

THREE BILLION ADDITIONAL TREES BY 2030

#3BillionTrees



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AGENDA

Online meeting on challenges for tree planting, with the participation of Plant for the Planet, Land Life, Treedom, WE4ALL, EcoTree, and Reforest'Action, and the contribution of SUGi Project.

TUESDAY 25.06.2024 FROM 10:00 CET TO 12:30 CET

3 Billion Additional Trees Pledge: challenges for tree planting

10:00 - 10:05 **Welcome and introduction to the project and Task D on challenges**

Speaker: Marta Ballesteros (MILIEU CONSULTING SRL)

- Rules, logistics, and objectives of the webinar. Project task D on identification of challenges

10:05 – 10:15 **Overview of the 3Billion Trees Pledge**

Speakers: Marco Onida (DG ENV)

- Welcome and presentation of the 3BT Pledge

Initial reactions and questions from participants

10:15 - 12:20 **Thematic discussion on main challenges to tree planting and the 3BT Pledge – experiences and perspectives of tree planting organisations**

Panel of experts: Jordi Juanos (Plant for the Planet), Angelica Bercetche (Land Life), Martina Fondi (Treedom), John Iliopoulos (WE4ALL), Louisiane Guezal (EcoTree), Dimitri D'Helft (Reforest'Action)

- 3BT Ecological conditions (biodiversity & climate change; additionality, species mix and long-term maintenance):
 - Tools to ensure long-term commitment and management?
 - Public authorities often request an **ecological diagnosis before planting**, which takes about a year and can cost approximately EUR 20 000, with uncertain results. Is there any financial assistance for this process.
 - What incentives or 'privilege treatment' are available to support actors planting trees with conservation and sustainable development objectives?
 - How does the Commission understand the concept of Forest Management as it applies to the 3BT Pledge?
- Land needs, conflicting interests, land availability and site suitability:

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- Mechanisms for encouraging public landowners to give up other uses to carry out tree plantations.
- Agriculture and fallow land are hard to find.
- The mix between native and non-native species.
- Legal challenges:
 - Carbon credit rights belong to the landowner who are not planting the trees. What incentives could be designed to promote their transfer to planting organisations?
 - Carbon credits: Lack of recognition of certain forests as carbon sinks (the Carbon Removal Certification Framework considers forests as 'temporary').
 - Lack of clarity on permitting procedures and forest land ownership.
- Funding:
 - A viable financial model involves national government and EU funding, alongside contributions from companies and donors benefiting from the planting organisations' expertise. Is the Commission considering a specific programme or budget line to support tree planting for the 3BT Pledge, reforestation or forest restoration activities?
 - Maintenance costs may cover by 80%.
 - Extreme weather conditions increase costs and tree losses.
- Lack of capacity of public administrations at national, regional or local levels:
 - Would the Commission support the development of a platform or forum to exchange information on new technologies for tree planting and management (e.g. spray-on treatments that reduce water needs)?
 - Education is key: Are there any initiatives to promote capacity building for tree planting?

Reactions to the presentations and discussion moderated by *Marta Ballesteros*.

12:20 - 12:30 Final conclusions

Speakers: DG ENV