



Food & Trees for Africa



2021 ANNUAL REVIEW



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Chairman's REPORT



This year, Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA) celebrated its 30-year anniversary, a major milestone for an organisation that has touched the lives of millions of people. In that time, it has established thousands of gardens; trained tens of thousands of learners, educators, and beneficiaries; and planted millions of trees. Its actions will ripple into the future for many years to come. I cannot think of another environmental non-profit that has had such a profound legacy in South Africa.

I am thrilled to say that the FTFA team is not resting on its past successes but building for the future. Despite the tough economic and social environment, FTFA is balancing the demands of the present with the hopes of a brighter future. This speaks to the level of dedication and expertise we have as an organisation, as well as the strong relationships we have built with partners and stakeholders over the last three decades. Without our sponsors, we would not have been able to achieve the amazing feats that we have.

An important part of this future involves safeguarding our children, and the EduPlant programme's efforts in schools around the country continue to go from strength to strength. This programme offers healthy nutritious food to many young people, who would otherwise go hungry. I am proud to be part of an organisation that, every day, works to feed the nation and assist some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

I am particularly excited about the team's plans to transform school gardens into "EduHubs", and turn these school-based gardens into the beating hearts of communities. We saw, during the height of the pandemic and hard lockdowns, that school gardens were a lifeline and became centres of food security. Thank you to all the educators and learners who have worked with us to develop these spaces, the sponsors whose support have made them possible, and the ecopreneurs who have shared their knowledge and expertise.

For most of its existence, FTFA has been pushing for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Africa will be the hardest hit by climate change, particularly southern Africa. South Africa's Climate Change Bill has been introduced in Parliament, and FTFA is working with stakeholders to do our part in helping the country and its residents reduce carbon emissions and prepare for a changing climate.

This year, FTFA launched Africa's first carbon registry system, showing remarkable foresight and innovation. This open-source platform will widen access to global carbon markets, and shows the important role home-grown South African technology can play in the global green economy.

But none of this would be possible without the dedicated FTFA team, whose drive and passion enable us to reach and help so many people. I know that I speak for the Board when I thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. Each Board meeting allows us to marvel at the concrete steps that you are taking to improve the lives of those living in South Africa; we look forward to what the future will bring.

Finally, to my fellow Board members and colleagues: Thank you for another great year, my sisters and brothers. "I am because we are."

Best wishes

Mpho Mahanyele-Matji



Director's REPORT



Nature of Business

Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA) remains one of South Africa's leading non-profit companies and continues to pursue its founding purpose of promoting food security, urban greening, environmental conservation, skills, education and environmental awareness.

We continue to adapt our programmes in order to address the ever-changing socio-economic landscape and the needs of the historically disadvantaged communities we were created to serve.

There have been no material changes to the nature of the company's business from the prior year.

COVID-19

It remains difficult to report on the performance of the financial year without contextualising the impact that the pandemic has had on operations and programmes.

Whilst the knowledge-base around the virus has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic, waves and lockdowns remain a challenge within and to the organisation, with the programmes most affected relating to tree-planting and events. Whilst FTFA has adapted to the new conditions and been excellent with respect to rolling out appropriate policy and protocols, our large tree distributions remain curbed due to the gathering sizes.

Furthermore, COVID-19 and lockdowns have also had a devastating impact on the economy and business confidence. This is worth noting because FTFA's ability to generate revenue through donations correlates directly with the performance and cash strategies of other companies and the economy in general. Unfortunately, although donations increased by nearly 10%, income is still significantly decreased when compared to the period(s) prior to the pandemic.

Stakeholders will note that FTFA again recorded a loss for this financial period but we remain confident that optimisation of operational elements undertaken since the start of the pandemic will continue to provide greater resilience in uncertain times.

Overview

On a positive note, the 2021 financial year end saw an increase in donations revenue by approximately 10%. On the other hand, other income, unfortunately,

dropped by approximately 54% over the period. Whilst we were conscious of appropriately managing expenses, the company remains tied into long-term commitments and capital expenditure projects which resulted in expenses increasing by 9.2%. The net effect resulted in an overall loss for the year of R1.98 million. The reduction in cash is largely proportionate to the other salient figures in the financial statements.

As with previous years, we draw attention to the income received in advance. Again, it is important to note that our financial year end does not necessarily correlate with the financial years of our partners or projects. Income received in advance merely represents funds advanced in relation to future commitments to our beneficiaries and partners that still need to be fulfilled. However, it does render our cash position positive.

Organisation Impact

Through all of this situational turmoil and with the support of our loyal donors, FTFA continues to be one of



the most impactful non-profits in South Africa. We now run close to 200 community and market gardens and continue to manage the largest school food gardening programme in the country. The total land area of vegetable and orchard production country wide remains close to 1,000ha. As a general trend we have seen that COVID-19 has spurred a renewed interest in food security and environment from communities in particular. We hope that we continue to find donors and sponsors for the 1000s of applications we have received in the last 18 months.

Data Project

The Data Project now has a name, Footprint. The platform is up and running but remains in development. In order to deal with the increase in dataflows, we have decided to restructure and introduce a department at FTFA which specifically deals with data and our assessments. This department will be up and running within the next financial period. We continue to see exciting possibilities and applications materialising from this.

Individual Donor Strategy

One of the areas identified in the last financial year was a need to improve our individual donor offerings. Unlike other non-profits in the space, FTFA does not receive a lot of unobligated donor support, which is an area we wish to explore further in line with our revenue diversification strategy. Therefore we will be looking to develop a more robust individual donor strategy in the next financial year.

Future Outlook

We are pleased to note that this financial year saw some renewed interest in food security and environment from new and old donors. Whilst the trading environment will likely remain tough and competitive, we believe that this is a positive sign for the next financial year, where we hope to return to pre-covid levels of revenue. FTFA has already created strong value propositions for both beneficiaries and donors and will continue to do so in and out of the nonprofit sector.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wild



Trees for All



Programme structure

Trees for All 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.

Trees for All projects across SA

FTFA's Trees for All programme continued to plant trees at schools, community centres, and clinics across the country, despite the ongoing challenge of hosting tree-planting volunteer days during the 2020/2021 financial year. A total of 14,571 trees were planted at more

than 400 beneficiary organisations during the course of the year, with an estimated 20,300 people directly benefiting from the programme.

Awesome Arbor Month

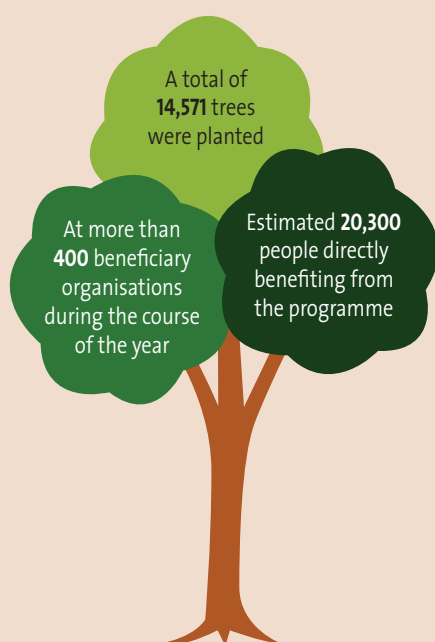
This year's Arbor Month saw a tremendous resurgence in tree donations and tree-planting events involving sponsor employees. It was encouraging to see so many sponsor volunteers using the relaxation of national lockdown restrictions to take part in positive, sustainable community development. In total, FTFA co-ordinated 15 tree-planting events in four provinces during the month. Staff volunteers from 10 sponsor companies joined FTFA facilitators in planting trees

alongside selected beneficiaries.

The team coupled a number of these events with larger tree distribution campaigns to ensure that multiple beneficiaries could receive trees.

FTFA planted 1,700 trees at a total of 59 beneficiary institutions during this year's Arbor Month. Through our efforts, we were able to further FTFA's goal of bolstering environmental sustainability and mitigating the effects of climate change. It is estimated that this number of trees will be able to store an impressive 642 tonnes of CO₂.

These actions were only possible thanks to the support of our generous sponsors, which came together to celebrate Arbor Month





with us. A big FTFA thanks to the African Climate Reality Project, AstraZeneca, ATC, DLA Piper, Fortress REIT, Heineken, Konica Minolta South Africa, One Tree Planted, Shoprite, and Turner & Townsend. We hope to see you again next year.

Planting hope and well-being

While COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were less severe this year compared to 2020, there was still much uncertainty as to whether tree-planting events could take place. Nevertheless, sponsors and beneficiary institutions were eager to engage in these inspiring and revitalising events, and they were very accommodating if events had to be cancelled or

rescheduled. As a result, FTFA had the privilege of running a total of 34 tree-planting events during the year, all while observing strict COVID-19 safety protocols.

It was evident at all of these events that learners and school staff were extremely grateful to be able once again to get involved in outdoor activities, especially ones which enhanced the beauty and environs of their schools.

One of the most profound and heartwarming examples of this was at Buhle Park Secondary School in Germiston, Gauteng. During their tree-planting event, a Grade 12 learner, Machiriza Alwin, wowed attendees with these words: “Just imagine how much greener the

world would be if you and I take a stand in putting deforestation to a halt. A call to serve Mother Earth was long put out, so this is truly a precious gift. Far more precious than a gemstone or a diamond. You have given us life. Mother Earth must be very happy right now — her hunger is satisfied.”

Reforestation

This financial year FTFA continued planting indigenous trees at the Stutterheim Reforestation Project in Stutterheim, Eastern Cape. The second hectare of this pilot project was planted out with a total of 788 hardy, indigenous trees, such as White Stinkwood, River Bushwillow, and Outeniqua Yellowwood. In





total, 2,449 indigenous trees have now been planted at the project. Planting of the third hectare began in October 2021 and should be

completed by January 2022. We hope that this proof-of-concept project, which integrates the latest carbon-sequestration-

analysis technology, will encourage many other reforestation projects across South Africa.

Total Trees	Fruit Trees	Shade Trees	Compost (30 dm bags)	tCO ₂ e	Beneficiary Organisations Reached	Estimated Direct Beneficiaries	Volunteer Days
14,571	9,762	4,809	3,623	5,376.75	406	20,300	34

Sponsors who donated 95 trees or more

Sponsor	Trees
AstraZeneca	186
ATC	700
Bloomberg	180
Fortress REIT	178
Heineken	215
Investec	198
K Joubert	1,448
KMSA	6,963
L'Occitane	900
Marsh	270
One Tree Planted	225
Shoprite	100
Tony Pupkewitz	1,517
DMD Logistics	229
Starke Ayres	144



Many thanks to the following companies and organisations for the monthly donations: African Climate Reality Project, Camargue Underwriting Managers, CHEP, DMD Logistics, Event Greening Forum, Postwink, Freight Innovations, and Kimberly-Clarke.

Trees FOR HOMES



Programme structure

Trees for Homes is FTFA's large-scale township greening programme. FTFA distributes upward of 750 trees to communities at a time, with each receiving household acquiring one fruit tree and one indigenous shade tree. Through the programme, FTFA staff train local community members to be Community Educators. These Community Educators introduce tree planting methods to households, and also monitor and continuously evaluate the trees' survival. They are paid for their time, thus the programme ensures impact across multiple levels within the community.



Trees for Homes projects across SA

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the Trees for Homes team continued to focus on planting fruit trees to improve food security at a household level, whilst also addressing local environmental conditions. This year, we planted 5,250 trees across five provinces, with 8,663 beneficiaries directly benefiting from these initiatives.

In 2020, the team instituted changes to the Trees for Homes implementation procedures to ensure that COVID-19 safety protocols were observed and all participants were safe; these procedures remained in place in 2021. Mask-wearing, social-distancing, frequent hand-washing, and temperature screening of participants were mandatory at all distribution events, all of which were held in the open. Distributions were also held over multiple days, where possible, to ensure that the events did not exceed the maximum numbers permitted for gatherings.

Ongoing community greening with Ackermans in Hammarisdale

In November 2020, Ackermans donated 750 fruit trees to residents in Hammarisdale, KwaZulu-Natal. Hammarisdale is a key strategic area for Ackermans in terms of social development as it is the location of one of their main distribution

centres. In May 2021, Ackermans donated a further 250 fruit trees to the Hammarisdale community. Community Educators who were involved in FTFA and Ackermans' 2019 Hammarisdale project were responsible for the rollout of the 2020/2021 project. Being involved in back-to-back projects reinforced the Community Educators' tree-care knowledge and skills and enhanced their engagement with the community, whilst continuing to provide temporary work opportunities through monitoring the trees. To date, FTFA and Ackermans have planted 7,000 trees, with another 1,000 planned for 2022.

Building stronger communities through tree planting

FTFA Facilitator Pat Anderson ran the Ackermans-sponsored Trees for Homes projects in Hammarisdale. Residents welcomed the projects, and were excited to receive fruit trees and return home to plant them. Pat commented that, "The community members flocked to collect their trees as this was Ackermans' second tree distribution in the Hammarisdale area and residents saw the fruit on the first load of trees." Pat and her Community-Educator team still managed to maintain good order and ensured that all COVID-19 safety protocols were observed during the excitement of the tree distribution events.

The Community Educators



– who had been trained in tree planting and maintenance, the rollout of Trees for Homes, and tree planting in the context of climate change – have developed a strong rapport with their community as a result of the consecutive Ackermans-Trees for Homes projects. During the tree evaluations, Pat commented, “The Community Educators get along well with the community and, together with the residents, take ownership of the survival of the trees. They assist the residents with guidance on caring for their trees.” The projects are clearly bringing the community closer and enhancing community pride. Community Educator Nomathamsanqa Khumalo said, “Everybody treats me like a hero when I walk around the street in my FTFA Community Educator T-shirt!”

It is clear that the positive impacts of these projects go far beyond providing fruit and shade, and beautifying the community. These Trees for Homes projects are building social capital, strengthening community relationships, and will contribute to long-term food security in the area.



Closure of projects

This year, five Trees for Homes projects were closed, with their third evaluation completed (which happens one year after planting). The evaluations revealed an average survival rate of 93.4% across all projects, with the majority of projects achieving average survival rates of 90% or greater.

Returning to residents' homes to evaluate the growth and survival of trees during the course of the year-long projects

provides an opportunity to gauge the long-term benefits for the communities involved. "It was amazing to see the first fruit of our own trees," homeowner Mr Mlambo said during the third evaluation of his trees in Waterloo, KwaZulu-Natal. Through Trees for Homes projects and the part played by the Community Educators in making their communities more food secure, environmentally sustainable, and socially robust, there remains a legacy

of knowledge, passion, and inspiration for the participating Community Educators. "I get excited when I see community members taking ownership and looking after their trees," said Community Educator Fikiswa Jikizwa from Mount Frere, Eastern Cape. Isaac Mokoanyane, a Community Educator from KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, said, "Thank you for giving me and my team such great knowledge. Today I call myself a tree champ."

Total Trees	Fruit Trees	Shade Trees	Compost (30 dm bags)	tCO ₂ e	Homes Reached	Community Educators Trained	Estimated Direct Beneficiaries
5,250	5,000	250	1,312	1,937.27	2,625	32	8,663

Sponsor	Trees
Fortress REIT	3,000
Ackermans	1,000
Willard Batteries	750
Shoprite	500
Grand Total	5,250

Areas that received trees:

Hammarisdale (Outer West Durban, KwaZulu-Natal), Avian Park (Worcester, Western Cape), Buhle Park (Germiston, Gauteng) Boitekong (Rustenburg, North West), Hillside (Bloemfontein, Free State), Grassland (Bloemfontein, Free State), and Pine Haven (Bloemfontein, Free State).

Enterprise ORCHARDS



Programme structure

This financial year FTFA initiated three new Enterprise Orchards in three provinces. With the support of Fortress REIT, FTFA planted 100 fruit trees, along with associated support and alley crops in Emthonjeni Wokuphila in KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga. Fortress REIT also sponsored an Enterprise Orchard in Siyabonga Care Village, Western Cape, while HSBC partnered with FTFA to establish an orchard project in Althea Plots, Gauteng.

Support crops are plant varieties that contribute to the overall health and functionality of a food-production system. Ideal support crops usually have at least two functions or more, such as enhancing soil health and attracting beneficial insects or enhancing the health of adjacent plants whilst deterring insect pests.

Alley cropping is the practice of growing varieties of cash crops, such as chard, peppers, chillies, and brinjals, along the alleyways and underneath the trees.

The Emthonjeni Enterprise Orchard in Mpumalanga, supported by Fortress REIT, is now nearly a year old and progressing well. After a successful installation phase in November 2020, the Enterprise Orchard team implemented monthly training workshops to upskill project members and empower them to make the orchard sustainably productive and successful. Through this training, the project team has cultivated staple crops such as spinach under the trees, whilst ensuring the continued growth of soil-enhancing support plants which boost the overall resilience of the system. The project members also received training on income generation from the support crops, many of which have medicinal and/or nutritional value. Pruning and maintenance of the fruit trees is ongoing and so far the project has had great success in keeping the trees vigorous and healthy whilst maintaining them at a manageable size. The remainder of the project will focus on integrating the produce into local markets and the team is well on track to reap their first small harvest of tasty fruit by the end of 2022.

FTFA helped to establish the Enterprise Orchards at Siyabonga Care Village and Althea Plots in

September and October 2021 respectively. The initial installation of fencing and irrigation infrastructure went smoothly, and both projects have planted out their trees and first set of support and understorey crops. Siyabonga Care Village's Enterprise Orchard, established with the help of Fortress REIT, consists of 100 fruit trees, mainly oranges and pomegranates; the remaining trees in the orchard comprise three other fruit varieties for diversity. HSBC sponsored the Althea Plots Enterprise Orchard, and the project planted 200 trees, consisting of seven different fruit varieties including peach, plum, apricot, pear, and pomegranate, along with 12 different types of support and understorey crops. FTFA trained project members in pruning basics and has begun propagation training. This training will empower project members to develop revenue streams from the understorey crops while the fruit trees establish themselves.



Project	Sponsor	Total Fruit Trees	No. varieties of Fruit Trees	Total support plants	No. varieties of support/alley crops
Emthonjeni Wokuphila	Fortress REIT	100	5	►700	14
Althea Plots	HSBC	200	7	►700	12
Siyabonga Care Village	Fortress REIT	100	5	►500	11

Food Gardens FOR AFRICA



Programme overview

Community food gardens around South Africa have played an important role in food security over the last year, especially with the job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The food gardens FTFA supports have enabled more than 1,000 beneficiaries to either generate an income or feed their families directly.

Food gardens have a significant socio-economic impact on communities, not only by empowering them to sustain themselves and their families but also by creating independence. In response to the pandemic, many communities

started food gardens. In the last financial year, FTFA's food gardens initiative has supported more than 70 community-based gardens. In addition, about 100 homestead gardens, linked to these food gardens, received our garden-in-a-bucket (in the form of training and resources).

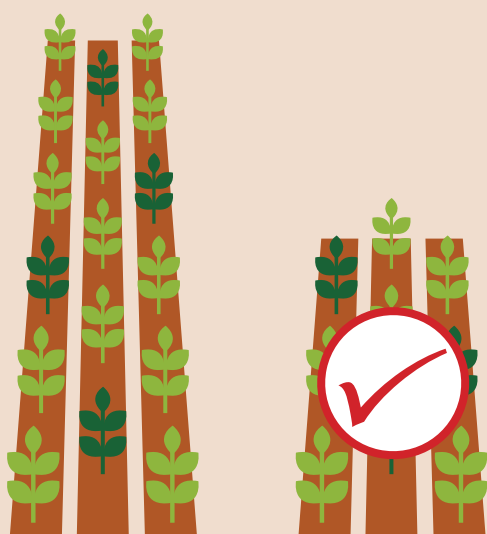
Our programme extends beyond just meeting the immediate food security needs of communities. It also helps people to generate incomes and transfer skills within the community. Our priority is always to ensure sustainability, to foresee all potential impacts, and to support the farmers and community

heroes in the under-resourced areas in which we work.

Aim of the programme

Permaculture and agroecology are resilient, versatile ways of growing food. Integrating this knowledge into food systems, society, and communities creates robust farms and gardens. The programme allows diverse, ecologically-sound food-security training to be delivered across South Africa. In order to be relevant to the needs of youth in South Africa, FTFA works to evolve as they do.

One of the main goals of the Food Gardens for Africa programme is to ensure



This financial year (October 2020 to September 2021) we introduced over 60 long-term and short-term gardens to the FTFA Food Gardens programme. We closed off 36 food gardens as they were deemed sustainable and no longer required our support.



Twenty individual funders support 161 community, school and market gardens. Between October 2020 and September 2021, these food gardens produced about 65,040 kg of food which was either donated, consumed, or sold. This volume translates to an income generation of about R492,984.75 and goes directly to these food gardeners and their families.



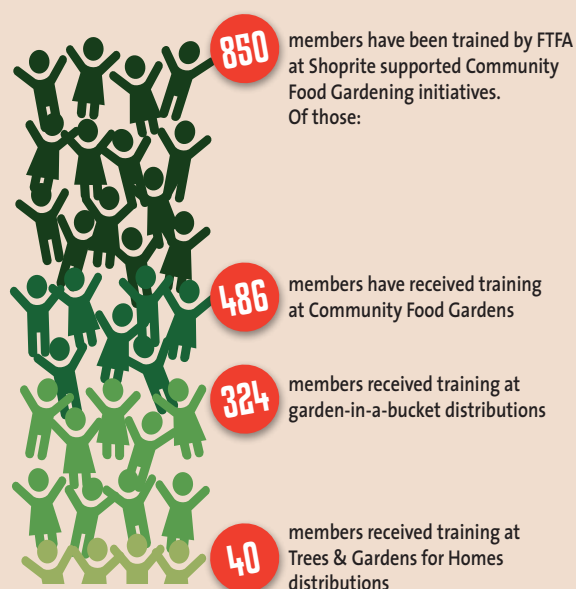
food security through the establishment of food gardens inside schools and communities, as well as the sustainable development of small NGOs and civic organisations. Every month, we receive applications from a large number of cooperatives, small businesses, and homeowner associations that want to develop or expand

their food gardens. Through fundraising, FTFA is able to assist many of these applicants with bio-intensive agriculture training and resources.

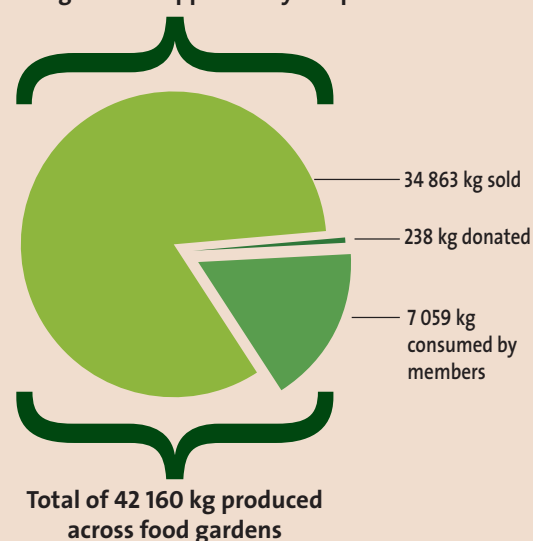
Our work with Shoprite

Shoprite's trust in us has enabled us to implement and innovate in ways which unquestionably set a new

standard for success in small-scale food security projects. Furthermore, a partner that pushes, motivates and enables us to continually improve our impact and methodologies is invaluable and should be individually recognised. We wish to thank The Shoprite Group for their continued support.



Total income of R237,662.80 in 2021 across 146 food gardens supported by Shoprite



Inspiring stories

Joyce Morudi founded the NOSA Early Learning Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Centre in 2003. Through its Orphans and Vulnerable Children's programme, the centre provides Early Childhood Development (ECD) to disadvantaged and marginalised children. Joyce set up a gardening initiative in 2019, and 14 dedicated community members maintain it. There are two gardens: the one at the ECD centre feeds the children, while the second one is a community garden and aims to feed local unemployed adults. Since receiving support from FTFA and Shoprite, project members have filled their garden with staple crops such as beans and butternut as well as plum, grape, and avocado trees. FTFA, with the generous support of funders, ensures that the gardens' most immediate infrastructural needs are met. In this financial year, it received an irrigation system and a water tank which will continue to contribute to even higher levels of productivity and therefore assist more beneficiaries.



Success stories

To address food security at a household level, FTFA introduced its garden-in-a-bucket starter kit to assist individuals and families in starting their own household food gardens. FTFA identifies these individuals through their interest in gardening, as they often attend training sessions at supported projects. Each kit contains essential garden resources such as a variety of seedlings, fertiliser, and garden tools. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of people lost their jobs or sources of income. The garden-in-a-bucket initiative has been huge relief for community members who have had to rely solely on their gardens for food and income generation. Furthermore, the gardens-in-a-bucket initiative has strengthened the

relationships between projects and the surrounding community.

For instance, the Mmametlhake community garden in Petsaneng, Mpumalanga previously had an issue with capacity and community engagement but after a garden-in-a-bucket distribution, community members began to show interest in joining the project. These community members said they had experienced difficulty providing for their families due to the pandemic and were very inspired by the project because it creates a practical way for them to generate income and feed their families.

Thank you to the Sponsors

From the Food Gardens for Africa team: "Seeing the impact that these food

gardens have made, we can rest assured that we're moving closer to a greener future!"

FTFA and Fortress REIT supported a total of 12 food gardens in seven provinces, as well as Trees & Gardens for Homes with eco-hubs in strategic areas near their shopping centres. Meanwhile, through its partnership with Shoprite's CSI Act for Change team, FTFA has supported 146 community gardens and more than 350 satellite or homestead gardens. A total of 38,640 people have indirectly benefited from these interventions. Additional sponsors include Bridgestone, Deutsche Bank, Investec, the Land Bank, Super Sun, Swiss Reinsurance Company, and many more – including our incredible current partner, MAMAS Alliance!





Programme overview

FTFA's EduPlant School Gardening and Nutrition Programme, supported by Tiger Brands, continues to empower schools and communities by threading sustainable food production into the curriculum, learning environment, and co-curricular activities. Initiated in 1994, this leading food gardening programme focuses on designing food systems at schools. Educators, learners, and community members benefit by attending workshops and receiving educational materials, planting resources, and expert practical training. Since its inception, EduPlant has enhanced food security, contributed to poverty alleviation, improved nutrition, developed communities, and enabled career pathing. And 2021 was no exception.

'EduHubs' multiply EduPlant benefits

Over the years, the EduPlant programme has evolved to meet the demands of those living in South Africa. During this financial year, FTFA decided to position EduPlant schools as "hubs" in their communities and each EduPlant school is now responsible for two satellite schools, as well as five homestead gardens.

The aim of this intervention was to increase the sustainability at each school and encourage them to share

their skills and surplus resources within their communities. The core training areas included intensive plant nursery skills, production planning, bio-intensive agriculture, business skills development, and seed saving. The 1,077 programme beneficiaries achieved remarkable results all over the country. Each of the 66 schools on the programme became a hub centre, and selected two additional schools and five homesteads within their areas to mentor and support.

These champion teachers shared their knowledge and resources, obtained from EduPlant facilitators, with their beneficiaries. The benefit rippled through the hubs in the form of demonstrations, training sessions, resources, exchange visits, abundant produce, environmental awareness, and

increased site sustainability.

The multiplier initiative of 2021 highlighted the ability of our schools to act as engines of development and knowledge in their communities, and this has been an inspiration.

Success stories

When Kings Harvest Academy enrolled in FTFA's EduPlant programme in 2019, its teachers and learners had no prior permaculture experience. And after just two years, King Harvest Academy, located near Ixopo in KwaZulu-Natal, has been crowned the EduPlant Best Permaculture School 2021.

The school now not only produces its own nutritious food onsite, but it also mentors community groups and schools in the area. "Seeing one of our community gardens selling organic produce at





Hlutankungu market was the highlight of the year,” says project leader Saaheed Faymay. “It was even better than the Manchester United versus Liverpool game – no offense.”

The runner-ups in this year’s competition also enjoyed the benefits of the EduPlant programme. Bet-El School for Epileptics in Kuils River in the Western Cape, which came second, offers education and skills training for learners with special needs. Despite Covid-19’s negative impact, the school’s mentorship programme saw great success and it was able to integrate permaculture into its curriculum.

Similarly, third-place Sesete Primary School in Mpumalanga became an EduHub, despite the strict Covid lockdown. The school trained not only its own learners, but shared its new skills with

three other schools – Madizi Secondary School, Mphako Primary School, and Nhlengelo Primary School – as well as five homesteads. Learners and educators were taught how to make food garden beds, the importance of mulch, tree care, composting, succession planting, and establishing mandalas, and lizard hotels.

“We are grateful for the EduPlant programme since our initiative would not have survived if it had not been for the resources and workshops offered,” says project leader Moses Nthoke.

Leading provincial schools:

1. Gauteng: Ikaneng Primary School
2. Mpumalanga: Sesete Primary School
3. Western Cape: Bet-El School for Epileptics

4. KwaZulu-Natal: Kings Harvest Academy
5. North West: Mmusi Primary School
6. Northern Cape: Soverby Primère Skool
7. Eastern Cape: Poswayo Primary Junior School
8. Limpopo: Makanye Primary School
9. Free State: Lepanya Primary School

2021 Best-performing schools nationally:

National First Place

Kings Harvest Academy in KwaZulu-Natal

National Second Place

Bet-El School For Epileptics in the Western Cape

National Third Place

Sesete Primary School in Mpumalanga



African Climate REALITY PROJECT



Programme overview

African Climate Reality Project (ACRP) is the African branch of The Climate Reality Project founded by former US Vice President Al Gore, and is a FTFA programme. The project supports and mobilises more than 1,200 Climate Reality Leaders across Africa, as well as taking part in climate policy decision-making processes. Through its work, the ACRP aims to improve climate literacy and spark climate conversations at all levels, and promote climate justice and an equitable just transition towards a low-carbon world. The project also collaborates with and supports partners in the climate advocacy space, and coordinates Afro-centric Climate Reality campaigns and activities.

African climate leadership

In November 2020, Climate Leaders came together for the event “24 Hours of Reality: Countdown to the Future”, which involved 24 full hours

of digital presentations and discussions of how the climate crisis, COVID-19, and racial injustice shape our planet and this incredible moment. The event surpassed the team’s goal of 100 presentations from across the continent.

In 2021, ACRP broadened its support for Climate Leaders through the “African Voices For Africa’s Future” campaign. With the support of a dedicated community engagement coordinator, four regional coordinators, and 12 country mentors, ACRP’s Climate Leaders have become more connected and scaled up their action to raise climate-action ambition at every level.

Climate Leaders came out to support ACRP campaigns and days of action including Earth Day, Africa Day, World Environment Day, Plastic Free July, and more. Several also participated in the One Planet City Challenge, where young activists developed a manifesto to be presented at COP26. ACRP

also highlighted the actions of our action-inspiring Climate Leaders by writing blogs of their stories about taking the lead on climate on the ground.

Despite continuing COVID-19 restrictions, Climate Leaders have logged more Acts of Leadership on Reality Hub than in the 2019/2020 financial year. Through the African Voices For Africa’s Future campaign, ACRP facilitated monthly meetups and created new relationships with more Climate Leaders, ranging from recently trained leaders to those trained back in 2014. By providing renewed support, ACRP saw a steady increase in Climate Leaders’ dedication to taking action. We will continue creating a home and a sense of community for our leaders.

Sink Our CO₂

ACRP’s Sink Our CO₂ campaign expanded its reach with a goal to raise the importance of Africa’s forests and soils as carbon sinks, one of our last lines of defense against the climate crisis. On International Day of Forests, ACRP launched its research report, *A People-centred Approach to Managing Africa’s Forests as a Carbon Sink*.

The team worked with FTFA departments to host workshops with Climate Leaders and Resilient40 members on issues surrounding ecosystem restoration, the state of Africa’s forest and soils, and the value of nature-based





solutions such as agroforestry, agroecology, and permaculture.

These workshops were supported by ACRP's new educational materials, which included soil fact sheets and regional tree lists, as well as posters on companion planting, tree planting, and composting.

Trained participants have raised awareness in their local communities about the importance of restoring and sustainably managing Africa's forests and soils — and carried out community tree planting and food garden activities! Trained participants planted hundreds of trees in Cameroon; got climate cafés in Zambia buzzing with sustainability conversations; and established food gardens in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. The ACRP team joined the action ahead of World Food Day and, with the support of the FTFA Durban team, established seedling beds at a community centre that supports autistic youth. The day reinforced the importance of creating inclusive spaces for everyone,

especially the most vulnerable, to play a role in adapting to and mitigating the climate crisis.

Zero Emissions | Omissions

Under ACRP's "Zero Emissions | Omissions" campaign targeting the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement a fossil fuel finance exclusion policy, ACRP and partners sent a letter to the Bank ahead of the Finance in Common Summit in November 2020. More than 180 international organisations endorsed the letter. Through our continued efforts, the AfDB recognised ACRP as a key civil society player and invited ACRP to represent

the climate and energy portfolio of the Bank's Civil Society Committee, increasing civil society participation in policy decision-making.

The team continued these interventions on Africa Day 2021 and during the Bank's annual meeting. In its draft Climate Change and Green Growth Strategic Framework, the AfDB committed to cease all investments in coal and coal-related technologies, and is in the process of revising its energy policy. The Bank also requested ACRP to draft a position paper in consultation with African civil society regarding the Bank's policies surrounding energy, agriculture, forestry, land and ecosystems, and climate finance to be presented at COP26.

Aside from engaging directly with the Bank, ACRP spent 2021 increasing African youths' literacy on fossil-fuel divestment campaigning. The team hosted virtual and in-person workshops in West, East, and southern Africa, training more than 160 youth. The just





transition to renewable energy has never been more crucial, as the climate crisis and its impacts threaten the African continent and its people.

Active Citizens fighting climate injustice

The last financial year marked the completion of Action 24 – Active Citizens for Responsive Legislatures, a three-year project co-funded by the European Union. ACRP continued its efforts to promote public participation in environmental governance through its documentary series produced with ReWild Africa, *Not On Our Soil – A Climate Justice Reality*, which launched on 14 April 2021.

The series features characters who were connected to Action 24 and highlights the stories of active citizens fighting climate injustices through the lenses of youth, gender, community, civil society, and journalism. ACRP

used the gender episode of the series to focus on the findings of its report, *A Gendered Lens: Mainstreaming Gender into South Africa's Climate Change Response* at several virtual events including 350.org's Global Just Recovery Gathering, UN Women's Feminist Action for Climate Justice, and the annual meeting of the GRAIL, a global women-led faith and environment movement.

The series also reached international audiences: it is available for streaming on the WaterBear Network, has been used by Climate Leaders around the world to diversify their presentations, and has been selected to feature at an international film festival.

ACRP's key objective with the docuseries was to reach grassroots communities, particularly those most affected by the climate injustices explored in the films. With co-

funding from Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, ACRP partnered with Sunshine Cinema, Africa's first solar-powered cinema network, to screen episodes of the series for Cape Town youth, and young women and girls in KwaZulu-Natal. Sunshine Cinema trained partners Project 90 and the Women's Leadership & Training Programme on how to use the Sunbox (the solar cinema system) and ACRP trained them on leading conversations linked to the docuseries and provided screening reflection materials. These two Sunbox Ambassadors have sparked conversations about climate justice, and what we can do as active citizens to advocate for the world we want.

ACRP will continue to screen the series at the community level and hopes to produce a second season of the powerful documentary series soon.



The Carbon COMPANY



About the Carbon Company

The Carbon Company is a relatively new department within FTFA, initiated to encourage sustainable business practices among companies and individuals, as well as to promote the transition to a green economy. The Carbon Company focuses on developing technologies to allow companies and individuals to generate and issue carbon credits. This FTFA department has been working closely with consultancy Promethium Carbon to develop the Inclusive Carbon Standard.

The Inclusive Carbon Standard

In 2021, the Carbon Company developed the Inclusive Carbon Standard. The standard aims to be the first South African – and African – carbon standard, and will play

an important role in encouraging businesses and individuals to lower their carbon footprints and offset their emissions through a variety of project types including renewable energy and energy efficiency, reforestation, conservation, waste and recycling, and sub-soil agriculture. The Inclusive Carbon Standard will contribute towards South Africa's achievement of its Nationally Determined Contributions, in line with the Paris Agreement, and its transition to a green economy.

Activities undertaken in 2021

During 2021, the Carbon Company worked closely with Promethium Carbon to finalise the Inclusive Carbon Standard document, which was released for a 30-day public-comment period on 19 October

2021, as well as the Inclusive Carbon Standard online platform. The online platform is a not-for-profit platform developed by FTFA and Promethium Carbon. It provides a simplified registration system of greenhouse-gas removal or reduction projects as well as the issuance of carbon credits — all at a lower cost than existing standards.

In 2021, we hosted two stakeholder engagement workshops. The first, held in February, introduced the Inclusive Carbon Standard to stakeholders. It was a virtual workshop, attended by 80 stakeholders. Stakeholder feedback was positive with many organisations and individuals showing great interest in the Inclusive Carbon Standard.

The second stakeholder engagement workshop, held in September 2021, was attended by 56 stakeholders. During this workshop, FTFA explained the new additions to the Inclusive Carbon Standard document and walked attendees through the Inclusive Carbon Standard online platform. During this workshop, FTFA invited stakeholders to apply to become members of the technical sub-committee and environmental integrity committee. The team worked to establish these two committees during the course of the year and aims to have them finalised in early 2022.

Once the standard and platform have been finalised, we will make a submission to the government in the new year and aims to be the first accepted South African – and African – carbon standard.



Staff and FACILITATORS



Preserving FTFA's true resource

FTFA celebrated its 30th birthday this year (1991 - 2021) and we could not do what we do — and have the impact we have — without passionate and committed staff and facilitators. Some think that working for a not-for-profit organisation is about outreach days and glossy photos of smiling faces, but in reality we are a team of dedicated administrators and project managers, guided by a strong management committee and Board of Directors.

We are primarily a project-administration and -management organisation working in South

Africa, and we also have a footprint on the continent through our climate action programme, African Climate Reality Project.

While the COVID-19 pandemic raged, FTFA remained committed to its core values and deepened its impact through programmes such as Enterprises Orchards and the garden-in-a-bucket initiative. These programmes increased food security at a household level throughout South Africa.

Head of Programmes Robyn Hills oversees all of FTFA's programmes, while Amy Giliam heads up the African Climate Reality Project.

Rogan Field is the organisation's Supply Chain Manager.

Programme managers oversee their respective departments: Luyanda Ntuli heads up Food Gardens for Africa; Mike Pierce runs the Trees Department; Tshepiso Senetla coordinates the EduPlant programmes; Bharathi Tugh manages the eThekweni branch of FTFA and oversees EduPlant; and Simone Pillay leads the Carbon Programme. A real team effort allows every programme to realise FTFA's mission and vision.

Jeminah Mkhize, Thando Jafta, Ntuthuko Mathabela, Sylvia Mokete, Zanele Xulu, Curtis Kuyanie, Nicole





Rodel, Dean Bhebhe, Nosiphelo Nikani, and Phumla Duma assist and administer the programmes.

FTFA's management team consists of Chris Wild (Executive Director and member of the Board of Directors); Financial Manager Tamaryn Paterson who will be replaced by Robyn Schraibman in October 2021; and Operations Manager Kate Sheldon.

The Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

Ms N Mahanyele-Matji (Chairman)
 Mr J Mahlangu
 Ms I Feldman
 Mr MBP Edwards
 Mr D Mncube
 Ms T Visser
 Prof J Limson



Our Durban branch is staffed by Nkululeko Didi and Philani Dube, who manage all our KwaZulu-Natal-based food gardening and tree projects.

Our support staff include Raesa Mayet, Irene Kerby, Mary Masuku, Noma Moyo, Teboho Mosehle, and Rabson Donga.

To mark the end of 2021, we held a socially distanced, masked get-together as staff had not seen each other face-to-face for some time. We celebrated friendships by dedicating messages to each staff member and thanking them for their contribution to the team – as well as some much needed, get-your-hands-dirty gardening. It was an uplifting and revitalising day spent with FTFA friends and family.





Get INVOLVED

Make a difference through FTFA

1. **Trees have numerous benefits. Plant trees** as gifts to celebrate a special occasion or to commemorate the passing of a loved one.
2. Contact FTFA to facilitate your next **team-building event or volunteer day**. Your company can plant trees and food gardens around South Africa.
3. **Donate** to any of FTFA's programmes or projects. Consider

donating a percentage of your sales each month or simply make a donation – we can now receive recurring donations.

4. Contribute positively and sustainably to social development in South Africa through your organisation's CSI or B-BBEE budget. FTFA is a registered public-benefit organisation (PBO) and welfare organisation, and offers an 18a tax receipt, making your donation a tax-deductible expense. **Read more about how**

businesses are supporting CSI and addressing food insecurity.

5. **Intern or volunteer with us** if you are a skilled and passionate graduate or professional. By sharing your skills with us, you'll help our organisation to grow.
6. **Sign up and link your Woolworths MySchool card** to FTFA. We plant trees with the monthly donations, benefiting communities around South Africa.

If you're a potential beneficiary who would like to receive assistance in establishing a food garden or planting trees at your school or in your community, **please fill out this application form**.

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Food & Trees for Africa



EduPlant



African Climate Reality Project



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Our full audited financial statements for the year ended September 2021 are available [here](#).



www.trees.org.za