



COMMUNITY  
FORESTS  
INTERNATIONAL



# Annual Report 2014 Transformations

To the friends, members and supporters of Community Forests International

The annual report is a great time for us to reflect on where we are as an organization and how far we've come over the years. It's amazing to think back to 2008 when Community Forests International was founded – a young team with the ambition and the energy that comes when embarking on the unknown. Now I look around the office in Canada and Community Forests Pemba's headquarters at the Rural Innovation Campus in Tanzania and I'm blown away by the ability, experience and skills that have allowed our team to execute and deliver some of the most exciting projects and solutions in the realm of climate change adaptation, rural empowerment and community resilience. I am amazed and honoured to work with such a skilled and dedicated group of people and am immensely inspired by the growth we've seen, in terms of staff but also in members, supporters, workshop participants, community leaders and volunteer technicians. We are truly building a network of people capable of changing the world.

2014 was a good year. The year kicked off with a highly successful crowd funding campaign and our supporters helped us smash a \$30,000 fundraising target securing the funding necessary to complete the Rural Innovation Campus in Pemba. We didn't just raise the money – in 2014 the Rural Innovation Campus became operational. Workshops were hosted and the public was invited to explore agroforestry, beekeeping, alternative energy and kitchen garden demonstration sites. In Canada we launched a crowd-sourced cabin design competition and received 57 entries from 11 countries, and we kicked off an Adopt a Clear-Cut program. All this while continuing to run our workshop series and carbon offsetting efforts.

As an organization, we began transitioning from a rough and tumble start-up to an organization with a sound process and internal sustainability. Our desire to think outside-the-box, to push ourselves as an organization and to put in the long hours, often as volunteers, got us to where we are today. At the end of the year it became apparent that we needed to work smarter, not harder, and we set out to build a new strategic plan with a focus on organizational sustainability in order to take our vision to the next level. Mbarouk Mussa Omar and Mike Tritchler joined us in Canada, injecting our strategic visioning with a Pemban flavour and together we set out to reinvent our organization as a vehicle for true and lasting change.

It's been an amazing year and I send a sincere thank-you to everyone who has helped us along the journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Schnurr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Schnurr  
Executive Director



## Adaptation - Earning a Living While Providing For The Planet

*We need to develop new approaches to how we live on the land that move beyond subsistence. Our communities can't just survive. Rural communities need to thrive.*

Community Forests International has been working over the past few years to pilot new appropriate technologies with a focus on agriculture, forestry, energy and building. These activities such as beekeeping, solar energy generation, rainwater harvesting, earth-block production, fuel-efficient cook stove production, agroforestry and kitchen gardening have provided Pemban communities several new ways to approach how to provide for their homes and have reduced deforestation and the destruction of the natural world.



## From An Idea to Scale

*Our work isn't about providing solutions; it's about creating an environment where rural communities everywhere can choose to follow dreams – ideas transforming reality.*

The year began with Community Forests International wrapping up an adaptation pilot project funded by the European Commission and concluded with the award of a second round of funding to transition these efforts from a pilot project into a scalable solution. The next round of funding covers a 54 month period and will allow Community Forests International to ensure that our projects don't just ensure community members can cover their basic needs, but instead truly improve their standards of living. The project will also allow CFI to produce instructional videos, a web database and a documentary in order to spread the organization's approach to other vulnerable communities around the world.

# Pemba 2014 Project profiles

## Kitchen Gardens

*Small scale gardens, right outside the home.  
Food for the family or local markets.*

Number of women trained 131

Gardens established 67

Communities participating 11

## Beekeeping

*Pollination for forests and food crops.  
Honey for households*

Beekeeping hives established 113

People trained 292

Communities participating 12

## Tree-planting

*Organizations roots, community's future.  
Trees for wood, fuel, fruit and forests.*

Trees planted (2014) 164,455

Trees planted total 1,300,000

Communities participating 18

## Agroforestry

*Trees, fruit and cash crops.  
Large scale food production and security.*

Land covered (hectares) 21.3

Farmers trained 96

Communities participating 8



## Rural Innovation Campus

*Big ideas need a campus. A place to pilot new ideas and learn. A place for community leaders to share their knowledge and help build solutions.*

The Rural Innovation Campus became fully operational, serving as the new Community Forests Pemba headquarters and demonstration site. The campus features an apiary or bee yard, a kitchen garden demonstration site, an agroforestry plot and a solar energy system that powers the off-grid facilities. In 2014 the Rural Innovation Campus also hosted a workshop on kitchen gardens, which invited women from rural communities to come and participate in a two day workshop on-site. The participants were able to share information and their expertise with others in neighbouring communities.



## Pound for Pemba

*Trees planted in Canada give Pembans the opportunity to realize their dreams – one act of resilience empowering another.*

Each year, Canada tree planters donate a portion of their day's earnings in order to support Pemban projects. In its 5th year, the planters exceeded any expectations by donating \$22800 dollars to Pemba – the equivalent of 162,857 trees. Tree planting is one of the hardest jobs on the planet and everyone at Community Forests International is incredibly inspired and thankful for all those that give in order to support Pemban communities half-way around the world.



## Adopt a Clear Cut

*Standing the conservation paradigm on its head by starting with the clear cut.*

Community Forest International launched the Adopt a Clear-Cut conservation program. Conservation efforts typically target pristine landscapes which maintain the biodiversity and endangered ecosystems essential to ensuring the future of our planet. In 2014, we challenged ourselves to think differently, wondering if the organization could purchase highly degraded land and restore the property achieving biodiversity and ecosystem health in the future. CFI purchased a 40-acre clear-cut and planted over 20,000 trees on the site near our head office in Sackville, NB. By planting and protecting native species such as hemlock, red spruce, black spruce, white pine and eastern larch on the property, CFI hopes to demonstrate our ability to restore degraded systems for conservation.



## The Backwoods Cabin of the Future – Blurring the Lines

*Changing the conversation on rural – from brain drain to a global circulation of ideas and innovation.*

In February, Community Forests International launched an international design competition in order to crowd-source the designs for the “backwoods cabin of the future”. As one of the first pieces of infrastructure at the organization’s Rural Innovation Campus, the criteria for the cabin was crafted to meet the highest degree of sustainability possible for under \$10,000 in material costs, demonstrating transferable solutions in green building and design. The design competition attracted 57 entries from 11 different countries such as Japan, Italy, France, China, the United States and Canada. Nate Fisher – the architect who designed the winning Whaelghinbran Nomadic Cabin – donated his \$1000 prize back to the organization, a truly generous act that helped launch the build.



## From Saving a Farm to Building a Campus

*Learning from Pemba and giving our ideas the space to grow.*

In 2014, the development of the Rural Innovation Campus – Canada at Whaelghinbran Farm, the organization's 600 acre farm and forest became a priority. In order to overcome infrastructure challenges on site, Community Forests International conducted a program design and building session in July. The results have since been used to craft a fundraising strategy in order to raise the capital required to build the infrastructure required to host future programming at the campus. Community Forests International hopes to be able to host apprentices in farming and forestry in the near future, in addition to supporting social enterprises focused on farming, forestry, energy and green building.



## Valuing our Forests

*Seeing the forest for the trees - from a resource for human use to an engine of clean air and carbon sequestration.*

Community Forests International continues to demonstrate the viability of carbon off-setting as a way to support truly sustainable restoration forestry in Atlantic Canada. The economic conditions surrounding private woodlots in the Maritime region have led to a rural exodus. Those that stay are often pressured to harness unsustainable practices, such as clear-cut forestry in order to survive. Carbon offsetting has opened an alternative route by providing an economic incentive for restoration forestry, whereby landowners could be paid for the trees that grow in addition to the wood they sell from selective harvesting. In 2014, Community Forests International has offset 3,519 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by conserving a portion of Whaelghinbran Farm. Community Forests International hopes to expand these efforts in order to create a regional pool of private woodlot owners.



## Workshops and Connection

*Providing the space for learning and growth*

Beekeeping, Mycoremediation, Edible Landscaping and Timber Framing workshops were hosted throughout the summer and fall. Over 50 people attended the workshop series, strengthening and building a network of rural innovators and homesteaders in the Maritime region.



## The Network and a Platform for Change

*We are all stronger together.*

As the organization grows and effects more and more rural communities, Community Forests International has realized the importance of building a network in order to provide agency and voice to rural communities around the world. In addition to the the community members, supporters, members and individuals the organization works with directly, several staff members held positions or affiliations with other environmental groups and organizations. The following outlines some of CFI's engagements:

- New Brunswick Environmental Network – Estrelle Drisdelle, Board member
- TD Friend of the Environment Foundation – Jeff Schnurr Advisory board member
- New Brunswick Community Land Trust – Daimen Hardie, Vice-president
- Forum CC Tanzania – Mbarouk Mussa Omar, Member
- Otter Ponds – Dale Prest, Active member
- Atlantic Coalition for International Cooperation – Member organization
- Global Climate Change Alliance – Mbarouk Mussa Omar, Jeff Schnurr, Delegates at policy event

**COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**October 31, 2014**

	General Fund 2014	Pemba Fund 2014	Total 2014	Total 2013
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT</b>				
Cash	\$ 13,698	\$ -	\$ 13,698	\$ 56,400
Grants and other receivables (Note 3)	-	-	-	37,011
HST receivable	2,621	-	2,621	5,818
Prepaid expenses	1,193	-	1,193	1,294
Due between funds	(31,282)	31,282	-	-
	(13,770)	31,282	17,512	100,523
LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT (Note 4)	291,093	-	291,093	285,225
	\$ 277,323	\$ 31,282	\$ 308,605	\$ 385,748
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>CURRENT</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 5,418	\$ -	\$ 5,418	\$ 29,566
Government remittances payable	4,752	-	4,752	1,858
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	6,100	-	6,100	10,259
Related party loan (Note 7)	10,000	-	10,000	-
Current portion of long term debt (Note 8)	26,300	-	26,300	25,200
	52,570	-	52,570	66,883
LONG TERM DEBT (Note 8)	70,020	-	70,020	96,408
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 9)	11,792	-	11,792	13,909
	134,382	-	134,382	177,200
NET ASSETS				
General fund	142,941	-	142,941	199,740
Pemba fund	-	31,282	31,282	8,808
	142,941	31,282	174,223	208,548
	\$ 277,323	\$ 31,282	\$ 308,605	\$ 385,748

LEASE COMMITMENT (Note 10)

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended October 31, 2014**

	General Fund 2014	Pemba Fund 2014	2014	2013
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Donations and memberships (Note 6)	\$ 164,578	\$ 32,574	\$ 197,152	\$ 204,759
Grants (Note 11)	10,739	-	10,739	68,401
Workshop fees	2,510	-	2,510	3,275
Fundraising	1,644	-	1,644	4,599
Other revenue	736	-	736	1,200
Consulting (Note 7)	-	-	-	65,861
	<u>180,207</u>	<u>32,574</u>	<u>212,781</u>	<u>348,095</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Advertising and promotion	9,626	-	9,626	4,502
Fundraising expense	322	-	322	1,742
Insurance	1,660	-	1,660	1,830
Interest and bank charges	805	-	805	1,710
Interest on long term debt	4,671	-	4,671	2,163
Memberships	1,269	-	1,269	1,335
Occupancy costs (Note 7)	11,200	-	11,200	8,336
Office	5,724	-	5,724	4,056
Pemba contributions	-	10,201	10,201	80,694
Professional fees	11,541	-	11,541	16,882
Projects and workshops	3,851	-	3,851	14,176
Property taxes	1,823	-	1,823	1,775
Repairs and maintenance	1,834	-	1,834	2,449
Salaries and wages	165,177	-	165,177	143,949
Travel	6,488	10,158	16,646	26,738
	<u>225,991</u>	<u>20,359</u>	<u>246,350</u>	<u>312,337</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<u>(45,784)</u>	<u>12,215</u>	<u>(33,569)</u>	<u>35,758</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>				
Amortization of deferred capital donations (Note 9)	2,117	-	2,117	2,015
Carbon offsets (Note 5)	-	10,259	10,259	51,293
Amortization	(10,102)	-	(10,102)	(11,733)
Loss on sale of donated investments	(2,555)	-	(2,555)	(965)
Loss on disposal of capital asset (Note 9)	(475)	-	(475)	-
	<u>(11,015)</u>	<u>10,259</u>	<u>(756)</u>	<u>40,610</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ (56,799)</u>	<u>\$ 22,474</u>	<u>\$ (34,325)</u>	<u>\$ 76,368</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS