



# IMPACT REPORT 2019

# A JOURNEY BEYOND *jewelry*

*This report covers the impact that Gardens of the Sun and our clients have made in 2019. We share the difference we've made together with our clients, our employees and our partners for the environment and people in our supply chains. Through our operations, we promote ethical business values, responsible sourcing, compassion and self-love.*

We've laid the foundations,  
now it's time to follow through.

# 2019

was a very good year of doing good. This year we've followed the path that we've laid out in 2018. We made a promise and with your support we were able to keep it. From our mercury-free gold, the people in our supply chain, to our employees, we've touched lives, in a good way. Hopefully the good vibes and positive energy reaches you and makes you feel better whenever you wear our jewelry.



## 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

US \$5,596

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

11,760

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

49

The number of indigenous Dayak people supported through the 10 women gold panners we partner with for our mercury-free gold.

5

The number of public speaking engagements we participated in to inspire others to source better.

76

Custom wedding bands made.

130

Custom engagement rings made.

# HIGHLIGHTS

Implemented our sustainability & sourcing policy consistently.  
Purchased diamonds and gemstones only from known origins.

JAN TO DEC

Formalized the partnership with 10 indigenous women gold panners.

Meri spoke at the Chicago Responsible Jewelry Conference, inspiring other jewelers.

Gold refinement training for our local partners together with a local NGO.

FEBRUARY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

OCTOBER

Visited a remote village to meet indigenous sapphire miners, and started purchasing from the villagers directly.

- Launch of the [Origins collection](#), a fully traceable collection of jewelry.
- [First joint exhibition with Handep Haruei, "From Forests to Fashion: Dayak Arts & Cultural Exhibition"](#).



“

In the past we relied mostly on our suppliers for assurances to find out the origins and mining conditions. This past year, we've started to source directly from the miners themselves.

Knowing the impact that gold can have, I asked myself if we could transform our gold supply chain. Can we use the jewelry that we create to stop mercury pollution, and instead empower women?

The local NGO, Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS) connected us with a group of 10 indigenous Dayak women. They're all mothers and the main breadwinners in their family. We asked these women to replace toxic mercury with alternatives that didn't harm their health, their children's health, or the environment that they live in. In exchange, we would give them a price premium. They were more than happy to do it! We actually pay them more than the international gold price.

To create lasting change in our supply chain, we just need to care. Care enough to change the business-as-usual standards that have become the norm, and come up with a way that makes more of us a little better. This way, I hope we continue to touch lives through jewelry.”

”

*Meri Geraldine, Founder and Chief Creative*

# OUR IMPACTS

## COMMUNITY



**130** ENGAGEMENT  
RINGS



**76** WEDDING  
BANDS

We are very happy that we can still share love and energy with our clients through our jewelry.

In August, We launched the [Origins collection](#) - our proudest collection yet. Where the origin and ethics of all the materials used are accounted for.





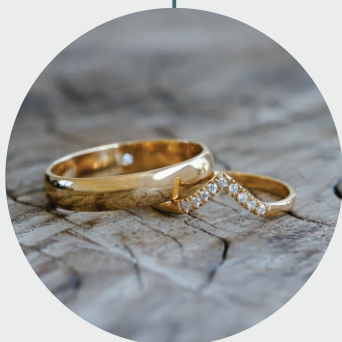
### **Caitlin S**

*I wanted something unique, stunning, and ethical. I wasn't interested in a traditional diamond engagement ring because that doesn't represent me or my relationship. I love that I can be included in the Gardens of the Sun sourcing/processing/creating via Instagram. It's important to me to know that everyone in the chain is taken care of.*



### **Michael M.**

*Working with Ferris and Sovi made building the perfect engagement ring possible. We value ethically sourced items and Gardens of the Sun delivered exactly what we wanted. I appreciated being involved in every step of the process and I felt the final product was filled with more love and meaning. It suits my fiancé perfectly. I would recommend Gardens of the Sun to anyone looking for a beautifully custom made ring.*



### **Jacilyn S.**

*Unboxing was so much fun. So many wonderful little extras and details about the jewellery. The customer service was amazing, I cannot thank them enough for all their wonderful help and prompt communication. We love our wedding bands. They are perfect. So happy that with our marriage we were also able to give back with the planting of trees.*



### **Cynthia A.C.**

*We love our custom tourmaline gold ring! [Gardens of the Sun] gave us the opportunity to design a forever ring that complemented both personalities of the bride and groom at a very affordable price. It was important for us that the ring was produced from ethically sourced materials and created with care in an environment where the employees were treated fairly, and I was happy to find this here. I cannot express how much more beautiful our ring is in person!*



## EMPLOYEES



“ I find it both fascinating and important that we deep dive into the sustainable and ethical side of jewelry. It's one of the things that I enjoy about working at Gardens of the Sun. I'm proud of the work that I do to communicate why exactly ethical jewelry is an important part of the conversation.

*Atri Priyamanaya, Marketing & Branding Strategist* ”

66%

of our employees are  
women

45%

of our employees are  
under 25

11%

of our employees are  
continuing their  
studies  
while working

Our team grew with 8 new team members. Everyone is covered through the national health insurance program (BPJS) and receives fair pay.

This year we started a new initiative to improve our internal capacity. Employees were invited to choose which areas they wanted to grow, based on their interest and company's needs.

Together, we've used

138  
training hours

and

114%  
of our yearly training budget.

Courses included:

- GIA Diamond Essentials, Colored Stones Essentials and Jewelry Essentials
- [A 5 day gem-cutting workshop](#)
- A writing workshop led by Laura Belgray



Having a healthy mind is just as important as a healthy body.  
Together, we've had



**52** vegetarian lunches



**48** yoga classes



**2** bicycles in the office for staff to use



Our team took a Taekwondo self-defense class too!



The fun continued with 2 design sessions where the team was invited to design their own jewelry



Our team is not the only thing that expanded. We built a new photo studio that was blessed by a Balinese priest in a formal blessing ceremony.



We fostered 5 puppies, 2 of which ended up being adopted by our team.

## LOCAL PARTNERS



“

*I smile in contentment seeing that my team members are now able to not only feed themselves, but also make enough money for their family.*

*Fajar Afrianto, Master Goldsmith*

”

It's amazing that we're able to keep our promise. The gold we work with does not harm the environment and offers better working conditions to the miners.

We purchased  
 **559.68 gram**

of mercury-free gold that provided an extra income of

**IDR 76,126,996**  
(US \$5,596 equivalent)

in price premiums to our gold panners



Through their gold panning activities, the 10 women panners we partner with, supported another **49** people in their community. Our jewelry changed lives.



To improve the quality of our gold, we offered gold refinement training for the women panners and our goldsmiths. This training was done in partnership with Yayasan Tambuhak Shinta.



In June 2019, we started sourcing sapphires from Borneo. Our founder, Meri, took her family deep into the heart of Borneo to visit and meet directly with the miners.

We supported our local partners with financial aid for business development and charitable enterprises.

**50 MILLION**

financial gift plus 50 million of interest-free loan to our goldsmith to purchase a new laser machine

**70 MILLION**

interest-free loan to the women gold panners and a mobile phone

**50 MILLION**

interest-free loan to sapphire miners

## THE EARTH & WIDER COMMUNITY



We keep our commitment to plant 5 trees for every purchase. By the end of 2019, we planted **11,760** mangrove trees in Biak Island, in partnership with Eden Reforestation Project.



In August, we had a joint exhibition with Handep Haruei, “From Forests to Fashion: Dayak Arts & Cultural Exhibition”, where we shared our journey to empower indigenous Dayak people through the trade of gold and sapphires.



In September, our team participated in the global climate change strike.

We realised we can't walk alone on our journey. We tried to create more ripple by signing up as a member of Ethical Metalsmiths.

Our founder, Meri Geraldine, inspired as a public speaker at international and national events

 [Thrive by Design Podcast episode 211:  
Taking Responsibility in Sourcing to the Next Level](#)

 [Jewelry Designer Panel at Chicago Responsible Jewelry Conference](#)

 [Video for UNDP SDG Talk 5](#)

 [WiME Ruang XY 5](#)

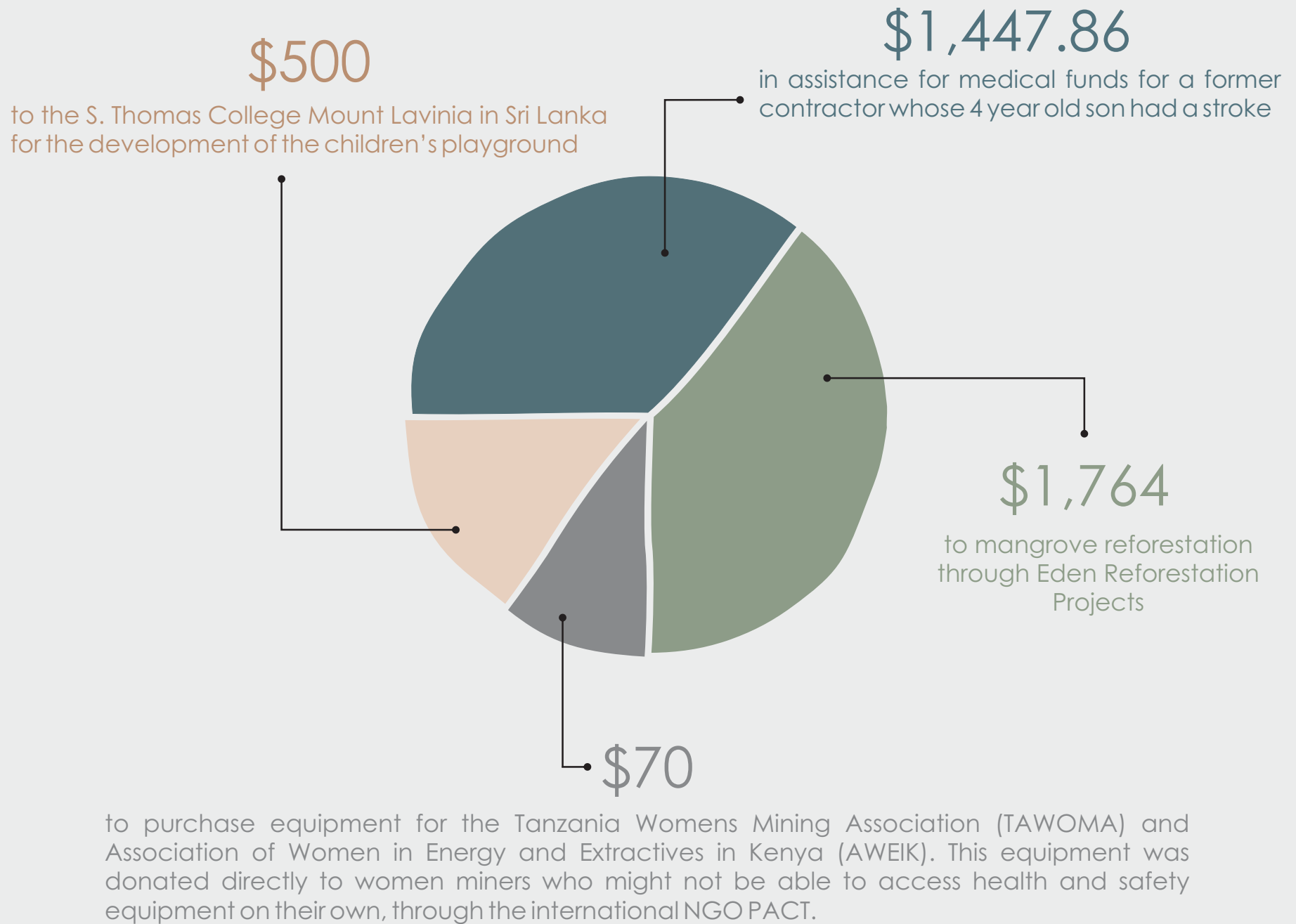
 [WiME Ruang XY 6](#)





What we receive, we return in manifold. We do business from a place of enough, gratitude and with the hopes of touching lives.

We donated  
**US \$3,781.86**  
to charities.



# Going forward

In 2020 we will be continuing our efforts to meet everyone in our supply chain, and setting up sustainable, traceable, and ethical options that will hopefully put ethical jewelry on the radar for everyone. We'll also keep making sure that all the good will, wishes, and support we've received will be given back manifold to you, to the environment, and the communities that we touch. Here's to another exciting year of a journey beyond jewelry, towards a future where all that glitters is guilt-free.



Keep following our progress on:



Gardens of the Sun

[www.gardensofthesun.com](http://www.gardensofthesun.com)