



# Restoration Barometer

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## UPS

### 2022 Pledge Implementation Progress Report

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# 2022 1T.ORG PLEDGE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

## UPS

50 Million Trees in Underserved Communities Globally by 2030

### Reporting period

January 2020 – December 2021

### Pledge status

Fully on track



## Progress summary

Between January 2022 and December 2022, The UPS Foundation, our employees, and partners planted 6.1 million trees. Between 2012 and 2022, we planted more than 28 million trees in 69 countries toward our goal of planting 50 million trees by 2030.

UPS believes preserving the environment is an investment in our future. The foundation's environmental initiatives support improved health and quality of life in metropolitan cities and developing countries by reducing the impacts of climate change on underserved communities. We also fund research that helps accelerate decarbonisation of the transportation sector and helps reduce UPS's carbon footprint. We align our philanthropy with environmental programmes that help advance environmental justice and a sustainable world expanding nature-based solutions that improve the global environment, reduce carbon, support conservation, reforestation and forest protection. Our environmental research and education efforts support UPS's sustainability commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050. Through our research investments we strive to accelerate technologies and innovations that drive more sustainable practices through our enterprise value chain. Our global initiatives help to advance environmental sustainability, reaching and empowering communities worldwide. Funding for these initiatives is paired with the expertise and volunteer efforts of UPSers worldwide.

The UPS Foundation has an interest in supporting the cities where our customers and employees live, work and play. It helps with the most marginalised low- and middle- income communities where our investments can address basic human needs and improve lives. We participate in international initiatives that recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed and duly celebrated. We engage international forestry leaders to determine best practices in urban forestry and thus promote dialogue regarding sustainability leadership on a global scale.

## Implementation method

On-the-ground restoration through own operations or supply chains

### Financial support to :

- The Nature Conservancy
- Arbor Day Foundation
- EARTHDAY.ORG
- National Park Foundation
- World Wildlife Fund
- Keep America Beautiful
- Student Conservation Association
- local community partners

## Ecosystems and restoration interventions concerned

### Coasts and mangroves

- Planting of mangroves
- Invasive/problematic species control
- Site / area / habitat protection, including establishment of community conserved areas and protected areas
- Passive natural regeneration

### Deserts and semi-deserts

- Planting / seeding
- Farmlands and mixed-use areas
- Organic farming

### Forests and woodlands

- Land / water protection / conservation actions
- Restoring cultural forest ecosystems
- Combining trees with crops and/or animals

### Urban areas

- Restoration of urban waterways to semi-natural condition (measured in kilometres)



## Funding

**In 2020 and 2021, US\$ 6,916,162 was disbursed towards**

- Financing of implementing partner(s)
- Purchases of inputs such as seeds or saplings
- Capacity building such as awareness or training activities

Funding was provided to partners in tree planting and forest protection, environmental research, green jobs and environmental education. These initiatives improve lives in urban communities as well as strengthen underserved communities, improve air quality, promote better health, create jobs, mentor youths and promote social engagement plus beautification. Our investments with The Nature Conservancy on game-changing research efforts like the Green Heart Project and our catalytic investment in the Student Conservation Association to provide green jobs to Atlanta through Urban Community Crews, are supporting UPS's sustainability goals and expanding environmental equity and justice.

In 2020 and 2021, the UPS Foundation provided EARTHDAY.ORG's Trees for Communities project funding for tree planting initiatives in priority cities and countries that provide important benefits to local communities including income, nutrition, agricultural training and flood protection. This provides tremendous benefits for families and communities who received education and training on tree planting and the environmental and economic benefits provided by reforestation. In addition, the greater community benefited from the project including farm families that saw increased income and nutrition. One example includes the implementation of Forest Garden Approach in the Mount Elgon region of Uganda. The region, located in the eastern part of Uganda, was selected due to its high population densities, estimated at 1,000 persons per square kilometre. The Forest Garden Approach is a system of farming that incorporates agroforestry, perma-gardening and horticulture cultivation coupled with farmer-based training and capacity building, agricultural extension, farm planning and record keeping, and agricultural marketing into a four-year programme that helps revitalise degraded lands and increase farmer income and dietary diversity on the farm. Farmers are educated on diversifying their fields through planting high-value vegetables, fruit, nut and timber trees. They also learned more advanced skills and techniques to help manage their forest gardens for the future such as on-farm water and soil moisture management techniques to mitigate flooding and drought.

We are also funding The Nature Conservancy's programme with the University of Louisville's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute and others to contribute toward the Green Heart Project, which aims to rigorously test the hypothesis that increased neighbourhood greening can lower the risk of heart disease and other illnesses. We recognise that the science fuelling Green Heart is imperative to understanding the influence that nature has on human health. The UPS funding allowed for planting of mature and large trees in an underinvested Louisville neighbourhood as well as the volunteer programmes, education partnerships with schools, and equipment purchases to carry out the programme testing and monitoring.

We know that climate change disproportionately impacts low-income communities and people of colour around the world and that a key predictor of consistent employment in adulthood is early exposure to the world of work. Since 2010, our partnership with the Student Conservation Fund has funded employment pathways for underemployed young people in the green economy, which provides sustainable career opportunities for people directly impacted by disasters, supports community development, and leads to a more just and welcoming environmental movement.

#### Supporting documentation

- [2020 social impact](#)
- [Planet protection stories](#)



## Area of land

UPS is addressing how to adequately report on hectares under restoration. Currently, we rely on our partners to track and report on the impact our funding is having toward the programmes. The sustainable forest practices carried out by our partners contribute greatly to a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Throughout the past five years, our partners reported socio-economic improvements for forest dependent communities (e.g. through ecotourism, beekeeping in Madagascar and Kenya) resulting in progress toward SDG1 (No poverty). Additionally, 2020 saw most projects intensify participation of all genders in equal proportions (contributing to SDG5 on Gender Equality). The combined positive impacts such as carbon sequestration to improve native biodiversity, nutrient recycling and water balance, reduction of soil erosion and strengthened agricultural systems highlight the outcomes at local, national and regional levels that are catalysing efforts to achieve SDGs.

Arbor Day shares our collective impact measurements through an impact dashboard. The dashboard archives all the tree planting projects that have occurred over our 10-year partnership. Each project is mapped, provides pictures, and shows cumulative benefits including number of trees, acres restored carbon sequestered, gallons of avoided water runoff and how many tons of air pollutants were removed due to the projects.

We also identify impact through stories provided by our partners. In Mexico, The UPS Foundation supports training for farmers on an agroforestry model known as Maize System Interspersed with Fruit Trees (MIAF, in Spanish). This system, which uses avocado and citrus trees, not only generates benefits in terms of productivity due to its soil-regenerating capacity but also diversifies nutritional sources for local families. In collaboration with partners, we held workshops to help farmers understand the health of their soils before investing in crops to guide their valuable resources toward soil-regenerating practices that will allow their future crops to thrive.

### Supporting documentation

- [Planet Protection stories](#)
- [Partnership for a better tomorrow](#)



## Economy

In Uganda and India, 11,397 farmers and their family members received increased family income from Forest Garden Fruit trees with EARTHDAY.org.

In Kenya and Mexico, 39,849 farmers were supported through soil conservation and water-saving methods, including terracing land, establishing contour grass strips, restoring areas along waterways and tree planting with The Nature Conservancy.

Forest restoration training was provided with the World Wildlife Fund to 900 community members, including youth and women.

We are not only funding programmes to purchase trees, soil and plants, but ensuring that we are funding the training of the population to be able to care for and maintain the land appropriately.

### Types of jobs supported

- Seasonal / occasional / casual
- Long-term

### Benefiting stakeholders

- Indigenous peoples and/or local communities

### Supporting documentation

- [SCA UPS partner profile](#)







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