Bees for Development

IMPACT REPORT 2018

BEES - BEEKEEPING - EDUCATION - POVERTY ALLEVIATION

UK charity 1078803

The power of bees

How bees and beekeeping change lives for the better.

As the story of **Bees for Development** continues, we demonstrate that the simple craft of keeping bees genuinely helps people to beat poverty.

The need to make a living in a sustainable way to benefit communities, pollinators, nature and the wider environment has never been more pressing. People and our environment are imperilled by critical factors: climate change, deforestation, pollution, biodiversity loss and more. Our Projects make a difference, in larger and smaller ways, to all of these.

We have begun recreating forests at Lake Tana in Ethiopia where the loss of trees due to over-grazing by livestock has caused land to erode and silt to build up in the lake, along with the disappearance of forage for pollinating bees, and loss of biodiversity.

Allowing the forest to recover, with the beekeeping opportunities it provides, will be of great help to many disadvantaged people. It will also contribute to several of these bigger-picture problems that face our world.

Nelson and Esther with their newly-made bamboo hive, Kabale, Uganda.
Bamboo grows fast and is a low-cost, sustainable material for hive-making.

What we do

Bees for Development helps some of the world's poorest people to become self-sufficient through beekeeping.

We help people living in desperate poverty to build resilient livelihoods by investing in beekeeping skills and knowledge, and building peoples' capacity to improve their own lives.

Bees for Development:

- 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
- Delivers training in beekeeping - often in highly challenging environments
- Puts local skills, knowledge and materials to use to ensure sustainable, cost-effective long-term solutions.
- Always works with local bees, local people and organisations

What we do

We studied the ecological sustainability of honey harvested from forests in South West Ethiopia. Our research revealed how these beekeepers value and protect their bees.

Overview

The focus of our work in 2018 has been in the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Extreme poverty is declining in many parts of the world, however it remains obstinately at high levels in some regions. Throughout 2018 we worked with our incredible partners in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda to bring the benefits of beekeeping to more people, to address chronic poverty. With a focus on investing in lead beekeepers, strengthening trade links and reaching the most vulnerable groups, we know that our work is enabling some of the poorest people to build more successful and sustainable futures.

We were delighted to be named Winner of Wales-Africa Overall Impact Award 2018 in recognition of our work and achievements in Africa.

This hive-making training is in Ligaba, Ethiopia. We work hard to combat the marginalisation of women through helping them to have bees of their own.

Ghana

Many small-scale farmers suffer from deep poverty, experience hunger in July and August, and their children drop out of school.

Keeping bees in cashew orchards delivers a double gain for rural families; cashew yields increase with pollination by bees, and honey and beeswax sales provide additional income.

Through our **Cashews, Bees and Livelihoods** Project, our work in training trainers and beekeepers is creating a core group of skilled young people with good knowledge and awareness about bees. They are working to create livelihoods and helping to protect forests and biodiversity. This is of immense value for bees and people in Ghana.

Bees for Development Ghana is setting up a network of Master Beekeepers.

The six Master Beekeepers we have recruited and trained so far, and the cashew growers they are supporting, now have 675 bee colonies.

We have:

- Helped beekeepers establish their own businesses and to develop links to markets for honey and beeswax
- Helped cashew growers to establish and maintain their bee colonies in their own orchards
- Provided beekeeping training to poor farmers to integrate bees with cashew growing

We thank Neal's Yard Remedies for supporting this work.

Ghana

Bondaso village is on the border of Digya National Park, Ghana. Villagers are forbidden by law to collect wild honey from the Park and are now learning, with the help of **Bees for Development Ghana**, how to make hives, and to care for bees outside the Park.

Ethiopia

Our three-year Project to *Increase household income and enhance livelihood resilience of vulnerable families and youth in Amhara, Ethiopia* was completed in May 2018 and helped nearly 1,000 of the most vulnerable people to increase their family income. This work was implemented in Bahir Dar and Dera through our partner organisation, Bees for Development Ethiopia.

We have enabled girls subject to childhood marriage to earn an independent living. Landless young people, women-headed households and other families in impoverished situations have been given skills and support to earn sustainable incomes.

This Project tested a model of using Community-Based Beekeeper Mentors. More experienced beekeepers were paired up with people who had never before kept bees. After attending three rounds of formal training, the new beekeepers were able to call on their mentors for help and advice as they faced challenges in the course of the beekeeping year. We trained government extension workers to provide follow-on support, and strengthened links between rural beekeepers and established honey markets.

We thank UK Aid Direct for financing this work.

Bees for Development Ethiopia delivered a partnership project in Ligaba, helping 100 landless youth to start beekeeping as a means to strengthen their vulnerable livelihoods.

We thank Gondar Rotary Club, Millom Rotary Club and The Rotary Foundation for supporting this Project.

Ethiopia

Dessalegn Bahri lives in Wonjeta, Ethiopia. He was taught by **Bees for Development Ethiopia** and he now sells honey to enable him to buy food and clothes for his family.

Ethiopia

We recognise the close link between bee health and environmental health.

This is why **Bees for Development Ethiopia** has been working with communities in northern Ethiopia to rehabilitate severely degraded land. The local community tell us which land needs to be protected and then they agree to close off the area from livestock grazing - to allow natural forest to recover.

Lessons learned

- **The local community must give full consent and everyone must participate,**
- **The community must develop an acceptable management plan for the site,**
- **Follow-up and after-care of planted trees is essential.**

Site one: *Gult Abishkan Kebele*, near Dangila. One portion of the site was planted with 18,000 bee forage trees, including *Grevillia robusta, Cordia africana, Croton macrostachis* and *Acacia spp.*

Site two: *Ysala Kebele*, near Bahir Dar. This hard-to-reach site includes an active gully which required arc weir bunds to be built to stabilise the channel before tree-planting could commence.

Our Bees, Trees and People Project is funded by Rowse Honey Ltd. Thank you!

> *Integrating land rehabilitation with beekeeping*
>
> *Yeshambel, 26, and his wife Birhane, 22, are living with their two children in Gult Abishkan. Two years ago, they joined the Project and started beekeeping. In the first year they harvested 8kg of honey; earning £20. This was used for schooling costs for their daughter and to buy food. Now, they have added two more hives.*

Ethiopia

In some parts of northern Ethiopia, almost total loss of natural forests is undermining the environments and natural resources on which local people depend. We are working to reverse this process by replacing forest cover and restoring bee habitat.

Uganda

Empowering people with disabilities - through beekeeping.

People with disabilities suffer disproportionately from extreme poverty: they face a whole range of barriers to securing economically viable livelihoods and tend to be marginalised and poor. Many disabilities such as blindness and deafness are not in themselves barriers to beekeeping, although people with these disabilities do need extra support. A person with disabilities can contribute to the family, and beekeeping helps them do it.

With the support of the National Lottery Community Fund, and working with The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO), a not-for-profit member organisation serving all Ugandan beekeepers, we studied beekeeping and disability in 2018.

We found that while many people with disabilities do keep bees successfully, many others are excluded.

We planned work to empower people with disabilities through beekeeping, with a focus on people with visual and hearing impairments. This Project will test approaches to overcoming barriers to participation in beekeeping.

> *People with disabilities are excluded.*
>
> *The Chairman of Nyabani Group, Kamwenge, Uganda, Mr Munyaigana James explained, "People with physical disabilities keep bees - because it is less laborious than farming. But people with other disabilities do not attend our meetings. Some need caretakers, making it costly because two people must travel, not one. It is expensive to hire a sign language interpreter for those with hearing issues. So they do not come."*

During this community meeting in 2018, we learned that attitudes towards people with disabilities in Uganda need to change if they are to benefit more from development programmes.

Cameroon

Forest-conserving honey in Mount Oku.

In 2018 we worked with Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW), supporting forest-fringe communities to keep bees. Beekeeping helps to make conservation pay, by demonstrating the financial benefits of sustainable forest management.

We supported the CAMGEW Honey Shop to enable beekeepers to trade their products for a fair price.

Achievments in Cameroon include:

- Honey shop on track to becoming a sustainable business;
- CAMGEW purchased 2.49 tonnes of honey in 2018;
- Beehive construction training delivered;
- Bee trees planted;
- Experience-sharing between new and advanced beekeepers;
- Community-based beekeeper cooperatives established.

This Project was funded by the Welsh Government's Wales for Africa Grant Scheme.

> *The CAMGEW Honey Shop brings benefits to beekeepers*
>
> "The honey shop buys beekeepers' produce at a good price. Our aim is to quickly enable beekeepers to convert honey and beeswax into money. This way, they will put more effort into protecting their beehives in the forest and this includes guarding against bushfire. The good thing is that this money goes back into the shop to buy honey and wax from more farmers", *Emmanual Wirsy*, Cameroon and Environment Watch, Cameroon.

Cameroon

Beeswax is sometimes harder to sell than honey, not because of low international demand but because the *first link* in the market chain is missing. The CAMGEW Honey Shop provides this *first link* for beekeepers near Oku, Cameroon.

UK

In 2018, we and the Global Development Division of Reading University organised the Scientific Symposium on Research in Beekeeping and Sustainable Development.

40 enthusiastic participants enjoyed two days of research talks from 25 presenters from Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, India, South Sudan, Uganda and the UK.

Presentations covered topics about the transfer of knowledge, honey trade development, the link between honey trade and forest conservation, pollination services and the role of beekeeping in meeting the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Participants agreed that the benefits of apiculture for social and economic wellbeing are significant, extremely diverse and sometimes hard to measure.

As a sector we have so much work to do to communicate the results of our work, meaning others can build on lessons learned, avoid repeated misunderstandings, and constantly improve best practice.

In 2017, with Bee Friendly Monmouthshire, we published the Hedgerow Manifesto; a booklet that describes best practice for maintaining hedgerows and roadside trees to maximise benefit for wildlife.

We organised the Monmouth Bee Festival and welcomed the Council, bee associations, plastic-free groups, live street theatre, sellers of bee-friendly plants and many others. We published a Bee Map of Monmouth and Open Bee Gardens, where local people could visit some of the best bee-friendly gardens in the area.

The Symposium received financial support from The Eva Crane Trust.

Participants at our **Symposium on Research in Beekeeping and Sustainable Development** at Reading University. The event provided a unique forum for discussions around beekeeping and sustainable development.

Financial report for the year ended 30 April 2018

Income	**£**
Restricted grants	84,447
Charitable trusts and foundations	53,015
Gifts from individuals and associations	124,837
The Big Give Christmas Challenge	40,000
Total	*302,299*

Expenditure	**£**
Project Work in Ghana	18,975
Project Work in Ethiopia	89,171
Project Work in Cameroon	10,000
Project Work in Uganda	5,000
Project Work in Vietnam	12,728
Project Management	27,000
Costs of generating funds	26,459
Journal and Resource Boxes	26,000
Worldwide Information Services	49,000
Total	*276,408*

Thank you

Thank you

We are supported by many generous individuals and organisations.

In particular we acknowledge:

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
Artemis Charitable Trust
Didymus
DfID UK Aid Direct
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Ethiopiaid
Eva Crane Trust
Millom Rotary Club
Neals Yard Remedies Ltd.
National Lottery Community Fund
Red River Foods
Rowse Honey Ltd.
Stroud Buzz Club
The Rotary Foundation
Wales for Africa

About us

Bees for Development was established in 1993 and is now the leading international organisation specialising in sustainable beekeeping for alleviating poverty.

In the UK we provide courses on sustainable beekeeping and take part in local and national efforts to protect pollinators and their habitats. Our offices are in Monmouth, South Wales where we have a shop whose revenue supports our work.

Trustees

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

Patrons

Monty Don
Baroness Anita Gale
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Professor Tom Seeley
Sting (Gordon Sumner)
Bill Turnbull

Bees for Development North America
We are delighted to welcome Megan Denver to our team. Megan has established **Bees for Development North America** as a 501(c)(3) fund-raising arm for our work.

How you can help

How you can help

We need long-term support, and you can help us by donating with a monthly Direct Debit gift.

It is easy to set up, you can choose how much you wish to give, and it enables us to plan ahead and act wherever the need is greatest and most urgent.

£5 per month

Helps us to teach beekeeping skills to young people in schools and community groups.

£10 per month

We can plant trees to restore forests and provide nectar for bees.

£20 per month

Provides full training to a beekeeper for one year, transforming someone's life out of poverty in a sustainable and environmentally good way.

£50 one off donation

Sends a Resource Box of valuable training resources to a beekeeping group.

Bees for Development

The UK charity helping some of the world's poorest people to become self-sufficient through beekeeping.

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Bees for Development Trust is the working title of The Troy Trust, Registered Charity 1078803
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