







### Reforest Fund Update - Dec 2025

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.



























Forest Landscape Restoration addresses the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and socio-economic inequality















# 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 methods suited to the local environment, 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 help preserve critical biodiversity.

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, foundations and companies who have donated to the ReForest Fund, we have supported 27 projects across 21 landscapes so far. Teams have restored 712,044 trees, which are benefitting over 26,100 people. That's more than 280,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide to be sequestered over 20 years!\*

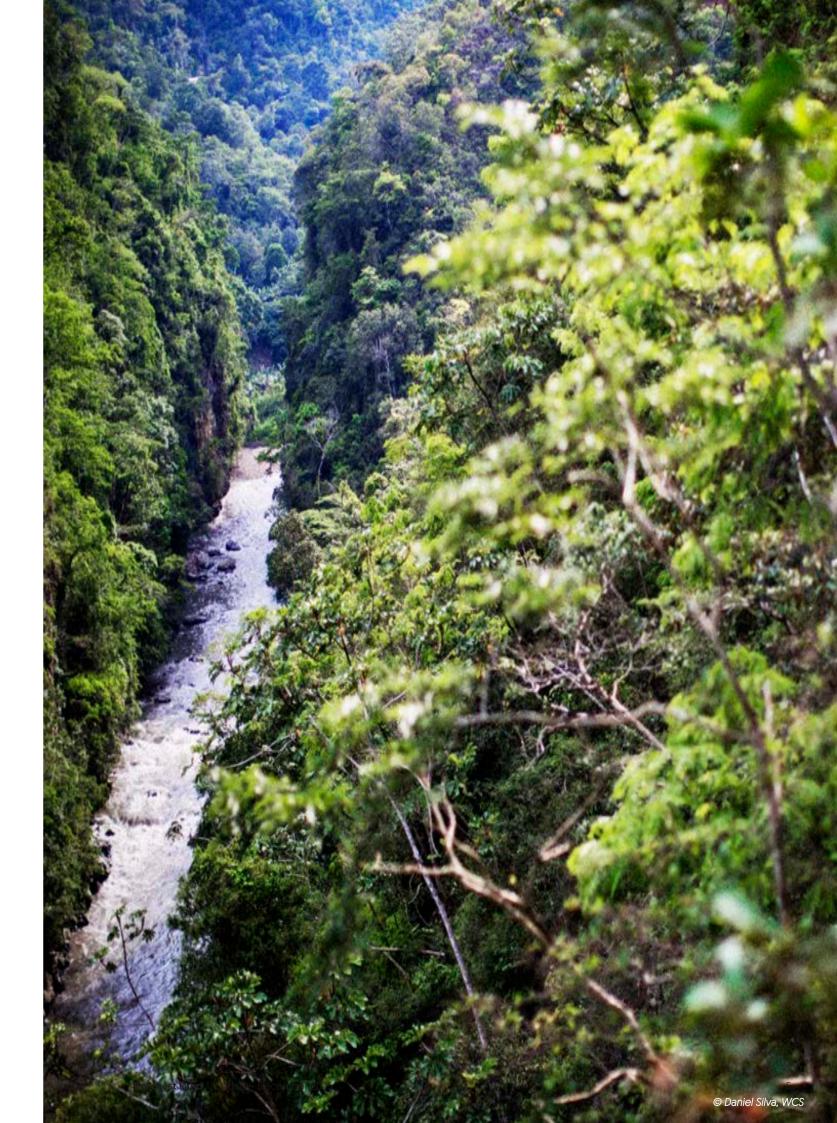
Our projects have made significant progress in the last six months. In the buffer zones around the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda, habitat of the Endangered Mountain Gorilla, local communities have restored 40 hectares, planting 4,053 agroforestry trees.

In the Atlantic Forest of Argentina, more than 71,000 native trees have been planted across over 250 hectares of degraded rainforest ecosystems, enriching forest patches and strengthening agroforestry systems which benefit local communities.

In the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala's last large wildland, over 80 families have been involved in planting 5,846 trees from 11 native species. Early natural regeneration is also underway, with more than 18 species beginning to reappear in small sites where shade and soil conditions have begun to recover. Continuous maintenance and monitoring, a vital aspect of forest restoration, and preparation for the next planting season, has taken place for many of our projects.

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.

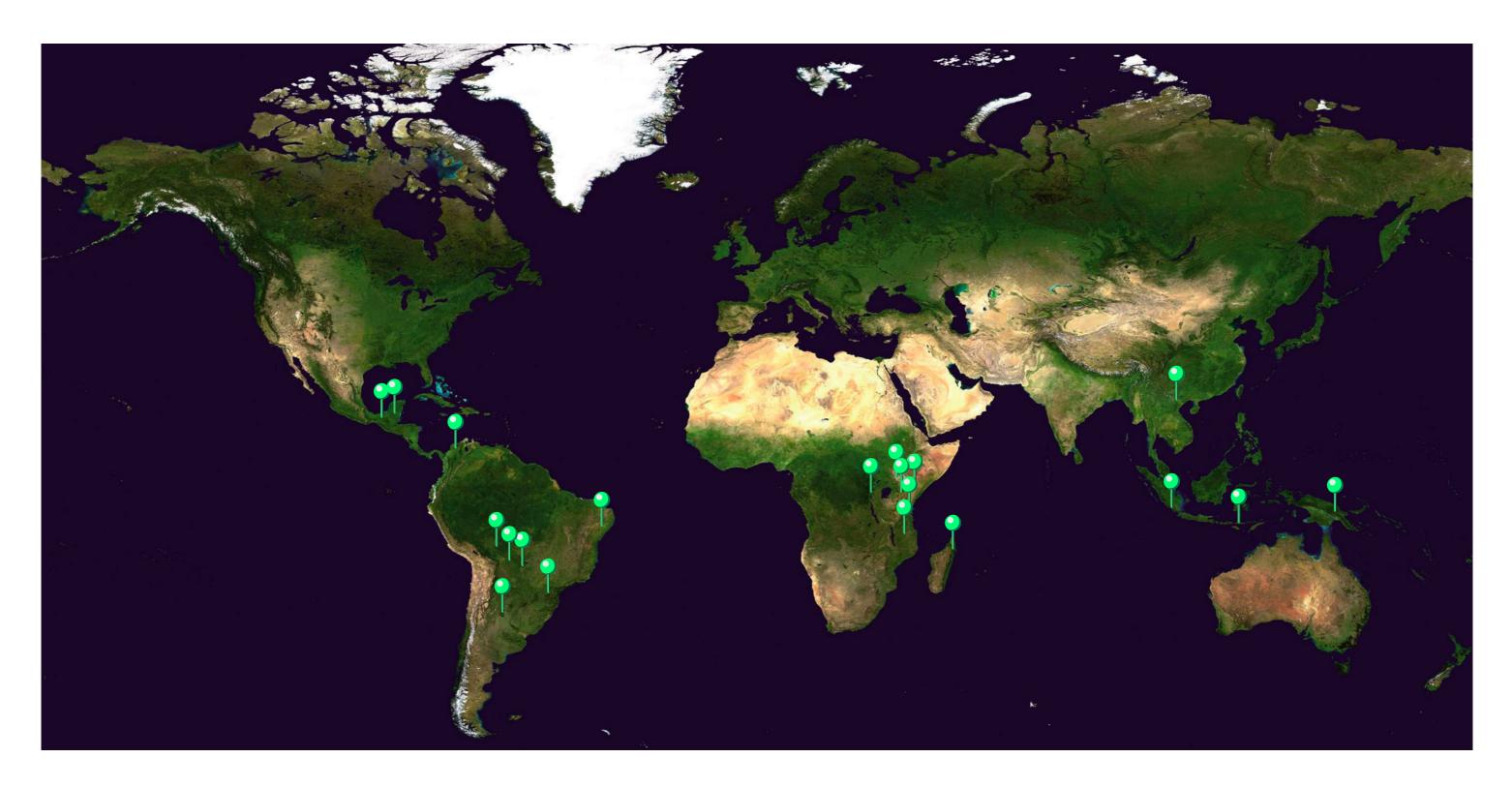
\*calculated using an average of the carbon sequestration rates presented by <u>Cook-Patton et al. [2020]</u> and the <u>Winrock International Forest Landscape Restoration Carbon Storage Calculator</u> and assumes that the planted trees will live for at least 20 years, which, with our careful management, is expected.



### **Global Impact**

At each location, we have continued to build on the successful relationships with local communities and work with them to develop appropriate restoration opportunities 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.



### Restoring temperate forest 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.

Between May and September 2025 BirdLife International partner, Pronatura Sur, working with 880 participants from the city and rural communities, planted 7,650 trees [12 species] across over 12 hectares, as well as carefully monitoring a total of over 21,000 trees grown throughout the duration of the project.

In this last phase of the project, the 18th Reforestation Campaign of the Jovel Valley Basin was also planned and carried out in coordination with partners including the Comité de Cuenca del Valle de Jovel, Tu Bosque A.C., Ciudadanos por la Acción Territorial del Valle de Jovel A.C., Colectivo Impulso Sustentable Chiapas, and NaBolom A.C. Between June and September 2025, Sunday reforestation days were held in various plots in the middle and upper basin, with the participation of landowners and citizens from the urban area.

Pronatura Sur ecological restoration team participating in community reforestation. PHOTO: Andrés ta Chikinik





Community planting during summer 2025 in the Highland of Chiapas. PHOTO: Pronatura

Reforestation in the middle and upper basin contributes to the recovery of forest cover, which improves water infiltration, reduces soil erosion, and strengthens connectivity between forest fragments.

These activities have promoted cultural exchange, recognition of the landscape, and a greater understanding of the main issues related to deforestation and its impacts on the city. The active participation of landowners and urban citizens creates a sense of shared responsibility.

The establishment of native species restores the natural habitat of birds, pollinators, and small mammals, increasing the availability of food and shelter. Some globally threatened tree species have also been planted, promoting their establishment in various parts of the region that contribute to their conservation.

A 60% survival rate has been recorded for the seedlings planted, owing to a combination of factors, including climate and soil conditions. Replanting is currently being planned for next year. Monitoring will also continue over the next two years to ensure the survival of these important restoration areas.

## Restoring a degraded landscape in Guatemala's last large wildland

### Forest restoration in the Maya Biosphere Reserve

The Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) in northern Guatemala forms the heart of the largest intact forest in Mesoamerica – the Selva Maya, linking Guatemala, Mexico and Belize. The area has particular cultural significance, with the reserve covering almost a fifth of Guatemala, including the epicentre of the ancient Maya civilisation.

The MBR remains Guatemala's last large wildland. It is home to over a third of the country's plants and a wide range of endangered animal species such as the jaguar, white-lipped peccary (a local wild pig), Central American spider monkey and Baird's tapir. There are also around 500 bird species – including the iconic scarlet macaw (the Mesoamerican subspecies is found only in the Selva Maya, with as few as 1,000 left in the wild) - and 35 species of butterfly. The area is also home to around 180,000 people. Despite its size and importance, the MBR forest faces persistent threats from deforestation – including illegal cattle ranching, seasonal fires and unsustainable resource extraction.

The restoration site known as 'La Casona' encompasses more than 600 hectares of land that has been heavily degraded by years of extensive cattle ranching. Within this landscape, the current restoration project covers 33.51 hectares, where WCS Guatemala and the community are working to reverse severe ecological damage caused by invasive pasture grasses and the loss of native forest cover. A second 33-hectare block is scheduled to begin restoration soon, as part of a step-by-step strategy to gradually recover ecological integrity across the wider area.

Women from Cruce La Colorada planting forest species in the "La Casona" restoration area, in the La Colorada Management Unit. PHOTO: WCS Guatemala





Aerial photograph of an area of the Maya Biosphere Reseve PHOTO: WCS Guatemala

Although the degradation is extensive, the landscape retains strong potential for recovery. Through progressive restoration efforts, the project aims to restore ecological functionality, reduce invasive grass cover, and reestablish natural connectivity within this critical section of the Maya Biosphere Reserve.

Over the latest reporting period, restoration activity advanced significantly across the 33.51-hectare site. The team completed precise technical demarcation of the area using high-accuracy GNSS equipment and rehabilitated more than 3 km of access routes and firebreaks, improving fire prevention and enabling safe movement during planting and maintenance. Two multispectral drone surveys, carried out in March and October, now provide a detailed baseline for monitoring ecological change. Initial results show better control of invasive pasture grasses, healthy establishment of planted trees and the first formation of small patches of natural regeneration.

A major focus of the season was the production, transport and planting of native tree species. The nearby "El Tanque" nursery, established by WCS and the community organisation as part of a broader ecological restoration strategy, supplied the plants used for restoration. As a result, the team successfully planted 5,846 trees from 11 native species across the site. Early natural regeneration is also underway, with more than 18 species beginning to reappear in small sites where shade and soil conditions have begun to recover.

Community participation remains central to the project. The long-term beneficiaries include both the 55 members of the Selva Maya del Norte Civil Society and the neighbouring community living within the Maya Biosphere Reserve. For local residents, the restoration work provides employment, builds technical skills, and empowers them to protect the area as trained first responders in the face of fires and other threats. For the Civil Society members who manage the area, the ecological recovery underway not only improves landscape health but also creates the foundation for future sustainable income derived from the renewed natural resources. Together, both groups benefit from a healthier, better-protected landscape that supports their wellbeing and long-term stewardship.

# Increasing tree cover for people and nature south of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

#### Working with local communities in 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. It is a unique habitat for a wide range of primates, including chimpanzees, baboons, and the black-and-white colobus monkey.

South of the park is the Nkuringo Buffer Zone, which is co-managed by the protected area authority (Uganda Wildlife Authority) and local communities to benefit both 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 infants in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, PHOTO: WWF Uganda

The project, led by Trillion Trees partner WWF-Uganda and the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), is part of the Bwindi Community Tree Growing Project and aims to grow a minimum of 20,000 trees in eight villages along the Nkuringo Buffer Zone by 2027. The project is addressing the challenge of scarcity of forest resources in the area by providing increased tree resources (e.g. fuelwood, herbal medicine, and fruits), which has far-reaching socioeconomic effects on the livelihoods of the community and conservation of mountain gorilla habitat. This project is also building the capacity of local communities, especially women, to establish and manage tree nurseries to produce enough clean tree planting materials.

Between May and November 2025, the project has restored approximately 40 hectares following the distribution of 4,053 agroforestry trees that were planted by 306 local community members. Fifteen tree species have been planted, including, for example, Apples, Avocados, Jack Fruit, Guava, Lemon, Loquat Yehuda, Mangos, Macadamia, Oranges, and Tangerine. Nursery equipment has been distributed and over 300 farmers have been trained on how to plant, maintain, and grow the trees to support high survival rates. Women and youth are actively engaged in work in the nursery beds, during project site mapping activities, and distribution and planting of seedlings.

## Restoring degraded forest through agroforesty in Tanzania

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

The Usambara Mountains in northeastern Tanzania within the Eastern Arc Mountains, 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 multiple innovative 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...

Community member in the Usambara landscape. Photo: WWF-Tanzania





Tree planting with local schools in the Usambaras. Photo: WWF Tanzar

In the East Usambara mountains, the forest landscape restoration project has been implemented by 4H, working with eight primary schools in Muheza and Korogwe districts to produce tree seedlings, particularly agroforestry species, for distribution to the community for planting in their fields and public spaces. In the West Usambaras, The Friends of Usambara have supported the restoration of water catchments to maintain the Umba river water flow to the Mkomazi National Park, through the use of Community Forest practices [CBFM] and agroforestry techniques.

In this reporting period, 125,265 previously planted trees have been monitored and maintained to ensure that the restoration sites are flourishing, with communities engaged in the monitoring process. WWF-Tanzania and local partners are also promoting agroforestry practices both to restore the land and provide communities with access to additional nutritious food sources, and a total of 4,871 community members and students have benefited from this project.

### Restoration of Critical Connectivity Zones in Indonesia

#### Restoration in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park

Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) in southern Sumatra holds one of the world's most important remaining populations of the Sumatran tiger, with roughly 6 percent of the global total. For decades, expanding coffee cultivation has carved gaps through the park's forests, disrupting the natural movement of wildlife between the northern and southern ranges. To address this, the BBSNP management plan for 2025 to 2035 identifies more than 52,000 hectares that require ecological rehabilitation.

With support from the Trillion Trees ReForest Fund, the partnership between BBSNP and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Indonesia is restoring one of the park's most important connectivity bottlenecks. The project focuses on the Lombok and Pugung Tampak resort areas, where degraded forest patches limit wildlife movement and weaken the resilience of the broader landscape. The team aims to re-establish forest structure and function by planting 32,000 native trees and applying assisted natural regeneration methods.

During the May to October 2025 reporting period, the project team mapped 110.59 hectares of new planting sites across Pugung Tampak Resort. This work increased the total area influenced by restoration activities to approximately 378 hectares, including earlier interventions in Lombok Resort. The team secured 12,932 seedlings from 13 native species for the November planting season, sourced through a combination of community contributions and local nursery production. Up until December 2025, the combined effort from community members, BBSNP, and WCS has managed to plant a cumulative total of 4,360 seedlings across the two resorts.





WCS staff monitoring seedlings contributed by Gunung Batu Jaya WUG members in Sukamulya Village. PHOTO: WCS Indones

Community involvement remains at the heart of the forest restoration approach. This period, 122 additional community members joined the project, bringing total participation to 264 people. These groups included Water Utilisation Groups and Forest Farmer Groups, many of whom currently cultivate land inside the national park. Indonesia's recent Presidential Instruction No. 5 of 2025 provides a legal basis for forest area regulation; however, authorities are encouraged to work collaboratively with smallholder farmers before considering law enforcement. The restoration initiative puts this principle into practice by providing structured opportunities for shared planning and hands-on restoration activities.

Local nurseries continue to play an important role as well. Two BBSNP-assisted nurseries, located in Ujung Rembun and Sukamulya villages, supply many of the seedlings for restoration. WCS is now assessing their technical capacity to expand production, including seed collection, propagation methods, and seedling management. Strengthening these nurseries could create reliable sources of native trees and additional livelihood options for Forest Farmer Groups.

Field experience has informed several improvements to seedling preparation. Earlier plantings showed that seedlings from low-altitude nurseries struggled to survive at higher elevations. To address this, the team now moves externally sourced seedlings to local nurseries for a four-week acclimatisation period before planting. Nursery managers and WCS staff, accompanied by head of the resort, conduct regular checks to maintain seedling quality, and teams visit individual farmers to verify the condition of seedlings they manage at home.

The project will carry out simultaneous planting across Pugung Tampak Resort in November 2025. Forest Farmer Groups will integrate native species into their coffee agroforestry systems, while Water Utilisation Groups will plant around local springs to improve watershed stability. These interventions will help rebuild forest connectivity, improve ecological integrity, and strengthen the long-term conservation prospects of the Sumatran tiger.

#### **Projects**

#### Córdoba, Argentina



Aves Argentinas is restoring areas around the old royal road with native flora, reconnecting forest patches for wildlife and contributing to historical and cultural values in the province of Córdoba, Argentina. In this period they planted 5,474 trees, bringing the total area restored to 640 hectares and benefitting over 80,000 people.

#### Misiones, Argentina



In the the Atlantic Forest of Argentina, 71,885 trees have been planted across over 257 hectares involving over 800 local people. Aves Argentinas is restoring degraded rainforest ecosystems, through agroforestry systems and native tree species for the sustainable use and benefit of local communities.

#### Carranchina, Colombia



WCS Colombia is working with local women as restoration leaders in the Carranchina Reserve, to restore degraded forest, important habitat for a critically endangered endemic turtle species. Over 1,900 seedlings have been grown in nurseries, ready for the planting season.

#### Madidi-Tambopata, Peru



In the The Madidi-Tambopata Landscape in Peru, WCS is working with local coffee growing families, restoring native trees on degraded land through agroforestry techniques to boost coffee production and support biodiversity. A total of 19,900 trees have been planted.

#### Tunari, Bolivia



Asociación Armonía is restoring critical Polylepis forests in the high Andes of Bolivia. Indigenous communities are leading the restoration efforts to increase the size of forest fragments and reestablish trees in watersheds that are important for 1.2 million people in the region. In this period, saplings have been grown in nurseries ready for the planting season.

#### Santa Cruz, Bolivia



WWF Bolivia is working with Indigenous communities and local landowners in the Amazon and Chiquitano forests, to restore natural forest and put in place community fire prevention plans to reduce the risk of wildfire, a major threat to landscape recovery. So far over 6,500 trees have been regenerated.

#### Kaptagat, Kenya



WWF Kenya is working with Community Forest Associations (CFAs) in the Kipkabus forest in Kaptagat. Five CFAs have spearheaded restoration efforts in their local areas, actively contributing to the planning and execution of the 9th Kaptagat Tree Planting Edition in July 2025. Monitoring of seedlings has also continued with a survival rate of 96%.

#### Ruvuma, Tanzania



WWF Tanzania, through its Foresters for the Future programme, is working with schools and clubs for students to gain experience in raising seedlings and managing tree nurseries at schools. During this season, the important task of monitoring previously planted seedlings took place, as well as establishing new tree nurseries for the next planting season.

18 ReForest Fund Update - December 2025 ReForest Fund Update - December 2025

#### **Projects**

#### Mbeliling, Indonesia



Burung Indonesia is working in the Mbeliling Landscape on Flores Island, Indonesia, a critical water source, supporting 34,000 people and home to five Key Biodiversity Areas. In this period, 968 trees were planted, as well as monitoring of previously planted trees; bringing the total to over 24,600 trees, and benefitting 484 people.

#### Nam Et Phou Louey, Laos



WCS is restoring degraded forest in abandoned agricultural areas to widen a key link between the northern and southern parts of NEPL National Park, through assisted natural regeneration techniques. In this season local communities cleared invasive vines and grasses on three occasions to allow native seedlings to regenerate, surveyed monitoring posts and noted signs of key wildlife species in the area.



# 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. 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, 3,115 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.









#### Thank you

Thanks to the generous support of 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 <a href="mailto:trilliontrees.org/reforest-fund">trilliontrees.org/reforest-fund</a>