



THREE FREEDOM TREES

WASSENAAR

23 September
2020

Estate De Paauw
Wassenaar



An initiative of Joty ter Kulve – van Os

THREE FREEDOM TREES

WASSENAAR

In cooperation with

Sekolah Indonesia

De Herenwegschool

Monica Bouman



Gemeente  Wassenaar

the
Borneo
Initiative

The Borneo Initiative (TBI)
Indonesia Nederland Society (INS)

We have to find a way ...

We need to find a way to resonate as an organic part of the whole.

Dag Hammarskjöld

Joty ter Kulve, 93, experienced the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies when she was a young girl. Now she lives in Wassenaar in an apartment on the Stoephout Estate. In her personal life story, the history of the Netherlands, Indonesia and the United Nations comes together.

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. Air Force in Asia heralded the end of World War II. On August 15, 1945, Japan unconditionally surrendered. The 51 countries that founded the United Nations in the autumn (24 October 1945) solemnly declared that they wanted to save coming generations from the scourge of war. From then on the alternative to war had to be international cooperation. That same year, the Netherlands became a member state of the United Nations. Five years later, in 1950, Indonesia followed.

"Can't we solve our conflicts by talking, and without violence?", Joty ter Kulve often wonders when she follows world politics. Living in the Netherlands for years now, she discovered that her former family home in Linggarjati in 1946 was the site of the negotiations between Dutch and Indonesian diplomats in 1946 about the future relationship between the two countries. There, in that mountain village on West Java, the basis was laid for the later cooperation between the Netherlands and Indonesia.

When Joty thinks back to the war and her years at the 'Jappen' camp, she feels sad and powerless. In the camp her mother had protected her and her sister like a tigress. She is grateful that 'the rottenness of war is over' wishing all the parents and children of our time that there will never be another world war. Her feeling of gratitude grew over time. She has also changed her thinking about the Indonesian struggle for independence. With more understanding and appreciation for the Indonesians.

Joty has great respect and appreciation for King Willem-Alexander, who during his state visit to Indonesia in March this year apologized for the Dutch outbreaks of violence between 1945 and 1950 in India/Indonesia. "This gesture by the king ensures healing. Healing is only possible when you are able to listen to the other person and start talking to each other. Healing is only possible when you are heard. The king has thus created a new beginning in the relationship between the Netherlands and Indonesia.'

At the moment the corona crisis is gripping the world, and the end of it is not yet in sight. The pandemic threatens us all, but it is also a danger that we ourselves have created by our way of life. We use more of the Earth and its natural resources than the Earth can handle, resulting in air, water and space pollution and also forest degradation and loss of biodiversity.

From space, Earth is a special planet - where there is life; but it is also a fragile planet, protected only by a thin atmosphere. The Dutch astronaut André Kuipers rightly compares the Earth to a spaceship with limited supplies. We are not giving nature a chance to recover and that is worrying. Joty shares this concern. "We shouldn't be blind to this."

"Many among us realize that we have to do things differently, changing our habits." Under the leadership of the United Nations, 193 Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), action plans for the well-being of the people and the planet (people, planet and prosperity).

"But there is more to be done than only adopting resolutions," Joty says. Not just the states, we all have a duty to take care of each other. Everyone has to think for themselves: Do I want to put my shoulder to the wheel?" She sees many initiatives in the Netherlands and also in Indonesia that make her feel hopeful about the future. But she also knows that we as human beings make mistakes. 'Then it comes down to whether you can look at yourself and be honest. Do I want this? Can't we do it any other way? Can't we do better?'

The conservation of tropical rainforests in Brazil, Central Africa and Indonesia is vital for the restoration of nature on Earth. Of them Indonesia is the one trying most to protect its forests. At the Bali Climate Change Conference 2007, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in his keynote speech, while reflecting on the ecological value of the Indonesian forests, posed the rhetorical question, "Who will save the Indonesian forests?"

One of the attendants, a Dutch trader in office furniture, was struck by the message. That night he could not sleep as he was wondering about the steps necessary to meet the challenges. The next year, in 2008, Jesse Kuijper founded The Borneo Initiative to encourage Indonesian timber companies to go for sustainable timber production. Twelve years later, this small for purpose foundation cooperates with the Indonesian government, international partner countries and partner organizations to assist timber companies and communities in the conservation of the forests of Indonesia. The foundation has started reforestation programs, including nature management for biodiversity, habitat protection of the orangutans, and social programs for the foresters in an area of over 8000000 (eight million) hectares at Kalimantan and in Papua. Meanwhile, Indonesia is the country with the largest areas for sustainably certified wood.

The example of The Borneo Initiative inspires Joty. She believes that we can preserve life on Earth if we learn to set the right priorities. "We now have a chance, maybe it's the last chance, to make life on Earth possible. The war is not over. Today, it is a global task for all of us to save that we can live. We all can do something, each one of us, to make the world a better place."

Without words, the Three Freedom Trees tell us that the Netherlands, Indonesia and the United Nations are connected, to each other and to life on Earth, showing us a path to the future.

"Take care of each other, take care of the Earth."

Monica Bouman

LEADING THOUGHTS BEHIND
THE THREE FREEDOM TREES PROJECT

This project includes the planting of 'Three Freedom Trees' on De Paauw Estate with a suitable ceremony with invited guests and primary school children.

Initiator Joty ter Kulve - van Os (1927) lives in Wassenaar in an apartment on Estate Stoephout. Joty represents the generation for whom the Dutch East Indies was the motherland, which ceased to exist after the Second World War and merged into the independent republic of Indonesia. She has worked out the Three Freedom Trees commemorative program for 75 Years Freedom with Monica Bouman (PhD). For the implementation of this citizens' initiative they work together with two foundations: The Borneo Initiative Foundation (www.theborneoinitiative.org) Foundation Indonesia Netherlands Society (www.indonesia-nederland.org)

History After the Second World War and changing international developments the Netherlands had to end its colonial relationship with Indonesia. After the proclamation of Indonesian independence by the Indonesian leaders on 17 August 1945, a period of violent conflict arose in Indië/Indonesia. This was accompanied by a lot of suffering and casualties on both the Dutch and Indonesian sides.

For the responsible politicians and ministers in the Netherlands, the years between 15 August 1945 and 27 December 1949 were decisive. Party political views on the Indonesian Issue diverged in the Netherlands. Changing governments decided to negotiate or fight, with in the final phase negotiations at a Round Table conference in The Hague. On 27 December 1949, the Netherlands made peace with Indonesia and granted the sovereignty to which Indonesia had asserted since 17 August 1945.

The newly established United Nations played a mediating role in the process. Through the United Nations, the Netherlands and Indonesia settled their dispute. The UN Security Council relied in particular on the Linggarjati Agreement. The draft text of that agreement came from Dutch and Indonesian diplomats, who had previously met in November 1946 in Linggarjati, a mountain village in West Java, in the former family home of Joty Ter Kulve. At that time, a basis was laid for later equivalent relations between the Netherlands and Indonesia. Unfortunately, the intervening years were tumultuous and violent on both sides.

In the end, Dutch diplomat Herman van Roijen and Indonesian diplomat Mohammed Rum managed to get both countries back to the finish line through negotiations. A friendship had developed between them. Besides, Herman van Roijen lived at the end of his life in Wassenaar, on the Stoephout Estate, just like Joty ter Kulve now. The independence of Indonesia and the preceding period were deeply taken into account in the lives of all those who had to leave their motherland, the Dutch East Indies. Most of them (over 200,000) settled permanently in the Netherlands. Among them were Joty ter Kulve and the parents of Monica Bouman (then young). Since their arrival, they and their families have been part of Dutch society and have been contributing to it.

For the Netherlands, it is not legally possible to recognize 17 August 1945 as Indonesia's independence date. But the fact that this did not happen politically and morally hindered relations between the two countries.

In 2005, Foreign Minister Ben Bot changed that. He took the initiative to attend the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia in Jakarta on 17 August 2005.

Like no other, Ben Bot understood the resistance among Indië veterans and Moluccan and Dutch-Indian groups in the Netherlands against a moral acceptance of the Indonesian independence date. Born in Indië and living in Batavia as a child with his parents, Ben Bot calls himself a 'child of the country' in that sense. During the Japanese occupation he was interned in Camp Tjideng.

But in 2005 he felt it was time to draw a line under the past. Ben Bot first shared his vision during the Indië commemoration on 15 August in The Hague. Immediately after that, he left for Indonesia.

The core of his speech came down to this; 'Only afterwards it becomes clear that the separation between the Netherlands and Indonesia was more violent and lasted longer than was necessary. Our country was, as it were, on the wrong side of history. (...) In the Netherlands, there is an awareness 'that the independence of the Republic of Indonesia began de facto on 17 August 1945 and that we accept this fact generously in a political and moral sense.' On behalf of the Dutch government, he expressed 'deep regret for all suffering' in Jakarta. President Yudhoyono, Minister Wirajuda and Indonesian veterans showed great appreciation for Minister Bot's sincerity and personal gesture.

The Netherlands and Indonesia have since grown into a mutually friendship relationship and are working together in many areas.

In March of this year, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima made an official state visit to Indonesia. In the presence of President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and to the surprise of almost everyone, the King apologized for the derailments of violence by the Dutch side between 1945 and 1950 in Indië/Indonesia. The Indonesian president, government and also the people reacted spontaneously and with deep affection. Everywhere the royal couple came that day and the following days, the people were elated and the royal couple showed their affection.

These steps, taken in freedom over 75 years, now open the way for a joint commemoration of freedom and a symbolic gesture to the future.

In addition to the Netherlands and Indonesia, we want to involve the World Organization of the United Nations, which is also celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The United Nations continues to be the international platform for world peace. As Member States of the United Nations, the Netherlands and Indonesia adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015.

We dedicate the Three Trees of Freedom to the Netherlands, to Indonesia and to the United Nations.

Aim

The planting of Three Freedom Trees on Estate De Paauw is for the inhabitants of Wassenaar as an expression of a way to the future: "Three Freedom Trees that show people the way to the future".

The Three Freedom Trees symbolize:

75 YEARS

- * The Netherlands after World War II
- * Indonesia after World War II
- * The United Nations after World War II

Vision

Why freedom trees? Shortly after the outbreak of the French revolution freedom trees were planted everywhere in the Batavian Republic as a sign of life force and of new beginnings. After the Second World War this was done in the Netherlands especially during 4/5 May commemorations and celebrations. Also in Wassenaar. On 4 May 1946, Mayor Baron Van Wijnbergen planted a freedom tree at De Lus in Wassenaar.

This freedom tree stands solitary with a small narrow area around it at crossroads in the middle of a residential area.

In our plan, we assume that a tree is an eco-community.

Trees make connections and work together with the surrounding nature. For their nutrition, growth and reproduction, they work together with microorganisms in the ground, in the air, in the water and with the surrounding nature. Fungi, bacteria, insects, birds, other animals and also humans find food, shelter and building materials, a living environment. With their deep root systems, trees give firmness to the soil and provide water supply to the plants surrounding them on the soil surface. Biochemical processes in the leaves make the surrounding air oxygenated and purify the air from carbon. Fallen leaves make the soil humus-rich.

From this view we want to plant the Three Freedom Trees in the natural environment of Estate De Paauw.

In the area of the Wassenaarse town hall it also shows the connection with our human relations through economy and finance, spatial planning, traffic and transport, education & care and culture.

The municipality deals with issues that are important to the inhabitants. The decisions of the city council affect the capillaries of the Wassenaarse society. But the municipality not only works within the municipal boundaries, but also cooperates with the regional, the provincial and the national governance. The relationships go even further. This is evidenced by the presence of foreign business offices and foreign schools in Wassenaar. The village is connected to the world far beyond the national borders. Ambassadors from all over the world have their residence in Wassenaar.

And last but not least, Wassenaar is closely connected to The Hague, international city of peace and justice.

Teaching program

There is a story attached to the Three Trees of Freedom that must be told and passed on. Therefore, a curriculum for primary schools is an essential part of the programme.

In the lesson 'Forests for our children' we briefly comment on the historical relationship of the Netherlands and Indonesia. After that, we will mainly focus on the ecological value of forests. That has everything to do with how we as a society deal with our freedom. Trees are symbols of Life itself.

The nature on Estate De Paauw is not just there, but was planted by people and cared for to flourish and wash, not only for the current inhabitants of Wassenaar and visitors to the estate, but also for the future and future generations. This brings our story to sustainable forestry and the importance of biodiversity.

With this theme we connect to current events. On September 23, the planned planting day for the "Three Statues of Liberty", there will be a two-day UN summit on biodiversity, 'Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development' at UN headquarters in New York. The Netherlands and Indonesia will also be represented as UN Member States. This summit precedes the 75th United Nations General Assembly.

Indonesia is one of the few countries in the world where there are still vast tropical rainforest areas. If deforestation is threatened there, an important part of our oxygen supply on earth and the habitat of many animal species, including the orangutan, disappears. In Indonesia, the Dutch foundation The Borneo Initiative has been committed to sustainable forestry, forest protection and biodiversity conservation since 2008 and has achieved good results in addition to building knowledge and expertise.

In the first weeks of September, The Borneo Initiative will offer group 6/7 or 7/8 of two primary schools in Wassenaar a curriculum 'Forests for our Children'. This lesson will be given in cooperation with the schoolteachers, physically, or virtually with a lesson letter and video material.

Every child a tree at Kalimantan

In addition, The Borneo Initiative donates to every pupil of the three Schools a tree (young planting) at Kalimantan. On 23 September, after the planting of the Three Freedom Trees in Wassenaar Jesse Kuijper will hand over tree plant certificates for each pupil of the school to the teachers present.

The Three Freedom Trees

Finally, the Three Freedom Trees will be three trees of the species Anna Paulowna tree (*Paulownia Tormentosa*).

Joty ter Kulve & Monica Bouman

Wassenaar, June 2020



Indoor Programme

Wednesday afternoon 23 September 2020

Location: Raadhuis De Paauw, Wassenaar, Hall of Mirrors

14.00 Walk-in

Commemorating 75 Years of Freedom in Wassenaar

14.15 Mr Leendert de Lange, Mayor of Wassenaar,
Welcome word

14.20 Former Minister Dr Willem van Eekelen, Chair of INS Trustees

14.25 Mr Fikry Cassidy, Chargé d’Affaires Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

14.30 Minister of State Dr Bernard Bot

A Future for Our Children

14.35 Mrs Joty ter Kulve - van Os and Ms Elisabeth ter Kulve, daughter

14.40 Introductory film *Why this initiative?*

Forests for our Children

14.50 Intro-film *The Borneo Initiative*

15.00 Mr Jesse Kuijper, Founder of The Borneo Initiative,
Forests for Our Children

15.10 Mr Jesse Kuijper, *Handing 500 Tree Planting Certificates to*
Mr Bob van den Steenhoven, Director Herenwegschool Wassenaar
Mr Din Wahid, Director Sekolah Indonesia Wassenaar

15.15 The Directors of the Schools, *Signing of an Agreement for a School Partnership*

15.20 Mayor Leendert de Lange, Invites his guests to follow him into the parc.



Outdoor Programme

Wednesday afternoon 23 September 2020

Location: Estate de Paauw

15.30 Venue: the open space in the parc (entrance Prinses Marielaan)
where the three freedom trees will be planted.

With the cooperation of schoolchildren and teachers of
de Herenwegschool and the Sekolah Indonesia Den Haag (SIDH)

Arrival of the Mayor of Wassenaar, Mrs Joty ter Kulve and their guests

1. Mr Leendert de Lange, Mayor of Wassenaar,
Welcome words
2. Music: Schoolchildren play angklung
3. Unveiling of the Plaque by Mrs Joty ter Kulve and Mayor Leendert de Lange
4. Tree Planting of Three Freedom Trees
 - Wassenaar Mayor Leendert de Lange
& two young assistants
 - Mr Fikry Cassidy, Chargé d’Affaires Embassy of Indonesia
& two young assistants
 - Minister of State Dr Bernard Bot
& two young assistants
5. Song: *We are The World*
Lyrics: Michael Jackson
Choir and Angklung under direction of Ms Nathalie Saaba (SIDH)
6. Mr Jesse Kuijper, Founder of The Borneo Initiative and Chair of Indonesia
Nederland society
Acknowledgement

16.00 Drinks and snacks for the children in the parc

Coffee, tea and *spekkoek* in Raadhuis De Paauw