

# **AFRICA** NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

**Tree Planting  
and Care Plan**



**2021-  
2030**

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**AFRICA**

# **NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

TREE PLANTING AND CARE PLAN







# CONTEXT

Africa is affected by an increasing frequency of natural disasters and the resultant humanitarian crises affecting millions of people. Climate-related events such as drought and floods are the most common and recurrent shocks, often exacerbated by conflict in several parts of the continent. The frequency and intensity of natural disasters are increasingly leading to displacement of millions of people, loss of livelihoods and deeper vulnerability levels.

Recent research indicates that by 2050, the world will be poorer than it is today due to the expected impacts of climate change. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) analysis report "The Cost of No Action" estimates that, by 2050, unless urgent action is taken to address the evolving crisis, 200 million people every year could need international humanitarian aid as a result of a cruel combination of climate-related disasters and the socioeconomic impact of climate change.

Globally, nature-based climate solutions, like tree planting and care, are recognized as the most effective climate change mitigation options that are relatively inexpensive and can be implemented at scale.

According to research in 2019 by the Swiss University ETH Zurich, tree planting has "mind-blowing potential" to tackle the climate crisis. Recent research estimates that planting and caring for 1 trillion trees across the world could cancel out the last 10 years of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions, and sequester (capture) 160 billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere. Planting billions of trees could remove up to two-thirds of all the emissions from human activities that remain in the atmosphere today. Every tree planted and cared for contributes to the critical mass and the Red Cross Red Crescent is committed to joining the global effort.

## The Challenge



**>200 million**

people will need **food assistance annually** as a direct consequence of climate shocks.



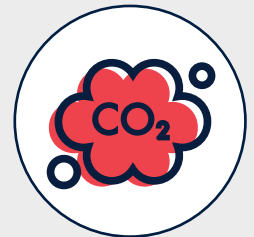
**>250 million**

of the world's poor **rely on forests for food, medicine, fodder, cooking and lighting**, in addition to the wider benefits of soil conservation, flood control, and absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere



**20-25%**

Of **total income of people living in poverty** are from forests



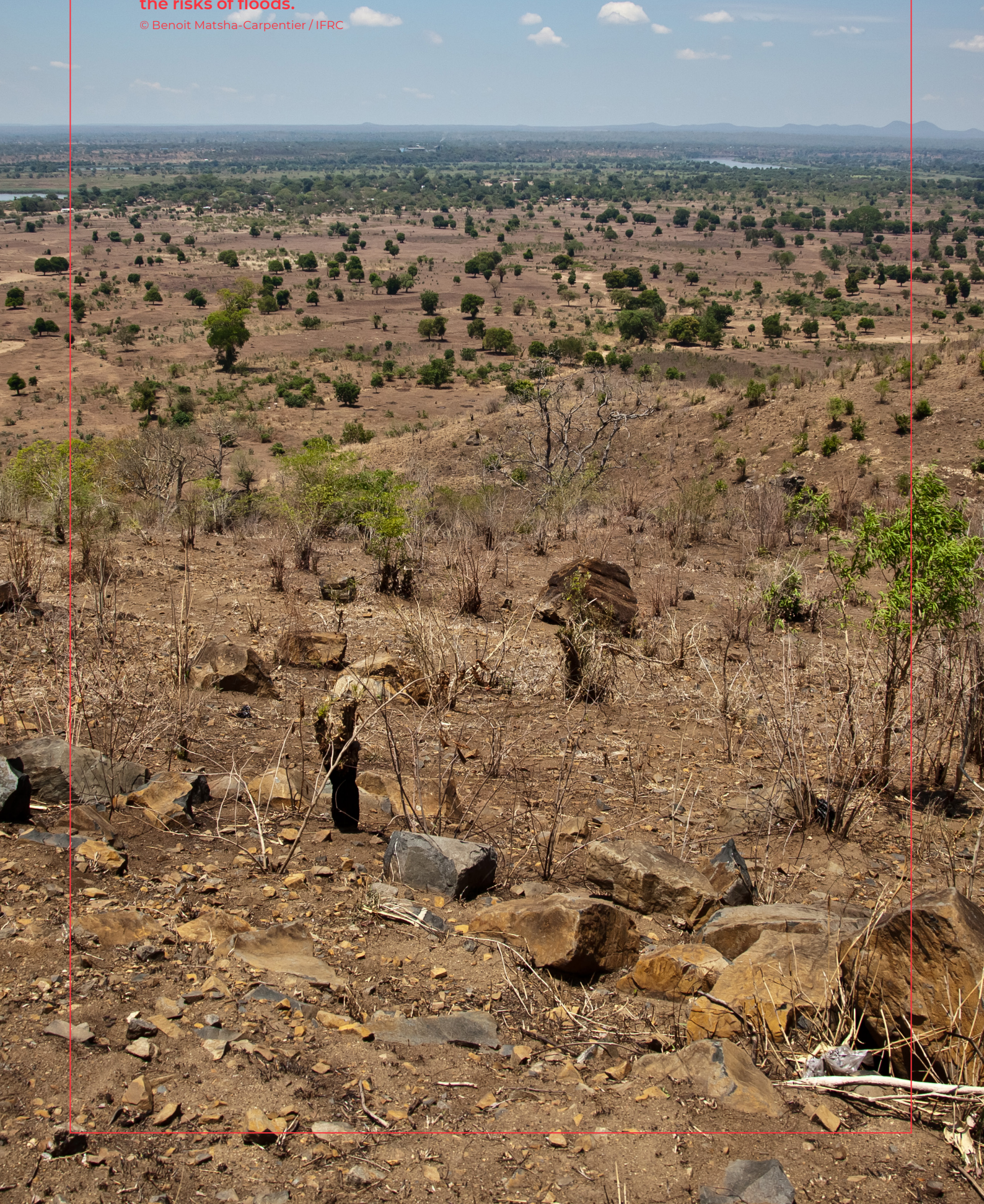
**20%**

of greenhouse gas emissions is estimated to be **from destruction of tropical forests** by human activity alone



**Malawi is heavily suffering from deforestation which increases the risks of floods.**

© Benoit Matsha-Carpentier / IFRC





## IFRC Network Approach

The Nature-based Climate Solutions Initiative aims to contribute to the reversal of the current trends of rising greenhouse gas emissions from fuel burning and forest destruction. Sustained tree planting and care for reforestation is an achievable target for the IFRC network (made up of the IFRC Secretariat and its member National Societies), harnessing its unique position of having a global presence of local volunteers in each community.

The IFRC network has been involved in tree planting since the early 1980s, and this initiative draws on learning from flagship programmes such as the Kenya Red Cross Society Sustainable Environmental Restoration Programme (SERP) in partnership with IFRC and the Kenyan Government. The SERP programme aims to plant and care for 2.5 billion trees while tackling environmental degradation, applying agroforestry approaches for food income and animal fodder, as well as adapting energy-saving solutions such as solarization of boreholes in refugee camps to reduce carbon emissions from diesel-powered water pumps.

Building on the Red Cross Red Crescent position as a volunteer-based organization, IFRC will strengthen community-level structures for sustainable large-scale tree planting and care. At the same time, IFRC will ensure each volunteer in the target communities is active in raising and maintaining multi-purpose trees for fruits, fodder, income, shade, carbon absorption and broader environmental restoration.


IFRC supports its member Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in disaster risk reduction, climate-smart livelihood programming and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities aimed at building community resilience to the recurrent climate-related disasters. IFRC reference centres, such as the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC), the Global Disaster Preparedness Centre (GDPC) and the Livelihoods Resource Centre (LRC), provide technical assistance in the development of guidelines and tools for climate actions and climate-smart livelihood programming. The centres are also engaged in policy influencing and advocacy on the urgency of climate actions to address the effects of climate change, and sustainable mitigation approaches.

“The multiple benefits of tree planting to both livelihoods and climate change adaptation and mitigation are extraordinary. **Mass tree planting across Africa could contribute to the global push to end poverty and hunger by 2030.** The IFRC network is actively seeking support from partners to achieve these ambitious goals.”







A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small pile of dark, oval-shaped seeds. The person is wearing a silver bangle and red flip-flops. In the background, there is a nursery bed with many small, round pots filled with soil, arranged in rows. The ground is sandy and there are some wooden stakes or branches visible.

Ambatoabo, Madagascar, 2021.  
Malagasy Red Cross provides  
seeds for the tree nurseries.

© Caren Ramanantoanina / IFRC

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The overall goal of the initiative is to contribute to Africa-wide climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts through the planting and care of multi-purpose trees aligned to continental, sub-continental, and national plans and strategies.

The objective is for the IFRC network to plant up to 500 million trees per year from 2021 to 2030, to reach a continental target of 5 billion trees by 2030.



**This will be achieved through four main approaches and a set of activities adapted to specific contexts within the Africa region**

1

**Tree planting and care:** Large-scale planting of and caring for multi-purpose trees on private farms, communal land and public places.

2

**Environmentally friendly energy-saving solutions:** Promoting the use of solutions such as Wonderbags by rural communities to reduce the cutting of trees for firewood (conservation and protection).

3

**Nature-based solutions:** Re-afforestation and protection (mangroves, coral reefs etc.), environmental conservation restoration and awareness-creation, including capacity strengthening of environmental clubs and nature groups.

4

**Advocacy and policy engagement:** Influencing on reforestation and tree care legislation through local, national and regional platforms including African Union and United Nations.

## The following activities will be implemented to achieve the objective:

» Large-scale and on-farm planting and caring of multi-purpose trees in schools, public land, community facilities and Red Cross Red Crescent branches.

» Creation of “green belts” in designated public areas (especially in urban settings and camps for displaced persons).

» Promotion of energy-saving cooking and lighting solutions (Wonderbags, energy-saving stoves and solar lighting).

» Awareness-raising and public education on tree planting and care (grounded in school disaster risk reduction and youth activities as agents of change for the future).

» Creation of public-private partnerships on urban reforestation to counter pollution from industrial activities.

» Environmental cleaning and care, with a special focus on the collection of waste plastics and reuse in briquette-making for cooking fuel.

» Campaigns for tree planting and care, environmental cleaning and care, with a special focus on youth camps, national set days for tree planting, world environmental day celebrations and special tree planting events such as with the private sector and schools.

» Advocacy meetings and policy engagements on tree planting and care as a nature-based climate change adaptation and mitigation solution, including advocacy for legislation on tree care, especially on controlling the cutting of trees.

# SUSTAINABILITY

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Ownership by the community as well as commitment from local Red Cross Red Crescent branches is crucial to ensuring sustainability, and therefore implementation of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) is a key element of the programme. Community members are at the core of all activities and are therefore treated as partners and experts of their own situation. From the onset, through participatory needs assessments facilitated by local Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers and staff, an extensive community-led approach will be undertaken

The IFRC Network will also explore different funding sources to make sustainable funding for the Nature-based Climate Solutions initiative. Given it has direct linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals, Global Agreement such as the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework etc and African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want, the funding from development sectors, development bank, private sector and local development budget will be mobilized for ensuring the various approaches are achieved.

IFRC has a range of tools to enable national societies to assess their organisational and disaster response capacity, such as the Organisational Capacity Assessment & Certification (OCAC) and the Branch Organisation Capacity Assessment (BOCA), which provides the National Society with a measurable plan to improve their structure, systems, and procedures. IFRC and partners will support the updating of OCAC and BOCA and ensure the findings feed into planning for long term climate adaptation and mitigation plans, aligned with government initiatives and other key stakeholders. Additional tools and approaches such as the Red Ready and Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) will be introduced to strengthen National Society capacities in preparedness, as well as in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Learning will be systematically captured on an ongoing basis and lessons used to inform the intervention and address aspects of capacity building and sustainability as well. A mid-term review will be undertaken to assess progress and will include an assessment of the degree to which the tree planting and care interventions are impacting target beneficiaries.

The IFRC Reference Centres will be requested to provide tools, analysis and technical guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches, support capacity strengthening, and lead the learning agenda..









## TARGETING AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process for the project will be informed by the National Society operational plans 2021-2025, country government plans and legislation on Nature-based Climate Solutions such as Tree Planting and Care, Ongoing projects and partnerships on Nature-based climate solutions, National Society capacity to implement should funding be available, donor interest and weather and climatic conditions.



# TIMEFRAME

The project will run for 10 years beginning 2021 through to 2030.

2021-  
2030

## BUDGET

To achieve the above goal and objective, the following budget will be required per year:

Item	Total Quantity	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
Tree seedlings & Care Cost (No of Countries)	10	100,000	1,000,000
Information, Education and Communication Materials (No of Countries)	10	5,000	50,000
Energy Saving Stoves	10	20,000	200,000
Human Resource (Regional Office and Country Cluster Delegations)	10	60,000	600,000
Training & Capacity strengthening on various components (National Society Development)	10	25,000	250,000
Advocacy & Policy Engagement	10	5,000	50,000
Monitoring and Evaluation	10	5,000	50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>USD 220,000</b>	<b>USD 2,200,000</b>



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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