



A Tiny Forest for Narsaq, Greenland



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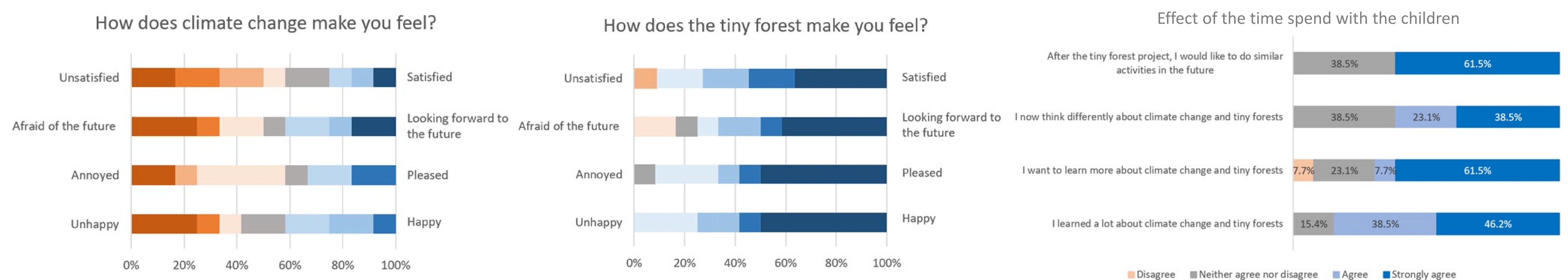
Utrecht University and the GreenlandTrees project (Dasht foundation) collaborate on planting a Tiny forest together with the primary school in Narsaq, southern Greenland (left).

The region has no natural forests today, but the climatic conditions become increasingly favorable for tree growth. Residing in a climate change hotspot and directly witnessing its effects, many individuals in Greenland are interested in learning more about potential mitigation strategies. Our initiative aims to introduce the locals to the relevance and positive effects of small-scale tree plantings in Greenland's harsh living environments through designing educational activities.



1) Polytunnel at Narsaq, maintained by the Greenland tree foundation **2)** Reinder taking care of the tree saplings of *Alnus*, *Larix*, *Betula* and various *Pinus* and *Picea*. All plants are grown from genetically controlled seeds collected in tree populations from Iceland and Canada. Choice of species include native species and species that have been found in palynological studies which suggest that these species have the potential to migrate to Greenland. **3)** Anna giving lectures to pupils from the higher classes (age category 12-15yrs). **4,5,6)** Rike and Faezeh planting first trees with the smaller children (age category 5-8yrs), supported by schoolteachers and volunteers. Some of the young children had no perception of 'trees' at all, trees are simply not a part of their daily life.

In summer 2023 MSc students Anna and Reinder visited Narsaq to work with the school children. Activities included lectures on climate change, vegetation and soil dynamics. Questionnaires filled in by the children show positive results of this outreach activity:



This project will be continued in the coming years. Scientific monitoring of plant growth and performance and soil development will accompany the actual planting activities. In the future, the Narsaq community will care for, and hopefully profit from, their Tiny Forest.

We profited already by being warmly welcomed to their wonderful world.

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The Narsaq community for allocation the grounds for the Tiny Forest.

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