



## Impact Report

July 2025–2026



Common sense is not so common these days. The path forward is not about inventing new solutions. It is about recognizing the ones that have endured – and investing in them at the scale that today’s challenges demand.

Home Planet Fund (HPF) identifies and rapidly scales Indigenous-led climate solutions with time-tested outcomes in ecosystems that are critical to climate and biodiversity, yet remain chronically underfunded.

By investing in Indigenous communities – the stewards of these lands and waters for thousands of years – HPF unlocks interconnected benefits: climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, carbon sequestration, sustainable livelihoods, and human and cultural well-being.

This is not an untested idea. It is a proven approach rooted in generations of Indigenous knowledge and stewardship.

What is new is the commitment to scale these solutions to match the urgency and magnitude of the climate and biodiversity crises.

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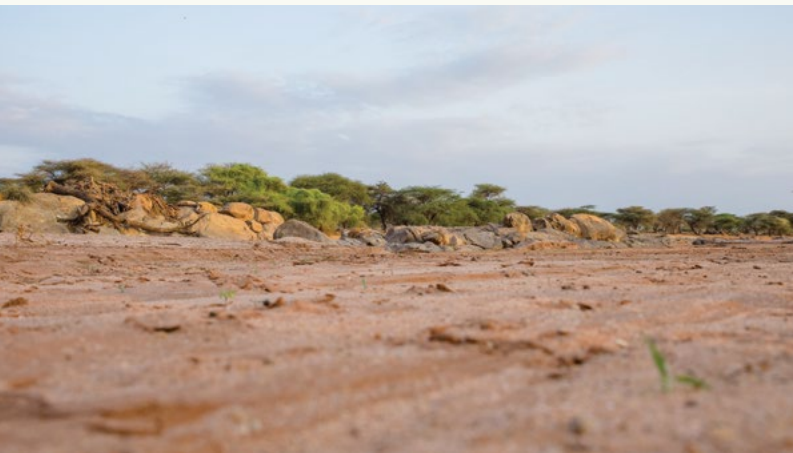
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Our impact is growing: new regions, deeper partnerships, more restoration. Join us as we expand hope into action.

# Indigenous-led Solutions Work

This is why we fund Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities living in frontline regions with the biggest potential to address the polycrisis, including remote communities, fragile ecosystems, and areas in conflict.



**We are an Indigenous fund  
for and by Indigenous People.**



We work in places that others can't or won't. Our partners have always lived what are now referred to as "nature-based solutions." These solutions are available now, but they're underfunded. Investing in them will have a tremendous impact on the climate and biodiversity crises.

Home Planet Fund ensures 100 percent of all funds received go directly to work led by our partners – an investment in local knowledge that generates a global impact.

Because anything less than work that has a powerful and outsized impact on our rapidly changing planet is simply not enough for this time of global emergency.

**We are all in for the Earth.**

# What We've Accomplished to Date

Today, HPF programs support the stewardship of more than **2.7 million square kilometers of land and ocean** (the equivalent of more than one percent of Earth's land surface area). These lands and waters also store more than **2.6 billion metric tons of carbon, and capture another 62 million metric tons of atmospheric carbon annually.**



## East Africa

Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

**1.6M+ km<sup>2</sup>**

of land stewarded by  
pastoralist partners

**2.25M**

people positively  
impacted

Rangeland within Home Planet Fund's pastoralist partner networks across East Africa covers more than 1.6 million square kilometers of land, positively impacting 2.25 million people. Through rotational and holistic grazing practices, community-led rangeland management plans, the restoration of degraded grasslands, and the protection of seasonal water sources, these communities are reviving land that industrial agriculture and overgrazing have depleted for decades.

Their work is increasing soil carbon by 10 to 30 percent, sequestering an estimated 62 million metric tons of carbon annually, equivalent to the total weight of every wild mammal on Earth, while restoring ecosystems at a fraction of the cost of engineered climate solutions.

## Rainforests: North America

Alaska

**2.6B tons**

of carbon stored in its  
woody biomass and soils

Our partners' stewardship of the Tongass rainforest, rooted in generations of Indigenous forest management and subsistence practices, enables the 2.6 billion metric tons of carbon stored in its woody biomass and soils to remain intact. This makes the Tongass one of the largest carbon sinks on Earth, holding 44 percent of all carbon stored in U.S. National Forests. Through co-management agreements, community-led restoration planning, and on-the-ground work in salmon stream restoration and wetland and peatland conservation, our partners are also building durable, alternative economies that reduce reliance on extractive industry in the region.



## South Pacific Island Nations

Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea,  
Solomon Islands, Tonga + Vanuatu

**6–8 tons**

CO<sup>2</sup> / hectare / year is  
sequestered by mangroves  
forests across the region

**3–5x**

more carbon stored  
than terrestrial forests

**20–50%**

reduction in  
deforestation rates

Our partners are protecting and rehabilitating terrestrial biodiversity and coastal and ocean ecosystems on a vast scale. Community-led mangrove replanting is protecting coastlines and sequestering carbon, while coral reef restoration crews and sustainable fishing practices are showing dramatic results. Already, mangrove forests across the region are sequestering 6 to 8 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> per hectare annually, 3 to 5 times more carbon than terrestrial forests store. In addition to a 20 to 50 percent reduction in deforestation rates, Home Planet Fund’s partners now steward a combined land mass of 35,543 square kilometers and more than one million square kilometers of ocean.

## Central Asia

Afghanistan and Tajikistan

**15–40%**

increase in usable land  
through locally led practices

**up to 80%**

reduction in soil erosion

**2–5 tons**

CO<sup>2</sup> / hectare / year  
is sequestered in some areas

**2B+**

people relying on Third Pole  
water across Asia

Tajikistan and Afghanistan are part of the high-mountain landscapes of Central Asia that include the largest concentration of glaciers and icefields outside the polar regions. These fragile ecosystems are under increasing pressure from climate change, land degradation, water stress, and changing precipitation patterns. Across the region, farmers and local communities are responding by restoring the health and resilience of these landscapes through regenerative agriculture, including crop rotation, composting and low-till farming, alongside micro-reforestation, watershed restoration, agroforestry, and planting windbreaks.

These locally led practices are improving land productivity and ecological function, with reported gains of 15 to 40 percent in usable land, up to 80 percent reductions in soil erosion, and around 40 percent improvements in biomass and rain-use efficiency, depending on location.

In Northern Afghanistan, hundreds of micro-forests have also been established, contributing to carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and landscape restoration, with estimated sequestration of 2 to 5 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> per hectare annually in some areas. By strengthening soils, vegetation, watersheds, and local livelihoods, these efforts contribute to the long-term resilience of mountain ecosystems and the water systems they sustain.

This is particularly significant in the wider Hindu Kush Himalayan region, often referred to as the Third Pole, whose glaciers and snowmelt underpin water security for more than two billion people across Asia.

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is invigorating to write this letter as a reflection of our past year's work. While Home Planet Fund (HPF) was born in 2021 and fully realized in 2022, we held off launching publicly until we were in the right relationship with communities, knew the evidence base, and had two years of our own data to support it.

After launching on Earth Day 2024, HPF had a first year far beyond our wildest expectations. During that extremely busy year, we brought in matching grants for our partners, conducted field visits and storytelling trips, and continued to grow our relationships and programs around the globe.

**By the end of our first full year operating publicly, our partners were stewarding the equivalent of more than one percent of Earth's land area. We are expanding this area on a monthly basis now, as we continue to bring new partners on board.**

Across our four ecologies in Alaska, the South Pacific, East Africa, and Central Asia, we now work in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, the United

States, French Polynesia, and six South Pacific island nations: Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea. HPF has granted \$6.6 million, with another \$4 million in the pipeline, spread across more than 20 total partnerships internationally. The work is completed by more than 30,000 people who are Indigenous or of Local Communities: from the Maasai in East Africa to the diverse Polynesia nations in the Pacific, to the Pamiris in Central Asia and the Tlingit, Tsimshian and Haida in Alaska. Their work positively impacts – directly or indirectly – millions of people.

In this report, you can dig into each ecology and its importance, the science of nature-based solutions, and the people at the heart of rehabilitating and protecting these lands and waters. They have kept these ecologies intact against global pressures including economic, social, and physical violence. As such, they have suffered. It is part of our mandate to support the healing of these defenders of the land, in ways as varied as the creation and raising of totem poles and the establishment of poetry circles, to secret musical gatherings and the passing down of banned traditional dances.

By 2030, our goal is to scale this to reach 10 percent of the surface area of our planet. This goal is ambitious, because it is as ambitious as is required by these times. And it demands additional funding from those who see the potential and power in our approach.

The reality is that these interventions are not new. They are time-tested and proven by ecologies that are biodiverse carbon-sinks, each of which play an outsized role in the climate of our home planet. And they require support which aligns with the ambitious impact we know is possible.

Sometimes I'm asked why Home Planet Fund doesn't work in places where major donors already want to fund, places people are already familiar with. We specifically work where others cannot or will not – because the science is clear that these places have outsized climate and biodiversity impacts. We operate the way we do because it was a singular focus on one outcome that got us into the climate crisis; now it is only through a diverse set of interventions localized to their context that we will be able to heal our home planet.

I am very excited about this report. Read about both the healing of the land and her people, as well as having a chance to learn about new places and time-tested, science-backed interventions to heal the Earth. I hope it inspires you to hope, and that your hope turns to action: it will take all of us to support this work and these people who are serving our home planet.

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE,



**Dilafruz Khonikboyeva**  
Founding Executive Director,  
Home Planet Fund

# How We Do Things is as Important to Us as What We Do



Home Planet Fund: Successfully  
Investing in Proven Climate Solutions, Led by  
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities



## The Insight

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities make up just five percent of the global population, yet steward at least 37 percent of the world's remaining ancient ecosystems and the majority of its most important carbon sinks.**

For generations, they have stewarded forests, grasslands, wetlands, reefs, and waterways through practices we now describe as nature-based solutions (NbS). These are approaches that simultaneously restore ecosystems, sustain biodiversity, and strengthen livelihoods.

Nature-based solutions have the potential to provide a significant share of the mitigation needed this decade and are among the most cost-effective tools available. Yet the communities who have stewarded these ecosystems for generations continue to receive only a small share of global climate and conservation finance. Funding remains largely organized around individual issues and geographies-rainforests here, coral reefs there, water security somewhere else, rather than around the interconnected systems that sustain life. The opportunity is to invest in the people who understand these systems most intimately and whose knowledge and practices are already generating results.



## The Gap

We are facing a polycrisis: converging issues of climate, biodiversity, food security, and water access. Despite significant global funding, progress is not keeping pace with the scale of the challenge. The issue is not a lack of solutions. It is a lack of funding directed to the people already delivering the most effective solutions in the most critical ecologies.

The problem is not simply a lack of solutions. Across the world, Indigenous Peoples and local communities are already restoring landscapes, protecting biodiversity, strengthening food systems, and building climate resilience. What remains scarce is long-term, flexible capital that reaches these communities directly and enables proven approaches to endure, adapt, and that would be commensurate with the scale of the problem.

## The Opportunity

This funding gap represents one of the most catalytic opportunities in philanthropy today: investing in the people already stewarding some of the world's most critical and under-resourced ecosystems.

Across regions and ecosystems, local communities are demonstrating that ecological restoration, climate resilience, livelihoods, and human well-being can be advanced together. What they often lack is not knowledge or evidence of what works, but sustained access to the capital needed to strengthen and

extend that work. Their knowledge and land management practices are already regenerating ecosystems at a scale and cost no engineered solution can match.

Home Planet Fund is built around this opportunity. The Fund identifies and supports locally led climate solutions with proven or promising outcomes in ecosystems that are critically important to climate and biodiversity, but chronically underfunded.

By directing resources to those closest to the land and supporting their leadership, HPF seeks to unlock impact across interconnected challenges: from climate resilience and ecosystem restoration to livelihoods, cultural vitality, and human well-being.

## The Approach

Home Planet Fund identifies places where communities are successfully protecting nature, strengthening livelihoods, and restoring ecosystems.

The Fund identifies proven Indigenous and locally led approaches, and provides flexible long-term capital, and works with the communities to take the solutions to scale. The premise is simple: the world's most resilient ecosystems are the result of generations of stewardship. The philanthropic opportunity has the opportunity to recognize, resource and amplify this needed approach.



## The Fund’s approach is anchored in four core practices:

**Every dollar reaches the field.** To date Patagonia’s initial seed funding covers the Fund’s operating costs, enabling 100 percent of all additional donor contributions to flow directly to vetted community-led initiatives.

**Capital follows evidence.** Investments are guided by the convergence of Indigenous knowledge and scientific evidence, focusing on ecosystems that are critical for climate stability, biodiversity conservation, and community resilience, while addressing persistent funding gaps.

**Communities lead.** Indigenous Peoples and local communities define priorities, shape investments, and lead implementation. Decisions are grounded in local knowledge, culture, and long-term relationships with the landscape.

**Trust enables scale.** By removing unnecessary barriers and simplifying funding processes, the Fund moves capital more quickly and responsibly to communities already delivering measurable outcomes. Accountability is built through transparent partnerships, locally led governance, and rigorous impact measurement rather than burdensome reporting.

**Rather than creating new solutions, Home Planet Fund backs those that have been working for generations, helping them gain the recognition, resources, and long-term investment needed to deliver even greater benefits for people, biodiversity, and the climate.**



## What This Looks Like in Practice: Healing Land, Healing People

Funding key initiatives across diverse ecosystems, communities are deploying nature-based solutions and achieving meaningful results. Each initiative is locally led, deeply adapted to place, and built on generations of knowledge. Much of this work is also rooted in the spiritual and artistic traditions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; alongside ecosystem restoration, our holistic approach supports these practices through dedicated healing grants. While the approaches differ across landscapes, the outcome is consistent: healthier ecosystems, stronger communities, and climate solutions designed to endure.

Now in its third year, Home Planet Fund has begun building a global portfolio of investments in people who are already restoring landscapes, protecting biodiversity, and strengthening natural carbon sinks. By identifying and supporting locally led solutions with demonstrated outcomes, the Fund is helping expand approaches that have long proven effective in some of the world’s most ecologically significant yet chronically underfunded regions. While this is still an early chapter in the Fund’s journey, the results to date provide encouraging evidence that investing in Indigenous stewardship and community leadership can deliver lasting environmental and social benefits. They also point to the potential for even greater impact as these efforts continue to grow and inspire broader investment.

**The ambition before us is immense. Bending the emissions curve, halting biodiversity loss, and building resilient food systems within the coming decade will require bold action and broad collaboration.**

Encouragingly, many of the world’s healthiest and most resilient landscapes continue to be those stewarded by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Home Planet Fund’s role is to help ensure these proven approaches receive the recognition, resources, and long-term investment they deserve so they can continue to grow in scale.



# Our Principles

PRINCIPLE 01

Local knowledge leads

We do not write the strategy. The communities and the Indigenous-led organizations who know the land write it. We support what they ask for.

PRINCIPLE 02

Long horizons

Lasting change in land rights, ecosystems, and culture takes decades, not within the calendar of project cycles. Our relationships are built to last.

PRINCIPLE 03

Multi-year, flexible funding

No restricted line items, no annual project cycle pressure. Partners respond to what the community needs, when they need it.

PRINCIPLE 04

Light-touch reporting

We have confidence in your partners and their ability to execute with power and efficacy. It is a tenant of our trust-based philanthropy and partnership.

# Our Values

Responsibility

HPF is responsible for doing everything we can to help mitigate and adapt to the challenges facing Earth by serving the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with which we are in partnership.

Respect

Our partners are already using the necessary tools to mitigate global environmental degradation, as it is how they have always lived. They do not need to be told what to do, as they have always been the leaders in these efforts, because living in the right relationship with nature has always been the original solution.

Transparency

We share all our results, outcomes, and best practices with anyone and everyone.

Trust

Our relationships are built on trust. We do not accept grant proposals; we choose communities based on expert recommendations and direct experience. We do not demand results; we build a common vision with impact for the lands, waters, and people.

Reciprocity

In the tradition of Indigenous Peoples everywhere, we believe both sides in any relationship have something to offer: Our grants are not charity – they are evidence of our belief that Indigenous communities already have the necessary skills and knowledge to care for the places in which they live.

Confidentiality

Given that we work with communities in places which can be remote, fragile, and sometimes disputed, their trust in us includes our not sharing any information which could jeopardize their safety in any way.

Listening

HPF listens to our partners, first and always. We serve them and are extremely careful and conscientious to ensure we do not impose any external values or assumptions on them and their work.

Kinship

All of these are values of kinship, which is our operating system with our partners.

# What This Looks Like in Practice

“Like a healthy watershed, the Seacoast Trust doesn’t just store resources. It ensures these resources flow where needed, when needed, at the pace of healing rather than harm.”

– Shaelene Grace Moler  
SSP Communications Catalyst



## Alaska

When the EPA rescinded \$3M in 2025, Seacoast Trust unrestricted funds kept Community Catalysts employed and the Indigenous Guardians Network working.



## Afghanistan

When April 2025 flooding disrupted spring planting, AKF rescheduled to autumn and still delivered all 180 micro-forests.



## East Africa

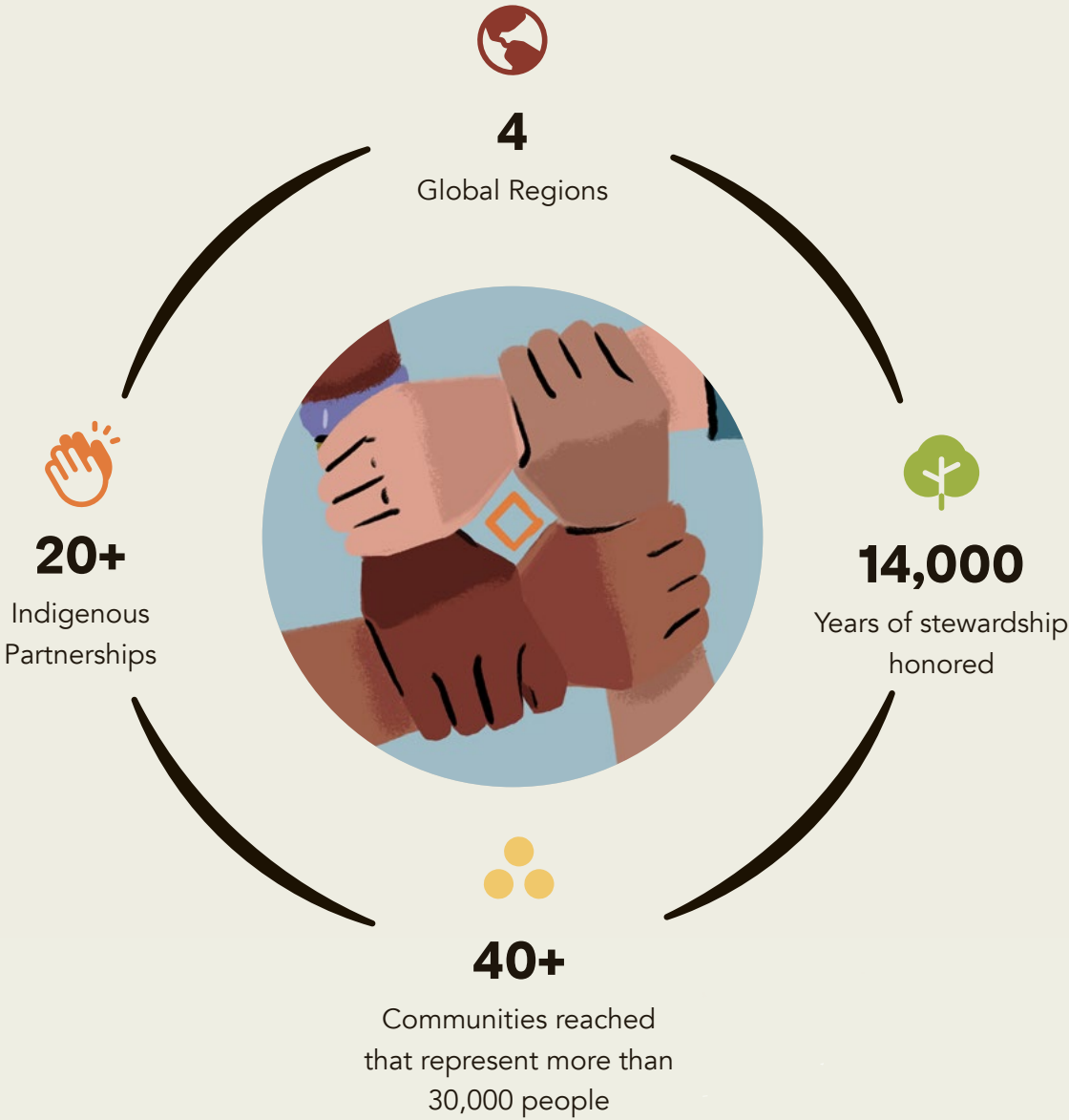
When UCRT needed to respond to the Loliondo eviction crisis, they did not wait for a new grant cycle. They acted at the moment they were needed most.



## Pacific

When the 7.4 magnitude Vanuatu earthquake hit in December 2024, the Women Wetem Weta early warning network activated within days, thanks to unrestricted funding.

# Our Reach



“I see Home Planet Fund playing a critical role in healing the planet, like acupuncture, putting needles in places where there is pressure, pain, and strain, so that the Earth can recover.”

– HPF Board Member

# Four Regions, One Year

Since our first Annual Report, Home Planet Fund’s work around the world has expanded and accelerated.

Here are some highlights from Home Planet Fund’s partners around the world:

## Southeast Alaska

|                                                                                                     |                                                                                  |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2.6B tons</b><br>of carbon stored in the woody biomass of the Tongass, stewarded by our partners | <b>~7M ha</b><br>the largest remaining intact temperate rainforest left on Earth | <b>\$30M</b><br>Seacoast Trust endowment built, bridging the Forest Service management funding gap |
| <b>\$450K</b><br>first-ever distribution deployed in 2025                                           | <b>23</b><br>communities reached                                                 | <b>100+</b><br>youth in stewardship                                                                |

## Afghanistan, Badakhshan

|                                                                     |                                                           |                                                                          |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2B</b><br>people across Asia depend on water from the Third Pole | <b>6</b><br>districts of Badakhshan across its headwaters | <b>223</b><br>micro-forests across 6 districts (Year 1: 43, Year 2: 180) | <b>384</b><br>farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture |
| <b>254</b><br>farmers trained in regenerative agriculture           | <b>220</b><br>women in food processing                    | <b>61 ha</b><br>solar-irrigated                                          | <b>150 ha</b><br>natural forest restored                   |

## East Africa

|                                                                |                                          |                                              |                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>13,500+</b><br>beneficiaries across Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya | <b>9,100+</b><br>land rights instruments | <b>1.6M km²</b><br>stewarded by our partners | <b>2.25M</b><br>people positively impacted |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

## Pacific Islands

|                                             |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7</b><br>countries                       | <b>325</b><br>young women reached                      |
| <b>9,000+</b><br>women in the WITTT network | <b>35,543 km² + 1M km²</b><br>land and ocean stewarded |

# Why Women?

Healthy ecosystems depend on healthy communities, and healthy communities depend on the leadership, knowledge, and resilience of women.

**“Having our own livestock has brought big change for us, and we can now support all the needs of our families. This has changed our social and economic lives.”**

— Selian Koltmet, a young woman in Northern Tanzania who no longer depends on men for livestock.

Across Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women are often the custodians of biodiversity, traditional knowledge, food systems, water, seeds, and cultural practices that have sustained landscapes for generations. When women thrive, communities are better equipped to steward nature, adapt to climate change, and build resilience for future generations.

Because of this, we invest in women to achieve lasting environmental outcomes. Through our partners, women and girls are expanding their leadership, strengthening livelihoods, revitalizing cultural knowledge, and shaping decisions about the future of their communities and lands.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities have long held this world view: nature, culture, and community are not separate systems to be addressed independently. The wellbeing of ecosystems is inseparable from the wellbeing of people, and women's leadership is integral to both.

Rather than dividing investments into environmental, social, cultural, or economic priorities, Home Planet Fund supports community-led systems that recognize these interconnected relationships. By investing in Indigenous and local women, we strengthen the connections between people and place, knowledge and stewardship, culture and conservation. In doing so, we help create the conditions for ecosystems and communities to flourish together for generations to come.



## Women Leading the Work

**220**

women earning income in Badakhshan

**1,210**

women in income groups in Kajiado

**325**

young women leading in the Pacific

## A Unique Model

Home Planet Fund offers a model that is still uncommon in philanthropy. Many organizations focus on climate, biodiversity, women's empowerment, Indigenous leadership, arts and culture, or livelihoods as separate areas of work. Home Planet Fund brings these together within a single, community-led model because communities experience these challenges, and their solutions, as interconnected.

Rather than asking women to choose between environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, cultural preservation, or community wellbeing, we invest in the systems that allow all of these to flourish together.

**Home Planet Fund:**

- Demonstrates how gender equality and environmental resilience are mutually reinforcing.
- Advances women’s leadership through climate resilience and community stewardship.
- Supports Indigenous and local women as decision-makers, innovators, and leaders.
- Strengthens cultural continuity alongside biodiversity conservation.
- Invests in long-term, community-owned solutions designed by local leaders.

# Women’s Leadership Is Climate Leadership

Across the landscapes where we work, Indigenous and local women are already leading solutions.

They are environmental stewards, artists, farmers, educators, entrepreneurs, healers, cultural knowledge keepers, and community organizers. Their leadership strengthens biodiversity, supports food security, preserves cultural identity, creates economic opportunity, and builds resilience across generations.

Home Planet Fund recognizes women not as beneficiaries of climate action, but as architects of resilient communities.

By investing in Indigenous and local women’s leadership, we strengthen both ecosystems and the communities that depend upon them.

Women’s lives cannot be divided into separate sectors. Climate change affects livelihoods. Livelihoods affect education. Cultural identity shapes wellbeing. Environmental stewardship strengthens food security. Economic autonomy expands leadership opportunities.

These systems continually influence one another.

**Home Planet Fund therefore works across interconnected priorities:**

- Women’s leadership
- Climate resilience
- Biodiversity conservation



- Indigenous leadership
- Arts and culture
- Community livelihoods
- Youth engagement
- Traditional ecological knowledge

Rather than treating these as individual programs, we see them as one holistic strategy for strengthening communities.

**Home Planet Fund believes:**

- Women’s leadership is essential to climate resilience.
- Indigenous women are among the world’s most effective environmental leaders.
- Community-led solutions generate lasting social and environmental impact.
- Arts and culture strengthen identity, agency, and intergenerational leadership.
- Gender equality and biodiversity conservation reinforce one another.
- Investing in local women strengthens entire communities.

Home Planet Fund offers a distinctive opportunity to connect these priorities within one integrated model.

It is about recognizing that resilient ecosystems depend upon resilient communities, and resilient communities depend upon the leadership, knowledge, creativity, and autonomy of women.

By investing in Indigenous and local women, we invest in healthier landscapes, stronger communities, thriving cultures, and a more resilient future for generations to come.

# Why Art and Healing?

The arts are often positioned as communications, outreach, or an add-on. Home Planet Fund has a different perspective. Art is how communities sustain themselves through periods of change. It is essential infrastructure for climate resilience and life overall.

Home Planet Fund invests in Indigenous and local dance, poetry, music, storytelling, visual arts, and traditional cultural practices. They are mechanisms of knowledge transmission, cultural continuity, and collective resilience.

## These creative traditional practices:

- 🌱 Carry ecological knowledge across generations
- 🌱 Strengthen identity and belonging
- 🌱 Support healing in times of environmental disruption
- 🌱 Build shared meaning and collective action
- 🌱 Sustain cultural systems that underpin ecological systems
- 🌱 Demonstrate that culture is essential climate infrastructure.



**When culture is strong, conservation, climate action, and healing persist. This is not only about protecting nature – it is about restoring the relationships that make life on Earth possible, through the expression of the human experience.**

The work of Home Planet Fund's partners is healing the land and her people. Not through isolated projects or single interventions, but through a holistic model where Indigenous women lead, communities shape their own futures, creativity becomes a force for transformation, and conservation restores both ecosystems and the cultures that have protected them for generations.

Home Planet Fund knows that art and culture not only strengthen women's voices, but are central to how communities sustain identity, knowledge, leadership, and hope. For Indigenous communities, dance, storytelling, weaving, music, visual arts, ceremony, and oral traditions carry ecological knowledge across generations while strengthening belonging and collective resilience.

They also create spaces where women lead, teach, organize, and preserve cultural memory. By supporting artistic and cultural practices, Home Planet Fund invests in women's voices, intergenerational leadership, and community resilience alongside environmental stewardship. Home Planet Fund is advancing a new paradigm for conservation: where protecting lands, waters, and biodiversity also means protecting language, memory, art, identity, and belonging. Because resilient ecosystems and thriving communities are inseparable, investing in culture is an investment in the future of our planet.

# Impact By Region



# Stewarding the Largest Remaining Intact Temperate Rainforest on Earth

Now working across 23 communities in Alaska, our partners have built a \$30 million trust fund which they use to steward their homelands and waters – the seven million hectares of the world’s largest intact temperate rainforest.

This rainforest, the Tongass, has 17,700 kilometers of coastline and 91,700 kilometers of rivers and streams that are among the best salmon spawning habitat on Earth. 44 percent of all carbon in the entire US National Forest system is stored here. This is not a coincidence. It is because our partners have been the stewards of these lands and waters for 14,000 years.

Five species of salmon return to the Tongass every year. They feed bears, wolves, eagles, and the people who have lived in deep relationship with these rivers for thousands of years.

For decades, Indigenous communities were systematically excluded from decisions about their own ancestral forests while logging cleared hundreds of thousands of acres.

Today, Home Planet Fund’s Alaskan partners are changing that.





## Stewarding the Forest, Sustaining the People

Spruce Root was invited by the US Forest Service to help lead the Tongass National Forest Plan revision process. Community Forest Partnerships in Hoonah, Kake, and Prince of Wales Island are now applying Indigenous knowledge to co-manage federal land.

**Our partners maintain their ongoing stewardship of forests and fisheries by maintaining community forest partnerships, salmon habitat restoration, protection of old growth forest, and cultural wood use documentation for totem poles and canoes.**

They are actively working to expand their food sovereignty and security by harvesting wild salmon, expanding traditional berry picking and venison processing, building salmon and moose camps in Chilkat Valley, continuing greenhouse food production, provision of community canning and preservation of wild foods.

Energy independence is a priority, as regional energy catalysts work to improve energy efficiency, reduce high energy costs, and support renewable energy projects across isolated coastal communities. Local Economic Development is ongoing by way of regenerative tourism, mariculture, tiny home construction with locally sourced timber, the Tongass Guide Academy, and small business development through Spruce Root's loan program.

**“This region encompasses our relatives, our opposites, the place we have lived for 14,000 years. Southeast Alaska is Haa Aaní: our land, our waters, and our natural resources.”**

### ALANA PETERSON

Executive Director,  
Spruce Root



# As an example of a nature-based solution, the Tongass Rainforest plays a critical role in the global carbon cycle

The Tongass is, by far, the most important climate asset in the United States National Forest system. Its old-growth trees store carbon at rates unmatched anywhere in temperate North America. It is one of the largest carbon sinks on Earth, storing 2.6 billion metric tons!

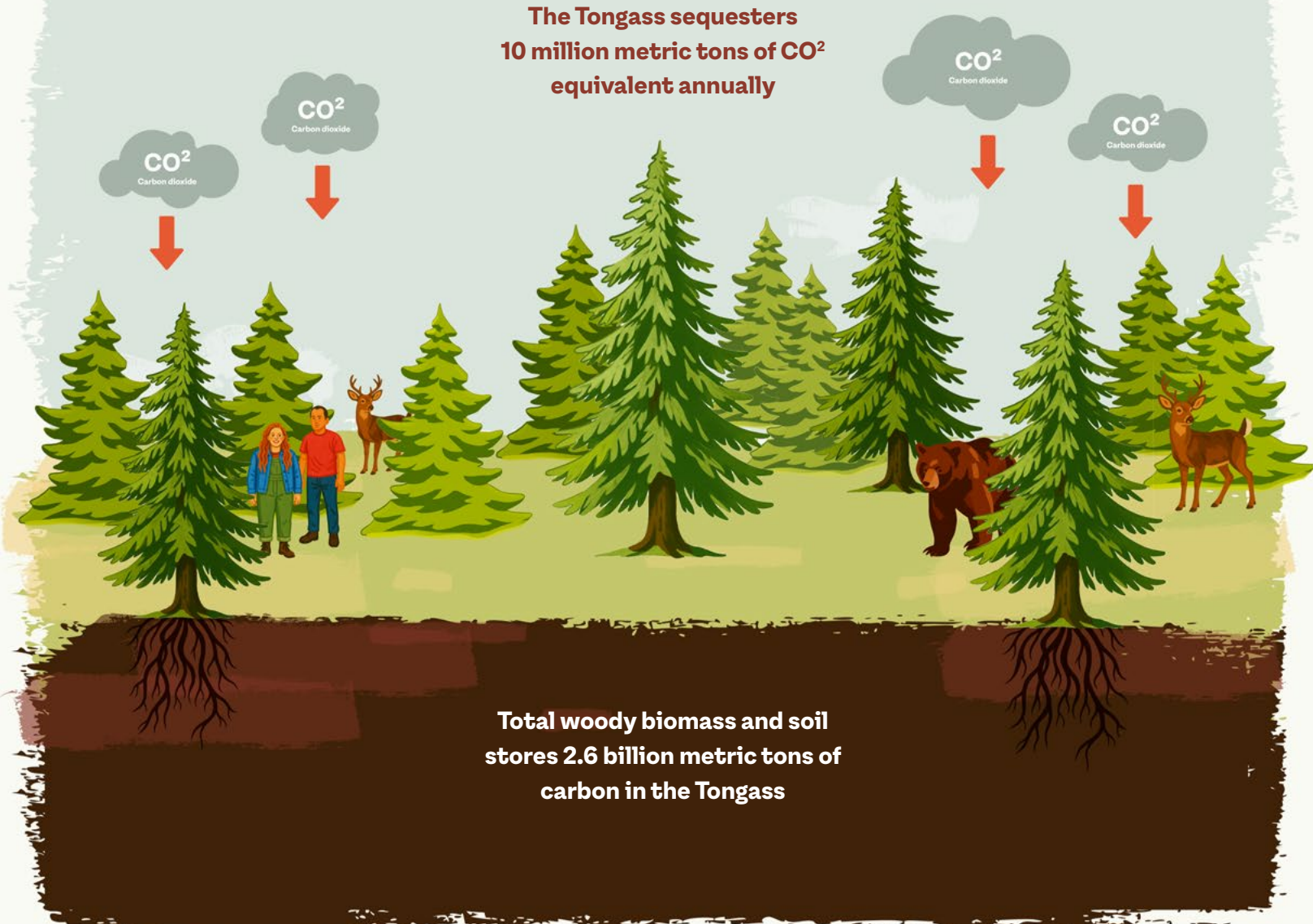
## Storing carbon

Forests act as natural vaults, keeping carbon locked away in trunks, roots, soil, and layers of fallen leaves and branches.

## Biodiversity at work

From the tiniest insect to the largest mammals, every species plays a role in this cycle, keeping the system resilient and alive.

The Tongass sequesters 10 million metric tons of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent annually



Total woody biomass and soil stores 2.6 billion metric tons of carbon in the Tongass

# Community Roles and Networks

## Community Catalysts

Employed in six communities (Angoon, Chilkat Valley, Craig, Hoonah, Kasaan, Skagway). Each connects local priorities to the network. Salary funded by Seacoast Trust in 2025 for the first time.

## Regional Catalysts (13)

Work on regional priorities: food security, energy, regenerative tourism, mariculture, healing, storytelling, fisheries, workforce, and natural resources.

## Indigenous Guardians (SIGN)

Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network. Five communities signed on, more joining. Indigenous knowledge protecting cultural and ecological resources.

## Alaska Youth Stewards

Nearly 100 rural and Indigenous youths are engaged each summer in traditional food harvesting, salmon stream restoration, dendrochronology, and forest stewardship. The program, nearly a decade old, is building a generation of stewards, land managers, and cultural practitioners!





# Alaska Nature-based Solutions

Our partners in Alaska are the original stewards of the Tongass rainforest, the largest intact temperate rainforest left on Earth. The Tongass’s own ecology is the core NbS of this program, with a set of practices aimed at protecting, restoring, and sustainably drawing on the forest itself.

The foundational solution is standing old-growth forest conservation: Sealaska’s 2021 decision to end commercial logging in favor of selling carbon credits keeps roughly one billion tons of sequestered carbon dioxide equivalent locked in place, while halting the clear-cutting that had fragmented habitats for decades. Seacoast Trust then turns protection of the forest into a financing mechanism, channeling carbon-credit revenue into community and environmental programs rather than timber extraction.

Salmon habitat restoration is a second major NbS: community forestry projects have rebuilt thousands of feet of degraded salmon streams and restored hundreds of acres of young-growth forest. This is critical work, given that waters within and surrounding the Tongass supply nearly one-third of the world’s wild salmon.

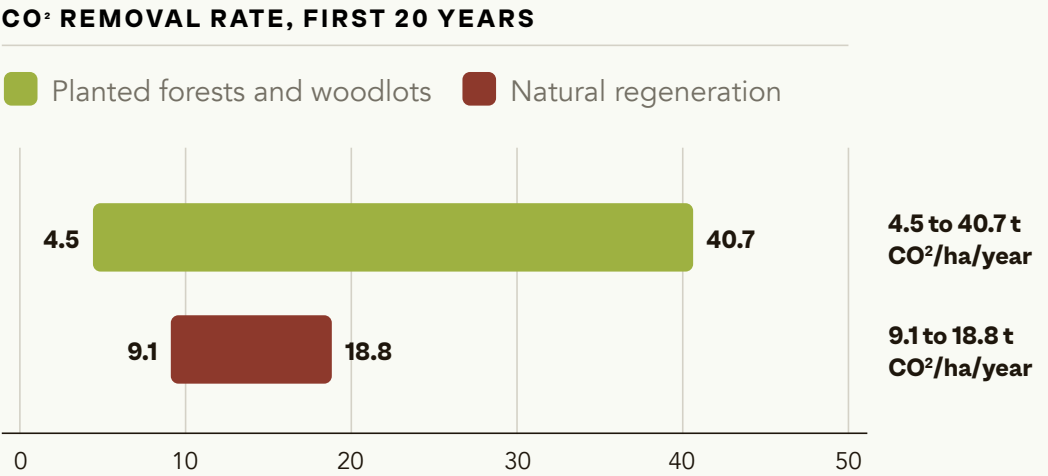
Traditional subsistence harvesting practices, such as salmon smoking and canning, berry picking, shellfish gathering, are being revived as a sustainable-use model, as well as being outgrowths of the NbS itself.

Mariculture, oyster and kelp cultivation function as Nature-based Solutions as well, by farming in ways that filters water and requires no cleared land or freshwater input, while also creating income.

HPF’s Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian partners have inhabited and managed this forest since time immemorial. This means the ecosystem’s current richness of salmon runs, brown bear density, and more than one billion tons of stored carbon, developed under – not despite of – generations of human presence and stewardship. That’s the core marker of an NbS: to work with existing ecological processes rather than replacing or overriding them. Indigenous management of the Tongass is the reason those processes have remained intact long enough to still be functioning today.

## NbS Data

A global synthesis of forest landscape restoration activities found that planted forests and woodlots had the highest CO<sup>2</sup> removal rates, ranging from 4.5 to 40.7 t CO<sup>2</sup>/ha/year in the first 20 years, while natural regeneration removed 9.1 to 18.8 t CO<sup>2</sup>/ha/year over the same period. It is also useful for comparing “hands-off” regeneration against active planting.<sup>1</sup>



We now move from the Tongass’s carbon storage to Afghanistan’s mountain watersheds, where farmers are cooling the Third Pole and turning centuries of denuded land into carbon-sequestering micro-forests.

➔

# Regenerating Landscapes to Cool the Planet

Generations of traditional ecological knowledge is held by the mountains of Badakhshan, Afghanistan.

**“Year two represented a critical shift from foundation-building to tangible climate resilience outcomes.”**

– AKF Afghanistan,  
Year 2 Annual Report, April 2026

Badakhshan Province sits in northeastern Afghanistan at the confluence of the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges, where its communities have managed mountain ecosystems for centuries. Their deep knowledge of their forests, waters, and the agriculture most suited to the high-altitude and harsh conditions where they live has sustained them for generations.

But now the climate impacts in their region are challenging their traditional ways of living and stewarding the lands. Worsening drought, coupled with intense periods of flooding, is damaging crops, accelerating glacial retreat, degrading forests, and leaving summer irrigation water increasingly scarce.





The role of micro-forests in helping communities navigate the stresses and impacts on their agriculture cannot be underestimated. Our partners are building a model of climate resilience that could be replicated globally. It is also a functioning model that lays the groundwork for cooling the area around the Third Pole – the largest collection of glaciers and icefields outside of the polar regions. It is impossible to overstate the critical importance of this region: it is the **primary water source** for more than two billion people across Asia.

**Regenerative agriculture is a holistic, outcome-based approach to farming and growing food. It actively improves the ecosystem where it is implemented, along with capturing carbon in the soil to mitigate the climate crisis. It focuses on rebuilding soil health, restoring biodiversity, and enhancing the natural water cycle.**

This program, coupled with those of our partners in Tajikistan, is part of Home Planet Fund's long-term goal of encircling as much of the Third Pole as possible with regenerative agriculture, reforestation, and all by using the traditional knowledge of those who have lived there for generations.

## A System, Not a Checklist

### ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

#### Micro-Forests

**223** forests established across six districts

Each engages one household, combining ecosystem restoration with direct livelihood support. Species selected by communities through Community Based Natural Resource Management Groups (CBNRM).

### LANDSCAPES

#### Ecosystem Restoration

**216 ha** restored

30 hectares block plantation rehabilitated. 150 hectares of natural forest restored. 36 hectares of on-farm water management plots. 205 trenches, 481 contour lines, 154 check dams.

### WOMEN'S AGENCY

#### Food Processing for Women

**220** women trained

220 women trained in food processing and storage. Nine processing centers established. Products include jams, pickles, chutney, ketchup, preserves, and tomato paste from seasonal Afghan produce.

### PLANNING

#### Community Resilience Plans

**120** stakeholders engaged

Six plans developed through participatory processes with 120 community stakeholders, including elders, women, and youths. Each plan identifies climate risks, nature-based solutions, roles, timelines.

### GENETIC HERITAGE

#### Nursery Network

**116** nurseries built

10 Mother Stock Nurseries for genetic resource conservation. 16 commercial nurseries. 90 home-based nurseries – expanding women's participation in horticulture supply chains.

### ENERGY AND WATER

#### Solar-Powered Water

**61 ha** irrigated

Six solar-powered irrigation systems installed, opening 61 hectares of agricultural land for reliable water access. Uncultivated land in Jurm District, untouched for years, is now irrigated and productive.



## A healing landscape

These micro-forests combine ecological restoration with household livelihood support. Each forest is established by a household, on their own land, using species they have chosen.

This is community-led landscape restoration on which the communities themselves depend.

## What the Micro-forest System Delivers

Each micro-forest is established on a household's own irrigated land. The household contributes the land, the commitment, and the maintenance. Home Planet Fund's partners provide technical support, guide the selection of species, and monitor the outcomes. The result is a shared investment that the household has a strong incentive to protect.

Species planted include apple, apricot, peach, pear, walnut, almond, black cherry, poplar, pine, pomegranate, mulberry, and strawberry. Not only are these ecological assets; they are both future food sources and income streams.

## Nature-based Solutions

The work of our partners in Badakhshan, Afghanistan, draws on a handful of distinct nature-based approaches, all rooted in traditional ecological knowledge and led by women, local families and youth groups.

The centerpiece of their work is the planting of micro-forests: dense, biodiverse plantings of under a hectare, each containing at least 25 species, established directly adjacent to homes so families can easily tend to them. These create microclimates that support food production, shelter native species, sequester carbon, and help cool the surrounding area enough to slow snowpack and

glacier melt in the high mountains. More than 223 have been planted so far, with a goal of a further 400 by 2030. Alongside the micro-forests, broader community-based reforestation targets degraded forest land using Indigenous, high-carbon-capture species including willow, pillar, jida, hawthorn, currant, and berberis. Planted near riverbanks, these stabilize the soil against flooding and wind erosion while doubling as sources of food, medicine, and income.

Watershed and water management form another pillar. Community-driven watershed restoration paired with the traditional mirab and mirju system, where respected elders oversee irrigation upkeep and equitable water distribution across villages, an approach shared with neighboring Pamiri communities in Tajikistan, who are also HPF partners.

The work includes regenerative agriculture and soil restoration to rebuild carbon-depleted, degraded topsoil, and seed nurseries that preserve genetic diversity, support crossbreeding, attract pollinators, and serve as chemical-free "living laboratories" for crop cultivation. Rounding this out are village-level resilience planning, improved natural resource governance, and food preservation practices that cut post-harvest losses, all designed to help farming communities adapt their livelihoods to a rapidly shifting climate.

Together, these approaches link carbon sequestration and biodiversity restoration directly to food security and livelihoods, which is the throughline of nature-based solutions generally: working with ecological processes – soil, native vegetation, water cycles – rather than against them to build resilience.

## NbS Data

Agroforestry systems (mixing trees with crops or livestock) has shown meaningful CO<sup>2</sup> removal rates, at 10.8–15.6 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> per hectare per year. These NbS deliver carbon benefits alongside continued food production.<sup>1</sup>

Planted forests and woodlots also have very high CO<sup>2</sup> removal rates, ranging from 4.5 to 40.7 t CO<sup>2</sup>/ha/year in the first 20 years, while natural regeneration removed 9.1–18.8 t CO<sup>2</sup>/ha/year over the same period.<sup>1</sup>

“Each micro-forest engaged one household, bringing together ecosystem restoration and direct livelihood support in a way that is true to the spirit of community-driven work.”

– AKF Afghanistan,  
Year 2 Annual Report, April 2026

# The Nursery Network, Building Local Supply

Ten Mother Stock Nurseries protect Badakhshan’s genetic heritage: the walnut varieties, fruit tree cultivars, and native species that have developed over centuries in these mountain valleys. Sixteen commercial nurseries create local employment and seedling supply. Ninety home-based nurseries extend this network into individual households, with women as the primary participants.

GENETIC HERITAGE

10

mother Stock Nurseries for genetic conservation

LOCAL ECONOMY

16

commercial nurseries creating local seedling supply

WOMEN-LED

90

home-based nurseries, primarily managed by women

## A story from Khash District

In a country where women’s economic participation in public spaces is severely constrained, the nine processing centers create a setting where women’s skills and labor produce real income. The centers are women’s spaces. The products leave those spaces as market goods. The income returns to the households of the women who created it.

Thus far, 220 women from 26 villages across the district, using nine processing centers, have created a model where women’s economic agency is growing, along with the micro-forests and regenerative agriculture around them.

## Jurm District: a solar-powered success story

Six solar-powered irrigation systems were installed, opening 61 hectares of agricultural land to reliable water access. In Badakhshan’s mountain valleys, where glacier melt is becoming unreliable and rainfall increasingly erratic, consistent irrigation is the difference between a productive farm and abandoned land.

In Jurm District, a solar-powered irrigation system was installed on land that had been uncultivated for years. That land is now irrigated, productive, and families who had watched it lie fallow are now growing food on it. There are now cultivated fields where there was once barren land.



## Regenerative Agriculture

Thus far, 254 farmers have been trained in regenerative agriculture in Year Two, exceeding the target of 250. The 250 demonstration plots were the design element that makes this training stick: every principle taught in a workshop could be seen, touched, and tested in a real plot on real land. Climate-smart agriculture training reached 384 farmers through 20 trainings across six districts in this year.

## Community-Led Land Restoration

205

trenches dug for watershed restoration

481

contour lines established for erosion control

154

check dams supporting water control

## Looking ahead

During the next year, we will expand land restoration across Northern Afghanistan, water systems will grow in size and scope, and the number of regenerative agriculture plots will increase by one-quarter.

And this is just the beginning. We’ve built the model. Now it is time to scale.

From Afghanistan’s micro-forests, we move to Tajikistan’s seed banks, where farmers are regenerating landscapes that sequester carbon and cool the ‘third pole.’

# Farming at the Top of the World

As glaciers melt upstream, Pamiri farmers are engaged in regenerative agriculture and saving seeds, while strengthening their culture and biodiversity.

Tajikistan's Pamir Mountains are part of the Third Pole. The Pamirs also form the hub from which the Tian Shen, Hindu Kush, and other huge mountain ranges spiral. This hub is an elevated, icy expanse containing some of the highest mountains and largest glaciers in the world, along with their critically important and fragile ecosystems, within which reside a rich biodiversity of plants and animals.

**Mountain ecosystems provide up to 85 percent of all the water humans need...**

not to mention other species, and globally, glaciers contain 69 percent of all the freshwater on the planet. Glaciers also cool the air in the mountain basins where they reside, and the cold water downstream has an impact on shrubs and other species. Without this cold water, species that haven't been able to adapt to warmer temperatures will be negatively affected. In their immediate vicinity, glaciers mitigate warmer temperatures resulting from the climate crisis, keeping these areas habitable and survivable for plant and animal species who live there.





The Pamir Mountains punch far above their weight in shaping the planet's health. Centuries of Pamiri regenerative farming has played an integral role in keeping the region cool. Snowmelt and glaciers here feed rivers that more than two billion people across Asia depend on for irrigation, power, and their economies, while the region's weather systems ripple outward to influence global atmospheric patterns. The Pamirs are also a critical stronghold for snow leopards and wolves, and home to thousands of medicinal plants and herbs found nowhere else on Earth.

The Pamiri's traditional farming practices are regenerative by definition, so this is bringing back medicinal plants and traditional strains of legumes, grains, and other foods that had been systematically removed from the region during previous decades. Their practices naturally support biodiversity, as these crops grow within and regenerate the thin, rocky soil common in a country that is 97 percent mountainous.

In light of these evolving challenges, Home Planet Fund sees this as a critically important opportunity to support the regenerative practices of Pamiri farmers. Their practices naturally mitigate the climate crisis by helping preserve the "third pole," rehabilitate soil, land and biodiversity, all while their knowledge base continues to be passed to future generations.

We are supporting local communities in their planting of traditional crops, preserving and sharing ancient seeds, strengthening their biodiversity and cultural heritage, and documenting Indigenous knowledge that has served their ancestors since time immemorial. All of this is happening across ten elevation levels to ensure localization, which has outsized mitigation impact on the climate crisis.

## Our partners have created 10 seed banks in as many communities that benefit 1,500 farmers across the region.

These seed banks are populated largely with local varieties of wheat, legumes, and vegetables. Wheat seeds play a vital role in preserving adapted local varieties of wheat, which are crucial for maintaining consistent yields. Often referred to as heritage seeds, and the "keepers of traditional knowledge," they safeguard the local seed gene pool, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of these crops.

In June 2026 HPF provided a grant to the University of Central Asia to support the study of climate change impacts on seasonal water availability across the region. This utilizes local knowledge as the basis of study of field hydrology:

- 🌱 First HPF research grant: combines hydrology with community knowledge.
- 🌱 Pamir glaciers feed Central Asia – seasonal availability is shifting fast.
- 🌱 Two watersheds compared: snow-fed vs. glacier-fed late-season longevity.
- 🌱 Communities at the center: household surveys, FGDs, water mapping.
- 🌱 Equipment donated to local Water User Associations at project end.
- 🌱 Connects to HPF mountain ecology work in Afghanistan.



# Tajikistan Nature-based Solutions

Regenerative agriculture is the foundation piece of the Nbs in our Tajikistan work. Reviving medicinal plants and heritage strains of legumes, grains, and other crops naturally rebuilds the thin, rocky soil that covers 97 percent of this mountainous terrain, while restoring the biodiversity that makes these ecosystems resilient in the first place.

Home Planet Fund sees this as one of the highest-leverage climate investments available today. Every acre of soil rehabilitated here helps cool the Third Pole. Every heritage seed preserved is a hedge against the crop failures that climate volatility will increasingly bring. And every piece of Indigenous knowledge documented and passed to the next generation is a proven adaptation strategy, tested over centuries in one of the harshest growing environments on Earth.

This work is already happening across ten distinct elevation levels, a scale of localization that gives it outsized mitigation impact: instead of one intervention that succeeds or fails as a whole, this is ten interconnected strategies, each calibrated to its own microclimate.

The results are tangible. Our partners have built 10 seed banks across 10 communities, directly benefiting 1,500 farmers. These banks are populated with local wheat, legume, and vegetable varieties, heritage seeds that function as the genetic memory of the region’s food system. They are often called the “keepers of traditional knowledge” for good reason: they safeguard the gene pool that keeps yields consistent and crops resilient, generation after generation.

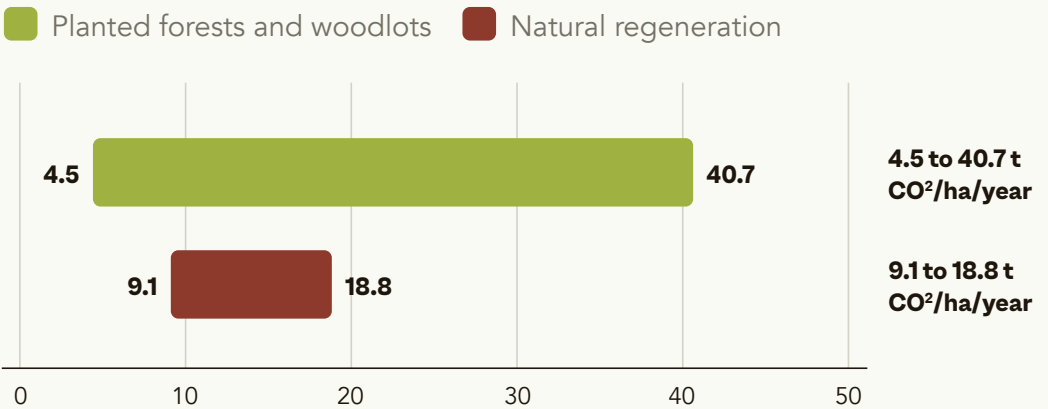


## NbS Data

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CO<sup>2</sup> REMOVAL RATE, FIRST 20 YEARS



“If you leave the land and return only when you want harvest, the land won’t reward you. You must stay close to it, understand it, and work with it.”

**Gulmirzoev Qodirshoh**

Farmer and Elder of Tughgoz village, in Tajikistan’s Pamir Mountains



# Supporting Pastoralists' Tenure Rights to Save Grasslands

Pastoralism is land stewardship in motion. For 10,000 years, pastoralists have stewarded nearly half the landmass of the African continent.

Home Planet Fund's pastoralist partners across Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda are keeping grasslands alive alongside their traditional way of life and building resilience. Along with other pastoralists, they are sequestering the carbon equivalent weight of every wild mammal on Earth, every single year.

In East Africa, land, water, livestock, rangelands, and pastoralists are one system. They all depend upon each other.

Protecting access to land is literally climate stewardship.

Pastoralism is the key for carbon sequestration in these regions. The grasslands, wetlands, and rangeland forests managed by pastoralist communities are important carbon sinks, sequestering up to 500 kilograms of carbon per hectare per year.



# Key Milestones

JANUARY 2025 TO JUNE 2026 | KENYA, TANZANIA, UGANDA

9,100+

land rights instruments  
across implemented

13,500+

Direct beneficiaries – 60  
percent of which are women  
and girls

3,500+

livestock distributed to  
drought victims

2,300+

women’s micro-finance  
groups established

## OCTOBER 2025 | KENYA

First-ever East Africa Pastoralist Women Forum, Nanyuki.  
Women from five countries.

Declaration to State Dept for ASALs + IYRP 2026 Mongolia.

## DECEMBER 2024 | TANZANIA

Maasai customary leaders meet President of Tanzania. Two presidential  
commissions established to investigate Loliondo land deals.

## 2025 | UGANDA

DADO supports 500+ households to mobilize 500 freehold title applications  
covering 8,500 acres through the SLAAC process. 7 CLAs registered.

## 2025 | KENYA

Korr-Ngurnit CLMC submits Community Land Act Form 1 to Isiolo land office. 5  
land use plans covering 129,258 ha formalized.



## First Pastoralist Women Forum, October 2025, Nanyuki, Kenya

For the first time in East Africa’s history, pastoralist women from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Sudan gathered in Nanyuki, Kenya. Our partners played an integral role in this historic meeting, not only to be part of it, but to lead it. The Women Forum was not a traditional conference setting. Instead, it was a strategic platform where women who managed livestock, led micro-finance groups, stewarded their rangelands and were the holders of traditional cultural knowledge set the terms and led the proceedings.

Barriers like gender-blind policies, insecure land tenure, and being excluded from governance decisions about their land were named. Strategies to address them, like cross-border collaborations, men as intentional allies, and the exchange of intergenerational knowledge were implemented.

“When the goats arrived, my children finally had milk again. It gave us hope that we can rebuild.”

– Beneficiary, Mukogodo Eastward  
Maiyanat Community, Kenya

“The clearing of the cactus was hard work, but now our land is usable again. We feel proud because this was done by our own hands.”

– Community Member, Laikipia,  
North Ilmotiok Community, Kenya

*“The construction of the water tank has transformed our lives.”*

– Ole Naputari,  
Kojja Community Elder, Kenya

*“It will be a great achievement to have my title. My land is my lifeline.”*

– Noormeshu Kilekisaika,  
Maasai Community Member

*“We highly value secured land titles for women as a fundamental property right and a critical step toward challenging cultural norms.”*

– Manyara Karia, WRLF Representative,  
Mondorosi Village, Tanzania, 2025

*“The agreement between Oloipiri and Kirtalo helped bring peace back to our grazing areas. Our livestock can now move more safely, and the discussions between leaders continue before problems become conflicts.”*

– Community Elder, Ngorongoro,  
Tanzania, 2025

## Tanzania: Where Land Defense is Climate Stewardship

In northern Tanzania’s Ngorongoro and Loliondo, Maasai and other Indigenous pastoralist communities face land alienation, violent evictions, and relocation pressure. Home Planet Fund Partners are working alongside communities to build legal standing, documenting rights abuses, and taking advocacy from the village level to national courts.

HPF Partner Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) has moved mountains on these fronts. Across Ngorongoro and Loliondo districts, 300 Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy’s (CCROs) have been issued, produced

and processed for women and youth across five villages. Two presidential commissions were established on Loliondo land deals during December 2024, and a land dispute between Oloipiri and Kirtalo was formally resolved with registered bylaws, allowing pastoralists across the area to safely resume their land stewardship practices. Women and youth were active in land-use governance processes in no fewer than five villages across the region, 500 sheep were distributed to 100 women in Ololosokwan for income generation diversification, and more than 140 women and youth began beekeeping, livestock fattening, and agroecology enterprises.

HPF Partner PINGOs Forum successfully implemented strategic litigation across Tanga, Moshi-Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Manyara High Court registries and the East African Court of Justice. This brought emergency protection of victims, witnesses, minors, elders, and human rights defenders.

*“Ownership of goats has transformed my role. I am no longer dependent on men for access to livestock.”*

– Female youth, Animal Husbandry Group,  
Karamoja, Uganda

- Indigenous Knowledge is a Working System
- Maasai Cultural Festivals (Orkiam Le Maa). Now operating across five Maasai districts in Tanzania and Kenya, beyond national borders. Cross-border solidarity for land defense and cultural continuity.
- Traditional governance structures. UCRT: customary leadership in five Maasai districts. IMPACT: traditional leaders’ assemblies integrated with CLMCs for hybrid modern-customary governance.
- Drought-tolerant traditional pasture species. Maasai love grass & African foxtail grass in land use plans. Boma Rhodes grass banks (ILEPA). 10-acre fodder plots with 1,200 bales harvested.
- Karamoja Cultural Events (DADO Uganda). Traditional leaders, women, and youth reaffirmed cultural identity and indigenous food sovereignty through PELUM/COPACSO Food Festival participation.



## East Africa Nature-based Solutions

The work of our partners across this region centers on one core nature-based solution: pastoralism itself.

United Nations data shows that active pastoralism sequesters between 200 to 500 kg of carbon per hectare per year.

Strategic mobility across rangelands is the foundational practice. Herders move livestock seasonally across vast, communally owned landscapes for access to water and foraging, allowing grasslands, wetlands, and rangeland forests to rest and regenerate rather than degrade. That rotational, non-sedentary grazing pattern is itself the intervention, distinguishing it from continuous grazing, which depletes land.

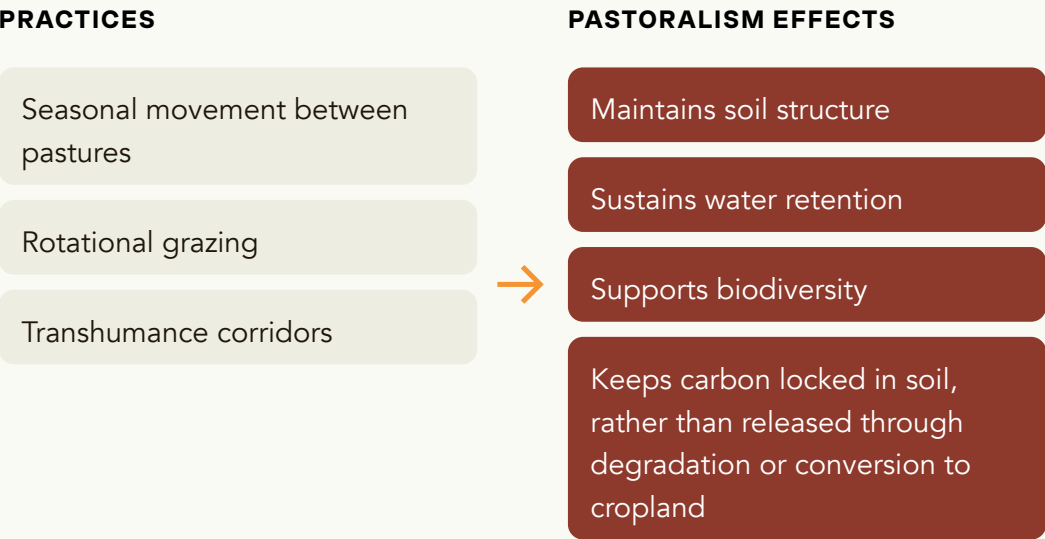
This mobility sustains rangelands as major carbon sinks, sequestering carbon in the soils and vegetation of pastoralist-managed land, making grassland stewardship a climate mitigation tool equivalent to forest-based approaches.

The same collectively managed, unfragmented land also functions as a biodiversity corridor and habitat for biodiversity: the open rangelands tended by pastoralists allow the Great Migration and East Africa’s dense wildlife populations, wildebeest, zebra, lions, giraffes, and more, to exist at all. In this sense, pastoralist land use directly produces and maintains a biodiversity hotspot rather than merely coexisting with one. HPF partners across the region observe that their way of life co-exists and augments that of the wild animals across the region. Whenever our partners were displaced from their lands and had to move away, local wildlife populations followed pastoralist herds out of the area.

Finally, Indigenous ecological knowledge, including drought-resilience practices developed over 10,000 years and the roles pastoralist played by women in livestock care, resource decisions, and knowledge transfer, is the knowledge system that makes the mobility and land stewardship effective, and is in itself an NbS.

### NbS Data

Recognized as a Nature-based Solution by IUCN<sup>2</sup>, FAO<sup>3</sup>, and UNCCD<sup>4</sup>, these practices mimic the natural grazing pressure with which rangeland plant communities co-evolved.



30-35%

of global terrestrial carbon held in rangelands

IUCN

~1/3

of world’s biodiversity hotspots supported by rangelands

IUCN

2.16 t

of CO<sub>2</sub>– equivalent average soil carbon sequestered per hectare per year under improved grazing management – the highest estimate among these findings

FAO RANGELAND CARBON FINANCE ANALYSIS

# Culture is Knowledge, Culture is Life

Makko Sinandei, the Founder and Senior Advisor of UCRT, specializes in environmental science and conflict mediation. He is also UCRT's Hanang and Ngorongoro Program Coordinator.

In May 2026, Home Planet Fund attended Makko's ceremonial blessing, during which he was formally received into the position of Chairperson of the Maasai across East Africa: a new role created by customary leaders to address the growing marginalization of Maasai communities in political decision-making.

This ceremony is a significant cultural and leadership event for the Maasai community. It brought together Maasai representatives from seven districts in Tanzania and leaders from three counties in Kenya. It included elders, customary leaders, women, youth representatives, and community members.

This gathering represented a historic moment of unity and collective commitment among Maasai communities across the region.

**“We have been in a radical movement for many years. But we have realized that being radical does not give you a position to influence. It makes people see you as an enemy and block your access. Now we need to be flexible, diplomatic, to bring people to the table so they can sit and discuss. That is what this leadership role is about.”**

## MAKKO SINANDEI

Founder and Senior  
Advisor of UCRT



INTERVIEW

**The ceremony included elders speaking about the role of culture and the path forward for the Maasai people. This was a historical event for the Maasai across East Africa, and Home Planet Fund is deeply honored and humbled by the opportunity to be in partnership with Makko Sinandei and UCRT, which he founded.**

**Home Planet Fund: Can you tell us about the ceremony and the position you are about to be blessed into – how and why were you chosen?**

**Makko Sinandei:** The ceremony is to celebrate my blessing. It is my election by customary leaders and the community at large, because customary leaders represent the entire Maasai community. The position is to be a chief, but also the chairperson for the Maasai across East Africa. This is about solidarity within the Maasai. In terms of promoting our culture, the Maasai in Kenya and Tanzania are the same family, the same community...we share the same culture. Even during our rites of passage, we cross borders. Borders do not mean anything to us in terms of cultural practice and relationship.

The process for my election was conducted in a very sacred way. I was not informed beforehand, because if I had known, I might have found a way to avoid it. I know the position is very demanding given the nature of work I



Makko Sinandei at his ceremonial blessing as the Maasai Chairperson of East Africa.  
Photo Credit: Hope Kiwelu

already carry. But when I was chosen, I saw how much demand there is and how many issues need to be addressed. My role will be to coordinate and to influence the important functions of the traditional system.

In Tanzania, we have political positions that fall within the government and party setting. But we also have a customary leadership system that falls within the community setting, and this is the one the community trusts most. The community understands what customary leaders do and can also shape the direction those leaders take. This makes it both more strategic and more trusted. Being in this position, I will first be learning from current leaders, while also working at a higher level by bridging the Maasai community across Tanzania and linking to Kenya, because we do not operate in isolation. Culture is life. Culture is our knowledge. Culture is our interaction and our livelihood. Being a leader of this kind brings social values, economic values, and ecological values into a single space.



Makko Sinandei speaking with partners in the field. Photo Credit: Hope Kiwelu

**HPF: How long will you be in this role?**

**Makko Sinandei:** Being a leader is forever. But the specific position, whether as chairperson or coordinator, can change depending on how the community feels. My main concern is how to build systems that the next generation can take over. These are new structures. We have never before had a position like chairperson of the Maasai at the East Africa level or at the national level. These forms were created because of demand. The Maasai have been marginalized in decision-making, and we have been relying on politicians who must always

align with the ruling party. If the ruling party does not favor pastoralists, even a political leader from our community will follow what the government says. So we need a parallel leadership structure. A Maasai governance system that exists alongside the political system. My goal is to create a network between the Maasai people and government and policymakers, including at the global level. We speak to IUCN [International Union for Conservation of Nature], for example, we tell them that the money they give us goes toward solving problems that are sometimes caused by their own policies. If they change those policies at the source, then what they fund us to do becomes much easier to achieve. We should not just receive money, we need them to change those colonial conservation policies that separate Indigenous people from conservation.

**HPF: What happened at the ceremony itself?**

**Makko Sinandei:** The blessing ceremony will start in the morning around six o'clock and will take around two hours. After the blessing, the rest of the ceremony will be the community sharing about culture. Elders will speak about the role of culture in Maasai life and how culture informs change. It is also a form of training for those attending: what does culture mean? Why did this event happen? It is not just a celebration, there are deeper issues to address. We want someone from the Maasai community to explain to all participants what culture truly means, what the challenges are, and how we go forward.

The Chairman and Secretary after the ceremonial blessing. Photo Credit: Hope Kiwelu



**Ujamaa Community Resource Team**

The Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) seeks to improve the lives of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, and hunter-gatherer communities in northern Tanzania by empowering them to sustainably manage and benefit from the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend. UCRT believes that empowering these communities is a fundamental step towards a just and sustainable society.

UCRT achieves their mission through supporting their partners with land rights, governance, nature resource management, social empowerment, nature-based livelihoods, and advocacy.

UCRT works where communities need them most. From the borders of the Serengeti reaching towards Dodoma in Tanzania, they partner with Indigenous and local communities who depend on communal land to sustain their traditional ways of life.

**2,312,985**

Hectares of land protected in Tanzania.

**796,022**

People across 190 villages benefit from stronger land rights and sustainable management of natural resources.

**179**

Communal Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy issued, giving communities rights to own and manage their resources and land sustainably.

**3,000**

Women know their rights and can own and benefit from their land and natural resources thanks to their membership in our Women’s Rights and Leadership Forums spread across 124 villages.



While our pastoralist partners across East Africa steward critical grasslands and biodiversity hotspots, our partners across the Pacific are planting mangrove forests, building climate resiliency, and putting ancestral knowledge to work for climate adaptation.



# Imparting Wisdom Across Generation

Some of the most determined women in the world are leading the response in one of most climate-vulnerable regions on Earth.

Active with 12 Coalition Partners across seven countries, young women in the South Pacific are not waiting to be protected from climate change impacts. Instead, they are leading the response to it, from mangrove planting in Vanuatu, to emergency water systems in Kiribati, to disaster preparedness in Bougainville.

For Pacific communities, the ocean is not a border but a shared home, from the coastline to the deep sea and everything in between. Through the Coalition, young women are restoring mangroves and leading coastal resilience work in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. They are also confronting the pollution and overfishing that harm both land and ocean. These are people who care about coral, migratory species, and the health of waters far beyond their own shores. They carry that care into local, regional, and international advocacy, standing for stronger protection of the ocean as a shared resource and fairer rules on fishing and the vessels that cross the vast waters of the Pacific.





Pacific Island communities live on the front lines of climate change. Rising seas threaten entire islands. Cyclones arrive more frequently and more violently. Droughts destroy food gardens that families have grown for generations. At every moment of crisis, it is women who are responding first, are the fastest organizers, and rebuild most sustainably.

**As a result, local women’s leaders from across the South Pacific have come together to create the Shifting the Power Coalition. Together, they are amplifying women’s voices in those places where decisions are made about climate, humanitarian action, and disaster preparedness and response.**

Home Planet Fund partners with the Shifting the Power Coalition in several key areas, including collecting communities’ traditional knowledge and passing it down, generation to generation, woman to woman. We fund these young women as they continue to implement nature-based solutions that heal the landscape and mitigate future climate impacts.



**“The 2024 to 2026 period demonstrated that resilience is not only about surviving crises, but about transforming systems, ensuring that Pacific women’s voices, knowledge, and leadership shape the future of climate justice.”**

Shifting the Power Coalition,  
Project Report 2026



# World Leaders in Climate Resilience

Kiribati

Bougainville  
Solomon Islands  
Vanuatu

Fiji  
Tonga

## OUTER ATOLLS OF PORORAN, HITAU, AND YAPARU

### Bougainville, Climate-Resilient Farming

Rising seas, prolonged droughts, and saltwater contamination of food gardens. In February 2026, Bougainville Women’s Federation delivered hands-on training for 28 women and young women and five male community champions in sustainable crop management, climate-resilient farming, and traditional farming calendars across three islands.

## YWCA SOLOMON ISLANDS

### Solomon Islands, Backyard Gardening, Honiara

24 young women, including four with disabilities, built backyard gardens producing vegetables and herbs through composting, organic pest control, and seed saving. Improved household nutrition and reduced reliance on costly market produce. Advocacy for sea wall construction along flood-prone coastlines engaged the National Disaster Management Office.

## FIJI, INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

### Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation

In 2016, most persons with disabilities could not reach evacuation centers during Cyclone Winston. A decade later, the Coalition is changing that. The 2026 National Training on Inclusive Climate Action equipped 38 participants with advocacy tools, policy literacy, and leadership skills. Disability inclusion is now embedded in local resilience planning.

## TONGA, GREENHOUSE AND WATER TANK, HIHIFO

### Talitha Project | Youth Hub climate infrastructure

Hihifo District was devastated by the 2022 Hunga Tonga eruption and tsunami. The Talitha Project equipped the new Hihifo Youth Hub with a greenhouse and a 10,000-litre water tank, strengthening food and water security for nearly 2,000 young people. Young women, including those with disabilities, applied traditional knowledge to sustainable food production.

## KIRIBATI, NEW HUB 2025, FOOD AND WATER SECURITY

### Nei Mom Uprising | First project

Kiribati faces one of the most acute climate threats in the Pacific. Rising seas have already forced entire communities to relocate. In Te Buringako village and across Kiritimati, Arorae, and South Tarawa, 28 young women were equipped as food and water security leaders, recognized as custodians of traditional knowledge and community resilience.

## VANUATU, MAROU VILLAGE, COASTAL RESILIENCE

### VYWC mangrove planting initiative

20 young women in Marou Village lead mangrove planting and coastal resilience work, restoring buffer ecosystems against tidal surges and storm damage.

## South Pacific Nature-based Solutions

Home Planet works in the South Pacific to support and drive three core NbS, the primary and most effective of which is mangrove restoration. Planting mangrove forests along coastlines stabilizes shorelines against erosion and absorbs the force of storm surges before they reach homes and freshwater sources. This directly addresses the kind of destruction larger and more powerful climate-crisis-fueled cyclones are bringing across the region. The fact that mangroves also sequester huge amounts of carbon is an additional impact of this work.

The second NbS is seagrass. Sequestering “blue carbon,” It works alongside the mangrove restoration, stabilizing seafloor sediment, filtering coastal water, and supporting the fish nurseries upon which many struggling and collapsing fisheries depend.

Finally, we work with our partners on climate-resilient agriculture, growing crop varieties bred or selected to withstand both drought and sudden and increasingly heavy downpours, rather than relying on varieties suited only to historical rainfall patterns. This NbS protects food security as rainfall becomes more erratic and extreme.

Underlying all three is the intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological knowledge: women passing down landscape and resource management practices to younger generations, which function as the delivery mechanism for these nature-based techniques. In this way they are implemented with location-specific understanding – which coastlines erode fastest, which crops have historically weathered storms, how local ecosystems respond to disturbance – that make them most effective.

### NbS Data

#### Mangrove restoration

Mangrove tree restoration ranks among the most efficient nature-based options for CO<sup>2</sup> removal, with growth rates reaching up to 23.1 t CO<sup>2</sup> per hectare per year during the first 20 years post-restoration. At the ecosystem-service level, one modeling study projects that restoring mangroves over the next two decades would need \$40–52.1 billion in investment, yielding net gains in ecosystem-service value of \$231–725 billion, with a global benefit-cost ratio of 6.35 to 15.0.<sup>1</sup>

#### Coastal wetlands – flood risk reduction

Salt marshes and wetlands provide large, quantifiable flood protection value. One estuary study found marshes provided an average flood protection value of about \$4,772 per hectare per year, which was 22 to 75 times higher than the value of their carbon storage. At the national scale, a 2026 study found wetlands provide an average of at least \$24,783 per hectare in residential flood-risk-reduction value in the top 10 percent of sub-watersheds, and that wetland loss since 1985 has driven a \$10.1 billion, 9.0 percent increase in U.S. flood insurance claims.<sup>5</sup>

## The Networks That Were Already Built

### Women Wetem Weta (WWW) Network

A women-led early warning system built by ActionAid Vanuatu, activated immediately after the devastating 2024 earthquake in Vanuatu. Developed since Cyclone Pam in 2015, it now reaches thousands of women across Vanuatu’s islands before formal systems can.

### WITTT Sunshine Network

Women I TokTok Tugetha, a disability women’s network with 9,000+ members across five Vanuatu islands. Members in townships outside Vila were specifically checked on after the earthquake.

### What Trust-Based Support Makes Possible

These networks were not funded as a response to the emergency. They were built through years of consistent, flexible, woman-led work. So when the earthquake hit, they activated without waiting for donor approval. This is what long-term, trust-based investment produces: organizations that respond to what communities actually need at the moment they need it the most.



# Why Indigenous-led Stewardship Has Always Worked, and Always Will

One connected story. Across Alaska, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, East Africa, and the Pacific Islands, the same pattern repeats.

Across Alaska, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, East Africa, and the Pacific Islands, the same pattern repeats. Indigenous and local communities, given time, trust, and flexible resources, consistently build and steward the systems their lands, waters and futures need. Their work looks different in a Tongass watershed than in a Badakhshan valley, in a Kajiado boma than on a Tongan atoll. But the principle is *always* the same.

## TRUST-BASED, NOT TRANSACTIONAL

### Relationships before deliverables

Partners are treated as equals. Reports are conversations, not audits. Communications open with appreciation, close with forward-looking warmth. Multi-year relationships build institutional depth no project grant can match.

## FLEXIBLE WHEN IT MATTERS

### Responding at the speed of need

When April floods disrupted Badakhshan planting, the team rescheduled. When the EPA grant was rescinded in Alaska, the Seacoast Trust covered the gap. When Vanuatu's earthquake struck, the WWW network activated. Trust enables adaptation.

## LED BY LOCALS

### Indigenous and community governance

CBNRM groups in Afghanistan. Community Land Management Committees and Community Land Acts in Kenya and Uganda. The all-Indigenous Investment Committee of the Seacoast Trust. The Young Women's Steering Committee of the Pacific Coalition. Decisions stay with those closest to the land.

## LONG HORIZONS

### Stewardship at generational scale

14,000 years of stewardship in Southeast Alaska. 10,000 years of pastoralism in East Africa. Generations of mountain knowledge in Badakhshan. Centuries of Pacific feminist organizing. HPF's timelines try to match what the land already knows.

## What the Four Regions Share

Lands, waters, and their original stewards are always at the center.

Tongass watersheds, Badakhshan valleys, East African rangelands, Pacific coastlines. Different ecologies, one principle: the lands and waters are not the backdrop. They and their original stewards, the Indigenous people and local communities who have always lived there, are our partners.

**The pattern is consistent.**

**Traditional knowledge is the catalyst.**

**Sustainable stewardship and climate mitigation at scale are the result.**

# Nature-Based Solution Spotlight

Northern Tanzania: Where Water Becomes a  
Nature-based Solution<sup>6</sup>



**“This place used to be referred to as ‘the place you cannot settle.’ But now the name has changed from struggle to a place of settlement.”**

None of us can live without water. And in the remote traditional Maasai village of Malambo in the Ngorongoro District of northern Tanzania, Home Planet Fund’s pastoralist partners’ entire way of life depends on it.



Their well had collapsed and their livestock were dying.

But our partners at Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), rehabilitated their water well. This has changed everything, including the continuance of their way of life, which is itself a Nature-based solution (NbS).

## UCRT Brings the Solution

A borehole for water had been drilled long ago for this village, but it had ceased producing in 2022.

By 2023 the village suffered widespread livestock deaths, and this catastrophe continued into 2024.

But that year, UCRT rehabilitated the bore hole, and increased the number of water tanks.

By the year 2025, the village was no longer losing any goats, sheep, or cattle.

Now, more water means larger herds of goat, cattle, and sheep, as well as local farming and healthier local rangelands.

These rangelands, when stewarded by pastoralists, sequester between 200-500 kilograms of carbon<sup>7</sup> per hectare, every single year.

One woman in the village expressed joy at now being able to cook and feed her children anytime she wants, since water is always available. Another shared plans of growing extra vegetables nearby, with the aim of selling them for income.



## Success Stories

“This place used to be referred to as “the place you cannot settle,” another woman explained. “But now the name has changed from struggle to a place of settlement.”

Daniel, a young warrior, explained that he and other young men had to take the village livestock out early in the morning, or late at night, and were having to skip meals to do so.

**“We had to confront hyenas and lions to do this at the distant water source,” he added. “But now we can sleep, don’t have to go far, and don’t have these problems. This water project has literally saved the lives of warriors and others, as well as reduced conflict.”**

Ole Sukari, a village elder wearing a blue plaid shuka, supported all that was shared during the visit, and thanked Home Planet Fund for its help. As did Rafael Manang’Oi, Secretary of Water for the village, who added, “Thank you, Home Planet Fund, for supporting UCRT to help us,” while holding his arms out towards his fellow villagers.

Given there are five billion hectares of rangeland globally, supporting water access for pastoralists where it is needed most has become a deeply impactful NbS in itself.



# The Necessity of Spirituality and Healing Work

The spiritual component of Indigenous-led climate work is a foundational belief of Home Planet Fund. For us and our partners, the Earth is not a resource to exploit. It is a living relative, and we behave accordingly.

How we treat the Earth is how we treat one another. How we treat one another is how we treat the Earth, because we are one and the same.



This worldview, which is a foundational understanding of Indigenous cultures since time immemorial, mandates ecological stewardship that emphasizes health of the lands, waters, and climate, making them inseparable and indistinguishable from human spiritual, psychological, and physical well-being. We view our work for the Earth as a sacred duty, an obligation of service to both our ancestors and future generations of all species.

In keeping with this vision, Home Planet Fund supports cultural revitalization, ceremonial practices, language revitalization efforts, and the healing practices of our partners around the world. Furthermore, communities carrying unresolved trauma cannot sustain multigenerational stewardship, so healing work is not adjacent to climate work, it is an investment layer that keeps them able to do the work. Seasonal gatherings, traditional food harvesting practices, ceremonies for water, and land-based healing are integral to our work. They are collective acts of climate resilience for these times that reassert Indigenous governance globally.

We see the spiritual protection of sacred areas and ecosystems, waters, forests, wetlands, and mountains as crucial to our time. Healing of the Earth is only possible when the people stewarding Her lands and waters are also healing. When the people heal, the lands and waters they steward listen and respond, and the relationship between humanity and Earth comes full circle.



# **“Our culture will heal our people.”**



Joel Jackson had been thinking about the need for healing for the Tlingit people of his village for decades.

So when his brother showed him a large US Forest Service building a few hours' drive from their village of Kake on Alaska's Prince of Wales Island, he knew he'd found his healing center. The Forest Service, which is a partner of Home Planet Fund's partner, the Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP) and are actively working to heal their relationships with the tribes in the region, gifted the

building to Joel and the Organized Village of Kake for his vision. Joel intends to use it as a hub where Indigenous people suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) will be healed by being steeped within their traditional culture.

**“I know that culture heals. These culture camps taught kids who they were, and to be proud of that, and that seemed to turn things around. Thankfully, that stopped the suicides.”**

Now the president of the Organized Village of Kake, Alaska, Joel is on a mission to heal his people, and Home Planet Fund is helping him do so.

When it is ready, the people in it will be served by eight Native counselors specializing in cultural teachings. Joel hopes to primarily hire local Kake people to be counselors and train them. This will create local jobs for their community while strengthening the communities' relationships with one another and their homelands.

**“For us, there is no better way to heal than by teaching our traditional ways. If we can do this, it will serve as a model for anyone else who wants to do this. I believe in it. Our culture will heal our people.”**



# Grantee and Partner Voice



*“With HPF support, our partnership has been able to continue investing in Indigenous-led land and stewardship projects. These projects are building resilient economies for Southeast Alaskans. The relationship we have with HPF is reciprocal and reflects our shared values, that everything is interconnected, and what strengthens one of us, strengthens us all.”*

– Alana Peterson  
Executive Director, Spruce Root



*“The community shifted completely. They moved from wanting a boundary line enforced to wanting peace, with a boundary they could agree on themselves, through continued discussion. This outcome would not have been possible without the funding from Home Planet Fund.”*

– Makko Sinandei, the Founder and Senior Advisor of UCRT,  
Maasai Customary Leader in East Africa

**“Home Planet Fund supports pastoralists’ livelihoods holistically – healthy and happy people pursuing well-being in healthy landscapes. HPF has also greatly helped stabilize our operations due to reduced funding from ODA recipient intermediaries. HPF is a genuine, inspiring and trusted friend and partner for IMPACT. Supporting HPF is supporting the well-being of communities heavily impacted by climate change to enable them to restore hope and enhance resilience.”**

## MALIH OLE KAYUNGA

Founder and Executive Director,  
IMPACT (Indigenous Movement for Peace  
Advancement and Conflict Transformation)



# The People Behind the Mission

Our staff are deeply committed to advancing Indigenous-led solutions by partnering with Indigenous people and local communities at the frontlines of the climate and biodiversity crises.

We are grounded in Indigenous values and driven by a shared commitment to serving the Earth and future generations of all species. We are dedicated to supporting and scaling underfunded, nature-based solutions that create powerful, lasting impact on a global scale.



## LEADERSHIP



**Dilafruz Khonikboyeva**

Executive Director

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

Dilafruz is a former political appointee of the U.S. Biden-Harris Administration; she spent five years with the Aga Khan Development Network, and eight years responding to conflict and climate crises in Crimea, Iraq and Syria.

Dilafruz is Indigenous Pamiri from Khorog, Tajikistan.

*“Many Westerners are pessimistic about our global environmental situation, but Indigenous communities are able to experience joy in this struggle –because their way of life is regenerating the planet.”*



**Lolabegim Mirmastova**

Finance and Operations Manager

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

Lola (MBA) is HPF’s Finance and Operations Manager, with experience in private and nonprofit finance and community resilience work across Central Asia and the US. Raised in Tajikistan’s Pamir region, she builds financial systems that are accountable and accessible.

*“When rooted in trust and care, finance becomes more than funding, it becomes a way to support Indigenous-led, land-based solutions that have long protected and regenerated the Earth.”*



### Abakhon Sultonazarov

Programs and Grants Manager

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

Abakhon is HPF's Programs and Grants Manager, bringing two decades leading development programs across Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the US, with roles at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, Aga Khan Foundation, and UNDP. He is Indigenous Ghundej from Tajikistan's Ghund Valley.

*"I believe Indigenous communities have lived in balance with nature for generations. Their wisdom is carried through lived experience, passed from elders to younger generations, and rooted in deep respect for community and the natural world. In trust-based philanthropy, our role is not to impose solutions, but to recognize the strength that already exists and stand alongside communities with humility, patience, and long-term commitment."*



### Dahr Jamail

Storytelling & Communications Manager

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, USA

Dahr is a former mountaineer and rescue volunteer who spent a decade as a war correspondent in the Middle East, then another covering the climate crisis. Author of five books, his latest centers Indigenous perspectives on the polycrisis. Dahr believes in the power of witnessing grief and beauty as a path toward ethical action for future generations.

*"Our work at Home Planet Fund has direct and immediate impact on mitigation and adaptation to global environmental degradation, because we support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who have, since time immemorial, been living and working the best practices for the planet."*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### Masego Madzwamuse

Board President

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Madzwamuse's work sits at the intersection of conservation and social justice—from natural resource management and climate-change adaptation to securing land rights for Indigenous People; she was born in Botswana, Africa.



### Alejandro Argumedo

Board Member

CUSCO, PERU

Argumedo was born to an indigenous Quechua farming family in Peru; he's spent his career working with indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers, NGOs, and government institutions, focusing on food as a way to address the climate crisis and human rights challenges.

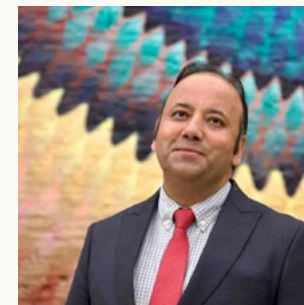


### Sanjay Joshie

Board Member

DELHI, INDIA

Joshie has spent his career working with culturally diverse communities across India, helping people conserve and better govern their natural surroundings; his focus areas are climate change, policy, gender, and inclusion.



### Waqar Abbas

Board Treasurer

DUBUQUE, IOWA, UNITED STATES

Raised in Gilgit-Baltistan, Waqar brings 15+ years designing blended finance programs across Asia, Central Asia, and the Americas. He now directs Strategic Programs at the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, unlocking capital for nature-based solutions.

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

### Claire Chouinard

Creative Director and Board Member at Patagonia

### Lisa Pike Sheehy

Environmental and Philanthropic Advisor. Former Vice President of Environmental Activism at Patagonia

# Where Funds Go

To date Patagonia's initial seed funding covers the Fund's operating costs, enabling 100 percent of all additional donor contributions to flow directly to vetted community-led initiatives.

This is critical so Home Planet Fund can proof out the work and ensure durability by engaging in deep research and due diligence, relationship-building, and piloting.

Home Planet Fund is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that may receive support from and can give tax credits to the general public, including individual, corporate and foundation donors.

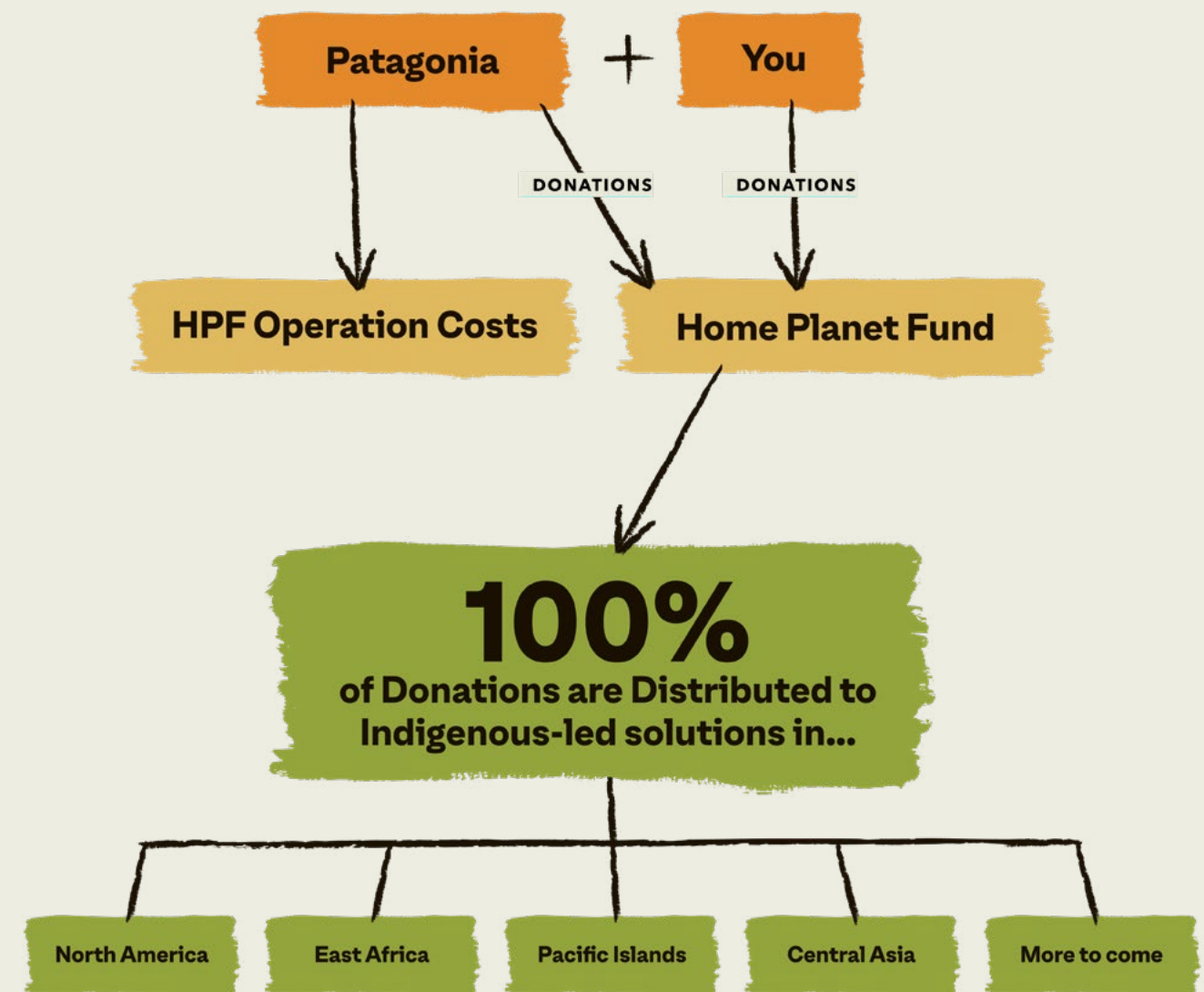
Home Planet Fund is committed to transparency.

- [FYE 2022 Home Planet Fund Financial Disclosure \(IRS Form 990\)](#)
- [FYE 2023 Home Planet Fund Financial Disclosure \(IRS Form 990\)](#)
- [FYE 2023 Home Planet Fund Audited Financial Statements](#)
- [FYE 2024 Home Planet Fund Financial Disclosure \(IRS Form 990\)](#)
- [FYE 2024 Home Planet Fund Reviewed Financial Statements](#)
- [2024 Home Planet Fund Annual Report](#)
- [FYE 2025 Home Planet Fund Financial Disclosure \(IRS Form 990\)](#)
- [FYE 2025 Home Planet Fund Reviewed Financial Statements](#)

Home Planet Fund is committed to internal integrity, respect, responsibility, and transparency.

- [Home Planet Fund Whistleblower Policy](#)

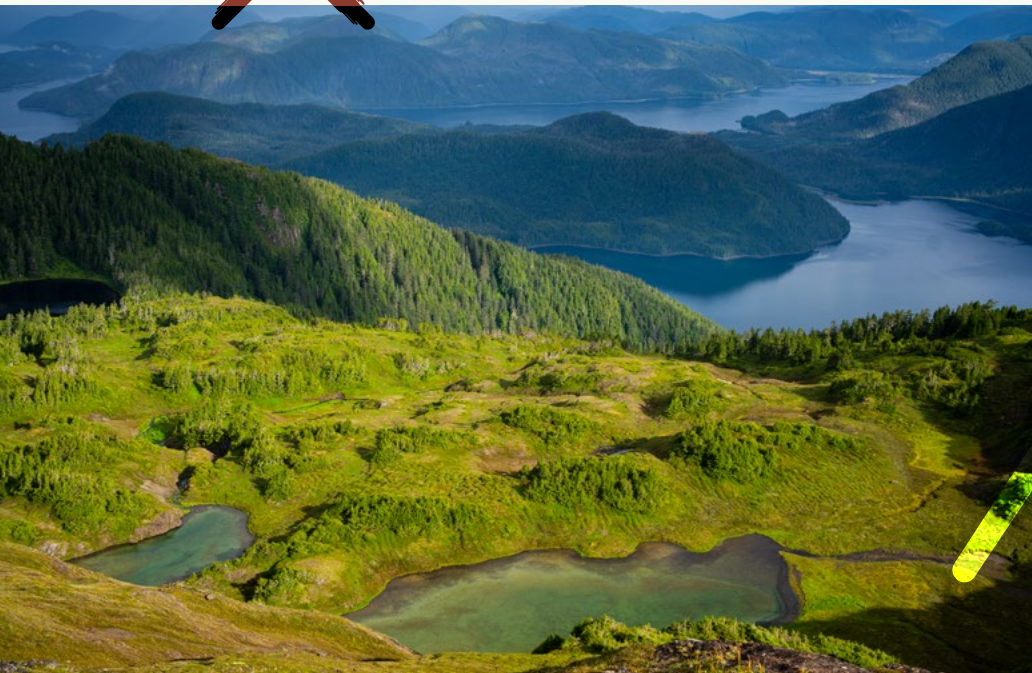
## Home Planet Fund Financial Flow



# Just Getting Started

Since our previous annual report, Home Planet Fund's partners from four regions across the planet have shown that communities long excluded from decisions about their own lands and waters are now leading them.

Micro-forests are being planted across Northern Afghanistan. Native Alaskans are in control of the \$30 million Seacoast Trust. More than 9,100 land rights instruments have been implemented across East Africa. Hundreds of young women are in control of climate resiliency, response, and mitigation across the South Pacific.



None of it would have happened without Indigenous partners who know their lands and waters, the communities that hold them, and our model of philanthropy that trusts both, deeply.

**Our work ahead is to dramatically deepen and scale what is already growing, expand it to the places where it can have the greatest impact on the climate crisis, and hold strongly to the Indigenous principles that have carried us this far.**

## Index

<sup>1</sup> Blanca Bernal, Lara T. Murray, and Timothy R. H. Pearson, “Global Carbon Dioxide Removal Rates from Forest Landscape Restoration Activities,” *Carbon Balance and Management* 13, no. 22 (November 20, 2018), [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6246754/](https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6246754/).

<sup>2</sup> “Sustainable Pastoralism: A Nature-Based Solution Proven over Millennia,” IUCN Crossroads Blog, June 2022, [iucn.org/crossroads-blog/202206/sustainable-pastoralism-nature-based-solution-proven-over-millennia](https://iucn.org/crossroads-blog/202206/sustainable-pastoralism-nature-based-solution-proven-over-millennia).

<sup>3</sup> “Carbon Finance in Rangelands,” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, [fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/scpi/cgwg/carbon\\_finance.pdf](https://fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/scpi/cgwg/carbon_finance.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> “Global Land Outlook: Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralists,” United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, May 2024, [unccd.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/GLO%20rangelands%20full.pdf](https://unccd.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/GLO%20rangelands%20full.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Tom P. Fairchild et al., “Coastal Wetlands Mitigate Storm Flooding and Associated Costs in Estuaries,” *Environmental Research Letters* 16, no. 7 (July 7, 2021), [iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac0c45](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac0c45).

<sup>6</sup> “Northern Tanzania: Where Water Becomes a Nature-Based Solution,” Home Planet Fund, [homeplanetfund.org/article/northern-tanzania-where-water-becomes-a-nature-based-solution/](https://homeplanetfund.org/article/northern-tanzania-where-water-becomes-a-nature-based-solution/).

<sup>7</sup> IUCN/UNEP, “Pastoralism and the Green Economy — A Natural Nexus? Status, Challenges and Policy Implications,” 2014, [portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2014-034.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2014-034.pdf).

# Led by locals, inspired by trust.

## Reach Home Planet Fund by writing us

- For general inquiries: [info@homeplanetfund.org](mailto:info@homeplanetfund.org)
- For Press inquiries: [press@homeplanetfund.org](mailto:press@homeplanetfund.org)
- For Privacy Policy Inquiries: [privacy@homeplanetfund.org](mailto:privacy@homeplanetfund.org)
- For Copyright inquiries: [copyright@homeplanetfund.org](mailto:copyright@homeplanetfund.org)

## Home Planet Fund mailing address

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## Is the Home Planet part of your legacy or giving this year?

Email us at [hello@homeplanetfund.org](mailto:hello@homeplanetfund.org) and let us help you plan.



Explore more of our story at  
[homeplanetfund.org](http://homeplanetfund.org)