



FEE



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The world's largest environmental education organisation

Contents

Welcome

2019 Highlights

Climate Crisis Strategy Development

The Global Forest Fund

The Litter Less Campaign

Blue Flag

Eco-Schools

Green Key

Learning about Forests

Young Reporters for the Environment

Stories from the Programmes

25 Years of YRE

Board of Directors and Head Office Staff

Member Organisations

Institutional and Corporate Partners

Cover photo: Litter Less Campaign Scotland, ©Keep Scotland Beautiful

- **Registration:** Foundation for Environmental Education is a private company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales with company number 04752279 and registered office at 74 The Close, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4DR. Registered charity number 1148274.
- Content provided by FEE Board of Directors and Head Office staff
- Edited by Nora Schuh
- Design and graphic production by Kindly
- Unless otherwise noted, all images
©Foundation for Environmental Education

Welcome



2019 has been another full and exciting year for FEE. And now everything has changed. As we prepare this report in the spring of 2020, we are in the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic. Our approach to this, supporting our members and partners, protecting our staff, providing useful resources and information has taken priority over everything. Yet in these challenging times we feel that we can make a change with our powerful global network of FEE members. This is why I am proud to present our 2019 report and am very confident that together we can overcome this difficult time and work towards the vital environmental transformation we need to achieve.

With this in mind and in response to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report issued in September 2019, the FEE Board of Directors made a significant decision to put FEE at the forefront of tackling three of the most critical challenges facing our world: climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. Intense work is being undertaken, involving our members, partners and experts to develop a strategy and approach that puts these critical issues at the heart of our programmes and our organisation.

Our FEE network continues to grow and develop. During 2019, we welcomed eight new members to the FEE family during the year and maintained our important partnerships with UN institutions and the corporate sector. FEE worked with UNFCCC in support of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid and as a partner in the UNESCO Global Action Programme joined the call to scale-up climate change education and make environmental education mandatory in schools around the world.

In November, with the support of the Mars Wrigley Foundation, the Global Forest Fund was launched to the general public, allowing travellers to calculate their carbon emissions and invest in projects that provide valuable resources and environmental education to communities around the world.

All our programmes and projects have had a successful year, but I must give special mention to Eco-Schools which celebrated 25 years with the "I've got the power" video campaign and a landmark publication *Changing Together* to celebrate a quarter century of excellence in environmental education.

Our thoughts are with you all as we try and support one another and continue to look to the future beyond this challenging time.

Stay safe!

Lesley Jones

President, FEE Board of Directors

Daniel Schaffer

FEE Chief Executive Officer

A Message from Lourdes Díaz Colón



Life works in mysterious ways! I would have never imagined that when I first got to know about the Foundation for Environmental Education through Blue Flag in 1999, I would be here in 2020 writing this message and reflecting upon these years in FEE. An organization that began with an aim to spread environmental education amongst young people (*before my time*) has become the leading international environmental education organization recognized by the UN, UNESCO, WTO among many others who today see us as their partners.

Looking back, I was fortunate to represent one of the first Caribbean countries in Blue Flag when FEE had recently dropped the last E in its name and become an international organization after introducing South Africa. I became part of the Board of Directors in 2008 and have been involved in many developments, such as the unification process that gave structure to our organization and the current development of a strategic response to the climate change crisis. Also, I have had the opportunity to share a bit of knowledge and experience with my mentor countries throughout these many years, which I have to say has been the highlight of this whole experience. Being in contact and working together to see our members grow and become successful in the implementation of the programs is most gratifying.

As you can see, I have lived many experiences throughout the years, and one thing I can say of this organization is that it has always known its mission

and responsibility. That its success relies on the integrity, professionalism and commitment of its members; their guidance gives life to the direction we provide as the Board of Directors.

I leave with great pride in the job done, knowing that those who follow will be of great service to this organization in both tough times and also in times of great opportunity. FEE should and will continue to work towards healing our planet and elevating the quality of life of its inhabitants. Why? Because that is who we are and what we do. How? Through our philosophy of being a positive, action-based organization. One that does not only talk but walks the walk. One that realizes that it cannot act alone but seeks the guidance of experts, partners and its own members to find the best strategies and actions to create awareness and solutions that will lead us closer to that sustainable world we all strive to grasp. I can unequivocally say that FEE will continue making great contributions to this world, demonstrating that with simple and realistic actions we can achieve much more. Despite the challenges we face time after time, FEE, together with its members, will overcome them with true leadership.

To the FEE family, I invite you to continue the fantastic work you are doing nationally and globally, as the future is in our hands. Through our programs we are creating awareness and addressing the main issues of conservation, pollution, biodiversity and climate change that we all face. But, we need to continue seeking new ways of confronting them. We need to continue working with the experts, influencing

decision makers from government and private sectors, and building leadership and knowledge among the youth in EE/ESD. As you can see, there is so much more work ahead of us, but together we can succeed.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for providing me these wonderful years of personal and professional growth and so much happiness!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lourdes Díaz Colón".

Lourdes Díaz Colón
FEE Board of Directors, 2008-2020



2019 Highlights

NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors was pleased to welcome the following organisations as members of the Foundation for Environmental Education in 2019.

Associate membership:

- Alma Tierra (Argentina)
- IPSDI (Burundi)
- Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (Bermuda)
- Eco-Schools Canada (Canada)

Affiliate membership:

- Green Growth Asia Foundation (Malaysia)
- Visit Åland (Finland)
- Sail Training International
- LEPL Batumi Boulevard (Georgia)



GLOBAL MEETINGS

In 2019, the FEE Board of Directors meetings were held in Los Cabos (Mexico) in February, in Copenhagen (Denmark) in April, in Chalikidiki (Greece) in June and in Bucharest (Romania) in October. In addition, the five FEE programmes organised successful National Operator Meetings throughout the year: Learning about Forests in Limerick (Ireland) in March, Young Reporters for the Environment in Shanghai (China) in April, Blue Flag in Blackpool (England) in October, Eco-Schools in Reeuwijk (the Netherlands) in November and Green Key in Doha (Qatar) in December.

CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

In September 2019, more than 70,000 people, including at least 18,000 students and teachers, were left without homes when the category five Hurricane Dorian struck the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama in The Bahamas. Twelve Eco-Schools were severely damaged or destroyed in the storm. In November, FEE teamed up with our member organisation the Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation (BREEF) to launch the Children for Children Campaign to mobilise support for recovery efforts and show solidarity with students, teachers and schools in The Bahamas. The campaign also aims to raise global educational awareness of our increasing vulnerability to natural disasters due to climate change. Eco-Schools students around the world are invited to participate in the campaign and learn about climate change risk reduction and resilience. Every Children for Children Campaign project includes a fundraising component to directly benefit infrastructure recovery for the affected Eco-Schools in The Bahamas.

To join the campaign or donate to recovery efforts, visit www.ecoschools.global/childrenforchildren



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

FEE was given the accolade of best non-profit organisation at the inaugural Sustainability SDG Tech Awards in Copenhagen. The SDG Tech Awards are a celebration of start-ups, corporations, research groups and NGOs that develop technology and solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals. FEE's International Eco-Schools Coordinator Nicole Andreou was recognised as one of environmental education's 30 under 30 by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAEE) for her work to empower students to lead sustainable lifestyles and promote access to quality education through Education for Sustainable Development. Eco-Schools was also chosen by HundrED as one of 100 inspiring innovations that are changing the face of K-12 education today.



STUDENT CLIMATE STRIKES

2019 saw millions of students around the world join together to call for those in power to take immediate action on the urgent climate crisis. The Youth Strike for Climate is an unprecedented international movement by the world's youth to take a stand for the future of their planet. FEE released the following statement in response to these students' inspiring efforts:

Our goal is to support students from all over the world in their personal and professional growth, encouraging them to take a leadership role. The essence of FEE is to provide them with knowledge and practical tools to live a more sustainable life, strengthening their adaptability and resilience to future challenges. We are pleased to see young people take a stand and we strongly agree with their demand on making climate change education a higher priority



GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA

FEE has been endeavouring over the past several years to expand its presence in underrepresented regions, including Latin America. Extensive strategic work with regional leaders has resulted in a more widespread global reach than ever before. There are now FEE member organisations in five Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. The FEE staff and Board of Directors have been working closely with member organisations and local leaders to ensure the successful implementation of the FEE programmes in Latin America. The addition of members from new regions adds diversity and vitality to FEE's already strong global network, enhancing our impact on positive change around the world.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

FEE once again worked with UNFCCC in support of the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid, Spain. FEE partnered with Earth Day Network to sponsor a COP25 event that explored the connections between climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity and the role of environmental education as a tool to promote greater understanding of key actions to address the climate crisis. FEE also continued to work towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) action with the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD. Along with other global organisations and institutions, FEE joined the call to scale-up climate change education and make environmental education a mandatory part of the curriculum in schools around the world.

Climate Crisis Strategy Development

In September 2019, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. The report highlighted the urgency of the climate crisis and made it clear that immediate action is needed to stay within the global target of a maximum 1.5 °C temperature rise above pre-industrial levels. In response to this latest IPCC report and in recognition of FEE's responsibility to maximise our global impact, the FEE Board of Directors made the decision to refocus our efforts and resources to address three of the most critical challenges facing our planet: **climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution.**

To that end, the Board of Directors began the process in 2019 of developing a new FEE strategy for the coming years that prioritises proactive action on the three key challenges. In keeping with FEE's democratic structure, the strategy development process will involve input from our global network of experts, partners, member organisations and other stakeholders. The Board of Directors will present the ambitious new strategic goals and action plan for member approval at the next FEE General Assembly.

"There is a pressing need to prioritise FEE's limited resources to focus on these three main themes that are intrinsically linked. We have an important role to play in addressing the urgency of the situation and to commit to a strategy and approach that puts these critical issues at the heart of our programmes and our organisation."

-Lesley Jones, President, FEE Board of Directors

The interconnected themes of climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution are already embedded in many aspects of the FEE programmes and projects. The Global Forest Fund, Great Plant Hunt and Litter Less Campaign connect directly with climate change, biodiversity and pollution respectively. Each of the five FEE programmes relates to some extent to education and/or positive action for each of key challenges. Internally, the FEE Board of Directors and Head Office staff have already begun to reconsider our own climate impact by significantly reducing travel and developing a comprehensive internal environmental impact policy.

For almost forty years, FEE has been empowering millions of people around the world to become leaders of sustainability and positive change. As we work to develop a strategy to scale-up our impact on the most urgent environmental challenges of our time, the experience and expertise of the FEE network will prove invaluable.

Together, we can strengthen FEE's contribution to positive change and push even harder for the future of our planet.



Global Forest Fund: Compensate to Educate



**GLOBAL
FOREST
FUND**

Since 2008, the Global Forest Fund has supported over 120 tree planting and environmental education projects worldwide. After over a decade of compensating for our organisation's own travel emissions with the Global Forest Fund, FEE has developed this internal carbon compensation tool into a cutting-edge platform available to the public. Thanks to funding from the Mars Wrigley Foundation, the redeveloped Global Forest Fund was officially launched in November 2019.

The new Global Forest Fund calculator and web platform allows travellers to calculate their carbon emissions

across a range of transport options and compensate for those emissions by investing in projects that make a real and lasting environmental impact. The Global Forest Fund is available to individuals and organisations that want to reduce their carbon footprint while at the same time providing valuable resources and environmental education to communities around the world.

90% of the funds raised by the Global Forest Fund are awarded directly to these impactful projects, with only 10% going to administrative costs. Global Forest Fund projects are awarded based on their ability to educate and connect school children with nature, capture carbon, alleviate hunger, mitigate desertification, prevent erosion,

increase environmental awareness and in the process promote sustainability and support communities.

The Global Forest Fund is distinguished from other carbon compensation schemes by its transparency, integrity and educational components. In addition to tree planting, Global Forest Fund projects support community awareness-raising activities and lessons in environmental stewardship. Children, youth and adults are empowered with a sense of ownership over their local environment and are inspired to strive for a more sustainable future.

Visit www.gff.global to learn more.



Prikazka Kindergarten, Bulgaria, 2015



Kete-Krachi Schools, Ghana, 2017

The Litter Less Campaign: Positive Change for a Cleaner Planet



The Litter Less Campaign is a joint initiative of FEE and the Mars Wrigley Foundation.

The campaign educates students on the issues of litter and waste, engages their communities in awareness-raising activities and encourages them to make choices that will reduce their environmental impact and conserve resources. Since 2011, the Litter Less Campaign has engaged over three million students around the world through the Eco-Schools and Young Reporters for the Environment programmes. Phase III of the campaign, which ran from 2017-2019, was implemented in 15 countries across five continents. Phase IV of the campaign was launched in the second half of 2019, and will continue until 2021.

Once phase III came to a close, FEE conducted a thorough impact assessment to assess the campaign's effectiveness. Based on the impact assessment, it is clear that the Litter Less Campaign has a positive impact on students' knowledge, attitude and opinion leadership with respect to litter and waste management. Students who participate in the campaign

conserve more resources, are more knowledgeable about waste and recycling issues and are less likely to litter than their peers who do not participate in the campaign. Litter Less Campaign students are also more likely to share information about the environment and motivate others to improve the way they handle waste.

Along with significant improvement in students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviour, something that marks the Litter Less Campaign as particularly effective is its impact beyond the schools. It is not only students that reap the rewards of the Litter Less Campaign, but their communities as well. The campaign engages students, teachers, parents, local leaders and other members of the community. Since litter and pollution are such universal issues, Litter Less Campaign projects start in the school and inevitably grow out into the surrounding areas. As a result, Litter Less Campaign students become leaders driving sustainability and positive behavioural change in their communities and beyond.

Transforming Plastic Waste in Kenya

In 2019, as part of the Litter Less Campaign, Ruaraka High School in Kenya focused on addressing a serious plastic waste issue they were facing in and around their school. Students started by collecting used ballpoint pens and plastic bottles that were scattered around the school compound, and the collected plastics were then turned into decorations for the school.

To enhance the campaign's impact, the school partnered with local community members to collect plastics around the neighbouring shopping centre. Through this initiative, the school forged a strong working relationship with the community and turned plastic collection and recycling into a shared activity. By the end of 2019, the school and com-

munity managed to collect a total of over 500 kg of plastics.

This Litter Less Campaign project has drastically reduced plastics around the school and shopping centre, and now has the full support of the local community and administration. Through public awareness-raising activities about the effects of plastics on the environment, the school and community have also observed reduced incidences of plastic littering by local residents. Since the school is located in a highly populated neighbourhood, the initiative is now serving as a best practice example for plastic waste management in the community.



The Final Day of Action in England

A highlight of the Litter Less Campaign in England was the Final Day of Action when all 29 schools involved in the campaign, after their sixth and final litter pick, marched to Abbey Park in Leicester to protest against litter in their community. Their signs and banners were created from some of the litter they had gathered. In the lead up to this final Day of Action, schools had also competed to come up with a chant to shout during the march.

Several hundred students and teachers attended the Day of Action, along with a Mars Wrigley UK representative, Daily Mail national press and the Leicester City Football club. At Abbey Park, the grand total for all 174 litter picks was announced - 781.33 kg! Prizes were awarded to

the schools who collected the most litter and to the school that collected the most unusual piece of litter.

The next day, the event was mentioned in the Daily Mail national newspaper and used to help launch Keep Britain Tidy's "Great Big School Clean" and "Great British Spring Clean" (also supported by the Mars Wrigley Foundation).



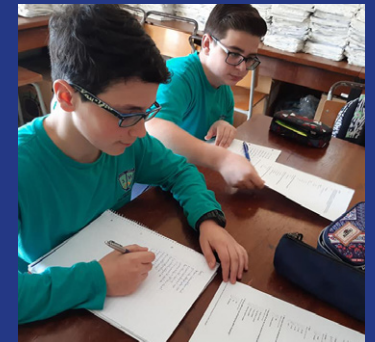
Student Campaign Against Plastic Bags in Malta

As part of the Litter Less Campaign, a group of Young Reporters for the Environment students from St. Thomas More College Secondary Zejtun in Malta decided to create a media campaign against single-use plastic shopping bags. They took multiple actions to make their "Stop Using Plastic" (SUP) campaign a success in and outside their school.

Not only did they create a number of promotional materials, a dedicated Facebook page, and a questionnaire to raise awareness of the issue, they also went to the streets, talking with local shop owners and customers to encourage people to start using reusable bags. The

students' activities attracted the attention of the local media and they were invited to appear on national television to talk about the campaign.

The students' teacher, Annalisa Sant, was impressed by the skills the students learned during the process and their determination to raise awareness of the importance of reducing plastic waste. The students also experienced firsthand the positive effects of their campaign. "I learnt that people are ready to listen to our advice and find alternatives to reduce plastic bags," concluded one Litter Less Campaign student.



Blue Flag

BLUE FLAG FACTS

- There are over 4,500 Blue Flag beaches, marinas and tourism boats in 47 countries around the world.
- 8.4 million people visited Blue Flag sites in 2019.
- Over 20,000 environmental education activities were conducted on Blue Flag sites in 2019.
- South Africa was the first country outside of Europe to fly the Blue Flag over its beaches.
- Blue Flag published a document in 2019 explaining how the programme contributes to each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

www.blueflag.global



As one of the world's most recognizable eco-labels for over 30 years, Blue Flag continued to expand its international presence in 2019 and looks forward to more growth in the future.

After years of hard work, the first beaches in Colombia and South Korea received Blue Flags in 2019. Cabo Verde, Argentina, Chile, India, Finland and the Åland Islands are all working on implementing the Blue Flag programme within the next few years. Blue Flag has been working closely with countries in South America in particular to expand the programme in that region.

Blue Flag International Director Sophie Bachet Granados was a featured speaker at the European Tourism Conference on Europe's Outdoor and Adventure Travel in Los Angeles in February, where she made a presentation about Blue Flag to enhance the programme's visibility in the American market. She was also present at the International Congress on Technology and Tourism for Diversity in Malaga, Spain to discuss how standardisation in the tourism industry through programmes like Blue Flag can improve accessibility.

As part of continuing efforts to make beaches more accessible to all, Blue Flag initiated partnerships with Wheelmap and Total Beach Access in 2019. Wheelmap is a free online map that rates the wheelchair accessibility of public places, and Total Beach Access manufactures wheelchair accessible walkways and amphibious wheelchairs for beaches. Blue Flag also began a new partnership with Triscovery, an online platform that allows travellers to book boating experiences on Triscovery's environmentally responsible fleet.

Blue Flag has been awarding Tourism Boats since 2016, and now certifies almost 70 Tourism Boats around the world. As part of the growing boating sector programme, Blue Flag has been working with Sail Training International to develop a set of criteria for sail training vessels. The Blue Flag for Sail Training Vessels will officially launch in 2020, so expect to see more Blue Flags flying on the seas.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2019





Eco-Schools



2019 marked the 25th anniversary of the Eco-Schools programme. In its 25th Anniversary Declaration, Eco-Schools affirmed Education for Sustainable Development as a human right and pledged to continue to engage children around the world in positive action.

Eco-Schools celebrated their 25th anniversary with the “I’ve got the power” video campaign to give everyone reached by the programme over the years the opportunity to share a powerful eco-message with the global community. Based on the video submissions, loss of biodiversity and plastic waste are the two most pressing issues where Eco-Schools students want to see action. Eco-Schools also released the landmark publication *Changing Together* to celebrate a quarter century of excellence in environmental education. *Changing Together* is dedicated to the teachers who are at the forefront of providing children with engaging and stimulating environmental education experiences.

Eco-Schools launched their first Teacher Lesson Plan Competition in 2019 based on the 2018 FEE publication *Positive Action for the SDGs*. The competition is an opportunity to celebrate Eco-Schools teachers’ contributions to Education for Sustainable Development and inspire further engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The winning lesson plans will

be featured as best practice examples in an upcoming Eco-Schools International publication.

In partnership with Lucart Professional, Eco-Schools International began piloting the Eco-Schools Project for Advancing Circular Economy (E-SPACE) in Latvia and Slovenia to educate students about the circular economy and empower them to take action. The Alcoa Warming-Waste-Water-Watts-Wildlife (W5), Toyota Fund for Europe Great Plant Hunt and Mars Wrigley Foundation Litter Less Campaign projects continued to engage students around the world on a range of topics related to Education for Sustainable Development.

2019 was also a year of awards and recognitions for Eco-Schools. International Eco-Schools Coordinator Nicole Andreou was named one of Environmental Education’s 30 under 30 by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Eco-Schools was also chosen by HundrED as one of 100 inspiring innovations that are changing the face of K-12 education today.

ECO-SCHOOLS FACTS

- In 2019, Eco-Schools engaged nearly 20 million students and 1.5 million teachers from over 60,000 schools in 68 countries around the world.
- Burundi became the newest country to join the Eco-Schools family in 2019, where it is implemented through National Operator IPSDI.
- 121 tertiary education institutions are now on board through FEE EcoCampus.
- Eco-Schools enables students from 41 schools in 24 countries without a National Operator to experience the programme through the International Schools initiative.
- With over 3,000 Green Flags, Ireland has more Green Flag awarded schools than any other country in the world.

www.ecoschools.global



Green Key

GREEN KEY FACTS

- There are over 3,200 Green Key awarded hospitality establishments in 65 countries around the world.
- In addition to hotels, Green Key also recognises restaurants, conference centers, attractions, campsites, holiday parks and other types of accommodation that meet sustainability standards.
- The first Green Key establishments in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Brazil, Suriname, Colombia and Australia were awarded in 2019.
- Green Key is an active participant in the World Tourism Organization's Working Group on supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through the tourism industry.
- Green Key offers its participants and applicants a detailed toolbox to support their sustainability efforts as well as access to personalised carbon and water calculation tools.



Green Key celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019 with another year of international growth, collaboration and new partnerships.

Green Key continued to extend its global influence in 2019 with new agreements with three hotel chains. NH Hotel Group and Green Key announced a collaboration agreement for Green Key to play a prominent role in helping the NH Hotel Group achieve ambitious sustainability goals for their hotels around the world. After nine years of successful partnership in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Radisson Hotel Group and Green Key renewed their agreement for another three years and expanded it to include hotels in the Asia-Pacific region. Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, the world's largest hotel franchising company, initiated a collaboration agreement with Green Key to support Wyndham's sustainability efforts for their hotels in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Eurasia.

Green Key was fortunate to form several new partnerships in 2019. Green Key entered corporate partnerships with Werner-Mertz, Ecolab, ACT.Global and Divello to promote sustainability in the hospitality industry through

the companies' innovative products. Green Key continued its relationships with many other valued corporate, institutional, web and NGO partners in 2019. Green Key International Director Finn Bolding Thomsen was present at the 50th Anniversary World Forum of the World Association for Hospitality and Tourism Education and Training (AMFORHT) to make presentations about Green Key and FEE.

In 2019, Green Key initiated a revision process of the criteria and explanatory notes for 2021-2025. Green Key National Operators, awarded establishments, partners and other stakeholders have been invited to provide input on the revisions to further strengthen the Green Key programme in the years to come.

www.greenkey.global



OUR PARTNERS IN 2019





Learning about Forests



Learning about Forests (LEAF) continued to grow in 2019, engaging more students in outdoor learning and hands-on educational experiences than ever before.

As LEAF closes in on twenty years of using nature as classroom, the programme continues to inspire students around the world to connect with nature and protect the environment. In 2019, LEAF students planted more trees than they have in any previous year!

The 2019 LEAF National Operators Meeting (NOM) in Limerick, Ireland was once again a great opportunity for the LEAF network to share best practices and collaborate on programme development. The NOM agenda focused on the psychological impact of LEAF and highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals and their connection to the programme. The fantastic work that LEAF Ireland does with the programme was on full display, and National Operators from 28 countries around the world were able to benefit from the experience and expertise of their fellow outdoor educators. The NOM also reunited three former and current International LEAF directors: Bjørn Helge Bjørnstad, Rachel Geary and Barry McGonigal.

LEAF was also active at several international meetings and conferences throughout the year. The programme

was present at the European Forum on Urban Forestry in Germany in May, where LEAF International Director Barry McGonigal made a presentation about the LEAF programme in regards to outdoor education and Education for Sustainable Development. Barry McGonigal also attended the 14th European Forest Pedagogics Congress in Latvia in July, which was hosted by LEAF National Operator JSC Latvia's State Forests.

With the ever-growing volume of scientific literature espousing the benefits of outdoor education, the LEAF programme is proud to have been delivering quality outdoor learning for nearly two decades. As the need to reconnect the next generation with their natural world grows, so too will the drive and ambition of Learning about Forests!

LEAF FACTS

- In 2019, LEAF engaged almost 700,000 students from over 5,000 schools in 28 countries around the world.
- While most LEAF students are in primary school, the programme also has participants from 30 schools at the college and university levels.
- Over 30,000 teachers participated in the LEAF programme in 2019.
- LEAF started in Europe and now has participants on all six inhabited continents.
- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, forests are home to 80% of life on land.

www.leaf.global



Young Reporters for the Environment

YRE FACTS

- 360,000 students from 4,835 schools in 45 countries participated in YRE in 2019.
- Starting in 2019, students from International Schools in countries without a FEE National Operator were able to participate in the YRE programme.
- YRE students produced over 16,000 pieces of environmental journalism for national YRE competitions in 2019.
- YRE students range in age from 11-25, from primary school to university level.
- YRE was first conceived in 1991, when student reporters accompanied scientists to the North Pole to study the depleting ozone layer. YRE was launched as an international programme three years later in 1994.

www.yre.global



Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019 and continued to empower youth around the world to give the environment a voice.

YRE marked the landmark anniversary with a special one-minute video competition open to all students and alumni to share their passion for the programme. The programme also launched a new online platform called the YRE Hub, where every YRE student around the world can share their stories, photos and videos with an international audience. YRE was also given a special commendation from the Global Youth & News Media Prize jury for its quarter century of work educating young journalists.

19 YRE students were given the opportunity to report from high-level international environmental conferences in 2019. These included the International Conference on Sustainability Education in India, the World Environmental Education Congress in Thailand, the Youth Mundus Festival in Italy, the Northern Dimension Future Forum in Finland and COP25 in Spain. YRE conducted workshops at the events in India and Italy to educate students about environmental journalism.

The annual YRE International Competition was once again a success, drawing over 200 articles, photos and video submissions from Young Reporters in 36 countries. The submissions were evaluated by a jury of environmental journalism experts, and the winning entries were publicized on the YRE, Medium and Climate Tracker websites. A new category for photo stories will be launched at the next YRE International Competition in 2020.

YRE students participating in the Litter Less Campaign had another successful year reporting on issues related to litter, waste and pollution in their communities. Their stories attracted the attention of local and regional leaders, and some of the problems the Young Reporters brought to light were solved as a result! All told, YRE students' environmental reporting reached over 6.5 million people in 2019.

Stories from the Programmes

Blue Flag



TERRY THE TURTLE'S WORLD TOUR

In October 2019, Terry the Turtle, Blue Flag's #turtlewithoutborders, began a trip around the world to visit Blue Flag destinations. Terry's first stop was the beautiful country of South Africa, where tourism boats, marinas and beaches were all top priorities on the to-do list. Terry is not an everyday turtle - Terry was hand-made by Moses Rombayi, a South African doll-maker originally from Zimbabwe. Terry visited many famous sites in South Africa, including the Blue Flag awarded Llandudno and Muizenberg beaches in Cape Town. Terry even got up close and personal with his fellow marine critters on the Apex Predator, a Blue Flag awarded tourism boat that offers Great White Shark cage diving tours. Terry is now swimming north to spend the summer season on Europe's Blue Flag beaches!

Eco-Schools



BEEKEEPING AND FISH FARMING MICRO-PROJECTS

Digalama Primary School in Tanzania is surrounded by the Mkingu Nature Reserve, which has global significance due to its richness in biodiversity and endemic species. The area is at risk because local communities are dependent on harvesting its resources, but Eco-Schools students at Digalama Primary School have a solution. With the support of local and international partners, the school invested in beehives and a fishing pond to provide resources and revenue. The students and educators had harvested and sold 766 litres of honey by the end of 2019, which raised 7.2 million Tanzanian Shillings to invest in future projects. The students also learned about ecology, environmental conservation, mathematics and entrepreneurship. The beekeeping and fish farming projects are now being replicated in the local community, thereby reducing reliance on forest products from the Mkingu Nature Reserve and protecting its important ecosystem.



Green Key



WEATHERING THE STORM WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in 2017, the Green Key awarded Casa Sol Bed & Breakfast became a centre of support in the community because it had one unique feature: solar panels. While much of the island was without regular electricity for months, Casa Sol was able to restore power within 24 hours of the storm. Despite the fact that many of his neighbors had laughed at owner Eddie Ramirez when he installed the solar panels, Casa Sol opened its doors to anyone who needed electricity after the storm. As many as 100 people would visit Casa Sol every day, with some using it as a lifeline to refrigerate breast milk and medications or to power life-saving medical equipment. Casa Sol was undoubtedly a critical point of support after the storm, and, it turns out, a source of inspiration. Today, more than a few of Ramirez's neighbours are installing solar panels of their own.

LEAF



FOREST GAMES IN NORWAY

Norway is the most active LEAF country in the world, with 140,000 students participating in the programme in 2019. Since 2015, LEAF students have been challenged to take part in the annual Forest Games. The goal of the Forest Games is to increase students' knowledge of forests and to promote physical outdoor activity during the school day. After a series of preliminary challenges, 17 qualifying schools were invited to the finals at the Norwegian Forest Museum. Many students arrived the night before the event and were given the opportunity to sleep in a traditional Sami tent called a lavvu. Finalists in the 2019 Forest Games were tasked with various practical and theoretical challenges, including tree species identification, determining the height and age of a tree, recognising bird sounds, making various knots, building wooden bridges and identifying insects.

YRE



WHY AM I A YRE?

"YRE is the one decision which time and time again has proven to be the best I have ever made. I've been a YRE for six years now, and each year supersedes the previous. 2019 was a wonderful one where I got to utilise skills gained through other YRE events in the previous years. I got to present my experience of COP24 in front of 300 YRE winners and mentors; the thought of which just a few months before would have killed me with worry. I executed it successfully- not ignoring the fact that YRE had supported me all the way. A few months later, in November, I got to represent my country alongside another YRE- Isaac Sam Camilleri at YouthMundus 2019 Festival in Rome. It was a one of a kind experience and I am so grateful that we were the pioneer YREs at that event. YRE has enriched my life through many different means for which I will always be indebted. Being a YRE has and will continue to provide opportunities of unparalleled fulfillment, and I cannot wait to see what 2020 will bring!"

YRE Alumna Martina Mifsud from Malta

25 Years of YRE

Some of our Favourite Photos from the YRE International Competition

Stop sucking the life out of our oceans. Canada, 2019



On Tiptoes, Slovakia, 2018



Hard Life, Montenegro, 2013



Companionship, China, 2016



Garbage Feast
What did you have for lunch?

Garbage Feast, South Korea, 2018



Hidden, Cyprus, 2013

FEE at a glance

GREEN KEY

3200
Establishments

65
Countries

ECO-SCHOOLS

59.000
Schools

68
Countries

BLUE FLAG

4573
sites

47
Countries

LEARNING ABOUT FORESTS

700.000
Students

28
Countries

YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

360.000
Young Reporters

45
Countries



FEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2018 – 2020)

(From left to right)

Amine Ahlafi, FEE Vice President - Lesley Jones, FEE President - Lourdes Díaz Colón, responsible for Blue Flag - Sasha Karajovic, responsible for Young Reporters for the Environment - José Hendriksen, responsible for Green Key - Nikos Petrou, responsible for Learning About Forests - Laura Hickey, responsible for Eco-Schools - Ian Humphreys, FEE Treasurer

FEE HEAD OFFICE STAFF (at time of publication)

Daniel Schaffer, Chief Executive Officer - Rikke Flørager, Administrative Director - Bjarke Kronborg, Financial Director - Anna Christensen, Finance Director Assistant - Pramod Kumar Sharma, Senior Education Director - Finn Bolding Thomsen, International Green Key Director - Sophie Bachet Granados, International Blue Flag Director - Barry McGonigal, International LEAF Director - Gosia Luszczek, International YRE Director - Isabel Lissner, International Green Key Coordinator - Johann Durand, International Blue Flag Coordinator - Nicole Andreou, International Eco-Schools Coordinator - Kristina Madsen, International YRE & Litter Less Campaign Coordinator - Nora Schuh, Marketing and Communications Coordinator - Floriane Marie, Education for Sustainable Development Programmes Intern - Pablo Ferrero, Administrative and Global Processes Intern - Maria Simões Franco, Communication and Administration Assistant - Sabine Mauguère, Green Key and Blue Flag Assistant

Member Organisations

(As of 31st December 2019)

FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Argentina: Alma Tierra – Civil Association for the Environment

Australia: Keep Australia Beautiful National Association Ltd

Bahamas: Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation

Belgium: FEE Belgium

Bermuda: Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Social Innovation Incubator MUNJA

Brazil: Instituto Ambiental em Rede

Bulgaria: Bulgarian Blue Flag Movement

Burundi: Initiative for Rural Health Promotion and Integrated Development (IPSDI)

Cabo Verde: Biosfera 1 - Associação para Defesa do Mejo Ambiente

Canada: Eco-Schools Canada

Chile: Fundacion Educarse

China: Center for Environmental Education and Communications of Ministry of Environmental Protection

Colombia: Association Colombiana de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental (ACODAL)

Comoros: Mouvement Associatif pour l'Education et l'Egalité de Chances (MAEECHA)

Croatia: Association "Lijepa Nasa"

Cyprus: Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association

Czech Republic: TEREZA, vzdělávací centrum, z.ú. (Tereza Educational Centre)

Denmark: Friluftsrådet (Danish Outdoor Council)

Dominican Republic: Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de la Republica Dominicana

England: Keep Britain Tidy

Estonia: Eesti Looduskaitse Selts (Estonian Society for Nature Conservation)

Finland: Sykke - Suomen Ympäristökasvatuksen Seura (Finnish Association for Environmental Education)

France: Teragir

Germany: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Umwelterziehung (FEE Germany)

Ghana: Centre for Sustainable Transformation

Greece: Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

Iceland: Landvernd (Icelandic Environment Association)

India: Centre for Environment Education

Ireland: An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland

Israel: EcoOcean

Italy: FEE Italia (FEE Italy)

Jordan: The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan

Kenya: Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOEI)

Latvia: Vides izglītības fonds (FEE Latvia)

Lithuania: Lietuvos Zaliuju Judejimas (Lithuanian Green Movement)

Madagascar: Madagascar National Parks (MNP)

Malaysia: Tabung Alam Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia)

Malta: Nature Trust Malta

Mauritius: Reef Conservation

Mexico: FEE Mexico

Mongolia: Information and Training Centre for Nature and Environment

Montenegro: EKOM - Udruzenje za ekoloski konsalting (ECOM - Environmental Consultancy of Montenegro)

Morocco: Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement

Netherlands: Stichting IVN

New Zealand: Keep New Zealand Beautiful

Northern Ireland: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Norway: Stiftelsen FEE Norway (Foundation FEE Norway)

Poland: Fundacja dla Edukacji Ekologicznej (Polish Foundation for Environmental Education)

Portugal: Associação Bandeira Azul da Europa (FEE Portugal)

Puerto Rico: Organización Pro Ambiente Sustentable (OPAS)

Qatar: Qatar Green Building Council

Romania: Centrul Carpato-Danubian de Geoecologie (CCDG Romania)

Russia: Keep Saint-Petersburg Tidy

Scotland: Keep Scotland Beautiful

Serbia: Ambasadori održivog razvoja i životne sredine (Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development)

Singapore: WWF-Singapore

Slovakia: Spirala

Slovenia: Društvo DOVES (FEE Slovenia)

South Africa: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

South Korea: FEE Korea

Spain: Asociación de Educación Ambiental y del Consumidor (ADEAC)

Sweden: Håll Sverige Rent (Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation)

Switzerland: Association J'aime ma Planète

Tanzania: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Thailand: WWF Thailand

Trinidad and Tobago: Green T&T

Turkey: Türkiye Çevre Eğitim Vakfı (Foundation for Environmental Education in Turkey)

Uganda: Conservation Efforts for Community Development

Ukraine: Ekologitschna Initsiativa (Ecological Initiative NGO)

United Arab Emirates: Environmental Centre for Arab Towns (ECAT)

United States of America: National Wildlife Federation

US Virgin Islands: Virgin Islands Conservation Society

Wales: Keep Wales Tidy/Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus

Zanzibar: Jumuiya isiyo ya Kiserikali inayohusisha Maendeleo ya Vijana katika Elimu,Ujasiriamali na Uhifadhi wa Mazingira Zanzibar (Zanzibar Youth, Education, Environment, Development Support Association)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Belgium: Fédération Internationale de Camping et de Caravanning (FICC)

Belgium: BOS+ Vlaanderen vzw

Belgium: MOS+ (Department of Environment and Spatial Development)

Canada: Swim Drink Fish

Denmark: Skovskolen

Denmark: HORESTA (Association for the Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Industry in Denmark)

Estonia: Ettevõtluse Arendamise Sihtasutus (Enterprise Estonia)

Finland: Suomen Metsäyhdistys (Finnish Forest Association)

Finland: Visit Åland

Georgia: LEPL Batumi Boulavard

Iceland: Vottunarstofan Tún ehf.

Latvia: Latvijas valsts meži (JSC Latvia's State Forests)

Malaysia: Green Growth Asia Foundation

Montenegro: Bureau for Education Services of Montenegro

Netherlands: Foundation KMKV

Netherlands: SME Advies

Norway: Skogbrukets Kursinstitutt (Forestry Extension Institute)

Sail Training International

Sweden: Green Key Sweden

Sweden: The Swedish Forestry Association

United Arab Emirates: Emirates Green Building Council

US Virgin Islands: US Virgin Islands Hotel and Tourism Association

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Heiko Crost

Jan Eriksen

Ole Løvig Simonsen

Malcolm Powell

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Recognised as a world leader within the fields of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development, Foundation for Environmental Education is partnered by some of the world's foremost organisations in the fields of education and the environment.



CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate partners are crucial to the global success enjoyed by the Foundation for Environmental Education and its programmes. Working closely with environmentally conscientious organisations is a mutually beneficial arrangement that helps us broaden our reach while affording our partners the chance to highlight their dedication to environmental concerns.



A young boy with his eyes closed is lying in a vast sea of discarded plastic waste. The trash includes various items like water bottles, food containers, and plastic bags. A skull mask is visible near the boy's head. The scene is a powerful visual metaphor for environmental pollution.

Positive change on a global scale

Visit our website www.fee.global and follow us on social media



*It's time to wake up to the problem of plastic,
Northern Ireland
1st place, 2019 YRE International Competition,
Litter Less Campaign photo (11-14 age group)*

Photo: @YRE International Competition