TANZANIA

TRANSITIONING KINESI VILLAGE FARMERS TO PERMACULTURE FARMING

May 2017 Report

TREES FINANCED

515,565

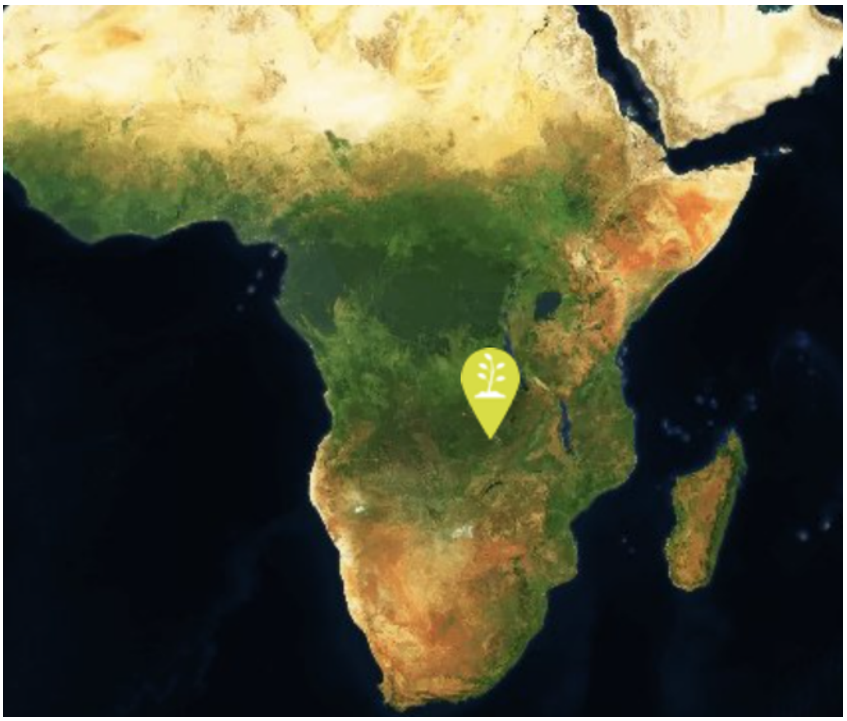
BENEFICIARIES

2,599

A total of 515,565 trees have been financed thanks to the support of donors and sponsors

THE PROJECT

In collaboration with our partner, Global Resource Alliance, WeForest is empowering rural families in the Rorya district of Tanzania, near the village of Kinesi, with trees. The area is being cleared of its forests primarily to produce charcoal for cooking, but grazing by goats and cows are also threatening the forests. Through our project, communities are restoring forests and cooling our earth by planting trees. Rural families benefit from diversified incomes, increased food security and access to medicinal resources and timber as well. At Nyamunga nursery, families of vulnerable orphans nurture the young trees until they are strong enough to be transplanted to homesteads, school grounds and plantations. The project also tackles charcoal production at its source, offers training in sustainable agricultural and provides educational support for local children.



KEY DETAILS:

Location: Kinesi village, Rorya district, Mara region

GPS: S126.276, E33 51.496

Restoration approach: Planting and agroforestry

Partners: Global Resource Alliance

PLANTING UPDATE

KEY PLANTING FACTS

- 515,565 trees have been financed
- 65 species planted
- Main species planted: *Markhamia lutea, Azadirachta indica, Acacia nilotica, Psidium guajava*

During this reporting period, the team monitored the progress of the trees funded with WeForest by conducting an audit of 40 plots, which is a total of 98,610 trees. The audit revealed a survival rate of 75.5%, close to our target survival rate of 80%. To continue supplying trees to the local villagers and increasing survival rates, the project is sourcing more high quality seeds from the local markets and the nearby forests and training beneficiaries to nurture and protect the growing trees (Figure 1 & 2). On 1st April, our planting partner celebrated Earth Day by planting 2,000 native hardwood trees in a plot of land set aside for sustainable charcoal production. This is part of a scheme to tackle harmful charcoal production at its source. Villagers and local authorities turned up to celebrate the event. During this reporting period, with support from sponsors and donors, WeForest funded trees that were transplanted prior to this reporting period.

NOVEMBER - APRIL 2017:

- 40 audits performed
- Survival rate of 75.5%

Figure 1. The flourishing nursery where young seedlings are nurtured and young children are empowered

Figure 2. The guardian of a young orphan waters the growing seedlings

SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE

KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTS:

- 2,599 beneficiaries
- 131 schools
- 19 employees
- Over 200 families set up tree related businesses

A total of 2,599 beneficiaries have transplanted trees, 131 of which are schools. The trees provide timber, firewood, fruit, fencing, medicine and more. At schools, fruit trees provide a healthy snack for students and timber trees provide construction material for classroom furniture. More than 200 families have set up small-scale businesses to sell their forest products and earn a living. In addition, the project employees 19 individuals at the Nyamunga nursery and provides them with a sustainable income to take home to their families. Some of these are guardians of children orphaned due to AIDS.

NOVEMBER - APRIL 2017:

- 55% of beneficiaries with Rafiki status
- 250 fuel-efficient cooking stoves sold

Figure 3. Utegi Primary School has planted 1,755 timber and fruit trees. They have already started to harvest fruit and father firewood

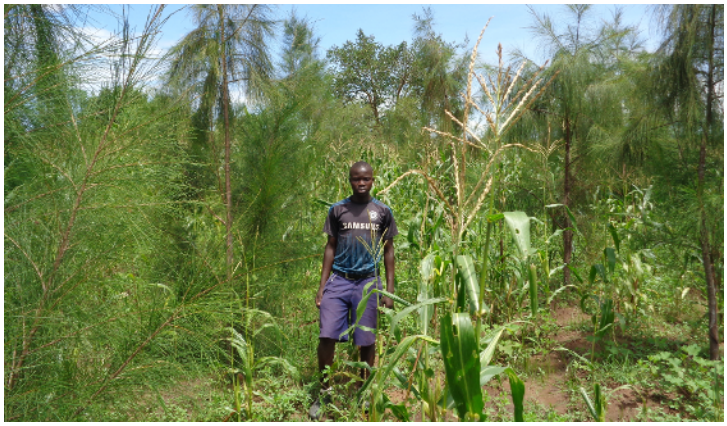


Figure 4. Girigori Cacha has planted 870 timber trees and hopes to be able to provide for his wife and children through the income he makes through the project

The Rafiki ("friends of the trees") Club is a scheme that encourages recipients to aim for a survival rate of 80% or higher. If they meet this target, they are entitled to seedlings and training free of charge from the nursery. Of those that have been audited this reporting period, 55% have Rafiki status. The team is continuing to focus on educating old and new customers on how to take care of trees and how to create their own nurseries for those that have lost their Rafiki status.

TACKLING CHARCOAL AT ITS SOURCE

Charcoal is one of Africa's biggest challenges, economically, environmentally and health-wise. Producing charcoal causes large swathes of forests to be cleared. In the Rorya district, where the project is based, this is the primary reason for the area's high level of deforestation. When used for cooking, charcoal exposes families to toxic smoke as well. Across the globe, household air pollution from cooking fires kills more children every year than AIDS and malaria combined. The project tackles unsustainable charcoal production in two main ways.

FUEL EFFICIENT COOKING STOVES

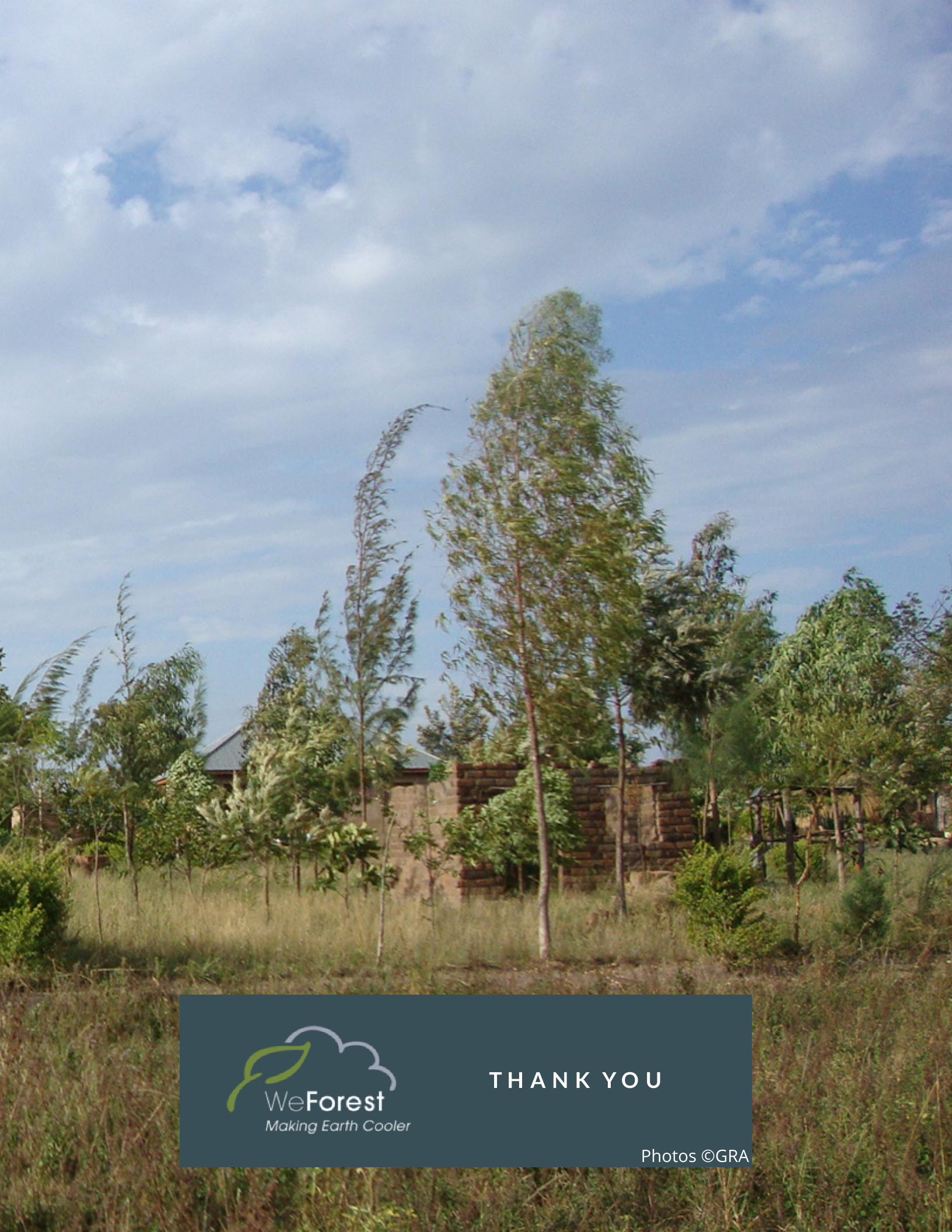
Fuel-efficient cooking stoves are sold at a reduced price to local families to empower them to switch from charcoal burning to running cleaner, healthier kitchens. These stoves are in high demand with 250 stoves sold so far. The stoves need less fuel to run and they pollute less. It is estimated that charcoal consumption could be reduced by around 75% and toxic emissions by about 60%. An awareness raising campaign is also taking place to inform families about the environmental and health impact of charcoal cooking.

A SUSTAINABLE FOREST PLOT AND EFFICIENT CHARCOAL KILN

Our project partner has set aside a two hectare plot for the purpose of producing a sustainable, charcoal forest for rural families. The plot will be planted with predominantly hardwood trees, such as *Acacia* spp., which are a good source of charcoal. This plot will be coppiced and thinned through a sustainable harvesting approach and the cuttings will be used to operate a high efficiency Adam Retort charcoal kiln. This type of charcoal kiln is more affordable and roughly doubles the amount of charcoal produced from the same amount of wood as traditional methods. It reduces toxic emissions during production by an impressive 75%.

Figure 5. The sustainable forest plot

Figure 6. Villagers digging holes to prepare for planting in sustainable forest plot



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THANK YOU

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