now the illegal wildlife trade has paved the way for the COVID-19 pandemic to emerge. At Human Nature Projects, we believe in a shared experience for humans and animals, where our actions towards these creatures are reflected directly back upon ourselves. So every advancement we make brings us one step closer to a world in which this manner of human suffering can be averted, and in which wildlife thrives alongside human progress.

The work performed by our volunteers and achievements contained in brief throughout this and prior reports reflect the dedication to a cause shared by all members of our network. Our vision is rapidly turning into a reality, and everyone stands to gain. David Attenborough once famously said: "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced." So in the opportunities afforded to our volunteers and by our volunteers to members of their community create a web of connection in a time when nature seems to grow ever further apart from ourselves.

We all have a responsibility to care for our planet, but we have no obligation to do so alone. Through our network, we have managed to break out of the echo-chambers that have crippled conservation in times past, and allow all people to safeguard their home- Earth.



**WILL YOU JOIN US?
#PEOPLE4PLANET
#HUMANNATURE**