

# Annual report 2023

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## 1. Information about the Organisation

## 1.1 Founding of Urban Street Forest

The non-profit organisation, Urban Street Forest, was founded on 19th of February 2016. The foundation is registered at the Chamber of Commerce (KvK), Amsterdam, Holland, with the registry number 856092423.

The foundation holds the status of a non-profit organisation, the Dutch "ANBI" status.

The main objective of the Urban Street Forest Foundation is described in the statutes as follows:

Urban Street Forest aims to plant as many trees as possible for the large-scale restoration of landscapes in countries suffering from desertification, and also in urban areas. Tree planting is preferably carried out together with local farmers involved in agroforestry<sup>1</sup> projects, or local tree planting organisations.

#### Urban Street Forest aims to achieve this goal by:

• Organising tree planting days in urban and rural areas.

We do this in collaboration with primary school pupils, local residents and local organisations. Trees are planted in areas affected by desertification by partnering with local farmers and agroforestry projects. The tree planting days and the trees for the agroforestry projects are financed with the money raised from the sponsorship by private donors, and with the proceeds of the CO2 compensation programme.

Sponsorship

Companies and individuals can plant trees with us by making a donation, or by compensating their CO2 emissions by planting trees. The proceeds go directly to agroforestry projects, as well as to the tree planting days in urban and rural areas.

Creating a tool (Tree Wallet) for the tracking of the trees planted

The Tree Wallet software allows us to accurately map the position of each tree planted. This enables us to create maps of tree planting activities. Tree Wallet also means we can assess tree survival, and re-plant trees that have not survived.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Agroforestry is a cultivation system in which trees are combined with agriculture on the same plot of land. This mixed cultivation can have a positive effect on, among other things, biodiversity, soil fertility and the attractiveness of the landscape. (Text: Wageningen University & Research. Source: <a href="https://www.wur.nl/nl/project/5-vragen-over-Agroforestry-bomen-en-landbouw-op-een-perceel.htm">https://www.wur.nl/nl/project/5-vragen-over-Agroforestry-bomen-en-landbouw-op-een-perceel.htm</a>



Creating short videos and documentaries

The production of short videos and documentaries about the work done by Urban Street Forest has enabled the organisation to reach an international online audience. In addition, the videos have an educational function: people learn about desertification, the importance of (planting) trees, as well as tips and tricks on how to plant them. All the fieldwork and activities Urban Street Forest do are documented in this way, allowing sponsors to see directly how their donations are being used.

Development of educational materials

#### The Tree Planting Journey

Growing deserts, the importance of trees & planting trees
In addition to the videos mentioned above, Urban Street Forest has developed a set of
educational materials for primary schools and other organisations that work with children,
that allows teachers to create their own lessons with fun, interactive lesson material. The
material is most suitable for children aged eight to twelve. The education package is
available for free on the Urban Street Forest website, and is currently available in Dutch and
English. The translation into Spanish is ongoing.

### 1.2 Manifesto and core values

#### The Urban Street Forest foundation manifesto

"We are suffocating from air pollution and lack of oxygen in our cities. We walk past grey sterile façades and are unaware that we are locked up in prison cells. If we want to survive, everyone has to take action. You have to make your own environment. You cannot wait for the government and the permit." - Friedrich Hundertwasser (1972)

The disappearance of green spaces is a worldwide issue: every day, forests are cut down on a huge scale. The loss of this fertile land represents a major problem for civilization. As much as 30 percent of the total land area on earth is degraded. By cutting down forest and then allowing cattle to graze the ecological system becomes impoverished and the fertile soil is quickly washed away. Without trees, the soil cannot hold water. Some ecosystems are so badly affected that they can no longer sustain themselves. The result is drought, crop failure and food shortages. Planting trees in these areas is therefore essential. Agroforestry is a good way to involve the local population in the restoration of an area as this system integrates the planting of trees with agriculture.

Urban Street Forest acts as a platform in which interested people can ask for advice, help and information on how to organise tree planting days. Urban Street Forest also supports agroforestry projects by providing trees and planting them together with farmers in areas suffering from desertification or ecological degradation. In urban areas, projects are



organised with local residents and other direct stakeholders. Working together to improve the living environment has a bonding effect. This bottom-up approach creates a feeling of involvement and responsibility, and is thus more sustainable, in contrast to the more common top-down approach that depends on the government or other funding bodies. The foundation strives for a horizontal organisational structure and an independent approach.

With every action they organise, Urban Street Forest contributes to landscape restoration through agroforestry in areas affected by desertification. By doing so, we try to promote a circular economy. In addition, the foundation has an educational role and also enables companies to compensate for their CO2 emissions through the CO2 compensation programme.

It is time that having a tree becomes as normal as keeping a pet. Companies and individuals must become aware of their ecological footprint. If many people do one small thing, together we can change the world. What will you do?

#### Mission

The mission of USF is to restore the ecological, social and economic potential of landscapes, by planting trees with local farmers, communities and partner organisations.

#### Vision

We see an important role for companies to help restore degraded landscapes worldwide by supporting restorative and productive tree-planting projects.

We envision a world where there is ecological, social and economic health. We see tree-planting as crucial to achieve this goal.

#### Strategy

USF connects corporations and other sponsors who want to help restore landscapes/plant trees with landowners and planters in tree-planting projects, currently in the Netherlands, Spain and sub-Saharan African countries.

We help corporations and other sponsors to use a sustainable approach when offsetting carbon, by combining tree-planting with other projects that have environmental, social and economic benefits.

USF provides accountability/proof of work of the planted trees by giving information such as the GPS location, a photo and the name of the planter, thus providing a transparent proof of work and direct connection with our planting partner on the ground.

#### To Summarise

- We plant as many trees as possible
- We employ a bottom-up approach
- We maintain a pragmatic way of working



- We enable you to support communities
- We stimulate social and economic wellbeing
- We share knowledge and educate
- We work for future generations

#### 1.3 Board

The board of Urban Street Forest consisted in 2023 of:

Harm Bredero: chair
 Nina Kaun: treasurer
 Fran Osborn: secretary

> Kaspar König: general board member

## 2. Report of Activities in 2023

## 2.1 Tree planting

This year Urban Street Forest planted trees with a number of associations and institutions in Spain, The Netherlands and Africa

16.01.23 and 23/24.01.23. Urban Street forest planted trees with AlVelAl farmers in Oria and Cúllar (in the province of Almeria and Granada): a mixture of wild olives, two different types of oaks, pine trees, trees from the pistachio family, elms and more. All this to ensure a wide diversity of trees adapted to the local conditions.

21.02.23. A planting day in the Sierra de Gador, Almeria, was organised in collaboration with the Environmental Association, Biosur en Accion, together with students of a local agricultural school, Escuela Agraria de Vicar, and members of the forestry fire prevention service, el Consorcio de Bomberos del Poniente. Close to 1000 trees were planted (including Cartagena cypress, Cornicabra, Coscoja, Spanish oak, Wild olives, Espino negro, and Sabinas) on 4 Ha of public land assigned as a reforestation area by the local authority (Junta de Andalucía).







Further information (in Spanish) is given here:

https://www.lavozdealmeria.com/noticia/3/provincia/252525/la-importancia-de-recuperar-el-bosque-de-la-sierra-de-gador-para-el-poniente

and here: <a href="https://agroautentico.com/2023/02/bomberos-biosur-en-accion-y-una-asociacion-holandesa-retoman-la-reforestacion/">https://agroautentico.com/2023/02/bomberos-biosur-en-accion-y-una-asociacion-holandesa-retoman-la-reforestacion/</a>

Video links: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbmswkJA\_Us

23.03.23 Urban Street Forest undertook a tree planting project in the Weesp Ukranian Refugee Centre in Amsterdam, together with De Regenboog Groep Amsterdam and many enthusiastic residents. As well as trees planted directly in the ground, and ivy planted along the fence, 65 trees were planted in containers, one for each of the 65 Ukranian families temporarily housed there. Thus, when a family moves on, they can take their tree with them. In addition, Urban Street Forest planted a further 65 trees in other parts of the world suffering from deforestation.

This project was supported by Artis who donated walnut and oak trees, Meerbonennu who donated a variety of species of young trees, Marco van den Burg from Plant-tray.com who donated the recycled containers, Hoek for providing the ivy ad soil, and the many volunteers who planted the trees.





#### 31.03.23 FedEx planting day

Urban Street Forest (Noortje Schrauwen and Christophe de Warrimont), in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation, organised a planting day for employees of FedEx at the Terragon Nature Lab in Amsterdam. A total of 12 nut (pecan, hazelnut, chestnut and almond) trees were planted. These trees will improve the ecosystem and provide food for children's camps. We also visited De Stadsgroenteboer and handed out 8 trees to them.



On top of this, FedEx sponsored the planting of 1500 trees by AlVelAl farmers involved in regenerative agriculture projects in a semi-arid zone in the south of Spain, and the trees planted, as well as offsetting carbon emissions, will also provide future food for communities.

#### Tree planting in Africa

#### 24.05.23

A series of three planting actions was organised by Prof. Bernard Kakuhikire, and supported by Urban Street Forest, in Uganda, Africa:



- 1. 600 mango and 100 grevillea trees were planted at the Boni Consilii Girls Vocational Secondary School, and 100 mango trees at the St. Hellen's Primary School in Mbarara.
- 2. 350 cassia trees were planted at the Maryhill High School, Mbarara City.
- 3. 750 mango trees, 850 grevillea trees, 200 musizi trees, and 350 cassia trees were planted at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in the Isingiro District in Uganda with the support of the Lions Club of Mbarara and the Nakivale Lions Club.

This gave a total of 3.300 trees planted.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16FiM0ahTkQ

#### 27.10.23 Rwenzori Mountains National Park

The planting of o120.000 of a diverse mix of shade and fruit trees in the Kasese area in Uganda started. Due to huge deforestation, floods are increasing and the rich soils are washing away. Trees are By planting fruit trees we can help the local people feed themselves so they don't need to cut more forests. The process was documented in the videos below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ra54Kw21Iu0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpSr5PrYnDQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWRHyvjjFco

#### 2.2 Tree care and maintenance

Due to the extreme drought in Spain early 2023, Urban Street Forest did not only plant trees, but also irrigated the trees planted in various locations:

in the Sierra de Gádor where we carried out a reforestation action together with @Biosur (see planting day, 21.02.22).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce0XotTpuL4

- young cork oaks that were planted this year in a relict stand of cork oaks (Quercus suber) in Almeria.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5auwaj1We4l

At last! After an extremely dry winter, it has rained again. The cork oaks (Quercus suber) are now sprouting again! During the extreme drought a month ago, we watered these cork oaks (see the previous video on watering the cork oaks).

https://youtu.be/ESIsqHGfQLA?si=CYFFu3Mevb0xZ8J-



Urban Street Forest visited the trees planted in the La Molina Park by the children of the Jerez de Marquesado village in April 2022 (see the Urban Street Forest Annual Report 2023; video link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-z2UvHcRWc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-z2UvHcRWc</a>). The trees were all growing well and adapting themselves to the surroundings. They were GPSed and mapped using the TreeWallet app.



During summer the trees planted in Southern Spain were watered and protected from the summer sun with extra mulching.









#### 2.3 Communication and videos

#### 25.04.23.

Agrodifusión TV showed a documentary showing the effects of the reforestation programme at the Puerto de Enix, Sierra de Gador, Almeria, Spain, as part of the project "Towards sustainable agriculture" undertaken by the association Biosur en Acción, together with students from the Vicar agrarian school, the firefighters association, Consorcio de Bomberos del Poniente and Urban Street Forest.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo0GrCPTLU8

15.05.23. Educational video about the effects of infiltration channels or swales, explaining how these have a positive effect on soil stabilisation, as well as increasing soil's ability to absorb rainfall runoff and thus store water for crops. Swales are trapezoid channels that are dug on contour (ie. perpendicular to the slope).

This project was run in cooperation with the Xeropaisajes company and the Association for the Promotion of Ecosystemic Arable and Livestock Farming, Puerto Lumbreras Murcia, Spain. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3b1KNXFmfDw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3b1KNXFmfDw</a>

30.05.23. Educational video about the benefits of seeing trees as assets that can stabilise climates, restore water tables, enhance food security and stimulate economies, thus bringing us towards a modern financial system based on functioning and healthy ecosystems. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luPNeH6gEak

#### 04.06.23

We plant trees in Andalusia against encroaching desertification and to help restore landscapes and contribute to biodiversity. Planting trees in semi-deserts is very difficult, it is a trial and error process, with annual rainfall of 50 to a maximum of 150 mm and summers where it is months above thirty-five degrees, weeks above forty and half a year without rainfall, it is important to shelter the planted saplings well from the sun and think carefully about how to catch dew.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRmplyyxC3Q

29.11.23. Educational video about the deforestation in Uganda, that explains how many of the mountains in Uganda already look like the dry deforested mountains in the semi arid zones of Spain. This makes them unable to fulfil their function of 'water reservoir'. The rivers are slowly drying up. When it rains, there are often floods that wash away fertile soil and people lose crops, homes and even lives.

In fact, only a small percentage of the original rainforest in Uganda remains. The natural forests have disappeared due to agricultural practice, the need for firewood and poverty.

The video then goes on to relate how, by planting (fruit) trees in the Rwenzori Mountains, Urban Street Forest contributes to restoring ecosystems and building food security, whilst providing extra income for the local people in these areas.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuCif0ACGiU



#### 21.12.2023 New Urban Street Forest website

After several months of hard work, Urban Street Forest have finalised an updated and re-vamped website, featuring a live count of the number of trees planted; an interactive map showing where current tree-planting projects are taking place; a platform for online donations for tree planting, and much, much more......

See: <a href="https://urbanstreetforest.com/">https://urbanstreetforest.com/</a>

## 2.4 Internship and education

05.10.23. Urban Street Forest offered an internship to Paul Bauer, student at the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen (Germany). Paul has been working in Uganda for 3 months and visited Urban Street Forest partners in both Uganda and Tanzania.

Paul has previously worked with Urban Street Forest in Spain on planting and water retention projects

In Uganda Paul has:

- assisted in the planting and GPS'ing of the 120.000 trees that are were being planted these months with our partner, the Ruboni Community Conservation & Development Program (RCCDP) in Ruboni, Rwenzori mountains, in Uganda
- organised a tree planting day with the community of Kikorongo, with the support of the RCCDP
- visited professor Bernard in Mbarara in Uganda (Lions Club of Mbarara) and visited school planting projects
- visited our partner Friends of Usambara in Tanzania and gave a lecture at the Shambalai secondary school about agroecological farming management techniques to shift monoculture cultivation of trees towards diverse climate resilient farming systems

#### Combining theory and practice in the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda!

Urban Street Forest founders, Raymond Brouwers and Anouk van de Beek visited Dream International when they were in Uganda in 2022. They are waiting to start planting trees with us and are already starting with our education materials and testing the GPSing. See below:

16.11.23. Dream International organised a tree planting event for their farmer cooperatives, district officials and head teachers. They introduced our education project 'The Tree Planting Journey' which teaches about the importance of trees and tree planting. It was received with enthusiasm and the head teachers will start using the education project in their schools.



### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq\_0m1erQ\_w





#### 21.12.23.

Our partner Wayang Coffee sponsored a community tree planting day in Kikorongo in Uganda! The villagers planted 750 trees of which 500 trees were fruit trees, such as avocado, lemon and mango - and 250 shade trees. The community celebrated the tree planting with music, songs and food!

This action was organised by our intern Paul Bauer and Anisbely Castillo, and supported by the Ruboni Community Conservation & Development Program, Felex Kamalha, Yasoni Masereka and the team members of The Elephant Home! They also shared our education project 'The Tree Planting Journey' with the children of the village.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMVTvEpzKH4



## 2.7 Donations & Partnerships

#### Our tree planting partners

- ➤ Trees for the Future: first partner; since 2015 Urban Street Forest has funded 316,872 trees with Trees for the Future.
- ➤ AIVeIAI: Regenerative Farmers' association in the uplands of Southeastern Spain, between Murcia, Almeria and Granada. Farmers have set aside land unsuitable for crops for the planting of trees.
- ➤ **Xeropaisajes:** Consultation and design of projects that have as their aim the restoring of the landscape, regenerative agriculture and the development of renewable energies. Have been key in the coordination of water retention projects with Urban Street Forest in southeastern Spain.
- > Ruboni Community Conservation & Development Program (RCCDP), based in the Rwenzori Mountains, Uganda.
- > Friends of Usambara (FoU) in Tanzania.
- > ARTIS: Inspires and encourages a wide audience to interact responsibly with nature.
- > Biosur: Offers farmers effective and sustainable solutions.
- ➤ **Lions Clubs International:** Funding and organisational support serving communities throughout the world.

#### **Our Sponsors in 2023**

#### Collaboration partner for tree planting days

- > Arbor Day Foundation: US based nonprofit dedicated to planting trees to make our world greener and healthier.
  - Treeplanting day with employees from FedEx and extra sponsoring to 1500 trees in the South of Spain

#### Carbon compensation programme or free donations

For Carbon compensation we estimate that 5 small trees need to be planted to have one tree surviving to 20 years old, to full capacity of CO2 conversion.

- KraftHeinz: One of the world's largest food and beverage companies 1458 trees
- > Lux&Co: Compensation of CO2 for 2023 670 trees
- ➤ Locatiewerk: Compensation of CO2 for 2021 -698 trees
- > Camalot: Compensation of CO2 for 2023 -750 trees



> Wayang Coffee Beans: supporting 2 tree planting days in Uganda.

#### Tree per product programme

These are specific agreements per organisation.

- ➤ Lifetree: donates one tree for every t-shirt sold, resulting in 2200 trees in 2023.(H2 2022 + H1 2023)
- ➤ Kaffee Spritz (Netherlands): donates one tree for every tray of drinks sold, resulting in 162 trees for 2022.
- ➤ **De Werkplek (Netherlands):** Donates one tree for every co-working space member. Has had a total of **185 trees planted** in Lucainena de las Torres, Spain.
- > Warentuin:
- > Wayang Coffee Beans: to be started in 2024

#### Other tree sponsorship by partners and donors (> 100 trees)

- ➤ Kaspar König: supporting 5 tree planting days in Uganda with 2500 trees(to be planted in 2024)
- ➤ Biosur supported with in-kind donations a tree planting day planting 250 trees with students and school children in Spain

And many smaller donations throughout the year from individual sponsors!

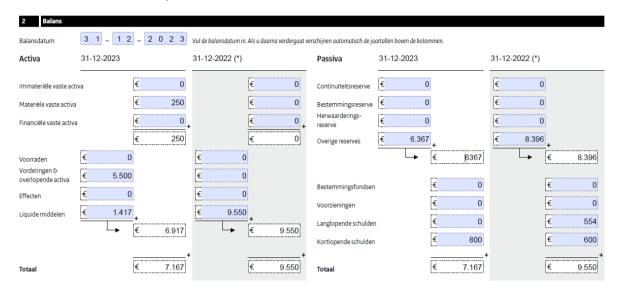
## 3. Financial Annual Report

This section is written in Dutch in compliance with rules for Dutch non-profit organisations (= organisaties met ANBI status) https://anbi.nl/publicatieverplichting/

The according forms from URL https://download.belastingdienst.nl/belastingdienst/docs/standaardform-pubplicht-anbialgemeen-ib1101z3fol.pdf were used.



## 3.1 Balance sheet per 31 december 2023





## 3.2 Income and expenses 2023

Staat van baten en lasten				
Baten	2023		2022 (*)	
Subsidies van overheden	€	0	€	0
Subsidies van andere instellingen zonder winststreven	€	0	€	0
Overige subsidies	€	0	€	0
Baten van subsidies	€	0	€	0
Baten sponsorbijdragen	€	0	€	0
Giften en donaties van particulieren	€	6.246	€	5.422
Nalatenschappen	€	0	€	0
Bijdragen van loterijinstellingen	€	0	€	0
Overige giften	€	24.129	€	13.414
Giften	€	30.375	€	18.836
Baten als tegenprestatie voor levering van producten en/of diensten (omzet)	€	0	€	0
Financiële baten	€	0	€	0
Overige baten	€	0	€	0
Som van alle baten	€	30.375	€	18.836
Lasten Inkoopwaarde van geleverde producten (kostprijs)	€	18.955	€	41.287
Verstrekte subsidies & giften	€	0	€	0
Aankopen en verwervingen	€	0	€	0
Communicatiekosten	€	2.532	€	1.851
Personeelskosten	€	9.432	€	7.732
Huisvestingskosten	€	0	€	0
Afschrijvingen	€	50	€	0
Financiële lasten	€	0	€	0
Overige lasten	€	1.435	€	876
Som van de lasten	€	32.404	€	51.746
John vall de lasten		02.101	<u> </u>	51.170
Saldo van baten en lasten	€	-2.029	€	-32.910



## 3.3 General explanations

All assets and liabilities valued at nominal value.

## 3.4 Financial balance - explanations

#### **Activa**

Materiële vaste activa

A GPS tool/phone was bought for documenting GPS locations of trees in South of Spain. A depreciation of 20% p.a. is handled.

- Vorderingen en overlopende activa

Sponsor Kraft Heinz had announced a payment of €2000 for 2023 for trees to be planted, but payments only arrived in Jan 2024. Therefore, also the partial payment for the trees for Uganda of €3500 was moved to 2024.

- Liquide middelen

At the end of the year USF holds in the bank € 1292,06. Additionally, there is € 125 present in cash.

#### **Passiva**

- Bestemmingsreserves/ overige reserves

There is € 800,- reserved for accounting to be paid in 2024.

The dept from 2018 for the acquisition of T-shirts shown in earlier reports were erased by J. Koelemeijer.

## 3.5 Financial income and expenditure - explanations

## Income ("Baten")

USF receives regular and random donations from individuals for planting trees and supporting the organisation. These are typically received as a transaction to USF's bank account or via the webpage.

Under "other donations" USF registers the larger donations received from companies as part of their social programmes.

#### **Expenditure ("Lasten")**

- Value delivered products

This encompasses all expenses regarding planting trees, projects with kids (tree planting activities, education), with companies as part of their social programmes and water retention projects in Southern Spain.

Trees in Africa are planted with our partner organisation Trees for the Future and partners Usambara Travels in Tanzania, and the Ruboni Community Conservation & Development



Program in Uganda. Trees in South of Spain are either planted with USF volunteers. (volunteer reimbursement of max € 180/month)

USF is also using a GPS app and database in order to document the trees planted and develop the concept of "Tree Wallet".

- Personeelskosten

USF is paying one person part time as office manager. All other people are working as volunteers within dedicated projects and activities.

- Communication costs

This includes all costs regarding website, email, webspace hosting

- Other spend

This accounts for all administrative costs mainly bank related costs including the accountant.

## 3.6 Summary

In 2023 Urban Street Forest continued the efforts to plant and grow trees in Spain as well as in Uganda and Tanzania.

A new collaboration with ArborDay Foundation was started. New sponsors were attracted, while the existing sponsors kept supporting USF with their donations.

With the drought in Spain it became necessary to water trees to keep them alive and growing. On the Treewallet App more than 25.000 trees were registered providing the proof of the tree planted and allowing to go back and see the status of the tree.

Educational treeplanting days in Spain and Uganda were executed spreading the knowledge about the value of trees.

In 2023 Urban Street Forest also launched a new website to improve the messaging about the impact of planting more trees.

The accounting policies are based on the going concern the assumption that all business continues.



## 4. Approval and Signatures

Amsterdam, 30-07-2024 Stichting Urban Street Forest

Harm Bredero (Voorzitter / Chair)

Nina Kaun (Penningmeester / Treasurer)