

2012 Small Grants Report October 2012

This year, through its Small Grants Program, the New Forests Project (NFP) provided financial support to projects in Haiti and the following African countries: Kenya, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, D.R. Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria and Guinea. Funds were provided to local non-profit organizations involved in reforestation and agroforestry activities and were used for different purposes, including: training local people on agroforestry/reforestation and establishing tree nurseries, an agroforestry demonstration plot, a local tree seed bank, a tree seed orchard and one fodder plot.

Following is a brief summary and pictures of the projects that received financial support from NFP.

Nature-Care - Cameroon

Nature-Care is implementing a project that will increase the capacity of small scale farmers to adapt to changes in climate by promoting agroforestry and sustainable agricultural practices. The project is located in Yeh village, Bui Division in Cameroon's Northwest Region. The effort will include the establishment of a permanent community agroforestry seed orchard to increase local seed availability. It will also include the reforestation of a watershed area and the participation of a local water management committee. NFP funds were used to purchase equipment for the women farming group involved in this effort as well as ten kilograms of seeds of local tree species for the establishment of the seed orchard. The women are in charge of the tree nursery that will provide seedlings for the seed orchard and the watershed tree-planting efforts. So far, a total of 2215 seedlings have been planted in the seed orchard and 680 in the degraded watershed area.

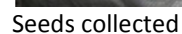
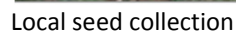
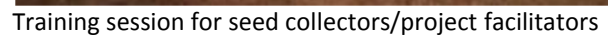
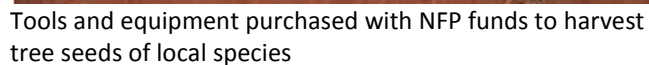


Women displaying their new tools to be used in their nursery and their reforestation/agroforestry work



Planting of seedlings

NFP and two other organizations supported Megabridge Foundation in an initiative to prevent further deforestation in Embu East District by building local knowledge on how to restore degraded forests and other natural ecosystems, and promoting the use of indigenous tree species for reforestation. Financial support from NFP was used to provide training to 5 men and 5 women on how to collect and store tree seeds of local species and how to become volunteer project facilitators. NFP funds were also used to purchase the equipment needed to collect the seeds from the trees. So far, 4kilograms of indigenous seeds have been collected, a seed processing center/community reforestation resource center is being built, and two model indigenous tree nurseries in Kiangungi Village have been set up.



Zimconserve – Zimbabwe

Zimconserve is working to reduce deforestation through the implementation of multipurpose tree planting activities in the town of Chitungwiza and the surrounding rural area of Seke. NFP funds were used to establish a centralized nursery in Chitungwiza to grow seedlings that will be planted in public places of Chitungwiza, in adjacent towns and in local rural areas. In May 2012, Zimconserve purchased the equipment, provided hands-on training to local people on how to establish a tree nursery and how to plant and care for tree crops. The equipment will remain under the supervision of field technicians and will be used at the nursery and loaned to local community groups for their agroforestry and vegetable gardening activities.



Materials and equipment purchased for the nursery and multipurpose tree planting



Chitungwiza Agroforestry center/nursery

Star Awake Community Based Organization – Kenya

This organization received NFP funds to support the establishment of three agroforestry nurseries in Sikata, Bungoma County. The area is among Kenya's poorest, suffering from extreme deforestation, food and water scarcity. The lack of tree nurseries was preventing any significant reforestation efforts from taking place. The equipment purchased with NFP funds was used to help establish three multipurpose tree nurseries that will provide tree seedlings and a source of income to local people. Nurseries will also be used as demonstration and training sites for local farmers to build their capacity to establish tree nurseries and reforest their own farms. NFP funds were used to purchase water pumps, used bicycles, poly tube bags, seeds, nursery tools and other equipment. The following species will be grown in the nurseries: *Markhania lutea*, *Sesbania sesban*, *Grevillea robusta*, *Flaxinus balanderian*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Casuarina jughuniana* and *Eucalyptus sp.*



New water pump and used bike purchased with NFP funds



Poly tube bags for growing seedlings

Global Center for Non-Violence (CGNV) - DR Congo

A total of sixty people participated in this four-day training on reforestation, agroforestry and local seed collection. The training was done in Kasongo territory, Maniema Province, an area suffering extensive deforestation. Trainees included headmasters of primary and secondary schools, local authorities, social leaders, NGO representatives and other community participants. The training included discussions on the impacts of deforestation and the need to practice reforestation and agroforestry practices; identification of useful local tree species; local seed collection and storage; tree species for wood, fodder, timber and crop production; nursery and tree-caring practices including the right timing of activities. The last day was a hands-on practice at CGNV's nursery.



Workshop participants



Hands-on practice

Bio Gardening Innovations (BIOGI) – Kenya

BIOGI is a community based organization working in Emuhaya, Vihiga County in Western Kenya, to increase the productivity of smallholder farmers and conserve natural resources. The area has suffered severe soil erosion due to widespread deforestation and unsustainable farming practices. BIOGI held five training sessions throughout a period of three months, one at their demonstration farm and the remaining four in local farms, to show people how to integrate agroforestry into their farming practices. An average of 32 people participated in each training. The trainings lasted 5-6 hours and each one covered a different set of topics including: agroforestry, tree production and nursery management practices; soil conservation and energy saving stoves; useful tree products for health and income; practical benefits from trees and crop integration; and biodiversity conservation and farm management.



Project coordinator explaining the benefits of trees to mitigate climate change



Home nursery established after the training

La Fondation Emmanuel – Guinea

This training was carried out to educate local people on agroforestry practices, and more specifically to promote the use of *Moringa oleifera* as an agroforestry tree in the Wonkifong, Kindia area. It included initial consultation meetings with the local authorities, defining targeted communities, establishing a tree nursery and holding the actual training. Ten women and twenty men participated in the two-day training which provided a background on deforestation, reforestation and agroforestry, and then went on to explain the multiple uses and benefits of Moringa, focusing on how to grow it and use it to improve nutrition and purify water.



Trainer explaining the benefits of *Moringa oleifera*



Taking notes during the training



Work in the nursery

People's Action Against Hunger (PeAAH) – Sierra Leone

Eighty participants attended this two-day training and field trip in the Bagbo chiefdom, Bo District of Sierra Leone which benefited Nyagolihun and its surrounding areas. The chiefdom was very much impacted during the country's ten year civil war and smallholder farmers currently lack the capacity to implement sustainable farming activities. The training was attended by members of different farming groups, farmer schools, youth groups and other local people. The objective of the training was to create awareness and build the capacity of participants to become agents of agroforestry and reforestation in their farming communities. They were educated on best practices in agroforestry, soil improvement, how to prioritize agricultural land use, and sustainable land use management. Additional topics included agroforestry for livestock management,

conservation techniques, techniques in nursery establishment and nursery management, and income generating activities.



Training in progress



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