

TO: globalclimateaction@unfccc.int

High Impact Topics – Afforestation & Reforestation to remove CO2 and increase engagement on climate change

Dear Global Climate Action

This response is from n0co2.org to the letter to Parties from the High-Level Champions of Global Climate Action dated January 2019.

Summary

Afforestation and reforestation are simple, proven ways to remove CO2 and help mitigate climate change. However, there are 2 problems. Firstly, afforestation and reforestation are not happening fast enough. Secondly, although today most people are concerned about climate change, most people also don't know how they can they can go about tree-planting.

This response is about an innovative new campaign www.n0co2.org which is using afforestation and reforestation as a way a) to make it easy for people personally to go Carbon Neutral, b) to use planting trees to create decent paid work which transforms the lives of people in extreme poverty, and c) to focus attention on the need for urgent action on climate change.

This is an excellent fit with 2019 as the Year of Climate Action: to plant millions of trees which remove CO2; to bring in incremental money because the tree-planting is financed by individuals; and to communicate that tree-planting is one easy solution to mitigate climate change.

Who we are

This response is by n0co2.org, which is a campaign of the International NGO Saving Our Planet.

N0CO₂ - Go Carbon Neutral. Protect Our Planet.

Today, the world is heading for 2°C or more global warming, which means catastrophic climate change. We came together because we share the belief we MUST stop climate change from wrecking our planet. We set up **N0CO₂** to make it easy for people to do something about it.

Saving Our Planet

Saving Our Planet is a non-Party Stakeholder and International NGO, which is registered in France as Charity Number W751235109. See www.savingourplanet.net

Our mission is to inspire, energize and enable the entire community of humans to work together to save the planet, and to convince World Leaders to make the fight against climate change their number one priority.

Honorary Members are:

- George Monbiot, a writer known for his environmental and political activism who writes for The Guardian and is the author of a number of books about Sustainable Development.
- Brice Lalonde who is the president of EdEN, an NGO about building the low-carbon power mix in France and Europe, former French Minister of Environment 1988-1992 under President Mitterand and French Ambassador for climate change negotiations 2007-2011.

What this response is about

This response addresses the Question 1 and Question 6:

1- Annex III Question 1 – Specific Actions to achieve the desired outcome

Annex III of the High Level Champions letter identifies the following priority area: “As described in the indicative work programme for 2019 of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the priorities for this year are:

“1 a) Strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders and promoting integration of action, among all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalysing concrete action on high-impact issues, in particular related to cross-cutting areas, and leveraging, inter alia, the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogue process”

This response addresses Question 1:

Q1. Do the above priorities adequately reflect what needs to be done to accelerate pre-2020 action and support enhanced ambition, adaptation, resilience and support? If not, how could they be refined? In the context of the priorities, could specific actions be taken to achieve the desired outcomes?

The Opportunity for Concrete Action by Afforestation and Reforestation

We are submitting this response because we believe much more can be done to accelerate pre-2020 action by focusing on the high impact issues of afforestation and reforestation. This response to the Marrakech Partnership is to expand our existing NØCO₂ campaign because this focuses on the following 3 areas:

- 1) Afforestation and Reforestation (under the thematic heading of Land Use) – because these are easy, proven solutions to climate mitigation with the potential to remove around 9% of global CO2 emissions.
- 2) Opportunity by planting trees to transform the lives of people in areas of extreme poverty, by creating, decent paid work.
- 3) Use of media and communications to expand tree-planting. Our particular focus is that individuals can go Climate Neutral by planting sufficient trees to remove ALL their CO2 footprint. What we see is that most people now are concerned about climate change, but don't know what they can do about it.

Why Afforestation and Reforestation?

Half the world's rainforest has been destroyed in the last 40 years. Our aim is to re-establish and protect healthy forests that will live in perpetuity.

Afforestation and reforestation are one-time ways to remove CO2 from the air for all the years the trees are growing:

- On 12 December 2018: Ministers attending the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC adopted the 'Ministerial Katowice Declaration on Forests for Climate.' The Declaration highlights the role of sustainable forest management (SFM) in achieving climate neutrality. Source: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministers-adopt-katowice-declaration-on-forests-for-climate/>
- The IPCC SR15 Report states that 500 million hectares of land could be available which, if planted, could sequester at least 3.7 GtCO2 per year for decades: Houghton et al. (2015) estimate about 500 Mha (redundant, or combine the two sentences) could be available for the re-establishment of forests on lands previously forested, but not currently used productively. This could sequester at least 3.7 GtCO2 per year for decades. [Source IPCC SR15 Report 8 October 2018 Chapter 4 page 4-47]
- 3.7 GtCO2 per year means afforestation and reforestation has the potential to remove around 9% of the total annual CO2 emissions of 41.2 GtCO2 in 2017 [Source <https://www.globalcarbonproject.org/carbonbudget/18/highlights.htm>]
- Looking at it another way: assuming average CO2 emissions of around 5 Tonnes of CO2 per person per annum, 3.7 GtCO2 per year has the potential to remove the CO2 emissions from around 700 million people.

Why N0CO₂

- **N0CO₂** makes it easy for people personally to go Carbon Neutral by planting trees to remove their CO₂ emissions
- What is different about **N0CO₂** is that by planting enough trees, people can remove ALL their CO₂ for every year the trees are growing. Others market Carbon Offsets to remove CO₂ only for specific activities, such as Air Travel.
- For the UK and EU average of around 7 Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per person per year, we have calculated people need us to plant 1,750 trees. For people living in US, Canada and Australia where the average is around 16 Tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year, people need us to plant 4,000 trees
- The costs to donors are much lower than might expect be expected. For the UK the price is around 17p per day, for the EU around €0.19 and for the US USD \$0.51 per day, assuming costs are spread over 3 years.
- Where we plant trees gives donors a triple win because this
 1. Reduces people's CO₂ footprint
 2. Creates decent paid work which transforms the lives of people in extreme poverty
 3. Creates healthy forests for perpetuity which support animals and birds
- By planting trees in moist tropical areas, the UN calculator shows that trees absorb CO₂ around 3x faster than in temperate areas such as the UK. And it's over 10 times more cost-effective than planting trees in the US, UK or Europe.

Our tree-planting partner is Eden Reforestation

Our tree-planting partner is Eden Reforestation who to date have planted over 218 million trees, and created over 2 million workdays. We calculate these trees have removed over 1 million Tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

Eden Reforestation Projects are planting Trees for us in Madagascar, Indonesia and Nepal. See <https://edenprojects.org> Eden reduces extreme poverty and restores healthy forests by employing local villagers to plant millions of trees every year. Eden is a GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency rated charity.

2- Annex III Question 6 - specific high-impact topic that address the greatest needs of Parties

Annex II of the High Level Champions letter identifies the following Operational Approaches including 4f:

4f "Expansion of climate action media and communication:

Media specialists and networks will be engaged to assist the efforts to build and raise awareness and facilitate wider participation of various stakeholders. This will also include strengthening communication tools, such as revamping the Global Climate Action website, to increase the visibility and understanding of the work of the Marrakech Partnership."

Annex III of the High Level Champions letter includes the following about thematic and cross-cutting areas:

"The Marrakech Partnership is structured around seven thematic areas (energy, land use, human settlements, industry, transport, water, and oceans and coastal zones) with specific cross-cutting areas (finance, health, resilience, gender, education and decent work) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being focus areas for a particular year. As outlined in the indicative work programme, the focus in 2019 will be on finance and resilience, in addition to on four specific SDG's. Efforts will also be made to engage with media and communication specialists and networks and to reach out to the constituted bodies, as appropriate, to facilitate greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, promoting integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation and highlighting innovative technologies and capacity-building opportunities."

This response address Question 6:

Q6. Considering each of the thematic areas, cross-cutting areas, SDGs and priorities outlined in the indicative work programme, should any specific high-impact topics that address the greatest needs of Parties be discussed?

Very high-impact by communicating about solutions for afforestation and reforestation

In our response to Question 1, we said that much more that can be done to accelerate pre-2020 action by focusing on the high impact issues of afforestation and reforestation, and to achieve this by expanding our existing NØCO₂ campaign. In response to this Question 6, we are proposing that very high-impact can be achieved by expanding our existing NØCO₂ campaign because:

- 1) Afforestation and reforestation (Land Use) is an easy, proven solution to climate change with the potential to remove around 9% of global CO₂ emissions

- 2) Planting trees transforms the lives of people in areas of extreme poverty, by creating decent, paid work.
- 3) Media and communications will expand awareness of **NØCO₂** and what can be achieved by afforestation and reforestation.

Proposal for Collaboration between NØCO₂, the Marrakech Partnership and other Stakeholders

We note the Marrakech Partnership theme about facilitating greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. We would like therefore to propose collaboration between **NØCO₂** and the Marrakech Partnership.

We note that the Marrakech Partnership plans to engage specialists and networks to assist the efforts to build and raise awareness and facilitate wider participation of various stakeholders (see Annex II point 4f Media). If appropriate, we would be keen to collaborate on this action.

We propose:

- We support the Marrakech Partnership aim of more specific projects pre-2020 and reaching out and engaging with non-Party Stakeholders, particularly individuals. Including for example:
 - Link from **NØCO₂** to Marrakech Partnership website
 - We acknowledge support on our Saving Our Planet website www.savingourplanet.net
- We invite the Marrakech Partnership - and also to other organisations and stakeholders - to support **NØCO₂** and our work of removing CO₂ by planting trees by:
 - Quotations of support
 - Links to **NØCO₂** from the Marrakech Partnership website
 - Introductions to others who can help achieve the potential of planting trees and engaging the wider public to help mitigate climate change through our **NØCO₂** initiative.
- Collaboration with the Marrakech Partnership Media and Communications team to help us to maximise the impact of raising awareness with the wider public about what they can do to mitigate climate change. We note that Marrakech Partnership are keen to engage with media and communication specialists and networks to facilitate greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, to promote integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation and highlighting innovative technologies and capacity-building opportunities. As part of this work, we would be pleased to collaborate with the Marrakech Partnership team and with media and communications specialists about how planting trees can help mitigate climate change, and using this to engage people to take action to donate to plant trees.

- **Request for Funding to promote afforestation and reforestation.** If appropriate we would also reach out to the Marrakech Partnership - and also to other organisations and stakeholders - to support **N0CO₂** with funding for communication and promote messages about the potential for tree-planting to help mitigate climate change. Note that the purpose of this funding would be to drive increased funding for afforestation and reforestation from organisations and individuals.
- **Match Funding.** We would also reach out to all interested parties to provide match funding to help promote the work of planting trees to remove CO₂, in order to drive increased funding.
- **UN 2019 Climate Summit 29 September 2019 in New York.** From the website <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/un-2019-climate-summit/> we note that the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will convene the UN 2019 Climate Summit on the theme 'A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win,' and seek to challenge states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens to step up action in six areas: energy transition, climate finance and carbon pricing, industry transition, nature-based solutions, cities and local action, and resilience. A nature based solution is what **N0CO₂** is all about. We would be pleased to support this initiative with our **N0CO₂** project and, if appropriate, to seek financial support to attend this Climate Summit in New York and to promote re-forestation with our partner at this meeting.

Contact

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Saving Our Planet

15 February 2019