

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Seeing the Forest

COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL



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INTERNATIONAL





To the friends, members & supporters of Community Forests International,

In 2010, we grew an idea into an organization, our dreams and aspirations achieving reality in both Tanzania and Canada. Almost 2000 Tanzanians now plant trees, and the results are staggering. The seedlings planted in 2008 have grown up to 25 feet in height and a true forest has begun to take shape. In Canada, we've begun a workshop series to share our ideas, hoping that our efforts for positive change can affect the region we at CFI call our home.

Having confronted the growing pains that face many new organizations, we've overcome challenges and have built some character in the process. In Pemba we learned that people must make a living practicing conservation, for even the individuals that care about the environment must provide for their families. In Canada, building on this lesson, we've realized the need for an approach to forest management that both restores our endangered Acadian Forest and provides an income for the people who steward the land.

In order to affect the scale of change necessary to fight the environmental challenges of our time, we need to look beyond the traditional conservation approach and bridge the environmental and economic divide. We need an alternative, an option that derives a living from the land while maintaining the values of conservation - clean water, wildlife and healthy forests. Our organization believes in this alternative and envisions a future where making a living and restoring our planet's forests become one and the same. We've got a forest, and we're willing to work for it, so let the working lands conservation movement begin.

Jeff Schnurr
Executive Director



Organizational Overview

Community Forests International is a registered Canadian Charity located in Sackville, New Brunswick. Founded in 2007 and incorporated officially in 2008, Community Forests International delivers programming in Tanzania and the Atlantic Provinces. Community Forests International is supported by donations, grants and the efforts of countless volunteers.

Community Forests International's mission: "To foster environmental stewardship internationally by establishing community forests, promoting sustainable forestry techniques and initiating environmental education."

The organization's work in Tanzania is implemented through a sister organization, Community Forests Pemba (CFP). Although the organization's share the same mission and have developed past programming in close concert, CFP operates through a Tanzanian board of directors and staff.



CFI BOARD MEMBERS

Board President – Deborah Bakker
Board Secretary - Kathleen Cooper
Board Member - Olga Gladkikh
Board Member - Stefan Kirkpatrick

CFI STAFF

Executive Director – Jeff Schnurr
Program Director – Daimen Hardie
Communications Director – Zach Melanson
Education Coordinator Canada – Estelle Drisdelle
Summer Student – Graeme Cherry
Youth Intern – Brennan Daly

CFP STAFF

Executive Director – Mbarouk Mussa Omar
Program Director – Said Suedi
Education and Project Officer – Mike Tritchler
Field Officer – Abdalla Ali Rashid

MILESTONES

- Planted over 315,000 trees
- Planted over 230,000 mangroves
- Improved over 500 hectares
- Introduced and maintained sustainable practices
- Involved 1800 community participants
- Supported 14 separate communities
- Fostered 100% community ownership
- Supported Canadian communities through extension training

OFFICE AND CONTACT

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HISTORY

In 2006, Jeff Schnurr met Mbarouk Mussa Omar on the island of Pemba, Tanzania, while traveling during time off from his seasonal job as a Canadian tree planter. Most Pembans were amazed that a 21 year old could afford to live in their community for almost a year on his earnings as a “tree farmer” and chalked it up to another divide between the Global North and South. Mbarouk was different. He wanted to know if Pembans could plant trees in order to restore their degraded island while providing fruit, nuts and timber in the process. The two joined with Tanzanian forester, Said Suedi, and began traveling to rural communities to meet with village elders in order to gauge interest in a tree-planting initiative. By the fall of 2007, 7 villages had collected seed from the trees around their homes and had propagated over 100,000 trees in community nurseries. Community Forests International was born.

Since then, the project has grown to include over 14 rural community groups and has planted over 300,000 trees in the process. Community members decide on the tree species they plant, and have employed over 25 species in an effort to improve the rural livelihoods and the resources they depend on. In 2009, Community Forests International created an online environmental education program called the Global Schools Link in order to connect students from Tanzania and India to schools in Ontario and New Brunswick.

Having delivered successful community development projects abroad, Jeff Schnurr teamed up with Estelle Drisdelle, Zach Melanson and Daimen Hardie to begin programming in Atlantic Canada. In 2010, CFI held workshops and delivered extension training to private woodlot owners that wished to restore degraded woodlands. By recognizing the importance of forests for the livelihoods they provide, CFI works to make conservation a consequence of income-generation by building sustainable relationships between communities and their forestlands. In October of 2010, Jeff Schnurr was named one of Canada’s Top 5 International Volunteers through CBC and Manulife’s *Champions of Change* program

PEMBAN TREE PLANTING

The Tanzanian tree-planting project has become an organizational cornerstone, demonstrating the viability of community-led efforts. Since starting in 2007, over 1800 Pembans have collected seed from the forests around their homes in order to afforest the degraded land that surrounds their communities. In 2010, the effort continued without funding from the Finnish Embassy in Tanzania, which initially supported the project from 2007-2009. Despite the reduction in resources, the program continued to flourish as Pemban's familiar with the project began sharing tree-growing techniques within their communities. In addition to the peer-to-peer exchanges we watched develop in 2010, past project participants and staff have not only maintained their knowledge, but they've continued to innovate and expand on the tree growing techniques used in previous years.

As a result of these recent developments, CFP and CFI have decided to focus their resources on the people capable of spreading the ideas and technical know-how, as opposed to the one off purchase of materials and goods. By investing in people and their innovations, the Pemban tree-planting movement can spread across the landscape in the most cost effective and empowering manner possible.



PEMBA RESEARCH NURSERY

In 2010, CFI and CFP staff dreamed up the idea of a no-cost nursery. Wouldn't it be amazing if Pemba's didn't require external funds to grow and plant trees? Or if one community simply had to share their ideas and knowledge of tree-planting to spread the effort across the island? In order to invest in low or no-cost tree propagation methods and to diversify the species grown in the Pemba Trees project, CFI built a research nursery in Shumba-Vyamboni.

Led by CFP Field Officer, Abdallah Ali Rashid, the nursery experiments before project innovation is shared at the community level. One of Abdallah's most promising projects is the "Pod Press". This simple mechanical device allows the user to convert organic waste and soil into nutrient-laden seedling containers. The use of these locally made, organic containers replaces dependence on expensive and environmentally harmful polyethylene seedling sacks.



GLOBAL SCHOOLS LINK

In 2010, Community Forests International continued the Global Schools Link, an online education program that connects middle school students from around the world. The Global Schools Link focuses on providing hands-on experiences that can be shared through real-time online exchanges.

Participating schools planted trees on school grounds and explored curriculum related activities linked to both their local region and the global environment as a whole. Once logged on Global Schools Link students corresponded with other students directly via electronic penpal software or contributed to online lessons, which are developed by teachers and project facilitators. Schools presently participating in the Global Schools Link include Port Elgin Regional School in Port Elgin, NB, Montague Public School in Smith Falls, Ontario, Uweleni Secondary School in Pemba, Tanzania, Nadukuppam High School in Auroville, India and new for 2010, Utani Secondary School in Pemba, Tanzania.

Visit www.globalschoolslink.org to see the Global Schools Link in action.





COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING IN CANADA

In the spring of 2010, with support from Canadian Tire and Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd, Community Forests International planted 7000 trees in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland in order to promote trees indigenous to the Acadian Forest.

CFI united volunteers, boy-scouts, gardeners and municipal leaders in the collective act of planting a tree. By planting Bur Oak, Butternut, Yellow Birch, Hemlock, Tamarack, Eastern Cedar, Red Pine, White Pine, White Spruce, Sugar Maple and Red Maple, the organization hopes to maintain the genetic diversity of the unique, Acadian Forest Ecoregion.

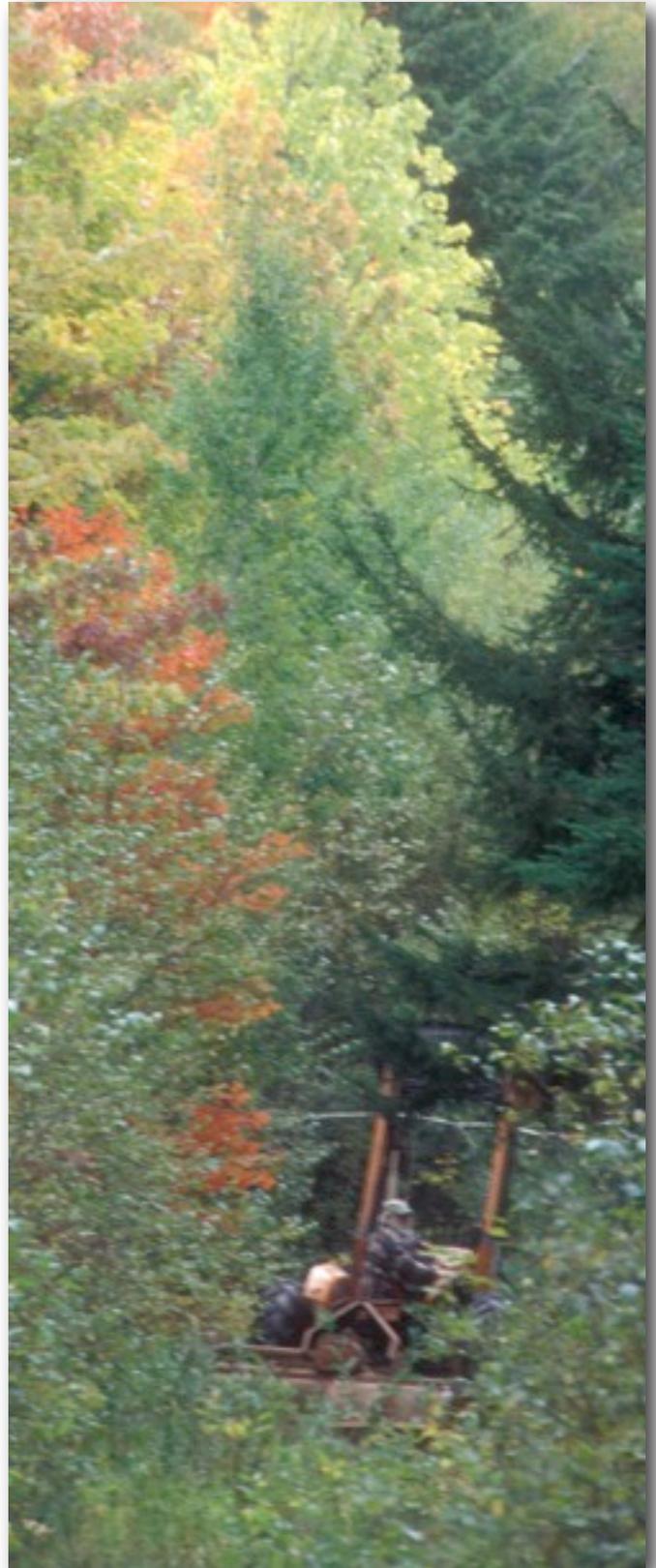
WORKING LAND CONSERVATION IN NB

Community Forests International is mounting a campaign to save Whaelghinbran Farm in Kings County, New Brunswick. The present owners, Clark (74 years old) and Sue (72 years old) have reached a point where they can no longer operate the farm and forest on a viable scale, threatening the future of the property and the vision of sustainability it represents.

Across the fragmented Acadian Forest Region, Whaelghinbran Farm represents an island of biodiversity and health. Towering white pines and red spruce harbour Barred Owls and Blackburnian Warblers, while 150-year old hemlocks mark the ravines. Clark and Sue have been living their belief of forest restoration and sustainable production for the past 50 years, and it would be a great tragedy to lose this property to clear-cut forestry and human greed. To lose Whaelghinbran now would be to lose our heritage.

Community Forests International has been writing grants and soliciting donations to save Whaelghinbran for over a year now, and the urgency of this effort increases daily. With \$68,000 raised, our present target stands at \$206,000, and achieving this would allow CFI to preserve Clark and Sue's vision of sustainable production in perpetuity. Beyond saving the property, this 600-acre farm and forest will continue as an incubator for innovation and environmental education in the region.

Community Forests International will use Whaelghinbran to demonstrate the potential for community forestry in New Brunswick, by establishing a workers' cooperative and education centre on site. By allowing interested individuals an entry-point into sustainable forestry, the dream and vision of a place will move across a landscape, initiating the type of positive change that has now become necessity.



SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES

The 2010 Summer Workshop Series built on CFI's track record of engaging communities in sustainable development and environmental conservation activities. By delivering a program of expert-led educational workshops to community members and local youth in Southeast New Brunswick, the organization created entry points for individuals wishing to build sustainable relationships with the Acadian Forest Region. The workshops, designed to increase participant capacity for sustainable living in the Acadian Forest region, were delivered as related yet stand alone events and were conducted in Sackville, New Brunswick. Workshops were open to the public and included:

Food Forest Gardening - Imitating Acadian Forest ecosystems in the design of diverse and high-yielding polycultures.

Instructor: Estelle Drisdelle, B.Sc., C.H., Certified Permaculture Designer

Duration: 1 Day Workshop

Location: Sackville Community Garden and Food Forest, Sackville, N.B.

Ecological Forestry – Using forest management techniques that mimic ecological processes to promote healthy and biodiverse forests.

Instructor: Jamie Simpson, M.Sc., RPF. Author of Restoring the Acadian Forest: A Stewardship Guide for Woodlot Owners in the Maritimes

Duration: 5 Day Shortcourse

Location: Sackville, N.B and surrounding woodlots

Backyard Beekeeping – Emphasizing natural management techniques and hands-on learning, this workshop is designed to equip participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence required to begin their own backyard hives

Instructor: Peter Hardie and Kathleen Cooper

Duration: 1 Day Workshop

Location: Sackville, N.B.



2010 FINANCIAL YEAR END REPORT

Financial Statements prepared on cash basis - Fiscal Period Ending October 31, 2010

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets

Current Assets

Bank balance – Account 1 - 5149	694.72
Bank balance – Account 2 - 2823	1217.31
Petty Cash	285.43
Total	\$ 2,197.46

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

0

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue

Charitable Donations	\$ 26,182.80
Grants	\$ 4,953.00
Greeting Card Fundraiser	\$ 2,260.23
Workshop Fees	\$ 3,215.00
Tree-Planting Service	\$ 8,050.00
Memberships	\$ 153.38
T-shirt sales	\$ 59.00
Total	\$ 44,873.41

Expenditures

Bank Charges	\$ 103.38
Advertising	\$ 1,823.34
Travel and Vehicle	\$ 9,668.91
License, Memberships and Dues	\$ 310.75
Office Supplies, Printing and Postage	\$ 1,983.30
Education for Staff and Volunteers	\$ 181.47
Compensation	\$ 10,287.53
Professional and Consulting Fees	\$ 1,020.00
Workshop and Food Forest Expenses	\$ 4,511.19
Pemba Trees Project (Activities Abroad)	\$ 8,851.14
Insurance	\$ 785.00
Fundraising	\$ 1,302.54
Taxes (HST, GST, PST)	\$ 1,169.28
Total	\$ 41,997.83