



treesisters

SEASONAL IMPACT REPORT

SUMMER - AUGUST 2019



EXPANDING THE NETWORK

FESTIVAL
SEASON

EMPOWERING
ORGANISATIONS

THE SPIRIT OF
YOUNG TREESISTERS



*"This is a
very full-on
time to be
alive. It's also a
crucial time to be
alive if you want
to live a
meaningful life
that has an
impact on the
future of our own
and all other
species."*

CLARE DUBOIS



LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Can planting billions of trees save the planet?

That was the headline of the [Guardian article](#) that boosted TreeSisters monthly membership by an astonishing 221 members during July, and that will be responsible for planting more than 1 million trees over the next 10 years. As I reflect on the time since my last report in the Spring I do so from an immense space of gratitude for the support that we have called in, not just in terms of funding but in the expansion of our network, and for the many partners who are responding to the call of the trees.

The world has finally woken up to the role of trees in the face of climate change. As more and more frightening reports come in and we watch the Greenland ice sheet lose enough ice in a single day to cover the whole of Germany 6 inches deep in water, denial is becoming harder and harder to maintain and practical solutions are being sought. The call for 1.2 trillion trees and available lands is now in public awareness, and with it the growing need for all of us to be taking action. We are entering the time of the trees, and so we're getting ready for major growth on all fronts.

On May 1st, TreeSisters, ITF and 24 other conservation related NGO's gathered in Oxford to explore the concept of Year of the Tree as a collaborative campaign to 'seed trees into the hearts and minds of humanity'.



Could the conservation sector come together and unify around core common aims and objectives to do something together that we would not be able to do apart? Could we enrol the world in stepping up on behalf of the global forest in ways that could result in radically reduced old growth forest destruction and radically more forest restoration? We decided that we could and have been deeply in the trenches with it ever since.

It's utterly profound work. Challenging, confronting, inspiring, outrageous and creatively limitless. There will be room for everyone in this game. Already collaborations between newly introduced organisations are furthering our shared missions. We are learning, growing and developing a plan that is in truth so big, we've decided to expand the timeline so that 2020 will be seeding Year of the Tree - giving the world time to plot and plan. This will be education and outreach, enrollment and inspiration. 2021 will be Year of the Tree and who knows what we can accomplish together. What is clear, is that the concept of Year of the Tree lands everywhere it is seeded. It has its own energy and its own life force.

This has been a time of bursting through comfort zones as we widen our call and expand to include collaboration with aligned corporates and organisations keen to bring trees into all of their activities. If we are to normalise giving back to Nature, then we need to walk through many kinds of door to plant inspirational seeds in different ways to find out what grows. This included standing on the main stage of Boomtown festival in front of over 30,000 people to thank them for planting a minimum of 66,000 trees with us and hopefully call in many more as we inspire that community to plant trees over the coming weeks.

After the shock of that stage, I was able to rest into the grace and beauty that is Womanfest and to personally

receive the impact from women being together in Nature. The need for women to come together is just so clear and this few days together with treesisters and the wider community is such a rare gift.

We also began another round of the Inner Journey calling in over a thousand women. This is a potent start to a free six month offering designed to provide profound support in the face of our planetary predicament and a journey of deep nourishment and activation. This time around the women taking part in this journey are doing so as participants in our larger community the TreeSisters Nest. We now have over 3,000 women and men in this community. It's a place to come for both nourishment and information not just about TreeSisters but in respect of community, the Groves, and wider topics. If you haven't come in yet, **we'd love to see you there.**

As I write this report I am busy finishing off tasks ready to take two weeks holiday. I do so from a place of gratitude and the ability to lean into the support that we have received. So many extraordinary men have been stepping forward unexpectedly in ways that have taken my breath away. In fact this whole last quarter has been a time of opening to let support in, again and again. Miracles keep coming, and may they always bring with them their gifts of awe and joy.

I hope that whatever you are doing and wherever you are that you are able to take the opportunity to rest in Nature and feel the support of the trees. Our campaign begins in the Autumn and this time it will be a tree campaign. We are hopeful that as well as our existing reforestation projects, we will be able to add more projects in Mozambique and Indonesia (with Eden Projects), and an Amazonian project with Aquaverde. Let's hope! Together we will be regreening and restoring our world and working hard to exceed our target of 8 million trees funded by the end of the year.



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QUICK FACTS

Tree Projects

Trees funded April to June: **797,304**

Total trees funded to June: **5,470,568**

Reforestation partners: **4**

Ecosystems being restored - **8 within 6 countries**

Countries we're impacting: **Madagascar, Brazil, India, Nepal, Cameroon and Kenya**

Other Charitable Programs

Inner Journey participants: **1,000**

Nest Members: **3,000**

Organisation

Water Carriers: **94**

Monthly Donors: **3,982**



Reforestation Program Impacts

IN THIS QUARTER'S IMPACT REPORT, WE ARE SHARING NEWS FROM OUR WEFORREST PROJECTS IN BRAZIL AND INDIA.

BRAZIL

The project in Brazil is in Pontal do Paranapanema in Sao Paulo State. It is a landscape transformation project with 231.883 trees funded, and 116 hectares directly restored. The trees planted with Treesister's support in Brazil will have sequestered the equivalent of 36.772 tons of CO₂ after 30 years of growth.

As a landscape regeneration project the following methodologies are employed:

- Areas with no, or very limited, natural regeneration - the project plants 2,000 seedlings per hectare, using at least 100 native species.
- Areas with intermediate potential for natural regeneration - encourage the regenerating of native trees and shrubs by manual or chemical control of invasive grasses and active restoration of those patches that are not covered.
- Areas with high potential for natural regeneration - isolate the site from human-mediated disturbances and encourage the regeneration of native trees and shrubs.

Stories from the Field

Towering above restoration

The relationship between forests, water and climate is complicated. To understand how forest restoration impacts water and climate processes, WeForest is participating in a new flux tower experiment, led by ESALQ - University of São Paulo and The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The tower is being built in the middle of a 30 hectare experimental restoration forest in Brazil's Atlantic Forest, São Paulo state. Flux towers measure the exchange of water, energy and carbon (CO₂) between forests and the atmosphere, allowing scientists to make predictions of how forests will respond to a changing climate and how land use change (for example deforestation) will impact global climate change.

Stories from the Field (cont'd)

Linking tree diversity to ecosystem functioning

The experiment will study the relationship between tree diversity and ecosystem functioning. The effects of tree species composition, drought and soil fertility on water and carbon cycles will be studied over the course of many years. Water and carbon fluxes measured over the entire 'life history' of the growing forest (from bare ground before planting to mature forest) will help in understanding the role of tree species diversity on ecosystem water and carbon cycles. This will help us to find out which species of trees, planted in which combinations can maximise benefits for water and for carbon sequestration and how these species will respond to increasingly frequent drought events due to climate change.



Understanding the ecological effects of our restoration work

This data will help in understanding carbon and water cycles in other restored areas of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, such as the WeForest restoration sites. This will help us to improve our restoration and management techniques to maximise benefits for water and climate.

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INDIA

The project in India is in the Khasi Hills, Meghalaya state. It is a landscape transformation project with 305,052 trees funded and 366 hectares directly restored. The trees planted with TreeSisters' project will have stored 62,255 tons of CO₂ after 20 years of tree growth.

Methodologies used:

- Assisted natural regeneration (ANR) - as trees can spontaneously sprout from fire, cattle and/or other types of disturbance, some sites show remnant trees and natural regeneration. The WeForest team protects these sites using ANR methods.
- Enrichment planting - planting tree seedlings to increase the density of existing tree species or to introduce specific tree species which are missing in the ecosystem or at unusually low density.
- Quality over quantity - the 36 nurseries that WeForest is working with currently supply the seedlings for the enrichment planting method. 70% of these nurseries are home-based, the other 30% are around Self Help Group yards. In the past many nurseries suffered from frost, drought and a lack of water. Therefore we have decreased their number, in order to make room for less (in number) but larger and more efficient nurseries.



- 144 households have increased their income by at least 30%.
- Furthermore 8,249 people have been impacted through our project activities, such as the training events held in the past half year.

Annual trainings

In 2019, five trainings were held for beekeeping, vermicompost and mushroom cultivation and form part of the annual training of individuals across eleven local governments. In these wider trainings, topics discussed are handicrafts (bamboo crafting), pig rearing, fruit tree planting and beekeeping.



Pickling Pears

The native species of Soh Shur (*Pyrus pashia*), or the Wild Himalayan pear, grows on a tall, thorny, open-headed tree, up to 10 meters tall, with hard, dark brown to black bark. The wild trees generally live for about 20 years and their white-colored flowers have 1-7 cm long petals with oval-shaped fruit.

Not only is the Wild Himalayan pear smaller and more brownish in color than cultivated pear varieties, it actually tastes quite sour. That is why they are used in northeastern India to make pickles. Lately, they are becoming more popular to use as a rootstock for grafting other tree varieties.

In the past, Soh Shur was found in abundance in the forests, but the introduction of grafting techniques means that this tree has become overexploited for use as rootstock in grafting more productive, commercial fruit varieties. With overharvesting of young trees for this purpose, the wild pears have become rarer, and there are fewer trees reaching maturity for fruit production and reproductive purposes. If the Soh Shur is lost, transformed products made from the fruit, such as the locally made pickles, will be lost as well.

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August 2019



BY JENNY ROSE SMITH

TreeSisters Groves one day events across the UK

This summer saw the first of a series of one day workshops across the UK for treesisters who would like to create a TreeSisters Grove (Treesisters women's circles) in their local area.

We held five one day events in Cardiff, Sheffield, Reading, London and Exeter and each of them were supported by one or two treesisters in our network who held the roles of promoting locally, sourcing venues and assisting with practicalities on the day.

It was absolutely fantastic to come together in circle with groups of treesisters! So much of our contact happens online that it was an absolute treat for all of us to be in the same physical space and drop into much more embodied connections with each other. We had about 85 women in total that attended the sessions. Some were already experienced Grove Tenders who were wanting support to take their circles to the next level, others were treesisters who had been on the fringes of our Groves project and were feeling ready to step in and other women were completely new to both the organisation TreeSisters and our Groves project.





Mandala by Grove Tender Amber Cooper

Several things stood out from these days:

~Firstly, how hungry so many of us are to create a deep level of connection with one another, to both support and be supported to drop into a much truer, more authentic way of being around each other. We can support each other to find our resilience and strength in these times, and we can do so knowing we are held within a circle of women doing the same.

~How many of us are getting clearer and clearer that it is only going to be possible to go forward and face what we are facing on earth with a support network such as a Grove around us.

~How clear it is becoming that the felt and known connections between us as women and the wider circles of Nature that we exist within (such as the forests) are getting even more tangible; and

~ How radical and wise the TreeSisters model of including both in-breath and out-breath in our Groves really is.

Since offering these days, just five weeks ago, we are already seeing a springing up of new circles, and a strengthening of connections between geographically close treesisters. There are new Groves in and around London, Reading and Exeter and planned circles in different parts of Wales.

There is a circle of holding for women who want to be Grove Tenders in Sheffield, and the beginning of a UK TreeSisters group in our online community, the Nest, for all UK treesisters to come together and support co~creation of circles and local actions. It is clear that the seeding that happened at each of these days will continue to ripple out. The biggest take-away may be that the invitation to create a Grove doesn't have to be complex or difficult. In essence, it is simply an invitation to come together supportively in a culture of Sistering, and then follow that energy as it naturally turns its love towards the trees and our Earth.

groves 

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Grove Tender please go to www.treesisters.org/groves

nest 

You can also come over to our Grove Tenders group in the Nest at www.treesisters-nest.org



THE INNER JOURNEY OF AWAKENING

BY POLLYANNA DARLING

Into the heart of the journey

In July we began another round of the Inner Journey of Awakening. The Inner Journey is a personal journey of remembering who and what we really are. It's a step by step, fully guided process of self exploration that is taken virtually, in the company of our incredible network around the world.

The Journey is free. It is a core charitable offering of TreeSisters that is the heart of our behaviour change and feminine leadership work. It is a powerful tool for activating energy, leadership and love of life.

In July, an additional **1082 treesisters** joined the Inner Journey. Our Forest Floor Sisterhood group in the Nest (our online community), where all discussions and sharing about the Inner Journey take place, has grown to almost 400 women. Our Inner Journey course materials, which allow members to dive deeply into the Inner Journey, are presently being explored by over **200 treesisters**.

[The Inner Journey] ... has emboldened me to be more authentic and to embrace myself in all my glory and not so glorious. The Inner Journey is teaching me to transform myself and mother earth. It has deepened my love and relationship with trees, myself and others." Judith, Inner Journey Participant



INDIGENOUS WISDOM FOR THE EARTH

BY TERRA CANOVA

Our latest series bringing reciprocity to the planet

Part of TreeSisters' mission is seeding a consciousness change towards viewing our planet as sacred and interconnected with all things, so that we all make daily choices that give back to the planet, rather than take from it. If we value the planet we all live on then we won't continue to make choices that add to the climate change crisis. In fact, if we allow ourselves to connect deeply enough, we will strive to live in daily reciprocity.

But in a world where priorities have shifted to consumerism and seeing the natural world as a commodity to constantly take from, how do we bring back the balance that lies dormant in our souls? All of our ancestors once lived with the planet in a shared unison and flow of life. We have forgotten what that is like.

That is where the Indigenous Wisdom for the Earth series steps in. Indigenous people around the world have a shared knowledge and respect for the planet. They have continued their traditions in spite of the changes that surround them. They hold the wisdom to wake us up and remind us that life in harmony with the planet is possible and necessary for bringing both the Earth and ourselves back into balance.



This series is a platform for invited guests to step forward and share their wisdom and lives with us so that we can remember and incorporate the level of sacredness they hold for life into our own.

But it's not only about that. Indigenous people around the world are the ones who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate changes and "industrial" laws that change the land they live on and their way of life. They are also the ones who live in the last natural areas and have protected these precious places.

Our consumerism is deforesting the Amazon and many other areas worldwide. This series is also a platform for Indigenous people and groups that work to preserve these areas to voice their concerns, bring attention to the issues they face, and offer all of us a way to help.

This series is a platform to present the issues that are being faced, along with the wisdom these sacred guardians hold to help heal the planet.

The series is aired once a month and alternates call hosting between Clare Dubois (TreeSisters Founder) and Terra Canova (Network Relations Manager). Terra also provides a written transcript and blog for each call that go into our "Library of Wisdom" which is free to access for all.

In February 2019 we began our Indigenous Wisdom for the Earth series. Our first honored guest was Grandmother Flordemayo. Our guests to date have been from the Western Hemisphere with several located in the USA but also ranging from Greenland to South America.

This is mainly due to both hosts being located in the Western Hemisphere making recording times easier to focus on this sector. However, we hope to expand to include guests worldwide and may consider other team members guest hosting for those areas more difficult to schedule.

The first call had one of our highest mailing list opt-ins for any event to date with close to 900. The call was attended by 352 people, which is a record high for a new event. It was also the third most attended call of any of our events since 2016, when tracking attendance records began. The calls take place on the Waning Moon, just after each Full Moon call and before the New Moon Gathering in Circle series.

The series has continued to grow an audience steadily with a gain of a few hundred each month. Now six months in, the mailing list stands at 1,736. While live attendance has decreased from that first event, the calls have a very active replay audience of 220 to over 1500 listens per event.

We believe that these numbers reflect a growing desire for knowledge to help us all reconnect with the planet. We look forward to growing both the audience and type of guests that can attend, as well as seeing how this series wishes to grow within our mission and network.

Our hope is also to generate more awareness for our guests and we are looking for ways to follow up with them to keep our network informed.

We hope you will join us!



Community Engagement

Celebrating our youngest treesisters

In an incredible heart-opening effort, in June this year, UK treesisters, Bonnie, Lyla and Kaya raised £519 for TreeSisters - that's equal to over 1700 trees in the ground.

As a response to the climate crisis, Bonnie and her friends Lyla and Kaya (all 7) decided they wanted to take action and do something to help. They came up with the idea to do a 'Sponsored Run for the Planet' that would take place on their school field.

When their mums shared the amazing work being done by TreeSisters and the tree planting that their efforts would make possible, they were right on board.

As friends of the wonderful Polly Higgins, who so sadly died recently, they also wanted to run in honour of her and the extraordinary, wonderful and needed work of the Stop Ecocide campaign (www.stopecocide.earth).

Once the distance had been measured (220 metres per lap), the girls were set a goal of running at least 10 laps if possible.

On Monday 10th June, the appointed time had arrived. The rain poured down but nothing was going to deter these mighty girls from carrying out their commitment.

Having all thrown off their running shoes at the start line they were off up the hill like rockets.

Between 14 and 20 laps later, with various parents, siblings and grandparents having been unable to resist the temptation to join in for some honorary laps, and sopping wet but extremely happy, the seven kids who had taken part came over their respective finish lines with huge smiles on their faces.

What a buzz of joy and elation was in the air as they changed out of their sopping clothes and headed off for chips. The efforts of these amazing girls have planted a forest!



Celebrating Hollie and Sam

How their project touched many lives - in their own words

Our names are Hollie and Sam and we are 9 years old and are students of Woodcote Primary School in the UK. We were recently set a homework task by school to research and produce a science experiment with a presentation. We thought outside the box and with a little help from our parents decided on an experiment to show the effects of deforestation. We used 3 empty bottles and filled them. One with soil, one with soil and compost mix with chipped bark on top and the final bottle with plants. After adding the water to the bottles, the drainage into the mini buckets on the ends of the bottles showed the effects of what happens when there has been deforestation. We researched the whys and the effects of deforestation and produced a power point presentation alongside our experiment.

We went up against the whole school and we were one of two experiments that got chosen to go to our local high school and compete against other local Primary schools in the Ashby Learning Community Primary Science Fair on 19th June 2019. However we had to expand on our presentation to show more research.

Hollie's Mum knew of Giselle Carr's work within TreeSisters, she met Giselle 20+ years ago at Bishop Anstey High School, Trinidad when they were both students.

We emailed Giselle asking her if she would be able to spend some time answering some questions for us via email or even better Skype. Giselle agreed to help us and we arranged a date and time to call. We were both extremely excited to be able to be given this opportunity to learn about TreeSisters from an actual treesister. We asked Giselle a number of questions which included why and when did TreeSisters start, when did Giselle join and what made her want to join the organisation and about the work and how TreeSisters is recognised around the world. We learnt so much and we were able to tell the judges at the science fair about this amazing opportunity we had.

We also looked in to the alternative to palm oil and emailed Dr Chris Chuck who is part of a team at Bath University, UK. So we were able to look at two different sides of what has been done to help our forests.

We didn't place in the final but we had an amazing day at Ashby School on 19th June. In the morning we spent time in the science labs conducting experiments and then in the afternoon we held our presentation to other parents and judges.

We would like to thank Giselle for giving up some time to help us and you never know when we might be back.



CELEBRATING YOUR GIVING AND WEBSITE UPDATE

Thank you so much for your support, generosity and care. We celebrate you! Your gifts make a lasting difference and your consistent support allows TreeSisters to plan strategically for the future. For every £10/USD\$13 donated to TreeSisters, we can fund the planting of 33 trees! When you directly fund our organisation, you are assisting us to engage with more individuals, and to spread the word through education about how funding trees each month has a direct impact on so many lives and ecosystems. Together, we will continue to reforest the tropics, leading with our sisterhood and the deeply meaningful relationships that make anything feel possible.

Phase 1 of our new website is live. We have partnered with GiveCloud, who are an agency dedicated to charity and NGO website builds. So far, we have created phase one of our new website development plan which offers a clearer and more simplified user journey, donor experience, account functionality and much more. Over the coming months further features and exciting enhancements will launch across our website as part of our digital strategy. We look forward to confirming and announcing release dates shortly.



ORGANISATION IMPACTS

BY MAREN KATZAROFF



Canopy & Stars

**CANOPY
& STARS**

Canopy & Stars is a collection of unique, creative places to stay in the great outdoors, giving you a genuine experience of a life more wild. They have pledged a tree for each booking, with the goal of planting 1 million trees. In July, they planted 2329 trees. This includes 514 trees from their July “Holiday Amnesty” promotion where customers could register bookings made with any site, and Canopy and Stars would plant a tree on their behalf. The Holiday Amnesty promotion also resulted in good exposure for TreeSisters via social media platforms (Instagram: Video – watched 4127 times, Post likes 2011; Facebook: 7 posts with a reach of – 100,443) and their newsletter that goes out to 163,000 people.



Fattoria la Vialla

Fattoria La Vialla



Fattoria La Vialla is a family-run, organic-biodynamic farm and wine estate. They use organic and biodynamic methods to cultivate 1,400 hectares / 3,459 acres of land (with the largest Demeter certified surface area in Europe). The winery made a 10,000 Euro donation in lieu of the September climate strike. They will be talking with their network about the donation and TreeSisters, with a focus on the Kenya reforestation project.

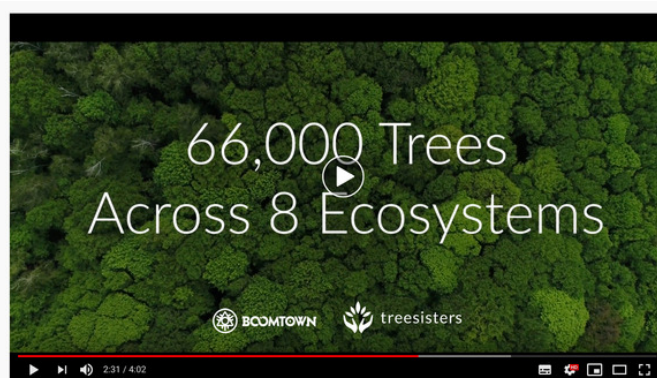


BOOMTOWN FAIR AND TREESISTERS

BY GISELLE CARR

One of the biggest festivals in the world is growing a legacy forest

This summer, Boomtown Fair harnessed the power of joy and music to give a gift back to the world - the gift of a legacy forest with one tree for everyone who attended the festival! But beyond that, we are so proud to share that Boomtown invited Clare to speak at their opening ceremony, and showed our latest video (see below) showcasing where their donations would fund tree planting. Along with this, change pots were distributed to every stall, to collect spare change and fund additional trees; musicians shared the stage with graphics on screen to keep the forest alive throughout the weekend so that the festival truly embodied their goal to create a "new world". We love you Boomtown and can't wait to keep seeding trees into the hearts and minds of the world.





Ways to provide support and contribute to our growing movement

Become a monthly TreeSister member and plant leafy green trees! Join our almost 4000 members by [signing up here](#).

Become a Water Carrier! Are you a small business owner? Contribute a portion of your business profits to the trees. Please visit our Water Carrier's program webpage or contact Terra at support@treesisters.org or visit www.treesisters.org/give/water-carriers

To fundraise in aid of TreeSisters please check out our new [fundraising webpage](#) with helpful tips and to register your event.

Become a corporate restoration partner. Check out our new [corporate page](#) to find out more.

Would you like to make building the TreeSisters movement a core part of your philanthropic strategy?

Contact Clare Dubois at clare@treesisters.org or Louise Tarrier at louise@treesisters.org about a major gift, foundation grant, or to provide a legacy to trees with a gift in your will.

We also welcome contact and feedback from our donors so please do not hesitate to keep in touch.