

# **SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GARDENS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the tenth Annual Report of Sustainable Global Gardens [UK charity reg. no. 1116243]. The document has been prepared for the charity's AGM, which is to be held on Thursday 23rd June 2016. The report covers the period of SGG's tenth financial year which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The approach I have taken when writing this report is to look at the objectives of Sustainable Global Gardens as given in the original Business Plan, and then to comment on how far such objectives have been achieved. In the initial Business Plan the five year target to be achieved by March 2011 was *'the annual raising of £100,000, which is to be transferred through at least 10 & preferably 20 small-scale sustainable projects to poor communities in the Developing World'* so progress can be judged against that long-term goal. A specific second 5 year plan was not developed in 2011, so those initial goals remain as SGG's general objectives. However, at the AGM in June 2011 it was agreed that over the next 5 years SGG should focus more on the activities where SGG had been more successful. This meant more projects related to environmental improvement [especially tree-planting and composting for soil improvement], income generation based on table banking, and fuller cooperation with other small development NGOs, who are undertaking similar work to SGG.

## **PROGRESS WITH REFERENCE TO CHARITY OBJECTIVES**

SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GARDENS [Company No 5733281] became an incorporated company on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and a registered charity [Reg. No. 1116243] on 28th September 2006. By September 2006 SGG had raised a total of £873.35p and had invested £500 for polygardening work in Sri Lanka, as our first overseas project. The charity is ten years old now, but those two figures are still a useful benchmark against which to measure progress.

A priority in the first three years of SGG was to establish a network of supporters. By March 2009 we had made satisfactory progress in this matter, as there were some 35 individual supporters as well as 6 institutions which gave significant support to SGG. That pattern has not changed much since then. By March 2016 there were 56 individual supporters, and 7 Europe-based supporting institutions. There is no formal membership required to join SGG, so it is somewhat arbitrary how we estimate the number of our supporters. Our present estimate is that there are 70 people whom we regard in this light. On this basis it would be fair to say that SGG has experienced only gradual expansion in the UK in recent years. If we count 'active partners' in East Africa rather than 'supporters' in the UK, SGG is experiencing much more rapid growth. The prime role of Sustainable Global Gardens within the 'OPTIONS' project is outreach work within Kenya, and this role has brought SGG into contact with many Kenyan NGOs and community-based groups, who are now working as

active participants within the OPTIONS project. Similarly the 'Treedom' project, although it is being implemented mainly amongst Maendeleo Mashinani Organisation farmer members in Busia County, West Kenya, has also put SGG in contact with new groups undertaking similar tree-planting work. Thus, it is in Kenya where we are making most progress in terms of getting new people involved in farming innovation & environmental work.



Occasionally SGG participates in 'high-level' meetings [see top left]. This is the OPTIONS partnership meeting at Arusha, Tanzania in February 2016. All the participants, except SGG, are staff at African universities or international research institutions. Much more often meetings are held in more basic conditions [see top right]. Here Temakho farmers are meeting to welcome Treedom representatives, who came to Busia in March 2016 to monitor progress with tree-planting. Another typical meeting was organised by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network [KOAN] to promote the use of natural biopesticides, such as *Tephrosia vogelii*, in the Laikipia region [see bottom left]. If a meeting is held at one of the several orphans centres which SGG supports, there are usually kids wanting to be photographed. These cheerful children were captured on camera at Khuyala Early Child Development Centre in Busia County, Kenya.

The initial Business Plan also mentioned the target of *"at least 10 & preferably 20 small-scale sustainable projects to poor communities in the Developing World"*. As in the previous financial year SGG's work schedule in 2015-6 has been dominated by one project i.e. Project 11 'Tree-planting and conservation in Africa'. Within this particular project SGG has been active in three specific schemes i.e.

- the OPTIONs project which aims to plant 40,000 pesticidal shrubs and trees by June 2017,
- the 2014-5 Treedom project, which has a planting target of 25,000 trees within the current forest plan,
- tree-planting within the Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions in association with various Tanzanian Rotary Clubs.

We do not know exactly, but within this single project there are certainly at least 50 schools & community groups active in small-scale agroforestry schemes. Within this one project alone SGG has more than fulfilled this initial target.

The above schemes could readily absorb all of SGG's time and energy for the foreseeable future. This is largely because all three schemes involve hundreds of farmer participants who are members of scores of autonomous community self-help groups. Thus, work on other projects is very much reduced. Unless we can recruit more voluntary staff willing to manage other projects, or SGG can come to contractual agreements with African partners to take full responsibility for the implementation of their own projects, it is likely that the next financial year will witness an even greater concentration by SGG staff on the agroforestry work of Project 11.

In the 2014-2015 financial year SGG raised £32,247.54p in the UK. In the 2015-16 financial year ending 31st March, the total raised was only £24,852.20p. This figure, however, gives a somewhat false impression as the funding for 2016 OPTIONs work with a budget of £16,962.64p was received just after the end of the financial period under consideration. Also MMO members in Busia County, Kenya contributed the equivalent of £1,745 towards their own development projects. In addition to that Treedom paid the equivalent of £4,970.16p directly into an SGG dollar account in Busia. These two additional sources of funding give a total income for SGG of £31,567.36p during the 2015-6 financial year. For a more detailed consideration of SGG's financial situation, please refer to the current Treasurer's Report.

Once again, SGG income is well below our original funding target of £100,000 to be raised annually. However, I do not feel unduly concerned about this. During the last few years SGG has helped hundreds of farmers, particularly through the table-banking and tree-planting projects. With the financial data available to us it is impossible to give a precise estimate of how much income SGG has generated. However, we know that SGG has facilitated the planting of more than 40,000 trees in the last two years. Many such seedlings fail to survive the critical first two years of growth, but we estimate that on average such trees increase in value by about £1 per year. If this and income-generation 'profits' were incorporated within SGG finances we would be much closer to our initial funding aims.

Of course, this hypothetical income passes through accounts other than our own, but we are entirely satisfied with this arrangement. SGG's aim is to help others generate income for themselves and achieve sustainable prosperity rather than have a large bank balance for ourselves.



In 2015 two supporters of SGG visited Kitaingo Kilimo Hai in Makueni County, Kenya. They spent time there with a practical demonstration of how to make a keyhole garden. Other members within the group were sufficiently impressed to make one for themselves to grow fresh vegetables right next to the kitchen [see top left].

[See middle left] Here Phaustine Ogolla of FOCUSA is standing in a permaculture demonstration plot. Within this small area you can see agroforestry [Bischofia javanica planted for shade & construction, bananas for food, Calliandra calothyrsus for goat fodder & food for bees] as well as channels dug to ensure that scarce water reaches all parts of this small farm. Also lemon grass can be seen in the foreground. Phaustine now intends to promote such techniques in his home locality around Matayos.



Neither of these developments appear in SGG's budget. Phaustine's training and most of FOCUSA's current projects are supported by another Tyneside charity Comrades of Children Overseas [COCO]. All SGG did was introduce FOCUSA to COCO.

Our aim is to encourage African partners to make progress through their own initiative & hard work rather than just depend on SGG. Local officials were so impressed with MMO's demonstration plot that they provided further investment in microirrigation for vegetable production right next to the demonstration plot [see bottom left]. Also a new market hall has been built in nearby Matayos to encourage local horticultural production. All this is at no cost to SGG.



Another way of looking at SGG's initial charity objectives is to consider what has been achieved in the 10 years since the development charity was founded. During the last decade we have

- begun work on 18 poverty & hunger alleviation projects. The last project i.e. improved rural energy has hardly started, but in all the others we believe SGG has already made a significant difference in terms of livelihoods & opportunities for our partners. Several of these projects, especially tree-planting and table-banking, include scores of community-based microschemes;
- have made a contribution to development projects in 6 African countries;
- have introduced thousands of small-scale farmers to innovations which enable them to improve productivity on their own farms;
- have raised £251,859.69p to help finance the above programmes. It should be understood that this figure is an estimate: a precise figure cannot be given because of funds have involved several currencies with fluctuating exchange rates;
- of greater importance than the above is the extensive network of contacts which has been developed. In the Options project alone there are more than 1,000 contact names, and whilst membership of MMO fluctuates it has generally been more than 500 farmers. Within this network information can pass freely, and so opportunities for farmer-initiated development greatly increased. This informal network is probably SGG's main achievement and resource.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

During the 2015-2016 financial year some projects have made steady progress, despite our focus being on Project 11. A full list of SGG's current enterprises is as follows: -

- **Project 1**- the supply of 'moneymaker' water-pumps to encourage dry season vegetable production among farmer groups in Busia District. This project is now closed, although we do occasionally fund special requests.
- **Project 2** – support for orphans in Busia County, Kenya. In September 2013 it was agreed to modify this project from one centred around a weekly supplementary meal for some 500 OVCs ['orphans &/or vulnerable children'] to one which focussed on provision of microcredit and other resources so that guardians of OVCs could improve their economic status, and therefore care for those children on a more sustainable basis. As reported previously this approach appeared to be a great success, but in September 2014 the sponsorship ended. At that time the various groups who were feeding OVCs agreed to continue as best they could without any support. Since then SGG has found occasional funds for OVC feeding as well as table-banking funds to improve facilities at the various orphans centres. See Project 4 for further details.

The UK charity Comrades of Children Overseas [COCO] is now providing financial assistance to FOCUSA. SGG is currently looking for sponsors who are willing to support at least one of the remaining 7 community groups working with OVCs.



Although SGG now has insufficient funding to maintain a full feeding programme within Project 2, most of the OVC groups try to maintain the feeding - partly as an attraction to encourage poor children to make an early start with their schooling. This is particularly true where the OVC group has some classrooms & volunteer staff. At Khuyala Early Child Development Centre [see top left] children are encouraged with a daily portion of porridge. A new kitchen was constructed so that feeding can be done more efficiently. Siguli Orphans Centre is occasionally used for community meetings. If any payment is received, the management use these funds for feeding of the pupils [See top right].

- **Project 3** – improvements in composting techniques. In recent years this project has broadened into **Project 15**[ the promotion of organic gardening], where double-dug raised beds incorporating large quantities of organic material are viewed as essential.
- **Project 4** – table-banking. This remains the most popular project amongst MMO farmers. However, funds have been scarce this year while SGG efforts are increasingly focussed on agroforestry. When funds have become available, they have usually been used to help improve facilities for one of the 5 OVC groups with buildings e.g.
  - Khuyala ECDC have received grants for both fencing the classrooms. They are also now constructing a simple jiko kitchen to make the previous daily cooking using the 'three stone method' much more efficient;
  - Siguli Orphans have also fenced and are now constructing a small toilet block;
  - Lonely Orphans have invested on building renovations after their buildings were declared unfit for purpose. The group have used the table-banking facility with SGG to pay for the training of one of their staff. In order to pay for such training the teacher's family have leased a plot of land where Lonely Orphans members are growing vegetables for sale and to feed children under their care;
  - Gladys Ochieng's home where up to 50 desperately poor children stay is badly in need of a sponsor. In order to raise cash to feed her many residents she has used a significant portion of her small farm for tree-planting within the Treedom programme.

- **Project 5** - the construction of a health centre and **Project 6** tree-planting , both at Soni Seminary, Tanzania finished in 2009.
- **Project 7** - support for Upendo Children’s Home in Moshi, Tanzania where the Precious Blood Sisters care for abandoned babies. When SGG paid a visit in October 2015, there were 45 children under the care of the Sisters. SGG gives financial support to Upendo in accordance with the wishes of some of our donors.
- **Project 8** -tree-planting around the villages of Mengwe & Mamsera in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro is now incorporated in **Project 11**.



In February 2016 an SGG team of 3 members visited Mengwe to see what progress had been made with tree-planting. During this one day of fieldwork we counted a total of 3,843 trees planted in the previous 5 years. As SGG visited only 12 of the 20 farmer members of Ndaswa & Upendo community groups, we feel justified in estimating that these farmers have planted at least 5,000 trees in recent years. Planting *Grevillea robusta* along a farm boundary is a common planting strategy [see top left]. Many farms show the traditional Chagga style of planting i.e. 1. the tree canopy providing timber, wood fuel energy & shelter; 2. beneath that bananas, which are a staple food of the Chagga; 3. coffee bushes, which have been the main cash crop for local farmers; and 4. vegetable production, especially yams, at ground level.

- **Project 9 & 10**—support for schools in Chawama township, Lusaka and Kapiri Mposhi. Once again, the rapid development of projects in East Africa have meant that there has been no time to visit Zambia, so it is now nearly several years since the last monitoring visit. Nevertheless, I wish to continue offering occasional support to SGG's Zambian partners.

- **Project 11 Tree Planting & Conservation in Africa.**

Once again, SGG's activities have been dominated by three agroforestry schemes which fall within Project 11.

The largest of these is the OPTIONs project [ie. optimising the use of pesticidal plants through technical innovation, outreach and networks]. SGG is a partner within a prestigious group of institutions, including the Natural Resources Institute at Greenwich University, Kew Gardens, the International Centre for Research in AgroForestry [ICRAF] in Nairobi, Kenya National Museums, and various universities in Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe. SGG's specific responsibility within this partnership is outreach work, particularly in Kenya.

It is estimated that pests, mainly insects, reduce agricultural production in Africa South of the Sahara by approximately 30%. Yet synthetic pesticides have often proved to be too costly as well as very unhealthy for small-scale farmers. Thus, there is a strong interest among farmers to develop natural pesticides which they can grow at very little cost to themselves. Much SGG time has been spent training local groups of such farmers.



A training session at Vi-Agroforestry in Kitale, Kenya [see top left]. The National Museums of Kenya, one of SGG's partners in the OPTIONs project, are promoting both *Melia volkensii* & *Lippia javanica* as natural pesticides in Makueni County. Here [see bottom left] Dr Esther Kioko of NMK is discussing practicalities with local farmers on a farmer field day.

MMO community groups in Busia County acted in 2014-5 as a pilot group for the OPTIONs project so they are further forward than many other groups. Here [see bottom right] members of Abakhaywa Mulukongo stand in front of their hedge of *Tephrosia vogelii*. They are now selling both seeds and leaf powder to other farmer groups interested in natural pesticides.



Another major agroforestry project is the Treedom project, where SGG in partnership with MMO have agreed to plant some 25,000 trees from a selection of 10 species on the farms of MMO members.



Most of the 25,000 trees within the Treedom plan were planted in the previous financial year, so much of SGG's time in 2015-6 was spent monitoring progress before making a first payment to farmers. Counting trees can be demanding work as many farmers practice high-density tree-planting as well as intensive crop interculture. Here [see top left] MMO coordinator Macbeth Odero is counting mainly Grevillea & Maesopsis planted within a cassava plot. Fortunately, Cyprian Odhiambo of Namulekhwa Wedinye has a mango orchard where counting is much easier [see top right]. Some groups, such as Abakhaywa Mulukongo, were visited in March 2016 by Treedom representative Riccardo Alessandrini [see middle left]. Many farmers took advantage of OPTIONs training and Treedom financial incentives to grow natural pesticides. Here [see bottom left] Margaret Olunga is showing her crop of Tephrosia vogelii. Tephrosia has proved to be a popular plant to grow because as well as a natural pesticide it is known as a 'soil-improver'. It grows rapidly, produces plenty of leaves for a mulch or green manure and is also nitrogen fixing.

By March 2016 SGG had registered 32,243 trees planted mainly by Maendeleo Mashinani Organisation farmers. Of these some 20,848 have been sold by Treedom. This means that we are currently waiting to receive payment for those sold, which we will pass to MMO farmers during SGG's next field visit in September. There have also been initial discussions about a second forest plan.

In 2014 and 2015 most of SGG's work has concerned the OPTIONs and Treadom agroforestry schemes mentioned above. This meant that other projects and other agroforestry schemes did not receive the attention they deserved. However, in the October and February of this financial year SGG visited various Rotary Clubs & other community groups in North East Tanzania where tree-planting is ongoing.

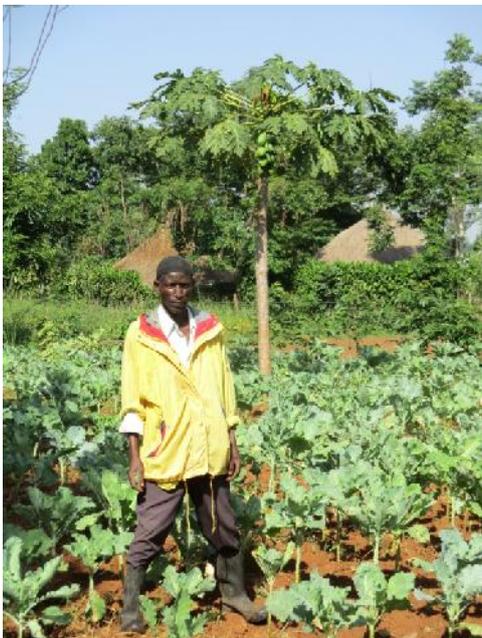


During a visit to Machame Rotary Club on 11-12th October 2015 we counted 1449 trees, planted as a Club project. Very often *Grevillea* are grown in a banana shamba to provide shade & leaves for mulching for the bananas [see top left]. Another type of planting is the riverside woodlot where it is difficult to give accurate tree counts [see top right]. Such woodlots are primarily to reduce soil erosion on a steep riverside bank and also to become part of a riverine forest which will help stabilise water flow.

The Rotary Club of Rombo Mkuu based their tree-planting programme on a school competition. Here [see bottom left] are some of the trees planted at Huruma Primary School. The main competition involved the 25 secondary schools in Rombo District. By 24th February 2016 the SGG team has visited 16 competing schools. At these schools we have counted 5933 surviving trees within the school grounds. This means that the average school has planted & cared for some 371 trees. As there are 25 schools in the competition, SGG suggests that there are at least 8,000 trees planted by these schools since the competition began in 2013. The winners of the competition were Maki School where 1,367 young trees were counted by the SGG team, despite the school terrain being both rocky and dry [see bottom right]. SGG is looking for sponsors so that this planting programme can continue.



- **Project 12 partnership with Community Initiative for Rural Development [CIFORD].** This Kenyan NGO is a coalition of 15 women's groups with a total membership of approximately 450. See [www.cifordkenya.org](http://www.cifordkenya.org) for details. We have not found time to continue this project this year, but we hope to continue next year.
- **Project 13 support for Maendeleo Mashinani Organisation [MMO].** We have financially supported MMO for 5 years, so SGG's current policy is to encourage this NGO to become financially self-sufficient by establishing their own income generation projects.
- **Project 14 partnership with Breakthrough Foundation at Juja Farm.** This project is now finished.
- **Project 15 promotion of organic gardening in Kenya.** The main activity here is the establishment of an MMO demonstration plot at Matayos.



The main purpose of this demonstration plot is to show techniques which will allow more intensive cultivation on small farms. The most important strategy is an increased emphasis on vegetable production [see top left]- using double-dug raised beds combined with microirrigation if possible. Agroforestry is also being promoted, and within this small plot more than 100 trees have been planted. Here [see bottom left] a small banana & fruit orchard has been planted. The plot is looking in 2016 to start commercial sales so that the plot can be self-sufficient. Tephrosia is grown for use as a pesticide on the shamba, but also for local sales of powder & seed. Vermicomposting has also been established. Here [see below] worms are enjoying the remains of an avocado fruit. We hope to start marketing such worms in late 2016.





As reported last year SGG made a small grant in 2014 to encourage the use of 'multistorey gardens' in Kibera, Nairobi. These 'gardens' are old maize sacks which are filled with compost and then used to grow vegetables, especially sukumawiki. On the 28th June 2015 I had the opportunity to visit Kibera and see if any progress had been made. What I discovered was that 'urban farming' has rapidly developed in the last 2 years in Kibera. Whereas SGG's initial grant had paid Fenesi Self Help Group for some training and material for only 6 such sacks, I counted 98 such sacks at the 4 sites I had time to visit. The above photos are examples of such gardens started by Fenesi members. Two of the most expensive items for such multistorey gardens are the compost and soil needed to fill the bags, so SGG would like to continue this programme by training Fenesi members to produce vermicompost.

- **Project 16, promotion of organic gardening at Morena Tshohisi Moloi 11 School.** The basis of this project is that we had a contact who was Head Teacher at this school. That person is no longer working there, so this project is now finished.
- **Project 17, support for tree-planting & poverty eradication initiatives in North Kigezi, Uganda.** This project has also ended.
- **Project 18, improved rural energy.** This project started in 2013 when 50 women members of MMO were trained to use energy-efficient stoves as an alternative to the traditional "3-stones" method of cooking. It is hoped to continue this project at some time in the future, but for the present we lack the manpower and funding to do so.

Five years after the founding of SGG it was suggested that we focus on projects where we had been most successful i.e. table-banking, agroforestry, and horticulture. After another five years we can see that this has in fact happened - with the great majority of funding, available mainly through OPTIONS and Treedom, focused on tree-planting. This trend is likely to continue, despite uncertainties about funding for agroforestry work. Thus, we shall not seek to replace projects which are finished or currently inactive [i.e. Projects 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16,17 & 18]. If there is any expansion of project work it will be to extend existing projects to new locations. This is most likely to happen with Project 11 'Tree-planting & Conservation in Africa'. Nevertheless, we do not wish to discourage new proposals from our African partners.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS & RELATED ISSUES

We have good reasons for optimism about the future of Sustainable Global Gardens. Although there has not been any significant increase in the funds available for development projects, both Treedom and OPTIONs partners are now considering follow up projects. Although the number of SGG supporters is similar to 5 years ago, the network of partner NGOs and stakeholders with whom we cooperate continues to grow. Several of our larger NGO partners are making great progress in their own right. SGG's prospects are good.

However, this leaves a few important issues for Trustees and all supporters to consider. These include:

- how can supporters best promote progress in **all** our projects, especially those which have received little attention recently? Progress has halted on some projects because I have insufficient time to visit those locations. With this issue in mind, SGG will continue to look for those who are willing to volunteer for at least one month on overseas work or to manage a project from home. A browse through SGG's website at [www.sustainableglobalgardens.co.uk](http://www.sustainableglobalgardens.co.uk) will give some good ideas about how an individual supporter can help;
- previously it has been SGG's policy to encourage self-funded volunteers to work on SGG projects overseas. Such overseas volunteering has made a positive contribution to SGG work, but under changing circumstances do we need to revise this policy?
- over the last 3 years I have found that my time and SGG finances have been increasingly focused on Kenya to the detriment of projects in other African countries. With both our Treedom and OPTIONs projects based there SGG could readily spend all future fieldwork time in Kenya, so there is the issue of how best to 'regularise' SGG's position in that country. Are we now at a stage when it would be worthwhile applying to become an officially registered Kenyan NGO? Are there other options we should consider?
- there is so much development work where SGG field experience has proved valuable, so we are often invited to undertake work with NGOs not so far mentioned. Also we have several projects where progress has languished simply because we lack sufficient manpower and sufficient time overseas. Perhaps it is time to establish a more formal and contractual partnership with a Kenyan institution;
- if you are looking for greater involvement in SGG, you may wish to bear in mind that we have a list of appropriate projects where supporters can be more fully involved. For those thinking on such lines it is worthwhile to bear in mind that our most rapid progress has been made with table-banking [we would like to start this at locations other than Busia] and agroforestry [there are several places where the local community would like SGG to implement such work].

However, there are other worthwhile projects where specific and individual interests could be engaged, especially related to the 8 orphans groups within Maendeleo Mashinani Organisation. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

- SGG has many supporters who do not have the time to commit to greater involvement in development projects. If you are in such a position, please do not forget that the progress we make each year in some of our projects is dependent on financial donations from our supporters;
- with your support we have been able to achieve much in the 2015-2016 financial year, and SGG supporters can celebrate what we have achieved. However, let us not forget that there is still much to be done.



On 12th March 2016 SGG Director Carole Keeley visited the orphans at New Hope Emaseno. She was shocked and upset to find that the Children's Home had recently accepted three young newcomers [see top photos & bottom left photo] all suffering from severe malnutrition. We include these photographs to show that although SGG has brought hope & support to many orphans over the last decade, there are still young children in desperate need of any help they can get. SGG can provide further details for anyone wanting to give that help. Carole also took photos of some of the children at Khuyala ECDC [see bottom right], another of the OVC groups we support. Those children may well be poor, but at least they are being fed.

- lastly let us remember that the aim of SGG is to contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger, and so help children like these have good prospects of a better future.



Thus, I wish to thank all of you, our supporters, for whatever contribution you have been able to make to our many successes this year. All supporters of Sustainable Global Gardens have a vital part to play in the development and progress of the charity, so I look forward to working with you in the coming year on Millennium Development Goal No 1, the eradication of extreme global poverty and hunger. My best wishes to all of you.

Paul Keeley  
17th June 2016