

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND

The Nature Conservancy

PLANT  
A BILLION  
TREES

BAMA WORKS  
DAVE MATTHEWS BAND GIVES BACK

# DMB Trees Impact Report 2023

“ The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. He who plants a tree, plants hope.

> Nelson Henderson, Author





## Your Commitment

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is truly grateful to the Dave Matthews Band (DMB) for your ongoing and increasing commitment to addressing the connected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss through TNC’s Plant a Billion Trees program. Over the last four years, DMB has helped restore and protect critical forests in key locations around the planet by planting **over 4 million trees**.

From the Atlantic and Cerrado forests of Brazil to forests surrounding the Great Lakes in the U.S., the trees you’ve planted are working hard for the environment—and the communities that they support. They filter clean air, provide fresh drinking water, help curb climate change, and create homes for thousands of species of plants and animals.



Cover: Oak Tree © Costin79/Adobe Stock. Above, clockwise from top left: Planting teams in Kenya, Colombia and Mexico © TNC; Reforestation area in Guatemala © TNC; Seeds of native tree species for restoration in Brazil © TNC. Right: Yunnan golden monkey, Yunnan Province, China © Long Yongcheng



## The Decade to Deliver

*The science is clear:* We must act now to halt catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss. What we do between now and 2030 will determine whether we slow warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius—the level scientists agree will avoid the worst impacts of climate change—while also conserving enough land and water to slow the rapid acceleration of species loss and ultimately safeguard people from the effects of these crises.

That’s why TNC has set the most ambitious goals in our history. Our work won’t stop in 2030, but the actions we all take now will set us on a path toward a future where people and nature thrive. Our organizational 2030 goals align with global targets set by the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, and healthy forests and forest systems are central to achieving our goals, supporting the boldest climate goals TNC has ever created:

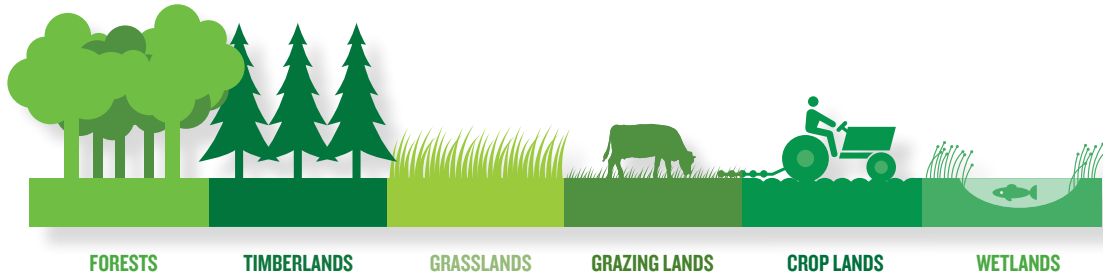


**Reduce or store 3 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually** through the power of nature and the strength of policy and markets.



**Benefit 100 million people at severe risk of climate-related emergencies** by protecting and restoring the health of natural habitats.

# A Powerful Part of the Whole



Climate solutions rooted in nature (“natural climate solutions”), like reforestation, are absolutely crucial if we are to turn the tide on the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The Plant a Billion Trees program is a key component of TNC’s larger efforts to address the impacts of climate change through natural climate solutions. Natural climate solutions can be any action to protect, better manage and restore nature to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and store carbon. **In addition to planting trees and restoring forests, natural climate solutions can include restoring coastlines, peatlands, wetlands and grasslands, and implementing better forestry techniques and regenerative agricultural practices.**

In 2017, TNC led a landmark study that showed how natural climate solutions could contribute a full third (up to 37%) of the emissions reductions we need to avoid

the worst impacts of climate change. As we look toward 2030, natural climate solutions will play a pivotal role in safeguarding our world from the catastrophic effects of climate change. And we deeply appreciate your support as we implement solutions—including the Plant a Billion Trees program—that are not only helping to reduce emissions, but also filter water, buffer communities from floods, improve soil health, protect habitat and enhance climate resilience. It’s not just about planting trees but revitalizing entire ecosystems for long-term sustainability.

Your exceptional philanthropic commitment to healthy forests and the communities that depend on them is having a transformational impact on our ability to collaborate and drive outcomes for forests and climate at the pace and scale required to meet the most pressing needs of nature and people, both locally and globally. **Thank you.**

## DMB TOUR 2023: ECO-VILLAGE RECAP

TNC was once again delighted to secure booth space at DMB’s Eco-Village during the 2023 tour. Our passionate team of employees and volunteers had an incredible experience connecting with fans and spreading the word about TNC’s important mission and goals. Fans enthusiastically participated in an engaging trivia game and had the opportunity to support tree planting by purchasing reusable water bottles from REVERB. It was a memorable event that allowed us to make a positive impact and inspire others to join our cause.

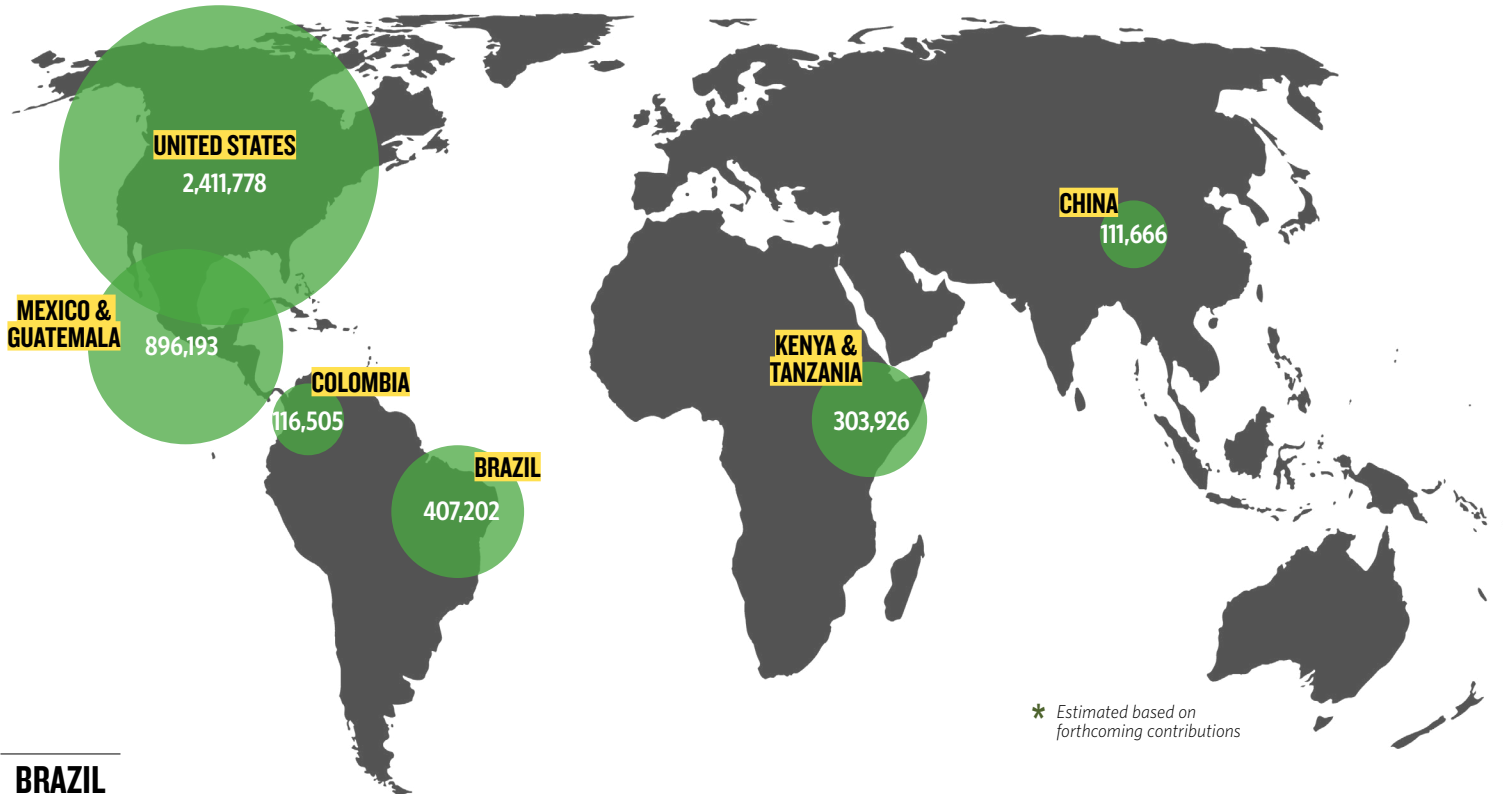


2023 TNC Eco-Village team, West Palm Beach, Florida © TNC



TOTAL TREES PLANTED:  
**4,247,272**

TOTAL FUNDING:  
**\$7,774,595\***



\* Estimated based on forthcoming contributions

## BRAZIL

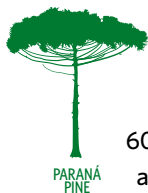
The Atlantic Forest is one of the most biodiverse forests in the world, harboring unique species like the red-tailed parrot and golden lion tamarin, but it has been severely degraded by deforestation.

TNC is working to restore the forest by planting native trees across the country, while fostering restoration by supporting public policies and programs, and teaching

restoration techniques to the community. In the Mantiqueira Mountains, we have trained more than

600 people on restoration and strengthened the work of local people that collect seeds for restoration. We also

created a restoration demonstration farm in Piracicaba (São Paulo state), where



PARANÁ PINE

farmers and local students can learn about cost-effective restoration methods.

## CHINA

With about 3,000 remaining in its native China, the Yunnan golden monkey is one of the world's most endangered primates. The population is fragmented into isolated groups in the high-altitude forests of Southwest China.

The biggest threat to its survival is the lack of forest habitat, which has been degraded through deforestation and commercial logging.

To support habitat restoration while enhancing carbon sequestration capacity,



CHINESE WHITE PINE

TNC is working to connect divided habitats by partnering with surrounding communities on native seed collection and planting, which helps support the local economy. TNC also provides technical and financial support to communities within or neighboring golden monkey habitat to implement a variety of renewable energy technologies and income diversification opportunities, so villagers don't have to chop down forests for firewood or income.

## UNITED STATES

The U.S. is home to some of the world's most established and stately trees. TNC is working to restore forests degraded from development, invasive species and climate change throughout the U.S. We



have planted over 8 million trees and completed reforestation on over 50,000 acres in Minnesota alone. We are also working to improve forest resilience in areas that are important to local

communities, such as four beloved state parks along the North Shore of Lake Superior.



SHORTLEAF PINE

In Arkansas, we've planted over 244,000 shortleaf pine seedlings across 687 acres by working with private landowners and government partners.

Across the Southeast, we have planted approximately 1.7 million longleaf pine trees. These humble and spacious forests are a trove of biodiversity—some researchers estimate their species richness is surpassed only by tropical forests and coral reefs. Through Plant a Billion Trees, TNC is able to leverage funding and maximize restoration efforts as a trusted long-term partner in the U.S. We recently celebrated 15 years of partnership—and one billion trees planted—through the [America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative](#).

## MEXICO & GUATEMALA

The Mesoamerican Forest Corridor is a region of abundant natural resources, biological diversity and cultural richness. It is home to dozens of distinct Indigenous groups, whose livelihoods are tightly intertwined with nature. The region provides innumerable benefits for people—clean water, wood for fuel, timber, protection from natural disasters and,



FICUS PETIOLARIS

increasingly, economic opportunities. TNC is working to restore the Mesoamerican Forest Bridge in Chiapas, Mexico and Guatemala's Western Highlands. In partnership with local communities, we are working to transition farmers and ranchers to regenerative agricultural practices, restore degraded forests and soils in protected areas, and promote sustainable livelihoods. One of our key strategies is productive reforestation, which integrates native forests and farms. This approach not only helps to restore the landscape, but it also provides farmers with a source of income and helps to improve water quality and availability.

## KENYA & TANZANIA

TNC is working to restore critical forests in Africa, including the Upper Tana River catchment area and Mara River Basin in Kenya; the areas surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru in Tanzania; and the Greater Mahale ecosystem in Tanzania. These places are important sources of water for nearby cities, shelter much of the region's rich biodiversity, and provide crucial habitat for endangered species—the Greater Mahale ecosystem houses 90% of the country's chimpanzees. With so much at stake, these places urgently need restoration, and tree planting is one of the most effective ways to restore them. Tree planting helps to improve soil quality, reduce erosion and sequester carbon. It also provides food, shelter and other benefits to wildlife. Local communities benefit too. Restoration helps protect



ACACIA

communities from severe weather, and other benefits. We are partnering with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to plant trees and shift away from unsustainable agricultural practices and wood fuel extraction.

## COLOMBIA

We worked in Colombia's Orinoco and Amazon regions to restore degraded pastures previously used for cattle ranching into thriving forest cover, while strategically enhancing forest connectivity to create wildlife pathways across 101 hectares. This area is a natural hotspot for biodiversity and an important resource for local communities. Nearly half of the area is legally recognized as Indigenous territory and 20% is designated as National Natural Parks. However, the region also faces significant threats, with 75% of deforestation occurring in the Amazon. To help create healthy and resilient ecosystems, along with protecting the area's wealth of biological and cultural diversity, we are actively engaging with local communities. Working together, we restored degraded lands, generated employment opportunities and are collecting data on climate mitigation. Landowners of already restored areas are also working with other private landowners, NGOs and local government to support the expansion of these efforts. This work is a critical model for future restoration, inspiring larger-scale initiatives to preserve and restore vital ecosystems throughout Colombia.



SPANISH CEDAR

## Restoring Life to the Mantiqueira Mountains



In the lush landscape of the Mantiqueira Mountains in Brazil, a transformative story of environmental stewardship is unfolding. TNC, through our Plant a Billion Trees initiative, is working with partners and local communities to heal degraded ecosystems, revive biodiversity and safeguard the invaluable natural resources of the region.

Forest restoration is a complex process that requires collaboration, dedication and a deep understanding of local ecosystems. TNC's approach involves engaging local communities, scientific experts and policymakers to create a comprehensive strategy for ecological renewal. In the Mantiqueira Mountains, we are focused on planting trees, but also recognize the significance of holistic restoration. Guided by science, we work with local partners and communities to ensure that the reforestation efforts align with both the needs of nature and the needs of the community. That includes finding cost-effective solutions that help local farmers.

Despite always having plentiful water supplies, Maurício Euclides Viana from Conceição dos Ouros, Minas Gerais State, went through a difficult period in 2014, with a water crisis that lasted two years. "We had to get water in other places to meet our daily necessities," said Viana. "My spring was already protected, but I decided to plant native trees to protect the catchment area of the basin. Today...the water is abundant again, its flow has doubled. This action is now also benefiting my neighbors."

By working with communities to integrate traditional knowledge with cutting-edge science, TNC aims to create a strong and self-sustaining ecosystem that is resilient to the impacts of climate change, while supporting people and nature. The restored landscapes not only serve as vital carbon sinks but also provide other essential benefits, such as water purification and soil conservation. When restoration is complete in 2030, the resulting 1.2 million hectares will complete 10% of Brazil's forest restoration commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement. It will also sequester 260 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over 30 years.



PREPARED  
DEMONSTRATION  
AREA



ONE  
MONTH  
LATER

“ The restoration process goes beyond simply growing and taking care of trees. Through this work, it becomes possible to observe how it extends to encompass biodiversity and environmental boundaries, fostering social relationships and enhancing well-being among local communities.

› Camila Rodriguez, Nature Based Solutions for Mitigation Lead, The Nature Conservancy, Colombia

## Thank You!

Deforestation is a major threat to the environment and has been increasing in recent years. *The world has lost 20 million acres of forests between 1990 and 2020; 2,400 trees are cut down each minute.*

**Planting trees is a practical and effective way to address the twin crises of climate change and loss of biodiversity, with widespread benefits for the environment, human health and the overall well-being of the planet.**

TNC is deeply grateful for the support of the Dave Matthews Band. Your commitment has been key in driving our Plant a Billion Trees initiative, while creating important momentum for natural climate solutions globally. Your generosity has a tangible and lasting impact—each tree planted is a testament to your commitment to a sustainable future for both people and nature. Together, we're finding a way to harness the power of nature to combat the greatest conservation challenges we face, during a pivotal moment in the history of our planet. We look forward to achieving even greater milestones with you by our side.

**Thank you for being a catalyst for positive change.**

**Pg 5, from left:** Prescribed fire in Arkansas © Mike Melnechuk; Sapling evaluation in Kenya © TNC; Young burrowing owl, Cape Coral, Florida © Christopher MacDonald. **Pg. 6, top:** Aerial view of the Mantiqueira mountain range © Leandro Cagiano; **Inset:** Restoration demonstration area farm © TNC. **This page:** Foggy pine forest in Sichuan, China © LZJ/Adobe Stock.