

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

A Forest Remains

COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL



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FORESTS
INTERNATIONAL**





To the friends, members & supporters of Community Forests International,

It's been another momentous year for Community Forests International and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I'm extremely proud to present this Annual Report for 2011.

This report comes at a time when global climate change is being felt around the world - momentous droughts are hitting much of the American Mid-West and a drought and famine of large proportions is affecting the Sahel. Global corn prices are expected to jump significantly in the next few months, and agricultural production is estimated to need to increase 40% by 2050 in order to meet the world's demands for food. This against a backdrop of declining fish stocks and acidifying oceans, the solutions and techniques that CFI and CFP are working towards, teaching and developing - from the way we grow and share our food to the way we build our homes to the way we live our lives in a climate-neutral way are urgently needed, and now more than ever.

The commitment to purchase Whaelginbran farm this year was a crowning achievement, one that firmly rooted the organization in a place - rural New Brunswick and in the Acadian Forest. In all we do, CFI will continue to embody the values and work of Clark and Susan, the former owners and caretakers of this land. Whaelginbran is a gem of the Acadian Forest that CFI will tend and work for years to come, and a place where we will be able to significantly expand our workshop and educational activities.

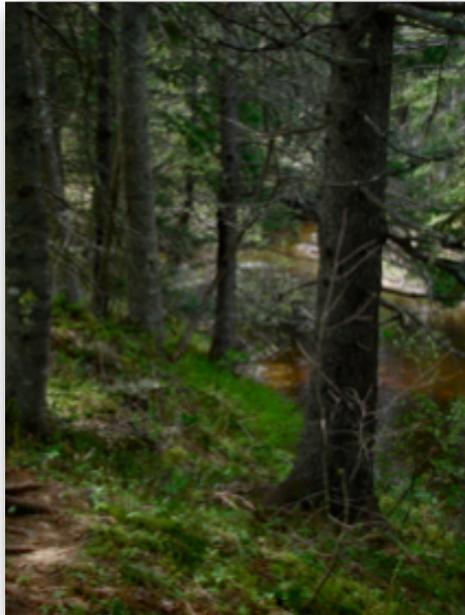
It also provides an even stronger link and parallel between the two places we work - Pemba and New Brunswick. They seem worlds apart, separated by different religions, languages, climates, cultures, ecosystems, history and relationships with the sea and land. And yet, in both places the principles at the heart of CFI can be seen in action - forestry as a means to ecological restoration, ecological and community-based forestry, food forestry, permaculture and sustainable community development are all woven and mingled together, the two places feeding and reflecting back to one another, in a true example of North-South collaboration.

I extend my deep and heartfelt thanks to all of our members, donors large and small, and workshop participants for their energy, commitment, contribution and belief in the organization. I hope you continue to be part of the organization, accompany us on our growth path and feel enriched by your involvement with CFI.

I tip my hat to the energy and commitment of the tireless staff of CFI and CFP, and particularly to the community members in both places without whom none of these amazing achievements would be possible.

With best regards,

Deborah Bakker
President of the Board
Community Forests International



CFI BOARD MEMBERS

Board President – Deborah Bakker
Board Secretary - Kathleen Cooper
Board Member - Olga Gladkikh
Board Member - Stefan Kirkpatrick

CFI STAFF

Executive Director – Jeff Schnurr
Program Director – Daimen Hardie
Communications Director – Zach Melanson
Education Coordinator Canada – Estelle Drisdelle
Summer Student – Nicholas Belanger
Youth Intern – Brennan Daly

CFP STAFF

Executive Director – Mbarouk Mussa Omar
Program Director – Said Suedi
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer – Mike Tritchler
Agroforestry Officer - Ali Hammad Ali
Forestry Officer - Kombo Juma Kombo
Office Manager - Maryam Bakar
Driver - Mohammed Kikombe
Secretary - Wahida Miraji Ali

MILESTONES

- Planted over 400,000 trees
- Planted over 230,000 mangroves
- Conserved over 500 hectares
- Introduced and maintained sustainable practices
- Involved 1800 community participants
- Supported 14 separate communities
- Fostered 100% community ownership
- Supported Canadian communities through extension training

OFFICE AND CONTACT

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Organizational Overview

Community Forests International is a registered Canadian Charity located in Sackville, New Brunswick. Founded in 2007 and incorporated officially in 2008, Community Forests International delivers programming in Tanzania and the Atlantic Provinces. Community Forests International is supported by donations, grants and the efforts of countless volunteers.

Vision

CFI envisions a world where people appreciate and recognize their responsibility to be stewards of the forests, while deriving a diversified living and practicing forest conservation. This alternative livelihood approach bridges the environmental and economic divide while restoring our planet's forests.

Communities with diverse economies based on healthy, resilient forests will be able to solve environmental challenges.

Mission

CFI's mission is to foster environmental stewardship both locally and globally by establishing and supporting community forests, promoting sustainable forestry practices and engaging in environmental education.

The organization's work in Tanzania is implemented through a sister organization, Community Forests Pemba (CFP). Although the organization's share the same mission and have developed past programming in close concert, CFP operates through a Tanzanian board of directors and staff.



HISTORY

In 2006, Jeff Schnurr met Mbarouk Mussa Omar on the island of Pemba, Tanzania, while traveling during time off from his seasonal job as a Canadian tree planter. Most Pembans were amazed that a 21 year old could afford to live in their community for almost a year on his earnings as a “tree farmer” and chalked it up to another divide between the Global North and South. Mbarouk was different. He wanted to know if Pembans could plant trees in order to restore their degraded island while providing fruit, nuts and timber in the process. The two joined with Tanzanian forester, Said Suedi, and began traveling to rural communities to meet with village elders in order to gauge interest in a tree-planting initiative. By the fall of 2007, 7 villages had collected seed from the trees around their homes and had propagated over 100,000 trees in community nurseries. Community Forests International was born.

Since then, the project has grown to include over 14 rural community groups and has planted over 400,000 trees in the process. Community members decide on the tree species they plant, and have employed over 25 species in an effort to improve the rural livelihoods and the resources they depend on. The organization now serves the region by providing an example of sustainable land-use while innovating solutions to some of our planet’s greatest challenges

Having delivered successful community development projects abroad, Jeff Schnurr teamed up with Estelle Drisdelle, Zach Melanson and Daimen Hardie to begin programming in Atlantic Canada. In 2011 the organization continued its successful workshop series while focusing on the conservation of Whaelghinbran Farm. Whaelghinbran Farm will serve as a physical space for the organization’s land-use philosophy and will allow the organization to share the concepts and principles it was founded on.



WHAELGHINBRAN FARM

In October of 2011, Community Forests International signed a purchase agreement with the owners of Whaelghinbran Farm, Clark Phillips and Susan Tyler. This agreement outlined our commitment to pay for the property and detailed a payment schedule to put the transfer of ownership into affect. Included in this agreement was a provision to transfer a 40-hectare parcel of land to the organization if the conditions of the purchase agreement failed to be satisfied. In order to raise the funds necessary to purchase the property, Community Forests International has developed an innovative carbon offset program, which will allow Clark and Susan's style of sustainable forest management to continue into the future while realizing the economic potential of new markets and opportunities. Whaelghinbran Farm will become the centre for the organization's workshop series and will allow the program to expand and offer apprentice based learning and education.



CARBON OFFSETS

Canadian policy makers, with their recent withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol, have moved away from values that many Canadians uphold. With no clear national stance against climate change, the civil society has been faced with two options. The first would be to maintain a business as usual attitude towards climate change and the second would be to show that world that innovative organizations are still committed to finding solutions. The Community Forests International approach to carbon offsetting and climate change mitigation is 100% voluntary and demonstrates that even without regulation and a compliance based carbon trading exchange, citizens still be accountable for their environmental impact.

In May of 2011, Community Forests International completed their first sale of carbon offsets, creating a new and innovative opportunity for forest restoration in the degraded Acadian Forest Region. This offset is the first of it's kind in Canada, and works to create genuine carbon reductions that has a positive impact on real people in real places.

Why Offset?

The goal of our offsetting project is to connect responsible greenhouse gas emitters with the people and land that can sequester and store it. Many small private woodlot owners have the ability and dedication to grow larger, longer-lived trees, but are limited by economic realities. By linking the two, businesses and/or individuals are able to help these landowners overcome economic impediments, resulting in the restoration of an endangered forest type. Restoration also pulls greenhouse gasses out of the atmosphere.



How Do Offsets Work?

So how do we create and offset? We help landowners manage their young degraded forests to increase the carbon stored in them by restoring the forest to healthy old-growth conditions. Along the way, selective harvesting will take place, allowing for higher quality and more valuable trees to grow faster than they would grow naturally.

Harvested trees will then be turned into durable wood products like high quality furniture, timber frames, flooring and veneer panels. These products will maintain the carbon stored in them for years to come. Selective harvesting also allows for young, vigorous trees to replace the ones harvested, in turn sequestering more carbon. As a whole, we are able to take advantage of the high carbon storage capacity of healthy old-growth forests, make use of carbon stored in high quality forest products, and harness the carbon sequestration capability of young, vigorously growing trees. This process helps the landowner, an endangered forest and our rural economy.

In order to pilot the potential for carbon offsetting, Community Forests International has decided to focus this opportunity on Whaelghinbran Farm. Whaelghinbran Farm will provide the organization with a controlled working environment while allowing the sale of carbon offsets to conserve this endangered property.





WORKSHOPS

Community Forests International continued their workshop series in 2011 by offering 12 workshops to over 200 participants. Popular workshops included Beekeeping, Timber Framing, Food Forest Gardening, Ecoforestry, Native Plant Propagation and Managing Woodlots for Wildlife. The organization drew on its network of regional experts to teach and instruct these informative Sessions and will continue to build on the series in the year to come.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Trees

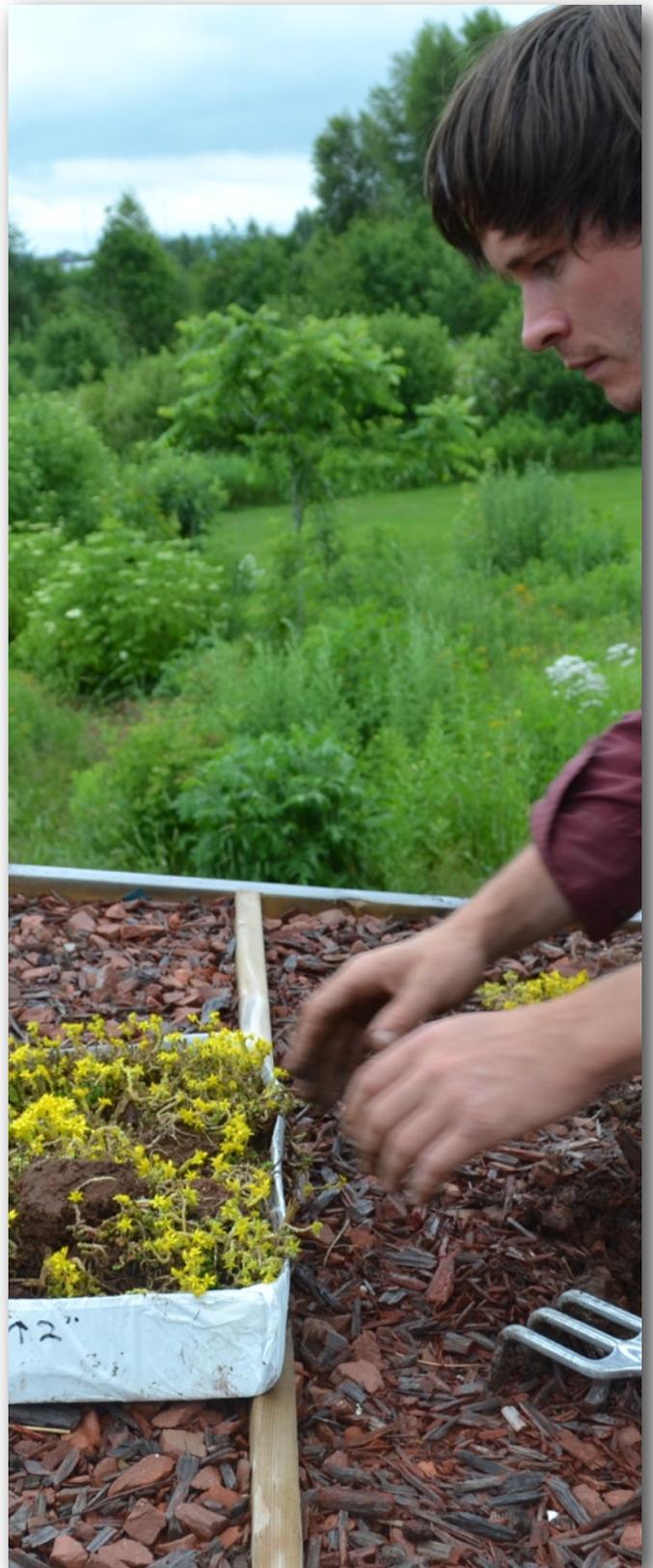
As an organizational cornerstone the organization continued outreach into the Sackville community through an international tree-planting event. On May 28th several volunteers joined CFI staff and volunteers for a tree-planting extravaganza and BBQ.

Food Forest and Livings Roof

As an ongoing activity, Community Forests International continued to provide tangible examples of sustainable living through the Food Forest Garden and Outdoor Classroom. The classroom sheltered several of the organization's workshops and allowed workshops participants to experience the beauty of edible forest landscaping.

Nursery

In 2011, Community Forests International added a native plant nursery to the organizational headquarters on School Lane. This nursery was supported by Renaissance Sackville and Environment Canada's EcoAction community funding program and allowed the organization to scale its capacity to use native trees and shrubs in regional programming. The facility is comprised of eight raised beds, a shaded propagation bed and a garden shed.



PEMBA TREES

The organization continued its community-led reforestation effort in Pemba, Tanzania. In the spring of 2011, over 130,000 trees were grown and planted in 14 communities. Planted forests continued to grow and several communities are seeing the rewards of their labour. The project has now seen over 330,000 trees planted and will scale considerably in the year to come. In September of 2011, Community Forests International helped its sister organization, Community Forests Pemba, secure funding from the European Union in order to continue and expand their current Pemba operations. This funding will allow the organizations to continue their tree-planting efforts, while exploring the potential of appropriate technologies in an effort to adapt to climate change. Proposed activities for the year ahead include agroforestry, beekeeping, rainwater harvesting, food forest gardening, alternative energy production, earth-block building, briquette cooking and efficient cook-stove production. At the end of the year, Ali Hammad Ali, Kombo Juma, Maryam Bakar and Mohammed Kikombe joined Mbarouk Mussa Omar, Said Suwedi and Mike Tritchler to complete the CFP team.





RURAL TRAINING CENTRE PEMBA

With the support of the Canadian International Development Agency, Community Forests International was able to begin construction of a Rural Training Centre, which will help fulfill the organization's dream of offering sustainable education to rural practitioners in the region. The centre will feature 2 large classrooms, a conference room and offices for the CFP staff. The land around the centre will host an agroforestry demonstration site, a research nursery and a model apiary. In order to complete the building, additional funds are being sought for the installation of a solar energy system.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets

Current Assets

Bank balance – Account 1 - 5149	24,641.35
Bank balance – Account 2 - 2823	3.18
Petty Cash	285.43
Total	\$ 24,929.96

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Loans – N/A	N/A
Total	

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue

Donations (Receipted)	\$ 72,238.78
Other Charities	\$ 42,096.18
Donations (Not Receipted)	\$ 34,929.23
Federal Government	\$ 19,377.00
Provincial Government	\$ 9,763.63
Regional Government	\$ 5,881.29
Memberships	\$ 2,235.22
Fundraised	\$ 700.00
Interest	\$ 23.55
Total	\$ 187,244.88

Expenditures

Advertising	
Travel and Vehicles	\$ 577.41
Interest and Bank Charges	\$ 16,471.41
Office Expense	\$284.61
License, Membership and Dues	\$ 920.00
Office Supplies and Expenses	\$ 7,581.59
Occupancy Costs	\$ 604.77
Professional and Consulting Fees	\$ 923.00
Education for Staff and Volunteers	\$ 765.00
Compensation	\$ 66,708.35
Purchased Supplies	\$ 6,785.99
Other Expense	\$ 62,890.25
Total	\$ 164,512.38