



The world is at a crucial moment in defining how we steward our planet. Trillion Trees believes preserving and restoring forests is critical to responding to the challenge of climate change.

# **Trillion Trees ReForest Fund** 2021 Report

Turning pledges into action



# Restoring forests – for people, nature & climate

A quarter of all tropical forests – about 500 million hectares – has been lost since 1950. That's 20 times the size of the UK. This loss has been driven by unsustainable demand for commodities such as timber, wood pulp, palm oil, soy, beef, rubber, cocoa, and metals.

The health of forests that are still standing is further degraded by burning, fragmentation, and loss of ecologically critical species of wildlife.

### But we're fighting back. The Trillion Trees ReForest Fund returns the right trees to the right places, and in the right way.

The ReForest Fund supports forest restoration across a portfolio of sites where BirdLife International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF have long-term conservation programmes.

Our projects focus on recovering and regrowing natural forests, but we take a landscape approach, using a wide range of methods, and looking for opportunities to provide livelihoods improvements and address the underlying drivers of deforestation. This ensures our efforts make a lasting contribution to reducing carbon in the atmosphere and preserving critical biodiversity.

Whether you donate to restore 1 tree or 10,000, your support ensures forests thrive into the future.

Trillion Trees launched the ReForest Fund in 2020, and thanks to your support, we made our first ReForest Fund grants in early 2021. This report highlights some of the successes already achieved.

# In 2021, the ReForest Fund supported projects in Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania.

At each place, we have built trusting relationships with local communities and work with them to develop appropriate solutions for all stakeholders. Support from the ReForest Fund helps these projects expand their efforts on the ground and increase their scale of ambition: planting more trees, and restoring more forest. But our portfolio is expanding and we hope to make more grants to other projects soon.



With further support we can bring in more projects and scale our impact. Please visit **trilliontrees.org/reforest-fund** to make a donation.



Mount Kenya Natural forest restoration Community woodlots



Coastal Forests, Tanzania Avoided deforestation Natural forest restoration



Makira, Madagascar Natural forest corridors Community agroforestry

### **2021 Projects**

# Restoring forest and saving water in Kenya

Mount Kenya's rich natural biodiversity includes 778 plant species, and iconic animals like the African elephant, leopard and endangered black rhino. It is one of the last few east African homes for the bongo (a forest antelope), along with giant forest hogs, black-fronted duikers and mole shrews. Its cherished birds include rare kinds of starlings, ibis, and the endangered Sharpe's longclaw.

This is also one of the largest water catchments for Kenya, providing drinking water for over 2 million people. And supporting widespread agriculture, including coffee and tea plantations, plus important hydropower projects and manufacturing. It was recently estimated that the Mount Kenya area provides the country with ecosystem services worth around \$220 million per year. This area has also become one of the most densely populated parts of Kenya, which puts increasing pressure on forest resources. The Mount Kenya area is home to 28 forest-edge communities. Most of them have fairly low incomes and depend on local agriculture, timber for construction, and wood fuel for cooking – all of which impacts on the forests. Through the Mount Kenya Restoration Strategy 2019-2029, 6170 hectares were identified as needing immediate restoration. This project is working towards that goal.

During the spring planting season in March-May 2021, Nature Kenya was not only able to plant 25,000 seedlings, but also:

- Support four Community Forest Associations to maintain restored forest, weeding around replanted trees and replacing seedlings where necessary.
- Carry out bird monitoring in different land use types to compare natural forest, restored forest, and plantation. The results show that natural forests had the highest species diversity, with restored natural forest second. This monitoring will enable us to track the recovery of biodiversity in restored areas.



<u>Read here about how</u> <u>Paul Gacheru, Nature Kenya</u> <u>Programme Manager, is working</u> <u>with communities to restore a</u> <u>vital watershed in Kenya</u>

► Watch the video 'Nature Matters to All of Us'

#### Kenya ReForest Fund sites, 2021





Figure 1. In 2021 Nature Kenya has restored around 40 ha of natural forest at five sites around Mount Kenya, planting 25,000 trees. Photos © Nature Kenya









Project location: Mount Kenya, central Kenya

Trees planted this year: 25,000 indigenous tree seedlings – 14 native species

Hectares restored this year: around 40 ha

Local beneficiaries this year: 1,245 (598 men, 647 women)



Makira Natural Park, Madagascar - Pont Forestier Anjanaharibe-Maintimbato

Trees planted this year: 7,854 – 18 native species Hectares restored this years 8.5 ha Local beneficiaries this year:

43

### **2021 Projects**

## **Connecting forest** patches in Madagascar

The Makira restoration project plants trees and restores forest in the Makira Natural Park and its buffer zone. Tree planting in the park contributes to the ecological reconstitution of degraded areas, while tree planting in the buffer zone helps to stabilize soil and provide socio-economic benefits to buffer zone farming communities. The ReForest Fund has enabled restoration to start at a new project site.

Makira faces a number of challenges including growing demands for agricultural land for slash-andburn rice production (tavy), as well as clearing forest for timber and cash crops. Restoration within the park focuses on particular forest 'corridors' which are important to allow forest-dependent species such as endangered lemurs, greater freedom to move.

Madagascar ReForest Fund sites, 2021





Figure 2. In 2021, WCS Madagascar began the restoration of a new forest corridor site. Nearly 8,000 trees have been planted so far this year, with work ongoing to plant 12,000 more. © WCS Madagasca

Thirty-six native and lemur-friendly tree species have been identified for use in ecological restoration. Seeds are collected in the park and gown in community nurseries near restoration sites. Restoration plantings involve members of local communities and WCS staff. Restoration teams continue to maintain newly planted sites for up to five years after tree planting, to ensure restoration objectives are achieved. From February to August 2021, the project has been able to not only plant 7,854 young plants, but

- Purchase field materials for restoration teams (e.g. spades, machetes for clearing invasive undergrowth, rakes, watering cans).
- Establish two new community nurseries and recruit two more tree nursery supervisors from local communities.



Read here about how Felix Ratelolahy, WCS Technical Manager, is helping to restore Madagascar to its former **'Green Glory'** 







# Restoring degraded forest in Tanzania

These three forests are some of the last remaining fragments of coastal forests in Kisarawe and Mkuranga Districts, and the area is one of 25 Global Biodiversity 'Hotspots' due to high species diversity and number of endemic species. Not only are these forests home to extraordinary plant and wildlife, but are incredibly important to the 4 million people living in Dar es Salaam and those around the forests. They are vital sources of food, water and contribute to the livelihoods of adjacent communities.

Illegal activities and rapid population growth have affected these forests, with significant degradation occurring over the years due to unsustainable utilisation of forest resources. The additional challenges of deliberately set fires has impacted some of the work, and other illegal activities such as pole cutting and charcoal making are affecting forest regeneration.

To restore these forests, WWF has been targeting forest gaps – or areas where trees have been lost – to reconnect patches. Focusing on planting native species and protecting areas planted and already standing, natural regeneration of the forest has occurred, with an impressive estimate of 2558 stems per hectare. This reporting period represents the final stages of this multi-year restoration project, which has now reached its planting goal, but will continue to monitor growth. This year, not only were 24,000 seedlings planted, but WWF also

- Worked with 124 people from community groups who participated in planting and also benefitted through paid labour.
- Encouraged ecotourism, with an average of 500 people per month.
- Created jobs for youth tour guides.
- Engaged youth through the Foresters of the Future programme, by getting them involved in planting.
- Supported the annual Ushoroba festival in Kisarawe District, which promotes ecotourism and conservation.



Read here about how
Azaria Kilimba, WWF Forest
Programme Officer, is pioneering
work in community forest
conservation in Tanzania

#### ► Watch an amazing video about the project here





Figure 3. In 2021, WWF Tanzania worked with communities and youth to plant 24,500 seedlings. Photos © WWF









#### Project location: Kazimzumbwi, Pugu and Vikindu coastal forests, Tanzania

#### Trees planted this year:

24,500 tree seedlings; various natural species regenerated; 6 native species planted

Hectares restored this year: around 24 ha

Local beneficiaries this year: 124 (70 men, 54 women)

## The right trees, in the right places

Trillion Trees applies a scienceled approach to regrowing the right trees in the right places - and in the right way.

This means we prioritise the restoration of natural forests with native species; we apply the landscape approach to address the underlying drivers of forest loss; and we ensure local people are in control of decision making.

We aim to always ensure that our efforts conserve biodiversity, sustain ecosystems, and lift people out of poverty.

We recognise that restoring forests in the right way takes time and money.

#### • Native species, locally sourced:

Our projects promote natural regeneration where possible, and source seeds locally when planting is needed to restore natural forest. We support community groups to establish nurseries to provide for future plantings.

#### Consultation and consent:

We choose projects that have long commitments in landscapes, and have taken the time to develop effective partnerships with local community structures. Our funds help projects to develop and deepen these relationships.

#### Monitoring and verification:

We ask our projects to map their restoration sites, so that the eligibility of the land can be independently verified, and so that the success of restoration efforts can be monitored in the future. We use a custom-built data storage system to track the progress of our projects.

## **Ending deforestation**, restoring forests

But there is much more to be done. With your help, we will expand our support to more projects restoring forests and tackling the causes of deforestation in some of the world's most biodiverse forest ecosystems.



#### **Peruvian Yungas forest**

This project will recover degraded and deforested areas to reduce disaster risks, conserve water sources, mitigate climate change, and contribute to the recovery of emblematic native species.



ReForest Fund October 2021 Report

rillion Trees partnership est conservation work uture pipeline projects

This project is investing in 'food economic, environmental and social returns through agroforestry. It aims to enhance connectivity between natural forest fragments, while ensuring food security and access to market for farmers.



### **Bismark Mountains**, **Papua New Guinea**

This project is working with local communities to restore forest and stabilise soil on steep slopes, while promoting climateresilient agroforestry techniques.



### Thank you

With your continued support, we can restore our forests and protect the future of our planet. For further information about Trillion Trees and how you can play a vital role, please contact Jack Lloyd at **action@trilliontrees.org** 

Or donate directly to the ReForest Fund trilliontrees.org/reforest-fund