



The Mango Tree UK Environmental Policy 2022- 2025

The Mango Tree acknowledges the connection between the climate and other environmental crises and the increased threat of disease, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world, as well as the major damage being caused to our natural eco-systems. We are very aware from our own experience working in sub-Saharan Africa that the world's poorest communities are most affected by climate change; we see its impacts regularly in flooding, droughts, and crop failures in the communities which we visit. We therefore recognise our responsibility to reduce our carbon and environmental footprint in the UK, as well as proactively seeking to build climate resilience and reduce negative environmental impacts in the communities in which we work.

To take this forward, we commit to the following actions:

Programmatic action:

The Mango Tree UK is committed to:

- Aligning with best practice advice and investing in continued learning and professional development regarding reversing global warming in the areas of its work which relate to key target areas.
- Building resilience to climate change in those communities where we work
- Supporting sustainable natural resource management
- Providing eco-education or awareness and promote Climate Justice.
- Promoting and model good environmental practices as part of project delivery and organisational development

Aligning with best practice advice on reversing global warming:

The Mango Tree is committed to learning more about global warming and the impacts on the people and communities which we support in the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where we work. We will align with best practice advice on reversing global warming by looking to support and invest in the following kinds of work under these key environmental target areas:

- **Energy** – solar/ cycling/ water catchment projects
- **Waste** – recycling/use of manure as a fertiliser/ reduce use of single-use plastics
- **Food** – farmland restoration/ inter-cropping/ eco-stoves/ agro-forestry/ composting

- **Women & Girls** – recognise women as farmers/ fisher people etc/ increase their access to land/ improve their access to education, training, and resources/ family planning/ girls' educational retention
- **Land** – improved land ownership/ rights/ nature resource management/ water catchment

Further professional development: UK Director is studying an MSc Sustainable Development between 2022-2024

Building resilience:

By their very nature, the majority of our programmes encourage resilience to climate change through building the capacity of local communities, raising awareness of issues (flooding linked to climate change in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya) and supporting micro-finance and sustainable agricultural projects and investing in education to increase the employability of young people living in poor families. These programmes provide people with a safety net in case crops fail due to drought or flooding and provide new skills and business training so that they can diversify away from agriculture. For example, a family with large numbers of dependents may be supported to establish a sustainable aquaculture project as well as grow high yielding cash crops next to her pond (such as bananas). They would also be encouraged to join the TMT co-operative to save capital for investment in other micro-enterprises such as mat making or beekeeping and TMT may also fund the school fees of one or two of their orphaned dependents so that they can transition through secondary school and into college or university. To build community resilience we will:

- Invest in education, particularly of girls as they have been identified as one of the key target environmental strategies for reversing global warming.
- Invest in supporting livelihoods projects which provide a safety net for poor families and build community resilience, - e.g., sustainable aquaculture, beekeeping and tree-planting, micro-finance schemes, enterprise development models and co-operatives.
- Support the financial and governance independence of all our partners by ensuring long term sustainability is built into the projects we fund and investing in organisational development and governance capacity building.
- Target areas where poverty and the impact of HIV has been detrimental to the community cohesion and where traditional support mechanisms have been eroded.

Supporting sustainable natural resource management:

The training that The Mango Tree provides in rural agricultural communities encourages environmental responsibility and promotes resource management for the future sustainability of natural resources. As specialists in areas of animal husbandry, aquaculture, apiculture, beekeeping, and agroforestry The Mango Tree is delivering agricultural and animal husbandry/ veterinary training to rural communities who are being badly affected by the results of climate change. In our trainings we talk about drought, flooding, trends in Lake Victoria water level, quality, and productivity. We identify deforestation and desertification, linking these environmental issues with sand harvesting and firewood/ charcoal burning/ brick making. Social responsibility is encouraged in all training to explore causes and consequences. We promote and invest our funding in ecological solutions that protect natural resources and support improved resource management and sustainable livelihoods. Our funding of livelihoods projects will:

- Support agricultural diversification, appropriate technology, local production, and comparative advantage.
- Provide a safety net for poor families and builds community resilience, - e.g., sustainable aquaculture, beekeeping, and tree-planting.
- Encourage all agricultural/ livestock training to focus on environmental sustainability. For example, organic farming without the use of artificial fertilisers or pesticides, planting crops which require minimum water, preserving nutrients in the soil.
- Use environmentally friendly assets – for example, rainwater harvest tanks, solar panels for electricity generation, smokeless cooking stoves as these provide benefits both the member and the environment.
- Ensure social responsibility is built into all training to explore causes and consequences and find ecological solutions that protect natural resources and support improved resource management and sustainable livelihoods.

Climate Justice and Eco-Education:

We also see a climate justice aspect to climate change; the impacts of climate change hit the poorest hardest whilst they themselves have tiny carbon footprints compared with the average person in a developed country.

The majority of the people and communities with whom we work do not own cars or washing machines, they never fly, they rarely have running water and so naturally conserve it. If they have electricity, it is often solar generated.

There is an argument that as members slowly increase their income through our programmes, they might increase their carbon footprint (such as buying a motorbike or smartphone). However, these would be very small increases; we feel the onus is on the developed world to make much larger reductions in our carbon footprint to redress the balance. There is therefore an educational component The Mango Tree's work in the UK. By sharing our work and highlighting the issues we hope to encourage others in the UK to become more aware of social, economic and climate injustice and to take steps to address them. We will:

- Share our first-hand testimonies of the impact of poverty and climate change on real people in the communities where we work through case studies in our Annual Reports.
- Profile environmental projects and make the link to our work and its impact on tackling global climate change and building resilience in low-income countries.
- Promote our work through partnerships with other NGOs or charities in the UK who are also working to reverse global warming.

UK Office & Trustee Action:

The nature of our work means that we have to fly to eastern Africa to visit our projects, both for programmatic reasons (project planning, monitoring, evaluation, training) and fundraising reasons (facilitating donors to see the impacts). As we work in remote regions, we also need to take internal flights within countries on occasion, balancing the needs of staff safety on poor roads and the time it can take to travel by road. We take the following steps in order to minimise the number of flights we take:

- Visit multiple projects and countries per monitoring trip, thus at least reducing the number of UK -Africa flights we have to take.
- Commission people already located in eastern Africa to carry out monitoring, training etc where possible so that staff from the UK do not have to fly there (recognising, however, that our accountability to donors in the UK and the importance of building relationships with partners face to face means there will always be a requirement for some UK flights).
- Take direct flights where available (e.g., to Nairobi) and where this does not prohibitively increase the cost; we seek to balance financial cost against carbon cost.
- Limit the visits of overseas partners to the UK to fundraising purposes only and use conference calls rather than UK-based meetings.

Carbon Offsetting

We recognise the controversy around the concept of carbon off setting, but The Mango Tree feels it is right to take some action to offset the impact of the flights we do have to take, recognising that the effects of climate change are felt most by communities such as those we seek to serve through our work. Recognising also, that many of the carbon offsetting platforms are hard to verify, we have chosen instead to make an annual donation to an appropriate environment charity, worth £20 per international trip taken by a staff member during the year (carbon calculators suggest a direct return flight London-Nairobi costs £10 to offset). This is likely to cost the charity £40 a year based on 2 flights per annum and would be covered from Gift Aid income rather than from individual donor gifts.

Recycling and resource use

Within the UK office and at our events we will:

- Recycle all paper, plastic, glass etc.
- Avoid disposables e.g., single-use plastic and non-recyclable materials for events and activities.
- Avoid too much printing of meeting papers.
- Print very little in the office, using the computer to read and edit all documents.
- Document storage apart of cheque receipts is electronic and keep mailings to our supporters to a minimum. (Impact/ Annual Report, thank you letters, SO upgrade letter).
- Print on recycled or sustainably sourced paper.

Sustainable transport within the UK

We encourage sustainable transport within the UK. All members of staff will take public transport to all meetings in or outside London.

Sustainable energy use

The Mango Tree office work is carried out in the homes of our consultants and trustees. All are committed to practicing sustainable energy use. The UK Office is heated by a solid eco-fuel wood burner which heats that specific room, so no other heating is required during office hours in the winter.

Sustainable food practices

We seek to encourage sustainable food practices across The Mango Tree. We seek to buy seasonal food, we buy Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar and have a strict food waste and recycling system. We will report annually on our environmental impact in the Trustees' Annual Report. This environmental policy shall be reviewed annually, or more frequently as required.