



**2022 has been a rollercoaster year.
So make yourself comfy and take hope
from some amazing projects and
developments both near and far.**

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At the end of 2022 we felt we should take a moment to look back at our achievements and to look more widely at the global situation both in terms of extreme weather events and the amazing progress being made, in many different areas, to address the crisis we face.

We will send out a news and events newsletter at the end of next week with dates for your diaries.

ACAN in 2022

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ACAN in 2022

2022 was a very busy year for all the wonderful, hard working volunteers who achieve so much and make ACAN and its groups so special.

[Here's our list of 22 highlights for 2022!](#)

"It's *Their* Future" (reporting on our survey of children and young people) was perhaps ACAN's most important meeting this year. Look out for our "Listen to the Children" exhibition in the New Year.

Gumbi Alton

Permaculture Project

Grateful thanks to all our very generous donors for the £3000 raised in the recent fundraiser, it puts the farm on a strong footing for the years ahead.

They have already completed the fencing and the housing for the animals, have bought two piglets and some rabbits and are planning to buy goats etc very soon. They now have 1,000 fruit and other trees ready to plant . The rains have started so they are also planting staple crops like maize and cassava and are setting up village groups so people can help teach each other permaculture techniques and borrow the animals to improve the soil and grow more food.

The solar panels, too, are working well and there are two young men living on the site,



2023 will be a crucial year. if all goes well, they will fully establish the demonstration farm and be able to start really reaching out to others in the wider community.

With 18 trained volunteers and Luwayo Biswick continuing to oversee/ advise/ guide the project, the future of GAPP is bright

All together 2022 was a wonderfully productive year. Let's hope 2023 is even better!

Extreme Weather Events in 2022

As John Vidal said in his Guardian article last week:

2022 "was not just one of the [hottest years on record](#), but also one of the driest in many countries, with nearly every week bringing some new climate-related disaster. Starting with Storm Eunice in February, which battered northern Europe, immense floods, droughts and storms hit Pakistan, India, China, Australia, southern Africa and the US. Crops failed in unprecedented heatwaves and hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless in both rich and poor countries. Temperature records stretching back hundreds of years were broken in the UK, Italy, France and Spain."

[Photographic record of extreme weather events in 2022](#)

Then in December [Storm Elliott](#) brought blizzards and ice to large parts of the USA just as unprecedented heat spread across central Europe with some places experiencing temperatures in the 20's centigrade.

Although exact numbers are hard to estimate it is clear the 2022 death toll from extreme weather events is going to run into the tens of thousands with many more expected to suffer famine in 2023. There are also hundreds of thousands rendered homeless and huge numbers have lost their livelihoods. Surely no-one can deny climate change is here now and going to get worse before it gets better.

And of course we must not forget [the damage suffered by the natural world](#)

On the Plus Side

[Progress has been made on a number of fronts](#), from the growth in renewable energy and sustainable transport, to COP27's loss and damage breakthrough, to legal battles won in the name of nature. Click on the links below for more details of these developments.

Transport

[Belgium has agreed to crack down on private jets and short-haul flights](#), while [France will ban short haul flights](#) between cities already linked by a train journey of less than 2.5 hours (as proposed by their citizen's assembly on climate).

In [Paris mail is being delivered by cargo bike](#), Oslo is on course to become the first capital city in the world with an [all-electric public transport system](#) and Leuven in Belgium is the only city where bikes are actually the preferred mode of transport.

[Tallin, the Estonian capital is set to be the European Green Capital for 2023](#), due to its innovative and modern approach to sustainability, with free public transport and highways for bees, despite it's history as a centre for a number of heavily polluting industries.

Glasgow has been inspired by [Barcelona's Bicibus scheme](#) and introduced a range of schemes to get [school children and adults cycling](#) and France is offering low income households in low emissions neighbourhoods €4,000 to swap cars for ebikes – smaller subsidies are available to wealthier citizens.

[Canada imposes a new 'luxury tax'](#) on the sale and importation of high-value cars, planes and boats as part of the government's commitment to a fairer tax system.

Nature and Biodiversity

[Nations agree landmark deal for biodiversity at COP15 in Montreal](#). One of the most significant parts of the pact is an agreement to [protect 30 per cent of nature by 2030](#). This '30x30' target is one of the biggest land and ocean conservation commitments in history and will need careful handling to protect the livelihoods of some indigenous peoples. See [Sheila John's summary of the COP on our website](#).

[Brazil's new president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva](#) has pledged to end deforestation in Amazon after beating right-wing incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the country's election.

[Beavers are now a protected species in England 400 years after they were hunted to extinction](#), and bears, wolves, and bison are making a comeback across Europe. From loggerhead turtles and Eurasian otters to humpback whales and wolverines, [many previously struggling species have made 'spectacular' recoveries](#).

Colombia, New Zealand, Chile, Mexico and now [Panama have granted nature legal protection](#), either through their constitutions or the court system. Meaning their governments are legally required to consider the impact of their laws and policies on the natural world.

Energy Generation

Researchers have built a new [sea salt battery](#) with four times the energy storage capacity of lithium.

A [water battery capable of storing electricity equivalent to 400,000 electric car batteries](#) will begin operating in Switzerland next week. The pumped storage power plant was built into a subterranean cavern in the Swiss canton of Valais.

[China is planning the world's largest wind farm](#), a facility so huge it could power the whole of Norway. Because of the windy location, its turbines will be able to run between 43 per cent and 49 per cent of the time.

[Solar energy can now be stored for up to 18 years](#)

[Zurich plans to turn off natural gas supplies for good](#)

France has become the first European country to [ban adverts for fossil fuels](#) under a new climate law.

[Lloyds, Britain's biggest domestic bank](#), has announced it will not finance new oil and gas fields. It joins a small number of other lenders reducing funding for fossil fuels, including NatWest, which cut lending to clients in the oil and gas sector by 21 per cent in 2021.

[A South African court has banned Shell from searching for fossil fuels along the country's Wild Coast](#), a decision hailed by campaigners as a "massive victory" for the planet.

Energy Use and Architecture

In November the UK government announced [£6 billion of funding to insulate homes](#). Activists from the protest group Insulate Britain celebrated the pledge as a "win for everyday people in civil resistance".

Even on the coldest day of the winter so far, tenants of this [pioneering social housing scheme in Norwich](#) say they do not need to turn on their heating.

An [EU-funded project called RUGGEDISED](#), is aiming to decarbonise three cities and inspire many more. Umeå, Rotterdam and Glasgow have been built into 'smart cities' on some simple ideas around digitising transport, buildings and other infrastructure.

Sweden is looking at new ways to incorporate trees into its architecture. This [wooden skyscraper in the city of Skelleftea](#) is constructed from over 12,000 cubic metres of wood - and is capable of sequestering nine million kilograms of carbon dioxide throughout its lifetime.

[China has opened its first vertical forest city to residents](#). The forest city will absorb around 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, while emitting approximately 10 tonnes of oxygen.

[Students have designed a Floating house to save people from floods](#). Their design is able to provide shelter for at least six weeks, and could be used as storage for food, water, medicine and sanitation products as part of resilience programmes.

Farming and Food

[French farmers are covering crops with solar panels to produce food and energy at the same time](#).

[Taiwan is using vacant metro spaces to grow sustainable, clean and organic food.](#) Advanced and efficient vertical farming methods are being harnessed to help feed commuters with fresh produce.

[The world's largest vertical farm is being built in the UK and it's the size of 96 tennis courts.](#) We in the UK are heavily dependent on imported foods - especially when it comes to fruit and veg. Nearly half of all food eaten in the country comes from overseas. So this vertical farm which can grow certain crops all year round is set to reduce our food miles.

The Dutch city of [Haarlem is putting a ban on meat advertisements](#) in public spaces, in what is being hailed as a world first. The ban aims to reduce meat consumption and the impacts of the climate crisis. It will apply to meat that comes from large-scale industrial farming.

Legal

[Legal triumph as High Court declares the government's net zero strategy is unlawful.](#) The UK government has conceded that its plan to cut carbon emissions is inadequate and must now come up with a better one. The business secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg quietly dropped plans to appeal against the ruling. It has cemented the victory of environmental lawyers from ClientEarth, Friends of the Earth and the Good Law Project, who are calling the decision "an embarrassing but welcome climbdown".

The [European Union has announced a deal to impose a carbon dioxide tariff](#) on imports of polluting goods such as steel and cement. Known as the "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism" (CBAM), the agreement will cover industrial imports from the bloc's 27 member states, targeting the highest polluting products first.

A [Children and Youth Pavilion](#) was set up at COP27 in November, enabling young activists to hold discussions and policy briefings.

Plastics

London-based start-up Notpla believes it has an answer to our plastic waste problem: a plants. It's totally natural, completely biodegradable and can be used to make a range of packaging from bubbles to hold liquid to linings for food containers.

As ACAN has grown so have our costs.

Most grants do not cover running costs, such as insurance, zoom subscription, examination of accounts. If you can help with one off or regular donations please use the button below for our CAF donate page.

Many thanks.

[Donate to ACAN](#)
