

WikiWoods and the environment

Planting forest that are healthy ecosystems for future generations and...

- Store CO₂ in the wood and soil on a long term basis,
- As nature intended
- Ensure biodiversity is maintained
- Provide other important services such as supporting the local climate, recreation, drinking water, flooding prevention in the local region
- Provide wood as a renewable resource and as an alternative to other limited resources

What does that mean for the implementation of a project?

It is difficult to define binding rules that all WikiWoods projects have to comply with, especially bearing in mind the good intentions behind many of the ideas. These guidelines are not intended to increase the burden on project organisers, in particular as some newer team members may be put off by having to wade too deeply into ecological theories and forest science, before their project even gets off the ground.

WikiWoods recommends that planting project organisers use the [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) standard as a guide. It is a certificate for sustainably managed forestry, which is the result of 15 years of discussions which were initiated by WWF and Greenpeace. The advantage of the FSC standard lies in it's clear rulings even on complicated issues and can be easily communicated to local partners.

What are the FSC recommendations for the type of tree species chosen for projects such as transforming monoculture coniferous “forest” plantations into mixed deciduous forest and the creation of new forests patches?

- The introduction of non-native tree species is only permitted if the development of the forest to a natural forest community is not compromised.
- For afforestation, 20% of the trees planted may be non-native, but these are to be phased out over time and replaced by a natural forest community.

Transport

Volunteers should be encouraged to get to the planting site using public transport (using the cheapest ticket available) and/or by bike. A request can be sent to WikiWoods for a reimbursement of such travel costs.