



**RAINFOREST
FOUNDATION UK**

SECURING LANDS, SUSTAINING LIVES

**2020/21
ANNUAL
REVIEW**

A photograph of two indigenous people in a dugout canoe on a river in a rainforest. The people are using long wooden paddles. The background is a dense green forest. The text is overlaid on a green banner.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK IS TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS OF THE WORLD'S RAINFORESTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROTECT THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND FULFIL THEIR RIGHTS TO LAND, LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD.

We tackle deforestation locally and globally. Locally, we help forest communities to gain land rights, challenge harmful industries, manage their forests and protect their environment. Globally, we campaign to influence national and international laws to protect rainforests and their inhabitants.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

2 OUR PARTNERS

5 RFUK AND COVID19

7 COMMUNITY FORESTS

9 REAL-TIME COMMUNITY FOREST MONITORING

11 MAPPING FOR RIGHTS

13 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN PERU

15 RESEARCH-LED ACTION

17 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

19 THANK YOU

22 MEET OUR TRUSTEES

23 MEET OUR STAFF

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



A message from Joe Eisen, RFUK Executive Director

It has been a seismic couple of years for the world, and for RFUK it has been no different. I am immensely proud of how the team and our network of local and indigenous partners in rainforest countries have responded to COVID-19. It is testimony to their commitment that we are emerging from the depths of the pandemic with renewed confidence.

On a personal level, it has been a real honour to take the helm of an organisation that has been such a big part of my life for the past 12 years. Especially one that consistently delivers such impact for forests and forest peoples. For this, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Simon Counsell, who stepped down at the end of 2019 after 23 years of service to the organisation.

I write as the dust settles on the crucial climate talks at COP26. While too much of the summit was style over substance, it did mark an important milestone in our journey to put social justice at the heart of environmental protection with global leaders lining up to declare their support for indigenous peoples.

As the spotlight shifts from Glasgow, the challenge is now to turn this rhetoric into action. As ever, RFUK and our local partners are leading the way through our projects, tools and approaches that put forest communities in the driving seat. Our community forest programme in the DR Congo has gone from strength to strength with the establishment of ten community forests covering 100,000 hectares with many more in the pipeline. Our MappingForRights programme provides a blueprint for the mapping of community lands - an essential first step to legally securing these areas, whilst the ForestLink real-time forest monitoring initiative has now expanded to seven countries.

If innovative grassroots projects are part of RFUK's DNA, then so is strong research-led advocacy that shines a light on the growing threats to rainforests and the false solutions to these threats. On this front, I am happy to report on several important wins for our industrial logging, sustainable conservation and climate campaigns over the past year.

That RFUK is continually able to punch above its weight and effect such change is only possible thanks to our loyal supporters. Stay tuned for further developments.

Very best,
Joe

OUR PARTNERS

RFUK's partnership approach is one of our strengths and something we are leaders in. With admiration for their knowledge and courage, we provide technical support, advocacy, amplification, strategic development and more, to like-minded grassroots groups to achieve the change they want to see. Our approach enables us to work together to achieve sustainable change by building strong civil societies and ensures effectiveness and quality in the implementation of our projects.

CAGDFT



 DRC, Kinshasa

CAGDFT have played a central role building the legal framework for Community Forests in DRC – one of the most progressive in Central Africa. We will continue to work with them to bring actors together – government, donors, and civil society – to ensure land rights are at the centre of DRC's response to climate change.



PREPPYG

 DRC, Butembo

Grassroots organisation **PREPPYG** works closely with forest and indigenous communities in North Kivu, promoting their rights and providing training on agricultural activities and community enterprise to enhance their wellbeing. With Réseau CREF and RFUK, they are also spearheading community forestry in their region.



 DRC, Mbandaka

GASHE is a leading Congolese NGO based in Equateur province, DRC. Together we have gone from mapping traditional territories, which were not recognised by law, to securing these lands as official Community Forests. Improving livelihoods and forest protection is our next step!



 DRC, Kinshasa

Courageous advocates of human rights and better forest governance, and pioneers in denouncing gender-based violence by conservation agents, in just a few years since their founding, **APEM** have become leaders among Congolese NGOs. With them, we aim to put human rights at the heart of forest management in DRC.



 DRC, Kinshasa and Kindu

Pioneers of participatory land use planning in the province of Maniema, **GeoFirst** are empowering communities to manage their forests effectively, ensuring that their resources will be available for future generations. Our joint short-term goal is to secure these lands as Community Forests.



Réseau CREF

 DRC, Goma

A strong NGO network in North Kivu, **Réseau CREF** has supported communities to manage their lands long before there were laws to protect these efforts, and often against powerful interests such as mining and conservation. Defending forest peoples' rights and livelihoods in this dynamic but volatile region drives our joint work.

OUR WORK IS DELIVERED THROUGH LONG- AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ORGANISATIONS SUSTAINED IN RAINFOREST COUNTRIES. SEVERAL OF OUR PARTNERS HAVE BEEN DEFENDERS, WITH A NUMBER BEING WIDELY CONSIDERED AS THE NOBEL



Ghana, Accra

Leaders in the space of independent forest monitoring, **Civic Response** have supported communities all over the country to denounce illegal logging and claim their dues from timber companies using ForestLink. Our common goals include pushing for a stronger government response to support these efforts.

CS-IFM

Liberia, Monrovia

2020 marked the start of our work in Liberia, where the **CS-IFM** coalition has adopted ForestLink to empower forest communities to monitor and denounce illegal activities in their lands.

Ivory Coast, Abidjan

We have proudly recently expanded our presence to the Ivory Coast where we are working with IDEF to deploy the ForestLink system supporting community based monitoring of deforestation and illegal forest activities.



Peru, Satipo

Winner of the UN Equator Prize, **Kemito Ene** is a unique indigenous cooperative in Peru. They support Asháninka families to produce sustainable, organic cocoa and to sell it to international markets to enhance their livelihoods while preserving their ancestral forests. This, according to the Asháninka vision of "a good life".



Peru

CARE represents the Asháninka people in the Ene river valley, central Peruvian Amazon. Under CARE's leadership, they have emerged from the darkness of civil war, strongly defending a way of life that upholds their culture and protects their forests. Our joint work now focusses on using technology and innovation to support these endeavours.



Peru

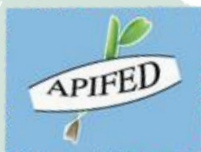
Led by a Goldman Prize winner, **FENAMAD** is the regional indigenous organisation in Madre de Dios, one of the most biodiverse but threatened parts of the Amazon. With the ForestLink system, RFUK and FENAMAD have created a community forest observatory that is at the forefront of rights based solutions to climate change.

**TERM PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL NGOS
SO THAT CAPACITY AND AUTONOMY IS
WE ARE EXCEPTIONALLY PROUD THAT
GLOBALLY RECOGNISED AS ENVIRONMENTAL
RECIPIENTS OF THE GOLDMAN PRIZE
PRIZE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.**



Cameroon, Yaoundé

Long-time partners and co-creators of ForestLink, our community real time monitoring system, **FODER** is at the head of civil society efforts in Cameroon to promote legality in the forest sector. We are working hand in hand to ensure logging operators and governments fulfil their responsibilities towards both communities and the environment.



Cameroon, Djoum

A small local organisation but with a brave and committed team, **APIFED** have fiercely contested land grabs and displacement of local Baka populations by a rubber plantation. APIFED also support the Baka in denouncing poachers, and they have played a vital role raising awareness about COVID-19 in their region.



Cameroon, Ntui

ECODEV work in the central region of Cameroon, mainly in the domains of natural resource governance and community empowerment and health. With the ForestLink system, ECODEV pushes logging companies to fulfil their social obligations towards local and indigenous communities, with whom they have close ties.

CADD

Central African Republic (CAR), Bangui

Within just a few years since its creation, **CADD** has become a leading organisation pushing for forest peoples' land rights in the Central African Republic. Working hand in hand with local communities, even throughout the pandemic, our joint goal is to secure their traditional lands through the designation of community forests.



Republic of Congo (RoC)

CJJ was founded by a group of young lawyers seeking to help forest communities to fight for their rights. Today, they are a reference organisation in the Republic of Congo, promoting better forest governance and with presence all over the country. With support from RFUK, they are pioneers of community based forest monitoring.

RFUK & COVID-19

"In remote forest areas, there is often no access to information and no health care facilities. Providing necessities and clear messages can help forest communities avoid the worst."

Bienvenu Kemanda, Coordinator, Centre D'appui Pour Le Développement Durable (CADD) in the Central African Republic.

A look back over the pandemic and our response

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for everyone, and especially so in rainforests where indigenous communities can suffer from a lower immunity to respiratory illnesses and often lack access to affordable healthcare. Some regions also witnessed a surge in illegal logging and land invasions, further exposing local communities to the virus and exacerbating the climate crisis.

Over the past 18 months, RFUK's network of local partners has been working in these areas to provide much needed support. In June 2020, we held a livestream concert with our sister organisations in the US and Norway that brought together indigenous peoples and NGOs with global stars including our founder Sting, Stephen Fry, Gisele and Gilberto Gil to raise awareness and funds for COVID-19 relief in rainforests.

The 'SOS Rainforest Live' event together with our COVID-19 Appeal raised \$350,000 that has since supported some truly inspiring work in getting medical supplies and support to hard-hit communities.



CORONA VIRUS WÔÔSSÔLÔ


Baka for 'stop coronavirus'

In the forests of southern Cameroon, where indigenous Baka communities mostly lack any rights to forest lands they have inhabited for centuries, our local partner APIFED has been working on the ground to deliver vital services and health awareness in dozens of villages.

In the Madre de Dios region of Peru, one of the earth's most biodiverse but threatened eco-systems, the indigenous peoples association FENAMAD has supported communities through the pandemic.

They repurposed our ForestLink monitoring system to send alerts about COVID-19 related developments in its communities and to restrict access to its territories in order to stop the spread of the virus.

The strength of our response in rainforest areas is testimony to the dedication of our partners. A heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters – individuals, foundations and institutional donors – for your support over this period. We could not continue our important work without you, especially when crisis hits.



"We have taken a difficult decision: to stay in our communities, longer than the national measures, to avoid spreading the coronavirus. We will resist, as we have resisted before to so many diseases and threats to our way of life and our lands."

Julio Cusurichi, President, FENAMAD

COMMUNITY FORESTS



“We want to be present whenever issues are being discussed and we will stand up and have our voice heard. It didn’t used to be like that”

Female Irebu Villager

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In DRC, where RFUK and our local partners campaigned for years for community forest legislation that enabled communities, for the very first time, to gain collective control over their lands, we are spearheading efforts to mainstream this in the country.

We have so far supported ten communities in Equateur and North Kivu provinces to establish their community forests (CFs), covering more than 100,000 hectares and home to 25,000 people. We are now supporting them to manage and protect these areas for future generations by facilitating community decision-making, the development of land use plans and promoting sustainable income generation activities.

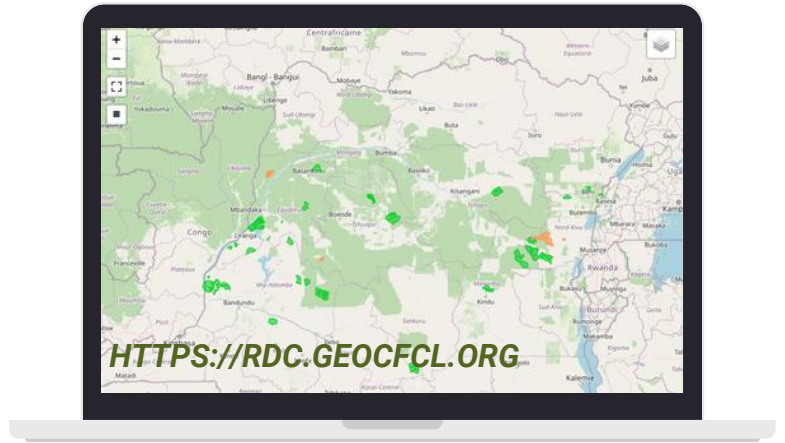


Our CFs benefit

25,000

forest people

At the national level, RFUK is supporting implementation of the national community forest strategy adopted in 2018 as well as the national roundtable process that brings communities together with NGOs, governments and the private sector to build consensus and share best practice from across the territory. In a major policy win, the DRC government recently committed to doubling the area under community forest management to at least 5 million hectares by 2025.



Central African Republic (CAR)

In a current state of political turmoil and with virtually all of its 5 million hectares of tropical forest allocated to logging and protected areas, CAR is one of the most challenging countries in which RFUK works.

As such, we are immensely proud that our local partner CADD has been able to keep community forests on the agenda, including by supporting the first ever requests for community forests in the country, which have been preapproved and are awaiting official confirmation.

Through the innovative “Farmer Field Schools” approach, we are also supporting communities to improve their food production by testing different agricultural techniques for crops such as cassava, corn or squash on communal plots of land to enhance food security, soil quality and forest cover.



REAL-TIME COMMUNITY FOREST MONITORING



"We have never had anything like this technology in the community. You know that illegal mining is nearby, and we sometimes see miners along the river. RFUK's ForestLink system allows us to be safer. We can control out territory now and send alerts if anything happens."

Wilmer, community monitor, Peru



**MONITORING
& COLLECTION**



**REPORTING
& DATABASE**



VERIFICATION



ENFORCEMENT



ADVOCACY

Our ForestLink community forest monitoring initiative is unlocking the potential of traditional forest guardians to monitor and protect their forest homes, enabling them to transmit highly accurate and low-cost alerts of forest illegalities in real-time.

Community monitors use a smartphone app (Collectaur) to collect evidence of illegal logging, using photos, videos and audio recordings. This evidence is transmitted via a portable satellite transmitter, SMS or internet connection to a secure database (Monitaur) for analysis by partner organisations.

Once verified, this information is then passed onto the appropriate authorities so they can take action, such as sanctioning illegal operators.

ForestLink is now operational in seven countries across Peru, Central and West Africa, connecting local communities and grassroots organisations with forest authorities to enhance law enforcement and good governance. As demand for the system grows, we will further develop the two-way communication system to allow our partners to keep communities abreast of what is happening with their alerts and to transmit satellite alerts to community observers for ground-truthing. The system is also starting to be applied in other areas such as the monitoring of illegal mining, wildlife poaching and human rights abuses.

Visit our new dedicated micro-site [FORESTLINK.ORG](https://www.forestlink.org) for more information about the system.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - alerts sent by 13 communities in Equateur province have prompted 17 verification missions by our local partner GASHE, and 6 joint missions with the authorities, leading to the first ever prosecution of a timber company under the DRC Forest Code. The project has been so successful that community forest monitoring has now been enshrined in law, a vital step towards legitimizing the work of forest monitors. Communities are now providing their own training and support at the request of neighbouring villages.



Republic of Congo (RoC) - ForestLink has been successfully rolled out by our partner CJJ in 6 villages, in 4 sites with 14 community observers.

In **Cameroon**, ForestLink alerts have led to the suspension of illicit operations and seizure of illegal timber, and supported local communities to claim thousands of dollars in unpaid royalties owed to them by logging companies. The project, coordinated by FODER, has strengthened the role of civil society as a watchdog through the ISO certified Normalised System of External Independent Monitoring (SNOIE) network.

In **Ghana**, ForestLink is empowering communities to stand up to timber companies operating on their lands. An analysis by our partner Civic Response shows that 52 out of 72 communities trained on ForestLink have reported receipt of their due benefits from their Social Responsibility Agreements (SRA) with timber companies. The government's Forest Commission is also increasingly embracing the system to improve the transparency and effectiveness of its law enforcement activities. 13 District Managers in Ghana have been given administrative access to ForestLink.

We also conducted promising pilot projects in **Liberia** and the **Ivory Coast**; the first time that RFUK has worked in these countries.

In **Peru**, where the COVID-19 pandemic hit especially hard, our indigenous partner FENAMAD modified the ForestLink application to enable communities to report cases and protect themselves. Despite challenges, the programme has been expanded to 18 communities who are using the app to defend their territories from illegal loggers and gold miners, and triggering 5 verification missions.



MAPPING F PUTTING COMMUN

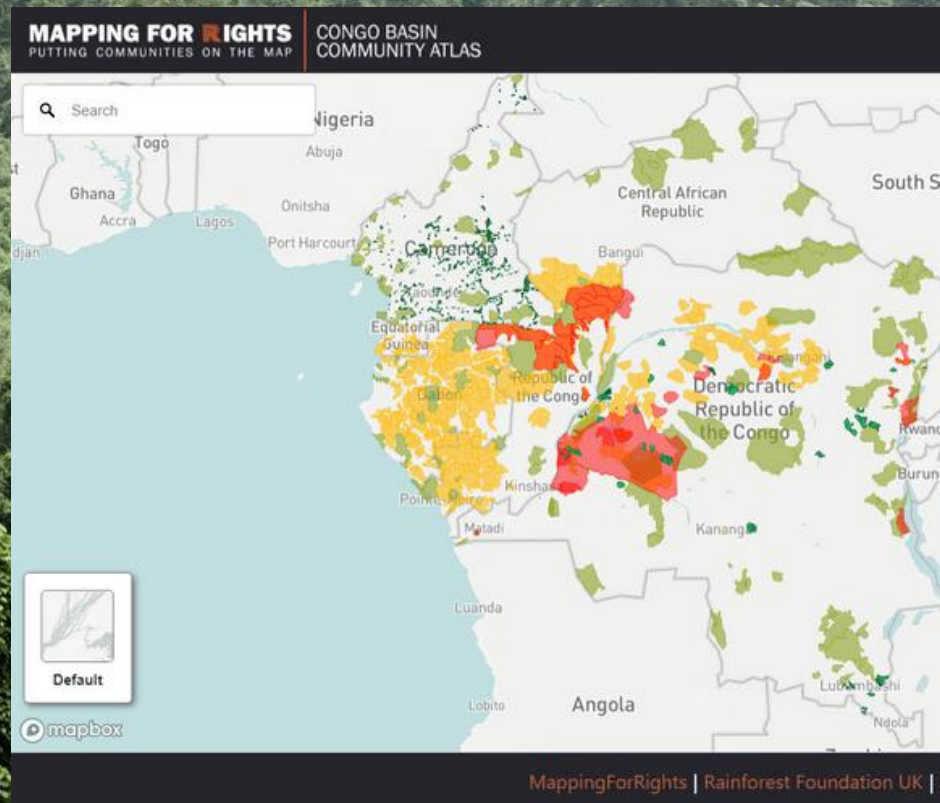
[HTTP://WWW.MAPPI](http://www.mappingforrights.org)



9,000,000
hectares of forest
mapped



Participatory mapping in
5
countries



Last year, we launched the upgraded version of our award-winning MappingForRights initiative that puts forest communities on the map. The new Congo Basin Community Atlas contains over a thousand community maps and land use plans covering more than nine million hectares

- an area the size of Scotland, produced by forest peoples themselves with low cost, high performance mapping tools. Documenting their otherwise 'invisible' lands and resources is an important first step to defending and advancing human rights, and is increasingly

FOR RIGHTS INITIATIVES ON THE MAP

[WWW.RAINFORRIGHTS.ORG/](https://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/)



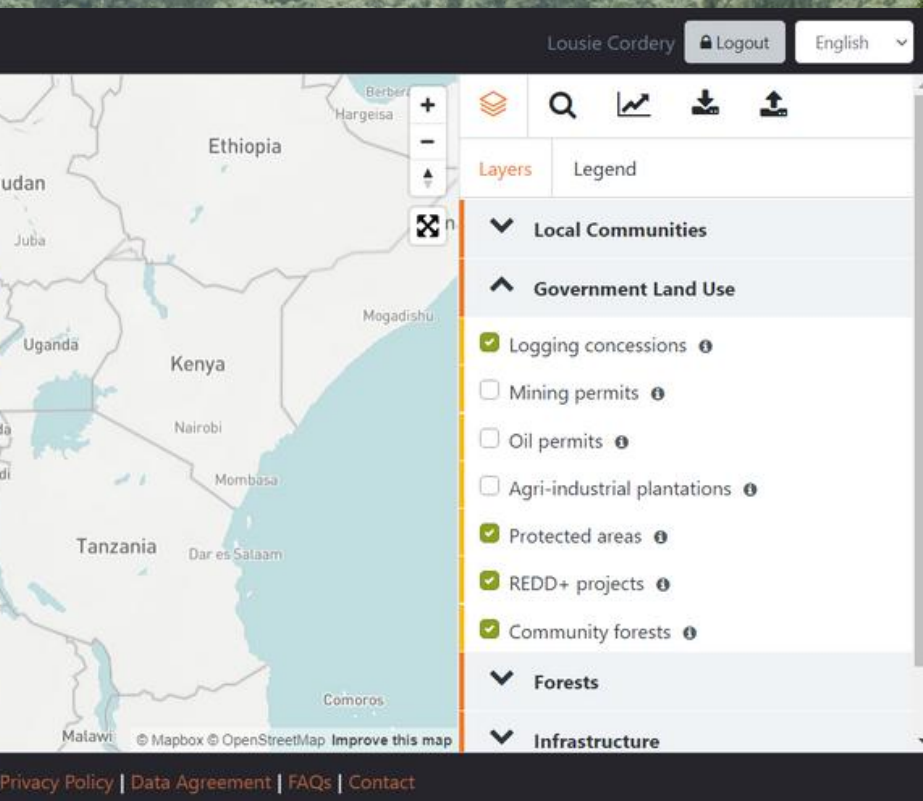
7,000

**community mappers
trained**



1,000

**communities
mapped**



recognised as being essential to fair and sustainable protection of forests. These maps are used in a range of different ways, from supporting community forest applications and participatory land use planning processes, to demonstrating the impacts of strictly protected areas or

carbon offsetting projects on local communities. Registered users of the community atlas can access information on villages, forest cover and the provision of state services in these areas as well as various analytical tools and map stories.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PERU

We have worked in the Ene river valley in the central Peruvian Amazon since the 1990s, supporting Asháninka communities to title their ancestral lands.

We also supported Asháninka communities effort to define, in practical terms, what the “good life” means for them. After thorough consultation, the Asháninka defined an agenda that still guides their collective actions and that is the basis for our work with them. One of their main priorities: having livelihood activities that are compatible with their culture and the need to protect the forest for future generations; cocoa production provided such an opportunity for Asháninka families. After ten years of joint work, the Asháninka founded an indigenous cooperative, Kemito Ene, which now has hundreds of members and sells their cocoa to international markets under Organic and Fair Trade labels, and which was awarded the UN Equator Prize in 2019. Better standards of farming and cropping, improved prices and more secure market access have enabled Asháninka families to increase their income and well-being, whilst respecting their culture and the environment.

Despite Kemito Ene’s success, we have still learnt a lot around the main common challenges that come with small-scale producer organisations (SPOs), in the context of locally-controlled forestry. Strong governance mechanisms to manage their landscapes are necessary developments, as are land use plans that ensure gender-appropriate and fair participatory operational incentives for sustainable forest management. These can act as starting points to further develop local enterprises around a common goal, that add value and expand the economic opportunities to their members. Equally, forest management plans that reduce deforestation and degradation, and promote and enhance ecosystem services need to be established.

Taking into consideration lessons learned from the past years, since 2020 we have continued to support Kemito Ene and the indigenous representative organisation Central Asháninka del Río Ene (CARE) to launch a renewed strategy: sustainable cocoa production and enhanced collective action to improve Asháninka livelihoods.

Our aims in the medium-term are to provide tools, knowledge and finance to Kemito Ene and its members, in collaboration with CARE, that can translate to:

- Secured tenure arrangements governing land and forest access and use
- Fostering participation from multiple actors in decision making processes by formalising participation mechanisms and rules



We are aiming for a
20%
increase in cocoa
productivity

- Increased quality and volume of cocoa production
- Developing transparent and lasting relationships with different actors, particularly to diversify client bases
- Diversifying demand-led value chain developments that are inclusive
- Ensuring gender-appropriate operational incentives for sustainable agroforestry management



We directly benefit around

1,000

Asháninka people

As a starting point, we identified 200 farmers in 13 communities who wished to be involved in the project moving forward. These farmers were then consulted around their priorities for better management of their lands and resources.

Based on this consultation, we will now continue to work with Kemito Ene and CARE on the identified priorities and needs. This will ultimately translate into securing the livelihoods of the Asháninka families, and help to enhance Kemito Ene's organisational capacity. Not only this, it will also increase sustainable practices in Asháninka families production systems.

200

producers



13

communities

RESEARCH-LED ACTION



Strong, research-led advocacy and campaigns are part of RFUK's DNA. Here is a sample of our recent activities and impact.

Tackling threats to forests and forest peoples

In the run up to COP26, RFUK coordinated an international campaign involving 45 Congolese and international NGOs, the scientific community and over 100,000 citizens to stop the imminent lifting of the national logging moratorium in DRC that threatened some of the last intact tropical forests on earth. RFUK will continue to be at the forefront of efforts to uphold the ban, which is likely to come under renewed pressure in the coming year.

While tackling direct threats to the Congo Basin forests, RFUK has conducted important research into the underlying drivers of deforestation, particularly the role of **infrastructure development**, and so-called **selective logging**, that has previously gone under the radar of policy makers.

Sustainable conservation and human rights

Our sustainable conservation and human rights campaign has made significant strides over the past year, leading to one of the biggest shake-ups of the conservation industry in decades. In DRC, the landmark conviction of 'eco-guard' for human rights abuses in the Salonga National Park marked the first time that anti-poaching agents in the country have been found guilty of such crimes. Our work in the Lomami landscape in the east of the country is giving voice to communities impacted by the creation of the National Park there.



At the global level, our international campaign prompted high-level government enquiries into international biodiversity programmes in the US, Germany and the EU, leading to major reforms of human rights laws and policies that apply to the tens of millions of pounds spent annually on rainforests.

Offsets and other false climate solutions

RFUK has continued to shine a light on 'false solutions' to climate change that delay urgent action in the Global North while penalising indigenous peoples and other local communities least responsible for this crisis.

A joint report by RFUK and our partner APEM found that one of the world's highest profile jurisdictional emissions reductions programmes in the Mai Ndombe province of DRC was failing to uphold social safeguards, deliver local benefits, or prevent deforestation. The findings, based on participatory research with dozens of communities, led the World Bank to stall the programme pending major improvements to it.

While drawing attention to the **risks of offsetting schemes**, we have pushed for climate policies that put forest communities at their heart. Following our extensive consultation of civil society in the provinces, the DRC government agreed to put community forests at the heart of its revised nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the Paris Climate Accord.

Towards land-use planning

With land use planning reforms underway across the Congo Basin, an RFUK **report on land-use planning in Cameroon and DRC** draws on previous experiences in the region as well as best practices from elsewhere in the world to look at barriers and opportunities to the inclusion of forest peoples in such processes. Among the findings are that land use planning must be accompanied by a mapping and strengthening of community land rights, building of local planning institutions and genuine multi-stakeholder processes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2020

Income and endowments	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds 2020	Prior period total funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	302,764	-	302,764	328,053
Events & other income	18,367	-	18,367	21,304
Investments	287	-	287	2,199
Charitable activities	-	1,619,799	1,619,799	2,782,571
Total income and endowments	<u>321,418</u>	<u>1,619,799</u>	<u>1,941,217</u>	<u>3,134,127</u>

Resources expended	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds 2020	Prior period total funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	32,202	-	32,202	48,466
Charitable activities	267,836	1,519,361	1,787,197	3,426,478
Other	23,087	2,330	25,417	69,799
Total expenditure	<u>323,125</u>	<u>1,521,691</u>	<u>1,844,816</u>	<u>3,544,743</u>

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds 2020	Prior period total funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Net income	(1,707)	98,108	96,401	(410,616)
Unrealised gain on foreign currency	(1,210)	2,306	1,096	(21,042)
Transfer between funds	(503)	503	-	-
Net movement in funds	(3,420)	100,916	97,497	(431,657)
Total funds brought forward	<u>198,427</u>	<u>243,846</u>	<u>442,273</u>	<u>873,931</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>195,007</u>	<u>344,762</u>	<u>539,769</u>	<u>442,273</u>

BALANCE SHEET

as of 31st December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	7,514	10,348
Investments	2	2
Current assets		
Stock	-	-
Debtors – due within one year	80,394	179,731
Cash at bank and in hand	740,500	297,859
Current liabilities		
Creditors – due within one year	88,641	45,667
Creditors – falling due after one year	200,000	-
Total net assets	<u>539,769</u>	<u>442,273</u>
Funds of the charity		
Unrestricted	195,007	198,427
Restricted	344,762	243,846
Total charity funds	<u>539,769</u>	<u>442,273</u>



THANK YOU SIMON



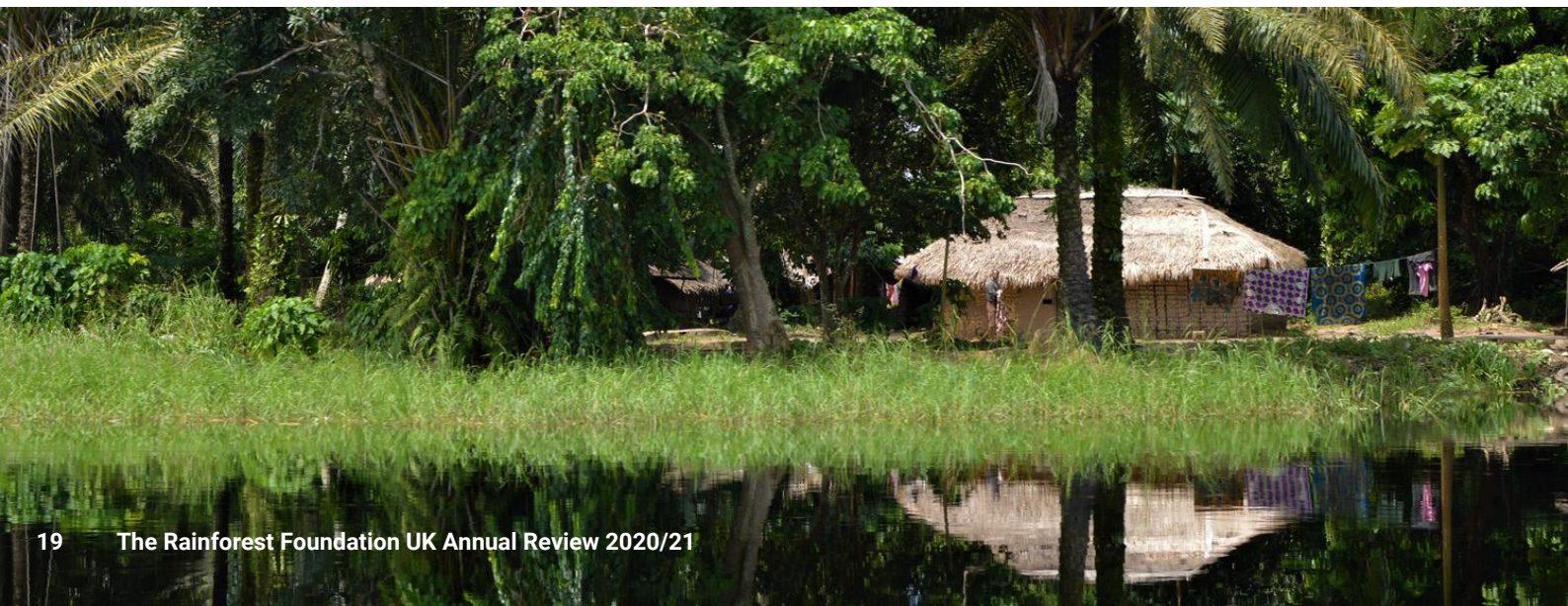
A huge thank you to Simon Counsell, who stepped down as executive director at the end of 2019 after 23 years of outstanding service to the organisation.

Under Simon's leadership, RFUK grew from a small outfit with just a few staff to the internationally respected organisation it is today.

An ardent advocate of human rights in the environmental world, Simon has for decades stood shoulder to shoulder with indigenous and local communities to protect millions of hectares of tropical forest.

His countless achievements include preventing vast areas of the Congo Basin rainforest from being opened to extensive logging for timber, and more recently putting human rights at the heart of the international biodiversity conservation agenda.

A speaker of truth to power, Simon is still fighting the fight as an independent consultant and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.



THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

Our thanks go out to all of our wonderful supporters from 2020 and 2021

Trusts and Foundations

Arcus Foundation
The Samworth Foundation
Rainforest Fund
The Waterloo Foundation
Good Energies Foundation
Turing Foundation
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
Tropenbos International
Fondation Ensemble
The Cotmore Trust
The Belvedere Trust
Synchronicity Earth
Helen and Michael Brown Charitable Trust
The Paragon Trust
The Ericson Trust
Langdale Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
The Reed Foundation
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
Size of Wales
IDEF - Initiatives pour le Developpement
communautaire et la conservation de la Foret
Open Gate

Statutory donors

FCDO - Foreign, Commonwealth & Development
Office (formerly DFID)
NORAD - Norwegian Agency for Development
Cooperation
USAID - US Agency for International
Development

Corporate donors

TikTok
Carluccio's
Ticket Tailor

Legacies

The late Ms Joan Shaw & family
The late Mrs Joyce Challis & family

Schools

Staines Preparatory School



MEET OUR TRUSTEES



Joseph Howes (Chair) is the Chief Executive of a children's charity called Buttle UK where he has been since 2018. He has previously worked in fundraising and comms roles for a range of UK charities for the past 20 years and completed an MA in Voluntary Sector Management last year.

Simon Hoyte is an anthropologist at University College London, currently completing his PhD in Cameroon examining the inter-connectivity between Baka hunter-gatherers and the forest, and how this can inform and reform forest conservation practices in what is a region with great conflict between conservation and human rights.



Lucy Claridge is human rights lawyer, working to improve access to justice for minority and indigenous communities worldwide. Currently Senior Counsel and Head of the Strategic Legal Response Centre at Forest Peoples' Programme, she was also Director of Strategic Litigation at Amnesty International and Legal Director at Minority Rights Group International. She was previously trustee at Anti-Slavery International and at the Twins Trust.

Robert Poore is a Relationship Director at NatWest bank supporting the needs of a range of businesses and not for profit organisations. He has supported around 150 charities with turnover from £2m to £550m over the last 6 years in the London charities team. He has a degree in Investment & Financial Risk Management and is a Chartered Financial Analyst, with over 15 years banking experience.



Sharon Natt has spent over a decade working and volunteering at people-powered social justice organisations. She has an MA in International Development Cooperation, with a specialism in human rights education. She is currently Digital Engagement Manager at Amnesty International UK. In her spare time, she volunteers for a grassroots refugee-led charity.

David Morgan is the Chief Executive of the Career Development Institute. He previously led marketing strategy and digital transformation teams in education and telecoms, and is the Chair of Trustees at Climate Ed. David has supported RFUK since 2004, raising funds and as a trustee.



Olga Owczarek is a lawyer specialising in international arbitration and public international law, with a particular focus on business and human rights. Previously, she worked at Allen & Overy, and was the editor of The Business and Human Rights Review.

Josceline Cluff is a safeguarding specialist working as Safeguarding Manager at the Better Cotton Initiative. She previously worked for King's College London's global health partnerships in Sierra Leone, Somaliland and the DRC and for natural disaster response NGO All Hands and Hearts.



Ros Coward has been on the RFUK board since 2018, having previously served 8 years on Greenpeace's board. She was a full-time journalist for 25 years mainly for The Observer & Guardian, then a Professor of Journalism at Roehampton University.

Louise Erskine has worked in corporate responsibility for the last 15 years and holds a PhD in sustainable livelihoods. She is currently Managing Director of a sustainability consultancy, and Board Director for a specialist international development HR and search firm.



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