

One Sky – Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living
2002 Annual Report

Our mission is to “promote sustainable living globally”



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Dr. Adriane Forsythe *Moore Foundation*

Olatunde Johnson – *F.O.E. Sierra Leone*

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Kirsteen Laing
Bookkeeper



“One Sky has grown rapidly, fuelled by the enthusiasm of its people to wage peace in a world that is currently wracked by war and insecurity... it has been a crazy year of success during a shameful period of history. Our work has only just begun.”

- Ivan Thompson
Chair of the Board of Directors

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Executive Director's Message

One Sky was incorporated as a B.C. Society in August of 2000. Today we have a Canadian office, a Nigerian office, a “home” in Sierra Leone, programs in Latin American and Africa as well as a host of volunteers and dedicated staff all based out of the rural town of Smithers – British Columbia, Canada. This past year has seen our staff grow from three to eight with more projected to join our team before the year is finished. Our budget has grown from 189 K to 275 K with confirmed revenue this coming year of over 600 thousand dollars. The past year has been very full as we established new programming in Nigeria and played an active role in networking for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. While we have had much success the world has been plunged into an era of uncertainty and intense conflict. The current invasion of Iraq is an example of the resource conflicts that will only become more common as our planet is consumed through unsustainable practices and a blatant disregard for life.

While we may have been growing organizationally it seems that the challenges we face are growing exponentially. One Sky exists to promote sustainable living globally and we have concentrated on this in some of the world's environmental and social hotspots including Sierra Leone, El Salvador and now Nigeria. We have worked on international issues with our partners in Canada and broader networks around the world. We played a major role in publishing “Summit or Plummet” the Canadian NGO report on sustainable development as well as a 21 country shadow report on the WSSD. We were the official environmental non-governmental representative on the Canadian delegation to Johannesburg and traveled to preparatory meetings in New York and Bali to promote an NGO perspective. We have launched a major campaign in the past year to rid the world of conflict diamonds, diamonds that are causing untold damage in Africa. We continue to be the western node of the Canadian Environmental Network International Program and have joined the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

We are working toward peaceful reconciliation and environmental and human security in one of the most challenging places on the planet... Sierra Leone, West Africa. There we are partnered with Friends of the Earth to bring practical solutions for war-affected populations. Solutions that build peace and restore and protect the environment. We facilitated the Canadian visit of Christopher Johnson from FOESL to Canada where he visited British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

We published a series of eight modules of ecological curriculum for use in Sierra Leone as part of a joint Canadian-Nigerian teacher project. We had a team of two women, Ginny Stratton and Jud Jones, working in Sierra Leone to help distribute these materials and work on appropriate technology as part of an internship program. As part of their efforts FOESL now has a pilot pedal powered roofing tile maker in operation at their ecological centre. Both Ginny and Jud remain in Sierra Leone this year working on micro-credit, gender equality and organizational capacity with FOESL.

Our Nigeria program has officially started in Cross River State where we are working to build the capacity of four Nigerian environmental organizations and a regional network. We have linked six Canadian groups with counterpart organizations in Nigeria in an effort to promote sustainable living in the tropical moist forest ecosystem of West Africa. We have a CUSO co-operant, Lori McQuid, working for us in Cross River State as the regional Nigerian Project Coordinator along with a Canadian forester Chris Hunter. In Canada, Jennifer Castleden, who comes to us from IISD in Winnipeg, manages the project. Locally, the people of the Bulkley Valley have been instrumental in assisting with our school bus program. We raised almost \$8000 in a local auction and now have a big, yellow school bus filled with school supplies and eco-centre materials waiting to be shipped to Freetown. Our volunteer board hosted its first two day annual general meeting in June and continued to meet regularly throughout the year on One Sky policy issues. We continue to participate in NGO capacity building activities and traveled to the Annual Organic Agriculture Conference in Guelph this year with a photo display and presentations on behalf of the Canadian Environmental Network. We produced a case study on human security and organic agriculture for the Guelph conference and assisted in developing an organic agriculture policy paper based on our partnerships overseas. One Sky is about linking practical solutions with policy developments. Our belief is that we need to be working on the ground before we talk in the halls of power. Our mission is to promote sustainable living globally by working both in Canada and abroad and by linking the global environmental and social challenges that we face with solutions we can all participate in. It is not an easy task. One Sky has been working on what we consider the most pressing and daunting tasks, resource wars and environmental and social conflicts. This year these efforts were recognized by the Canadian International Development Agency when One Sky was nominated for the Bill McWhinney Award for International Cooperation. Our goal is that by addressing these difficult issues and maintaining a positive sense of hope we can be a small but powerful inspiration and school of change. We would like to thank all of those people that have encouraged us and supported us and that continue to struggle toward a better, more just and environmentally sound planet. You inspire us to keep working in troubled times.

Michael Simpson
Executive Director

Program Achievements

Human Security and the Environment

Sierra Leone

This project, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency since the summer of 2000, is a partnership between the British Columbia based *Northwest Institute of Bioregional Research* and *One Sky* with the organization *Friends of the Earth Sierra Leone* which is located in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The activities are designed to make a link between human security and the environment. Sierra Leone has endured a terrible civil war and is still reeling from over ten years of war. Both the people and the environment have suffered tragically. This project is working with marginalized target populations including internally displaced people and war affected children to provide vocational training and educational opportunities in environmentally sustainable activities. These activities include developing an ecological centre near the village of Hamilton, doing sanitation campaigns, North-South and South-South exchanges, capacity building and organic and pedal powered workshops.

In the year 2002 we:

- Launched an Earth Day celebration to officially open the Eco-centre.
- Assisted with a strategic planning session for Friends of the Earth.
- Organized a four month Canadian outreach tour with FOESL's agriculture campaigner Christopher Johnson.
- Launched the roof-tile making project with a Canadian built pedal powered prototype.
- Purchased a school bus and collected school supplies and equipment for FOESL.
- Held a fundraising auction with over 8K in proceeds to FOESL.
- Organized a Women's Day HIV/AIDS workshop.



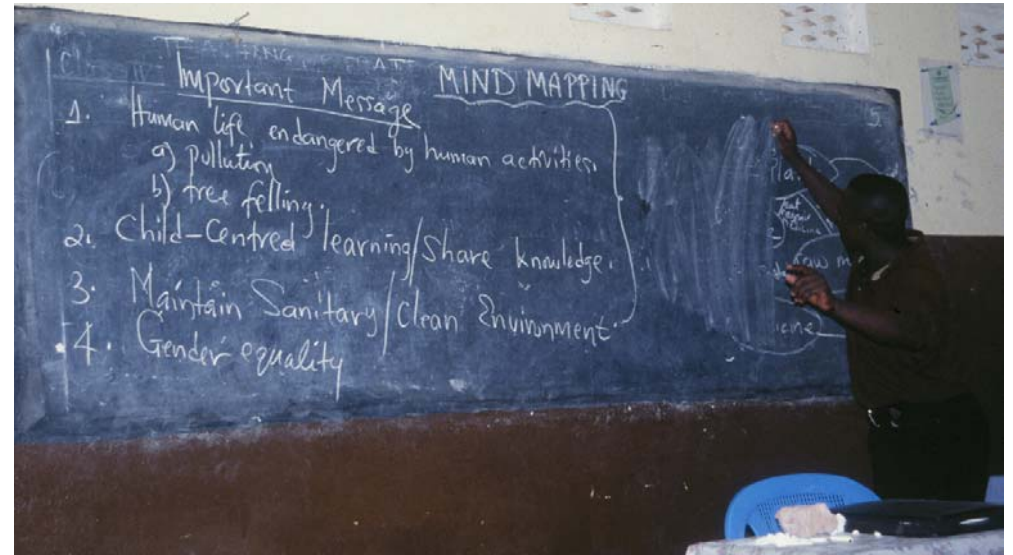
Former Child Soldier
planting trees at the
Hamilton Eco-Centre

Program Achievements

Human Security and the Environment

Social Development

Priority Project

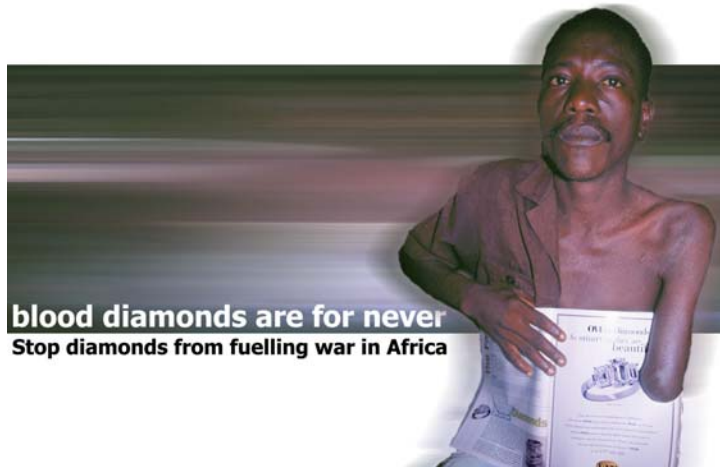


This project began in March, 2001 under the CIDA framework for action on Social Development Priorities, one of which is child protection. This project was a partnership between One Sky and the Northwest Institute For Bioregional Studies and FOESL. The project developed eight ecological modules in a complete curriculum package that was developed by both teachers from Canada and Sierra Leone in a unique North/South collaboration. It specifically addresses the need for basic education among girls and boys aged 7-18 who have been affected by the war through a long term environmentally oriented response that will help them build sustainable and meaningful lives.

In 2001 a Canadian delegation of educators visited Sierra Leone and in 2002 they hosted Christopher Johnson from FOESL who was the lead organizer and educational campaigner working on the project. He visited Canadian schools and projects in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia.

In 2002 we:

- Published promoted and delivered 500 copies of the 104 page booklet "Sierra Leone and the Environment" which included eight modules.
- Hosted an FOESL employee for four months in Canada.
- Made presentations on CBC radio, local radio, received media attention in several community newspapers and public presentations including a conference on sustainability in Kingston, Ontario.
- Visited schools and educational ministries in Sierra Leone to promote environmental education.



Program Achievements Human Security and the Environment - Blood Diamonds

The Kimberley Process was a United Nations sanctioned effort to clean up the diamond trade. Unfortunately there are no clean diamonds in a dirty system and the Kimberley Process remains fatally flawed without independent monitoring. One Sky prepared a campaign called “Blood Diamonds are for Never” in 2002 in an effort to rid the world of conflict diamonds. As part of the campaign we teamed up with Partnership Africa Canada and Amnesty International in an initiative called “Canadian Jewellers for Conflict Free Diamonds”. We published postcards and media kits, researched Canadian diamond market trends, made presentations and prepared for the official launch of the campaign in 2003. Kristin Patten joined the One Sky team in September, 2002 and leads our efforts to push for regular, independent monitoring in Canada and other Kimberley Process member countries.

Landmines

This project is a victim assistance and landmines awareness initiative based in El Salvador, Central America that trains individuals within the context of their communities in the development of appropriate technologies that will benefit both themselves and the environment. The project is led by the Sierra Club of B.C. and the Salvadoran Centre For Appropriate Technology who have a long history working in the region and with appropriate technologies. One Sky plays an administrative role and is contracted by the Sierra Club to manage the program. Activities include micro-enterprise development, training programs in appropriate technology, the running of a landmines “ecobus”, information programming on landmines both in Canada and in El Salvador and activities in support of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Because of a series of severe earthquakes in 2001 this program was delayed. It was restarted in 2002 with renewed enthusiasm.

Program Achievements Nigeria

In 2001 One Sky participated in a Canadian International Development Agency environmental mission to Cross River State in Nigeria as a representative of the Canadian Environmental Network International Program (CEN-IP). Our task was to assess the capacity and nature of the civil sector to reduce poverty through land and watershed management. As a result of this meeting, One Sky met with several Cross River State non-governmental organizations culminating in regional meetings in May 2002. Following these meetings there was an obvious need to build capacity in the ENGO sector and so One Sky assembled a coalition of Canadian NGOs and private sector conservation and forest management organizations to cooperate with the Nigerian civil sector in the Cross River bioregion. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) approved a bilateral funding project valued at \$1.36 M in the fall of 2002, which One Sky will implement until March 2005. A joint strategic planning session between all of the Nigerian and Canadian partners including CIDA at the Obudu Cattle Ranch in Northern Cross River State resulted in the following mission statement:

“This Nigerian-Canadian Coalition strives to eradicate poverty for and with women and men by developing the capacity of local communities to make informed decisions regarding social, ecosystem and economic security in the Cross River watershed bioregion.”



The goal of the Nigeria Capacity Building Project is to reduce poverty and improve living conditions for both men and women through better land and water management in the rural areas of Nigeria.

One Sky is supporting the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, CERCOPAN, Living Earth Nigeria and Development in Nigeria, four leading NGOs in Cross River as well as a regional umbrella network, the NGO Coalition for the Environment that represents the majority of environmental NGOs in the region. Together we will build the capacity of the civil sector to carry out their mission, goals and objectives. In most cases, One Sky is supporting the development of core capacity building including better financial and project management, improved communications and networking, improved administration, monitoring and training activities as well as direct investment in demonstration activities.

Activities in 2002 included planning missions to Nigeria in both May and November, finalizing contractual arrangements with CIDA, hiring a project coordinator, regional planning meetings in both Calabar and Vancouver for the Nigerian and Canadian partners and preparation for the official launch of the project in early 2003.

In addition to supporting these regional Nigerian groups, One Sky is partnering six Canadian groups with the Nigerian organizations to carry out joint projects on environmental capacity building. Each group will visit and assist the ENGO sector in Cross River State over the next two years. Planned activities include developing a bioregional ecosystem plan, micro-enterprise and credit programming, training in community mapping, ecotourism development, strengthening networks, alternative technology development and the development of sustainable living skills.



Nigeria is a world biodiversity “hotspot” threatened by increasing illegal and indiscriminate logging and damage to watersheds.



Internships

One Sky firmly believes in mentorship in all aspects of its work. In 2002 we hosted two interns in Smithers for four months where they worked on finishing the eco-modules, developing a pedal powered prototype roof tile maker with the organization PEDAL in Vancouver, organizing a community services auction and acquiring a school bus. They underwent a training program in Victoria before leaving for Sierra Leone where they have been working for Friends of the Earth to develop ecological curriculum in the schools and develop appropriate technologies. We purposefully encouraged having female interns in Sierra Leone as part of our efforts to promote gender equality and encourage positive role models. To date, One Sky has successfully hosted four interns in Sierra Leone and one in Nigeria.

Networking

One Sky is now the western regional node for this capacity we participated in 2002 on the Canada Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). preparat the Cana Canadia Canada's made official presentations on the WSSD in Ne have an elected seat on the Canadian Environ

Organizational Growth

One Sky has grown a considerable amount in just over two years. We now have an office and accommodation building in Calabar, Nigeria as well as a One Sky house in Freetown, Sierra Leone. We renovated our Smithers office in 2002 and gave it a face-lift with paint and elbow grease. One Sky now has four operating computer terminals networked with new colour and laser printers in our main office and connected to high-speed internet access. We continue to host our own web page at www.onesky.ca

Our policy manual provides comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the organization including detailed staff guidelines and operating procedures. Kirsteen Laing continues as our part time bookkeeper and we successfully completed our second audit through the chartered accounting firm Edmison Mehr. The bookkeeping system has grown in complexity as we add new projects and scale up our efforts. With all the new employees and programs our office is becoming quite crowded with desks and enthusiasm.

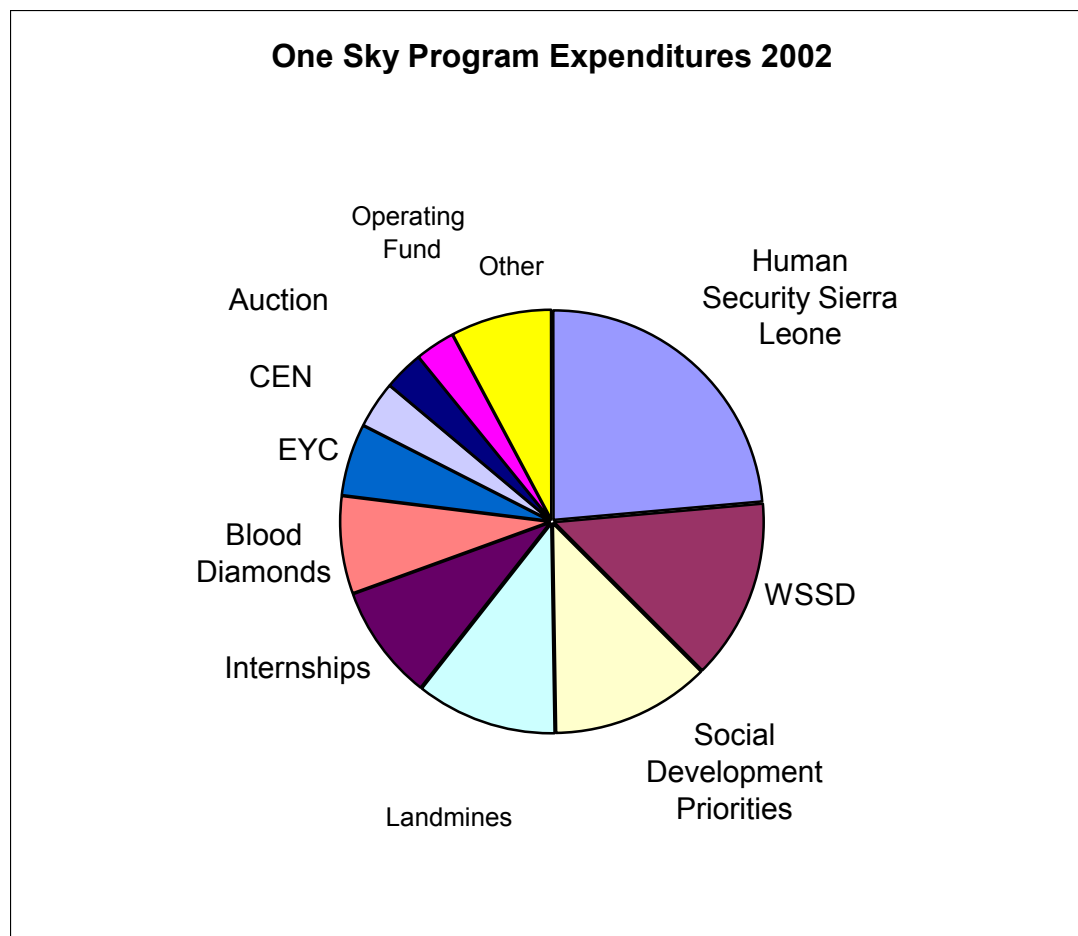


Our Partners

One Sky is a firm believer in networking. We have actively engaged in partnership building with the Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research here in Smithers as well as the Sierra Club of B.C. in Victoria, B.C. This year we also initiated joint projects with The Fallsbrook Centre, The Atlantic Council For International Cooperation, The Nappan Project, Silva Forest Foundation, Greenheart Conservation Company and Laing and McCulloch Forest Management Services Ltd as part of our Nigeria program. In Nigeria we are working with Living Earth, The Nigerian Conservation Foundation, CERCOPAN, Development In Nigeria and the NGO Coalition for the Environment. Our work with the Canadian Environmental Network has enabled us to link with national efforts around environmental capacity building and we continue to develop international linkages with Friends of the Earth in Sierra Leone and in El Salvador. We have worked closely with Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) and Amnesty International on our Blood Diamonds are for Never Campaign. We have been grateful for the support from our partners at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). We are particularly encouraged by the strong volunteer and financial support from our local community in the Bulkley Valley.

Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2002

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002 One Sky generated \$292,304 in revenue indicating a 57% increase in revenue over the previous year of \$185, 414. Total expenditures of \$265,406 left us with an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$26,898. We have fund balances at the end of the period of \$30,375. A large part of One Sky's revenue is generated through our partnerships with the Northwest Institute of Bioregional Studies and the Sierra Club of B.C. through programs with the Canadian International Development Agency. These included a \$75,000 grant from the Environment and Sustainable Development Program as well as a \$75,000 grant from the Social Development Priorities Fund that spanned two fiscal years. We also had two public engagement grants and started our bilateral programming activities in Nigeria. In addition we had internship programs and contracts with NGOs for work on the WSSD. We continue to administer a portion of funds for landmines work in El Salvador and we held contracts with the Canadian Environmental Network for various networking activities. In addition we held fundraising events and received numerous private donations. One Sky follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. We currently have no long-term liabilities, we continue to build an operating fund and we remain fiscally sound.



Horizons – The Coming Year

One Sky has grown rapidly and the coming year will be challenging. We need to strengthen our core infrastructure in order to maintain current programs and staffing levels. Many projects are still new and require the development of policies and procedures as well as the actual implementation of activities. We are now involved in many different projects which require long-term commitment and constant attention. We will continue to work in Sierra Leone as we enter Phase III of the Human Security and the Environment project. We intend to continue with two overseas staff in Sierra Leone joined by two interns in the fall. We plan to send the bus and school supplies in the summer of 2003 in an effort to raise Canadian awareness about African development issues. We intend to continue with our Blood Diamonds Are For Never Campaign in order to draw the links between resource wars and the environment. This year we are hoping to engage up to four more interns in Nigeria in an effort to increase our mentorship program and work more directly with youth as well as maintain four full time positions and one part time bookkeeper in Smithers. We will host a CUSO position in Nigeria as well as maintain an office and accommodation there. We will participate in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York for the Eleventh session as well as participate in Canadian Environmental Network activities. We are currently working closely with Laing and McCulloch on a related Forestry Initiative in Cross River State in an effort to further the work of type II partnerships which link government, the private sector and civil society. Much of our effort will be going into our bilateral program in Nigeria. Finally, our Annual General Meeting will include over 20 staff and board members in June and will provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen our strategic direction.

Our Supporters

One Sky was the recipient of many generous donations in 2002. We would like to thank the schools, organizations and individuals who contributed toward our work. We received numerous boxes of school supplies, donations of individual computers including scanners and printers and numerous desktops and monitors. Many people and local businesses supported our fundraising efforts in the community goods and services auction. We received everything from plane tickets to local organic food and produce. We received cheques in the mail to support our efforts and participants at our events were always generous. Perhaps most importantly were the many individuals who donated enormous amounts of time to make sure our projects were a success. Our volunteer board members have worked extra hard this year on improving governance issues and the staff put in many extra hours. To all of our supporters we would like to say a very special “thank you” for making this past year such a success.

A special thanks to our supporters and funders!

The Northwest Institute for Bioregional Studies
The Sierra Club of British Columbia
The Environment and Sustainable
Development Program (CIDA)
Canadian Council for Human Resources
in the Environment
The Falls Brook Centre
The Canadian Environmental Network
Environment Canada
Northwest Community College
Mines Action Canada
The Heinrich Boll Foundation
B.C. Web
The Nappan Project
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Deb Meisner
Janet and Terry Sondresen
Jason Blanch
Pauline Mahoney
AWG Northern Industries
St. Joseph's School
Montgomery Elementary
Oscar's Source for Sports
St. Joseph's Student Council
Smithers Secondary School

