



COMMUNITY
FORESTS
INTERNATIONAL

2019

ANNUAL REPORT





Daimen Hardie
Executive Director
Community Forests International

WELCOME LETTER

PEOPLE AND FORESTS

Thriving forests are the greatest solution to climate breakdown — because forests have a capacity to capture and store carbon emissions beyond any technology we've ever invented. But it's the relationship between people and forests that determines whether forests thrive or not, and whether or not this natural climate solution will work in time.

In 2019, Community Forests International completed a 5-year strategic plan and several major projects, including a scale up of climate adaption activities across Pemba Island, Zanzibar. These efforts have now directly benefitted 7% of the population in a very special part of the world. In Canada, we have protected and restored 2,000 acres of very special Acadian forest, launched 5 new inspiring organizations, and amplified the essential role that rural people hold in leading forest repair and nature-based climate solutions today.

These types of solutions are increasingly needed across the world. Climate breakdown is occurring earlier and more rapidly than expected. In 2018, the world's leading climate scientists warned of a 12-year window to limit global heating at 1.5C. If heating rises an additional half degree, the resulting sea-level rise alone will affect an additional 10 million people.

Many of these people are our colleagues and friends living on small islands like Pemba.

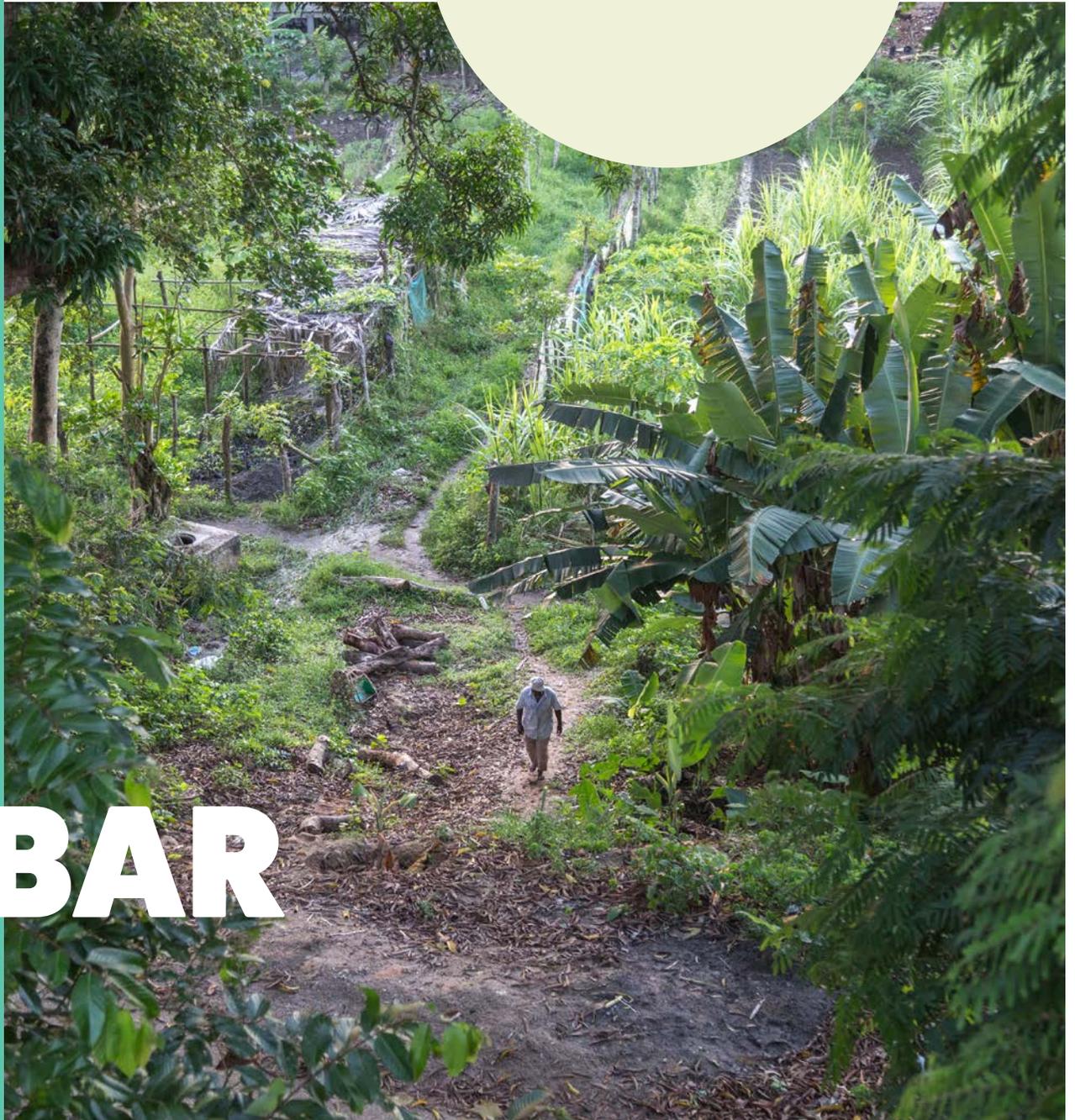
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identifies four pathways to limit heating to 1.5C, with different combinations of land use and technological transitions — and forests are essential to all of them. Community Forests International is uniquely mission-driven to protect and restore the Earth's climate by enabling communities and forests to thrive together.

In the months and years ahead we're not backing down from the climate crisis, we're meeting this difficult and increasingly urgent challenge with courage and the belief that people can be the restorative force the world needs. We're grateful that you're on this journey with us — we couldn't do it without your support.

In solidarity,

Daimen Hardie

OUR WORK IN
ZANZIBAR





GROWING RESILIENCE IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

Community Forests International has worked with its sister organization, Community Forests Pemba, for more than a decade to increase and diversify incomes, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change in target communities on Pemba Island, Zanzibar.

50K

DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES

32

REMOTE
COMMUNITIES

2mil

TREES PLANTED



ZANZIBAR ISLANDS
TANZANIA

CORE ACTIVITIES



TREE PLANTING



FOOD SECURITY



AGROFORESTRY



GENDER EQUALITY



PROTECTING & RESTORING COASTAL FORESTS

The Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa are rated highest worldwide for ecological diversity. 40% of this special forest type is found in the coastal regions of Tanzania. Alongside local communities, we grow and plant more than 30 types of tree species for food, timber and income.

Growing and planting trees continue to be integral to community-based adaptation and restoration in Zanzibar. To date, we have established 28 community owned and operated tree nurseries on Pemba Island. These nurseries have produced more than 2 million trees for forest restoration and agroforestry activities.

Mangrove restoration is a new focus in our work due to the multiple ecosystem services that mangrove forests provide. Perhaps most importantly, the strong interlocking roots of these tropical trees hold soils in place against waves and flooding. In 2019, Community Forests International helped to plant 75,000 mangrove seedlings on Pemba Island.

Tree planting success across Pemba Island has created an ongoing demand for trees used in agroforestry and spice forestry, leading many beneficiaries to apply their training to establish personal nurseries for their own planting and sale.

Tree planting success has also inspired community support for longer-term land-use planning, and has helped drive Participatory Natural Resource Management Plans and Community Forests Management Agreements. These legal tools ensure the long-term viability of restoration efforts. In total, 384 hectares have been transferred to community ownership and management using these agreements in the past five years.

28

COMMUNITY
TREE NURSERIES

2mil

TREES PLANTED
SINCE 2008

384

HECTARES OF LAND
TRANSFERRED TO
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP



AGROFORESTRY

FROM FIELD TO FOREST

Picture a jungle of trees and vines all producing valuable spices—things like cinnamon, black pepper, vanilla, and cardamom. Spice Forests stimulate forest regeneration alongside the production of high-value spice crops, storing carbon and reversing deforestation.

There is a long history of growing spice in Zanzibar. In fact, the region is often referred to as Africa's Spice Islands. In more recent times however competing local pressures for land and global market forces have caused a decline in spice farming and a conversion of land to less resilient and less profitable crops. "Spice Forests" create a clear incentive for farmers to transition away from monoculture farming to more resilient and regenerative agroforestry systems that function more like natural forests than farms.

Following a spice market analysis that was completed in 2018, Community Forests International scaled-up efforts to assist farmers in planting more trees and diversified spices as well as to bring key spices to international fairtrade markets in 2019.

Increased yields of profitable specialty crops like vanilla and black pepper contributed to an over-demand for Community Forests Pemba's spice forest farmer extension supports. In response, in 2019, Community Forests Pemba also incubated the Pemba Spice Producers Cooperative, which is a farmer-led organization that represents and supports farmers peer-to-peer across the island.

Community Forests International and Community Forests Pemba work alongside the cooperative to attract private sector investment into this exciting new horticulture trade. These steps toward systems-level change through enterprise and value chain partnerships increase the sustainability of this work and a new multi-year partnership with the European Union will allow these activities to be expanded to new islands in the region beginning in 2020.



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN ZANZIBAR

Climate change impacts us all, but not all of us equally. That's why Community Forests International designs projects like kitchen gardens, fuel-efficient cookstoves, and spice forests that strategically benefit women and girls. This is also why we make sure that at least 51% of our direct beneficiaries are women.

Tanzania ranks 159th out of the 189 countries listed on the United Nations' Gender Inequality Index (having fallen drastically from 130th since the last analysis only two years ago). Women bear a disproportionate amount of the negative impacts of climate change due to their traditional responsibilities in the home economy: caring for children, preparing food, and securing water and fuel.

Empowering rural women has been shown to create cross-cutting benefits by improving child education, family nutrition, and community climate change resilience. For this reason, we make sure that at least 51% of our beneficiaries in Zanzibar are women.

In 2019, our team delivered workshops to improve women's economic literacy and independence linked specifically to occupations that are designed for resilience to climate change. These one-on-one and group trainings are guided our Gender Responsive Enterprise Curriculum, first launched in 2018.

This approach has been successful. 59% of women now report complete control of their income, which is far better than the national average of 13%. These economic empowerment strategies create better opportunities for women, and will continue to be central to our efforts in Zanzibar.

6,721

WOMEN TRAINED IN
ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

59%

PERCENT OF WOMEN WHO
COMPLETELY CONTROL
THEIR INCOME

205

Kitchen gardens built by
women in Zanzibar

OUR WORK IN
CANADA





ACADIAN FOREST PROGRAM **AT A GLANCE**

Community Forests International works across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik Nations, to preserve and restore the region's unique Acadian forests. More recently, we have been working more closely with forestry professionals and organizations to integrate climate adaptation into forest management. Here's a look at our impact to date:

1,200

ACRES OF FOREST
PROTECTED

28K

TONNES OF CARBON
SEQUESTERED

500K

NATIVE TREES
PLANTED



PROTECTING THE LAST **ACADIAN FORESTS**

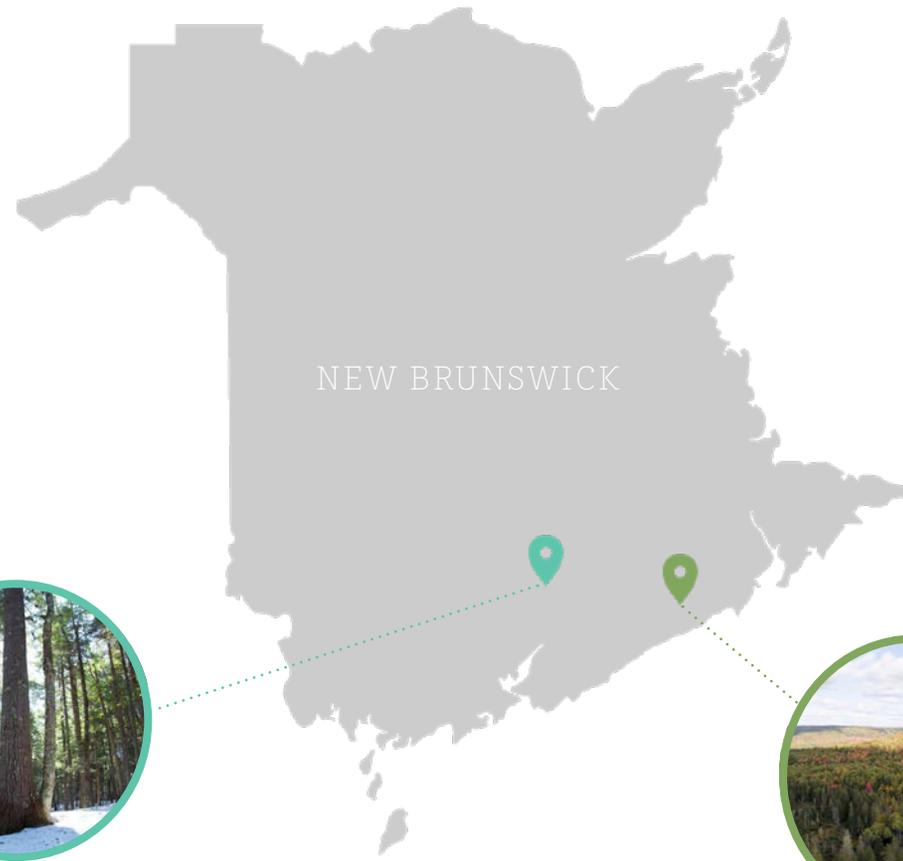
By selling carbon offsets, Community Forests International has been able to protect more than 1,000 acres of forest in New Brunswick. In 2019, we acquired an additional 353 acres of old forest in Cambridge-Narrows, with the support of a passionate landowner and our offsetting partners.



BIRCHWOOD LOOP CIRCUIT BOISÉ DE BOULEAUX

Clark and Susan always refer to the eastern reaches of this trail as the "Birchwood". This loop passes through a complete cross-section of forest succession, from field to mature forest with everything in-between. Both ends of this trail contain steep sections.

Clark et Susan ont toujours référé aux sections à l'est de ce sentier comme le "Boisé de bouleaux". Le circuit passe à travers une section transversale des différents stades de maturité de la forêt, des champs jusqu'à une forêt mature. Les deux bouts de ce sentier contiennent des sections raides.



NEW BRUNSWICK



ROBINSON FOREST
353 ACRES



WHAELGHINBRAN FOREST
705 ACRES



RESTORING NEW BRUNSWICK'S **LOST FORESTS**

Tree planting is one of the most effective solutions we have to mitigate climate change. Community Forests International transforms deforested land into thriving forests permanently returned to the natural ecosystem.

Almost 100,000 hectares of forest is clearcut every year in New Brunswick, where we focus our forest restoration efforts. We plant a diversity of climate-change resilient, native species to restore these degraded lands. We purchase land outright to ensure that forests are permanently removed from the clearcutting cycle.

Once forests are planted, we develop long-term forest management plans that are guided by climate-adaptive silviculture research to help young trees grow into thriving, resilient forests.

In 2019, Community Forests International planted 32,000 trees. To date, we have now planted more than 500,000 native trees and restored 700 acres of land in New Brunswick.

Within 10-15 years, these newly restored forests begin to draw a significant amount of carbon out of the atmosphere, a process that increases as trees are allowed to mature.

In 2020, our focus is on restoring degraded forest lands in the Chignecto Isthmus, an important piece of land that connects Nova Scotia to New Brunswick and to the rest of North America.

700

ACRES OF FOREST
RESTORED

500

NATIVE TREES
PLANTED

12

NATIVE TREE SPECIES
SELECTED FOR PLANTING



ADAPTING SILVICULTURE FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

We know that forests are the single greatest tool we have to sequester carbon on a large scale to mitigate the effects of climate change. But, what if forests are themselves not able to cope with the effects of climate change?

As the climate changes, so too do the growing conditions for tree species. Community Forests International works to manage Acadian forests to store more carbon, as well as restore climate change-resilient species to allow this special forest to adapt to climate change.

2019 was the first year in a three-year project with the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners (NBFWO) to build the capacity of woodlot owners to make management decisions that will help their forests adapt to climate change.

As part of this project, we hosted a conference in Fredericton in March 2019 for forestry professionals to learn about how climate change will affect the Acadian forest.

The conference was also an opportunity to test and refine the first draft of a climate-adaptive silviculture prescriptions tool that we developed in collaboration with the NBFWO and silviculturalist Gareth Davies. This tool will provide forestry professionals with the guidance they need to drive climate-adaptive forest management in the region.

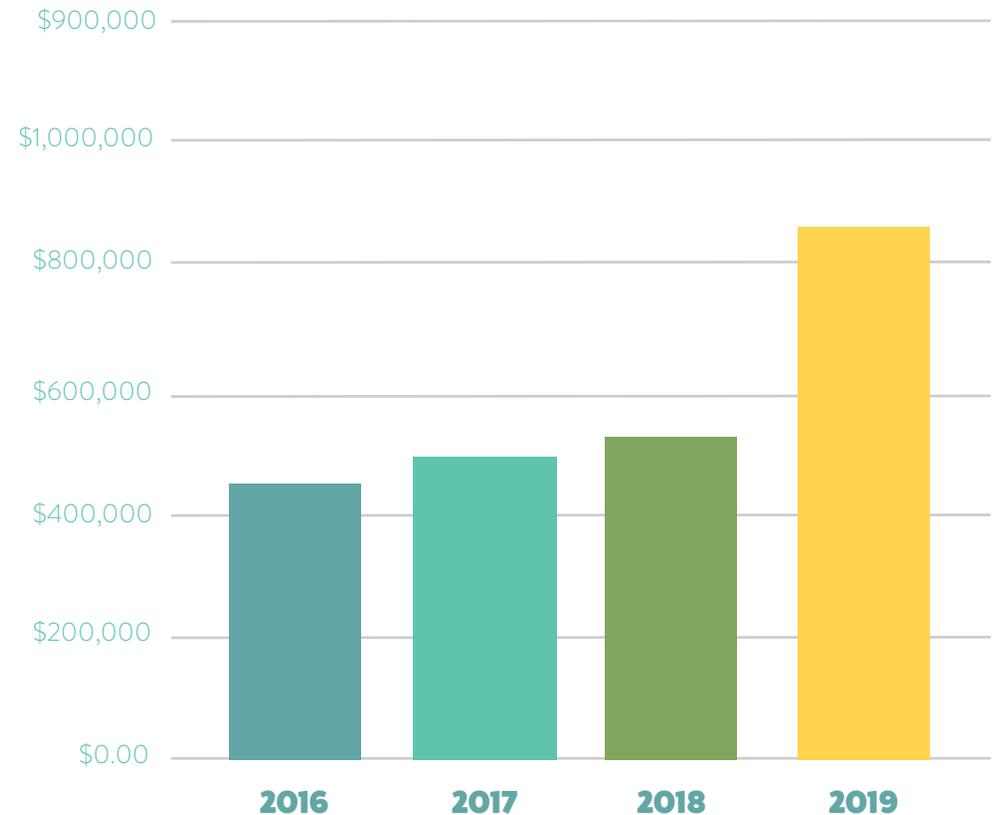


Community Forests International's Forest Ecologist, Megan de Graaf, works tirelessly with forestry professionals and organizations to integrate climate adaptation into forest management.

Financials

YEAR END OCTOBER 31, 2019

REVENUES	
General Fund Donations	179,881.00
Pemba Fund Donations	43,558.00
Consulting & Other Services	14,695.00
Grants & Contribution Agreements	311,082.00
Carbon Offsets	205,495.00
Misc.	91,000.00
\$845,711.00	
EXPENSES	
Forest Protection	271,902.00
International Projects	62,375.00
Canada Projects	22,452.00
Personnel	298,124.00
Professional Services	19,864.00
Overhead	50,604.00
\$725,321.00	



Please see Community Forests International's audited [Financial Statements](#) for more information on our spending and financial health.



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Community Forests International has all-star teams in Canada and Zanzibar that push forward our mission and invest their unmatched problem solving energies everyday.

CANADA

Monica Allaby, Communications Coordinator
Joel Baylis, Social Enterprise Manager
Megan De Graaf, Forest Program Director
Daimen Hardie, Executive Director
Anne Herteis, Grants & Foundations Manager
Zach Melanson, Communications Director
Kim Grant, Financial Officer
Cindy Spicer, Financial Officer

Mbarouk Mussa Omar, Executive Director
Naushat Salim, Financial Officer
Yayha Suleiman, Horticulture Officer

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Jenelle Sobey

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Ali Hamad Ali, Agroforestry Officer
Raymond Kilango, Beekeeping Officer
Siti Makame, Agriculture Officer
Omar Msellem, Enterprise Development Officer

INTERNS

Jonathan Ferguson
Arianna Woodley
Madeleine Smith

THANK YOU

We would like to express heartfelt thanks to Jane Thompson, a long-time friend and champion of Community Forests International, who completed her final term on our Board of Directors this year. Thank you as well to Joel Baylis and Kim Grant, dedicated team members who moved onto new adventures in 2019.



THANK YOU TO OUR OUR COMMUNITY

Community Forests International is humbled by the support and solidarity of the organizations and individuals who made our work possible in 2019.

FOUNDATIONS & NGOS

J.W. McConnell Foundation
Intact Foundation
Echo Foundation
Sussex Community Foundation
Catherine Donnelly Foundation
RBC Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment
Innoweave
New Brunswick Environmental Network
FutureReadyNB
Sackville Rotary Club
Rotaract
MEC Community Grants
NouLab (Pond-Desponde Centre)

GOVERNMENT

New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund
The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus
The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States
Employment and Social Development Canada

BUSINESSES

ALS
NB Liquor Corporation
CBDC
Acre Architects
Brinkman & Associates
Canadian Pine Pollen
DIALOG
Hemmings House Pictures
Hounds of Vintage
Georgette Packaging
Lush Cosmetics

IN KIND GIFTS

BrainWorks Razor Marketing
Jaza Energy
Mount Allison University
SES Bonn
ACFOR

We would also like to acknowledge the generous support we received from 432 individual donors in 2019, including our dedicated community of monthly donors. Thank you!



Community Forests International's work is supported by generous individual donors, including our community of monthly donors. To learn more about giving options or to make a donation today, please visit forestsinternational.org.

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