

# Plant 4 Pemba

2026





Over a decade ago, a community activist named Mbarouk asked a few traveling tree planters if they could help communities restore their island. None of us knew it at the time, but that request would change people's lives — myself included. We didn't have much to offer at the time. No real experience or resources to speak of, but we had energy, drive, and a crew of friends who wanted to help Mbarouk restore Pemba Island. So, we got to work. That year, we hosted our first Plant 4 Pemba and raised enough funds to start 7 community nurseries that grew over 100,000 seedlings. Seeing something so tangible come from a single day of planting energized us. Other crews joined Plant 4 Pemba, and soon a community of generosity and solidarity emerged that has seen thousands of tree planters across Canada take part. The partnership has continued to grow beyond anyone's expectations. Our sister organization, Community Forests Pemba, is now a household name across Zanzibar with deep community connections and a sustained track record built on trust and friendship with local communities. Your support has allowed us to chase down huge opportunities and deliver for people. More importantly, you've helped us keep our promises by consistently showing up year after year to act in solidarity with people from over 90 communities in Pemba and Zanzibar! Our collective efforts on 'Pemba Day' have reached over 70,000 people (!!!) and enabled Zanzibaris to plant millions of trees for food, forests, spice and coastal mangrove restoration.

In 2026, with your support behind us, we will continue to work with thousands more people through the Zanzibar Women's Leadership in Adaptation (ZanzAdapt) Project. The project supports women in vulnerable coastal communities with the training and resources they need to develop climate-resilient income for the long-term health and wealth of their families. Women in Zanzibar do so much, and it's amazing what they are achieving now that we have fully dedicated our efforts to advancing their social and economic standing in Zanzibari society.

It's not all good news, unfortunately. The loss of USAID funding, and corresponding retraction in international aid spending around the world, means the solidarity and support we provide is more urgent and important than ever to communities. Our small (but mighty!) team relies on the passion and generosity of people like you, and in return, we ensure 100% of all donations are leveraged as match to unlock 10x funding from the major funders we've secured for the project. That means a \$100 donation on 'Pemba Day' unlocks over \$1000 in total funding for women and communities on the ground in Zanzibar!

This community of tree planters means everything to us. A small group of people acting together to care for each other and the planet. Plant 4 Pemba is tangible proof of the power of community at a time where we need community and action more than ever. Nothing fires me up more than a bunch of hard working, caring people showing up with a shared mission. Together, we have the opportunity to act in solidarity with Zanzibaris half a world away and do something meaningful together. Thank you for being part of Plant 4 Pemba and for giving your time, energy, and trees to support this work.

**Tuko Pamoja' -- 'We are together'**

Yours gratefully,

**Zach Melanson**, Co-Founder & Program Director, Community Forests International

# About Community Forests International

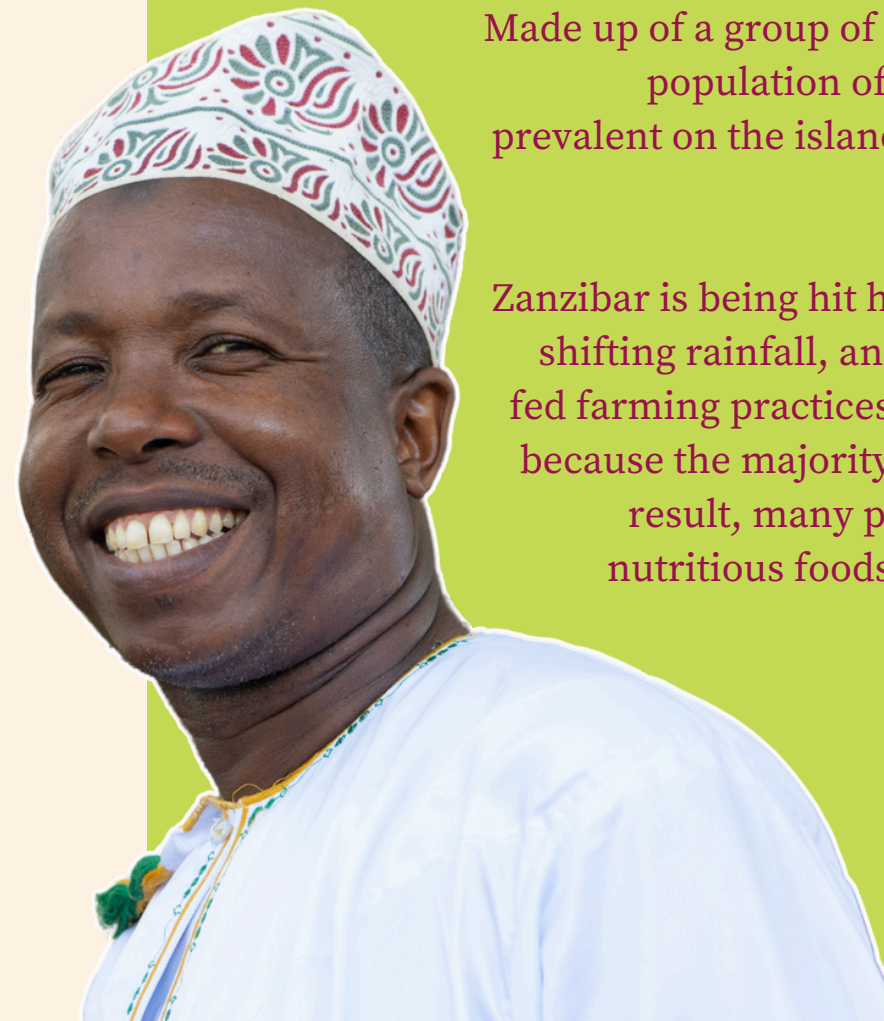
Community Forests International is an environmental charity based in New Brunswick, Canada, on the unsundered lands of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Nations.

From the east coast of Canada, we work in direct partnership and solidarity with Community Forests Pemba, our sister organization in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Together, our mission is to protect and restore the Earth's climate by enabling communities and forests to thrive together. We are a registered Canadian charity and are committed to full transparency in how we work and how we are funded. If you are interested in learning more visit our website at [www. forestsinternational.org](http://www.forestsinternational.org)

## About Zanzibar

Made up of a group of islands in the Indian Ocean, the Zanzibar archipelago has a total population of about 1.3 million. Poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity are prevalent on the islands with an average income around \$5 per day — a number that is even lower in the rural areas where we work.

Zanzibar is being hit hard by the negative effects of climate change including drought, shifting rainfall, and temperature increases (to name a few). Monoculture and rain-fed farming practices make farmers even more vulnerable to these effects, especially because the majority (83%) of residents rely on the land directly to earn a living. As a result, many people are unable to afford an adequate amount of food, and lack nutritious foods, contributing to high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition.



**Mbarouk Mussa Omar**

Co-Founder & Executive Director  
Community Forests Pemba

# Who We Support

We work closely with rural people most connected to the land and forests — the farmers, fishermen, and families living off the land. They contribute very little to climate change but are overwhelmingly impacted by it.

We design our activities to ensure at least 80% of our beneficiaries are women and support women-only programs designed to increase financial independence and empowerment. We continually support our partners and the communities we work with on their journey by helping them grow, connecting them to business support and becoming even more successful.

*Pili is a farmer turned entrepreneur in Zanzibar. She attended one of our Farmer Field Schools back in 2021! And has since taken 8 courses:*



Zulpher

Pili

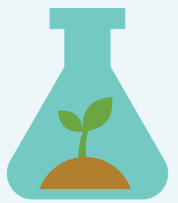


# Throwback to 2025

Last year, the support of tree planters across the country enabled:



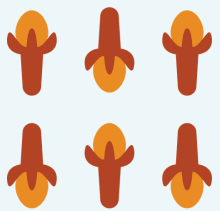
**1,034** **smallholder farmers**  
received comprehensive climate-adaptive agroforestry training.



**400** **Farmer Field Schools**  
established in Zanzibar to date!



**80%** **of program beneficiaries**  
are women!



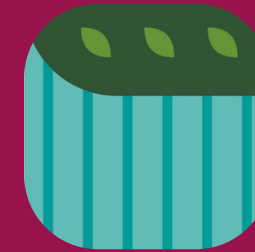
**906K** **agroforestry seedlings**  
planted last year.



**264**  
**total tree planters.**



**9**  
**total camps.**



**100,245**  
**trees planted.**



**\$62,074.39**  
**total raised in 2025!**



Brinkman  
Reforestation Ltd

**Highest performing  
camp with \$8,000  
raised!**



# Where Your Donations Go

## Women's Empowerment

Gender equality is fundamental to improving climate and community resilience. Community Forests and our partners are working closely with women leaders in the communities to promote women-focused activities, training, and business and enterprise development opportunities.

## Mangrove Restoration

Mangrove forests are crucial resources for maintaining the livelihoods of fishing communities. We are working with our team in Zanzibar to reforest these critical coast forests for climate resilience and livelihood opportunities.

## Spice Forests

A unique type of agroforestry system that focuses on producing high-value spice crops that can dramatically increase farmers' profits while maintaining healthy forest cover. Spice crops grown by farmers in Zanzibar include black pepper, vanilla, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, turmeric and nutmeg.

## Agroforestry

Agroforestry combines forests and farming, growing diverse ecosystems of vegetables, fruit trees and high-value spice crops — storing carbon while reversing trends of deforestation, soil loss, and economic vulnerability.

# The Campaign

One day a year, we ask tree planters to strap on the bags and pound for Pemba, giving what they can — a bag up, a half day, or the whole thing! Plant 4 Pemba remains Community Forests' largest and most important fundraiser! Your support enables us to grow and build trust, resilience, and meaningful change alongside the people of Zanzibar. It's this ongoing solidarity that has grown Community Forests Pemba into one of Zanzibar's most trusted and relied upon environmental and social organizations.

## The Match

It gets better! We use your donations as the matching funds we need to unlock larger support. In 2024, we began a multi-year project funded by the Government of Canada, and your support unlocks this opportunity.

## What You Should Know

- All the work in Zanzibar is led by Community Forests Pemba – a team of over 25 local experts.
- 100% of all planter-raised funds go directly to support communities. No exceptions!

- Planter donations help to plant trees, improve incomes & build climate resilience that improves the lives of thousands of people every year.
- Plant 4 Pemba is completely voluntary: the amount you choose to give is completely up to you! Every tree helps!





# Community Forests International Statement on Anti-Racism

Community Forests International is deeply committed to continually centring anti-racism within our work across Canada and Zanzibar.

When it comes to our work in Zanzibar, Community Forests International is committed to actively unlearning and dismantling the white gaze, white saviorism, and other colonial practices and narratives so often embedded in international development.

We recognize the privilege we hold as a predominantly white organization based in the so-called global North, and the structural inequalities that place barriers between our partners in Community Forests Pemba and equal access to resources, power, and platforms. Our work in Zanzibar is built on relationships of trust and respect, and the understanding that Community Forests Pemba and the community members we serve are the experts. Our role is to support and uplift this work, channeling resources to those on the ground closest to the communities we aim to support. We prioritize a community-led and community-centred approach and seek to actively listen to and support community needs. Community Forests International does not tolerate racism of any kind in our work or associated fundraising activities. We hold our extended community of supporters to a high standard and do not tolerate language or actions that stereotype community members, oversimplify or dismiss the gravity of challenges faced, or perpetuate colonial narratives.

If you would like to speak more about anti-racism within our work, please reach out to [zach@forestsinternational.org](mailto:zach@forestsinternational.org)