LARGE-SCALE TREE PLANTING ON BARE RIVER BANKS TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

There are miles of Rau River banks that need trees to protect the water source against erosion. Large-scale tree planting around water sources is a sustainable solution to breaking the negative spiral for the environment and will improve:

- ✓ Water availability
- ✓ Water quality
- ✓ Water management
- ✓ Stability of river/spring banks: reduce erosion and flood damage
- ✓ Vegetation including habitat for insects, microbes

Water supplies from the rivers are decreasing due to climate change and deforestation threatens the protection of wetlands along rivers. Trees help to purify polluted water, prevent erosion and retain water reserves for the dry season. Vegetated riverbanks are key to protecting crops and villages against flooding during heavy rainfall. Flooding in Lower Moshi has increased, swamping entire villages, families losing their homes, income and crops.

Thanks to Boumeester Foundation's generous donation, large-scale planting of 7000 trees has commenced on the banks of the Pangani River and the Rau River and **two CLEAN-UP DAYS** by Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots youth are organised.

The planting locations along the Pangani River in Lower Moshi

The Lower Moshi area is increasingly depleting, with agriculture only succeeding around the river and sparse springs. The villagers struggle daily to find sufficient food.

Greenmanjaro and our local NGO partner FT Kilimanjaro have identified that the best planting areas surround villages on both sides of the Pangani River. In close cooperation with village councils, a 60-metre-wide strip along the river bank has been allocated for our tree planting project. No further agriculture is permitted within 60 meters of the river/spring bank.

The local district government encourages replanting and wholeheartedly endorsed this project.

The trees and the tree planters

The large-scale tree planting amounts to 5000 trees: 4000 shade trees and 1000 fruit trees. The shade trees will be planted along the river and stream banks; the 1,000 fruit trees allocated to the participating families. Villagers can apply to participate in the project. FT Kilimanjaro selects participants in consultation with village and school leaders. It is a joint effort between the school kids, their parents and communities to restore nature in their living environment.

The planting takes place in two tranches: the first was in December 2023 and the remainder is planned for Spring 2024.

Each family plants 4 trees at designated sites and remains responsible for their continued growth and protection (from hungry goats). As a reward, they receive a fruit tree seedling for their own use. This improves the water management in the area, the vitamins in daily food and income for the communities.

In Lower Moshi, the growing conditions are harsh due to a lack of water and a high soil salinity level. We must ensure the tree seedlings are sufficiently strong and mature enough for successful cultivation.

Planting Problems Rau River

In the last months of 2023 El Nino caused massive flooding in the Kilimanjaro area. Roots & Shoots youth volunteers, another local NGO partner, got stuck in the deep mud en route to the river banks with 1000+ tree seedlings. They were forced to turn back and plant the trees in the forest, close to the river banks. Early 2024, when access to the river banks will be easier, another thousand trees will be planted on the riverbank.

CLEAN-UP DAY 2023

The Rau River meanders through Rau Forest, the primary water source for its vegetation. Its banks suffer severe pollution due to neglect and dumping of household waste.

At the end of 2023, our planned CLEAN-UP DAY with Roots & Shoots in Rau Forest and Rau River was cancelled due to El Niňo's heavy winds and rains. The event took place in January 2024, 85 school kids collected many bags of plastic litter. The next CLEAN-UP DAY will take place Spring 2024.

ON BEHALF OF THE KILIMANJARO KIDS:

ASANTE SANA FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!