

**The London Tree Officers Association**  
*Caring for the Capital's Trees*



# How resilient is London's forest?

Jake Tibbetts – Chair of the LTOA &  
London Borough of Islington

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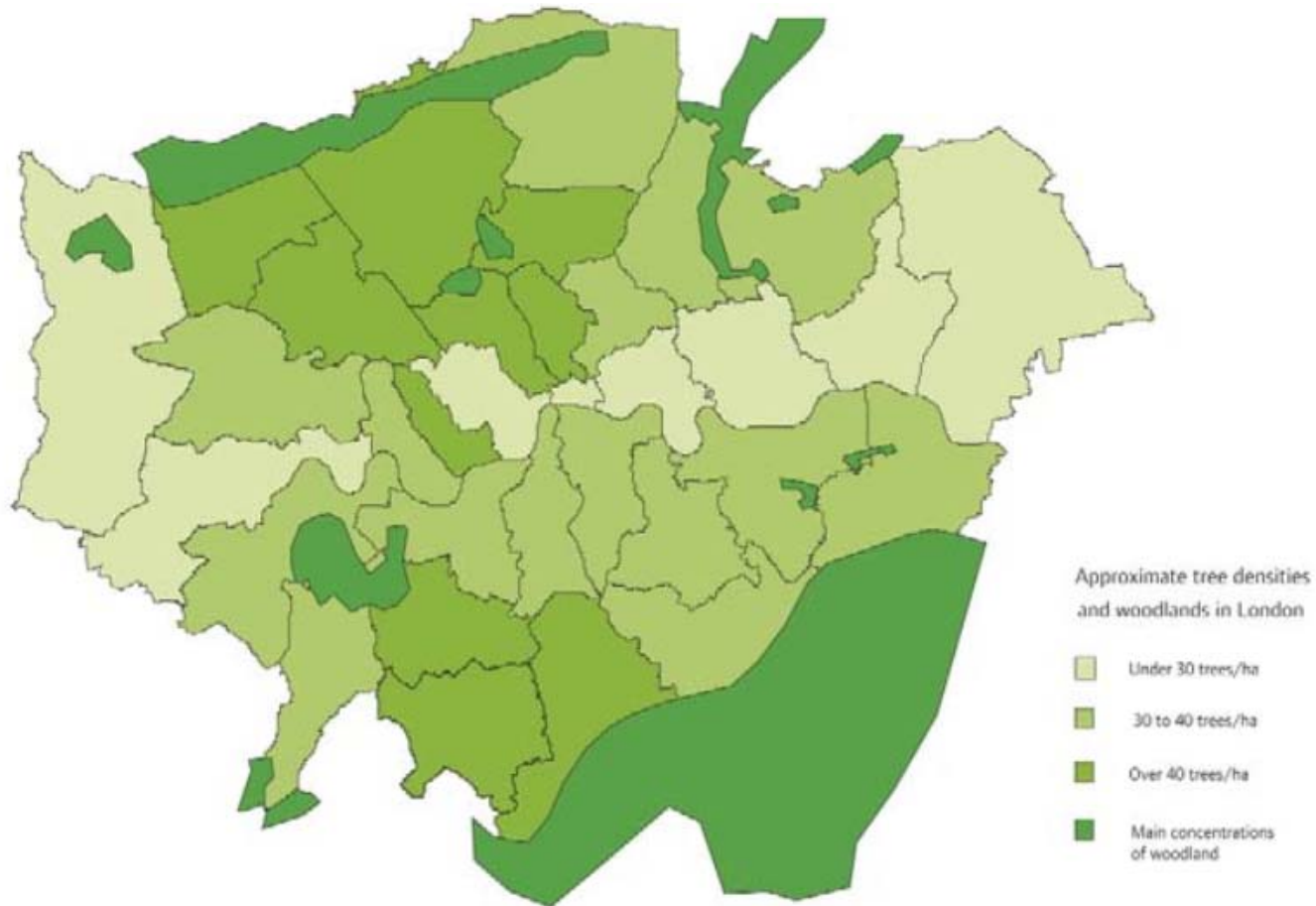
# Tree / Forest Health Indicators

## Population stats:

- Population size/ density
  - Species distribution/ diversity
  - Age distribution
  - Forest/ tree condition
  - Life cycle stage
  - Management quality/ approach
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# London's Urban Forest Health Check.

**Population size** – Approx. 7 Million – 20%  
Canopy

**Species distribution/ diversity:**  
Trees in Towns 2 – 247 or 170?

**Age distribution :** Trees in Towns 2

0-5 years = 0.1 % <sup>(10<sup>th</sup>)</sup>

5-10 years = 3.5% <sup>(5<sup>th</sup>)</sup>

10-25 years = 26.8% <sup>(3<sup>rd</sup>)</sup>

25-50 years = 25.2% <sup>(2<sup>nd</sup>)</sup>

50-100 years = 6.2% <sup>(2<sup>nd</sup>)</sup>

100+ years = 1% <sup>(4<sup>th</sup>)</sup>

# What do we know?

## **Forest/ tree condition** Trees in Towns 2

1<sup>st</sup> % of Dead/ Dying

2<sup>nd</sup> % of D/D & Poor combined

5th % Good

## **Management quality....**

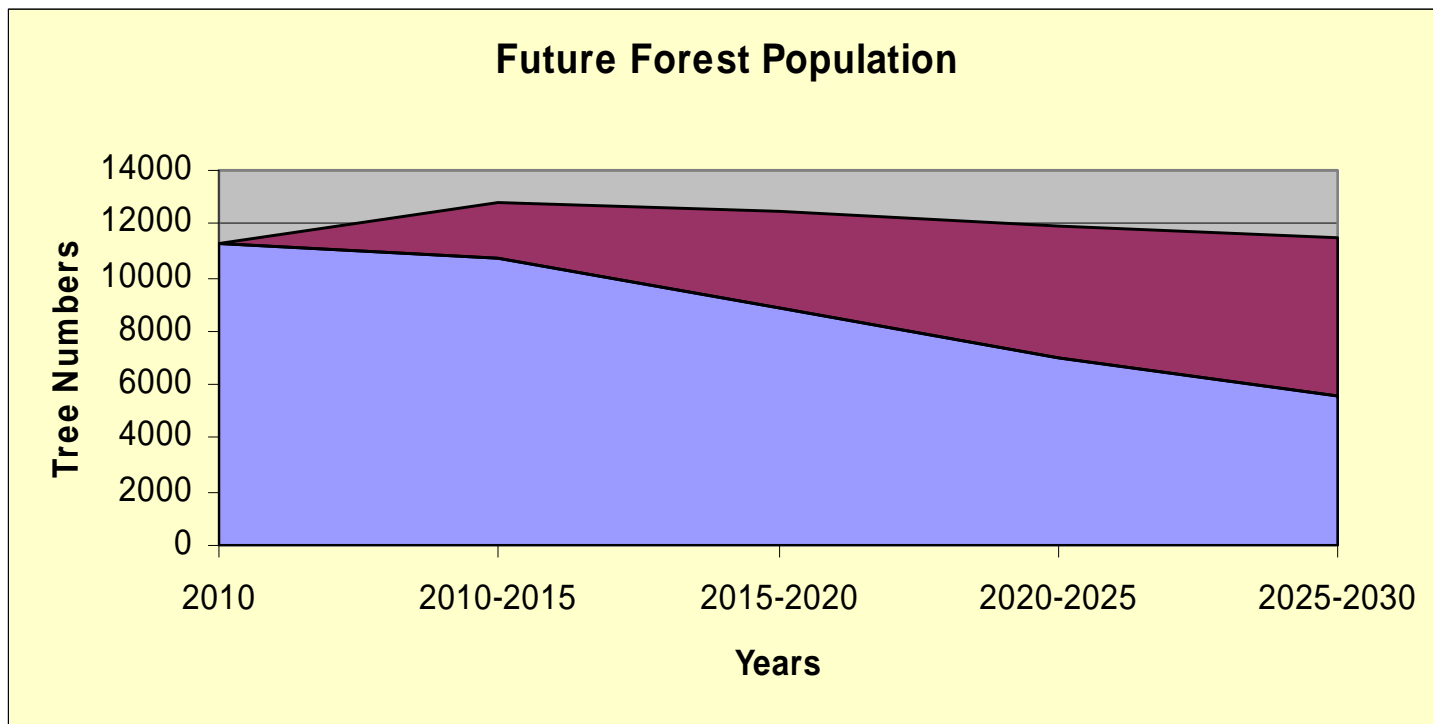
Trees in Towns 2 = Most maintained trees.

33 London boroughs, City of London, Royal Parks,  
Transport for London, Social Landlords, Private...

**I-TREE**

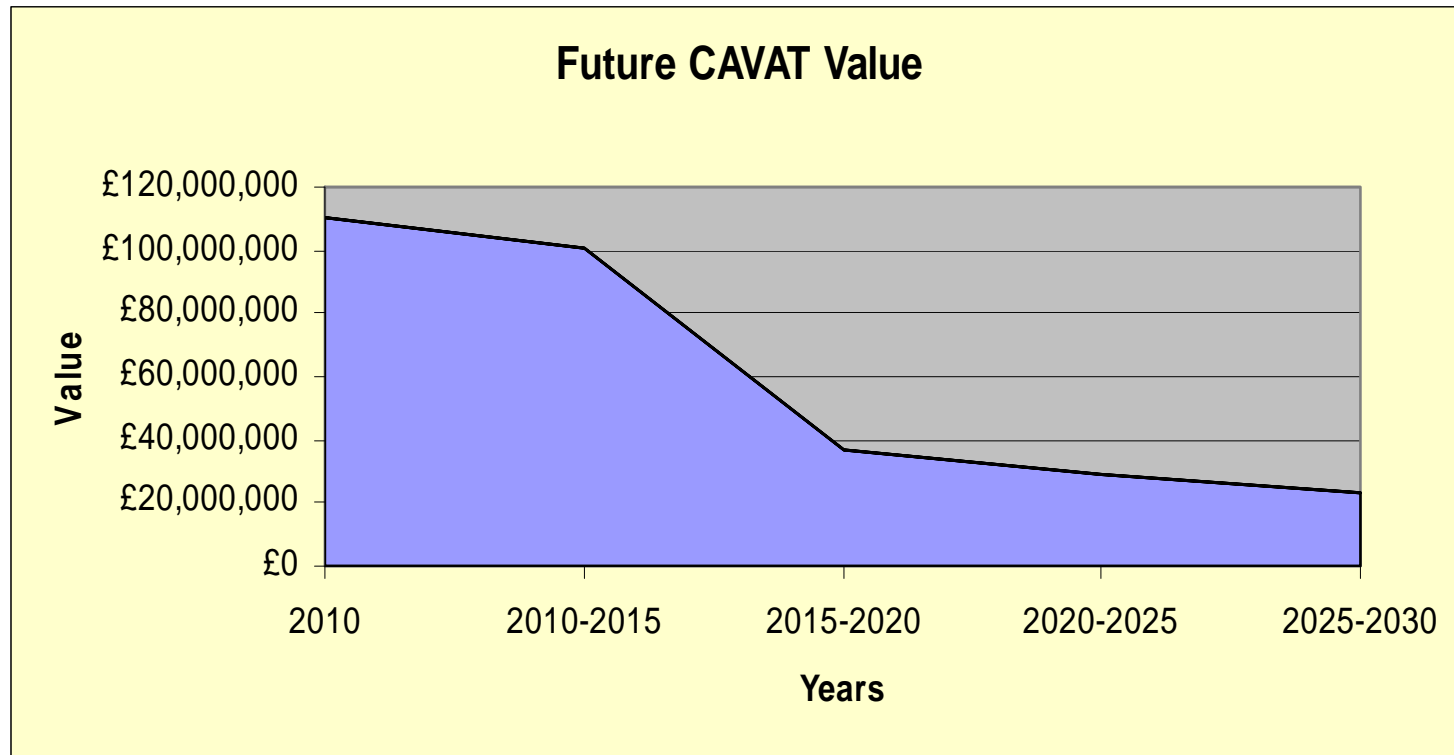
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## Importance of life cycle stage...



Future population projection - 500 Trees  
a year

## Future CAVAT Value – No Tree Planting



# Tree / Forest Resilience

## Threats

Climate change

Temperature

Rainfall

Weather Extremes

Development

Poor management

Lack of investment

Low cultural priority

Pests and diseases

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That that does not  
kill you makes you  
stronger

Friedrich Nietzsche

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## **Pests and Diseases**

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)\*

Acute Oak Death (AOD)\*

Sudden Oak Death (SOD)\*

Horsechestnut leaf minor\*

Horsechestnut bleeding canker\*

Asian Long Horn Beetle\*

Ash Dieback\*

Massaria\*

Pine processionary Moth\*

Red band needle blight\*

Phytophthora(s)\*\*

Plane wilt

Emerald ash borer

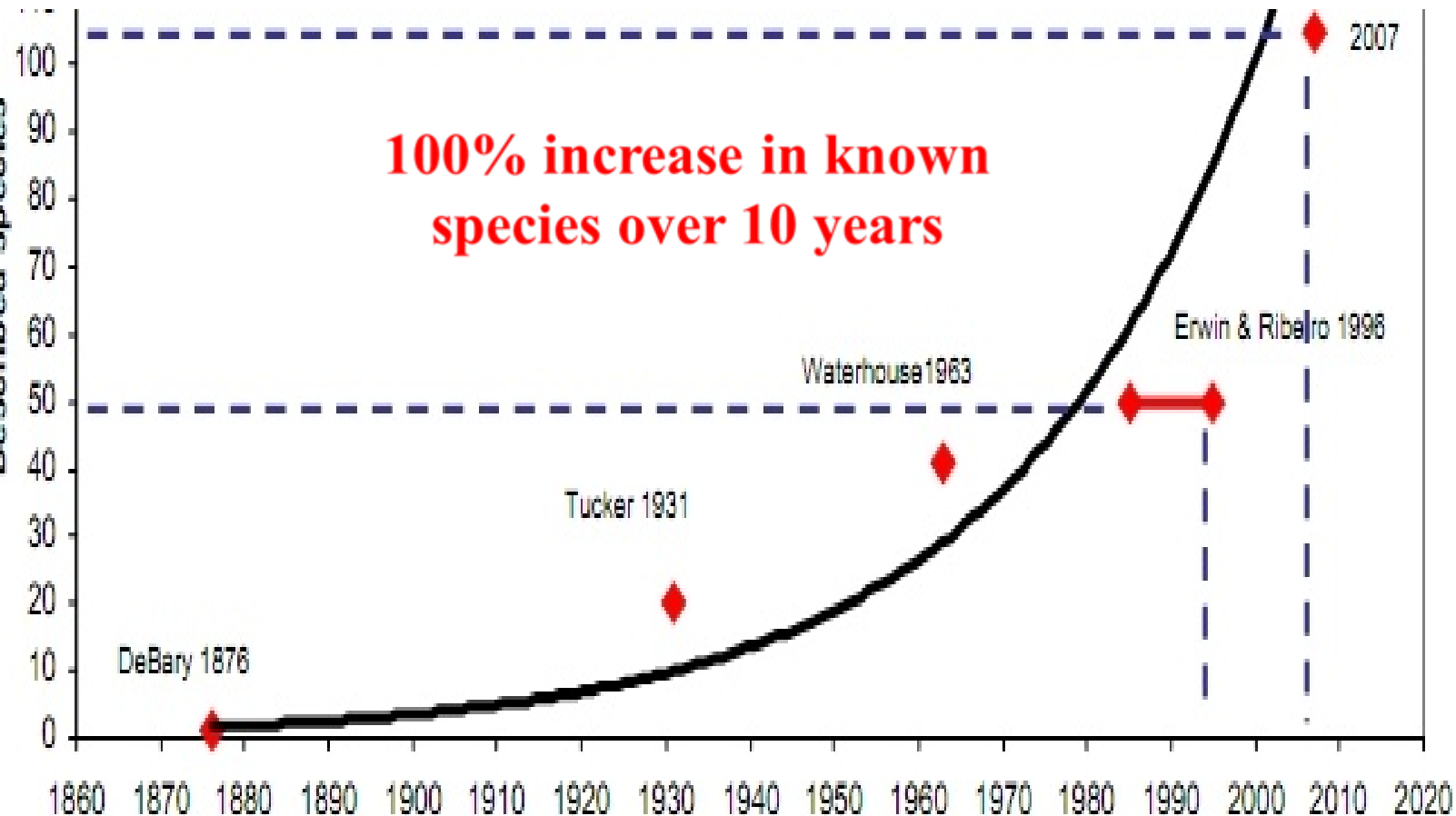
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**100% increase in known  
species over 10 years**



# Resilience Focus

- Species choice and diversity
  - Bio security
  - Improving plant health
  - Cultural change
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# Understanding Soils

## Soil Properties:

- Soil Texture, Consistency, & Structure
- Soil Compaction (Bulk Density)
- Soil Moisture

## Chemical Properties

- pH
  - Mineral Nutrient Availability
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# Urban Tree Soil

- **Competition for space**
    - **Capped**
    - **Compacted**
  - **Lack of organic matter**
    - **Poor soil structure**
  - **Small amount of nutrients**
  - **Poor water holding/ draining**
  - **Poor biological Properties**
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## **Resilience – Focus on the roots**

Appreciation within industry of soil as a ecosystem/ Food web

Better understanding of soil/ tree interconnectivity

Change in Culture – from the bottom to top.

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