

Blue Skies Newsletter | August 2022 | Issue 191 | www.blueskies.com



FOUNDATION BOARD REUNITE IN GHANA AFTER 2.5 YEARS!

FOUNDATION

GHANA PROJECTS



At the end of July, members of the Blue Skies team including Chairman Anthony Pile and Simon Derrick, Head of Sustainability, met with members of the Foundation board team in Ghana to review some of the recent projects being completed. This was the first face-to-face Board meeting in 2.5 years, the first visit to Ghana by our Waitrose Director, Jemima Jewell, and the last visit as Board member for Henri Zondag. The Foundation attended two project ceremonies. One at a Kpong Technical Institute, a boarding school near to Somanya where the teachers, students and mango farmers officially expressed their appreciation to the Foundation for providing a toilet and shower facility for the girl's dormitory. The second was at Fotobi where we commissioned a (almost complete) bio-fil toilet block. A special thanks to Ruth, Janet, Alistair and all the team for being such wonderful hosts!

FOUNDATION LAUNCH ANNUAL REPORT

FOUNDATION 2021 REPORT

We have now officially published our 2021 Foundation Report: Stronger Together.

The report provides a summary of what the Foundation achieved in 2021 and how this is positively impacting local communities in Ghana, South Africa, Senegal, Egypt and Brazil.

You can download the report here: www.blueskies.com/foundation2021 .pdf



DOWNLOAD OUR 2021 FOUNDATION REPORT HERE



SENEGAL STEP UP IN MAJOR MANGO SEASON

MANGO SEASON SENEGAL

Recently, our CEO Hugh Pile and Procurement Director Guy Murfitt took a visit to our Senegal pack house to visit the teams and review how the season is going. The Senegal pack house plays a critical role for the business, as it sources, packs, and ships mango to Ghana at a critical time – just as we draw to a close of the major season in Ghana.

Congratulations to the team in Senegal!







2021 BLUE PRINT REPORT



Last month we launched our 2021 Blueprint Annual Review which aims to provide all our stakeholders with an overview of our commitments to people and planet and how we are doing against our Blueprint sustainability goals.

We know there are things that we can improve on and areas where we need to accelerate action in order for us to achieve our goals.

You can help us by sharing your views on what topics you believe we should be prioritising over others as we seek to develop our plans over the coming years.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Complete our short survey to let us know your views. You can download the full report at: www.blueskies.com/blueprint2021.pdf

Click or scan the QR code above to take you to the survey.





BLUE SKIES COMPLETE GREAT GREEN GAMES



FUNDRAISER

TREE AID

On Friday 5th August we completed our Great Green Games and we're delighted to say WE DID IT! In the end we achieved 33,885 in 11 weeks, the equivalent of travelling between all our sites, from Brazil to the UK via all our African sites! We walked 31,700km, cycled 1,700km, ran 360km and swam 110km. We're also extremely grateful to everyone who has sponsored the Great Green Walk by donating to Tree Aid. We raised a total of £260.

See you again next year for the 2023 Great Green Games!



SOME STAFF PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITIES









BIODIVERSITY FRAMWORK UNDERWAY IN GHANA



BIODIVERSITY BLUE SKIES

Following on from last month's newsletter, James has been out to Ghana leading the pilot of the Framework, and working with our biodiversity team of Mawuli, Dorothy, Mary and Enoch to trial the framework at the factory, and at pineapple and mango farms. During his visit, he undertook several biodiversity surveys in person across various Blue Skies sites in Ghana with a team composed of staff members. These staff members were trained with a purpose-built toolkit and later assessed both the toolkit and framework in an anonymous feedback session after the trials were complete. James is working to produce a full report based on the survey results and findings. This important toolkit and framework is something which if validated can be made available for other businesses to use. Look out for more details coming later!





THE FELIX PROJECT - JULY UPDATES



THE FELIX PROJECT

FOOD BANK

Each month, we support The Felix Project through donations of surplus fresh fruit. Whilst we continue to work towards minimising our waste, often there is surplus fruit which is donated to projects like The Felix Project. In July, our monthly contributions have been 3,323 Kgs which has contributed to 7,913 meals. With the ever-growing demand for food banks amongst record high food prices, we know supporting The Felix Project plays a vital role in helping to feed the community. For more details, visit thefelixproject.org.

BLUE SKIES EGYPT CELEBRATE STAFF 19 YEAR ANNIVERSARY





Blue Skies Egypt recently celebrated their 19 year anniversary for members of the team that have been with Blue Skies for 19 years. An inspiring and motivating celebration! Congratulations Blue Skies Egypt for all of your hard and dedication across the business!

'As long as this spirit of enthusiasm remains among us, Blue Skies will remain'

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH Control of the second s

ri is presented with his first of many gifts by the Headmistress at Kpong Technical Institute

FRESHPPACT NEEDS YOU!

FRESHPPACT

FRESH PRODUCE

FRESHPPACT is the fresh produce industry Impact Hub that works with research partners to find solutions to the biggest shared sustainability challenges that we all face. Right now, they are looking for solutions that can mitigate pollution caused by plastic used in agricultural mulch, workwear and packaging.

Can you help to find scalable, commercially viable, gamechanging solutions that are on the verge of discovery? We have recently launched three calls for proposals with over £900,000 worth of funding on offer for three or more solutions that we can test, commercialise and scale-up.

Can you help us find solutions that can mitigate plastic pollution from agricultural mulch, workwear and packaging?

Help us all define the problem, discover the solution and change the world.



SCAN OR CLICK



FAIRWELL TO HENRI FROM ALBERT HEIJN



FOUNDATION ALBERT HEIJN

The Ghana Foundation trip sadly marked the last visit as Board member for Henri Zondag who will be retiring in October. Henri spent 13 years as Board member for The Foundation and it was only right we gave him a proper send-off. During the recent visit to Ghana, several ceremonies were held where Henri was presented with gifts by Chiefs, council representatives, farmers and the local team, and a small party was held for him at the Guesthouse. It's easy to underestimate the impact that Henri has had over the past 13 years. He has quietly played a significant role in bringing us closer to Albert Heijn and establishing and protecting the principles of our Foundation. We shall all miss him



