COMMUNITY
FORESTS
INTERNATIONAL

REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

‘We’ve learned a lot from our community over the past few years, now it’s time to share our work with the world’

To our friends, members and supporters,

It's been five years since we started Community Forests International and that calls for celebration. We need to celebrate the thousands of people that now earn their living, support their families and care for the natural world thanks to CFI's support. We need to celebrate the hundreds of acres of forest that will never be clear-cut because we believed that the world would be a better place if those trees continued to grow. We need to celebrate the hundreds of people that have gathered to learn and share a new approach to living on this planet – an approach that restores the thousands of years of damage that we, as humans, have done. We need to celebrate the fact that our Tanzanian partners have now planted over one million trees, harvested rain, grown their own food and have used solar power to light up their homes.

But we also need to reflect.

Although we've had our fair share of successes, we face a harsh reality. The planet's climate is changing and scientists aren't sure that we can adapt fast enough to survive the increase in temperate, the extreme weather and the rising tides. We're not the only ones at risk - we aren't sure that the forests, plants and animals that share this planet with us can adapt quickly enough. Climate change is a threat to us all.

But there's hope.

We aren't watching climate change happen, we are active participants. Although we are causing climate change, we also have the power to change our own actions and inspire change within our community. We have two choices – we can let climate change threaten our way of life or we can create solutions to change and adapt. We've seen the power of community, we've seen the power of good ideas and we've seen our wildest dreams for the future come true.

It's time to imagine what the future could bring and do everything in our power to realize a future we all can be a part of. Human's built the systems we adhere to in the first place, so it's not impossible to imagine that we could tear them down and build a new economy, a new culture and a new harmony in the void.

Let's imagine the future and work to make it a reality.

Imagine a world where we learn from each other – a world where the solution to climate change can come from the people who need it the most.

Jeff Schnurr, Executive Director,
COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL

Imagine a world where community development is a two way street

THE LESSONS WE'VE LEARNED COME FROM OUR PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD

When we started CFI we didn't do it alone – we started the organization with our partners in Tanzania, who formed an organization of their own called Community Forests Pemba. Community Forests Pemba is a completely separate organization with its own board of directors, it's own staff and it's own office – the only thing the organization's share is a mission. Community Forests International learned how to build community, how to act as leaders and how to mobilize for change. The organizations work in complete partnership, sharing information, resources and ideas to make global change.

PEMBA

Imagine a world where people can transform a landscape

AN IDEA, A SEED, A TREE AND A FOREST

Since 2008, rural villages in Pemba, Tanzania have been planting trees. These communities have been collecting their own seed from the strongest trees around their homes, sprouting seedlings in nurseries, tending the seedlings as they grow and planting trees on barren land. Community Forests International has worked to ensure that the community owns the land by working with the local government to secure the land title for planted areas. With the security of knowing that the land is theirs for the future, communities in Pemba have planted 1.3 million trees.

Imagine a world where a community can grow the food it needs

FORESTS THAT GROW TO FEED AN ISLAND

Planted trees in Pemba are more than future forests – they are gardens. Communities have planted over 4500 food producing plants between the rows of planted trees, covering an area larger that 100 football fields. Pembans grow maize, millet, peanuts, and cassava and sweat potatoes alongside fruit trees such as mango, banana, coconut, jackfruit, and guava. Beyond planting food crops over vast areas of land, Pembans also grow food outside their front doors, producing peppers, tomatoes and eggplants.

Imagine a world where water is free and accessible

HARVESTING WATER FROM THE SKY ABOVE

It all started on a small islet off of Pemba called Kokota. The islet of 480 people wanted to plant trees but had no fresh water. Kokotans were traveling four hours a day by boat in order to collect water from the main island. CFI worked to change that. By supporting the community in building a school, CFI developed a rainwater harvesting system that collects water from the school's roof, diverts the water into a 250,000 litre holding tank and then purifies the water through a UV filter. To date two community-scale rainwater harvesting systems have been built.

Imagine clean energy for everyone, everywhere

WIRELESS ENERGY ONE HOUSEHOLD AT A TIME

Electricity only reaches 14% of Tanzanian households and the high costs associated with extending the grid to remote villages doesn't bode well for expansion. CFI found a work around. In February, 2013 we began piloting a solution called the "Portable Micro-grid". CFI installed a solar panel system on top of the rainwater harvesting tanks and provided a motorcycle battery and lighting kit to each house in the community. Pembans can now charge their batteries, carry them home, plug them in and power lights. Eight solar energy systems have been built to date.

Imagine a world where cooking is clean and safe

COOKING FOR PEOPLE AND A PLANET

Over 2 billion of our planet's population burn wood for cooking, releasing harmful fumes into their households, and emissions into the atmosphere. In Pemba, the traditional style of cooking in Pemba is called "three stones" and literally entails lighting a fire between three stones and placing a pot on top. This style of cooking requires a lot of fuel wood and produces a lot of smoke, which harms both the cook and their families. It's hard on the planet and it's hard on people. In Pemba, CFI was approached by a woman who had developed a clay stove that used half the amount of wood required by 'three stone' cooking. After testing the stove, Community Forests International trained 20 women in stove production. These 20 individuals went on to train another 173 women in clay stove making and collectively they've produced over 650 stoves.

Imagine if building a house was affordable and sustainable

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A COMMUNITY: SUSTAINABLE AND OBTAINABLE

Homes in Pemba are usually built with mud or cement. Affordable mud homes are constructed by weaving together wood poles and packing the frame with an earth mixture. Expensive cement brick houses contribute to climate change, with the cement industry contributing to 5% of all the carbon dioxide emissions released into our atmosphere. At CFI we took the best of both worlds and worked with our community partners to bring earth block building to Pemba. Soil is now collected locally and compressed by an earth block press in order to create interlocking earth blocks, fit for building. Now communities can make their own bricks out of earth and build homes for generations to come.

Imagine if good ideas spread and a world united against climate change

GOOD IDEAS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Our work in Pemba has had an amazing impact on the island. Communities have the tools necessary to make a living while improving the natural world in the process. Important questions around sustainability have been answered by community-led action. Problems have been solved and new approaches to farming, forestry and energy have been piloted and perfected by people on the ground. We've been trying to share the work with the dream that people everywhere can learn from our approach to community building. We don't have the ability to travel the world, finding new communities to partner with, but we can bring community leaders from around the world to come to Pemba and see our work for themselves before returning home to make Pemban style change in their own communities. Over the past few months we finished building the Rural Innovation Campus in Pemba – a place for communities to share the work with each other and the world. We've already had over 500 Tanzanians come to the facilities and we're working to demonstrate our lessons learned on the 10 acres of land that comprise the campus. We believe that Pemba can play an important role in how our planet fights climate change and believe that one day communities everywhere will be able to learn for our journey and make it their own.

2013 results in PEMBA

- 18 communities
- 1407 participated in training
- 57 hectares surveyed community ownership
- 36.9 hectares covered with food crops and trees
- 142 hectares planted
- 312,400 trees planted
- 58 kitchen gardens grown
- 17 briquette groups formed
- 5 earth block groups formed
- 104 beehives distributed
- 554 cook stoves built by 193 women
- 8 solar energy systems built
- 2 rainwater harvesting facilities built
- 1 Rural Innovation Campus built

CANADA

Imagine if Africa could help Canadian communities develop

LEARNING FROM PEMBA FOR CANADIAN CHANGE

In 2009 we at Community Forests International decided to work to make Pemba-style change in our own backyard. In Tanzania we'd learned from the best and wanted to put the lessons we'd learned from Pemban communities in action. We'd seen hundreds of people unite around new ideas – we witnessed how people could work to plant new forests, grow food, build sustainably and provide basic needs while making a dignified living in the process. We learned from Pemba and we brought what we'd learned home.

Imagine if rural Canadians lived lightly on the land

WORKSHOPS AND NETWORKS

When we started working in Canada we quickly realized we had a lot to learn, so we gathered the best foresters, farmers and green builders and asked them to teach us the tricks of the trade. We made our learning process public and the CFI workshop series was born. Since 2009, over 550 participants have attended workshops on topics such as beekeeping, timber framing, restoration forestry, horse logging and food forest gardening. Beyond learning and teaching our workshops have built a network of like-minded individuals and helped spread the CFI culture of community driven change.

Imagine if good forestry didn't come at a cost

PEOPLE WORKING TO RESTORE FOREST AND STORE CARBON

Traditionally woodlot owners and foresters took an economic hit every time they left a tree standing. Global forest markets only value cut trees, not the trees that grow to provide us with the air we breathe and help to clean the water we drink. At CFI, we didn't believe that market realities should come at a cost to the natural systems we all depend on, so we reimagine the system and built a new market. We worked with our partners across Canada to value the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by standing trees and created a model whereby responsible Canadian companies can account for their carbon emission and support the type of forestry that will store and offset carbon emissions on their behalf. Our carbon offsetting program was piloted at our organization's own, Whaelghinbran Farm and now our model is ready for the world.

Imagine if we could change the world

RURAL INNOVATION CAMPUS - CANADA

In 2013, we reimagined the 580 acre farm and forest at CFI's Whaelghinbran Farm. In the past we've run workshops, farm apprenticeship programs and horse logging operations on the property, but we wanted to do more. We wanted to connect our efforts with a global network of innovators in order to create a culture of problem solving, entrepreneurship and stewardship. Following the lead of our Pemban colleagues, the Rural Innovation Campus – Canada was born. Although we're still in the early planning and infrastructure building phase of the project, we imagine a place where people can come, share their ideas and work to innovate solutions to humanities biggest challenges. We imagine a future where our work in both Tanzanian and Canada can connect with the community leaders capable of working with us to reimagine the future of our planet.

2013 results in CANADA

- 10 workshops held on beekeeping, crop tree release, ecoforestry, permaculture, timber framing, watercourse restoration
- 112 workshop participants
- 1106 native trees planted
- 3400 tons of carbon stored through restoration forestry
- 1 Rural Innovation Campus imagined

Audited Financial Statement

COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL

Statement of Financial Position

October 31, 2013

	General Fund 2013	Pemba Fund 2013	**Total 2013**	Total 2012
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	$ 56,400	$ -	**$ 56,400**	$ 19,532
Grants and other receivables *(Note 4)*	4,771	32,240	**37,011**	15,316
HST receivable	5,818	-	**5,818**	4,933
Prepaid expenses	1,294	-	**1,294**	1,193
Due between funds	13,173	(13,173)	**-**	-
	81,456	19,067	**100,523**	40,974
LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT *(Note 5)*	285,225	-	**285,225**	295,786
	$ 366,681	$ 19,067	**$ 385,748**	$ 336,760
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable	$ 29,566	$ -	**$ 29,566**	$ 28,859
Government remittances payable	1,858	-	**1,858**	775
Deferred revenue *(Note 6)*	-	10,259	**10,259**	21,020
Current portion of long term debt *(Note 7)*	25,200	-	**25,200**	17,700
	56,624	10,259	**66,883**	68,354
LONG TERM DEBT *(Note 7)*	96,408	-	**96,408**	120,302
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS *(Note 8)*	13,909	-	**13,909**	15,924
	166,941	10,259	**177,200**	204,580
NET ASSETS				
General Fund	199,740	-	**199,740**	109,124
Pemba Fund	-	8,808	**8,808**	23,056
	199,740	8,808	**208,548**	132,180
	$ 366,681	$ 19,067	**$ 385,748**	$ 336,760

COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended October 31, 2013

	General Fund 2013	Pemba Fund 2013	2013	2012
REVENUES				
Donations and memberships	$ 136,809	$ 67,950	**$ 204,759**	$ 131,562
Consulting *(Note 9)*	65,861	-	**65,861**	-
Grants *(Note 10)*	42,508	25,893	**68,401**	57,343
Fundraising	4,599	-	**4,599**	6,549
Workshop fees	3,275	-	**3,275**	1,560
Other revenue	1,200	-	**1,200**	1,884
	254,252	93,843	**348,095**	198,898
EXPENSES				
Advertising and promotion	1,627	2,875	**4,502**	1,301
Amortization	11,733	-	**11,733**	6,720
Fundraising expense	1,742	-	**1,742**	947
Insurance	1,830	-	**1,830**	1,605
Interest and bank charges	1,710	-	**1,710**	860
Interest on long term debt	2,163	-	**2,163**	-
Memberships	1,335	-	**1,335**	378
Office	4,056	-	**4,056**	4,946
Pemba contributions	-	80,694	**80,694**	6,855
Professional fees	16,882	-	**16,882**	240
Projects and workshops	9,915	4,261	**14,176**	9,666
Property taxes	1,775	-	**1,775**	870
Rental *(Note 9)*	3,000	-	**3,000**	-
Repairs and maintenance	2,449	-	**2,449**	5,379
Salaries and wages	142,934	-	**142,934**	116,481
Training	1,015	-	**1,015**	595
Travel	6,477	20,261	**26,738**	7,165
Utilities	5,336	-	**5,336**	4,445
	215,979	108,091	**324,070**	168,453
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	38,273	(14,248)	**24,025**	30,445
OTHER INCOME				
Amortization of deferred capital donations *(Note 8)*	2,015	-	**2,015**	1,628
Carbon offsets	51,293	-	**51,293**	43,494
Gain (loss) on sale of investments	(965)	-	**(965)**	514
	52,343	-	**52,343**	45,636
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	$ 90,616	$ (14,248)	**$ 76,368**	$ 76,081