



India: Stopping desertification



Project GreenHands, a project of Isha Outreach, was created to unite an entire state around spiraling desertification in Tamil Nadu, where many major rivers have already dried up and agricultural failure is peaking through combined effects of different land degradation processes and drought.

We are supporting a sub-program called "Trees for Life", an agro-forestry initiative that transforms lives of farmers and their landscapes, through intercropping or growing a grove. Projects Green Hands has three tree nurseries that grow four million saplings every year to be transplanted on registered poor farmers' small-scale farmlands. The nurseries procure the farmers with ecologically and economically beneficial, native or naturalized trees. Trees can provide timber once they have reached a certain height, or, farmers can harvest their fruits, or else tree may serve as fodder for livestock. Trees For Life aims to increase soil fertility, biodiversity, and groundwater retention while providing income that reduces malnutrition and risk of farmer suicide. The additional income from the trees and secondary crops can offset the farmer's loss of income from the reduction in his main crop. The spirit of this project is humbling.

Our Place in the Plan: PGH has many facets to its planting, but the one that they asked us to support them with is the most costly and needed - ensuring that the agricultural culture of the state is not lost completely. We are supporting the education of farmers to turn towards agro-forestry - were trees become an integral 'crop' in a poly-culture approach combining animals, crops and trees. In temperatures regularly over 40 degrees where rains fail and earth literally becomes as hard as concrete, trees provide shade, soil fertility, moisture and their own crops of seeds, nuts, fruit, medicines, herbicides, oils and those that can be grown on their frames - like peppercorns. The added costs here are drip irrigation systems that are vital infrastructure without which the saplings and trees would not stand a chance. Steadily, we're helping to rehabilitate lands to stop the exodus from village to city and the decent into radical poverty, whilst bringing the trees and the streams back to those who depend upon them.

LOCATION: TAMIL NADU, SOUTH INDIA

PLANTING PARTNER: PROJECT GREENHANDS / ISHA OUTREACH

IMAGE BY: PROJECT GREENHANDS



Madagascar: Mangroves



edenprojects.org
PLANT TREES | SAVE LIVES

TreeSisters and the Eden Reforestation Projects supports the villagers to restore small degraded, but insidious patches of cleared mangrove, in the remote mangrove estuarine ecosystem called Kalamboro. This area is owned by the Government but local community associations co-manage it with the State.

Kalamboro is challenged by poverty, human population growth and regional illegal timber trade. All along Madagascar's Western coast, the mangrove estuaries are being cleared, destroying rich coastal ecosystems, in the sea, in the estuary channels and on the scenic mangrove islands, leaving the bare earth to wash away into the sea and sediments to alter the fisheries resources. This happens in addition to all the sediments coming from inland deforestation with more than 90% of Madagascar's original forests destroyed.

The Eden Reforestation Projects is supporting Kalamboro to get out of poverty and in many cases through 'Fish Baron' slavery, by employing them to restoring the mangroves they inhabit and greatly depend upon. Though this partnership, we fund mangrove forest regeneration to help these communities rebuild their coastal ecology, providing nurseries for vital dwindling fish stocks, stabilizing soil and providing buffering for rising sea levels and storms. The social and ecological benefits and beauty of this project are truly amazing.

Freeing the Enslaved: In Madagascar whole villages are enslaved to the fish barons – boat and net owners who loan out their vessels for a specific yield, which if not met places their fishermen and women in debt – permanently. Enslavement comes with its various horrors, including giving children into slavery and much worse for the women. Eden go in, work with the community and start to employ them to grow and plant saplings on very large tracts of land. 60%-70% of their workers are women who get out of debt, get their kids into school with many starting their own micro-enterprises as well. Eden literally turn the enslaved into the foresters of our world, whole villages at a time.

LOCATION: KALAMBORO ESTUARY SYSTEM, BOENY REGION

PLANTING PARTNER: THE EDEN REFORESTATION PROJECTS

IMAGE BY: THE EDEN REFORESTATION PROJECTS



Brazil: Forest Corridor



Through WeForest and its local partner, we collaborate to restore the Atlantic rainforest's biodiversity in the region of Pontal do Paranapanema, where only 3% of the original forest cover remains. The project aims to convert 20% of landowners' farmlands into forest lands, through the regeneration of degraded forest lands via planting and assisted natural regeneration techniques. The regenerated forests will be registered as Legal Forest Reserves or Areas of Permanent Protection (APP) for freshwater recharge.

The vision is to grow forest corridors between the remaining patches of highly-fragmented Atlantic rainforests and ultimately re-connecting the Morro do Diablo State Park to the Iguaçu National Park. Despite the destruction of the Atlantic rainforest, this remains one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth, home of endemic species. This project directly supports the migration of endangered species. It indirectly contributes to their conservation and offers huge potential in terms of carbon sequestration. The project also helps local women, who are highly involved in the planting work and project's design and management.

The Law on our Side: The amazing thing about Brazil is that legislation is in place that requires all farmland to be at least 20% forested, which means that farmers are required to reforest. This makes WeForests role of planting forest corridors to link the remaining fragments of forest between Moro Do Diabo State Park and Iquacu National Park back together, a much easier proposition and also means that the replanted forest has guaranteed protection. It is very rare to find communities with a seed forest that they can harvest seeds from but this project has one, right next to the protected forest that is illegal to enter. From healthy seed stock the women of these communities plant and tend the sapling nurseries and the men go out to plant. The forest corridors created are as close to the huge mix of trees found in the remaining forest as one could hope for. We hope to help WeForest achieve their dream of doubling the existing forest cover as fast as it can be done.

LOCATION: TEODORO
SAMPAIO, SÃO PAULO STATE
PLANTING PARTNER:
WEFOREST
IMAGE BY: WEFOREST



Kenya: Water Tower



Kenya has one of the lowest levels of green cover in Africa at just 7%, which makes water scarcity a national problem. However, Kenya in 2015 committed to increasing tree cover from 7% forest cover to at least 10% in the next 15 years.

TreeSisters is supporting the International Tree Foundation's 20 Million Tree Campaign to work with farmers, women and school children to reforest the denuded and degraded lands which were once part of Mt Kenya's forest ring and connected Lower Imenti forest. These forests are growing on gazetted lands within forest reserves. The project also supports agroforestry activities on small-scale farms, in farmlands adjacent to the forest reserves.

The aim is to restore a critical water catchment for Kenya's people, delivering an estimated 40% of the country's water needs, and gather communities around the rehabilitation of both their forest and their agricultural lands. This is an audacious project that warrants significant support.

Focusing on the Women: Women play the major role in managing the tree nurseries and planting out the trees, and the project is especially designed to meet the needs of women. Most households still obtain most of the fuel wood and often most of the livestock fodder they need from the forest. Women and children frequently shoulder this burden, walking to the forest several times a week and carrying heavy loads back to the farm. By enhancing agroforestry on farms the project reduces that burden. Women and children benefit from improved food security and nutrition through the agroforestry component. In a recent household survey, all women interviewed wanted to increase tree planting on their farms to meet these needs. Another reason why we chose to partner with ITF is because the project focuses on the participation of women's groups. They support women with seeds, tools, and equipment to run small tree nurseries aimed at improving income generating activities. They also start female empowerment groups and capacity building, and train women on new business development skills and forest friendly income generating activities like bee keeping aimed at conservation of the forest and creation of stable income streams.

LOCATION: FOOTHILLS OF MT.
KENYA, MT. KENYA FOREST
RESERVE, LOWER IMENTI
FOREST RESERVE
PLANTING PARTNER:
INTERNATIONAL TREE
FOUNDATION
IMAGE BY: INTERNATIONAL
TREE FOUNDATION