

coo|earth
Quarterly Update
Spring 2020



With positive news somewhat thin on the ground lately, we wanted to cut through the uncertainty with an update jam-packed with goodness.

Thanks to your commitment to conservation and effective climate action, you have helped us to achieve the following rainforest success stories.

An inherent belief in the power of people and support from smart businesses like you keeps us going in difficult times. By helping local communities, embracing indigenous knowledge and planning for a sustainable future, we will continue to protect rainforest together through challenges that come our way.

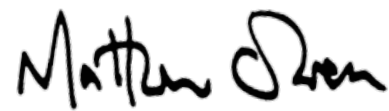
In March, we celebrated Women's Month, and in this report we're introducing you to some of those incredible women from our partnerships. From a mother's determination to secure her son's education in Mozambique to the women changing their future and finances in Cambodia, their dedication and accomplishments are inspiring.

We can't, of course, bring you an update without addressing the impact of coronavirus and what that means for Cool Earth. On page 19, Cool Earth's Programmes team address the questions you've been asking. One thing is clear, Cool Earth will continue to support local people, whatever the conditions.

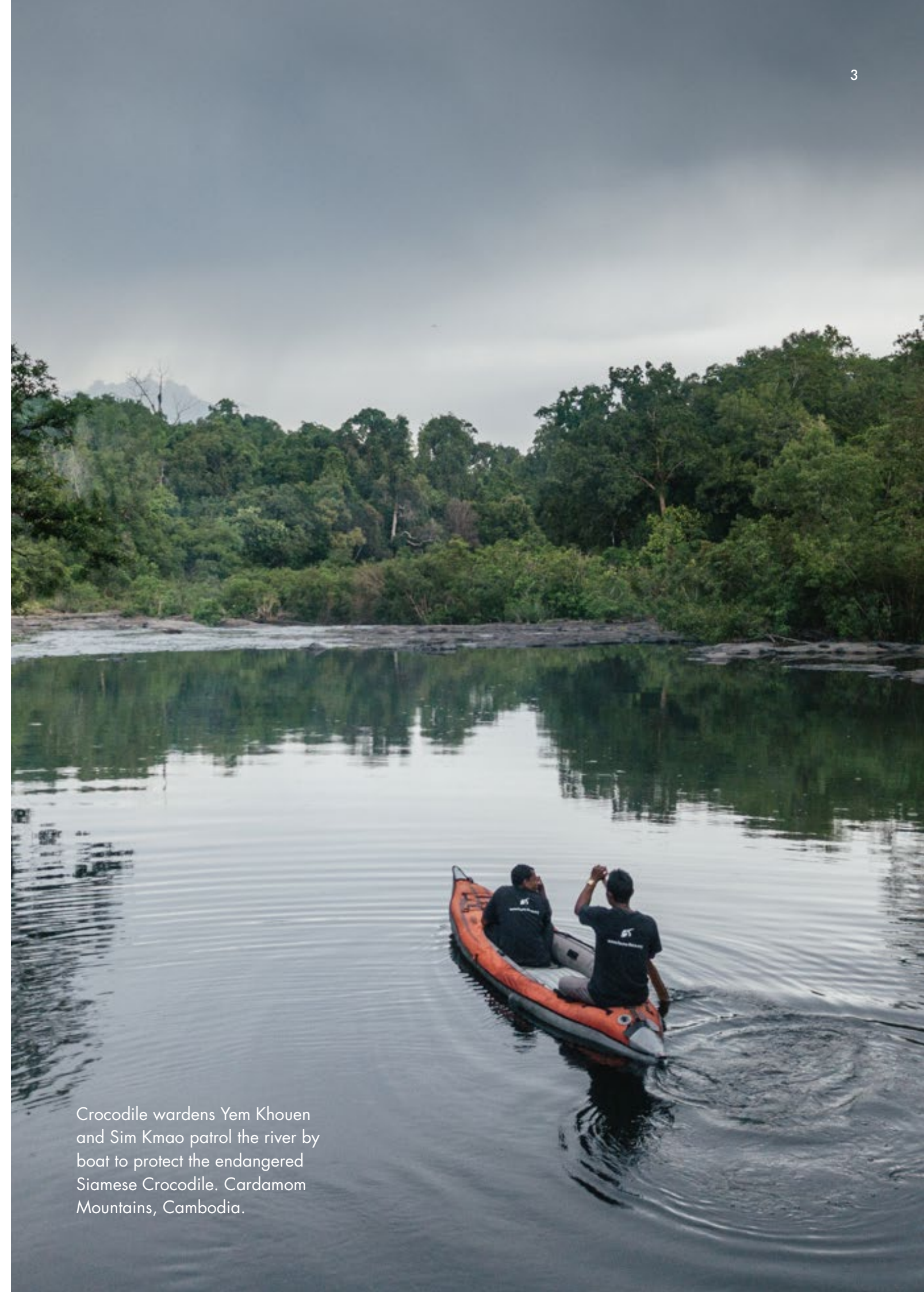
With time, we are sure that we will be able to reflect and learn from the collective steps we have taken as a global community, and apply them to the climate crisis.

For now, we remain committed to supporting our partners, raising the profile of rainforest protection, and giving our supporters a positive, steady stream of conservation optimism.

Thank you,



Matthew Owen, Director



Crocodile wardens Yem Khoun and Sim Kmao patrol the river by boat to protect the endangered Siamese Crocodile. Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia.



Tajimat Pujut: Wellbeing and development

When it comes to wellbeing and development, all too often it's one or the other, at the expense of both indigenous rights and rainforest.

But there is a way for them to go hand in hand.

A community-led approach to conservation embraces and learns from local traditions, while scaling up and supporting sustainable development. By utilising the latest forest monitoring technology, Cool Earth is helping local people progress in a way that reduces pressure on the forest and to be aware of the threats that unsustainable development may pose.

The inextricable link between forest and wellbeing is regarded by many as the Awajún secret weapon to counter repeated threats faced throughout their history.

It's why the Awajún have held on fast to the concept of Tajimat Pujut. Loosely translated as wellbeing, Tajimat Pujut is key for those of us who want to protect the future of our planet.

Newly constructed roads are bringing consumerism and unsustainable development to the doorstep of the Awajún, not only threatening local culture but also placing pressure on the vital ecosystems they have been

protecting for years. With social, cultural and environmental sustainability often ignored when it comes to infrastructure, indigenous wellbeing and how communities use their land now needs to be an equal part of any plan in the forest.

“Putting wellbeing above economic growth is something we may never understand. It could even cost us the fight against climate change. There's a lot for us to learn from the Awajún.”

- Martin Simonneau, Programme Manager

Alongside reports from the Awajún, Cool Earth is able to identify increased levels of deforestation occurring near roads using data and satellite technology. By calculating the likelihood of deforestation as a result of transport infrastructure, Cool Earth can support local people with the knowledge needed to keep forest standing.

Understanding the context and needs of local communities not only helps to preserve culture, but is also essential if we are to find the best ways of protecting rainforest long term.



The village of Urakuza, in Cool Earth's Awajún Partnership, on the banks of the Rio Marañon.



Meet Drocila: Keeping Awajún stories, and forest, alive.



“I hope that my children are better than me, that’s why I strive to be able to educate my children.”

Vivienne Westwood selected the distinctive Amarno jewellery for her 2016 catwalk show. And with Drocila at the helm as Vice President, natural jewellery-cooperative Amarno is going from strength to strength.

Determined to provide for her family and open up opportunities for her children, Drocila is also helping to share Awajún traditions and stories by reaching out to sell at local markets.

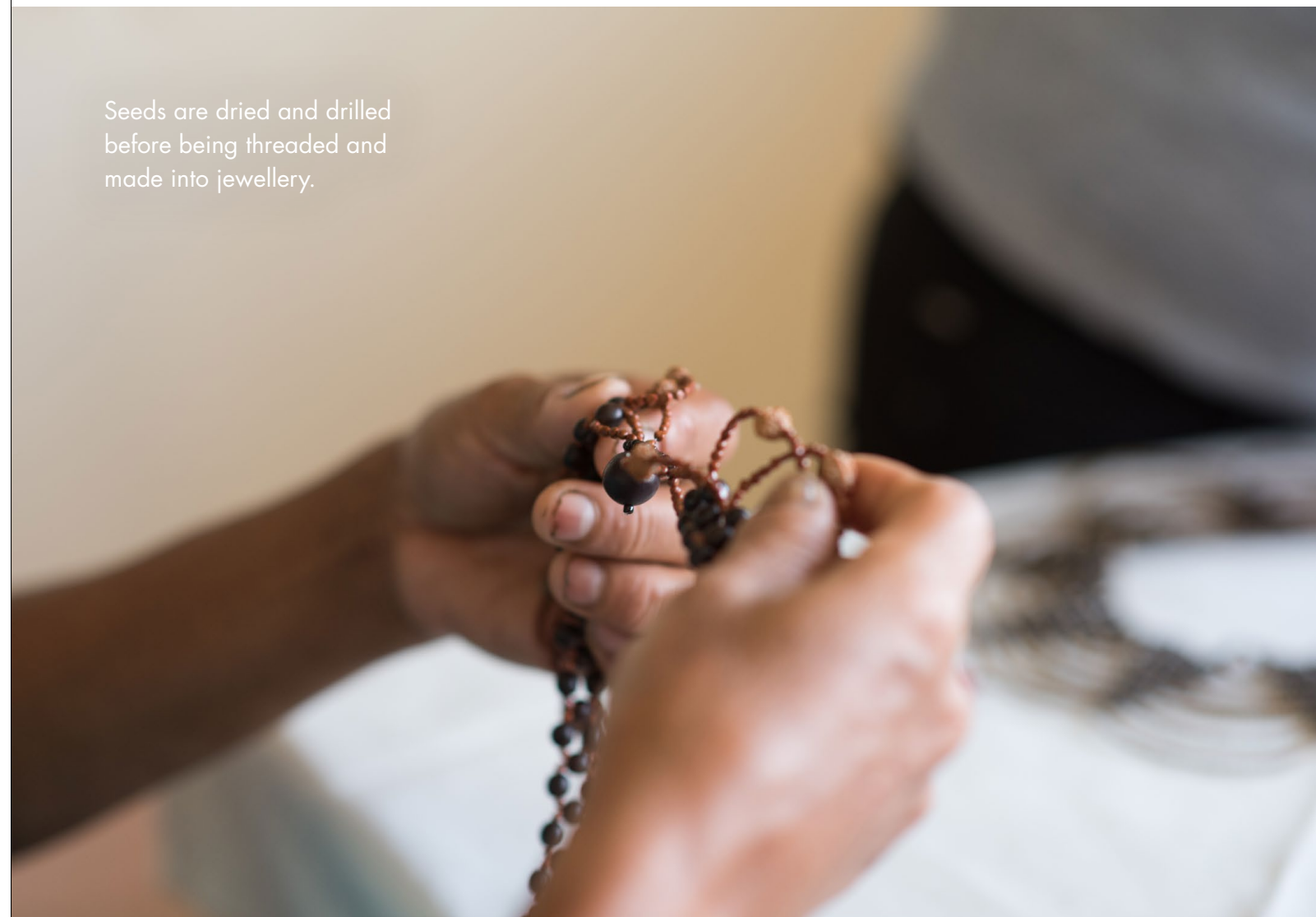
It’s a style and substance method of helping women earn a living, and keep sharing the importance of keeping forest standing.

[Read more](#)

Amarno make a range of jewellery from seeds and materials found in the forest.



Seeds are dried and drilled before being threaded and made into jewellery.





A real buzz around Mount Namuli

When it comes to small-scale, daily actions for the planet, some things are just wired into our brains like remembering your reusable bags, avoiding palm oil and saving the bees.

From a young age, we are taught about the importance of bees. These buzzing, flower-seeking workers keep our food systems going from dawn till dusk. Understated champions of agriculture and food chains, bees need to be celebrated and protected.

They are the smallest members of our Mozambique partnership and have been a hive of activity lately.

The forested corridors that line Mount Namuli and its lush river valleys are home to peach, eucalyptus and namuresse trees. Like the local traditional healers or “curandeira”, bees forage these flowers until they find all the ingredients needed to produce honey.

Yet life in recent years has been a challenge for the humble Namuli bee. Intensive agriculture and plumes of smoke from fires lit to clear forest have destroyed natural hives and rid the ground of flowering plants. This has bees to higher altitudes to seek out food from the forest.

Recently though, the winds of change are clearing the air. With the support of

Cool Earth and partner organisation Legado, local communities are harnessing the potential bees have to offer, and earning a living too.

Supporters like you have funded training for twenty local beekeepers, who have been provided with technical help on sustainable honey production and harvesting techniques. With access to a market for their honey and continued community awareness building, alternative income opportunities are aiding the control of fires.

Training beekeepers in more sustainable methods is a priority in the coming months. In the past, the collection of wild honey meant the physical destruction of the colony, as well as the surrounding trees. Now, by reducing the use of fire, local people are protecting the bees’ homes and food sources.

As a sweet reward, local people are producing honey to sell and becoming financially resilient. By supporting beekeepers, there is also the knock-on effect of keeping the forest healthy for the bees and other species too.

When it comes to saving the rainforest, it’s proving to be the little things that make the biggest changes.



At 2,419m, Mount Namuli is the second highest mountain in Mozambique, towering 1,600 metres above the surrounding plateau.



Beekeeping is providing an income and improving financial resilience for the communities of Namuli.

Basiliana Joao: Mother, optimist, conservationist.

Sitting outside her house in the foothills of Mount Namuli, Basiliana proudly told us about her son Filomonio's work as a conservationist.

"I really like that Filomonio has his job and is enjoying himself."

Only afterwards did we learn just how dedicated Basiliana was in helping her son achieve his dreams.

[Read the full story](#)





Success stories from the Cardamom Mountains

Two species living in balance with one another, for mutual benefit and survival.

Symbiotic relationships have fascinated environmentalists for years. If one is threatened, the other feels it rapidly. As communities are pressured into losing their land to intensive industries like logging, thousands of wildlife species are feeling the strain too. When this happens, we all lose out. It's difficult to comprehend just how closely our survival is directly related to the preservation of key species.

These symbiotic relationships are happening all around us. The local Khmer Deaum people of the Cardamom Mountains know this better than anyone. Here, everything is from the forest.

The Kingdom of Wonder, as Cambodia is affectionately known, is a global biodiversity hotspot. But like many places, it is experiencing the challenge of developing its economy while protecting its natural resources. Indigenous peoples' symbiotic relationship with the forest is increasingly under threat as a result. Illegal logging, competition for resources and unsustainable farming means that customary practices, beliefs and links to the forest are all being lost.



Cool Earth is working alongside partner organisation Fauna & Flora International to address just that. By partnering conservation and livelihoods projects with indigenous communities, local people can earn a living whilst protecting their forest.

It's proving to be a real success. The protection of key species including the Siamese crocodile, has improved significantly. This critically endangered reptile has been severely impacted in the past, with just 250 estimated to be living in Cambodian rivers now. A breeding centre ensures baby crocodiles can mature safely before being released. This reintroduction of a key species into the local ecosystem is a real turning point, demonstrating success in terms of population recovery and the long-term viability and health of the rainforest ecosystem. It also means that local people are employed in the breeding centre and as wardens patrolling the river, trained in data collection and monitoring crocodile numbers.

The next phase of planned conservation efforts include releasing more crocodiles into the wild, as well as continued monitoring of those that have been released. Thanks to supporters like you, the future looks bright for this part of the forest.

Crocodile wardens Yem and Sim regularly check on nests to make sure they haven't been disturbed.



A juvenile Siamese crocodile that has been bred for release at the Phnom Tmao rescue centre near Phnom Penh.





Chickens and Conservation



Climate change is making life more difficult for women around the world.

With fewer options to lift themselves out of poverty, many women are being forced to turn to dangerous methods of making a living as traditional ways of working with the land are being lost. That's why effective conservation must have equality at its core.

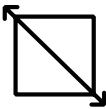
Meet two of the female entrepreneurs who are now earning a living in the Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia. Helping to protect the local forest and now with a greater say in their community.

[Watch the video](#)



"Now I have my own source of income, so I'm stronger than before."

- Sim Sikurn, Cardamom Mountains



What have toilets got to do with deforestation?

Deforestation isn't all bulldozers and beefburgers. It's a broken leg. It's needing cash to send your kids to school. It's waste polluting your crops and causing sickness in your village.

That's why we don't have a one-size-fits-all approach to our partnerships. If a community is continually becoming ill and unable to progress due to a lack of suitable sanitation, this is what we will help with. It's essential to address local needs from healthcare to basic education if effective conservation is to take place.

Wabumari is a village that lies on the coastline of Papua New Guinea. It is renowned for the cool, gentle breeze that comes in from the sea and through the forest. But life there wasn't always so tranquil, with a recent household survey identifying safe water and basic sanitation as a pressing community need.

It reported that 94% of households lack access to clean water, and most families make at least two trips per day to collect water from streams and springs. Lack of proper toilets means frequent contamination to the beach and land, which is only worsening due to rising sea levels.



The seasonality of rainfall has become more erratic and unreliable. A recent project has therefore aimed to improve clean water supplies. Rain-water collecting tanks harness the monsoon-like rains that come through, and store the water for use in the dry season. It's key that local people can have a steady supply of water year-round, for their families and gardens to thrive.

The tanks have proved so helpful that the local committee are planning to expand the use of the water tanks to help more isolated settlements nearby.

The next challenge was how to manage human waste in the community. Three community members from Wabumari had training from ATProjects to build long-drop toilets and flooding-resistant waste systems. These are set to be a game changer. With a reduction in contaminated water, health will improve and crop yield will increase. Those trained to build toilets will also find employment in surrounding areas to help others build toilets too.

Basil Matasia, who attended the training, told us that these toilets are the first of their kind in the area, and have made local people happy.



The concrete bases can take up to a week to dry in Wabumari's humid climate.



“The toilets are so very important for people. So, we will make toilets for everybody in the community.”

- Basil Matasia

With two new toilets already built in Wabumari, there is now greater provision for visitors and locals alike. Not only are they essential for wellbeing and health, but also in supporting Wabumari's long term aim as a designated site for forest researchers and school biology groups. These brand new toilets will help bring an income to the local area and add further value to their forest.



Health and rainforest

Rainforest lends itself to many a metaphor. The heart of the water cycle. The lungs of the Earth. Our natural carbon store.

But in recent weeks, one description stands out: rainforest is our medicine cabinet. Human health and rainforest go hand in hand for so many reasons, that keeping rainforest healthy needs to be a top priority worldwide.

We all benefit from rainforest, whether that is from the medicines we take or the role it plays in keeping the air we breathe clean.

Read on to discover five reasons why protecting rainforest is one of the most urgent things we can do for our health.

[Read more](#)



Behind the scenes

19

Q&A with our Programmes team

From the impact on indigenous peoples to our plans for the coming months, Cool Earth's Programmes team have addressed some of the questions that you have been asking as the world adapts to Covid-19. Now more than ever, it's vital to continue supporting the world's most vulnerable.

From helping with healthcare and food security to withstanding the effects of climate change, we will do all we can to help people in our partnerships from afar.

[Read more](#)



Partnerships reserves policy

Here at Cool Earth, we've always prepared for the worst. Despite how that may sound, it's a really positive thing. Our forward-thinking approach to protecting our partnerships has ensured that we are well prepared for challenges that come our way. Over the years, we have made it a key priority to build up a robust and resilient partnerships reserves policy.

This means that our partnerships can stand on their own two feet should financial trouble hit. Through pandemics and recessions, we will ensure our partner communities are supported as promised.

Before we enter a partnership, we ensure that we have the reserves to keep it fully funded for a minimum of three years. This golden rule allows us to weather financial storms and continue to support those who need it most.

"Taking this pragmatic approach with a well-planned reserves policy allows us to provide for those who need our help and continue finding the best ways to protect rainforest."

- Sophie Smart, Finance Manager

Safeguarding progress

The safety and wellbeing of both our team and partnerships across the globe is a key priority for Cool Earth.

That's why, to continuously build on and develop our safeguarding policies, we are now proud to be a part of SCHR (Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response).

Rainforest on the radio

Another piece of good news has been keeping us busy. We are pleased to announce that we will soon be bringing Cool Earth's mission to the airwaves. Cool Earth has been selected for an iconic BBC Radio 4 Appeal to be broadcast in late May.

This new screening system complements our own recruitment processes and works to link key humanitarian, development and conservation charities in order to share vital information. The aim of SCHR is to work together to stop people guilty of sexual misconduct moving around the aid sector. To stamp out abuse and exploitation, this collaboration is key.

We're thrilled to use such a renowned platform to share our message and raise the profile of essential climate action and positive rainforest protection.



UK Registered Charity, no. 1117978 | US 501(c)(3)
(+44) 01326 567200
info@cooearth.org