

## International project criteria Trees for All

Trees for All raises funds for sustainable reforestation projects in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin-America. Our projects can be realized thanks to the donations made to Trees for All by private and business donors. We select our forest projects based on a set of criteria, as outlined in this document, with a focus on stakeholder inclusion, sustainable forest development, biodiversity and social impact. Our projects contribute to at least the following Sustainable Development Goals: Climate Action, Life on Land, No Poverty and Partnerships for the Goals.

In our projects we distinguish between two different funding mechanisms: donations for (1) tree planting and (2) carbon credits. Both funding mechanisms are directed towards the planting and maintenance of forests.

We select high-quality, sustainable projects based on the criteria outlined below. The selection will also take into account the diversity of our project portfolio and the financial feasibility of the project. Projects will be described and evaluated on the basis of the Theory of Change.

<p><b>1</b> NO POVERTY</p> 	<p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>
<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	<p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>
<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>
<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>

### Criteria for international projects

#### ➤ Focus on reforestation

Trees for All contributes only to projects where reforestation takes place. This can include the restoration of existing forest or the establishment of new forest. We do not fund other types of climate mitigation projects (e.g. cookstoves, biofuel, renewable energy).

#### ➤ Project permanence

Trees for All contributes to projects that ensure the long-term management of planted trees and forests by professional organizations. Requirements for project permanence will be captured in our cooperation agreement with the project partner.

#### ➤ Biodiversity

Trees for All selects projects that strive towards restoring the natural vegetation as best as possible. We prefer the use of native tree species to create a future-proof ecosystem for both flora and fauna. Where possible, our projects play an active role in protecting and restoring biodiversity, and in particular Rare, Threatened and Endangered (TRE) species (ref. CITES and IUCN Red List).



➤ **Additionality**

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that the project cannot be implemented, or will take significantly longer, without the financial support of Trees for All. Alternative sources of funding should be assessed prior to application.

➤ **Community-based**

The project must have a positive socio-economic impact locally or regionally. Trees for All believes that local involvement is a prerequisite for sustainable forest management. The applicant should therefore involve local stakeholders in the design and implementation of the project and, where possible, seek to build partnerships at the landscape level. Shared benefits will create a shared interest in the project, which in turn will ensure project permanence.

➤ **Political climate**

Safety is of utmost importance to us. We chose projects in countries with a stable political climate and a safe work environment for the teams that implement, monitor, and manage the project, as well as those that benefit from the project. The project applicant must demonstrate how safety risks are mitigated.

➤ **Land rights**

Land rights, including customary rights, are secured, and managed in compliance with applicable (inter)national laws and regulations. The project will adhere to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)<sup>1</sup> to secure the rights of indigenous peoples.

➤ **Track record project partner**

Our project partners work with a high level of integrity and have a proven track record in the design and implementation of reforestation projects, preferably in the same geography as the project that they put forward in their application. Where possible, the project partner should have a local presence in the vicinity of the project area. If the project implementation is outsourced to a third party, the project partner shall commit to regular visits of the project area.

➤ **Monitoring & reporting**

Trees for All seeks to measure and evaluate the impacts of all its projects. All projects must have a monitoring framework that is designed to measure relevant project outcomes through meaningful indicators. This framework is designed using the Theory of Change as a basis.

Trees for All receives regular reporting from each of the projects, for the duration of the project implementation. The frequency of reporting will depend on the nature of the project, but it will be no less than twice a year.

➤ **Certification**

Trees for All distinguishes between projects that are financed on the basis of tree planting and projects that are financed on the basis of CO<sub>2</sub> compensation.

All our CO<sub>2</sub> compensation projects are certified by a renowned certification standard, such as VCS, VCS-CCB, Gold Standard or Plan Vivo. These projects generate carbon credits that are verified by an

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<sup>1</sup> Zie voor meer informatie en de FAO FPIC Toolkit: <http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/fpic/en/>



Trees for All

independent organization. Trees for All does not purchase carbon credits but requires that the credits be retired in our name, as Ultimate Beneficiary.

For projects funded on the basis of tree planting, sustainable forest management certification is preferred. For projects that are not certified, Trees for All will have stronger requirements for the operating principles of the project partner(s), including policies on bribery and corruption, modern slavery and ILO Core Conventions, and compliance with (inter)national laws and regulations.