



## Annual Report 2019

2019 was a bumper year for Climate Stewards, with income up to almost £200,000, a 120% increase from 2018. Rising awareness of the urgency of climate change fuelled by fires, floods and hurricanes, as well as XR, Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough, meant that we were in the right place at the right time to help people think about, reduce and offset their carbon footprint. Our funding enabled our seven partner projects to mitigate over 15,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (equivalent to 8,500 Economy flights from London to New York), while bringing local benefits to the communities where they work.

### Reduce what you can...

During 2019, the Climate Stewards team worked hard to promote our message of 'Reduce what you can, offset the rest'. We featured in a [Guardian article](#) about ethical carbon offsetting; we spent a hot and busy four days at Greenbelt; we delivered talks, workshops and stands at numerous events across the UK; we took part in interviews on ITV, Premier Christian Radio, World Service, and podcasts for Tearfund and the Jubilee Centre.



Greenbelt 2019

2019 saw the launch of our new look [carbon calculator](#), based on the latest UK government emissions data. We've added a food tab and included a streamlined payment process.

We also carried out carbon footprint audits for the Bible Society, Born Free and Send a Cow.

Income from the Netherlands grew by 75% from 2018, reflecting significant work by the CS team in the Netherlands to attract new offsetters.

### ...Offset the rest

During 2019, we continued to fund our existing partners in Uganda (biosand water filters), Ghana (school environment clubs) and Mexico (tree planting with smallholder farmers). As our income rose, we were also able to develop new projects with known and trusted partners in Kenya, Uganda and Nepal. With all of these projects we used our [Seal of Approval](#) methodology to assess the projects, calculate and monitor carbon mitigation.

### Planting indigenous trees with churches in Kenya for carbon capture

Across Kenya, non-indigenous tree species such as Eucalyptus and Pine are commonly planted to provide fast-growing timber for construction purposes. The trees grow well but do not enhance biodiversity, and often out-compete local species.



Planting a seedling

We're working towards the...







Preparing the ground  
Kyatune, Kenya

## Restoring lost tree cover in Uganda

Working in partnership with the African Pastors Fellowship and the Baptist Union of Uganda, Climate Stewards funded four rural churches in the Central Region of Uganda to plant indigenous trees in their church compounds.

Working closely with local community forestry advisor, Bernadette Kabonesa, Climate Stewards supported the churches to design appropriate schemes with a mix of permanent and commercial forestry. Our partners used our online carbon sequestration calculator [Cquestr](#) to work out the likely quantity of carbon which would be locked up through tree planting. As a result of this initial scoping exercise, five churches were selected for this pilot project. Of these, one was postponed due to the death of the pastor, and one was subsequently claimed by the government as part of a flood mitigation scheme for the Nile. All our project support budgets contain an 'insurance buffer' to take account to such unforeseen events.

Of the three sites which remain initial reports show some losses and consequent replanting, but the trees are now growing well with church communities taking responsibility for ongoing maintenance. They are also teaching their members about the theology of creation care alongside practical skills in caring for young trees. We anticipate that these trees will capture over 1,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Clean cookstoves in Nepal

[RIDS-Nepal](#) have installed a Smokeless Metal Stove (SMS) in about 2,500 houses in remote communities in the Humla and Jumla regions of north-western Nepal since 1998. Using Climate Stewards' [Seal of Approval](#) methodology for improved cookstoves, RIDS-Nepal staff carried out a baseline survey in five villages. Visiting 124 households without an SMS allowed us to calculate how much firewood households are currently using, and from there to estimate potential carbon emissions savings for families switching to an SMS. The team also visited 122 households who already have an SMS, some for as long as 20 years. This meant we had extra monitoring data to compare with the baseline data, allowing us to refine our estimates. These surveys demonstrated that switching to an SMS will see a family using an average of 59% less firewood, saving an impressive 6.5 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

In 2019, Climate Stewards supported our partner Watersheds Ecosystem Conservation (WEC) to trial four indigenous fast-growing species. A total of 2,130 trees were planted at four churches and a special school around Kitui in south-eastern Kenya. We estimate these trees will lock up over 1,300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. We also supported the establishment of a tree nursery to raise more seedlings for these and other projects.

Church and school leaders have seen the success of similar projects nearby and are excited by the prospect of creating shady, biodiverse areas on their compound, improving the soil structure and preventing erosion. Part of each site is allocated for sustainable timber production which the church or school can use themselves or sell for long-term use in construction or furniture, while replanting the next generation of trees. Initial monitoring reports confirm that all the trees are doing well, despite some setbacks due to erratic rains after planting, and waterlogging at one site. Our project budgets all include contingencies to cover replanting within the early years to take account of these risks.





A family with their Smokeless Metal Stove - Syada, Nepal

As well as the carbon emissions savings, SMSs bring other benefits. Some families were previously cooking on open fires, filling the room with dense black smoke from burning resin-rich pine. The new SMS burns more cleanly and has a chimney which removes smoke, thus reducing eye and lung infections. An SMS is enclosed, reducing the risk of burns to children and adults. And because the SMS burns more efficiently, significantly less firewood is used, thus reducing local deforestation. Families also save time on gathering wood – a task that mostly falls to the woman and young girls of the village.

Climate Stewards funded the installation of 120 new Smokeless Metal Stoves during 2019. Our project budget runs for 10 years to fund ongoing support and monitoring, to ensure that the stoves are well used and maintained to maximise carbon savings.

### Fire-less cookers in Uganda

During 2019 we funded a pilot study with our partner A Rocha Uganda into the carbon savings from 150 fire-less cookers. These insulated baskets enable a family to part cook a meal and then leave it to complete its cooking in the basket, reducing fuel consumption by an anticipated 50%. Just like the cookstoves and water filters, we conducted comprehensive baseline surveys and will be testing the results against them when we receive our first monitoring reports in 2020.

### Biosand water filters in Uganda

During 2019 we funded our partner A Rocha Uganda to deliver training, installation and follow-up support for a further 150 biosand water filters in

Kiteezi, a poor district of Kampala. Families with a filter no longer need to boil water for drinking, so using a filter not only reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but improves health as there is less smoke in the house. It also saves money and reduces deforestation as less charcoal or wood is needed.

Our baseline and monitoring calculations from 2018 predicted that

over 12 years a filter should save at least 10 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Initial monitoring reports show that more families than anticipated are still boiling their water, so emissions savings were slightly lower than expected. A Rocha Uganda have already started working on further training and support to encourage people not to boil water. We have adjusted our carbon estimates accordingly, and will monitor the situation in the coming year. As with our other projects, our budgets and carbon calculations include insurance buffers to account for risks like this.



Zeulia and her children with their water filter - Kampala, Uganda



# School environment clubs in Ghana

These clubs continue to offer teenage students a chance to learn about the management of indigenous trees and wider environmental issues. The school plantations, which are now around ten years old, are proper forests and attract widespread praise from local government and forestry experts.

View across the Nyinahin Climate Stewards site

## 2020 plans

We're developing new partnerships in Peru, Tanzania and Ghana alongside continued support for our existing partners.

2020 is a crucial year for the climate. Climate Stewards will be working with NGOs and churches to mobilise Christians before the UN climate talks, COP 26 in Glasgow in November.

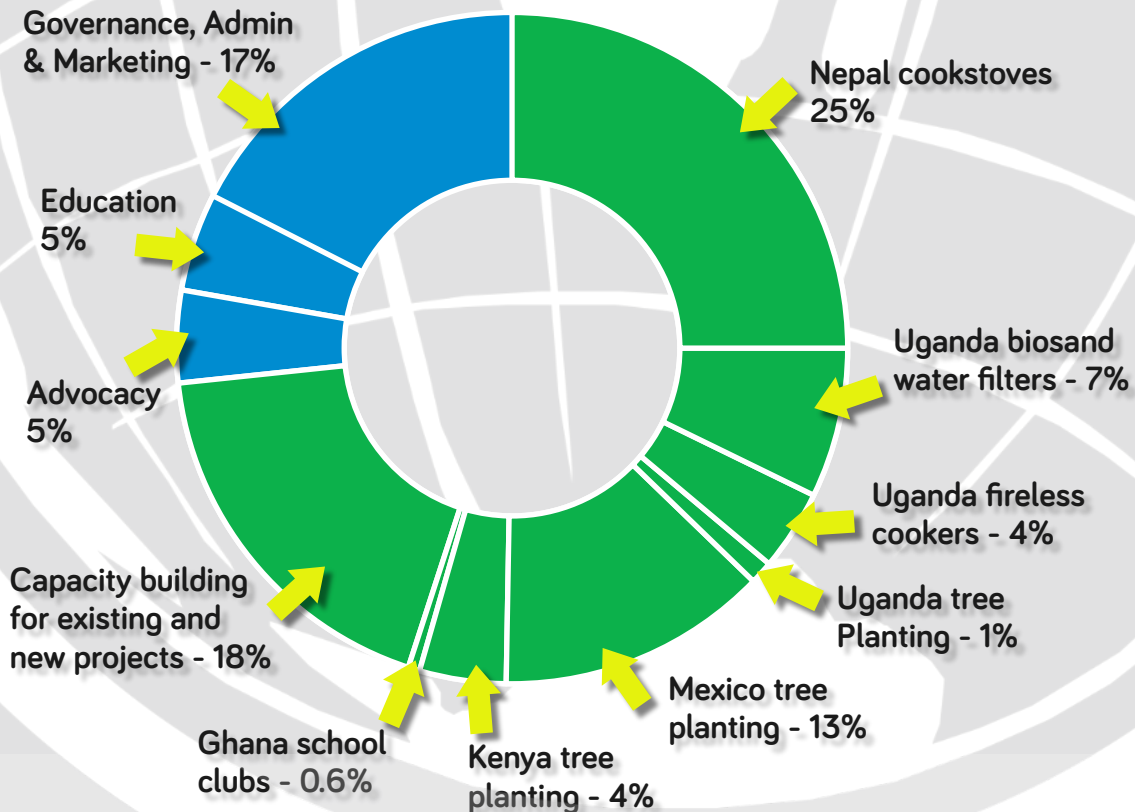
Look out for 'Climate Sunday' (6th Sept) and other resources. [360carbon](https://www.360carbon.com/), a carbon footprint tool for

churches and charities, is being developed by Climate Stewards in partnership with A Rocha UK and the Church of England and will be available free online by Easter.

In 2020 Climate Stewards will be launching in the USA – as our A Rocha USA colleagues would say – “stay tuned!”.

Claire Mitchell has recently joined the Climate Stewards team. Expect to hear from her on anything to do with finance, administration and comms.

## How we spent your money



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