



# TreeSisters' Position on Carbon Credits and Offsets

## Introduction

TreeSisters advocates for a society that fosters thriving ecosystems, empowers women and local communities, promotes gender equity, and honours Indigenous Peoples and cultures. While we welcome the movement of organisations towards climate solutions, we also recognise the significant pitfalls of carbon accreditation and carbon markets, including land rights violations, double counting, and inaccurate carbon calculations. Therefore, TreeSisters does not offer carbon credits, fund projects that generate carbon credits, or provide carbon calculations. We are against treating Nature as a product through carbon trading and focus on solving the core issues causing environmental harm.

## Global Context & Background

Forests are experiencing the impact of climate change at an alarming rate. In response, businesses are taking action by pledging net-zero commitments in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of climate neutrality by 2050. While companies work to reduce emissions, many turn to offsets as part of their climate and sustainability strategies. Balancing emissions in the short term can be a valuable stepping stone for organisations working towards sustainability, but it is not a long-term solution.

Historically, offsets have played a role in market-based approaches, such as cap-and-trade programs, where companies emit more and can buy credits from others to save money rather than reduce their emissions. However, this model is no longer viable due to poor quality control and misleading claims, and it doesn't meet the pressing need to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Businesses, governments, and individuals must prioritise emission reductions and only rely on offsets for near-term solutions or residual emissions if we are to stay on the 1.5°C pathway.

Indigenous and native communities have long recognised the flaws in market-based approaches to reducing emissions. Deeply rooted in Original Principles, Nature is viewed as a living entity that cannot be commodified. Now, more and more Western organisations are beginning to catch up. Even the Women and Gender Constituency to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has labelled these market-based measures as "false solutions."



TreeSisters advocates for genuine, community-led reforestation efforts that prioritise local involvement, uphold Indigenous rights, and respect the relationship between humans and Nature.

### TreeSisters' position

TreeSisters envisions a world where thriving ecosystems, empowered communities, and gender equity are interwoven, and humanity rekindles its innate connection to the natural world. Our reforestation projects are community-led, rooted in ethics, and selected based on local participation and ownership.

As climate and forest-related commitments from businesses and governments continue to rise, it is crucial to establish a clear understanding of what ethical, environmentally responsible action truly entails. At TreeSisters, we closely follow global developments, critically assessing approaches to climate action and the role of Nature in these efforts.

Our commitment goes beyond observation. We engage in ongoing dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, leading experts, community groups, and NGOs who experience the realities on the ground. Their knowledge and lived experience help ensure our actions are rooted in integrity and aligned with the needs of those most impacted.

By partnering with TreeSisters, individuals and organisations play a vital role in restoring forests, protecting biodiversity, and empowering the communities—particularly women—who depend on these ecosystems. We achieve this through a rights-based, biocultural approach that recognises how biological factors shape cultural practices, such as land use, with a focus on equity and sustainability.

At TreeSisters, we understand that donations for reforestation can be integral to an organisation's broader strategy to combat climate change and environmental degradation. While balancing emissions in the short term can serve as a stepping stone during the transition away from fossil fuels, neutralising residual emissions is essential for long-term sustainability. Supporting trees is crucial not only for carbon sequestration but also for maintaining precipitation and water cycles, both vital for climate stabilisation. The most effective, sustainable and ethical way to protect forests is by truly partnering with the communities that live within them. Our focus extends far beyond carbon. We aim to support entire ecosystems, biodiversity, and the communities that rely on them. We believe in holistic action that prioritises life and ecosystems over transactional approaches.

TreeSisters invites your financial support for our reforestation projects, helping us address these critical environmental and social challenges.