



10,000 TREES FOR PEACE

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

PROJECT PROPOSAL ALIGNED WITH RI GLOBAL GRANT GUIDELINES

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INTRODUCTION to PROJECT:

This proposal is for “10,000 Trees for Peace”- an innovative environmental peacebuilding project to serve an area known as Gudele West, a “boma” within the northwestern area of Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Though the city’s population know and refer to this area as Gudele West, it appears on official maps as Southern Gudele with an estimated population of 14,000 residents living and working in 2,800 households and small businesses. The Gudele West boma is further subdivided into four areas referred to locally as “blocks” (though they are large and not equivalent to the US concept of city and suburban blocks). It’s a diverse area with eight major tribes and South Sudanese returnees and immigrants from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Sudan. Residents include refugees and internally displaced peoples (IDPs) from past conflicts. Additionally, Juba’s most populated school and orphanage, called Straight Link, is located here.

The project as described further in this proposal involves planting 9,900 tree saplings (One hundred were planted in a kick-off event in late 2023 at which a 10,000 trees aspiration was announced). With funding, the 9,900 trees will be planted in two phases in 2025 that align with two planting seasons for a variety of shade and fruit trees - February through April and September through December. The approach will involve inter-communal training and a way of working together that builds community connections.

Implementation of a facilitated, communal tree planting process is an example of how a natural resource improvement plan becomes a platform for dialogue and building bridges between people. **This is a way of harnessing common resources and shared challenges to bring people together rather than set them apart (Environmental Peacebuilding, 2022).**

The outline for the rest of this proposal is:

- Note on Rotary Global Grant Area of Focus Selection
- Project Background
- Project Need
- Community Assessment
- Committee Members
- Project Activities and Duration
- Measuring Success - Monitoring and Evaluation
- Details on Location
- Risks and Contingencies
- NewGen Peacebuilders Expertise
- Funding and Budget

NOTE on ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT AREA OF FOCUS SELECTION:

This proposal is presented as a foundation for writing and submission of a Global Grant application to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Global Grants reinforce global partnerships by supporting significant international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. **This proposal includes a narrative and a budget that are consistent with the structure and requirements of a Global Grant to make it easy, after review, to move forward with completion of an official application.**

Under Global Grant guidelines, it is possible to submit a grant in *one area of focus or more than one area of focus*. The 10,000 Trees for Peace project could be presented within the "Protecting the Environment" area of focus or "Promoting Peace", or a combination. Why?
The project involves a large-scale effort to positively affect the environment in ways that

increase cohesion among a large number of people in an area with historical, persistent social conflict. However, Global Grant project applications submitted with ONLY one area of focus tend to be more easily understood and accepted with fewer questions and delays.

Within the Rotary area of focus on “Protecting the Environment” - consistent with Global Grant guidelines, the impact goals are to:

- Mitigate climate change
- Maintain people’s social well-being in compatibility with flourishing natural systems
- Strengthen environmental equity by addressing socio-environmental issues that disproportionately affect marginalized communities

Within the Rotary area of focus on “Promoting Peace” - consistent with Global Grant guidelines, the impact goals are to:

- Enhance capacity of individuals and communities to transform conflict and build peace
- Train community members in peace education, peace leadership, and conflict prevention and resolution
- Improve dialogue and community relations to determine how best to manage natural resources

We propose that the area of focus selection be “Protecting the Environment” but the application narrative will make clear that the methodology is designed for profound effects on peace. The project is consistent with an emerging field called “Environmental Peacebuilding.”

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

South Sudan, which became an independent country in 2011 with support from many groups and policy leaders in the US, faces serious environmental and peacebuilding challenges. The country suffers from deforestation for charcoal production and rapid urban sprawl without significant environmental remediation efforts. This has led to several adverse effects including rapidly rising temperatures that force periods of school closure, prolonged periods of flooding and drought, and community altercations between citizens and business owners over what little shaded area is present. Specifically, Juba, the capital and largest city in South Sudan, is experiencing the combined consequences of population influx and climate change (Cilliers et al. 2012; Ekamby and Mudu 2022). Additionally, despite a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005, South Sudan has faced two outbreaks described as “civil war” and tensions remain high between diverse groups. **Conflicts are exacerbated by extreme events of heat, rain, and flooding.**

In early 2023, with support from the Rotary Club of Midland, MI, and local St. John's Episcopal Church, US 501c3 nonprofit NewGen Peacebuilders conducted intensive peacebuilding workshops with 100 high school and university students and Rotarian mentors. The project was led by Rotary Peace Fellow Patricia Shafer, drawing on her 12 years of humanitarian work in South Sudan and a peacebuilding methodology that has certified 10,000 young peacebuilders in multiple states in the US and several countries, as well as a previous pilot training in South Sudan. **The 2023 training incorporated the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace framework from Rotary strategic partner Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP).** The IEP defines positive peace as attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies in these categories: Well-Functioning Government, Equitable Distribution of Resources, Free Flow of Information, Good Relations with Neighbors, High Levels of Human Capital, Acceptance of the Rights of Others, Low Levels of Corruption, and Sound Business Environment.

During the 2023 in-person workshop-style training, students and Rotarian mentors mapped events in and characteristics of their own communities onto each pillar and used this structure to devise potential peace projects to address identified problems.

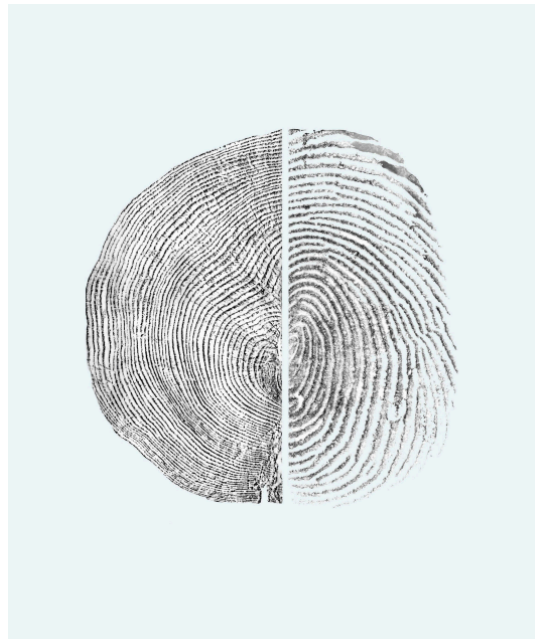
One team from Comboni Secondary School in Juba launched a pilot project called "Trees for Peace." The team highlighted concerns about **environmental challenges** in South Sudan, particularly in Juba, and cited a **desire to link positive environmental efforts with the IEP positive peace pillar "Good Relations with Neighbors."** They planted 100 saplings in Gudele West as an example of the positive relationships that can be fueled when community members come together in an effort to increase shade cover. Team members studied underlying conditions of deforestation, environmental degradation, and pollution. They gained approval and cooperation from the Ministry of Forestry, community business leaders, and local Chiefs responsible for the welfare of the communities. **The planting took place in November 2023 and has been monitored for learning and sustainability since. The followup to the planting was "light" as a test of what the community would do with regard to independent sustainability. A community visit in July, 2024, showed that 73 of the 100 trees are performing quite well, and 27 needed further support or replacement.** The difference in performance was: 1) which community members more fully understood the importance of environmental action for better living conditions; 2) which community members best understood the project and tree maintenance methods; and 3) which community members naturally had easier access to water, fertilizer (including manure), and mulch.

PROJECT NEED:

The challenges that we are targeting with this project are first and foremost environmental. According to the United Nations, countries in Africa will continue to have a significant increase in urban population, and this demographic shift places immense strain on the environment. **The rapid expansion and demographic shifts lead to environmental degradation, including**

deforestation, loss of biodiversity, pollution, and a phenomenon known as “urban heat islands.”

Additionally, these urban areas are experiencing temperatures that are rising even faster than surrounding areas because of the loss (and non-replacement) of green spaces and specifically trees. **Cities disproportionately feel these impacts due to a lack of resources to address the need for greening** (Cilliers et al. 2012; Ekamby and Mudu 2022). For example, **in Juba, during the period of the two community assessments in 2024, residents experienced a period of record-setting intense heat that led to school and business closures followed by a later period of flooding, housing damage, and closed roads during a historically destructive rainy season.** In past decades, Juba would have been considered tropical and lush and these effects would not have been felt this way.



(Future of Environmental Peacebuilding White Paper, 2022)

Most importantly, planting these trees in an urban environment has been shown to reduce city temperatures, prevent erosion and flooding, and act as a barrier to strong winds (for details see Coutts and Hahn 2015). At the same time, scarce natural resources that exacerbate heat and flood conditions in an urban setting also cause frustration and intensify conflict between community members, particularly in the diverse tribal and klan setting that characterizes Gudele West in Juba. Direct environmental complications can be linked with social conflict and opportunities for community peacebuilding.

By providing shade, reducing urban temperatures, and stabilizing geographic conditions, the trees planted through this project will likely result in invisible peacebuilding effects. But the methodology of having community groups see an equitable distribution of trees and having community groups work together to plant and preserve the trees can have the effect of greater social cohesion. For these reasons, this project exhibits qualities of “environmental peacebuilding.”

There are many **examples in Africa that show the positive environmental effects and illustrate peacebuilding through tree planting initiatives.** There is the Great Green Wall initiative adopted by the African Union in 2007, the Green Legacy Initiative introduced in Ethiopia, and a robust strategic effort in Rwanda that includes an annual tree planting period in which many Rwandans participate. The most famous example is the **Green Belt movement founded in Kenya by Professor Wanagri Maathai (1940-2011).** The movement focuses on community empowerment through tree planting and sustainable development initiatives, especially those that involve women. Dr. Maathai was the first person to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for environmental action. **Kenya, like South Sudan, is part of Rotary District 9212, and South Sudan takes many “action project” cues from Kenya.** These initiatives along with dozens of others across Africa helped inspire “10,000 Trees for Peace.” When well-executed, the positive effects of urban tree planting projects have been shown to improve air quality, lower ground and air temperatures, reduce flooding and erosion, and improve mental and emotional health and well-being. Therefore, many researchers see **urban greening as an immediate, cost-effective and sustainable means of providing social, health, economic and environmental goods and services essential to all city inhabitants.** (Donaldson Selby, 2005).

Seeing these “green trends” unfolding, the South Sudanese government announced in 2020 a need to plant 100 million trees throughout the country. Unfortunately, little progress has been made due to the COVID-19 interruption and three other reasons: 1) **funding is generally not available to pursue the goal;** 2) **organized, well-researched initiatives such as the proposed “10,000 Trees for Peace” are needed to show the impact** of funded community-based greening projects (this can attract more projects for replication and scalability); and 3) other attempts at tree planting in both urban and rural South Sudan have **not been successful when organizers do not actively involve, educate, and facilitate community Chiefs and stakeholders** to create a sense of **shared and unified ownership and responsibility.** The **proposed project addresses all three of these gaps.**

Notably, this project team’s research surfaced more than 20 projects - many of which are significantly larger than the planting of 10,000 trees that - when utilized for lessons learned - provide the utmost confidence that the “10,000 Trees for Peace” project can be well-executed.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT:

Development of the plan and proposal for the “10,000 Trees for Peace” project has been continuously underway since January 2024. The community assessment was initiated following a final report and presentation to the Rotary Club of Midland when club and district leaders asked, “Based on the successful use of grant funding for the NewGen Peacebuilders training, which project or projects could be built on?” The response was clear: “Trees for Peace.”

The project has **involvement of Rotarians in South Sudan** and support from representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Peace, Juba City Council, 15 Chiefs responsible for tribal and neighborhood activities with Gudele West, and professors from the University of Juba - the country’s anchor institution of higher education. These professors teach in the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (SNRES) and the Institute of Peace, Development, and Security Studies (IPDSS). This proposal is further informed by two rounds of intensive community assessment discussions and surveys conducted with 120 local leaders and civic group representatives in April and July 2024. The community assessments were developed from and supplemented by 100+ hours of analysis of scholarly articles and case studies on “urban greening,” environmental change, reforestation, and environmentally-related community building efforts in South Sudan and East Africa more broadly.

The **assessment team includes experts and professionals with a diverse range of experience.** **Patricia Shafer** is the Executive Director of NewGen Peacebuilders and Mothering Across Continents, a US-based non-profit operating and registered in South Sudan since 2009. **Nelson Jacob Jada**, a former Interactor, Rotaractor and Rotarian in South Sudan is NewGen Peacebuilders outreach coordinator in South Sudan. Nelson is also a graduate of the University of Juba with a degree in Economics. **Nelson has already established a working committee (see table below)** of local leaders with whom two rounds of community assessment were conducted. The committee also provides expert insight on governmental authorizations, planting practices, and more. Lapok Patrick, below, is also a Chief in Gudele West.

S/No.	Name	Institution	Title
1.	Audelio Obur K	Rotary Club Juba	President (2024 – 2025)
2.	Lapok Patrick	Straight Link Orphanage	Director
3.	Zubair Musa	University of Juba, School of Natural Resources, Department of Forestry.	Head of Department
4.	Gideon Samuel	State Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Forestry, Department of Forestry	Director
5.	Venansio Wani	Luri Payam	Executive Director
6.	Emmanuel Andrew	Juba City Council, Department of Environment	Director

The project team also includes **Ronald Micheal Serugo**, Country Director for Mothering Across Continents and NewGen Peacebuilders in South Sudan; **Cameron Terry**, a graduate student in Global Studies at the University of North Carolina who is deeply involved in the research and analysis of urban greening needs and trends; **Elizabeth Peacock**, Director of Operations at NewGen Peacebuilders, who has developed numerous budgets for Rotary District and Global Grant-funded projects; and **Peter Daniel Deng**, consultant to several ministries on large-scale community-building projects.



The community assessment included in-person meetings and **conversations related to the shaping of the project with more than 100 individuals**. Key **South Sudanese authorities and community members who were involved in shaping the project include but are not limited to:**

- Chiefs of major tribes in area (Bari, Mundari, Azande, Dinka, Nuer, Muru, Kuku, Shiluk)
- Zubair Musa, U. of Juba School of Natural Resources and Department of Forestry
- Emmanuel Andrew, Director, State Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Forestry

- Mayen Wol, Undersecretary, Ministry of Petroleum (environmental responsibility)
- Joseph Africano, Undersecretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- Suzan Juan, Deputy Director, Central Equatoria State Tree Nursery
- Community leaders from youth, women’s, and church groups, police, market vendors.¹

Examples of questions asked during the community assessment are:

Q. What are difficulties experienced in the area related [to the environment]?

A: Lack of shaded areas and scorched dry soil makes it difficult to move around the area during increasing numbers and intensity of “hot spells.” Heat stroke and heat exhaustion are common especially among school-going children. Heavy rain from April to July brings strong winds that destroy fences, houses, and infrastructure, and creates streams in roads, making them impassable. During the dry season, water scarcity is also a major issue due to limited connections and good roads, leaving households reliant on boreholes that often run dry.

Q. What are the common causes of conflict in your community?

A: Respondents cited several common causes of conflict including disputes over land ownership and usage and mistrust between tribes, clans, refugees, returnees, and youth.

Q. What are the issues that members of your community mention the most?

A: Issues mentioned most were water scarcity and pollution, inadequate waste management, deforestation, land degradation, flooding, climate change impact on livelihoods and infrastructure, and lack of green spaces and shade for recreation and relaxation.

Q. What qualities of your community do you find to be most important to preserve?

A: Respondents spoke about restoring the once tree-rich, lush natural environment and its beauty; building a stronger sense of community; and developing a sense that “things are getting better around us.” They described engaging large numbers of people from different backgrounds in projects to build trust and unity, and said that events that bring neighborhoods together to promote and celebrate cooperation and respect are essential.

¹ Youth Group: Gudele West Youth Development Network. Women’s group: Women Empowerment and Peacebuilding Association. Churches: St. Mary’s Cathedral (Catholic), Gudele West Evangelical Lutheran Church, All Saints Anglican Church, St. Francis Catholic Church, and Bethel Full Gospel Church. Schools: Straight Link Primary School, Gudele Secondary School, Hope Academy, and Gudele West Primary School. Mosques: Al Huda and Masjid Al Nur. Police Commanders were from the Gudele West Police Sector and market vendors included various local small businesses owned by community members.

Q. Which trees were common in the area before deforestation and settlement?

A: Residents recalled that Acacia, moringa, mango, eucalyptus, papaya, Baobab, and neem trees were common in the area before deforestation and fast population growth. They also noted the benefits of these trees as shade, generally, and trees acacia and eucalyptus have leaves and bark used for fever treatment and antiseptics. Mango trees can help address food and economic insecurity.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

To meet Rotary International Global Grant guidelines, there must be a Host Rotary Club in South Sudan and an International Sponsor club. These will be the Rotary Club of Juba and the Rotary Club of Midland, MI, respectively. The implementing partner organization is NewGen Peacebuilders. There are no known conflicts of interest for members of any of the mentioned organizations.

According to Jennifer Grimm, a Rotarian in Kenya who is District Grant Subcommittee Chair for District 9212 which includes South Sudan, the years of experience that Mothering Across Continents and NewGen Peacebuilders has in South Sudan is meaningful and even essential to this project. In addition, there must be **three qualified clubs** participating in this effort. The three that have been identified by Rotarians in South Sudan are: **Rotary Club of Juba, Rotary Club of Juba Airport, and Rotary Club of Wau.** Jennifer has also confirmed that she is available to guide South Sudanese clubs on any important steps to confirming club qualification status and to be an independent reviewer on these requirements:

- Community assessment completed in last six months
- Implementation plan and partners
- Impact measurement
- Sustainability plan/assurances
- Templates for training plan(s)

Also, **District 9212 is under special guardianship that requires the monitoring by the DGSC (Jennifer Grimm) in the Global Grant application and implementation process.** She is ready to do this and has said that District 9212 will **likely want to contribute funds to the effort.** Additionally, **Rotary District 7680** under the leadership of District Governor Kevin Kendrick (2024-25) and the **Rotary Club of Charlotte** under the leadership of President Kim Brattain (2024-25) **have expressed interest in the project and potential willingness to contribute funds.**

PROJECT ACTIVITIES and DURATION:

The trees will be purchased from the Central Equatoria State Nursery in Juba - the first and largest nursery in South Sudan. This nursery is well-located for transport purposes and has more than 5,000 seedlings/saplings of each species identified for planting. It is not possible to put the project out to bid for sapling purchase because this is the only nursery of significant size and capacity in a position to co-manage the project. Prices are set by government policy and guidelines because the nursery is state-owned, so prices are essentially non-negotiable.

Two periods have been chosen for planting: Period One: February through April 2025 and Period Two: September through December 2025. These are most desirable due to moderate rainfall (not the dry or heavy rain seasons) and mildest temperatures. Half of the trees (4,950) will be planted during Period One, and the other half (4,950) will be planted during Period Two.

A review of the time periods covered, public holidays, and other factors has resulted in:

- Identification of 12-13 planting days in Period One and 12-13 planting days in Period Two
- Planting days will occur on Saturdays to facilitate volunteer participation
- Specific groups will sign up to volunteer plant on specific days, and each planting day will involve 30 to 45 participants working in three teams of 10 to 15 volunteers each
- The planting time will be “half-days” with each volunteer digging and planting approximately 12 to 13 saplings

Decisions about tree species have been made with consultation from experts within the University of Juba Department of Forestry based on community needs and compatibility with the surrounding environment. Chosen trees do well in the soil found in the area which is predominantly sandy-loam to clay-loamy with a pH range of 6.5-7.5. Local experts say that chosen species are tolerant to diseases and weather changes.



Three tree species that are considered “fast-growing” and “ideal for shade” will be planted in household yards and business/vendor settings. Additionally, on a select basis, trees that provide fruit including mango and papaya will be planted in protected spaces such as churches that can control/protect the fruit and either provide it to congregants or sell it in the market to support church and school activities.

Additional details about the project implementation include:

- All species are available at the Central Equatorial State Nursery in Juba.
- The nursery Executive Director has agreed to make special arrangements for transportation of the saplings the night before or morning of the plantings (typically the nursery would be closed on Saturdays).
- The nursery ED has agreed to two periods of three months each after the plantings to support maintenance and sustainability of the plantings, including availability of a team of ten employees specialized in this activity (see budget table to understand costs).
- The ED has also agreed to start growing early enough to be able to provide established saplings larger than in the photos above to aid in faster growth and sustainability. Supplemental check-ins on trees by Rotarians will provide additional “assurance.”

Two training sessions for community leaders and volunteers will be conducted by South Sudanese team members of NewGen Peacebuilders in collaboration with representatives from the University of Juba School of Natural Resources, Central Equatoria State Nursery, and Ministry of Environment and Forestry. There will be five facilitators for each of the two trainings.

Training prior to Period One will be conducted for three full days with the first day devoted to 100 community leaders and officials, and the second and third days devoted to planting best practices. All three days will incorporate understanding of “environmental peacebuilding,” frameworks such as the IEP Eight Pillars of Positive Peacebuilding, and dialogues about the end goals of environmental sustainability combined with social cohesion. The process of community involvement in sustainability supported by the State nursery will be covered, including proper care of the trees. The sense of a common need and desire for trees can become a unifying movement and one catalyst for peaceful coexistence.

This is experiential training **conducted in ways that reinforce community and relationship peacebuilding, so cultural context requires that the** training include communal light meals, water and beverages. Chiefs and their representatives must receive modest stipends or incentives. Transportation support to events must be provided. These requirements have been taken into account in the budget table (see later in this proposal). NewGen Peacebuilders has

previously designed and delivered successful trainings in South Sudan as part of National Unity Day and the International Day of Peace for as many as 300 people at a time.

Regarding success and sustainability, the government of South Sudan has set ambitious “greening” goals for tree planting but has been unable to execute. The government is really looking to community-based projects such as “10,000 Trees for Peace” to lead the way. As explained previously, the goal of 10,000 trees over the course of a year may sound ambitious, but in reality there are many examples from other countries in the region of how this can be well done (models and lessons learned). In fact, Rotarian Jennifer Grimm from Kenya has already advised that Pwani University near Mozambique has a specialization in this area and can be engaged at no cost to review and advise on the plan put forth.

As required by Rotary Global Grant guidelines, there will be an outreach effort to promote awareness of the project and recognition of Rotarian support in a planned communications and public relations effort that includes interviews on United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UMISS) Radio (the most widely listened to programming in South Sudan), CityFM Radio, Eye Radio, and South Sudan Youth Radio. There will also be a leveraging of established processes of community outreach through Chiefs in Gudele West. For broader awareness and celebration within Rotary International, this project will be shared and promoted before and after on the Rotary Showcase, Rotarian Magazine, 2025 and 2026 Rotary International Convention (breakout sessions and the Rotary Peace Park), and with/within the Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) and Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG).

MEASURING SUCCESS - Monitoring and Evaluation:

The **Global Grant template asks applicants to select from a check-box list of goals** related to the Rotary Area(s) of Focus selected for the grant and supplement selections with measures of success from a dropdown list. In addition to the Global Grant parameters, three additional types of monitoring and evaluation will be used - all of which have been successfully used by NewGen Peacebuilders for nearly 10 years.

One type of evaluation that will be used is an aspect of the Kirkpatrick model that accounts for results and impact: how many people were trained and or involved in the project activities, how many people benefited, how many trees were planted, etc., in relation to the original goals.

A second type of evaluation will be dialogue and reflection with participants on the degree to which they feel that certain aspects of the **IEP Eight Pillars of Positive Peacebuilding** have been addressed/improved. **Questions to cover include:**

- Did this project make you feel that the goal of a well-functioning **government** was enhanced/achieved (did it help the government move toward the goal of planting 10 million trees and how)?
- Did this project help increase **good relations with neighbors** in the community and demonstrate **accepting the rights of others**?
- Did this project increase **equitable distribution of resources** (trees across the community including across different tribes)?
- Did this project **increase human capital** (have you learned something and does it make living easier)?



A third type of evaluation will be an adaptation of the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index. We are currently discussing with the Senior Director of Research for the Center For Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development and lead writer from the 2020 South Sudan Social Cohesion Report, Alexander Guest, how to adapt and integrate SCORE into the 10,000 Trees for Peace project in a way that measures the degree to which residents of Gudele West feel connected to and trusting of one another and of the government before the project begins and how they feel once it is done. This is a vetted index that has been used by researchers to measure social cohesion and reconciliation as two indicators of peace in multi-ethnic societies around the world and specifically throughout 96 different communities in South Sudan. This is a form of measurement that directly relates to whether “peace was built.” **This will be the first time the index is applied to a project in the neighborhoods of the capital city of Juba.**



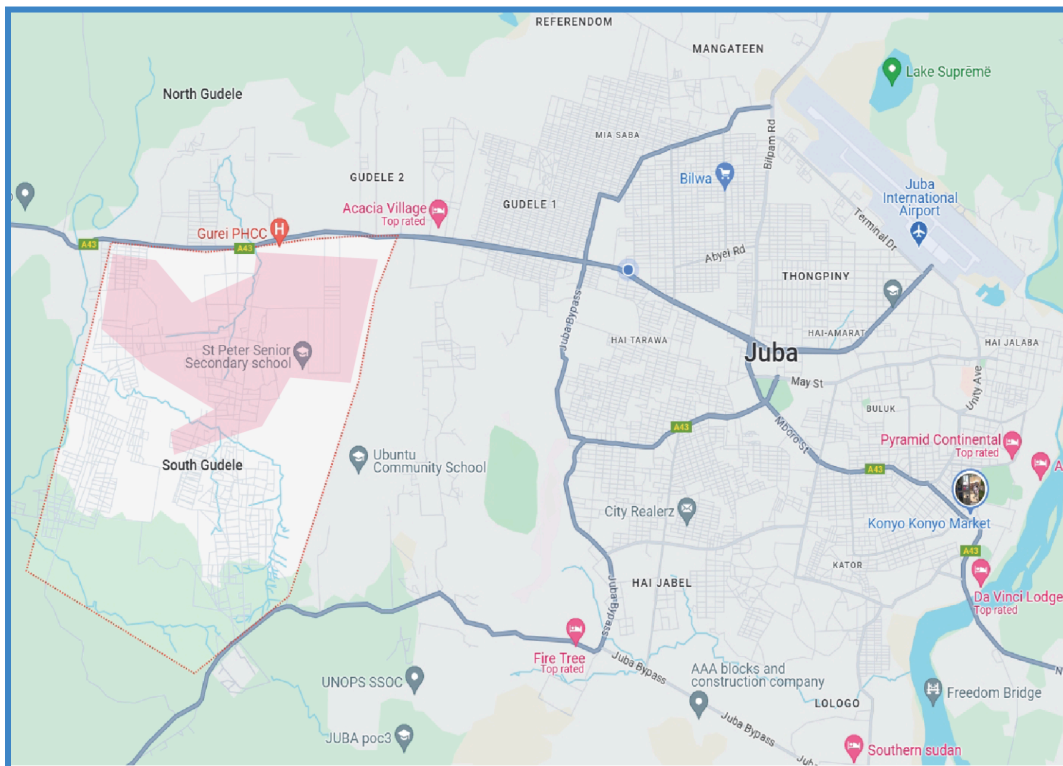
DETAILS on LOCATION:

The capital of Juba is South Sudan’s largest and fastest-growing city. The project will place 9,900 trees throughout Gudele West primarily within the bounds of individual residences and schools, hospitals, and churches. With a relative level of peace and security in the past five years, many of the 330,000 refugees from South Sudan returning from neighboring countries have decided to stay in Juba rather than return to many of their home cities and villages. Gudele West (South Gudele on the map) is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse areas of metro Juba.



The community assessment and research on other tree-planting projects in the region revealed that individuals and community groups have easier access and are more likely to take care of trees in these spaces when compared to open plots and public areas that feel more detached from their personal lives. Planting in relation to homes, small businesses, and enclosed communal spaces (e.g. schools, hospitals, churches) helps protect trees from theft that would occur if they are planted on roadsides.

It also reduces the likelihood of government “**eminent domain**” claims and **commercial commandeering** of large plots that has occurred in some large areas designated for green spaces in African cities (Ekamby and Mudu 2022).



Red highlighted area indicates housing where trees will be planted

A cursory planning map of where specific trees will be planted and on what schedule has been worked on with the committee, stakeholders, and experts referenced earlier in this document. However, over the next several months, a highly detailed map for the planting will be further solidified. This is not needed at this time, and it is imperative that the Global Grant application be developed and submitted as soon as possible to help confirm funding in Q4 of the 2024 calendar year to make the first planting (Period One) of February through April 2025.

RISKS and CONTINGENCIES:

Benefits of increasing green spaces in African cities are numerous (Ngome and Yeom 2024; Cilliers et al. 2012). But tree planting is not finished when roots have touched the soil. Projects fall short when they do not inform and involve the local community, incorporate governmental bodies to ensure protection and prioritization of tree well-being, and overlook the expertise of environmental scientists when selecting tree species to be planted (Mensah 2014). Tree planting projects may not succeed due to:

- Thievery: Trees planted along roadsides can be stolen at night.
- Animal damage: Ducks and goats destroy or consume some trees.
- Pest infestation: Insects infect some trees, causing damage and death.
- Inadequate sunlight: Saplings planted under large trees or near buildings do not receive sufficient light and die.
- Relocation: Trees relocated due to nearby construction are weakened.
- Soil quality and rocky surfaces: Trees planted in poor soil or on rocky surfaces die due to inadequate growth conditions.
- Drought: Trees wilt during high-temperature periods without adequate water and care.
- Waterlogged soil: Trees planted in areas near streams or flooding die due to root rot.
- Lack of maintenance: Regular inspection, water, and pruning is required.

Trees thrive when they are regularly watered, properly mulched, given adequate sunlight, provided with compost or manure, are fenced to prevent animal damage, and are pruned to maintain tree health. Findings after the planting of the 100 trees because proper planting show a 74% survival rate despite no special training or support being provided. With proper education as well as monitoring and maintenance support from the nursery (described earlier in this proposal), as well as the detailed planning/mapping for the planting (described earlier in this proposal), there is reason for confidence in the maintenance and sustainability (success of this project) as well as the potential for replication with a successful model in place and highly visible.

To mitigate risks and contingencies, the “10,000 Trees for Peace” project is:

- Designed with government authorities and community members and influencers engaged at every stage;
- Imagined by students in Juba and will be continued with their at-the-center involvement (This is important given that 70% of the population of South Sudan is under the age of 30, so future projects will be likely to again involve youth mobilization.);
- Incorporating university, tree nursery, and other expertise into a structured system of follow-up/checking on tree conditions, health, and community caretaking
- Utilizing integrated pest management strategies and post-planting monitoring under guidance of local forestry experts and nursery representatives

Often within international projects, a risk/contingency is **devaluation of the local currency and or inflation**. There is an annual inflation rate in South Sudan of about 30 percent. This has been taken into account for the anticipated life span of the project. However, the good news is that this is partially mitigated by the continued value of the U.S. dollar against the South Sudanese pound which keeps project costs stable so long as project funding is not quickly converted. **It is possible to maintain U.S. dollar accounts in South Sudan until time of withdrawal for purchases, and costs for US activities to support the project can - consistent with Rotary guidelines - be kept in the US vs. being transferred to South Sudan.**

NEWGEN PEACEBUILDERS EXPERTISE:

The primary cooperating organization for the implementation of this project is NewGen Peacebuilders, which operates as a semi-independent “dba” under the umbrella of U.S. 501c nonprofit Mothering Across Continents. Both entities operate in and have office space in South Sudan with a registration that is renewed annually. Both are known and recognized by high-level representatives of several government ministries and agencies. Executive Director Patricia Shafer is a Rotary Peace Fellow, Rotary Positive Peace Activator, Senior Fellow for Peace Education at Rotary partner Alliance for Peacebuilding, and Global Ambassador for Rotary strategic partner Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) known to senior leaders in the South Sudan Ministry of Education, Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Youth & Sports, US Embassy and USAID, and other organizations.

Projects that Patricia has led have been featured at five Rotary International Conventions and numerous Zone and District Conferences. In 2022, Patricia was one of two recipients of a national award for Excellence in U.S. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding, and she has been

nominated by the government of South Sudan for a UNESCO Prize in Girls and Women’s Literacy. She holds an MBA from the Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management; MSc in Consulting and Coaching for Change from a joint-venture of the Oxford University (UK) and Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC-Paris); and a MA in Journalism from The Ohio State University.

Comparable environmental projects that overly rely on only bottom-up or top-down approaches (one or the other) are less effective than those that properly integrate both community and government members (Titz and Chiotha 2019). Non-participatory approaches that implement a project by either a state government or third party organization cause the local community “to neglect their planting and maintenance responsibilities, resulting in the failure of the greening project” (Donaldson-Selby, 2005 15). At the same time, if one neglects to incorporate local governments into planning for green projects, they may also undermine them. As described earlier in this proposal, there has been broad and deep engagement of these organizations into the community assessment, planning, and proposed implementation of the project. The engagement of Rotarians in South Sudan to continue supporting these relationships and overcome future obstacles or misunderstandings will help ensure sustainability.

FUNDING and BUDGET:

A **budget table for this project follows the narrative below**. It is **divided into two sections**:

- Total funds requested via the Rotary Global Grant
- Total funds to be sought and provided by other in-country Partners/Sponsors

The Global Grant budget requested from Rotarians consists of supplies, training costs, travel, personnel, operations, monitoring and evaluation, and project management for a **total of \$95,196 USD**. The **Rotary Club of Juba has committed to a 5% contribution of \$4,759.80**. **Rotary District 7680 DG** Kevin Kendrick (2024-25) anticipates being able to contribute **\$5,000 USD**. **Rotary Club of Charlotte** President Kim Brattain (2024-25) has expressed interest that may tentatively be estimated at **\$2,500 to \$5,000**. This would leave the Rotary Club of Midland and its District and or other partners with a need to contribute **\$80,436.40, including the World Fund Match available for Global Grants**. However, note that there seems to be interest from Rotary District 9212 in providing DDF as well.

Whatever amount is currently considered “doable” by the Rotary Club of Midland the project is so compelling that it will likely **attract other contributors simply by listing it in the online [Rotary Showcase](#)**. A **“fallback” option would simply be to reduce the number of trees planted** within the bounds of the grant. Each tree is \$3.50 USD. Trees will not be put out to bid because

the two nurseries in the area are both controlled by the state and tree prices are regulated accordingly. **If the project only plants half (4,450) of the 9,900 trees, this would reduce the needed commitment from the Rotary Club of Midland from \$80,436.40 to \$64,861.40**

Additionally, Partner/Sponsor funds to cover publicity, signage, food and beverage, venue for training (5 days in two phases) totals **\$16,500**. This is a very common approach in South Sudan. We are confident this funding will be available from organizations with which relationships already exist and would likely be interested. Examples include the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), US Embassy, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

“Environment” budget recommendations from Rotary International that are specifically being adhered to are:

- Designate funding for outcome measurement and evaluation up to the limit of 10%
- Dedicate higher proportion of budget to soft costs (such as human capital, programmatic investments, fees, per diem costs, and project logistics) rather than to hard costs associated with equipment and infrastructure
- Place emphasis on preserving natural resources
- Hire independent, short-term consultants and technicians that live in-country [including] dedicated capacity by specialists who can bring specific expertise and unique local skills
- Have committed or interested co-funding from partner organizations outside of Rotary including governments, bilateral development agencies, or multilateral institutions

“Peacebuilding” budget recommendations from Rotary International that are specifically being adhered to are:

- Emphasize local expertise in training and education
- De-emphasize materials and technology
- Count on local continuation
- Educate communities about peace and building positive peace (Eight Pillars); organizing workshops with community
- Supporting refugees
- Ease conflict over natural resources; and improving human interactions, dialogue, and decisions about their use

There is a cost included in the budget for safe storage of planting tools between the two phases over one year. This cost will occur in the form of a “gift” to the Straight Link Orphanage and School located centrally in the area and with sufficient storage to accommodate the supplies.

10,000 Trees for Peace Global Grant Budget - Funded by Rotary / Rotarians	Cost
Supplies	
Tree Saplings <i>9,900 saplings x \$3.50 / sapling</i>	\$34,650
Tree Tags <i>9,900 tree tags x \$0.20 / tag</i>	\$1,980
Blades <i>50 blades x \$10 / blade (assume 1 blade / volunteer each planting day, 45 volunteers per day, plus 5 extra)</i>	\$500
Pointed Spades <i>50 spades x \$10 / spade (assume 1 spade / volunteer each planting day, 45 volunteers per day, plus 5 extra)</i>	\$500
Hand Trowels <i>50 trowels x \$5 / trowel (assume 1 trowel / volunteer each planting day, 45 volunteers per day, plus 5 extra)</i>	\$250
Wheelbarrows <i>15 wheelbarrows x \$30 / wheelbarrow (assume 5 wheel barrows / each volunteer team of 10-15 people x 3 teams each planting day)</i>	\$450
Watering Cans <i>15 watering cans x \$10 / watering can (assume 5 watering can / each volunteer team of 10-15 people x 3 teams each planting day)</i>	\$150
Water Bottles <i>2 water bottles / participant / planting day x \$0.50/ bottle x 45 volunteers / day x 24 planting days</i>	\$1,080
Printed Materials and Consumables for Training <i>\$250 / training day x 5 training days (room set, interactive discussion materials, handouts, etc. on environmental protection and peacebuilding)</i>	\$1,250
Subtotal	\$40,018
Training	
Design, development, delivery of five, full-day, in-person training sessions (three before first planting phase, two before second planting phase) for 400 total beneficiaries (Area Chiefs, local community leaders, students, tree planting volunteers, etc.) <i>Includes design, development, and delivery time for five trainers including experts in environment, peacebuilding, and the intersection of the two</i>	\$16,500

Engagement Stipend for Area Chiefs Involvement in Project Delivery <i>Stipend of \$40 / Chief x 15 Area Chiefs</i>	\$600
Subtotal	\$17,100
Travel	
Transportation of saplings to planting site (24 planting days) <i>\$100 for truck rental and fuel for 400+ saplings / planting day x 24 planting days</i>	\$2,400
Transportation of volunteers to planting site (24 planting days, 30-45 volunteers / day) <i>\$3 transportation stipend / volunteer x 45 volunteers / planting day x 24 planting days</i>	\$3,200
Ongoing transportation costs for visits with stakeholder visits, volunteer groups, nursery in advance of planting days, etc. <i>\$133 /month for fuel and local transportation costs x 18 months</i>	\$2,400
	\$8,000
Operations	
Legal Documentation Fees <i>Processing fees for government letters of no objection, other required documentation for project</i>	\$500
Storage Facility Rental <i>Assume \$100 / month x 12 months (to allow for ongoing storage and use of tools for one year during two phases of planting); Straight Link Orphanage will serve as storage site for tools, and these funds will be presented as a gift to the orphanage</i>	\$1,200
Project Coordination <i>Includes ongoing financial management, program logistics, and stakeholder communications for both US-based and South Sudan-based staff; US-based Director of Operations will dedicate 4% of overall work efforts to this project for 12 months, South Sudan-based Country Director will dedicate 11% of overall work efforts to this project for 12 months, South Sudan-based Program Manager will dedicate 35% of overall work efforts to this project for 12 months</i>	\$8,750
Ongoing Maintenance and Sustainability <i>Contract with Central Equatoria State Nursery for three months of tree maintenance after each round of planting (10 people to monitor trees on a weekly basis plus cost of fertilizer, mulch, etc.); six months total of maintenance</i>	\$6,000
Graphic Design Support <i>Includes materials design for all room set, PPT slides, etc. used for trainings as well as promotional t-shirts, banners, flyers, etc.</i>	\$3,500
Subtotal	\$19,950

Monitoring and Evaluation	
Tracking and reporting measures of success (not to exceed 10% of project budget) <i>Engagement of expert researcher, for example from Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development to assist with design of social cohesion instrument for analysis</i>	\$7,000
Subtotal	\$7,000
Project Management	
Administrative Costs (not to exceed 5% of project budget) <i>Zoom subscription, in-country telecommunications costs, bank transfer fees, office expenses (printing, meeting space rental, etc.)</i>	\$4,600
Subtotal	\$4,600
Total Grant Request from Rotary	
	\$96,668

Additional Costs - Funded through Non-Rotarian Sponsors	Estimated Cost
Publicity	
Radio Broadcast Promotions <i>\$300 monthly promotional broadcast x 3 months</i>	\$900
Professional Photography <i>\$200 / day x 5 days of professional photography (two training days, three planting days)</i>	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$1,900
Signage	
T-Shirts for Team Leads <i>\$10 / T-Shirt x up to 400 project participants</i>	\$4,000
Banners for use during trainings and planting events <i>Four branded banners x \$50 / banner</i>	\$200
Educational flyers and presentations <i>1000 flyers x \$0.50 / flyer</i>	\$500
Billboard <i>Creation and mounting of billboard that tracks number of trees planted after each planting day and encourages photos of volunteers be taken with billboard as progress is made</i>	TBD

	\$4,700
Supplies	
Venue Rental / AV Costs for Trainings \$1000 / day x 5 training days (for space for 100 people)	\$5,000
Food and Beverage Costs for Trainings \$10 per person x 100 people / training day x 5 training days	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$10,000
Total Funded by Other Partners/Sponsors	\$19,300 (plus cost of billboard, TBD)

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