



Global Forest Fund Report 2015

For eight years, the Global Forest Fund has been investing in worthy tree planting events and environmental education activities around the world. The Foundation for Environmental Education invests 90% of the Global Forest Fund each year into worthy projects. Over the past eight years, 154 projects have been supported around the world. In 2015, the Global Forest Fund received almost €7,000 from the Foundation for Environmental Education as CO₂ compensation for flights in 2014. A welcome donation was also received from Semaphore Signs, The Netherlands, as CO₂ compensation for the worldwide production of the Blue Flags.

During the course of 2015, the Global Forest Fund supported twelve projects in seven countries across Europe, Asia, and Africa. More specifically, the fund supported one project in Bangladesh, five in Bulgaria, one in D.R. Congo, two in Ghana, one in Guinea, one in Kenya and one in Zambia.

In the following pages, you can read the inspiring stories from all the countries that received support from the FEE Global Forest Fund.

Bangladesh: Climate Change and the Importance of Tree Planting

Since 2010, Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS) has been focusing on tree planting activities. Every year, BEDS organises tree planting and educational activities, involving students, teachers and communities. BEDS plants local trees that will provide for the community, fruit, timber and medicine, in cooperation with national and international organisations.



B, K (Borobak) Govt. Primary School © FEE 2015

Climate Change is having a huge impact on Bangladesh due to its geographical location. Khulna, the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh, has been identified as one of the 15 most vulnerable cities in the world, in relation to Climate Change. BEDS believes that in order to reduce the impact of Climate Change in the area, it is essential that more trees are planted.



B, K (Borobak) Govt. Primary School © FEE 2015

Through FEE's Global Forest Fund, BEDS planted 1,010 local fruit, timber and medicinal trees at B,K (Borobak) Government Primary School of Laudobe under Dacope Upazila (sub-district) of Khulna. 40 students and 5 teachers participated in educational activities and a daylong training workshop. While 30 students and 2 teachers got involved in the tree planting activities. Local government and community members also got involved.



B, K (Borobak) Govt. Primary School © FEE 2015

Some of the main objectives included:

- To save the coastal environment from natural disaster:
- To educate the students and communities about the functions of trees
- To reduce poverty through tree planting
- To Reduce CO2 and combat Climate Change through tree planting
- To disseminate information on the relationship between trees and our daily life among Sundarbans coastal communities.

Students learned about the importance of forests, Climate Change, how to identify the quality of a tree, proper techniques for seedbed preparation, irrigation, pest management and nursing of trees.



B, K (Borobak) Govt. Primary School © FEE 2015

BULGARIA: 'Little Roots'

June 2015, a project supported by the Global Forest Fund, was initiated by Prikazka Kindergarten in conjunction with the Bulgarian Blue Flag Movement.



Prikazka Kindergarten © FEE 2015

A neighbourhood Action Day was organised. Teachers, parents, community members and children worked together to native plant trees.



Prikazka Kindergarten © FEE 2015

Educational activities took place during the year and children learned about the importance of trees and examined the types of trees that grow in Bulgaria.



Prikazka Kindergarten © FEE 2015

Furthermore, the children learned about caring for the trees they planted. The children made signs and measured the growth of the trees in a fun and interactive way.



Prikazka Kindergarten © FEE 2015

BULGARIA: Young Gardener

Enthusiastic students from Anton Strashimirov School, Bulgaria, working on both the LEAF and Eco-Schools programmes, planted 24 different species of trees on their schools grounds, with the support of the Global Forest Fund. Species included maple, willow, oak and lime.



Anton Strashimirov School © FEE 2015

The event was a huge success, over a hundred students and teachers with the help of enthusiastic parents dug holes and planted the trees. The event was more than just tree planting, students were also made aware of the aims of the Learning about Forests programme and students investigated the typical types of vegetation in the region. The event was linked to the curriculum through Biology, Art and IT classes.

The event received great coverage from both local and national media.



Anton Strashimirov School ©FEE 2015

BULGARIA: 'Planting Trees Gives Meaning to Life'

With the support of the Global Forest Fund, 410 students, aged 3-7 years, from 'Children's Town' Kindergarten, Varna, Bulgaria, planted 70 Thuja in the courtyard of the Kindergarten, in the hope of creating a green belt to protect and separate the playgrounds from the roads and passing cars.



'Children's Town' Kindergarten, Varna © FEE 2015

The kindergarten also organised a number of educational activities which included an eco-art workshop where students made jewellery and cards from natural and recycled materials.



'Children's Town' Kindergarten, Varna © FEE 2015

Bulgarian people say that planting trees gives meaning to life. Teachers in 'Children's Town' Kindergarten feel that environmental education, from an early age, should be present in every moment of pedagogical interaction.



BULGARIA: Creating a 'Green Oasis'

During the months March - December, with the support of the Global Forest Fund, Vasil Aprilov Primary School, planted 83 trees and shrubs within the school grounds and outside, along the school fence.



Vasil Aprilov Primary School © FEE 2015

510 students, employees and volunteers participated in the tree planting and educational activities.

The educational activities included classes on preserving the environment and broadening the knowledge about plants in general. They also included an exhibition of pre-school paintings on 'My Favourite Forest' and a carnival for primary level students (age 7-10) on 'A Forest Plant or a Tree'.

The school is situated in area densely surrounded by high-rise flats with very little green space for recreation and biodiversity. It is hoped that the tree planting will provide a 'Green Oasis' for the students.



Vasil Aprilov Primary School © FEE 2015

The school intends to further finance the setting up of flower beds, bird feeding stations and bird houses to compliment the trees they planted.



Vasil Aprilov Primary School © FEE 2015

BULGARIA: 'Clean a Forest, Save a Tree'

With the support of the Global Forest Fund, 25 students aged between 8 -12 from St. Kiril and Metodii School, Burgas, Bulgaria planted shrubs and trees, native to the Strandzha region.



St. Kiril and Metodii School, Burgas © FEE 2015

Not only were the students involved in tree planting activities but they also got involved in a clean-up campaign 'Clean a Forest, save a tree'. Furthermore, the students learned about the importance of forests, ways to preserve them and possible opportunities for recreation in the forests.

D.R.CONGO: Protecting Primary Forests for Primates

A project consisting of training days and tree planting took place to help protect primary forest which is considered a sanctuary for primates. The project was coordinated by Mrs Alphonsine APENDEKI of REFEADES School.



REFEADES School © FEE 2015



35 school leaders were trained up on agro-forestry techniques, 747 students were shown how to set up small tree nurseries, a tree nursery holding 2,900 trees was set up and a committee put in place in each village to protect the forest.

GHANA: Linking Children to Nature Exercise

In recent years, Kids Serving the Earth (KSE), has been using the forest has a casement to assist young children gain awareness of the world around them and their place inside it. With the help of the Global Forest Fund, KSE combined a walk in the forest with an entertaining and engaging KSE activity, which generated an enjoyable learning experience for the students.

Activity to introduce the idea of forest products

Objective

- ✓ Help students learn how much we depend on trees in our daily lives
- ✓ Help students learn how many different products we get from trees

Method

50 students took a walk, supplied with a daypack filled with a few tree seeds and resources, fruits (apple, mango, orange and coconut) a pen, a notebook and sunblock. Students were asked questions along the way. What tree the branch came from? Can you identify the fruit and what tree it came from? Have you used any tree products today? How are tree products alike and how are they different? What do you like most about trees?

The picture below is of students and teachers of RC Primary School and KSE Voluntary staff after the nature walk and Environmental Education session.



Kids Serving the Earth © FEE 2015

In the photo below, KSE supplied 200 pieces of fig and citrus trees to Duuni D/A primary school for planting.



Kids Serving the Earth © FEE 2015

Group photo of Duuni D/A Primary School after an Environmental Education lesson.



Kids Serving the Earth © FEE 2015

In Ghana, the majority of women and young children depend on wood as a source of income and for domestic purposes. Every day trees are lost as a result of deforestation. There is no corresponding replacement of the number of trees harvested for commercial, domestic or development reasons. KSE believes that Environmental Education needs to be encouraged at all levels of our society, at home, school, university and the work place.

Today, in most of villages and towns in Ghana, it is very difficult to get medicinal trees, one needs to walk far. With the support of the Global Forest Fund, KSE and Bagjo community planted 150 trees.



KSE inaugurate Environmental Education Club at Wulensi E/A JHS © FEE 2015

GHANA: 'A Greener Future for Schools'

The Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana supports tree planting in schools in Awutu Senya District. Through building sustainable and quality relationships with local schools, and creating forums for sharing, learning and discussing issues such as environmental protection and "Global Warming".



Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana © FEE 2015

With the help of the Global Forest Fund, a tree-planting event was organised by the Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana in partnership with ten schools as part of their annual tree conservation efforts. The form one and two students selected, took part in the tree planting exercise and served as the primary planters giving them a sense of ownership and responsibility for the project which is aimed at providing a greener future for schools. The tree-planting initiative is based on a realisation that many schools have buildings in place but no trees to enhance the environment.



Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana © FEE 2015

Tree planting is a practical way of introducing and integrating Environmental Education. Students in different parts of the district were mobilised and trained relatively quickly, with minimal logistical/administrative cost implications.



Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana © FEE 2015



Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana © FEE 2015

A total of 2,000 indigenous trees, of 15 different species were planted on the schools grounds. According to the head teacher, the tree-planting exercise presented an opportunity to further enhance the learning landscape for students, leaving a positive and lasting legacy. *“Apart from the obvious environmental benefits, community upliftment is central to this project.”*



Rural Integrated Relief Service-Ghana © FEE 2015

GUINEA:

With the help of the Global Forest Fund, 70 students, age 7-10, from 4th grade, planted 350 trees to provide a school compound with shade for the students. The tree planting was coordinated by the Association Guineenne d'Eveil au Developpement Durable (ONG AGEDD).



Maférinyah Centre 2 © FEE 2015

The aim of the project was to provide a school compound and to raise environmental awareness and contribute to restoration and protection of endangered species. School teachers, NGO field workers, community leaders and Local Authorities participated, along with the 70 students.



An environmental club was set up which includes 25 members. These members were trained in tree nursery establishment, the role of trees and forests, the water cycle, composting and how to organise and run an effective community clean-up.

KENYA:

With the support of the Global Forest Fund, 350 students from St. Lukes Shisango Girls Secondary School and neighbouring schools in Kenya, planted a total of 1,000 trees. Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOE), our LEAF organisation in Kenya, oversaw the implementation of the project.



Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOE) © FEE 2015

WED 2015 theme 'Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care' calls for sustainable consumption of our resources. As such trees and forest are a significant resource to human well-being playing a critical role in various terrestrial ecosystems. The Republic of Kenya clearly understands the important role trees play thus determination to achieve and maintain at least 10% of tree cover. This is signified by numerous initiatives by the government in collaboration with the civil society and other private stakeholders.



Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOE) © FEE 2015

The 'Eco-Schools' programme initiated by the government a few years ago has made progress with county governments initiating the same at county level. Various schools, especially those in the Kenyan LEAF programme have been in the forefront of greening their schools through tree-planting activities.



Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOE) © FEE 2015

St. Lukes Shisango Secondary School celebrated its post-WED through a tree planting activity on 25 June. The school had acquired an additional acre of land and wished to establish a woodland.



Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOE) © FEE 2015

The woodland will be used by the school as a living laboratory, especially for biology and geography lessons. It is anticipated that the woodland will also attract many fauna, including birds and small animals. The woodland will also provide fuel for the school kitchen as well as timber for furniture construction. Sports, songs, dance and poems were used to highlight the importance of environmental conservation, particularly tree planting. Key guests and teachers gave speeches urging schools and the community to work together to ensure we safeguard our environment for future generations.

ZAMBIA:

The Global Forest Fund supported a project in Zambia, in Kaonga Primary School. Kaonga Primary School is very active on matters of wildlife and environmental conservation. The school has a club called Chongololo & Chipembele Conservation Club, through which it carries out its activities.



Kaonga Primary School © FEE 2015

A workshop was held, forty-five students, two teachers and two parents were trained in various areas, which included growing trees for sustainable agriculture, the economic value of tree planting, the role of trees in mitigating climate change, tree management and action planning. At the end of the workshop, the club formulated an action plan for the rest of the year. The club bought forty fruit trees which were planted in the school surroundings and the orchard. The pupils and teachers planted the trees.

A fourteen-page magazine was published, which included content driven by the students on matters involving environmental education such as poems, reports and wildlife drawings.



Kaonga Primary School © FEE 2015

The project generated a lot of interest among pupils, teachers and parents, so much so that the club membership has grown since the project took place!



Kaonga Primary School © FEE 2015

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