



RESTORATION STRATEGY.

Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative and ITF - Uganda



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RESTORATION STRATEGY.

The TreeSisters Restoration Strategy is dynamic and iterative and living with time. This first iteration aims to build the foundation of an evolving strategy. It is a step on a journey and will be adapted and evolved as we implement it.

VISION



To ethically expand the green cover of our world.

MISSION



To work in harmony with trees and their communities for the planet to survive and thrive.

VISION, MISSION & VALUES.

TreeSisters works ethically to reforest and restore our planet. We also push for change, advocating for nature and inspiring everyone to reconnect and protect our natural world.

We are nature and can only address the root cause of climate change by reconnecting with our natural world.

Our values are important to us and ingrained into everything we do, from our Restoration Strategy to our Ethical Tree Growing Framework and behavioural change work. TreeSisters' values are harmony, respect, integrity, wisdom, and courage.

WHERE WE ARE.

Our natural world is in trouble. Humans' relationship with nature and the earth has resulted in both the demise of biodiversity and the consequence of human-caused climate change. Forests continue to be lost and destroyed, significantly impacting our ability to limit temperature increases from climate change.

Thankfully, awareness of these issues is growing. Increased focus on climate, reforestation, and protecting trees means more resources for restoration globally. Governments, non-profit organisations, businesses, and communities benefit from the increased resources and reforestation.

However, significant issues are being raised about how funding for restoration and climate change is being used, and deforestation continues at a rate that exceeds reforestation.

TreeSisters has always had robust due diligence for its partnerships and projects, and we know that we have contributed to projects that have supported reforestation, communities, and women.

However, we can do more to ensure that the restoration of forests and trees is ethical.



Voix Libre - DRC

ISSUES IN THE REFORESTATION SECTOR:

- Planting monoculture for carbon credits
- Doubts about the accuracy of reported trees being planted
- Doubts about the accuracy of forest-protected
- Land grabbing
- Inequitable distribution of resources for women
- Violation of human rights
- Greenwashing
- Corruption
- Violations of the land rights of indigenous and original peoples

WHERE WE WANT TO BE.



Our goal

Our goal is the Ethical Restoration of Forests and Trees. To have forests restored in a way that rebalances power dynamics, supports connections with nature and values the knowledge of those working directly with the natural environment they inhabit.



Supports connections and relationships to nature

Rebalances power dynamics



Respects the knowledge and wisdom of the communities living in these places

WHY CHANGE.

TreeSisters has been supporting reforestation projects for over ten years and, together with our planting partners, has planted over 27 million trees. Over this time, we have gained a wealth of experience working with planting partners, experts, allies, and Indigenous and Original Peoples.

Learning from our Restoration Partners

Through developing the Ethical Tree Growing Framework and connecting to our restoration partners, we listened to those replanting, managing, and protecting forests. We heard they have concerns about the reforestation sector with issues around organisations imposing ideas, processes and procedures without fully listening to the communities living in these places.

At TreeSisters, we realised we had unintentionally fallen into a transactional approach to restoration, focusing on scale and 'tree price' rather than the broader and more holistic environmental, nature, and community impacts. By accepting the conventional reforestation approach, we adopted the same method built on colonialist and patriarchal thinking embedded within the wider reforestation sector and enforced a rigid structure that our planting partners had to fit to be suitable for funding.

The co-development of an Ethical Tree Growing Framework with the Original Nations of The Fountain has enabled TreeSisters to better understand ethical tree-growing, forest regeneration and restoration and led to us transforming our approach and priorities.

To undertake this transformation, we recognised that we needed to:

- Develop clear goals
- Reorient our funding programme
- Change our processes and procedures





PRIORITIES.

To support Ethical Restoration of Forests and Trees, we have reoriented our funding and partnering programme priorities. These priorities will guide our partnering and funding decisions.



Restoration and protection of forests and trees



Community Led Restoration



Biocultural Restoration



Nature Led Restoration



Gender Equity & Women's empowerment



Working with original & indigenous people



RESTORATION & PROTECTION OF FORESTS & TREES.



PRIORITY

Why it matters

The destruction of trees and forests is causing harm to our people, our nature and our future.

Reforestation continues to be core to our mission, and we want to see deforestation reduced and forests flourishing around the world. Restoration that supports people, places and landscapes will be supported under this priority.

Outcomes

- Forests will be restored and thriving
- Trees will be protected
- Habitats and ecosystems will be restored and protected
- Forests and agroforestry systems are providing food and other services necessary to the livelihood of the community



COMMUNITY LED RESTORATION.



Why it matters

Communities are best placed to determine the design and implementation of actions to support the restoration of their forests and lands. They know the environmental issues, local climate and the key issues that must be addressed for sustained and successful restoration.

The transactional, scale-driven, top-down imposition of ideas is often part of a conventional approach to tree planting, monitoring and reporting in a funder/funded 'power-over' dynamic. This method, built on colonialist and patriarchal thinking, enforced a rigid structure that our planting partners had to fit into to be suitable for funding. This approach often doesn't address the issues driving deforestation or limiting reforestation.

Supporting community agency and growing the capacity and capability locally will support the likelihood of stable reforestation and attracting further resources to catalyse needed actions.

Having the community lead the design and implementation of their restoration, including the outcome and success measures, will have longer-term and sustainable benefits for the forests and the people who live there.

Outcomes

- Communities will be able to undertake reforestation in a way that best meets their needs
- Communities will be connected to nature
- Reforestation will be part of sustainable livelihoods for communities
- Communities will address systemic issues of deforestation and reforestation
- More resources will go directly to communities
- Community agency and ability to secure resources will improve



Voix Libres: Participant in Forest Planters are Roots for the World

BIOCULTURAL RESTORATION.



Why it matters

Across the world, the disconnect from nature and the separation of humans as 'not nature' has resulted in decisions that actively harm our natural world. Throughout history, cultures and people have had many different relationships with nature. The expression of many of those has been lost over time, and a predominant Western lens has affected the passing on of this knowledge and culture.

Biocultural restoration is an approach that recognises and honours the intrinsic relationship between nature and people. It is the science and art of restoring not just ecosystems but also human and cultural relationships to place. It means that cultures are strengthened and revitalised alongside the lands with which they are intimately connected.

Biocultural restoration encompasses both biophysical and cultural elements of environmental well-being and resilience. It offers a vital bridge that connects restoration science with the practices of restoring justice to the land. This approach is based on cultural values and aligned with community priorities.

By focusing on both the ecological and cultural aspects of restoration, we can help to heal our relationship with nature and promote a more sustainable future for all.

The Ethical Tree Growing Framework will provide principles and practice guidance for this work area. (Please get in touch with us for more information on the Ethical Tree Growing Framework).



AquaVerde - Brazil

Outcomes

- Restoration is delivering the local community's wishes and incorporating their culture, knowledge and needs.
- Ancestral knowledge, protocols, ceremonies, dreams, listening to and receiving signs from nature, listening to the changing needs of communities, children, wildlife, trees, and water systems will be strengthened and protected for the future generations of all beings.
- Local communities are empowered to facilitate education and the transfer of ancestral knowledge within local communities and, where appropriate, with the wider global communities.

NATURE LED RESTORATION.



Why it matters

Being nature-led recognises that trees, wildlife, oceans, rivers, mountains, and all nature have rights. It is the recognition of humanity's nature connectedness, so trees, wildlife, oceans, rivers, mountains, and all of our surroundings and environments have the right to thrive.

Through this, we support restoration led by local communities, particularly those with deep experience listening to or working with the land they inhabit. By fostering local traditional knowledge, ensuring more ethical partnerships and sustainable forest stewardship, we can support the health of our planet and its inhabitants for generations to come.

The Ethical Tree Growing Framework will provide both the principles and practice guidance for this area of work. (Please get in touch with us for more information on the Ethical Tree Growing Framework).

Outcomes

- Nature will have a place in decision-making
- Rights of nature are acknowledged and considered
- Communities will experience their connection to nature



GENDER EQUITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.



Why it matters

Women in forest communities have an essential relationship and role in relation to the land and forests. Access to resources and legal rights for land are often inequitable, with women receiving a minimal amount of the funding available. Further, women are disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change and deforestation.

There is growing evidence that by supporting women in reforestation, we will see more sustainable outcomes both for women and the forests they inhabit.

TreeSisters will support restoration that strengthens gender equity. This may mean different things in different contexts. We recognise women's essential knowledge in many cultures and their critical role in sustainable land use and community resource management. We will support gender equity by championing women foresters and supporting the community in identifying gender-based issues in the reforestation sector.

Outcomes

- Women's essential knowledge and role in land use and reforestation will be recognised
- Women will take part in restoration and reforestation
- Women will be recognised as leaders and foresters
- Women will have agency in decision making for their lands
- The burden and risks to women will be reduced through reforestation



International Tree Foundation - Kenya



Voix Libres - Bolivia

WORKING WITH ORIGINAL & INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.



Why it matters

Indigenous and original people worldwide are leaders in protecting and restoring their lands. Over 36% of the world's forests are in the guardianship of indigenous people and represent some of the most critical habitats on earth.

These communities have often been historically deprived of their natural resources, land access, economic resources, biocultural rights and dignity. There is a need to give back the resources to whom they were taken. We must take responsibility for past injustices to create a more equitable future for all, leading to a harmonious world where everyone can thrive.

Through listening to and with indigenous ways of knowing, we may learn ways to support the restoration of all our lands.

Outcomes

- We work with an increasing number of projects supporting indigenous and original people
- Indigenous and original communities will feel we are working with reciprocity and a rights-based approach
- Resources will be going to support the restoration and protection of forests and trees for indigenous and original peoples



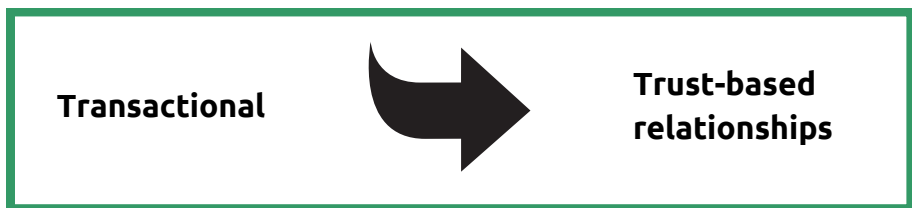
International Tree Foundation - Kenya

HOW WE WILL CHANGE.

Through this reoriented funding programme, we recognised some fundamental changes were required in how we partner for restoration.

Complicated and onerous application processes can be a limiting factor for communities accessing funding, and cultural Western norms often do not support those unfamiliar with these norms.

We seek to decolonise and widen access to our funding by changing our processes. Predominantly, this will be by shifting from transactional to trust-based relationships.



We are reshaping our:

- Partnership applications process
- Partnership and relationship management practices
- Partnership funding agreements
- Monitoring and Evaluation processes

We will:

- Adapt our processes and funding to support community-based restoration
- Facilitate an Ethical Restoration Hub

Ethical Restoration Hub

To support the shift to Ethical Restoration and to support our partners, TreeSisters is developing a hub that will bring partners together. We will connect partners with each other and with resources and knowledge to enable ethical restoration projects to be supported by peer-to-peer learning and support.

MEET THE TEAM.

Coming together from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, our team helps shape the direction and mission of our organisation.

Angela Mayson has over 20 years of experience in environmental protection, restoration and regeneration in Aotearoa, New Zealand, the UK and across sectors. She lives in the UK with her partner and two daughters and spends daily time in nature.

Lauriane has significant experience in data-driven approaches for conservation, research, and natural resources management, specialising in GIS and remote sensing. She led the development of the TreeSisters Restoration Strategy and is developing the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning process. A world traveller, she is passionate about human rights, diversity, and what societies and cultures do to live in harmony on Earth.

Madeleine has experience working in environmental project management in Bolivia, together with several years in the field of women's healing and experience working on the frontline with women recovering from severe trauma. She leads our partnerships with people worldwide, connecting and supporting their visions for restoring their places. She is passionate about helping people connect with the Earth's wisdom and is deeply committed to restoring harmonious relationships between all natural beings.



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Thank you for your interest in TreeSisters.



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