



Forests without Borders

Forêts sans Frontières

Annual Report

July 2020 – June 2021

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Updates from the Board of Trustees

View of the Himalayas from Kaski District in Nepal



Forests without Borders-Forêts sans Frontières (FwB-FsF) had a successful year in 2020-2021, thanks to our generous donors and the efforts of dedicated team of volunteers and local partners. We supported our ongoing projects in Nepal, Ghana, and Canada, despite the challenges with the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. We look forward to the completion of

these projects and to expand into new ones in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The COVID-19 global pandemic continues to make fundraising a challenge into 2022. Our successful cloth face mask fundraising campaign launched in 2020 supported our ongoing projects and encouraged everyone to stay safe and healthy. We pivoted and held a virtual Silent Auction at the Canadian Institute of Forestry's (CIF-IFC) Annual General Meeting on October 6-7th, 2020, achieving 94% of our targeted funding for this event. FwB-FsF is now working on new and innovative ideas for virtual fundraising in the coming year.

We invite our supporters to visit our website(www.fwb-fsf.org) for more information about our projects planned for 2021-22, and to find out how they can participate to reduce poverty, restore ecosystems, and promote sustainable natural resources around the world.

About FwB-FsF

FwB-FsF was established as an independent registered charity in Canada (Registration # 817698269) on January 10, 2010 with the help of members of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Our goal is to improve the lives of people by restoring forests around the world. To date, FwB-FsF has worked on a number of projects around the globe, including in Haiti, Vanuatu, Tanzania, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Nepal, Canada and Uganda.

Currently we have ongoing projects in Nepal, and Ghana. We intend to continue these projects in the coming year and we are developing an additional project in Nepal.

Our Mission

Forests without Borders' mission is to work with people who wish to restore or improve their forests for health, security, the economy, and the environment by:

- Developing and delivering projects through partnerships,
- Responding to need and appeals,
- Targeted fundraising,
- Proactively promoting awareness of forests and their sustainable use.

Governance

FwB-FsF is governed by a volunteer board of trustees (Table 1) from across Canada. All trustees are unpaid and help to manage our ongoing projects by developing projects, fundraising, and helping raise awareness about our work. Our board works with local organizations in each country to ensure that there is buy-in and support, that is leadership, labour and funding, from local people who are responsible for establishing the projects and ensuring the long-term maintenance or expansion of the project.

Table 1 – Board of Trustees

Trustee	Location	Additional Role
Fred Pinto	North Bay, ON	Founder and Chair
Peter Ackhurst	Vancouver, BC	Vice President
Jerry Benner	Heriot Bay, BC	
Linda Dwyer	Kitigan Zibi, PQ; Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	
Rod Hillyard	St. John's, NL	
Sharad Karmacharya	Hinton, AB	
Wendy J LeClair	Wawa, ON	
Breanne Neufeld	Thunder Bay, ON	
Candace Parsons	Vancouver, BC	National fundraising chair
Emmett Snyder	Toronto, ON	
Shereen Trenchard	Hinton, AB	
Lorne West	Edmonton, AB	Treasurer

Completed and Ongoing Projects

Ghana



The FwB-FsF Ghana Charcoal Project, which helps to mitigate climate change while providing local jobs and environmental sustainability, is now in year four of its five-year implementation (2018-2022). Using steel charcoal kilns, charcoal is produced safely and efficiently versus the old pit and mound kiln method which were labour intensive, had low conversion of wood to charcoal rates and caused wildfires that degraded the landscape. The steel charcoal kilns through the reduction of wildfires on the landscape have helped to preserve the natural vegetation thereby protecting biodiversity, soil and water quality

and amount, while providing new jobs and sources of income for five local communities.

Three-year-old cassia sapling after grass was cut. These nitrogen-fixing trees will be harvested in year 4 for fuelwood and the cut stems will re-sprout.

To date, FwB-FsF helped to establish a wood fuel production site on forty hectares of degraded land unsuitable for agriculture. This area has been planted with 50,000 mahogany and cassia trees by local villagers for future harvesting to start in 2022-23. The charcoal steel kiln project has transformed local wood fuel use via a partnership between village charcoal producers, traditional leaders, the Ghana Forest Services Division and the United Nations Development Programme.



By engaging the local communities, traditional chiefs and local charcoal producers, a cooperative was formed to promote the use of dead and dying trees in the surrounding community forest lands for charcoal production while the plantations grow, to establish charcoal wood fuel plantations, to limit burning to cleared fields and to manage the finances including how much is saved for replacement and future expansion of the project. These communities now have a wildfire control patrol

as well as other social and economic benefits from new jobs and micro-lending to small businesses due to the new value supply chain that has been created.

Steel charcoal kilns convert wood efficiently and creates jobs for villagers.

The FwB-FsF Project continues to support the expansion of the wood fuel plantations to 80 ha by the end of 2022, thus creating more job opportunities for local women and men. Another 20 ha of tree planting in the wood fuel area is planned for completion in 2021-2022.

Nepal



Chandika Primary School in Kaski District, Nepal, Primary School is located about one and half hour drive from city of Pokhara. A one-year project by ChariTREE and Forests without Borders for tree planting and environmental education, entitled “School Plantation and Environmental Education Project”, was coordinated by Lions Club of Pokhara Samarpan. The project was launched on April 2021 and completed on October 2021. Its objectives are to help Chandika Primary School to establish a plantation on the school premises and distribute trees to plant in the student’s private households to

Fenced area for planting at Chandika Primary School.



create an awareness about the importance of trees and the environment. The primary goal was to help provide learning opportunities in environmental education. The other objectives are to help in the beautification of the school premises by providing greenery and shade to moderate the temperature,

reduce noise, improve air quality, prevent flooding, and increase forest cover to help to fight climate change.



Planting day at Chandika Primary School with volunteers and students.

Completed activities included the fencing of the school compound and the plantation area that provides protection for the plantation and also provide a safe and secure environment for the students. Extensive site preparation work was needed as the plantation site was rocky and sandy. Topsoil was purchased and added to the site. Seventeen different species of trees (ornamental, fruit, religious, spice and timber) were sourced from the local tree nursery and the district nursery operated by the Forest Department (Government of Nepal) for planting.

Students, teachers, school management committee members, Lions Club members and local officials participated in planting a total of 375 trees on the school premises and on the land acquired for the plantation. A further 200 fruit trees were distributed to students to plant at their homes. These trees will be inspected by teachers and form part of the pupil's academic evaluation. The Chandika Primary School project has become a demonstration area for other schools in the region who are also interested in participating.



Planted seedlings

Canada



FwB-FsF partnered with Trees for Nipissing on the Marsh Drive Landfill Site Forest Restoration project in North Bay, Ontario. The project aims to plant 225 native trees and shrubs each year as part of a multi-year program to return a landfill site closed and capped in 1991 to a natural forest condition. This site is located near Chippewa Creek, which flows into Lake Nipissing. These planted areas will help to revegetate the site to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, improve wildlife habitat, and to offset greenhouse gases in a recreation area with nature trails that may be promoted for tourism use.

Volunteers planting trees at Marsh Drive Landfill Forest restoration site



TD Tree Days generously provided financial support towards the first year of tree and shrub planting in the summer of 2021. Tree and shrub species planted on the site by volunteers from Trees for Nipissing included sugar and red maple, white spruce, red oak, birch, serviceberries, and nannyberries. FwB-FsF hopes to continue supporting this project to completion with TD Tree Days, subject to the approval annually with Trees for Nipissing.

Volunteer mulching a red oak seedling at Marsh Drive Landfill.

Financial Statement

Finances for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are reported in Tables 2 - 4. This information is summarized from FwB-FsF's detailed financial statements which are available upon request. Over the past year, income has declined due in part to the challenges of fundraising during a global pandemic. The total expenses (\$ 31,155.61, table 2) exceeded revenues (\$28,145.23; table 3) for a net loss for the year of \$3,100.38.

Table 2 - Expenses for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year(July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

Expenses	\$ CAD	Percentage (%)
Accounting	1,500.00	5
Website	408.64	1
Interest and Bank Fees	102.76	0*
Project Funding	25,550.00	82
Fundraising Expenses	3,594.21	12
Total Expenses	31,155.61	100

Table 3 - Revenue for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year(July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

Revenue	\$ CAD	Percentage (%)
Donations	22, 390.23	80
Silent Auction Revenue	855.00	3
Sponsorship	0.00	0
Fundraising	4,900.00	17
Total Revenue	28,145.23	100

The shortfall of \$3,100.38 was covered through funds held in reserve.

Successful fundraisers in 2020-21 included the sale of cloth face masks that displayed the FwB-FsF logo, the Silent Auction hosted by the CIF/IFC, and the generous donations from our supporters.

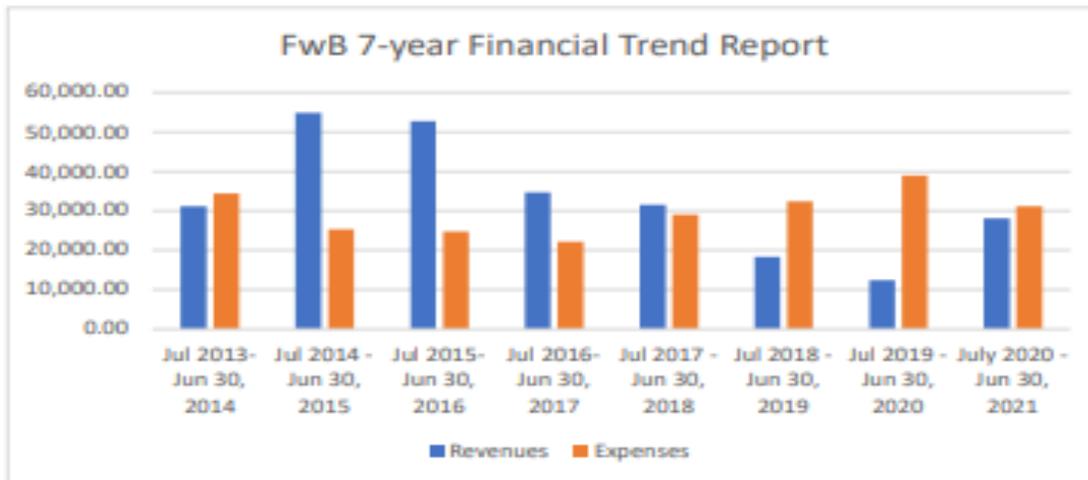
FwB-FsF maintains a balanced and positive net asset position, with no outstanding liabilities(see Table 4).

Table 4 – Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2021

Forests Without Borders					
Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2021 (unaudited, in \$CAN)					
Assets	Current Yr (2021)	Previous Yr(2020)	Liabilities	Current Yr (2021)	Previous Yr(2020)
Current Assets (unrestricted)	48,791.38	51,801.76	Current Liabilities	0	0
Cash	0	0			
Total Receivable	48,791.38	51,801.76	Total Liabilities	0	0
Total Current Assets					
			Net Assets		
			Current Assets (unrestricted)	48,791.38	51,801.76
			Total Net Assets	48,791.38	51,801.76
			Total Liabilities & Net Assets	48,791.38	51,801.76

Our fundraising efforts rebounded in 2021, showing a strong upwards trend(see Fig. 1). The FwB-FsF board of trustees (Table 1) will continue to conduct fundraising activities and to use available resources to provide continued support to ongoing international work. A fundraising subcommittee was formed in 2021 to promote awareness of the FwB-FsF work, to seek donations, and to explore new and innovative fundraising ideas as well as to provide continued support for successful fundraising activities.

Figure 1 – Financial Trend graph



The International Institute of Field Studies (IIFS) based in Hinton, Alberta, Canada is planning a fundraiser benefitting FwB-FsF via a trip in autumn 2022 to the Himalayan region of Nepal for interested Canadian foresters and natural resource professionals. Activities include an elephant safari to see rhinoceros in Chitwan National Park, a visit to local community forest projects, and visits to World Heritage sites. The IIFS has been organizing trips to Nepal since 2001.



Participants in IIFS fundraiser trip for FwB-FsF to the Himalayan region of Nepal

Caucuses

Members of the CIF-IFC that are engaged in the activities of FwB-FsF are dispersed across Canada. To enable them to collaborate, several have formed a CIF/IFC Caucus of FwB-FsF. Caucuses are represented in four provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia:

Newfoundland & Labrador.

The NL caucus was the first one formed and continues to be one of the most enthusiastic and energetic groups. This Caucus hosts plenty of fundraising events each year, with one of their most successful, and most lucrative, being their annual silent auction.

Ontario

At this time, the goal of this caucus is to have representation from each CIF/IFC section in Ontario, who can promote the activities of FwB-FsF, and to try to get Universities and Colleges actively involved. They have been actively supporting FwB-FsF projects in Ghana

British Columbia

The British Columbia caucus was formed in May 2014. Primary fundraising comes from a variety of sources and events such as the UBC Christmas Tree Sale. Other events have been held in Vancouver, Prince George, Quesnel, 14 Campbell River, and Victoria, BC. Members from British Columbia are also engaged in FwB-FsF projects.

Rocky Mountain

The Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) has supported Forest without Borders since its inception. To increase the focus on FwB-FsF, a group of RMS members created a Caucus which works to increase awareness, raise funds and advocate for special interests. The Caucus coordinates fund-raising events and actively encourages donations.

Affiliations

Canadian Institute of Forestry

The CIF/IFC and FwB-FsF have a formal collaborative partnership agreement to help to support and promote their mutual goals and objectives. The CIF/IFC promotes FwB-FsF via advertising and articles published in *The Leader* magazine, on its Twitter account, and at its Annual General Meetings. The FwB-FsF board of trustees created a successful online Silent Auction featuring 55 donated items that was a highlight of the 113th CIF/IFC virtual online 2021 Annual General Meeting. Every FwB-FsF trustee is a member in good standing of the CIF/IFC and is affiliated with their local CIF/IFC member Section across Canada.

Students at all universities and colleges that receive CIF/IFC silver rings are encouraged to host activities that increase awareness of sustainable forestry and the work of FwB-FsF.

References

Nsiah S. 2020. Citizens' contributions to mitigating global climate change, the case of Forests without Borders Ghana charcoal project for job creation, income, and environmental sustainability. *Year three report*. Sustainable Agroforestry Initiative, Ghana.