



IMPACT REPORT

20 20

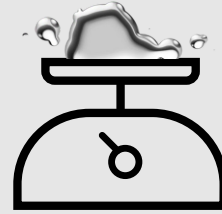
Connection | Goodwill | Transparency | Self Love | Impact



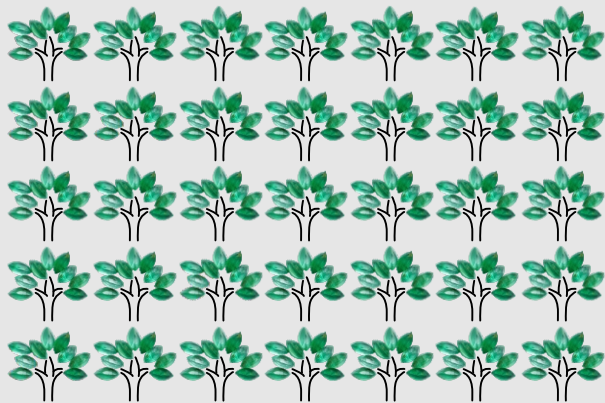


by the numbers

9.56 to
14.34 kg

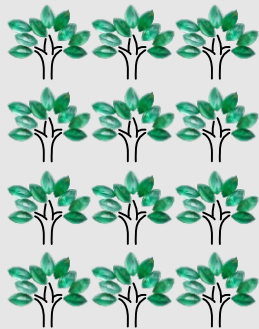


The weight of mercury pollution avoided through our initiative with women gold panners.



12,269

The number of trees planted on behalf of our clients through the Eden Reforestation Project and Trees4Trees.



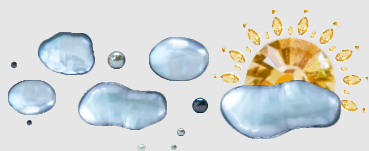
\$17,748.47

The price premiums received as additional income by indigenous women gold miners for their mercury-free gold.

The number of indigenous Dayak people supported through the 23 women gold panners we partner with for our mercury-free gold.



116



53 tCO₂e

Direct and indirect emissions offset to make Gardens of the Sun a carbon neutral business.

The number of scholarships awarded to indigenous Dayak children.



3

From our founder



“

Before 2020 we had so many grand plans. From setting up an experience store, to creating a cutting facility for sapphires sourced directly from artisanal miners.

And then 2020 happened.

The state of the world forced us to look internally - how we do what we do, instead of what we do. We fine tuned our systems, improved our partnerships and went from ideas to implementation.

The past year has been a reality check.

We used all business savings to rent an ocean-facing storefront on the beach for 5 years in mid February. A month later the borders were shut and beaches closed. I was about to give birth as a single mom to my third baby girl, and worried I couldn't take maternity leave with the world changing so fast.

Our generous clients helped us make it through. We kept everyone employed, all partners and salaries paid in full. We even managed to move to a more spacious office! (Hello pool!)

Our partnership with the women gold miners has matured. We ironed out the kinks, supplemented it with playful bonuses and scholarships, and created additional partnerships to refine the gold.

After a year of reflection and resilience, we start 2021 with new courage and a passion for change. We'll continue to shorten and strengthen our supply chains, find more ways to support artisanal miners, and work with industry partners to make a meaningful difference.

I hope you'll strap in for the ride.

”

xox,
Meri



Meri Geraldine
The Founder of Gardens of the Sun



ABOUT GARDENS OF THE SUN

Gardens of the Sun creates jewelry to shake things up, gently. We're a women-owned business disrupting the status quo. We clean supply chains, empower women, improve working conditions and jumpstart economies.

Every decision is planet-friendly. Every purchase plants trees. Every piece of jewelry connects you to a bigger purpose.

We make jewelry – that in itself means what we make become mementos, living objects, stories, and bridges between people.

Jewelry is a personal keepsake that binds people together with a loved one, a never-forgotten one, the one that got away. With themselves.

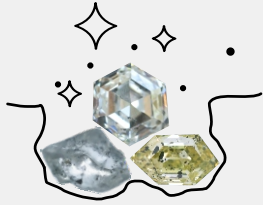
Through our work, we want to make meaningful connections between all actors in the chain. From miners and cutters to metalsmiths and marketing managers, and to our beloved clients. You are invariably linked to the very woman who panned the gold from a riverbank in Kalimantan.

Jewelry is built on connections. Ours especially.

We're on a journey beyond jewelry. Will you join us?

OUR STRATEGY & VALUES

Gardens of the Sun is a women-owned jewelry business that empowers like-minded people to become part of a real, positive movement. We play by the following five rules.



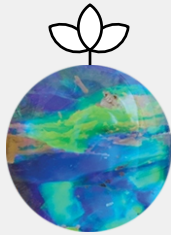
TRANSPARENCY



GOODWILL



CONNECTION



IMPACT



SELF LOVE

We believe that a good start will result in goodness, all the way through. And we start with the materials.

Sourcing principles:



TRACEABILITY



MAKE IT BETTER



SUPPORT
ARTISANAL MINERS



MERCURY FREE



OUR MATERIALS
matter

MERCURY-FREE GOLD

Since 2019, we've been using ethical gold from Borneo for our jewelry, sourced by a group of indigenous women miners from Central Kalimantan using traditional, [low impact methods](#).

Each miner has pledged their commitment to not use mercury in their gold collection and processing. In turn, we support their promise by offering incentives in the form of paying a premium price for their gold, educating them on the dangers of mercury poisoning, and sending their kids to school. Oh and then of course there are the goodies that make them feel like a true part of our community!



Gold processing usually involves dangerous chemical substances. Starting mid-2020, we moved the gold refining process to a local refinery in Jakarta. Our refinery partner signed a MoU promising our Borneo gold is processed mercury-free, in compliance with health and safety standard regulations and that our gold is processed in isolation. The latter is important because that means we get the exact same gold back that we send them, and it's not mixed with gold from other, dubious origins.



RECYCLED SILVER

As of September 2020, we use 100% [recycled silver](#) for our silver jewelry. This recycled silver is imported from the precious metal refiner Umicore. They've been listed as a Conflict Free Smelter by the Responsible Minerals Initiative. They're certified with ISO9001 (for operational processes), ISO14001 (environmental commitment) and ISO45001 (safe and healthy environment for its workers), and Chain-of-Custody certified by the Responsible Jewellery Council and complies with the LBMA Responsible Ag Guidance.

Choosing recycled silver is an interim option as we search for something with more impact - silver that drives change.



The Indonesian legal system makes it extremely complex to purchase silver extracted by artisanal miners without mercury and cyanide. We're hopeful we can eventually figure out a way to overcome these obstacles to support artisanal miners to mine silver in an environmentally responsible way.

KNOWN ORIGINS DIAMONDS & GEMSTONES



Our traffic light system helps us evaluate and analyze where we source our gemstones. It allows us to source gemstones from countries and regions with lower negative impact risks. The database behind this system is continuously updated and improved.

We want our jewelry to make a difference in the lives of the people who make our jewelry possible. So we buy at fair prices, as close to the source as possible - artisanal miners. This way, we also have the power to influence the miners to change their practice to minimize negative impact.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Gardens of the Sun embraces a world in which jewelry advances the SDGs. We'd love to see our jewelry radically change the world, for good!

Embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our everyday decisions, business practices and supply chains, helps us measure our contribution to society and make a meaningful impact.



WE'RE *carbon* NEUTRAL



We offset our direct and indirect carbon emissions over 2020 through the [Katingan project](#). This project protects a 157,000 ha peat swamp ecosystem in Central Kalimantan.

9.567 tCO₂e emitted from direct and indirect emissions from our Bali studio. These emissions come from fuel, fugitive emissions from refrigerants, and electricity use.



Our value chain is responsible for an estimated **43.23 tCO₂e** indirect emissions. This is calculated from fuel used by our gold miners and metalsmiths, upstream shipping, customer shipping, employee commutes and business trips.

Our energy intensity falls into the “very efficient” category according to the Indonesian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources classification.



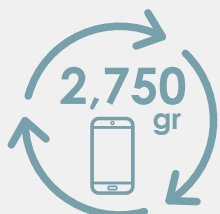
By choosing better options for our production, we're able to offer better for our clients.



By purchasing **955.8 gram** ethically sourced Borneo gold, we avoided the use of an estimated 9.56 kg to 14.34 kg of mercury.



We offer **education** on the dangers of mercury use and bonus for the woman panner who collects the most gold without mercury.



We purchased **2,750 grams** of recycled silver retrieved from post consumer, industrial and end-of-life applications, like electronic and electrical scrap. This is the hypothetical equivalent of 7.85 million phones.



Our shipping boxes and banana paper jewelry boxes can be **recycled**.

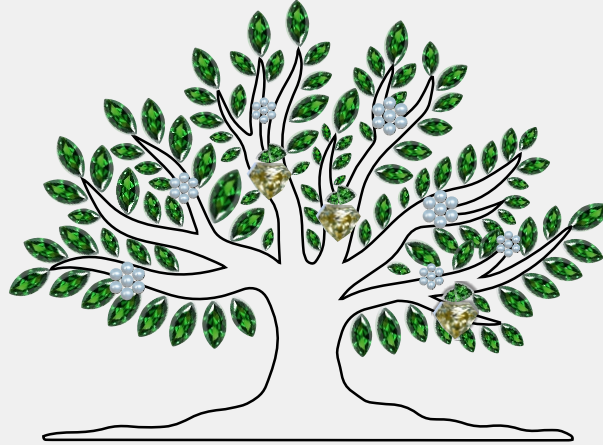
FOR EVERY PURCHASE,
we plant
5 TREES



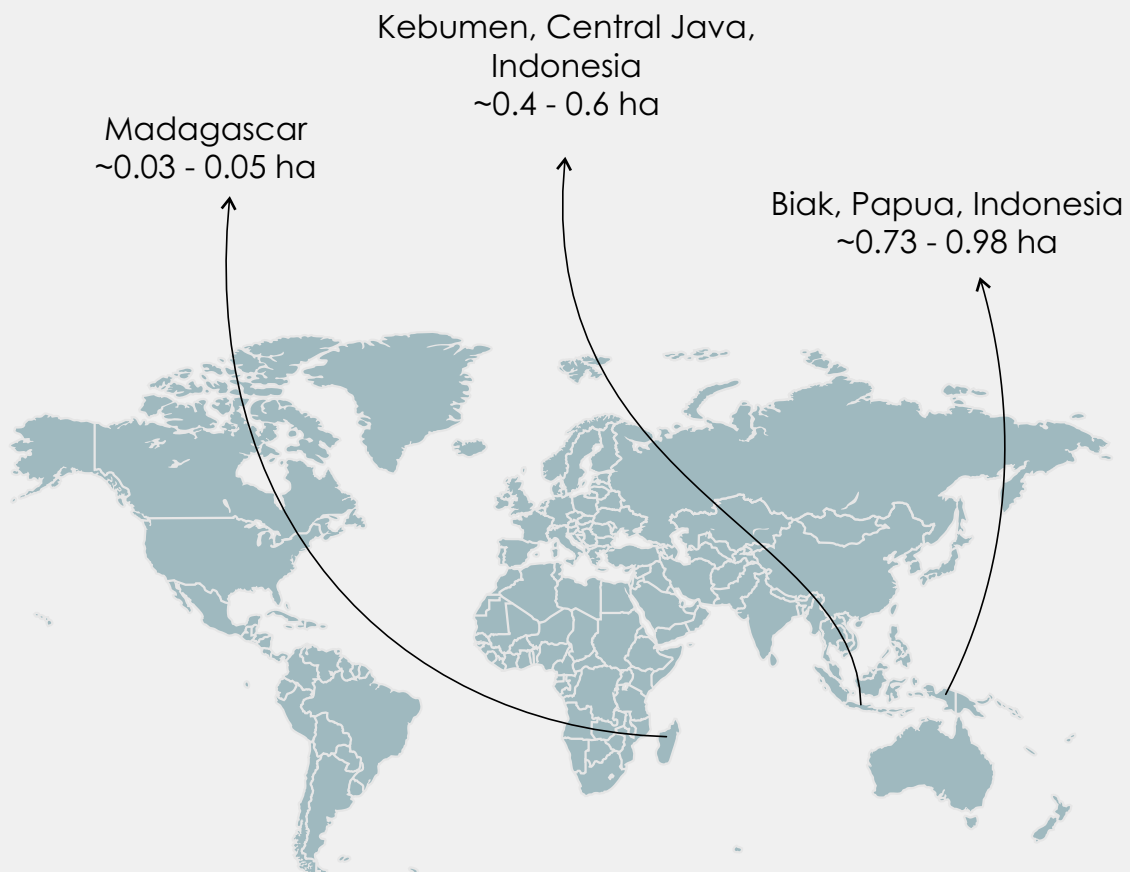
15 LIFE ON LAND



Through our commitment to plant 5 trees for every purchase, we were able to plant:






12,269
trees

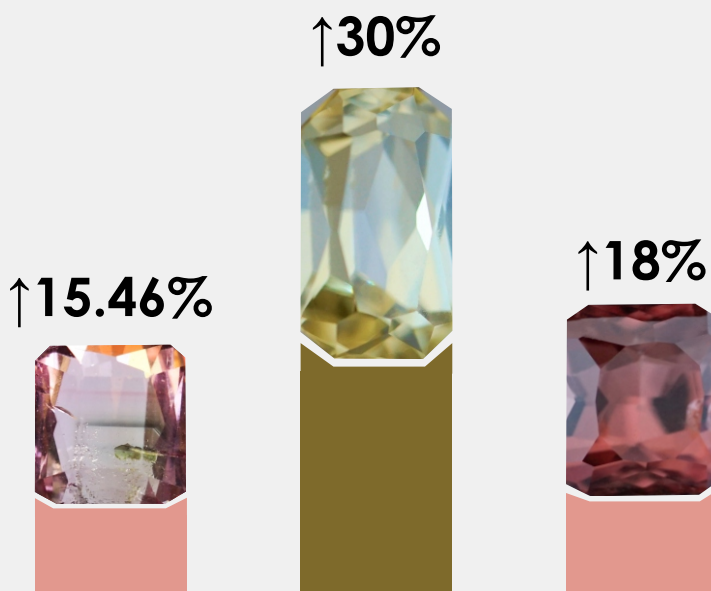




Relationships

Compared to the previous year

-  NEW CLIENTS
-  ENGAGEMENT RINGS
-  WEDDING BANDS



1,132
new clients

3,075
pieces of jewelry

104
engagement rings

112
wedding bands

770
custom pieces

302
pre-ordered jewelry

2,003
ready-stock jewelry

96.7 % SATISFACTION RATE



As proud as we are of these achievements, there is still room for improvement:

- 146 returned products
- 72 repairs and resizing
- Exchanged 59 pieces
- Handled 22 complaints



How you say our jewelry impacts you

"In 2017 I had to drop out of school temporarily due to mental health issues and being at one of the lowest points in my life. By some miracle I picked myself up, graduated, and two years later got accepted into graduate school to finish what I started. I recently purchased the sunshine and rain pendant as a reminder to embrace all the weather patterns I've endured and will endure going forward. Everyone's path is different and I'm loving all of these self-care posts, protecting your peace is vital!"

Sami L.



"My new daughter in law, wore the matching earrings and necklace we got her from here. They were beautiful and I was so touched she wore them!"

Jane H.

"This ring will be very precious and sentimental to me, as it contains the birthstones of my four children. The garnet is for my eldest son who just turned 5 last week and the sapphire is for my precious little baby who is now 4.5 months old. The peridot and tanzanite are for my two babies who we sadly never got to meet. We lost baby Jess in August 2018 to a missed miscarriage and baby Frankie in December 2019 to an ectopic pregnancy.

Having a piece of jewellery which incorporates their birthstones feels like a great way for me to commemorate them and recognise them as my children and part of our family even though they're not here with us. I've been searching for a piece of jewellery that I fell in love with and will wear everyday, and I think I've found it."

Joanne B.



Employees and Office Culture

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Our team continues to grow. As Covid hit and we needed to maintain more distance to keep our team safe, our little studio became too small for all of us. In August 2020, we moved to a new studio, cleansed and blessed by a Balinese high priest.



73.3%

of our employees
are **women**

90%

of **managerial** positions
are filled by women

33.3%

of our employees are
under 25 years old

13%

4 employees are
studying while working

13

new team members
(11 female, 2 male)
in 2020

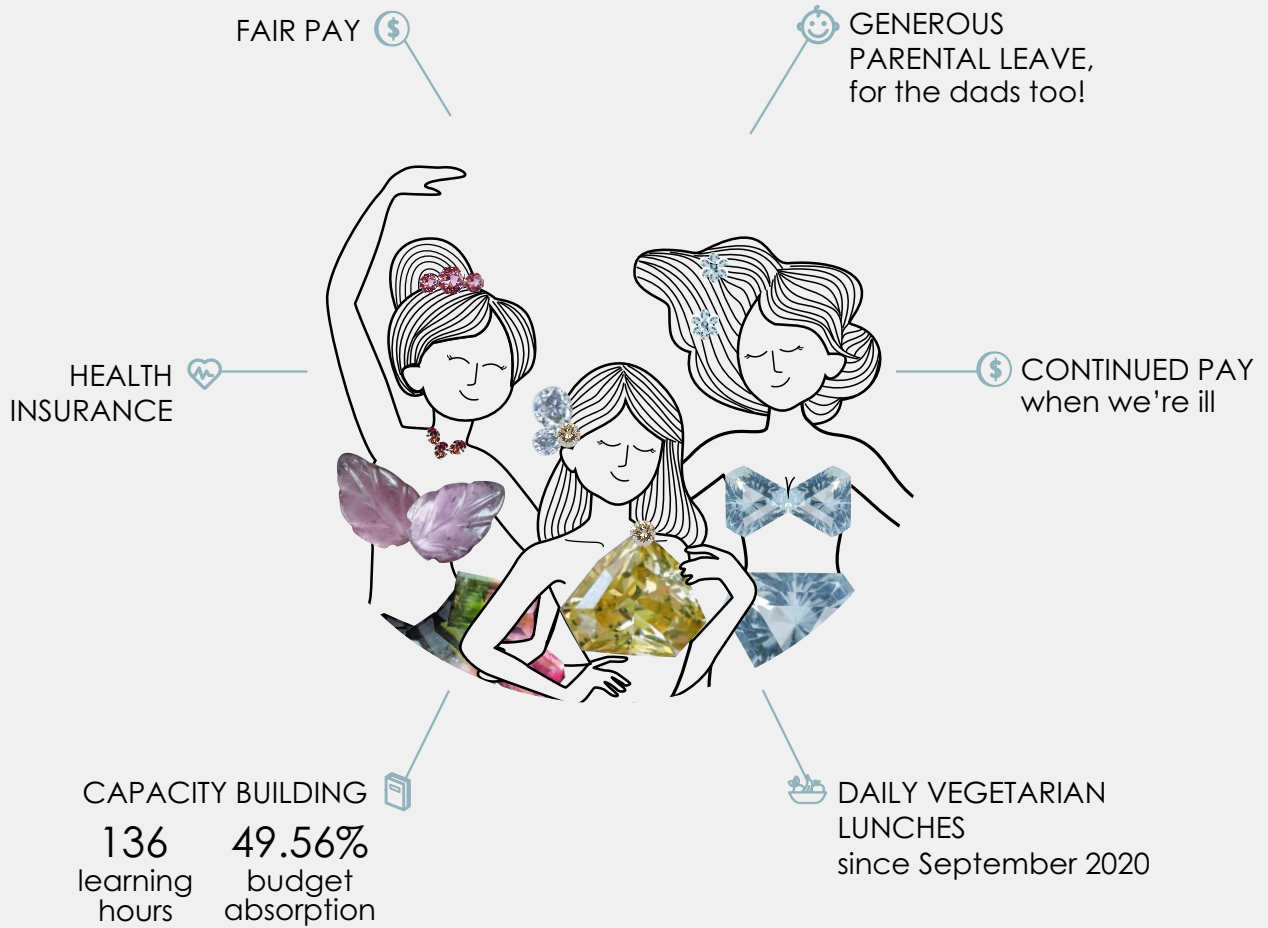
Religious diversity:

We have Muslims, Hindu's,
Christians, Catholics,
Buddhists, agnostics
and atheists on our team.

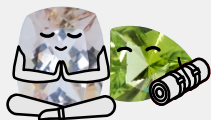


Gardens of the Sun can only grow as much as the people in it grow. We're committed to taking care of our employees, and to make them feel valued and appreciated.

In line with SDG 3, every single one of us receives



Together, we spent





129 hours
in open-air yoga sessions





6.5 volunteer hours
to contribute to causes we care about


In response to COVID-19:

 All employees participated in a live webinar by an Indonesian doctor


 Swab tests paid for any employee exposed to the virus or with potential symptoms

 Implemented a new policy, regularly updated, to keep everyone safe

 Employees could work from home whenever possible

 Additional support for employees who contracted the virus:

- Full salary
- Lunch delivered on weekdays if necessary
- Vitamin package
- Oxymeter

 Those who continued to work from the office were limited to a max of 4 people per room, depending on the room size and ventilation.



Business partners



Our business partners are key to the transparency and traceability of our jewelry. We want to make sure our business partners enjoy advanced market access, loans when necessary to grow their operations, and fair pay.

Gardens of the Sun offered interest-free loans to our business partners:

US\$ 7,103.10

(~IDR 100 million)



to our smiths in Yogyakarta, which was used to purchase new equipment.

US\$ 3,551.55

(~IDR 50 million)



to the women panners group. The group fully repaid this loan in September.

We support fair price and small business entities in Indonesia.

- An estimated 70% of our production cost is spent at local suppliers and service providers (miners, refiners, goldsmiths, silversmiths, and packaging).
- We offer better gold prices to the women panners group, on average paying 33% more than the village price. In 2020, we paid a total of \$17,748.47 in premiums.



"I'm so happy to work with Gardens of the Sun. We can sell our gold every month and through the interest-free loan we can buy more gold from our members. Members have become more active, as they can see the benefits. Although we may have different thoughts and ways of thinking, in the end, we're fellow panners and we're in this together. With our new hoodies it really feels like a community."

Leni Marlina

Leader of the Kelompok Pendulang Pamuan Jaya

We believe in the power of giving. The pandemic might have restricted our movement, but it didn't stop us from giving back

In 2020, we donated

US\$ 6,605.67



We participated in several online webinars and conferences, both national and international.

September - December

October

November

December

Living Room Session

by Christina T. Miller

Green Washing & Wokewashing

by the Slow Factory Foundation

Chicago Responsible Jewelry Conference

Financing Access for Small-scale Gold Miners

by GOLD ISMIA project



Going Forward

“ In 2021, we'll keep using jewelry as an excuse to make the world a tiny bit better. Every single piece we make has an impact on the people we work with and the environment we live in. Every single piece we make has the potential to change lives.

I believe transparent and traceable sourcing is key to making fine jewelry in a responsible way. I realise it's a complex matter - not something we can fix right away. That's why perfection isn't the goal. It's being honest, transparent and always doing better.

And I like the tangible changes we make with that attitude.

- We set up a system for the responsible sourcing of our materials. We don't just buy gold, diamonds and gemstones, but we want to know who mines, cuts and sells it - how these materials move from the mine to us. We know the origin (at least at country level) for every stone we've purchased.
- So far, 23 gold miners have stopped using mercury. Because we asked, nicely.
- We made our business operations carbon neutral.
- We've planted over 36,000 trees (and I hope in 2025 I'll be able to tell you we've surpassed the 100,000 trees mark).

In 5 years, I hope to strengthen our supply chain by continuously reviewing and improving how we do what we do. We still have homework to make traceability more transparent, monitor risk and improve environmental sustainability. It all leads to our ultimate goal: creating jewelry with a low environmental impact and a positive impact on the people involved.

I hope our work inspires other small jewelry businesses to be more mindful about their materials and processes. That they too become more aware of the difference they can make, no matter how big or small their business is.

Pioneers like us may pave the way for others to follow - without needing to hire their own Sustainability Team.

I dream that a few years from now, I'll be able to tell you many more stories of how we support artisanal miners - from fair pay to better well-being. I hope we can go from keeping kids away from mining sites to creating natural playgrounds for kids in rehabilitated ex mining sites.

In the meantime, let me know how Gardens of the Sun impacts your life!



Cecilia Evita

Sustainability & Sourcing Manager

Join our journey beyond jewelry



Gardens of the Sun
www.gardensofthesun.com

