



TRILLION TREES



ReForest Fund

Update - June 2023

The ReForest Fund supports forest restoration across a portfolio of sites where our partners have long-term conservation programmes, and involve local communities every step of the way.



Restoring forests – for people, nature & climate

The Trillion Trees ReForest Fund is restoring forests all over the world for the benefit of people, nature and the climate - for generations to come. Our projects focus on recovering and regrowing native and 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 difference to people’s lives, a lasting contribution to reducing carbon in the atmosphere and preserve critical biodiversity.

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, foundations and companies that have donated to the ReForest Fund, we’ve been able to support seven projects, which are growing over 150,000 trees - and counting. Our new projects in Brazil and Papua New Guinea are underway, and good progress is being made at new sites in Kenya and Tanzania.

In the Atlantic Forest of Brazil we’re working with local landowners to restore and reconnect vital habitat used by endemic and endangered bird species and piloting agroforestry approaches with smallholder farmers. In the Bismarck Mountains of Papua New Guinea, saplings have already been planted by local Indigenous groups in a project that aims to restore up to 1,000 hectares of degraded land. In the Usambara Mountains in northeastern Tanzania work is underway to restore and maintain vital forest patches that are important biodiversity hotspots and also help sustain local livelihoods. And in Kaptagat, Kenya, work continues to restore forest for local communities and Kenyan athletes.

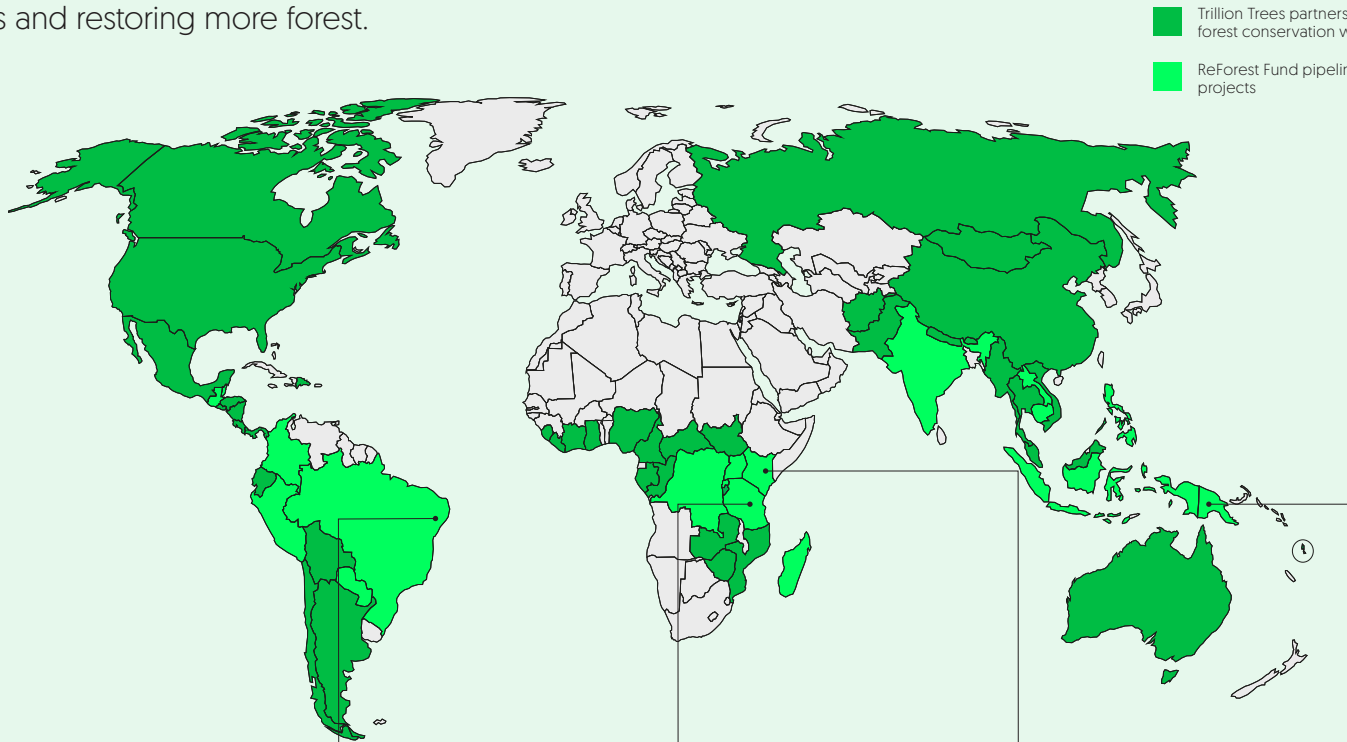
To ensure long term success of restoration efforts, project teams monitor restoration areas over several years, carrying out necessary maintenance to keep trees growing. Our restoration tracking tool, FORMAPP, is used by teams to map and track the performance of restoration efforts and we’ve been continuing to provide training on how to use it effectively.

In all, Trillion Trees has more than 40 projects worldwide that need support to restore degraded forest and re-create habitat for endangered species; such as restoring forest connectivity in the Colombian Andes to protect water sources and restore habitat for the Andean bear, or working with local farmers to increase forest cover in the Mbeliling landscape in Indonesia. With your support, we can deliver assistance to more of these projects, bringing back biodiversity where it has been lost, while also benefitting the climate by removing carbon dioxide as the forests regrow.

Restoring forests, ending deforestation: ReForest Fund Projects for 2023

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: growing more trees and restoring more forest.

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.



Atlantic Forest, Brazil

This project is blending natural regeneration, planting and agroforestry to restore degraded lands and bring back much needed habitat for unique and critically endangered bird species. By working with landowners to bring productivity and value through restoration, forest pressures are reduced and benefits for both people and birds are provided.



Usambara Mountains, Tanzania

The restoration project aims to use innovative and multiple landscape restoration approaches to both enhance human wellbeing and biodiversity. This will enable natural regeneration, sustainable management of community forests and more sustainable sources for fuelwood and livelihoods.



Kaptagat, Kenya

This region is an important forest landscape and also a training ground for elite athletes. The project is establishing agroforestry and clean energy solutions within a forest-based landscape and laying the foundations for work over the coming years that will reduce emissions, contribute to poverty alleviation and address land degradation.



Bismarck Mountains, Papua New Guinea

This project is working with local communities to restore tree cover in deforested areas and enrich degraded forest with species of key importance for animal food, stabilising soil, ensuring clean water provision, and enhancing socio-economic benefits to rural communities.

Reconnecting forest patches in a threatened ecosystem

Restoring the Atlantic Forest - a UN Flagship Landscape

The Atlantic Forest used to be one of the world's largest forests, covering 1 million square kilometres on the eastern coastlines of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. Now, only around 24% of it remains across the biome, and in Brazil only 12% of it as primary forest – making it the most threatened of all tropical forests. Even in its current fragmented state, the Atlantic Forest is an incredible collection of eco-regions with biodiversity rivalling the Amazon. There are thousands of unique species not found anywhere else – including around 8,000 plant species and 200 types of birds.

In the 100 km-long Serra do Urubu-Murici corridor in northeastern Brazil, just 16% of the original Atlantic Forest ecosystem survives. Located between two Brazilian states it encompasses 18 municipalities and is home to around 378,000 people. Most of the remaining forest fragments are on private land and only 7,500 hectares of forest are officially protected, but there is big opportunity for forest recovery. WWF and BirdLife partner SAVE Brasil are working with local landowners to restore and reconnect vital habitat used by 20 endemic and endangered bird species, alongside several other partners, and piloting agroforestry approaches with smallholder farmers. They are providing technical capacity support and education opportunities, and using tree species that support agroforestry, while restoring critical connectivity of forest needed for wildlife. With this, natural regeneration of native forest is rapidly happening, further improving the quality of the land and providing resources for people and biodiversity.

Seven-coloured tanager, a vulnerable species endemic to northeastern Brazil ©Ciro Albano



Trees planted or regrown
Planting season starts soon; natural regeneration already occurring
Hectares restored
27 ha ready to go
People benefitting
28 community members



View over Murici forest landscape © Taruhim Quadros

With co-investments from the ReForest Fund and other donors, SAVE Brasil is increasing its capacity to support local landowners and expand restoration efforts. Overall, 146 local people have taken part in engagement workshops to improve sustainability of land management and reduce the pressure on forest fragments.

SAVE Brasil have been busy preparing sites for restoration, working with landowners and conducting bird surveys to set baselines to measure the recovery of birds as the forests regrow. Site preparation includes sustainably sourcing native seeds to grow in nurseries, fencing of certain areas and weeding to make space for planting seedlings. Overall, the programme has restored over 21 hectares with nine landowner Demonstrative Units (6 agroforestry, 3 ecological restoration). These represent more than 6,000 seedlings planted from 35 different species. Part of the project, in partnership with CEPAN (Clean Cooking Alliance) and PRETATERRA (an agroforestry organisation), has been to provide a technical and practical course for 22 local landowners on restoration, as well as practical workshops for 48 smallholders on how to design, manage and implement agroforestry. Maintenance and follow-up with these farmers is an important part of the process to help provide technical expertise to address challenges and ensure ongoing success.

Bird surveys have been happening for 15 years, and after 10 years of restoration efforts 70 species have been recorded in the area, a significant increase from only three at the start – including some threatened species! Such hopeful evidence shows that investing in forest restoration does work. It's also bringing in more opportunities with student activities and ecotourism.

Projects

Restoring forest for local communities and Kenyan athletes

Greening Kaptagat: Establishing agroforestry and clean energy solutions within a forest-based landscape in Kenya

Kaptagat, in the South-Western part of Kenya, is home to training grounds for many of the country’s professional long-distance runners, including Olympic marathon champion and world record holder, Eliud Kipchoge. It is also an important forest landscape, covering around 32,000 hectares (including 13,000 hectares of protected forest) - nearly 60,000 football fields - with many local communities depending on the region for water, wood-products and agriculture.

Under the UK Government’s Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (PACT), along with Trillion Trees support, WWF-Kenya partnered with the Eliud Kipchoge Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to implement the ‘Greening Kaptagat: Establishing agroforestry and clean energy solutions within a forest-based landscape in Kenya’ project.

The project has involved various interventions, which have helped to secure the 50.8 hectare site adopted by the Eliud Kipchoge Foundation, restore the landscape and benefit local communities, such as:

Kaptagat forest landscape ©WWF Kenya



6th Edition Kaptagat tree planting launch done at Eliud Kipchoge adopted site © WWF Kenya

- Through Community Forest Associations the local community was consulted on the need for a perimeter fence to protect the site from grazing animals, and two gates were included to enable local people access to cut grass or fetch water. This is to stop further degradation of the land, encourage natural regeneration and protect the new saplings that are being planted.
- Annual tree planting efforts took place by local community members through Community Forest Associations, using seedlings procured from community nurseries. Over the past year Trillion Trees matched-funding under the UK PACT project supported the procurement of 132,000 native seedlings!
- More than 150 local people benefitted from income opportunities through constructing the fence and planting the seedlings, and 50 more who work in the nurseries benefited from increased income from sale of the seedlings. A further 17 local people were able to provide grass for livestock in their homes from the site. This grass has been grown to ensure that communities are not negatively impacted in any way by construction of the fence.

Significant drought throughout 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 had an impact on the survival of the seedlings in the landscape – a real-life of example of the impact that climate change is already having. The local community, through the CFA, is at the forefront of activity to replace the seedlings that haven’t survived. This, alongside natural regeneration of trees on the site, in time for the rains which begun in April and expected to continue towards July, will help ensure the project reaches its targets. In addition, leading on from the project, and in partnership with further organisations, 75 beehives have been installed on the site to help generate income for the local community through sale of harvested honey and ensure that the forest continues to be protected for the long-term.

Restoring degraded forest in Tanzania

Working with local communities to protect and restore forest in the Usambara Mountains

The Usambara Mountains in north-eastern Tanzania is one of the country’s most important biodiversity hotspots, but is threatened by unplanned clearing of the forest for agriculture, in particular fruit farming, and to supply the high demand for charcoal used as fuel.

The restoration project, led by WWF in collaboration with local partners The Friends of Usambara Society and 4H, uses innovative and multiple landscape restoration approaches to both enhance the wellbeing of local people and support biodiversity. This enables communities to engage in supporting natural regeneration, through the sustainable management of community forests to generate more sustainable sources for fuelwood and livelihoods. Support from the ReForest Fund will enable the project team to maintain and nurture the areas of forest that have been restored, as well as continue the restoration efforts, working with local community groups to improve outcomes for people, nature and climate.

Recently the project has been restoring forest patches, particularly in the Mbaramo area, supporting native tree planting along river catchments to promote habitat connectivity for wildlife and improve water quality and supply to the area. Restoration activities are already being carried out in the West Usambara Mountains, which provides water for the lowlands including Mkomazi National Park and Uмба Steppe.



Tree planting in Usambara Mountains © WWF Tanzania



Restoration site preparation in Kwemashai © WWF Tanzania

The project has provided seedlings to community groups to grow trees around water sources, along streams and on farms, on degraded lands and on school campuses, alongside an environmental awareness programme for students and the local community helping to reinforce the message that planting trees and conserving forests along rivers can improve water quality and prevent erosion and flooding. Already 46,000 indigenous tree species have been planted.

As part of Foresters for the Future initiatives, the project is engaging primary school students to help raise and plant seedlings in their schools and community. Over the last six months, the project has supported four schools in Muheza and Korogwe Districts, with students directly raising new seedlings in their nurseries and helping plant trees. So far, the project is reaching 1,119 students (561 female), and they’ve already raised 27,360 seedlings!

Restoration of forests is not only restoring degraded and deforested areas, but also working with communities to ensure social needs are met. To help alleviate pressures on natural forest, the project also uses agroforestry approaches. This involves the planting of multi-purpose trees such as fruit (e.g. improved varieties of avocado) and cocoa. Both species are planted as a means to support community livelihood attainment and prevent encroaching of river banks for growing arable crops – both avocado and cocoa are considered perennial crops that are less likely to be cut. During this reporting period, 200 farmers were trained on how to raise, plant, tend and manage improved avocado trees, with 2000 trees planted. To enhance sustainability, the training was further extended to students from two schools. Planting was done on individual farms and school compounds. It is expected that these trees will provide shade, help protect the environment, and provide income generation and support livelihood security among farmers.

Trees planted or regrown
48,000; 27,360 seedlings growing in nursery
Hectares restored
43.2 ha
People benefitting
200 community members
1,119 students engaged

Community-led restoration of high-value forests

Restoration in the community-managed area in the Bismarck Forest Corridor, Papua New Guinea

In the central highlands of Papua New Guinea is the Bismarck Mountain Range, a highly biodiverse and intact forest landscape. The mountains support rich Papua New Guinea tropical oak and southern beech forest, and are home to the Endangered Goodfellow’s tree kangaroo, the New Guinea Harpy Eagle, Boelen’s python, the Long beaked Echidna, Dwarf Cassowary, and at least 10 species of bird of paradise.

Trillion Trees partner WCS has been working in Papua New Guinea since the 1970s to protect wildlife and their habitats, while supporting sustainable livelihoods. But the expansion of agriculture is driving forest loss. Although commercial scale industrial agriculture has not yet penetrated into the mountainous heart of Papua New Guinea at large scale, population growth is driving the expansion of smallholder agriculture, and the hills of the interior have become degraded.



Women and girls helping transport supplies © WCS Papua New Guinea

The community is made up of five Indigenous tribal groups with an estimated population of 600. These landowners have recognised tenure rights over the Bisil Ku forest, totalling over 3,000 hectares. The deed allows them to regulate natural resource use in the conservation area, and actively restore abandoned areas to native forests.

The sites are very remote and can take one day by car and another on foot to reach, but it’s worth it to bring back this critical habitat. WCS has led two site visits over the last six months, securing Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with five clans and together they have built four nurseries to grow seedlings for the restoration efforts. One main nursery was built that can house up to 15,000 seedlings, and three satellite nurseries holding up to 3000 seedlings. Because of the long distances between sites, the three smaller nurseries were built to supply seedlings and minimise transport issues. Transportation can be difficult and weather conditions unpredictable.

The five clans currently participating have already planted over 2,700 saplings and will plant more later this year (around June-July). Over the next two years, the project aims to plant a minimum of 20,000 trees - including at least eight species of native tree - within the degraded areas of Bisil Ku.

WCS will continue to support the communities of the Bismarck Forest Corridor, and is already working to restore up to 1000 hectares of degraded community lands to bring back natural forest, protect water courses, restore soil quality, and create community woodlots to help provide sustainable timber.

Trees planted or regrown
2,723; new seedlings germinating for June/July
Hectares restored
3 ha
People benefitting
600 community members

FORMAPP: Tracking our progress

Trillion Trees partners are committed to ensuring forest restoration activities supported by the ReForest Fund are tracked and monitored, ensuring transparency and accountability and allowing us to measure our impacts over time.



We track the performance of restoration efforts using a mapping tool that has been developed for the ReForest Fund. The tool, called FORMAPP, uses open-source software, and allows projects to map their restoration sites via the free Cybertracker smartphone application.

FORMAPP allows projects to create their own database of restoration sites and permits the automatic sharing of restoration information with Trillion Trees without the need to invest in technical GIS skills or expensive GIS software. The tools are provided freely to projects benefiting from ReForest Fund support.

Trillion Trees provides training to project staff on how to tailor the process to their project's needs, and how to ensure they can access and analyse the data that is collected in the field. Over time we will offer more monitoring tools through the platform, such as tools for measuring social impact, and sampling biodiversity. We're also working with Restor.eco to integrate our local level data into their global platform, and hope to make FORMAPP a public good by 2024.

Biodiversity Monitoring

With support from the ReForest Fund, BirdLife partner Nature Kenya planted 69,000 indigenous trees in four areas within the Mount Kenya Forest, in partnership with four Community Forest Associations. Although Kenya has been experiencing prolonged drought over the last few years, survival rate is still between 70-89%. The Community Forest Associations are continuing to maintain and monitor the planted trees and forest; this includes activities such as weeding to keep space for new trees and replacing seedlings that did not survive.

The presence of bird species is a good indicator of the health of ecosystems, so collaborative bird surveys have been carried out to monitor levels of biodiversity changes across different forest areas. Preliminary results of a survey in March 2023 show that 76 bird species are present: 20 species in exotic monoculture tree plantations, 40 species in Indigenous Forests, 48 species in restoration areas with Indigenous tree species, and 46 species in restoration areas with exotic tree species. These results continue to demonstrate the importance of Indigenous forest in maintaining biodiversity.



Chinspot batis (*Batis molior*) ©Julie Larsen Maher/WCS

The right trees, in the right places

Trillion Trees applies a science-led 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.



In loving memory of Jean Luc, 692 trees are being planted. Jean Luc was committed to restoring humanity's harmony and balance with nature in ways that engage closely with local populations and that are sustainable.



Thank you

Thanks to the generous support of Starling Bank, Global Returns Project and Climate and Land Use Alliance and all of the individual donations that have made the ReForest Fund possible.

With 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 **action@trilliontrees.org**

You can donate directly to the ReForest Fund at **trilliontrees.org/reforest-fund**