



## Nepal ~ The Terai Forest Restoration Project

Treesisters has been supporting Eden Reforestation Projects in Nepal since October 2017. The 'Terai forest Restoration Project' aims to empower and engage local communities to regrow and protect the vibrant lowland tropical forests in the Terai region, where Terai in Nepali means low-lying lands.

With close proximity to remaining natural forests, the reforestation sites create the dual opportunity to avoid further natural forest encroachment, as well as, to expand seminatural forest ecosystem which are crucial for wildlife and local communities.

TreeSisters is currently funding the reforestation of a total area of 51 hectares (equivalent to 71 football fields) spread across 2 districts: Central Nepal (Rautahat) and Southeastern Nepal (Jhapa) which are located at the foothills of the Himalayas, along the Indian border.



### Why are we planting there?

The project aims to establish semi-natural community forests by providing the local villagers meaningful employment and impactful ecological gains. The project plans to plant 100,000 trees annually. The reforestation efforts in this area will not only bring back a healthy, diverse and native forest; it will also improve soil quality and water tables, over time improving local farming and agricultural productivity.

It is a true reforestation project. Trees are planted with diversity in mind at a planting density of 1 tree per 2 meters over cleared lands. Seeds are collected from remnant nearby forests or procured from government seeds banks.

### What are the expected socio-economic outcomes?

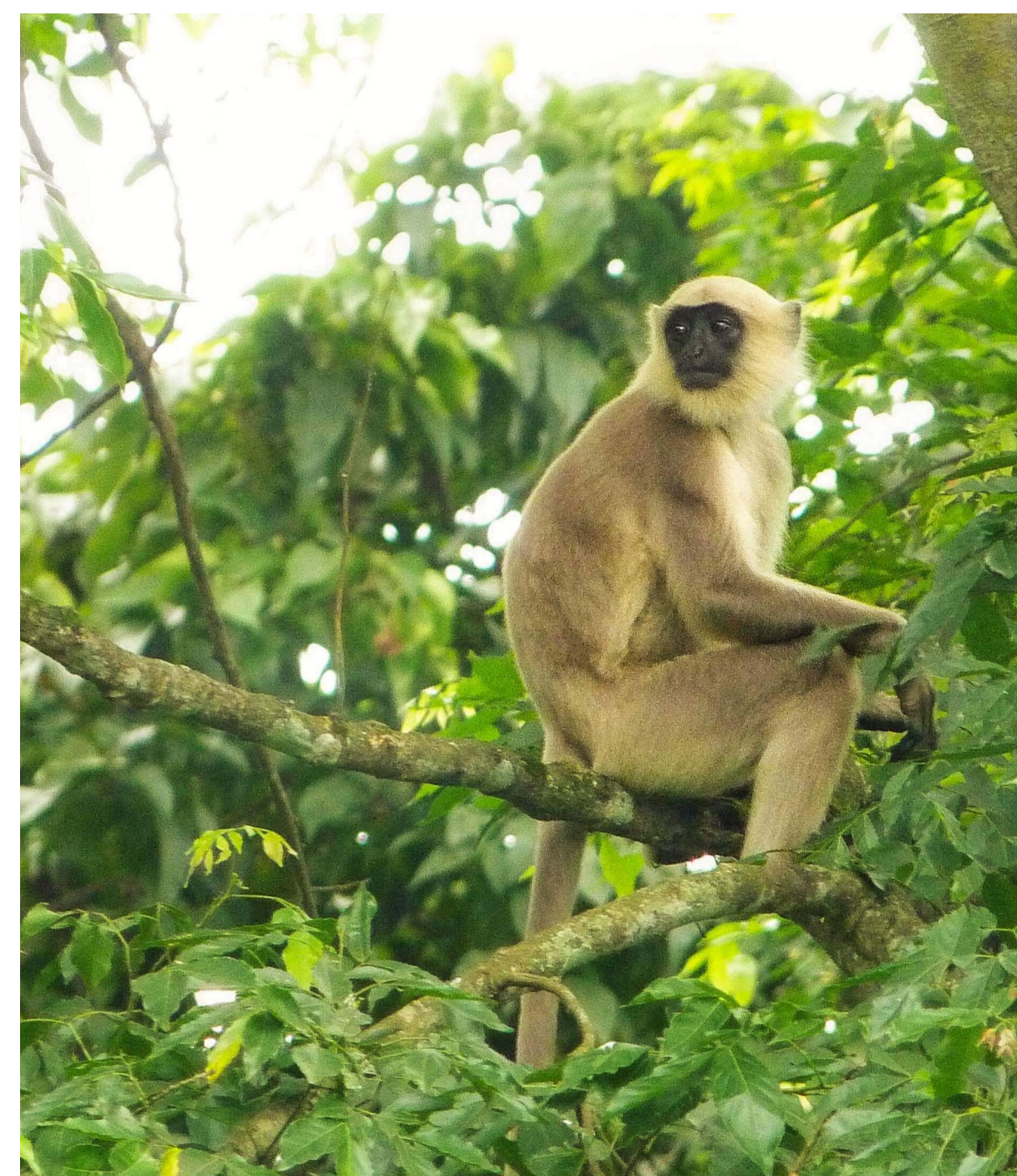
Villagers, mostly farmers, and particularly women, are employed to grow, plant and guard trees. The 'Employ to Plant' strategy provides the poorest of the poor with a job, a consistent income, and a sense of accomplishment. As a result, it helps families dealing with childhood malnutrition, famines, and inability to afford childhood education.

In Nepal, at old projects sites, Eden Reforestation Projects reported that more children are in school because their parents can now afford to send them, there is a decrease in alcoholism and families are able to save money for the first time. Income generated through the community encourage indirectly the development of village micro-enterprises.

### What are the goals?

Eden Reforestation Projects works through a small team of local staff. Reforestation activities are run through Forest Users Groups. They are paid to grow, plant and protect trees in degraded and cleared lands, as well as manually clear land prior to planting. The goal is to have thriving forests and farmers with increasing soil fertility. Additionally 60% of Eden's village employees are female, directly benefiting through employment and consistent income. The project aims to build the capacity of female village employees, in order for them to become managers and nursery leaders.

The project is also extending wildlife habitat, providing them with food, water and shelter. In that respect, Eden Reforestation Projects reported the following: "In Jhapa, we have seen evidence of wild boars, elephants, snake varieties and different birds and insects in our reforested areas".







## People

Eden Reforestation Projects empowers and employs local people, to grow, plant and guard native trees on their lands.

Reforestation activities are run through local Forest Users Groups. They are paid to grow, plant and protect trees in degraded and cleared lands.

Eden Reforestation Projects and TreeSisters recognize the significant importance of restoring the Terai's forests for and with people, and are building up on ongoing participative environment through Community Forestry experience in Nepal.

## TreeSisters Partnership since October 2017

Reintroducing native biodiversity occurring naturally in Nepal through trees such as Sissoo, Teak and Indian Rosewood.

## Trees



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## Expected Outcomes

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## Project Approach

To Eden Reforestation Projects, one key element to successful reforestation southern Nepal is that: "you have to benefit the local population. People who are suffering the impact of deforestation are living in extreme poverty because of the connection between the land and the local community." They call their approach the 'Employ to Plant' methodology. Reforestation helps with poverty relief and people build a relationship with trees so they value forests and become stewards.

With close proximity to remaining natural forests, the reforestation sites create the dual opportunity to avoid further natural forest encroachment, to expand semi-natural forest ecosystem which are crucial for wildlife and local communities.

## Animals

The Terai-Duar ecoregion contains the world's tallest grasslands and is home to the highest densities of tigers, rhinos and ungulates in Asia.



Out of the total 65 mammal species found in the Terai forest, eight are enlisted as 'Endangered' in IUCN Red List.

## Place



Location: Central Nepal (Rautahat) and Southeastern Nepal (Jhapa) Land size: total area of 51 hectares

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## Women

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**For more details about this project and others please go to [www.treesisters.org](http://www.treesisters.org)**

**Most photos courtesy Eden Reforestation Projects; Tiger photo by Ratanjot Singh**