

A detailed black and white illustration of a mangrove forest. The scene is dominated by large, gnarled mangrove trees with prominent prop roots extending into the water. The water is calm, reflecting the dense foliage. In the foreground, there are smaller mangrove plants and more roots. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

# Common Foundation

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2022

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## Annual overview 2022

We believe that restoring degraded land and bringing back fertile soil for people and nature is the key to tackling the climate problem.

Wijnand Pon  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMON FOUNDATION

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# Contributing to a greener world

**We step back to March 2011 for a moment. The ever-accelerating global warming, the ever-increasing depletion of land, the degrading ecosystems and the consequences all this had for humans and animals, concerned Wijnand Pon.**



ZINAVE NATIONAL PARK (PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION)

Since he preferred to take action rather than keep talking about the problems, he decided to put much of his wealth into helping green the planet again. He brought together a team of capable people from his network and started the COMON Foundation with them from his office near Groningen.

Fast forward to 2023. The COMON Foundation has been in existence for 12 years and during that time it has clearly outlined its philosophy and objectives. In a nutshell, these involve greening the planet through landscape restoration. By restoring degraded land and making it fertile again, you can turn the tide. An important aspect of this is to involve local communities in projects so that they themselves benefit from them, see the importance of them and therefore participate in greening.

Based on these thoughts, COMON has carefully selected a large number of organisations and projects to support in recent years. Gradually, it became clear that to really make a difference, in some cases you need to give that support not once, but structurally. For this reason, COMON chose to make a few organisations beneficiaries. This means that they receive long-term financial support and that COMON contributes content where necessary and where possible to developing initiatives and building figurative bridges between people, organisations and sometimes even countries. The benefactors are Commonland, Charles Darwin Foundation, Peace Parks Foundation and Wetlands International. In addition to these benefactors, COMON supports a number of other projects which are reviewed annually to see if they still fit within its objectives.

The financial accountability of these fundings has taken place annually since COMON was founded. Because the organisations and projects are often

so inspiring and hopeful, COMON has decided, starting this year, to also produce a substantive annual report. This way, as many people as possible can read about what is happening on the greening front, and what COMON has done and achieved in the past year.

The first copy is now in your hands. In it, we briefly describe what exactly COMON is, which projects we support and which ones stood out in our eyes this year. We visited some of the projects, which we are also happy to report on.

The COMON Foundation will probably be needed indefinitely; the world will always be asking for improvement. But looking back at 2022, we can once again conclude that what we are doing makes sense and that COMON is contributing to a greener world.

**Looking back at 2022, we can once again conclude that what we are doing makes sense and that COMON is contributing to a greener world.**

**Wijnand Pon**

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMON FOUNDATION



# Commonland

## 26 countries worldwide

Commonland, the first beneficiary of COMON, developed the so-called 4 Returns Framework, a scientifically based model to restore degraded ecosystems by focusing for at least 20 years on 4 important returns in 3 different zones: the Return of Inspiration: if people enjoy it, the rest will follow automatically; the Social Return: by involving people in a project, their well-being and willingness to restore the area increases; the Nature Return: by applying regenerative agriculture and conserving, restoring and connecting green areas you restore biodiversity, the value of the land increases and it becomes more attractive to the people who live there; and the Financial Return: by investing in employment and nature you stimulate the entire economic activity and thus the financial capital of an area. COMON initially invested mainly in setting up a solid organisation and now

also supports several of Commonland's often remarkably successful projects, such as the Cookstove project in Simalaha, a collaboration with Peace Parks Foundation.

**The Cookstove project is highlighted on the following pages.**



COOKSTOVE PILOT PROJECT IN SIMALAHA



ALVELAL TERRITORY, ALTIPLANO ESTEPARIO, SPAIN

### The 4 Returns Framework



RETURN OF  
**INSPIRATION**



**SOCIAL**  
RETURN



**NATURAL**  
RETURN



**FINANCIAL**  
RETURN



## Highlight Commonland

**With a Cookstove, you need 60 to 70 per cent less wood for cooking. The project therefore combats large-scale tree felling in Simalaha. Because the Cookstove project was certified by the Gold Standard last year, the stoves now also generate carbon credits that can be traded. Reason enough for COMON to invest further in this project.**

# Cooking with a lot less wood The Cookstove Project



COOKSTOVE PILOT PROJECT IN SIMALAHA

‘Simalaha Community Conservancy is the first community nature reserve in Zambia,’ explains Peace Parks Foundation CEO Werner Myburgh. ‘Local people have really had to learn to understand what a healthy and well-functioning ecosystem can bring them if they treat their environment differently.’ One of the major problems in the area is deforestation, partly because the population uses wood extensively to cook food. ‘To address that, together with Commonland and with the help of COMON, we introduced the Cookstove project in Simalaha a few years ago. The Cookstove is a simple stove that burns on some scrap

wood, which means you need 60 to 70 per cent less wood than before to cook a meal and therefore much less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (preventing deforestation). There are now 10 thousand Cookstoves in use in Simalaha, for just as many families. That delivers significantly.’

### Carbon credits

Since last year, the Cookstove project has been certified by the Gold Standard – a certification body that focuses on maximising the impact of climate and development activities. It thus meets the requirements of the Community Carbon



Programme, which allows carbon credit trading. The first carbon sales have now taken place. 'PON Holdings has bought up almost all the credits,' says COMON CEO John Loudon. 'This means the whole company will become climate neutral soon.' And for Simalaha, it means gains on several levels. 'The programme not only combats deforestation but also makes money,' Loudon explains. 'That makes it an absolute success for COMON. The purchase and distribution of the Cookstoves for Simalaha was financed by COMON through a loan. Now that the cookstoves are generating income, the community can repay the loan. COMON will reinvest this money in more Cookstoves. The project will be scaled up and the community, united in Simalaha Trust, will receive additional money for



COOKSTOVE PILOT PROJECT IN SIMALAHA

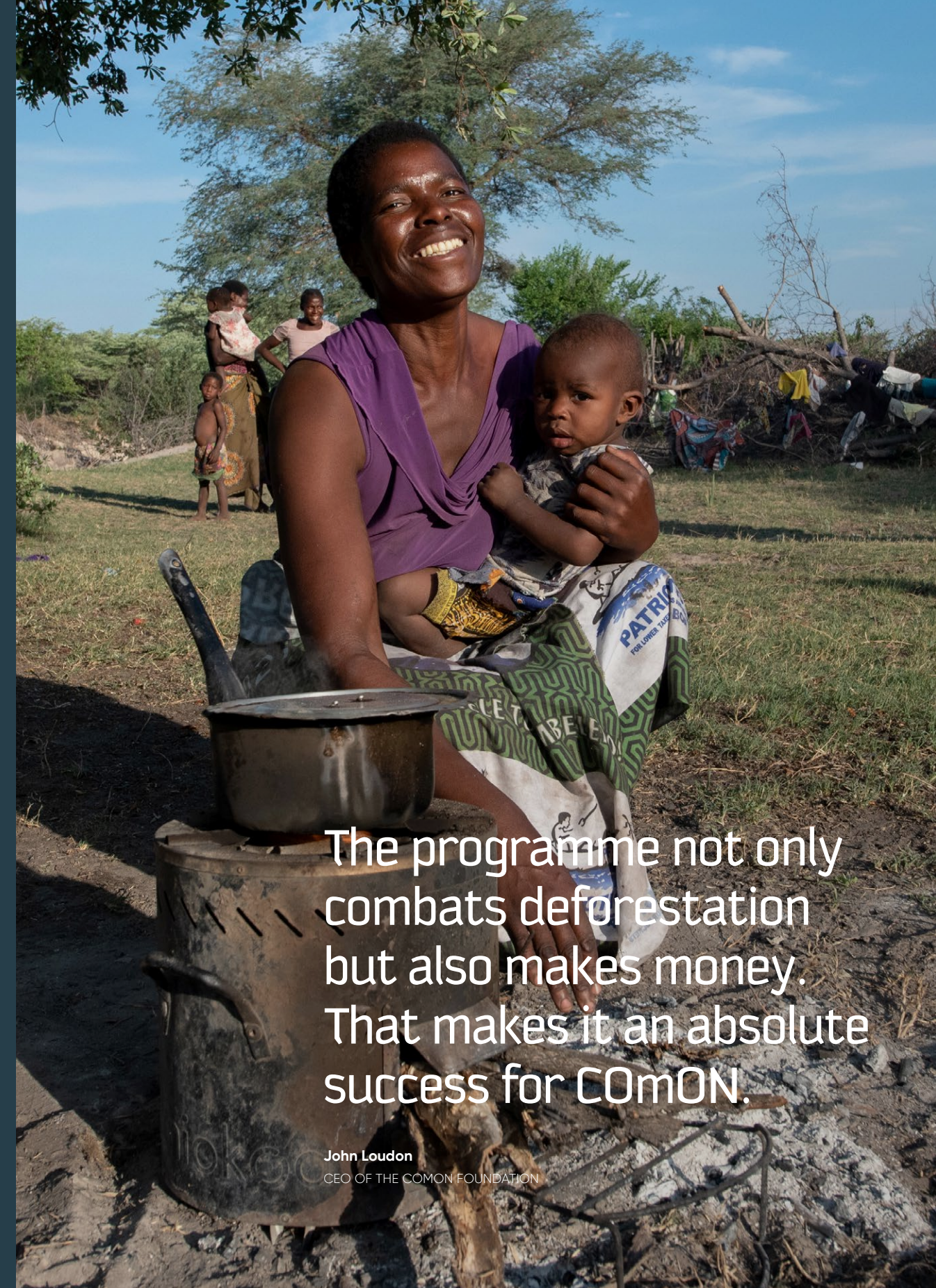
community projects, such as schools and wells. Thus, the value of the project keeps increasing.'

### Scale up

Loudon visited the project last year and sees several challenges for 2023. Such as the lifespan of the Cookstove: after a few years, it will need replacing. 'This is why Commonland will start a study on the used and alternative Cookstoves in mid-2023 to be able to scale up in a well-considered way later on.' It will also investigate how to further roll out the success, including to Namibia, for example, together with parties such as WWF Namibia. Loudon: 'We envisage distributing perhaps 100 thousand Cookstoves in KAZA for many local parties.'

Werner Myburgh (PPF) welcomes the plans. 'With 10 thousand, much less wood is already used; but you can imagine that when you deploy ten times as many Cookstoves, your impact is really huge. In addition, the credits provide large amounts of money towards local communities for schools, wells and tree planting etc.'

'Ultimately, COMON sees Cookstoves as an interim phase,' Loudon concludes. 'In 15 years, we will be cooking en masse on solar energy. The technology to generate energy for an induction hob is already there, it just takes time to make it applicable on a large scale. But if that succeeds, even that one twig you put in the Cookstove now will no longer be needed.'



The programme not only combats deforestation but also makes money. That makes it an absolute success for COMON.

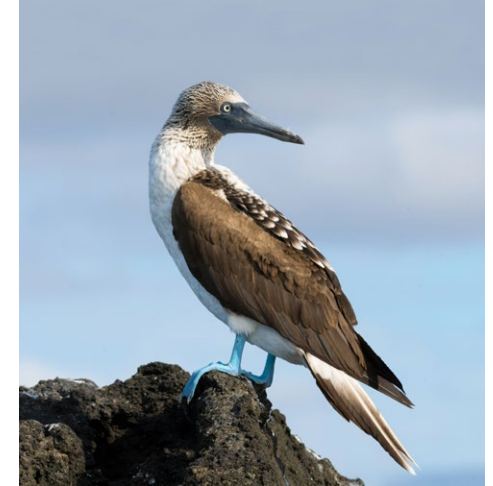
John Loudon  
CEO OF THE COMON FOUNDATION



# Charles Darwin Foundation

## Ecuador

The Charles Darwin Foundation in the Galapagos Islands is a scientific institution that uses its knowledge and skills to protect, restore and conserve the Galapagos archipelago. The highlight of 2022 was the completion of the Inspiration Complex, a building complex including a conference hall, which has allowed the CDF to place itself at the centre of attention. Meanwhile, this complex has already been used by several organisations, including the president of Ecuador, for various events. It has resulted in more conservation initiatives in the Galapagos Islands. This success has led to the idea of possibly constructing another building in the near future, to be used as a *life science* laboratory. Two other projects that COMON has been supporting for several years are Galapagos Verde 2050, aimed at restoring 7 islands by bringing back all



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY

original plant species, and the Galapagos Hub, a collaboration between 6 different universities and government agencies, to collectively make important decisions on conservation and restoration, infrastructure issues, water management and the transition to renewable energy.

The Galapagos is a kind of thermometer of the world. Here you can see, for example, what the situation is with regard to pollution.

Wijnand Pon  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMON FOUNDATION



# Zambia, Mozambique Peace Parks Foundation

BANHINE NATIONAL PARK



SIMALAHA LOCAL COMMUNITY



HONEY FARM IN SIMALAHA

The Peace Parks Foundation focuses on the development of cross-border nature parks in southern Africa in 10 different countries over an area of 1 million square kilometres. COMON has made a long-term commitment to support Simalaha, south-west Zambia, where we are working with local communities to try to find a balance between economic progress and nature conservation.

Other Peace Parks projects in which COMON is involved include Banhine, a park located in the heart of Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) – this is to become the connecting link between the various parks in this area, which together, after KAZA, are to form the second largest cross border nature park in the world –, and Herding 4 Health, a project aimed at conserving nature while reducing poverty among rural people, by grazing their cattle differently. The cattle rotate, restoring the soil in the process instead of depleting it, thus becoming healthier and therefore yielding more.

**The Banhine project is highlighted on the following pages.**

The Peace Parks Foundation focuses on the development of cross-border nature parks in southern Africa in 10 different countries over an area of 1 million square kilometres.



# Master plan for Banhine Banhine National Park

**The COMON board toured** Banhine National Park in Mozambique **in 2022 and sees a lot of potential in the park. Not only is it a beautiful and unique nature reserve, it also meets the conditions to roll out the 4Returns programme there. For that reason, COMON is investing heavily in Banhine** over the next five years.

Banhine National Park is a protected nature reserve in Mozambique located in the heart of Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP). It will form the connecting link between Kruger National Park in South Africa, Limpopo National Park and Zinave National Park in Mozambique and Gonarezhou in Zimbabwe. When all the parks have protected status, the parks together will form the second largest nature park in the world.

COMON achieved great success a couple of years ago by funding Maputo Special Reserve in Mozambique. Their donation to the park of €3.5 million prompted other major donors to come forward and collectively invest €35 million in the park.

The 'reserve' has since been renamed Maputo National Park and has developed into one of Mozambique's gems. COMON has decided to make Banhine National Park a second pearl and has therefore committed funding for the next five years.

## Lots of potential

The COMON board visited Banhine last year and sees a lot of potential in the park. COMON CEO John Loudon: 'Banhine is a beautiful park, with a lot of potential for all imaginable wildlife. It consists largely of wetlands and already has a magnificent bird population. There is little tourism yet, but it is a unique part of the world and therefore has a lot in it to become a popular park. On top of that, the community around



Banhine is willing to invest in restoring and protecting the park itself. It meets all the conditions to successfully roll out the 4Returns programme here. Based on all these factors, we are confident that, as with Maputo National Park, other donors will join and a multiple of our own investment will follow.'

In 2022, the foundation for a master plan for Banihine was laid together with a wide range of stakeholders, including Herding 4 Health, Bio Carbon Partners, The Hunger Project, Commonland, Peace Parks Foundation, Southern African Wildlife College, local governments, chiefs of communities and the communities themselves. In 2023, all parties will meet to discuss how the master plan will be shaped further.

### People and animal flourish

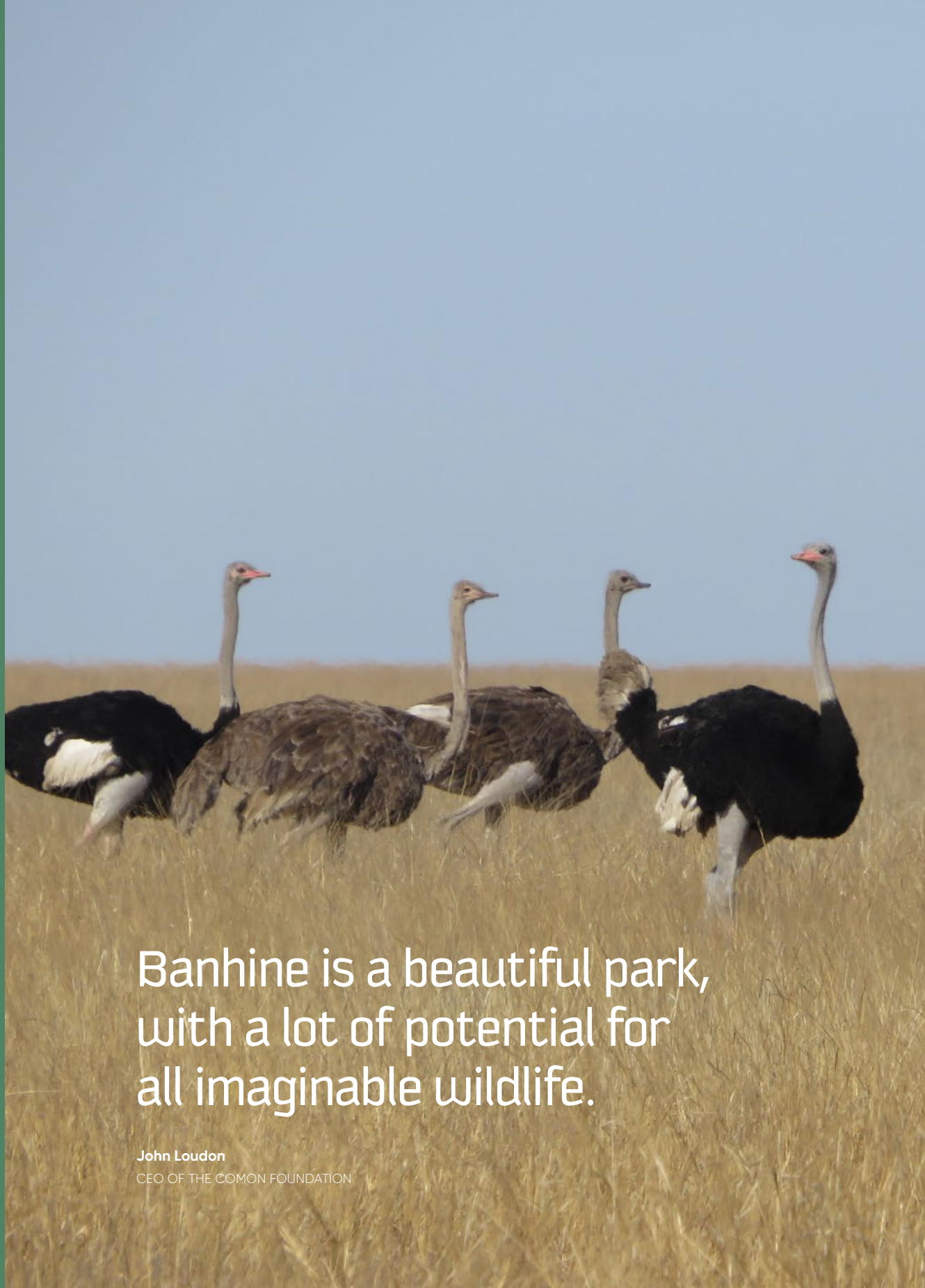
According to Werner Myburgh, CEO of Peace Parks Foundation, partly because of COMON's involvement, many positive developments are taking place in the area. 'More and more people from the community are recognising that they have a lot to gain from dealing better with their environment. Together with the government of Mozambique, the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and the Duitse Ontwikkelingsbank (KfW), we managed to encourage a large number of residents to move from the park to the buffer zones. They now have much better living conditions and no longer see wildlife as a threat, but as necessary for survival,' he says. 'Fences have been taken

**Fences have been taken away, causing, among other things, buffalo to migrate from Limpopo to Banihine. With the migration of people and animals in these areas, everything is flourishing more.**

**Werner Myburgh**  
CEO OF PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION

away, causing, among other things, buffalo to migrate from Limpopo to Banihine. With the migration of people and animals in these areas, everything is flourishing more.'

Myburgh is delighted that COMON will remain actively involved for years to come. 'We are very happy and grateful that COMON has agreed to support us with these projects for the next five years as well. It is and will remain incredibly important for us to have donors like COMON in order to be able to protect this beautiful nature also in the longer term and at the same time also offer local communities a better life.'



**Banihine is a beautiful park, with a lot of potential for all imaginable wildlife.**

**John Loudon**  
CEO OF THE COMON FOUNDATION



# Wetlands International

## Guinea-Bissau, Tanzania, the Philippines and Indonesia

Wetlands International is an international non-profit organisation that has officially been in existence for more than 60 years. For over 25 years, Wetlands International has been committed to raising awareness and the sustainable use of 'wetland ecosystems', as they are the ultimate landscape for optimal biodiversity and also connect all nature, including people. This is why Wetlands International invests not only in the wetlands but also in the well-being of



COMMUNITY GROUP IN GUINEA-BISSAU



We believe we can only make progress if we work together, share knowledge and connect parties.

Jane Madgwick  
CEO OF WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

JANE VISITING THE RUOERGAI MARSHES

the people living there. Because Wetlands International's philosophy and focus area fits well with what COMON has in mind, it was decided to support the organisation for the longer term. Since 2020, COMON has been putting extra funding into the 'to plant or not to plant' project, in Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, the Philippines and Indonesia. Here, instead of planting seedlings, habitats around mangrove areas are restored, allowing the areas to recover

and the mangroves to return naturally. In 2022, COMON gave the organisation itself an additional financial injection to become more administratively powerful. The visible results include the organisation being better organised internally, getting more achieved in terms of fundraising and becoming more visible.



## Highlight

# World's largest agro-forestry tree planting project One Acre Fund



OAF FARMER APPLIES COMPOST TO HIS LAND

**One Acre Fund** helps close to 2 million smallholder farmers **manage their land better, making it** more profitable for them. **In doing so, the organisation has an** ambitious plan to plant as many as 1 billion trees **by 2031, in** eight African countries. COMON is proud to help **make this plan possible.**

One Acre Fund (OAF) is an American-originated non-profit organisation that helps close to 2 million smallholder farmers cultivate their land so that they harvest more – partly to trade and thus generate income –, eat healthier food and the land itself is not depleted. As a result, their prosperity grows. In practice, OAF treats farmers as customers; they receive high-quality seed, eco-friendly fertiliser, crop insurance, burial insurance, ongoing agricultural advice and help in marketing their crops. Direct costs OAF sees as a loan that farmers can repay with a share of the profits they make from selling their crops. This way, they do not remain dependent on philanthropic support forever. OAF also invests in relevant agricultural research, monitoring and evaluation,



CULTIVATION OF DIFFERENT CROPS



relationships with relevant ministries and the development of additional service lines. These costs are funded by donors.

### **Less laborious, more market**

COMON is one such donor. 'OAF is the only organisation in the world that has bi-weekly direct or indirect contact with 2 million farmers. Within two years, there will be about 4 million. This has great advantages. For example, they are able to directly influence the way millions of farmers work their land,' says COMON CEO John Loudon. 'For example, a couple of years ago OAF started encouraging farmers to plant trees. This proved to be a great success, because the trees prevent land erosion and because farmers started to see them as a crop that is less laborious and has more of a market than cassava and maize, for example.' He also explains that OAF's approach fits well with what COMON believes in. 'OAF had never heard of the 4Returns method, but works more or less that way. Everyone who joins their programme gets a better life.'

### **One Billion Tree Programme**

COMON, together with another US philanthropic fund, Focusing Philanthropy, was already involved in the OAF project to plant some 55 million trees in eight African countries by 2022, a whopping 40 per cent more than in 2021. In the coming years, up to and including 2031, COMON will again partner with Focusing Philanthropy to enable the planting of a billion trees.

Loudon: 'This is OAF's One Billion Tree Programme, the largest agro-forestry

tree planting project in the world. We are proud to be part of it. It is an example for all smallholder farmers worldwide. If this succeeds, you can apply it in the rest of Africa, and also in India and South America, for example. It is a longer-term project that we are happy to put money into, also because it is incredibly ambitious and exciting.' Loudon, meanwhile, is already in talks with Peace Parks Foundation to see if it is an option to implement a similar tree planting programme in Simalaha.

### **Digital Pilot**

To distribute those millions of trees, OAF works with decentralised nurseries of up to 20,000 *seedlings* per year. In tiny Rwanda alone, 1,000 of these mini-nurseries have been implemented. The so-called *nursery managers* are given tablets with which they register farmers, record information and take photos of their operations and monitor through the farmers whether and how the trees are growing.

Loudon visited the area in 2022 and was impressed by the number of trees and each farmer's intrinsic desire to plant even more trees. 'Trees in and around our production fields are good for food supply, stopping erosion, an extra income for our school-age children. The trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and give oxygen to the world.'



One Acre Fund is the only organisation in the world that has bi-weekly contact with more than 2 million farmers.

**John Loudon**  
CEO OF THE COMON FOUNDATION



# The Global Mangrove Watch

The importance of mangroves recognised once again

**Mangroves store as much as 10 times more CO<sub>2</sub> than rainforests and** protect coastlines from damage and tsunamis. **The Global Mangrove Watch (GMW) is an open source platform on which as much knowledge and information as possible about mangroves is shared worldwide. The GMW won a prestigious award last year, a confirmation for COMON that it is an** important project to continue supporting.

It has long been known: mangroves, trees and shrubs that grow mainly in tropical coastal areas and river deltas and have a distinctive root system that extends above the ground and water, store up to ten times more CO<sub>2</sub> than rainforests. In addition, mangroves protect coasts from storm damage, floods and erosion, are a natural buffer against tsunamis, for example, and improve fish populations. In short, it needs little explanation that this crop has long had COMONs attention, as it can make a big difference in the fight against climate change and is of great value to the entire world.

#### Open source platform

For several years, COMON together with The Nature Conservancy and COMON beneficiary Wetlands International has been supporting the Global Mangrove Watch (GMW). This is a global open source platform set up by the Global Mangrove Alliance in which major NGOs cooperate with each other, bringing together more than a hundred scientists and contributing all their knowledge, scientific research and expertise. This involves using specific equipment to visualise where mangrove ecosystems are in the world, their condition and what is, or can be, done to protect



them. The GMW can then be used by other scientists, local residents and governments to make an informed decision about restoring, conserving or logging mangroves. For example, if Guinea-Bissau has to make a decision about whether or not to build a hotel on a specific coast, it can use data from the GMW to see whether there are risks of flooding, and whether revenue from carbon credits from the mangroves might not be more lucrative than a hotel.

### **Prestigious award**

The project has been a great success, with almost all mangroves (95 per cent) in the world now scientifically mapped by the GMW. In November last year, the Global Mangrove Alliance won the *Food Planet Prize*, a prestigious \$2 million biennial

award created by the Curt Bergfors Foundation. It encourages initiatives that “illustrate the interaction between the global food system and the spheres of the Earth system: the geosphere (land), the hydrosphere (water), the atmosphere (air) and the biosphere (all living things, including us humans)”.

John Loudon, CEO of COMON puts it this way: ‘they support projects that solve the dilemma of feeding the world’s ever-growing population while saving the planet.’ The Curt Bergfors Foundation’s explanation in awarding the prize to the GMW was that it enables organisations to join hands in protecting the valuable mangroves, moving away from piecemeal and localised operations. The award is yet another

## They support projects that solve the dilemma of feeding the world’s ever-growing population while saving the planet.

**John Loudon**  
CEO OF THE COMON FOUNDATION

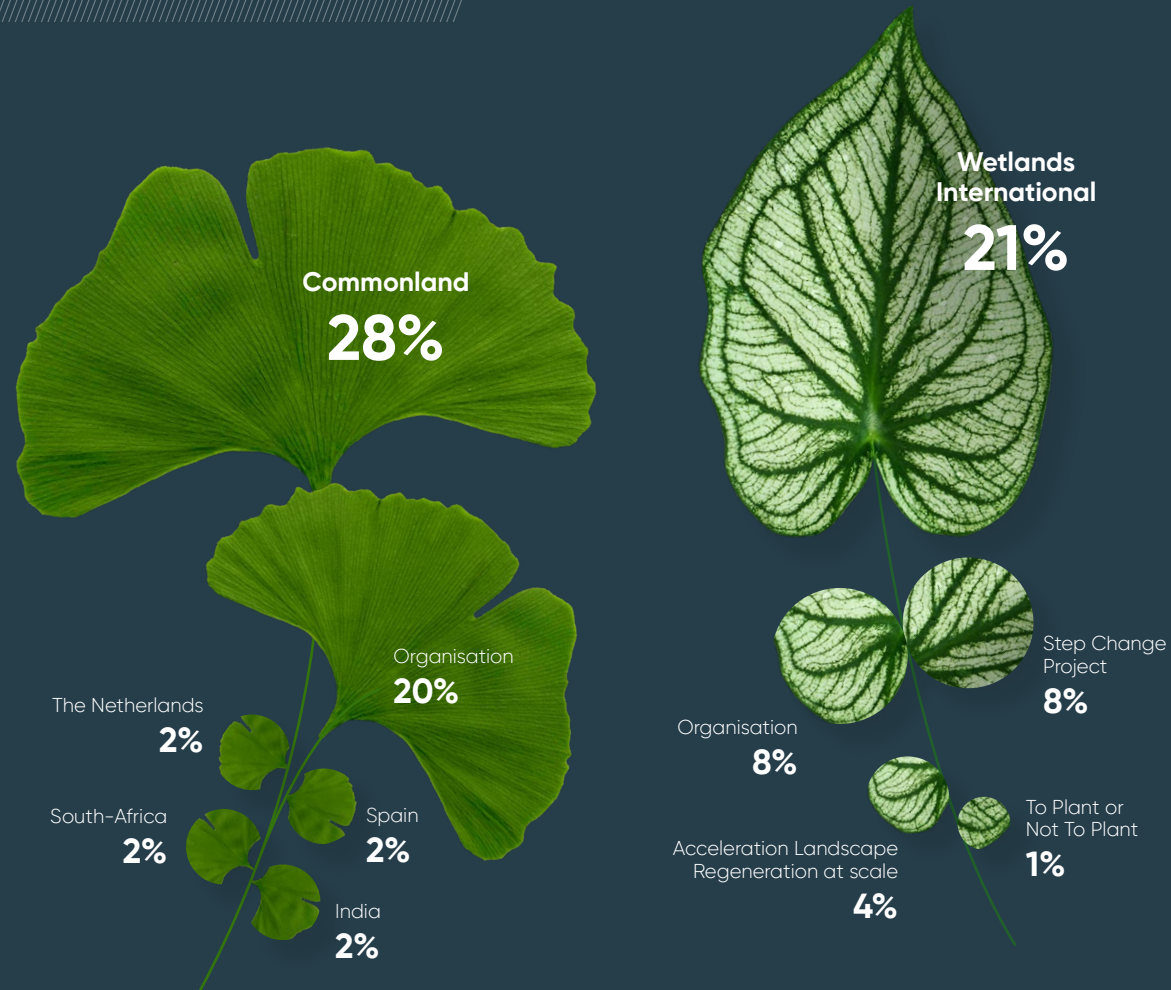
recognition of the importance of the GMW and all the more reason for COMON to support the GMW.

### **One plan of action**

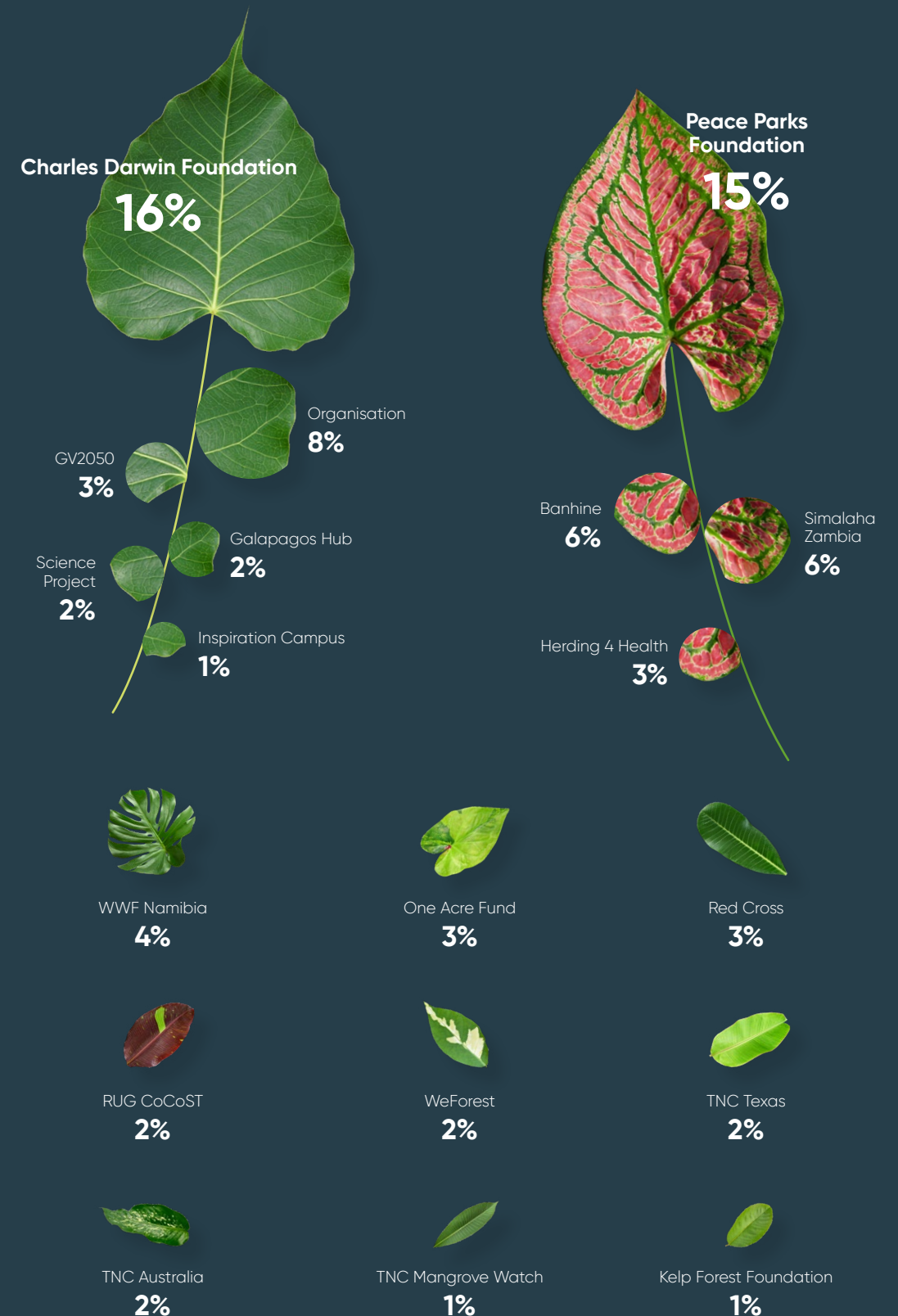
There are three more mangrove services initiatives, one in Indonesia, one in China and one in the United Arab Emirates. They are not yet, or not optimally, sharing their data (the last 5 per cent). Wetlands International is playing a crucial role in bringing these initiatives together and making them work together.

COMON will provide additional support to Wetlands in 2023 from the Small Grants Fund so that a stakeholder management meeting can take place to create one global-scale plan together around mangroves.





# Projects and funding by organisation





# Projects

## The Nature Conservancy (Texas (USA), Adelaide (Australia))

The Nature Conservancy is a US semi-scientific conservation organisation, active in more than 35 countries and with over a million members, that focuses on combating climate change, protecting oceans, land and freshwater, and building healthy cities. Research into a Blue Carbon mechanism is one of their spearheads. This uses measured values of climate change in marine and coastal ecosystems to protect, restore and use these areas more sustainably. ComON supports TNC in 2 mangrove and wetland programmes off the coast of Texas (USA), and Adelaide (Australia), among others, and helps develop a conclusive Blue Carbon trading system.

## The Global Mangrove Watch (multiple countries)

[www.GlobalMangroveWatch.org](http://www.GlobalMangroveWatch.org) is an online platform that maps and monitors mangrove areas through sensing data.

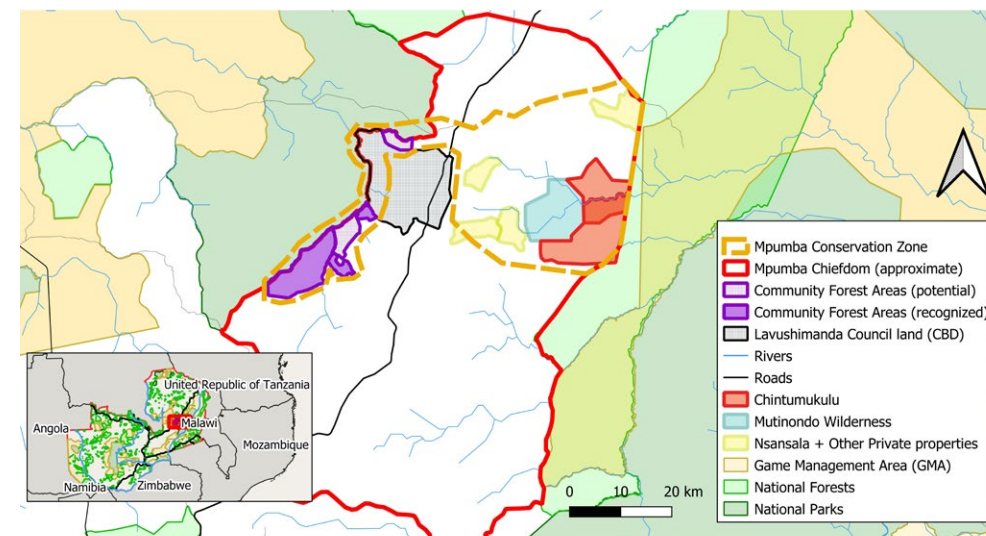
The tool is 95 per cent accurate, providing near real-time information on where and what changes are going on in mangroves around the world, highlighting why they are valuable, and giving users the desired information to make informed decisions about their local mangroves. This is a joint project between Wetlands International and The Nature Conservancy. This project is highlighted earlier in this report.

## Kelp Forest Foundation (Namibia, USA (Alaska), New Zealand, Scotland and Australia)

Kelp is a seaweed that stores as much as 10 times more CO<sub>2</sub> than ordinary plants and trees. The crop has many ecological benefits. The Kelp Foundation focuses on increasing knowledge about it, with the aim of greatly increasing the number of kelp forests to help restore the health of the planet. ComON supports the foundation in increasing scientific knowledge and helps develop its applications.



FIRST IN-PERSON BOARD MEETING OF KELP FOREST FOUNDATION



CONNECTING THE LAVUSHI MANDA AND SOUTH LUANGWA (WEFOREST ZAMBIA)

## WeForest Zambia (Zambia)

WeForest is an organisation that restores threatened and degraded tropical forests and landscapes, through locally-led reforestation projects. ComON is involved in a project in Zambia that is the catalyst for the long-term programme to connect the Lavushi Manda and South Luangwa. This will create a protected area of almost 70,000 hectares with the Chintumukulu Conservancy at its heart.

## WWF Namibia (Namibia)

ComON supports the Zambezi Integrated Conservation Plan, led by WWF Namibia. In this project, restoration and conservation of the area, in the middle of KAZA, takes place based on the 4Returns approach. Different landscapes and zones are connected and

partnerships with *conservancies*, local authorities and NGOs are established, closely involving local communities in the development of the State Forest, improving their well-being and making them feel more responsible for the area. Concrete achievements include halting deforestation – which has now become an official protected area named Zambezi State Forest – and creating a crucial passage for elephants and other wildlife from Botswana towards Angola and Zambia.

## Our Planet Our Future (worldwide)

In October 2021, the world's 40 leading religious leaders gathered for a consultation on visible and disastrous climate change. They represented as much as 80 per cent of the world's population. At that meeting, the religious leaders



arrived at a joint *Declaration to Heal the Planet*. One message for everyone in the world was that we need to treat our earth, nature and biodiversity better. The platform *Our Planet Our Future* was founded immediately after this event to launch several campaigns over the next 10 years that do justice to that broad message. COMON was involved in its creation.

### **The International Red Cross (IRK) (Haiti)**

Together with the Princess Margaret Fund, IRK has been working towards a 4Returns movement according to their Natural Based Solutions approach for some time. COMON has been supporting this development for a while and is heavily involved in a number of landscape restoration projects in Haiti. In addition, COMON supports another number of IRK's so-called Green Pearls in Haiti, together with DOB Ecology, a Dutch non-profit organisation focused on supporting local partners and communities working to protect and restore threatened ecosystems.

### **University of Groningen CoCoST (The Netherlands)**

The University of Groningen has engaged five PhD students from Tanzania and Kenya working at NGOs or governments under the name CoCoST to teach them about landscape protection and restoration and a better balance between humans and animals in the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem. COMON supports this project and is thinking about a *twining* construction in which Dutch and Tanzanian students carry out projects in this field.



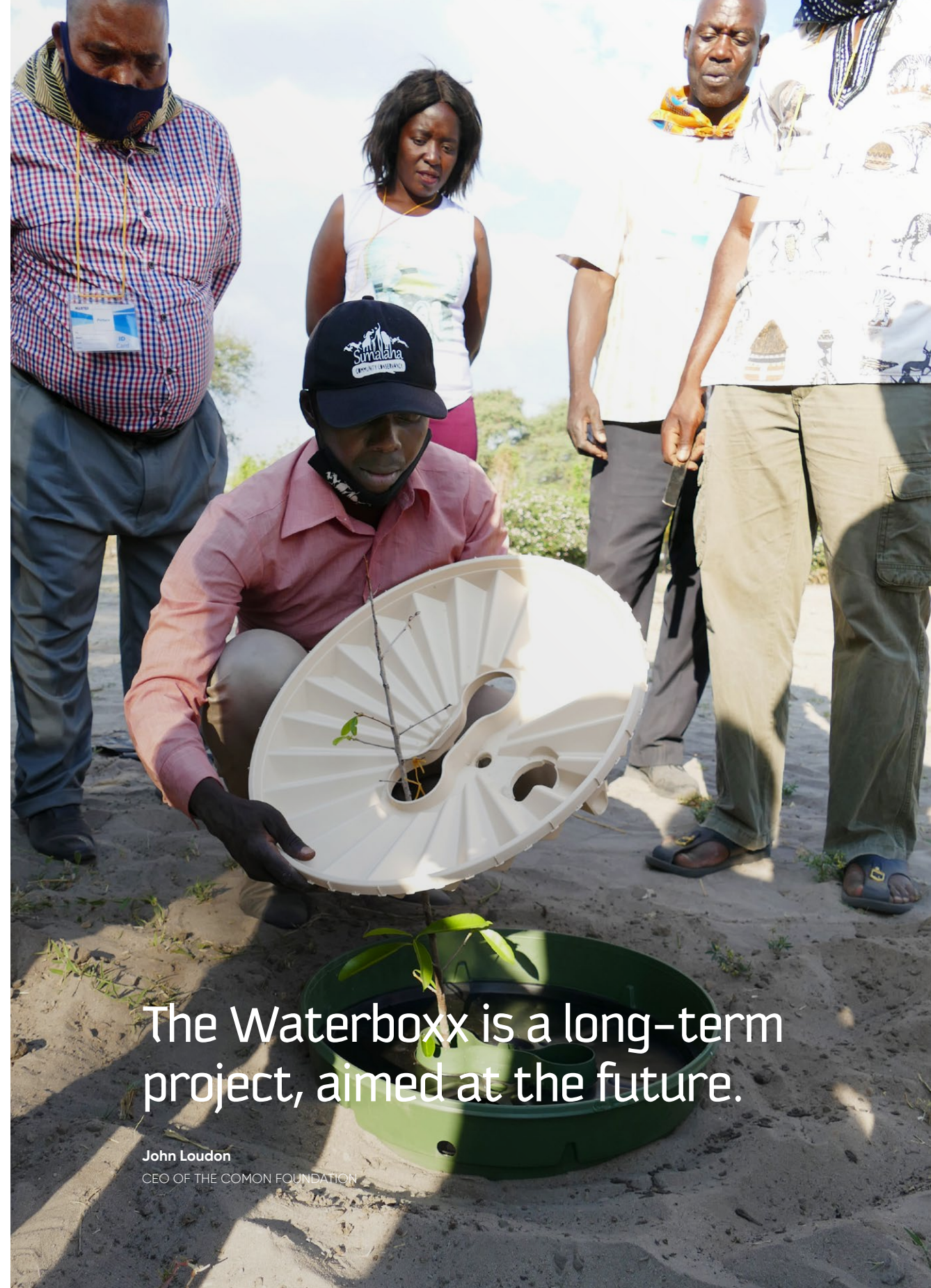
ONE ACRE FUND'S NATURAL FERTILISER

### **One Acre Fund (Rwanda)**

One Acre Fund is implementing the largest agro-forestry tree planting project in the world, with 1 billion trees in and around Rwanda. It involves *agroforestry*, with half of the perennial crops producing seasonal harvests for consumption (food security) and half being cut for furniture and boat building, among other uses (economic progress in the region). This project is highlighted earlier in this report.

### **Groasis Waterboxx (Zambia)**

The box developed by Pieter Hoff to grow trees in dry desert soil and rocky areas, is one of the first projects COMON funded and is still an interesting instrument, concluded a visit to Zambia in 2022. Here, with little water, a thousand trees were planted at all schools in Simalaha and the surrounding areas. Both here and around Zambezi State Forest in Namibia, communities will be helped by more Waterboxxes.



The Waterboxx is a long-term project, aimed at the future.

John Loudon  
CEO OF THE COMON FOUNDATION





# COmON Board and partners

## Board

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# Colophon

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COmON Foundation believes in the principles of a Blue Line Society. In a Blue Line Society™, citizens, including producers and policy makers understand and act upon it to take less from the earth, than the earth can give back, thus granting our planet some 'slack'. This perceived society will offer a better, less destructive balance compared to our unbalanced world we live in today.



**The COMON Foundation is a private charity dedicated to** greening the earth, strengthening local communities, optimising land use **and** nurturing nature worldwide. **We believe that restoring degraded land and bringing back** fertile soil for people and nature **is the key to** tackling the climate problem. **Therefore, we donate substantial amounts to** organisations and innovative projects **that focus on** nature restoration and protection. **By actively** involving the local community **in projects, we** perpetuate the future **of both the project and the community. In this way,** we prevent further depletion of the earth.