

TANZANIA

KINESI

SEPTEMBER 2019



As trees provide decades of food, medicine, shade, firewood, carbon fixation, environmental enhancements, wildlife habitat and beauty for local villagers, tree planting proves to be one of the most versatile and cost-effective means to improve quality of life for people living in impoverished areas.

So far this year, the project underwent a tremendous growth and established a new nursery in the Butiama district. Upcoming fall, we will be distributing trees to all 7 districts of the Mara region - Bunda, Butiama, Musoma Rural, Musoma Urban, Serengeti, Rorya and Tarime.

As our Tanzania staff doubled over the past half year, so did our capacity and - as we expect to plant an additional 1 million trees next year, or half a million each season – we will continue to hire new staff (in many cases doubling).

Taking advantage of the rainy season

162,085 trees have been distributed from the Nyamunga nursery in Kinesi

Furthermore, there are 240,000 trees in our two nurseries waiting to be distributed in the upcoming rainy season, starting in November.

The tree distributions were high in November 2018 as a full advantage has been taken of the fall rainy season.

From March to November and again in June and July no trees were distributed as due to the dry season many of the trees wouldn't have survived. During this season, we continued to focus on training old and new customers to take care of trees and create their own nurseries.

In April, we distributed nearly 100,000 trees – making this highest monthly quantity ever planted by our partner GRA in Tanzania.



High tree survival rates

We audited 212 plots during the last 9 months for a total of 194,649 trees and the survival rate was 83% which is higher than the target survival rate of 80%. Part of this success is due to the monitoring of how people take care of the trees by using the Rafiki (which means: “Friends of the Trees”) status, and by keeping only those who have survival rates equal to or greater than 80% in that category.

Doubling our staff

Over the past half year, a whole new nursery has been created in Butiama District. This nursery now employs 8 workers, including a supervisor, two guards (day and night), one cook and a trainer. The last one trains the communities in the planting of trees (preparation of the holes, use manure, need of water, protection from animals etc etc) and in taking care of the trees on the long term.

The number of permanent tree nursery caretakers has been doubled over the last half year, from 4 to 8. Some of the new caretakers are guardians of orphans and others are members of the Kinesi Village community. After the installation of a new irrigation system last year, the Nyamunga plot has now also contracted a security guard and a cook.

Earlier this year a new pick-up truck has been acquired which allows us to be quicker and more efficient when auditing trees for larger orders.



Benefits for the community

So far, 3.076 individuals have benefitted from the project. Most people who plant trees and keep them alive, come back the following year for more trees which shows that the project is considered a success amongst community members.

150 primary and secondary schools have enthusiastically participated in tree planting on their premises. Furthermore, at schools, fruit trees provide a healthy snack for students while timber trees provide construction material for classroom furniture. The schools are thankful for the project as the planted trees provide an educational added value, economic benefits and environmental restoration. In turn, we welcome their enthusiastic participation in tree planting on their campuses.

200 families have set up small-scale businesses to sell their forest products and earn a living.

The project employs 22 individuals; of which 11 at the Nyamunga nursery and 10 at the Butiama nursery, together with the local coordinator Obadia. These employees now earn a sustainable income to take home to their families. Some of these are guardians of children orphaned due to AIDS.



Tree species

37 varieties of trees have been distributed during these 6 months, amongst others:

Fruit trees: Guava trees, Mango trees (*Mangifera indica*), Lemon trees (*Citrus s.p.p.*), Orange trees, Avocado trees (*Persea americana*), Papaya trees (*Carica papaya*) and Passion fruit trees.

Medicinal trees: Moringa Oleifera, Neem

Trees suitable for timber, nitrogen fixing, fencing, food for livestock and as ornamentals: *Casuarina*, *Syzygium*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Cupressus lusitanica*, *Melia azadirachta*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Terminalia mentalis*, *Terminalia catappa*, *Persea*, *Acrocarpus*, *Jacaranda*, *Markhamia lutea*, Mkongo tree (Axon tree), *Leucaena*.

Furthermore, in our Butiama and Kinesi nurseries we grow species that have been marked as vulnerable on the IUCN red list: *Khaya anthotheca*, *Croton megalocarpus*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*.

Trees are usually planted at 2 to 3 meter intervals when planted at schools and other institutions. When planted at individual plots, the density varies greatly.

The president wants to plant trees

As we mentioned in our previous report, Tanzania's President John Magufuli has ordered that each district should plant 150,000 trees per year – this includes efforts made by the government, schools, family plots, etc. As the Mara region has 7 districts – Bunda, Butiama, Musoma Rural, Musoma Urban, Serengeti, Rorya and Tarim – the region will need 1,050,000 seedlings in total. We have received visits or calls from the district commissioners of five of these regions asking our local partner GRA to provide them with as many trees as possible.



Photo: GRA



13 families benefiting from permaculture

The project is being developed hand in hand with a permaculture project in Kinesi. Permaculture refers to agricultural ecosystems that are sustainable and self-sufficient while using natural resources and enriching local ecosystems.

We introduced permaculture in the region in 2007 and were actually the first in Tanzania to provide a permaculture design course. Since then, we provide permaculture training to local farmers and help families in Kinesi who took in orphans, to develop their own permaculture gardens. This year we developed a new plan to share our 9-acre plot where the Kinesi tree planting nursery is based with guardians of the orphans in the village. We provide land, seeds, water, and manure with which they grow their own food, grains, and vegetables.

This year 13 families have benefited from this opportunity. Guardians grow maize, beans, cassava, and all kinds of vegetables to feed their families and are able to sell the surplus in the market.



Photo: GRA

WeForest is an international non-profit that specializes in mobilizing companies to restore the World's forests and embark their stakeholders into a long-term journey towards environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, we need to start decreasing our global emissions by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by the second half of this century. While reducing carbon emissions is critical, research suggests that even if carbon dioxide emissions came to a sudden halt, the carbon dioxide already in the Earth's atmosphere could continue to warm our planet for hundreds of years. The challenge is to reduce future carbon emissions and actively remove the excess carbon from our atmosphere.

Forests are known as the best technology for that: they are an amazing carbon sink.

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