Strategic Growth Plan
2019–2025

EXPANSION
COLLABORATION
REPLICATION

Trees for the Future (TREES) will break the cycle of poverty and hunger for 1 million people by planting 500 million trees in 125,000 Forest Gardens by 2025.

To that end, TREES will execute on three programmatic pathways:

- **EXPANSION** of our Forest Gardens throughout Africa.
- **COLLABORATION** with partner organizations who will accelerate the adoption of Forest Gardens throughout smallholder farming communities where they work.
- **REPLICATION** of Forest Gardens through the hard work of individuals who become agroforestry experts through our Forest Garden Training Center.

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PARTNERS

IOM
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
World Agroforestry Centre
MATI TUMBI
Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute - TUMBI
The Ohio State University
International Rescue Committee
TREES will continue to expand our Forest Garden Approach (FGA) which yields the triple bottom line of helping smallholder farmers:

1. eliminate hunger and enhance their dietary diversity by growing the nutrients needed for healthy livelihoods
2. improve the environment, including mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change
3. ensure a living wage and increased profits for farmers through planting thousands of trees per hectare

TREES’ expansion will focus along trade corridors in both East and West Africa.

**East Africa Landscape Focus**
- **Tanzania**: Expanding from Singida into Arusha and Tabora. As well as north of Tabora between Serengeti National Park and Lake Victoria.
- **Kenya**: Expanding north and south of Homa Bay and north and west of Ikinu.
- **Uganda**: Expanding north of the border with Kenya at Busia up to Mt. Elgon to our current projects in Lira and Kole.

**West Africa Landscape Focus**
- **Senegal**: Expanding around the central Kaffrine area along the trade corridor that connects Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso.
- **Cameroon**: We will expand centrally around a three point area that connects Mt. Bamboutos, Mt. Nlonako, and the Western Highland Plateau in the West, NW, and SW of Cameroon; and will extend to key landscapes in the East and the South including ecological corridors at the intersection of endangered wildlife, primary watersheds, and displaced and indigenous populations.

**Forest Garden Alumni Planting It Forward**
In addition to expanding projects through our trained technicians, we expect to expand from existing projects through accomplished TREES’ program alumni. To date, we have graduated 2,247 farmers with new farmers graduating each year. We encourage farmers who excel in the FGA to plant-it-forward with their neighbors — passing seeds and skills to others allowing our work to spread, organically.
Collaboration is an important element of our growth strategy. Recognizing that the Forest Garden has multiple applications, we have identified our collaboration opportunities into the following categories:

**Nutrition**
Nutrition is a major concern across Africa and the tropics. The FGA ends hunger in less than two years. TREES knows the key to ending hunger and nutritional deficiencies lies in diversification of land and crops. It is this key aspect that we strive to teach other organizations. We can show organizations how to: a) use the FGA to create a full diet with seed kits and gardens; b) end micronutrient deficiencies; and c) ensure that food grown in healthy soil contains the most nutrition possible.

**Water**
TREES works with partners to increase farmers’ water access through decentralized water systems, catchments and barrels. TREES hopes to integrate the understanding that water distribution systems are more sustainable with trees since trees channel rainwater back into groundwater reserves. Sustainable on-farm water management helps us better adapt to and mitigate climate change and its effects.

**Crop Resilience and Land Sustainability**
Many crops grow better in a Forest Garden because the agroforestry trees stop erosion, enhance the soil, and create optimal growing conditions for cash crops, such as cocoa, palm oil, coffee, maize, peanuts, avocado, sisal, pineapple and bananas. Farmers’ livelihoods are often in danger of collapse due to natural disasters like landslides, flooding that causes soil erosion, and soil nutrient depletion from winds. We seek to help farmer groups and cooperatives make any crop value chain more resilient and sustainable by adding the FGA.

**Ecological Protection**
It is imperative to save our planet’s dwindling biodiversity. Our FGA reduces the pressures placed on forests by farming communities. TREES aids environmental conservation organizations by helping local farmers plant Forest Gardens on their land to keep them from foraging for fuelwood in protected habitats and ecological areas. The FGA is being used to reduce pressures surrounding protected biodiversity zones like chimpanzee habitats. We would like to see Forest Gardens planted around ecological preserves around the world.

We are constantly identifying and evaluating COLLABORATION partners for these focus areas.

The Forest Garden Training Center (FGTC) is a world class distance training platform that certifies trainers around the world in the FGA. Through partnerships with organizations that will collaborate with TREES and replicate the FGA, we will continue to scale the FGA into additional countries.

Our FGTC website and app endorsed by UNITAR, will allow Forest Garden training and adoption worldwide. Through the FGTC, individuals can become agroforestry experts who can grow Forest Gardens on their land, positively contributing towards sustainable agriculture and environmental sustainability on Earth.

**Forest Garden Demonstration and Training Site**
TREES is developing in–country Forest Garden demonstration and training sites at agriculture institutes and training centers to ensure that the FGA becomes an integral component of agriculture education. TREES will use these sites to conduct hands–on training and increase the adoption of Forest Gardens among local community members — young people, farmers, and partners.

**In–Person Training of Trainers (ToT)**
TREES also offers in–person, Training–of–Trainers (ToTs) to practitioners and project teams seeking to implement agroforestry activities. We can send master trainers to project sites for on–site training and consulting.
Scaling the Numbers
In 2018 100% of the Forest Gardens were implemented by TREES. As we scale up the Forest Garden, implementation percentages will shift in order to maintain sustainable growth and help us scale to reach more farmers.

Investment Required for Scale
TREES has seen over 50% CAGR since the close of 2016 (as of August 2019). Our investments come directly from foundations, individuals, and business donors that span the globe. As a $5 million organization in 2019, we will need to see our organization grow 6x by 2025 to reach our goals of 1 million people out of poverty through Forest Gardens.

So, $30 million by 2025 to take 1 million people out of poverty — $30 per person, to change their lives forever.

The following strategies will allow for TREES to obtain the investment necessary to reach our goal:

1. Maintaining and Growing Current Investments

   Individual Support: Stewarding our current base of individual support is yielding an average annual growth rate of 53%, moving from just north of $338,000 in 2017 to nearly $1.2 million by the close of 2019.

   Business Partner Support: Stewarding our current base of business partner support is yielding an average annual growth rate of 57.7%, moving from $1.1 million in 2017 to over $3 million by the end of 2019.

   We expect to maintain this level of growth until 2022 taking our budget to $16.8 million.

2. Increasing Impact Investments

   TREES expects impact investors to be attracted to the FGA as a development model that provides high returns on investment (ROI) and a triple bottom line. Our ROI benefits the environment, people and financial returns and makes TREES a win-win investment for farmers and financiers.

   For farmers and alumni who excel in our programs, 1000% income increases have been reported, providing farmers with capital to invest in themselves and their communities. TREES will support them with a Forest Garden Entrepreneur Incubator that will support ‘farming as a business’ education, financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills and opportunities.

3. Sourcing In-Country Support for Sustainability

   As TREES achieves the programmatic goals above, each of our program countries will be positioned to attract investments from in-country, governmental and private-sector funding.

   Between now and 2025, TREES will be accepting in-country sponsorships, in-kind donations and be poised to partner in national campaigns that integrate the Forest Garden as an integral component to national poverty alleviation and development goals. We are building recognition, partnerships and accountability for our programs in partnership with these nations to invest in their people for a sustainable future.