



SPRING SUMMARY
July 2018

INSPIRING A REFORESTATION REVOLUTION

NEW FACES

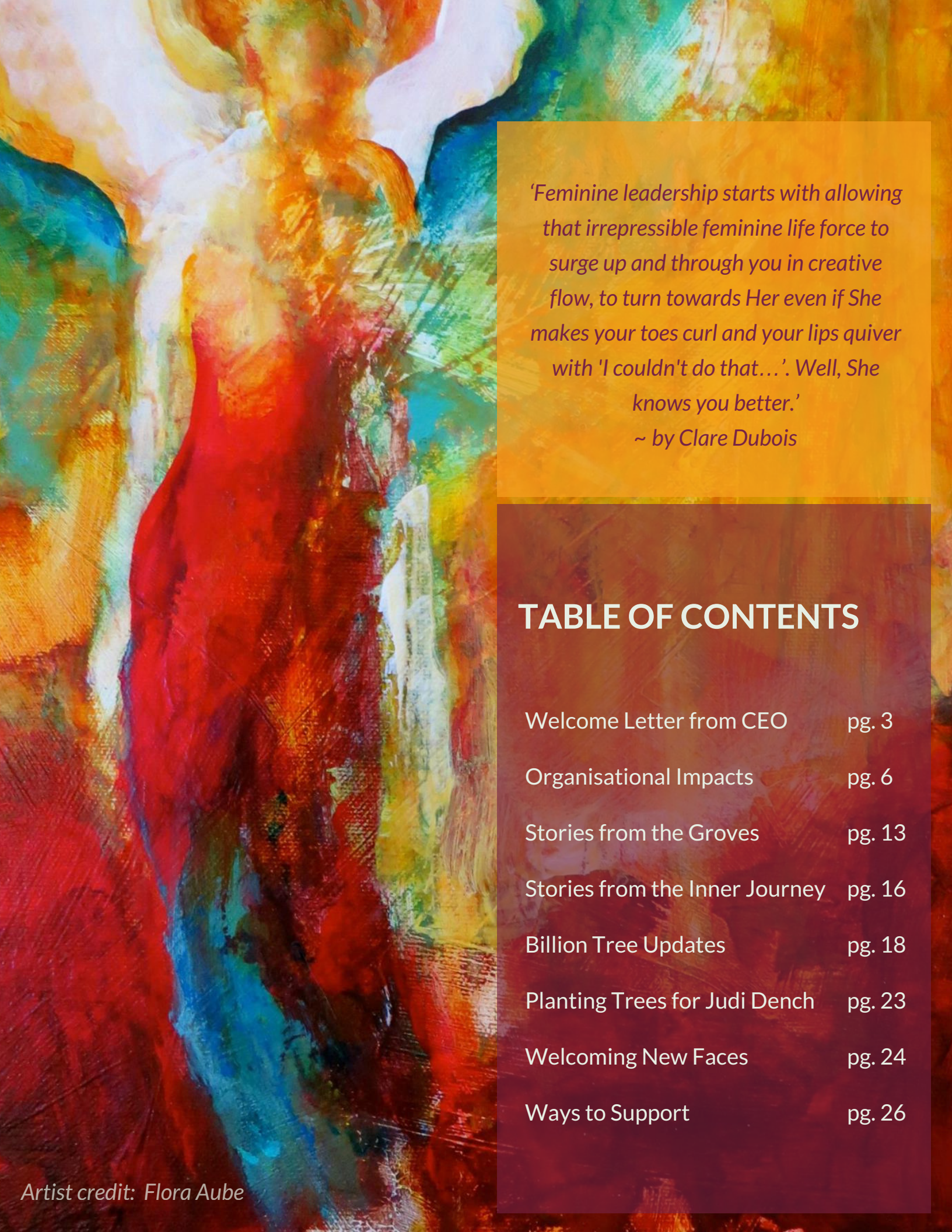
A warm welcome
to new sisters

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

Radical Impact and
Dreaming the World Green

SHINE

Blossoming
into fullness

An abstract painting with vibrant, textured brushstrokes in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The composition is vertical, with a central red and orange column. The background is a mix of these colors, creating a sense of movement and energy.

'Feminine leadership starts with allowing that irrepressible feminine life force to surge up and through you in creative flow, to turn towards Her even if She makes your toes curl and your lips quiver with 'I couldn't do that...'. Well, She knows you better.'
~ by Clare Dubois

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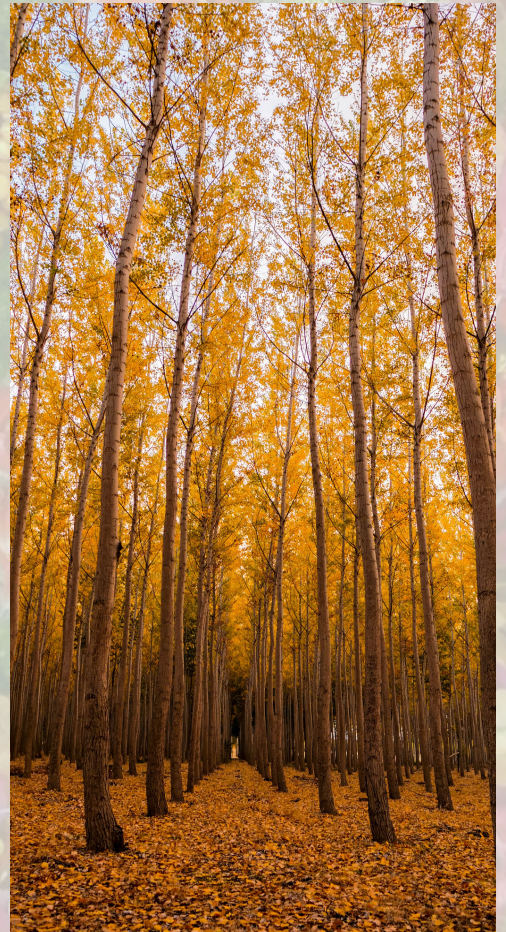
WELCOME LETTER FROM CEO

Since our last report, we have been on one of the most fundamental growth and transformational phases of TreeSisters evolution. As we stepped into the spring we chose to turn more completely into the experiment of TreeSisters as a mechanism of change and a movement led by the network, instead of the usual top-down system of organisational development. Sisterhood is circular and we are ultimately designed to be the wind beneath each other's wings so that everyone rises. This is a subtle but powerful paradigm shift within the organisation that reflects the feminine longing for shared ownership and collective wisdom growing strongly.

'She' orientates towards co-creation, collaboration, community, relationship, deep listening, emergence, allowing, surrendering and stepping into ways of being that call forth the greatness of all, not just 'the few'. To accomplish this properly, we are taking the necessary time to revisit all our systems and processes and undertaking significant infrastructure development in order to create our strongest most coherent offerings yet. We're ensuring that we provide everyone with the best experience and pathways possible, whether first-time visitors, new potential partners or our invaluable member donors.

This creation that is 'TreeSisters' belongs to us all.

She is nature calling us home to the nature of ourselves and we are following her lead. We are understanding more fully with each turning of the season that TreeSisters has to follow the way of nature and the way of the forest. As we turn more and more to nature as our guide, biomimicry as a choice and the forest floor as our teacher, we see how every tree co-creates the coherence upon which the whole forest depends.

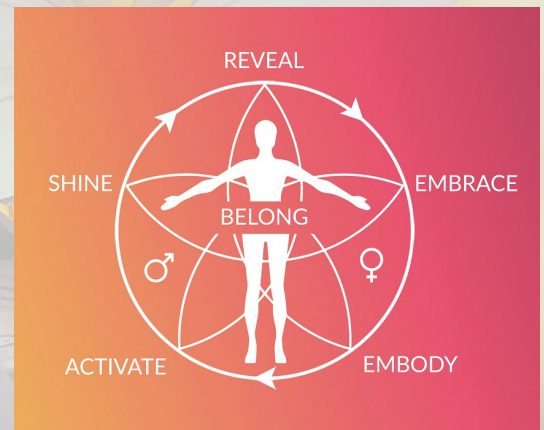




Simply said, it's time to grow the forest floor of sisterhood way more consciously, and serve its collective brilliance to the world. This will take time but it is already a gloriously creative process.

And it's happening. The Inner Journey has activated women in ways that leave the team breathless.

The experiment of the Map of 5 Choices as a flow of energy that liberates life force back into right relationship with life, is working. In response, we're placing that Map even more deeply into the centre of our being so that the whole organisational flow of the year follows the journey twice through Reveal, Embrace, Embodiment, Activate, Shine and Belong in a way that creates synergy and balance between our communities in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

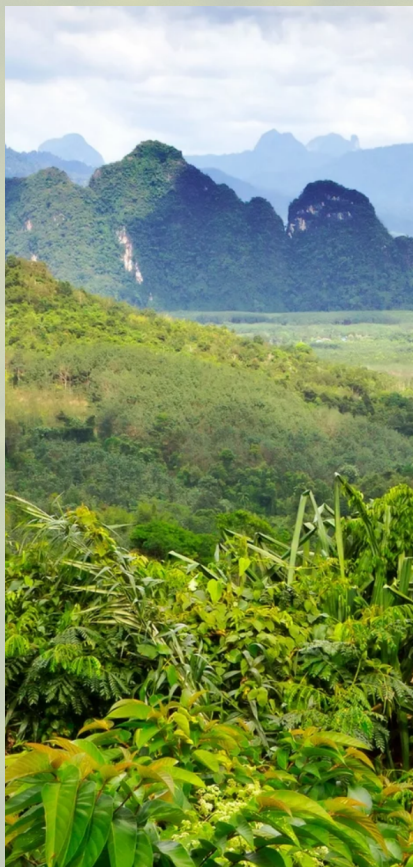


We are so grateful that you are on this journey with us!

We are living into the experiment of consciousness shift at all levels which is audacious, unique, exciting and a relief as we surrender to her natural flow. We are edge walking together as we pioneer nature based organisational development whilst funding the planting of over 2 million trees a year. We are so grateful that you are on this journey with us!



Artist credit: Debra Bernier



We offered our best in April for Earth Day - a global meditation that really rocked my world - and an amazing Radical Impact event where folks got to listen to our planting partners share weepingly beautiful stories of social change from their reforestation projects - and 70 new TreeSisters stepped in and up on behalf of the trees.

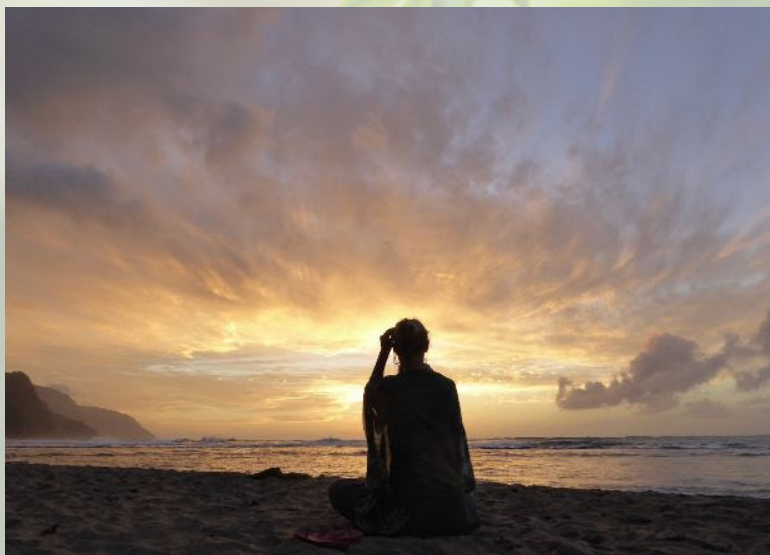
70 amazing new restorers are now protecting multiple endangered species of wild cat, monkey, lemur, gorilla, tree, bird, snake - you name it. They are also gifting transformed lives of critically poor, and yet utterly gutsy and beautiful people who are ready to bring back the forests, the water, and the biodiversity as part of their own recovery back to lives of increased security and strength.

Thank you for 34,425 more trees that you are planting yearly with us. That is a forest that will keep on growing year after year, as your monthly gifting keeps growing it, and our partners keep protecting and tending it. Amazing! THANK YOU!

And in other news we also welcome two new team members this quarter - Sara Rushworth who is Yorkshire UK based stepping into the role of Operations Manager and Giselle Carr who brings the tropical energy of Trinidad into the team as our new Marketing Manager you can see them and the glorious experience that they bring at the end of the report. Welcome to you both, and thank you. We are already so much richer through your presence.

We hope you enjoy the richness of our report and the knowledge that as an intrinsic and vital member, your fingerprints can be found on all of our new developments.

Thank you for you,
xClare





Organisation Impacts

A Closer Look at Our Work in Cameroon with International Tree Foundation

Image credit: International Tree Foundation Projects (Kenya)



TreeSisters is contributing to the establishment of the Biodiversity Reserve of about 6,000 hectares in order to protect Mount Bamboutos's exceptional biodiversity and critically endangered Gorillas. We are currently funding 2 million trees per year through our membership - as at March this was 3,319 women and men across 32 countries.



While the project launch has been postponed for security reasons to the end of June, the project has started: teams have already been mobilized on the ground, seeds have been purchased and sensitization work has started. The project recreates a forest landscape within the highly populated and damaged Mount Bamboutos range and we are supporting the restoration of its South West region.



International Tree Foundation, our reforestation partner, is restoring a mosaic of natural and semi-natural forests, as well as tree-based systems, interspersed with existing agriculture and settlements.

We are supporting Mt. Bamboutos with tree species as in the Cameroon Highlands forest, the restoration of degraded lands and the establishment of a Community Forest.



These actions will help to prevent further encroachment into the remaining natural forests of the Tofala Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

We are also supporting the integration of trees on farmers' lands for more sustainable livelihoods. We are indirectly supporting the conservation of 20-30 Cross River Gorillas inhabiting the Tofala Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. The Community Forests will prevent further encroachment into the remaining natural forests of the Tofala Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and a nearby, vast "intact forest landscape".



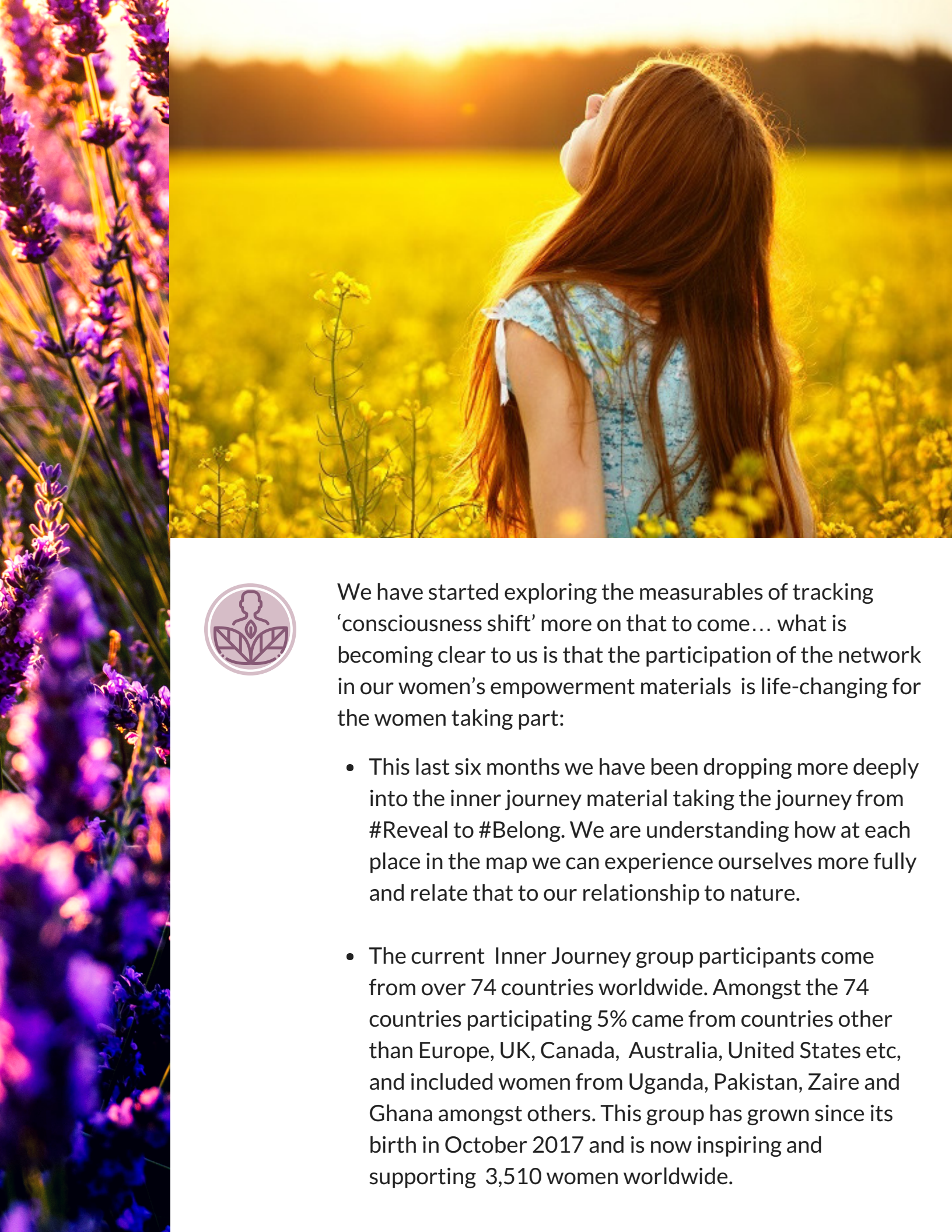
Lauriane our Reforestation Director traveled to Kenya to meet and work with our partner International Tree Foundation (ITF) to deepen the relationship and to gain a better grasp of the project. The project benefits from and supports several complimentary private, public and social initiatives. The project is helping rural women making savings so that they are able to invest in their respective 'table banking' groups to improve their future. The trip was organised to verify the announced restoration interventions and practices. The project has only been running for 1 ½ years but our restoration sites are gradually filling up with Meru Oaks, Podocarpus, etc. The project is supported by an amazing network of community groups, (primarily women's groups), providing the project with tree seedlings. The local implementing NGOs are doing an amazing job training them and strengthening the groups.



Lauriane's trip was an opportunity to work with ITF on strengthening the monitoring and reporting systems at the site. This will enable both TreeSisters and ITF to better track the forest restoration progress and understand all of the environmental and socio-economic impacts.

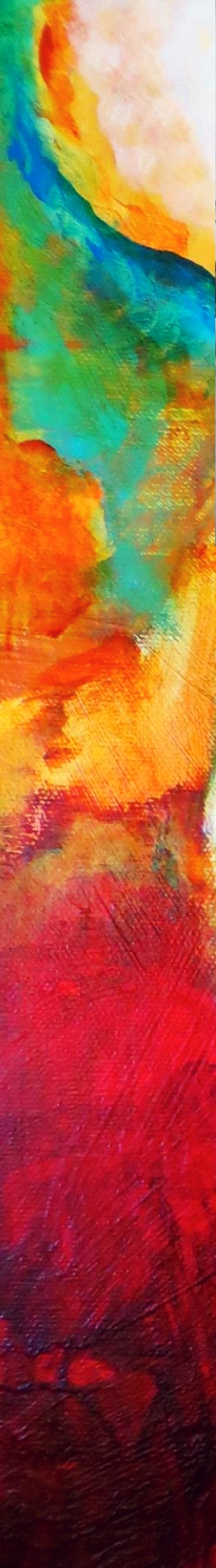


We are successfully integrating biomimicry through the replication of the forest floor as the basis for network growth, relationship, and partnership development. The wisdom of the forest floor highlights mutual leadership, ownership and support, unconditional generosity, co-creativity and the ethos of 'raising each other up' to embody the fullest expression of self, sister, and nature.



We have started exploring the measurables of tracking 'consciousness shift' more on that to come... what is becoming clear to us is that the participation of the network in our women's empowerment materials is life-changing for the women taking part:

- This last six months we have been dropping more deeply into the inner journey material taking the journey from #Reveal to #Belong. We are understanding how at each place in the map we can experience ourselves more fully and relate that to our relationship to nature.
- The current Inner Journey group participants come from over 74 countries worldwide. Amongst the 74 countries participating 5% came from countries other than Europe, UK, Canada, Australia, United States etc, and included women from Uganda, Pakistan, Zaire and Ghana amongst others. This group has grown since its birth in October 2017 and is now inspiring and supporting 3,510 women worldwide.



- Through our Inner Journey program, Treesister Liz Terry was inspired to start '**She Sings**', a cross-generational flashmob in the streets of Stroud, UK on International Women's Day. Over 100 women and girls of all ages showed up to sing and dance while raising thousands in funds for the forests. This event will most likely turn into a cross-regional event next year.



- Multiple women are reporting that they are now doing things that they would never have dreamt possible (standing up for their land, creating community gatherings for song, activism, conservation, awareness raising and also writing, publishing, designing etc) but can now do so because they have '3000 women standing right behind them, holding their backs.' Feminine Nature Based Leadership' is thriving and growing week by week within the network. Some examples in this report for you to enjoy...

In Uganda one of our TreeSisters Groves has independently raised 50,000 trees in their nursery for distribution and is supporting women at risk due through their Gender Park project.



We are working on the volunteer culture within TreeSisters as more and more women are stepping forward to find and take their place within the ecosystem. This will roll out in its fullness in the next quarter.



SHARING TREESISTERS -

Stories of courage and creativity from the Network

For this last quarter, we're focusing on the spring into high summer energies of love in action. Courage and creativity are rising like sap within the network and we're taking the opportunity of sharing this energy with you and introducing some of the extraordinary women who are blazing away in their leadership.

HONORING LOVE AND COURAGE

To show myself,
To risk my heart
Letting my light radiate
And the sound of my love
Join the wild aliveness of life,
Is to bow to the blessing of being alive
To give thanks for the mystery of birth
For the path well traveled
And the journey home
To self acceptance so complete
That every soul has a resting place
In the endless embrace of my heart
~ by Clare Dubois





Stories from the Groves

Sisterhood, Breast Cancer and Fundraising for the Forests.

One of our Groves, Holly Grove was birthed through Grove Tender Lisa Turner when she moved to Dartmoor with a really clear desire to be in a TreeSisters Grove. As there was not yet one in the area she bravely stepped forward as a Grove Tender Leader offering monthly full moon gatherings. The first gathering drew a circle of fourteen women, some who'd circled before, others who were completely new to women's work.

Two months into tending her Grove, Lisa received an unexpected diagnosis of aggressive breast cancer and was advised to have surgery and chemotherapy. Her first response was to postpone the Grove, but through deeper self-enquiry she realised, that at this time more than ever, she would need to rest back into the nourishing holding of her sisterhood.

'I wanted to offer the group but also I knew it was something I needed, it was pre-diagnosis but I knew that these circles are incredibly nurturing both ways to give and receive. Never doubt the awesome power and beauty of women together, it's immense.'
- Lisa Turner





In order to establish the unique signature tune of a Grove, the tenders are called upon to deeply trust the process, making way for what naturally wants and needs to emerge. This subtle but vastly underrated energy of listening and allowing is core to Feminine Nature Based Leadership. Lisa embodies this in her tending beautifully by recognising that the monthly gathering itself is the heartbeat of the circle and trusting that over time this heartbeat will naturally ripple out into various Grove actions on behalf of life.

‘It’s all about allowing, and this is traditionally seen as weak but it takes so much strength to allow’ - Lisa Turner

Holly Grove members are taking action to reforest the tropics by donating monthly to TreeSisters and some of the women members are planting trees on their own land. Lisa herself recently completed a beautiful activation in a sponsored pre-chemo headshave raising over £700 which will plant 2900 trees. ([See here for the full story](#))

TreeSisters Groves is our offering for treesisters who would like to gather in circle with other women. They can be held locally or virtually and are usually coordinated by one or two women who step forward in the role of ‘Grove Tenders’.

Our Groves charitable program is one of our strongest areas of experimentation into Feminine Nature Based Leadership. Our Groves offer a rich opportunity for women to come together in deep exploration of what it really means to reinstate feminine consciousness back onto the planet and how that looks when expressed in healthy feminine leadership in and for our world.

For more information about TreeSisters Groves please see [here](#). Written by Jenny Rose Smith, Groves Coordinator.



Stories from the Inner Journey

The Bredbury Clean-Up Goddess

"I will do something. I will prove my purpose on this planet!"

Laura Cox is a treesister from Manchester, UK. She's one of the 3,400 members of the TreeSisters Inner Journey Facebook group, and she's transforming the village of Bredbury.

"I was seeing all these pictures and videos of what the ladies were doing [in the Inner Journey group]. I felt like I wanted to give something too. I just thought – why am I on this page, I don't have anything to give, what can I do, I'm just a mum on an estate with a little boy? I felt like I had nothing to give. Then I did Activate and realised I've got loads to give, I just have to be a bit more dedicated."



Laura regularly drove past a particularly littered piece of unused pathway every day. She decided to clean it up. She put a post up in a local group on Facebook and mentioned what she was planning to do. A few people offered to help. That first clean-up crew of 6 adults and 2 schoolchildren filled 30 big garbage bags of rubbish at the site. Inspired by what they had achieved, Laura created a Facebook page called **Bredbury Clean-Up Crew**. She called the local council and asked about planting saplings in the village.



“I said I'm going to plant things is that a problem? They said 'why do you want to clean up Bredbury?' I told them someone has to do it, why not me?”

Laura now has permission from her council to plant bedding plants wherever she wants and the local supermarket is donating plants for this purpose. She has plans underway to plant the main street with trees and bring back the blossoming beauty that Bredbury was once known for. Laura keeps pick-up sticks and gloves at her house so that locals can swing by and borrow them if they want to pick up litter.



And now she's planning, with the help of the local Housing Association, to transform a piece of land that used to be a little park into a community garden for elderly people who have no gardens themselves. The woman is on a roll!

“I built all of this courage, layer by layer, because of the Treesisters – knowing they've got my back. It's made me a much happier person. And it's turned into this ripple effect.” If you would like to discover what you have to give and be supported by a thriving sisterhood, please join us in the Inner Journey [here](#).

Billion Tree updates: Earth Day Celebrations

This Earth Day, we gathered the sisterhood to take a stand for the trees! We called in 70 new members and an additional 34,425 trees a year. We are so grateful to each and every one of you who are supporting this reforestation revolution!

Our Earth Day Celebrations included two live events, 'Dream our World Green' and 'Radical Impact', along with a series of stories from eco-heroines in our global network giving to the trees in powerful ways.

If you've been longing for a way to contribute to the protection and restoration of nature, to wrap your arms around our global forests and feel powerful and hopeful in the face of climate change, these offerings are an opportunity to experience the kind of impact you can have, and what it feels like to stand beside other women making a difference.



For those of you who are in our circle of monthly members, this is an opportunity to deepen your relationship to the trees you're helping to plant, and better understand the impact you're making and the legacy you're leaving for future generations.

Here are some of our favourite quotes from women who joined us for Dream Our World Green event:

"Pure Bliss. Feel like my whole life has been building up to this time with Treesisters. Thank you so much." ~ Lesley from Canada

"This is holy. We morph. We merge..... softly swiftly silently easily slowly tenderly openly sweetly... we are all choosing heaven." ~ Ruthe from the USA

"Overcome with such emotion, I left with such a feeling of belonging." ~ Mary from the UK

"Beautiful to feel nature there, choosing green heaven with us. Beautiful to feel the joining web of light around the world. Beautiful to see my role listening to trees and feel permission to serve as who I actually am. My words for this is a beautiful birth." ~ Ellen from USA



A portrait of Marie-Noelle, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. She is positioned on the right side of the top section, with a tree trunk visible behind her.

*"I am a
mother
who's
decided
to do
something
about
climate
change."*



MARIE-NOELLE
CEO OF WEFORREST
TREESISTERS PLANTING PARTNER

Here are some of our favourite quotes from speakers and listeners at our Radical Impact event:

"Environment and socioeconomic factors are completely interconnected." ~ Debbie Crawford, Eden Reforestation Projects

"I'm so deeply touched to know that spending money for trees also helps wildlife, women, children and water sources."
~ Ellen, TreeSister Monthly Member

To listen to the recordings of these events and read our eco-heroine Earth Day story series, please sign up [here](#)!



"My dream is that all women
get to realize they are the
agent of change."



ANASTACIA NJOKI NJGI,
MOUNT KENYA TREE PLANTER

Women are the Backbone of Life on Mt. Kenya

When first meeting Anastacia Njoki Njgi, it's clear that there is something very special about her. There's a shine in her eyes and a power to her voice that speaks of an unshakable determination and vigor for life. On my recent trip to Kenya, I had the pleasure of interviewing her on her farm to learn more about her, and how our Mt Kenya planting project with the International Tree Foundation (ITF) has impacted her life over the years.

Anastacia lives on a farm in Embu county with her four children, two grandchildren, and a variety of animals including a cow, goats, and chickens. The farm is half a hectare in size and has over 400 trees on it, which Anastacia talks about with pride. She speaks about the symbiotic relationship between her and the trees; how they provide for her family's everyday needs, how they breathe in our carbon dioxide and give us oxygen, and how they replenish Kenya's water table.



"In Kenya, we rely on trees for firewood, fodder for our animals, fruit, and medicines - these are the responsibilities of Kenyan women. So women naturally have a special relationship with trees and the forests."

In Kenya, there is a tradition of tree planting and cultivation within the rural communities of the highlands. Anastacia has done this beautifully, planting trees on her land for fruit, fuelwood, shade and construction materials. "My favourite tree is Grevillea which I love so much," she says with a smile, "especially, the leaves which fall down from the Grevillea improves the soil of my farm".

When Anastacia's husband died years ago, Anastacia was making so little money from tea farming that she had to engage with other women and try to find activities to improve her family's living conditions. That's when she joined a self-help women's group called "the Wamiti Group", which operates the tree nursery being funded by the International Tree Foundation and TreeSisters. She now earns an income from growing and planting tree seedlings for the forest restoration of the Mt Kenya Forest Reserve.



Planting Trees for Judi Dench

UPDATE

Beautiful leafy green news! Judi Dench was honoured to receive word that a group of activated treesisters had come together to plant a forest in her name. Together 7,732 trees were planted and Judi sent along a beautiful thanks for this gift. In her words:

“I am so keen on planting trees...may it all last... thank you very much indeed and I am so proud to be one of you.” ~ Judi Dench

A big warm thanks to those who stepped in to initiate this radical act of generosity in support of reforestation in the tropics.



WELCOMING NEW FACES: SARA RUSHWORTH



Sara found her love for nature and connection with Gaia at a very young age and ever since has continually developed a deeper knowledge and understanding of the natural world. Qualifying in crystal healing and Reiki in her early teens, her path led her through various journeys of self discovery.

Sara has fifteen years experience in marketing and brand strategy, with most recently developing the launch and execution for celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's international restaurants as Head of Marketing. Sara worked with Jamie for over ten years, creating and enhancing the international brand execution, building and launching all marketing activities whilst developing strategic operational projects and practices.

A natural lover of analytics and stats, Sara continuously enhanced all projects for maximum growth potential. Sara's role covered not only the restaurants but also Jamie's multiple campaigns from book launches, TV series, brand partnerships and government strategies such as combating child obesity. During her time there, Sara grew the marketing team from one to ten - nurturing and developing each individual's skills and gifts for business and personal growth. Sara is a natural mother-hen, who always ensures a holistic approach with peace and harmony for all in her nest.

As TreeSisters new Operations Manager Sara weaves her energy through all plans, strategies, and developments, supporting the team and the research volunteer pod. She will also bring her skills to Marketing, HR, data, stats, and reporting so that the team can function at the highest level possible and share that with our network and membership. She is committed to the TreeSisters mission and strives for all to find their deeper connection with Mother Nature and themselves, blossoming into restorers of our beautiful world.



WELCOMING NEW FACES: GISELLE CARR



Giselle is a big picture thinker with a love for detail... the little things that are the big things. A creative strategist with fifteen years experience spanning design, art direction, marketing, research, social innovation, biomimicry, leadership, and business development, she is adept at seeing opportunities across borders and industries in a changing world.

She thrives at the intersection of business, creativity, and sustainability when tackling challenging, systemic issues with bright people. Her experience has been in entrepreneurial settings from New York tech industry startups to Design Management promotion in businesses and non-profits across the world, to communications and culture-shaping in Trinidad.

Growing up as the daughter of an agronomist, she developed a profound love of nature spending her childhood years living in rural central Trinidad. More recently, after attending a life-changing immersion in Costa Rica hosted by the Biomimicry Institute, she has spoken at events and conducted workshops with youth in Trinidad, fostering love and reverence of nature by teaching biomimicry to a new generation of innovators.

As Marketing Manager, she works with fierce compassion to shape the TreeSisters brand strategy and tell its powerful, magnetic story. She is passionate about massive systemic change, new thinking and new business leaders that the twenty-first century calls for. In the words of Bruce Mau, she works toward being "a living revolution of possibility".

WAYS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR GROWING MOVEMENT

Become a monthly TreeSister member and plant leafy green trees! Join our 3,000+ Members by [signing up here](#).

Become a WaterCarrier! 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 watercarriers@treesisters.org.

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

Leafy Fun Fundraising Ideas - From our Fundraising Pack

- Grow your own forest: Gather your friends and become a grove of forest funders. Together you will plant more trees than if you were alone. This is a great way to fundraise in sisterhood and to collectively make a difference.
- Gift giving: TreeSisters has a great selection of gift cards for any occasion. Why not encourage your friends to give TreeSisters gift cards during the holiday season? You can find our e-gift card selection [here](#).
- Organise an expert: Invite an expert on the environment, trees specific to your area, or an expert to speak on climate change or feminine leadership to speak in your local area, sell tickets and introduce TreeSisters at the same time. A fabulous way to bring together community and fundraise.
- Plant sale: plant your seeds of intention, nurture them & watch them grow before entrusting them to others.
- Sponsored events: walking meditation, runs, dances for the forests, 108 sun salutations.

- A night of fresh and foraged food: if you like to cook and know how to get ahold of home-grown or foraged food, this is a great way to bring people together and talk to them about the importance of caring for our planet. You could charge by the head or ask for donations at the end.
- Nurture Days: find a venue, invite teachers to offer their gifts in service to your cause (yoga, dance, guided meditations, etc) and invite women to come enjoy and donate.
- Open house silent retreat: you could open your home up for a silent retreat event (perhaps one day or a weekend) and ask for donations at the end.
- Host an art, personal growth or professional development workshop: and donate the proceeds.
- Evenings of art, music, poetry, comedy: you could hire a venue, host it in your favourite place in nature, or in your home or garden.
- Make Fairy Houses or Bird Houses with kids: invite the children in your community along with their parents and ask for donations for your cause.

Would you like to make building the TreeSisters movement a core part of your philanthropic strategy? Contact Jocelyn Anderson at jocelyn@treesisters.org, about a major gift or foundation grant, provide a legacy to trees with a gift in your will or join us as a corporate sponsor.

