



**Community
Forests
International**

Year in Review 2021

A restorative force of change

Fresh nutmeg
Kizimbani, Unguja, Zanzibar

People are the most powerful force of change on the planet and we can be a restorative force. This has always been at the heart of Community Forests International's work.

In 2021, we protected more forest in Atlantic Canada than ever before. In East Africa, our sister organization, Community Forests Pemba, trained more than 3,000 people in new restoration-based jobs and planted tens of thousands of trees.

We're proud of these successes, but we've also learned over the last decade that a climate-safe future isn't just about solving technical challenges like how to grow more trees or protect more forests—it's about solidarity and justice.

People will become a greater positive force for the climate when we achieve justice in how forests are cared for. That means empowering rural and Indigenous communities that live and work most closely with forests with the

rights to decide how their lands are respected and managed.

The work to restore local rights and connections to the land is long and complex and we're proud to share some of the steps we took in the past year. With your support, we embarked on special projects and partnerships with people and organizations that inspire us every day and that you'll learn more about in this document.

We couldn't do this without you and we're grateful for your support.



Daimen Hardie
Executive Director



“People will become a greater positive force for the climate when we achieve justice in how forests are cared for.”

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Executive Director

Impact at a glance

In 2021, the communities and forests we care so much about kept people safe and healthy in ways we never imagined. From flood mitigation to food security, the accomplishments below reaffirm how forests are healing for the climate and for people. Here is a look at the things that you helped us achieve in 2021:

- **We protected more than 863 acres of endangered Wabanaki forest—more than any year previous.** This accomplishment represents a significant jump in our conservation efforts and would not have been possible without the direct support of our community.
- **We achieved our long-held dream to expand Community Forests Pemba's mangrove program to Mozambique.** Community Forests Pemba worked alongside Istituto Oikos Onlus to develop successful community-led restoration projects on Mozambique's coast.
- **Working in partnership with the Nova Scotia Family Forest Network and the Ulnooweg Development Group, we launched the Common Ground Project.** Our organizations are now working together to increase understanding and allyship between Indigenous and settler communities around issues of forest care.
- **Our team explored the role that forests play as natural infrastructure, protecting our communities in natural disasters.** Our report “Forests and Floods: Natural Infrastructure for a Green Recovery” highlights the role of forests in reducing flood risk in New Brunswick.
- **Our team in Zanzibar established 137 Farmer Field Schools, empowering small-scale farmers to grow climate-resilient landscapes.** By helping farmers improve the production and value of their crops through climate-smart practices like agroforestry, Farmer Field Schools help boost community food security, economic opportunity, and climate resilience.
- **We planted 335,000 native trees on the Sikniht Isthmus to bring back healthy and biodiverse forests for future generations.** Our team selected a mix of native tree species based on local microsites and with an eye to their projected long-term climate resilience.
- **We equipped forest professionals and landowners with the knowledge and skills they need to adapt to climate change.** In 2021, our forest team helped deliver 11 ecological forestry workshops for forest professionals and landowners.





Ali Said (Spice Forest Officer) and Aviwa, a spice farmer on Unguja Island, Zanzibar.

Increasing resilience in East Africa

It was a year of determination for our team in Zanzibar. Communities grappled with the fallout of a tenuous political situation, while continuing to navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic. Our colleagues persevered despite these challenges, taking care of their communities and building back ecosystem health in new ways.

By the end of the year the results of this effort were reflected in all our program areas. The team established hundreds of farmer field schools, traveled to Mozambique to advise on mangrove restoration projects, and grew thousands of diverse agroforestry tree seedlings planted by our friends in dozens of communities across the islands.

In 2020, we inaugurated a new office on Unguja Island—the main island in the Zanzibar Archipelago—and we welcomed more than ten new staff. Expanding our team and the reach of our work has been a long-held dream and in 2021 we focused on solidifying that growth by focusing on the relationships and trust that make our work possible.

This leadership in community- and people-centered climate action from our colleagues in East Africa continues to inspire our work in Eastern Canada, reminding us every day that taking care of people always has to come first in taking care of forests and our shared climate.

Our team in Zanzibar reminds us every day that taking care of people always has to come first.

Highlights

Farmer Field Schools



Community Forests Pemba provided training and support to 4,432 farmers transitioning to agroforestry through a network of 137 field schools across Zanzibar. By growing spice and fruit trees intertwined with shrubs and ground crops, farmers are restoring agroecosystems that are more resilient to climate change all while increasing their harvests. In a recent survey of beneficiaries, 64.7% reported that they have already experienced an increase in income.

Seedling distribution

Community Forests Pemba collected seeds, built nurseries, and cared for 45,086 fruit and spice seedlings that were distributed to agroforestry farmers throughout Zanzibar. They helped farmers plant and tend to these tree seedlings while also producing vegetables like tomatoes and okra. The fast-growing crops are already producing nutritious food for families and for farmers to sell at markets.



Mangrove restoration in Mozambique



Our staff traveled to Mozambique to share their expertise in mangrove restoration and hosted study missions for government officials, non-profits, and community groups to visit our projects in Zanzibar. This included visits to the community of Tumbe, where the Zanzibar Department of Forests found a 90.6% tree survival rate in their latest survey.

Zanzibar's Farmer Field Schools

Last year, Community Forests International announced our biggest climate adaptation project ever. In 2021, our colleagues in Zanzibar established 137 Farmer Field Schools and trained more than 3,000 people.

Last year, Community Forests International announced our biggest climate adaptation project ever. In 2021, our colleagues in Zanzibar brought the vision into reality by establishing 137 new Farmer Field Schools in 60 different communities throughout Unguja and Pemba islands. With support from amazing local champions in each community, more than 3,000 people were trained in land-based livelihoods like agroforestry that combine ecological and economic wellbeing.

The VIUNGO project, translating to “spice” or “ingredients” in Swahili, is a four-year collaborative effort between local and international organizations in the region. We are working together to support small-scale farmers, empower women and youth, and boost economic growth and opportunity—key ingredients in a recipe for resilience.

A key component of this project is our Farmer Field Schools. The Farmer Field School model is an innovative and participatory approach to learning that emphasizes problem-solving and discovery through in-field, hands-on training.

Participants attend a total of eight sessions hosted in their home community, graduating with in-depth knowledge of climate-smart agroforestry, principles of regenerative production like water conservation and organic practices, and new connections to other practitioners and ethical markets. By helping farmers improve the production and diversity of their landscapes through valuable crops like cinnamon and mango trees, Farmer Field Schools boost community food security, economic opportunity, and climate resilience.

Just over 60% of the people participating in the Farmer Field Schools are women, and nearly 1,000 of them are receiving support specifically to establish nutrition-intensive permaculture kitchen gardens surrounding their homes. By ensuring that the majority of beneficiaries are women, the project is increasing women's economic independence and uplifting women's equality in the region.



To learn more about Farmer Field Schools, please visit: <https://forestsinternational.org/viungo-seeding-resilience/>



Zawadi Hamadi Suleiman, a spice farmer on Unguja Island, Zanzibar. Just over 60% of Farmer Field School graduates are women.

Fostering climate justice in the **Wabanaki** forest

In 2021, Community Forests International made important strides to put justice front and center in our work in Canada.

Community Forests International added more than 800 acres of forest to our care in 2021. We also expanded our forest operations team, which increased our ability to lend forest management expertise across the Maritimes.

While we continue to grow our direct forest conservation, restoration, and management programs, integrating solidarity and justice across our work was a focus in 2021. For the communities and forests in Canada that we care for—on the unceded homelands of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq,

and Peskotomuhkati Nations—we are thinking deeply about the injustices that affect both people and forests and the role that our organization can play in advancing reconciliation. Respecting Indigenous rights to forests is both a path to justice and to a climate-safe future.

In 2021, Community Forests International began integrating Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey words into our work. For example, we started using the original name for the forest in this region: the Wabanaki forest, which comes

from the Algonquian word Wabanakik, meaning “Dawnland.” Our staff weaved information about treaty rights into our communications, and we had the pleasure of working with talented Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers.

We also began working with Ulnooweg Development Group, an innovative organization supporting Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada. We look forward to sharing more about other inspiring projects and partnerships as they come to fruition. This was an important year for us to commit to our values, build trust and connect with the organizations that can help us create transformative change in the years to come.

Highlights



Ecological forestry workshops

Our forest team had a busy summer hosting workshops on climate-focused forestry for landowners and forest professionals in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Participants were able to visit several demonstration sites to learn about climate adaptation, forest restoration, carbon management and much more.

Saving a community's green space

Our community came together to protect 50 acres of forest in Sackville, New Brunswick. This old forest has a beautiful diversity of tree species and a lush understory; it's also home to beloved public ski and hiking trails. After Community Forests International purchased the property, we had the pleasure of hosting a series of forest walks for the generous community of people who made it possible.



Forests and flooding

In April, we released [a report highlighting the important role that forests play](#) in reducing flood-risk in New Brunswick. Our research showed that, not only can forests absorb and hold water in flood events, conserving forests can actually be cheaper than building flood mitigation infrastructure. The report was part of a larger initiative to establish a clear economic case for protecting forests for the valuable ecosystem services they provide.

Finding our Common Ground

Indigenous and rural settler communities share, depend on and care for the Wabanaki forest. The Common Ground Project is helping them come together to share knowledge and solidarity.

A major focus of Community Forests International's work is helping family forest owners adapt to climate change and manage their forestlands for increased carbon sequestration and storage. As we have started to shift our work to focus more on supporting reconciliation and Indigenous-led conservation in recent years, we have realized that one of the most important things we could do is bring this community of people along with us on our learning journey.

In 2021, we partnered with Ulnooweg, an innovative Indigenous-led organization that we've long admired, and our friends at the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, who engage an expansive network of landowners in Nova Scotia. Together, we launched the Common Ground Project, an initiative aimed at increasing understanding between rural settlers and Indigenous communities.

The project strives to embody the Mi'kmaw principle of Etuaptmunk or "two-eyed seeing"—using both Indigenous and Western knowledge and ways of knowing to understand

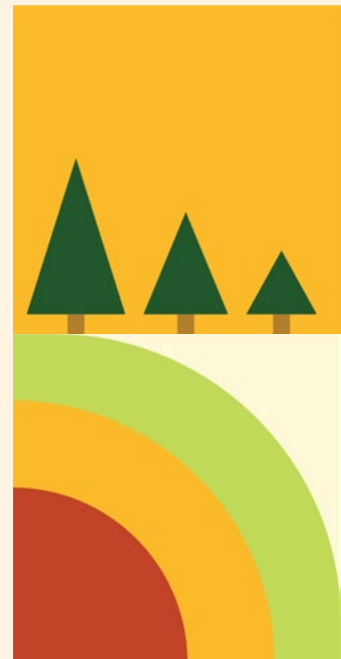
the world. In 2021, we created digital storytelling products and hosted events like woodlot tours and technical workshops that highlight Indigenous and settler forest knowledge. By targeting landowners and forestry professionals, this project strives to change the way many think of the history and changes in the Wabanaki forest, facilitating dialogue for reconciliation. At the end of 2021, staff from all three organizations gathered at Windhorse Farm to reflect on our collective aspirations and spend some time in the forest.

This is just the first phase of what we hope will be a continuation of this partnership and this work, helping us to explore pathways toward land-based reconciliation in our programming and striving to directly support Indigenous-led land conservation ventures as the best hope of conserving the Wabanaki forest.

The Common Ground Project was made possible through generous funding from the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, the Chawkers Foundation, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund.



To learn more about Common Ground, please visit: <https://forestsinternational.org/common-ground/>

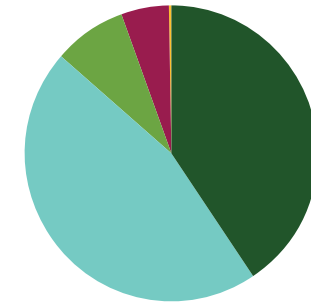


*Robinson Conservation Forest
Cambridge-Narrows, New Brunswick,
in the unceded traditional territory of
the Wolastoqiyik.*

Sustainability

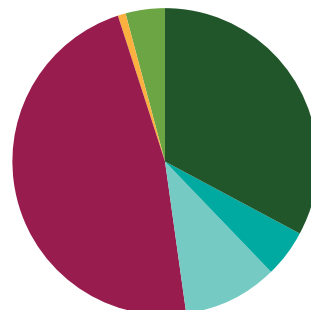
In the 2021 fiscal year, Community Forests International increased year-over-year revenues by 53%, rebounding from a decline in revenues in 2020 caused by the impacts of COVID-19. Our complete [audited financial statements](#) are available online.

Revenues	2020	2021
General Fund Donations	200,986	430,239
Pemba Fund Donations	126,080	55,926
Consulting & Other Services	35,000	86,294
Grants & Contribution	246,809	485,797
Agreements Carbon Offsets	83,264	344
	\$692,139	\$1,058,600
Expenses	2020	2021
Land Acquisition	-	234,244
Forest Protection	36,812	97,325
International Projects	80,860	52,544
Canada Projects	31,238	97,583
Personnel	314,691	469,848
Professional Services	24,381	10,063
Overhead	38,347	35,903
	\$526,329	\$763,266
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$165,810	\$295,334



Revenues

- Grants & Contributions
- General Donations
- Consulting & Services
- Pemba Donations
- Carbon Offsets



Expenses

- Personnel
- Forest Protection
- Canada Projects
- International Projects
- Overhead
- Professional Services

Note: Land acquisition is excluded from expense totals.

Our generous partners

Community Forests International is grateful for the generous financial support of the following private foundations, government agencies and initiatives, and private businesses in our 2021 fiscal year.

Foundations

- Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Chawkers Foundation
- Intact Financial
- RBC Foundation

Governments

- Climate Action and Awareness Fund
- Government of Canada Investment Readiness Program
- Government of Canada Environmental Trust Fund
- Government of New Brunswick AGRI-CONNECT Program
- The European Union

Organizations and businesses

- Acre Architects
- Brinkman and Associates
- Community Forests Canada
- DIALOG
- Hemmings House
- Productions Hounds of Vintage
- Makeship
- Pacific Reforestation
- Tantramar Outdoors Club

Our teams

Community Forests International and our sister organization, Community Forests Pemba, work closely to empower communities. In 2021, both organizations increased their capacity by welcoming new staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise.

CANADA

- Monica Allaby
- Abigail Christ-Rowling
- Anne Herteis
- Daimen Hardie
- Megan de Graaf
- Rebecca Jacobs
- Natsuki Kyokane
- Dana Lipnicki
- Jamee McNeil
- Zach Melanson
- Dani Miller
- Cindy Spicer
- Craig Tupper

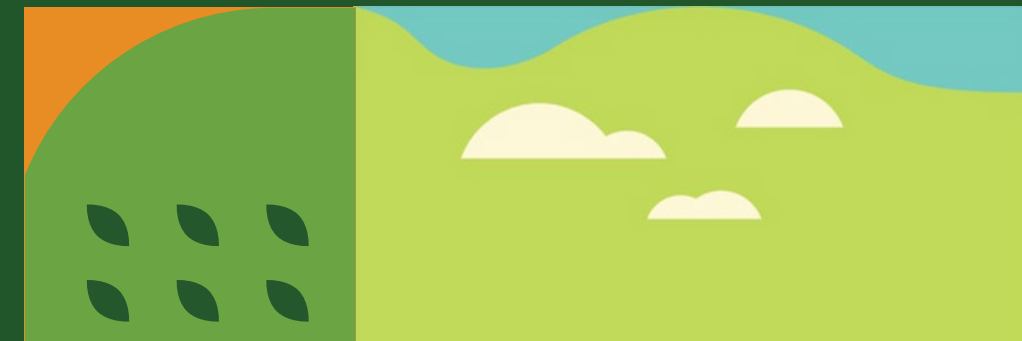
ZANZIBAR

- Raphael Maresi
- Sada Segeja
- Ali Hamad Ali
- Bakari Ali Bakari
- Bukhaiya Hemed Suleiman
- Amour Juma Mohammed
- Siti Bakar Makame
- Rehema Alawi
- Salma Nassor Marshed
- Mwanaidi Mussa
- Omar Msellem
- Mbarouk Mussa Omar
- Ali Abdullah Mbarouk

- Khadija Juma
- Shariff Hamad
- Naushat Salim
- Maryam Bakari Sharif
- Waleed Rashid
- Shaban Mussa Rashid
- Ali Haji Hamad
- Mohammed Khamis
- Shamata Shariff Fila Simba
- Yahya Suleiman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Karina LeBlanc
- Jeff Schnurr
- Jenelle Sobey



A new forester on the block

In 2021, we welcomed Craig Tupper as our new Forest Program Manager. Craig is a Registered Professional Forester with 15 years of experience in forest operations, planning, and landowner outreach. He describes himself as “the classic jack of all trades.” When asked what drew him to the opportunity, Craig explained, “The organization has always been an inspiration. When I saw the opportunity to work with an exceptional group of people and have a positive impact in the Wabanaki forest, I was all in.”

Your generous support makes our work grow

Community Forests International is deeply grateful to all of our supporters for helping us fulfill our mission to protect and restore forests in Canada and around the world. We couldn't do it without your continued support.

We welcome gifts of many varieties, including monthly and one-time donations, gifts of stock, gifts of land, as well as bequests. To learn more about giving options, please visit forestsinternational.org, or contact [Natsuki Kyokane](mailto:Natsuki.Kyokane@forestsinternational.org) at natsuki@forestsinternational.org to discuss what pathways might be best for you.



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Community Forests International's office and the forests that we care for are on the unceded and unsundered lands of the Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq Nations. We commit to respecting the underlying Indigenous title to these lands and working in the spirit of the Peace and Friendship Treaties.