



Forests without Borders

Forêts sans Frontières

Annual Report
July 2019 – June 2020

Contact

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Updates from the Board of Trustees

2019-2020 was another successful year for Forests without Borders-Forêts sans Frontières (FwB-FsF). Thanks to our generous donors and dedicated team of volunteers, we were able to continue to support our ongoing projects in Nepal, Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania, despite the challenges that came with the emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We look forward to complete these projects and to expand into new ones in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has been exceptionally challenging for many and has made fundraising a challenge. To help address this we are in the progress of launching a cloth face mask campaign to support our ongoing work and to encourage everyone to stay safe and healthy.



FwB-FsF trustee Jerry Benner helping install a greenhouse in Nepal

The Ghana charcoal project has continued to expand. Harvesting trees for use as fuel continues to be one of the forgotten leading causes of deforestation worldwide. The Ghana charcoal project has helped address this by establishing wood fuel plantations with the support and buy-in by local people and their traditional leaders on degraded land in Ghana. These plantations are used as a sustainable source of wood to produce charcoal and help reduce deforestation from wildfires caused by traditional charcoal kilns and the cutting of trees while creating income and work opportunities for villagers. To date, we have helped establish approximately 40 ha of plantation on degraded land and supported the planting of approximately 50,000 cassia and mahogany seedlings.



Visiting a plantation on degraded land in Ghana as part of the Ghana charcoal project



One of the communities we are working with on the Ghana charcoal project

The project will continue to expand and we aim to increase the area of wood-fuel plantations to 80 ha by the end of the project in 2022. The project continues to have substantial impacts in the community: Chiefs and villagers in the regions we are working in have agreed to limit burning to clear fields or to use traditional pit and mound kilns. The smouldering fires from the pit and mound kilns are a major cause of wildfire on the landscape that has vegetation that has not evolved with forest fires. As a result of this project, fire is not common in these regions since the project's inception. The project also continues to provide job opportunities for locals and to date we have engaged approximately 500 people in the project. We look forward to expanding the project and providing more opportunities for local women and men in the remaining two years of the project.

About FwB-FsF

FwB-FsF was established as a registered charity in Canada (Registration # 817698269) on January 20, 2011 by converting an existing charity, Forest Awareness in Canada Trust, that had been established in 1980. It has two objectives: improve awareness of sustainable forestry and help restore forests. To date, FwB-FsF has worked on a number of projects around the globe, including in Haiti, Vanuatu, Tanzania, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Nepal, and Uganda.

Currently we have ongoing projects in Nepal, Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania. 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.



Baobabs at sunset in Madagascar. Photo credit: Stacey Boks

Governance

FwB-FsF is governed by a volunteer board of trustees (table 1) from across Canada. All trustees are unpaid and help to develop and manage projects by, fundraising, and helping raise awareness about our work. Our board works with local organizations to ensure that there is buy-in and support from local people who are responsible for establishing the projects and ensuring their long-term maintenance.

Trustee	Location	Additional Role
Fred Pinto	North Bay, ON	Founder and Chair
Peter Ackhurst	Vancouver, BC	
Jerry Benner	Heriot Bay, BC	
Linda Dwyer	Kitigan Zibi, PQ; Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	
Rod Hillyard	St. John’s, NL	
Sharad Kamachrya	Hinton, AB	
Breanne Neufeld	Thunder Bay, ON	
Bruce Pendrel	Fredericton, NB	Vice-Chair
Lorne West	Edmonton, AB	Treasurer

Table 1: Board of Trustees

Ongoing Projects

Ghana

This five-year Ghana charcoal project (launched in 2018) is a bottom-up community-led woodfuel energy solution aimed at reducing global deforestation caused by cutting of trees for fuel, increasing ecosystem resilience to climate change and reducing poverty for rural women. The project is contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services and conserving natural woodlands for sustainable supply of wood fuel and protecting habitats for biodiversity.



Charcoal production in a steel kiln

Over the first three years of project implementation (2018 - 2020) the project has established functional charcoal production and supply chain enterprises within five communities in northern Ghana: Tinga, Mawule, Baamalekura, Baanikura and Taisia. The project uses improved steel charcoal kiln production technology to convert wood into charcoal instead of traditional pit and mound method. The traditional pit and mound method has low conversion ratios of wood to charcoal and is also the source of many wildfires that burn the remaining forests and threaten farms and homes.



Local women bagging charcoal from the kiln for sale

40-hectares of severely degraded land has been used to establish and maintain woodfuel plantations which will be used to convert into charcoal when mature (5 years). Approximately 50,000 cassia and mahogany seedlings have been planted. 100 local people are engaged (90 women) and (10 men), and 500 farm families are practicing sustainable land management through agroforestry practices. The plantations will continue to be expanded at least 20ha/year for the remaining two years (2021, 2022). The project is creating sustainable income and business opportunity in the charcoal value chain and preventing youth out-migration from the communities.

Text by Sam Nsiah, Ghana Project Lead

Tanzania

This project aims to train local community members with silvicultural practices in partnership with the Flametree Vocational School. The proposed project is to plant trees on approximately 3.4 hectares of land that surrounds the newly constructed Flame Tree Vocational Centre. The Flametree has a British Columbia forestry connection as it was financed by Dr. Peter Pearse a retired forestry professor at UBC and was inspired and constructed by the African Book Box (ABB), a Charitable organization based in Victoria and led by its President Anne Pearson. The Flametree Vocational Centre was officially opened on Oct. 17, 2017.

The Bashay Village Council who own the school and Flame Tree school administration is quite enthusiastic to see the establishment of a 3.4 ha tree plantation. It also has an operating tree nursery on the adjacent property that will provide the required tree seedlings. The project will have numerous immediate and future sustainable benefits listed here that also meet the FWB objectives:

- Forest products for construction, animal fodder, medicines, food and fruits for the students, staff and

local community

- Training opportunities for students and Vocational forestry courses
- Local employment for establishment and maintenance
- Local climate amelioration provided by the canopy shade, wind breaks, soil conservation and moisture retention



Flame Tree School gardener Abel with some seedlings planted in 2017



Abel with the same trees at 2 years old

Nepal

Firewood and other unprocessed biomass remain a primary cooking fuel for a majority of the Nepalese population. A recent study conducted in eight clusters in peri-urban areas of Kavre district suggested that more than 80% of the 772 households surveyed used firewood either exclusively or as a part of the fuel-mix for cooking. In many of these areas, the majority of households use traditional fuels for cooking despite their access to clean energy sources (such as electricity). Baluwa village, located within the Panchkal Municipality – Ward 11 of the Kavrepalanchok district and approximately 45 kilometers east of Kathmandu in Nepal, is one such region. While the village has access to electricity via community-driven local electric power distributor connected to the national grid, the community still relies heavily on firewood for cooking. This one-year project aims to overcome these challenges and help the population in Baluwa village in Kavrepalanchok district to switch from traditional fuel and technology to electric cooking solutions. Overall, this will help reduce reliance on forest resources for cooking in the Baluwa area, thereby contribution to the conservation of local forests and environment.



Part of the electric cooking product package being distributed

Completed Projects

Ghana

In 2015, FwB-FsF completed a mapping project helping local people map and document their Sacred Forests. The Sacred Forests contain important biological and cultural resources, often not found elsewhere. The objective of this project is to create a GIS database which could be used by the local people for their own goals such as ecotourism & restoration.

Haiti

While Haiti has suffered significant deforestation of primary forest cover over the last century (Hedges, Cohen, Timyan, & Yang, 2018), Haiti has been in the process of reforestation over the past decades (Churches, Wampler, Wanxiao, & Smith, 2014). FwB-FsF working with the Foundation for International Development Assistance-Productive Cooperatives Haiti (FIDA-PcH) in rewarding adult trainees with tools for reforestation and agriculture.

Madagascar

This project is worked to reforest land which had been cleared of its forest cover over 100 years ago. This project is in partnership with a tree nursery managed by the Association Mitsinjo. Association Mitsinjo is a community-run conservation organisation founded by a group of villagers in the village of Andasibe in 1999. This region is one of importance for biodiversity as well as ecotourism (Newsome & Hassell, 2014)

The area reforested was brushed, planted, and then managed to ensure that the trees do not die. The objective was to help the local people develop their tree nursery and planting businesses. It is the hope that ecotourism opportunities will also be generated through this project.



Mitsinjo forest in Madagascar

Nepal

Nepal is home to incredibly diverse biological resources and forests provide many resources for daily subsistence and income generation. While community forestry in Nepal helped to improve the livelihoods of local communities, a shortage of funds, inadequate training, rapid urbanisation, are major hurdles in achieving the positive outcomes of community-based forestry (Gautam, Shivakoti, & Webb, 2004).



FwB-FsF has developed several projects which focus on forest and environmental education within schools, particularly in remote areas of Nepal. Each project works towards establishing a multi-purpose forest tree nursery composed of native tree species. The objective is to get these tree nurseries to the point of being economically viable and self-sufficient.

Uganda

FwB-FsF has helped the village of Mpirmire reforest 17 acres of scrubland. This project is in partnership with the National Farmers Training Centre which is tied to the local Rotary Club. This forest will provide long-term financial benefits to the community through timber sales and improve environmental conditions (erosion control). Revenue from the forest will help pay for school tuition fees of orphans and help expand the plantation. The recently planted area is also growing crops like beans, peanuts, and sweet potatoes.



Vanuatu

This project was in response to the tropical storm Pam, which had a serious detrimental impact to the forest cover of Vanuatu (Vanuatu Department of Forestry, 2017). 4,000 seedlings were produced and in the process, local people were trained in proper seedling care, handling, planting, and silviculture practices. This project was completed in 2017.

An additional project was to assist a group of twenty small sawmill operators on the island of Malekula, MALAMPA Province. They had just formed the first limber producers co-operative in the country. The project supplied seedlings for their reforestation efforts and training in planting, careful logging to preserve natural regeneration.



Zambia

FwB-FsF worked to establish an orchard of trees to serve as a source of food and income. This project was in partnership with the “African Community Project” led by Garry Brooks. This orchard contains a diverse set of tree species. Fast-growing trees like Moringa (food), Leucaena (firewood), and Jatropha (bio-fuels) to fruit trees, commercial pine and eucalyptus, as well as indigenous trees.

Financial Statement

Finances for the 2019-2020 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. As with the previous year, total expenses (\$ 38,987.49, table 2) exceeded revenue (\$12,438.55; table 3) for a net loss of \$26,548.94.

Expenses	\$ CAD	%
Accounting & Website	1,520.00	4%
Fundraising Expenses	226.00	1%
Interest & Bank Charges	50.00	<1%
Project Funding	37,191.49	95%
Total Expenses	38,987.49	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$38,987.49	100%

Table 2: Expenses for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

The Cameroon project is scheduled for termination which leaves an uncommitted balance of \$51,801.76. The board of trustees (table 1) will continue to fund-raise and will use available resources to continue supporting our ongoing work internationally.

Revenue	\$ CAD	%
Silent Auction Revenue	1,149.00	9%
Donations	11,289.55	91%
Sponsorship	-	0%
Fundraising	-	0%
Net Revenue	12,438.55	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,438.55	100%

Table 3: Revenue for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

Caucuses



Members of the CIF-IFC that are interested in the activities of FwB-FsF are scattered across Canada. To enable them to collaborate several have formed groups that are called a CIF/IFC Caucus of FwB-FsF. Caucuses are represented in four provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, 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 Caucus

While it's the largest province, and the most populated, people tend to be widely dispersed. At this time, the goal of this caucus is determining where folks are located, attempting to get representation from each CIF section in Ontario, determine how fundraisers can be developed, and to try to get Universities and Colleges actively involved.

British Columbia Caucus

The British Columbia caucus was formed in May 2014. This caucus is spread across British Columbia with most efforts tied to the local CIF sections. 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,

Campbell River, and Victoria, BC. Members from British Columbia are also engaged in FwB-FsF projects overseas.

Rocky Mountain Caucus

The Rocky Mountain Section has supported Forest without Borders since its inception. To increase the focus on FwB-FsF, a group like-minded RMS member 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.

Universities and Colleges

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.

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