

## **001-V003- Improving Tree Planting Practices – Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place for the Right Purpose -EN**

### **Preambular Section:**

**PP1. DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the continuous loss of native forests and species diversity [and tree genetic diversity], and the fact that 38% of the world's tree species are listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List;

**PP2. ALARMED** by the increasingly large number of large-scale, short-rotation, monoculture plantations [using planting material of narrow genetic diversity or unsuitable origin] and primarily focused on tree numbers, with little attention to species selection, [genetic diversity,] site selection or aftercare;

**PP3. ALARMED** by the constant loss of soil on a global scale caused by poorly managed monoculture forestry exploitation, which leads to the disappearance of this non-renewable element of geodiversity—taking thousands of years to form—from our mountains, creating issues such as poor water quality, eutrophication, turbidity, and downstream impacts;

**PP4. MINDFUL** that tree planting is often portrayed as an effective [means of carbon removal] for carbon emissions, whereas evidence shows that planting the wrong tree in the wrong place (e.g. in native grassland) [using planting material of narrow genetic diversity or unsuitable origin] or clearing native forests for tree monocultures can actually lead to net carbon emissions;

**PP5. CONSCIOUS** that forest plantations are needed to meet humanity's needs for fibre, fuel, timber, [medicines], and food;

**PP6. AWARE** of the importance of ecological forestry approaches, such as agroforestry and multipurpose forestry, as an alternative to intensive agriculture;

**PP7. AWARE** of the need to use multiple restoration methods to meet global restoration goals, including approaches such as assisted natural regeneration that don't rely on tree planting;

**PP8. RECOGNISING** that restoring and conserving natural forest ecosystems, particularly remaining primary [and intact] forests, is essential to halt the biodiversity crisis, to store carbon, and to provide resources for people;

**PP9. AWARE** of the importance of global guidelines on precautions when introducing and planting non-native trees [and avoiding use of planting material of narrow genetic diversity or unknown origin];

**PP10. RECOGNISING** the existence of global initiatives and standards such as those developed by IUCN, the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, the Society for Ecological Restoration, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Global Biodiversity Standard;

**PP11. NOTING** the importance of the Kew Declaration (2021), endorsed by 422 organizations and over 2,600 individuals from 114 countries, calling for reforestation pledges to safeguard global forest biodiversity;

**PP12. [RECOGNISING** the need to avoid afforestation projects on valuable ecosystems such as natural and semi-natural grasslands, tundra and peatlands];

#### **Operational Section:**

**OP1. CALLS** on the Director General, Commissions and Members to:

OP1a. ensure that rigorous biodiversity, [geodiversity, soil integrity], and social safeguards are applied to all forest restoration initiatives – including those labelled as Nature-Based Solutions and under the Bonn Challenge – with emphasis on [Indigenous and locally-led initiatives];

OP1b. promote the use of native [and/or] threatened tree species [using genetically diverse planting material of documented origin] in restoration initiatives and highlight the risks of planting invasive, non-native species; encourage high-quality, climate-resilient seed sources [appropriate to site conditions and adaptive restoration]; and promote the recovery of indigenous species and forest integrity;

OP1c. work with international bodies (e.g. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, [CGIAR]) to differentiate between tree plantations and natural forests, and encourage the use of advanced satellite monitoring;

OP1d. [Explore the use of simple, scientifically robust, and recognised international biodiversity certification schemes that demonstrate additional benefits for biodiversity, climate, and livelihoods]; support frameworks aligned with the Cancun Safeguards under REDD+ and ensure safeguards are respected;

**OP2. CALLS UPON** practitioners, policymakers, foresters, businesses, researchers, and donors to support tree planting, restoration, and landscape regeneration initiatives that protect and enhance biodiversity, [soil protection], stabilize and enhance water cycles, and uphold [customary land tenure and access rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities];

**OP3. ENCOURAGES** them to collaborate with the botanical, ecological restoration, [conservation genetics,] mycological, agroforestry, and wider conservation community, including holders of traditional knowledge and Indigenous science, to adopt practices that enhance biodiversity and soil integrity, and ensure ecological connectivity and landscape resilience;

**OP4. [ENCOURAGES]** the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in seed conservation, nursery development, and production of high-quality planting material to support equitable livelihoods and long-term forest resilience.