TANZANIA

TRANSITIONING KINESI VILLAGE FARMERS TO PERMACULTURE FARMING

Nov 2017 Report

TREES FINANCED

515,565

BENEFICIARIES

2,823

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 people to plant trees in the Rorya district of Tanzania, near the village of Kinesi. The area is being cleared of its forests for cooking charcoal primarily, but grazing by goats and cows is also threatening the forests. Our project is enabling communities to restore forests to combat climate change and improve livelihoods. In doing so they can increase food security and access to medicinal and timber resources, improve and diversify their incomes, and combat climate change. Our trees are grown at Nyamunga nursery, where they are nurtured by families of vulnerable orphans. 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*

Seeds are purchased at local markets or collected from the forest in the area and nurtured in Nyamunga nursery. Here, the young seedlings are nurtured until they are ready to be transplanted to homesteads, school grounds and plantations. Species include timber, fuelwood, ornamental, fruit, fence and medicinal trees. During this reporting period, the team audited 26 plots, where a total of 45,755 trees have been transplanted. The audit revealed a survival rate of 80.4%. The team is excited to have met its target of an 80% survival rate this period. This is a substantial increase from the last reported survival rate of 75.5%. The team is currently retraining those customers that fell below the 80% target on the proper care of trees and nursery management. All those that fell below this target have agreed to create their own nurseries or buy seedlings themselves to replant.

MAY - OCTOBER 2017:

- 26 audits performed
- Survival rate of 80.4%

Figure 1. The nursery beds flourish in the shade at Nyamunga.


Figure 2. Our five millionth tree is now three and a half years old.

WeForest's five millionth tree is now three and a half years old. Planted at the Nyamunga plot, the tree belongs to the species *Casuarina equisetifolia*. This tree represents the importance of good soil, mulching and watering. It shows what can be achieved with proper care of a young seedling.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE

KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTS:

- 2,823 beneficiaries
- 181 schools
- 6 employees and 12 guardians
- Over 200 families set up tree related businesses

A total of 2,823 beneficiaries have transplanted trees, 181 of which are schools. Providing a variety of important services, like timber, firewood, fruit, fencing, medicine and more, the trees are highly valued by the local people. More than 200 families have set up small-scale tree related businesses, not only using their forest products for themselves, but selling them too. The project now employs six people at the Nyamunga nursery and provides them with a sustainable income to take home to their families. 12 guardians of children orphaned due to AIDS are also working at the nursery and the permaculture plot. This period also saw the annual Uhuru torch ceremony celebrated at Nyamunga nursery. Guests attended a ceremony at the nursery to celebrate environmental protection.

MAY - OCTOBER 2017:

- 62% of beneficiaries with Rafiki status
- Uhuru torch run ceremony

Figure 3. Children at Kisumwa secondary school stand in the shade of one of their trees.

Figure 4. Children at Chereche primary school pose for a photo in their tree garden.

Of those that have been audited this reporting period, 62% have a high enough survival rate to gain Rafiki status (>80% survival rate). As a member of the Rafiki (“friends of the trees”) Club, farmers are entitled to seedlings and training free of charge from the nursery. This scheme is designed to encourage recipients to aim for a minimum survival rate of 80%.

CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AT NYAMGUNGA

This year, the annual Uhuru torch run, where a lighted torch is carried through locations all around the country spreading a social message, celebrated environmental protection and its relationship to the national economy. The Nyamunga tree nursery and permaculture training center was selected as an outstanding example of environmental stewardship and as a venue for the Uhuru torch celebration. On August 28th, Madaraka Nyerere, Executive Director of Global Resource Alliance, Tanzania, and the son of Julius Nyerere, gave a short report on GRA projects to approximately 250 people attending the event, including government officials, students, villagers, police and members of the military. Guest of honor, Mr. Amour Hamad Amour, and his colleagues were given a tour of the nursery and were introduced to the variety of tree species growing. Trees were planted to commemorate GRA's work and the distribution of 600,000 trees in the area over the past several years in partnership with WeForest. The event was shown on local TV and covered by several local news agencies.

Figure 5. Guests visit the project for the Uhuru celebrations.

Figure 6. A tree is planted by the guest of honor.

A SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL FOREST

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 harvested sustainably though coppicing and thinning 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 7. Young seedlings growing at the charcoal forest site.

WeForest
Making Earth Cooler

THANK YOU

Photos ©GRA