

Nature For Justice: A Recap of 2023

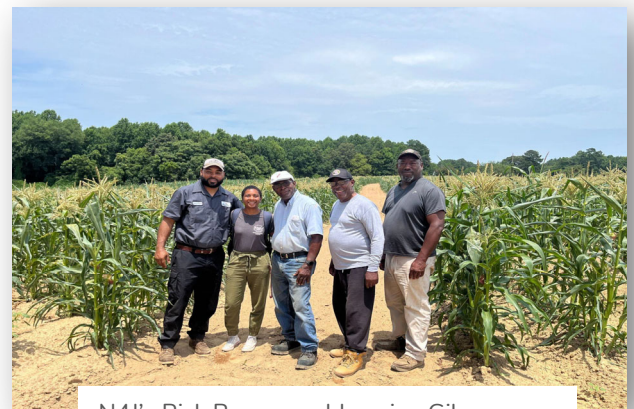
In 2020, we launched [Nature For Justice](#) (N4J) to advance social justice for frontline communities confronting climate change. This vision became a reality in 2023 as N4J established strong programs in the USA, Canada, and across a number of African countries. This great leap forward was powered by a growing and diverse roster of staff, advisors, and board members, as well as several key partnerships and expanded investments. Here are the highlights:

IN THE USA

"N4J's Program is helping us do things we haven't done before in terms of improving the quality of the land, the quality of our crops and helping with the cost of our labor. We don't have to pay out of our pocket as much this year for inputs. These regenerative practices are absolutely needed."

Larry Davis, farmer in Warren County, NC

Farmer Inclusion in North Carolina. The team of [Zoraya Hightower](#), [Patrick Brown](#), and [Jasmine Gibson](#) created the Farmer Inclusion program which now has engaged over 118 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color farmers in North Carolina. We are providing funds from a 5-year, \$3.5 million USDA Grant to help farmers adopt regenerative agriculture practices and \$600,000 has already been committed to 77 farmers. ([Read more](#)).



N4J's Rick Brown and Jasmine Gibson with North Carolina farmers Larry Davis, Sam Davis and Stanley Davis

Vermont Conservation Planning. N4J is assisting the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board with stakeholder and engagement for statewide conservation inventory and plan to achieve the 30x30¹ and 50x50 goals with an emphasis on environmental justice and equity. The team, led by Zoraya, will be conducting over 70 interviews, 25 focus groups, and a public roundtable to help get to consensus across Vermont's stakeholders. ([Read more](#)).

IN CANADA

"We wanted to thank the Nature For Justice team very much for all your work on this initiative and especially the presentation to our leadership today. You made us proud to lead this work, and we cannot thank you enough."

*Godlove Ngeh. MSc, MBA
Senior Regulatory Advisor
[Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation](#)*

¹ Thirty-by-thirty (30x30) refers to efforts by the global community to conserve 30% of terrestrial and marine habitat by 2030.

[Steve Nitah](#) and [Tess Zakaras](#) have led N4J's involvement in the creation of the First 30x30 program—focused on Indigenous-led conservation—through a collaboration with [Ducks Unlimited Canada](#) (DUC) and [Nature Focus Development](#) (NFD). As a former Chief of the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation in the Northwest Territories, Steve has significant experience in the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). DUC brings decades of experience and enormous credibility in the Canadian Boreal landscape in partnership with Indigenous communities. Meanwhile, the sustainable finance and strategic capabilities of NFD, including their experience in the carbon markets, helped us to package the program and attract significant starting capital from a major Canadian bank.



Steve Nitah speaking at the Annual Chiefs of Ontario Meeting

The First 30x30 program will co-create a network of Indigenous-led carbon projects to channel sustainable finance for Indigenous-led conservation and land management efforts that create jobs, protect biodiversity, and center Indigenous rights and responsibilities. ([Read more](#)).

Steve is also part of the leadership circle of the Restore, Assert and Defend (RAD) Network focused on enabling conservation finance pathways rooted in Indigenous rights, responsibilities and knowledge systems. ([Read more](#)).

IN AFRICA

“The Biotrade Ventures/Nature For Justice partnership allowed us to work with communities in three areas in South Africa to develop a carbon credit and nature-based solutions project concept focused on Marula and other fruit trees. The concept was new to us but N4J was very knowledgeable and guided us through this complex area.”

Cyril Lombard, Biotrade Ventures, South Africa

The Africa program led by [Michael O’Brien Onyeka](#) and [Nicci Mander](#) started 2023 by issuing a Request For Proposals for nature-based projects that might qualify for carbon financing. We expected 20-30 responses but got over 90 submissions from organizations across the continent. From that group, we are advancing the following as the year comes to a close:



Mike O'Brien-Onyeka celebrates signing of the MOU with Eng Festus Ng'eno, Permanent Secretary (PS) Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Kenya

- **1 project moving to pilot stage** focused on smallholder agroforestry
- **3 priority projects in the advanced stages of design**, covering peatland, forest & thicket restoration and management as well as agroforestry
- **11 new projects in the pipeline** including reforestation, REDD+, agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, sustainable rangelands management, and blue carbon
- **5 other projects for pre-feasibility analysis**, covering sustainable rangelands management, agroforestry, and regenerative agriculture

In addition to the above, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Climate in June 2023, setting the stage for multiple types of projects that are strongly endorsed by the Government of Kenya (GoK). We are in the process of creating a similar MOU with the government of Zambia. ([Read more](#)).

ADDITIONAL REGIONS

We continue to explore opportunities in Central and South America and Asia. In Latin America we are partnering with Los Aliados in Ecuador, and we're in the early stages of developing initiatives with partner organizations in Colombia, Mexico and Costa Rica. In Asia we are exploring potential partnerships with several organizations in India.

It's been a busy year and I cannot thank enough the many who have contributed to our progress ([Our Team](#)). If you would like to learn more or to help in some way, please do not hesitate to reach out to me: HCauley@Nature4Justice.Org or +1-202-262-4433 (call, SMS, or WhatsApp).

DONATION LINKS

[Nature For Justice Website](#)



Or mail checks payable to Nature For Justice:
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