



2021 Annual Report



Learn how WildFF supports communities and its local leaders
on the frontlines of forest conservation and reforestation



“Halting deforestation could be one of the most cost-effective actions for mitigating and adapting to climate change and reducing biodiversity loss.”

2021 State of the World's Forests, UN FAO

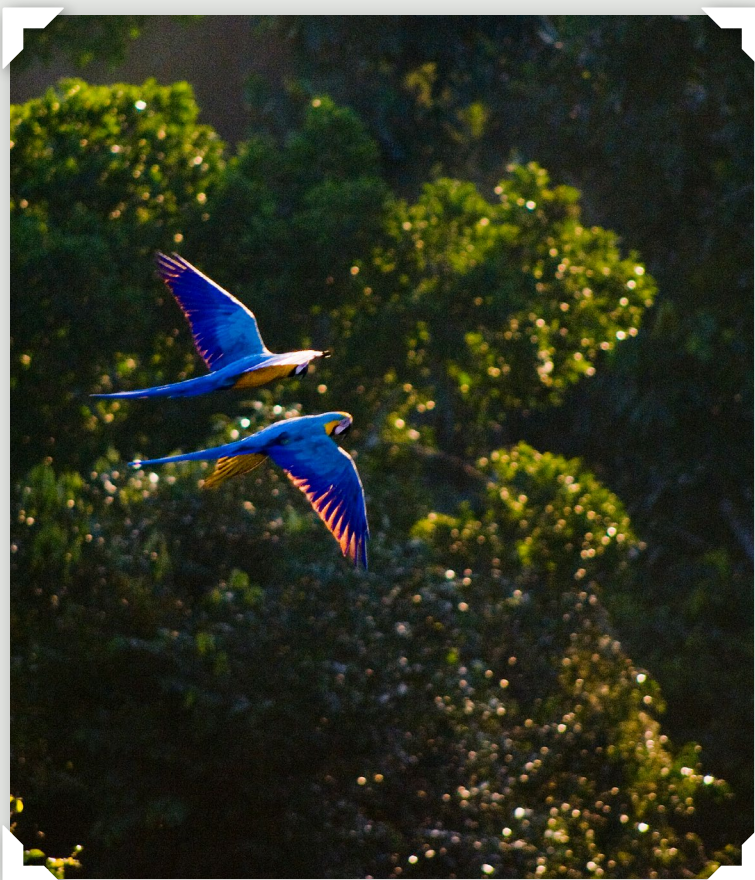




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Letter from the President

When we crashed on the motorcycle on Congo’s N7 Highway, it was not unusual since we had already fallen countless times due to the rain and slick mud. This time was different though as my right foot was caught under the bike as it fell on me and my foot was bent in unnatural ways. Fortunately, I did not break my foot and we were able to continue on with our mission to find WildFF’s next project site in the heart of Africa’s Congo Basin.

Sitting on the back of the motorcycle for six days during that conservation mission I had ample time to think about what it really means to conserve wild forests and fauna. I thought a lot about just how hard it is to conserve wildlife and forests in our increasingly human-dominated world, particularly in the areas we work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, and Peru — places where the challenges of human survival and the future of endangered species and forests collide daily. At the same time, as I watched patches of beautiful forests pass me by on the motorcycle, I was reminded that despite the challenges of conservation, we are conservationists because it is the right thing to do, and because we have tremendous support from people like you. From the local Congolese officials who supported our travels because they too believe in conservation, to the generous donors who provide the funds we need to carry out our critical conservation work.

In the pages ahead, you will read more stories about WildFF’s work in the DRC, Peru, and Uganda. I hope that you enjoy reading about our accomplishments in 2021 and that you are reminded that while conservation is often challenging, together we can restore and protect wild forests and wildlife worldwide.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason J. Scullion

WildFF Board President



WildFF Organization

We envision a world where people and wild forests thrive

Our Mission

Wild Forests and Fauna (WildFF) addresses landscape-scale conservation in globally important forests. We work with local communities and leaders to implement place-based forest conservation and restoration solutions that connect stakeholders, build capacity in local communities, and propel ideas into action.

We believe what makes WildFF different is our investment in communities living on the frontlines of threatened forests. There are many local leaders and organizations eager to improve their communities in a sustainable way, yet lack the resources and connections to make a significant change. We take the time to understand the culture and local traditions and how it may translate to capacity building and economic opportunity.

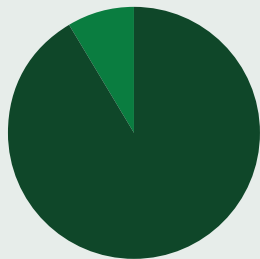


Financials

Income Statement

Fiscal Year:
Jan01-Dec 31, 2021 | Wild Forests and Fauna | Guidestar Model

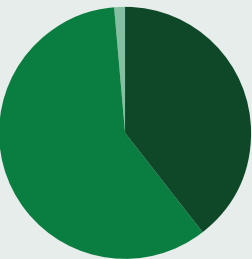
2021 Expenses



Program
\$114,213

Overhead
\$10,406

2021 Revenue

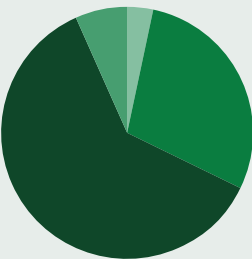


Individuals
\$80,493

Grants
\$53,640

Corporate
\$1,650

Project Donation



Uganda
61%

Peru
29%

DRC
7%

Unrestricted
3%

Total Expenses
\$124,619

Total revenue from grants,
gifts and donations
\$137,094

Total Assets - Cash
\$39,625

Main Project Partners for 2021



KIJANI  FORESTRY



MOYO DISTRICT
Forestry Services

 **ONETREEPLANTED**

Our Conservation Framework

Landscape protection and restoration is predicated on implementing sustainable land use and providing economic opportunity, collaborating with the local communities, and demonstrating the value of intact forests. For the last 10 years, we have implemented our conservation framework in Peru, Uganda, and the DRC through a system-wide approach, exemplified by this case study of our Peru efforts.

At its heart, this strategy entails working closely with local stakeholders on sustainable land practices, capacity building, and entrepreneurship so they see the value of standing forests. It begins with gaining a deep understanding of the culture and local traditions so we can create programs that find a balance between sustainable land use and economic opportunity. Long-term success means we all are invested in keeping forests—their homes—intact for future generations.

Intact Forests

- Support Junglekeepers ranger program in Las Piedras watershed
- Conduct biodiversity research
- Support local partners in protecting endangered wildlife habitats

Forest Buffers

- Create surrounding conserved areas near Alto Púrus National Park
- Prevent access to uncontacted tribes in the Amazon forest

Agroforestry

- Introduction of profitable crops grown under forest canopy
- Provide education to local farmers on best practices

Brazil Nuts

Provide economic opportunity to protect threatened forests:

- Maintain Brazil nut concession in Las Piedra watershed
- Create additional revenue and jobs through annual harvests

Environmental Education

Las Piedras Amazon Center (LPAC) ecotourism revenue supports:

- Forest ranger programs and community research and development
- Field-based research on wildlife, biodiversity, and conservation
- Programs developed for local children to learn about the rainforest—their home

Capacity Building

Develop local skills and knowledge to encourage system-wide conservation

- Involve local organizations and communities in conservation efforts
- Five-year Future Leaders summits created network of local youth leaders

Forest Carbon

- Creation of carbon-offset market project (future effort)

WildFF Conservation Focus:

Corridors/Connectivity

Since 2013, WildFF’s flagship project with ARCAmazon and Jungle Keepers, our Peruvian local partners, has established and protected an **30,000-acre conservation and sustainable development corridor** on the middle Las Piedras River, the last wild and unprotected river left in Madre de Dios. We co-founded Las Piedras Amazon Center (LPAC), an **16,000-acre ecotourism site**, that has become a critical wildlife refuge and global center for field-based education and research. Establishing corridors that connect fragments of intact forest is key to protecting the forest’s biodiversity. This experience helped prepare WildFF to move to another threatened rainforest: the Congo.

Since 2019, we have partnered with Congo Biodiversity Institute (formerly Paradis des Primates) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to restore the Kalonge Nature Reserve’s deforested areas and create a refuge for the region’s threatened species. WildFF has worked on community-based conservation projects with Congo Biodiversity Institute in North Kivu for 3 years and spent a year in Tshuapa Province meeting with communities about a prospective **120k+ acre forest and wildlife conservation area**. Our current aim is to show all these communities the economic value of forest protection and create more opportunity for them to make a living with their forest, while also creating a corridor to keep wildlife homes intact.

WildFF’s work in the DRC is still early in its development, but we are making significant progress with our assessment. This includes installing a camera-trap grid of 60 cameras to accurately assess the diversity and abundance of mammal fauna in the middle Tshuapa River, particularly the abundance of **Endangered bonobos (Pan paniscus)** and **Critically Endangered forest elephants (Loxodonta cyclotis)**, as well as continuing to build relationships with local leaders. We will work with the local communities to support their broader socio-economic development in ways that will ensure the intactness of their forests and forest wildlife. Communities who find a balance between healthy land use and meeting economic needs is what will keep forests — their homes — intact for future generations. Our next step in to attain additional funding to accelerate our action plan, which we feel is one of the best opportunities to establish a viable community conservation area in the DRC’s remaining wild forests.



WildFF Conservation Focus:

Agroforestry

Agroforestry, which uses **trees to regenerate land and restore and conserve biodiversity** while also supporting local people, crops, and livestock, is the second area of our conservation approach. Successful agroforestry systems must address the multifaceted needs of both human and biological communities: food security, economic viability, cultural heritage, soil restoration, and biodiversity.

In 2021, we concluded our 6-year Native Seeds Project, which provided **agroforestry and financial literacy education** to local women and farmers and helped re-introduce native tree species in Gulu, Uganda. Our research there has been integral in optimizing our approach in Palorinya, Uganda.

In the Palorinya refugee settlement, WildFF’s recent partnership with **One Tree Planted (OTP)** has enabled our team to move beyond simple reforestation and implement agroforestry practices. Our aim there is to help increase crop production and food security for refugees and host communities alongside planting fast-growing and coppicing native tree species for renewable firewood production. To that end, we have established **two large central tree nurseries** (with 300,000 seedling capacity) and have planted **179,628 tree seedlings** to date, which means we are **83.9% towards our target of 214,000**.

WildFF also launched a **briquette production training with women’s groups to serve as a source of income**, which uses using agricultural waste to create eco-alternatives to damaging and extractive charcoal production. This has been paired with partnering with traditional charcoal producers to restore landscape and training them in more efficient, sustainable methodologies of charcoal production that leave a smaller carbon footprint.



WildFF Future Focus:

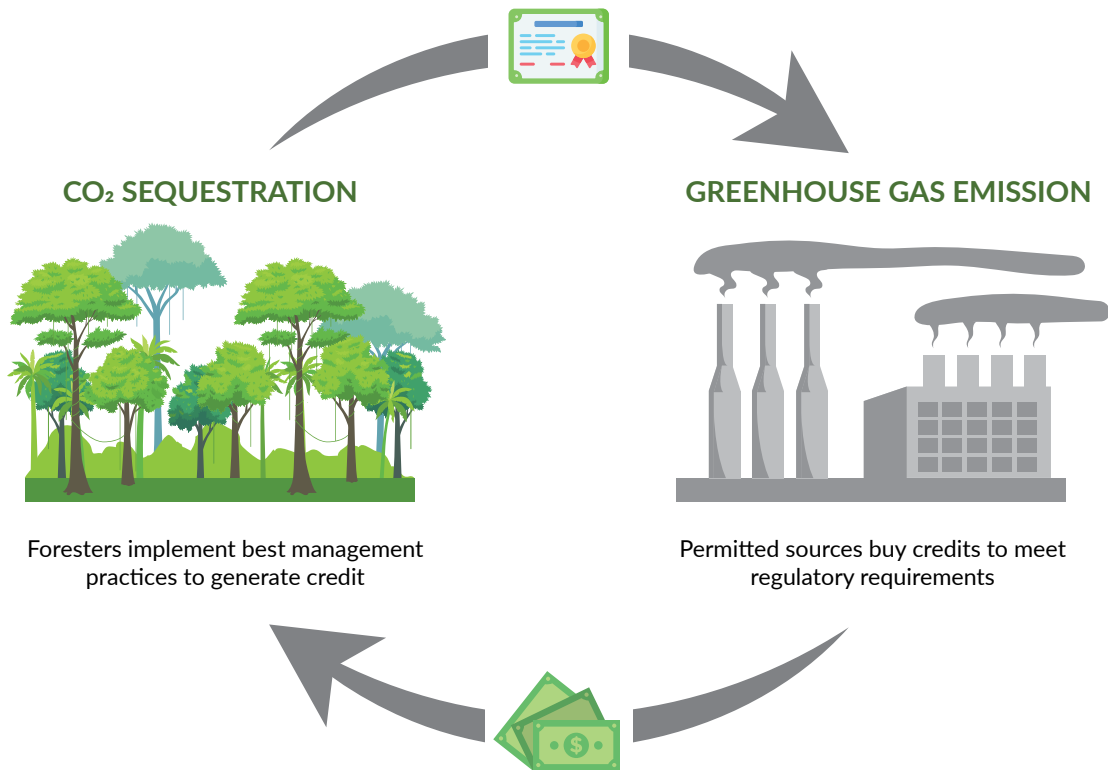
Forest Carbon

Our conservation strategies always include a business focus as we cannot make inroads for climate change by ignoring economics. WildFF aims to build a financial foundation for the local communities through implementing place-based, sustainable solutions where they can also make a living. This ensures that the forest has more value by remaining intact rather than through being logged.

WildFF often works in rainforests, which are large reservoirs of terrestrial carbon. We know that forests are the cheapest and most effective way of mitigating carbon emissions, which can also provide a business opportunity for local communities that are on the front-lines of preventing deforestation.

One area of market-based conservation that WildFF plans to focus more on is participating in carbon markets. Our efforts will build on the work we have already done in Peru and the DRC to increase economic opportunities for the local communities through showing them the economic value of protecting the intact forests where they live.

We are not alone in our efforts—the World Bank recently stated that in addition to the private sector’s current dominance in carbon markets, “more than two thirds of countries are planning to use [them] to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCS) to the Paris Agreement.”



WildFF 2021 Highlight:

Native Seeds Project Completed

We’re excited to report that in 2021 we successfully said farewell to our Native Seeds Project in Gulu, Uganda.

As a small non-profit, WildFF focuses on projects where we feel we can make a long-lasting impact. This entails creating an exit strategy, generally after 3-5 years, which entails integrating education and training with the local communities we partner with.

In 2015, WildFF started collaborating with the **Wise Women Uganda (Mon Ma Ryek)**, a community-based organization of women healers, to conserve and restore the forests of northern Uganda. We are proud that our work helped this community find new opportunities close to their heart after decades of civil war—and widespread forest loss:

- **130,000 native trees** of 20 local varieties planted
- Provided the **tools and training** the community needs to implement landscape-scale restoration
- Funded **literacy classes** for the Wise Women and financially supported a VSLA, a **community savings and microloans program**
- Partnered with **130+ farmers to plant trees** on their land
- Conducted numerous **climate resilience workshops** in each of the 10 communities

The program is now well-established with paid staff. It includes a **seven-acre nursery and agroforest demonstration site**, including two native tree nurseries, and hosts year-round programs that bring education, income-generating activities, and tree planting activities to 30 villages in the Gulu District.





Keep up with the latest WildFF News!



wildff.org



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