Mara
Tanzania

Mid-year report 2020

WeForest
Making Earth Cooler

Transitioning villages to agroforestry

One of the best ways to get more trees is to ask everyone to plant some.

In the Rorya District of the Mara region in north-western Tanzania, near the village of Kinesi, seedlings are grown in a nursery and distributed to the people that need it most. Households led by women or families hosting orphans get priority. Local schools also get seedlings – often fruit trees – to plant on their premises.

The project also provides training in sustainable agricultural practices, including permaculture, so that the trees can boost agriculture yield and food production. Families now enjoy larger and more diversified incomes and better food, and can even pay for medicine.

WeForest has worked with Global Resource Alliance in Tanzania since 2011.

Mara

Our goals for the Mara project:

2020 goals:

Distribute 550,000 seedlings

Support local people with training and trees

Create employment for 26 people

Raise environmental awareness

Restoration technique:

Agroforestry

including species such as *Grevillea robusta, Casuarina equisetifolia, Moringa olifera, Leucaena leucocephala, Acacia tortillis, Albizia lebbeck, Markhamia lutea, Tectona grandis, Jacaranda mimosifolia*, avocado, papaya, orange and guava

What's new in Mara?
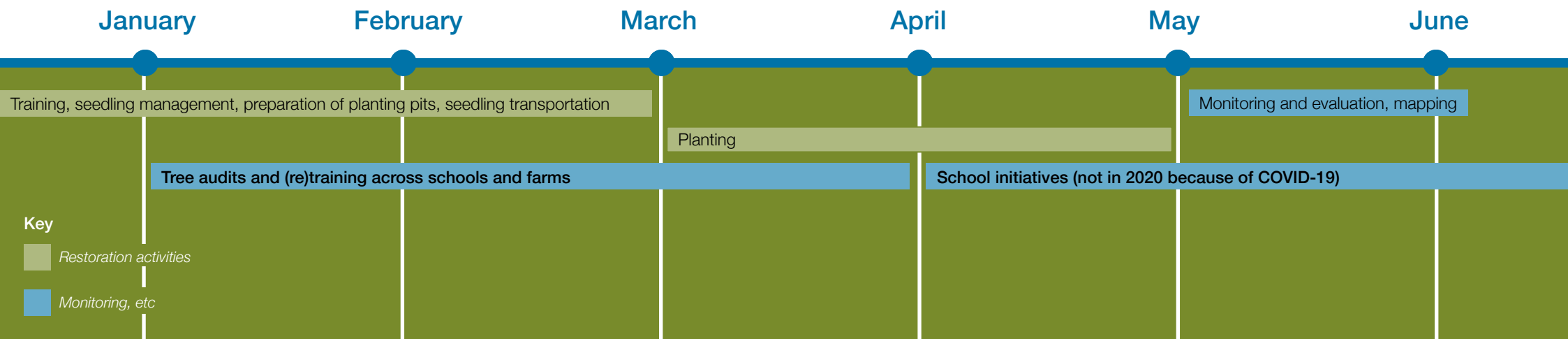## Recent highlights from the field

Both tree nurseries – one of which opened in 2019 – began distribution in April, and **245,000 seedlings were distributed** by the end of May. This is more than half of the total amount to be planted in 2020.

Because schools – which typically receive most of the seedlings distributed each season – were closed because of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, tens of thousands of seedlings were driven to nearby villages and district wards to be distributed there directly.

The Mara project's focus on **agroforestry** means that many households can benefit. Patrick K. has 400 avocado trees, as well as papaya and lemon trees, providing an impressive annual income for any farmer in this region of Tanzania.

Thanks to her fruit harvests, Diana has been able to buy some laying hens, which also help to support her family. "WeForest has helped many farmers like myself to plant trees for the environment, food and income. Without these trees I would be struggling each day to find enough money to provide for my grandsons, but with these fruit and timber trees, I am able to give them what they need to make them strong and healthy," she says.

January	February	March	April	May	June

Training, seedling management, preparation of planting pits, seedling transportation

Monitoring and evaluation, mapping

Planting

Tree audits and (re)training across schools and farms

School initiatives (not in 2020 because of COVID-19)

Key

Restoration activities

Monitoring, etc

Villagers that plant timber species can **sustainably harvest** some of the growing wood to provide an income. Bernard K.'s trees have provided enough income over the last three years for him to purchase a zinc roof for his new house. Shida R. and his family are able to harvest timber annually from their thousands of trees, and replant after each harvest to ensure the sustainability of their livelihood. Catherine is able to harvest fuelwood from her trees that regrow year after year.

We provided **theoretical and practical training on agroforestry** design and mapping, as well as techniques such as transplanting trees in agroforestry, permagardening and composting. A manual was created for trainees with low literacy rates. By the end of May, 8 workshops for nursery staff had been completed, and after a short verbal exam, all 17 trainees received certificates.

A survey was carried out in April to gauge the benefits of agroforestry among beneficiaries, and the interest they and potential new beneficiaries in continuing to plant trees on their farms.

During training at the tree nurseries, staff wore masks.

July	August	September	October	November	December

Planting seeds and seedling management, preparation of planting pits, seedling transportation

Planting

Monitoring and evaluation, mapping

Agroforestry training sessions at Butiama

What's next?

A progress report covering the project's full year is published every February.

- Around 300,000 seedlings will be distributed when the rains begin again in October.

- Our assessment of up-scaling opportunities will be finalised, based on the findings of April's survey of current and potential beneficiaries.

- 25 new training sessions will be carried out with the local community on how to successfully grow and look after trees.

Stay up-to-date at our Tanzania project page.

You can find great new photos from our projects on Flickr. Check out the Tanzania album!

What is agroforestry?

Agroforestry combines agriculture and forestry: trees and shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland. It plays a critical role in successful forest restoration by:

- reducing the pressure on forest resources and incentivise sustainable forest management by alleviating poverty;
- compensating the loss of access to forest resources;
- ensuring reliable incomes to fund sustainable forest management.

The value of an agroforestry system is in its diversity; selecting and distributing a variety of environmentally and socially-appropriate tree species. in Tanzania our programme grows between 45-70 species each year that have specific uses. Some trees, such as timber, are harvested and ideally replaced. Others, such as fruit and nitrogen-fixing trees, pruned year after year providing food, soil fertility and numerous other benefits. Of course, all the types of trees sequester carbon as they grow.

Please visit our **Why and How** webpage for more information.

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