SAVE YOUR FUTURE ASSOCIATION

YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

SYFA Portfolio

Environmental Protection, Organic farming/Agroforestry, and Youth based Projects In The Greater Nkambe Area of Cameroon.

Dieudonne "Farmer" Tantoh Nforba

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ABOUT SYFA

Save Your Future Association (pronounced "see fah") is a non-profit environmental organization founded in 2001 (registered in 2005) that seeks to promote environmental protection, education, and community building. The organization is led by Farmer Tantoh, a Cameroon native who has dedicated his life to environmental protection and community development. SYFA is located in Mbum land (population 90.000) in the North West Province of Cameroon. It is supported by a large international network, which includes the Tahoe-Baikal Institute, Mountain Forum, Henry DoubleDay Research Association (HDRA-UK), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. For more information, visit www.africasyfa.org, and read our article in the Christian Science Monitor.

> **MISSION:** SYFA works with African children, youths, and low-income farmers in rural communities to promote organic farming techniques and to protect the local environment.

OBJECTIVES OF SYFA:

SYFA promotes environmental protection, education, and community building under the rubric of the United Nation's Millennium Development goals. SYFA recognizes that environmental issues have social consequences and causes. Accordingly, SYFA proceeds in a systematic and a community-oriented approach which merges environmental activism with education and community building. SYFA organizes a community of locally-active youths to create an environmentally-sustainable future. In projects such as the Chua-Chua Botanical gardens (p. 9), SYFA converted a derelict plot of land into a community centre resulting in the creation of an area where the environment is protected and cherished.

Ultimately, SYFA hopes that its projects will help the United Nations achieve Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, and 7 which strive to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty, achieve universal primary education, and ensure environmental sustainability, respectively. SYFA hopes that these goals will foster a local community that values the environment.

Specifically, SYFA's goals include:

Environmental Protection

- To protect spring water catchments by planting agroforestry trees and educating the rural communities on watershed management issues
- To encourage organic lawn creation and indoor flower gardening with children and youths in the rural community

Education

- To inform the rural community about sustainable agricultural techniques, such as tropical organic farming, by offering field training to low-income farmers
- To promote formal education of rural children by helping them pay for school activities

Community Building

- To create active environmental clubs in primary schools, secondary schools, churches, prisons, and in the villages
- To work with local religious groups to promote environmental protection
- To generate an active volunteer-based initiative that promotes a service mentality

PROBLEMS SYFA AIMS TO ADDRESS

The rapid population growth in the Northwest Province (NWP) of Cameroon and Nkambe (Donga Mantung Division) has imposed heavy pressure on arable land. Because of this problem, and a lack of education about sustainable options, the local population currently uses the land in counter-productive ways. For example, searching for fertile farmland, farmers move to watersheds where their slash and burn methods, in conjunction with their use of fertilizers and pesticides, are neglecting the environment. Additionally, the indiscriminate planting of eucalyptus trees, the lack of a waste management system and the use of streams for washing clothing and vehicles adds to the growing problem of water scarcity and pollution. The accumulative effect of these activities has resulted in the disappearance of spring water catchments, loss of biodiversity, decline in soil fertility, and heavy soil erosion.

These environmental problems have dramatic social consequences. Soil erosion damages the local roads and destroys the foundations of local homes. The community risks losing its fertile soil in the near future. Additionally, with the lack of common education on environmental sustainability, the harmful farming practices and pollution will only get worse. These problems call for a community-based approach to promote the cultural value of the environment. By focusing on volunteer projects and creating an environmentally-supportive community among the younger generation, SYFA hopes to address these problems in a sustainable way.

Effects of erosion under foundations of local homes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In order to grow throughout Africa as a community-supported organic farming movement, SYFA is in the process of creating both national and international alliances with other environmentally-minded organizations.

Towards that end, SYFA hopes to establish a resource centre through which it can centralize all of its training and education programs. (p. 31). Additionally, SYFA is trying to establish a canteen where it can sell refreshments and seedlings in order to gain a sustainable income (pg. 19). These projects have the potential to significantly alter the way the community treats the environment and effect the personal lives and well being of many people. As a not-for-profit organization, SYFA appreciates any and all contributions. All of SYFA's former projects have been made possible thanks to generous outside support.

- Monetary Support: Contribute to the progress of one of SYFA's ongoing projects by sending money and enabling SYFA to buy items on the wish list (p. 41). SYFA will send you updates on how your contribution has helped its efforts. Because SYFA is completely run by volunteers, all contributions go directly to the cost of materials and hired labour. SYFA's use of monetary contributions for past projects is demonstrated in the cost breakdown (p.42). SYFA's needs are mostly divided into those of infrastructure, equipment, and Human resources.

- Virtual support: Let us know if you would like to be part of SYFA's editing and translating team for its publications. SYFA is developing more ways to better serve the community and achieve its goals. Please contact Farmer Tantoh through the SYFA website with any ideas or suggestions.

- Volunteer in Cameroon: SYFA happily hosts volunteers who come to Cameroon. Their presence is not only helpful to the organization, but also makes a positive impact on the community.

"***If the local population can see people of different nationalities coming to Cameroon and working with SYFA as volunteers, then they will see that environmental protection and organic farming has reached the top of the global agenda. The way any community, village, nation or continent honours the environment has a tremendous impact across the globe."***

-FARMER TANTOH

Please visit SYFA's website for more information:

www.africasyfa.org

FRIENDS OF SYFA

SYFA is eternally grateful for its network of support.

Donors

2008: Rebecca Brier-Rosenfield, Njingti Denis Joney, Masumi Hayashi-Smith, Yi Zhang, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (UK), Far and Wide (Scotland)

2007: The Bower's family-California, First Baptist Church- South LakeTahoe-USA, TBI Board of Directors and their friends and families

2006: American Landmark properties (Chicago, USA) David Elbaum, Albert Onega,Ohio-USA

2005: The Bowers family (USA)

2004: Henry DoubleDay Research Association, AlineDenton (UK)

2003: Gregor Moray Smith on behalf of Voluntary Service Overseas, Henry DoubleDay Research Association member (UK), American peace-corps, Binju Baptist church, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (UK), Far and Wide (Scotland), Sheila Blethyn

Volunteers

Onsite Volunteers: Guylaine Dube, Francis Tessier (Canada). Anne Desmoucelles, David Elbaum, Christophe Heyman, Olivier Jegou (France). Charlotte Colomg (UK) Rebecca Brier-Rosenfield, Masumi Hayashi-Smith Beth Huston, Yi Zhang (US).

Local Youth Volunteers: Agatha Nye, Aparengeng Augustine, Bawe Bernard, Beri Mercy, Botan Adel, Botan Joseph, Botan Martin, Chifu Dieudonne, Jeanette Tabah, John Gurr, Jomo Kevin, Kawas Austin Yetoh, Kum Festus, Kunde Kevin, Mimba Betrand, Mimba Elvis, Molyne Nye, Muring Nadesh, Nchiah Calaris, Nfor Afanyu, Nfor Emmanuel, Nfor Ivo, Nfor Pascaline, Ntala Cynthia, Ntani Kevin, Remi Rida, Salack Emmanuel, Shey Tierry, and Shey Walters

Administrative Consultant: Njingti Denis Joney

Website Sponsor: Masumi Hayashi-Smith (Brown University, USA)

Website Administrator: Dr. Roger Tatoud (UK)

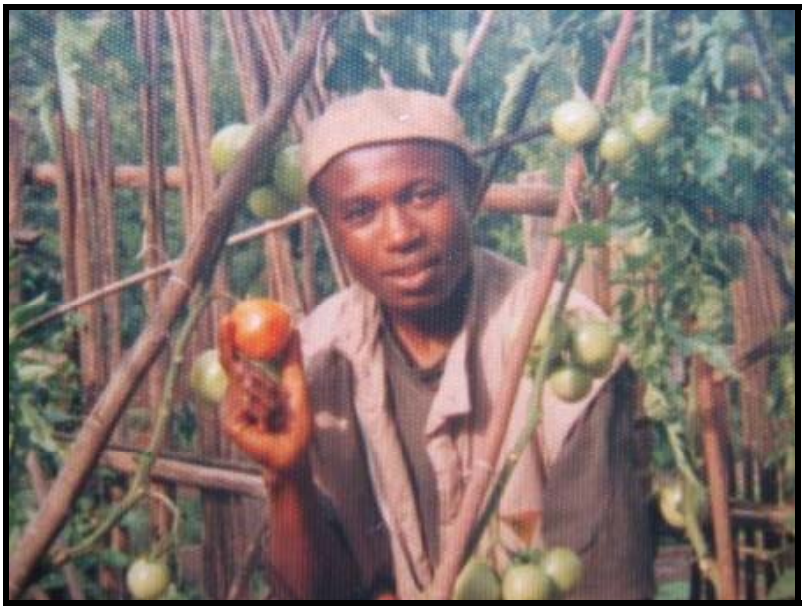
Financial Advisor: Dr. Roger Tatoud (UK)

Portfolio Editors: Masumi Hayashi-Smith, Adrienne Langlois, Michael Levy, and the Brown University Writing Center (Brown University, USA). Yi Zhang (Wellesley Collage, USA)

Supporters and Affiliates

350.org, HDRA-UK, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Mountain Forum, Tahoe-Baikal Institute, University of Nevada- Reno Academy for the Environment, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

FARMER TANTOH



Dieudonne “Farmer” Tantoh, 1996

Farmer Tantoh is a native of Nkambe, Cameroon. His mission to work for African rural communities began in 1996 while he was still a student in secondary school. Following his pasion in agriculture he performed and kept accurate records of his extensive field research, earning him the nickname, “Farmer”. After high school, he attended the Regional College of agriculture where he graduated with a Higher National Diploma as a seniour agricultural technician, specialising in spring water catchment protection and agroforestry. Despite lack of support from his government and local council, he continued to pursue his vision for SYFA. In summer 2007, he was chosen as the first partcipant from Africa to take part in the Summer Environmental Programme. Organised by the Tahoe-Baikal Institute, the program took him to the United States and Siberia in Russia to study the watersheds of the world, focusing on lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal.

Currently, Farmer is based in Cameroon where he continues to work with the local community and strives to expand his local programmes. Recently, Farmer has become a partime lecturer on horticulture with emphasis on floriculture at the Technical school of Agriculture in Nkambe. There he educates his students on the economic opportunities through farming and environmental protection. He also works with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) to relay agroforestry information to local farmers.To gain outside recognition, he is a regular contributor to publications such as *The Mountain Forum* and *The Farmer’s Voice.* In order to help people around Africa in similar endeavors, he is an online volunteer through the Nabuur Foundation, www.nabuur.com, where he communicates with environmental groups in countries like Ghana, Uganda, and Kenya. Farmer also hosts international volunteers from World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), various unverisites, and other organizations. He continues to seek financial and organisational assistance to make SYFA’s dreams come true.

THE SYFA VOLUNTEERS

SYFA's local volunteer network consists of around 15 young volunteers (including some university students) who dedicate their spare time to learn practical environmental protection techniques while working on local projects led by Farmer Tantoh. The older volunteers perpetuate this knowledge by taking organic greenery to their own towns and passing the knowledge to other youth in their areas. By working with SYFA, the volunteers gain both agriculture skills and monetary assistance. Through the sale of SYFA's organic flowers, volunteers have been able to purchase guinea pigs and rabbits. The faeces of these animals are used as fertilizer and the animals are bred and sold as an extra source of income. The program also receives support from appreciative community members, which helps the volunteers pay for their school, household, and medical expenses.

SYFA also has received and hosted many international volunteers through WWOOF, university internships, fellowships, and independently organized trips. In Cameroon, the volunteers have been involved in all aspects of SYFA's organization and activities. Long after their visits, they remain valuable members of the SYFA team, acting as SYFA's ambassadors to the outside world.

SYFA: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

When Farmer Tantoh started SYFA, he initially focused on individual volunteer projects where he used his knowledge of organic farming to landscape local areas. Over time, he discovered that his efforts to sustain successful environmental projects were most effective when supported by a strong community. Tantoh subsequently started environmental clubs at local churches and schools where the members could learn first-hand about the importance of the environment and how to care for it. The community and education approach Tantoh took towards protecting the environment focused mostly on local youth so that the future generations could cultivate environmentally sustainable habits.

Currently the environmental clubs SYFA has set up are thriving and caring for their respective landscaping projects. Additionally, SYFA now has an active community of core youth volunteers that work in conjunction with Tantoh to start new landscaping projects and environmental clubs. Many of the youth in this core group live outside Nkambe and have aspirations of starting their own clubs in their hometowns. These clubs serve to foster a community wide engagement with the environment that sustains itself and grows. Tantoh has also been actively setting up an international network of activists who support each other. His program in Nkambe is now a model for other organizations around Cameroon, and Tantoh is working with larger organizations such as the World Agroforestry Centre to promote organic farming in the area. In addition to the environmental clubs, Tantoh is educating the larger community about environmental protection by teaching at a local agricultural school.

In the future, Tantoh hopes that the communities and projects he set up will build on their environmental awareness to become completely self-stainable. In order to have a strong foundation, SYFA is working to develop a centre for its operations where it can focus its organization and resources and provide environmental training (p.32). To ensure its financial sustainability, SYFA wants to build a canteen (p.19) where it can sell its products. Once SYFA has a strong base network of sustainable support, it wants to take larger steps to help the environment. Because there are both individual and institutional components to protecting the environment, SYFA hopes that its larger projects, such as protecting all the local water sources (p.34) and setting up a recycling centre in Bamenda (p.37), will set a precedent for much more environmental activism.

Current Projects

Chua-Chua Botanical Gardens

Seminary Project

Roundabout and Canteen Project

Guinea Pig Project

CHUA-CHUA BOTANICAL GARDENS

PROJECT SUMMARY

Chua-Chua Botanical Gardens is one of SYFA's greatest accomplishments. This project seeks to create a community centre and place where the environment is openly cherished. The gardens were conceived by Farmer Tantoh in 1999 and approved by the Nkambe Rural Council in 2006

Before the establishment of the gardens, the middle section (pictured) was laden with brush and debris. Local folklore had even associated the area with bad spirits. After much hard work, the area has transformed into a lavish garden of local and exotic plants that serves as a community centre. People now gather at the site for important meetings, social events, and to film music videos. The presence of the gardens has brought national prestige to Nkambe and increased community interest in understanding and preserving the environment. The project encourages the local community's efforts to plant and care for their own organic flower gardens.

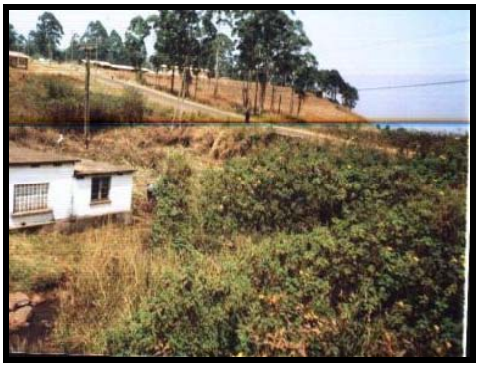
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate the importance of environmental protection through the creation of a beautiful organic garden
- To conserve indigenous and exotic plant species
- To protect the biodiversity of the area
- To fight the prevailing water shortages in Nkambe through water catchment protection that utilises sustainable agroforestry techniques
- To generate an income to ensure the economic sustainability of the garden

By using an area rich in organic plants, we are encouraging the local population to take pride in their surroundings and to be active in its environmental preservation.

PROJECT STATUS

Since starting a year ago, with a donation from Albert Onega, one of Tantoh's past advisors, we have developed and maintained the middle section of the gardens. To do this, we cleared the brush, ploughed and planted varieties of flowers and shrubs, and have maintained the gardens through voluntary work and donations of manure. Current obstacles include the indiscriminate planting of eucalyptus trees, gardening, and construction of buildings near the local streams, which are depleting the water levels. The use of the area for grazing grounds and the practice of burning brush are also damaging Chua-Chua's surroundings. The progress of the garden serves as a dramatic first step towards changing the community's direct use of the local stream as a washing point. It also creates a space where the environment and biodiversity is valued. In response to the building of the gardens, local residents have started cultivating their own organic gardens.



The brush before being converted

Initial stage of the middle section

1 year later

A school group visiting the garden

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- To protect plants for future research
- To help conserve biodiversity by attracting birds and eco-friendly organisms
- To Purify the air
- To indirectly benefit honeybee farmers by increasing flowers for their bees
- To construct an alternative washing area will prevent water pollution

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Classes make regular fieldtrips to the gardens so that their students can learn how to identify the flowers, and understand their importance.
- The construction of the botanical gardens improves the aesthetic qualities of Nkambe Town.
- The garden will serve as a site for eco-tourism, recreation, meditation, retreats, photography, and studying.
- The garden will provide a research site for botanists.
- The garden will create job opportunities for youths.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The Chua-Chua gardens is projected to become a self-sustaining entity at the end of the three-year phase. The project plans to generate income through the following activities:

- Sales of seedlings
- The use of a canteen/store to sell flowers and snacks
- Registration for indoor games at the recreational site
- Charging for photos taken in the garden

FUTURE GOALS

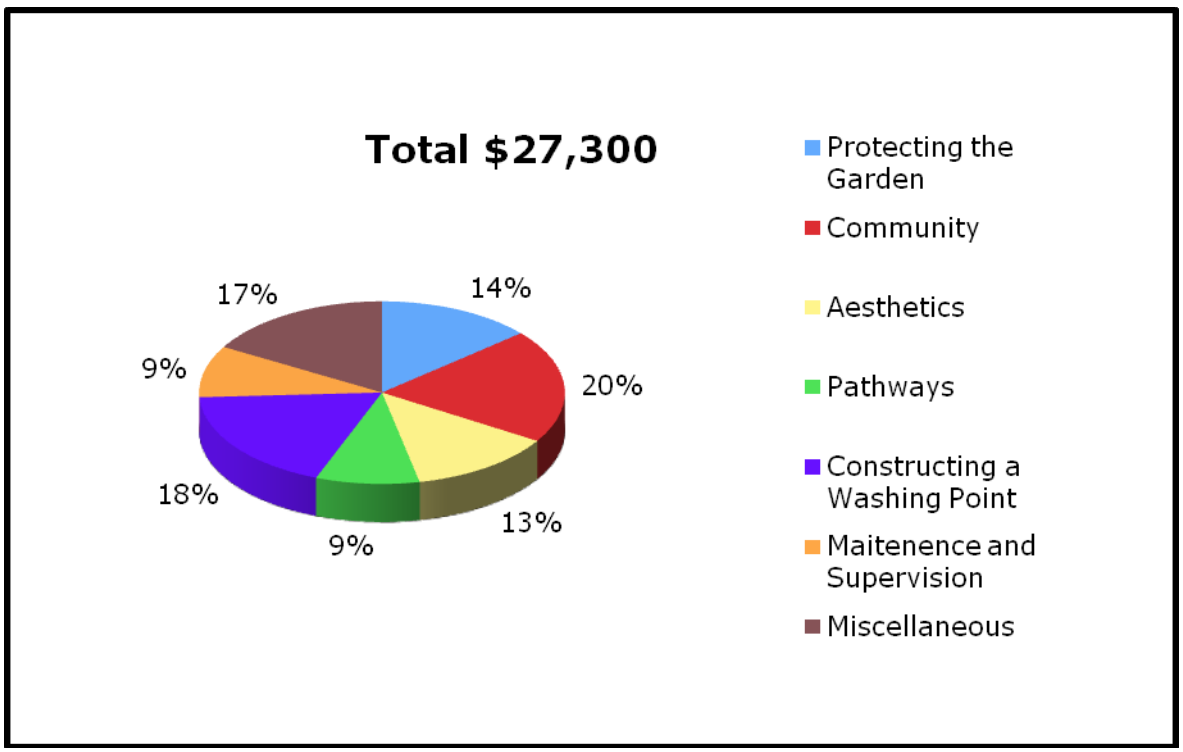
It is our hope that future development of the gardens will both improve the community's value and treatment of the environment.

Phase 1: We plan to build a washing point near the garden where the locals can wash their clothes without further polluting the stream. We will also work to change the community's mentality about the environment by posting signs with information about water resources and conservation. To protect the gardens, we will add fences to prevent stray animals. To increase the aesthetics of the gardens, we will reinforce all the paths with gravel, build chairs and local huts, plant more flowers and trees, build two small bridges to link both sides of the middle section, and plant lawns around the site. We also intend to create recreational areas for games like basketball and table tennis.

Phase 2: In the upper section, we intend to plant a live fence (a barrier made by planted trees or shrubs) around the garden, build hanging bridges which will provide people access to areas allowing them to study aquatic eco-systems, watch birds, and meditate. We also intend to plant trees and put up educational signs about nature protection.

Phase 3: In the lower portion of the garden, we plan to fence the waterfall, plant more trees, and put up more chairs. The whole project will serve as site for eco-tourism and create employment opportunities for the rural poor especially youths therefore reducing rural exodus.

COST BREAKDOWN FOR THE FIRST YEAR[1]



[1] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index

SEMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

In Cameroon, religion is a large part of the local culture. Because of religion's strong influence, SYFA plans to use the local churches as a starting point for generating environmental awareness. In order to make this dream come true, SYFA envisions starting a project at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary (CBTS) in the town of Ndu. SYFA believes that by initiating planting of organic greenery in the Seminary, it can influence all the graduating pastors to start similar projects in their churches. SYFA also envisions starting a biogas system for the Seminary's plumbing. This is part of a larger effort to expand SYFA's organic lawn projects to churches through the province, encouraging them to be more environmentally friendly and protect the surrounding area from soil erosion. SYFA also wants to stress that the organization is interested in working with all religious organisations in Cameroon in addition to the Baptist Church.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The seminary project will quickly educate a large population (directly and indirectly) about the importance of the environment
- The seminary will spend fewer resources on plumbing once an environmentally friendly biogas toilet system is in place.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- CBTS' campus will be reformed to become a much more green community.
- CBTS' functioning will reflect the environmental goals of the project through the incorporation of projects like a biogas system.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The CBTS environmental club will take responsibility for the upkeep and care for this project. This will give the future Baptist preachers hands on experience, which will help them establish their own organic gardens.

CURRENT PROGRESS

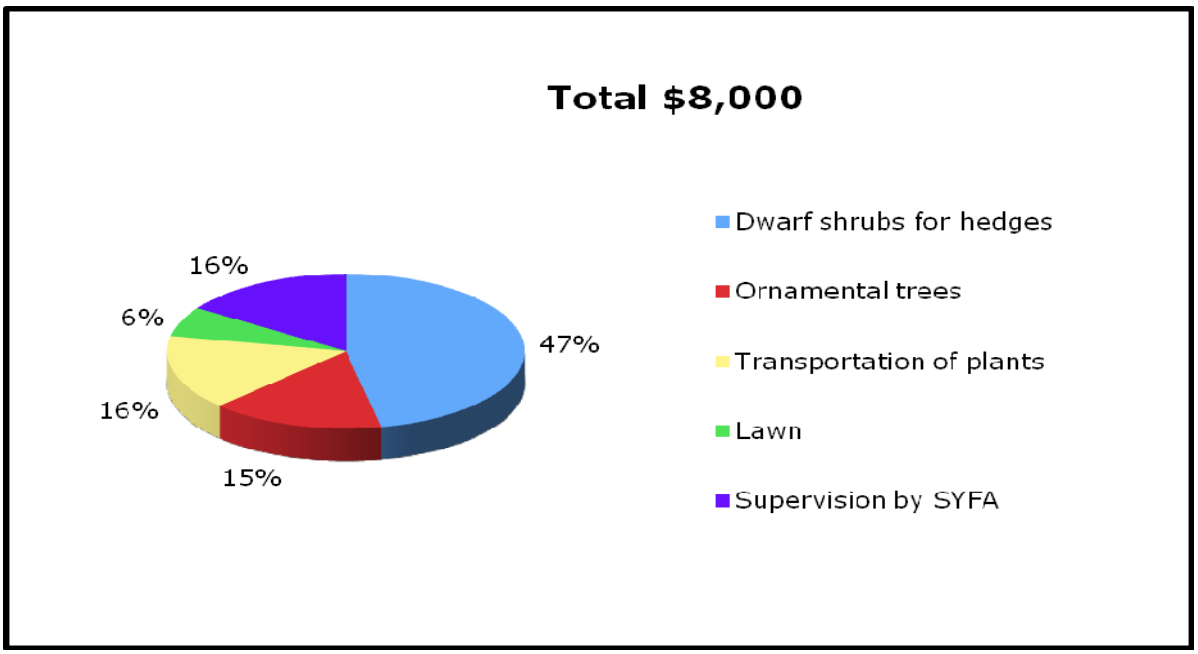
SYFA has gained support from CBTS's president Rev. Dr Wilfred Fon and the school's environmental club to work in partnership to complete the project. SYFA has already donated over. We have started nursing flowers and have arranged to buy trees and shrubs from urban nurseries to plant in the coming year. The members of the environmental club are ready to assist with labour for land preparation, providing manure, planting and maintenance.

FUTURE GOALS

This shall be a five-year project. During the course of this five-year project, we will be:

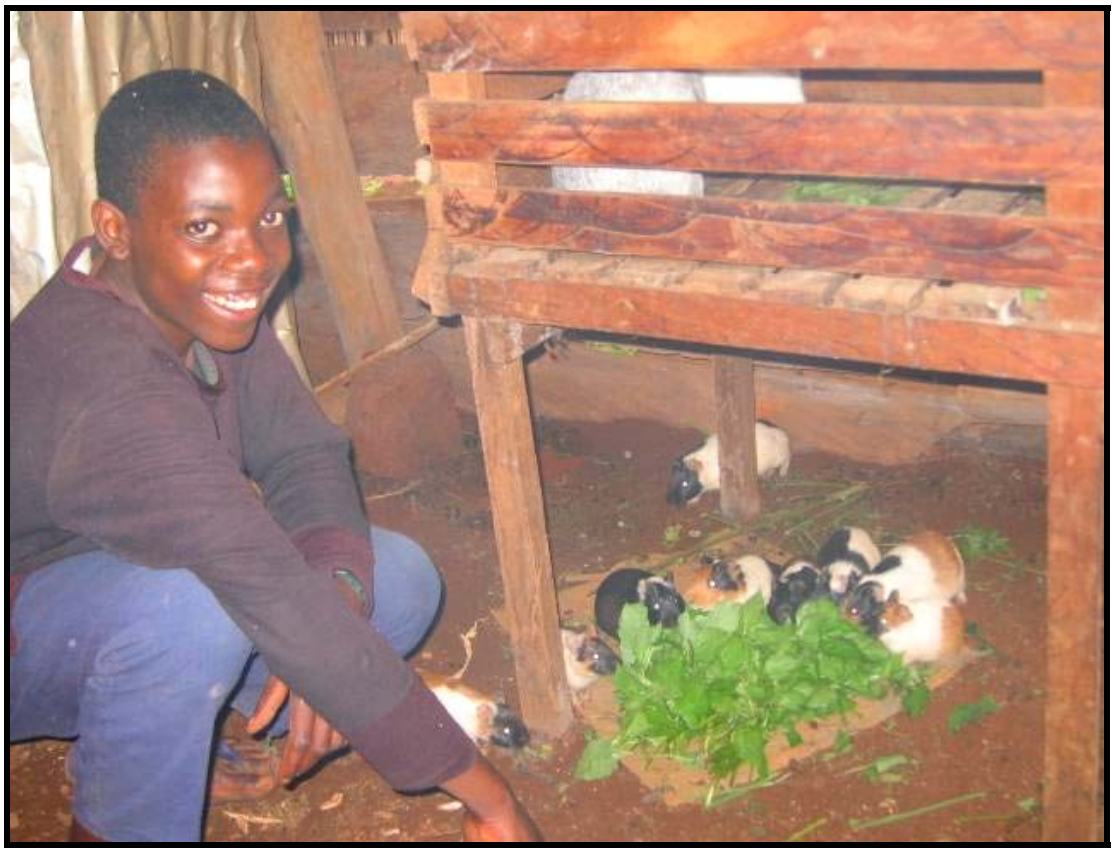
- Establishing a waste management programme
- Building a biogas system for the campus
- Planting trees, lawns, and flowers
- Establishing an orchard
- Establishing a nursery
- Paving all the paths in the campus

COST BREAKDOWN FOR THE FIRST YEAR[2]



[2] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index

GUINEA PIG PROJECT



PROJECT SUMMARY

In Nkambe, guinea pig keeping allows youths an opportunity to generate their own income and cultivate a less energy intensive source of meat. The money raised through selling their guinea pigs can be used to pay for school, medical, and living expenses. Currently, SYFA encourages its volunteers to raise guinea pigs, periodically donating groups of five guinea pigs to especially enthusiastic volunteers. These volunteers work together to construct bamboo cages and collect the guinea pig manure to help SYFA's organic horticulture projects around Nkambe.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To encourage youths to take care of their own animals
- To produce organic manure for all of SYFA's sites
- To provide nourishment for households, as it is customary in Cameroon to eat guinea pigs
- To provide a sustainable source of income for the SYFA volunteers

CURRENT PROGRESS

So far, ten SFYA volunteers have joined the project and are caring for guinea pigs. SYFA has already donated guinea pigs to several of its volunteers. Through this project, participants have been able to pay for family medical care, their school tuitions and exams.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The guinea pig manure is helping sustain organic farming projects all around the area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Youth are becoming more financially independent due to the guinea pigs they are able to sell.
- Youth are able to use their guinea pig generated income to afford their own school costs.
- Youth use the guinea pig manure to help care for their personal gardens.

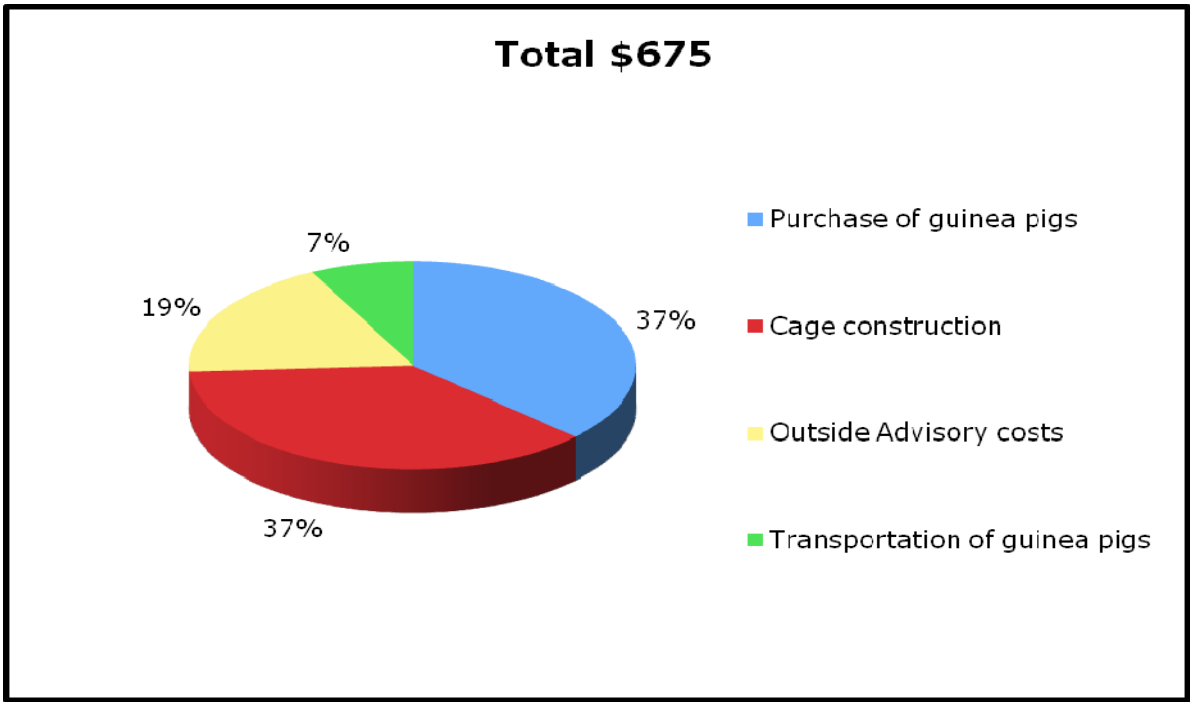
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The project will be sustainable once enough volunteers have breeding guinea pigs, which they can hand down to future volunteers to motivate them in their own projects.

FUTURE GOALS

- To give five guinea pigs each to twenty volunteers (one hundred guinea pigs in total)
- To expand the project to other local villages.
- For SYFA volunteers to start using the guinea pig manure on their own organic gardens.

COST BREAKDOWN[3]



[3] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index

ROUNDABOUT AND CANTEEN PROJECT

A few months after the construction of the roundabout, flowers started blooming.

PROJECT SUMMARY

SYFA is currently building a roundabout and flowerbed to provide a place of relaxation for the public. Flowers have been planted inside the bed and some benches will be placed around the roundabout for resting. The bulk of the funding for this project was raised by Yi Zhang from Wellesley College and Masumi Hayashi Smith from Brown University. Other funding and donations came from the local Nkambe residents. The roundabout is currently the second largest flowerbed in Cameroon's Northwest province.

CURRENT PROGRESS

The current progress and construction of the flowerbed has brought attention to SYFA and has increased Nkambe's reputation. The flowers include Gerbera Durantha, Salvia, Cordyline, Spiderplant and St Peter, which are adapting to their environment and have started to blossom.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- By cultivating plants in the intersection, SYFA is reducing soil erosion and increasing the amount of local organic greenery in the area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Once the canteen is built, it will provide employment for local residents.
- The flowerbed is inspiring people to grow their own flowers.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Once the canteen is built, its use will ensure the financial sustainability of the roundabout and numerous other projects.

FUTURE GOALS

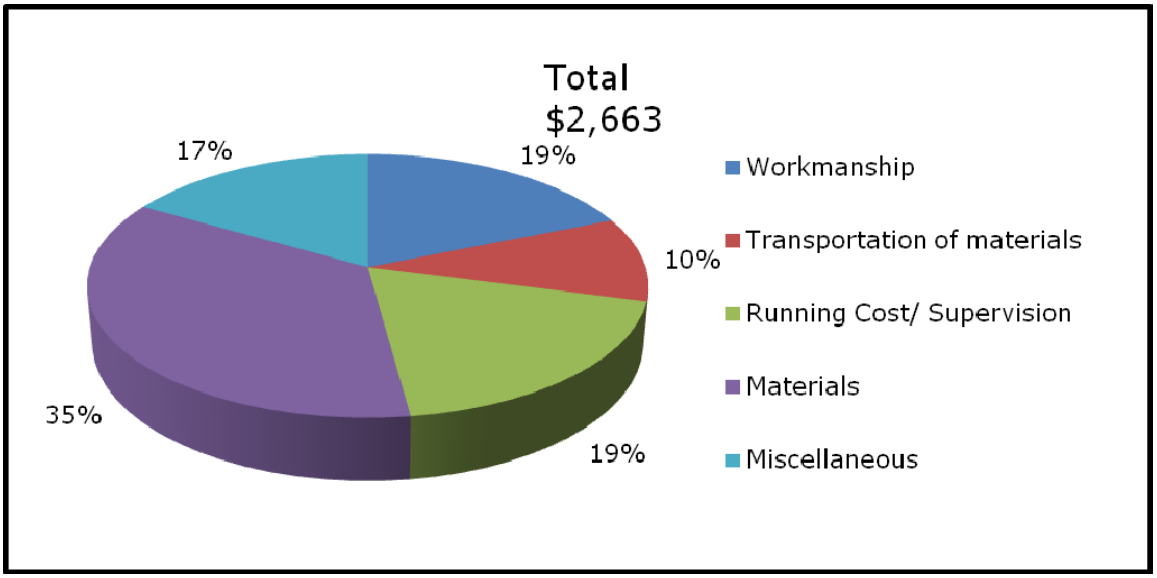
We plan to install a canteen to generate income. The building we plan to use is an old abandoned German building which is next to the Round About (see pictures) in need of renovation. In the canteen, we will sell refreshments, seedlings, and cut plants to generate an income. The income shall go a long way to provide scholarships for SYFA Volunteers and to sustain SYFA's other projects.

SYFA's dream is to see similar roundabouts with flowerbeds constructed in all of Mbum land's 32 villages in the next 5 years.

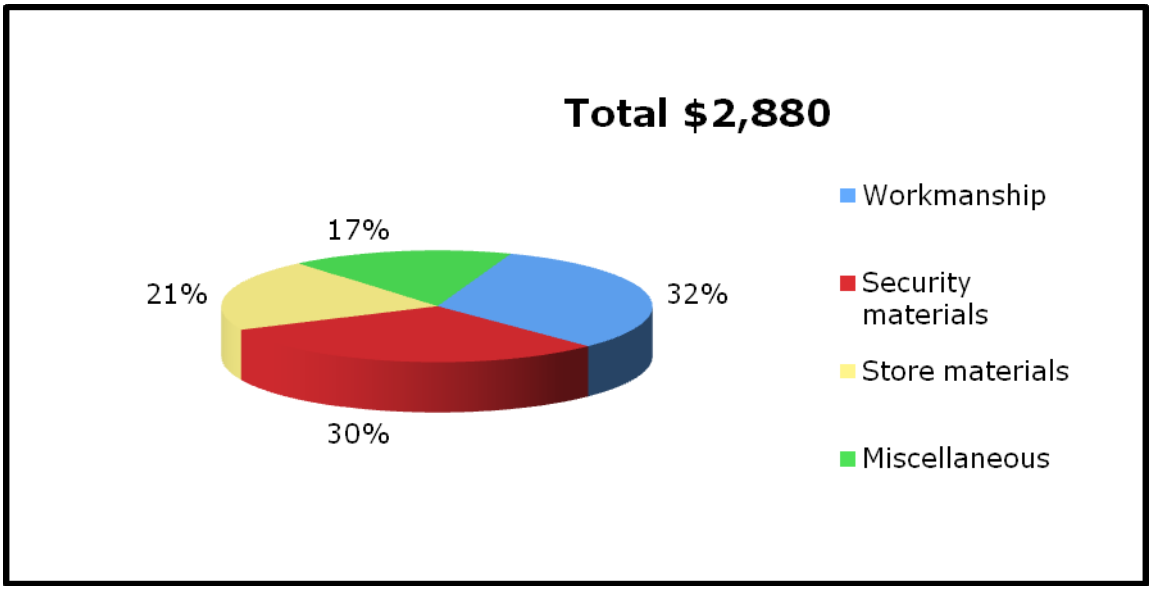
Before: Marking the circle one month earlier

After: A completed roundabout

COST BREAKDOWN OF THE ROUNDABOUT[4]



COST BREAKDOWN OF THE CANTEEN[5]



[4] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index

[5] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index

Past Works

Bambili Baptist Church Environmental Project

Binju Baptist Church Environmental project

Organic Landscaping Project

BAMBILI BAPTIST CHURCH ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

Teaching children about birds and biodiversiy conservation at Bambili

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project at Bambili Baptist marks a successful beginning to SYFA's volunteer projects. It was initiated in 2003 while Farmer Tantoh was studying agriculture at the Regional college of Agriculture in Bambili, Cameroon. Bambili Baptist Church has a congregation of about 200 people and a small yard. The church compound was originally very bushy, but youth volunteers ploughed the yard and planted an organic lawn. The World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farming (WWOOF) head office in the UK contributed $100 (US) enabling the flowerbeds to be built and the flowers to be bought. The church provided comparable support for the project.

PROJECT STATUS

Since then, the entire church congregation has maintained the lawns and flowers very well. The lawn around the church works both to prevent soil erosion and serve as a play area for the children. Thanks to SYFA's efforts, the compound now looks clean and beautiful.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The church is protected from soil erosion by the organic lawns and flowers.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The gardens around Bmbili encourage the Church to come together to care for them.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

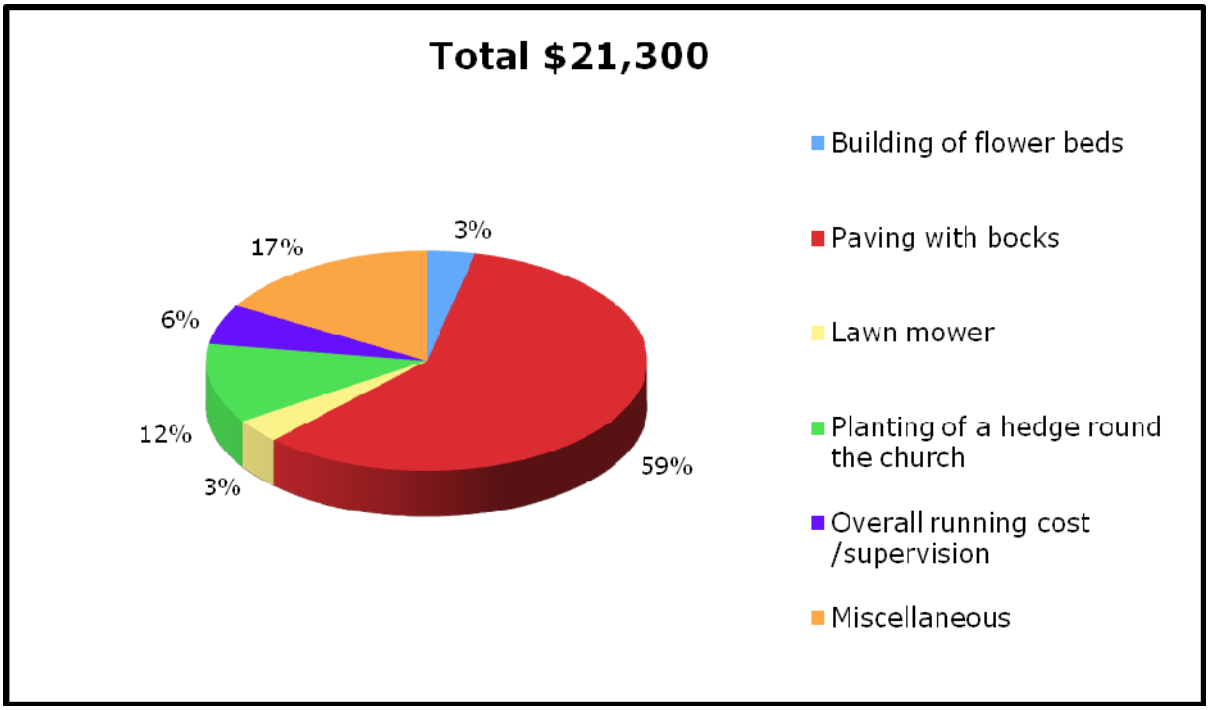
The Church assumes responsibility to take care of its gardens.

FUTURE GOALS

Despite significant progress, much remains to be done. More flowerbeds need to be constructed in the bare areas around the church. The yard needs to be paved with blocks to prevent erosion in the rainy season. Lawnmowers and refuse cans are also needed.

Teaching children how to prune flowers

BUDGET BREAKDOWN[6]



[6] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index

BINJU BAPTIST CHURCH ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

Farmer Tantoh started the Binju Baptist Church project after he completed high school in 2001. The church was very bushy, inhabited by harmful animals, and filled with broken bottles and litter. By starting the garden, SYFA hoped to increase the congregation's respect for the environment by providing them the opportunity to take part in caring for the beautification of their church. The project also aspired to reduce the church's risk of soil erosion and dust by planting organic lawns. The church was excited about the idea of the project and the whole congregation helped to plough the yard for the garden, which they named the "Garden of Eden". Some of the flowers brought to the garden were from Farmer Tantoh's collection, while others were donated from Scotland and collected from the wild. The church assisted the fencing with local materials.

Thanks in part to financial support from the WWOOF Head Office in the United Kingdom in 2003, construction of the beds began. The intention of this project was for the church to sustain it after its completion in 2002.

PROJECT STATUS

The church was unable to keep up the garden due to the size of the churchyard and garden. Nonetheless, the garden has proven to be a useful generator of seedlings for other local environmental projects. Additionally the organic lawns around the church serve as outdoor church gathering area and playfield. The congregation has voiced a desire to rejuvenate the garden and SYFA now hopes to embark on this project in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The church is protected from soil erosion by the organic lawns and flowers.
- The flowers from the Garden of Eden are used for many other organic farming projects in the area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- By hiring someone to care for the gardens and lawn, the church will be able to provide employment.
- The organic lawns around the church are used as a playing area for the children, and a reception area for the rest of the congregation.
- The gardens around Binju encourage the Church to come together to care for them.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

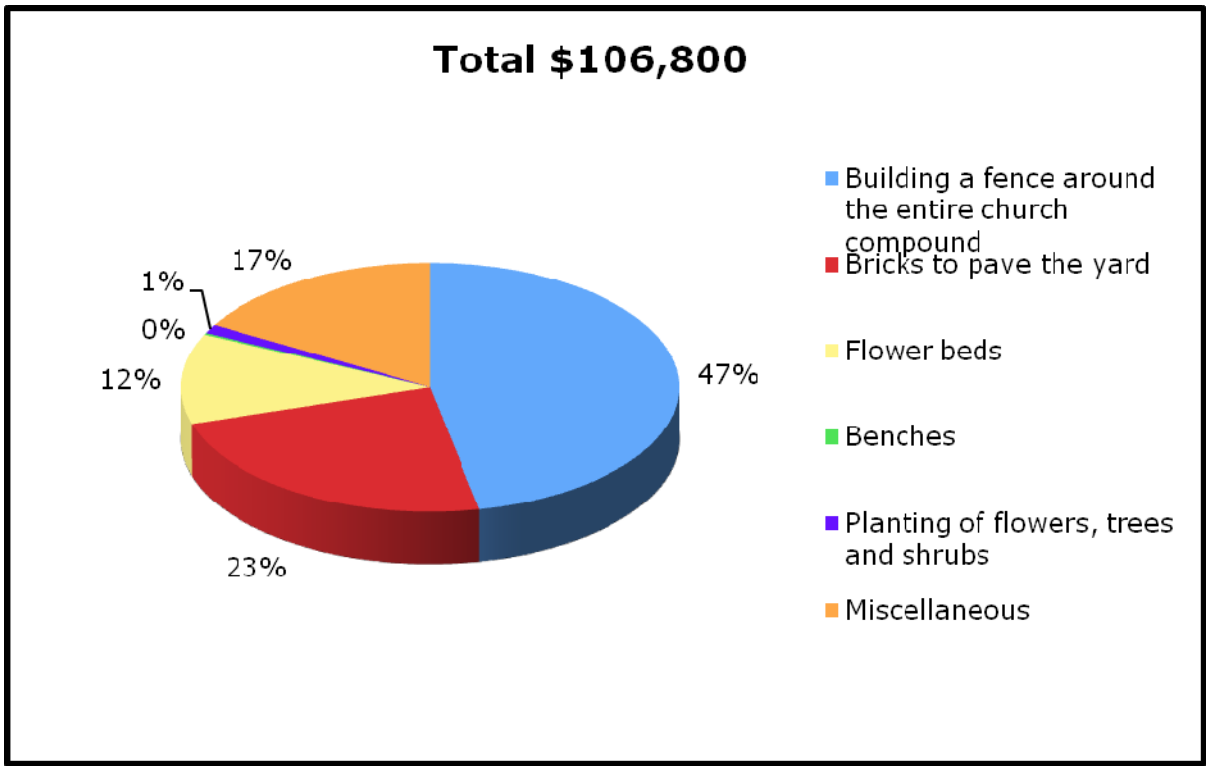
Once a caretaker is hired for the gardens, they will be sustained.

FUTURE GOALS

SYFA intends to re-organise this project and accomplish the following:

- Hire someone to maintain the garden for the church
- Protect the church gardens by building a fence
- Plant more flowers, trees, and lawns
- Pave all paths with bricks
- Build flower beds
- Build and add benches and to make the area more welcoming

BUDGET BREAKDOWN[7]



[7] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index. This project can be divided into two phases to be accomplished in two years. Phase 1: Building a concrete fence round the church, flower beds and benches. Phase 2: Pave yard with bricks, plant flowers and shrubs.

ORGANIC LANDSCAPING PROJECT

Farmer Tantoh donating flowers to local children

PROJECT SUMMERY

SYFA runs a multitude of voluntary organic lawn care and flower gardening services throughout Nkambe and other neighbouring villages. The lawns are propagated through a system where SYFA volunteers plant organic lawns for community members on the condition that they will donate their grass seedlings for future volunteer projects. Examples include landscaping at:

- Nkambe District Hospital
- Kumbo Intergrated School for the Blind
- Bambili Student Development Centre
- Local homes
- Total petrol station

SYFA has also:

- Visited farming groups like Know Your Neighbour Group, and SNEC women's group to give advice on soil conservation, agroforestry, and organic farming techniques
- Trained future SYFA leaders in Nkambe

PROJECT STATUS

SYFA has succeeded in planting lawns for at least 100 of the houses in Nkambe. The local people have started to propagate organic lawns independently, which is rapidly increasing the amount of lawns in the area. This is helping protect the houses from soil erosion, and decreasing the amount of dust in the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The area is becoming more environmentally friendly, clean, and protected from soil erosion.
- Conscious organic planting is becoming a more prevalent and natural part of the local life.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The volunteer nature of the project allows the local population the ability to protect their houses from soil erosion regardless of socio-economic status.
- The project encourages the population to continue the process of sharing and propagating organic lawns and greenery.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The project is by nature, self-sustaining because it encourages those who benefit from it to continue propagating organic lawns.

FUTURE GOALS

SYFA hopes that every house in Nkambe will have an organic lawn and landscaping project surrounding it. The organic greenery will reduce dust pollution, encourage cleanliness of the area, and protect the foundations of the houses. SYFA also would like to see this program expanded to the whole of Cameroon.

Planting organic lawns to prevent dust and erosion

One year later

Future Aspirations

SYFA Resource Centre

Water Source Protection

Bamenda Recycling Centre

Transportation means

Renovating Rooms To Accommodate Volunteers

SYFA RESOURCE CENTRE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Centre aims to serve as an environmental training location and resource library for all the 32 rural villages that make up Mbum Land (the greater Nkambe Area). As a training location, the centre will focus on programs for the local youth and low-income farmers. As a resource centre, the building will contain a library and computer lab where people can go for environmental resources and computer training. The building will also serve as a screening room for environmental documentaries and as a meeting space for important environmental meetings. Outside the centre, SYFA has already set up a demonstration garden and agroforestry nursery. The produce and clippings from the gardens and nursery will be sold to help SYFA generate an income. SYFA hopes to further establish this once the centre is opened. The maintenance of the outside greenery will provide employment opportunities for the youth. Lastly, in an effort to reach out to colleges in Cameroon and beyond, we will create a partnership where volunteers can come on exchange programs and have internships in sustainable development at the centre.

PROGRESS STATUS:

Since June 2007, SYFA has rented a piece of property where it has started a demonstration vegetable garden and has landscaped the outside. SYFA has also demarcated the land into various sections according to intended use. In the summer of 2008, SYFA received a donation that enabled it to start an agroforestry nursery. Currently, SYFA's largest obstacle is the rising pressure from the landlord to purchase the property.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The training and education programs taking place in the centre will make lasting changes to the way the community treats the environment.
- The demonstration garden and agroforestry nursery will provide important seedlings to help SYFA propagate organic greenery.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The maitenence of the centre will provide employment opportunities to local youth.
- The education programs for low-income farmers will help them gain access to more sustainable and efficient ways of gaining an income.
- The presence of the centre will encourage the existence of a large environmentally focused community.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

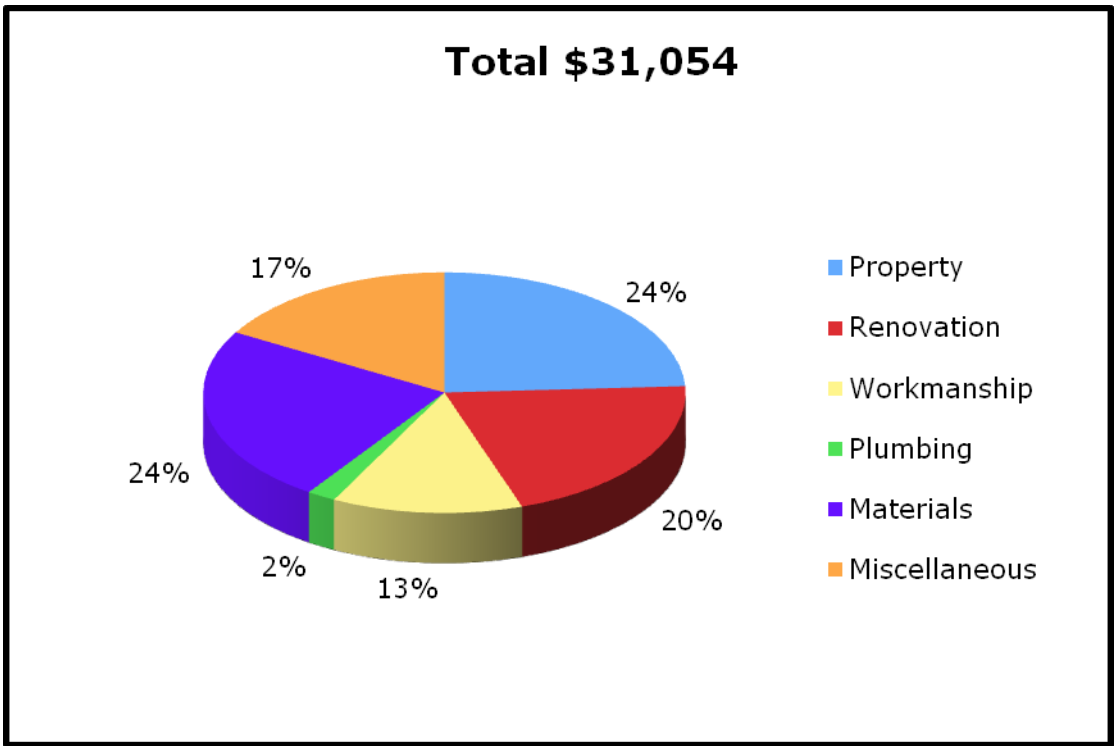
The centre will be financially sustainable though the sale of seedlings and plants from the demonstration garden and nursery. The centre will also be maintained by the SYFA volunteer community. Additionally, the manure from the guinea pig project (p.#) will be used as fertilizer for the centre's projects.

Tantoh and volunteer, Yi Zhang, working on a flowerbed of spider plants next to the additional building outside the Resource Centre

FUTURE GOALS

The centre hopes to expand to help the entire Donga Matung Division.

COST BREAKDOWN[8]



[8] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index.

WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Local women washing their clothing in the stream by Chua-Chua gardens. This stream is usually dry for about 2 weeks at the peak of the dry season

SYFA is worried about the disappearance of springs in Nkambe and Sub–Saharan Africa. This issue prompted Farmer Tantoh to specialise in spring catchment protection at the Regional College of Agriculture. In order to meet our objectives, we envisaged projects to protect springs in Nkambe through the planting of agroforestry trees and sensitizing the rural population with posters and sign posts.

Many springs in Nkambe are gradually disappearing due to the planting of eucalyptus close to water source areas. Their long taproots absorb water at a high rate and lower the water table. Also, people are building houses, farming and gardening with chemical pesticides around the streams. The increase of cattle faeces and trash pollution is infiltrating into outside streams. Due to this heavy pressure by the population, some springs have disappeared and others dry out completely during the dry season when they originally had been a rare source of water. In addition to the plants that depend on these polluted springs for water, the local population that does not have access to pipe-borne water depends on the streams for drinking and cooking water. There is urgent need to protect spring water sources for the sake of future generations.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Spring catchment protection is a long-term process that involves a series of interventions to provide water resources that are desired and suitable to the consumers of water. Spring catchment protection includes rehabilitation practices like planting trees, shrubs, and grasses, soil conservation, erosion control, and drainage work, all aiming at correcting past land-use mistakes. All these protection practices and integration of agricultural and agroforestry practices help sustain upland productivity and prevent adverse downstream effects.

The minimum catchment area needed to protect a spring is a 50m radius. No farming or grazing should take place in this area, and it should be fenced with a live fence or barbed wire. After fencing, an infiltration ditch (1m deep and 1m wide) should be dug to help trap sediments from run off.

The government of Cameroon has a law which states that all land 50m away from all springs is state land. Using a prefectoral order, the government can remove farmers from the springs without compensation. When farmers are displaced, they must be given alternatives to be able to sustain their lives. Unless a farmer sees a benefit given to him, he will not be motivated to protect the spring. Therefore, alternatives like bee keeping, fruit tree planting, and animal husbandry is encouraged for income generation. SYFA prefers to sensitize the population on watershed protection, and alternative uses of springs so that farmers will be able to generate an income without having to relocate. In addition to protecting individual springs, SYFA hopes to take a more permanent role in the protection effort through education programs on alternative water source area vocations.

PROJECT STATUS

Currently, SYFA has received funding to start a sign campaign to inform the population of the importance of water protection. Additionally, SYFA has continued to broadcast environmental news about water protection on a local radio station. Recently, local landlords and school officers have voiced interest in gaining assistance from SYFA to protect their local springs.

Farmer Tantoh at the a spring source which is gradually disappearing due to nearby farmland and gardening.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Through SYFA's educational campaigns, local farmers will find new sustainable ways of gaining an income that will not endanger their source of water.
- Farmers will be able to stay in their homes while still generating an income and protecting local water catchments.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Local springs will be protected.
- There will be an increase of agroforestry.

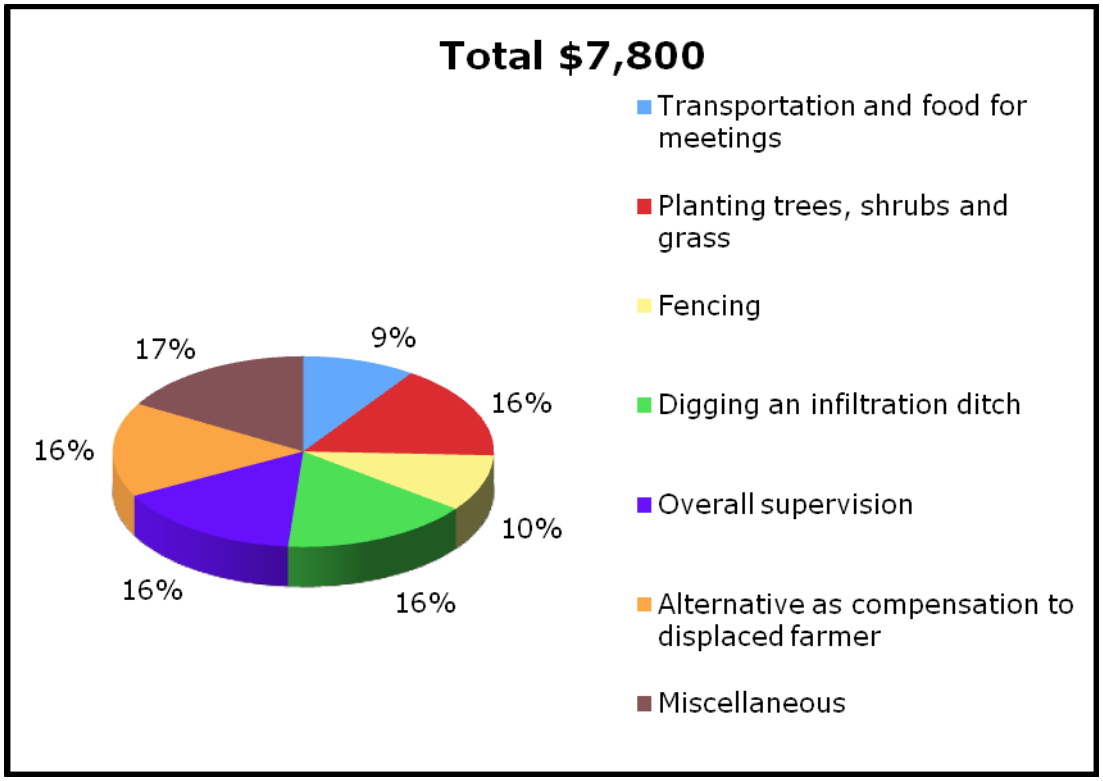
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Once the project is successfully implemented, it will easily be sustainable because the residents will be protecting water catchments as a part of their vocation.

FUTURE GOALS

SYFA hopes to successfully educate residents around the water catchments through public notice campaigns and field trainings. Once the water catchments around Nkambe are protected, SYFA plans to expand to the surrounding regions.

COST ESTIMATE TO PROTECT A SRPING 50m in RADIUS[9]



[9] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index.

BAMENDA RECYCLING CENTRE

PROJECT SUMMARY

As the fourth largest city in Cameroon, Bamenda (pop. 2 million) is the Provincial headquarters of the North West Province. Despite its large size, there is no waste management system to account for the indiscriminate disposal of waste. Instead, the city council transports the waste out of the city to burn. The burning causes harmful pollution. In the neighbourhoods, residents dump waste into the streams and rivers which pollutes the water. A recycling centre in Bamenda will take large steps to solve this problem. Before starting a recycling centre, SYFA hopes to conduct a feasibility study to see to see if a recycling centre can be established within the next five years. During the study, Tantoh will establish a questionnaire and contact city council members, administration, and local citizens about their views towards a recycle centre.

PROJECT STATUS

For preliminary research, Tantoh hopes to intern with a recycle centre in USA for about two months to find good examples of city recycling. After the internship, Tantoh will spend six months completing the Bamenda feasibility study which will culminate in a final summary document. The detail cost estimate of the recycle centre will be documented and presented to influential bodies like the World Bank and UN.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- The recycling centre shall drastically reduce waste in the city.
- The streams will be protected and clean, therefore balancing the aquatic ecosystem.
- Household refuse shall be transformed into compost which will encourage organic gardening in neighbourhoods and semi-urban areas.
- The larger population will become informed about environmental protection
- Bamenda's model for recycling can be used to help other Cameroonian cities reform or structure their waste management systems.

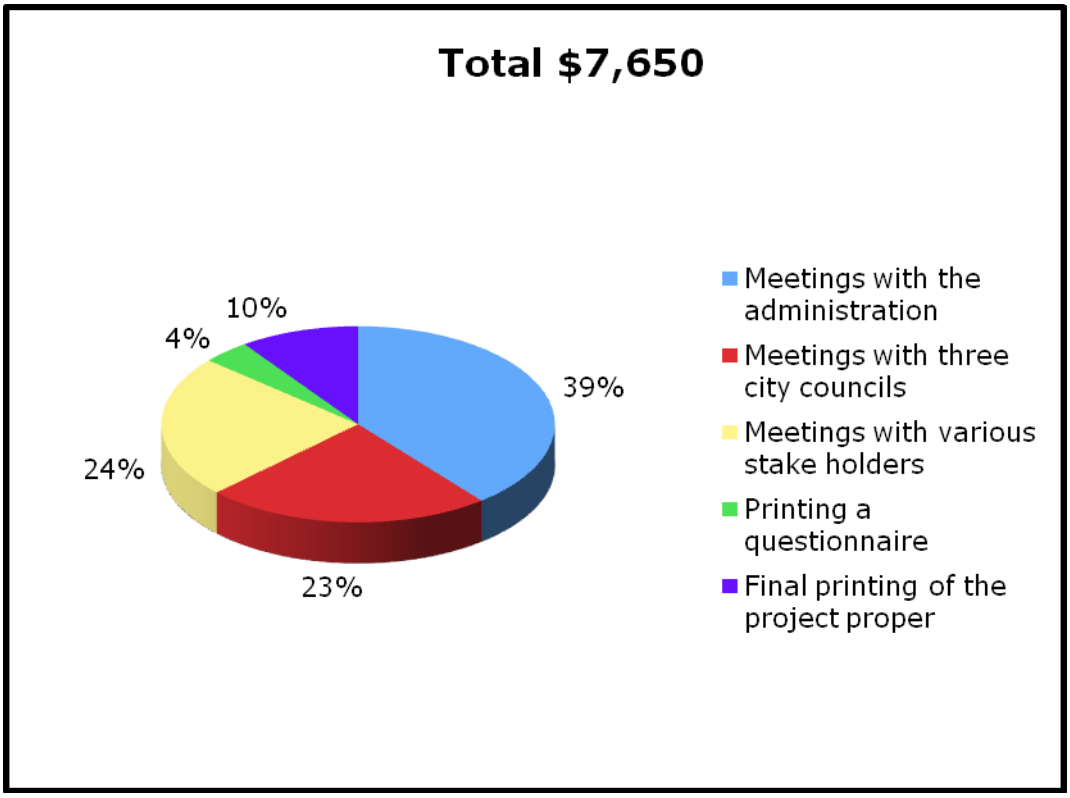
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The recycling centre shall create employment to the unemployed.
- The increased aesthetics of the city will improve its reputation.

FUTURE PLANS

Once Tantoh better understands both the needs of Bamenda and the process of starting a recycling centre, he will take the steps necessary to create one in Bamenda. Hopefully the new recycling centre will be a model for more recycling centres throughout Cameroon.

COST BREAKDOWN[10]



[10] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index.

TRANSPORTATION MEANS

PROJECT SUMMARY

Donga Mantung Division, SYFA's zone of jurisdiction, has poor roads, which make many rural villages inaccessible. The roads are not paved, so they are very dusty in the dry season and very muddy in the rainy season. Road conditions can make rainy season transportation nearly impossible. In order to reach every corner of this Division, SYFA needs a 4-Wheel Drive vehicle for its projects. This vehicle will be able to carry flowers, trees, and SYFA volunteers to project sites. It shall also enable us to pick up international volunteers from the airport in Yaoundé, which is about 600km (a three-day trip by public transportation) from Nkambe.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- With its own vehicle, SYFA will be able to increase the magnitude and quantity of the plants it transports enabling the organization to have larger and more effective organic landscaping projects.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- A vehicle will save SYFA a large amount of money and time to transport volunteers and transport greenery.
- SYFA's volunteers will be guaranteed safer and more time-efficient trips.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

SYFA only needs once vehicle.

FUTURE GOALS

Once SYFA has a vehicle, SYFA hopes to build more facilities to house volunteers.

RENOVATING ROOMS TO ACCOMMODATE VOLUNTEERS

PROJECT SUMMARY

In order to support the growing number of volunteers SYFA receives, we would like to renovate the local property to more comfortably situate them.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- With renovated rooms, SYFA will be able to hold more volunteers who can work on more environmental projects.
- The increases of volunteers will make a strong statement to the community that the environment is a large international priority.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The renovated rooms will allow more low-income volunteers to stay without having to pay fares for hotel rooms when SYFA's regular lodging is full.

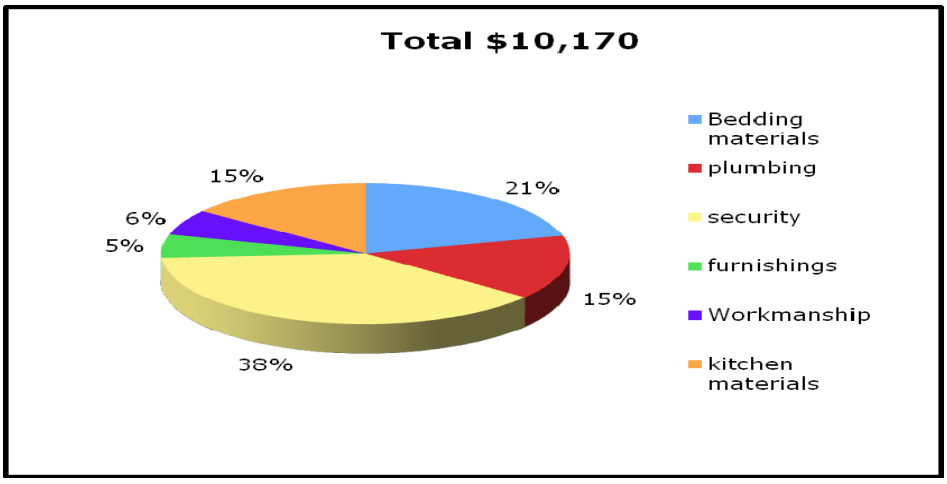
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

Once the rooms are built, SYFA will be able to maintain them.

FUTURE GOALS

SYFA hopes to eventually purchase a separate piece of property to house and feed volunteers. This will allow more volunteers to stay for an extended period of time. At off season times, SYFA can gain an income from renting the extra property.

COST BREAKDOWN[11]



[11] All budget estimates are provided in greater detail in the Budget index.

WISH LIST

DESCRIPTION	UNITS NEEDED	UNIT PRICE (FRS CFA)	TOTAL COST	PRICE (USD)
Garden fork	4	1000	4000	$10.00
Rakes	2	2000	4000	$10.00
50m tape	1	6000	6000	$15.00
Hand gloves	4	2500	10,000	$25.00
Watering can	2	5000	10,000	$25.00
Machete for clearing	4	3500	14,000	$35.00
Shovels	2	7500	15,000	$37.50
Spades	2	7500	15,000	$37.50
Pickaxes	2	7500	15,000	$37.50
Pruning scissors	2	7500	15,000	$37.50
Sprinkler	4	5000	20,000	$50.00
Rain boots	4	6000	24,000	$60.00
Wheelbarrows	2	20000	40,000	$100.00
Hose (in roll)	4	25000	100,000	$250.00
Printing of T-shirts	200	500	100,000	$250.00
Monthly internet access for a year	1x12	10,000	120,000	$300.00
TV	1	150,000	150,000	$375.00
Lawn mower	1	300,000	300,000	$750.00
Internet (wireless connection) installation fee	1	380,000	380,000	$950.00
Purchase of T-shirts to be use on Labour day	200	2000	400,000	$1,000.00
Satellite receiver to view environmental and agricultural channels at SYFA Resource Center	1	500,000	500,000	$1,250.00
Scanner, photocopier and printer	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250.00

COST BREAKDOWN INDEX

Chua-Chua Botanical Gardens

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Building retaining walls	Lump sum	Lump sum	1,000,000	$2,500
Building relaxation huts	4	300,000	1,200,000	$3,000
Fences	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Planting lawn, trees and shrubs	Lump sum	Lump sum	600,000	$1,500
Building footpaths and pouring gravels	Lump sum	Lump sum	800,000	$2,000
Building small bridges to link both sites	2	500,000	1,000,000	$2,500
Drainage construction	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Maintenance and supervision			1,000,000	$2,500
Building of washing point	Lump sum	Lump sum	1,500,000	$3,750
Paving of a half basket ball field	Lump sum	Lump sum	1,000,000	$2,500
Total			9,100,000	$22,750
Miscellaneous =20%			1,820,000	$4,550
Total needed for the first phase			10,920,000	$27,300

Seminary Project

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Dwarf shrubs for hedges	3000	500	1,500,000	$3,750

Ornamental trees	500	1000	500,000	$1,250
Assorted varieties of flowers to be donated by SYFA				$0
Transportation of plants	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Lawn	100M sq	2000	200,000	$500
Labour to provided by the campus and SYFA volunteers				$0
Supervision by SYFA	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Total			3,200,000	$8,000

Guinea Pig Project

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Purchase of guinea pigs	5 pigs x 20 volunteers	1000	100,000	$250
Cage construction	20	5,000	100,000	$250
Hiring veterinary experts from the ministry of livestock for a 2 hour orientation on the care of guinea pigs	1	50,000	50,000	$125
Transportation of guinea pigs	100	200	20,000	$50
Total			270,000	$675

Roundabout

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Shaped stones	700	200	140,000	$350
Cement (bags)	15	6,500	97,500	$244
Transportation of sand	1	60,000	60,000	$150
Skilled workmanship	2	50,000	100,000	$250
Filling the flower bed with humus soil	2	50,000	100,000	$250
Purchase of ornamental plants/flowers	Lump sum	Lump sum	100,000	$250
Transportation of plants	Lump sum	Lump sum	50,000	$125
Purchase of organic manure (bags)	20	2000	40,000	$100
Overall roundabout running cost/supervision	1	200,000	200,000	$500
Total			887,500	$2,219
Miscellaneous = 20%			177,500	$444
Grand Total			1,065,000	$2,663

Canteen

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Purchase of iron doors	2	100,000	200,000	$500
Purchase of protectors	2	75,000	150,000	$375

Installation of windows	2	50,000	100,000	$250
Purchase of shelves for soft drinks, etc	1	200,000	200,000	$500
Purchase of table	1	15,000	15,000	$38
Purchase of chairs inside canteen	5	5,000	25,000	$63
Installation of benches outside canteen	6	20,000	120,000	$300
Skilled workmanship	2	25,000	50,000	$125
Installation of electricity	1	100,000	100,000	$250
Total			960,000	$2,400
Miscellaneous = 20%			192,000	$480
Grand Total			1,152,000	$2,880

Bambili Baptist Church

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Building of flower beds	3	100,000	300,000	$750
Paving with bocks	Lump sum	Lump sum	5,000,000	$12,500
Lawn mower	1	300,000	300,000	$750
Planting of a hedge round the church	2000	500	1,000,000	$2,500
Overall running cost /supervision	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Total			7,100,000	$17,750
Miscellaneous=20%			1,420,000	$3,550

Total needed to complete the project			8,520,000	$21,300

Binju Baptist Church

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Building a fence around the entire church compound			20,000,000	$50,000
Bricks to pave the yard	Lump sum	Lump sum	10,000,000	$25,000
Flower beds	Lump sum	Lump sum	5,000,000	$12,500
Benches	10	10,000	100,000	$250
Planting of flowers, trees and shrubs	lump sum	lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Church contribution in kind			10,000,000	$25,000
Total excluding community contribution			35,600,000	$89,000
Miscellaneous =20%			7,120,000	$17,800
Total needed for the project			42,720,000	$106,800

Resource Centre

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Purchase of the whole building including the surround land (about 1 hectare)	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	3,000,000	$7,500
Fencing the area	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	591,050	$1,478

Renovation of the main building's roof	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	1,201,000	$3,003
Renovation of the main building's wooden doors	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	151,000	$378
Renovation of the main building's iron doors and windows	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	515,000	$1,288
Renovation of the roof of the small additional building	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	605,000	$1,513
Renovation of the additional building's wooden doors	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	91,000	$228
Purchase of nails and workmanship for above renovations	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	338,500	$846
Pavement of the yard with concrete bricks	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	272,000	$680
Building of walls for a restroom inside main building/ installation of materials for restroom	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	294,700	$737
Plastering and flooring of the additional building	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	200,000	$500
Electrification of the Centre	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	91,000	$228
Building a flower bed around the main building	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	138,000	$345
Building a septic tank and suck-away pit	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	199,100	$498
Painting materials for the buildings	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	402,500	$1,006
Purchase of tiles for the main building	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	435,000	$1,088
Installation of tap water	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	41,500	$104

Purchase of tables, chairs, and other office equipment	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	1,785,000	$4,463
Total			13,396,350	$33,491
Miscellaneous = 20%			2,679,270	$6,698
Grand Total			16,075,620	$40,189

Spring Protection

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Transportation and food for meeting with farmers, administration and local leaders	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	300,000	$750
Planting trees, shrubs and grass	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	500,000	$1,250
Fencing	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	300,000	$750
Digging an infiltration ditch	Lump Sum	Lump Sum	500,000	$1,250
Overall supervision			500,000	$1,250
Alternative as compensation to displaced farmer			500,000	$1,250
Total			2,600,000	$6,500
Miscellaneous = 20%			520,000	$1,300
Total needed per spring			3,120,000	$7,800

Bamenda
Recycling Centre

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Meetings with the administration involved	2	500,000	1,000,000	$2,500
Meetings with three city councils	2	300,000	600,000	$1,500
Meetings with various stake holders	2	300,000	600,000	$1,500
Printing questionnaires	LUMP SUM	LUMP SUM	100,000	$250
Final printing of the project	25 COPIES	10,000	250,000	$625
Total			2,550,000	$6,375
Miscellaneous %20			510,000	$1,275
Grand Total			3,060,000	$7,650

Accommodating
Volunteers

Item	Unit	Unit Price (FRS CFA)	Amount	Price (USD)
Purchase of iron doors	3	100,000	300,000	$750
Purchase of protectors for windows	4	75,000	300,000	$750
Purchase of bunk beds (large size) for three rooms	3	100,000	300,000	$750
Mattress	6	35,000	210,000	$525
Beddings	Lump sum	Lump sum	200,000	$500

Clothing Rack	3	25,000	75,000	$188
Table	3	15,000	45,000	$113
Chairs	6	10,000	60,000	$150
Building of septic tank and installation of water system toilet	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Building of an iron gate at the entrance to the compound	Lump sum	Lump sum	700,000	$1,750
Equipping a gas kitchen	Lump sum	Lump sum	500,000	$1,250
Workmanship to build gate	2 technicians	50,000	100,000	$250
Workmanship to install window protectors	2 technicians	50,000	100,000	$250
Total			3,390,000	$8,475
Miscellaneous = 20%			678,000	$1,695
Total			4,068,000	$10,170

FARMER TANTOH'S CURRICULUM VITAE

WORK EXPERIENCE

Summer 2007-present. Volunteer with Yosemite National Park-California, California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC), Great Baikal Trail (GBT) Russia.

October 2006-present. Founder and designer of Chua-Chua Botanical Gardens-Nkambe.

- Planting of flowers and indigenous plants species.

Jan –September 2006. Nji William's Compound Nkambe, Cameroon

Landscape Architect

- Designing lawn, planting of shrubs and flowers.
- Supervised 4 other landscapers.

June, 2005 – present Saint Rita's College Nkambe, Cameroon

Landscape Architect and Assistant Farmworker

- Assist in daily farm activities including: planting, harvesting and general maintenance.
- Development and supervised planting of decorative plants around campus.

EDUCATION

1995 - 2000 Government Bilingual High School Nkambe, Cameroon

General Certificate of Education (G.C.E. O/L)

- President of the Environmental Club

2000 – 2001 City College of Commerce Mankon, Cameroon

General Certificate of Education (G.C.E. A/L)

Founder and President of the Environmental Club

2002 - 2004 Regional College of Agriculture Bambili, Cameroon

Higher National Diploma of Senior Agricultural Technician

Awarded "Best in Agroforestry"

Specialization in Agroforestry and Spring Water Catchment Protection

2007. Tahoe Baikal Institute Alumni. USA/Russia/Buryatia Republic- Siberia.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

2001 – Present, Save Your Future Association (SYFA) Nkambe, Cameroon

Founder and Coordinator

- Created organization (E.27/750/756/BSCA) to teach African children and rural farmers organic farming techniques adapted to the tropics and environmental protection of biodiversity.
- Planted lawns and flower gardens at the Nkambe District Hospital, Total Petrol Station- Nkambe, CAMWATER- Nkambe, Kumbo Integrated School for the Blind- Bui Division, Bambili Baptist Church- Tubah Sub Division and Bambili Students Development Center.
- Created 10 environmental clubs in schools, churches and Nkambe Principal Prison.
- Trained and facilitated future community and SYFA leaders in Nkambe.

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- Njinti Denis Joney, Financial Administrator, Serve the Orphans Foundation, Ndu, tel 505-51-36
- Albert Onega, 62760 Range Road, Lore City, Ohio 43755-USA.

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- 5 publications in "The Farmers Voice" 1999-2001 focusing on Organic Agriculture and Environmental Protection.
- The programme "HELLO" over Cameroon Radio TV.I. Tantoh was interviewed for 30 minutes (September 2007) when he came back from TBI about his work and achievements.
- The programme "MONDAY SHOW" Cameroon Radio TV. Tantoh was interviewed for 15 minutes in April 2008, about his work and current progress.

LANGUANGES

English, French, Limbum and Fulfulde

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR csmonitor.com

Cameroonian joins global quest for clean water

Tantoh Nforba promotes watershed preservation by education and example.

By Jesse Huffman | Contributor of The Christian Science Monitor

from the May 16, 2008 edition

http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0516/p25s05-sten.html

Most Americans can fill up a glass with tap water and safely drink it. But there are no faucets where Tantoh Nforba lives and works. He is from the Northwest Province of Cameroon, a rural region of Africa where the World Health Organization estimates that only 44 percent of the population has access to potable water.

The rest of the province's 1.2 million inhabitants either drink from streams and lakes polluted with human and animal feces, contending with potential disease, or walk up to seven miles to collect clean drinking water from sporadically placed water pumps. The pumps are unreliable: Hard to maintain, they frequently fall into disrepair. And while water flows during the rainy season, many go dry later.

Today, Mr. Nforba has joined a global community stretching from the United States to Russia to Africa dedicated to making potable water more available.

Almost one-fifth of the world's population lacks consistent access to clean water. The situation is made worse, says the United Nations Environment Program, by the water-intensive farming practices being used to feed the developing world's exploding population. Nforba's Northwest Province is 90 percent dependent on farming for survival. Its lack of clean drinking water is exacerbated by agricultural deforestation, aquifer depletion, and soil erosion.

“Water is life,” Nforba says by phone from Cameroon. “The crisis is so high here that people are dying from it every day.”

In a high school biology class, Nforba first saw the connections between the health of local streams and the overall health of the African ecology. Like many scientists and conservationists concerned with the environment and the availability of clean water, Nforba

studied watersheds. Each watershed is a discrete basin, defined by ridges, hills, or mountains, where drainage from rain or snow runs downhill into a river, lake, or ocean.

Cause and effect in a watershed is simple: Whatever happens upstream affects the whole downstream ecology. Land used for development or agriculture decreases a watershed's ability to clean and filter water. Pollution from soil, air, or water that enters the system at any point accumulates and concentrates as it moves downstream.

In Cameroon, Nforba runs the Save Your Future Association (SYFA), a nonprofit that teaches environmental programs in local schools, churches, and prisons. He operates a demonstration organic garden to educate rural youths and farmers on the value of organic farming and watershed protection. Nforba's garden, on the banks of the Chua Chua River, was planted in 2006 with a fabulous array of flowers. The plants are a visible indicator of the river's health and a tool he hopes will change the behavior of people who are used to washing their clothes and dumping waste in the river.

In the spring of 2007, Nforba applied to the Tahoe-Baikal Institute's (TBI) Summer Environmental Exchange. TBI, a Lake Tahoe, Calif.-based nonprofit, teaches American and international students about watershed management. Around the world, watersheds can be found in all states of usage, from the pristine waters of Siberia's Lake Baikal – the world's oldest, deepest, and largest freshwater lake – to the streams and rivers piped deep beneath cities. TBI hopes to balance human population growth and demands for development with the ecological health of these drainage areas

Founded in 1992 as a student exchange between the polarized superpowers of the Cold War, TBI began hosting students and professionals from around the world in 1996. Nforba was the institute's first African participant.

“Having Tantoh in the program was huge,” says TBI's Jon Green, coordinator of the US program. “He really solidified that TBI's mission is not just about Tahoe or Baikal – it's about any watershed, anywhere.”

TBI's Summer Environmental Exchange (SEE) is unique among envi–ronmental education programs for its hands-on, “place based” approach. Exposing participants to the effects of high-level development and resource management at Lake Tahoe, and then studying the Lake Baikal area, now moving from an industrial to a tourist-based economy, is a critical comparison for future researchers, lawmakers, and lobbyists, Mr. Green says.

“And for Tantoh's work in Africa,” Green says, “because he is working at a grass-roots environmental level, the challenge is, ‘How the heck do we get clean, fresh water?' People like Tantoh gain experience, ideas, expertise, and models they can take back and work with.”

In Tahoe, Nforba conducted a water-quality monitoring project. He quips that policymakers in his own country “would look at the research as useless,” but he put the skills he learned to good use in Cameroon, where he started a campaign to sensitize people on pollution.

In the second half of the SEE program, Nforba studied the impact of tourism on Lake Baikal, evidenced by the recent dramatic increase in litter. Streams in urban Cameroon and even in rural provinces like Nforba's are often clogged with trash, and he has added recycling and waste re-use to his educational efforts.

Within Cameroon, news of the young environmentalist's journey traveled fast.

“When I returned from the TBI exchange, I was welcomed back as a hero,” Nforba says. He was interviewed on TV. “People could not believe that just working on the environment could take me though three continents. It has created a lot of awareness, and it is a challenge to the rural community – many people are now talking about the environment, and many young people are taking action.”

Still operating with a very limited budget, Nforba is back at work in his garden, in schools, and in local villages, aided by a rotating cast of international volunteers – he's hosted 12 so far.

Nforba is also sharing his watershed expertise as a mentor to other African villages struggling to develop local environmental protections through the Nabuur.com global volunteering website. This spring, Nforba and SYFA will begin a two-year partnership with the World Agroforestry Centre, training rural farmers how to sustainably maintain, harvest, and profit from agroforestry products.


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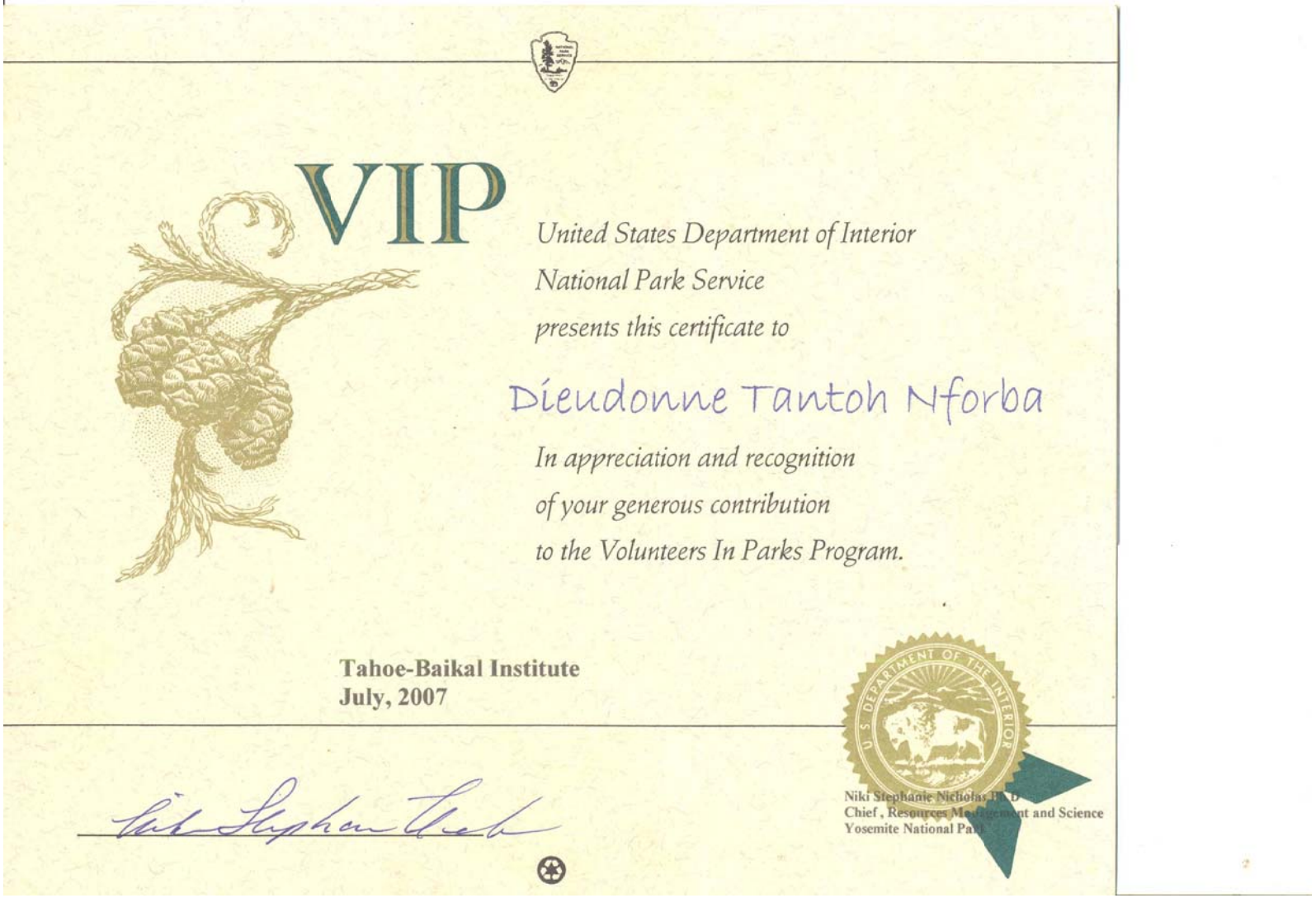

VIP

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July, 2007

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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