



TREES
FOR THE
FUTURE

IMPACT REPORT

2023

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

TREES Partners and Friends,

Welcome to this latest update on the progress of our shared agenda to empower smallholder farmers in Africa.

Our purpose is to bring agroforestry techniques and resources to farmers who choose to work with us. Our approach is not easy. It requires change—for these farmers to take a risk, dedicating a part of their land to a new way of working. It demands their scarce time and investment. Our promise to them in exchange is results: land restored and protected, multiple new sources of income, improved food security, and enhanced nutrition for their families.



Tanzania

We provide this report with a combination of pride and humility. We are more dedicated than ever to the Forest Garden Approach, a technique whose “time has come.” Our work uniquely combines the need to care for the land and increase the resilience of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Trees for the Future is proudly working to scale our model through major new projects and collaboration. The expansion of our work in the Lake Victoria watershed and the progress toward including farmers in the voluntary carbon market is particularly exciting. We remain humble as we learn and rigorously validate our approach to enhance the benefits of our model.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and do get in touch – we welcome your suggestions as you are so critical to our continued success.

Sincerely,



Tim McLellan
CEO

OUR FOREST GARDEN APPROACH

Trees for the Future's (TREES) Forest Garden Approach empowers farmers to deploy intensive agroforestry techniques, breaking the cycle of land degradation, food insecurity, and poverty. Unsustainable land use poses a challenge for our farmer partners. By adopting our model, farmers' unproductive farmland can once again become a source of life and resilience— supporting the needs of farmers and their families, a vibrant regional economy, a thriving food system, and a healthy planet.

How is it implemented?

Farmers dedicate their land and labor, and TREES provides a multi-phase, hands-on training program. While the farmers complete the installation of their new farming system, they learn specialized techniques to transform their land and livelihoods over a four-year phased training program led by expert local staff.



Protection

Farmers plant 2,500 fast-growing trees around the perimeter of their land to create a living fence that protects crops, stabilizes soils, and infiltrates water back into the ground.



Diversification

Farmers select vegetables, fruit trees and other high value crops to diversify their fields and meet their priority nutritional and market needs.



Optimization

Farmers learn to maximize the vertical and horizontal space on their land, manage water and pests, build healthy soils, and plan for new on-farm enterprises and greater market access.



Rosemary Kenya



BEFORE



AFTER

THE FOREST GARDEN IMPACTS

EVERYTHING

BEFORE THE FOREST GARDEN

-  Degraded Farmland
-  Single, High-Risk Crop per Year
-  Food Insecurity
-  Lack of income

AFTER THE FOREST GARDEN

-  Improved Soil Health & Biodiversity
-  Multiple Enterprises
-  Nutrient-rich Diets
-  Monthly Income & Savings



A healthy ecosystem is where life is and I have seen this come through the Forest Garden."

- Zacharia (Kenya)

Trees for the Future saved us from an uncertain and hopeless life."

- Modibo (Mali)



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

2022-2023

240 K

PEOPLE

38 M

TREES PLANTED

56 K

ACRES RESTORED

41 K

FOREST GARDENS

316 M

TREES PLANTED SINCE 1989



DIGGING INTO IMPACT

GROWING BIODIVERSITY

When you enter a Forest Garden, it's a distinct transition. The air is several degrees cooler, it's lush, you see butterflies, and hear birds chirping. It's a relief from the dry, mono-cropped farms you just passed by.

This year we began an independent study to assess the biodiversity within Forest Gardens. The Rainforest Connection took a baseline survey in a random sample of early-stage Forest Gardens. Listening devices were installed to test the sounds and frequency of vocalizing species over time relative to other farms.

Through this and other monitoring methods, we can now track a variety of species, including some on the IUCN Red List, to determine the impact of the Forest Garden on local ecosystems.



SPECIES HIGHLIGHT

A recent study found that beneficial fungi were more abundant in Forest Gardens relative to neighboring mono-cropped areas. This suggests better soil health, soil carbon sequestration, and land productivity in the Forest Gardens. We plan to confirm this in future studies.



Birds are singing. My kids are laughing.
LIFE IS EVERYWHERE.

-Paul (Kenya)



DIGGING INTO IMPACT

GROWING OPPORTUNITY

Young Farmers

Fewer young people are becoming farmers due to limited support and the lack of financial security from low crop yields. According to the United Nations, the average age of the African farmer is 60.

However, opportunities created by Forest Gardens are attracting younger farmers. The average age of the Trees for the Future farmer is 46, well below the continent's average, and in 2023, 25% of TREES program farmers are under 35. Our ambition is to further increase youth participation in our programs.

Female Farmers

Female farmers are the backbone of agricultural communities, leading the path to food security and economic stability for their families and communities. According to the World Bank, women make up 38% of Africa's agricultural workforce.

44% of farmers in our program are women. The empowerment of female farmers is not just a goal; it's a strategy for sustainable change. Trees for the Future is committed to providing equal opportunities, resources, and recognition to women in agriculture, amplifying their voices, and creating a brighter future for all.

44%

“

I never thought I'd be a leader in my community.

-Nuriati (Tanzania)



DIGGING INTO IMPACT

GROWING NUTRITION

“TREES offered us the chance of a lifetime and we are now eating our fill!”
-Seydou (Mali)

Before joining the TREES program, farmers often grew just one crop in their field which was not sufficient to ensure a nutritious diet and food security for their families.

Forest Garden farmers produce more than 12 different crops each year on average, leaving them with plenty to consume from their own backyard alongside income from market sales to buy the additional food to balance out their family's food needs.

2X

Farmers now have more than double the average household's fruit consumption during the dry season when food availability is greatly limited.



Rukia Tanzania

“Feeding a big family is hard but it has become easier with this new way of farming. We always have something to eat from the garden.”
-Rosemary (Uganda)

DIGGING INTO IMPACT

GROWING WEALTH



Through Multiple Enterprises

Forest Garden Farmers are entrepreneurs with the spirit to build something from the ground up. And what grows from their land is now producing more opportunities through new diversity in income generation. Many Farmers now take money made from their crop sales to create additional businesses.



Through More Harvests

Before farmers started the Forest Garden program, they often had long breaks when no food could be grown on their land, leaving them with little to sell. Once farmers establish their Forest Gardens, they are able to harvest five to twenty different varieties of fruits and vegetables every single month. This means farmers are able to bring in consistent income every month of the year.



Through Savings

TREES recently piloted a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) to help farmers grow and use their wealth. Over nine months of the pilot, 112 VSLA groups saved a combined 80 million Tanzanian Shillings (\$32,000 USD) which they are already using for investments in new business ventures, home updates, and meeting medical emergencies.



Thanks to my Forest Garden, I can pay to send my kids to school."

-Guloba (Uganda)

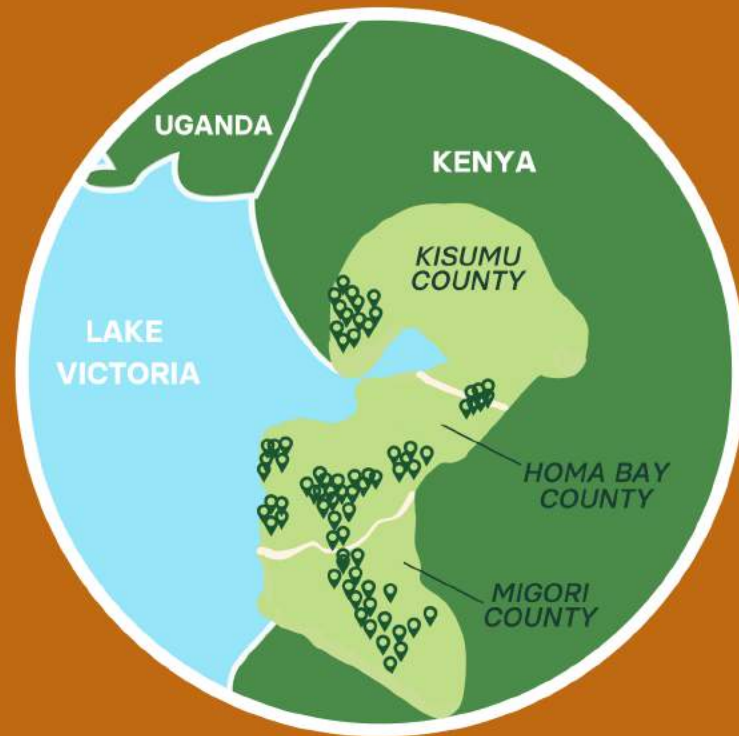


"Honestly, TREES has changed my life. When I joined, I didn't have enough means, I had a horse-cart, but I now have a motorcycle I bought thanks to the program.

-Gora (Senegal)

DIGGING INTO A NEW PATH

Growing Our First Crop of Carbon Credits with Smallholder Farmers



An Opportunity for Impact at Scale

With the support of investor Aspiration Sustainable Impact Services, LLC, 17,000 farmers will initiate Forest Gardens in three counties of Western Kenya by the end of 2023. This is 30% of Forest Gardeners we have served. Our target is to deliver over 4 million Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) over the life of the program and attract investment for further expansion of our work.

Transforming the Landscape

This investment has allowed TREES to engage at the landscape level, designing a program that works across the Lake Victoria Watershed in Kenya. This comprehensive approach to restoration promotes the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the watershed's ecosystem and has deepened our stakeholder engagement with municipalities, counties, and national counterparts.

A Deeper Relationship

This program has transformed our farmer partnerships, moving from 4-year projects to a contract-based engagement over 25 years. Smallholder farmers can now add carbon as a crop in their diversified Forest Gardens. Participating farmers will receive a share of carbon credit profits in addition to the ongoing benefits of food security, household nutrition, and income provided through the Forest Garden Approach.



Pamela Kenya



"I am a widow with five children in school. The stress has been overwhelming. But now my land has been transformed and I conquer poverty through farming. Forest Garden training has made agriculture my new love and hope for the future and good health. And to make it more juicy, I am in a carbon project where I will plant as many trees as possible knowing that I will get money from the VCUs!"

-Betha (Kenya)



Farmers in our carbon projects are entering a whole new phase of the African economy. It's exciting to think about all of the opportunities for them given their new venture. The possibilities are endless."

-Vincent, Kenya Country Director

FINANCIALS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues:	Audited 2022	Audited 2021	Audited 2020
Contributions	\$14,058,667	\$8,374,224	\$11,259,762
Interest and Dividends	47,574	817	1,193
Investment Loss	-	155	309
Other	2,680	254,288	250,000
Total Revenues	14,108,921	8,629,484	11,511,264

Expenses:

Program Expenses:

Tree Planting	9,386,490	9,238,746	5,722,305
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Supporting Services:

Management and General	1,574,288	1,535,898	961,859
Fundraising	1,102,519	892,645	856,350
Total Expenses	12,063,297	11,667,289	7,540,514

Change in Net Assets	2,045,624	(3,037,805)	3,970,750
Net Assets - Beginning	3,047,306	6,085,111	2,310,558
Net Assets - Ending	\$5,092,930	\$3,047,306	\$6,281,308



Thank you for your partnership.

We are proud to stand together with you, our donors, sponsors, and partners in our shared mission toward a more just and integrated world. Your continued support is instrumental in propelling our mission forward, enabling us to catalyze positive change in communities across Africa.

We commit to earning your trust every day as relentless advocates for our mission, as committed stewards of the funds entrusted to our care, and to be transparent in validating and demonstrating our impact.

3.1 K

supporters contributed to our mission this year



"Our 15 years of work with Trees For The Future has been a great journey, planting across multiple countries together. We are proud to support The Forest Garden methodology and are excited to see it expand with its quality, community-based approach."

-EARTHDAY.ORG, Institutional Supporter since 2008

"I give to Trees for the Future because they address multiple global challenges in one approach. I appreciate their transparency and dedication to their donors."

-Beth, Major Donor Since 2014



LES MILLS

"We chose to partner with Trees for the Future so that we could help be a part of their incredible initiative to fight climate change and change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people for the better. We've planted 1,349,242 trees in our first 18 months, and we're excited to see how much more impact we can help TREES make."

-LesMills, Corporate Partner since 2022

WATERING THE SEEDS WE SOW

Nature-based solutions that work for farmers and their communities' needs are central to meeting global net-zero and nature-positive goals. As we move into the latter half of this crucial decade for climate action, TREES and its partners are moving beyond ambition to implementation to address the triple crisis affecting climate, nature loss and inequality.

We invite you to join us in this exciting phase of growth and impact. Together, we can cultivate a greener planet, stronger communities, and a legacy of positive change that will endure for generations to come.



The Forest Garden Approach meets nine out of the 17 United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.



**TREES
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