

2017 Annual Report

In 2017, our income rose by 34%, enabling us to offset 3,581 tonnes of CO₂. Using our new 'Seal of Approval' system, we developed an exciting new partnership providing carbon-saving water filters in Uganda. We also continued our support for community-scale carbon mitigation projects in Ghana, Kenya and Mexico, and worked with others to promote creation care and climate justice in the UK and beyond.



Uganda

2017 saw the launch of the Climate Stewards Seal of Approval (SoA). This new tool will enable Climate Stewards to support partners in the developing world to design and implement carbon mitigation projects, and to gain funding from Climate Stewards and others. In contrast to expensive third party accreditation schemes, the SoA will provide a simple, accessible and

low-cost means of calculating the carbon offset potential of projects and will require that they bring co-benefits to local biodiversity, health and livelihoods.

Last summer, Climate Stewards funded a monitoring survey of 100 biosand water filters which have been installed by our partner A Rocha Uganda in local homes in and around Kampala, Uganda over the past nine years. These filters are constructed locally and enable families to filter water for drinking rather than boil it. Not only does this lower charcoal or wood consumption and therefore CO₂ emissions, but it also saves time and/or money spent on collecting or buying wood and firewood, and improves health by reducing the use of smoky fires. The survey has provided valuable data on how the filters are used and managed, demonstrating that each filter displaces almost one tonne of CO₂ per year. Based on this data and a baseline survey carried out in the community in which we will be working, we have recently funded the installation of another 100 filters in the Kiteezi district of Kampala. Our support for this project will deliver 1,080 tonnes of CO₂. You can read our methodology for this project [here](#).



Biosand Water Filter in Uganda

Ghana

Following handover ceremonies in late 2016, responsibility for the 15 Climate Stewards sites in Ghana now lies with the local schools and communities. The majority of the 40,000 indigenous trees at these sites were planted in 2007 and 2008, with smaller numbers planted in subsequent years. Although by 2017 most of the sites had reached the stage where the tree canopy had closed and weeding was not required, Climate Stewards funded weeding on the most recently-planted plots at Asamama and Nsutaman Secondary Schools to ensure their long-term survival. In addition, Climate Stewards continued to fund the ten Site Co-ordinators who play a crucial role in training and supporting farmers and school students to manage the trees, and School Environment Clubs at six of the school sites.



Measuring the growth of a six year old tree – Ghana

In 2015, 54 of the Climate Stewards farmers who have planted trees on their land were given three beehives each, plus training and ongoing support. By the end of 2017, our local partner A Rocha Ghana reported that 85% of these farmers are still keeping bees and 10% have increased from their original three hives. Seidu from Larabanga is now earning around £300 per year from his six hives—a valuable supplement to his family's income. You can see a video of him harvesting his honey [here](#).

Mexico

Our partner Scoel'te works with smallholders in southern Mexico. Farmers are paid to create, restore and preserve indigenous forests through agroforestry. Using 25 different tree species, this project creates new habitat, protects watersheds and helps build resilient local communities. In 2017 Climate Stewards purchased 1,501 tonnes of carbon offsets from Scoel'te (accredited by Plan Vivo).

Kenya

Our partner Paradigm works in Kenya supplying fuel-efficient cookstoves at subsidised prices. The stoves are more efficient than traditional 3-stone fires, so the use of these stoves reduces the amount of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere, and brings numerous other benefits including saving money and time spent collecting wood and boiling water, and improving health. In 2017 we bought 1,000 tonnes of carbon credits from Paradigm (accredited with Gold Standard).

UK, Europe and the Americas

Climate Stewards ran talks, workshops and stands at 21 events over the year, including Christian conference, New Wine. As part of the Climate Coalition and Faith for the Climate groups, we continued to advocate for climate justice, to educate people about climate change and to encourage them to reduce their carbon footprint. Our partnership with Climate Stewards Netherlands has grown, and we have seen a growth in income from the USA, partly due to support from climate scientist [Katharine Hayhoe](#). In April we supported A Rocha Peru to deliver emergency kits to victims of floods and debris slides which had been exacerbated by climate change.

Over 2017 we developed a number of new partnerships with organisations wishing to offset their carbon footprint. These include Hope for Kids, Oddments Theatre Company, Bott & Co, the Jubilee Centre, St Aldates Church Oxford, CSBG, Jonathan Ford Garden Designer, Hands Up Holidays and St John's Waterloo.

The Climate Stewards [carbon calculator](#) is now available in the USA and Canada, Australia, New Zealand—all in English but denominated in the appropriate units and currencies, and with the ability to make offsetting payments in local currency via PayPal and/or local A Rocha groups. The calculator is also available in Dutch, Spanish, German and French.

What next?

2018 will see the launch of up to three projects under the Seal of Approval including community tree planting and reforestation, fuel-efficient cookstoves and household-scale solar power. With strong interest from potential partners across Africa, Asia and South America, we anticipate that these will develop into a wide network of projects supported by Climate Stewards in future years.

We will continue to advocate for climate justice, and provide resources and talks for businesses, NGOs, churches and individuals about the causes of climate change, the biblical basis for creation care, environmental policies and practical steps to cut carbon footprints. We'll also pursue new partnerships with businesses, organisations and individuals in the UK and beyond so that we can support more community-based carbon mitigation projects across the world.



Don Fernando López and his wife María Luz García – Mexico



Energy efficient cookstoves – Kenya



Katharine Hayhoe in London



Flooding in Peru