

2025/26 IMPACT REPORT

Seeds of Sustainability

Ceiba Foundation's grant program
supporting grassroots conservation
efforts across the tropics



A MESSAGE FROM CEIBA

Through Ceiba's Seeds of Sustainability Fund, we invest in local leaders across the tropics who are protecting biodiversity while creating lasting benefits for their communities. **By providing catalytic funding to grassroots initiatives, the Seeds of Sustainability helps transform promising ideas into measurable conservation action**, supporting projects that restore habitats, protect threatened species, strengthen sustainable livelihoods, and empower communities to lead their own conservation future.

This year, we received over **400 applications** from passionate conservationists working across the tropics, **underscoring both the extraordinary commitment of local change makers and the growing need for conservation funding**. After a rigorous review process conducted by Ceiba staff and alumni, six exceptional projects were selected for their strong alignment with Ceiba's Conservation Priorities and for their potential to create lasting ecological and community impact.

The pages that follow are a testament to what local conservation leaders can accomplish when they have access to the resources they need. **Through the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, your generosity helps bridge the gap between local expertise and the funding needed to turn ambitious ideas into lasting conservation impact.**

Thank you to everyone who makes this work possible. With your continued support, we can invest in even more grassroots conservation leaders, strengthen existing partnerships, and maximize our impact across the tropics.

SUPPORT LOCAL CONSERVATION LEADERS TODAY!



To learn more about Ceiba's [Seeds of Sustainability Fund](#) and our [Conservation Partners](#), visit [ceiba.org](#)!

LEARN MORE!



SNAPSHOT

6 GRASSROOTS PROJECTS • 4 COUNTRIES



NATUREHUB COLLECTIVE

Restores mangroves and supports women's livelihoods



SEAS AND FORESTS ALLIANCE

Connects habitats and communities



DRY FOREST RESEARCH

Guides dry forest conservation through science



KHAMAI FOUNDATION

Protects the Endangered Mindo Harlequin Toad



AICRO-UGANDA

Restores corridors and sustainable livelihoods



ACRG

Partners with Njala University to restore habitat and foster stewardship

- **25,000+** trees & mangroves planted
- **40+** hectares restored & protected
- **2,500+** community members engaged
- **245+** youth involved
- **50 km** elephant corridor protected
- **Last known habitat** protected for Mindo Harlequin Toad



MEET THE GRANTEES

NatureHub Collective

 **LOCATION:** Mtwapa Creek, Kenya

 **CONSERVATION PRIORITY:** Mangrove Restoration, Sustainable Livelihoods

PROJECT OVERVIEW

For years, mangrove forests at Mtwapa Creek were disappearing as families relied on harvesting trees for charcoal and firewood to earn a living. As nearly 40% of the ecosystem was lost, wildlife habitat declined, coastal communities became more vulnerable to erosion and climate impacts, and local livelihoods grew increasingly insecure.

With support from the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, NatureHub Collective partnered with the Kidongo Women's Group to restore degraded mangrove habitat while creating sustainable sources of income. Together they planted 20,000 native mangroves, established community-owned nurseries, launched a beekeeping enterprise, trained local Environmental Ambassadors, and equipped community members to monitor and protect the restored ecosystem independently.

HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

- **20,000 mangrove seedlings** planted across **5 hectares**
- Project expected to sequester approximately **1,000 tons of CO₂** over the next decade
- Numerous **crab and bird species** documented in restored habitat

SOCIAL IMPACTS

- **25 beehives** installed, producing over **50 kg** of honey to support 45 women
- **45 women** trained to manage nurseries, beekeeping, and restoration

"Before I had nothing. Now I protect these trees because my children's school fees come from this honey. I will never cut another mangrove."

~ Grace Wanjiku Mwangi, Chairwoman, Kidongo Women's Group



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Seas & Forests Alliance

 **LOCATION:** Manabí, Ecuador

 **CONSERVATION PRIORITY:** Habitat Connectivity, Sustainable Livelihoods

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The dry forests of coastal Ecuador face habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and limited opportunities for local communities to participate in conservation. Without restoring degraded forests, educating future conservation leaders, and expanding scientific knowledge of local biodiversity, these ecosystems remain vulnerable to continued decline.

With support from the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, Seas & Forests Alliance implemented a comprehensive conservation program in Jama, combining environmental education, forest restoration, and biodiversity research. The project engaged youth and families in hands-on conservation learning, restored habitat connectivity across multiple landscapes, strengthened local ecotourism capacity, and expanded research on native pollinators through partnerships with university students.

HIGHLIGHTS



CONSERVATION IMPACTS

- **Restored key habitat** in 3 cantones
- **Partnered with 8 landowners** to restore forest connectivity
- Worked with students to expand **regional pollinator monitoring**



SOCIAL IMPACTS

- Delivered **environmental education** and **field experiences** to local youth
- Supported **6 local guides** to develop Jama's **first community-led ecotourism initiative**
- **Connected people and nature** through events and outreach

"For me, this credential means my future. It represents the effort, dedication, and perseverance I put into this journey."

~ Johanna Herrera, Certified Guide of Local Tourism





Dry Forest Dynamics

 **LOCATION:** Lalo Loor Reserve, Ecuador

 **CONSERVATION PRIORITY:** Research to Inform Conservation Planning

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Ecuador's tropical dry forests are among the country's most threatened ecosystems, yet little long-term data exists to understand how they are changing. Without ongoing research, scientists and conservationists cannot identify which tree species are declining, how climate change is affecting the forest, or which species are most at risk of extinction.

With support from the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, Catalina Quintana conducted a fourth tree census of two long-term research plots in Lalo Loor Reserve, building on over 20 years of ecological monitoring. The project analyzed tree growth, mortality, recruitment, species composition, and climate trends while updating species identifications and assessing the conservation status of endemic trees to guide future conservation decisions.

HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

- **Documented long-term changes** in tree growth, mortality, recruitment, and species composition
- Found that approximately **10%** of recorded tree species are **endemic** to Ecuador's dry forests
- Identified tree species at **greatest risk of extinction**
- **Updated species and conservation databases** to support future research and management
- **Presented findings** at the Life Science Congress in the Galápagos

“These outputs will contribute to strengthening conservation efforts and will highlight the important role of the Ceiba Foundation in supporting basic research, a fundamental first step toward effective conservation.”

~ Catalina Quintana, Lead Researcher





AICRO- Uganda

 **LOCATION:** Kyenjojo District, Uganda

 **CONSERVATION PRIORITY:** Habitat Connectivity, Sustainable Livelihoods



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Communities in Kyenjojo District depend heavily on surrounding forests for their livelihoods, placing pressure on native habitats through unsustainable resource use and forest degradation. Limited conservation training, a lack of local monitoring systems, and declining forest health threatened biodiversity and the long-term resilience of these ecosystems.

With support from the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, AICRO-Uganda worked alongside local communities to build the knowledge, tools, and leadership needed for long-term forest conservation. The project trained community members in sustainable forestry, established tree nurseries and demonstration plots, and created a community-led forest monitoring system that empowers local people to track forest health and respond to threats.

HIGHLIGHTS



CONSERVATION IMPACTS

- **30,000 seedlings** raised across **3 community nurseries**
- **50 km elephant corridor** demarcated to improve habitat connectivity
- **2,100 seedlings** distributed to **800 farmers** to restore wildlife corridor
- **87% survival** in restoration plots



SOCIAL IMPACTS

- **1,525 community members** engaged in **beekeeping** to generate income and reduce human-elephant conflict
- **92 community members** trained in sustainability (**54% women**)

"Local people are not just recipients of conservation interventions, but active leaders and decision-makers."

~ Find name of person, and title





Khamai Foundation

 **LOCATION:** Mindo, Ecuador

 **CONSERVATION PRIORITY:** Habitat Protection for last known population of Mindo Harlequin Toad



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Mindo Harlequin Toad, one of the world's rarest amphibians, was once considered possibly extinct. After a tiny surviving population was rediscovered, its only known habitat remained unprotected and was at risk of being sold for cattle ranching. Losing this cloud forest would have degraded water quality, fragmented the habitat, and likely driven the species to extinction.

With support from the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, Khamai Foundation secured the purchase of the 28-hectare "Sánchez" property, expanding the Arlequín Reserve from 5 to 33 hectares. This permanently protects the toad's remaining habitat, including the streams, forest canopy, and watershed essential for its survival, while creating a foundation for future monitoring, habitat restoration, and conservation.

HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

- Permanently protected the **only known habitat** of the Mindo Harlequin Toad
- Expanded the Arlequín Reserve from **5 to 33 hectares**
- **Strategically safeguarded** the watershed, riparian habitat, and cloud forest ecosystem critical to the species' survival
- **Planted 25 native trees** to launch a cloud forest restoration area **honoring Ceiba Foundation**
- **Established a secure site** for continued monitoring, research, and population recovery efforts

"By protecting the entirety of the known habitat, the project addresses both immediate extinction risk and long-term ecological resilience."

~ Alejandro Arteaga, what is his title





ACRG & Njala University

 **LOCATION:** Sierra Leone

 **CONSERVATION PRIORITY:** Habitat Restoration, Sustainable Livelihoods

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Years of deforestation for charcoal production, frequent land-clearing fires, and unsustainable land-use practices had degraded habitats around Njala University. Without restoration and long-term protection, these threats would continue to reduce biodiversity, damage ecosystems, and make it difficult for forests to recover.

With support from the Seeds of Sustainability Fund, Action for Community Resilience Group (ACRG) partnered with Njala University, students, and surrounding communities to restore degraded land while building lasting conservation systems. The project combined native tree planting, student stewardship, community-led protection agreements, and institutional support to ensure restoration continues well beyond the grant period.

HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

- Restored **7 hectares** of degraded land by planting **4,000 trees**
- **10 communities** committed to protecting restored forests
- Established a **permanent nursery** to support future restoration and agroforestry

SOCIAL IMPACTS

- **200+ students** engaged in hands-on restoration, each planting and caring for 5 trees
- **Integrated conservation into Njala University's programs** through long-term institutional partnerships

"Restoration requires consistent protection and community cooperation alongside planting efforts."

~ Find name, and title of the person

