“You plant a seed; it germinates and looking so fragile, and within a very short time it becomes a huge tree. It gives you shade and if it’s a fruit tree it gives you fruit... and transforms lives. There is absolutely no excuse to stop desertification because this is something that is doable and cheap”

- Wangari Maathai
Impact Report 2012

In 2012 the International Tree Foundation continued to invest in projects and partnerships that demonstrate the essential role of trees in sustaining and enriching life on Earth.

We worked with our partners in 10 countries in Africa: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Our partners are working with communities at the forefront of deforestation, climate change, loss of biodiversity and the pressures on people’s livelihoods that these bring. We support sustainable community led solutions to these issues that transform landscapes and people’s lives. We also continued to support tree planting in the UK.

All in all we supported a total of 18 projects, planting a total of over 460,000 trees and reaching over 46,000 direct beneficiaries. Our impact is not just measured in numbers however; it is the qualitative difference we make to the natural environment and to people’s lives that really counts.

This report showcases the positive impact achieved by a selection of our projects in both protecting and restoring the environment and in improving people’s livelihoods.

You are welcome to distribute this report as widely as you wish; it is also available as a PowerPoint presentation. As you will appreciate, we try to do as little printing as possible but you are welcome to print and distribute it. The images on the project pages may also be used on your website with copyright as shown below.

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Saving the habitat of the Cross River Gorilla in Cameroon

Project partner: Environment & Rural Development Foundation

This project was completed in November 2012 after successfully running for 18 months. The primary project aim was to conserve the only remaining unprotected montane forest ecosystem in Cameroon. This area is one of the last remnants of habitat of the world’s most critically endangered primate, the Cross River gorilla.

Working with the communities that live around the forest, the project helped to establish alternative sources of income and fuel wood, thereby reducing pressure on this precious and unique forest.

Achievements:

- 4 community nurseries of 15,000 seedlings each were established.
- 4 Village Forest Management Committees created and supported with tree planting equipment.
- 1 agroforestry farmers’ network trained and functional
- A central nursery of over 20,000 trees for the establishment of a seed bank has been constructed and over 7,000 trees transplanted so far.
- In schools, 20 sessions of environmental protection lectures were organised and 10 environmental clubs created, nurseries of 5,000 seedlings established and tree planting and teaching materials donated to schools.
- 28 workshops on transplanting were organised in both communities and schools.
Impact

• Over 15,000 trees planted for soil fertility improvement, fodder for livestock, spices production and forest gardens.

• The increased skills beneficiaries have acquired have enabled them to establish nurseries, and they now practice sustainable agriculture.
Community based forestry with farmers in Kaffrine, Senegal

Project Partner: Trees for the Future

This community based agroforestry programme is sited in the Kaffrine Region of Senegal where the agrarian population is afflicted by rampant poverty, malnutrition and a deteriorating environment. Working with farmers with many dependents, the aim of this project is to improve standards of living and conserve the environment through the planting of beneficial tree species and the development of sustainable agroforestry systems.

Achievements:

January 2012 saw Trees for the Future hold a workshop on seed collection and storage, engaging prominent local farmers involved in the project in planning agroforestry work for the year. This was followed up in March by five tree nursery planning and development workshops and the provision of materials for establishing tree nurseries. Further follow up workshops where knowledge was shared and seeds swapped were held in July.

90 farmers have been engaged in the project and a new Trees for the Future demonstration site focussing on fruit trees has been constructed in order to train farmers in areas of the Kaffrine region where Trees for the Future is expanding. Water taps have been provided to six farmers for efficient fruit tree watering. 180,000 seedlings of 29 different species raised by 90 farmers.

Impact:

2,568 people have benefitted from this project including farmers, their families and close associates, as well as community groups around the Kaffrine region.

“The change is clearly visible. The trees are helping me protect my field and make the soil better.”- Moussa Ndao, a farmer in Mbentiky, Senegal
Conserving high biodiversity forests in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania
Project Partner: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Udzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve has a particularly high concentration of species listed on the IUCN Red List of threatened species and of species endemic to the Eastern Arc Mountains. The forests and their biodiversity are threatened by widespread illegal logging and poaching in the reserve.

The purpose of the project, which was completed in June 2012, was to improve the management of the Udzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve through equipment provision, training events and capacity building of Village Natural Resources Committees of villages adjacent to the reserve so that they could engage more effectively in the management of the reserve. The project also aimed to strengthen the relationship between the communities and the Central Government staff responsible for the management of the reserve.

Achievements:
137 Village Natural Resources Committee and Village Council members were trained in participatory forest management. Equipment was distributed to the Village Natural Resource Committees. 86,032 tree seedlings have been raised by 12 tree nursery groups. Group training and follow-up technical support was provided.

Impact:
As a result of the training in Participatory Forest Management and the provision of equipment, the communities have begun to carry out forest management activities including patrols, boundary clearing, monitoring and fire management. In addition, the communities have begun to record information relevant to the management of the reserve.
Community forestry in Nkhata Bay North, Malawi

Project Partner: TEMWA

The objective of this project is to reduce deforestation and malnutrition in the community. The project also aims to raise awareness of agroforestry and soil conservation methods in 5 villages through Village Development Committees, farmers’ groups and schools across Nkhata Bay North. These groups then conduct their own training sessions.

Impact:

- Number of beneficiaries: 1,365, including farmers, school children and community groups.
- Malnutrition has been reduced both for the direct beneficiaries and for their families due to greater access to fruit and moringa leaves which are high in protein. Moringa leaves, flowers and pods have also been used medicinally to help fight infection and diarrhoea.
- The training and the diversification of tree species means farmers are using sustainable agroforestry techniques and are reporting that they have noticed an improvement in their soil fertility and crop harvests.
- Knowledge learned in workshops is being passed on to friends and families of direct beneficiaries.
“We were trained well! Many people come to buy seeds and ask advice. Thank you Temwa and ITF, what you have done is a big job that is helping the entire community, people have really benefitted from what you have shown us.” - Flanders Thawi, 55
Mount Kenya Forest Tree Planting
Project partner: Save Mount Kenya Forest from Extinction Group

Mount Kenya Forest has experienced a high rate of deforestation. This has meant increased pressure on forest land and decreased food production which in turn has led to local people struggling to make an income. Six rivers flow from this region of Mount Kenya Forest, making it a vital water catchment area in need of protection.

Working closely with local communities, Save Mount Kenya Forest from Extinction Group source tree seeds, establish tree nurseries and train local people in forestry and conservation techniques to encourage reforestation of the Mount Kenya Forest. 2012 has seen the first phase of this project completed with great outcomes, and further funding for another phase of this work has been agreed.

“The water volume from all rivers originating from the forest will increase in volume and thus a boost to community members and reduce conflict fighting for water.”

— Benjamin Katharaku, project participant.
**Achievements**

Community workshops on forestry techniques and biodiversity awareness raising have been held and many community members have established tree nurseries.

- Over 400 group members participated in training
- Over 1,500 smallholder farmers benefited with seedlings from the project
- Over 1,000 pupils from three schools received seedlings and planted them in their school compounds, they will benefit through shade, fuel wood, beautification and nitrogen fixing

**Impact:**

Local community members have planted over 50,000 trees in 10,000 square kilometres of Mount Kenya Forest. They have planted food trees and nitrogen fixing trees in farms to improve soil fertility, and trees on river banks to protect water catchment. Reporting of illegal forestry activity has increased with community motivation to protect the forest, with some beneficiaries acting as “watchmen” for the forest. Over 5,000 community members who live near Mount Kenya using this water source for their daily uses will have more and cleaner water.
A little bit more about the International Tree Foundation
ITF was founded in Kenya in 1924 as ‘Watu wa Miti’ (People of the Trees), by Richard St Barbe Baker and 50 volunteers.

Today, we are a small NGO and charity with an office in Three Bridges, West Sussex working with partner organisations internationally.

In order to continue with this vital work we urgently need your support. Please visit our website at: [www.internationaltreefoundation.org](http://www.internationaltreefoundation.org) where you can learn more about our work and how you can get involved, and sign up for our regular e-bulletin which is published bi-monthly.

If you are interested in supporting our work, please get in touch with us by phone or by e-mailing fund@internationaltreefoundation.org

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