



"PEOPLE NEED TO HAVE A BETTER VISION FOR INVESTING IN THE FUTURE. YOU CAN'T JUST CONCERN YOURSELF WITH FOOD TODAY. YOU NEED TO PLAN FOR TOMORROW."

- Babacar Willane, Senegal

Marine /

DEAR PARTNER,

With your help, Trees for the Future is leading the way to end hunger and poverty for one million people in the developing world.

Twenty-five years of experience and lessons learned led to the design of a Forest Garden program. In 2015, we organized one of the first ever monitoring and impact verification systems that helps prove how Forest Gardens are truly ending hunger and poverty.

This doesn't mean we've stopped counting how many trees we've planted - we surpassed 127 million in 2015 - but now we have a new measure of success:

How many families were saved?

The monitoring system, developed with help from TaroWorks, a Grameen Foundation company, has just produced its first year of project data, which we are pleased to share with you.

So, what does it mean to save a family in the developing world?

It means we train, guide, and help them transform their degraded land into a Forest Garden. This fulfills their nutritional needs and it generates 400% more income than ever before.

Until now, farmers were encouraged

to plant monocultures, destroying their soils, leaving them poor and undernourished. Now, Forest Gardens help diversify food crops and marketable crops on every farm, so that we can build resilience and improve household access to nutritious foods.

I've worked on-the-ground in 12 developing countries. I have never seen a model as scalable, as permanent, as sustainable, and as effective in eliminating hunger and extreme poverty, as our Forest Garden Approach.

It does so by simultaneously restoring degraded lands and meeting families' needs for energy, food, natural fertilizer, animal forage, and income.



It has become apparent that the Forest Garden Approach is the most effective and sustainable tool to end poverty. However, that's not going to happen overnight.

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At a rate of 4,000 trees per hectare, ending hunger and poverty for one million people will require 125,000 families to plant 500 million trees. Those numbers sound daunting, but thanks to your support we already have ten projects in five countries, saving 20,410 people in nearly 3,000 families. And we're just getting started!

Approach. These 20,410 people will NOT require food aid. They will NOT need to migrate to find a better life, and they will NOT cut trees in local forests ever again. They will generate more food and more

money by the end of the 4-year Forest Garden training program, and their permanent trees will continue to produce more fruit, food, and marketable products well into the future.

That's how we plant out poverty. Thank you for being alongside us.

John Leary, Executive Director

FOREST GARDEN UPDATE

Protecting the Future

Farming is the major source of income for most of the developing world, including Africa. Sadly, farming systems across Africa have largely failed to provide millions of smallholder farmers the pathway out of extreme poverty. The continent needs a widespread change in the way millions of families are feeding themselves and living off the land.

Forest Gardens are a vastly superior farming system with the potential to end hunger and poverty for millions of subsistence farmers, so the challenge is how to help farmers plant prolific Forest Gardens in such unforgiving climates as we find in East and West Africa.

Without protection from fires, grazing animals, heavy rains and fierce winds, subsistence farmers across Africa cannot invest in their dying farmlands.

Their only option is to plant monocultures in the rainy season - like everyone else - and leave the land exposed throughout the long dry season. That's why the first phase of the Forest Garden approach entails protecting and stabilizing dying farmlands, so that families can later begin to grow more valuable and nutritious crops, bushes and trees within the security of Green Walls.

Throughout 2015, most of the families participating in the Forest Garden projects across five countries focused on protecting and stabilizing their fields by planting millions of fast-growing and thorny trees.

Over two thousand Green Walls planted in 2015 – **protecting a combined 7,107 acres** – are transforming the land by building soils and enabling 2,876 families to begin diversifying their fields with nutritious and valuable food crops and fruit trees like cashews, mangoes, citrus, avocados and macadamia nuts. And they grow a wide new array of green, orange and red vegetables, such as orange-fleshed sweet potato and spinach, to provide impoverished families with the nutrients they lack.

INNOVATION: THE GREEN WALL

Building from Trees for the Future's extensive work with agroforestry over the last 25 years, we have innovated a Green Wall Agroforestry technology that is being used by farmers in harsh conditions to give their farms the protection within which they can invest in their fields and begin to prosper.

One of the first questions we help farmers answer is: "How will I protect my new Forest Garden?" As conventional fencing is too expensive for our participants, the sustainable answer is to plant a living fence.

Through the years, Trees for the Future has innovated farming with windbreaks and live fencing. Today, we combine these ideas into a practical technique that is appropriate for farmers who own small plots of land.

Planned well, a Green Wall can be a significant additional source of revenue for the family. A family with 2,640 trees in their Green Wall (840 thorny jujube trees, 1,000 jatropha bushes, and 800 pigeon peas) can generate up to \$160 per year. That is all on the real estate most underutilized on farms across the world: the edge of the field!

These Green Walls consist of three staggered rows of trees that surround the entire perimeter of the field.

OUTER ROW

The outer-most row of trees is comprised of thorny trees planted very close together to form a thick hedge that even goats cannot penetrate. We frequently use *Zizyphus mauritiana*, the Jujube, and *Dovyalis*, the Kai apple, because both thorny species have a valuable vitamin-C-rich fruit that can be sold in market or consumed by the family.

MIDDLE ROW

The middle row tends to consist of fast-growing but sturdy trees that give the Green Wall some structural integrity required to support the many thorny branches that are eventually woven among each other. We frequently use trees such as the miracle tree, *Moringa oleifera*, and *Jatropha curcas* to provide this line of structural support.

INNER ROW

Farmers often make different decisions as to which trees to plant on the inner lining of the Green Wall that surrounds their field. While we recommend planting tall, fast-growing trees such as *Leucaena*, *Cassia* and *Glyricidia* to form a multipurpose windbreak, farmers in areas better protected from fierce winds will often opt to plant rows of nitrogen-fixing pigeon peas so that they can harvest dozens of pounds of protein-rich pigeon peas from their Green Wall twice a year.





JANUARY

Trees for the Future started 2015 with a commitment from the Addax & Oryx Foundation to help lift 521 smallholder dairy farming families out of poverty in Ikinu, Kenya.



JUNE

To save the West African Chimpanzee, TREES partnered with the Jane Goodall Institute to plant a million trees with farmers around The Dindefelo Community Nature Reserve.



"I have a small amount of land and I needed to figure out a way to maximize the profit and feed my family."

- Mor Loum, Senegal

SEPTEMBER

TaroWorks, a Grameen Foundation company, published Of Trees And Tech, showing "how Trees for the Future revamped their 25-year-old business model with mobile technology."





OCTOBER

With the support of **Displate**, we opened a new office in Singida, Tanzania, that now serves over 300 families.



DECEMBER We planted our 127 millionth tree since 1989!

When asked if he would ever go back to farming peanuts, Keba Mbengue in Senegal shook his head and said,

"I believe in trees."

NOVEMBER

In an effort to bolster field support and training, **Peace Corps Senegal** and Trees for the Future welcomed **Dan Krull** – a Peace Corps Response Volunteer – to the Koungheul project team.



IMPACT UPDATE The Path to Prosperity

Through a partnership with TaroWorks, a Grameen Foundation company, Trees for the Future rolled out an innovative mobile app-based monitoring system in 2014. In 2015, we aggregated the first full set of annual data aimed to prove how Forest Gardens end hunger and extreme poverty.

By visiting farmers for multiple years and by doing longitudinal studies on farmers who have successfully progressed through the Forest Garden program, we are continually ground-truthing projections with families with whom we have built strong trust.

In addition to seeing all our participating farmers in four workshops each year, TREES' technicians visit each Forest Garden and participating family at least twice per year. In their fields we count trees, bushes, crops and techniques adopted. In their households we collect data on the economic and social impacts resulting from our program. To assess changes in food security and economic resiliency, we survey families at the same time each year – during or directly after the worst of the lean season. Everything we see in the data, and everything we hear from the farmers, indicates that diversifying farms with trees that protect and optimize their agricultural systems, does indeed provide impoverished families with an environmentally sustainable pathway out of extreme poverty.

For decades farmers have been encouraged to plant monocultures which have destroyed their soils and left them poor and undernourished.

By diversifying food crops and marketable crops on every farm with Forest Gardens, we can build resilience and improve household access to nutritious foods.

TREES PER HECTARE

Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai said, "Poor people will cut the last tree to cook the last meal." Farmers entering our program have an average of **40** trees remaining on their land. This number is actually misleading because the average number of trees per hectare from Kenya is 112. Across Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania, farmers entering our program have an average of only **11** trees remaining on their land. We will increase that to **4,000** per hectare.

SPECIES DIVERSITY

Plant diversity is critical for a healthy farming system. The average farm in Koungheul, Senegal has only **3 species** existing on it. The global average is **10**. Over the four years in the program farmers will learn to at least **double that**.

FOOD CROPS

What is particularly shocking is how few cash crops and food crops impoverished farmers are growing before they enter our program. Our data shows, for example, that farmers in areas of Kenya grow just **one marketable crop** and just **three food crops**. These numbers are **frighteningly low** for people who live hand-tomouth and who must feed themselves throughout the year.

MARKETABLE AND CASH CROPS

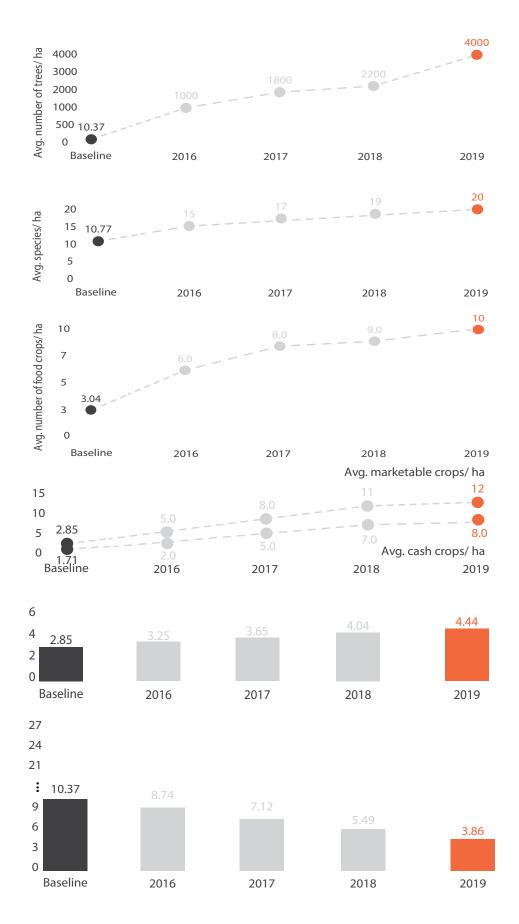
A cash crop differs from a marketable crop in that, while all crops have value, cash crops are grown with the intent to sell all or most of it. Impoverished families across the developing world are encouraged to grow **one or few crops** to meet specific market opportunities. This gives them one or few pay days per year. The Forest Garden system gives them valuable things to harvest, eat, trade and sell **every day** of the year.

FOOD SECURITY

Using USAID's Household Food Insecurity Access survey and Household Dietary Diversity Index, we can benchmark our impacts against **food security results** generated by other organizations on a 0 to 6 scale.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Calculating income of impoverished farmers is actually very difficult. Some food is eaten, some is lost, some is sold. Transactions are not always for cash; many people are non-literate and low-numerate; and there are socio-cultural sensitivities at play when asking people how much money they make. While prices of some commodities fluctuate significantly throughout the year, international currencies fluctuate each day. USAID's Economic Resiliency Survey enables us to **assess changes over time** using a scale from 0 to 27 and compare our impacts to other organizations attempting to end poverty.



SUCCESS STORIES "I thank you to the point of wanting to dance!"

Malik Ndao

Keur Modou, Senegal

While 90% of Malik's community is skipping meals and chronically worried they won't have enough to eat, Malik is celebrating.

You helped him plant a Forest Garden that gives his family something to eat, sell, or trade every day of the year.

Over the last year, we have invested in building a world-class impact evaluation system. From our data and projections, we see both how bleak the outlook is for families farming less than 3 crops, and we learn how prosperous farmers can be by simply diversifying their lands with useful and marketable food and tree crops.

Malik has increased his family's income by 400% by planting a Forest Garden. That's how planting trees changes lives.

Gladys Wamuhu

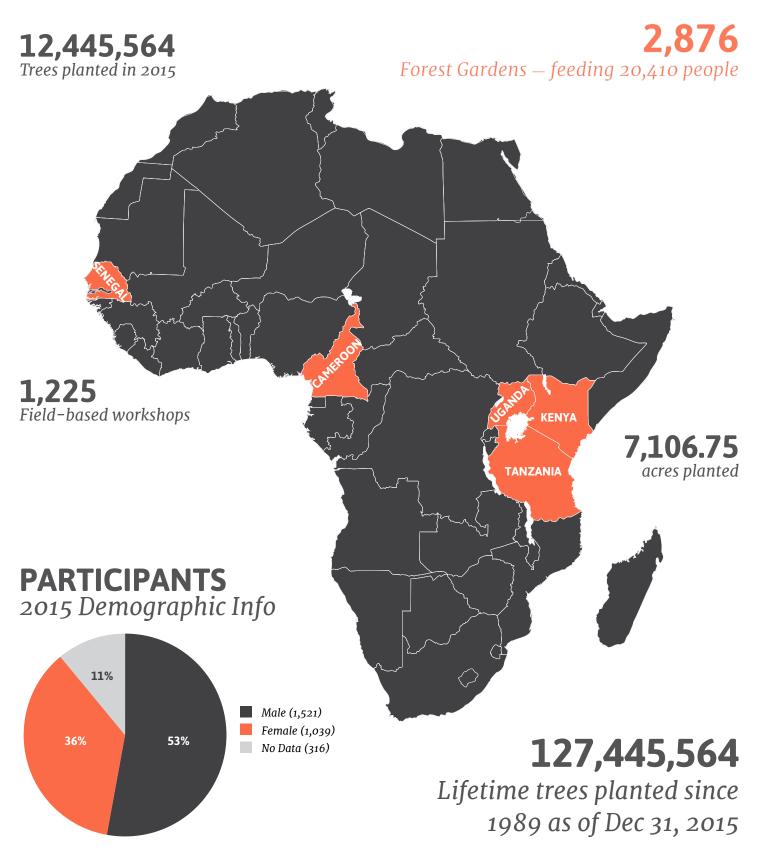
Ikinu, Kenya

After her first year in the Forest Garden project in Ikinu, Gladys is replacing much of her costly animal feed with free, nutritious and protein-rich trees leaves.

By planting thousands of forage trees to completely replace the costly animal feed, Gladys can more than double her net revenue. Into the second year she'll have enough fodder trees to support a second cow, enabling her to double production of her key source of cash.

Her plan for her Forest Garden is to add thousands of fodder trees for her cows along with vegetables and macadamia nut trees for which there is a growing market in the region. Having recently participated in our vegetable growing workshop, she is now producing cabbage, kale, spinach, and sweet pepper, and she hopes to sell the surplus.

MAPPING OUR 2015 IMPACT



2015 FINANCIALS Consolidated Statements of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2015 | GAAP Basis | Audited

REVENUE

Total Revenue	<u>\$1,827,601</u>	
Other Donations	<u>\$48,026</u>	2.5%
Grants	\$83,148	4.5%
Individual Donations	\$289,639	16.0%
Corporate Partners	\$1,406,788	77.0%

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EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,238,232	70.8%
Management and General	\$213,078	12.2%
Fundraising	<u>\$296,969</u>	17.0%
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,748,279</u>	

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Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$654,924</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>\$575,602</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$79,322

- 2015 saw heavy investment in our website, which will improve our fundraising capabilities in the future.
- Developing our financial infrastructure the last two years has helped us better manage our spending to have more effective impact.
- Our investment in technology to better monitor program progress helps us collect a wide range of data to show donors the impact of their dollars.
- Trees for the Future earned top scores in 2015 from these independent charity evaluators and charity alliances:









- **1. START A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN** Challenge your friends to help plant trees.
- **2. BECOME A CORPORATE PLANT-A-TREE PARTNER** Join the world's first Buy-One-Plant-One Program.
- **3. OFFSET YOUR COMPANY'S CARBON EMISSIONS** There's no more cost-effective way to sequester carbon.
- 4. ADOPT-A-PROJECT Imagine planting over a million trees in your own project
- **5. DONATE STOCK** Donating appreciated securities was never easier.
- 6. GIVE A PERSONALIZED TREE PLANTING CERTIFICATE TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE The perfect gift for all occasions.
- 7. GIVE .5% BACK, FREE, WHEN YOU PURCHASE GOODS THROUGH SMILES.AMAZON.COM Donate to a good cause with everyday purchases.

8. CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up to date on all of our projects.



/TreesForTheFuture



@treesftf

• @treesforthefuture

9. LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Consider leaving TREES in your will. Your bequest will change lives.

10. MAKE A RECURRING GIFT

Your monthly donation is easy and convenient for your budget, and it helps plant many trees! No gift is ever too small!

LEARN ABOUT THESE AND OTHER WAYS TO HELP AT: trees.org/ways-to-help





PLANT TREES. CHANGE LIVES.

rees org

\$100,000+

C



\$30,000 - \$99,999



- \$10,000-\$29,999
- The Andryc Family Brighter Blooms Nursery craigslist Charitable Fund Canon Solutions America, Inc. CREDO The Crosier Family Framing Success Jade Industries, Inc. The Levin Family The Lewis Family Mercola Health Resources, LLC.



Midwestern Pet Foods, Inc. MODO Moore Family Foundation Oakworks, Inc. Oboz Footwear Optoro Original Grain Paper Culture Reunion Island Coffee Shoplet USAgain

tentree

\$5,000- \$9,999

COMSCORE.

NT TREES. CHANGE LIVES

Alexander Book Co. Inc. Amber Lotus Publishing CM National, Inc DeepStream Designs Inc. Green Cabs Limited GlobalGiving Love Heals Papyrus Recycled Greetings, Inc. The Risch Family The Stephen Colbert Americone Dream Fund

Uhlig LLC Verdaus Landscape Architects Western Export Services WeWOOD Watches The Yanagi Okami Foundation Zavida Coffee

The Trainer Family

EARTH DAY NETWOR

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SENEGAL

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