Making life better with Bees

Bees For Development

IMPACT REPORT 2020

Bees for Development

Learning new skills in making a bee hive from bamboo, Ghana

Welcome to our 2020 Impact Report

This was the year that the Coronavirus pandemic began, causing dramatic change to our lives and work plans. Forced like everyone else to rapidly adopt Zoom and daily internet meetings, we discovered a wonderful way to increase our daily communications between our teams working far apart.

Our Centres of Excellence continued their work, incorporating all the necessary new procedures, while continuing training and support work. The Coronavirus added one more difficult aspect to the many challenges already faced by the people with whom we work.

This Impact Report once again reveals the great power of bees to help people – offering a marvellous way for people to create income while at the same time caring for nature.

Nicola Bradbear, Director.

Bees for Development

- Delivers training in beekeeping - often in highly challenging environments
- Builds on local skills and knowledge: a sustainable approach to development
- Helps people in poor situations and with few prospects to develop viable businesses
- Focusses on environmental sustainability - essential for the future of bees and people

Beekeeping supports people and nature

Overview 2020

How we made lives better with Bees

32 people with disabilities became beekeepers in Uganda

46 people from this many nations joined our webinars

55 people in Uganda were trained in beeswax processing

60 hectares of land are being restored in Ethiopia

60 people from this many nations sought our advice

90 beekeeper-mentoring relationships established in Ethiopia

144 landless youth completed beekeeping training in Ethiopia

300 families in Ethiopia gained from land restoration across two sites

391 people became beekeepers near Digya National Park in Ghana

450 people in Ethiopia became new beekeepers

964 local-style hives were made by beekeepers in projects in Ghana

1500 bee colonies were established in cashew and citrus orchards in Ghana

38,000 bee tree seedlings were planted in Ethiopia

Bees for Development project work underway in Amhara, Ethiopia.Expert beekeeper *Alemnesh Desalegn* (to the left in this picture) is now mentoring new beekeeper *Tigared Mengistu*

Ethiopia

Amhara is one of the poorest regions of Ethiopia. Young people struggle because they lack education to gain employment, and nor do they have land to cultivate.

Beekeeping provides them with a feasible source of income, as bee hives can be situated on any scrap of land near to their home.

People with disabilities tend to be excluded from projects unless deliberate steps are taken to include them, which is exactly what our team in Ethiopia are now doing. We help new beekeepers achieve strong financial and social security by joining Village Savings and Loans Groups and this includes supporting groups for people with disabilities.

In 2020 we helped local communities in the Ysala area to restore damaged land by planting 38,000 seedlings and young trees. The communities are fully involved in continued protection and care for the restored area, which is already regenerating, increasing biodiversity and providing good habitat for bees.

Ghana

Many small-holder farmers grow cashew, yet life remains a constantly hard struggle. For these people, bees make a big difference. Through our Cashews, Bees and Livelihoods Project, we helped growers to establish over 1,000 honey bee colonies in their cashew orchards. With optimal pollination ensured by the bees, cashew yield increased by 50%. Together with income earned from honey, these greater cashew harvests have improved the lives of 185 farmers. In 2020, we extended our support to 100 citrus growers and helped them to diversify into beekeeping.

We assisted communities around Digya National Park to expand their beekeeping. The change from collecting honey from wild nests to beekeeping, makes honey and beeswax harvest sustainable, more possible for women, and reduces conflict with Park rangers.

Covid-19 caused an influx of people from urban areas, and beekeeping offers them a good way of providing income while reducing pressure on precious forest resources.

Women are always fully involved in Bees for Development's Projects

Jennifer Oloya, who lost her sight a decade ago, listens to the mood of a honey bee colony in her apiary

Uganda

People with disabilities have often found themselves marginalised and ostracised by their communities. However, sight and hearing impairment, and other physical disabilities need not be barriers to beekeeping, and we have provided well-designed and adapted support to enable people to successfully keep bees and earn income.

Our experienced local team at The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (Tunado) provides disability-specific training for blind and deaf people, empowering them to gain independence and control of their own lives.

We ran market-related activities in Uganda, including beeswax processing. One of the strongest learning points was the problem of impregnated mosquito nets; when used for beeswax filtering: the insecticides in the nets permanently contaminate the wax, making it worthless for all high-end uses. Our training made clear how better to process beeswax to maintain its purity and value.

COMMUNITY FUND

Bee habitats

"When we were children, the land was good. Over time it eroded... now with help from *Bees for Development* we planted trees and shrubs. Already bees are collecting nectar from here".

Imagnehu Simeneh, Ysala, November 2020

Before & After

Bees, Trees and People

The aim of this partnership with Rowse is to restore the forests that underpin beekeeping livelihoods and healthy ecosystems. We are supporting communities to halt land erosion, plant trees and protect bee habitat. Landless youth have been trained in beekeeping.

Funded by Rowse

In 2020 the initiative has

- Established 360 honey bee colonies
- Trained 120 new beekeepers
- Protected 60 hectares of recovering forest land
- Changed the lives of 300 families for the better

Trade and markets

People in poor rural areas often have access to abundant natural resources, which can lead to good harvests of honey and beeswax. Making money depends on being able to sell these products for a fair price, with low transaction costs, while being able to meet the market's expectations of quality. We provide information, training and support to ensure that beekeepers can engage well in pro-poor trade.

Beeswax is a valuable product and is sought after on the international market. Yet many beekeepers in rural areas, especially in Africa, find it hard to capitalise on this precious resource.

We provided information and training about processing methods, value-addition and value chain development for remote, rural beekeepers.

Learning

Beekeeping does not need to be expensive or labour intensive; it does require knowledge and skills, and investing in learning is what Bees for Development does best.

Our information and education programme reaches beekeepers worldwide through our online Resource Centre, and Bees for Development Journal is now available digitally. We provide Resource Boxes full of training materials to groups, and provide Bee Bulletins and a WhatsApp service to individual beekeepers.

In 2020 we responded to requests for advice from more than 60 nations, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

We also run BfD training Courses in the UK: revenue from these Courses supports our work with beekeepers in developing nations.

Livelihoods

We train and support new beekeepers, giving the skills and knowledge needed to keep bees, and to process and sell their honey and beeswax.

We target our work to help the most vulnerable: we focus our efforts on helping marginalised people including young women, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. We want to ensure everybody can reap the unique benefits that keeping bees can bring.

Financial report for the year ended April 2020

Income	
Restricted Grants	294,245
Gifts from Individuals, Associations, Trusts and Foundations	425,559
Total	**719,804**
Expenditure	
Project work in Ethiopia	292,846
Project work in Ghana	30,923
Project work in Uganda	55,054
Other projects (Somaliland, Zambia)	16,400
BfD Journal, Resource Boxes and Information service	30,000
Project design and delivery	196,619
Communications	49,001
Total	**670,843**

Who we are

President HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Patrons
Monty Don
Baroness Anita Gale
Martha Kearney
Professor Tom Seeley
Sting
Bill Turnbull

Trustees
Chairman Paul Smith
Secretary Suzie Shaw
Treasurer Adam Bullen
Robert Spencer
Ole Hertz
Gladstone Solomon

Ambassadors
Alex Hirtzel
Peter Lead
Hilary Russell
Andrew Tuggey

We were delighted that strong local support led to our home town of Monmouth to be named *Monmouth Bee Town* this year.

Our staff team UK

Director
Nicola Bradbear

Programme Manager
Janet Lowore

Project & Operations Manager
Milan Wiercx van Rhijn

Comms & Fundraising
Richard Harrington

Project Manager
Sean Lawson

Project Manager
Giacomo Ciriello

Accounts
Cindy Smith

Coordinator
Helen Jackson

Shop Manager
Donna Regan

We work mainly from our offices in Monmouth, South Wales, supported by many volunteers without whom our capacity would be much diminished.

In 2020 we were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall as President of Bees for Development

Bees for Development North America

Board of Directors
Megan Denver
Jorik Phillips
Professor Tom Seeley

Bees for Development North America is our 501(c)3 USA fundraising arm. Megan *(pictured)*, Jorik and Tom work to raise awareness of our Charity, and support for our work.

We have established Centres of Excellence - organisations that share our philosophy and approach to beekeeping development. Bees for Development Ethiopia was established in 2012, while Bees for Development Ghana was established in 2015.

Thank you

We thank all the businesses, associations and organisations large and small, who supported our work in 2020.

Alex Monroe
Beechworth Honey, Australia
BJ Sherriff
Briogeo
British Wax
Charles Hayward Foundation
Chrysal International
Didymus
Education Services 2010
EH Thorne (Beehives Ltd)
Ethiopiaid
Euromonitor International
Eva Crane Trust
Fortnum & Mason
Healing Herbs
Hiscox
Hudson Valley Bee Supply
McQueens Flowers
National Lottery Community Fund
Neal's Yard Remedies
Nelsons
Northern Bee Books
R G Hills Charitable Trust
Robert Sanson and Edith Eligator
Rowse Honey
Souter Trust
Straightforward Design
Tregothnan
Tudor Trust
UK Aid FCDO
Unbeelievable Health
Waterloo Foundation
Welsh Govt Wales and Africa Programme
Yasaeng Beekeeping Supplies
2BScientific

And we thank everyone who kindly donated funds, their time and expertise to help our Charity

Partnerships

We enjoy close connections with many national and regional beekeeping associations, and like-minded NGOs. Our work internationally can only be achieved by working in tandem with others, achieving mutually beneficial results with organisations such as Apimondia, The World Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and ACBO, and The Association of Caribbean Beekeeping Organisations.

2020 Award

The Big Give ChristmasChallenge 2019
Winner of Best Environmental/ Climate Change Charity

Bees for Development is an approved partner of 1% FOR THE PLANET

Support us

Funds raised enable us to transform the lives of thousands of the most disadvantaged people in a way that benefits the environment, too.

There are many ways you can help us to transform lives worldwide:

Take up a fundraising challenge
Have fun while raising vital funds.

Shop with us
Every penny of profit from our shop goes towards our work.

We run events and training courses
Visit our website for details.

www.beesfordevelopment.org

£5 per month

Helps produce and distribute accessible disability-specific guides and training manuals

£10 per month

Helps us to train one person for a whole year

£20 per month

Provides support for a family starting with bees

£50 donation

Provides tools for training in bee hive making

Bees for Development
1 Agincourt Street,
Monmouth, NP25 3DZ UK
info@beesfordevelopment.org
Tel: 01600 714848
UK Charity No 1078803

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