**World Care Trust Reforestation Project: 2018-2023**

10 million trees for Somalia and Somaliland’s forests

World Care Trust is launching a new 5 year campaign in 2018 to plant 10 million Somalia and Somaliland’s forests.

This is our most ambitious campaign yet in our history. World Care Trust was originally founded in UK in 2016 by Hussein Isse

To mark our first 5 years in a fine way, we will work with the government of Somalia and Somaliland Environmental Conservation to plant 10 million trees in Somalia and Somaliland’s forests. This will regenerate deforested areas, especially on Mount Somalia and Somaliland.

**Reforestation**

Somalia and Somaliland’s forest cover is less than 7% and Mount Somalia and Somaliland Forest constitutes some of the most significant reserves of remaining forestland in the country. Somalia and Somaliland has lost about 90% of its forest cover through various illegal activities such as timber harvesting or charcoal burning. World Care Trust will support both governments of those countries to plant more than 10 million trees in the next 5 years.

The area of Mount Somaliland forest that will be reforested lies within Hargeisa County. World Care Trust will formalize an agreement with both Hargeisa County and the Somaliland Forestry Service to lead the reforestation effort. This fits with a recent agreement to promote community engagement in reforestation within Hargeisa County. Somaliland Forestry Service will sign a management plan with the community forest association in Hargeisa. This is now aimed at incorporating the whole community into conservation of the forest.

The tree planting will be carried out by the volunteer members of World Care Trust and other community groups, who are mostly smallholder farmers committed to protecting their local environment and helping to combat climate change. They will establish nurseries and raise seedlings until they are ready to plant out in the forest. The trees planted will be indigenous trees.

Transporting millions of seedlings to deforested areas will be a huge task. The sites will also need to be visited regularly and monitored to ensure appropriate tree care and protection. World Care Trust will work closely with the Somalia and Somaliland Forestry Service to ensure that the trees flourish. We will actually plant more than 12 million trees, to ensure that there are at least 10 million trees surviving and thriving by 2020. Each tree planted will save an estimated 20kg of carbon each year. 10 million trees will save an immense 200 thousand tons of carbon every year.

We are committed to do tree-planting efforts in Somalia, Somaliland and Djibouti. We will help plant trees in an incredible range of environments from coastal areas to mountains, restoring soil that had been unproductive for decades or even hundreds of year

**Tree Plantation**

Do we know a one-stop solution for the following?

Global warming, soil erosion, depletion of soil fertility, reducing the carbon footprint, bare grey concrete cities, air pollution, water pollution, land pollution, global warming and the thinning of ozone layer, soaring temperatures and weather patterns going haywire.

**It is quite simple: Plant trees**

Trees are an expression of sacred life. They generate oxygen, beautify, provide shade, provide homes, and help capture rain water, support bio-diversity and everything else mentioned above. They have been an integral part of every culture and tradition that human kind has evolved. Trees, analogous to being with nature, have been an immense source of peace. Forests are further the homes of so many indigenous species, whose loss would be critical for the balance of the eco-system. The need for trees is for the benefit of our own future generations. They are indeed guardians of our dear planet. The World Care Trust is focused on **reviving a green earth** and our volunteers around the world strive to make this positive difference **by planting and protecting as many indigenous trees as possible.**

**Challenge**

The Somalia and Somaliland Reforestation Project will born out of a need to rehabilitate the environmental crisis in the country. Estimates suggest that 98 per cent of Somalia and Somaliland’s forests have been cut. The Republic of Somalia is the least-developed country in the East Africa and ranks 154th of 177 countries in the UN’s Human Development Index (2006). Somalia is the only country in the Africa on the UN list of Least Developed Countries. Already, ninety-eight per cent of the forests have been cut down, as most the overcrowded population is dependent on charcoal-based energy (derived from wood), to survive. Deforestation has meant that 70% of land is not cultivable there is no more lumber to sell and feed the family extreme soil erosion and deforestation have made Somalia and Somaliland’s environment one of the most devastated in the world. Experts say that the most effective way to reverse the situation is through grassroots efforts through local communities.

**The Hope Project**

As part of its mission to protect natural lands and preserve the environment for all people, World Care Trust will developed The Hope Project. Rather than focusing on large scale forestry, The Hope Project plants trees that help communities - especially the world's impoverished communities - sustain themselves and their local economies. Trees reverse the impacts of land degradation and provide food, energy and income, helping communities to achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability. Trees also filter the air and help stave off the effects of climate change.

With the reality of increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and more frequent and violent storms and floods, tree cover to prevent devastating soil erosion has never been more important. That's why World Care Trust made a commitment to plant 10 million trees over the next five years in impoverished areas of the world.

**Accomplishments**

Over the next five years, The Hope Project will plant over 10 million trees in 2 countries. And in t high-poverty districts in central Somalia and Somaliland, we are planning to plant 10 million trees to provide local farmers with food, fuel, fencing, and soil stability.

Trees play an important role in sustaining a healthy environment. Every tree planted by a World Care Trust is part of a large scale effort by members around the world to make a significant impact on the environment.

**Guidelines for Planning Your Project**

Before implementing a tree planting project, World Care Trust should consider the following preparations:

* Evaluate your community's needs
* Consult with a local forestry or agriculture department to determine the appropriate tree species for your local environment
* Partner with local organizations that can help leverage resources and expertise
* Determine the best project for the community
* Outline a plan and include procedures, materials needed, and expenses
* Submit the plan and budget to the club, district, or multiple district for approval

Once your plan is approved:

* Request World Care Trust volunteers for the project committee
* Obtain the necessary approvals/permits for your project
* Develop signage and other materials to promote the event
* Recommend protective clothing for the volunteers, e.g. gloves, boots, etc.
* Invite local media to observe the project

**Resources**

Use the resources below to plan and promote your tree planting project:

* Call to Action Flyer: This one-page will provide you and your club with ideas to help you plan your tree planting project.
* World Care Trust Tree Plant planning Guide: Use this step-by-step approach to plan your project.
* Press Release: Send a press release to local media to help publicize your project.
* Website: Use the online service activity report to share your tree planting project with us.
* Certificate of Appreciation: Recognize the members of your club (and your community) who have helped you with your tree planting project.

**Key Contacts**

Because the nature of tree planting activities vary from one community to another, clubs and districts are encouraged to seek additional guidance from local experts when planning their projects. The following are a few organizations (listed by constitutional area) that provide additional tree planting guidelines and resources.

If the list below does not include an organization near you, please consider searching for similar organizations in your area. Many countries have organizations that focus solely on tree planting, as well as government entities that may be able to provide guidelines or contacts to facilitate tree planting activities.

World Care Trust Teams' environmental education projects can inform the public about the importance of preserving and protecting the environment.

**Suggested environmental education projects are**

* Organize a community-wide recycling event.
* Volunteer at a recycling centre.
* Lead a community-wide clean-up project.
* Clean a freshwater pond or river. Stock it with fish.
* Demonstrate how to plant trees.
* Encourage schools to include environmental education in their curriculum.
* Sponsor an environment contest. Provide an environmentally-friendly prize.
* Sponsor a World Care Trust Team Club at a local school.
* Sponsor school-based environment projects such as the collection of used athletic shoes, notebook paper, or books.
* Host a World Care Trust Team seminar for the public. Submit press releases about the environment to the local media.
* Volunteer to help local groups or municipalities implement environment projects.
* Sponsor a hybrid car exhibit/demonstration.
* Raise funds for an environment project.
* World Care Trust, recognizing the profound impact of man's activity on the inter -relations of all components of the natural environment, particularly high-density urbanization, industrial expansion, resources exploitation and new and expanding technological advances, and recognizing further the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare and development of man, declares that it is the continuing policy of World Care Trust to foster and promote the general welfare; to help create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfil the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of mankind.
* To achieve this environmental goal will demand the acceptance of responsibility by citizens and communities and by enterprises and institutions at every level, all sharing equitably in common efforts. Individuals in all walks of life, as well as organizations in many fields, by their values and the sum of their actions, will shape the world environment of the future. Local and national governments will bear the burden for large-scale environmental policy and action within their jurisdictions. A growing class of environmental problems, because they are regional or global in extent, or because they affect the common international realm, will require extensive cooperation among nations and action by international organizations in the common interest.
* World Care Trust is one of those international organizations that should join efforts for the preservation and improvement of the human environment, for the benefit of all the people for their posterity.

A community clean-up is a great way to improve the environment and work alongside World Care Trust and members of the community on a "hands-on" high-visibility service project.

Participants can wear trees planting logo apparel to publicize that World Care Trust are at work. Trees planting logo sign at the clean-up site can reinforce the message.

**TREE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT**

**STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE**

When the tree seedlings are ready, they are planted out – this must be done by the end of January **at the latest** to give them a good start. This is really just the start of the project because the planted out tree seedlings must be looked after like young children for the first three years. This will involve slashing grass, weeding, tilling and mulching around the newly planted trees, ensuring the soil around each tree is formed into a basin to catch water, and creating fire breaks around the planted site by the end of each July. The clubs and coordinators must count all of the trees on an annual basis to provide accurate records for World Care Trust.

**Planting Site Identification**

Potential planting sites for trees need to be identified at an early stage before the tree nursery is set up.

.**Planting site identification**: Identify planting sites between August and February for the tree seedlings to be planted out the following December/January (for example, site identification done between August 2017 and February 2018 is for planting out in December 2018/January 2019).

.**Decide which trees are to be planted**: The community must decide on the reasons for planting the trees, i.e. for firewood, poles, timber, etc.

.**Measure the planting site**: Measure the potential planting site and establish the area in square metres.

.**Calculate number of trees needed**: Work out the quantity of trees to be planted. This will give the quantities of tree seeds to be provided and seedlings that need to be raised in the nursery.

.**Report to Environmental Projects office**: World Care Trust coordinators will record all information and communicate to the World Care Trust Environmental Projects office.

**Planting Site Preparation**

All planting sites must be prepared in good time, preferably during the dry season, so that tree seedlings can be planted out early. Ideally, grass slashing of the planting sites should be done by the end of September, and all marking, pegging and pitting must be finished by the end of October.

.**How long does it take to slash, mark and pit an area the size of a football pitch? (Average figures based on 10 people working 3 hours a day)**:

– ***Slashing****:* 5mins per tree, which equals 3½ days.

– ***Marking and pegging****:* 2mins per tree, which equals 1½ days.

– ***Pitting****:* 10mins per tree, which equals 7 days.

– ***Total time to prepare an area the size of a football pitch****:* 12 days.

– ***Planting out (to be done in December/January)****:* 2mins per tree, which equals 1½ days.

– ***A group of 10 people*** will be able to provide the work for a maximum of 5,000 tree seedlings per year. If more seedlings are planted, additional club members will be required.

.**Grass slashing**: Firstly, the planting site must have all grass slashed. This is the most time consuming job and must be done for all planting sites before the end of September.

.**Marking**: It is very important that the trees are planted in straight lines and are spaced correctly. This will simplify the counting of the trees and will give each tree sufficient space for healthy growth. A rope is provided by World Care Trust which should be marked by club members with a knot at 2 metre intervals. The 2 metre interval can be measured by using a 2 metre stick (the World Care Trust Africa coordinators can accurately measure several 2 metre sticks for each club). Once the rope has been prepared, it can be stretched from one end of the planting site to the other and held by a peg at each end.

.**Pegging**: A peg (a 60 cm stick) is fixed into the ground at each knot which is at 2 metre intervals. Pegging is done for four rows. Other club members will follow close behind and start digging pits, removing the pegs which can be used for the next set of rows.

.**Pitting**: At each planting station, a pit is dug which is 60 cm by 60 cm by 60 cm deep. Remove the first 30 cm of topsoil and place on the left hand side of the pit. Then remove the bottom 30 cm of subsoil and place on the right hand side of the pit. The pit is now left open until planting time.

.**Why is the pit prepared early and left open?**: Firstly, preparing the pits early means that there is no delay in planting out the tree seedlings, and early planting will provide good initial growth for the Tree Planting and Management: Step-by-Step Guide 2 newly planted trees. Secondly, if the pit is dug in the dry season, the soil in the pit will dry out and this will discourage termites from attacking the newly planted trees. Thirdly, leaves and grass will fall into the pits and act as good compost for the newly planted trees.

.**Late pitting**: If the club is late with pitting and the work is done when the rains have started, then marking, pegging and pitting will be done and, instead of leaving the pit open, the soil will be replaced in the pit in the following order: The topsoil will be placed at the bottom of the pit, the subsoil at the top of the pit, and a stick will be placed in the middle of the pit to indicate where to plant the tree seedling. The disadvantage of late pitting is, firstly, that there is likely to be termite damage to the newly planted trees and, secondly, there will be no compostable material at the bottom of the pit. Also, planting of the tree seedlings will probably be delayed and the tree will not benefit from additional months of good growth during the rainy season.

**Preparation at the Tree Nursery Before Planting Out the Tree Seedlings**

.**Root pruning**: All tree seedlings should have their roots pruned three weeks before planting out so that the roots can recover.

.**Selecting the tree seedlings**: Select the healthy tree seedlings of a uniform size, and organise these into groups and quantities for each planting site.

.**Removing the nursery shade and reducing watering**: One month before planting, remove the shading from the tree nursery and reduce the morning watering to half a watering can for 200 tree seedlings. This will harden off the tree seedlings and get them used to direct sunlight and reduced water before being planted out. (If this is not done, the newly planted tree seedlings will be badly affected by the direct sunlight and the leaves will become scorched.)

**Planting Out the Tree Seedlings**

**.When to plant out: Planting out should be carried out after the start of the rainy season:** in wet soil, ideally from early December to the end of January. If it is a dry day and the soil is dry, then wait until it has rained. If the trees are planted at this stage, it will encourage good root development for survival during the dry season.

.**Transporting the tree seedlings**: Tree seedlings should be carried using the metal basins. One basin will hold between 50 and 70 seedlings. The tree seedlings are then placed by each planting station, ready for planting.

.**Time of day**: Planting out must be done either early in the morning or late in the afternoon to avoid the midday heat.

.**Planting the tree seedlings**: Firstly, the topsoil from the left hand side of the pit is placed in the bottom of the pit, and the subsoil is placed on top. Dig out a hole by hand in the middle of the pit to the same depth as the plastic tube. Squeeze the tube to loosen the soil so the tube can be removed easily. Remove the tube carefully with both hands and slip it over the leaves of the tree seedling. The root ball of the tree seedling is then placed in the hole, and the top of the soil around the tree seedling must be at the same level as the top of the soil in the pit. The soil around the tree is then firmed down by foot. Carefully form a basin of soil 60 cm in diameter around the tree seedling. This will hold extra water for a longer period which will help the tree seedling to grow.

.**Save the plastic tubes**: As soon as the tree seedling has been planted, place the used plastic tube in a plastic bag and save for the next planting season. Each tube is worth K1 and can be used for two planting seasons at least. (**NEVER** leave any used tubes at the planting site.)

.**Why is the topsoil placed at the bottom of the pit?**: The topsoil is placed at the bottom of the pit as there are more nutrients and humus in it. When the tree grows, the roots will naturally grow down into this soil and benefit from it.

**Management of Planted Sites**

.**Weeding and tilling**: Weeds must be removed from each planting station once every month during the rainy season till the soil around the tree seedling when weeding.

.**Create large basins around trees**: After the first weeding one month after planting, create a square basin 1 metre by 1 metre with raised sides 15 cm high with a hoe. This will make slashing and weeding easier, will trap the maximum amount of water and control soil erosion. Tree Planting and Management: Step-by-Step Guide 3

.**Mulch the tree basin**: After the basin has been made, place cut grass and/or tree leaves in the complete basin, leaving a space of 15 cm around the stem of the tree (if the mulch is too close to the tree stem, it will attract termites). This will preserve moisture, and the grass and leaves will decay and provide nutrients for the tree.

.**Slashing**: Grass at the planted site must be slashed every three months up until the end of July and left (definitely not burnt). This grass will decay and improve the soil which will help the growth of the planted trees.

.**Fire breaks**: In July/August, create 4 metre wide fire breaks around the planted site by slashing the grass.

.**Check the growth of the newly planted trees**: Normally, clubs will grow 10% additional tree seedlings for the required planting sites. These can be used to replace any tree seedlings that fail shortly after planting out.

**Management in the Second and Third Years**

.**Replace failed trees**: Some trees planted the previous year will fail. Inspect all trees after the first rains in December and replace any failed trees with the current year’s tree seedlings. Look after these in the same way as newly planted trees.

.**First slashing, weeding and tilling**: The grass around the trees needs to be slashed during the rainy season in March. Also, the 1 metre basin needs to be weeded and tilled, and maintained.

.**Mulch the tree basin**: After the main rains in May, place cut grass and/or leaves in the complete basin as a much, leaving a space of 15 cm around the stem of the tree (if the mulch is too close to the tree stem, it will attract termites).

.**Second slashing**: Slash the grass around the trees for a second time during July. Slashing will next need to be done in March the following year.

.**Fire breaks**: In July/August, create 4 metre wide fire breaks around the planted site by slashing the grass.

.**Counting the trees**: Every year, the trees at each planted site must be counted and a record made of the total quantities and species. The World Care Trust coordinators will be responsible for.