

**“It’s never too
late to learn,”**

Edgar Wamputsag Sejekam, Huaracayo, Peru

Quarterly Update | Spring 2019

The logo for coo!earth features the word "coo!earth" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The exclamation point is replaced by a stylized tree icon with a circular canopy and a vertical trunk.

At the end of last summer, before her country's general election, a 15 year old Swedish girl sat on the steps of the parliament buildings to demand action on climate change.

Just a few months later, Greta's gutsy action had sparked a revolution. In March, over a million students in more than 100 countries took part in climate strikes.

The village of Sololo in Papua New Guinea may feel a long way from Stockholm. There are no parliament steps to protest on, and no schools to strike from. The average age in Papua New Guinea is 22, twenty years less than Sweden, and the literacy rate ranks among the lowest in the world.

But it doesn't stop the young people who live there from leading the fight against climate change. This month will see the completion of a new resource centre in Sololo, funded by Cool Earth's supporters and built by the local community. It will be the home of a new education programme for children and adults. As Cool Earth's Project Manager Gellie Akui says,

"We cannot do conservation without education. Education is the vital ingredient in every conservation programme."

We are determined to equip young people living in rainforest communities with the skills to make a difference.

It's a modest revolution, but a revolution nonetheless. Together, we're striking back against deforestation to make a real difference to climate change.

Thank you.

Matthew Owen





Coffee, climate change and cooperatives

Can you imagine starting your day without your morning latte? It's the stuff of millennial nightmares.

But here's a bitter truth: with climate change already having an impact, your favourite caffeine-fix is likely to be much harder to get in the near future.

60% of the 124 known species of coffee are on the edge of extinction¹. The reasons for this lie in the all-too-familiar growing uncertainty in weather patterns in the tropics. A longer dry season, more intense rainfall and extreme heat waves are playing havoc with a reliable coffee crop².

The genes of wild coffee varieties could be harnessed to help coffee plants survive climate change and emerging diseases in the future. By protecting rainforest we can keep those genes safe.

That's one reason why we were so pleased to hear that success is bubbling away in the rainforests of the Cool Earth Asháninka partnerships.

Coffee technician Walter Marcos joined Cool Earth's Asháninka team this spring.

He's working alongside the Ayompari coffee growers in Cutivireni - a stone's throw from where he lives. Ayompari means "hardworking producer" in Asháninka and, with Walter on board, their hard work is paying off.

This year the coffee growers in Ayompari have forged connections with Valle Santa Cruz, a local specialist coffee cooperative. Valle Santa Cruz are paying 50% more per kilo than the previous buyers so it's a resounding success. Connecting with these niche local markets will be key in scaling their success long term. It means they have a fair and sustainable buyer that will be there long after the partnership with Cool Earth is complete.

Walter's also working with the growers to make sure they have minimal impact on the environment. That means training in the use of degradable biocides, agroforestry techniques, and sharing knowledge about natural ways to stop disease. Not only will these methods continue to be sustainable, it will improve the quality of the crop at the same time.

Next time you reach for your morning coffee, you can thank Walter and the growers of Ayompari for securing the future of this most magic of beans.



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Climate action and positive news stories



Meet the MEL Team



El Niño: the little boy that's getting more dangerous

¹ Science Advances, Science Mag (2019) 'High extinction risk for wild coffee species and implications for coffee sector sustainability'
² Nature, (2017) 'Resilience potential of the Ethiopian coffee sector under climate change.'



Laying the foundations for education

At the start of every new partnership, Cool Earth asks the community to decide how they want to invest funds. In Sololo, there were two things everyone agreed on. To build a resource centre in the heart of the village, and address the very low literacy levels in the community.

Being able to read and write is crucial for preventing forest loss in Papua New Guinea. Land is officially community-owned but without being able to negotiate tenure documents, it's easy for a community to be taken advantage of by companies for logging and oil palm plantations.

Education is vital for conservation for other reasons too. Cool Earth's approach is all about empowering local people to develop livelihoods that mean they don't have to sell their trees. Sololo's resource centre is the first part of their plan to encourage ecotourism in the area, bringing in much needed cash. But when Cool Earth's Papua New Guinea team visited the partnership in January to check on progress, they found an empty space where the resource centre should be.

Jal Walther, from a local NGO called Community Service Consultancy, had drawn up plans for the new centre based on discussions with the community, and had handed them over in November. But the timbers for the building could not even be cut to size, as

few in the community were able to read and understand the plans. It was a stark indication of the need for literacy, before anything else can happen effectively.

Jal stayed for eleven days and helped the community get the foundations laid and timbers cut to the right dimensions. He returned in February to supervise the erection of joists and central columns. After that, progress was quick with frames going up in a matter of days. Everyone pitched in to complete the build.

The resource centre was due to open at the end of March and it's now time for the finishing touches. It's a beautiful place, built - millimeter perfect - to Jals' contemporary design, and backing on to the rainforest that surrounds the village. A botanical garden outside showcases the species of plants that visitors can find in the forest. The project has been a real learning curve for the Cool Earth team and for the community, demonstrating just how important education is as a part of our model. From signings of forest agreements to community meetings, education is needed first for anything else to be effective.

Now the centre is almost set to open its doors, it's ready for its first use: a classroom for the adult literacy programme.



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Charcoal usage in the Congo

What comes to mind when you picture deforestation? Raging wildfires and vast log rafts floating down the Amazon? Orangutans battling bulldozers in Indonesia? The world's second biggest rainforest is increasingly threatened by something much less conspicuous: charcoal.

Huge and largely inaccessible, the Congo Basin forest covers an area four times the size of California. Due to the region's climate and soil types, the forest in the Democratic Republic of Congo is extremely diverse and carbon-rich. It's Earth's second largest store of carbon in vegetation, locking in the equivalent of 85 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide³.

Many tens of millions of people depend on this rainforest directly for their livelihoods⁴. But with a growing population, deforestation rates are rising. And a surprising culprit is having the biggest impact: the simple need for families to gather firewood to cook upon.

Around the world, three billion people cook over open fires or on rudimentary stoves using wood, charcoal, coal or dung. As these burn, often inside homes or in areas with limited ventilation, they release plumes of smoke and soot liable for 4.3 million premature deaths each year⁵. Cooking practices such as these produce up to 5% of annual greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. It's a carbon

double whammy. Forest is degraded through unsustainable harvesting of firewood. Burning the wood emits dangerous pollutants including carbon dioxide, monoxide and black carbon.

Over 90% of Congolese families cook on charcoal. The wood cut to produce this charcoal outweighs the wood cut by loggers by seven times. With a rapidly growing population and no readily available sustainable energy sources to replace charcoal, reducing demand is the number one priority⁵.

Cool Earth has worked with Fauna and Flora International in the country since 2015. The community-led project in the community of Lubutu looked at reducing firewood use by introducing energy efficient stoves. So far, 811 stoves have been built. This has directly contributed to a 50% reduction in firewood collection, making a huge dent in reducing forest loss in the local area around Lubutu.

Cool Earth has committed to working with FFI on the fuel-efficient stoves project for a further three years. The community in Lubutu have plans to build another 1500 stoves, and provide 360 portable coal-efficient stoves for women that sell hot food at markets. It's not only making a difference to the health of the forest, but transforming the lives and health of local communities.



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Insect Loss worldwide and in the Congo Rainforest



Stoves that tackle the SDGs



Aerospace Cornwall Funding Announcement

³ NASA, (2017), "NASA Survey Technique Estimates Congo Forest's Carbon"

⁴ Mongabay, (2019), "Saving the forests of the Congo Basin: Q&A with author Meindert Brouwer."

⁵ Drawdown.org (2019) "Food: Clean Cookstoves."



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