

Butiama Hills, Tanzania

and the Mara project

Hillside forest restoration and
transitioning villages to agroforestry



Mid-year update 2024

Butiama, Tanzania



Project status

47 hectares
under restoration

More than 101 000 trees
protected & growing



An area of rolling hills, agricultural fields and wooded areas in northern Tanzania, Butiama district in the Mara region is around 30 km from Lake Victoria.

Tree cutting by families living around the hills for charcoal and firewood, extensive cattle grazing and unsustainable farming practices have led to severe degradation of the landscape.

Our project here with the Global Resources Alliance project aims to increase forest cover, restore water springs and improve the incomes of surrounding families by restoring more than 1400 ha of degraded hills while supporting the development of 800 ha of agroforestry on lands belonging to smallholder farmers.

The boundary of the proposed Butiama Community Forest Reserve in the degraded

hills has been recognized locally, and the team is waiting for the official map from the National Committee of Land Use Planning. The restoration activities will start a little later than planned due to difficulties in hiring a forester. However, the project has gained a very valuable Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator in the shape of Leonard Lutalamila, who has developed high-quality, comprehensive M&E guidelines for the project. Here's Leonard gathering data for the seedling survival survey in late June, from which the results are currently being analysed.





The project's agroforestry component – which will diversify sources of food and income while increasing forest cover – is well on track. Phase 1 (2023–2026) aims to engage more than 900 families in agroforestry, and with a second cohort of 194 farmers (151 men and 43 women) joining the first 145 recruited in 2023, we're more than a third of the way there. In the photo above, some of these new farmers are taking part in a training session on how to make and use compost and fertilizers using locally available materials.

In the first few months of 2024, one of our key activities has been nurturing seedlings in the tree nursery, ensuring they're strong and healthy as we await the perfect moment for distribution. The team has also been visiting more than half of the 145 farmers from 2023 to support them in preparing to receive their

second batches of seedlings. By the end of March, with the rains beginning to fall steadily, the timing was ideal—the seedlings were finally ready to leave the nursery and start their new lives in the agroforestry plots.



Recipients of trees in our closed Mara project nearby continue to receive follow-up support from our partner GRA. We distributed 3.1 million tree seedlings between 2011 and 2022 here.

You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive maps ([Butiama](#) | [Mara](#)), and check out the Flickr albums: [Butiama](#) | [Mara](#)

Here you can find an overview of all communications assets and guidance on how to communicate about your partnership with WeForest: [Butiama](#) | [Mara](#)



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