



Community
Forests
International

PLANT 4 PEMBA

2024

THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP FOR PEMBA!

Rewind to 2006 on the island of Pemba, Zanzibar. A community activist named Mbarouk Mussa Omar approached a young tree planter Jeff Schnurr to ask if he would help local communities to plant trees. When Jeff brought this opportunity back to Canada the following spring we were inspired. So, we got to work figuring out how we could make good on Jeff's commitment. Luckily, we had a camp full of enthusiastic friends who generously pledged some of their trees planted as donations to support planting trees in Pemba!

Soon, crews from other camps heard about the fundraiser, and it quickly grew to include dozens of camps from all across Canada. As the years progressed, word continued to spread, and we grew our amazing community of tree planters to close to 500 planters a year. Today, that special partnership between tree planters and communities in Pemba has since grown beyond anyone's expectations.

Today, we're still raising the bar for our small planter-led organization, doing everything we can to provide support and solidarity to tens of thousands of people in Zanzibar. The efforts of planters on Pemba Day each year support over 60 different communities across Zanzibar and have planted millions of trees for food, forests, and more.

Tree planters like you have helped build climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystems across the islands – a need that is only becoming more urgent as the climate crisis continues to disproportionately impact small islands like Zanzibar.

In 2024, with your support behind us, Community Forests Pemba is beginning a targeted multi-year project to uplift and support women across Zanzibari communities. Your donations will go towards establishing women's co-operatives, growing diverse Spice Forests, providing market and business support for the Kitchen Garden programs, and restoring the vital mangrove forests for community and climate protection.

None of this would be possible without you and planters across the country. Without Plant 4 Pemba we would never have grown to become one of the most trusted community organizations in the Zanzibar islands, or been able to provide the sustained funding we needed to unlock massive opportunities like the Government of Canada.

The support from tree planting camps means everything to us. It's not only how we fund this work. It's our roots — sustaining and expanding our unique solidarity approach with Zanzibari communities. Thank you for being part of Plant 4 Pemba and for giving your time, energy, and trees to support communities across Zanzibar.



Tuko Pamoja! We are together!

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 Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq 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 it is funded. If you are interested in learning more, visit: forestsinternational.org/annual-reports



Aviwa Ali Songoroa with grafted fruit and spice seedlings.

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 the 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 increase (to name a few). Monoculture farming practices make farmers even more vulnerable to these effects, especially when the majority (83%) of residents rely on the land for their livelihoods. 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.

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 50% 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.

Your Impact

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

- Distribute over 2,300 fruit and spice seedlings and vegetable seeds.
- Establish 95 Kitchen Garden model farms across the islands.
- Support nearly 3,000 women with agricultural knowledge, resources, and business development.
- Grow 254 acres of “Spice Forests”, diverse agroforest ecosystems.
- Inaugurate 190 new Farmer Field Schools for community-led knowledge exchange.

And so much more!

Throwback to 2023

When an incredible
269 tree planters from
13 camps across Canada planted
166,482 trees and raised
\$42,654 for communities in Zanzibar!



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.
- **Spice Forests:** 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.
- **Permaculture Gardens:** With our support, families in Zanzibar are growing food and business opportunities directly outside of their homes. These intensive women-focused “Kitchen Gardens” provide families with an immediate source of nutritious crops for household consumption and to sell in local markets.
- **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.

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.



Jaza Rubea Salum, a vanilla farmer from Pemba Island.

The Match

It gets better! In 2024, we begin the multi-year “ZanzADAPT” project funded by the Government of Canada. Your donations will be used as matching funds to unlock larger support, helping us to bring the necessary match to the table and access the funding.

What you should know:

- We are a tree planter-founded organization that has a 16-year track record of delivering out-sized impact.
- All the work in Zanzibar is led by Community Forests Pemba – a team of over 20 Zanzibari experts.
- 100% of all planter-raised funds go directly to support communities. No exceptions.
- We use Plant 4 Pemba funds to leverage funds from the Government of Canada.
- Planter donations help to plant trees, improve incomes, and build climate resilience. It's a win-win-win scenario 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 them. Every tree makes a huge difference!



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 saviourism, and other colonial practices and narratives so often embedded in international development.

We recognise the privilege we hold as a predominantly white organisation 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, channelling resources to those on the ground closest to the communities we aim to support. We prioritise a community-led and community-centred approach and seek to actively listen to and support community needs.

Community Forests International does not tolerate nor condone 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, oversimplify, or perpetuate colonial narratives.

If you have feedback or comments or would like to speak more about anti-racism within our work, please reach out to plant4pemba@forestsinternational.org

