



TRILLION TREES



A SHARED VISION FOR MORE TREES ON OUR PLANET



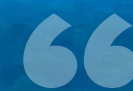
OUR SHARED VISION

Trillion Trees is an unprecedented collaboration between three of the world's largest conservation organisations – WWF, BirdLife International, and the Wildlife Conservation Society – to help end deforestation and restore tree cover. Our partnership is founded on our commitment to a shared vision, and the belief that working together we can achieve more than we can individually.

Tree cover is an essential part of what makes Earth a healthy and prosperous home for people and wildlife, but the global stock has fallen – and continues to fall – dramatically. In fact, we are still losing 10 billion trees per year.

The consequences? More carbon emitted and less absorbed, dwindling freshwater stores, altered rainfall patterns, fewer nutrients to enrich soils, weakened resilience to extreme events and climate change, shrinking habitat for wildlife and other biodiversity, insufficient wood supply to meet rising demand, harsher local climates, and harder lives for more than one billion forest-dependent peoples across the world.

It doesn't have to be this way. The two key steps that will reverse these trends – keeping existing trees standing, and restoring trees to the places they once grew – are within our capabilities.



THE TRILLION TREES VISION

By mid-century, through concerted collective action by all sectors of society, one trillion trees have been re-grown, saved from loss and better protected around the world.

Deforestation has ended, significant numbers of trees have returned to areas where they were lost and large areas of existing trees are better protected. These trees, in forests, woodlots and farms, bring multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.



A PARTNERSHIP FOR TREES

Extraordinary global reach

The Trillion Trees partners share a vision for a world with large, healthy forests and thriving rural communities. We are proud of our accomplishments to date both on the ground and in raising the profile of forest conservation globally, yet we aspire to achieve much more.

The Trillion Trees vision raises our collective ambition and looks beyond a “zero deforestation” future to one where forests and trees are returning on a grand scale.

We each bring to the partnership well-established global networks of conservation programmes and partners, active in over 120 countries throughout the world. Each of us works directly through our own teams as well as through numerous national conservation organizations and supportive government agencies. We represent a globally significant network of experts, supporters, ambassadors and partners for conservation.

We are able to combine our reach, our resources, and our decades of expertise to aim higher and to achieve more – in specific landscapes as well as at a global level – and to share the lessons we learn about the pathways to success. Trillion Trees provides a platform through which our organisations can have a stronger, more persuasive voice together than we would individually.

Together we can:

- Pursue direct forest conservation and restoration in key areas for biodiversity and local livelihoods.
- Promote practices in agricultural landscapes that incorporate conservation, and that make production more sustainable and livelihoods more resilient to climate change.
- Catalyse new, large scale, nationally and globally significant investments in forest conservation.
- Document and share proof of concept and learning to overcome the obstacles to scaling up,
- Foster a global conversation about the need to protect and restore trees and forests.
- Advocate for policies that support transformative work, and inspire ambitious, long-term goals for enhancing tree cover.

WORK WITH US

Solving the loss of trees is a huge undertaking; we see ourselves as one part of a global effort. The Trillion Trees vision requires commitment and action from governments, businesses, non-governmental organisations, communities, and individuals all across the world. Through alignment and partnership with others working on forest conservation and sustainability we promote the vision, implement projects that make major contributions to it, and help others do the same.

TREES MATTER

Trees and forests provide essential services. We are increasingly placing these services in jeopardy. Reducing the Earth's tree cover makes it a less hospitable and less secure home for humanity.



**PROTECTING AND RESTORING
FORESTS COULD PROVIDE AS MUCH
AS HALF OF THE CARBON SAVINGS
WE NEED TO AVOID DANGEROUS
CLIMATE CHANGE**



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TREES FOR BIODIVERSITY

Forests sustain much of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. From iconic animals like orangutans and tigers to critically important invertebrates, smaller plants and fungi, to the tree species themselves. In fact, one single tree species can be home to over 1,000 different types of beetle.

TREES FOR WATER AND SOIL

Forests generate rainfall at scales from the local to the continental. Around three quarters of the world's accessible freshwater comes from rivers in and around forests, which also transport the nutrients that underpin the fertility of farms and forests. Trees also hold soil in place and absorb rainwater, helping to limit flooding and landslides, and providing resilience against droughts. Forests on slopes can protect communities during extreme weather events, which will become more frequent due to climate change.

TREES FOR THE CLIMATE

Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow. When a tree is felled, the carbon it stores is released as carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change, and its ability to take in additional carbon is lost. Forest protection and restoration are essential to limit the global temperature rise to below 20°C, the maximum level deemed safe by the global community. Forests can deliver as much as half of the reduced emissions and increased sequestration required in the next few decades to slow global warming – actions that are urgently needed while we wean our economies off fossil fuels.

TREES FOR PEOPLE

The global economy, and countless individual livelihoods, are reliant on trees for essential products, including timber, paper, fruit, coffee, chocolate, spices, rubber, medicines, resins and oils. As many as a billion people, including hundreds of millions of indigenous people, depend directly on the products and services tropical forests provide.

ENDING DEFORESTATION AND RESTORING FORESTS

Our problem to solve

Vast forests across Europe and North America were lost in previous centuries. Later, the trend shifted to the tropics: roughly a quarter of all tropical forests, about 500 million hectares (an area 20 times the size of the UK), has been lost since 1950. Today, many of the 10 billion trees lost annually are felled in the tropics.

Demand for commodities such as timber, wood pulp, palm oil, soy, beef, rubber, cocoa, metals and oil is putting severe pressure on forests. Trees that once stood on farmlands are removed as part of industrial farming practices. Logging, burning, fragmentation, and loss of ecologically critical wildlife species further degrade the health of surviving forests.

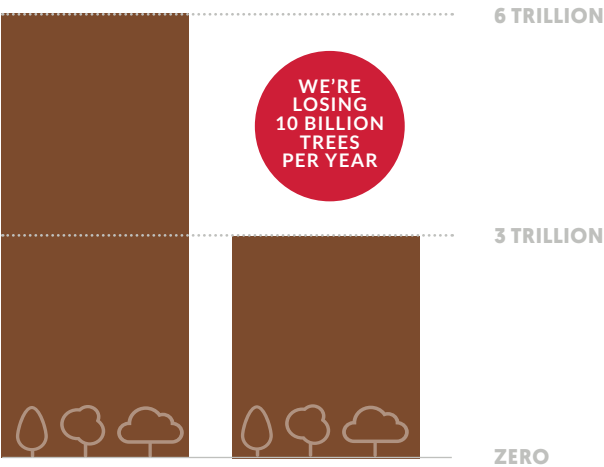
It is possible

Unsustainable consumption and production choices are enabled by weak governance, policies that do not value the services provided by trees and forests, and poorly directed financial flows. However, we see these challenges as surmountable: as humans are the cause, we can also be the solution.

Humanity has the knowledge and skills to halt deforestation worldwide. Individual countries have ended deforestation in many regions. And while global clearance has yet to slow, we are seeing increasing amounts of regrowth. In truth, we will never lose all our forests; the question is how much we lose and what the repercussions will be for the climate, for people and for biodiversity. The answer to that question is in the hands of this generation.

'The right trees in the right places'

Strategies for protection and restoration must be assessed site by site, with the full participation of local stakeholders to find the best approach. With better productivity on farms, for example, large areas of forest land can be spared from clearance. Trees can regrow in previously degraded forests, and abandoned land can be replanted or naturally restored. Trillion Trees aims primarily to support the restoration of natural forests and native trees. However, in some settings we envision supporting efforts to grow other trees for fuel, timber and other products in order to both provide livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural forests.



ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ONCE AROUND
6 TRILLION TREES ON OUR PLANET, TODAY
THERE ARE ONLY 3 TRILLION AND FALLING

THE OPPORTUNITY

So much more can be done

Many forest conservation initiatives are under-resourced, and donors and other financing bodies struggle to find effective, investable projects that are grounded in local realities and the needs of local communities.

Trillion Trees is based on the idea that relatively small, flexible, rapid investments can unlock much bigger ones. We believe seed funding for great ideas and initiatives in the short term can secure sustained finance, practices and policies for forests in the long term. By demonstrating success, we can contribute to the 'proof of concept' that is needed to unlock greater finance for trees and forests in the future.

Trillion Trees is designed to mobilize funds from both public and private sectors, and to better link those funds to implementation.

We do not focus exclusively on raising funds for work that we implement directly. In fact, we will consider ourselves just as successful if we enable funding for others who share our vision and can deliver results on the ground. It's all about the right trees in the right places.

How will we know if we are succeeding?

Achieving our vision will require multiple approaches, grounded in the experience of those on the ground, and the flexibility to respond to new ideas and opportunities as they arise.

We will use periodic estimates of the number of trees globally and track more precisely the number of trees and tree cover in specific sites and landscapes where we are active. Forests are complex ecosystems that cannot be summed up in one measure, so we will also track other measures relating to carbon, biodiversity, and livelihoods.



SOLUTIONS

PAYMENTS FOR PERFORMANCE

Results-based payments will reward carbon sequestration in developing countries, but little has been delivered thus far because of the difficulty, political will and time needed to develop viable plans. We support partners to overcome obstacles at national and jurisdictional scale.

ETHICAL INVESTMENT

Investors are interested in the value of trees and forests, but struggle to secure a return on investment that ensures social and environmental results. We are identifying and creating such opportunities around forests and degraded lands.

KEEPING FORESTS PROTECTED

The conservation value of many protected areas and indigenous territories is threatened by lack of resources, encroachment, downgrading and degazettement. We leverage funding for forest protection and new conservation areas, including community-managed forests.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Protected and restored forests play a key role in adapting to climate change. We catalyse funding for measures such as the protection of 'green infrastructure,' and using trees alongside agriculture to build resilience in landscapes.

SUPPLY CHAIN COMMITMENTS

Corporate commitments to eliminate deforestation from supply chains are a major positive development. Ensuring the pledges are implemented and monitored is challenging. We draw on country- and sector-level expertise to help companies carry out commitments, and work with those who have not yet defined their "zero deforestation" ambitions to do so.



TRILLION TREES

CASE STUDIES

These examples of past and present projects by the Trillion Trees partners demonstrate the kinds of programmes we aim to deliver through our new partnership. We hope to increase our impact even further.

SECURING A UK-COLOMBIA REDD+ AGREEMENT

In 2014 the UK government commissioned stakeholder outreach and analysis from a consortium of WWF, Earth Innovation Institute, Forest Trends and Fundación Natura Colombia to support a UK-Colombia partnership towards achieving its Amazon Vision of zero deforestation by 2020. The work was used to inform the business case for the 2015 commitment by the UK to invest \$48 million as part of an agreement with Norway and Germany, amounting to \$100 million of results-based finance for Colombia. Similar support could make a difference for future partnerships with other forest nations.

TRUST FUND FOR PROTECTING THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

In May 2014, Brazil's Ministry of Environment, WWF and other partners, committed \$215 million for the protection of vital parts of the Amazon rainforest. The agreement will ensure strong management of protected areas supported by ARPA (the world's largest tropical rainforest conservation programme) over the next 25 years. ARPA currently supports 60 million hectares of protected areas, representing 15% of the Brazilian Amazon. WWF has been a vital partner for ARPA since its inception in 2002, raising awareness, funds and advising the government. A similar model of protected area finance is being actively explored for other major forest countries.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE IN SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA

In the 300,000ha Gola Forest on the Sierra Leone-Liberia border, BirdLife Partners Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, Society for Conservation of Nature Liberia, and the RSPB are implementing a sustainable landscape approach. In addition to successfully advocating for creation of national parks on either side of the border, diverse conservation enterprise and sustainability initiatives are underway. Sierra Leone established the first VCS-validated REDD+ project in West Africa, and the first smallholder-grown, forest-friendly Gola cocoa was exported in 2017. Community management of adjoining forests in Liberia is being pursued along with several forest-friendly commodity options.

TOWARDS “ZERO DEFORESTATION” RUBBER

Although the main rubber industry body, the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG), has been piloting voluntary “sustainability guidelines,” BirdLife’s review indicated they were weak and written without stakeholder inputs. BirdLife proposed the first round table discussion between companies, associations and civil society, which was held in May 2016 by the IRSG with BirdLife support. Participants agreed that economic sustainability requires environmental and social sustainability, and that there is a need for a zero deforestation commitment and supply chain transparency. BirdLife is now working with the IRSG and partners to advance this agenda.

DEFORESTATION-FREE IBIS RICE IN CAMBODIA

This award-winning project has been proven to simultaneously reduce deforestation, improve community livelihoods, and conserve critically endangered birds in Cambodia’s Northern Plains landscape. The project works with 800 rice farmers across 13 villages to improve production on existing fields and prevent agricultural expansion into important habitats. Produce is certified wildlife friendly, and sold in premium markets. Aided by support from WCS’s Conservation Enterprise Development Programme, the project is expanding rapidly, and BirdLife Cambodia is working with WCS to bring the project into the Siem Pang Landscape, increasing both the future Ibis Rice supplies and the conservation impact.

COMMUNITY FOREST ENTERPRISES IN TANZANIA

With local partner Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative, WWF has supported communities across southern Tanzania to secure rights to own and manage their village forests. The forests have been certified as sustainably managed by the Forest Stewardship Council, and have sold timber commercially. As of 2016, 13 communities with a population of over 25,400 men and women, are managing 175,000ha of certified forest. These communities have earned nearly \$550,000 to date from this sustainable forest initiative, and new public and private investment to the area suggests the initiative will strengthen and grow.

PAYMENTS FOR RESULTS IN THE RAINFOREST OF MADAGASCAR

The Makira REDD+ project has mobilized over \$2.5 million of conservation finance through sale of carbon credits, and benefitted 44,000 people in 62 community managed areas. The 360,000ha Makira National Park, managed by WCS on behalf of the government, protects some of the world’s most endangered primates and is surrounded by 250,000ha of community forests. The model supports better wildlife protection through community agreements, innovative benefit-sharing and investment in farming zones in the park periphery. The project’s environmental and social benefits are independently verified against globally accepted standards, and we are working to incorporate it into a broader program for the whole of Madagascar’s rainforests.



WE ARE NOT ALONE

Trillion Trees seeks to address one of the most pressing and widely discussed global issues of our time. The international community has defined a number of global goals that point in the same direction as the Trillion Trees vision. We align with these efforts, and will help close the gap between pledges and implementation. Further, we aim to develop the evidence base to support even greater ambition over time.

2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Together the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development form a global agenda for action up to 2030 under the auspices of the UN. Goal 15 covers forests, and target 15.2 states: 'By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.'

2014 NEW YORK DECLARATION ON FORESTS

Many of the world's governments, large companies and civil society groups committed to an ambitious set of ten goals, reiterating and extending earlier pledges such as those set out in the Bonn Challenge and supporting what would become the Paris Agreement. The pledges include:

- At least halving the rate of natural forest loss by 2020 and ending it by 2030.
- Supporting and helping the private sector to eliminate deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities such as palm oil, soy, paper, and beef products by no later than 2020

2015 PARIS AGREEMENT

The UN climate change agreement explicitly highlights the importance of forests for averting catastrophic climate change. It establishes incentives for reduced deforestation and degradation and enhanced forest carbon stocks (the 'REDD+' approach) as a key implementation mechanism.

2011 BONN CHALLENGE

The Bonn Challenge is a global programme to restore 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. It is driven by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, a network that unites governmental and non-governmental stakeholders around this common goal.

2011-2020 AICHI TARGETS

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity commits the 196 ratifying countries to halting global declines in biodiversity on land and at sea. It includes commitments to at least halve the rate of loss of forests, ensure at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed protected areas or comparable approaches, and restore at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems.



The Wildlife Conservation Society is an international conservation body founded in 1895 in New York, dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places. In its strategic vision to 2020 WCS aims to support the conservation of more than 50% of global biodiversity through work in 16 of the world's most important terrestrial and marine regions spanning more than 40 countries, and to inspire broader global impacts through, for example, scientific research and public outreach.



WWF is a global network of offices working in over 100 countries. WWF advocates for the goal of zero net deforestation and degradation by 2020 globally and regionally, and thereby achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions from these causes. Over the longer-term this far-reaching global network is working to ensure the integrity of the world's most important forests, including their benefits to human well-being, is enhanced and maintained. WWF-UK leads on the Trillion Trees partnership for the network and particularly supports work in the Amazon, East Africa, and India, China and the eastern Himalayas.



BirdLife International is the world's largest civil society nature conservation partnership, with 122 autonomous national organisations as BirdLife Partners in 120 countries worldwide and a total global reach of 10 million members and supporters. BirdLife's Forests Programme prioritizes forests of global biodiversity significance, where Partners employ innovative, locally-designed management, financing and governance systems to conserve biodiversity, generate economic benefits and sustainable development, and combat climate change.



Trillion Trees has been initiated by Restore UK, which was established in 2001 as a grant-making charity to invest in the protection and restoration of Britain's natural habitat. This vision has since expanded to incorporate environmental and biodiversity issues globally.



For more information, to get in touch or to see the references used to produce this brochure please visit our website:

www.trilliontrees.org

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