



25 YEARS IMPACT REPORT

2001–2026

Bridging indigenous and modern worlds for a more peaceful society



TerraWatu

Why This Work Began

In 1999, sociologist Dr. Tanya Pergola traveled to Tanzania — and never looked back. Guided by a longstanding interest in Indigenous cultures and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern science, she arrived ready to both contribute and learn.

There, she met Lekoko Ole Sululu, a Maasai leader from Ngorongoro who had witnessed the impacts of modernization and climate change on his community. As he put it, “When I die, I want to leave a legacy that I really made a difference.”

Together, they founded Terrawatu — terra (Latin for “earth”) and watu (Swahili for “people”) — with a shared vision to bridge Indigenous knowledge and modern practices.

Mentored by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai, Terrawatu launched its first UN-funded project in 2001. Over the next 25 years, programs were developed and implemented in partnership with communities, supported by a broad network of funders and collaborators.



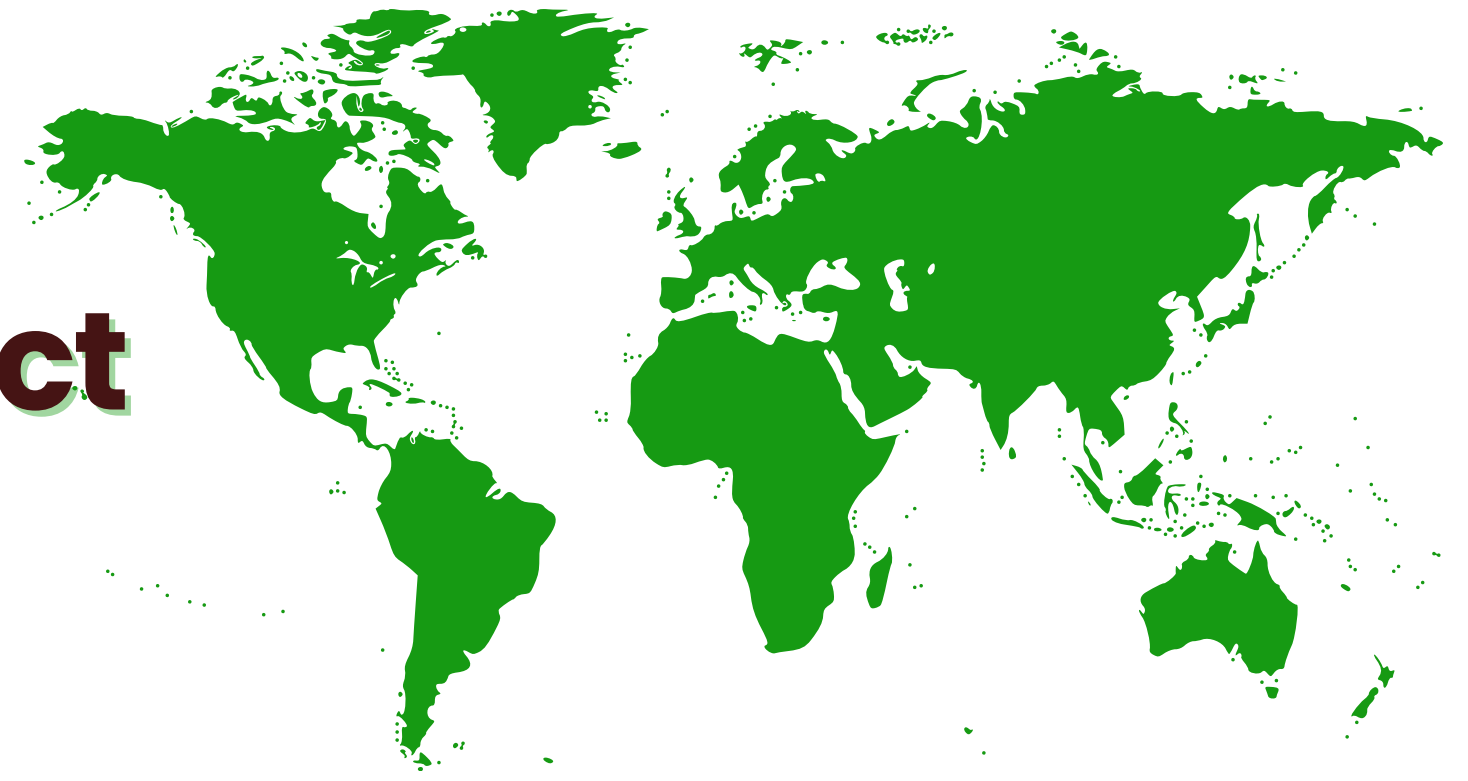
The People Behind the Impact



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Global Perspective, Local Impact



When people come together—sharing ideas, resources, and support—barriers begin to break down.

Opportunities grow, and communities become stronger.

Every child who graduates, every tree planted, every life improved happens through collective effort—driven by a shared commitment to lasting change.

Together, We Are the Change we Want to See in this World!

25 Years in Review: Our Impact in Numbers

Let's look at what we have accomplished:



STRUCTURES

- **10 school computer labs** established
- **2 orphanages** remodeled and supported
- Dozens of **plant nurseries** initiated with tens of thousands of trees for food and medicine
- **4 extra-large classrooms** constructed
- 2 kitchens built at schools to feed **1000s of children**
- 2 complimentary health clinics built
- Women's health clinics supported
- **Large, beautiful Women's Centre** constructed with offices, rooms for volunteers, and catering kitchen
- **Permaculture demonstration farm** established adjacent to Women's Centre

"A Community That Cares, A Future That Thrives"

25 Years in Review: Our Impact in Numbers

Let's look at what we have accomplished:



EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Supported dozens of children with School Sponsorship Programme through graduation
- 12 teachers participated in exchange between USA and Tanzania
- 6 traditional healers trained and placed in jobs
- Hundreds of workshops held on women's rights, children's rights, and environmental conservation
- 3 community health workers trained in malaria prevention and treatment
- Cooking classes instituted at orphanages introducing healthy recipes using traditional ingredients
- New Savory Hub initiated in Simanjiro District to train Maasai in new holistic land management techniques
- **25 years of continuous programming**

"A Community That Cares, A Future That Thrives"

Behind The Scenes: Team Terrawatu Leadership, Staff, Volunteers and Collaborators



Our staff, board of directors, volunteers and collaborators have all supported the bridge that connects indigenous cultures to modern development.

Over the 25 years since our founding we have collaborated with amazing organizations around the world including:

- The Green Belt Movement
- Roots & Shoots by the Jane Goodall Institute
- Clinton School of Public Service
- Washington College
- World Affairs Council
- JSFoundation
- Reneal International Education Outreach
- Maasai Association
- Emayani Foundation

High Impact, Low Cost

All of Terrawatu's projects have been implemented with an average annual operating budget of US\$40,000. Specific project costs have ranged from \$500 - \$80,000. In other words, we have made big improvements in livelihoods with relatively low financial inputs.

Terrawatu started with a grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and has received funding over the years from USAID, World Bank, Microsoft and Google. A multitude of family foundations, donor advised funds and individual donations have sustained us over the years.

To all of you, we are eternally grateful.



Our Vision For The Future



The Lynn Bretsnyder Women's Centre (LBWC), located in Mkonoo village near Arusha, will become the new home of Terrawatu Tanzania beginning in May 2026.

The centre is being developed as a hub for vocational training, supporting women and youth in the Arusha region through practical, skills-based programs.

Opportunities for income-generating activities are being explored, including the development of a catering business utilizing the on-site kitchen.

Child School Sponsorship



Terrawatu's programme to sponsor orphans through graduation will continue.

Our Child School Sponsorship (CSS) initiative collects funds from sponsors at the start of the Tanzanian school year in January. These funds are then sent directly to Tanzania to support each child.

Sponsoring a child in Terrawatu's CSS program changes a child's education for the better. Through the payment of school fees, room & board and purchasing uniforms and books, child sponsorship enables a child to attend school and prepare effectively for examinations.

Education is a critical path to success. When a child is sponsored a whole community is helped.

The Eramatare Centre



Initiated as a project of Terrawatu in 2024, the Eramatare Centre, located in Simanjiro District, Tanzania, is currently a candidate to become a fully accredited training centre within the Savory Institute global network of hubs.

Its mission is to strengthen Maasai culture by building skills in holistic land management and connecting communities to resources that support sustainable livelihoods.

The Eramatare Centre is now transitioning into a standalone, community-based organization led by Lekoko Ole Sululu and Edward Richard.



Faces of Change

Whether you volunteered, donated, shared our work, or supported the mission—you have been part of Terrawatu.

After 25 years, Terrawatu is now transitioning. The initiatives it helped establish are continuing forward: children have graduated and are now employed; computer labs are in use; and agricultural programs are producing food and medicine.

The Lynn Bretsnyder Women's Centre continues to grow, and the Eramatare Centre is establishing itself in Maasailand.

Thank you for being a part of this community!





Contact Us

Terrawatu USA will remain a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with EIN #26-0212786.

If you would like to get involved in the next chapter of the Lynn Bretsnyder Women's Centre (LBWC) or with the Eramatare Centre you can reach us at the contact information here.

CONNECT WITH US!

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