

FBC Global Environmental Impacts Report

What is environmental stewardship, today? Is it recycling, driving a Tesla, what is the best way to make the biggest difference caring for God's Creation?

As many of you know, I began research on global-scale environmental solutions in 2014. That work was very much inspired by FBC's own **Linda Thompson** and her writing on the biodiversity extinction crisis, [Life Abundant or Diminished](#).

I had, for a decade, been working on "the environment" by promoting clean energy and green living products, but I wanted to know what we should prioritize to have the greatest positive impact protecting Earth's ability to sustain life, aka. the *global wilderness life support system*, aka. the Creator's living works.

My resulting project, [BioIntegrity](#), has been promoting globally-strategic environmental solutions and biospheric-thinking, ever since. Thanks to the FBC Green Team, First Baptist Austin has been an indispensable partner.

BioIntegrity has advised First Baptist and FBC members to focus on supporting the conservation nonprofit, Rainforest Trust, and the eco-restoration nonprofit, Plant With Purpose. Supporting these two groups, I believe the data shows, delivers the greatest bang for your buck in today's efforts to stop and reverse our daunting environmental challenges.

Here's a quick overview of FBC's global-scale, environmental impacts, so far.

Since December 2014, the First Baptist Church family has donated to globally-strategic efforts to protect old growth Amazon and other tropical forests. The Church's support is protecting the most bio-rich, biodiverse, bio-productive, climate-impacting ecosystems alive today, for just pennies on the dollar. So far, individual members of FBC have donated

\$15,403 to projects BioIntegrity has recommended.

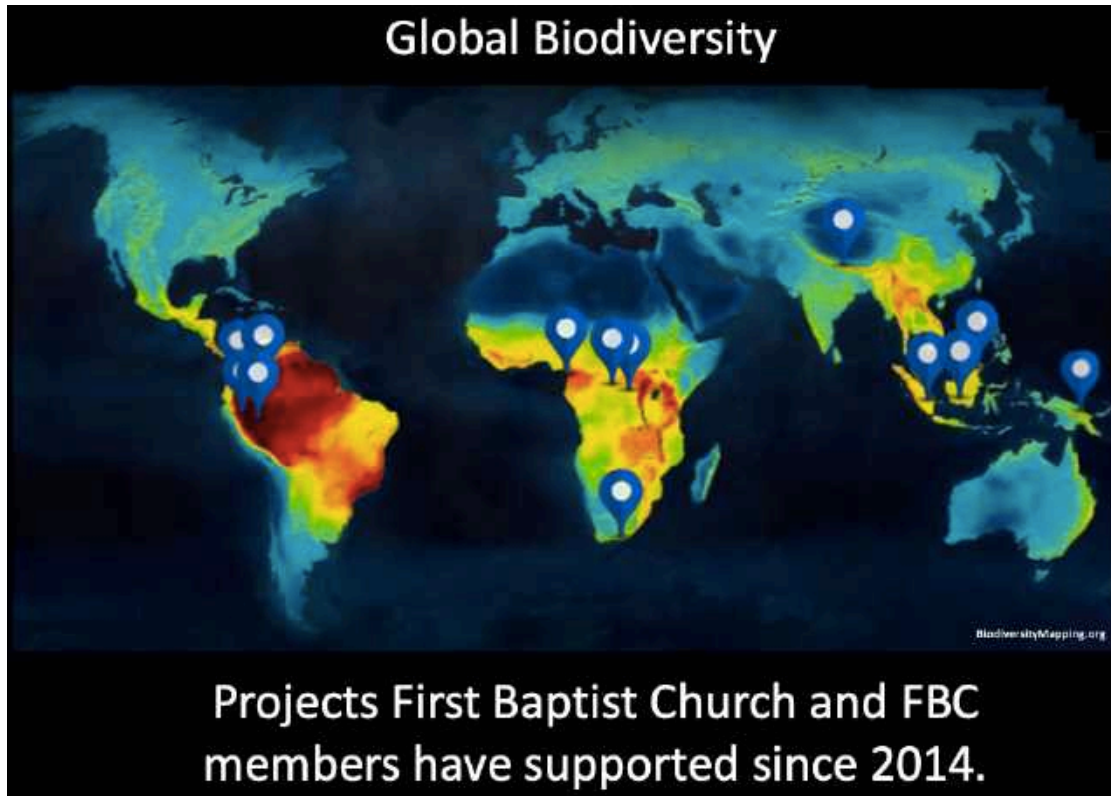
AND, on top of that, for the past three years, the FBC budget has contributed a total of

\$2,200 to projects BioIntegrity recommends.






With donation matches, FBC's total community gifts are helping to protect

33,797 acres of tropical forests around the world!!!!

That's an area about 2/3rds the size of Round Rock or about 5 times BIGGER than Buda.



First Baptist Church: Global Impacts Report 2020

ECO		SPECIES	
Acres - Protected	33,797.15	Critically Endangered Species - Protected	5+ 
Mature Trees - Protected	6,759,430.00	Endangered & Vulnerable Species - Protected	25+ 
Gallons Freshwater Filtered - per year	616,797,987.50	Micro Species - Protected	Millions 
Peoples' Annual O ₂ Supply	259,867.63	Macro Species - Protected	1,000s 
CLIMATE		PEOPLES	
Tons Carbon Dioxide Sequestration - Protected, per Year	33,797.15	Total Countries Assisted	7 
Minimum Equivalent Value in 5kw Rooftop Solar Systems	\$253,478,625.00	Indigenous Communities Assisted with Land Rights Protection or Expansion	250+ 
Tons of Tree Stored Carbon Dioxide - Protected (in ecosystem)	5,083,487.00	Refugee Communities Assisted with Land Rights Protection or Expansion	5 
Tree Stored CO ₂ Value, in Vehicle Miles	40,151,014,200.00	Community-Based Economic Development Projects Supported	50+ 

What are some of the results of protecting this many acres?

“Over 6 million trees protected”

By a very conservative estimate, these acres contain at least

6,700,000 trees.

Since burning tropical forests for deforestation is responsible for *up to 1/5 of the world's annual carbon emissions*, FBC's protection of these forests is keeping at least

6,000,000 tons of Carbon Dioxide (**CO₂**) out of the atmosphere.

That amount of protected Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), the #1 greenhouse gas, is equivalent to offsetting the *lifetime carbon footprints* of more than

3,300 average Americans.

Another way of looking at that amount of pollution kept out of the atmosphere is that it's equivalent to reducing the distance driven by fossil-fueled vehicles by more than

40,000,000,000 miles (yes, that's 40 billion).

“Equivalent to more than
\$90M of greenhouse gas
pollution reduction”

If we tried to keep the same amount of carbon out of the atmosphere by buying “carbon offsets” at \$10 / ton, we'd have to spend more than

\$90,000,000 (yes, that's 90 million).

That's a *lot* of money!

Our community, however, as directed by BioIntegrity, has invested an average of just \$3,500 a year to achieve these results. And this is just one of the benefits these stewardship investments deliver.

In addition, we are protecting life-support services where they're most concentrated.

The above amounts relate to *protecting tropical forests*, but these metrics do not account for the global-scale, life-supporting services these tropical forests will continue to provide — thanks to our protections.

For instance, FBC's forests will drawdown at least

33,000 tons Carbon Dioxide (**CO2**) *per year*, as they grow.

If we tried to achieve these same drawdown effects by buying rooftop solar equipment, we'd have to purchase roughly

\$250,000,000 of equipment (yes, that's 250 million).

**“We're protecting annual
freshwater and oxygen production
at massive scale”**

Thanks so much, everybody —



The metrics above are still just scratching the surface on FBC's total contribution to limiting global warming and protecting the Creation's most fertile and diverse ecosystems. To learn more about how tropical forest protection affects global climate and global weather, as well as Earth's biological treasures, check out my paper, "The Systemic Climate Solution" tinyurl.com/systemic-cs or watch my video "How to Win on Climate Change and the Biodiversity Extinction Crisis" <https://facebook.com/biointegrity/videos/285874348801369>.

And, wait — believe it or not — there's More!



We're not just helping to fund the most cost-effective conservation efforts around the world, we're also helping fund the best, community-focused, globally-beneficial, ecosystem restoration.

Plant With Purpose is a Christian organization with 30+ years experience, working primarily in Tropical and sub-Tropical regions to help the world's most isolated poor establish health, security, and quality of life by rebuilding their biosphere through reforestation, regenerative agriculture, faith-driven purpose, and community-financed entrepreneurial endeavors. *Models like this are the future, i think.*

Plant With Purpose demonstrates a best example of doing restoration right. They make a 7 year commitment to each of the communities they work in, generally staying engaged for 10 or more years. They have 100s of projects running. They employ local people. Their efforts lift entire communities out of poverty, not just their participants, by enriching the biosphere. They are building economies of environmental stewardship in the Tropics, where it matters most to us all.

Since 2018, the First Baptist Church budget has contributed

\$2,200 to Plant With Purpose.

These gifts equip families, through Plant With Purpose's holistic program of environmental restoration, economic empowerment and spiritual renewal, to reverse rural poverty and deforestation.

FBC's total gifts are helping

18 families participate in these programs for one year.

Another way to phrase this support is that it has resulted in the planting of

2,200 new trees.

Read more about Plant With Purpose in the letter provided by Valerie Foulkes.

Follow us, world!

Thank you so much for your trail-blazing care. May this effort continue to grow, protect, restore, connect, and glorify all of the things we care most about! To learn more about these organizations visit: BioIntegrity.net, RainforestTrust.org, and PlantWithPurpose.org.

—Chris Searles, 5/5/20



RAINFOREST
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Metrics and report created by Chris Searles for [BioIntegrity](https://BioIntegrity.net) and the FBC Green Team.
Template created by BioIntegrity's partners, [ThrivingPlanetCommunity](https://ThrivingPlanetCommunity.com).

Questions?

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