



TRILLION TREES



ReForest Fund Update - Dec 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.

May 2024



Sept 2024



Before and after photo of May-Sep 2024 of *Melia azedarach* growth once vines and competing vegetation were removed. Photo: WCS Laos

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 19 projects so far, which are restoring over 526,000 trees. Our new projects are underway in the Atlantic Forest of Argentina, recovering lost ecosystem services through planting 90,000 native plants and restoring 180 hectares of degraded land; in the Madidi-Tambopata Landscape of Peru, reforesting degraded areas on and near family-owned coffee farms; and in buffer zones of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, which is home to endangered Mountain Gorillas.

We are continuing to work in landscapes in Africa, including in Kaptagat, Kenya and the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania, involving local communities and schools to restore and maintain important forest landscapes. Our work in Laos continues where 20,000-24,000 trees are regenerating thanks to the hard work of local communities who are leading the efforts. In Mbeliling, Indonesia we are restoring forest through agroforestry techniques to maintain a vital watershed. More detail on all these projects can be found in this report.

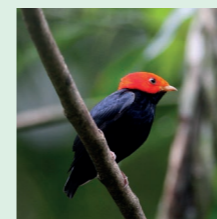
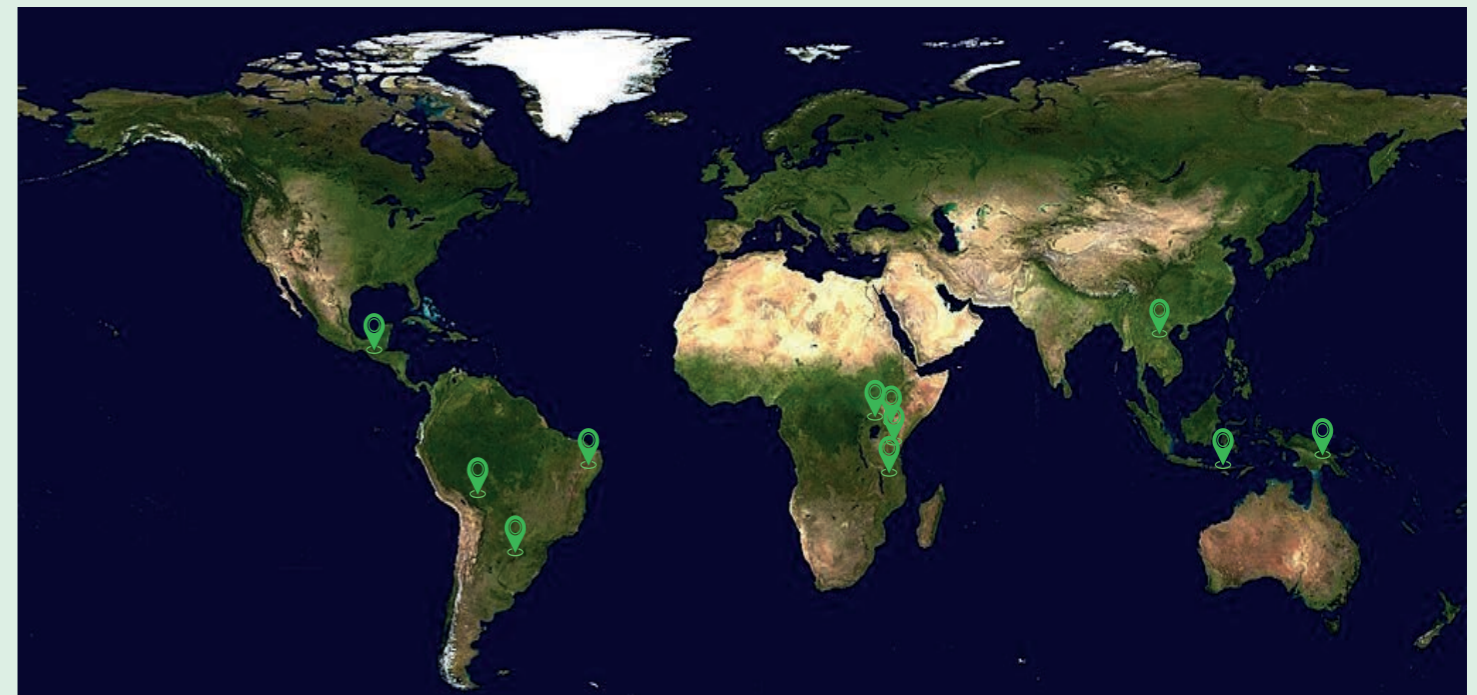
To ensure long term success of restoration efforts, project partners are monitoring these restoration areas over several years and carrying out necessary maintenance to keep trees growing. Our restoration tracking tool, FORMAPP, is used by teams to track the performance of restoration efforts and we have been continuing to provide training on how to use it effectively. Next 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 2024

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.



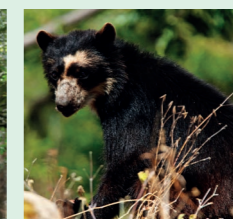
Atlantic Forest Brazil



Atlantic Forest Argentina



Jovel Valley Basin Mexico



Madidi-Tambopata Peru



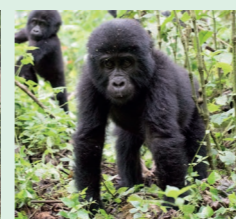
Kaptagat Kenya



Ruvuma Tanzania



Usambaras Tanzania



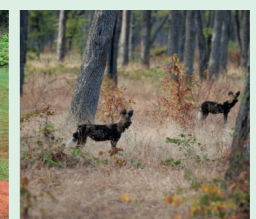
Bwindi Uganda



Nam et Phou Louey Laos



Bisil Ku Papua New Guinea



Mbeliling Indonesia

Projects

Restoring forest in a UN Flagship Landscape

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- Brazil 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 over 60 native tree species.

Planting seedlings at Sítio Po de Estrelas, June 2024. Photo: Atila Almeida, CEPAN



Opening of the Seed House in Lagoa dos Gatos. Photo: WWF Brazil

Over the last six months, the main restoration activities have included the maintenance and monitoring of restoration plots, including controlling the presence of brachiaria grass which stifles seedling growth; planting seedlings and seeds and supporting the capacity building of a group of local seed collectors.

In one area, 1,765 seedlings have been planted, made up of a combination of 'cover' species - which play a crucial role in protecting the soil from flooding caused by rains, and in preventing the spread of invasive species - and diversity species. This planting strategy aims to create a balanced environment, where soil protection and the promotion of biodiversity work together to ensure the success of forest restoration.

In addition to controlling competition when planting seedlings, pruning trees and shrubs to aid the ecological restoration process, and controlling the presence of leaf-cutting ants are being carried out.

Restoration efforts have also been underway at a property located in Sítio Pó de Estrelas, Lagoa dos Gatos, where various restoration techniques including assisted natural regeneration, mechanised direct seeding, and planting of native seedlings has taken place in an area totalling 4.93 hectares. Over 400 seedlings of 18 forest species have been planted.

Seeds for the mechanised seeding activity were stored at the Seed House, run by the local group of seed collectors. In July 2024, this group reached a milestone in receiving the first seed order from another landscape in Brazil. The group is the first network of Atlantic Forest seed collectors in the northeast of Brazil. It is an unprecedented initiative that aims to meet the growing demand for native seeds on the local market, strengthen the forest restoration production chain and generate economic benefits for community-based seed collectors. In this first order alone, the group sold 53.5 kg of native seeds of eight forest species, with the proceeds going to the members of the group.

Projects

Building bridges through restoration

Forest restoration in the Atlantic Forest Argentina

The Atlantic Forest is one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet and one of the most biodiverse, constituting one of five main global “hot spots” for biodiversity conservation. Originally, it covered much of southeastern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, and the Misiones Province in Argentina. Currently, approximately 12.5% of its original forest cover remains, largely distributed in isolated fragments.

The Province of Misiones holds one of the largest remaining blocks of Atlantic Forest throughout the entire biome, with more than 1.5 million hectares of forest cover. The Andresito Peninsula is an important “buffer zone” between the famous Argentine and Brazillian Iguazu National Parks and presents a great opportunity to integrate biodiversity conservation with sustainable economic development by promoting ecological restoration, sustainable agroforestry and ecotourism.

The project, led by BirdLife Partner Aves Argentinas, aims to recover lost ecosystem services (e.g. healthy soils, freshwater, native woods and fruits with productive value, increase pollinators) through planting 90,000 native plants of 10 species and restoring 180 hectares of degraded land.

Planting day at one of the restoration sites in Misiones, Argentina. Photo: Emilio White



Aerial view of the Vivero El Puente Verde (New Green Bridge) nursery. Photo: Aves Argentinas

They are working with local landowners growing shade-grown yerba mate in agroforestry systems. These areas will generate revenue for farmers after the first harvest in four to five years and can be sold to companies willing to pay a premium for organic, shade-grown mate. During this reporting period restoration activities have focused on two biological corridors and private lands of local yerba mate producers. 5,410 saplings have been planted on 10.8 hectares in five different sites, and there are 20,000 plants in production in nurseries managed by Aves Argentinas and 65,000 in other local nurseries. Nine restoration agreements have been signed with companies, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and private owners who are engaged in the project. With this preparation work complete, restoration efforts on these sites will continue to progress. The next planting season will be April-May 2025.

In addition to forest restoration, monitoring biodiversity in the region is key to understanding how efforts to conserve and bring back forest habitat are progressing. Aves Argentinas has been tracking the movements of a GPS-collared jaguar to see where it is going and if it is using the restored sites.

Projects

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

Urban and rural communities working together to restore native species

The Jovel Valley Basin, in the Highlands of Chiapas in Southern Mexico, has 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 variety 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 planted over 180,000 trees [18 species] in collaboration with Your Forest AC and Ciudadanos por la Accion Territorial de la Cuenca del Valle de Jovel AC. The ReForest Fund contributed to over 20,000 of those trees, which will be maintained and monitored over the next few years.

Restoration activities were carried out during the rainy season [mid-June to early-September], to maximise survival rates.

Filling nursery bags with soil for Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) propagation. Photo: Luz Rodriguez



Trees planted or regrown
20,120 planted

Hectares restored
18 ha

People benefitting
2,226 community members



Volunteers and Indigenous authorities at a tree planting event in Pajalton Alto. Photo: Diego Alvarez

Together with partner NGOs in the watershed, Pronatura Sur coordinated two types of restoration actions with local communities:

- 1. Social restoration:** Local community members were invited to participate in 21 reforestation events for the “Jovel Valley Watershed Reforestation Campaign”, restoring 18 hectares of pine-oak forest in the upper parts of the watershed. These events are tailored to promote interaction between urban and rural communities and to recognize the importance of environmental services, biodiversity and how the forest provides water for the city. A total of 1,800 people of all ages participated.
- 2. Rural farm restoration:** Groups of farmers whose land is scattered throughout the Jovel Valley watershed are planting trees in their communities, acquiring saplings from Pronatura Sur’s and Your Forest AC’s nurseries who also provide restoration advice. Farmers can collect seeds based on the needs of their locality and capacity to plant them. The farmers carry out all of the planting, and during this reporting period 170 farmers requested nearly 160,000 trees to plant in their communities.

The farmers’ restoration sites are small [around 1 hectare] and scattered across the Jovel Valley Basin, but are making a large, collective impact by increasing habitat for wildlife across a large area, and providing local ecosystem services such as water infiltration, firewood, timber and religious and cultural benefits.

Projects

Restoring forest connectivity with local coffee farmers in Peru

Incorporating native tree species to support biodiversity and enhance coffee production

The Madidi-Tambopata Landscape is an area of high biological and cultural richness inhabited by the Quechua and Aymara people. Through the 6,000-meter altitudinal gradient, the landscape ranges from the high Andean mountains through a variety of cloud and montane forests down to the vast Amazonian floodplains covered by rainforests and tropical grasslands in the Madre de Dios region. At mid-elevations, the cloud forests mix with coffee plantations that produce one of the highest quality coffees in Peru and the world. In the lowlands, the Bahuaja Sonene National Park and the Tambopata National Reserve, with their exceptional biodiversity, dominate the landscape. The whole area is a stronghold for species such as the Andean bear and jaguar and a great diversity of monkeys and birds such as the Andean cock-of-the rock. Maintaining forest connectivity so that these species can thrive is, therefore, a priority.

The project aims to restore ecological connectivity by reforesting degraded areas on and near coffee farms owned by local families. Families are committing to halting forest conversion into agricultural lands, in exchange for technical and financial support to enhance coffee productivity.

A variety of seedling species being grown in a local nursery for planting. Photo: WCS Peru



Trees planted or regrown
Just starting

Hectares restored

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People benefitting

37 families

Nursery in Chalohuma raising seedlings for planting in the Madidi-Tambopata landscape. Photo: WCS Peru

By planting 20,000 native trees across approximately 20 hectares of degraded areas, the project will support biodiversity conservation, improve microclimate conditions, and boost coffee production, benefiting both the environment and local communities.

As part of their commitment, participating families will take on the long-term maintenance of the restored areas, with Trillion Trees partner, WCS monitoring progress to ensure effective restoration. Between May and October 2024, the team carried out preparatory work for the planting phase which started in mid-November. During this initial phase, WCS successfully identified and signed agreements with 37 families willing to plant native species that are more beneficial for the soil, biodiversity conservation and for coffee production. The reforestation area will cover a total of 25.32 hectares both in agroforestry and restoration systems. WCS is also seeking engagement from the Sandia subnational government to support reforestation efforts.

Seedlings will be supplied from a local company and 11 species will be planted, such as Andean walnut, Amazonian pine, mahogany, and quinine.

Projects

Restoration and maintenance of one of Kenya's critical forests

Two projects working with local communities in the Kapatgat forest

Trillion Trees is playing a crucial role in supporting two projects within the Kaptagat Forest, an important ecological area in Kenya's southern Rift Valley. The landscape, located between Elgeyo Marakwet and Uasin Gishu counties is a vital water tower with five distinct forest areas and small-scale farmlands; providing water to more than 134,000 people for various needs such as household use, irrigation, industrial use, and hydro-power generation.

The Kaptagat landscape covers an area that includes 21,000 hectares of protected forest and has the potential to showcase collaboration between partners and communities in scaling up impactful restoration towards enhancing ecosystem services within the Cherangany-Elgeyo Hills ecosystem. Most importantly, it is also a training ground for both local and international professional long-distance runners, including the Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge.

In the Kipkabus forest area, the project's goal is to restore and rehabilitate 50 hectares of degraded sites while working with and raising awareness of the local communities on conservation matters. Ultimately, the project aims to sustainably manage, protect, and conserve the forests, while improving benefits to the communities and their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

So far, the project has restored 40 hectares of degraded forest site by planting 31,000 native tree seedlings, sourced from local nurseries. Nursery production is also benefiting 161 members of the local community, through the sales of excess seedlings (earning Ksh 1,274,973 in total). This has enabled their respective households to meet their needs such as food and school fees for their children.

A beneficiary of a heifer (young female cow). Photo: WWF-Kenya



Kaptagat project

Trees planted or regrown
Maintenance and monitoring of **38,547** trees

Hectares restored
50.8 ha

People benefitting
310 community members

Kipkabus forest area

Trees planted or regrown
31,100 planted

Hectares restored
40 ha

People benefitting
161 community members



Community briefing during 8th Edition of Kaptagat Annual tree planting at Kaptagat. Photo: WWF-Kenya

Over the past six months, the Community Forest Association (CFA) has continued to monitor the seedlings, observing and supporting a survival rate of 94%. Members of the five CFAs involved in the project have also been trained in governance, conflict resolution, resource mobilisation, communicating impact and the role of CFAs in conservation.

The project supported the 8th Edition of Kaptagat Annual Tree Planting in July 2024. The event was also used to launch a trees and fruit seedlings distribution initiative for on-farm tree planting, a household water distribution programme, and the distribution of heifers (young cows) to CFA members as part of a livestock breed improvement plan. A precursor of the launch was the Kaptagat cycling challenge where cyclists from across the globe took part, with the rallying goal of conserving forests and nurturing trees and talent.

We have been working with local communities and government stakeholders in the landscape to restore and maintain a 50.8 hectare forest site in the Kaptagat block adopted by Olympic marathon champion, Eliud Kipchoge* under the Eliud Kipchoge Foundation. This initiative has cumulatively planted and regenerated 38,547 trees, restoring 50.8 hectares, with a survival rate of 95%. The local community has been leading the efforts for planting, alongside supplying the seedlings from their nurseries through the Kaptagat Community Forest Association.

To ensure proper development of the seedlings, WWF Kenya team and the local community members have in the past six months conducted regular maintenance and monitoring, including spot weeding to remove weeds and climbers, to ensure a higher survival rate of the newly planted trees. The project has trained 69 local people in tree planting, monitoring and maintenance, and the community is also able to harvest grass from the area for their livestock; during the last 6 months, 36 people benefitted, and this is likely to increase as the year progresses.

*Since 2021, 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 agroforestry and clean energy solutions within a forest-based landscape in Kenya" project.

Projects

Foresters for the Future

Working with local students to restore the Ruvuma landscape in Tanzania

The Ruvuma landscape straddles the border between southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique. It harbours a biodiverse ecosystem with over 2,000 species of plants, 430 species of birds, and 60 species of mammals, including one of East Africa's largest elephant populations. The special miombo woodland habitat is hugely important for people and nature, with millions of people relying on the ecosystem services it provides, such as clean water, air purification, and flood control.

Since November 2023, Trillion Trees and WWF-Tanzania have supported the establishment of new tree nurseries at schools, starting with two in Mtama and Kitere and adding new nurseries in the past six months in Likuyuseka in Namtumbo and Namwinyu secondary school in Tunduru, with the capacity of raising 20,000 seedlings each.

This project is part of the Foresters for the Future programme, and has been working with 37 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. The project has reached its goal of planting over 40,000 trees [114.14 hectares] to restore habitat and create sustainable woodlots for local communities.

Mchakama Village, Ruvuma landscape. Photo: Jerry Mushala / WWF-UK



Trees planted or regrown

Maintaining **40,000** planted trees

Hectares restored

114 ha

People benefitting

2,615 students and community members



Students planting seeds in their club nursery, learning new skills and knowledge by doing. Photo: WWF-Tanzania

In total throughout the project 2,615 students and community members have benefitted. During this reporting period local communities have been maintaining the newly planted sites and preparing the nurseries for the next planting season in January 2025.

Fruit seeds were successfully planted in several school tree nurseries, working in collaboration with a Darwin project which is setting up vegetable gardens in schools. This work is essential to improve food security and nutrition of students. The nursery work has increased community interest in conservation activities, with several local communities expressing interest in supporting the nursery plans. Restoring forests and conservation education are ongoing processes, and community involvement is crucial if tree planting initiatives are to be successful.

Projects

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-Tanzania 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 planted trees have been monitored to ensure that the restoration sites are flourishing. WWF-Tanzania and partners are also promoting agroforestry practices to both restore land and provide communities with access to additional nutritious food sources.

Transporting seedlings for planting. Photo: Friends of Usambaras



Trees planted or regrown
Monitoring **47,765** planted trees

Hectares restored
58 ha

People benefitting
3,131 farmers and students



Students learning about forest conservation and preparing to plant. Photo: Friends of

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.

Projects

Increasing tree cover for nature and people

Restoring buffer zones around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, so called because of the density of its forest, is in southwestern Uganda and covers an area of 321 km². The park is situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is home to over 120 species of mammals, 350 species of birds, and 220 species of butterflies. It is also the habitat of half of the remaining population of endangered Mountain Gorillas, which attract thousands of visitors from around the world every year. Characterised by its dense tropical high rainforest, steep hills, and valleys, the park is also a key water catchment area that recharges rivers, streams and other water bodies in the region. It is a unique habitat for a wide range of primates, including chimpanzees, baboons, and the black-and-white colobus monkey.

The landscape in the south of the park hosts a buffer zone that is co-managed by the protected area authority (Uganda Wildlife Authority) and park edge communities to benefit wildlife and the local population. Since the forest became a National Park in 1991, harvesting of firewood, wild fruits, herbal medicine and food was stopped and local communities turned to using the forest pockets outside the park, but this quickly failed to satisfy the growing population. As a result, illegal harvesting of fuelwood, medicinal plants, fruit and food for livestock has increased, including incidences of wild animal poaching.

Mountain Gorilla with infant, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Photo WWF Uganda



Lack of trees in the landscape around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Photo: WWF Uganda

The Bwindi Community Tree Growing Project, which will be implemented by WWF-Uganda, aims to increase biodiversity of trees among the park edge communities in eight villages along the Nkuringo Buffer Zone in the south of the park. The project will help to solve the challenge of scarcity of forest resources in the area, which has far-reaching socioeconomic effects on the livelihoods of the community and conservation of mountain gorilla habitat. The project will build the capacity of park edge communities especially women, to establish and manage tree nurseries that will produce enough clean tree planting materials. The project will promote the growing and integration of multipurpose, diverse tree species on farms to ensure realisation of multiple benefits for the participating households and the entire community.

The project aims to:

- Build the capacity of at least 80 women and men (resident in 8 villages adjacent to Nkuringo Buffer Zone) in techniques to raise clean tree planting materials by 2026.
- Raise awareness among local communities in 8 villages to engage people in tree growing
- Collaboratively monitor the survival and growth of at least 20,000 trees of diverse species in the 8 villages adjacent to Nkuringo Buffer Zone by 2026
- Restore an estimated total area of 55 hectares, incorporating areas that will be under agroforestry (80%), regeneration and woodlots.

During this reporting period, preparation and planning has been undertaken to ensure readiness for planting in the next planting season (Spring 2025), including training on how to use the Trillion Trees monitoring platform, FORMAPP.

Trees planted or regrown
Just starting
Hectares restored
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People benefitting
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Projects

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 chequed 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.

Led by WCS and communities, the project 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 was overgrown with fire prone weed species and kudzu vine thickets, and without intervention was 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 and over the last six months over 200 local community members have spent 10 full days cutting back invasive vines and vegetation in June, August and September over 32 hectares.

- June: 216 participants [83 women, 133 men] of Nam Pong, representing 74 households spent four days cutting
- August: 119 members [47 women, 72 men] spent three days cutting
- September: 131 members [59 women and 72 men] spent three days cutting

Cutting back kudzu vines and other invasives to make way for regeneration of trees. Photo: WCS Laos



Celebrating all of the hard work of cutting back vines and other invasive vegetation to make way for regeneration of trees. Photo: WCS Laos

All of this hard work has paid off, and up to 20 species and between 20,000 and 24,000 trees are now regenerating. Significant growth of seedlings, particularly *Melia azedarach*, *Mallotus* spp, *Macaranga* spp, and *Buhinia* spp, which saw height growth of >100% over the three cuttings. Crucially, project managers and villagers have set up 38 long-term monitoring posts across the project site, with another 10 monitoring posts as a control in a neighboring fallow field for comparison. They use these posts to measure tree growth and take photos for 'before and after' assessment. Over time, this will result in the ability to watch forest progression in detail across the 32 hectare project site.

These efforts are a culmination of many ongoing discussions with organisers, community participants, village leaders and local cattle owners. 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. It was agreed that building a fence would not work and that cooperation with the cattle owners to keep them out of the plots was the best way forward. Agreements were made with 56 cattle-owning families, and they were provided barbed wire to help prevent the cattle from moving into the villagers' restoration plots.

Trees planted or regrown
20,000-24,000
regenerated

Hectares restored
32 ha

People benefitting
200+ community
members [47 households]

Projects

Restoring forests for watershed management and nature conservation

Agroforestry and forest enrichment in Mbeliling, 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 five Key Biodiversity Area (KBAs) and is also an Important Bird Area. This landscape is not only important for biodiversity, but also provides 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.

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.

This project, led by BirdLife Partner Burung Indonesia, aims to restore 14 hectares of forest, planting trees for both agroforestry and forest enrichment.

A farmer arranging her saplings to be transferred to her farmland. Photo: Burung Indonesia/Maximus Abun



Saplings of "Kembang Indah" Group ready to distribute among members for planting. Photo: Burung Indonesia/Maximus Abun

Since the start of this project, a total of 11,887 seedlings from 13 tree species were distributed to five nurseries and have successfully grown into saplings. During the last six months, 4,639 saplings were planted, having been acquired from a community-run nursery and another nursery run by the Watershed Management Body of Benain-Noelmina.

The project is working with local community members and private sector representatives from Labuan Bajo. The representatives of 13 companies were involved in a tree planting event as part of celebrating International Rivers Day 2024. The companies are members of SiALIR, the private sector association with interest and concerns for water in Labuan Bajo. Additionally, saplings were planted at a senior high school for water spring preservation. The involvement of companies, local students and teachers was to help raise awareness of watershed management and nature conservation. Already, these types of tree planting activities have strengthened collaboration among upstream and downstream communities regarding watershed management in Mbeliling.

The native, agroforestry species being planted provide many benefits for local farmers and communities, while enhancing water resources for businesses in the city. The survival rate of saplings is at 79%, and lessons have been learned on how to improve survival based on when planting occurs. Some of the agroforestry species planted include clove, durian, avocado, nutmeg, mangosteen and rambutan.

Projects

Community-led restoration of natural forest

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

The Gebal community in Jimi District, Jiwaka Province comprises five Indigenous, landowning tribal groups (Komneka, Minaka, Waikale, Mininz and Hasband). This community is leading restoration of a highly biodiverse forest landscape. The Bisil Ku forests are in a very remote part of the Papua New Guinea 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 can make access difficult.

Trillion Trees partner, WCS partnered with a local community-based organisation - PNG Rural Development Inc. - and established a tree nursery which distributes seedlings in Gebal to restore the degraded forest. The community is bringing back critical habitat to help restore tree cover in deforested areas and enrich degraded forest with species of key importance for 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 also plants some fruit trees to address food security-related issues.

Dwarf cassowary are found along the range of Bisil Ku towards the Ramu valley. Photo: Stanley Geremba/WCS



Trees planted or regrown

4,648 planted

361 regenerated

Hectares restored

5 ha

People benefitting

600 community members



Community member in action with seedlings of native eucalyptus, to be planted onsite in his woodlot. Photo: Stanley Geremba/WCS

Over the last six months, the community has planted 4,648 trees – bringing the total planted to 30,525 or about 27.8 hectares [84% survival rate; 6 species]. The restoration efforts have also provided the conditions for regeneration of another 6,361 trees. Trees that were planted and regenerated are being maintained and monitored, through silviculture practices and maintenance [e.g. weeding]. The Gebal community has gradually been seeing ecological changes over the last two years of the project and are understanding the value of sustainable natural resource management and conservation.

The project has 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 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 always aim to 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, 2,570 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.



TRILLION TREES



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**