



Our Impact

2020



Contents

- 4 About ITF
- 6 Why we Plant Trees
- 8 2020 in Numbers
- 9 An introduction by ITF
Chair, Dr Stephen Vickers
- 10 What ITF and our Partners
Achieved by Ricardo Romero,
Programme Manager
- 12 Our work in Kenya
- 13 Our work in Uganda
- 14 Our work in the UK
- 15 Join us

Patron
HRH The Prince of Wales

Chair
Dr Stephen Vickers

Board of Trustees
Ms M Grecna, Mr J Kimani, Ms M
McBrien, Prof K Schreckenber,
Ms M Reru, Ms L Rainbow, Ms R
Wanyoike, Ms C MacQueen.



About Us

International Tree Foundation was founded in Kenya, in 1922. We are tree planters, farmers, foresters, entrepreneurs, teachers, members and supporters. Today, we work in nine African countries and across the UK and Ireland.

At ITF, we plant the right species, in the right place, for the right reasons. But our work is about more than each tree planted.

We know that the relationship between people and forests determines the success of a planting project. That's why we are a community-led organisation.

Meaning that the people whose livelihoods depend upon local forests are the people who decide which trees to plant, where, and why.

As communities restore their own landscapes, they join the global restoration movement. They help to mitigate the catastrophic threats of the climate crisis while improving their ecosystems, landscapes and lives.

As we like to say, it takes a community to restore a forest.



“

“I used to be very shy and low financially, but this project helped me to build a house. I bought a cow and have been able to get funds to meet basic needs through the sale of tree seedlings.

“The project, through WWANC (Women in Water and Natural Resource Conservation), has supported me to gain knowledge and skills that I did not have to improve my family livelihood and other community members. I have learnt that planting trees could improve our life. It means financial benefit, quality rainfall, more food.”

Margret Ukokhe, Siuchi Women Group, Kenya.

Why We Plant Trees

We plant the right tree species in the right place because when reforestation is done right it improves ecosystems, landscapes and lives.

Forest Restoration

Reforestation or protecting existing forests stops degradation, allows biodiversity to flourish and makes the land more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Forest Services

Thousands of communities depend on forests for food, medicine and firewood. Planting trees improves access to these vital resources and protects ancient woodlands against deforestation. Furthermore, planting trees near communities reduces the amount of time spent on chores leaving more time for education and paid work.

Carbon Sequestration

Trees capture and store carbon helping to combat the effects of climate change.

Biodiversity

Planting native trees helps restore ecosystem and allows biodiversity, from tiny microbes and fungi to ancient trees and animals, to flourish.

Gender Inclusion

In many of the communities where we work, women have little access or control over land but they have the burden and hardship of tending to it. Through education and training, forest restoration can play a significant role in advancing gender justice.

Agroforestry

When trees are planted on farms, they improve soil which leads to higher yields. Trees also give shelter and food for livestock and wildlife.

Livelihoods

Teaching people to grow and graft trees and create their own nurseries provides a new income while the trees themselves produce nuts, fruit other resources which can be sold.





© Ed Nix



805,873

wonderful trees planted and growing.



49,908

beautiful hectares of forest conserved or restored.



18

projects increased vital biodiversity or ecosystem services.



114

community organisations increased forestry and agroforestry capacity.



1,984

participants increased household income through our projects.



2,199

hardworking smallholder farmers increased their yield.



26,359

people reached through awareness campaigns.



14,043

young people learned about our environment and conservation.



9,508

wonderful people participated in our projects over the year.



1,131

brilliant teachers and youth workers trained.



54

% of leadership roles in our brilliant partner organisations held by women.



1,182

community organisation staff and generous volunteers received training.

“

“I have added more knowledge in agroforestry, especially on how trees can directly benefit my livestock, my family, and prevent soil erosion. I can provide food for my family, and other people are now respecting me more in the community.” Nadupoi.

Nadupoi is one of 30 other community members trained in tree nursery management and planting in the Mara, Kenya. She can now pass on her skills to family and friends, helping more people get involved in this vital work and reap benefits for themselves.

An Introduction

Dr Stephen Vickers

“He prayeth best, who loveth best, all things both great and small”, observes Coleridge’s narrator in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Those who feel such a respect for all life find a natural home in organisations devoted to trees.

Trees are a major anchor for terrestrial life. A single large tree can host thousands of individuals of hundreds of species. It can raise the humidity and lower the ambient temperature of its environment, create and stabilise soil, enhance fertility and ameliorate flooding.

These environmental services are augmented by values such as improved agricultural yield, shade, construction materials, fuel, community spaces and personal well-being. Since the Dance of the Trees hosted by Njonjo and St Barbe Baker, Watu wa Miti, now the International Tree Foundation, has focussed upon the relationships between trees and people.

The essence of community-led forestry is that trees thrive when people in their locality value them. Whether raising rural incomes or regenerating forests, we work with local partners. The potential and responsibility of ITF projects to address gender imbalances, especially in leadership, is central for ITF.

2020 was a year of solid progress by a remarkable staff team based in Nairobi and Oxford in a year of unprecedented global challenges. As the world recovers from the pandemic, we must redouble our efforts. And as we head into our Centenary Year, I thank the ITF members, staff and trustees, without whose enthusiasm none of this would have been possible.



What We've Achieved

Ricardo Romero

We're proud to say that in 2020 we planted 805,873 trees with 41 partners in nine African countries and the UK. To have planted nearly twice as many trees as the year before, when dealing with an unprecedented pandemic, is a testament to the resilience and creativity of ITF partners and to our community of people growing trees. We'd like to express our gratitude to everyone who supports and delivers ITF's programme.

Of particular note is the Watu wa Miti programme in Kenya, which under Teresa Gitonga's leadership grew to twelve active partnerships across ten counties. In 2020, the communities in our Kenya programme delivered improvements in ecosystem services, preserved biodiversity, and strengthened landscape resilience whilst creating economic opportunities and improving the livelihoods of 1,984 households. 2020 also marked the expansion for our gender integration activities in Kenya, resulting in an increase of women in leadership positions to 54%.

Our Mount Bamboutos Initiative entered its final stage in 2020. An ambitious three-year project designed to conserve one of the most important biodiversity hotspots of the world. A total of 266,608 agroforestry trees were planted in 2019 and 2020 on farms around Mount Bamboutos. 400,907 native forest trees were planted to restore approximately 2,849 hectares of degraded forest land, while dealing with heightened political instability and the impact of the pandemic.

In 2020, the Sustainable Community Forestry (SCF) programme had 25 active partnerships, 17 of which were funded by the Prince of Wales Charitable Fund. SCF projects grew 146,101 trees and restored 11,526 ha of degraded forest and farm land. 11,229 school children and teachers were trained in conservation and growing trees.

We also launched an ambitious new UK and Ireland Programme in 2020, under the leadership of Sam Pearce. And relaunched our Schools Programme designed to encourage a sense of forest stewardship in school children – in our future.



Kenya

Kakamega County is home to the Kakamega forest – Kenya’s only remaining rainforest. A beautiful ancient forest, it shapes the local climate, is rich in wildlife, and plays a crucial role in the region’s economy. Today, this forest is under threat.

Our partner, Rose, founded Women in Water and Natural Resource Conservation (WWANC). An organisation that helps communities to restore forests by employing and training local people in tree planting and selling seedlings and running tree nurseries.

Salome Wambetsa was one of the women who received this life changing training, “Tree planting is life for me,” says Salome. “I sell seedlings to earn a livelihood. I used the money I got from tree seedlings to take my first-born son to college.

“When I started, my husband did not like the idea that I wanted to spearhead tree planting in our farm and other areas. Sometimes back, our culture did not allow women to plant trees because land belonged to men. But with the benefits I have brought to, our home my husband is okay and I can freely plant trees.

“Tree planting also mean working as a team. I keep records of all tree nurseries and trees planted and this have shown me that when women come together a lot of good things happen. I have learnt that we have to take care of our environment.”



Types of Trees Planted

Grevillea Robusta	Avocado
Moringa Oleifera	Orange
Prunus Africana	Mango
African Mahogany	



Types of Trees Planted

Albezia
Musizi
Moringa
Mango

Uganda

Masika Margret lives on the slopes of Rwenzori mountains, Uganda. She is the Board Chairperson of our planting partner, Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative (AWEI). Her favourite tree is the Mango tree. However, she says, she loves any tree that is “friendly to food production and environment”.

This project not only helps to reforest and restore a beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site, it also provides women farmers with food and wood for cooking and construction. Giving local people vital wood resources on their own farms saves them time that can now be spent on education or jobs. And it gives the ancient forest a chance to recover, protecting the natural environment that makes this region famous.

“I love trees because of the support they bring to the livelihood and environment sustainability,” says Masika. “Poverty and hunger are major causes for deforestation. Women are good change agents in increasing tree survival when empowered.”

“This project has enabled other women to get better knowledge and skills on tree planting, maintenance and the dangers of deforestation. I’m very proud that AWEI have directly supported over 1,063 women to plant and maintain grafted mangoes trees for food, income and support the environment.”

England

Oxford City Farm was set up a few years ago on a site in East Oxford, England as a space where people can grow food together, learn new skills, and meet new people.

In 2020, we helped them plant a forest garden – a natural and inspiring means of food production that combines the planting of native trees and bushes with natural nutrient cycles.

Forest gardens are modelled on a woodland edge – at the top layer, there are tall canopy trees (usually nut trees) which grow above the smaller fruit trees. At the bottom there are fruit bushes, perennial plants and climbers. In a well-planned forest garden, nature pretty much does all the work. The nitrogen-fixing trees bring up nutrients from the subsoil, the ground cover plants protect the soil and encourage good microbial soil life, and the whole edifice acts as a wind break to slow down airflow, creating a moist microclimate.

Before planting began, Oxford City Farm held two mini workshops, designed to give participants a taste of how to plan and plant a forest garden, followed by two tree planting events in February 2020. More than 200 people got involved in planting. And countless others will get involved in the future as the new garden will provide an important teaching space and resource for the Farm for years to come.

“Many of our participants told us that they hadn’t planted a tree before because they didn’t know how or what to plant. Getting these people involved is absolutely what we are all about at the Farm,” says Sally Mullard, Partnerships and Volunteers Coordinator at Oxford City Farm.

“What we really hope is that the people who have come to the Farm will get just a little inspired and skilled-up to ‘have a go at home’ or get involved in a local community growing project. We want people to feel a bit more confident in their skills and thinking ‘that’s not so difficult, why don’t I have a go at home?’ What could be a more special and potent response to our current environmental woes?”



Types of Trees Planted

Hazel
Hawthorn
Lime
Medlar
Mulberry
Saskatoon
Apricot

Join Us

Trees sustain life. They are vital to our very existence. And right now, the world urgently needs more.

ITF was founded in 1922 as a community-led forest restoration movement, and we still are. Join our global community of people planting trees, and become a part of the restoration movement.

Visit Internationaltreefoundation.org to find out how you can take action and grow trees every day.



01865 922 430

Charity number 1106269

Company number 05219549

internationaltreefoundation.org

info@internationaltreefoundation.org

The Old Music Hall, Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1JE, United Kingdom



**International
Tree Foundation**
Founded 1922