



**WORLDVIEW**  
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**



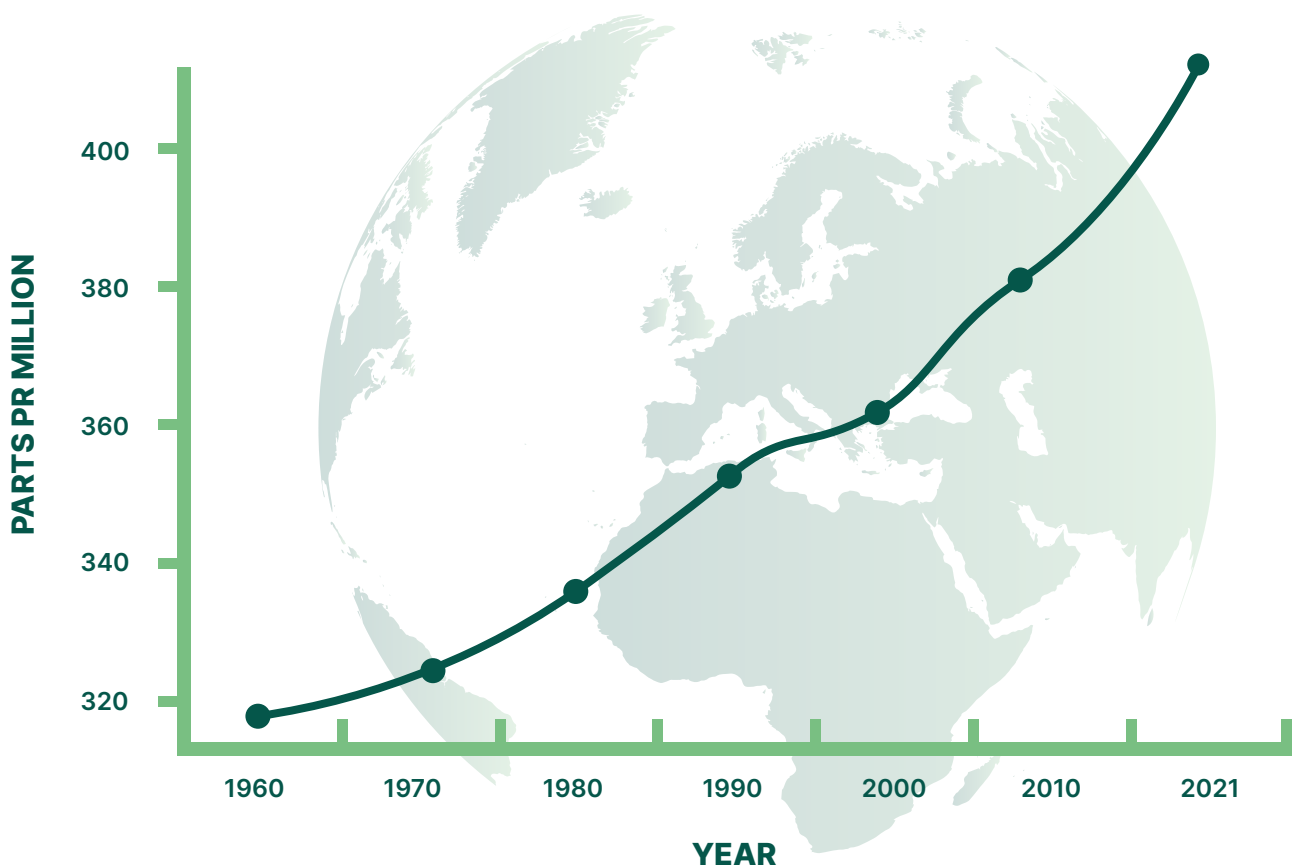
# **THE BIG LEAP FORWARD**

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*IPCC's assessment is clear: "Greenhouse gas emissions linked to human activities is driving climate change"*



## MITIGATING CLIMATE BOMBS IN THE ATMOSPHERE



# RECORD LEVEL CLIMATE GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE

Continued increasing to record high at 417 ppm. in April 2021 and increased to 420 ppm. in early 2022 (Mauna Loa Observatory). This is the highest concentration of deadly climate gases in over one million years. CO2 emitted by fossil fuel are trapped in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. As long as emissions continue increasing, global warming increases with devastating consequences.

Delaying final emission reduction by the year 2050 as the only remedy, is literally a dead-end. The law of nature can't be corrupted by short sighted business interest from the fossil lobby, or by political manipulations, resulting in loss of valuable time for action.



**THE TIME TO START mitigating CO2 was many years back. The first wakeup call was voiced by scientists in 1965 to the then President of USA, Lyndon B. Johnson. No action followed. No politician in power has ever taken tangible steps on climate since the first alarm 57 years ago.**

**Valuable time has been lost. The UN COP 26 in 2021 was no exception. The carbon lobby won the main battle once more. Major decisions postponed 26 times.**

To catch up with lost time, we the people have no choice than to immediately increase our efforts to secure life on our wonderful home, the only planet with life in the universe. This existential challenge is too important to leave to politicians only. With increasing commitment for blue carbon climate successes, urgently needed capital is finally available for nature's superior climate mitigation methods, tested during millions of years.

There is still a glimmer of hope. Miracle mangrove trees mitigate 5 times more CO2 than terrestrial trees. In addition, mangrove trees deliver life bearing eco system services. This remarkable combination is the most cost-effective defence against increasing global warming. Investing in miracle mangrove trees, the super blue carbon climate machines, ignites HOPE TODAY and for years to come.



On behalf of WIF's thousands grass root climate soldiers moving fast forward with commitment to life on EARTH.

*Arne Fjørtoft, Secretary General, WORLDVIEW INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION*



## NEW MANGROVE RESTORATION RECORD IN 2021

WIF's blue carbon projects started with three years research, followed by practical test planting. Our efforts have achieved record high 96% survival rate of plants, compared to the global average of under 50%. WIF has proven successful planting on mudflats, grasslands, wetlands and severely degraded lands. Restoring broken nature is our speciality.

In 2021 WIF's first project netted 58,000 tons blue carbon. Annually WIF is now doubling its blue carbon projects in cooperation with investment partners, aiming at mitigating 150 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> (three times more than annual Norwegian emissions) during the next 25 years. Additional biodiversity values in restoring devastated mangrove forests are:

- Life bearing eco system services
- 50% increase in sea food resources in restored forest areas
- Cleaning off-runs pollution for a healthy ocean
- Protecting lives and properties from cyclones and other extreme weather, including seashore erosion due to sea level rise
- 50% of carbon income for livelihoods and sustainable development to vulnerable community partners in solidarity with disadvantaged neighbours in our global village

Coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows store more carbon than terrestrial ecosystems, but scientists estimate they are eroding at about 2% annually, releasing as much as 1.02 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) each year. This madness must stop!

*Nature's blue carbon solution is the most cost-effective method, tested by nature during millions of years.*

## EXPANSION OF WIF's MANGROVE GENE BANK 2021



Professor Dr. San Tha Tun has been appointed new project manager of the gene bank, with PhD candidate Htoo Lwin Aung as his project assistant manager, and with professor Dr. Aung Htay from Patheingyi University as coordinator. The project is expanding yearly to finally include all true mangrove species in the world, including associate species.

An exhibition centre is in preparation at Patheingyi University's Marine Research Centre, close to the gene bank area. The gene bank is in progress to host all 84 mangrove species for research and development in cooperation with Patheingyi University's Marine Science and Microbiology Departments. New activities have been added to the project in 2021. A sky walk for visitors has been constructed for easy access to the gene bank plantation. Special research projects have been initiated to study increased food production in mangrove forest areas, including traditional medicine value from mangrove species.



***FOOD SECURITY is becoming a new global challenge. Mobilizing food production from mangrove forests is an opportunity with promising potentials.***



**Seaweed development** and other natural marine projects are also benefitting from the mangrove gene bank's research. A calendar of yields from seaweed planting and the harvest of wild seaweeds are in process of completion.

WIF's seaweed project is expanding, from test production in 2020 to full scale production in several communities in 2021. This project has the capacity to create livelihoods for thousands of disadvantages in our partner communities. The project will also contribute to food security with the higher nutrition value than land based crops.

Our aim is to move ahead with needed methodologies for seagrass conservation and seaweeds projects with relevant partners on a priority basis. These blue carbon projects represent large potentials for increased climate action.



*Planning new livelihood projects with community partners.*

## **ALL UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ONE PROJECT**

WIF's livelihood team increased activities in 2021 with additional blue carbon income from the voluntary market to be shared with partner communities. This provided new momentum to our livelihoods/sustainable development commitment.



**Construction of the first ice plant** for the fishing community in 2021 resulted in higher quality seafood to market, with higher prices for toiling fishermen and less losses of the catch.



The Head of WIF's Livelihood project, Ms. Grace Bo Ni has been successful in creating a full-fledged production unit of several marketable products. She conducts her staff with a steady hand in reduction of poverty in a region with 1,8 million people under UN's poverty line. They are benefitting in a variety of projects implemented in 2021: The livelihood activities and sustainable development initiatives are of highest priority. The future of planted forests lays in the hands of the local people as custodians, securing their lifeline for generations to come.

The most sophisticated products from seaweeds are super high skin care, the first of its kind in the country. Test production has been successfully completed and the first 4 products (lotion, serum, facemask, soap) will be launched in 2022 under trade name Sjoliv health products with healing powers of the ocean. Inspired by Ms Lwin Mar Aung, the professional skin care specialist, the project has got a flying start. She has extensive experience in successful creation of health products, in addition to a personal commitment to share her knowledge in solidarity with disadvantaged communities. In the best tradition of WIF's commitment to combat poverty in the project areas.



### *Seaweed – a gift from Nature*



# LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS



## **MIRACLES HAPPEN - Disabled family receiving a new home with rain water harvest roof.**

- Life bearing eco system services
- Supporting disabled families with new homes
- Community mobilization and public education on basic needs
- COVID support to individuals and health institution in project areas
- Local production and distribution of fuel saving cooking stoves
- Energy forest areas to ease pressure on mangrove forests
  
- Rainwater harvest for communities living in seasonal dry areas without drinking water
- Income generation in the use of renewable natural resources
- Leadership training with gender balance
- Community development fund to stimulate local livelihood initiatives
- Health and sanitation projects • Local infrastructure to improve daily living
- Solar panels and solar lamps to schools and community institutions
- Scholarship for girls with ambition to enter university
- Vocational training and several other sustainable initiatives prioritized by the communities.
- The first community biogas project for cooking, fuelled by harvest of wild seaweeds in the planning stage for implementation in 2022-23.

***Our ambitious target is to increase family income with 100% during the first 5 years, uplifting all partner communities above the poverty trap.***

## NEW PROJECT INITIATIVES IN 2021



### **The world's first global mangrove virtual university**

WIF's master trainer U Win Maung has 26 years experience in grassroot training on mangrove restoration with new planters. His knowledge and commitment to high quality planting methods will be shared in the virtual university's training manual for partner community students

**The world's first mangrove virtual university** will be made easily available online for all communities interested in establishing their own mangrove restoration projects. Relevant knowledge and practical skills is important in achieving the highest survival rate of plants.

The content of the training material is not academic, but practical knowledge for capacity building by communities in areas with urgent need for mangrove restoration and other sustainable development. Financial support to small scale community projects will be available.

WIF's own staff of specialist are presently developing the manual/teaching material, while global standards specialists in distance education are developing the most efficient technical system for knowledge sharing on the most affordable technical platforms. Everyone can benefit without language barriers thanks to the use of advanced artificial intelligence systems. The ambitious university idea is the brainchild of WIF's senior science advisor, Dr. Kogo Motohiko.



## **MANGROVE PROTECTIVE SHIELD FOR SMALL STATE ISLANDS**

Small State Islands mangrove restoration project will provide protection of lives and homesteads from sea level rise. Populations in many small state islands are nearly drowning from increased sea level rise. Natural protective shields of mangroves can reduce the risk of immediate catastrophe. WIF's newly appointed international coordinator, Dr. Aung Myat San is in charge of planning WIF's new projects tailor made for communities in crisis. The first projects will be launched in late 2022. The plights of these heroic communities fighting for their existence seems to have been ignored at UN COP26. The fossil industries are netting record high income from polluting the atmosphere, while CO2 climate gases are fuelling climate change with increasing misery and deaths. The 37 small state islands and other vulnerable communities around the globe, far away from the glittering Head Quarters of the profit seeking fossil companies are the victims. Urgent help is needed.



## SUCCESSFUL PLANTING ON LARGE AREAS IN 2021

The following partners made it possible for WIF to complete planting on 3500 ha and supporting thousands of disadvantaged with sustainable development in 2021:

***CEMAsys, Norway***

***Starboard, Thailand***

***High Tide Foundation, USA***

***EcoAct, France***

***Atoma Solution/Vlinder, Switzerland***

***Storebrand, the Green Finance Company, Norway***

***Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment***

Several private donors have contributed to the success. The largest donation USD 150,000 from our partners Cool Effect/High Tide Foundation USA to expand livelihood projects. A warm thanks to the CEO Dee Lawrence for generous support during many years.

In planning forward, WIF's Managing Director, U Bo Ni and his management team have been successful in promoting a new 5 year MOU with Myanmar Forest Department to be implemented in 2022 with the same carbon rights and commitments, including long term user right of the land for our community partners.



Increased focused on trained university graduates promoted as field managers have provided excellent results in project development. Among them, **Mr Kyaw Htoo Naing** has been nominated for excellent relations with all the WIF team members and especially in mobilizing community participation in mangrove restoration projects. He is among the many young professional talents contributing to our high quality blue carbon achievements.



Several young talents have been nominated from the livelihood team and soil carbon team as special contributors to WIF's success in 2021.

Ms. Tint Tint Mon from the livelihood team has been nominated for her communication and capacity to mobilize community partners. Ms. Htun Thiri Naing has been nominated as the most energetic staff member in 2021. She has taken upon herself with a group of marine science students to measure soil carbon in all project areas, in partnership with our veteran blue carbon specialist Dr. Aung Htay of Patheingyi University.

Our trusted carbon auditor in 2021 has been Ms. Rekha Menon. She has been supported by our carbon consultants Suraj Anuradha Vanniarachchy and Erandi Dissanayake. Dr. Dhanya Nambiar, a highly respected Indian carbon scientist has been appointed WIF's leading Carbon Specialist from 2022 with responsibility for three new projects on total 37,000 ha to be listed at VERRA.

WIF is happy to report a fruitful relationship between WIF's management and Board of Directors. Thanking Chairperson Dr. Sandii Lwin, Myanmar, Mr Svein Rasmussen, Thailand, Ms. Ingvild Dahle Bratli, Norway, Ms. Monaqui Porter Young, USA, Mr. Nawaz Faleel, Sri Lanka and Mr. Jevan Tan, Singapore, for their valuable support.

## 2021 EXPANSION

### THAILAND

- Worldview Climate Foundation was established with a highly competent board of Directors, core staff appointed. Chairman of the Foundation is Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.
- Test planting completed in Phetchaburi Region.
- MOU signed with Siam Cement Group, one of the largest companies in Thailand.
- Negotiation in progress for MOU with Thai Department of Fisheries for blue carbon projects on mangrove restoration, conservation of seagrass meadows and seaweed planting, including harvesting of wild seaweeds.

### GAMBIA

WIF partnered with Worldview Gambia (started by WIF in 1995 as a national NGO) to assist IFSAD's large rice producing project with communication support. WIF's first African mangrove restoration project on 1500 ha has been identified for mangrove restoration in 2022.

Mr. Joacim Kontny, graduate from Norway's Life Science University (with 3 years experience from WIF's mangrove projects in Myanmar) has been appointed Field Director.

WIF Gambia's Chairman, Ambassador Amadou Taal (former Board Member of WIF) is in overall charge of the project and new initiatives in West Africa.

## **SRI LANKA**

WIF was born Sri Lanka as an international NGO in 1979, at the dawn of the communication revolution. WIF pioneered new methods and technologies for effective public education and development communication, gradually expanding its outreach to 26 countries in Asia and Africa. The first mangrove project in Sri Lanka was initiated in 2021 based on MOU signed with the Ministry of Coastal Conservation, for development of all mangrove areas in the country. The MOU was soon after kept on hold due to internal ministry changes. The recent economic and political instability in the country has made it impossible to proceed until the situation has been stabilized.

Initiatives taken in 2021 for new mangrove restoration projects in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Kenya and Ghana, in progress with potential start in 2023.

2021 was the tenth year with progress on WIF's mangrove restoration and other blue carbon initiatives, with doubling of activities on a yearly basis. Our ultimate target is to restore and conserve over one billion trees during the next ten years.

## **INCREASED SUPPORTS FROM PROJECT PARTNERS**

Our long time trusted partners continued their abated support in 2021 with Starboard targeting 1 million trees in one year, removing more than double its emissions from the CO<sub>2</sub> atmospheric store. Continued engagement by our US partner Cool Effect by its affiliate High Tide Foundation providing resources for restoration of 700 ha in 2021 and with 1000 ha to follow in 2022. Among other trusted partners are CEMAsys, Storebrand, Sundt Air and many others, inspiring us to move fast ahead with confidence.

Due to renewed interest from large investors, mangrove restoration has been agreed with the Canadian company Carbon Neutral Royalty for planting on 12,000 ha and 5100 ha from 2022 for potential expansion with a new project on 15,000 ha from 2023. Additional areas will follow in the next 5 years. These ultra large projects have been developed by WIF's energetic Project Director U Win Maung. WIF is looking forward to expanding its capacity in cooperation with our largest partner Carbon Neutral Royalty.

WIF's annual accounts for 2021 reflects healthy growth with additional income and the highest market prices for our blue carbon VCUs due to high quality. Our financial Controller Ms. Win Sandar Htay, supported by her deputy Ms. Thidar Aung, have successfully managed to uphold financial sustainability in spite of several challenges in a year dominated by COVID restrictions and other unexpected problems.

The first project funded by Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment was successfully implemented in 2021, and other projects completed in 2021 with support of partner investors.

## **FUTURE FUNDING**

WIF's newly appointed marketing advisor, Mr. Nick Laidlaw oversees project coordination with investors and blue carbon marketing. Growing international interest for investment in large blue carbon projects has created a positive trend for continued expansion in the years to come, in support of the UN Paris Climate Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

# **HAPPY NEWS 2021 (press release from Japanese partners)**

## ***Initiating the first global blue carbon investment fund.***

*Sojitz Corporation has joined the UAE's Nippon Trading Establishment and Worldview International Foundation (WIF), to establish the first 'Blue Carbon Fund'. It is a dedicated impact investment fund to focus on mangrove restoration and conservation, in addition to blue carbon sea grass conservation and seaweed planting and harvesting for maximum climate impact. The fund, which will initially invest \$25 Million, plans to grow with multiple jurisdictions thus catering to mitigate global climate change through the development of Blue Carbon in support of the UN Paris Climate Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals.*

*Mr. Shoki Koichiro of Sojitz Corporation and Mr. Omar Qandeel of Nippon Trading signed the MOU together with Dr. Arne Fjortoft of WIF. This historic venture is initially set to invest in Sri Lanka and Oman in partnership with Supreme Global Holdings before expanding globally. said Mr. Shoki Koichiro, of Sojitz Corporation at the press conference.*

*"Nippon Trading is honoured with the opportunity to partner with Sojitz Corporation and Worldview International Foundation - two highly reputed entities, which have made such a positive impact in their own areas of operation in an unmatched manner" said Omar Qandeel, Chairman. He added, "Sojitz's entry into the carbon footprint arena will encourage and involve many other Japanese entities and entrepreneurs to participate, making the Blue Carbon Fund the most sought-after climate change enterprise in Japan. Considering Japan's renewed and enhanced interest in mitigating climate challenges, the launching of the venture is well timed both from a global, as well as Japanese point of view".*

*Dr. Arne Fjortoft, Secretary General & Founder of Worldview International said: "It is a great inspiration to be cooperating with Sojitz Corporation & Nippon Trading Est. The Japanese involvement in our already well-established climate change efforts adds a new dimension. I am happy that my long-standing colleagues and carbon footprint heroes, including Kogo San will now play an active role in this focused fund and its efforts.*

*Sojitz Corporation is an integrated global trading company with an approximate revenue of \$15 billion. Headquartered in Tokyo, Sojitz Corporation consists of some 400 subsidiaries and affiliates located in Japan and throughout the world with 20,000 employees.*



***We share our quest for life with our partners and celebrate our success in biodiversity. The endangered dugongs and sea turtles in the sea bordering our mangrove restoration forests are fully protected. An increasing number of endangered elephants are seeking shelter in the newly planted forest. Life restored!***

***Biodiversity flowering with seeds generating new life.***

