

Cooperative Ecology™ Educational Education Program

To teach children about the interconnectedness of all life so that we can bring the world back into balance

by Yvette Taylor – 2022

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Lawrence Anthony

EARTH ORGANIZATION

BECAUSE NONE SURVIVE ALONE

A savanna landscape with a large acacia tree and an elephant grazing in the foreground. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky.

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization™ (LAEO) was established in 2004 by the late Dr Lawrence Anthony when he returned from his incredible rescue of the Baghdad Zoo. His work is well documented in his three best selling books: *Babylon's Ark*, *The Elephant Whisperer* and *The Last Rhino's*.

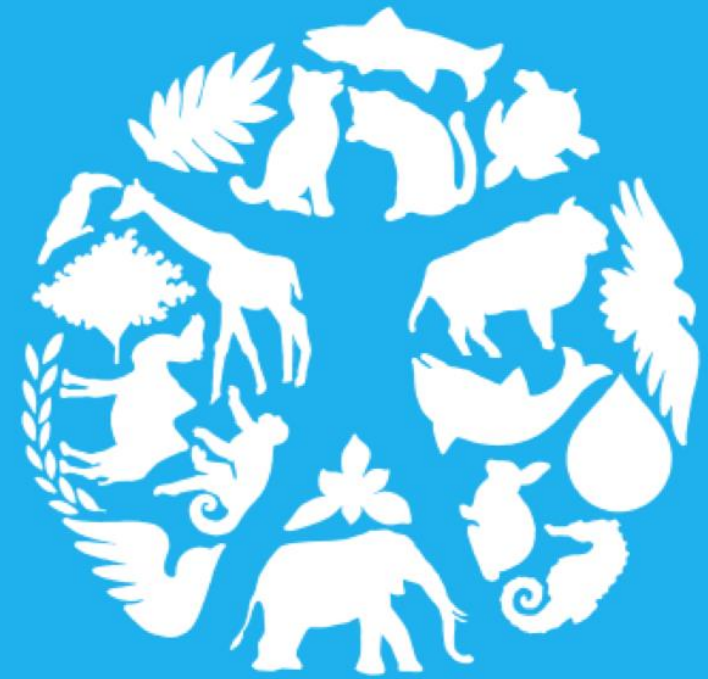
LAEO is an internationally renowned non-profit that, through the implementation of science-based solutions and character-building education, works to resolve environmental conflict and enhance the health of the planet for the benefit of all life.

LAEO has a wealth of experience in community and youth education. Experiential education is our focus as it offers a more practical approach to learners at every level.

Who We Are

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

This term was created by Dr. Lawrence Anthony to describe when all the 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 destructive than constructive towards the world, instead of helping bring things into natural balance and alignment, that person or life form's own potential to live a long and healthy life is endangered.



CoEco[™]
Cooperative Ecology

Defining Cooperative Ecology

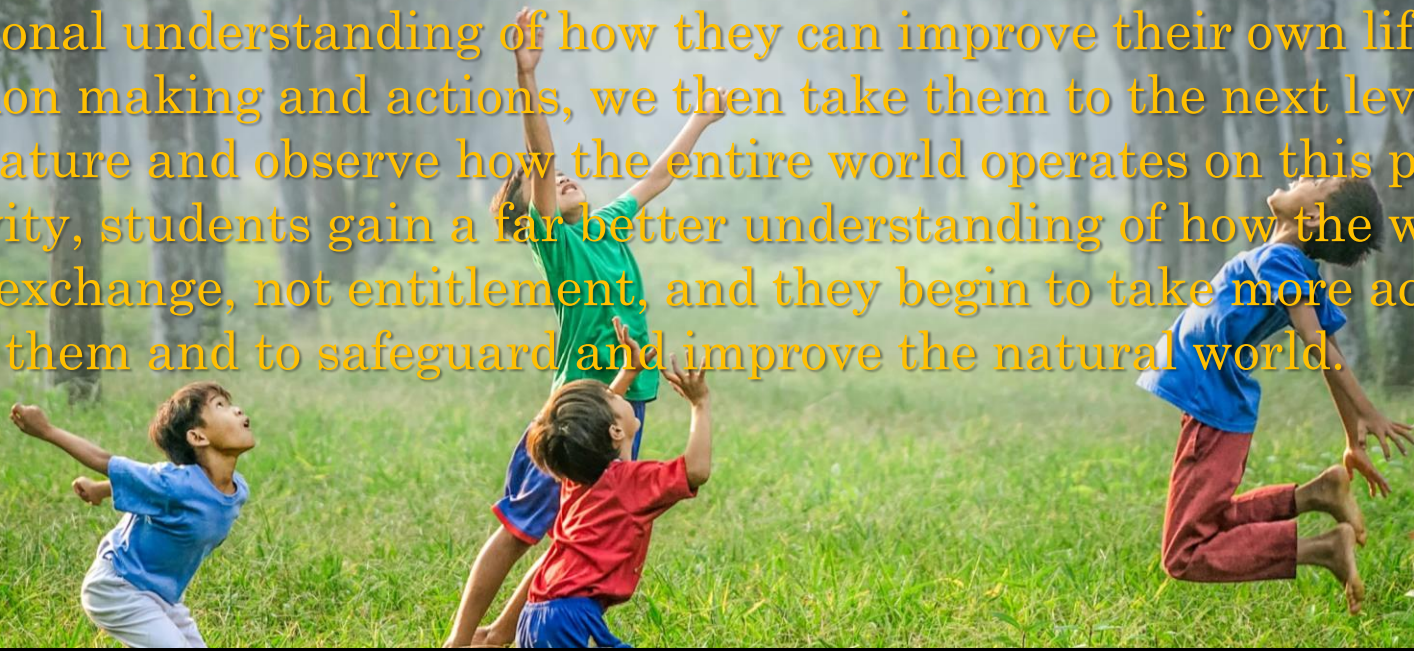
- The CoEco Curriculum is aimed at learners aged 12 to 14.
- It can be delivered at schools, eco clubs, home schooling and more.
- There is a mentorship component to the course which instils confidence.
- Once the pilot is complete, and any needed adjustments are made, it will be rolled out to our 12 chapters all over the world.
- Learners will move through the various levels of the CoEco course to achieve different levels.
- Learners will then become CoEco Ambassadors, which will include them in international webinars where they can engage with learners from all over the world to share successes and ideas.
- At the annual international conference, they will engage with experts where they will receive higher level training on how to organize, leadership skills and learn how to implement environmental solutions that work.



Programme Summary

The program starts with simple but precise exercises that get students to look at the things family members do for each other to make their lives happier, healthier, and safer. Then they actively take steps to enhance the lives of their family members and then observe if their own life got better, in any way, as a result of doing that. The same exercise is then done on their teacher, their school, local stores, their church, a local park.

With this foundational understanding of how they can improve their own life through more constructive decision making and actions, we then take them to the next level by having them go out into nature and observe how the entire world operates on this principle. Through this activity, students gain a far better understanding of how the world works through balanced exchange, not entitlement, and they begin to take more actions to improve conditions around them and to safeguard and improve the natural world.



Developing a Love of Nature

To develop a connection to the world around them by gradually improving their connection to others and the natural world

Our Cooperative Ecology education campaign builds character, personal integrity, and a better understanding of the importance of balanced give and take, from one's relationship with one's parents, teachers, school and local businesses to the natural world.

In studying these issues at their core, we've found that the most fundamental concept that must be imbued into society is the concept of how one's own survival is interwoven with and dependent upon the health and survival of those life forms and things around one. Most importantly, that to live well, one must actively enhance the parts of one's own ecosystem and, by so doing, one strengthens one's own potential for long-term survival.



Programme Goals

As this is an extraordinarily fundamental principle upon which all life operates, we created and trademarked the descriptive terms “Cooperative Ecology” and “CoEco” around which are built a series of educational materials for children.

We have received rave reviews from teachers, students, and parents that the approach is unique, valuable and, once they have learned the basic principles of it, students are applying it to their lives – beginning to causatively enhance and take more responsibility for the world around them.



Taking Responsibility for the World

- Working with local municipalities we implemented recycling education in 20 South Durban schools.
- Participated in the Sustainability Expo for 8 years, which is attended by approximately 15000 people, annually.
- We hosted 900 learners at the Climate Change Response Exhibition (CCR Expo COP 17) expo in Durban.
- We participate in a 2-day learners experience at the botanic gardens in Pietermaritzburg annually, touring 1600 learners through various experiential environmental stands.
- As a member of Project Rhino, we attended and assisted on three World Youth Wildlife Summits, which hosted 160 learners from all over the world, annually.



Track Record

- We take 600 grade - 7 learners (aged 12-13) from 20 underprivileged schools in KwaZulu Natal on a three-day environmental school camp at Nyala Pans in the Umkomaas valley. Learners from these schools would not have this opportunity due to their economic circumstance. They are educated and empowered on environmental and conservation issues as well as gaining leadership skills. The camp is life changing for these young people who get an opportunity to be in nature and learn how they can have a positive impact on the world. For many it instils a sense of pride, dignity and self-worth.
- We have trained a total of 125 unemployed woman and youth from the KwaXimba area in partnership with the Southern African Wildlife College. Courses delivered: National Certificate in Resource Guardianship, Conservation General Assistant, Nature Site Guide, Household Management, cattle farmers attended a non-accredited program on Wildlife-Cattle Interface and Disease identification and management.



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Program Implementation

- 100% black learners are empowered.
- Donors get an opportunity to make grass-roots changes in young lives, giving them a chance to really understand the environment, their impact and what they can do to preserve our planet.
- Tying your brand to an effective program for positive social change will generate goodwill and excellent PR for the company.
- Although this is a life changing experience for our youth it also means a better environment for us all.
- Donors over R20 000 will be tagged on all related social media posts for 3 months. They will also get mentioned in our regular Newsletter and any other promotional materials regarding the project.



Project Value

For More Information:

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Email: info@earthorganization.org

OR

yvette@earthorganization.org

Become a monthly donor: <https://www.earthorganization.org/make-a-difference/donate/>

OR

Become a Corporate Sponsor Today and Tie Your Brand to an Effective Environmental Organization Working to Improve Life for All!

DONATE NOW AND JOIN OUR TEAM TO BRING ABOUT A HEALTHY WORLD!

Contact us

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