# Tiny Forests fact sheet

**Overview**:

Creating a thriving and climate resilient city - one that supports economic growth and enhances well-being - is a considerable challenge. Environmental issues such as flooding, pollution and heat stress are increasingly affecting cities; and this is only expected to worsen in the face of climate change.

Increasing urbanisation, modern lifestyles, digitalisation and longer distances between homes and pleasant green spaces, have also resulted in people enjoying far less time in nature.

Our aim is to offer nature-based solutions in built-up areas that will boost biodiversity and create climate resilient cities.

A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast-growing native woodland. It is around the size of a tennis court (200m2). It follows a method of forest management, developed by Dr. Miyawaki in the 1970s and reinvigorated by Shubhendu Sharma, CEO of Afforestt, in the 2010s, that mimics natural, native forests. To date, more than 3000 forests have been planted worldwide using Miyawaki’s methodology.

The forestry method restores natural, native forests, creating thriving forests that not only grow faster, but are also likely to have a higher survival rate. They comprise 600 trees, from a range of species native to the planting location. They also encourage more biodiversity very quickly.

Earthwatch has partnered with IVN in the Netherlands to bring this concept to the UK, as well as Witney Town Council in Oxfordshire to plant the UK’s first-ever Tiny Forest.

Tiny Forests provide direct links to local government and businesses’ climate and biodiversity strategies. They support environmental education and reconnect people with nature. There are fantastic opportunities for local government, business, schools and community groups to get involved in the planting of each Tiny Forest, managing and maintaining them, as well as monitoring the forests’ growth and development.

Earthwatch intends to plant more than 150 Tiny Forests by 2023.

**Key benefits of Tiny Forests**:

Scientific modelling shows that just four years after planting, a single Tiny Forest will:

* Grow up to 5x faster compared to traditional monoculture tree-planting schemes
* Absorb up to 30x more carbon compared to traditional planting schemes
* Attract more than 500 species of animals and plants - in addition to those planted
* Process 30,000 litres of rainfall; forests, and in particular trees, increase infiltration in the subsurface and catch rain in their canopy, therefore increasing flood mitigation locally
* Improve air quality through dust reduction
* Provide up to 30x better noise reduction compared to traditional planting schemes
* Help with thermal comfort
* Self-sustain once established