



Business Partners

Eden Reforestation Projects
Big Fig | Two year update report



Project period:

June 2021 – May 2022

Summary

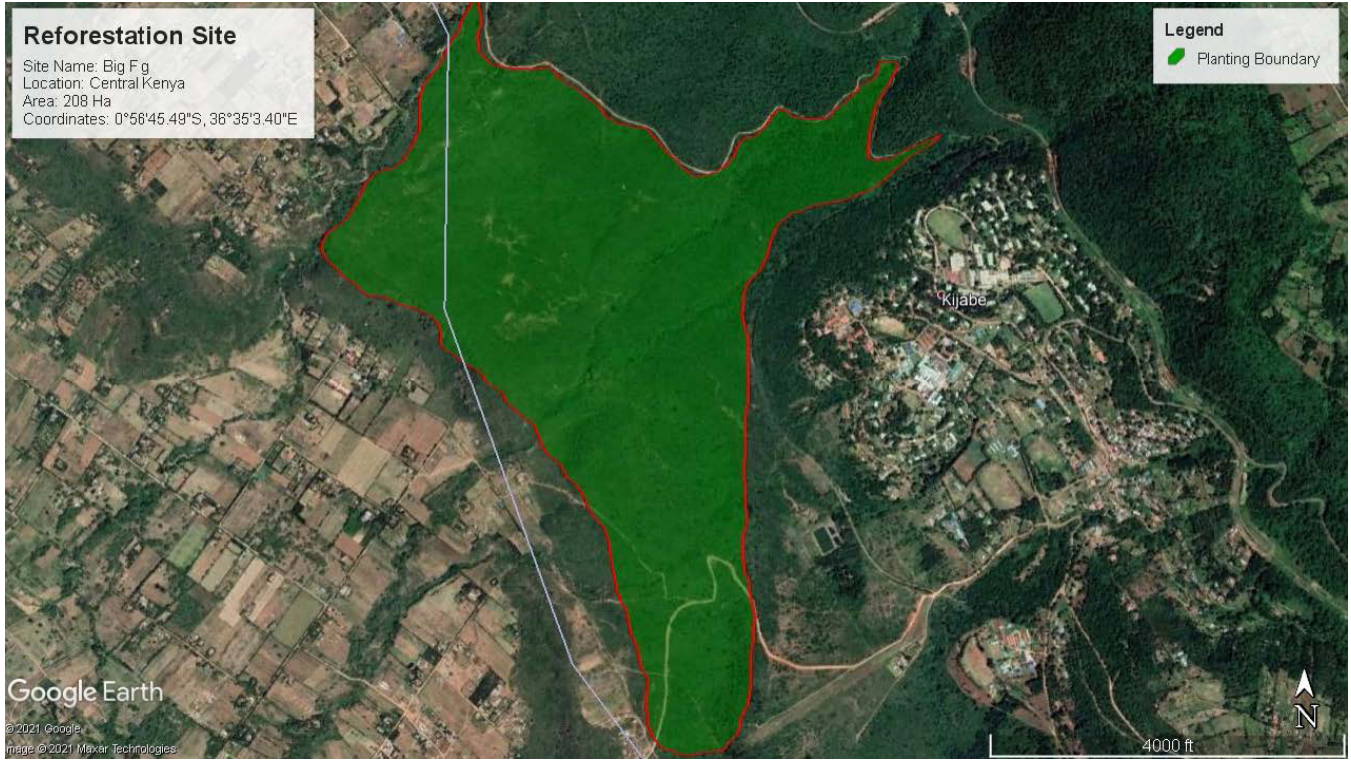
We are excited to report on two years of progress at our Big Fig planting site. In June 2020, we opened the Big Fig site with a goal of planting 520,000 trees. As of this report:

- We have planted 353,573 trees since planting began in June 2020
- We employ an average of seven employees per month at this site
- Your support has created 22 working days per employee per month

Forest type	Coordinates	Planting density	Plantable area
Afromontane	0°56'45.49"S, 36°35'3.40"E	2,500 trees/hectares	208 hectares

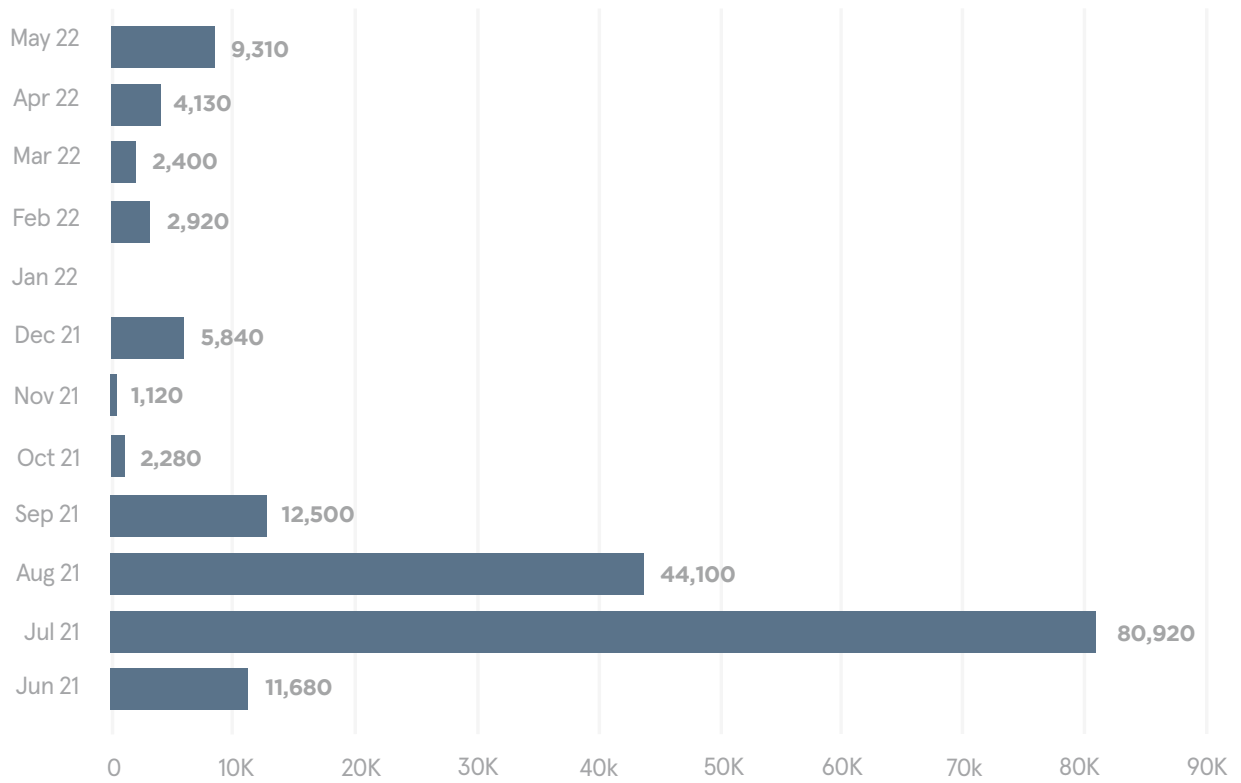
*See Appendix B for Site Description





Trees planted per month

June 2021 - May 2022



Socioeconomic impacts

Through this project, we offer steady employment and income to people that previously would not have a consistent source of income. Here is what we have achieved thanks to Be the Change Foundation and Pioneers of Change's contributions towards the Big Fig reforestation site:

- Projects at this site have created a minimum of 1,422 working days during this reporting period
- Women's empowerment is a core principle and goal for Eden in Kenya. 60.5% of the workers at this site are female
- Reforested areas help reduce soil erosion and provide landslide protection for local residents



Future outlook

We will continue to plant at Big Fig until we reach the estimated capacity of 520,000 trees needed to restore this area. Throughout the project, our teams will actively protect the site and replant any losses to ensure the native Afromontane ecosystem reaches its full potential. Many of these trees will mature and produce seeds of their own, helping the forest return to a point of natural equilibrium.

We are grateful for your continued support of our projects in Kenya. Your contributions will not only help us complete this site, but work towards reforesting some of the 5.1 million hectares that the Kenyan government has committed to restoring by 2030 as part of the AFR100 initiative. Thank you for helping us to fulfill our mission.



Appendix A: Progress Photos



Planted seedlings thriving in the Big Fig site.



Planted seedlings are starting to fill in the bare patch that existed before intervention.

Photo album link: [Big Fig](#)

Appendix B: Site description




Open Forest [link](#)

The Big Fig planting site lies along a steep escarpment that forms the Great Rift Valley's eastern edge. It's located on a flat plateau in the middle of the escarpment. Deforested a long time ago and suffering from significant erosion that washed away the fertile topsoil, the plateau has been taken over by only a few species of woody shrubs. The planting in this area is to reintroduce native, primary forest species in this planting area. These tree species are medicinally and culturally significant to the communities living in this area and will restore habitat for forest antelopes, monkeys, leopards, and other animals once found here.

Planting in this area will focus on increasing biodiversity through enrichment planting. Enrichment planting will focus on using seed balls to re-establish the seed bank in the soil, farmer-managed natural regeneration, and traditional seedlings. The goal is reintroducing primary forest canopy species that provide valuable ecosystem services and habitat for wildlife. The severely eroded areas will require dense planting of seedlings to help quickly stabilize soil through root structures and re-creating topsoil from leaf litter.

Our planting teams for Big Fig live in the adjacent community and currently have very few full-time employment opportunities. Planting and monitoring in this area will help provide regular income allowing people to save, invest, and plan, reducing pressure on the forest.

Appendix C. Tree species planted

Species	Description	Photo
<p><i>Juniperus procera</i> East African Pencil Cedar</p>	<p><i>Juniperus procera</i>, or East African Pencil Cedar is a primary forest species of dry Afro-montane forest that can grow up to 40 meters tall. It is highly prized for its beautiful timber, which is highly resistant to insect pests. Due to overexploitation, it is increasingly rare in the country. A craft gin distillery (Procera Gin) buys cedar berries from community members to make its one of a kind, world-class gin.</p> <p><small>Juniperus procera' from the website Trees and Shrubs Online (treesandshrubsonline.org/articles/juniperus/juniperus-procera/). Accessed 2022-06-03.</small></p>	
<p><i>Warburgia ugandensis</i> Ugandan Greenheart</p>	<p><i>Warburgia ugandensis</i> is a fairly fast-growing tree that can grow up to 25 meters tall. It is valued for its medicinal properties, and it is incredibly drought resistant.</p>	
<p><i>Croton megalocarpus</i> Kenya Croton</p>	<p><i>Croton megalocarpus</i> is a deciduous tree that grows up to 35 meters tall. It is relatively fast-growing, provides good forage for bees, and produces heavy leaf-fall making it excellent for restoring soils. It fruits prolifically, and the seeds can be collected and used to produce biofuel.</p> <p><small>Photo from: https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/croton-megalocarpus-generous-tree</small></p>	
<p><i>Olea africana</i> African Wild Olive</p>	<p><i>African Wild Olive</i> is an evergreen tree that grows to 15 meters tall. Prized for its beautiful timber and the high-quality charcoal it produces, it has been overexploited and is now quite rare. It has ceremonial importance to many tribes in Kenya and an iconic species of afro-montane forests.</p> <p><small>Photo from: https://www.plantbook.co.za/olea-europaea-subsp-africana/</small></p>	