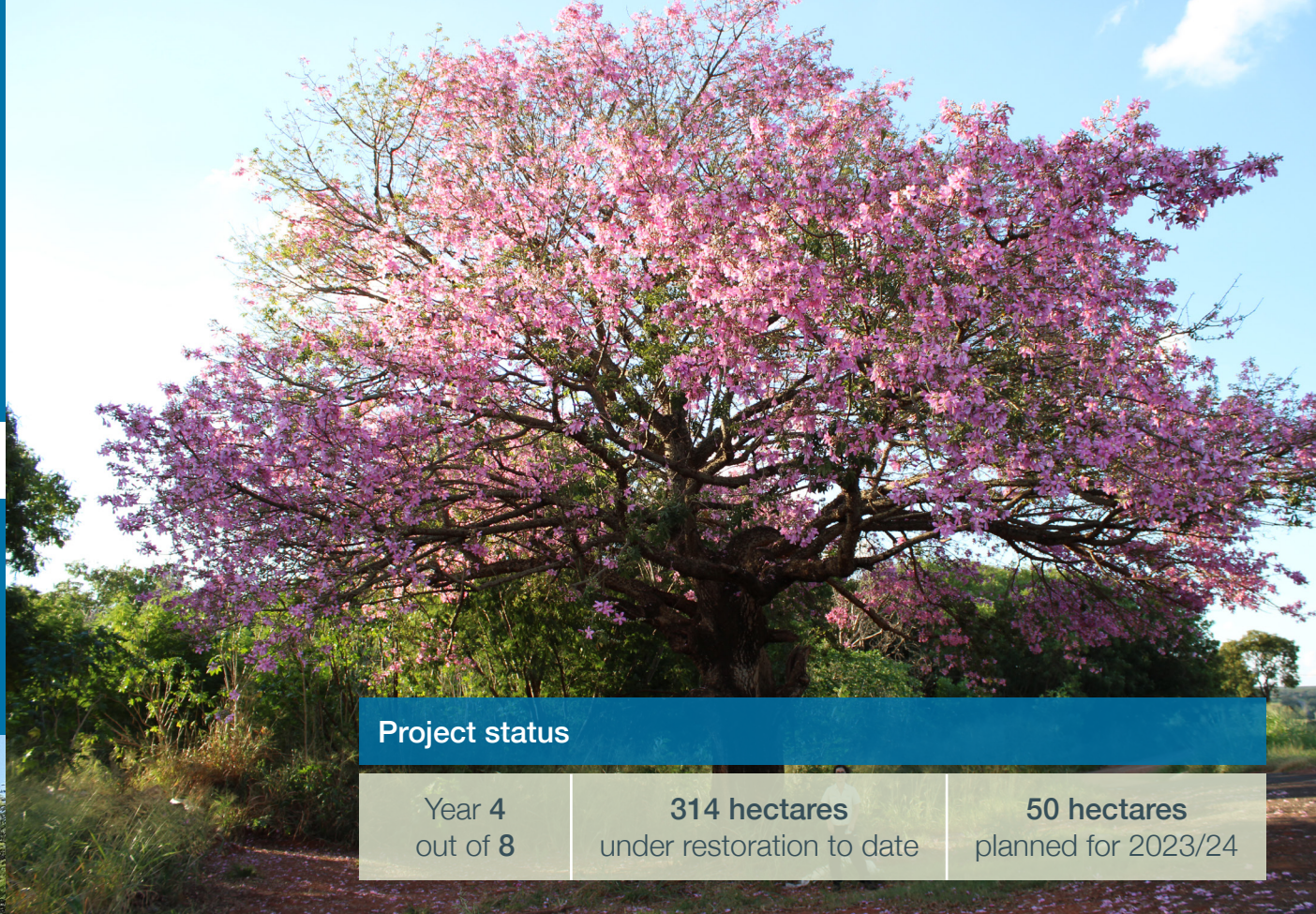


# Tietê Forests Brazil

Mid-Year Update 2023



## Project status

Year 4  
out of 8

314 hectares  
under restoration to date

50 hectares  
planned for 2023/24

The planting season in our Tietê Forests project spans the end of one calendar year and the beginning of the next. By the end of March 2023, 75 more hectares of riparian (riverside) areas were under restoration, adding up to a total of 302 ha since the start of the project.

The 2022-2023 planting season also saw the establishment of the first agroforestry systems, with the participating farmers finishing setting up the last of the plots by the end of March. A few more have joined since our last report, and 19 families have now established 12.2 hectares of agroforestry systems on their lands, growing a total of 46 fruit species and 46 native tree species on an average plot size of 0.65 ha each.

Read on to find out more about what's been happening in the Tietê Forests project!

During 2022/2023's planting season we completed 75ha of ecological restoration of riparian areas along the Tietê river. This area (near right) was being planted in late October 2022, when several staff members from WeForest's HQ were visiting the area. On that day they had a chance to plant a few seedlings themselves (far right)!



The areas from the first planting season in 2020/2021 look even more impressive! Here's Ceiba field assistant Carlaelson standing next to a paineira tree (*Ceiba speciosa*), a fast-growing species that can reach up to 10 or 20 meters in height. Can you believe it's only three years old?

Look at how lush and healthy this area is (above), after just six months of a generous rainy season! Our country manager Natalia took this picture while visiting the areas that were planted towards the beginning of the 2022/2023 season.

Area 13 Fase 1  
17.04.2023 12:02  
-21.801 -48.87632  
Ibitinga, SP, 14040-000

In the 2022/2023 planting season from October (when soil preparation started) to March, we implemented agroforestry systems for the first time in the Tietê Forest project landscape. The participating community is in Dandara Rural Settlement, with 19 families – including Donizete and Rose, right – establishing a total of 12.2 hectares. Another 1.8 ha will be planted in the beginning of the next rainy season (approximately October 2023) within a communal area, as means to guarantee the supply of green manure species for the farmers' plots.



The Tietê Forests project provided seedlings and training for the agroforestry systems, but all the manpower was done by the families – they all got together at one home to help establish the plot, and then the next weekend they did it again at another home, and so on. They report that this has really brought them together as a community: they even have a Whatsapp group where they share pictures, advice and tips! In Portuguese, this type of collaboration is called “mutirão”.

The highly diversified agroforestry systems are composed of fruit trees and native tree species from the regional flora – 46 different species of each. Interspersed with these, the native cash crops that all farmers plant are coffee, banana, papaya and pupunha palm – *Bactris gasipaes*, from whose central stalk the delicious ‘heart of palm’ (palmito in Brazil) is harvested. Here’s farmer Maria Lucia with some pupunha palm tree seedlings behind her.



The teams and partners from both our Atlantic Forest projects in Brazil, Pontal and Tietê – including some of the agroforestry farmers from Dandara – got together in June for a multi-day capacity building workshop, during which they visited one another’s project locations and exchanged experiences and good practices. There was a lot of rain, but it didn’t hamper the visitors’ enjoyment!

The rain did unfortunately mean that while in Tietê, the visitors were unable to visit Dandara because of flooded roads. They did get to see AES Brasil’s plant nursery and the paper pot machine, though, which was a big hit! Being able to transition from plastic tubes to paper pots in the nurseries will be great for the environment, but it does come with challenges: each of the more than a hundred native species we plant across our Atlantic Forest projects in Brazil has a different growth rate, root system, cultivation needs and so on. AES Brasil have been testing and adjusting the seedling production line to convert as many seedlings as possible to these sustainable receptacles.



## How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Every hectare under restoration is mapped with GPS points to generate polygons (areas on a map) that are assigned to sponsors. Local consultants carry out annual vegetation assessments in the first 2-3 years after planting to check survival rates, biodiversity and how the canopy is developing. We plan to have remote-sensing-based analysis of tree cover performed periodically, to make sure all planted areas develop a closed canopy.

We also measure our social impact by keeping records of the number of people involved in the agroforestry systems and the amount of fruit they’re producing and income they’re receiving. We track the number of local people hired by CEIBA and in the AES nursery.

Please visit our [What We Do](#) webpage for more information.



You’ll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Tietê Forests map](#), and check out the [photos](#) on Flickr.

[Here](#) you’ll find all information about how to communicate about this project and your partnership with WeForest.