

FOREST RESTORATION



Forest Restoration
Mangrove Restoration
Action Against Hunger

6TH EDITION

Myanmar Stoves Campaign
Hornbill Reintroduction
Coral Propagation
Soneva Namoon



FOREST RESTORATION

Deforestation is responsible for around 11 percent of global carbon emissions. Restoring forests is an important solution to reversing climate change and improving biodiversity.

The Soneva Foundation started forest restoration in Thailand in 2011 and has since expanded to Mozambique, Nepal and the Philippines. These projects will restore

4,000 hectares of natural forest by planting 5.2 million trees from a variety of native species by 2025.

The Soneva Foundation's philosophy on forest restoration is to use a wide variety of indigenous tree species, which are planted by the local community.

To date, the Soneva Foundation has planted 2 million trees.



Chinga Chingore Raunde prepares a seedling that will be planted in the forest.

Positive impact

5.2 million trees

to be planted by 2025

4,000 hectares

to be restored

3.3 million tonnes CO2

to be mitigated

1 NO POVERTY



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



Why are forests important?



Forests play a crucial role in our planet's health and wellbeing. Taking action to protect and restore forests is vital for Earth and future generations. Not just a collection of trees, they are complex ecosystems that support life in numerous ways.



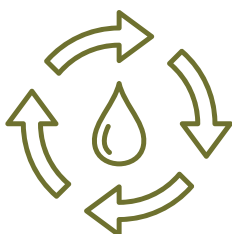
Biodiversity

Forests are incredibly diverse ecosystems, harbouring a vast array of plant and animal species. They provide habitat for countless organisms, supporting biodiversity and the interconnectedness of ecosystems.



Climate regulation

Forests play a vital role in mitigating climate change. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, helping to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and regulate climate.



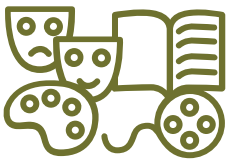
Water cycle

Forests play a crucial role in regulating the water cycle. They act as natural filters, purifying water, and replenishing groundwater supplies. Forests also help prevent soil erosion.



Economic value

Forests are economically significant. They provide timber, non-timber forest products, and livelihood opportunities for communities dependent on forest resources. Related industries, such as logging and ecotourism, also contribute to local and national economies.



Cultural significance

Forests hold immense cultural and spiritual value for many indigenous and local communities. They provide a sense of identity, traditional knowledge and spiritual connection to the natural world.



Oxygen production

Forests are often referred to as the Earth's "green lungs" because they produce a significant amount of the oxygen we breathe.



Myanmar Mangrove Restoration

Forest restoration methods

The Soneva Foundation's implementation partner Eden Reforestation Projects uses three main techniques for our projects – Singling, Seedballs and Seedlings.

These techniques, among others, play a crucial role in restoring forests by enhancing biodiversity, improving ecosystem functions, and reversing the impact of deforestation and degradation. Each technique has its unique advantages and applications, and their careful selection and implementation are essential to ongoing restoration efforts.



António Rendição Ofisse showing seedlings at the nursery in Matica Sede, Mozambique.

Forest restoration methods



Singling

This technique involves selectively removing unwanted or invasive plants from a forested area to allow desired trees to grow. This promotes growth and development of target species by reducing competition for resources.



Seedballs

Small round mixtures of seeds, soil and clay, seedballs are thrown or scattered onto degraded land, allowing the seeds to germinate and grow. They protect seeds from harsh environmental conditions, increasing chances of successful establishment.



Seedlings

These are young trees grown from seeds in controlled nursery environments that are then transplanted into deforested or degraded areas to initiate restoration. Seedlings provide a headstart for tree growth, ensuring a higher survival rate and faster recovery of the forest.

Lives transformed by trees



Jossefa Pedro Faustino

41-year-old Jossefa Pedro Faustino lives with his wife and child in the Matica Sede forest of Mozambique.

Mozambique is home to extensive biodiversity and varying landscapes with forests at the core of its social, environmental, and economic wellbeing. With 45% of the population living below the poverty line, forests are essential to communities like Jossefa's for their survival.

"In the past, the forest of Matica was well maintained and it was huge...but people started cutting down the trees, and for what? To produce charcoal, and for other purposes. Now the forests are not as they used to be, so our struggle is to fill the gaps without trees and bring back our forest," says Jossefa.

Not only was the forest dwindling but Jossefa was also struggling to take care of his family, living without proper roofing, solid walls and no home to call his own.

3.7 million trees

The Soneva Foundation engaged Eden Reforestation Projects to plant 3.7 million trees in Mozambique's Matica Sede over a



"I love to work in the forest," says Jossefa. *Page 5*

period of four years from January 2022. With an unwavering commitment to the Foundation's mission to plant trees and save lives, this restoration spans 3,378 hectares and will mitigate 2.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. Restoring the forest canopy encourages the return of leaf litter, water and wildlife, allowing nature to heal.

Almost two years ago, Jossefa joined the singling team with Eden where the project site is a 40-minute walk from his home.

"All over the world trees are being cut down and there is a need to preserve forests," says Jossefa. "I love to work in this forest because it helps in many things like improving breathing, quality wood production...and it will continue to help in many ways in my life."

Communities like Jossefa's that are facing extreme poverty have now been given new opportunities at economic self-sufficiency, improved health and education.



Jossefa is part of the Singling Team that help cut-down trees grow back.

*"Trees are important
because they inspire us,"
Jossefa Pedro Faustino*

New lease of life

Jossefa's life has transformed since working with Eden, bringing positive changes for both him and his family.

"Today I have a small business. I built a house with improved roofing and only the walls need to be plastered. I have done so much. I see my family is living well since I started working with Eden. In my life, a lot has changed, especially if I compare it to the life I used to have. Today I can eat well and better, and I can set my house up according to my will."

Jossefa is also truly passionate about the work he does and enjoys being part of the initiative. "I love to work in this forest and I like to plant trees, I really do. The forests are dying and Eden's initiative to restore these forests is welcomed."



Jossefa waters the seedlings in the nursery.



Matilde Augusto Oliveira

Building a permanent home

29-year-old Matilde Augusto Oliveira lives with her husband and three children in the Matica Sede forest of Mozambique. Born and raised in the forest, Matilde has seen it change over the years because of human activity and climate change.

Cyclones, floods, cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal, clearing large areas for farmland, and commercial logging are the leading causes of deforestation in Mozambique. More than 8 million hectares of forest (over 30,000 square miles) – an area the size of Portugal – has already been destroyed.



Matilde enjoys working with her colleagues at the nursery in Matica Sede, Mozambique.

Families like Matilde's are not only losing their forests but the natural resources they rely heavily on to survive.

“Our forest has changed a lot. There are people who use the trees to produce charcoal, firewood, and other things”, says Matilde. “We are seeing a problem with our temperature, as far as the wind is concerned. These days, the wind force is so strong, and we believe it is because of deforestation,” she adds.

Adapting to climate change

Working as a farmer her whole life, Matilde explains that “the forest is very important because it is good for us; it gives us shade, helps with natural ventilation, helps in the water supply, and there are plants that even give us fruit.” However, life was tough as she was unable to find a place to live for her and her family.

The Soneva Foundation and Eden Reforestation Projects have teamed up to

help communities like Matilde's adapt to climate change and bring back the vitality of the forest. A key component of the project is to use indigenous tree species, based on the mimbo forest type, which are planted by the local community.

The reforestation of Matica Sede will help remove carbon from the atmosphere and increase biodiversity while addressing the urgent need for poverty alleviation.

A permanent home

Matilde now works for Eden and loves planting trees that contribute to the development of the forest. "Since I started working in the forest, the forest has changed. There were several areas without trees, but today there are trees."

Along with changes in the forest, her life has also transformed. "Since I started working at Eden, my life has changed so much. I didn't have a house before, but I was able to afford one last year."



Mathilde with a seedling.

*"Since working in the forest, the forest has changed ...
My life has also changed so much and for the better,"
Matilde Augusto Oliveira*



Mathilde relaxes at the nursery.

From having very little, Matilde has built a permanent home and is able to provide for her family. Her work at Eden also fulfils her passion for protecting the forest.

"I am very happy to plant trees, because we are contributing to the development of forests. The trees that I like the most are Chanfuta, M'sara and Umbila. I wish that, at the end of this project, people will not destroy the trees anymore, because if they do, we will be left with nothing again."

Biodiverse forests

Royal Project at Nong Hoi's forest now has a closed canopy, which helps provide crucial habitat, regulates temperature and moisture, supports diverse ecosystems, and helps mitigate climate change through carbon storage.

The Soneva Foundation partnered with the PATT Foundation to plant over 500,000 trees covering 300 acres in the Chiang Mai region of northern Thailand in 2011 to 2012.

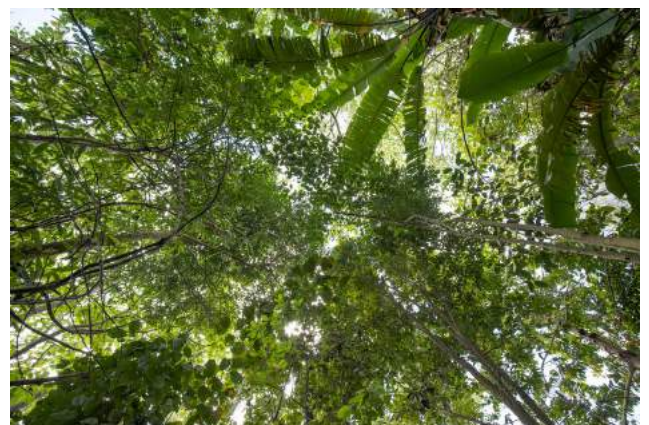
We used a Framework Species Methodology, with guidance from the Forest Restoration Research Unit of Chiang Mai University. At the time, 90 species of trees were planted and, over a period of 7 to 8 years, seed-disbursing

birds increased the number of species further, creating a rich biodiverse forest. Now these same trees have grown taller, creating a beautiful canopy forest cover.

Three main sites were restored at Doi Paa Maa in Sri Lanna National Park, Royal Project at Nong Hoi and Pai River Watershed Wildlife Sanctuary, and the project will mitigate an estimated 255,000 tons of carbon dioxide.



The former manganese mine in Doi Paa Maa in Sri Lanna National Park is now a dense forest.



The Royal Project at Nong Hoi has now a richly biodiverse forest.






Press play to watch video

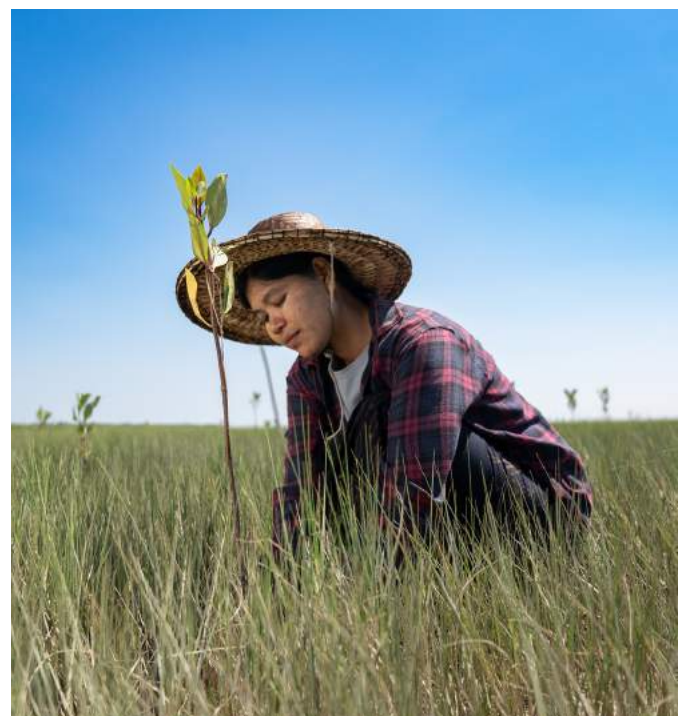


Mangrove forests are coastal guardians and play a vital role in ocean biodiversity. One of their biggest strengths lies in their ability to capture and store carbon.

The Soneva Foundation engaged Worldview International Foundation to plant 2.5 million mangroves in Myanmar, restoring 1,000 hectares of mangrove forests. 1.5 million mangroves have already been planted, with the rest to be planted in 2023.

The mangrove restoration project is being registered under VERRA and is expected to generate 1.5 million carbon credits.

<h3>Positive impact</h3>	
2.5 million mangroves to be planted	1 NO POVERTY 
1,000 hectares to be restored	13 CLIMATE ACTION 
1.5 million tonnes CO2 to be mitigated	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 



Mangrove planting in Kyun Chaik, Myanmar.



The Myanmar Stoves Campaign is a Soneva Foundation programme that distributes fuel efficient cook stoves to thousands of families. It is the first Gold Standard-certified carbon project in Myanmar.

Indoor cooking on inefficient stoves is a silent killer. Air pollution from domestic cooking is responsible for the premature deaths of over 4 million people a year worldwide, more than HIV/Aids and malaria combined.

Myanmar has one of the fastest rates of deforestation in the world, with most of the wood used for domestic cooking.

Each fuel efficient stove saves 2.5 tonnes of wood per year and reduces air pollution by 80 percent – improving the health and safety of the whole community.

The Myanmar Stoves Campaign has been successfully operating for ten years, together with our implementation partner Mercy Corps Myanmar.

50,000 stoves have been distributed, benefitting 240,000 people. Below you will see the overall impact of the project.

Positive impact

51,664

stoves distributed

242,288

people benefitted

268,011

GS VERs issued

USD 40 million

in social value generated

1 NO POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



13 CLIMATE ACTION





Five more oriental pied hornbills have been brought to Koh Kood island.

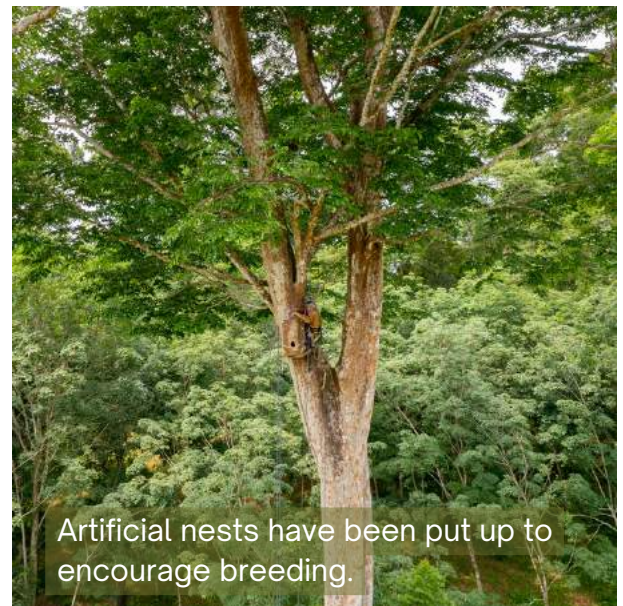
The Soneva Foundation and the Hornbill Research Foundation are reintroducing hornbills to Koh Kood in Thailand, which went extinct on the island around 40 years ago.

The Hornbill is an important species for Koh Kood as it helps spread the seeds of bigger trees, improving the biodiversity of the forest. Six oriental pied hornbills have so far been released since May 2022.

In Q2 2023 we brought five more hornbills to the enclosure, waiting to be released, and also added a mobile enclosure that allows these releases to happen on different parts of the island.

While the oriental pied hornbills are staying fairly near the enclosure, they are gradually discovering their natural instincts and started to venture further away.

The hope is that in the 2024 mating season between January to June there will be Koh Kood-born chicks.



Artificial nests have been put up to encourage breeding.

6

oriental pied hornbills released

5

hornbills ready to be released

15 LIFE ON LAND



CORAL RESTORATION

Transporting coral colonies to outplant onto Soneva Fushi's house reef.

The Coral Restoration programme aims restore precious coral reef systems and create a thriving coral hub for the Maldives.

In Q2 2023, the focus was to rescue corals from certain death due to a dredging project in Gulhifalhu. We managed to save 7,500 coral colonies, outplanting them directly onto Soneva Fushi's house reef.

Maldives' first Coral Spawning & Rearing Lab is also successfully growing corals and have had several spawning events since it was installed at Soneva Fushi in January 2023. The system is designed to replicate the reef's natural environment, enabling spawning. The lab will supplement the existing one-hectare coral nursery at Soneva Fushi, which is one of the world's largest using Mineral Accretion Technology (MAT).

Additionally, 30 micro-fragmenting tanks are constructed and on its way to the Maldives, set to be installed in Q3 2023.

Through these combined initiatives, the annual output of corals generated and outplanted is expected to be 150,000 coral fragments.



12,500

coral colonies outplanted

29,000

coral colonies rescued

150,000

coral fragments per year

14 LIFE BELOW WATER





Around the world, 150 million children are missing out on meals and essential health and nutrition services. Childhood malnutrition is a potentially fatal health condition.

The Soneva Foundation has for the past three years worked with Action Against Hunger in Bangladesh to strengthen households' capacity for climate adaptive and resilient livelihoods to tackle food insecurity and under-nutrition.



"It feels good to get fresh vegetables," says Sabuda Begum.

Positive impact

830

households to be impacted

3,910

people to benefit



We have just extended this commitment for another three years. Our implementation partner, Action Against Hunger, is teaching families new skills and offering business training, as well as increasing their food production at home using new climate change-resistant farming methods. This dual action plan ensures families can access nutritious food, either from their gardens or through income.

So far, we have improved the lives of 350 households, and aim to reach 830, positively impacting nearly 4,000 people.

SONEVA NAMOONA

Soneva Namoonna empowers zero waste communities across the Maldives. Activities of the NGO focus on three key components: ‘Reduce’ to phase out single-use plastic (SUP), ‘Recycle’ to introduce more sustainable waste processing mechanisms and ‘Inspire’ to nurture environmental stewardship with changemaker mindsets.

Reducing SUPs is a starting point to reducing and managing the amount of plastic waste generated on the islands. To encourage alternatives to SUPs, Soneva Namoonna operates a water bottling facility in Maalhos, Baa Atoll, which provides bottled water in reusable containers to households, guesthouses and cafes. A second bottling operation is also due to start in Q3 2023 in Kudafari, Noonu Atoll.

Other initiatives focusing on SUP alternatives include reusable nappy trials, menstrual product awareness workshops and an inter-island resale market implemented in partnership with 13 Women’s Development Committees across the Baa and Noonu Atolls.

The NGO is currently working with 22 islands at various stages of their journey towards sustainable waste management, and recently received a second grant from the Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) by the United States Agency for International Development to expand home composting and develop waste processing and collection guidelines.



Soneva Namoonna is expanding home composting.



The Fehi Madharusa (Green School) framework, co-developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education and currently being piloted across seven schools, is also set to scale up to 40 schools across the country in 2024.

Soneva Namoonna, in partnership with the Maldives Swimming and Life Saving Skills Training School has been training swimming and water rescue instructors across all 11 islands, helping to raise increased safety awareness and foster a greater love for precious our marine environment.



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