

Press Release

Plant-for-the-Planet Statement on COP 28

Tutzing, 30.11.2023 The restoration of lost ecosystems is an essential requirement for curbing the climate crisis. Trees are part of complex ecosystems that have a stabilizing effect on the climate. There used to be around 6 trillion trees on Earth. We humans have already cut down half of them, leaving only 3 trillion trees. The good news is that we can restore up to 1 trillion trees without affecting agricultural land. This was demonstrated by a recent study published in [Nature](#) by ETH Zurich (Integrated global assessment of the natural forest carbon potential). Once the trees are fully grown, these new forests could bind 1/4 to 1/3 of the CO₂ emissions previously caused by humans.

The study by ETH Zurich and the [IPCC synthesis report](#) make it clear that forest protection and restoration are essential in order to meet the Paris climate targets. But forests alone will not solve the crisis; we must continue to work intensively on reducing CO₂ emissions. Only through the triad of reducing, restoring and protecting will we succeed in preventing the temperature rise from exceeding the critical limit of 1.5 °C.

Restoring forests not only helps combat the climate crisis: by ensuring that the world's natural forests recover, we can prevent the destabilizing loss of biodiversity, as forests are home to 50% of all life on our planet.

We therefore call on the German government at COP28:

Fight at COP28 for an end to deforestation by 2030.

Pay into the Amazon Fund and establish comparable tools for the rainforests of Southeast Asia and Africa. This is the only way that the affected countries can forego economic gains from deforestation for the global community and at the same time cover the enormous costs of protecting the forests.

At COP28, campaign for the recovery of lost forests. Decide on joint global financing to restore the [1 trillion trees](#) through professional restoration. Make funds available for this from the federal budget. Advocate for a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels and consistent compliance with agreements to reduce CO₂ emissions. The EU must recognize its historical responsibility as an emitter and must live up to this by setting an example with ambitious targets.

The climate crisis is real, it is the greatest threat to the continued existence of humanity and biodiversity on this planet. Act accordingly!

About Plant-for-the-Planet

[Plant-for-the-Planet](#) is a global movement empowering young people and organizations to restore forest ecosystems and fight for climate justice. To do so, we [educate young people](#), [restore ecosystems](#), [conduct restoration research](#), [provide free software tools](#) and [restoration advice](#) for organizations around the world.

Press contact:

Tina Anjou

Leitung Kommunikation & PR

+49 (0)8808-9210825 | tina.anjou@plant-for-the-planet.org

Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation | Lindemannstraße 13 | 82327 Tutzing | Deutschland

www.plant-for-the-planet.org | Telefon: +49 (0)8808 9345 | Fax: +49 (0)8808 9346

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Vertretungsberechtigter Vorstand: Michael Durach, Dr. Josep Santacreu, Bernhard Hannemann, Jens Waltermann

