TRILLION TREES



ReForest Fund Update - June 2024

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.



Community member tending a nursery of Polylepis subtusalbida in the High Andes of Bolivia @Asociación Armoní

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. We take a landscape-based approach, using a wide range of methods, and looking for opportunities to improve livelihoods 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 who have donated to the ReForest Fund, we have supported 13 projects so far, which are restoring over 376,000 trees. Our new projects are underway in the Jovel Valley Basin, Mexico; the Tunari National Park, Bolivia; Ruvuma landscape, Tanzania and Mbeliling, Indonesia. After dedicated preparation work, restoration efforts are beginning in earnest at our project site in the Nam Et Phou Louey National Park in Laos, and significant progress has been made at our restoration site in the remote Bismarck Mountains of Papua New Guinea. We are continuing to work with local landowners in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, helping establish agroforestry techniques that are bringing back habitat for endemic bird species. Two projects are involving local communities to restore and maintain an important forest landscape in Kaptagat, Kenya and in the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania over 100,000 seedlings have been raised in nurseries managed by local schools, ready to be distributed to local communities for planting. More detail on all these projects can be found in this report.

To ensure long term success of restoration efforts, project partners are monitoring these restoration areas over several years, and carrying out necessary maintenance to keep trees growing. Our restoration tracking tool, FORMAPP, is used by teams to track the performance of restoration efforts and we have been continuing to provide training on how to use it effectively. Later this year we will be launching a new project dashboard where progress of all ReForest Fund projects can be viewed.

Trillion Trees has projects across our partnership worldwide, all in critically important landscapes that need your support to restore degraded forest, work with and benefit local communities and enable the recovery of vital ecosystems. With your support, we can bring 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.





Atlantic Forest Brazil High Andes Bolivia



Usambaras Tanzania



Mbeliling Indonesia



Basin

Louey

Laos

Mexico

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.



Jovel Valley



Kaptagat Kenya



Ruvuma Tanzania

Nam Et Phou



Bisil Ku Papua New Guinea

Working with local landowners to restore a threatened forest

Community building and forest restoration in the Atlantic Forest, Brazil

The Atlantic Forest, covering 1.4 million square kilometres on the eastern coastlines of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina is an incredible collection of eco-regions. It is home to thousands of species not found anywhere else - including around 8,000 plant species and 200 types of endemic birds.

One of the most threatened of all tropical forests, the area has been designated a UN World Restoration Flagship landscape. WWF and BirdLife International partner, SAVE Brasil, are working with local landowners and partners to restore and reconnect vital habitat, home to 20 endemic and endangered bird species, and embedding agroforestry techniques with smallholder farmers. They are providing technical capacity and support and education opportunities to support the long-term success of restoration efforts, and using plant species that support agroforestry, while restoring critical connectivity of forest vital for wildlife.

With the support of Trillion Trees and other co-investors, to date the project has restored over 50 hectares in three municipalities of Serra do Urubu-Murici landscape: Lagoa dos Gatos, Murici, and União dos Palmares, in a total of 11 plots - seven agroforestry plots and four plots with a mix of restoration techniques, including natural regeneration. Overall, this represents more than 14,000 seedlings planted from at least 62 native tree species.



Trees planted or regrown 4,484 seedlings Hectares restored 42.9 ha People benefitting 40 community members



SAVE Brazil team in Murici @SAVE Brasil

Over the last six months, the main restoration activities have included the maintenance and monitoring of restoration plots - controlling the presence of brachiaria grass which can stifle the growth of the seedlings, as well as further developing the agroforestry monitoring protocol to help local landowners understand what is working well in their landscape, and any improvements needed.

The project has been preparing new plots - 27.4 hectares have been identified as potential areas, ready for the next rainy season – and training and supporting a local group of seed collectors.

Building capacity for agroforestry management has been a key part of the programme, providing opportunities for local people to learn about agroforestry techniques and how to apply them in the landscape. SAVE Brasil has established a partnership between the agroforestry smallholder farmers and the Brazilian educational institution, IFAL Murici, setting up an internship programme for students, which in turn helps support the smallholder farmers. The project is committed to training conservationists who are both directly benefiting from the activities and spreading the word about the importance and benefits of Atlantic Forest restoration and conservation, as well as strengthening community bonds and contributing to developing the restoration supply chain in the landscape, for example through the seed collectors group.

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Restoring a Key Biodiversity Area of the High Andes

Forest restoration on the southern slope of the Tunari National Park, Bolivia

BirdLife International and Bolivian Partner Asociación Armonía are working together to promote the restoration and improved conservation and management of the South Slopes of the Tunari National Park Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), located above the city of Cochabamba in Bolivia. This KBA is home to several threatened and range restricted species. such as the Cochabamba Mountain Finch (Poospiza garleppi) and the Giant Conebill [Oreomanes fraseri]. The conservation of the Andean puna grasslands and high Andean forests within the park is critical to the stabilization of soils to prevent landslides, as well as to maintain the quantity and quality of freshwater that serves the city of Cochabamba.

In the 2023-2024 reforestation season, Asociación Armonía planted 320,280 native tree seedlings, covering 140 hectares in 21 communities. Of those seedlings, 35,000 were supported through the ReForest Fund and included four native tree species (Alnus acuminata, Budleja coriaceae, Kageneckia lanceolata and Polylepis subtusalbida). This reforestation work is part of the regional initiative Acción Andina, led by BirdLife partner ECOAN in Peru and the Global Forest Generation, which is restoring high Andean forests across seven countries and was recognized as a winner of the 2023 Earthshot Prize.



Trees planted or regrown 35,000 planted



ing saplings along the southern slopes of Tunari National Park ©Asociación Armoní

Two of the tree species utilized by Asociacion Armonia in its reforestation efforts in the Tunari National Park are Vulnerable to extinction according to the IUCN Redlist (Kageneckia lanceolata and Polylepis subtusalbida) and one, the Polylepis subtusalbida, is almost endemic to the area - over 80% of its remaining global population is located within our project area. Nearly 200 families participated in the reforestation efforts, totaling almost 3,000 hours of work.

Asociación Armonía's wider strategy to improve the conservation status and management of the Tunari National Park is multifaceted. They work closely with local communities and are deeply involved in the protection of the restored areas and the remaining forest fragments. Thanks to the support of Trillion Trees this year, two water reservoirs were built with the capacity to store 550,000 liters of water, and a third was enlarged. These water reservoirs are critical both to supply community agriculture during dry seasons and to support forest firefighters that combat fires during the dry season, which affect the remaining fragments of native forests and planted reforestation areas. To address this threat, community firefighting brigades have been formed, trained and equipped. So far, 60 people from 8 communities have been trained.

These activities, alongside natural forest restoration, help ensure that restored forests can last for generations to come.

Restoring temperate forest for endemic wildlife in the Highlands of Chiapas, Mexico

Indigenous knowledge helps in selection and propagation of native tree species

The Highlands of Chiapas in Southern Mexico covers an area of over 3,700 km2. A vast mountain range with mostly pine-oak forests, as well as pockets of cloud forest, the region harbours hundreds of plant and animal species and much of it is classified as of high conservation importance.

The Jovel Valley Basin, located in the Highlands of the Chiapas, is a closed basin with valuable natural features such as rivers, springs, high mountain wetlands, pine-oak and cloud forests. It is home to over 300 plant species, with a great diversity of orchids and endemic bromeliads. It also has an important diversity of wildlife, with more than 10 endemic species, including birds, frogs, salamanders, mice, and lizards; all of them threatened, included in the Red List of Threatened Species of Mexico, and many also included in the IUCN Red List.

BirdLife International partner, Pronatura Sur is working with local communities to restore 200 hectares of this precious forest, with the aim of planting at least 60,000 trees, all native species. At least 200 local people will be involved in the restoration efforts.





Forest and indigenous communities of the Highlands of Chiapas Region ©Pronatura Sur/Luz Rodriguez

The project is just getting underway, and during the first months of work efforts have been focused on seed collection during field trips and construction of new spaces to expand nursery production by 10,000 more plants. Seeds collected include seeds of the endangered Guatemalan Fir [*Abies guatemalensis*], as well as four species of *Quercus* [oaks] - a tree that is home to many species, including the Golden-cheeked Warbler [*Setophaga chrysoparia*], an endangered migratory bird. Indigenous people are collaborating in the nursery propagation, contributing their knowledge in the production of more than 25,000 plants for summer 2024.

One of the biggest challenges has been intense drought in the region, during the dry season from October to May, as well as strong frosts, both of which have caused some stress to the young plants in the nursery. The team has built a rainwater catchment tank so that in the next plant propagation season they will be able to cope with the water shortage.

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Restoring and maintaining a vital forest landscape in Kenya

Two projects working with local communities in the Kapatgat forest

The Kaptagat forest is an important landscape that lies between Elgeyo Marakwet and Uasin Gishu counties in the southern Rift Valley region of Kenya. It is a vital water tower that includes five forest areas and small-scale farmlands. The ecosystem lies within the Lake Victoria and Rift Valley drainage basins, draining its waters into lakes Victoria and Turkana. This ecosystem is also an important local source of water for use in homes, for irrigation, industrial use and hydro-power generation, serving an estimated population of over 134,000 people.

The Kaptagat landscape covers an area of 32,000 hectares (including the 21,000 hectares of the protected forest) and has the potential to be scaled up to the wider or part of the larger Cherangany-Elgeyo Hills ecosystem whose total land area is almost 415,000 hectares. It is also a training ground for professional long-distance runners including Olympic marathon champion, Eliud Kipchoge.

Trillion Trees is supporting two projects within the landscape. Since 2022, under the UK Government's Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (PACT), along with Trillion Trees support, WWF-Kenya has partnered with the Eliud Kipchoge Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to implement the "Greening Kaptagat: Establishing





Community tree-planting day at Kimwogo-Kipkabus site. © WWF Kenya

agroforestry and clean energy solutions within a forest-based landscape in Kenya" project.

Working with local communities and government stakeholders to restore and maintain the 50.8 hectare forest site adopted by Eliud Kipchoge, this initiative has cumulatively planted or regenerated over 38,500 trees, restoring 50.8 hectares, with an average of 753 trees per hectare and a survival rate of 95%. Over the last six months the team and community members have carried out regular monitoring and uploaded to the Trillion Trees' monitoring system, FORMAPP. The project has benefited more than 280 people overall, of which 69 received training in tree planting, monitoring and maintenance. In addition, 12 of the 75 beehives introduced have been colonized. Complete colonization will enhance conservation efforts in the site, while providing income to more than 50 members of the Community Forest Association (CFA).

The second project aims to restore and rehabilitate 50 hectares of the Kaptagat landscape in degraded sites in the Kipkabus forest area, working with and raising awareness amongst local communities. The ultimate vision of the project is to sustainably manage, protect and conserve the forests, while enhancing benefits to the communities and improving their resilience to the impacts of climate change. The project continues the legacy of Trillion Trees support in the Kaptagat landscape, building on the 50.8 hectares adopted by Eliud Kipchoge.

The project has put 40ha of degraded area under restoration through planting of 31,000 native tree seedlings, sourced from local nurseries, benefiting 85 local people directly from the associated income [Ksh. 971,000], enabling households to meet their needs including paying school fees for their children.

The project restoration area was the prelaunch site of Kaptagat 8th edition tree planting in addition to being the selected site for the national tree planting day for Elgeyo Marakwet county.

Foresters for the Future Working with local students to restore the Ruvuma landscape in Tanzania

The Ruvuma transboundary landscape is hugely important for people and nature, providing critical miombo woodland habitat across southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique. It is richly biodiverse, with over 2000 species of plants, 430 species of birds, and 60 species of mammals, including one of East Africa's largest elephant populations. The landscape is also home to millions of people who rely on the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment, such as clean water, air purification, and flood control. Rural communities across Ruvuma have a deep spiritual connection to the land and the landscape also provides important economic opportunities for local people.

In 2023, Trillion Trees and WWF-Tanzania supported the establishment of two new tree nurseries at schools: in Mtama and Kitere with the capacity of raising 10,000 seedlings each. This work was part of the Foresters for the Future programme, which has now established a total of seven tree nurseries in schools across the Ruvuma landscape. The project has been working with 35 environmental clubs, equipping them with skills to conserve natural resources, both forests and wildlife. By working with schools and clubs, the students and teachers gain important experience in raising tree seedlings and overall management of tree nurseries. In this reporting period, 40,000 saplings (5 species) were planted for woodlots and natural forest restoration. This was done by 1,800 students and more than 250 local communities.



Trees planted or regrown 40,000 planted Hectares restored 114 ha People benefitting 1,800 students engaged 250 local communities

oresters for the Future students of Shauri Moyo Primary School are celebrating Photo: WWF Tanzania © WWF Tanzania

Restoring forests and conservation education are ongoing processes. It's crucial to ensure community involvement if tree planting initiatives are to be successful. Continuous engagement and working with schools as well can ensure long-term impact and behaviour change to bring back forests and protect biodiversity.



Restoring degraded forest in Tanzania

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

The Usambara Mountains in northeastern Tanzania are one of the country's most important biodiversity hotspots but are 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 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.

In this reporting period, 106,074 seedlings were raised in nurseries managed by local schools, which will be distributed to the communities for planting. A total of 47,765 agroforestry saplings were planted. This year, WWF and partners are promoting agroforestry practices to both restore land and provide communities with access to additional nutritious food sources.

Saplings raised by students in school nurseries ©Friends of Usambaras





Transporting saplings to restoration site ©Friends of Usambaras

One major challenge has been heavy rainfall associated with El Niño from October 2023 to March 2024, which significantly impacted tree nurseries. Flooding in nursery areas damaged seedlings, washed away soil, potentially exposed roots, and hindered growth. To address this challenge, the teams collaborated with local community leaders and teachers to implement repair and flood response efforts, ensuring a quicker recovery.

Sustaining life through forest conservation

Mbeliling Landscape, Flores, Indonesia

Mbeliling Landscape is an expanse of 94,000 hectares located in West Manggarai District, Flores Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur Province, Indonesia. The landscape covers 5 Key Biodiversity Area [KBAs] and is also an Important Bird Area. This landscape isn't only important for biodiversity, but is a critical supply of water for villages, towns and agriculture. Agriculture in this landscape supports around 34,000 people in 36 villages making their livelihoods from agroforestry, rice crops, and animal husbandry.

But the water is also important for ecotourism businesses in Labuan Bajo, one of the major towns in the region. Restoration of surrounding forests will improve the ability of the landscape to capture, absorb, and store water while reducing sedimentation that affects water quality. In addition, restoration activities will also contribute to expanding the habitat for the forest species.







Kembang Indah" Groupnursery © Burung Indonesia/Maximus Abun

This project, led by BirdLife International Partner Burung Indonesia, aims to restore 14 hectares of forest, planting trees for both agroforestry and forest enrichment. This project is only just beginning but has so far planted 700 saplings with nearly 10,000 seedlings from 13 tree species growing in nurseries – to be planted in the next planting season of October-December. Five community groups are working with Burung Indonesia to develop tree nurseries. There are five nurseries in the villages of Golo Ndoal (1), Golo Damu (1), Cunca Lolos (2) and Tondong Belang (1). There are strong connections to the forest within local communities, and restoring the forest helps strengthen their commitment to conservation.

Burung Indonesia initiated the formation of SiALIR, an association of 28 water supply, hotel, restaurant and other tourism-related companies in Labuan Bajo, to support the communities' conservation initiatives and protect the water catchment area. Burung Indonesia assists SiALIR in mobilizing the downstream communities and/or business entities to collaborate with the upstream communities in Mbeliling for restoration activities.

Building resilience for Laos' most important National Park

The Nam Et Phou Louey National Park Western Corridor Restoration Project

The Nam Et Phou Louey National Park is the largest Protected Area in Lao PDR (Laos). The park is vital for the conservation of the northern white cheeked gibbon (Critically Endangered), clouded leopard (Vulnerable), and dhole (Endangered) and supports over 40,000 people from 91 adjacent communities, who directly benefit from its clean water, and from timber and non-timber forest products harvested in the forest.

The project being led by WCS is restoring degraded forest in abandoned agricultural areas to widen a key link between the northern and southern parts of the Park, by rapidly accelerating forest regeneration through assisted natural regeneration techniques. The area is currently overgrown with fire prone weed species and vine thickets, and without intervention is unlikely to recover in timeframes required for this area to provide a resilient wildlife corridor. Local communities are leading the restoration activities within the Total Protection Zone of the National Park. With the help of these trained community teams, WCS hopes to restore 100 hectares over the coming 10 years.

Restoration activities are seasonal, and the project team has had to wait until the monsoonal rains begin – which is happening right now – before they were able to start making way for new regrowth by removing invasive grasses and vines. But that doesn't mean they've been idle!





Nam Et Phou Louey landscape © WCS Laos

Preparation activities have been happening over the last six months, particularly with the participating village, Ban Nam Poung. Activities have included discussions on what areas are to be regenerated, who to involve, and, importantly, how cattle can be kept out of the plots. The team also procured supplies for the upcoming work and reviewed the boundaries of the Park's Totally Protected Zone with members of park staff and community leaders. This re-affirmation of the boundary will help avoid land conflict by preventing accidental agricultural expansion into the area that could jeopardize the project's success.

One big challenge is overcoming dry-season cattle grazing on the site. WCS and the communities are working on solutions to keep cattle from trampling and eating young seedlings and hope to find a way that works for everyone.

Community-led restoration of natural forest

Local people are helping restore and maintain vital wildlife habitat in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

In a remote part of the Bismarck Mountain Range of Papua New Guinea (PNG), five Indigenous tribal groups are leading the restoration of the Bisil Ku forests in a highly biodiverse forest landscape. Trillion Trees partner, WCS has been working with a local community-based organisation - PNG Rural Development Inc. - to establish a tree nursery and restore the degraded forest, which provides critical habitat for 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 birds of paradise.

The Bisil Ku forests are in a very remote part of the PNG Highlands with limited infrastructure. While the community has an airstrip, flights are infrequent, and access requires a one to two-day walk of over 20 km from the nearest road along a rugged mountainous track damaged by landslides. Heavy rains have also made access difficult.

Despite these challenges, this year 14.6 hectares of ecological corridor has been restored with the planting of 16,229 seedlings made up of native trees and some crop tree species, raised in purpose-built nurseries. Local community members were involved in raising, planting and maintaining the seedlings. In total, over two years, the project has restored 23.3 hectares and planted 25,877 trees.



16,229 planted 6,000+ regenerated

14.6 ha



ow's tree kangaroo © David Lochlin via Flickr (CC, BY 2.0)

Tree planting at Bisil Ku will help restore tree cover in deforested areas and enrich degraded forest with tree species of key importance for animal food, stabilizing soil, ensuring clean water provision, and enhancing socio-economic benefits to rural communities. The restoration project has a primary focus on native tree species (at least eight different native species are being planted), but some fruit trees are also being planted, to help provide food for local people.

The project also trained 19 community rangers (18 men and one woman), known locally as 'wasman', to monitor restoration progress through using phone apps. The Trillion Trees FORMAPP platform is used to document the tree species, the number of trees planted, planting locations for future monitoring, the survival and growth rate of the planted trees and to produce digital maps of the reforested areas. The trees will be monitored for between three and five years.



The right trees, in the right places, and in the right way

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



In loving memory of Jean Luc, 1,903 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. Trillion Trees would like to thank Jean Luc's family for their generous support.

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.





Thank you

Thanks to the generous support of Starling Bank, SAP, KPMG, Global Returns Project, Robeco 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**