

SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GARDENS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

INTRODUCTION

This is the twelfth 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 12th July 2018. The report covers the period of SGG's twelfth financial year which ended on 31st March 2017.

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 12 years it looks likely that SGG's main activities for the foreseeable future will involve agroforestry in one form or another, continued support for orphans in Busia, and some horticultural work.

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 eleven 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 with 30 individual supporters and 6 institutions from within Europe. However, in 2017-2018 there has been a surge of institutional support associated with the Rotary tree-planting initiative. If we consider that project alone, there are 40 Rotary clubs who have donated to SGG tropical tree-planting for the first time as well as 8 new Rotary Clubs in Tanzania working in partnership with SGG. If we count 'active partners' in Africa rather than 'supporters' in the UK, SGG continues to experience the rapid growth mentioned in last year's Annual Report. At present we are hopeful that contacts first met at the Rotary 'Environmental Sustainability and Peace' conference in February 2018 will be a valuable resource for the future. Rotary tree-planting has taken up most of my time this year, and I expect this to be repeated next year.

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 2017-8 has been dominated by one project i.e. Project 11 'Tree-planting and conservation in Africa'. Here SGG has been active in three specific schemes:

- the 2014-7 OPTIONs project which aimed to plant 40,000 pesticidal shrubs and trees by June 2017, and which succeeded in doing so. This project ended officially soon after the start of this reporting period, so work here was limited this year,
- the 2014-9 Treedom project, which had a planting target of 25,000 trees within the current forest plan but where 32,432 have already been planted. Limited work was done during this financial year as farmers wait to receive their remuneration for work done before April 2017,
- until this year tree-planting within the Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions had definitely been the least important of the 3 tree-planting projects, but this year the Rotary tree-planting project, mainly in Tanzania but also in Kenya, has been SGG's most important project by far. This activity alone produced 14 tree-planting schemes, thereby satisfying the target stated in the initial business plan.

The above agroforestry 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 has been reduced in recent years. However, SGG now has a group specifically supporting the OVC groups in Busia and the horticultural project in Matayos is becoming more self-sustaining, concern about these other projects has now lessened.



The Rotary tree-planting project involved dozens of community meetings like this one [see above left] as well as negotiations with several Rotary clubs new to SGG. Most of SGG's October-November 2017 field visit was occupied with such preparation meetings. Here guardians at Siguli Orphans Centre decide to defer planting until the long rains expected in in March 2018. Much time has also been spent counting trees, especially during the March-April 2018 visit. Here [see above right] I am inspecting trees planted along a stream by Mwika Rotary club. Their intention was to increase the density of trees close to any rivers in the locality in order to maintain a more regular flow of water in those streams. For all these tree-planting projects involvement of the local community, including decision-making, is crucial.

In the 2016-17 financial year SGG £26,689 was raised in the UK, while the equivalent of a further £13,108.41p was paid by Treedom into SGG's dollar account in Busia. Furthermore, SGG received the equivalent of £308.27p deposited by members of MMO for table-banking purposes. These additional sources of funding gave a total income for SGG of £40,105.68p in the 2016-7 year. In this financial year the income raised for projects in the UK account was £19,593. There was an additional £5,785 deposited in the OPTIONS account, but this is meant to be a final salary payment for Paul and Carole Keeley, rather than funds for projects. Treedom paid US\$4,746 into SGG's dollar account in Busia, but significant money is still owed by Treedom for work done in the previous financial year. Lastly, SGG's Busia account received Ksh 43,000/- [approximately £309] as local deposits for table-banking schemes. Thus, the estimated income of SGG this year is £23,481. This is significantly below what was achieved with fundraising last year. However, this is not a great matter for concern. The balance in the SGG at the end of this reporting period was £9,602, so next year's policy should encourage greater investment in SGG projects – and there are several opportunities here which the Directors could consider. 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 approximately 40,000 trees this year. 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 table-banking '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.



Here [see left] Phaustine Ogolla of FOCUSA showing their crop of onions in the Matayos Demonstration Plot. This plot is worked by volunteers from 3 OVC groups – FOCUSA, Lonely Orphans & Khuyala Self-Help Group. Over the last 2 years we have tried to estimate income from this plot, which at present seems to be about £350 pa. This income is hypothetical in that much of the vegetables grown here are used to feed orphans in the 3 groups rather than sold at Matayos market. The point here though is that none of this income appears in the accounts of SGG, who provided the initial investment. Phaustine is currently experimenting with some crops which are unusual for this locality e.g. bambarra nuts, gourds [also shown in photo], Moringa leaves. The long term aim is to improve child nutrition around Matayos. What value can we put on a child's nutrition and health?

CURRENT PROJECTS

During the 2017-2018 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 implementation of improved water supply**, is a project now implemented on only an occasional basis. As reported previously this project has been considered closed for the last several years, but SGG is investigating again the issue of water supply. The main activity this year has been negotiation related to the establishment of a drip irrigation system at Matayos Demonstration Plot. This will require a substantial investment in the next financial year. Also SGG has agreed that the prize for the Rombo Mkuu Rotary Club school tree competition will be investment in water harvesting facilities, but this will not require payment before 2020.



This is the 10,000 litre tank given to Maki School, Rombo District for being the winner of the 2013-6 school tree-planting competition organised by Mkuu Rombo Rotary Club. At the time SGG could afford only 3 watertanks for the 3 best schools, but nearly all the schools in this locality need better water storage facilities to overcome the problems of prolonged drought. SGG is needing sponsors so we can provide as many such water-harvesting facilities as possible.

- **Project 2, support for 450 orphans & vulnerable children in Busia.** After a couple of years when SGG had limited funds for the OVC programme, investment in this programme has increased significantly recently. Since 2016 there has been significant infrastructural improvement at Siguli, at Gladys's Children's Home and at Lonely Orphans' Centre. However, this was of benefit to only 3 of the 9 OVC groups, and it was suggested at the last AGM that SGG could investigate how financial support could best be spread throughout the 9 OVC groups. Accordingly, Carole Keeley visited all 9 groups during her last visit to Busia to assess the current situation. Her field report is attached as Appendix A, so it is now for the Directors to determine a new policy concerning these very underprivileged children. These OVC group did receive one significant investment during this year. The Rotary Club of Newcastle-Gosforth sponsored a project whereby the households of all 450 OVCs received 1 banana sucker & 4 other seedlings per OVC to plant on the household plot. This scheme resulted in the planting of 358 bananas, 361 other fruits, and 3,626 non-fruit seedlings for a total planting of 4,345 trees



The OVC feeding programme continues. Here *[see above left]* OVCs at Upendo receive their regular meal. At Upendo there are no facilities: it is an informal meeting at a members house and the orphans sit on the ground to eat. In other groups facilities are much better. FOCUSSA have been sponsored by the UK charity CoCo, and the OVCs at FOCUSSA now enjoy new dormitories *[see above right]* and new classrooms. In general it is clear that these children are in a much better condition than those we met when SGG first came to Busia. However, there are still children in desperate need. This building *[see below left]* is the new boys dormitory at New Hope Emaseno and a definite sign of progress. Currently 34 boys sleep in this room in what are very cramped conditions. There are plenty of children in need around Siguli, *[see below right]* so there was much rejoicing when each orphan child received a banana sucker and 4 seedlings to plant at their homes. Remember that there are so many orphans in Busia County that only a very small proportion are able to live in orphanages. In any case, SGG favours a policy whereby orphans stay within the family circle and care is home-based.



- **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. The main location of this project is has been the Demonstration Plot at Matayos, but SGG is now looking for other locations where permaculture & organic gardening can be promoted.

- **Project 4 –table-banking.** Although this has proved popular with farmers, this activity has been limited to the 9 OVC groups in recent years. This year Mukwano group requested table-banking funds so that each member could own a goat. Upendo guardians received table-banking funds for a poultry project. Both Sirotanyi and Namulekhwa Wedinye groups would like to use table-banking funds for their own ‘voluntary savings & loans’ scheme, but the application for funding is not yet completed. If there are sufficient funds in the SGG account would it be appropriate to increase this activity again? If so, who would make the most suitable partners?



Upendo women meet at a members home to discuss table-banking plans [see above left]. Usually this group opt for a poultry project. The rearing of local poultry is viewed by Kenyan agriculturists as the easiest way for a poor group with very limited capital to make a quick profit. Members use such profits to pay for educational costs & everyday domestic needs. Table banking can encourage enterprise. Here [see above right] is Mukwano’s goat project! A member of Mukwano received goats through previous table banking. When SGG came to monitor progress, we found out that Mary’s goat had previously produced kids, so she kept the kids, sold the adult goats and with the proceeds bought a cow.

- **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. SGG gives occasional 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.**
- **Project 9 & 10–support for schools in Chawama township, Lusaka and Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia** is now finished.

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

Once again, SGG's activities have been dominated by agroforestry schemes which fall within Project 11. In recent years the main project activity was the promotion of pesticidal plants or the Treedom project, but for this year the Rotary tree-planting project has been by far the main activity.

The OPTIONS project [ie. optimising the use of pesticidal plants through technical innovation, outreach and networks] finished in June 2017. SGG with our responsibility for outreach work in Kenya, Tanzania & Malawi completed the related fieldtraining sessions by mid-April, so there is little new to report here. At the final conference of the OPTIONS stakeholders in February 2017, some 60 participants wanted to establish a scientific society to continue the work of OPTIONS – even if there was no immediate funding for such work. In this financial year SGG has played a significant role in trying to establish the ISPP [i.e. the International Society for Pesticidal Plants], which hopes to hold its first global conference in Cameroun in 2020.

As far as the Treedom project to plant 25,000 trees mainly in Busia County is concerned, those trees were planted before 2017, so the main SGG activity has been the monitoring of trees planted by the 409 participating farmers.



Although the OPTIONS project has formally ended, there is a move among some of the research scientists to continue working on natural biopesticides. One such group is PEPTEN [i.e. Pesticidal Plant Technology Network] in Kenya. Here [see above left] Paul is presenting a summary of OPTIONS progress at PEPTEN's AGM, which was held at Egerton University in December 2017. Most of those present were working on research lines to be presented at the Cameroun conference.



The main activity within the Treedom project has been trees growing, with nearly all planting having been done 3-4 years ago. SGG has now paid nearly all farmers their second payment for the work they have done. While all farmers are now waiting for their third payment from Treedom, some are already enjoying the fruits of their labour. [See lower left, which shows one of the mango trees planted in 2014 by Mohamed Wandera of Matayos in West Kenya.]

The basis for the surge in Rotary tree-planting activity this year was Rotary International President Ian Riseley’s request that every rotarian plant at least one tree. At present the global membership of Rotary is approximately 1.2 million, so this represented a significant opportunity for SGG, if it proved possible to establish the advantages of tropical tree-planting. As SGG has good links with R.I’s Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group we were able to inform our tree-planting partners in both Tanzania & Kenya in March 2017 – well before many rotarians knew about Ian Riseley’s request. A second basis for SGG’s involvement in this Rotary project was that Paul was invited to be the “tree champion” for North-East England, which encouraged Rotary clubs who wished to support tropical tree-planting to channel their Sponsorship funds through SGG.



SGG has been encouraging farmers around Busia to practise agroforestry for 10 years, so it was not surprising that many responded positively to the opportunities of this Rotary year. These West Kenyan farmers have developed the practice of planting seedlings at their own cost and then hoping that SGG will pay them for their efforts. For example, here [see top left] is Mary Onyango showing the Mwarobaini nusu [*Melia azedarach*] already planted in her maize plot. Her reward for this ‘environmental service’ was Ksh20/- per surviving tree. This was not an isolated example. As a result of this practice, SGG counted a total of 8,030 trees [374 bananas & 1,992 other fruits as well as 5,664 non-fruits] planted by Busia farmers since 1st July 2017. The total cost of this planting was £1,480 with £1,310 of the sponsorship provided by 6 Rotary clubs.



Many of the Busia trees were planted for the benefit of the 450 orphans within the 9 OVC groups which are part of Project 2. Here [see lower left] Joshua Wabwire of FOCUSA is planting mzizi [*Maesopsis eminii*] around the edge of Gladys Ochieng’s field. This was part of a Rotary Club of Newcastle-Gosforth scheme to provide every household caring for one of the 450 orphans with one banana stem & 4 non-fruit seedlings. Gladys Mary Childrens Home received 215 seedlings as well as 50 new bananas as part of this scheme.



SGG made a two day visit to Rusinga, when we counted and sponsored 1872 trees. There are two NGOs [Badilisha & RIOFA], both active in the promotion of organic farming and permaculture. Here *[see top left]* Nancy Onege of RIOFA shows a fine example of small-scale, intensive tropical farming. On this small plot she has approximately 500 Moringa trees, but has also planted 33 bananas, 8 pawpaw, 88 Markhamia lutea and another 22 Moringa this year. Here *[see above right]* we counted 261 new trees planted in Badilisha's demonstration plot. In this photo you can see pawpaw, mango, & Markhamia as well as a host of vegetables.

Most of the Tanzanian Rotary clubs are concerned to involve young people and so usually work through schools on tree-planting to improve school grounds. Here *[see lower left]* Paul addresses the Interact Club at Darajani School, which is supported by the Kibo Rotary club. It is difficult to be precise about how many young Tanzanians have been involved in Rotary tree-planting this year, but SGG estimates that this would be at least 10,000 young people. For example, Mwika Rotary organised tree-planting at 14 local primary schools with an aggregate of 2,620 pupils – and Mwika are just one of 12 Tanzanian clubs with similar programmes. Tree-planting in schools is not necessarily easy. All the schools visited around Same have the problem of prolonged drought and water shortage. Here *[see below right]* is one of the trees planted at Kisima Primary. This photo shows the bare ground within the school compound, even at the height of the rainy season. At this school soil erosion is a major problem, and trees are essential to reduce this environmental damage.



Most of SGG's monitoring of Rotary tree-planting in Tanzania was undertaken in April 2018 i.e. outside the period reported here, so a fuller report will be found in next year's Annual Report. However, this year East Africa was blessed with exceptional rains with the rainy season starting early and many seedlings being planted before April. It was often the counting/monitoring and not the planting of these trees which was done after 31st March. Thus, it is worth mentioning here that by early May 2018 SGG had recorded the planting of 41,475 trees. This had been achieved by the combined efforts of 44 donor Rotary clubs and 12 implementing Rotary clubs in Tanzania, with SGG acting as the middleman within these partnerships. Although Rotary tree-planting will finish as a global scheme on 30th June, there are many rotarians eager to continue scuh work. Thus, SGG will probably be busy next financial year with this project.

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 4 years. **Projects 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18 are all finished.**



The Demonstration Plot at Matayos continues to make progress and gains increased income. The members of MADEI who work the plot have started to take their own initiative e.g. an expansion of the plot area, plans to establish drip irrigation. Here [see left] is a new scheme to grow vegetable seedlings, such as sukumawiki, for sale in the local market. It is likely that SGG's involvement here will finish when the drip irrigation system is operational. Thus, SGG is looking for new partners who wish to develop kitchen gardens and permacultural practices.

FUTURE PROSPECTS & RELATED ISSUES

For Sustainable Global Gardens the financial year 2018-2019 will be a period of financial uncertainty but also a time of exciting possibilities. We have good reasons for optimism about the future of Sustainable Global Gardens and another busy year ahead. Although there has been a decline in available funding our 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, so SGG's prospects are good.

With reference to particular projects Directors should note:

- at the International Conference for Pesticidal Plants, which was held in February 2017, the majority of delegates expressed a desire for the establishment of a society, which will be known as the International Society for Pesticidal Plants [ISPP]. SGG have been involved in the preparation and initial setting up of this society, with Carole acting as the initial Treasurer and Paul acting as a temporary coordinator. Such roles might continue for a few years. As the first ISPP conference is scheduled to be held in the Cameroun in 2020-21, this opens the prospect of work in parts of West Africa;

- also in February 2017 Paul visited Malawi. Two NGOs which received OPTIONS training from Paul are interested in continuing those activities next year;
- the Treedom project has now run for four years. The planting target of 25,000 trees was reached in the previous financial year, and by now 32,438 trees have been planted, registered and sold according to the Treedom website. However, by the end of this financial year Treedom have failed to pay invoices submitted more than one year ago, so I propose that our previously agreed policy remains in place;
- SGG's Rotary tropical tree-planting has proved to be a great success, so I propose SGG continues to work with this organisation for the coming year – even though immediate funding is uncertain;
- in summary SGG now faces a future with exciting possibilities but very limited secured funding;



Orphans at Siguli Orphans Centre receive seedlings for planting at home- March 2018

- 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. Our aim is to help children and communities like Siguli 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 Sustainable Development Goals No 1 and 2, the eradication of extreme global poverty and hunger. My best wishes to all of you.

Paul Keeley
8th July 2018