



Annual Report 2024

TREE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXPLORATION

October 31, 2024





**We must save our Eighth Continent
if we are to save ourselves.**



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A Message from Executive Director Dr. Meg Lowman

Dear Tree Supporters,

In a nutshell, it was a TREEmendous year for the TREE Foundation. Our mission of Tree, Research, Education and Exploration has succeeded on all fronts, and none of this would be possible without our loyal and generous donors, plus the tireless effort of the Board and Research Advisors. Thank you on behalf of trees everywhere!



Here are a few highlights:

- In Ethiopia, we have more than doubled the number of church forests that are now protected with conservation walls, from 33 to 70! This is a result of TREE donors, as well as new partnerships with the luxury company, Cartier, and with an NGO, Plant with Purpose.
- Our education programs continue to grow and grow, with over 2 million hits to our websites and over 1 million kids learning from CanopyMeg through Zoom and books. A film proposal has been made by Fisher Media, and we very much hope to find a sponsor to fund this project. (Will you?) The documentary features CanopyMeg's work with big trees, and Jane Goodall has generously offered to narrate.
- Our Amazon travel programs have resumed, with a successful trip in 2023 and another upcoming expedition open to families, teachers and ecotourists next July 2025 (link to itinerary on website). If you have not seen the world's most amazing forest, this trip is for you!

- Our flagship program, Mission Green, continues to expand and succeed. We are thrilled that a new walkway was funded in 2024 at a re-wilded forest area that also happens to be my hometown of Elmira, New York! In the United States, over 95% of our primary forests were cut down over the past 200 years. The notion of re-wilding is to regenerate the original forests from cleared areas, a process that is increasingly important to our planet. In addition to Elmira, our canopy construction engineers have completed the designs for a Mata Atlântica rainforest walkway/tower in Brazil. This is probably THE most endangered forest type in the world, and we are working tirelessly with South American and European partners to fund this walkway in time to host field trips for the COP 30 meetings to be held in Rio de Janeiro during fall 2025. And finally, we just received permitting for the Madagascar walkway, plus a pending grant submitted by SUNY-Stony Brook who operate the field station which will benefit greatly from canopy access for their lemur research.



There is so much more! Turn the pages and read about how TREE is successfully conserving forests, both local and global. Thank you so very much for your continued support of trees, which ensure the health of our planet for future generations.

For the trees,

Meg



Our Mission

Trees, especially fully-grown mature trees, are literally the lungs of the Earth. They are the superheroes of the world; in one year, a single tree removes about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, releasing oxygen in exchange. Without trees to do this hard and life-giving work, all species of creatures, as well as the human race, would ultimately wither and die.



TREE Foundation promotes global tree research, education and exploration in myriad ways. Our Mission Green initiative is specifically focused on the support, vision, and creation of a worldwide network of treetop canopy walkways. Our mission is nothing less than to make a massive impact on the conservation of trees and forests in the most at-risk biodiversity “Hot Spots” around the globe.

In doing so, we simultaneously support sustainable economic opportunities for local indigenous peoples through ecotourism. Canopy walkways offer enjoyment of nature, a conduit for research, and the ongoing opportunity to educate walkway visitors about the crucial necessity for protecting forests and the species of plants and animals that call them home.

Message From New Board President

I'm grateful to the Board of Directors and Meg for the invitation to be the next Board President. As Meg noted in her letter to you, it's been a very busy year for TREE and Mission Green and our work is increasingly critical and global.

I want to congratulate our Executive Director who, once again, has received an international award—the 2023 Tällberg-SNF-Eliasson Global Leadership Prize by the Tällberg Foundation. The citation reads: Dr. Lowman was selected for this honor in recognition of her “scientific, educational and advocacy work globally to protect and restore forests.” The Prize is a \$50,000 unrestricted grant



*Pictured from left to right:
Yaroslava, Meg, Vanessa*

awarded annually to visionaries from any country and any discipline who have a substantial track record of accomplishment and who are likely to continue to make extraordinary contributions to human welfare.

Our human welfare depends on the continued work of TREE Foundation and Mission Green and the scientists, research associates, board members and donors who support and amplify this message. We thank you for your continued interest

and participation in our mission and for your extraordinary generosity.

- Vanessa

LEADERSHIP



Tree Foundation Board of Directors



Meg Lowman
Executive Director



Vanessa Wassenar
President



Michael Brown
Legal Counsel / Ex Officio



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Robert Beck



Michael Dexter



Elizabeth Moore



Laura Peters



DC Randle



Alemayehu Wassie



Alan Winston

New TREE Board Member



**Geraldine "Bean"
Carroll**

Geraldine "Bean" Carroll is the Chief Operating Officer of a medical practice in Middleburg, VA and the manager of a rental property portfolio with locations across the east coast. She has worked as a bookkeeper and office manager for many years and is a passionate environmental conservationist. Bean has served on several boards that focus on plant conservation and horticultural education including the Woman's Board of the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Center for Plant Conservation and most recently the Friends of the State Arboretum with the University of Virginia at Blandy. She has been a member of the Garden Club of America for over 25 years. Her primary focus with the GCA has been conservation and in the past has chaired GCA's Zone XI's conservation committee. Bean holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University in International Studies and a Graduate Certificate from Northwestern University in Accounting.

Introducing TREE Intern: Yaroslava Yashchuk



Yaroslava Yashchuk, a junior at Williams College, has been our summer intern working closely with Meg. She has provided social media content

for TREE Foundation

and also has used her considerable artistic ability to provide drawings for the children's book that she and Meg are writing. Yaroslava is majoring in Art Studio-Environmental Studies and Global Studies, with a concentration on German. She has demonstrated exceptional creativity in using her own illustrations and software combined to bring Meg's research and background to life.

Taylor O'Brien, a member of our team, interviewed Yaroslava about her internship work and how it impacts her career search process.

What did your duties as TREE's Summer Intern consist of?

At TREE Foundation and Mission Green, I applied my design skills and passion for storytelling with environmental research. My projects varied from conducting an in-depth exploration of the natural history of Ranomafana National Park in Madagascar and engaging with scientists to gain architectural insights into walkway creation. My efforts culminated in the development of a fundraising presentation, also designing and spreading media content and copywriting for social platforms, as well as utilizing the Voiijer app to enhance outreach and engagement.

My long-term signature project was leading the creation of *CanopyMeg Chronicles*, a series of narratives co-authored with Dr. Meg Lowman. This project

documented Dr. Lowman's autobiographical journey from a small-town enthusiast of herbology to a pioneering tree canopy researcher, detailing her global scientific endeavors driven by passion, curiosity, and courage to face challenges as a female scientist in conservation.

Creating infographics, social media posts, and illustrations for *CanopyMeg Chronicles* and other communications, I honed my ability to blend visual design with written content, integrating elements from personal collections, scientific study, and artistic perspectives. Learning about professional book editing, I am currently working on summarizing these stories to inspire curiosity about science in educational and public settings.

How might this assist with your career goals?

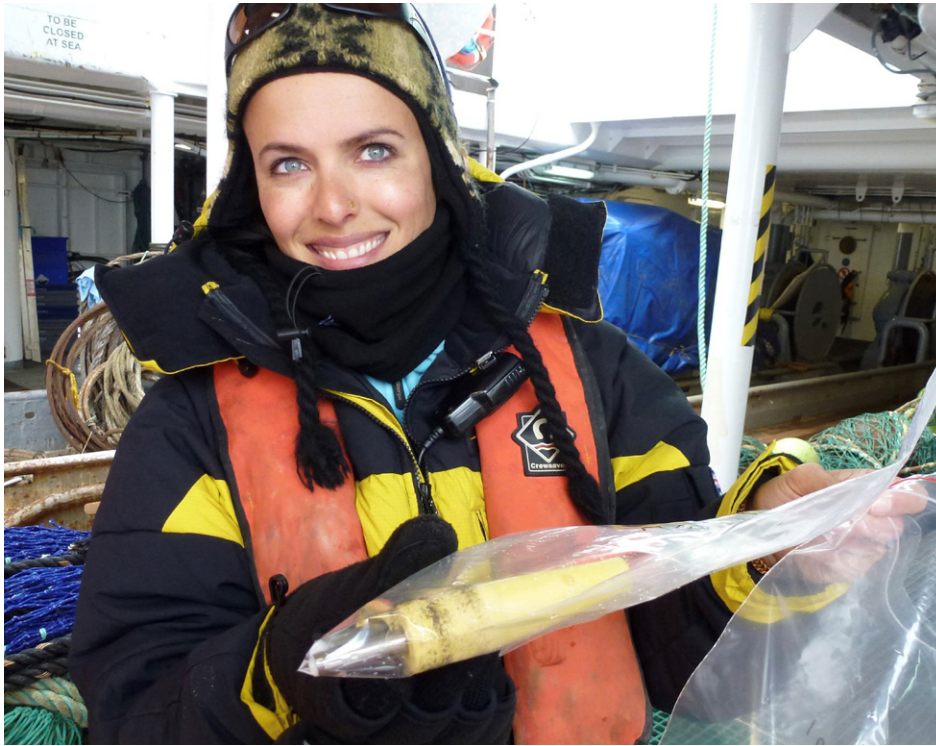
I feel excited and inspired after getting to work on the projects that actually make a vast difference in the field of conservation and

raising environmental awareness, celebrating female scientists, and involving local, usually indigenous, communities that reside in the forests selected for the canopy walkway sites. Getting to examine and communicate the facts from scientific language to a variety of audiences, write stories while learning from experts, and digging through personal collections, books, and articles as I was working on the *Chronicles*, I am even more passionate about both written and visual storytelling. I now know better in practice how to powerfully interconnect the text and the image, yet there are so many other mediums I would love to work more in, such as installations and sounds and the virtual world. I would use these to imagine what would take a project such as Dr. Lowman's story to the next level! The internship with the TREE Foundation definitely reinforced my interest in continuing to develop my artistic, writing, and research skills to originate more impactful creative communication for environmentally-conscious projects.

RESEARCH UPDATES



Conservation Biologist Dr. Natalie Schmitt Has Joined TREE Foundation as a Research Associate



Conservation Biologist Dr. Natalie Schmitt has joined TREE Foundation as a Research Associate.

She is the founder and CEO of Wildtech DNA, an Ontario, Canada-based movement of scientists, conservationists, creators, and businesspeople who work to conserve and protect our planet's wildlife.

Natalie has a passion for using genetic tools to learn more about rare and elusive species like Antarctic blue whales and snow leopards. She is developing a new genetic technology for wildlife detection to enable more of the world to contribute to global conservation monitoring.

We're thrilled to have Dr. Schmitt join our network of Research Associates, and invite you to learn a bit about her philosophy by clicking the link below to watch her 2019 TED Talk.

[***Watch Dr. Natalie Schmitt's TED Talk***](#)

Welcome Our Newest Research Associate Melanie Herrera



A native of Sarasota, Florida, Melanie is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a minor in Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

She is co-captain of the UNCG women's soccer team and serves as UNCG's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee community engagement executive board member.

We're thrilled to have Melanie associated with our foundation.

TREE Foundation Joins Forces with Go Conscious Earth to Celebrate Conservation Milestone in the CONGO



Go Conscious Earth

TREE Foundation has partnered with Go Conscious Earth, an NGO dedicated to saving big trees in the Congo. Some of their staff recently attended CanopyMeg's talk at Grandfather Mountain, NC, to discuss their efforts.

During the event, they celebrated a significant achievement: over a million hectares of forest in the Congo has now been conserved, highlighting the importance of their mission.

<https://www.gcearth.org>

Ancient Forest Society



Dr. Anthony Ambrose



Wendy Baxter

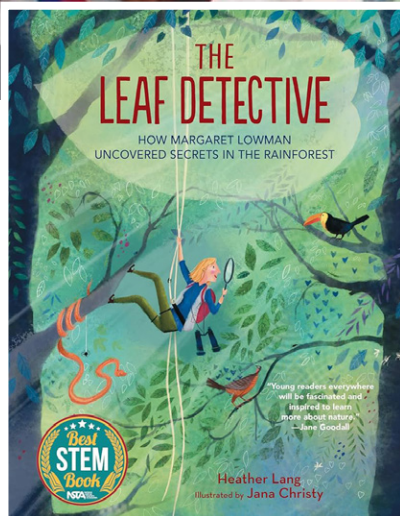
2024 was a busy year for the Ancient Forest Society (AFS). Co-founders Dr. Anthony Ambrose and Wendy Baxter are also TREE Foundation Research Associates. They kicked off the year by being the first team ever to climb the General Sherman giant sequoia, the world's largest tree, to inspect it for native bark beetles. While there, they found evidence of beetle activity but the Sherman is healthy and the beetles don't appear to be a threat. AFS

wrapped up a multi-year study looking into where the giant sequoia trees get their water, how drought and fire affect tree water use dynamics, and how tree hydrology influences giant sequoia mortality risk. The team will be analyzing data and publishing results in the coming year. The organization launched several new projects delving deeper into threats facing giant sequoias including bark beetles, drought and severe fire, and continued seed collections in giant sequoia and sugar pine trees to support genetic conservation and reforestation efforts. Another critical part of the AFS mission is to share the majesty of the trees with other people through their volunteer program. More than 80 volunteers from around the country and throughout the world joined to climb our study trees and collect samples.

EDUCATION



CanopyMeg Engages Over 55,000 Students in Forest Conservation Talks



CanopyMeg gave 33 talks about trees and forest conservation during the past year. She spoke to 55,660 students of all ages, ranging from high school students in India to the Garden Club of Dallas, Texas to the Appletree Preschool in Vermont. Her virtual outreach easily exceeded several million pairs of eyes, and included posts on Facebook, Instagram, Voiijer, and X.

20th Anniversary of Meg Lowman Treetops Camp to Celebrate Girls in Science



Girls learning the ropes at Treetops Camp!

The Meg Lowman Treetops Camp turns 20 years old in 2025. Watch for more celebrations of empowering girls through science! This event hopes to coincide with the official opening of the Elmira Canopy Walkway, part of the Mission Green global necklace of skywalks.



Join CanopyMeg for a Citizen Science Adventure in the Amazon This Summer!

Calling all explorers and educators!

Board member DC Randle will join CanopyMeg to lead a citizen science trip to the Amazon canopy walkway during July 25-Aug 1 2025. Costs and itinerary can be found at www.groups.ecoteach.com/2025treefoundation. An optional trip to Machu Picchu will also be available from Aug 2-6. This trip is great for learning about tropical rain forests and conservation, and geared for families, teachers, and students.



EXPLORATION



Redwood Sky Walk – Get Inspired!



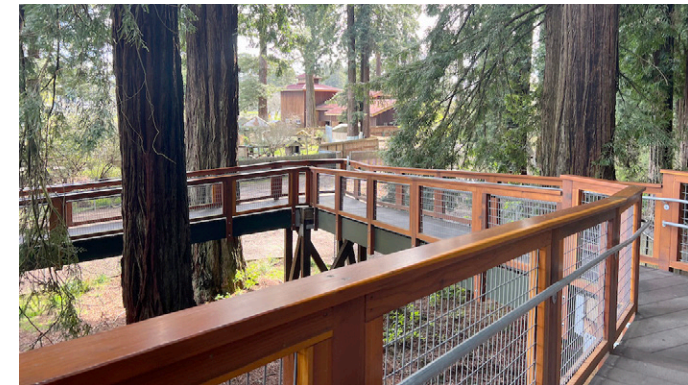
Scott Baker, founder of Tree Solutions, a tree consulting company in the Pacific Northwest, shared these fabulous photographs he captured while visiting the Redwood Sky Walk at Sequoia Park Zoo, Eureka, California. Please learn more about TREE Foundation's role in this gorgeous walkway by [visiting our Mission Green website](#).

Scott has worked with trees for over 45 years. His extensive experience spans commercial arboriculture, tree diagnosis, treehouses, zip lines, construction and building codes. Scott utilizes his past experience as a successful

developer to help bridge the gap between development and tree protection. He has extensive knowledge of tree biology and has partnered with several international scientists to help implement new tools and techniques in an effort to advance the use of science and technology in arboriculture.

Thank you, Scott, for sharing these photos that show the majesty of the amazing Redwoods!

All photos courtesy of Scott Baker.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



One Church Forest At a Time

How can religion and science work together to conserve forests?

Did you know the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has a long history of forest conservation? These incredible "Church Forests" house water supplies, biodiversity (including pollinators of local crops), conserve soil, store carbon and yield spiritual connection for local communities. These forests are an important legacy to the health of the Ethiopian people. TREE Foundation is working with local churches to build conservation walls around northern Ethiopia's last 3% native trees!

Learn more & help TREE Foundation's efforts to save these critical Church Forests:
<https://treefoundation.org/.../church-forests-of-ethiopia/>



Ranomafana National Park, MADAGASCAR



Fund-raising continues for the canopy walkway in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. The official documentation and permitting from the Madagascar National Parks was completed this year, and our partner institution (State University of New York - Stony Brook) is writing several grants to finalize the funding. TREE Science Advisor, Dr. Pat Wright, heads up lemur research for SUNY-Stony Brook at a field station in RNP, and her team is excited to finally study lemurs where they actually live—in the canopy!

Tanglewood Nature Center



TREE Foundation was on the scene as the Tanglewood Nature Center revealed the final renderings for

a new canopy walkway in the treetops of its stunning setting in Elmira, New York.

Our Executive Director Meg Lowman had the honor of unveiling the center's plans for this new walkway—which happens to be in Meg's hometown!

"My whole passion for nature was formed in Elmira, seeing the little trees and the violets on the ground and watching the birds migrate every spring. So, coming back here to see an opportunity for every kid in this region, to get out into nature and do cool stuff is going to be more than amazing," said Meg.

Construction is slated to begin in 2025, but nature-lovers in New York and beyond are already excited and looking forward to immersive forest views, peaceful strolls, and a unique way to connect with the natural world.

From breathtaking vistas to the thrill of walking in the treetops, Elmira NY's new canopy walkway is set to be a game-changer for outdoor enthusiasts!



Meg Lowman Awarded 2023 Tällberg Global Leadership Prize for Forest Conservation

TREE Foundation is thrilled to announce that Executive Director Meg Lowman has been awarded the 2023 Tällberg-SNF-Eliasson Global Leadership Prize by the Tällberg Foundation. She was recognized for her “scientific, educational, and advocacy work globally to protect and restore forests,” receiving a \$50,000 unrestricted grant. This annual prize honors visionaries with a substantial track record of accomplishments who continue to make extraordinary contributions to human welfare. “Dr. Lowman is making an important contribution to changing the arc of the climate crisis through her science and her advocacy,” said Alan Stoga, Chairman of the Tällberg Foundation. Meg accepted the award during the annual Aula Volta ceremony at the University of Pavia in Italy on January 26, 2024.

Known internationally as “Canopy Meg,” she has dedicated over 45 years to protecting mature trees and forests worldwide and advancing tree

canopy research. Through the TREE Foundation, Meg has designed and built numerous canopy walkways and research stations, significantly impacting local economies, such as the \$10 million annual benefit from the Myakka River

State Park’s canopy walkway in Florida. A fierce advocate for big trees and endangered forests, she emphasizes, “We must save our eighth continent if we are to save ourselves.” Her recent initiatives include creating a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve in Malaysia and launching the global “Mission Green” initiative. Please join us in congratulating Meg for her remarkable leadership and commitment to saving big trees and forests!



Meg Lowman and fellow prize recipient Andrew Bastawrous.

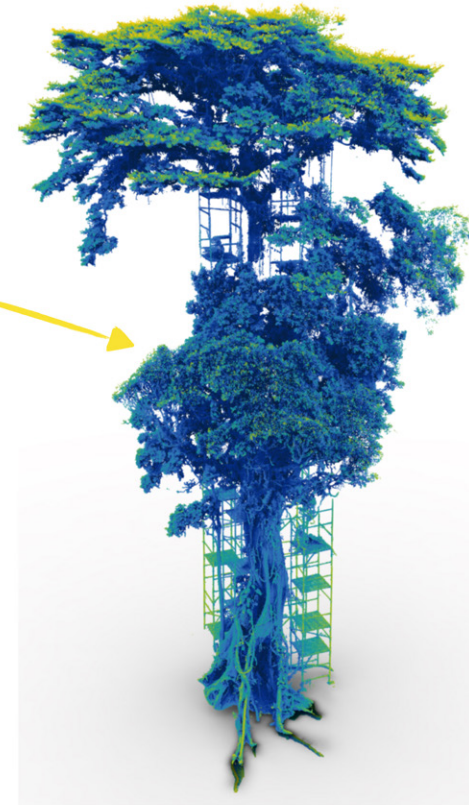
A New Partnership to Explore Mata Atlântica in Brazil



Fig Tree
(*Ficus cestrifolia*)

Urucurana
(*Sloanea garckeana*)
2nd species

LIDAR SCAN
3D Model



Credit: Q-ForestLab, Ghent University

TREE Foundation/Mission Green is working with Atlantic Forest Research and Conservation Alliance (ARAÇÁ) and Antonelli Foundation of Brazil to create a canopy walkway in Mata Atlântica, Brazil. The Centenary Fig Tree will be the centerpiece of the walkway, which will allow exploration of and protection for the tree.

Vermont Institute of Natural Science Forest Canopy Walk



The Vermont Institute of Natural Science Forest Canopy Walk is a visually stunning structure providing a unique and powerful outdoor experience while providing a dynamic new perspective on the natural world. It transforms the forest experience where the roof is the sky, the walls are the trees, and the exhibits are alive.

- 1 Entry Portal
- 2 Owls Nest
- 3 Spider Web
- 4 Eagles Nest
- 5 Founders Platform
- 6 Tree House



REPORTS



TREE Sprouting Up Across the Internet

TREE Website Analytics

From these statistics, we are pleased to report that our web traffic and interest in our work is increasing. Once we have consolidated our websites into one, navigating among topics will also be easier for our audience.

Mission Green Website Analytics

TF

Jan 2024 - Sept. 2024

☒ Total clicks 42.5K	☒ Total impressions 2.01M	☐ Average CTR 2.1%	☐ Average position 11.8
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Previous Year - Jan 2023 - Sept. 2023

☒ Total clicks 51.9K	☒ Total impressions 1.72M	☐ Average CTR 3%	☐ Average position 13.3
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MG

Jan 2024 - Sept. 2024

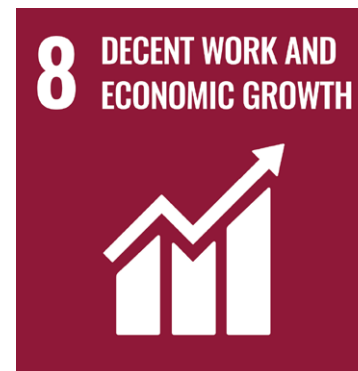
☒ Total clicks 792	☒ Total impressions 69.3K	☐ Average CTR 1.1%	☐ Average position 17.6
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Previous Year - Jan 2023 - Sept. 2023

☒ Total clicks 699	☒ Total impressions 40.8K	☐ Average CTR 1.7%	☐ Average position 19.3
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Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development, established by the United Nations, is an approach to growth and human development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The aim is to have a society where living conditions and resources meet human needs without undermining planetary integrity. TREE Foundation is proud to be committed to these in everything we do.



Newsletter SUBSCRIBERS

Our goal for TREE eblasts is to educate, inspire action, and provide opportunities for supporting and donating to our efforts to protect mature “big” trees and forests.

The good news is that we’re attracting tree and forest protectors faster than the average nonprofit! According to leading online marketing guru HubSpot, as of 2021 data, nonprofit email lists grow, on average, less than 8% per year. Over the last year, our list grew by 19%!

The challenge is that we need to reach a vastly larger audience of subscribers to not only enable us to continue to do the work we are doing, but to empower individuals with knowledge and actionable ideas so they can do their part to protect trees, forests, our planet, and the future of humanity.



**IF YOU'RE NOT
ALREADY A SUBSCRIBER,
CLICK HERE!**

**Newsletter
Subscribers/Donor
Reach Increased 10%
Over the Past Year**

1,123 → 1,231

JOIN OUR MISSION





Deepen Your Involvement

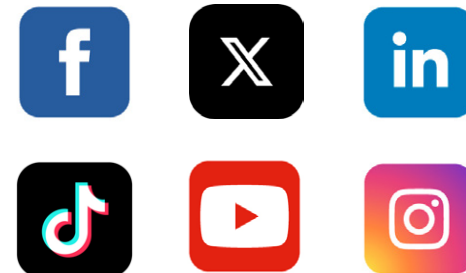
If you're reading the TREE Foundation's Annual Report, you are evidently very interested in research, education, exploration, and protection of Earth's trees and forests.

We encourage you to deepen your engagement in all of the following ways:

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter—and invite your friends as well!

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Click on the icons below to follow us on social and professional platforms:



[DONATE
TO THE TREE
FOUNDATION](#)

LEARN MORE

Learn more by clicking any of the links below:

Visit TREE Foundation



Visit Mission Green



Read our Mission Green Prospectus



Mission Green Scientific Advisory Board



Meg Lowman
Executive Director,
TREE Foundation



Sylvia Earle
President,
MISSION BLUE



Patricia Chapple Wright
Conservationist



Peter Raven
President Emeritus,
MO Botanical Garden



Pat Raven
Advocate,
Women in Science



Alemayehu Wassie
CEO, ORDA



Wade Davis
Amazon Explorer,
Writer, Professor



Harry Cockrell
Chairman,
The Habitat Foundation
& Pacific Tiger Group



**MISSION
GREEN**

Saving Forests and the Earth:

Watch this inspiring video that highlights
TREE Foundation's Mission Green initiative.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

**We must save our Eighth Continent
if we are to save ourselves.**



Mata Atlântica

Mata Atlântica, Brazil

Height: c. 30m | **Length:** c. 45m

Built: est. 2024-2025 | **Engineer:** Phoenix Experiential Designs

Threats:

- The expansion of agriculture, cities and roads, combined with the exploitation of precious wood, have led to around 92% of the Brazilian Atlantic rainforest being lost.
- These changes have led to over 2,000 trees endemic to the Atlantic Forest (82%) now being at risk of extinction, also affecting many animals, fungi and other organisms associated with those trees.

Opportunities:

- As the international spotlight shines on Brazil for hosting the United Nations' 30th Climate Change Conference in 2025, it is a crucial time and opportunity to emphasize the importance of biodiversity as part of nature-based solutions for tackling national and global climate challenges.
- Create one of the first Atlantic Rainforest's canopy walkways at the Alto da Figueira Reserve to boost biodiversity research and monitoring, as well as educational opportunities.
- Use ecotourism, research opportunities, and the resulting sustainable revenue streams to attract hundreds of visitors to the reserve every year.
- Through research and discovery, open doors to understanding how different trees host unique life forms – with broad implications for designing forest restoration projects, informing carbon and biodiversity credits, and prioritizing the protection of remaining old-growth forests.

Goals:

- Develop a walkway and tower that is accessible to researchers and visitors alike to learn more about the amazing biodiversity of birds – this is the precise site selected by BBC to record *Life of Birds* with David Attenborough in the late 1990s! – mammals, plants, fungi, insects and other types of species and life forms (several still unknown to scientists) that are hosted by two intertwined giant trees.
- Establish the walkway as a key element of the core world-class research facilities that are currently being developed at the Reserve.
- Raise \$1.7 million in funding to support the construction and marketing of this unique reserve, through the International partnership team of the Antonelli Foundations for Biodiversity Research and Conservation, the TREE Foundation, and donors who want to make a meaningful contribution toward environmental sustainability.



Brazil's Atlantic Forest - a Biodiversity "Hot Spot"

With less than 10% of this exceedingly diverse tropical rainforest remaining, it's a race against time to document, understand, and protect its beautiful and unique biodiversity. Much of this diversity is hidden in the treetops, and is waiting to be explored.

The globally outstanding levels of diversity, combined with high conservation threats, have led to the formal designation of the Atlantic Forest as a global biodiversity hotspot. Protection of the remaining forests, and restoration of those that have already been degraded, can lead to substantial benefits to biodiversity (by decreasing the threats to species), climate (by capturing and storing carbon), and people (by preventing landslides, providing communities with clean water and air, pollination services, non-timber forest products, income from ecotourism, and much more). The walkway and associated tree tower will be constructed as part of a newly developed biodiversity research and monitoring station in Alto da Figueira Reserve, a 120-hectare privately-owned reserve covered with primary rainforest near Nova Friburgo (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and highly accessible to national and international visitors.



MISSION GREEN Global "Hot Spots"¹

(Canopy Walkways and Walkway Prospect Locations)

1. ☒ Amazonian Peru (1994) ²	7. Mata Atlântica, Brazil
2. ☒ Myakka River State Park, Florida (2000) ²	8. The Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina
3. ☒ The Habitat Pinang Hill, Malaysia (2017) ³	9. Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique
4. ☒ Sequoia Park Zoo, Eureka, California (2021) ³	10. Western Ghats, India
5. ☒ Vermont Institute of Natural Science (2019) ³	11. Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan
6. Ranomafana State Park, Madagascar	12. Tanglewood Nature Preserve, Elmira, New York

¹ World's highest bio diversity, most critical forests that would significantly benefit from a canopy walkway conservation program

² Built and may need funds for updating

³ Built and funded

Dr. Meg Lowman - Founder / Chief Scientist

canopymeg@treefoundation.org • 941-266-0817

► PROPOSED FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION IN 2025

Tanglewood Nature Center

Elmira/Big Flats, New York

Height: 60-80 feet | **Length:** 800 feet | **Built:** 2025-26

Project Manager: Phoenix Experiential Designs

Engineer/Builder: Signature Design & Engineering

Threat/Opportunity:

- The Tanglewood Nature Center Canopy Walkway presents a unique opportunity to immerse visitors — children and adults alike — in nature, fostering a deeper connection to the environment at both a local and global scale. With over 35,000 visitors annually, this addition will expand their appreciation for the outdoors and provide an engaging educational experience.
- The canopy walkway offers a rare glimpse into the hidden wonders of northern hardwood forests' canopies that define our region, featuring diverse tree species such as maple, oak, pine, birch, ash, and hemlock. This landscape is actually a restored forest, so the fields are re-wilding back to deciduous trees. The process of RE-WILDING is a major effort for many global regions that attempt to restore original forest after clearing. Located in the Northeast, the walkway also provides an opportunity for visitors to experience the changing seasons from within the forest canopy, from the lush greens of summer to the brilliant colors of autumn.
- In conjunction with Tanglewood's 50th anniversary, this new project symbolizes a major expansion in its mission to educate and inspire. Today's children are tomorrow's stewards of the planet, and the walkway will offer them a closer look at biodiversity while emphasizing the importance of forest preservation.

Goals:

- **Construct a canopy walkway** in a rewilded landscape that complements and supports Tanglewood's mission to foster education, conservation, and enjoyment of the natural environment. The walkway will offer hands-on learning and research opportunities for students, educators, scientists, birders and photographers, to deepen their understanding of forest ecosystems at home and around the world and provide a platform for ecological research and conservation efforts.
- **Highlight partnerships with local businesses** through creative tower and walkway designs, fostering community engagement, economic benefits to the region, and general support.
- **Support the Meg Lowman Treetops Camp** for girls aged 9-12, which encourages girls to pursue careers in science through hands-on activities in nature. In addition, our broader summer camp program, serving 250 children annually, will incorporate the canopy walkway to further enhance the learning experience.
- **Ensure accessibility for all visitors** by designing the canopy walkway in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Everyone, regardless of physical ability, will have the opportunity to enjoy and explore the forest canopy.



New York - a Biodiversity "Hot Spot"

There are 103,748 K-12 and college students living within easy travel distance of Elmira, and this structure will give youth a unique chance to experience nature, to learn the value of natural resources, to have fun, and set the stage for environmental stewardship. Some of the endemic trees, including ash, hemlock, and beech, are currently threatened by invasive species. The canopy walkway can serve as a platform to raise awareness about these threats, encourage conservation efforts and foster a greater understanding of the challenges our forests face. As part of the Allegheny Plateau and Appalachian foothills, Tanglewood's landscape is shaped by glacial activity, evident in its rolling hills, valleys, and lakes. The canopy walkway will provide an unparalleled view of these iconic, glaciated formations, enhancing visitors' understanding of the region's natural history. It will serve as a stunning example of a re-wilded landscape, returning cleared the forest to its original tree composition.



MISSION GREEN Global "Hot Spots"¹

(Canopy Walkways and Walkway Prospect Locations)

1. ☒ Amazonian Peru (1994) ²	7. Mata Atlântica, Brazil
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¹ World's highest bio-diversity, most critical forests that would significantly benefit from a canopy walkway conservation program

² Built and may need funds for updating

³ Built and funded

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