



CFI - A CASE FOR SUPPORT

**WHAT STORY WILL WE TELL
FUTURE GENERATIONS?**



WILL WE TELL FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT WE MISSED OUR
CHANCE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUILD A MORE
EQUITABLE WORLD?

...OR WILL WE TELL THEM ABOUT
HUMANITY'S GREAT TURNING POINT?

*“ The disappearance of the forests means rainfall is less certain,
the seasons are changing and sometimes there are no rains at all.
It is our job to bring the forest back.”*

*- Mbarouk Mussa Omar, Executive Director
Community Forests Pemba*

COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL has
THE VISION, TENACITY AND TRACK RECORD
REQUIRED TO MAKE TRUE AND LASTING CHANGE

The actions we take now build the story we
will tell for generations to come.

**BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT
OF AMAZING INDIVIDUALS
LIKE YOU**







A few weeks ago while in Pemba, I spoke with some of our community leaders about their forests. We talked about how far we've come over the years, and how we never imagined that we'd be where we are today. Pembans have restored their land, planted vast forests and shown us that people can live in true harmony with nature.

While standing in a forest of trees planted by human hands, I couldn't help but feel the importance of what Pemban communities have accomplished. The communities we work with now make their living by selling fruit and food from the land they manage. The trees they've planted over the last few years have grown to offer shade and habitat for birds and butterflies. In a world where climate change threatens our way of life, you can't help but feel the power of such inspiring work. Pembans have demonstrated an alternative and proven that we can both care for our planet and provide for our families. Pembans have shown great leadership and their island stands as a beacon of hope.

The trees that grow in Pemba will provide a canopy for future generations. Pemban children today will grow up knowing that they can restore the landscape, that they can build a future in their community. What a powerful gift. Pembans will tell their grandchildren about the trees they planted, about how they grew food between the rows of planted trees and how they began to power their homes with solar energy. We can all learn from their story - we know what is possible and we can join with Pembans in their work. We can learn to live sustainably and change our ways while we still have the chance. We can act today, chart a new course and tell our grandchildren that we tipped the scales and built a better world.

We need your support to tell this story. We are at a significant moment in history, a point where our actions have great impact. Thank you for supporting the success of our work. Please continue to invest in the long-term goals of Community Forests International, and help us determine the story we will tell.

We are writing history, and our actions today will decide our future.

Thanks for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Schnurr'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Schnurr
Executive Director
Community Forests International

TOGETHER WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Our Voice

Marginalized communities everywhere are facing the same challenges, but that doesn't mean they have to work in isolation. We've seen several groundbreaking sustainable innovations come from the most remote communities, and are committed to finding new ways to share these ideas to catalyze wide-spread adoption.

We make the space and set the stage for voices to be heard and good ideas to flourish.

Over the past few years we've been building a culture of grassroots innovation through the establishment of the Rural Innovation Campus. Behind the scenes we've also been building an amazing network of farmers and rural innovators. Community Forests International has become a platform, a tool for knowledge transfer and a catalyst for change.

Our Team

None of our work would be possible without the leadership and guidance of our dedicated expert staff members. Our skilled team of 15 in Pemba are all highly respected in their communities. Thirteen of our staff members come from Pemba, meaning they can work effectively in a context they deeply understand to help communities build better livelihoods, increase their resilience and restore their local environment. Backed by a staff of seven in Canada, we are committed to achieving our collective vision in equal partnership.



COMMUNITY LAND

It's been a long battle

How do you invest in a forest, a farm and your community if you don't own the land you tend? In most places around the world, land security presents an insurmountable barrier for communities that wish to work sustainably on the land and the island of Pemba is no exception – the government owns most of the land.

Since 2009, we've been lobbying the local government for land tenure and ownership while village groups have been creating cooperatives to manage land collectively. Our community partners have invested a lot of time and energy into caring for the land around their homes and we have committed to helping them get the security they need to continue.

In late October, we finally received land title for 295 acres of community-managed land. Six communities now own the land they are working to restore. This achievement is quite possibly our most important success to date, and now that we've got a strong system in place we can empower more communities to invest in the long-term health of their natural world.

We're just getting started. In 2016 we will continue to help communities secure land. Our next target is to add an additional 600 acres to rural community ownership.

"We have been waiting for years for access to land. We have planted thousands of trees and want to continue. Thanks to Community Forests International's work we have secured the title deed for the resources we depend on. The land is ours to care for and protect. Future generations will thank us. "

- Salim Nassor Saleh



In Kokota, water is medicine.

Bibi Jabu Mwadini is a midwife who lives on Kokota Islet, a small community of fishers and farmers off the coast of Pemba. Bibi became a midwife after delivering her own child herself.

"I had already assembled everything I needed, boiled water, a razor, thread, because my mother was unable to do anything and no one else could help me during the delivery. Then I had to wash the baby's hands, clean the baby's mouth and body."

Bibi had access to fresh, clean water during her labour, but water shortages are common, and she has been present for births where no water was available. In Kokota, water is a lifesource. Clean water gives women strength during labour, and is absolutely essential if complications arise. In Kokota, water is the difference between a successful birth and an unsuccessful one. In Kokota, water is medicine.

Before Kokotans could start to restore their island forests and look to the future, they needed dependable access to fresh water. They would travel hours by boat for fresh water each day. Poor weather conditions meant no access to their medicine. No access to their lifesource.

Bibi's story exemplifies the incredible strength and resilience of the community of Kokota. When CFI was able to help set up a rainwater catchment system, Kokotans stepped up and provided all of the labour, working long, difficult hours to build the water tank. The outcomes have been extensive. Clean water is not only connected to essential life necessities, but has also allowed Kokota to build a school, and to restore their forests, and grow more sustainable agricultural systems. In Kokota, water is hope.



PROJECTS



TREE PLANTING

1.5 Million trees and growing

In 2007, Community Forests International and Pemban communities began to collect seeds from nearby forests. These seeds sprouted in nurseries, which were built in the centre of each participating village. These nurseries became community centres, serving as a place for women to meet, weave baskets, share news and grow trees. We work to keep the cost of growing trees as low as possible, as CFI believes that knowledge, information and minimal support should be all communities require to grow the tree planting movement.

To date we have planted 1,553,000 trees in collaboration with over 30 communities. In 2015 we planted 191,981 trees on 123.5 acres of land. In 2016 we will plant another 200,000 trees.

"Now we are working to help the forest. To allow the forest to recover."

- Bibi Tumu Juma Haj, villager from Kokota

KITCHEN GARDENS

Food security right outside your door

Beyond growing food in their planted forests, empowered communities are now producing food directly outside of their homes. These intensive kitchen gardens provide families with an immediate source of nutritious crops such as eggplants, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and amaranth. Women farmers have created 81 kitchen gardens, growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables to feed their families and sell at the market.

In 2015 we trained 72 women and supported the establishment of 81 kitchen gardens around Pemba Island. In 2016 we will train an additional 50 women establishing 40 more permaculture inspired kitchen gardens.

"Farming has become difficult and over the past ten years our harvests have decreased year after year... New techniques have helped us feed our families. We work collectively in order to share resources and knowledge. Community Forests International has provided us with the knowledge we need."

- Fatma Mahdhei Ali, woman farmer from Vitongoji





BEEKEEPING

Bees are thriving in Pemba

Pemba is a safe haven for honeybees. The island's secluded environment is free of the chemicals and destructive mites linked to their current population crash. Pemba's mangrove, fruit and spice trees also happen to produce some of the most flavourful honey in the world. Community Forests International is working to establish beekeeper cooperatives in communities across Pemba.

In 2015 we worked with cooperatives comprised of 149 people to manage 270 hives. In 2016 we will add 50 new beekeepers and 60 new hives to our ongoing beekeeping training projects.

"Beekeeping has so many qualities. We can use honey for medicine and for food. Bees help our farms and our forests."

- Raymond Kilango, Community Forests Pemba Beekeeper

FUEL EFFICIENT CLAY STOVES

Pemban solutions

One day, a woman named Salma came to our office and told staff about a simple clay stove she'd been making. The stoves reduced the amount of wood burned by 50%, reducing the impact on the environment and saving women hours each week spent collecting firewood. To help encourage adoption, CFI invited women from rural villages across the island to train with Salma. Since then, this elegantly simple design has spread far and wide, with continued training offered by a host of new trainers from across the island.

In 2015 we trained 152 women in clay stove production. These women went on to produce 449 stoves, and counting. Next year we will train an additional 85 community members in clay stove production.

"We have been making clay stoves here for the last three years. With these new stoves a bundle of firewood lasts twice as long. I'm also more comfortable cooking with a clay stove, it makes cooking more enjoyable because I can wear my nice clothes and some make-up in the kitchen and not get so dirty. So far we have made about 3000 stoves and we are working hard to make more".

- Bimajo Masoud Juma, villager for Gando





AGROFORESTRY

The future of food

By working with lead farmers, CFI has strived to refine a method of food production that could co-exist within planted forests. This technique of food production is called agroforestry and can be as simple as alternating rows of planted trees with rows of planted food. Today, CFI communities grow citrus mango, banana, acacia, teak, coconut, neem, jackfruit, guava, maize, groundnuts, cassava, cowpeas, millet and sweet potatoes within planted forests.

In 2015 we covered 96 acres of land with food producing agroforests and in 2016 we're going to plant 100 more.

"There is no room here for conventional methods of farming. Now we mix trees and food crops. You can enjoy a good harvest during the first years and when you're old the big trees like mangos and coconuts will be there to feed you and your family."

- Adam Khamis Khamis, Kokota Community Leader

A photograph of a lush agro-forestry field on Pemba Island. The field is dominated by tall banana trees with large, vibrant green leaves. Interspersed among the banana trees are other green plants, including what appears to be a young tree with smaller, more delicate leaves. The ground is dark and appears to be rich soil, with some fallen leaves and debris scattered around. The overall scene is a dense, healthy agricultural landscape.

On Pemba Island, agro-forestry is life affirming

On Pemba Island, one woman took what she had learned from her experiences Kitchen Gardening, and used her new skills and knowledge to restore land in an environmentally degraded valley.

Through CFI's Kitchen Garden program, Fatima learned the principles of permaculture and along with other women in her community, established small farms near their homes. Today, Fatima's farm provides food for her family and a supplementary income from produce she sells at the market.

But Fatima didn't stop there. Fatima expanded her farm into a field in a nearby valley, growing and managing a complex agro-ecosystem that has allowed her to build her farm business. Her additional farm income has allowed Fatima to pay for her child's wedding – a significant accomplishment in Pemban culture and life. On Pemba Island, agro-forestry is life affirming.



NEW FOR 2016

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEW PROJECTS FOR 2016. THESE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR GRASSROOTS PARTNERS, ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.



SPICE FORESTS

Pemba is a part of the Zanzibar archipelago and has long been recognized globally as the “spice island” given its historic production of cloves and other important spice crops. In 2016, Community Forests International will be incorporating spice production into our approach to tree planting and agroforestry. These spice forests will not be conventional plantations, but mixed-species ecosystems that buffer excessive heat and wind and encourage healthy soil life. They will help rural farmers produce crops such as cardamom, cinnamon, vanilla, ginger, turmeric and black pepper for domestic use and trade.



IMPROVED CHARCOAL

The production of charcoal for cooking is one of the leading causes of deforestation on the island. This year, Community Forests International will be piloting an innovative method of charcoal making that could reduce the amount of time, emissions and wood required to make charcoal.





WATER CATCHMENT CONSERVATION

Water is vital, for human life as well as for the natural world. This year we will be piloting a way to slow the movement and evaporation of water across the Pemban landscape. The catchment conservation pilot project will work with 45 farmers in the community of Gando to restore the stream that used to service their farms. By planting trees for structure and shade, and forming the land to passively catch and infiltrate rainwater on the steep hills, we can soak in precious water, recharge the stream and avoid evaporation and erosion that characterizes conventional bare-soil farming methods.



OUR TIME IS NOW

**Give in the present and invest in our future
with Community Forests International**

If you believe in the power of a good idea, and know that even the most vulnerable communities can lead us in the fight against climate change, we invite you to invest in Community Forests International.

Whether it's through a one-time donation or a monthly giving commitment, your contribution will drive forward transformative change. With your support we will act in the moment and make the change we all need.

We leverage our donations through grants and fundraising opportunities to maximize our impact. On average we have been able to turn each dollar donated by supporters like you into four dollars for our projects. Please consider supporting our important work.

DONATE TODAY