

SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL GARDENS ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

INTRODUCTION

This is the thirteenth 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 14th June 2019. The report covers the period of SGG's thirteenth financial year which ended on 31st March 2019.

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 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 thirteen 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 30 individual supporters and 6 institutions helping to promote SGG. However, in 2017-2018 there was a surge of institutional support associated with the 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 new Rotary Clubs in Tanzania and 11 farmer community groups in Kenya working in partnership with SGG. If we count partners actively involved in African tree-planting 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. One example will serve to illustrate this. Two members of Siguli Self-Help Group in West Kenya used a small SGG grant to establish a tree nursery. By March 2019 they had produced 6,000 seedlings which were to be distributed to the guardians of some 160 orphans and planted in their household plots.



The above are photos of Siguli Orphans Centre. One of the rooms is being used as a temporary store for seedlings before collection by guardians of orphans. These photos were taken in April 2019, but by then more than 4,500 of the seedlings had already been given out to 160 of the orphans' guardians. There were a variety of tree-species distributed. *Grevillea robusta* was the most popular [3000 seedlings], but there were significant numbers of pawpaw [500 seedlings], jackfruit [300 seedlings], *Moringa oleifera* [500], as well as indigenous species such as *Maesopsis eminii*, *Markhamia lutea*. All of these species are useful to Busia farmers.

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.



Siritanyi group near Nambale, West Kenya is an excellent example of a small-scale income-generating group. They raise initial capital through a 'voluntary savings & loan' practice, with those funds topped up through table-banking. This year 12 members of the group received Ksh 4000/- each for their individual business enterprise. Their activities included trading in cereals, groundnuts, fish, vegetables & clothing. After 8 months profits reached more than Ksh 61,000/- with some items still to be sold. It is of note that planting vegetables was the most profitable of the businesses. Several of the members used their profits to support OVCs [orphans &/or vulnerable children] through school.

The main aspect of SGG's activities where initial hopes have never been realised is the matter of 'the annual raising of £100,000'. 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 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.



The photo on the left shows a large field on the lower, drier slopes of Kilimanjaro. Without trees along the field boundary and breaking up the field into smaller sections the soil here would be vulnerable to excess drying and soil erosion. The trees, which can be harvested over a ten year cycle, also provide a significant source of income. The photo on the right shows a four year old mango tree planted in Busia County, West Kenya. Such a fruit tree can easily provide more than £1 of income per year, but of much greater value is the good health of those who have such trees.

In the 2017-18 financial year the total income of SGG was estimated to be £23,481. This was significantly lower than in the previous four years when SGG received appreciable funding for the OPTONs project. One conclusion from this is that for the last two years SGG has needed to find another source of substantial funds if we are to achieve our potential as an African development group. Another response to this situation is that we need to make better, more sustainable use of the financial resources available to us.

During this financial year the income raised in the UK for projects was £12,690.06p. This figure compares poorly with the figure for last year when SGG received many grants from Rotary clubs for the SGG-Rotary tropical tree-planting initiative. In this financial year Treedom paid US\$8,757 [approximately £6,587] into SGG's dollar account in Busia, although it should also be noted that they still owe significant money to reward farmers for the work they have done. A further source of income is the local contributions for table-banking which are deposited directly into SGG's Busia account. Such contributions totalled Ksh 188,000/-, the equivalent of £1,404. Thus, the estimated total income for SGG this year is £20,951.06p This is similar to what was achieved with fundraising last year, so there is a need to increase our fundraising efforts 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

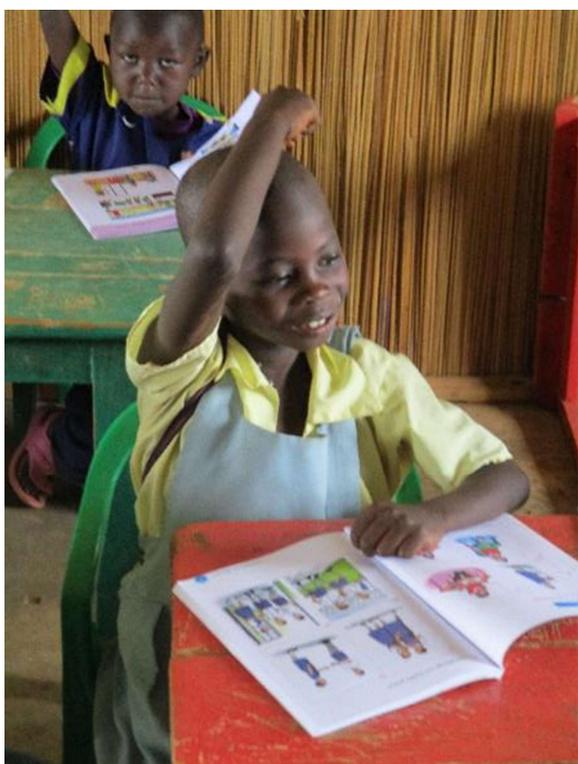
During the 2018-2019 financial year there was a wider range of activity than in recent previous years when tree-planting occupied so much of SGG's time and resources. A full list of SGG's current enterprises is as follows: -

- **Project 1, the implementation of improved water supply.** For the first time in a decade, SGG implemented two water projects. One was the provision of a water pump to lift water from a well into a tank for irrigation at the MADEI demonstration plot in Matayos. The other was a water harvesting project with tank at Siguli Orphans Centre near Butula.



The above left photo shows the demonstration plot water tank with new piping which brings water from a nearby well. This will allow dry season irrigation when prices of vegetables in the local market rise dramatically. It is anticipated that this will increase horticultural production & income for the Madei group. Joshua Odenyo, the manager of Siguli Orphans Centre, stands next to their new water tank which is supplied by rainwater from the roof [see above right]. This was made possible by a donation from Berwick Rotary Club. As a local contribution towards the cost of this project, Joshua agreed that the beneficiaries should plant some 5,000 trees. This is mentioned earlier in this report.

- **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 in the last two years. Since April 2018 there has been further improvement in the facilities at Gladys's Children's Home with the provision of more beds for the 34 boys living at the home. The water-harvesting facilities recently installed at Siguli have already been mentioned, but in addition to that we have supplied the school with a variety of educational resources of more direct benefit to the pupils there. Lonely Orphans group have benefitted in a different way. One of their volunteer teaching staff, Judith Khamaya, was given funding for water-harvesting to establish a small tree nursery, with Judith making a commitment to giving 1,000 seedlings to other members of the group.



Education in Kenya is making good progress. Nowadays the issue is not just a question of a poor child going to school but rather about the quality of education received when at school. The above photos show pupils at Siguli Orphans Centre who now benefit from books they can read & simple play activities.

The basic activity within these 9 women's groups who care for some 450 orphans &/or vulnerable children is the weekly communal meal. The photo below left shows the children at Upendo waiting patiently as the maize-beans-green vegetables meal is prepared. The lower right photo shows children socialising and eating their weekly communal meal at Siritanyi.

SGG continues to subsidise these meals at a rate of £1/month/child, but we have never had sufficient funds to meet that commitment. Could you afford £50 to provide a nutritious weekly meal for one of these orphan groups for one month? If so, please contact us at sgginfo16@gmail.com



In order to maintain this programme SGG expects each of the 9 orphans groups to be managed by a strong local team of at least 5 people. This has usually been the case, and most of these groups have been local partners implementing this programme for several years. However, there have been some local groups who have disintegrated through weak self-management & commitment, with the consequence that they have been dropped from this programme. This year SGG took the sad decision to remove the Khuyala Self-Help Group and also Namulekhwa Wedinye from this programme as our contacts with these two groups are no longer reliable. That sadness was balanced by the introduction to the programme of two groups who have wanted to join the orphans support programme for at least 5 years. Those groups are CIF, who are based in the drylands near Sioport, and Nyusa Farmers, who are neighbours to Siguli. Both of these groups have been active participants in both the Treedom and SGG-Rotary tree-planting projects, and SGG already has strong links with their leaders.

- **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. 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”. Two SGG coordinators, Anne Fundia and Macbeth Odero, can both establish and train a VSL group. 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 their newly proposed activity. If the scheme is acceptable SGG will add a 30% contribution to the budget.

These small investments can generate considerable income for poor people. A good illustration of this would be Upendo Women’s Group pig-rearing project. In October 2017 the group had Ksh 20,000/- [£156] to invest from table-banking. This was sufficient to allow the 20 members to purchase one piglet each. In October 2018 they reported that most of the group had sold the original pig, with total sales for the whole group of Ksh 94,500/-[£734]. Much of this income was then used to pay for educational fees, but most members spent Ksh 1000/- of their income on buying a new piglet. Some of the members kept the original sow and sold the offspring piglets. For these women, living in an area of low, unreliable rainfall and with limited capacity for the hard manual work needed for cultivation, this simple scheme is a life-line. The main defect of this type of project is that SGG does not have sufficient finance to table-bank with all the community groups which want such assistance

- **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 into **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, agroforestry activities have been a major part of SGG's work schedule this year. Such action can be divided into 3 main schemes i.e.

1. those parts of the SGG-Rotary tropical tree-planting project which were not completed or monitored before 31st March 2018;
2. the Treedom project where there has been no tree-planting, but considerable work in monitoring and making the third payment to participating farmers;
3. new post 1st July initiatives.

April 2018 was an extremely busy period for SGG when much of the counting for the SGG-Rotary tropical tree-planting was done. During this month SGG recorded the planting of more than 30,000 trees – although it should be mentioned that many of these trees had been planted before 31st March i.e. in SGG's previous financial year. By the end of April SGG had recorded a total of 41,475 trees planted. This was the official figure submitted for the Rod Huggins Tree Award, which was duly won by SGG's Rotary District 1030. It was very pleasing to note that this SGG-initiated project accounted for about half the trees planted that year by the 1400 Rotary clubs in the British Isles. Of more importance is the fact that many Rotary clubs and their African planting partners are eager to continue such tree-planting for the foreseeable future. You can read a full account of this project in the attached Appendix, SGGRotaryReport[9.7.2018].

The situation is very different with the Treedom tree-planting project. During this year there has been no planting, and SGG activities have focussed on monitoring and making payments to farmers for their services. Although this project was good in that it encouraged many farmers to start tree-planting, SGG does not intend to work with Treedom after the current 5 year contract ends on 16th June 2019 as full payments from Treedom to farmers have yet to be completed.



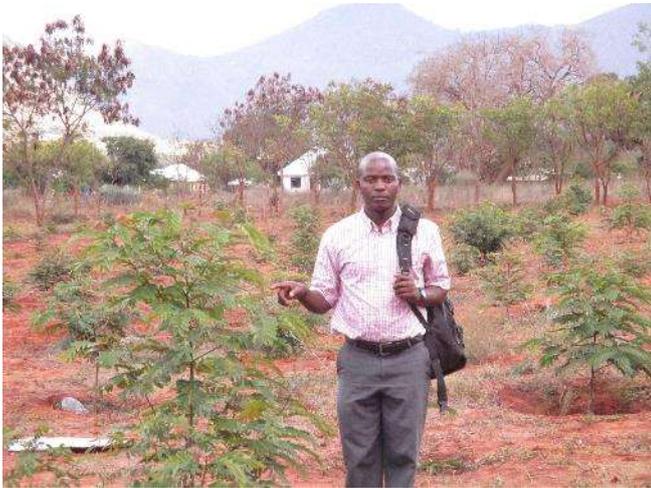
The SGG-Rotary tropical tree-planting project brought a series of new opportunities to SGG. We started dealing in much larger numbers with some of our planting partners. The top left photo shows 1000 seedlings prepared by Ndaswa, waiting to be planting at Malowa School in Rombo District. The school owns a large patch of ground in the lower, dry zone of the district – so the school has plans to plant a further 5,000 trees in the next few years. Same Rotary Club introduced me to Same’s District Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule, who has initiated a 10 year campaign to green Same District. At present Same District is well known for treeless landscapes, aridity, soil erosion and desertification – hence the slogan of the campaign ‘Same is not the same’. Here is an opportunity for a strong Rotary club to really make a difference to both the environment and social conditions [see above right].

The ‘Same is not the same’ campaign will require concerted action by both public institutions and individual farmers in Same. For example, the Lutheran Cathedral tree nursery had raised 2,000 seedlings. 500 of these seedlings were given to 150 children supported by the church to plant in their household plots [see bottom left].

Many of implementing partners within this Rotary-sponsored project arranged for trees to be planted in schools. They emphasised the importance of environmental education & action, and engaging young people, if Tanzania is to solve its long-term environmental difficulties. However, in West Kenya most seedlings were given directly to orphans & their farmer guardians so that they could be planted on the household plot. Here [see below right] two orphan girls have just received their allocation of seedlings distributed by Siguli Orphans Centre. They have rushed home to plant their trees before the approaching thunderstorm arrives. For SGG tree-planting on small-scale farms is a major part of our poverty and hunger alleviation strategy.



Since the end of the end of the last Rotary year on 30th June 2018 tree-planting and monitoring has continued in East Africa. During the October field visit there was time to note the progress of some of the SGG-Rotary trees and also monitor some that had been planted since my previous visit.



Trees planted by students at Kisangara School, sponsored by Barrow Meridien and Toronto Rotary clubs, and implemented with the help of Mwangi Rotary [see above left]. An excellent example of international cooperation for environmental improvement. Many Tanzanian schools participating in the SGG-Rotary project gave responsibility for each tree to one of their pupils. Here [see above right] at Makerere Primary pupils stand next to the seedling for which they have to care.



One new development this year has been the emergence of farmers starting at their own initiative and cost small tree nurseries as a small business enterprise. Judith Khamaya is a volunteer teacher at Lonely Orphans, Matayos. She wished to raise some money for herself, so started a small nursery [see above left]. With some assistance from SGG she had a small water-harvesting scheme constructed at her house so that seedlings survived the long dry season. By the end of March she had sold 5,000 seedlings and gained an income of Ksh50,000/- [£390]. While monitoring trees planted by members of Nyusa Farmers, SGG came across this small nursery where Rosabella Aburu has about 300 seedlings for sale to her neighbours. The potential sales value here may be only Ksh 3,000/-[£24], but in cash-poor rural societies this can be a significant additional income. She could, of course, plant them on her own property to increase their value, but she already has about 300 trees on her small farm.

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 MADEI group have been experimenting with new vegetables in recent years. Here *[see upper photo]* they have a raised bed of shallot onions. Last year they discovered that these were popular in the local Matayos market and profitable, so more have been planted this year. They are now selling whole bunches of shallots for Ksh50/- [40p] each. As there are more than 100 in this raised bed, their anticipated income from this bed is more than Ksh5,000/- [£40]. With their new water pump the group can expect to produce vegetables with a value of more than Ksh 100,000/- [£480] in the coming years. Of course, this potential income may never be realised because the prime aim of the MADEI group is to feed the orphans in their care.



The Matayos demonstration plot has been sufficiently successful that the land available has been extended. Here *[see lower photo]* is Fred Wako a member of MADEI and also Chair of Lonely Orphans. Here he shows one of the yams being grown on the Lonely Orphans plot.

SGG is now looking to expand this type of horticulture to other locations, most likely to plots owned by the other OVC groups around Busia. With this in mind SGG have been exploring the possibilities of an informal partnership with the Australian group Food Plant Solutions, but this is very much at the embryonic stage at present. For more detailed information concerning this group, please browse www.foodplantsolutions.org where you can see a particular interest focused on improving child nutrition.

There is one other activity to be mentioned here. In November I made a reconnaissance visit to Rwanda in order to offer advice on potential projects there. By late March it seemed likely that a small-scale project involving tree-planting and horticultural improvements would be established near Butare in South Rwanda, but this is by no means certain at this stage. Also any involvement of SGG in such a project is not yet decided.

FUTURE PROSPECTS & RELATED ISSUES

For Sustainable Global Gardens the financial year 2018-2019 has been 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 – provided we can at least maintain and preferably increase our available funds. 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:

- SGG's Rotary tropical tree-planting has proved to be a great success, so we expect SGG to continue working with this organisation for the coming year. It is quite possible that the Rotary International network becomes a major vehicle for SGG's activities next year. Of particular note here is my visit in June to the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, where I hope to extend both contacts and interest in tropical tree-planting. Also of relevance is the fact that one of the Tanzanian Rotary clubs is considering making an application for a Rotary Foundation 'global grant' for an agroforestry project on Kilimanjaro. If this goes forward SGG shall be heavily involved as a 'cooperating NGO';
- it is several months since we have had any communication from Freedom, despite our sending requests for payments in July, September, December and March. I propose that we end dealings with them when our 5 year contract terminates on 16th June 2019;
- 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;
- in summary SGG now faces a future with exciting possibilities but very limited secured 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. 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
13th June 2019