



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | July 2023 | Issue 202 | www.blueskies.com



OUR BLUE SKIES, OUR FUTURE

BLUEPRINT

SUSTAINABILITY

We are pleased to share our Blue Skies 2022 Sustainability Review entitled 'Our Blue Skies, Our Future'

The 2022 review aims to provide all our stakeholders with an overview of our commitments to people and planet, and an update on how we are doing against our Blueprint sustainability goals. Highlights include making progress on finding solutions to mitigate plastic pollution through our industry R&D hub, FRESHPPACT. In our Foundation projects, we completed 11 projects and improved access to education for over 2,000 children.

You can read the full report here:
<https://www.blueskies.com/blueprint2022.pdf>

FPC 2023 FINALISTS

INDUSTRY AWARDS

FPC AWARDS

We're delighted to announce Blue Skies have been nominated as a finalist within 'Best Place To Work', 'Manager Of The Year', 'Sustainability Excellence', and 'Supermarket Fruit & Veg Supplier Of The Year' categories at this year's FPC Fresh Awards. The awards evening will take place on Friday 29th September in London at the Iconic JW Marriott Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London.

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER | GROSVENOR HOUSE LONDON

WE ARE
FINALISTS!

FRESH
AWARDS
FPC
TWENTY3

WWW.FPCFRESHAWARDS.CO.UK

MEANINGFUL WORK IN SENEGAL



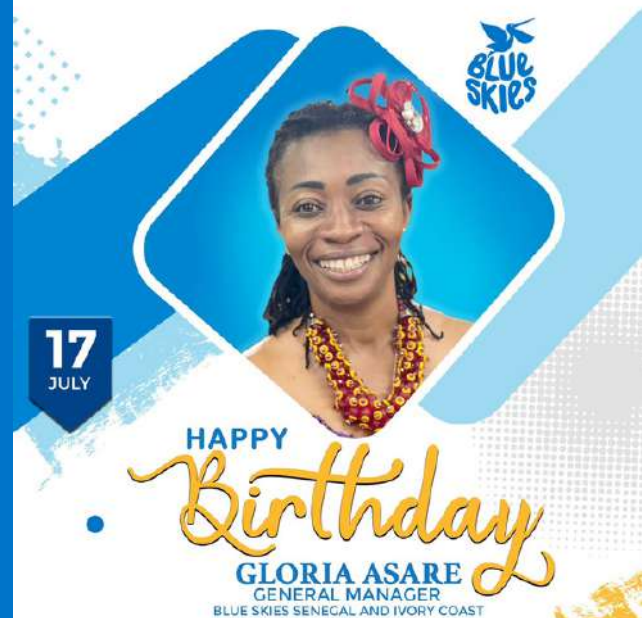
HR INITIATIVES

Fitness in the workplace is an essential aspect of creating a healthy productive and safe work environment. The Senegal Team goes through series of fitness trainings including health walks, aerobics, flexibility, core exercises etc. to physically strengthen the workforce to enhance productivity. With summer being peak season for the team, its vital the team can be feeling healthy, happy and motivated. A huge well done to all of the team in Senegal and to Gloria for leading this initiative.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GLORIA!

Joyeux Anniversaire to Gloria Asare our General Manager of Senegal and Ivory Coast operations who celebrated her birthday on the 17th July.



GOING GREEN IN BENIN



BLUEPRINT

Green activities at Blue Skies Benin site have been carried out recently. The trigger for these activities was the hard desire to bring order and cleanliness to the area of the site which served as the factory's waste collection point. Indeed, the factory's waste collection point was in a state of healthiness of which we could not be proud. This collection point is used to collect plastic waste, paper waste, metal waste and waste from the coconut processing process (shell powder, and coconut shells). To this is added, among other things, the pallets received during the unloading of materials, the remains of the materials used during the construction of the plant, damaged or broken equipment parts.



We took on the challenge of making this area clean, tidy, and green. As a first step, it was necessary to define how and where the waste would now be collected. For this, we thought of making a concrete slab, fenced, and labelled for the collection of plastic waste and paper waste. The coconut waste that is collected by an external contractor will have to be collected a little further on wooden pallets placed on the ground.

This was followed by the management of the waste that was present. After sorting, the waste, depending on its type and condition, was either sold to external buyers for recycling, or given to Blue Skies Benin staff who wanted it, or picked up by the garbage collection company (CASAGRANDE).

New plastic and paper waste collection point



The redevelopment of this space includes the planting of lawns, layout of trees and redesigned walkways.



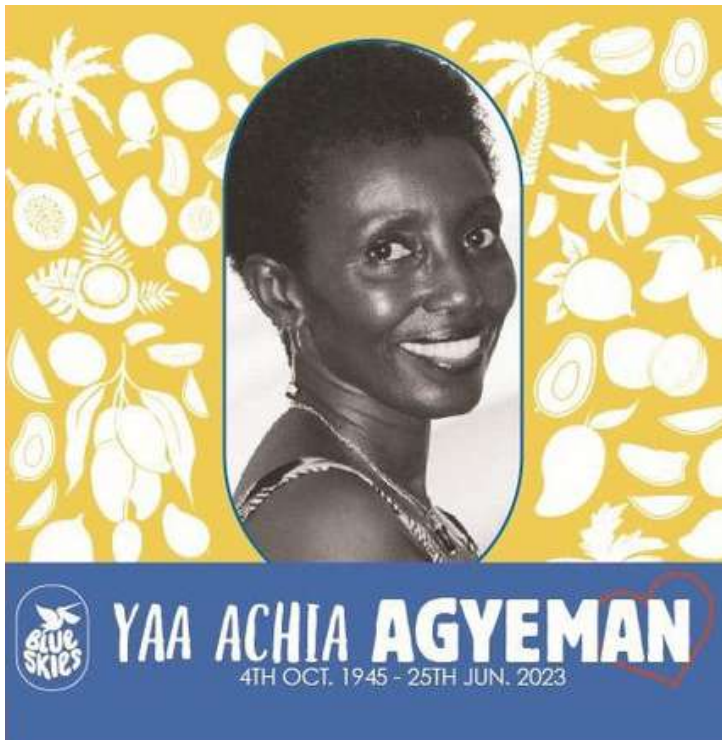
The pedestrian entrance to the site has been completely redesigned

I cannot end this report without highlighting some key people who have made this possible. They are: Elisee (GM of Blue Skies Benin), who believed in and gave his full support to this project with a positive green impact, Afoussatou (Officer of the water treatment plant and staff of the Quality department) and Medrid (Chief Agronomist of Blue Skies Benin) for their contribution in the planting of new trees, of Jacques (Staff in stock department, and civil engineering background) for all the coordination in the realisation of the work that this project required. On this same ecological momentum, other projects are planned to always improve our environmental impact positively on the Blue Skies Benin site. Written by Andyl (Blue Skies Benin, Chief Engineer)

BLUESKIES PAYS TRIBUTE TO MRS YAA ACHIAA DEI



TRIBUTE



Anthony and Ruth signing Book of condolence during a visit to Yaa Achiaa Dei's family.

Blue Skies pays Tribute to Mrs Yaa Achia Dei. A representation of the local management team in Ghana joined the family of the Late Mrs Yaa Achia Dei to pay their last respects at her memorial service held on 12th July 2023. She was the wife of the Late Seth Dei, a Founding shareholder and Director who passed on late last year. She was a staunch supporter of the business and was part of the recent 25th Anniversary celebrations. Our hearts goes out to the family. We shall all miss her.

A VISIT TO THE DUTCH EMBASSY

Earlier this month, a team from Blue Skies Ghana paid a courtesy call on the Netherlands Ambassador to Ghana. During the visit, the team were received by the Netherlands Ambassador, H.E. Mr Jeroen Verheul and select Staff from the Embassy. This was the first visit to the Embassy since H.E. Jeroen Verheul assumed office.

The purpose of the visit was to reaffirm and further strengthen the relations between Blue Skies and the Netherlands Embassy highlighting to HE, that Holland remains one of our top markets.



GHANA RECYCLE, REUSE AND REDUCE WASTE ON SITE



HR INITIATIVES

Some students from the KNUST(Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) came to the site for an internship programme and as part of their learning, one student called Dorcas Sarfo did a project on utilising the orange peels to produce hand sanitiser and cleaning detergent, with the objective to reuse, recycle and reduce waste on site.

This project was successfully done with the assistance of Prince Gokah - Blue Skies Sustainability & Compliance Officer, aiding her to get the best results. This is a great initiative to improve sanitation and hygiene system on site, and will also go a long way to to reduce cost and waste if we are to produce this by ourselves. Congratulations to Prince for assisting with this programme.

Name of Intern Student: Dorcas Sarfo
School: KNUST
Programme of Study: Food Science
Year: Third Year
Auxiliary Staff: Prince Gokah
(Environmental Sustainability and Compliance Officer)



EGYPT ENHANCE WELLBEING AND CELEBRATE DIVERSITY



HR INITIATIVES

The Egypt team has implemented various initiatives and activities to prioritise the wellbeing of employees and foster a meaningful work environment where everyone can flourish. One notable initiative includes the introduction of beautiful plants, enhancing the work surroundings with natural elements that bring joy and serenity. The presence of green spaces and plants has been found to reduce stress, boost creativity, and contribute to overall wellbeing. To ensure inclusivity and celebrate diversity, the Egypt team recognises and honours significant calendar events such as Eid al-Fitr and Mother's Day. Additionally, they embrace Ramadan, acknowledging its significance and fostering an environment of respect and understanding. Awareness of health initiatives is another crucial aspect for the team. By promoting campaigns to combat smoking and raise awareness about its detrimental effects, the Egypt team strives to improve staff health, leading to enhanced productivity and overall wellbeing.

The team also places great emphasis on training programmes that contribute to meaningful work. Through regular refreshers on essential topics such as cleaning methods, cross-contamination prevention, hygiene rules, and fruit preparation, they ensure that employees are equipped with the knowledge and skills required for their roles, fostering a happier and more productive team.



Green spaces around the factory



Training sessions for employees



Annual celebrations and events

HAPPIER, HEALTHIER IN SOUTH AFRICA



HR INITIATIVES

The team in South Africa actively engage in 'Happier, Healthier' initiatives to help improve health and wellbeing. Sports, dance, and team activities are very important in bringing people together and encouraging teamwork, with the team always giving their best. Below are some of the photos from the June celebrations and activities.



In order to remember the 16th of June 1976 Soweto uprising. Sarafina song focuses on the 1976 Soweto riots as we celebrate 16th June, we wanted to do the song and the dance to build diversity, and they were well celebrated. - Waydu Nhlapo.



Theme: 'We are the future, Together we are strong, Take hold of it, And do your best'



BLUE SKIES CORBY CELEBRATE HEALTH DAY

HEALTH & WELLBEING

On 30th June, Blue Skies Corby invited colleagues to join in celebrating Health Day. The team took part in a cycle ride around Rutland Water. Several members opted to walk or run around the lake too. Pictured below are some of the members. They completed 26 km on bicycles and one of the employees – Tudor Grosu ran 12km!

This was a great way to get out and enjoy nature, and enjoy spending time together outside of work in a way to recognise and celebrate Health Day.



BLUE SKIES GRACES WIMBLEDON

On Thursday 13th July, two lucky members of the Blue Skies team in Pitsford had the amazing opportunity to attend Wimbledon, thanks to Smurfit Kappa. Kirsty Haynes from NPD and Laurence Egboyo from Operations were able to witness some thrilling matches, including the Gentlemen's, Ladies', and Quad Wheelchair Doubles Semi-finals, as well as the Boys' and Girls' Quarter-finals. Not only did Kirsty and Laurence have a great time watching the matches, but they also got to indulge in the wonderful hospitality. They enjoyed a delicious 3-course lunch and afternoon tea. In the picture, you can see Kirsty and Laurence with two members from Smurfit Kappa, who made this fantastic experience possible.



BLUE SKIES SITES CLOCK UP OVER 37,000 KM IN 10 WEEKS

FUNDRAISER

TREE AID



We're almost at the end of our Great Green Games challenge in which people across our sites took part to collectively walk, swim, cycle, run or row 30,000 km in 8 weeks - the distance between all our Blue Skies sites. On the 10th July, we officially crossed the line ahead of time, achieving over 30,000km in 7 weeks!! This incredible effort encouraged us to extend the challenge, to see if we could reach 40,000 km! So in the final week, we can reveal we've clocked almost 38,000 km, and raised £150 for Tree Aid. A huge well done to everyone across our sites who have got involved and supported this mission!

SIMON NORTHCOTT AWARDED MERIT IN FOOD SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Congratulations to Simon Northcott in our NPD Team in Pitsford on being granted the award of 'MASTER OF SCIENCE' with Merit in Food Science and Innovation.

A fantastic achievement, congratulations to Simon!





SCHOOL INAUGURATION IN GHANA

FOUNDATION

On 29th July 2023, the Blue Skies Foundation inaugurated a newly constructed Junior High School (JHS) block at Ahwerese Darmang in the Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality of the Eastern Region of Ghana.

The colourful event marked a significant milestone in improving the educational infrastructure and uplifting the educational opportunities for students in the area.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by various distinguished guests, including representatives from the Blue Skies, the Foundation, local government officials, Chiefs, Queen Mothers, members of the school administration, teachers, students, and members of the community.

The event commenced with opening remarks from the headmaster of the school, Mr Evans Lartey, he expressed their gratitude to the partners for the collaborative efforts that made the construction of the new JHS block possible. The Community leaders were grateful for the support and promised to maintain the facility for the benefit of posterity.

The highlight of the event was the ribbon-cutting ceremony, symbolising the official opening of the new JHS block. The honoured guests and representatives from the Blue Skies Foundation participated in this momentous occasion.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, lead by the General Manager, Mrs Janet Lutterodt, the attendees were invited to tour the newly constructed JHS block. The facility consists of three classroom block, headmasters office, ICT Center, Staff common room and a store. These facilities are expected to enhance the quality of education and provide an improved learning environment for the students.

Several distinguished guests took the stage to address the audience. They emphasised the importance of education, the significance of the new JHS block, and the positive impact it will have on students' academic achievements and overall development. The Blue Skies Foundation's Manager, Alistair Djimatey shared the foundation's commitment to supporting education and its plan for future initiatives. He also admonished the community leadership, the assembly to ensure the classrooms are furnished for effective academic work.



The event celebrated the cultural diversity and talents of the students by featuring captivating performances, such as traditional songs, dances, and drama skits. The lively atmosphere further added to the festive spirit of the inauguration. The inauguration of the new Junior High School block constructed by the Blue Skies Foundation was a momentous occasion, symbolising a significant investment in the education of the students in Ghana.

The improved infrastructure is expected to create a conducive learning environment and contribute to academic excellence in the community. The Blue Skies Foundation's commitment to education and its efforts in uplifting the lives of the students were evident throughout the event. This project exemplifies the positive impact that partnerships between organisations and local communities can make in improving education and empowering individuals.
-By Alistair Djimatey

CHIEFTAINCY STOOL TO THE FOUNDER



Presentation of the Chieftaincy Stool: During the inauguration of the new School block, a formal presentation of the traditional chieftaincy stool was made to the Founder and the Board Chairman of the Blue Skies Foundation, DR Anthony Pile. This act symbolised the community's deep appreciation for his commitment, support, and dedication to the betterment of the people and our communities.

Receiving the chieftaincy stool on behalf of the Founder, Mrs. Janet Lutterodt expressed gratitude to the people of the Ahwerease Darmang traditional area for the honour bestowed upon the Founder and reiterated the Blue Skies and the Foundation's commitment to continue supporting and uplifting the communities in our operational area and the world at large.



Fleur who was present at the programme was encouraged to sit on the chair to symbolise acceptance.

SETSHENG SECONDARY SCHOOL: REPORT OF DEMOLISHING



SETSHENG SECONDARY SCHOOL
REPORT ON DEMOLISHING

Setsheng Secondary School in South Africa needed to undergo a project in which to improve the state and function of the school. Due to a recent fire which broke out, the school faced several challenges such as limited space, offices, toilets and water so the school needed to be demolished and re-built to be fit for purpose.

The project aimed to take 6 months which began on 23rd of March 2023, and will hope to complete on 29th September 2023. Kamvalethu productions were appointed by the department of public works to do the work.

The school was relocated to a nearby school (Qalabocha primary school) for grade 8 to 12 learners.

At present, the school does not have any classrooms and other essential facilities until phase 2 of building the new school be in place. The project will hopefully see more progress in the coming months.



The school before works began



Damaged buildings (classrooms)



To ensure a safe environment and quality education for all students in South Africa, it requires a collective effort from educators, parents, policymakers, and the entire community. Adequate resources, appropriate infrastructure, well-trained teachers, and targeted interventions are essential to achieve this vision. This project aims to provide a vital space for students giving them the best opportunity to thrive.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

HR

Sharnjit Kaur recently joined us as Query Resolution Administrator on Monday 17th July. She will be based in our Pitsford office working with both the finance and Ops teams on debit note investigations.

Sharnjit has two children and a 10 week old Lagotto Romagnolo puppy named Eric. Sharnjit and her family enjoy having fun together by playing Mario Kart or out in the garden with Eric. She enjoys being active and has taken part in 5k/10k runs in & around Northampton with her husband.

Welcome to the team Sharnjit!



A FRUITFUL MASTERCLASS AT PML

TRAINING

FRUIT MASTERCLASS

Recently, Joe Revell, our esteemed technical expert, took charge of a highly valuable fruit masterclass training session for the team at PML based in Heathrow. This session provided an excellent opportunity for the team members to refresh their knowledge and acquire new insights. A big thank you to Joe for leading the training and spending time with the team. His expertise and passion contributed to a fruitful learning experience for all involved.



BLUE SKIES SUPPORTS FELIX



THE FELIX PROJECT

FOOD BANK

On 13th July, Abbey met with Richard Smith Head of Food Supply at The Felix Project, alongside Aimi Wilder Supply Lead and Gulam Ramji at PML to see our operations and discuss further surplus food opportunities. It's been nearly two years since Blue Skies began its partnership with The Felix Project, and the impact that the charity has made on tackling hunger is truly inspiring. We've helped to rescue nearly 1/4 million meals which is a huge impact to those that need it most across the capital.

In June our monthly contributions have been 2,837 Kgs which has contributed to approximately 6,755 meals.