



ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REVIEW

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Food & Trees for Africa (hereafter referred to as FTFA) Annual Review.

FTFA's core purpose is to improve lives and landscapes towards developing healthy people on a healthier planet.

We operate primarily in South Africa, addressing food security, environmental sustainability, and greening.

Covering the period from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022, this review provides an overview of FTFA's programmes, operations, financials, and – most importantly – our impact.

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QUICK STATISTICS



We distributed 92 tonnes of compost and fertiliser



We built our first solar packhouse



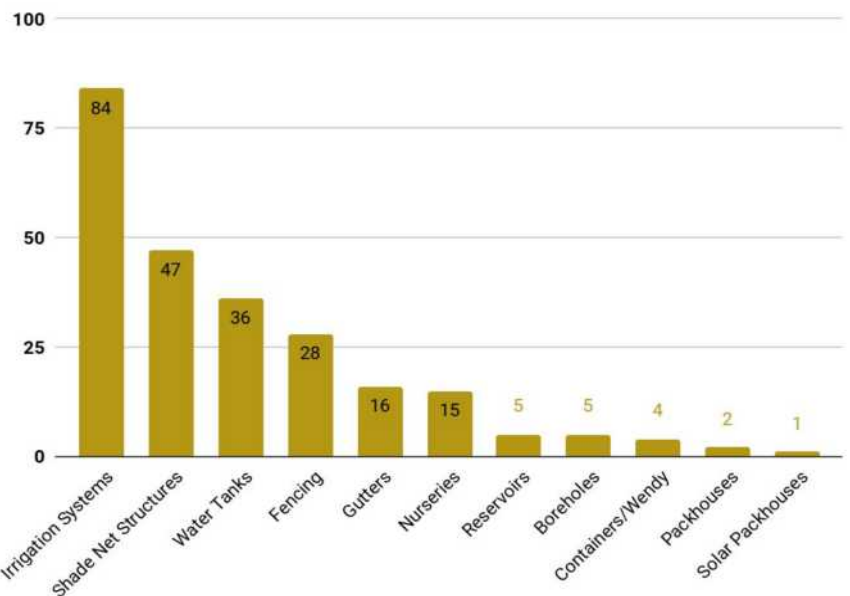
We offset 12,191 tonnes of CO₂

We installed infrastructure valued at R4.3 million

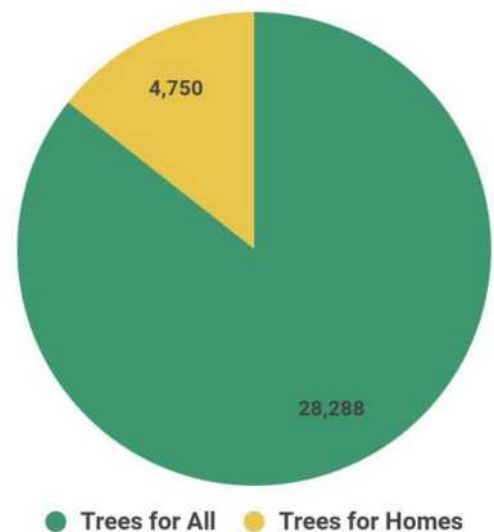
During the review period, 750m² of nursery structures and 10,000m² of shade net structures were installed.

Four hundred thousand litres of water storage and 235,000m² of irrigation were installed.

Infrastructure Installed at Projects

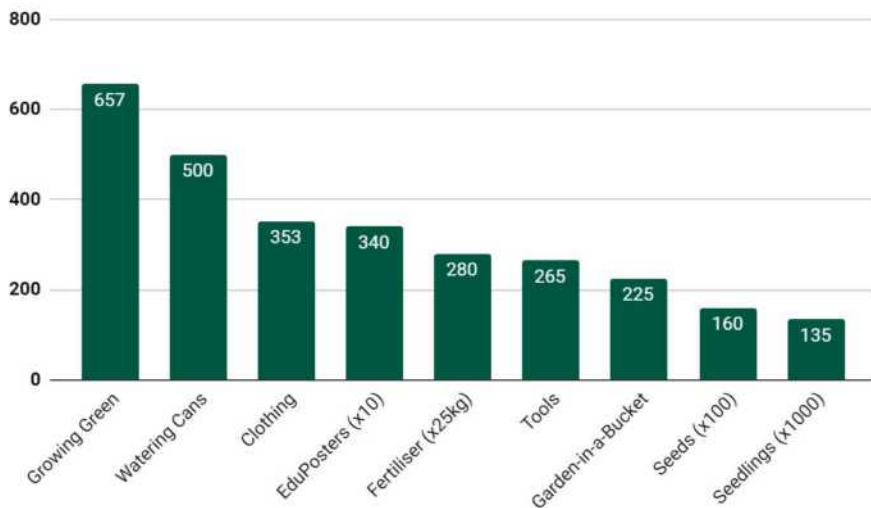


Trees Planted



QUICK STATISTICS

Food Garden Resources Distributed



During the review period, FTFA introduced an additional 80 long- and short-term food gardens.

We also closed off 58 food gardens, which were deemed self-sustainable and no longer in need of external support.



168 Food Gardens

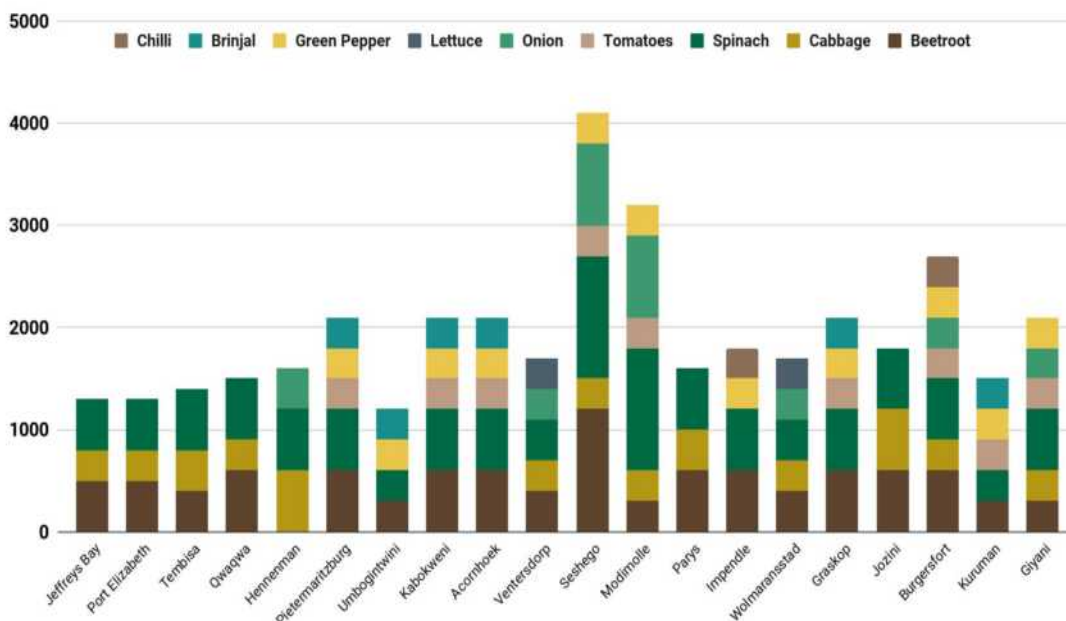
Est. 520 tonnes* of food produced

Supported by 23 funders

228,056 meals supplemented

*Includes leafy green vegetables

Seedlings Distributed to EduPlant Clusters



38,900 seedlings distributed in total

Approximately 214 tonnes of fresh produce can be harvested from these seedlings each season.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is said that the power of a community to create health and wealth is far greater than that of any physical institution. In the context of global climate change, instability within food and agricultural systems, and civil unrest, the role of organisations like FTFA in building community capacity has become particularly relevant.

When they are provided with the appropriate support, we witness first-hand how people thrive even amidst the most trying challenges. In the aftermath of the devastating floods that ravaged South Africa's east coast in April 2022, FTFA demonstrated the efficacy of our cross-programme integration approach to social development. We continue to strategically position ourselves to deliver interventions that restore and strengthen community resilience in the most meaningful ways. Our goal is always to create sustainable systems that support intergenerational knowledge transfer and provide lifelong opportunities for self-empowerment. Empowered people in turn inspire adaptable, self-directing communities.

With 32 years of experience in South Africa's social development landscape, FTFA is proud that its contribution to food security and food sovereignty, as well as environmental restoration and greening, has resulted in palpable impacts across thousands of communities. FTFA's nationwide operations enable the creation and continued development of food secure, community-linked clusters and greenbelts in some of SA's most under-resourced areas. With the rapid pace at which our world is changing, and the challenges posed for the future, I am proud to be part of an organisation so accustomed to transformation. FTFA continues to address present issues with the future in mind, in a tangible, solutions-based manner.

I am particularly excited about the development of "Footprint", FTFA's new beneficiary impact platform. It has improved our ability to deliver appropriate, sustainable solutions based on accurate real-time data, while maintaining the heart in our work. Alongside FTFA's continued success, this development speaks to the level of



MPHO MAHANYELE-MATJI, CHAIRPERSON

passion, dedication, and expertise we have as an organisation, as well as the deep partnerships we have developed over the last three decades.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we extend our deep gratitude to each of our supporters, staff, and board members. This year, we particularly acknowledge the contributions of Joshua Mahlangu, one of our founding members who passed away peacefully in June 2021. Joshua was always passionate about air quality and environmental sustainability, having been the Director of the Soweto Department of Health before moving on to be Director General of (what is now) the South African Department of Environmental Affairs. He lent wisdom to our board meetings that will be sorely missed.

Best wishes,

Mpho Mahanyele-Matji

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms N Mahanyele (Chairperson)
Ms I Feldman
Mr MBP Edwards
Mr D Mncube
Ms T Visser
Prof J Limson
Mr CE Wild

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The past year has been a bright one for FTFA which, after 32 years, remains one of South Africa's leading non-profit companies. FTFA continues to pursue its founding purpose: promoting food security, urban greening, environmental conservation, skills, education, and environmental awareness. We continue to adapt and position our programmes to address both the ever-changing socio-economic landscape and the needs of the under-resourced communities we were created to serve.

OVERVIEW

With due consideration to the high levels of volatility experienced in the external business environment over the past three years, the organisation has performed admirably in the period under review. The primary operational challenges largely relate to managing team capacity and health in the context of the previous year. We are pleased to say that for the first time since March 2020, we believe the sustained pressure experienced as a result of backlog seems to be dissipating (only to be replaced by new projects and our continued drive to maximise impact). You will see this theme reflected in multiple areas of the annual review, but whereas certain figures (such as the growth in revenue and surplus) look good, we urge stakeholders to view this in the wider context of a three-year timeline and prior decreases and losses.

OUR IMPACT

In this last review period, we ran over 200 community gardening and farming projects, totalling around 230 ha of land actively under agroecological vegetable production. We planted 33,038 trees with over 10,049 individual and organisational beneficiaries, and supported educators, farmers, and community members with an estimated total of close to one million direct and indirect beneficiaries. We could not do this without our donors, partners, and supporters, and cannot thank them enough for the contributions they continue to make. We will continue to ensure this support is directed with passion and focus, and harvest the most impact we can out of every Rand.



CHRIS WILD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENTAL RESTRUCTURING

Our Data Department is now fully operational and integrated. As stakeholders may note from previous reports, the decision to formalise a Data Department came as the result of our impact monitoring and technology innovation goals. We are pleased to now have some tangible efficiencies and believe that we remain on track to implement world-first models.

The changes in structure to the Procurement & Supply Chain Department have also yielded excellent results. The core focus of these changes is financial and operational accountability, which will continue to produce benefits for our donors and beneficiaries.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

With the push towards ESG, every business on the planet is incorporating elements of food security, water, energy, and environment into their sustainability plans. We believe there are undeniable opportunities within the carbon space, as well as in bio-intensive agriculture. Our short term goal is to operationalise this awareness and, wherever possible, convert this wave of sentiment into tangible change.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wild

TREES FOR ALL



FTFA's Trees Department is made up of two main programmes; Trees for All (TFA), which plants trees in shared spaces, and Trees for Homes (TFH), which aims to green homes in underdeveloped communities.

THE PROGRAMME

TFA is an award-winning programme that sustainably plants trees in shared spaces for a healthier, greener environment. This successful initiative educates communities about the benefits of trees, while offsetting carbon emissions and transforming the surrounding environment. The trees are planted in cluster areas, enabling large-scale greening and the creation of urban green belts in under-resourced areas.

PLANTING A LEGACY

Along with the lifting of the last Covid-19 regulations, which had restricted movement and gatherings since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, came an increased interest and renewed energy from funders and volunteers looking to engage their teams again in a meaningful way. TFA events are a great hands-on way to contribute to a more sustainable environment and also provide office-bound staff with more immersive outdoor experiences and activities. In Arbor month alone, FTFA hosted an incredible 28 volunteer events in five provinces, planting over 7,000 trees.

For many of the funders who signed up for these volunteer events, this was the first time that corporate teams were interacting with each other in person since March 2020. The energy and spirit that accompanied the volunteers was contagious and the beneficiary hosts revelled in the excitement and camaraderie at these events. Schools and a variety of community projects and animal shelters all benefited from this renewed interest in tree planting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Konica Minolta South Africa (KMSA) is FTFA's longest running tree planting sponsor, having first begun working with us 14 years ago. During the review period, KMSA funded the planting of 6,203 trees. Since the inception of the partnership we have planted over 63,000 trees together.



28,288 trees planted



10,438 tonnes CO₂ offset



203 communities greened



396 schools greened

STORY HIGHLIGHT

YOUNG CLIMATE HEROES

Climate Heroes, a newly developed programme under TFA, includes a workshop motivating young school children to look after both the new and existing trees in their environment.

The programme educates and builds awareness among young activists about the importance of greening activities and climate change issues. FTFA programmes always aim to increase awareness on environmental health. When the teachings can be transferred to younger generations through leadership and education, the chances of the message taking root in the community become that much greater.

This new initiative came about to support Fortress-REIT's running series, which was kicked off with tree planting events at select local schools. Local sports heroes Hezekiel Sepeng and Israel Morake attended school assemblies alongside FTFA facilitators to promote the races and to encourage the children to care for their environment by participating in greening activities.

A workshop was held at each participating school, where greening club members were designated Climate Heroes and received a Climate Heroes certificate in their name. This initiative soon spread into other sponsor projects and received a great response from the children taking part.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fortress-REIT's strategy of developing their surrounding communities through tree planting and food gardens has improved community resilience and resulted in a positive association being formed with the real estate brand.



TREES FOR HOMES



THE PROGRAMME

Trees for Homes (TFH) is a Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme. This successful and innovative public greening initiative contributes nationally in a visible way to [people empowerment, sustainable development, and enhanced environments, whilst offsetting carbon emissions.](#)

GREENING AND RESTORATION

South Africa's settlement policies do little to encourage the consideration of environmentally sound practices. Many settlements are still smoggy, dry, and treeless, detracting from the quality of life. Residents are tied to a future of high energy consumption with associated local air quality problems and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Green communities, on the other hand, have been shown to be [associated with increased mental health, improved school and work performance, and reductions in violence and crime.](#)

TFH was initiated in 2000 to address these issues and [contribute to the development of sustainable settlements](#) by giving low-income communities trees to plant at their homes, as well as providing information and training, education on climate change and the environment, and employment opportunities, including Community Educators (CEs).

TFH enhances the participation of low-income communities in local decision-making. The programme also improves environmental management capacity by forging new partnerships between these communities and provincial and municipal representatives.

The stark realities of basic human rights shortfalls were highlighted during the Covid-19 lockdown period, when lower income and under-resourced communities struggled to get access to even the most basic of supplies. With issues such as food security at the forefront of everyone's focus, FTFA's TFH programme was commended for its ability to address greening and food security in a long-lasting manner. Many TFH project rollouts included the distribution of Garden-in-a-Bucket (GinB) kits to further boost food security efforts in beneficiary communities.



4,750 trees planted



44 CE's employed



1,753 tonnes CO₂ offset



2,375 homes greened



STORY HIGHLIGHT

MAKING MUNSIEVILLE GREEN

Munsieville is said to be one of the oldest informal settlements in South Africa, yet it remains largely under-resourced. The township was the childhood home of the former Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It was initially established in 1903 on the outskirts of Krugersdorp, as a settlement for mine labourers. For the last six years, FTFA has been working with communities in the area to create greenbelts and improve food security through the TFH programme.

In early 2022, support became available for a TFH project in Munsieville. Five hundred trees were distributed to 250 homes in the local township. A variety of plum, peach, apricot, nectarine, and pear trees were accompanied by 20 Garden-in-a-Bucket (GinB) kits to boost the initiative's impact.

Ten unemployed residents of the beneficiary community received training in tree planting and basic tree care. All trained residents were designated as Community Educators (CEs). Following their training, CEs receive stipends for their work for the duration of the 12-month project. CEs travel door-to-door to spread awareness on climate change and community-greening. In addition, the CEs demonstrated to residents how the trees should be properly planted and maintained. They will assist FTFA with tracking survivability, reporting back on the health of the trees and any challenges faced by community members after the distribution.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since partnering with us, [Shoprite](#) has not only planted thousands of trees under our TFH programme, but has also supported 2,298 black women farmers across the country with [food garden resources](#), GinBs, and Permaculture Starter Packs (PSPs).

ENTERPRISE ORCHARDS



THE PROGRAMME

Enterprise Orchards is an FTFA programme that focuses on high-density orchard culture (HDOC) to grow fresh produce for local markets. It progresses our best community educators and natural farmers to create high-density orchards in townships, as well as peri-urban and rural areas.

The programme provides HDOC training, trees, and planting resources, as well as necessary infrastructure. Four Enterprise Orchard projects were deemed self-sustainable in 2022 and were fully handed over to their project members.

WHAT IS HDOC?

High density orchard culture (HDOC) is a method of planting fruit and nut trees which does not require commercial equipment and incorporates principles of bio-intensive agriculture. Unlike traditional orchard culture – which has its roots in monoculture and can be harmful to the environment – FTFA’s method focuses on achieving maximum yields from a small area of land, while increasing biodiversity and building and sustaining soil health.

Due to the nature of these projects, they are generally run over a few years and are usually combined with herb gardens as short-term cash crops.

BENEFITS OF HDOC

Planting fruit trees in high densities not only maximises space and the orchard’s yield per land unit, it also enables the farmer to grow a diverse range of crops. This ensures year-round harvests and cash flow. HDOC techniques also increase the efficiency of water, soil, fertiliser, and light.

FTFA’s brand of HDOC employs the following principles:



Plant more trees in a given area (compared to traditional orchard culture) and keep trees small and productive through pruning.



Plant multiple combinations of various species of stone, pome, citrus fruit and nut trees.



Plant multiple seasonal varieties so that harvesting is consistent throughout each season.

FOOD GARDENS



TOWARD ZERO HUNGER

Food gardens – encompassing home, school, and community market gardens – have been proven to play an integral role in feeding a hungry nation. These food gardens assist in achieving long-term food security in communities around South Africa, especially those most heavily impacted by poverty.

In the years since the outbreak of Covid-19, almost half the population has reported being affected by moderate to severe food insecurity (Stats SA). Members of underdeveloped communities in particular are susceptible to severe hunger and despondency, due to high levels of unemployment and a lack of income-generating opportunities.

Through the Food Gardens programme, thousands of people nationwide have been empowered to grow nutritious food to feed their families and earn an income. The socio-economic upliftment that results from these food gardens enables people to be more self-reliant and to regain their dignity.

The positive impact of food gardens is shown by their natural multiplier effect. In areas where community food gardens have been established, FTFA always expects – and is proud to see – consistent exponential growth in the number of new food gardens started out of people’s own initiative. The Food Gardens programme aims to uplift communities in ways that extend beyond simply meeting the immediate food security needs of communities. Other aspects of community development include income generation and a transfer of skills and knowledge amongst the community and from generation to generation.

GROWING AFRICA’S FUTURE

FTFA uses a variety of sustainable agricultural techniques for successful food gardens. These include permaculture, agroecology, and regenerative agriculture. All of these techniques share one core principle: natural farming methods that protect and build the environment.

These methods have been shown to be the most resilient and versatile ways of farming, and ensure that FTFA’s food gardens are able to produce a diversity of healthy, nutritious food. When integrated into food systems and communities through consistent training and support, these principles and techniques create self-sustaining and prosperous farms and gardens that can be handed over for communities to run themselves.

The Food Gardens programme seeks to equip communities both with these skills and with the resources required to achieve food security and food sovereignty. The programme also endeavours to establish food gardens in schools and homes, while aiding in the sustainable development of small-scale NGOs and civic organisations.

Oftentimes, FTFA’s established food gardens have doubled as an income-generating method for community members, who are able to sell excess produce. In areas with a large number of orphans, other vulnerable children (OVCs) and child-headed households, this income has assisted various community groups in funding additional programmes that benefit these young individuals.



80 community-based gardens



4,555 training workshops



320 linked homestead gardens



23 project funders



STORY HIGHLIGHT

INVESTING IN FUTURE GENERATIONS

Food garden programmes play a vital role in schools. Not only do they curb child hunger by supplementing feeding schemes, but also transfer knowledge and skills that learners could very well use as a tool to build their livelihoods in the future.

With the intention of providing over 1,800 school learners with a wholesome, nutritious meal at least once a day, Sedi Laka Primary School established its school food garden project in 2015. The school also aimed to sell excess produce to the local community at affordable prices.

The half-a-hectare garden has been looked after by nine highly dedicated individuals from the Kaalfontein community, who have committed their time and energy to keeping the food garden productive and safe. Since receiving support from FTFA, the Sedi Laka school food garden has performed far beyond its original vision. This was evident when the project managers, learners, teachers, and school principal gathered together to harvest cabbage, spinach, green beans, and leeks. Recently, 99kg of produce was harvested and consumed through the feeding scheme.

The learners are all extremely passionate about the food garden, so much so that an environmental committee has been established. To date, over 200 learners have joined the committee.

EDUPLANT



THE PROGRAMME

The EduPlant programme remains South Africa's most impactful food security, greening, and nutrition programme. Throughout the past year, the programme supported new schools and communities through food gardening.

The necessity to become food secure while implementing climate change mitigation strategies has brought about a paradigm shift within the hearts and minds of teachers and learners alike. As the EduPlant team digs deeper into local and global realities surrounding the importance of healthier food systems, the programme is able to develop and teach school curriculums that foster a more sustainable future. Most importantly, the EduPlant programme contributes to a healthier environment, improved nutrition, and better lifestyle choices for South African children.

The successful implementation of the programme is attributed to the delivery of valuable assets to each school. A structured implementation process and content aligned with various subjects in the school curriculum are carefully communicated and supported by facilitators and the FTFA EduPlant team.

The EduPlant team shares additional educational materials containing powerful lessons on food security and natural resource management. This help schools to increase their knowledge and extend production in their gardens. The thriving gardens have become a ready source of nutritious food for the learners, with the surplus being distributed amongst needy households.

NEW SCHOOLS ENROLLED

By the end of 2021, 500 schools had applied to participate in the EduPlant programme. Assessments were conducted and schools were shortlisted based on multiple criteria. Overall, 300 schools were selected, with 30 clusters established across all nine provinces.

The rollout of the intensive EduPlant training programme commenced in March 2022. Collectively, 90 workshops were conducted throughout the review period, with many resounding successes.

SUPPORT FOR ECOPRENEURS

EduPlant's success depends on the 12 Ecopreneurs who walk this journey with the schools from inception to completion. These individuals are the key drivers of the programme.

To maintain the quality of the programme nationally, an implementation guide for facilitators was developed. This was especially important because, for two years during the pandemic, facilitators had been conducting most of the work virtually. Ensuring high quality guidance and engagement was an essential part of returning to in-person workshops and engagement.

The guide was designed so that any facilitator would be able to plan a workshop from start to finish with ease, and that the information being delivered by the programme would remain consistent nationwide.



900 seed packs distributed



450kg mielie / bean seeds distributed



214 tonnes of food (est.)



300 schools / 30 clusters



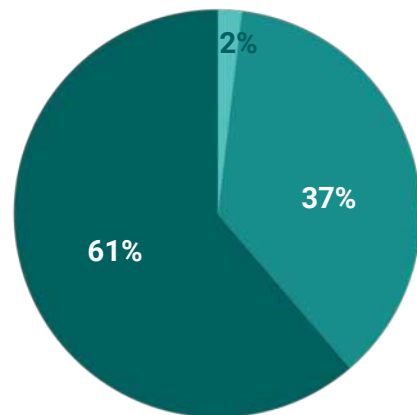
HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Attendance at each workshop endorses the value that the programme has added to schools and their communities. Support given by the Department of Education (DoE) is an indication of the importance of including agroecology and permaculture in the school curriculum. To this end, teachers who have attended three workshops are credited with 15 continuous professional training and development points (CPTDPs).

Of the 635 participants who attended the first or second workshops, 591 attended both. This shows commitment, interest, and impact. Clearly, these sessions are interesting and valuable to participants.

EDUPLANT WORKSHOP ATTENDEES



- Educators
- Community Members
- Department Officials

DID YOU KNOW?

As the official EduPlant Programme partner, [Tiger Brands](#) contributed to crucial food security systems during the Covid-19 lockdown period. Many of the EduPlant schools and clusters were able to donate excess food they had grown to their surrounding communities during this time.

AFRICAN CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT



THE PROGRAMME

The [African Climate Reality Project \(ACRP\)](#) is the continent's branch of the Climate Reality Project (CRP), [housed under FTFA](#). ACRP supports over 1,627 Climate Reality Leaders (CRLs) across Africa, who mobilise communities to find solutions to climate change, and call on world leaders for more ambitious action. ACRP collaborates with and supports a variety of partners and networks in the climate advocacy space, coordinating Afro-centric, climate just campaigns and activities to advance a just transition to a low-carbon world.

AFRICAN VOICES FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE

In October 2021, 220 CRLs participated in the annual 24 Hours of Reality event, carrying out climate related actions. ACRP, in collaboration with FTFA's Trees Department, joined a tree planting day at St John the Divine Orphanage in Gauteng. The team screened the Community and Youth episodes of the [Not On Our Soil docuseries](#) and facilitated climate justice discussions.

2022 marked a special year for ACRP, presenting opportunities to meet in person with CRLs, provide renewed support, and involve them in campaign actions. Throughout the year, CRLs supported ACRP campaigns and days of action including Earth Day, Africa Day, World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, Plastic Free July, and 24 Hours of Reality.

A key focus for ACRP's engagement with CRLs centred around creating platforms for storytelling. ACRP spotlighted the actions of inspiring CRLs by writing blogs about how they have taken the lead on climate on the ground.

In June, ACRP – together with [Rewild Africa](#) – travelled to Limbe, Cameroon to produce a mini-documentary about Ewi Stephanie Lamma, a CRL committed to working with local communities, women, and youth. Lamma encourages them to use their voices and take part in local decision-making processes to protect and restore forests.

July saw the launch of an exciting writing and thought-provoking poetry experience: the Poets for Climate project. Here, CRP's branches in Africa, Canada, and the Philippines joined forces to ask "When?" and demand "Now!" from world leaders ahead of COP27 in Egypt.

In August, [Agam Agenda](#) facilitated a virtual pebble poem workshop for CRLs, about humanity's relationship with the bioregions of the earth. Poems written during the workshops were featured online on When Is Now's digital space, as well as at COP27.

ZERO EMISSIONS | OMISSIONS

The African Development Bank (AfDB) abruptly cancelled a COP26 side event which it had requested to be organised by ACRP.

This involved the development of a position statement, in collaboration with other African civil society organisations, to present their stance on the Bank's role in financing a just transition on the continent.

To date, no legitimate explanation has been provided for the cancellation. For these reasons and others, ACRP withdrew from its role as Climate and Energy representative on the AfDB's civil society committee in January 2022.

On 25 May 2022, to mark Africa Day, ACRP mobilised communities and CRLs to hand over the position statement to the AfDB. In South Africa, 80 activists gathered to protest outside the Bank.

On the same day, CRLs and partners – including 350Africa.org and Strategic Youth Network for Development – also handed over the position paper to AfDB offices in 24 other African countries. In Ghana, CRL Chibeze Ezekiel was invited to host a side event during the Bank's annual general meeting, where he presented the position paper and civil society's grievances.



Additionally, ACRP gave input into two civil society-led processes for policy development relating to public finance, including the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Oil Change International, and

Tearfund report on the Glasgow Statement. ACRP also provided input and commented on standards to help develop a model terrestrial animal farming exclusion policy for development finance institutions

ACTIVE CITIZENS

A key focus of this programme is to support civil society movements to amplify voices of affected communities. ACRP assisted the Women's Leadership and Training Programme to host two workshops, introducing girls to planting using the principles of agroecology, and helping them understand the importance of food security. ACRP also provided a grant to GenderCC - a women-led organisation working on the intersection of Gender and Climate, to host a dialogue on the impact of Gender and Climate Change on women and youth, specifically in grassroots communities in Gauteng.

To continue disseminating the Not On Our Soil - A Climate Justice Reality docuseries, and create platforms for the characters, ACRP hosted watch parties of each episode, followed by a panel discussion to increase awareness and stimulate conversations on climate justice issues highlighted in the episodes.

CARBON



THE PROGRAMME

The Inclusive Carbon Standard (ICS) housed under the Carbon Company focuses on developing new technologies to allow companies and individuals to generate and issue carbon credits. Over the past two years, the company has been working closely with Promethium Carbon to develop the standard with the hope of launching in 2023.

CHANGING CLIMATES

Globally, the carbon space is becoming increasingly important, with many of the conversations centred around 'net zero' and Environmental Social Governance (ESG). Over the last year there has been a more concerted effort by individuals and companies to acknowledge their carbon footprint and seek ways in which to offset their emissions.

The Carbon Department has continued to encourage sustainable business practices and investments into carbon reduction over the review period. Working through the Trees Department, the aim is to enable clients to start conservations and begin restoration projects that partially offset their annual emissions.

The focal point for the programme, however, has been on developing methodologies that will allow the verification of carbon credit integrity through the ICS. The Carbon Department has successfully expanded the ICS, and continued its Research and Development initiatives in the Stutterheim Reforestation Project.

GOVERNANCE OF THE INCLUSIVE CARBON STANDARD

Over the last year, the department has been working hard to establish the governing structure of the ICS. In February 2022, we began a process to establish an Environmental Integrity Committee (EIC) and a Technical Subcommittee (TSC).

The ICS went through a rigorous process involving calls for applications, shortlisting, and structured interviews with shortlisted candidates to ensure complete transparency.

By July 2022, the Environmental Integrity Committee was formed, comprising eight members. Two internal members were joined by six external members; internal members consist of one representative from FTFA and one from Promethium Carbon. A secretariat was voted for by the EIC members.

This year also saw the long awaited release of the Draft Framework for the Development, Assessment and Approval of Domestic Carbon Offset Standards by the Department of Mineral Resources. This Framework is important, as it contains principles, components, and evaluation criteria crucial to the development of carbon offset standards. ICS plans to make a submission to the South African government in early 2023.

With the team hard at work with ongoing testing of the platform, and the establishment of the governing bodies and standards document, ICS plans to launch in the first quarter of 2023, with the first carbon credits being traded from the demonstration Solar PV project.

DID YOU KNOW?

After the heavy flooding in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal in early 2022, BLUU Car Rental pledged to plant 5,000 trees around South Africa in aid of climate impact mitigation for ecotourism. Of these trees, 1,000 were planted at FTFA's reforestation project in Stutterheim, which acts as a Research and Development project for methodologies that can be incorporated into the ICS platform.



HIGHLIGHTS

STUTTERHEIM REFORESTATION PROJECT

FTFA continued to plant indigenous trees at the Stutterheim Reforestation Project, located in the Kologha Forest. South Africa's second largest natural forest, Kologha is home to an abundance of wildlife, including the endangered Cape parrot and Samango monkey.

The third hectare planting of this pilot project commenced in October 2021. Thirty camphor trees were planted in the forest area and a further 40 were planted along the edge of the forest to form a wind break. In August 2022, 250 Freylina were planted along the boundary line of the project area.

The project area received high summer rainfall resulting in excellent tree growth. Continued heavy rainfall led to a locust swarm in May 2022. Fortunately, there was no tree damage, as the locusts feasted on the grass instead. Good rainfall continued throughout winter, a welcome change from previous years of drought. Good tree growth is therefore expected to continue into the next year. Tree growth slowed somewhat in winter, when the first frosts arrived almost six weeks later than usual.

In the first half of the year, the team had to deal with rats ringbarking the trees, addressing the problem by fitting pipes to the affected areas. The project has also seen an increased growth of American Bramble – an invasive alien plant – which is being removed.

DID YOU KNOW?

In support of their [Carbon Neutral shipping pallet](#), CHEP funded the planting of 3,500 trees to aid in offsetting emissions produced within the supply chain industry. Their donation will result in the sequestration of 1,291 tonnes of CO₂ over the trees' lifetime.

DATA & FOOTPRINT



THE DATA DEPARTMENT

The Data Department's inaugural year as an official FTFA department was filled with hard work and much progress.

The department works with each of FTFA's programmes – diving into their current systems and the copious volumes of information – in order to audit and build better internal systems.

One of the main functions of the Data Department is to match beneficiaries with funders. To enable this process to take place as objectively as possible, the beneficiary impact platform Footprint was launched.

Footprint enables FTFA to maximise a funder's ESG/CSI strategy by matching their chosen intervention to the appropriate beneficiaries. The data team inputs assessment information gathered from the field, tracking over 150 data points to help with beneficiary selection.

With Footprint, FTFA has access to a centralised database that represents 31 years of data gathering and engagement with beneficiaries.

Although the process is largely objective, it remains important to FTFA to ensure that the 'heart' behind each project is never disregarded. For this reason, inspirational stories, motivations, and individual backgrounds play a large role in decision-making.

It is important to not only represent the beneficiary with clean, concise data, but also to effectively communicate their success stories. With this in mind, and with the higher increase in tracking and interrogating data than in previous years, FTFA is committed to ensuring that data will always be utilised to the betterment of those served by our programmes – both in communities and in business.

COMMUNICATIONS



GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT THERE

Previously, FTFA has relied on a combination of internal coordination between various departments and external coordination with suppliers to raise awareness and support for programmes. During the review period, FTFA made the decision to hire a dedicated Communications Manager to take over a growing portfolio, alongside the increased demand and support for programmes.

Much of the initial drive in the new Communications Department entailed knitting together how FTFA's various internal departments communicate, as well as setting up or modifying platforms to facilitate easier knowledge sharing. A secondary goal was to ensure the relevance and quality of information being shared with the public.

Throughout the review period, FTFA and its funders received increased press and radio coverage to the value of R5.1 million. FTFA wrote and released a number of Thought Leadership articles on various topics, and will continue to be a prominent voice on the role South African businesses play in ESG and CSI in the non-profit sector. To this end, the organisation entered the EduPlant Programme into the Dialogue Strategic CSI Award in July 2022.

Many communication campaigns centred around important national and international food security and environmental days. Arbor Day saw a steep increase in tree planting volunteer days, bolstering communications around the importance of planting trees, and the role they play in soil rehabilitation, mental health, and supporting traditional medicine. FTFA also continued to share stories of the inspirational successes the team witnessed on the ground. It is through the dedication and passion of the various departments that the organisation is able to make these known and garner firm support for food security and environmental restoration in South Africa.

ACRP COMMUNICATIONS

Over the last year, ACRP has received an increasing amount of media coverage under all three programmes, and has become a credible voice on climate finance and climate change.

ACRP has written several op-eds, and conducted broadcast, print, and online interviews across Africa. Campaigner Courtney Morgan's interviews regarding the role of the youth in the climate crisis have been publicised on numerous South African news platforms; Communications Manager Aurélie Kalenga co-authored an op-ed on civil society's engagements with the AfDB, which was featured on nine online news sites. Events including the Africa Day of Action also drew interest from the media, via interviews on the aim of the event and the publishing of an op-ed piece.

ACRP has also continued to fulfil its task of amplifying the voices of CRLs, by connecting them with the media to shine a spotlight on the work that they do.

OPERATIONS



GROWING & STRENGTHENING THE TEAM

FTFA celebrated its 30th birthday last year, having been in operation from 1991 to 2021. This was also a time to celebrate all the people, programmes, and projects that make FTFA a special place to work.

FTFA is often referred to as a family. This year was no exception, and the family continues to grow and flourish. The team is much more than volunteer days and glossy photos – it is a source of support, love, and care for each other.

Testament to this commitment is FTFA's Mental Health & Wellbeing Policy, which was adopted in February 2020. This policy is now nearly three years old and is the cornerstone of the support offered to everyone, to help one another build resilience for life's challenges. Formed from this policy, the Wellbeing Committee organises Mindful Wednesdays, coffee dates, team-building workshops, and other resilience-building activities.

Although FTFA is primarily a project-administration and management organisation working in South Africa, through the African Climate Reality Project (ACRP), the FTFA footprint extends across the African continent.

The closure of the Durban branch was unfortunately necessary due to operational requirements, but staff members were absorbed as field workers for food gardening and tree projects.

Facilitators are the foundation upon which FTFA is built. Grown and nurtured over the years, facilitators are referred to as "Ecopreneurs". The term was coined many years ago to describe the backbone of FTFA, people who come from a range of backgrounds such as agriculture, teaching, and journalism. They all have one thing in common: a love for growing nutritious food in a bio-intensive manner that regenerates the environment. This group of independent contractors are the real "behind the scenes" people, who mentor, train, and teach food gardening and tree planting projects.

The FTFA family loves seeing staff motivated and high performing with enhanced company culture. With this in mind, the Wellbeing Committee arranged an online team-building session – a first for the organisation.

The team spent a jam-packed, high-energy two hours getting to know each other and playing games that when working remotely, can only make you giggle ("Whose Desk is it Anyway", "Can You Hear Me Now", and so many more). The team left this session in high spirits and with renewed energy to push through to the end of the year.



THE OPERATIONS TEAM



OUR STAFF

FTFA is staffed primarily by women - read our article profiling some [wonderful women in our team](#) and [beyond](#). Bharathi Tugh manages EduPlant and is the Education Associate within FTFA. Amy Giliam heads up ACRP, while Rogan Field is the organisation's Supply Chain Manager. Mary-Ann Fairall, who previously headed up the Trees Department for six years, has rejoined the team as Data Manager overseeing "[Footprint](#)". Nicole Ras joined the team early in the year as Communications Manager; with Aurélie Kalenga as Communications Manager for the ACRP.

Programme Managers oversee their respective departments: Luyanda Ntuli heads up Food Gardens for Africa; Susan Evans runs the Trees Department; Nosiphelo Nikani coordinates the EduPlant Programme; and Simone Ruthnam manages the Carbon Department. A real team effort allows every programme to realise FTFA's mission and vision.

Mini Sikosana, Sylvia Mokete, Jeminah Mkhize, Thando Jafta, Zanele Xulu, Precious Duma, Heather Wolmarans, Ziyanda Nkumane, Courtney Morgan, and Curtis Kuyanie are designated as coordinators and administrators within the programmes. The support staff include Raeesa Mayet and Kaylee Oddes in the finance team and Irene Kerby, Mary Masuku, Noma Moyo, Teboho Mosehle, and Rabson Donga in the operations team.

FTFA's senior leadership team consists of Chris Wild (Executive Director and member of the Board of Directors); Robyn Schraibman (Financial Manager); Kate Sheldon (Operations Manager); and [Robyn Hills](#) (Head of Programmes).

FINANCIALS



Revenue increased by approximately 26% as income received in advance in prior years became recognised due to backlog catch up. It feels like the organisation is finally back to pre-2020 figures, but with significantly more efficiency being required. Expenses as a proportion of revenue improved significantly from 112% (leading to losses) down to 96% and was the primary factor in normalising the bottom line surplus. The total surplus for the year was R2,046,789 (up from a loss of R1,983,323). Whilst this is positive and partially replenishes reserves, if viewed over a 3 year period, there is still a total comprehensive loss of R1,146,229.

Whilst reserves remain down, it is good to (largely) be back on track. It may also be interesting to stakeholders to note that the inclusion of exploring diversified revenue streams as part of the 2018 Midterm Strategy was the correct decision in retrospect. This played a stabilising role by nurturing an innovation culture.

Lastly, in respect of cash flows, total cash at the end of the year increased by 22%. Whilst cash is slightly improved, this increase is somewhat anomalous – the result of a few grants and donations which arrived in September 2022.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022*

Assets

Non-Current Assets

Property, plant and equipment	2,499,238	2,470,994
Investment in subsidiary	1	1
	<u>2,499,239</u>	<u>2,470,995</u>

Current Assets

Inventories	445,917	0
Trade and other receivables	2,311,660	1,509,263
Cash and cash equivalents	21,337,704	17,520,857
	<u>24,095,281</u>	<u>19,030,120</u>

Total Assets

	<u>26,594,520</u>	<u>21,501,115</u>
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Equity and Liabilities

Equity

Pre-incorporation surplus	26,629	26,629
Accumulated surplus	4,367,589	2,320,829
	<u>4,394,218</u>	<u>2,347,458</u>

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Trade and other payables	2,806,391	4,073,915
Income received in advance	19,393,911	15,079,742

Total Liabilities	<u>22,200,302</u>	<u>19,153,657</u>
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Total Equity and Liabilities	<u>26,594,520</u>	<u>21,501,115</u>
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FINANCIALS



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022*

	2022	2021
Revenue	28,703,554.00	23,199,824.00
Other income	351,450.00	265,634.00
Operating expenses	<u>(27,919,300.00)</u>	<u>(25,953,141.00)</u>
Operating surplus (deficit)	1,135,704.00	(2,487,683.00)
Investment revenue	<u>911,056.00</u>	<u>504,360.00</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year	2,046,760.00	(1,983,323.00)
Other comprehensive income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>2,046,760.00</u>	<u>(1,983,323.00)</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022*

	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from (used in) operations	3,099,416	(2,306,410)
Interest revenue	<u>911,056</u>	<u>504,360</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>4,010,472</u>	<u>(1,802,050)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(193,625)	(55,930)
Total cash movement for the year	3,816,847	(1,857,980)
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>17,520,857</u>	<u>19,378,837</u>
Total cash at end of the year	<u>21,337,704</u>	<u>17,520,857</u>

* Our full set of our Annual Financial Statements are available on request from our registered offices at:
94 bessemer street, wendywood, 2090.

GET INVOLVED

THE STORIES WE START NEVER END

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Ensure that your company's spend-for-impact is maximised through FTFA's CSI and ESG programmes.

You can contribute sustainably to the future of our country, while maintaining your B-BBEE scorecard and obtaining a Section 18A certificate, making your donation a tax-deductible expense.

GIVE A MONTHLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Set up a monthly recurring donation, either toward core mission support, or one of our programmes. Our secure donation portal enables you to quickly and easily customise your donation.

CORPORATE TEAM-BUILDING

Contact us to facilitate your next team-building event or volunteer day. Your company can plant trees and food gardens around South Africa.

GIFT A TREE

Donate a tree(s) as a gift to celebrate a special occasion, or in remembrance of a loved one. FTFA will plant your tree at one of our partner organisations, where it will be well loved and cared for.

MYSCHOOL CARDS

Sign up for a MySchool Card and add us as a beneficiary. If you already have a MySchool Card, you can still add FTFA as a beneficiary - MySchool allows up to two beneficiaries per card holder.

CONTACT US

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