

Fairventures Worldwide FVW gGmbH

# IMPACT REPORT 2023

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

*Empowering Farmers & Forests*





# Impact Report 2023

Our Impact Report 2023 is here! We are excited to share updates on our successes and challenges in Indonesia and Uganda throughout the year 2023.

The purpose of this report is twofold: on one hand, it provides a compact overview of our work, challenges, and achievements in 2023. On the other hand, it allows us to reflect on and learn from these experiences.



## Welcome

Greetings from our CEOs	03
What we believe in	04
History - Fairventures Family	05

## Indonesia

Reforestation for Borneo	07
Special: Roadshow	09
Farmer Story: Meet Herlianto	10

## Uganda

Lasting Solutions for Uganda	12
Special: Timber Innovation Center	14
Farmer Story: Meet Tilulaga	15

## Germany

PHINEO Impact Seal	17
Climate Stories	18

## Transparency

Team	21
Challenges & Learnings	22
Monitoring Data	24
Finances	25
Finances Development	26
Voices	27
Partners & Supporters	29
Contact	31



# LET'S GROW TOGETHER!

2023 was an exciting year for us: a lot has changed within the organisation, new project approaches demand our full attention and changing weather patterns in Indonesia and Uganda have made our tree planting activities more difficult. We have adapted to these changes and still managed to celebrate some successes. Even with all these challenges, our projects continue to have a big impact. This has now been officially confirmed once again by the PHINEO Impact Seal, a seal of quality for climate protection. None of our work would be possible without you. We are very grateful for your support!

With best regards,



Megan King



Wolfgang Baum



Check out the  
video message  
for you!



## Empowerment



We don't just plant trees, we empower farmers to plant the future. We invest in teaching local farmers about reforestation and equip them with all the necessary skills to make a living out of it. Creating responsible value chains for farmers and their harvest is as essential as planting the trees.

## Transparency



We openly communicate about our setbacks and successes. We believe that today's failures are opportunities for learning tomorrow. We responsibly manage our resources, taking proactive actions and testing different approaches to find solutions, rather than dwelling in theory or failure.

## Connection



The well-being of the planet and humanity are inseparably linked. Realistic reforestation means to listen to the local communities needs in order to succeed for the planet. That's why we offer sustainable income perspectives as an alternative to environmentally harmful mining, palm oil fields or the exploitation of the rainforest.

## Growth



We learn from each other and listen attentively. In doing so, we consider not only our own but especially the needs, fears, and hopes of local people. Our growth is continuous, and we remain open to new ideas, rather than assuming we always know best. Together with communities in Indonesia and Uganda, we continuously evolve and achieve sustainable success.



## HISTORY

**2016:** Opening of the Indonesia Country Office



**2019:** Founding of Fairventures Social Forestry



**2023:** Starting the Climate Education Program "Climate Stories"



**2018:** Opening of the Uganda Country Office



**2021:** Founding of Fairventures Digital GmbH



**2023:** Founding of Good Forest Indonesia Foundation

## FAIRVENTURES FAMILY



Fairventures Worldwide is a non-profit organization based in Stuttgart with country offices in Uganda and Indonesia. We empower smallholder farmers in the tropics to generate income through reforestation, creating sustainable forests that produce timber and food. To support our holistic agroforestry approach and enhance transparency, we utilize modern monitoring technologies such as the TREEO app.



Our sister company Fairventures Social Forestry (FSF) combines the implementation of a sustainable climate solution with a green return on investments. By implementing sustainable agroforestry in cooperation with local communities in Indonesia, FSF creates positive ecological, social and financial impact at the same time.



To help set companies on the path to net-zero (emissions), TREEO (Fairventures Digital) provides them with traceable and reliable data about high-quality CO<sub>2</sub>-Removals while empowering tree growers through the TREEO Technology and giving them access to the carbon market.





INDONESIA





# REFORESTATION FOR BORNEO

## *Transforming learnings into actions*

2023 was a year of change in Indonesia. After 10 years of work, we had to acknowledge that not everything was working as anticipated in Indonesia. As we have described in our last annual report, some of our most fundamental assumptions had to be revised: many of the trees planted in the early years of our work were not growing as fast as predicted and the mortality rates from these years were higher than expected, the profits from the first Sengon timber harvest were not significant

enough to make a difference in our farmers lives and 10 years after we started, there were still no credible timber offtakers in Central Kalimantan. Much work in 2023 was dedicated to address these short-comings. With the planting season 2023/24, a new approach started to take shape by diversifying the number of trees and potential income streams for farmers. Our successful cocoa program showed us that cocoa could be an important pillar of this new, diversified approach, and have since extended cocoa planting to all new farmers. Alongside cocoa, we have added fast-growing timber trees that are used in Central Kalimantan, fruit trees and Jengkol and Petai, trees with edible beans that are a popular food source in Indonesia. In evolving our approach, we listened carefully to what farmers told us, and redesigned our



activities from the ground up. Questioning the very foundations of our work was not an easy process, but one that we had to go through and that, in the end, made us become a better partner for our farmers. Alongside tree planting, we have also taken a giant leap in regard to monitoring. In 2023, we monitored all the newly planted trees with TREEO for the first time. We are already looking forward to repeating this exercise, providing our supporters, with even more transparency. We will continue to gather data that will allow us to improve our planting work year after year. Last but not least, we have changed our organizational setup. After more than 10 years of work in Indonesia, we have supported our Indonesian team to set up their own organization, The Good Forest Indonesia foundation. The Indonesian team implements our projects no longer as our branch office, but as a fully equal partner. We strongly believe that development belongs in the hands of the local people, and believe this is a formalization of our beliefs.



**"GOOD FORESTS ARE  
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS!"**







# LIGHTWOOD ROADSHOW

## Indonesia Special

Our reforestation effort has taught us the vital role of community involvement in successfully implementing our programs. Therefore we are taking a proactive approach to engage the entire community instead of just concentrating on smallholder farmers by organizing an event

called the “Lightwood Roadshow”. What sets the Lightwood Roadshow apart from our previous socialization efforts is its efficiency and broader reach. Within just one month, we have visited 14 different villages, targeting a more diverse audience. By personally visiting each village and holding short but impactful meetings integrated in the people’s markets and traditional gatherings, we fostered trust with the community. Our aim was to raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation through reforestation and responsible timber value chains.

By focusing on rural areas in Central Kalimantan, we hoped to address the lack of awareness about potential threats there, such as flooding during the rainy season. Therefore we are happy to report over 921 participants at our roadshow in just one month. Educating the community about the potential of reforestation counteracting natural disasters is an essential part of the roadshow.

***"Public participation requires an educational process, informing people about environmental threats as well as providing reinforcement and opportunities to take effective action. We need to encourage them to fully participate in environmental protection efforts." - Lightwood Roadshow Manager at Fairventures Worldwide.***





Watch Herlianto's  
Story on Youtube!



# MEET HERLIANTO!

## *Farmer Story*

Herlianto manages over 2.6 hectares of land including rubber trees and Jengkol. After attending a series of our information events in his village in 2021, he decided to additionally join our program in the beginning of 2022. So now he has been able to place Sengon trees between all his rubber trees and enriched his land. In the near future an additional hectare with trees and cocoa will be added throughout our program.


Herlianto's passion for farming and the forest also results in him being the village's farmer coordinator. "As the coordinator, I am once again striving to bring together the visions of the farmers in this village", he explains proudly. Over 60% of the people in the village are farmers, the rest of them work mostly in the palm oil or private timber sector.

This also demonstrates the possible outreach a person like Herlianto can have and how he can positively impact the community and therefore the environment. Being a native from Tumbang Manggu and having served as the village head for more than six years, he understands the local people's needs best and also how to address them.

Beyond the promise of a sustainable future for the environment, he envisions a brighter path for his village and himself:

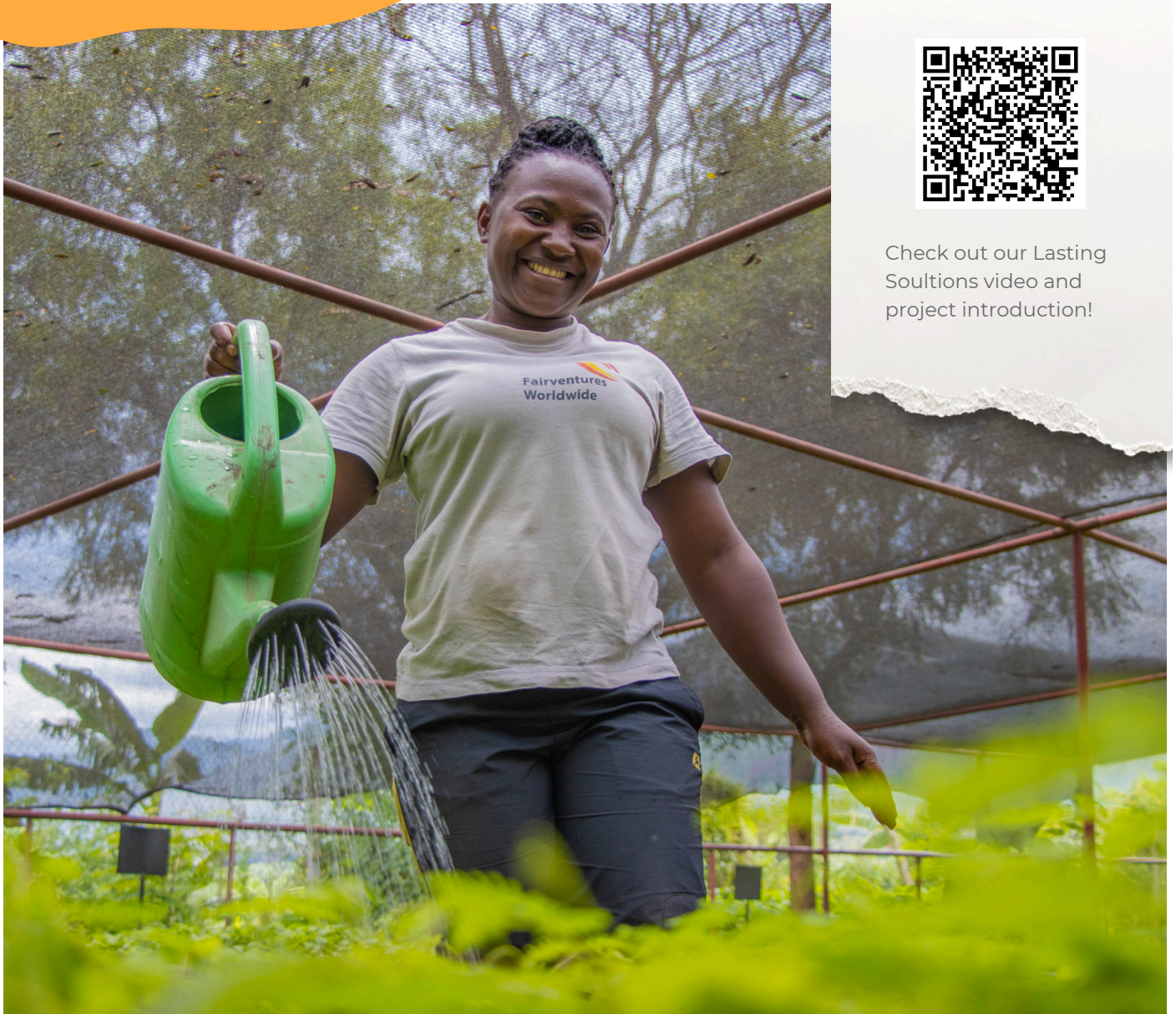
***"Trees can be a commodity that gives all of us hope for the future. Besides contributing to the environment, they also provide us with economic support."***



An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A dirt road, reddish-brown in color, runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the center. Several thin, parallel lines, possibly power lines or cables, stretch across the forest from the bottom left towards the top right. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "UGANDA" in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The letter 'U' is outlined in orange, while the letters 'G', 'A', 'N', 'D', and 'A' are outlined in white.

UGANDA





Check out our Lasting  
Solutions video and  
project introduction!

# LASTING SOLUTIONS FOR UGANDA

## *Success comes with its challenges*

In 2023, our work in Uganda really came into its own. Over the two rainy seasons in 2023, we distributed more than 500,000 tree seedlings of more than 10 different species in Uganda. We monitored all surviving trees with TREEO, completed the con-

struction of the Timber Innovation Center and supported our partner Uganda Timber Growers Association to start reforestation work on one of the threatened protected forest areas in the country. In summary, these great developments mean that in Uganda we have now a well established, impactful second country program standing proudly next to our program in Indonesia. In many ways, the seeds of these successes were sown by our great Ugandan team in the pandemic years. Focusing consequently on a decentralised approach, we built 16 nurseries, which allowed us to work through the travel restrictions of the pandemic and gave us the opportunity to really scale our work in 2023. However, our success didn't



come without challenges. Uganda is significantly affected by changing weather patterns due to climate change, which is exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon, leading to flooding and droughts (p.22). These changes have led to lower than expected tree survival rates and many operational challenges. Using our monitoring data to pair the right types of trees with the right sites and getting a better understanding of tree planting under highly uncertain weather conditions will be crucial to carry forward the success of 2023 and address the challenges.

Alongside tree planting, we have been working hard on expanding our network. In 2023, we entered into new partnerships with local government and academic institutions, creating visibility for tree planting through highly visible seedling distribution and planting events. Together with our partners, we are convinced we can reach even more in 2024.



***"I listen to everyone on my team and try as much as I can to provide a conducive environment and opportunities that support their growth - both as individuals and as professionals."***

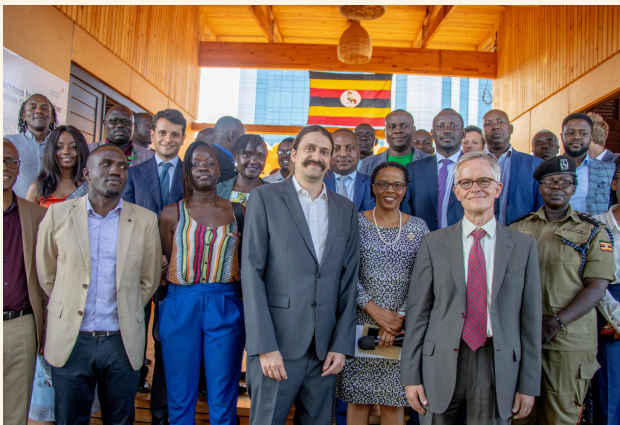
Patience Naamara, Country Director Uganda,  
Fairventures Worldwide (top right in the picture)







Check out our Timber Innovation Center documentary!



On World Environment Day 2023, we opened our Timber Innovation Center (TIC) in the heart of Kampala. It aims to bring together professionals and stakeholders from the forestry and construction sectors to promote and advance sustainable timber construction in Uganda and wider East Africa. The launch event was attended by numerous stakeholders, including the German ambassador Matthias Schauer, Italian Deputy Ambassador, Mr Mario Savona and FAO Country Representative Dr Antonio Querido.

# TIMBER INNOVATION CENTER

*Building a sustainable future: The Opening of Uganda's first Timber Innovation Centre*

Timber stores carbon and can replace as well as reduce the usage of environmental harmful materials like concrete or plastics. By embracing sustainable practices and using timber as a viable building material, the TIC sets an example for a more sustainable future.

***"The Timber Innovation Center is an inspiration to show what is possible with timber," said Fairventures CEO Wolfgang Baum, who was also present.***





Watch Tilulaga's  
Story on Youtube!



# MEET TILULAGA BULUHANI!

## *Farmer Story*

Tilulaga Buluhani is a farmer from the Buhende District in the eastern region of Uganda.

Tilulaga joined our program in 2022. He took part in our farmer field schools and received tree seedlings from our community nursery in Kaazi, Kampala. With passion and care, he has already planted over 500 Grevellia seedlings alongside other food crops like maize and sweet potatoes.

Tilulaga is optimistic about improving his livelihood through the sustainable use of the harvested timber and being able to pay his children's school fees more easily in the future.

***"As a farmer working with Fairventures Worldwide, I am joining hands to fight against deforestation by planting trees to restore the ecosystem and make a long-term personal investment through timber cultivation."***







# GERMANY





# PHINEO IMPACT SEAL

*Our impact on climate protection  
has been awarded*

On 6 November 2023, we were officially awarded the PHINEO impact seal in Berlin. Our "100 Million Trees" reforestation project in

Indonesia was highlighted with the seal of impact for climate protection. As a non-profit platform, PHINEO uses scientific methods to evaluate the objective impact of charitable projects and honours them with the seal of approval. We were selected from over 101 applicants alongside 14 others, such as the NABU Foundation National Natural Heritage, ForTomorrow and the Siemens Foundation.

***"The PHINEO Impact Seal means a lot to us. Because even though we know internally about our impact, it is all the more important that potential donors can objectively ensure that their money is being used effectively to make a difference," said Wolfgang Baum, CEO of Fairventures Worldwide in Stuttgart.***

We are proud that, despite all the challenges we face time and time again in our work, our projects have a proven impact. We will continue to work on this in the future and maximise our impact in the best possible way. There is now an official profile of us on the PHINEO website.



Learn more about the  
PHINEO Impact Seal!





# CLIMATE STORIES

## *New climate education project receives award*

“Climate Stories” is the name of Fairventures’ new climate education project that we launched in early 2023. In Climate Stories, high school students in Germany connect with young engaged people from the Global South through digital encounters. The climate crises can feel overwhelming, but it is abstract to many people yet. By providing people already affected by climate change a platform, we hope to make climate change more tangible and to humanize the often scientific nature

of the narrative. In their Climate Stories, they share their concerns, hopes and dreams and collaborate with students in Germany to develop ideas for a more climate-just future. The project is carried out with funding from the European Union, and through the support of the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, and the Baden-Württemberg Foundation for Development Cooperation (SEZ) as part of the “Mindchangers – Regions and Youth for Planet and People” program.

In October, we had the honor of receiving the Academy Award of the Protestant Academy Bad Boll, which comes with a prize of €2,500. Climate Stories was the winner among a total of 24 submissions. Tobias Weise, Chairman of the academy’s Sponsoring Association, highlighted in his laudatory speech the award’s question, “How do you inspire for more climate



protection?” which aimed to engage younger individuals. In his view, this is precisely what Climate Stories achieves:

***“The approach of not communicating climate change and its consequences with abstract figures but instead amplifying the voice of young people directly affected by it as well as enabling dialogue with local youth, has inspired us.”***

Personal exchanges achieve what textbooks cannot. Listening to voices from the Global South is a crucial step towards a more climate-just future.



Visit the website and check out “Climate Stories”!



Learn more about the Climate Stories of people from the Global South on Instagram. Just follow @climate\_stories and get to know them!







# TRANSPARENCY





## TEAM INDONESIA

Full-time Employees: 43  
Part-time Employees: 0  
Working Students: 1



Palangkaraya

## TEAM UGANDA

Full-time Employees: 35  
Part-time Employees: 0  
Working Students: 0



Uganda



## TEAM GERMANY

Full-time Employees: 4  
Part-time Employees: 8  
Working Students: 1



Stuttgart







# CHALLENGES

**Climate Change has been affecting our work throughout 2023. Indonesia and Uganda faced challenges triggered by El Niño. On the ground, the effects were quite different. In Indonesia, draughts led to higher incidences of forest fires, while in Uganda heightened rainfall led to floods and mudslides.**

In Central Kalimantan, where our project is located, the haze of the fires took a toll on people's lives. The air was so bad that masks became a must when going outside. The situation pushed the government to declare a state of emergency and to experiment with weather modification techniques to make it rain. Fortunately, the numbers of affected trees were low in our project areas and the lost trees will be replanted.

***"Climate change is the reason why we do what we do and also our biggest challenge along the way. We have to learn to adapt our work to quick changes in extreme weather conditions." - Megan King, CEO of Fairventures Worldwide.***







## & LEARNINGS

In Uganda climate change caused an excess of what Indonesia would have needed - rain. In the Kayunga District, the ongoing downpours have caused damage to our farmer's field near the banks of the River Nile, resulting in a loss of over 200 trees in October 2023. The downpour went on for three days intermittently and lead to flooding that submerged a sizable expanse of the area. Our Farmer Training Facilitator for Kayunga District recorded in the incident report: "This area lies in a rain shadow and receives less rain and longer droughts than the surrounding areas. With 50 acres planted in the last season, the young seedlings have suffered significant damage from the floods."

Fortunately, there are solutions to tackling the challenges and preventing future negative impacts. Additional drainage channels have

been dug, and plans are underway to replace the trees that were destroyed, with more water-tolerant species.

Being confronted with events like these, vividly shows the necessity to fight climate change. Planting more trees is a simple yet impactful way to contribute. Let's collectively take action to safeguard our environment for current and future generations.

***"We had anticipated El Niño this season and made preparations, including the creation of drainage channels. However, the excessive rainfall surpassed our expectations, leading to the flooding of the trees," explained our training facilitator in the Kayunga district, Uganda.***



# Indonesia



Distributed  
Seedlings

**74,576**



Seedling  
Survival Rate in %

**70**



Participating  
Farmers

**139**



Nurseries

**4**

# Uganda



Distributed  
Seedlings

**546,073**



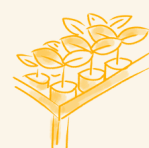
Seedling  
Survival Rate in %

**58**



Participating  
Farmers

**915**



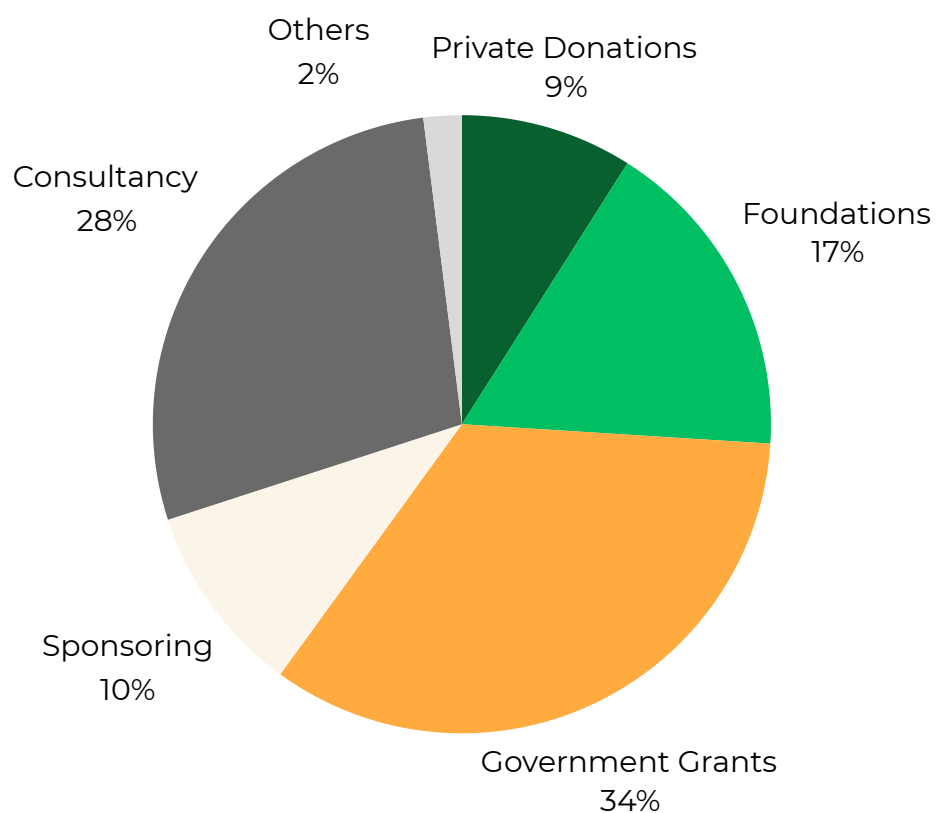
Nurseries

**16**

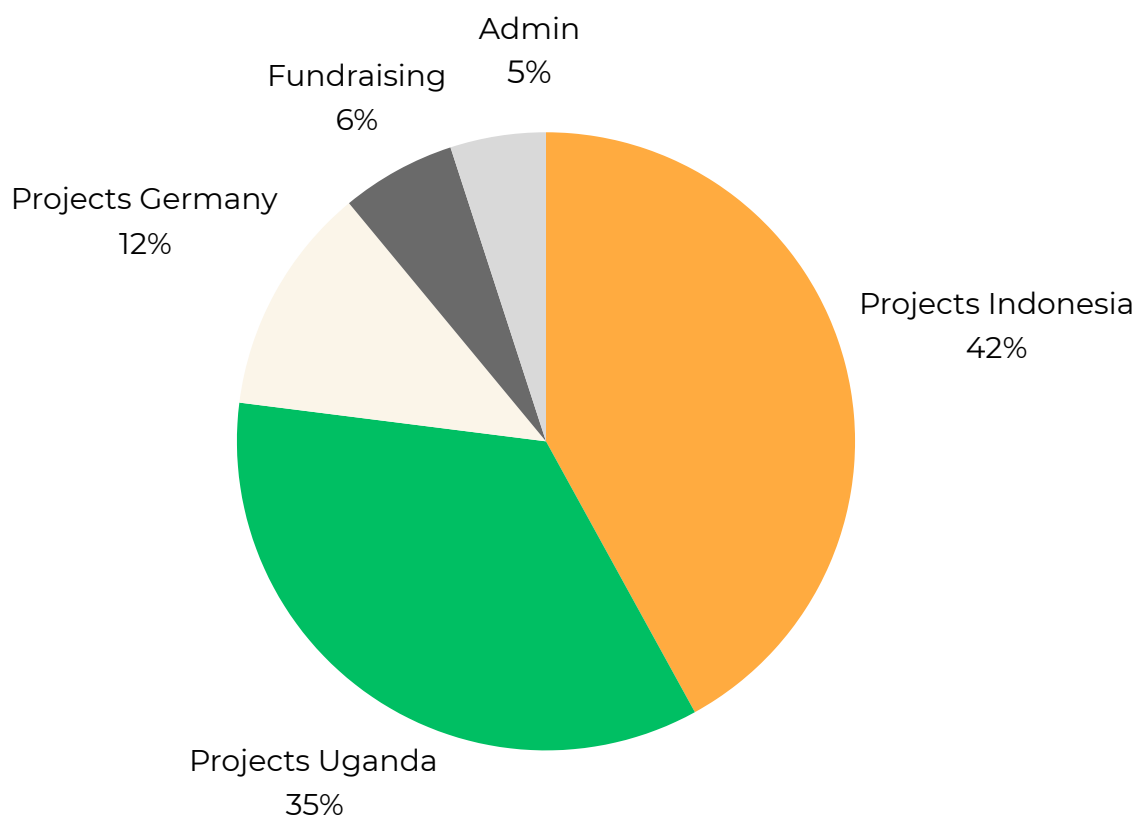
Source: Monitoring data from our field teams in Indonesia and Uganda for the planting phases in 2023



## FUNDING 2023



## RESSOURCE ALLOCATION 2023





	2021	2022	2023
<b>Funding</b>	<b>1,976,091 €</b>	<b>2,495,139 €</b>	<b>3,017,272 €</b>
Private Donations	200,280 €	203,543 €	279,916 €
Foundations	247,246 €	350,518 €	504,070 €
Government Grants	1,183,377 €	837,290 €	1,040,501 €
Sponsoring	189,346 €	239,276 €	283,058 €
Consultancy	111,133 €	800,111 €	844,595 €
Others	44,708 €	64,402 €	65,132 €
<b>Ressource Allocation</b>	<b>-2,090,144 €</b>	<b>-2,429,226 €</b>	<b>-2,906,711 €</b>
Projects Indonesia	-851,414 €	-982,428 €	-1,235,036 €
Projects Uganda	-717,620 €	-815,737 €	-1,013,500 €
Projects Germany	-146,375 €	-317,991 €	-342,821 €
Fundraising	-158,001 €	-130,216 €	-165,514 €
Admin	-216,734 €	-182,855 €	-149,841 €
<b>Earnings before Taxes</b>	<b>-114,053 €</b>	<b>65,913 €</b>	<b>110,561 €</b>
Other taxes	0 €	0 €	-1,424 €
Profit carried forward (+) from previous year	66,118 €	28,513 €	19,947 €
Withdrawal from reserve	274,000 €	34,788 €	129,454 €
Setting in reserve	-197,552 €	-109,266 €	-228,070 €
<b>Net earning</b>	<b>28,513 €</b>	<b>19,947 €</b>	<b>30,468 €</b>



*"As a traditional trading house for wood, wood products and paper, sustainability has always been an integral part of our DNA. Since we are close to the producers in the countries of origin, such as Indonesia, we want to actively support the reforestation of the forests. The cooperation with Fairventures Worldwide was therefore an obvious choice. (...)"*

**Rolf von Loßberg, CEO of  
Jacob Jürgensen Wood GmbH**



## VOICES of supporters



*"In today's world, the question is no longer whether we should offset CO2 emissions that are currently unavoidable, but rather how this can be done most effectively. For us, Fairventures is the answer to this question. Their approach enables us to directly track the positive effect of our efforts, as the climate impact of agroforestry projects is made transparent and tangible through effective tracking. (...)"*

**Benjamin Weinhold, CEO of  
BettercallPaul GmbH**

*"Fairventures operates modern reforestation concepts and thus realizes a holistic approach that considers smallholders, biodiversity and CO2 compensation at the same time. That is why we are committed to their work in Indonesia and Uganda and have invested in plantations of over 100,000 trees. (...)"*

**Philipp Russ, Project Lead Sustainability,  
Ravensburger AG**





„I started at Fairventures because I've cared about environmental topics but even more so about my community in Kalimantan. At Fairventures Worldwide every project pays attention to the real problems on the ground. That is why we put the local people first. The wellbeing of the planet goes hand in hand with the wellbeing of the people.“

**Monalisa, Country Director Indonesia,  
Fairventures Worldwide**



# VOICES of Fairventures



*"At Fairventures Worldwide, we believe in transparency and accountability. Through monitoring, we obtain accurate data that provides an exact picture of the field, including the precise number of surviving trees."*

**James Thembo, Head of Field Operations Uganda,  
Fairventures Worldwide**

*"Our focus is to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change. These farmers, owning small plots of land, are particularly vulnerable. Through reforestation and sustainable agricultural practices, we're not just planting trees; we're planting hope for future generations."*

**Edith Muhindo, Farmer Training Facilitator  
Uganda, Fairventures Worldwide**







### Code of Conduct

In our Code of Conduct, we describe the values and standards of our actions, both internally and in dealing with partners.



**German Sustainable Economy Association:** Fairventures Worldwide has joined the German Sustainable Economy Association which consists of various players: companies, founders, social entrepreneurs and NGOs. The focus of the association's work is on expanding and strengthening ecological, social and innovative business making.



**PHINEO:** We were officially awarded the PHINEO impact seal. The seal of impact for climate protection was given to us for our '100 Million Trees' reforestation project in Indonesia.



**Transparent Civil Society Initiative:** As a member of the Transparent Civil Society Initiative, Fairventures Worldwide is committed to communicating information about the organization publicly and transparently. This includes, among other things, the articles of association, the use and origin of funds, and information about our personnel structure.



**UN Decade:** We are a Supporting Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to stop the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them to achieve global goals. We are a part of a global network of organizations working to restore the natural world and share our successes and learnings with them.



**VENRO:** As a member of VENRO (Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid Non-Governmental Organisations), we are an active part of German civil society.



# THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## In Indonesia

Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, The Borneo Institute, IPB University, Forestry Agency of Central Kalimantan, Nature Conservation Agency of Central Kalimantan, Plantation Agency of Central Kalimantan, Regency Government of Barito Timur, Regency Government of Gunung Mas, Gadjah Mada University, INCLT, Kalimantan Bumi Lestari

## In Uganda

Bwera Farmers Group, Kasese Rwenzori United Developers Association (KRUDO), Uganda Scouts Association (USA), National Forestry Authority, Makerere University, Mugamba Farm, Kasese Youth Polytechnic, Latek-Stay Alliance Uganda, Miika Estates, People and Nature of Rwenzori Mountain, St. Simon Peter's Vocational Institute, Uganda Timber Growers Association, Vision Vocational Secondary School, Tooro Botanical Gardens, Ministry of Water and Environment, Fort Portal Tourism City Council, Uganda Revenue Authority

## From Germany and Worldwide

Andreas Stihl AG & Co. KG, Arcus Foundation, attempto GmbH, Baden-Württemberg Development Cooperation Foundation (SEZ), Bauder Foundation, BettercallPaul GmbH, BioMaderas GmbH

BOS Deutschland e.V., Broszeit GmbH, Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World), ClimaClic / Burda Direct GmbH, convanced GmbH, Dr. Heger + Experten, ELO Digital Office GmbH, enyway GmbH, European Union Mindchangers, GD Holz, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Global EverGreening Alliance, Heidehof Foundation, Intuity Media Lab GmbH, Jacob Jürgensen Wood GmbH, Josef Wund Stiftung, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT), The Knodel Foundation, Löffler & Schmeling Architects, Louis Leitz Foundation, Mondaine Watch Ltd, Müller Handels GmbH & Co. KG, Neco Finance e.V., Pacific Ring Europe GmbH, Postcode Lotterie DT gGmbH, Ravensburger AG, RESTOR, thepublic GmbH, Schell Schokoladenmanufaktur, Schmitz-Hille Foundation / W.P. Schmitz Foundation, Schöck Family Foundation gGmbH, Schreurs-tools GmbH, State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, STAY Foundation, Steilpass, Stiftungsnetzwerk Region Stuttgart e.V., Terra Canis GmbH, The Audemars Piguet Foundation, TVB GmbH, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Vector Foundation, VENRO, X-Wood® Concept GmbH, Yook GmbH





## Stay tuned!

In addition to our annual impact report, we regularly publish updates from our project areas on various channels. Follow us and don't miss any more news!



Instagram



LinkedIn



Youtube



Blog



Donate!

If you would like to make a direct contribution to our projects in Indonesia and Uganda, you can find the donation link here.



