



## A Trillion Trees for Survival

Plant-for-the-Planet empowers children to become active against the Climate Crisis

Twelve years ago, a nine-year-old boy planted a tree at his school. That was the beginning of a **worldwide children's and youth's initiative**. As of now, with the help of many adults, governments, and businesses, the children and youth have **planted more than 13.6 billion trees** around the world.

The Plant-for-the-Planet children's and youth's initiative **was launched on January 2007**. At that time, nine-year-old Felix Finkbeiner gave a presentation about the climate crisis. He outlined a vision in which children could plant one million trees in every

country on earth in order to balance the CO<sub>2</sub> on their own. In the years that followed, Plant-for-the-Planet evolved into a worldwide movement: **approximately 100,000 children in 193 countries are currently pursuing this goal**. They consider themselves a world citizen initiative that promotes climate justice. The goal is **to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero** and, until then, equally distribute responsibility of the emissions among all people.



*Prince Albert of Monaco and Felix planting a tree.*

To accomplish this, the children and youth want mankind **to plant a trillion trees** worldwide. In 2011, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) handed over the long-established Billion Tree Campaign (today: Trillion Tree Campaign), and thereby the official

world tree counter, to Plant-for-the-Planet. Businesses, governments and citizens now report how many trees they pledge to plant and have planted to the children. Plant-for-the-Planet has made the official world tree counter into an online interactive tool. ([trilliontreecampaign.org](http://trilliontreecampaign.org)).

Why do the children plant trees? Because trees are effective in three ways:

1. **Trees store carbon dioxide.** This alone doesn't solve the climate crisis, but it gives us more time to reach a permanent solution for it. If mankind is successful in planting 1 trillion trees, then, according to preliminary estimates, the trees will extract approximately one fourth of the manmade CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere every year. Trees will transform the CO<sub>2</sub> gas into wood and release oxygen. As long as the wood doesn't decay, the carbon will remain stored and negative climate change will slow down. This is how mankind gains time to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. 1,000 billion trees is only a small forest – 150 trees – per person!
2. **Trees can replace concrete.** Half of all the buildings that will exist in 2050 haven't even been built yet. We currently still rely on concrete, which is produced from cement and is harmful to the climate. The production of cement releases five percent of manmade CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Wood as a building material is completely different: **One cubic meter of wood binds one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> - for decades.** It is the only building material that is grown from sunlight.



supports  
the United Nations  
Environment Programme



3. **Trees create jobs.** For example: in Campeche, Mexico, 500 people already currently subsist on wages that are paid to the forestry workers by Plant-for-the-Planet. Trees create long-term jobs in the poor countries in the planting areas and, subsequently in wood processing and reforestation. 1,000 billion trees worldwide could become **mankind's largest stimulus program**. Moreover, it is particularly prudent to plant trees in the countries of the global south; they grow much faster there and therefore bind larger amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>.

So far, with help from adults, **more than 13.6 billion trees have been planted in 193 countries**. The slogan of the children's and youth initiative global communications campaign is "Stop talking. Start planting." This slogan was awarded a gold Social Effie for effective communication in 2010. And with the help of the Change Chocolate, the initiative has already planted more than 3 million trees. This is made possible because the distributors and manufacturers forego their profit.

Since March 2011, Plant-for-the-Planet has established a democratic structure with a children's and a youth global managing board made up of 18 children and youth from eight global regions.

Plant-for-the-Planet - described in 2:50 min.:

[youtu.be/iYABG1vSeF0](https://youtu.be/iYABG1vSeF0)

Videos: [youtube.com/user/PlantForThePlanet](https://youtube.com/user/PlantForThePlanet)

Photos: [plant-for-the-planet.org/en/about-us/news/the-most-beautiful-pictures/3/en](https://plant-for-the-planet.org/en/about-us/news/the-most-beautiful-pictures/3/en)

Books: [issuu.com/plant-for-the-planet](https://issuu.com/plant-for-the-planet)

Join us: [plant-for-the-planet.org](https://plant-for-the-planet.org)



*Felix with Harrison Ford*

As of: July 29, 2019

### **Please note - thank you!**

The name of this organization is written like this: Plant-for-the-Planet  
Please don't abbreviate it, otherwise Google won't find us!

We are focused on the "**climate crisis**" because it threatens the lives of us children and adults worldwide! We are not talking about climate change. "Change" is something positive that is necessary and good. We don't think this can be said about the climate crisis!

We children did not plant 13,6 billion trees alone, **they have been planted by many organizations, governments and companies and reported to us.**

We educate each other to become **Climate Justice Ambassadors.**

Please use only the children's first names! In order to protect minors, we forego using their last names in publications.



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