Making Life Better With BEES

IMPACT REPORT 2021
About Bees for Development

We are a specialist beekeeping charity with a unique purpose – to make life better with bees. All our work is aimed at unlocking the benefits of beekeeping to help people out of poverty - while at the same time supporting ecosystem integrity.

You will find us hard at work in the town of Monmouth in Wales, from where our team of professional staff collaborate with our international partner organisations to deliver work that makes a difference to people's lives. Every day we are meeting with our colleagues to understand the needs of people living in poverty, and work with them to find the most cost-effective solutions. We provide technical support and build capacity – always driven by our determination to use every pound we raise to maximum effect.

We work to ensure that people who face inequality - often women and girls, people with disabilities, and minority, indigenous people - are enabled to access benefits from bees.

We develop the benefits of bees and beekeeping towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our impact in 2021 has contributed to reducing hunger and poverty, supporting life on land, mitigating climate change, empowering women, and building stronger partnerships.

In 2021 we faced Covid and Brexit too, both of which had their impact upon our organisation. Meanwhile the need for people to have sustainable, rural incomes only goes on increasing. Bees’ value to the ecosystem is beyond measure, and it is beekeeping's ability to provide a worthwhile income, without incurring huge start-up costs, which makes it so useful. And since it depends upon bees and good natural habitat, beekeeping gives people incentive to protect and restore the earth's precious biodiversity. This is why our team at Bees for Development are so enthusiastic about what we do – we all know how well it works.

Beekeeping offers a genuine way for people to address some of the world's greatest problems.
Thank you for supporting our work - in this booklet we offer you an overview of our achievements in 2021, and how we enabled people to improve their lives. We do not hand out equipment – we teach people to make their own, and to sell their produce successfully, which they can continue doing long after our involvement has finished.

Please do get in touch with us if you would like to know more.

Dr Nicola Bradbear
Founder Director
Bees for Development

OUR MISSION IS TO HARNESS THE POWER OF BEES TO ACHIEVE LESS POVERTY AND MORE BIODIVERSITY

OUR 2021 IMPACT in numbers

1,190 men and women started beekeeping in Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe

£80 average additional income earned from beekeeping by new trainees

56 hectares of degraded land protected near Lake Tana, Ethiopia

2,500m² of gullies stabilised in Alehuay, Ethiopia

75,000 trees planted in Ethiopia

28 bee habitat and watershed management committee members trained in Ethiopia

336 People with Disabilities now benefitting from the beekeeping sector in Uganda

8 disability adapted techniques developed and tested for beekeepers in Uganda

7 Disabled People’s Organisations in Uganda promoting beekeeping for people with disabilities

7 new Journal distribution hubs set up in 6 countries

I had the idea of beekeeping, but I had no knowledge on how to start. You brought the knowledge I needed. I know the value of honey… other means of earning money are very unreliable. I keep bees to get money to support my children in school.

Hawa Ibrahim, Ghana, November 2021
Hawa lives with her family in Kojorbator, on the edge of Digya National Park, Ghana. Like others in this community, Hawa and her family suffer from poverty and disadvantage – there are no secondary schools nearby and finding the money to send her children to school in town is a constant, almost unbearable worry. Her children’s education is her priority.

People in Hawa’s community are no strangers to bees. Honey hunting is widespread, giving people an understanding of the value of honey. However, this activity brings people into conflict with the Wildlife Department and is risky and unreliable. Hawa and her neighbours joined our beekeeping training workshops; there she learned how to make simple, fixed-comb hives, how to manage bees, and how to harvest and sell honey and beeswax.

Within a short time Hawa began harvesting and selling honey. She now has 37 colonies and her harvest in November 2021 yielded 175kg, filling five jerry cans! In December 2021, Hawa’s hard work paid off when she won the award for Best Beekeeper in the Kwahu Afram Plains District at the 2021 National Farmers’ Day Ceremony. Hawa’s life is now beginning to change for the better.

Local honey is increasingly valued by every society.
OUR IMPACT ON POVERTY

Landlessness, displacement, exclusion and marginal farming cause poverty and hunger in the countries where we work. Covid-19 has hit the poorest hardest. In Uganda, a further 10% of the most vulnerable have fallen below the poverty line. In Ethiopia, fighting has spread from Tigray to Amhara region causing widespread suffering. It is in these contexts that we work with our partner organisations to strengthen people’s livelihoods, with the help of bees.

Landing income without land

Bees harvest nectar and pollen from flowers across an area of up to 5,000 hectares around their colony. Beekeepers can thus earn an income from vast tracts of land, without having to own any land of their own. This is what makes beekeeping ideally suited to lifting landless people out of poverty. All that is needed to grow their beekeeping businesses are the skills to make beehives, to attract bees into them, to create the right conditions for them to thrive and to harvest honey and beeswax sustainably.

In 2021 we helped hundreds of people who do not have enough land to support their families. Near Digya National Park, Bees for Development Ghana are working in communities where families have suffered a history of displacement following the construction of the Akosombo Dam. In 2021, 600 newly trained beekeepers harvested honey for the first time, creating essential income.

1,190 people started beekeeping in Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe

£80 average additional income from beekeeping by new trainees
Until recently the Ysala conservation area was completely barren. When we started there was not one blade of grass!

Now it is green and very nice to behold. There is no question that this will be a great benefit to bees. Bees produce honey using what they gather from plants, from flowers.

We believe beekeepers support land restoration because it is highly beneficial for bees.

When forests and woodlands are strengthened, bees are strengthened.

Mulualem Asres, Ysala, 2021
Empowering the dispossessed

In southwestern Uganda, around Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area, our partner organisation TUNADO are promoting beekeeping among the Batwa, a minority group who have been dispossessed of their forest-based livelihoods. With agreed access for beekeeping on land immediately outside the Conservation Area, they are now earning both income and a stake in protecting the forest.

Annual incomes doubled

In Amhara, Ethiopia, a whole generation of rural landless people are dependent on casual labour. Bees for Development Ethiopia has been working to help landless youth find a different future – with the help of bees. After two years, those new to beekeeping were selling an average £100 worth of honey, representing an increase of between 50% and 70% of their annual cash income.

More resilient farms

The 15% decrease in the world price of cashew since the beginning of 2020 is being felt by farmers in Ghana. Bees for Development Ghana has supported over 180 cashew farmers in Wenchi and Techiman districts to integrate beekeeping into their farms. In 2021 we interviewed 101 beekeepers to find out how they and their bees are doing. On average, keeping between 3 and 5 colonies of bees has increased incomes on cashew farms by 60%. Those with smaller farms saw their income increase by as much as 150% thanks to beekeeping.
Naomi had recently lost her husband and was struggling to take care of their 3 children. She started learning about bees with us, is now managing 4 colonies and sold 193 kg of honey in 2021, earning 1,800 Ghana Cedis. By contrast, she made 1,200 Cedis selling cashew nuts from her 2-acre farm. She has installed an additional 4 hives on her cashew farm and sells her honey at her shop near the toll booth on the Techiman-Tamale highway.

"Sales of all my items have improved greatly, as travellers are more likely to stop at my spot now because they know it is a place where they can buy good quality honey."

Naomi Flood, Techiman, Ghana, 2021
Previously this area was very degraded, and the community suffered. Now the situation has changed. After we delivered conservation activities with the support of Bees for Development, the land is recovering. We are now motivated to extend this same work to another place called Gulagulimabut.

Abeje Belay, Ysala, 2021
OUR IMPACT ON NATURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The people we work with are some of the poorest in the world. Having access to natural resources underpins their survival – yet too often poverty locks people into cycles of environmental degradation and loss. The watershed areas around Lake Tana in Ethiopia have lost 80% of their forest cover since the 1980s. Here we have been working with some amazing people, communities who are striving to break this cycle and turn the tide on environmental degradation.

With Bees for Development Ghana, we are supporting communities living on the edge of Digya National Park, helping them to shift their livelihood activities towards forest-supporting activities, through sustainable beekeeping.

Erosion halted in Ethiopia

Restoring degraded land takes time. There are no quick fixes. It requires people with vision, patience and determination. It also requires hard work. Our work in Ysala, Ethiopia, began in 2018 – with community consultation and boundary delineation. Since that time, trees have been planted, eroding gullies repaired, and natural regeneration nurtured. By 2021 the impact was visible to everyone.

Trees are growing, springs are flowing – and honey bees are now finding an enriched habitat, provisioned with nectar and pollen. Beekeeping is the first economically productive activity which can put cash in the pockets of local people, without undermining these amazing results – indeed bees help the process by setting the seeds of the pioneer plants which are now regenerating.
Commitment to conservation reaches new communities

The results achieved in Ysala are motivating new communities to restore their land. With support from the District Natural Resource Office, a planning workshop was held between Bees for Development Ethiopia and the community of Alehuay in March 2021. For the people living near Alehuay, the degraded condition of the Dabit watershed has become a painful reality. At the workshop everyone declared their determination to restore the watershed, through building soil-conserving earth works, tree-planting and adherence to community by-laws to protect the site.

Also in 2021, the Dabit-1 Community Based Watershed Management Association was formed, to create and uphold local by-laws for site protection and management. The Association represents the community’s commitment to this endeavour and demonstrates their common understanding towards working together for change.

In March 2021 it was agreed that Bees for Development Ethiopia would revitalise the local tree nursery. By June the nursery was well-stocked with seedlings of *Acacia decurrens*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Croton macrostachyus*, *Grevillea robusta* and *Oxytenanthera abyssinica* (bamboo) and in July the tree-planting began. Women and men of all ages, government officers and Bees for Development Ethiopia team planted 75,000 trees in two sites.
Now we see the benefit. Where the check dams were built earlier in the year there is already a change.

Where there is more grass, we experience less flooding lower down the slopes in our crop fields. Now we are active to support this project.

Community members, Alehuay, Ethiopia
OUR IMPACT ON INCLUSION

Disability inclusion is a complex issue. Some people need adapted training materials, while others need help to lobby family members to allow them access to land. In 2021 we worked with TUNADO to support people with hearing and visual impairments.

People with disabilities are earning more money and respect

The people we trained are now earning money from bees, and being more independent. This has changed the way they view themselves, and others view them. The ability to contribute to household income garners respect, and builds self-esteem.

In addition to beekeeping, the groups in Jinja and Gulu are making beeswax products and hives and selling honey on behalf of others. Beneficiaries have been visited by district officials and have become local ambassadors for beekeeping. People come to them for advice and help, earning them yet more respect from their local community. 336 people are now directly employed and benefitting from the sector, surpassing our target.
Beekeeper friends, Jennifer and Patrick, have expanded their involvement in the sector by processing and bottling honey purchased from others in the community. Their customers are growing as are their ambitions. Jennifer’s honey brand is becoming well-known.

“

Able bodied people come to me, a blind person, asking for advice on bee farming...I can even make some money by providing these services.

Jennifer Abalo and Patrick Owio, Gulu, Uganda, 2021

Jennifer and Patrick are proving that people with disabilities can succeed in beekeeping.
More awareness

We have raised awareness across Uganda, showing beekeeping to be a viable way for people with disabilities to make a living. We have shared video case studies on national TV for the hearing impaired and we hosted a radio series with Q&A on how to do beekeeping for people with sight loss. We have worked closely with the National Disabled People's Unions, seeking their advice and sharing our results, so they can tell others.

Beekeeping more accessible

Beneficiary participation and feedback was fundamental at every stage while we designed and tested disability-inclusive approaches and resources: ‘Nothing about us without us’. People with disabilities helped us to create infographic posters for those with hearing impairments and poor literacy, while visually impaired people helped us to develop audio guides. We have shared these resources with other disabled people’s organisations.

We have trialled disability techniques, for example, installing string lines in apiaries to help the visually impaired people to navigate their apiary independently, and shown how touch can be used to detect ripe honey. These actions are incredibly empowering for people with disabilities. These approaches allow people to become their own agents of change, free to determine and assess their enterprise. Far from being hidden away, they can stand proud as they take charge of their lives.

We have established two beekeeping learning centres in Uganda, managed by people with disabilities. They act as hubs where first-hand knowledge of beekeeping can be shared.

A member of Jinja Deaf Beekeepers, Emmanuel Ndijja, gives a thumbs-up after learning how to make hives with TUNADO field officer, Ezekiel Okuga in Jinja, Uganda.
OUR IMPACT ON LEARNING

We provide reliable advice for people who need it. We respond to beekeepers around the world advising on a wide range of topics.

*Bees for Development Journal - greater distribution to remote areas*

During the pandemic we were obliged to distribute *BfD Journal* digitally - however as the situation settled in 2021, we have resumed printing. Our paper editions reach people in remote rural areas where access to internet is limited. 2021 saw the creation of Journal hubs making distribution to these areas more reliable.

**New Resource Centre**

In 2021 we rebuilt our online Resource Centre, making it more user friendly, optimising it for low-speed connections and publishing all past editions of *BfD Journal* in digital format. The Resource Centre contains more than 4,000 articles on all aspects of beekeeping, most not available elsewhere. It is open to all, and already celebrated as an invaluable library by beekeepers and researchers.

**7 new Journal distribution hubs set up in 6 countries**

**142 editions of *BfD Journal* made available digitally in 2021**

Natasha, Technical Co-ordinator and Wildlife Ecologist at Keystone Foundation India, hands over *BfD Journal* 140 to Murugan, President of the governing body of the local district.
OUR IMPACT IN THE UK
Spreading the word

We have been running our popular sustainable beekeeping courses in the UK for 13 years, focusing on what bees need and how to best care for them. We are adding more courses and venues to our calendar, as participants tell their friends how much fun they are.

Revenue from our UK courses supports our international development work.

BUILDING AWARENESS
We work to tell people about our achievements through key events. Our Monmouth Bee Festival in August 2021 attracted 3,500 visitors and we won a Bronze Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in September.

“
I loved the course. It was perfect in terms of hands-on and information balance, and it felt informal so that questions could be discussed. The setting for the day was totally lovely too.
Mima, UK, 2021

Fantastic two days, really good content, learnt so much from people with a wealth of experience.
Patrick, UK, 2021
Thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We thank the many individuals, beekeepers, clubs and associations who donated gifts, time and fund-raising effort in 2021. You have enabled us to achieve so much and although we cannot name all of you here, we appreciate everything you do. Thank you, all the businesses, charitable trusts and grant-giving bodies who have supported our work through 2021.

Alex Monroe
ADM Cares
Beeble
Beechworth Honey P/L
The Big Give
BJ Sherriff
Brentford FC
Briogeo
British Wax Refining Co Ltd
Chrysal International
Derby Cathedral
Didymus
Dragon Preparatory School
Education Services 2010
E.H. Thorne (Beehives) Ltd
Ethioplaid
Eva Crane Trust
Euromonitor International
Fortnum & Mason
Healing Herbs
Hiscox Foundation
Hudson Valley Bee Supply
Jumblebee Ltd
Koster Keunen
The Lapwing Trust
The Lizandy Charitable Trust
Mandarin Stone
Mirianog Trust
Monmouthshire Building Society
Neal’s Yard Remedies
Nelsons
Northern Bee Books
RG Hills Charitable Trust
Rowse Honey Ltd
Smiths Group Plc
St Marks Overseas Aid Trust
Straight Forward Design Ltd
Souter Trust
Tudor Trust
Unbeelievable Health
UK Aid Direct
The Waterloo Foundation
WCVA
Welsh Government
Wikiloc
Yasaeng Beekeeping Supplies
2BScientific

You are changing lives, we couldn't do it without you!
Jennifer Wandawa Kakai, an urban beekeeper near Mbale, Uganda. She tells us that interest in beekeeping and honey ‘skyrocketed’ during the Covid pandemic. Here she collects dry wax combs to process into beeswax blocks for sale.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>UK £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted grants</td>
<td>320,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts from Individuals, Associations, Trusts and Foundations</td>
<td>472,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£792,910</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project work in Ethiopia</td>
<td>255,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project work in Ghana</td>
<td>50,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project work in Uganda</td>
<td>108,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other work expenditure</td>
<td>27,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge, Information and Education Service, BfD Journal, Resource Boxes and training materials</td>
<td>178,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project management, monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>198,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications and fundraising</td>
<td>7,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£826,694</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This summary is for our financial year May 2020 – April 2021
WHO WE ARE

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

AMBASSADORS
Martin Fidler Jones
Alex Hirtzel
Peter Lead
Hilary Russel
Andrew Tuggey

TRUSTEES
Paul Smith, Chairman
Suzie Shaw, Secretary
Cathy Cooper, Treasurer
Sue Brown
Ole Hertz
Mike Krefta
Robert Spencer
Gladstone Solomon

Bees for Development North America is our USA registered 501(c)3 fundraising arm. Megan Denver, Jorik Phillips and Tom Seeley work to spread awareness about Bees for Development and to raise funds for our work. www.beesfordevelopmentnorthamerica.org
OUR STAFF TEAM UK

Director Nicola Bradbear
Programme Manager Janet Lowore
Project Manager Giacomo Ciriello
Project Manager Sean Lawson
Accounts Cindy Smith
Project Manager Milan Wiercx van Rhijn
Comms & Fundraising Richard Harrington
Coordinator Helen Jackson
Shop Manager Donna Regan
Shop Moira Cox
Assistant to the Director Emily Cullum

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS
Bees for Development ETHIOPIA led by Tilahun Gebey
Bees for Development GHANA led by Kwame Aidoo
The UGANDA National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO) led by Dickson Biryomumaisaho
Working for Bees ZIMBABWE led by Robert Mutisi

Some of the UK team outside our headquarters and shop in Monmouth, South Wales, on a chilly morning in early February 2022.

Revenue from the shop supports our work

VOLUNTEERS
We thank all our wonderful volunteers.

If you would like to become involved, please do get in touch!
Support us

Please donate to Bees for Development if you can. We use every £1 carefully, helping the poorest people to earn their way out of poverty through beekeeping. There are other ways you can help too:

- Fundraise for us, and spread the message
- Visit our shop in Monmouth and online
- Attend our events and courses, see our website for venues and dates

www.beesfordevelopment.org

£5 per month
helps us teach beekeeping skills to young people in schools and community groups

£10 per month
means we can plant trees to restore forests and provide nectar for bees

£20 per month
helps us train one person for a whole year, so that beekeeping can be a sustainable livelihood

£50 donation
provides tools and resources boxes for training in bee hive making, beekeeping and trading

Bees for Development
1 Agincourt Street,
Monmouth, NP25 3DZ, UK
info@beesfordevelopment.org
Tel: 01600 714848