

**Community  
Forests International**

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# **Annual Report 2022**





# Momentum for Growth

This summer I visited a very old forest on Skye Mountain and the ferns were so thick my dog couldn't stop sneezing. We walked under a canopy of giant yellow birch trees surrounded by clouds of fern spores and I felt like I was in another world. It was July in Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island), and the daily high-temperature records were breaking. But the shady forest was a refuge.

After Hurricane Fiona knocked out power to the entire island of Puerto Rico in September, it just kept building strength on the warming Atlantic Ocean. By the time it reached us it was the most intense cyclone to ever impact Canada—blowing down forests in eastern Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

In between cutting away fallen trees near our homes and lending support to everyone dealing with the aftermath, our team travelled back to Skye Mountain. The old forest there is so diverse and complex and resilient, you'll be glad to know it withstood the hurricane just fine. More degraded forests across the landscape that have been simplified by past clearcutting fared far worse.

Our friends and colleagues in Zanzibar keep asking how we're recovering. They've been sharing knowledge and solidarity with

coastal communities in nearby Mozambique this year, a region that itself is still rebuilding after one of the worst cyclones to ever affect Africa.

In 2019, Cyclone Idai almost completely destroyed the city of Beira, Mozambique, and yet the neighbouring city of Quelimane was spared. The difference? Beira had cut down their coastal mangrove forests. The mayor of Quelimane put it simply: "It's our mangroves that saved us. They are our first line of defence. The day we don't have mangroves, I don't think our city will survive."

May it give you hope to know that alongside our amazing partners we replanted more tropical mangroves and protected more old forests like Skye Mountain in 2022 than ever before.

It's been a time of big growth for us and the forests we care for, and I'm grateful for everyone like you who continues to believe in us—and in the potential of people and forests to create a more climate safe future.



Daimen Hardie  
Executive Director

**"Today, we not only have to slow and mitigate climate change as rapidly as possible, but we also have to adapt and build resilience to the impacts that are already unfolding."**

*Daimen Hardie  
Executive Director*



# Acting with Our Values

Community Forests International's mission is to protect and restore Earth's climate by enabling communities and forests to thrive together. In this mission we are guided by our values:



## Trust

Trust is essential to strong relationships, and relationships form the fabric of both our communities and our ecosystems.



## Courage

Courage is not a lack of fear. We acknowledge the gravity of the climate crisis, and we act.



## Justice

We hold communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change at the heart of our thinking and acting.



## Community

People are a part of nature and we strive to create relationships where people and the diversity of life thrive.



# Designing the Building Blocks for Growth

You may have noticed that Community Forests looks a little different. Our new visual identity is based on a colourful tapestry that incorporates many aspects of our approach, while paying tribute to our original logo.

Community Forests International has worked in partnership with the people of Zanzibar for 15 years to support community-led projects that range from tree planting and agroforestry to organizing for greater community land rights and climate resilience. The success of our work in Zanzibar inspired us to establish an office and projects in Canada in 2010, where the support of our community has allowed us to explore pathways for achieving climate resilience using lessons from Zanzibar.

Over the last couple of years, we have thought a lot about how to tell this special origin story and how to make our deep work in distinct locales accessible to more people all over the world. The regions we work in are home to unique ecosystems, cultures, and challenges but our solutions always benefit both forests and the people directly connected to them.

We are committed more than ever to putting equity and justice at the forefront of all our work. That's why we decided to integrate these values into our visual identity—we want the why and how of our work to inspire others as much as what we do.

In 2022, we created a bold new visual identity for Community Forests International. We knew that our new logo should represent the special relationship between people and forests. We worked with Loop to develop a simple graphic constructed of two upside-down hearts that come together to form a tree. The logo represents the intersection between communities and forests and represents the care with which we approach our mission. The hopeful colours applied across the new visual identity are inspired by the special ecosystems and cultures with which we work.

With the support of our community, what began as a seed in 2006 has grown into a movement. Community Forests Pemba has expanded across the Zanzibar Archipelago and supported climate adaptation projects in neighbouring Mozambique. In Canada, you have helped us protect endangered forest ecosystems, advance climate adaptation, and develop regenerative ways for rural families to earn a living from protecting and restoring their forests. Community Forests International is continuing to work in full partnership and solidarity with communities, and we have got a new look to reflect this. We hope it inspires you to take courage from community, be bold in the face of injustice, and act for a brighter future.

[Learn more about our renewed brand.](#)





# Impact At A Glance

*This year in Zanzibar, you helped:*

- Reach 60 different communities.
- Provide 1,000 people with needed materials.
- Distribute over 9,900 seedlings, plants, and cuttings.
- Organized 2 international-knowledge exchanges.
- Consult on 4 community mangrove projects.
- Establish 513 home gardens for increased nutrition.
- Establish 116 new Farmer Field Schools.
- Train over 2,800 people in climate-smart agriculture.
- Teach 250 women agro-business strategy.
- Link over 1,600 women to local markets.

# Highlights



## Future Forests

Did you know that in Zanzibar, we've worked with local community leaders to establish 25 community-owned and operated tree nurseries? These nurseries have helped plant over 2.5 million trees across the Zanzibar islands since 2006! Seedlings grown include agroforestry spices such as cloves, black pepper, cardamom, and cinnamon; fruit trees like jackfruit, rambutan, soursop, and papaya; or ecosystem restoration trees including species like casuarina and mangrove.

## Award-Winning

In celebration of World Environment Day, the Government of Zanzibar presented Community Forests Pemba with an Environmental Conservation Award! Said Executive Director, Mbarouk Mussa Omar, "I thank the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for caring for our contribution and the efforts we are making to environmental conservation and fighting against climate change to the community of Zanzibar and the world."



## Making Headlines

The story of Community Forests Pemba's work to reforest and provide clean water to the communities of Kokota Island, Zanzibar, was featured on international television when France TV Afrique featured the story of Community Forests' work to build a climate-resilient school and water source for the community of Kokota Island. Perfect for our Francophone friends, you can [watch the news story here to learn more.](#)

# Cultivating Prosperity Through Diversity



At Community Forests, we understand the immense potential of diverse agroecosystems, benefiting both farmers and the natural environment.

By providing farmers with an array of seeds and seedlings, from fruits like banana and pineapple to spices like black pepper and cloves, we aim to enhance resilience at every level, from climate to community.

Over the past year, we've distributed nearly 20,000 fruit seedlings, 50,000 spice seedlings, and an impressive 32 kilograms of

vegetable seeds, empowering farmers to grow nutritious foods for their families and markets.

Through our community-run nurseries, a majority of these seeds and seedlings have been produced, fostering local sustainability. We take pride in having established 25 community-owned tree nurseries, leading to the planting of over 3 million trees across the Zanzibar islands. Each year, tens of thousands of new tree seedlings are nurtured for planting during the Masika season, fortifying the region's natural beauty and biodiversity.

Another essential aspect of our work has been advancing gender equality. Partnering with TAMWA, a Zanzibari women's media company, we've championed women's empowerment through various activities, challenging cultural norms, and promoting equitable policies.

Over 2,700 women have attended our Farmer Field School programming, experiencing increased income through small-scale horticulture Kitchen Garden activities. We equip these women with skills, tools, and materials, fostering economic independence.

Looking ahead, we acknowledge the challenges posed by unpredictable rainfall and water scarcity. To address these issues, we're providing water conservation units, irrigation technologies, and identifying ideal locations for boreholes.

Additionally, we aim to combat undernutrition by implementing nutrition training programs and expanding Kitchen Gardens, enriching both gardens and diets.

We prioritize a community-led approach, recognizing the expertise of Community Forests

Pemba and the communities we serve. Our role is to support and uplift their work, channeling resources to those on the ground.

We've made significant strides in supporting thousands of farmers, but there are many more seeking the resources to build resilient livelihoods in agriculture.

Together, we envision a future where diversity and empowerment flourish, enriching both farmers' lives and the remarkable landscapes of Zanzibar.

*Pictured above: Community Forests Pemba's Agriculture Officer, Sada Juma Segejain (right) with three members of the Riziki Haina Mja farmers cooperative, and recent graduates from their local Farmer Field School.*

# 2,500 Acres of Wabanaki Forest Protected

This year, we launched our biggest conservation effort to date: to protect and restore 2,500 acres of Wabanaki Forest by the end of the year. Made up of a mix of restoration lands and last refuges of old forest, the forestlands we protected provide a window back in time to the Wabanaki Forest's full potential and are home to stores of biodiversity. By protecting what remains and restoring that which was lost, we can one day return the full vibrancy of this forest to the broader landscape.

With the help of dedicated supporters, we protected 12 different forests spanning just over 2,519 acres across several regions of Wabanaki'k.

## **Unamáki**

Also known as Cape Breton Island, Unamáki is home to a number of old hardwood forests. These forests in turn are home to a diversity of life, including many rare or endangered species. To give just one example, Unamáki provides the only habitat in Nova Scotia for the Canada lynx, a species at risk in the province.

Until now, these remaining old forests were protected by their remote locations. Today, however, these forests are at increasing risk of clearcutting as new technologies allow harvesting in previously hard-to-reach areas.

## **Sikniktewak**

Spanning the border between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Sikniktewak (or Siknikt region) translates to "drainage area" because of the marshes that make up much of these lands. In the middle of this marsh-covered region, the Chignecto Isthmus is the narrow strip of land bridging Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Unfortunately, the natural habitats on this land are being increasingly fragmented by infrastructure development, leaving the isthmus at increased risk of climate flooding without forests and wetlands to act as natural flood mitigators. As the only land corridor between Nova Scotia and mainland Canada, the isthmus is vitally important for local communities, wildlife, and nature alike.

## Impact At A Glance

*This year in Canada, you helped:*

- Conserve 12 unique forests in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.
- Restore 430 acres of forest.
- Plant over 513,500 climate-adaptive native trees.
- Produce 1 new podcast and 5 short films about the special Wabanaki Forest.
- Host 5 workshops on forest carbon inventory and management.
- Enrol 65 rural households in an innovative pilot forest carbon offsets project.
- Invest \$400K into rural communities.
- Publish 1 climate-adaptive forest restoration guide.

# Rooted in Resilience: Exploring the Below the Canopy Podcast

This podcast is part of Community Forests International's Common Ground Project, which seeks to build solidarity between settlers and Indigenous communities through forest care.

At Community Forests International, we understand that the colonial land governance systems must change to recognize and uphold Indigenous rights if we are to successfully protect and restore the forests and other natural ecosystems. We are working towards amplifying Indigenous rights and strengthening understanding and allyship between Indigenous and settler forestry practitioners around issues of forest care and climate action. That's why we were thrilled to announce the launch of our newest venture, the Below the Canopy podcast.

Below the Canopy explores the relationships between people and

the forests they care for, with particular focus on the Wabanaki forest—a special forest type found across the northeast of Canada and the United States. Intensive forest management since colonization has degraded what was once a diverse and resilient forest while creating challenges for the communities that are most reliant on forests for their livelihoods. In this podcast, host and forest ecologist Megan de Graaf speaks to experts from the region to understand how we got here and how we might start to restore the forest to its former abundance. The series paints a hopeful vision for forests in the region, offering lessons for forest stewardship across Turtle Island.

**Learn about the power of language and story in bringing people together from shalan joudry.**



**Check out the Below the Canopy Podcast!**

## Highlights



### After the Storm

In the wake of tropical storm Fiona, numerous losses and damages were observed. The Community Forests team sprang into action, visiting the forests we cared for to assess the full extent of the damage. In the days and weeks that followed, we developed tailored management plans to address the aftermath, and we made sure to provide valuable information and resources to those who had forestland affected by the storm.

### 1 Million Trees Planted

In June of 2022, we celebrated a milestone moment for our Wabanaki Forest restoration efforts! With the help of our dedicated supporters, we reached 1 million trees planted across lands cared for by Community Forests International. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and energy dedicated by our tree planting partners, Community Forests Canada.



### \$1 million for Climate-Focused Forestry

Community Forests International was humbled to be one of ten recipients of the 2022 TD Ready Challenge — and \$1 million in funding for climate forests! This funding will help reach over 14,000 family forest owners and workers across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia over the next three years, providing tools and resources to keep forests healthy in a changing climate.

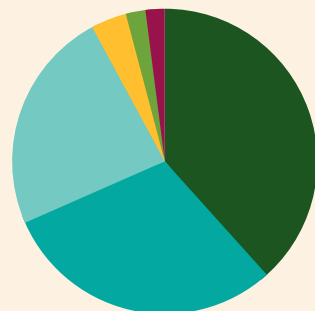


# Financials

In 2022 Community Forests International experienced strong growth with an increase in year-over-year financial support of 67%. The detailed and complete audited financial statement is [available on our website](#).

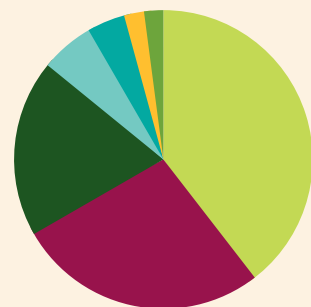
	2021	2022
<b>Revenues</b>		
Land Acquisition Grants	-	763,208
General Fund Donations	430,239	973,070
Pemba Fund Donations	55,926	51,511
Consulting & Other Services	86,294	53,023
Grants & Contribution Agreements	485,797	601,478
Carbon Offsets	344	95,815
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,058,600</b>	<b>\$1,774,897</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Land Acquisition	234,244	790,612
Forest Protection	97,325	383,942
International Projects	52,544	82,110
Canada Projects	97,583	115,530
Personnel	469,848	543,400
Professional Services	10,063	43,378
Overhead	35,903	41,628
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$763,266</b>	<b>\$1,209,988</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$295,334</b>	<b>\$564,909</b>

Note: Land acquisition revenue and expense are excluded from totals.



## Revenues

- General Donations
- Land Acquisition Grants
- Grants & Contribution
- Carbon Offsets
- Consulting & Services
- Pemba Donations



## Expenses

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

# Community Forests

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karina LeBlanc  
Jeff Schnurr  
Jenelle Sobey

## Our generous partners

The growth we've experienced and the work we do would not be possible without our generous supporters and our ongoing partnerships. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the following foundations, organizations, businesses, and governments.

Acre Architects  
AGRI-CONNECT Program  
Brinkman and Associates  
Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
Chawkers Foundation  
Community Forests Canada  
DIALOG  
Echo Foundation  
Environment and Climate  
Change Canada

European Union  
Fredericton Community  
Foundation  
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Natural Resources Canada

New Brunswick  
Environmental Trust Fund  
New Brunswick Innovation  
Foundation  
Pacific Reforestation  
RBC Tech for Nature  
Rotary Club of Sackville

# Your generous support makes our work grow

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

You can support in many ways, 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](https://forestsinternational.org), or contact Natsuki Kyokane at [natsuki@forestsinternational.org](mailto: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 unsurrendered 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.*