

# Discover Newsletter – August 2024

## Half-year Report



Dear Friends

I asked our partners for their half year reports.

With £19,000 generously donated by Discover supporters, all private individuals, over 32,000 tree seedlings have been planted or distributed by 16 colleagues, mostly in Uganda but also in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Malawi and Ghana. A wide variety of trees were planted – predominantly indigenous trees and fruit trees.

I was very impressed by their feedback, by their hard work and dedication to their communities. It is an inspiration.

I was particularly struck by the following:

1. Our colleagues plant trees to combat the worst effects of climate change, but climate change is already making their work more difficult, for example floods in northwest Uganda make roads impassable, floods in the Rwenzori region destroy bridges and to overcome drought in Zimbabwe a new borehole was required.
2. Nevertheless, the feedback is clear, the practice of agroforestry enables farmers to survive the long dry periods.
3. An increasing number of colleagues have an area for natural regeneration and monitor the trees that appear.
4. Most of our colleagues work with schools, with a significant ripple effect; teachers, pupils and parents develop a commitment to trees and the environment.
5. There are unexpected spin-off benefits, for example:
  - a) Eric Kihuluka in Uganda: “The entire community is becoming more tolerant.”
  - b) Rehema Namyalo in Uganda: “This year there was plenty food in the community”.
  - c) Nelson Moyo in Malawi: “After providing a colleague with a smart phone, people cutting trees for charcoal in the Chongoni Forest Reserve are being caught.”
6. Success brings its own challenges - increasing numbers of farmers now ask for tree seedlings.

I asked all colleagues about their plans for the second half of this year. Their answers are all very similar – they want to continue what they are already doing, because the need is so great, and the benefits of their work are so obvious. Their plans and hopes regarding what they would like to continue to do in their communities go far beyond the extent to which we can give them financial support.

Since WhatsApp became available, I am in constant contact with our colleagues. This makes an enormous difference – I receive regular feedback, but on the other hand I receive many requests for money or information which makes demands on my time and energy.

Our “colleagues” are all volunteers. Only six receive a very modest allowance from us. They too have their personal challenges. They have no health insurance and receive no state benefits. Occasionally they or members of their family are ill and must go to hospital, where they must pay. Few have their own transport, and if they do have a motorbike, it sometimes needs repair. Or they need a new phone, so that they can remain in contact with each other and with me. Or there is an urgent need in the community, for example a key bridge has been washed away in the floods and money is needed for the materials for its reconstruction. Inevitably I am asked for help, which is not easy. When do I give money and when not, knowing that the donations we receive are specifically for planting trees?

They and we are extremely grateful for the financial support they have received and which, thanks to your continuing generous support, they will continue to receive.

With many greetings,

Keith Lindsey and the Discover-Team

---

Email: [Keith@discover-src.net](mailto:Keith@discover-src.net) Homepage [www.discover-src.net](http://www.discover-src.net)

UK donations please via Stewardship: [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk), otherwise by Paypal using this email address.