

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND

# IMPACT REPORT

2025



DAVE MATTHEWS BAND

The Nature Conservancy 

PLANT A BILLION TREES 

BAMA  WORKS GIVES BACK

## YOUR COMMITMENT

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is deeply grateful to the Dave Matthews Band for your continued generosity and leadership through the Plant a Billion Trees program. Your partnership makes it possible to turn shared values into lasting action—supporting forests, wildlife, and communities at a moment when the health of our planet has never mattered more.**

Over the past year, your support helped drive high-impact forest restoration across four continents, from the Mesoamerican Forest Corridor and critical river basins in East Africa to biodiversity hotspots in Colombia, China, and across the United States. Together with Indigenous Peoples, local and traditional communities, farmers, and public partners, TNC planted millions of native trees and restored thousands of hectares of forest worldwide. With your support, we are bringing back degraded landscapes, strengthening wildlife corridors, and safeguarding critical water sources that people and nature depend on every day.

What makes this work especially powerful is its reach beyond any single place or outcome. Through Plant a Billion Trees, you are supporting community-led conservation, local jobs, and long-term restoration plans that are designed to endure. These forests are already delivering tangible benefits—cleaner water, healthier soils, improved habitat for wildlife, and increased carbon storage—while laying the groundwork for climate resilience

in the decades ahead. In a year marked by growing environmental uncertainty, your generosity helped ensure that high-priority restoration could continue without pause, maintaining momentum where it matters most.

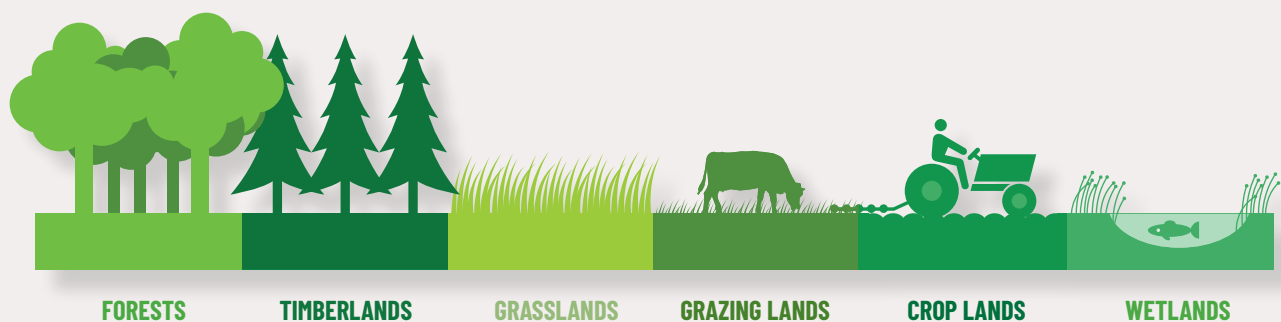
Thank you for your trust, your commitment, and your belief in the power of nature. We are honored to have your support and are proud to share the impact you made possible in 2025. **Together, we will find a way to deliver on our vision of a livable climate, healthy communities and thriving nature.**



Asian elephants on the southern edge of Yunnan province, China.  
© Luo Aidong (IFAW)

## NATURE IS THE SOLUTION

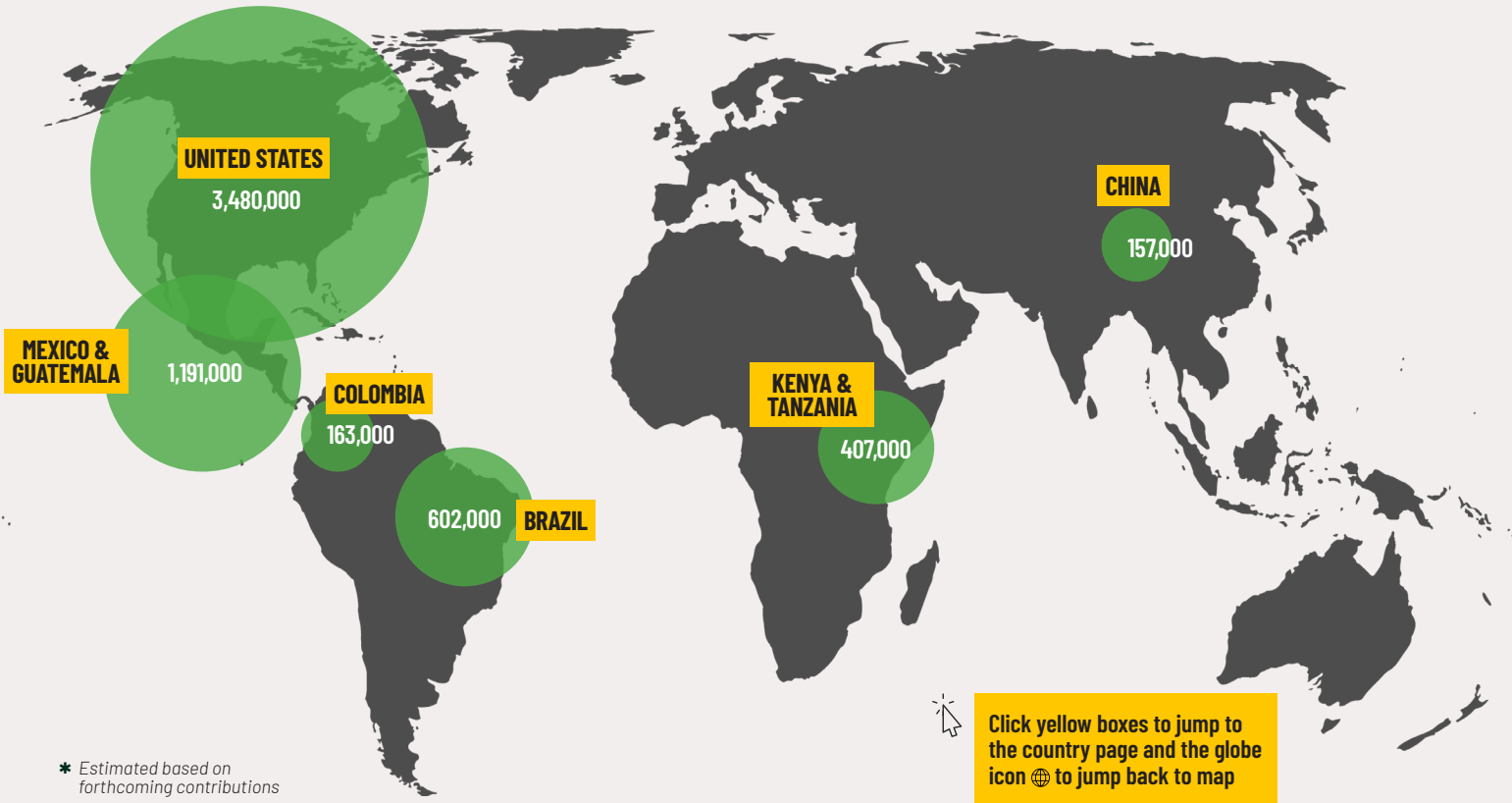
As a vital part of the natural climate solutions that are critical to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, the forest restoration work made possible through Plant a Billion Trees is contributing directly to TNC's ambitious global 2030 goals. That means that we are helping nature do what it does best: protect communities, stabilize the climate, and sustain life.



### NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

TOTAL TREES PLANTED:  
**6,000,000**

TOTAL FUNDING:  
**\$11,215,060\***



This page from left: A protected forest in Timau, Meru County, Kenya. © Roshni Lodhia; TNC's David Printiss in the "Garden of Eden" seed nursery tract being used to supply wiregrass seeds for the replanting of longleaf pine at the Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve, Florida. © Andrew Kornylak; Cover from top: Chris Dunham, TNC Manager of Resilient Forests, speaks with reforestation crewmember, Genry Bagner, near Brimson, north of Duluth, Minnesota. © Alex Messenger; Yunnan golden monkeys, Yunnan Province, China. © Long Yongcheng/TNC; Green-headed Tanager in Brazil's Atlantic Forest. © Clodomiro Esteves Júnior/TNC Photo Contest 2021; Velená Ponsian, a community tree monitoring champion, examines a woodlot of pine species in Lugonesi village, western Tanzania. © Roshni Lodhia



# MEXICO & GUATEMALA

**We continued to drive progress on high-impact restoration across the Mesoamerican Forest Corridor in Guatemala and Mexico—where forest health is directly tied to community well-being, and food and water security.**

In Guatemala, we worked hand in hand with Indigenous and rural communities to restore more than 85 hectares of degraded highland forests and planted over 90,000 native trees with partners in critical headwater basins. All restored areas were enrolled in national incentive programs, which ensures long-term stewardship of these lands will be led by communities who helped identify, plant, and monitor these sites.

Across the border in Chiapas, Mexico, TNC produced 345,000 tree seedlings used to restore over 30,000 hectares of forest habitat. Support also strengthened regional nurseries, mobilized community-led planting events, and advanced new public programs focused on restoring “micro-watersheds” important for storing water and carbon, among other benefits. These efforts are helping local farmers adopt more sustainable, resilient production systems.

Together, this work is building a “living bridge,” connecting healthy forests for iconic species like jaguars, and supporting water supplies, healthy soils, and climate readiness for the people who depend on these forests to thrive. Our comprehensive cross-border approach—rooted in community-led restoration from the seedling stage to stewardship phase—ensures the long-term success of this work.

Above from left: Cormorant chicks in coastal mangroves of Chiapas, Mexico. © Mark Godfrey/TNC; Bicolor pit viper in the forests of Guatemala’s volcanic chain. © Gerardo Ramos León/TNC Photo Contest 2021



**[Plant a Billion Trees] helped our community move from short-term planting to long-term forest stewardship, benefiting both our families and future generations.”**

TNC Partner, Antonia Xuruc, Community Environmental Lead, Asociación de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Rural de Occidente



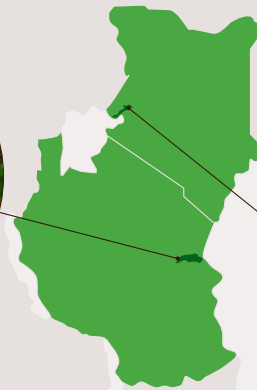
Top from left: Tree nursery, Chiapas, Mexico. © TNC; A forest pool in the Yaxha Private Reserve in northern Guatemala’s Selva Maya. © Sergio Pucci; Bottom: The shores of Lake Atitlan are ringed with volcanic mountains in the highlands of Guatemala, Central America. © Sue Ellis / TNC



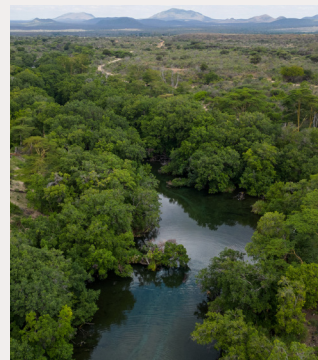
# KENYA & TANZANIA

**TNC advanced forest restoration across three important ecosystems in East Africa: Tanzania’s Ruchugi and Malagarasi River catchments and Kenya’s Yala River Basin.**

Working with community partners and local water user groups, 87,000 native trees were planted across 1,100 hectares, strengthening forests that help stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and safeguard water sources that families, farms, and wildlife rely on, including Lake Victoria, Africa’s largest freshwater lake.



Surrounding communities played an essential role in this work by sharing traditional knowledge, planting trees, supporting sustainable land management practices, and monitoring restoration progress. Our work helped boost the local economy by providing seasonal job opportunities and supporting community-based nursery operators who supplied Indigenous seedlings for restoration efforts through training and technical support. We also advanced innovative monitoring tools like remote sensing, drones, and emerging AI-based analysis to help ensure the long-term success of our work in East Africa.



**Through the act of restoration, we are reminded that nature’s resilience is remarkable...Our responsibility is to help, safeguard, and nurture this natural power by removing obstacles and restoring harmony between people and the environment...”**

TNC Partner, Sarah Scott, Founder / Executive Director, Kijani Pamoja

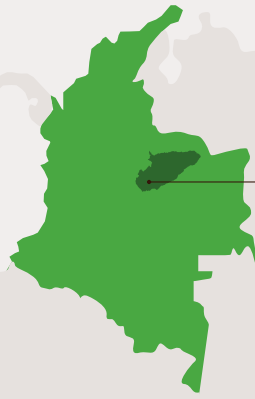
Clockwise from top: Chimpanzees in the forest of Mahale Mountains National Park, western Tanzania. © Roshni Lodhia; Pine species in western Tanzania. © Roshni Lodhia; Tree nursery, Yala River Basin, Kenya. © Bernard Nyabayo/TNC; Mzima Springs, Tsavo West National Park, Kenya. © Roshni Lodhia; Planting pine trees in Lugonesi village in western Tanzania. © Roshni Lodhia



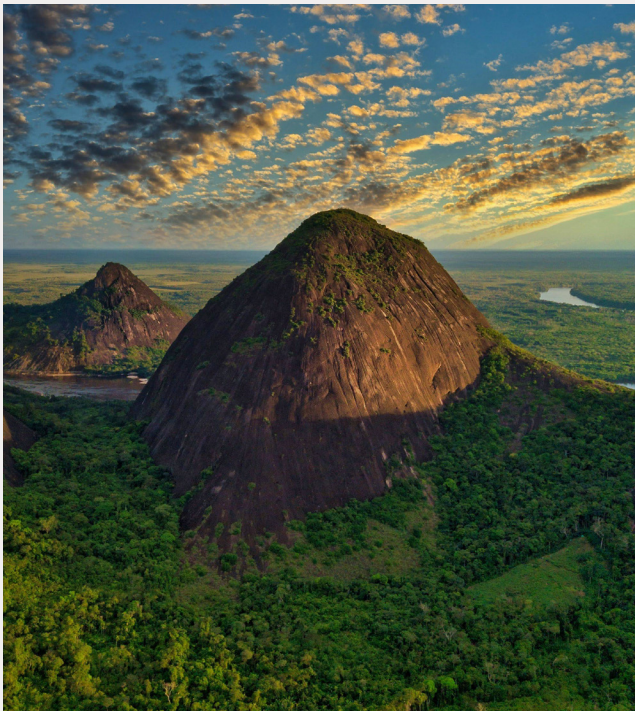
# COLOMBIA

**We accelerated science-based forest restoration across Colombia's Orinoquia region—one of the most biodiverse landscapes on the planet, featuring plants and wildlife found nowhere else.**

Working alongside local communities, cattle producers, and regional environmental authorities, TNC planted 50,000 native trees, directly restoring 30 hectares and helping reconnect another 200 hectares of fragmented forest (see aerial footage of recovering areas [here](#)). This work recovers healthy habitat for wildlife, improves the way water moves through the landscape, reduces flood risk, and builds long-term climate resilience across Colombia.



TNC also worked with local partners to identify the places where restoration would make the greatest difference, linking important forest corridors, protecting water sources, and supporting the communities who depend on them. Families and landowners helped select and design planting sites, took part in restoration days, and joined monitoring efforts, deepening their connection to the land while building the skills needed to steward it for generations to come. Together, these efforts are helping communities and ecosystems thrive in a rapidly changing landscape.



Clockwise from top: Collared Trogon, Caquetá, Colombia. © Cristian Camilo Castaño Vargas/TNC Photo Contest 2021; A monkey rests on a tree in Sandoval, Bolívar. © Leonardo Centeno/TNC Photo Contest 2023; Sunset in the Mavecure Centers, Guainia, Colombia. © Gabriel Pérez/TNC Photo Contest 2021



**The implementation of tree planting projects with TNC's support has transformed our cattle ranching landscape and our respect for nature. We've seen how lands that were once degraded are now turning green again."**

TNC Partner, Humberto Garzón, Landowner in Casanare



# BRAZIL

**TNC monitored the growth of more than 1.3 million trees planted with support from the Dave Matthews Band—representing over 530 hectares of restored forest in Brazil’s Atlantic Forest, one of the world’s richest and most threatened biomes.**

Monitoring growth rates, health, habitat conditions or threats, and other factors helps ensure trees survive and thrive, strengthens accountability, and guides protection over time. These recovering areas are helping stabilize water supplies, regulate climate, and support the return of native wildlife, all critical for supporting surrounding communities.

We also advanced Brazil’s broader restoration movement by investing in the people and systems that sustain restoration long after planting. By strengthening regional nurseries, expanding community-led fire brigades, and advancing integrated fire management, we are supporting communities as they build stronger governance and day-to-day management of their territories—reducing risk to restored areas and protecting forests and high-altitude grasslands at a scale with the potential to reach 800,000 hectares. We reinforced the [Atlantic Forest Restoration Pact](#), a multisectoral movement that aims to restore 15 million hectares by 2050. In addition, we supported a new national restoration monitoring platform that was announced at [COP30](#) and launched a free [restoration guide](#) to help practitioners plan effective projects.



**TNC’s restoration agenda in Brazil is ambitious... DMB’s support has been vital for creating monitoring platforms and financing structures, benefiting the whole country...We’re grateful to DMB for supporting our restoration and protection efforts.”**

Rubens Benini, Forest & Forest Restoration Strategy Lead, TNC Brazil



Top: Crested capuchin monkey, Colatina, Espírito Santo, Brazil. © Breno Salaroli de Araujo/TNC Photo Contest 2021; Middle from left: Forest restoration training participant. © Nathalia Brancato/ TNC Brazil; Native seedlings for Atlantic Forest restoration. © Nathalia Brancato/ TNC Brazil; Bottom: Integrated fire management training. © Nathalia Brancato/ TNC Brazil



# CHINA

**TNC continued to restore and connect vital habitat for one of China’s rarest primates—the endangered Yunnan golden monkey (also known as the black snubnosed monkey).**

Past land clearing, hunting, and logging have broken the monkey’s habitat into isolated forest patches. Working in partnership with the Lanping Yunling Nature Reserve and surrounding communities, we helped plant 38,000 alpine coniferous trees, helping reconnect a key forest corridor to allow monkeys and other wildlife to move and thrive.

A powerful partnership between community, nature, and conservation, this effort has continued to grow with each new season of restoration. The program has flourished far beyond its original footprint, expanding nearly fivefold since its early stages, drawing new partners and increasing public awareness through educational campaigns. The 2025 planting season created short-term jobs, many employing local women, providing meaningful income and greater stability for families in the region. And monitoring documented monkey groups moving into newly restored areas—an encouraging sign that these forests are on the road to recovery.



**As local residents’ awareness of ecological conservation has gradually grown, hunting and logging activities have completely disappeared, and the ecological environment is improving steadily...I have personally spotted Yunnan snubnosed monkeys and other wild animals far more frequently than [ten years ago]....**

TNC Partner, Zhang Jinfu, Reserve Ranger



From top: Yunnan golden monkeys, Yunnan Province, China. © Long Yongcheng/TNC; Near the summit of Thousand Turtle Mountain in the Laojun Mountain Nature Reserve north of Lijiang, Yunnan Province, China. © Scott Warren; Black monkeys in Mt. Gaoligong National Nature Reserve, Nujiang Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. © Yixin Chen/TNC Photo Contest 2022



# UNITED STATES

**We expanded large scale forest restoration across the United States—from the Northwoods of the Upper Great Lakes to the Appalachians, the Mississippi Delta, and the longleaf and shortleaf pine systems of the Southeast.**

Together with public agencies, Tribal nations, local partners, and community volunteers, TNC planted over 6 million climate resilient trees, restored wildlife habitat, strengthened seed supply for the future, and advanced recovery in landscapes stressed by invasive species, wildfires, and extreme weather.

In the Upper Great Lakes alone, partners planted more than 2.6 million trees, improved moose habitat, and supported recovery in fire affected forests. Across the [Appalachians](#) and [Mississippi Valley](#), TNC expanded restoration on formerly mined lands and floodplains, strengthened community partnerships, and provided critical match funding to unlock significant federal and private investment. In the Southeast, longleaf and shortleaf pine efforts continued to scale, with over 3.6 million trees planted to restore some of the nation’s most biodiverse and culturally significant forests.

Thanks to the Dave Matthews Band, this work is rebuilding resilient forests, sustaining wildlife, and supporting rural communities across the country. Importantly, your support helped sustain high-priority restoration work during periods of limited public funding, ensuring urgent restoration needs could continue to be met.

Above from left: A resilience forester for TNC plants trees near Brimson, north of Duluth, Minnesota. © Alex Messenger; An Eastern Newt in southwest Virginia. © Steven David Johnson; A Red-cockaded Woodpecker at the longleaf pine forest in The Nature Conservancy’s Disney Wilderness Preserve. © Carlton Ward Jr; Longleaf pine trees at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**“The Plant a Billion Trees Program has been an incredible nucleus for ecological and climate-smart reforestation... The program is blazing the trail for many others to follow as we grapple with the grand challenges facing forests and the importance of robust, ecologically-sound tree planting efforts to address them.”**

TNC Partner, Tony D’Amato, University of Vermont



Clockwise from top: Clint Harris, TNC Manager of Resilient Forests, and Private Contractor Steve Franco. © Route 3 Films; “Garden of Eden” seed nursery tract used to supply wiregrass seeds for the replanting of longleaf pine at the Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve, Florida. © Andrew Kornylak; Crews work with the Nature Conservancy to plant trees as part of reforestation efforts on a clearcut near Brimson, north of Duluth, Minnesota. © Alex Messenger

# HOOHEH HOMECOMING

## OUR ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

By Windy Daniels, TNC partner with the Waccamaw Siouan STEM Studio

TNC is partnering with the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe in North Carolina on an annual tree planting to restore longleaf pine, honor cultural connections to “Hooheh” (longleaf pine) and “Yau” (fire), while stewarding forests for future generations. The following is excerpted from [Hooheh Magazine](#) published by the Waccamaw Siouan STEM Studio (see page 20). Text has been condensed for length.

On a cold, muddy, yet undeniably beautiful day in February 2025, hundreds of tribal members and volunteers gathered for the inaugural Hooheh Planting event. What unfolded was more than a tree planting—it was a powerful day of connection, hope, and honoring shared history...

“This was a ‘never have we ever’ for our tribe, but it didn’t mean that we never could,” shared Ashley Lomboy... Despite freezing temperatures and rain, the day became a celebration of community, love, and laughter.

At the heart of the event was the planting of saplings—each one honoring the legacy of ancestors and the Tribe’s founding families. Matriarchs, or their chosen representatives, stepped forward to plant their family trees in a ceremonial circle...Each was wrapped in a handmade quilt, a gesture of honor and gratitude.

What we are doing is more than ecological restoration—it is a homecoming. It is a return to the old ways, to the knowledge that fire is not to be feared, that the land is not separate from us, and that trees are more than timber; they are family.

This planting is not just for today—it is for tomorrow... Just as our people have endured through hardship, so too will these trees—standing strong, rooted in the land that has always been ours.

“  
What we are doing is more than ecological restoration—it is a homecoming.”



From top: Hooheh longleaf planting by matriarch elders. © Windy Daniels; Drum circle at Hooheh longleaf planting event. © Windy Daniels

## DMB TOUR

# ECO-VILLAGE ENGAGEMENT

TNC was proud to once again participate in the Dave Matthews Band Eco-Village, where staff and volunteers connected with fans and shared the impact of Plant a Billion Trees.

Through interactive activities and conversations, fans learned how DMB's generosity is supporting forest restoration around the world. Many also supported tree planting directly through the purchase of reusable water bottles in partnership with REVERB. The Eco-Village provided a powerful opportunity to inspire environmental stewardship, deepen engagement, and connect DMB fans to meaningful conservation action at TNC.

Right from above: TNC staff and volunteers engage with DMB fans at various concert locations. © TNC (all images); Below: An eastern white cedar near Lake Superior, Minnesota. © Ian Shive



## THANK YOU!

We are profoundly grateful to the Dave Matthews Band for your continued generosity and leadership. Your support fuels vital forest restoration across the globe—strengthening water security, biodiversity, and community resilience. This work would not be possible without your support, and we are honored to stand alongside you in creating lasting change.



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