

Annual report 2024

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Liana's purpose

is to function in development cooperation using holistic approaches that combine improving the state of the environment and human well-being

Year 2024 Review: Forest Garden Farming for People and the Planet

Liana's main activity in Tanzania was its **"Forest Garden farming for People and the Planet"** in Mwanza district, Tanzania. 85% of the project is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the remaining 15% is covered by self-funding and voluntary work by Liana.

The year 2024 was the second of this 4-year project and saw a large expansion to 5 new villages, Kwanayange, Ngulu, Kwakoa, Kiruru and Kisangara, in addition to the original two villages Kituri and Kifaru. This brought the number of individual group members from 56 to 369. With the group members and their families, the project has approximately 2500 direct beneficiaries. These are organised into 26 farmer groups with most members women.

Two sets of farmer groups, 'old groups' and 'new groups' progress a year apart establishing their Forest Gardens. The objective is that every group member has a Forest Garden by the end of the project.

Our model for the Forest Garden originates from Trees for the Future. Through their work about 10,000 Forest Gardens have been established elsewhere in Tanzania. The model is adaptable in different environments





and according to farmer preferences, however, the main structure stays the same.

One of the main features of a Forest Garden is its live fence, locally called wigo. The live fence is grown for protection and for the provision of biomass used for improving and maintaining soil health. The live fence has three lines and three species of trees. Thorny *Acacia polycantha* forms the outer line. It is planted at 30cm intervals and pruned and weaved into a dense wall. The middle line consists of two species, *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Gliricidia sepium*, similarly planted at 30cm interval. Both species can be used for fodder, and *Gliricidia* is planted primarily to provide the farm with biomass to use for mulching and composting. All three species fix nitrogen from the atmosphere.

The inside area of the Forest Garden is divided into sections by east to west alley lines, locally known as marejea. If the farm is on a sloping land, these lines are planted along contours. Different plant options are used for marejea: *Gliricidia*, pigeon peas or Mulberry (*Morus alba*), the latter used for fodder, not for its berries. Sections divided by the marejea are used for growing multiple food crops, fruit and timber trees. In addition, space is used vertically by planting smaller plants under bigger plants.

Forest Gardens provide products all year round and thus improve farmers' livelihood, food security and resilience. At the same time, they offer multiple environmental benefits. These include increased biodiversity; balanced ecosystem with less problems with pests; improved soil microbiome, fertility, texture and moisture content; protection to soils from weather extremes; and at large scale climate change mitigation. Many environmental and human benefits point to the same things emphasising human dependence on the environment.

All groups have planted their live fences, either partially or completely. A total of 2400 seedlings are needed to surround a one-acre farm by a live fence.

Tree nurseries for live fence were established for April (long rains) 2023 outplanting, April 2024 outplanting and November (short rains) 2024 outplanting. It was by the request of the farmers that the project shifted to use short rains as the main outplanting season, as the dry spell between the short rains and the long rains is shorter than between the long rains and short rains, thus keeping seedlings alive requires less attention.

Fruit trees grown by all group members so far include papaya and passion. In addition, a smaller and varying number of other fruit trees such as citrus, mango, avocado have been grown by individual farmers. Fruit tree growing goes with training in grafting.

Various other multi-purpose and timber species have been planted including *Moringa oleifera*, *Cordia africana* and *Markhamia lutea*. Our strategy is to increase the number of those species that do well and drop species that pose challenges in their growing.

Food crops offered by the project for diversification of nutrition and income include sweet potatoes, pigeon peas, cassava, and a large selection of vegetables. Vegetable growing was by far the most popular activity in the project, as it provided healthy food in a very short time.

Another very popular activity has been the VICOBA, which focuses on group savings and loan activities. 'Old' groups began participating in VICOBA in late 2023 and successfully completed their first savings cycle by the end of the year. This financial system allowed farmers to make meaningful investments, even purchasing improved dairy cows. These cows not only provide milk for consumption and sale but also generate additional income, which could be saved and reinvested in other opportunities. This demonstrates how a single financial benefit can trigger a chain reaction of economic growth and stability.

Interestingly, when asked an open-ended question about the changes since the project's start, 'old' farmers consistently cited 'learning' and





‘new knowledge’ as the project's greatest benefits. The project is led by two project officers from the partner organisation KIWAMWAKU (“Women against AIDS”)—one a trained forester and the other a horticulturalist—supported by a team of 5–7 government agricultural extension officers. The combination of their professional expertise, enthusiastic approach, and the backing from the government extension service has enriched the learning experience. Additionally, the knowledge gained by both farmers and facilitators through participation in Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) organic agriculture courses has further strengthened the project's educational impact. Both farmers and facilitators have greatly benefited from the project's strong learning component. As a pilot initiative, it introduces a systemic change to farming practices in a new area, thus offering an opportunity for learning in practice from every activity.

In a short time the project has also yielded tangible benefits to farmers, including a substantial increase in food production, particularly papayas, vegetables, and sweet potatoes. Many farmers have been able to sell their surplus produce, generating income for household expenses and savings for future needs.

In September, an unexpected challenge arose when elephants began invading farms in remote villages. After carefully assessing available resources, the team implemented an experimental solution: chili pepper fences on four farms. This simple deterrent involved soaking chili mixed with used engine oil into fabric and sisal strings, then hanging them around the farms to exploit elephants’ natural aversion to chili. So far, these fences have proven effective. However, new farms have since fallen victim to elephant invasions.

In November a monitoring trip was organised to visit group members’ farms in three villages. This trip produced several videos featuring group members’ perceptions of the project, and their experiences of its benefits.

Schools

Liana worked with schools in Rombo and Mwanga Districts continuously from October 2017 till early 2024, helping the schools, on a cost-sharing basis, build rainwater harvesting tanks, improved firewood-saving stoves, and setting up handwashing units near toilets.

It has been our aim to gradually wind up this project, and thus Ngolea secondary school, that had its rainwater harvesting tank built in early 2024, was the last school we aimed to help for the time being.

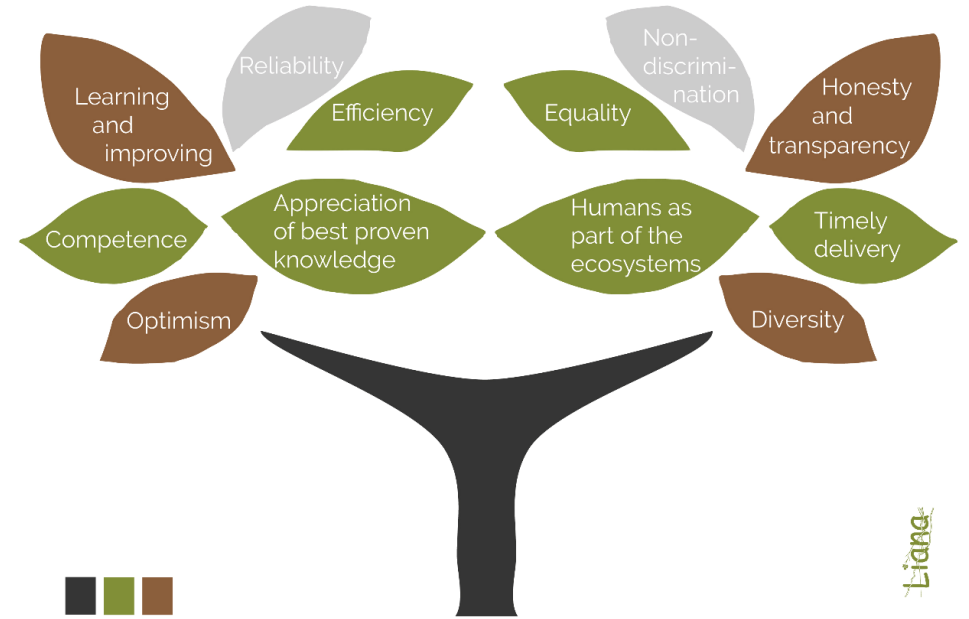
A total of 29 schools received a 30,000 liter ferrocement tank to collect rainwater from the school roof; and 44 schools received an improved stove. Handwashing units accompanied the tanks in most schools, and some schools requested additional units.

Project plan for a new Forest Garden project in Masasi

In March, Liana together with KIMAS (“Centre for Excellent Development”) of Masasi submitted a new project proposal to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. This project targets the southern coastal lowlands of Tanzania, more specifically areas around Masasi.

The project plan draws from the success of the Forest Garden activities in Mwanga, and will target 500 small-scale farmers and their families. In addition, the project will partner with Upendo Charity, reaching out to children with disabilities in a special school and utilising its connections with vulnerable groups in communities.

Funding was granted for this project, which is scheduled to start in January 2025 and run for four years.



Graphics: Erja-Riitta Alander

Liana Ethical principles and Comfortable Space principles

In 2024, Liana compiled and adopted its own Ethical principles and Comfortable Space principles to guide all its activities. The Ethical principles not only build on Liana’s core values but also align closely with the requirements of its main donor, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The document also introduced a new visual representation of Liana’s values, designed by long-term member Erja-Riitta Alander. A reporting page was launched at <https://www.liana-ry.org/whistleblowing/>.

The Comfortable Space principles encourage everyone involved in Liana activities to create an environment that is free from fear of embarrassment and hurt.



Margaret Tebbutt Foundation

Margaret Tebbutt Foundation performed well in year 2024 due to high interest rates. Its profit was € 4310,24 as dividends, and €5316,96 as increase in value.

At the board meeting in late 2024, it was decided that the dividends from 2023 and 2024 will be allocated as a grant to Liana to fulfill the self-funding requirements for the Ministry projects in 2024 and 2025.

The Margaret Tebbutt Foundation is a non-Autonomous Foundation hosted under Liana. <https://margarettebbutt.liana-ry.org/>.

Liana blog and social media communications

The news blog, <http://www.liana-ry.org/liana-news-blog/>, has been actively used to communicate about Liana activities in Tanzania.

Liana uses also its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/lianadevelopment> for keeping members and supporters up to date on its activities.

Videos are saved on the YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@Lianaorg>. New videos were produced in 2024.

For the fifth time, Eija visited Tapiola high school Development Geography class to talk about Liana work and NGO work in general.

Latest

Popular

Oldest



Forest Garden farmers in Mwanga
49 views • 2 months ago



Mama Mvungi's story of her
agroforestry farming in Mwanga,...
118 views • 2 months ago



"Kafeno" tells about his Forest
Garden activities
51 views • 2 months ago



Liana annual meeting 2024

Liana's annual meeting was organised by emails on 10-12 May 2024, with a Zoom session for 1 hour on 11th May.

The Board had one formal meeting, in addition to communications through the board googlegroups mailing list.

Liana members 2024

Liana had ten regular members and nine supporting members in 2024.

Liana Board 2024

Eija (Chair)

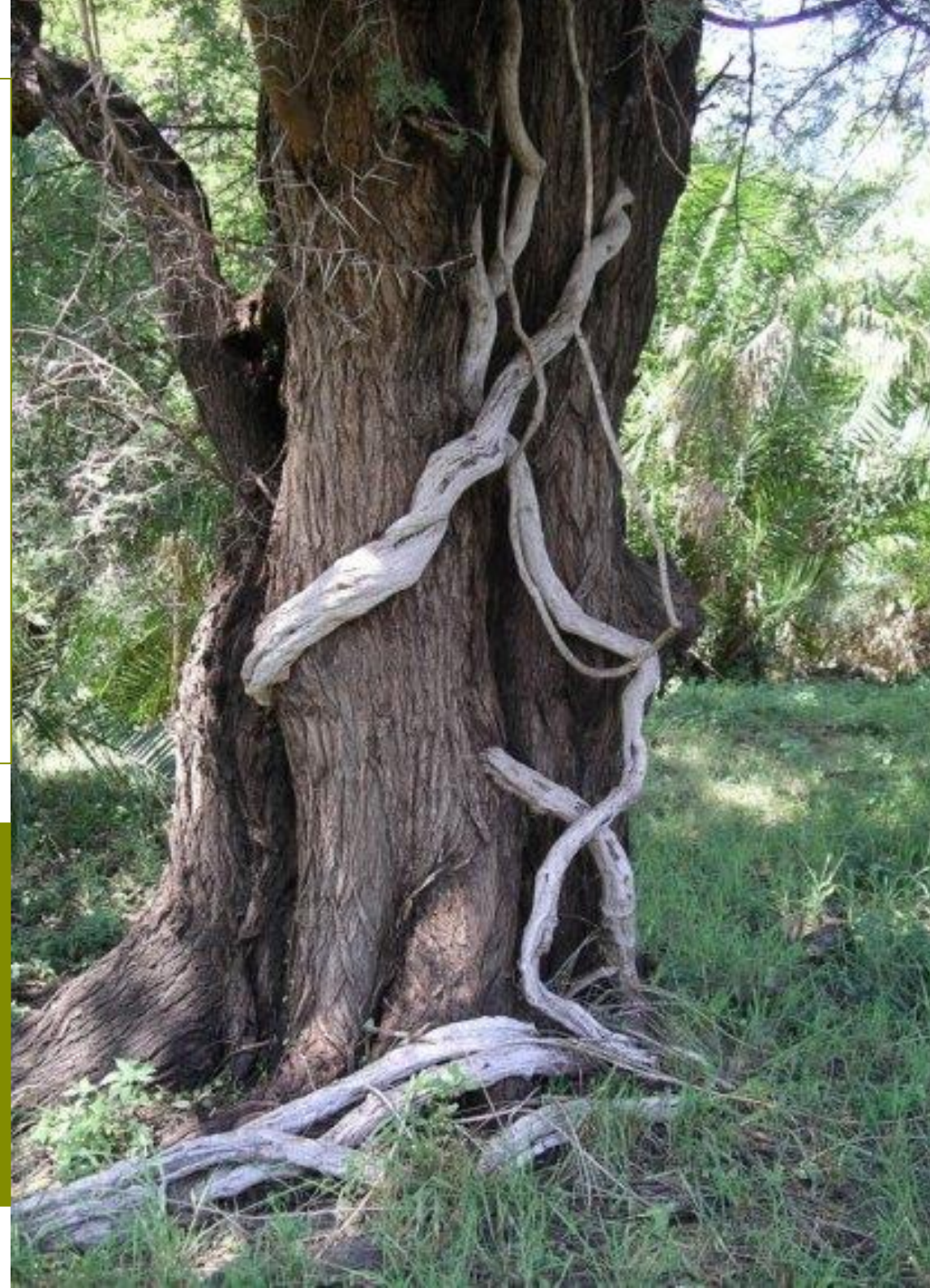
Ric (Secretary)

Miika (Vice-Chair)

Kirsi (Member)

Alex (Member)

Ari (Deputy member)



“You don't need to immediately eliminate world poverty, bring world peace or save the environment. You just have to do whatever you discover works with your modest resources to make a difference in the lives of the poor.”

(William Easterly, The White Man's Burden, 2006)



Important numbers

Forest Garden project in Mwanga 2023-2026

Grant €192 172; Self-funding €33 938

Number of farmers with family members 2580

Number of farmer groups 26

Number of villages 2 (2023), 7 (2024)

New Forest Garden project in Masasi 2025-2028

Grant €247 427; Self-funding €43 663

Number of villages selected 5 (2025)

School activities 2017-2024 in Rombo, Mwanga and Moshi Districts

Stoves built 45

Ferrocement water tanks built 28

Handwashing units: 2 units per water tank = 56 units

Volume of a water tank 30 000 litres

Total cost of a water tank €1450

Price of a school stove €300

Amount of school contributions per tank €140

Amount of school contributions per stove €50

Students reached by this activity, approx. 25 000



Financial accounts of 2024

Liana ry
1982505-3

Profit and loss account

01.01.2024 -
31.12.2024

Actual operations / Project operations

Project funding and donations	58 269,50
Transfers from previous to following year	-5 043,24
3900 Grants carried over from the previous year	2 000,00
3901 Donations carried over to this year	9 075,00
3902 Grants carried over to next year	-5 535,24
3903 Donations carried over to next year	-8 909,00
3904 Ministry funding carried over to next year	-3 985,00
3905 Ministry brought forward from previous year	2 311,00
Individual donations	1 516,00
3700 Donations received	1 516,00
Project funding and grants	61 796,74
3800 Received Grants	8 408,74
3801 Grant from Stats4sd	0,00
3802 Forest Gardens for People and the Planet, Mwangi (MFA)	53 388,00
Other activities in Tanzania	-1 841,32
Forest Garden project in Tanzania	-56 587,26
Expenditure in Tanzania	-43 930,08
Expenditure in Finland	
Personnel (salaries and side costs)	-9 635,77
Other costs (office, audit, monitorin travel, exchange rate adjustment)	-3 021,41
Depreciation and amortisation	0,00
Marketing costs (Exhibitions etc)	-55,00
4581 Fairs, exhibitions, memberships	-55,00

Admin costs	-535,56
4913 Office costs (general)	-324,88
4986 Audit services	-210,68
Surplus/deficit	-749,64
Other fundraising	
Income	750,00
7310 Membership fees received (Regular)	300,00
7311 Membership fees (Supporting members)	450,00
Expenses	0,00
Other fundraising total	750,00
Investments and financial activities	
Income	14 296,88
9040 Profit on non-autonomous funds (Margaret Tebbutt)	4 310,24
9042 Unused funds from previous year brought forward to following year	4 098,50
9090 Other financial incomes, increase in value (Margaret Tebbutt)	5 888,14
Expenses	-14 296,88
9141 Profit transferred out of Liana income (Margaret Tebbutt)	-5 316,96
9190 Other financial costs, decrease in value (Margaret Tebbutt)	-571,18
9191 Grants given from Margaret Tebbutt Foundation	-8 408,74
Total investments and financing activities	0,00
Profit/loss for the period	0,36
Total appropriations	0,00
Surplus (deficit) for the financial year	0,36

Note: **Value of voluntary work** is not indicated in the accounts: For the Forest Garden Farming for People and the Planet project, the value of voluntary work is recorded as 4250€, with the real total amount exceeding 6000€. The value of voluntary work is determined by calculating half of the individual's budgeted salary rate. All organisational administration is done as voluntary work (annual reporting, webpages, organisational bookkeeping), and all school project coordination from Finland is voluntary work.