



ACTION FOR NATURE

*We encourage young people to take personal action
to protect the environment on which all life depends*

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Nairobi Student Among 2020 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Teen Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Lesein Mutunkei, a 15 year-old from Nairobi, Kenya, is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action for Nature (AFN) as a 2020 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 for their creative initiatives aimed at tackling critical environmental challenges.

Awarded annually, these outstanding young people from across the globe are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 17 years, the International Young Eco-Hero Awards have honored global youth in two categories – 8 to 12 years old and 13 to 16 years old – who are taking important steps to solve tough environmental problems. Since 2003, Action for Nature has recognized more than 275 young people from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Lesein won third prize in the 13-16 year-old age category for his project, Trees for Goals.

Lesein Mutunkei knew that when he read about trees being cut down in Kenya that he had to do something. He vowed to plant 10 trees for every soccer goal he scored, and got his teammates to agree to do the same, launching Trees for Goals. To date, Lesein - with the participation of 5,000 young people - has planted over 1,000 trees in Kenya.

“Kids like Lesein have shown that the next generation is refusing to simply stand on the sidelines but instead is turning its passion for helping the planet into projects that have tangible, positive impacts on the environment now,” said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth’s natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments. “Young activists like Lesein are shaping the world around them and inspiring other young people to take action to protect our Earth.”



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“My goal is to have FIFA take Trees For Goals to world football,” said Lesein Mutunkei.

To read more about Lesein’s work, visit

actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards/#lesein.

To learn more about this year’s International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit

actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards.

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Action for Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth’s natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments.