



# Activity Report

2021

## Summary

In general, our tropical trees have grown well in 2021. The Covid-19 restrictions have challenged the work of both our local partners and our follow-up visits from Denmark. Together with our partner CIDI the minor problems identified have been remedied and trees have been/are being replanted in cases they are found missing.

Upon request and after initial analysis of potentials for more planting opportunities, as well as markets in Asia TROFACO have initiated production and sales in Vietnam, with an initial 3,000 trees, together with a new partner, Center for Rural Economy and Development.

Our strategic collaboration with a major Danish transport company (ANCOTRANS) was extended and deepened also by the company bringing additional partners in DK and other EU countries through an innovative campaign.

New customers have come in, among them an innovative clothing company. In addition, a new line of work supporting overall tropical tree planting via TROFACO's verification has been initiated. This is with a construction/earth moving company, whose large tree planting in Uganda TROFACO will verify.

The TROFACO CO<sub>2</sub> fund was established as a legally and functionally independent fund, with its own board.

Our collaboration with the Danish NGO, DanChurchAid, did not work out as expected. Only few trees were planted. TROFACO continues to verify plantings under the agreements with DCA, in Cambodia and Uganda

The global campaign for 1 trillion trees undertakes reforestation research, under the leadership of Restor, to which we have supplied data and volunteered research collaboration.

Our Advisory Board for TROFACO, consisting of committed personalities in Danish and international climate action and sustainability has met twice and provided excellent advice and networking.

## Production of tropical trees.

TROFACO managed to facilitate planting of almost 40,000 tropical trees in 2021. In view of the challenges from Covid-19 the results are very promising. The planting was mainly in Uganda, with



a start-up of 3,000 in Vietnam. Following up on our tripartite agreement Kingdom of Buganda – CIDI – TROFACO, we and CIDI accepted a proposal from the Kingdom to plant on Kingdom land in Mityana. Initially 1,000 trees have been planted.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected our tree hosts in Uganda. Schools have been hit especially hard. The Government closed all schools, and stopped paying salaries in March 2020, continuing through 2021. The initial survey we could undertake in the latter part of 2021 showed large tree mortality on some schools, while others are doing fine. The mortality is mainly caused by cattle which roam free if the community does not restrict it. With no staff and pupils at the school this has happened in some instances. Early 2022 TROFACO has undertaken a complete survey of all sites. Sponsors who have lost trees were contacted and offered a) replanting of the missing trees on the sites, b) trees from TROFACO's reserve in other sites.

## Sponsorships and sales.

TROFACO gained some new customers. Among those is Rentista, which is an innovative clothing company.

The excellent collaboration with ANCOTRANS has expanded, specifically through ANCOTRANS' customers for the transported containers having added their purchases of 'Green Surcharge'.

In Vietnam TROFACO is supporting our partner CRED in development of in-country marketing.

## Operations

We have been able to work in the field in Uganda in July and October 2021. A planned working visit in December 2021 had to be postponed to January 2022 because of uncertainty for travel, due to the Omicron variant.

From mid- 2022 CIDI will employ one staff to work exclusively with the 'Social Climate Trees'. This will strengthen the oversight, which hitherto has been performed by regional offices, along with their many other activities.

In Vietnam and Cambodia travels have been impossible due to Covid. Working visits are planned for the first half of 2022.

## CO<sub>2</sub> fund.

The fund is now legally established, after considerable confusion in the approving authority. It will, in 2022 or 2023 (most like the former), reach the critical mass of 1 million DKK. This will allow payments to be made to all responsible "tree hosts" at the fund's discretion.

## Organization and systems

When travel to and within Uganda became possible from June 2021, we started building the on-the-ground foundations for further improvement of our documentation to clients and other interested parties.

Malte Johnsen and Steffen Johnsen travelled in Uganda, learned how to make our trusted drone fly 'Waypoints' and take video- and photos at predefined locations. A young Ugandan was learning from Malte. At the same time, we trained local CIDI staff on how to make GPS-contours of individual plantings.

TROFACO will help train the person CIDI appoints for working with the trees, also in the IT we use (smartphones, drones, GPS-mapping), which has sometimes provided challenges for the local CIDI offices.



*Screengrab from TROFACO database ([trees.trofaco.org](https://trees.trofaco.org)) showing successive plantings (2019-2022) for ANCOTRANS and its customers at Kiya Hill in Rakai, Uganda. In the database the user clicks on any planting to get details (number and species of trees) as well as images from successive years.*

The TROFACO database was upgraded significantly to handle the GPS-contours, drone flight paths and presentation of successive plantings at the same, larger site. The latter then illustrates how a larger area is gradually filled with trees.



We have had two very successful meetings in our enthusiastic Advisory Board. The board has discussed TROFACO's work and provided advice for future development, and it has learned and discussed about fundamental issues in global Climate Change.