

SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GARDENS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourteenth 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 Friday 12th June 2020. The report covers the period of SGG's fourteenth financial year which ended on 31st March 2020.

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. After 13 years it looks likely that SGG's main activities for the foreseeable future will involve tree-planting in one form or another, continued support for orphans in Busia, and horticulture.

PROGRESS WITH REFERENCE TO CHARITY OBJECTIVES

SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GARDENS [Company No 5733281] became an incorporated company on 7th 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 fourteen 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. Since then there has been a stagnation of support in Europe with 39 individual supporters and 11 institutions now helping to promote SGG by providing financial support. If we count partners actively involved in African development rather than just 'financial supporters' in the UK, SGG network extends to thousands of people working to improve both their livelihoods and also their environment. It has been pleasing to note that SGG has collaborated with 5 NGOs who are implementing projects in East Africa, and for 4 of these NGOs this is the first year of collaboration. Collaborating NGOs include 'UK to UK', a group of UK rotarians who focus on development aid for Ukerewe island in Tanzania. Another new contact is Liana, a group based in Finland, which specialises in

the construction of rocket stoves for schools in North-East Tanzania. A third NGO is 'Trees4Kili' who are based near Boma Ng'ombe in Tanzania and who aim to plant one million trees in Kilimanjaro Region. The fourth group is the Rotary Club of Bungoma, Kenya, whose members have proved to be a great stimulus to SGG's tree-planting programme in West Kenya. As was mentioned in previous annual reports there was a surge of institutional support associated with the 2017-8 Rotary tree-planting initiative. If we consider that project alone, there were 44 Rotary clubs who donated to SGG tropical tree-planting as well as 13 Rotary Clubs in Tanzania and 11 farmer community groups in Kenya working in partnership with SGG. Most of these continue to work in partnership with SGG. Most pleasing of all, though, is not the increased number of SGG partners but the increasing initiative & willingness to implement development of some of those local partners.



In late 2018 Siguli Orphans Centre agreed to establish a tree nursery as their local contribution to a water-harvesting project. By April 2019 the group had produced 4,600 seedlings which were given out to 123 households [see top left] giving home-based care to 164 orphans/vulnerable children [OVCs]. Most of these seedlings were *Grevillea robusta*, but significant numbers of *Moringa oleifera* & pawpaw fruit were also distributed [see left]. In 2018 Judith Khamaya of Lonely Orphans in Matayos, Busia started a small nursery [see above]. By April 2019 she has made a profit of Ksh 50,000/- [c £400] which was used to start construction of a new home. The house is not yet finished so Judith continues to generate income from her tree nursery so that she can complete her house. Rosebella Aburu of Nyusa Farmers near Bar Ober is yet another example of a small-scale farmer who has taken the initiative to start a small tree-nursery as a household income-generation project [see later photo].

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". This particular target is largely achieved by 9 independent women's groups in Busia County, West Kenya who each implement an income generating scheme to further their own progress.



SGG is currently supporting 8 of the women's OVC groups through table-banking. One of these groups is Upendo, who live near Namboboto in Busia county. Here [see above left] Macbeth Otero, one of SGG's local coordinators, is supplying table-banking funds to Upendo members. This group of OVC guardians usually invest their funds in poultry or pig production. In late 2018 the 20 members were given Ksh 3,000/- [c £23] each to buy a pig. In April 2019 it was reported that 2 of the pigs had died, but members had also already gained an income of £352, mainly from the sale of piglets. In addition, hopes were high with 3 sows pregnant at the time of the SGG visit. Nearly all the members used the income gained to pay school fees & associated costs. In November 2019 Upendo women invested Ksh 70,000/- [£538] so that all 20 members could be supplied with 5 or 6 poultry.

Here [see above right] is a completely different small-scale scheme supported by SGG. For the last few years Mohamed Wandera from the MADEI group at Matayos has been keeping a container of vermicomposting worms. Their main value has been to provide good quality compost for the neighbouring Demonstration Plot, which in 2015 had rather poor soil lacking organic matter. However, in late 2019 Mohamed had his first commercial sale of worms and an additional income of Ksh 4,000/- [c £30].

These 9 schemes are all located within a radius of about 20 km around Mundika in Busia County. If all the small-scale schemes where SGG is involved in Uganda, the rest of Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi were counted there would be many more than 20 such schemes in operation. Nearly all these schemes require what to many Europeans would seem very small amounts of money, but that is a crucial aspect of SGG's spending strategy. Give small amounts of funding, just sufficient to incentivise and encourage local initiative, to as wide a group of beneficiaries as possible, then allow the recipients of funding to work for their own gain and for the improvement of their own community. We believe development support must be spread widely if it is to solve the fundamental problem of global hunger and poverty.

The main aspect of SGG's activities where initial hopes have never been realised is the matter of 'the annual raising of £100,000', but that initial aspiration was before the economic crisis of 12 years ago. However, as mentioned in previous reports, the many thousands of trees planted and growing in East Africa are often increasing in value by approximately £1 pa. If this one factor is included in our calculations, the increase in value to African farmers

from all SGG's past & present activities may well exceed our initial fundraising target. There is also the matter of income, unknown to SGG but derived from innumerable local enterprises which were originally started with small amounts of SGG 'seed money'.

In the 2018-19 financial year the total income of SGG was estimated to be £20,951.06p. This was significantly lower than in the previous five years when SGG received appreciable funding from the OPTONs project. One conclusion from this is that for the last three years SGG has needed to find another source of substantial funds if we are to achieve our potential as an African development group. With this in mind we are pleased to announce that two separate professional fundraisers have offered to assist SGG with future fundraising. Such new possibilities are welcomed, but should be viewed within the context of charitable funding being increasingly channelled into UK 'covid-19 charity' work. It is quite likely that these fundraisers will not be able to secure funds for SGG projects overseas during the present circumstances. Another response to this situation is that we need to make better, more sustainable use of the financial resources available to us.

During this 2019-2020 financial year the income raised in the UK for SGG projects was £20,604.14p, which is appreciably above the £12,690.06p raised from within the UK last year. An additional £1,849.26p was gained from Gift Aid, which referred to donations made previous to this financial year. A further source of income is the local Kenyan contributions which are deposited directly into SGG's Busia account. Such contributions totalled Ksh 647,000/-, the equivalent of £4,976.93p. Thus, the estimated total income for SGG this year is £27,430.33p. This is significantly better than what was achieved with fundraising last year, so although covid-19 is a current threat to our future income there are some grounds for optimism for the years to come. For a more detailed consideration of SGG's financial situation, please refer to the current Treasurer's Report.

CURRENT PROJECTS

During the 2019-2020 financial year there was a wider range of activity than in recent previous years when tree-planting occupied so much of SGG's time and resources. A full list of SGG's current enterprises is as follows: -

- **Project 1, the implementation of improved water supply.** Last year we reported a return to schemes to improve water supply after a decade when SGG had not invested in such activity. This year we made one relatively small investment to provide water-harvesting facilities & a water tank to enable the Ndaswa tree-planting group in Mamsera, Rombo District to have reliable water for their tree nursery. We also intended to supply a water tank as a prize at the end of the primary school tree-planting competition organised by Mkuu Rombo Rotary Club, but SGG is first waiting to hear the results of that competition. Furthermore, we have a request for a water-harvesting system for a school in the Pare Mts, south of Kilimanjaro, so SGG is looking for a sponsor who wishes to support such a water project.

- Project 2, support for 450 orphans & vulnerable children [OVCs] in Busia.**
 After a couple of years when SGG had limited funds for the OVC programme, investment in this programme has increased significantly recently. In this financial year most of the funding has been invested in the food programme, the fundamental component of our support for these children. The main development this year has concerned the establishment of two new OVC groups within the programme.



Here [see above left] children at CIF are waiting to be fed. SGG's agreement with the CIF women is that we could support 50 OVCs, but for this first monitoring 70 children were counted. What can you do in these circumstances? At the end of the queue the OVCs received a portion of rice & local vegetables [see above right]. Carole was surprised the children were given rice rather than the customary ugali, but CIF leaders explained that rice needed less firewood to cook than ugali and was therefore cheaper. Note the lack of trees in these photos. Note also the quality of the building where this food programme is managed. The children then find somewhere quiet & comfortable to enjoy their Sunday lunch [see below left]. What are the adults at CIF doing during this time? They are in the church discussing with Paul and Macbeth Odero, SGG's local coordinator, plans and payments for tree-planting and table-banking. A busy Sunday!





Nyusa Farmers received their first SGG monitoring visit on 28th October. While Paul was busy tree-counting on the farms of Nyusa members, Carole was delayed by long discussions with OVC guardians at Siguli Orphans Centre. Carole arrived in time to see the OVCs, who performed dances & sang for her, and hear from some of the guardians the difficulties of caring for OVCs who are often grandchildren of the guardians.

Unfortunately, this meeting was cut short. A thunderstorm was threatening and we had 20 kms on the back of a motorbike before we arrived at our Mundika hostel.

Here the focus has been on new developments within the OVCs food programme. For a fuller report on all 9 OVC groups, please refer to the section on ‘orphans’ under ‘projects’ in our website www.sustainableglobalgardens.org.uk.

Another new development for the OVC groups was the start of kitchen gardens, which are to follow the pattern of land use already developed in the Matayos Demonstration Plot. See **Project 15** for details.

- **Project 3 – improvements in composting techniques.** In recent years this project has been absorbed into **Project 15 [the promotion of organic gardening]**, where double-dug raised beds incorporating large quantities of organic material are viewed as essential. However, this year there was one new development specifically to do with compost techniques. A consignment of worms was sold to Rose Murunga of Birunda Friends, located near Kitale, who wished to establish a wormery of their own.
- **Project 4 –table-banking.** Although this has proved popular with farmers, this activity has been limited to the 8 OVC groups in recent years. These groups are now well accustomed to the project, which is now running smoothly with very little effort from SGG. The system works as follows. Each group raises its own funds – usually through a practice called “voluntary savings and loans”. These groups meet on a regular basis, usually once a month, when each member makes a contribution. Each member can then take a loan which should be paid back with 10% per month interest. Internal discipline and friendship of these small social groups is usually sufficient to keep these groups stable and active. During SGG field visits each group will agree among themselves an income generating scheme, which they will then present to SGG along with a report of their previous table-banking scheme and a local contribution which covers 70% of the costs of the newly proposed activity. If the scheme is acceptable SGG will add a 30% contribution to the budget.



Above are photos taken during SGG's visits to Mukwano OVC group in April and October 2019. These visits often begin with a welcoming dance by the OVCs [see above left], who then enjoy their weekly free communal meal. The main event of the meeting is table-banking with the climax being Mukwano officials receiving and checking in front of all members the table-banking funds for their group project [see above right].

Usually in the Annual Report I wish to give a detailed illustration of a table-banking scheme, especially as it has proved to be one of the best SGG strategies for helping poor people out of poverty. In the case of Mukwano, members were able to table-bank twice during this financial period. In October 2018 members with an initial deposit of Ksh 28,000/- [c £215] requested funding to start a poultry scheme, where each of the 20 members received 1 cock & 2 hens. By April 2019 it was clear that the scheme had been profitable, so they deposited an additional Ksh 42,000/- [£323] so that each member could purchase a pig. When a review of these schemes was made in October, it was noted that there was a significant increase of farm livestock, but that nearly all members were concerned with selling poultry & pigs in order to pay school fees. The whole group reported an aggregate income of Ksh 63,900/- [i.e. £492] from sales. This means that Mukwano members had invested on average £27 and gained both an increase in farm livestock and an average profit of £25 within one year of the initial investment. We were not surprised to find at the October 2019 meeting that Mukwano members had raised another Ksh 49,000/- in order to continue with their pig-rearing project.

Mukwano are just one of the 8 OVC groups with very similar income-generation schemes. During this financial year these 8 groups raised a total of Ksh 647,000/- [£4,976.93p] for their own community development schemes, which is surely a strong indication of their popularity among farmers. SGG regards these table-banking schemes as an excellent type of development. Within the 9 OVC groups there are probably more than 150 farm households and approximately 450 orphans who benefit from their own initiative. The main problem with this type of microfinance project is that SGG simply does not have sufficient capital, seed money to invest in these schemes.

- **Projects 5 to 10 are all finished or subsumed into other projects.**
- **Project 11 Tree Planting & Conservation in Africa.**

Tree-planting in its various aspects continues to be a major part of SGG's work schedule. However, there have been significant modifications since March 2019 in terms of tree-planting locations, project partners and the specific objectives of the planting scheme.

The Treedom project to plant 25,000 trees in Kenya, mainly around Busia, is now closed with the formal ending of the 5 year contract being 16th June 2019. Although the project was successful in many ways, there were fundamental flaws, which were never resolved by our partner, so SGG's association with Treedom has ended with no intention of future collaboration. SGG's only involvement with this project in this financial year has been final payments to some farmers with the remaining funds, and then closing of the Treedom account.

The SGG-Rotary tropical tree-planting project has also been modified. After a successful initial project in 2017-8 when 41,475 seedlings were registered as planted by SGG partners, much time has been subsequently spent trying to encourage Rotary organisations to make global tree-planting a priority activity. These personal efforts have not been unsuccessful, but progress has been slow.

The current tree-planting project on which we are now working has a planting target of 100,000 trees to be planted by the end of 2021. This project got underway during the October-December 2019 field visit to Kenya & Tanzania. By the end of that visit SGG had recorded 26,464 trees as either planted or reliably pledged to be planted by May 2020. A further 4,000 seedlings have been subsequently negotiated to be planted in the vicinity of Mchinji, Malawi. By 31st March 2020 143 planting schemes were incorporated within this project, and of these 128 were individual small-scale farms with a further 15 planting schemes being implemented through institutions. So far SGG has spent £3,350 on this project with £4,485 of donations specifically allocated to such activity. It should also be noted that planting locations in this project have extended beyond SGG's previous locations in West Kenya and North-East Tanzania. SGG is now supporting 2 small pilot projects in Uganda & a larger project in Malawi as well as continuing where we have previously planted.

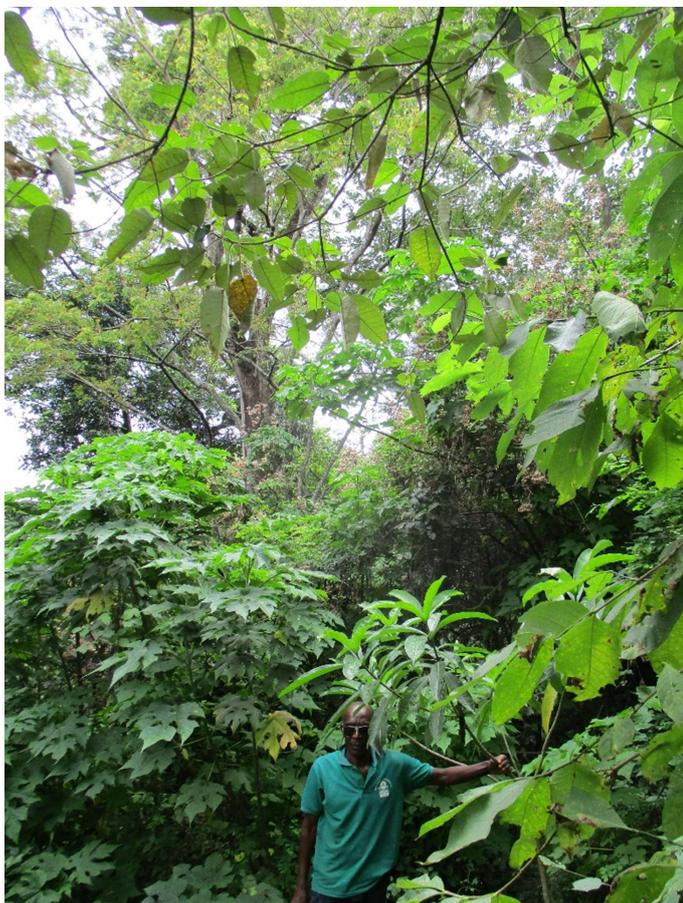
Previous tree-planting schemes gained considerable support because of the humanitarian benefits as well as environmental advantages of tropical tree-planting. In this new project environmental & humanitarian benefits remain as fundamental objectives, but there is a component within this project to plant 10,000 trees specifically for carbon capture.



For the foreseeable future SGG expects the great majority of tree-planting to be on small-scale farms, often less than 1 hectare, within an agroforestry system, where trees & crops are grown together. Here are 4 illustrations, all visited this year. Here [see above left] on Kilimanjaro the farmer has planted a mixture of pines, Grevillea and Acrocarpus within his banana shamba to provide shade & cooler, more humid conditions for his main crop. In contrast Rosebella Aburu of Nyusa Farmers has established a small orchard/woodlot next to her home [see above right]. She has 36 mzizi, but also 6 avocado & 13 mango in this small plot. She also has a small tree nursery to supplement household income. Mark Maloba [see below left] has been very active promoting agroforestry among Siguli OVC guardians. During field monitoring at Mark's in November 175 trees, planted since May 2018, were counted. This is part of the tree-planting financed by Berwick Rotary Club. Ndaswa group at Mamsera village in Rombo District have been planting trees with support from SGG for more than a decade, and here [see below right] we are counting new trees in a very crowded and steep shamba. This farmer has recently planted 65 avocado fruits, because there is an increasing demand for avocados for export markets, while the price of the traditional cash crop of coffee stagnates. Much of this planting in Rombo has been financed by the Rotary Club of Sherwood Sunrisers.



These very small farms are not usually the best location for carbon capture, so SGG is now paying increasing attention to locations where forests can be restored without damage to the food production of small-scale farms.



One of the most suitable sites for carbon capture is Ngarasero Forest near Usa River in Tanzania. Within this quite small forest [see left] 960 indigenous trees [e.g. mikufi, msesewe etc] have been planted since March 2019. This area is within the grounds of a tourist lodge where forest restoration and biodiversity enrichment bring the economic benefits of ecotourism.

Good planting sites for carbon capture include:

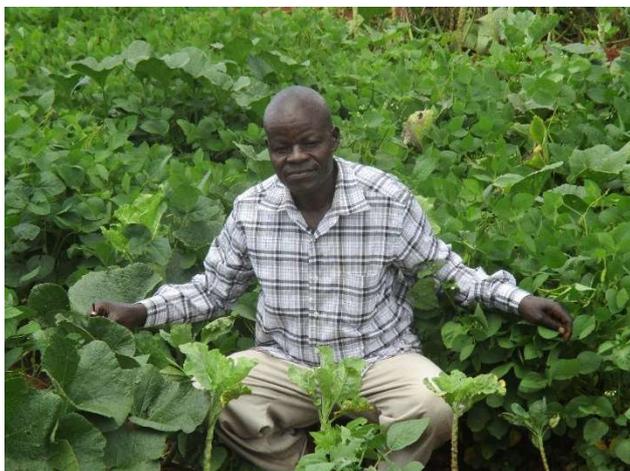
- remnants of forest which can be restored or extended,
- riverine sites, especially where riparian land is steep & unsuitable for agriculture. Tanzanian farmers are not supposed cultivate within 20m of streams to protect water supplies;
- summit & watershed sites where soil is stony after previous soil erosion;
- within 50m of springs.

The only other project where SGG has been active this year is **Project 15 - the promotion of organic gardening & permaculture**. **Project 12, partnership with Community Initiative for Rural Development [CIFORD]** has not been active for several years. **Projects 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18 are all finished.**

- **Project 15 – the promotion of organic gardening and permaculture.**

For the last 5 years SGG has been supporting the development of the Demonstration Plot at Matayos in Busia county. The MADEI group who manage that plot have already established that this small plot can make a substantial profit when it is well organised, so SGG has been looking to finish support here and to find other locations where similar development could take place.

After considerable deliberation it was decided in July that the best use of funds specifically allocated for organic gardening & permaculture would be the establishment of kitchen gardens at each of the 9 OVC groups. There were two particular reasons behind this thinking. One was that the leaders of all 9 OVC groups had visited at some stage the Matayos Demonstration Plot, so they were aware of the progress being made there. Also SGG had realised, and had reported previously, that lack of food was not the main problem that the OVCs faced. Their difficulty was the nutritional quality of a diet based largely on maize & beans. Thus, horticultural funds this year have been invested on plots where the emphasis is on growing vegetables, fruits & moringa.



Lonely Orphans group were the most advanced of the OVC groups in terms of developing a kitchen garden. They used the funds they had saved for table-banking to take a 5 year lease on a large plot which had a perennial stream and which was close to Lonely Orphans school. When the plot was visited on 25th October they had a wide variety of vegetables, sufficient to feed the OVCs at the school as well as a likely surplus for sale in the local market [see both photos above]. Other groups were less advanced. Mukwano had found a suitable plot [see below left], but only part of it was cultivated with sukumawiki the main crop. CIF is the group which may have greatest difficulty, because the Sioport area is significantly drier than most of Busia. However, they are establishing a plot for vegetable production [see below right]. Much will depend on the future, unpredictable rains.

SGG's particular concern about OVC kitchen gardens stems from our awareness that research has established that poor nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life has a major negative influence on the child's subsequent physical & mental growth. Here SGG is investing in the future as better child nutrition is absolutely essential if African development is to progress as it should.



For this year's horticultural activity, SGG's investment went to West Kenya, but we know of other groups elsewhere in Tanzania & Malawi who would like to develop their organic & permaculture gardens. If resources were available SGG would be pleased to increase our activities in this field.

It should also be mentioned that SGG has usually undertaken small tasks while overseas or offered advice to other NGOs so that hopefully their projects can develop more effectively. In 2019 the Rotary Club of Sherwood Sunrisers financed the construction of a kitchen at Wama primary school in Rombo district, Tanzania. SGG's role in this project was to monitor progress at Wama, a role which has taken little time. However, this has resulted in co-operation with a Finnish group, Liana who specialise in the construction of rocket stoves & water harvesting systems for rural schools in North Tanzania. It is quite probable that this contact with Liana will be strengthened next year.

FUTURE PROSPECTS & RELATED ISSUES

For Sustainable Global Gardens this year has seen a significant increase in available funding, with the challenge of ensuring that this continues for the foreseeable future. It has also been a period our three major projects have all made good progress, while some new possibilities have appeared on the horizon. Thus, there are continued reasons for optimism even though coronavirus and an economic depression in its aftermath represent a significant threat to our activities in the immediate future. I am pleased to report that our network of partners, both NGOs and small-scale farmers, continues to grow.

With reference to particular projects Directors should note:

- tropical tree-planting will continue with considerable financial support from individual Rotary clubs, but SGG hopes that increased concerns about global climate change can bring a new community of supporters to aid our cause. Of particular note here was my visit in June to the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, where I made contact with a wide range of people interested in both tree-planting and climate change issues;
- if there is any shift in SGG's activities it will probably be in the direction of greater work on improving child nutrition in the localities where we are already known. Kitchen gardens at each of the OVC locations is an important step taken this year, but we shall need to wait for a future years to find out whether these gardens are a permanent, sustainable success;
- in summary SGG now faces a future with exciting possibilities but the constant need to at least maintain present levels of funding;
- lastly let us remember that the aim of SGG is to contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger, to implement small projects which bring progress to many.

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 Sustainable Development Goals No 1 and 2, the eradication of extreme global poverty and hunger. My best wishes to all of you.

Paul Keeley
12th June 2020