

	<p>Hi, to all panelists: How your actions respect the EU biodiversity aspects (as stipulated e.g. in the EU NRL or Biodiversity Strategy)? I have seen on Mihai presentation a photo of a Robinia monoculture plantation - therefore the question. Thanks!</p>	<p>At Life Terra Foundation, we are committed to ensuring that all our tree-planting activities align with EU biodiversity policies, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Nature Restoration Law (NRL). Our afforestation and reforestation projects follow strict ecological guidelines to support native biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience. We prioritize the planting of native and climate-resilient species, working closely with local ecologists, forestry experts, and policymakers to ensure our projects contribute positively to local ecosystems.</p>	<p>Everything that is planted in Romania is following the technical forestry norms that are adopted by ministerial order. Black locust is one of the planted species both in Romania and across Europe. It is NOT an invasive species (please see EU Regulation 1143/2014). In Romania, only 5% of the forests are planted with black locust. In the majority of the cases, according to the technical norms, we are planting autochthonous species or we are promoting the natural regeneration (which is the case, for example, for common beech or oaks).</p>	<p>OTP is dedicated to ensuring that our reforestation programs comply with and contribute to national and international biodiversity policies, including the EU frameworks. We achieve this through strategic partnerships with local planting organizations, who execute projects according to rigorous ecological guidelines, tailored to local conditions. These guidelines emphasize the restoration of native biodiversity, ecosystem health, and climate resilience. Furthermore, our partners engage in close collaboration with local ecologists, land managers, forestry experts, local authorities, and policymakers. This collaborative approach ensures that our reforestation efforts are scientifically informed, locally relevant, and effectively contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of local ecosystems.</p>	<p>My Forest Armenia aims to build forests that are as diverse as possible to preserve biodiversity. For that reason, we only use seeds collected by ourselves in local forests from local and endemic species. Furthermore, we plant at least 5 to 10 different forest tree and shrub species. A big limiting factor is altitude as the lands we are afforesting are often at high altitudes which limit our choices.</p>
	<p>In successful applications for tree planting funding, have you noticed any specific themes, keywords, or approaches that tend to be particularly effective? Are there certain priorities that funders are especially responsive to?</p>	<p>More and more important for us is: participation (so social aspect), integral approach (not just trees, but also taking landscape elements into account, etc.), biodiversity, long term success (maintenance, etc)</p>	<p>Our funders are very interested to afforest degraded lands and to establish protective forest shelterbelts.</p>	<p>OTP favors projects with a comprehensive environmental restoration strategy, alignment with broader goals (national & international), emphasizing native species and localized ecosystem requirements. We seek initiatives that actively involve communities, delivering concrete benefits to a variety of stakeholders. Crucially, proposals must demonstrate clear, measurable, and long-term impacts, including robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks, while also showcasing sustainable and innovative solutions to address climate change and advance environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>The social aspect is often very important for donors</p>
	<p>Do you provide trainingship or internship for the people who don't have field experience?</p>	<p>yes, we have 2-3 internship positions every year at Life Terra</p>	<p>We have tens of volunteers in every planting campaign.</p>	<p>Yes, OTP offers valuable internship opportunities, providing a pathway to developing new talent and careers within the organization.</p>	<p>We train all the workers who plant with us. Separately, we offer internships to a limited number of persons.</p>
	<p>How Can I contact you? or the company</p>	<p>www.lifeterra.eu or contact@lifeterra.eu</p>	<p>mihai.enescu@plantamfaptebune.ro</p>	<p>hello@onetreeplanted.org</p>	<p>info@myforestarmenia.org</p>

	<p>Planting allways is important. Do you have any priority areas where the planting is more in your focus? P.e. protected areas, or wetlands, or measures against erosion?</p>	<p>At Life Terra, we prioritize planting in areas where trees have the greatest impact, such as degraded lands, erosion-prone areas, and wildfire-affected zones. We also support agroforestry, riparian restoration, and biodiversity-friendly reforestation while ensuring alignment with EU conservation policies. Our focus is always on planting the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose.</p>	<p>We planted in all types of terrains, from the sandy soils located in the southern part of the country up to 1.400m elevation. In general, we are targeting degraded lands, water erosion and wind erosion being the main degradation factors.</p>	<p>OTP strategically prioritizes reforestation in critical areas, addressing pressing ecological challenges. For instance, our work encompasses biodiversity enhancement, disaster recovery (wildfires, floods, windstorms), climate resilience, including pest/disease management (e.g., bark beetle). Our approach addresses soil health, erosion control, watershed restoration, and desertification mitigation. We also champion nature-based agriculture through agroforestry and food forests. Currently, we're refining our large-scale reforestation strategy for key landscapes across regions, including Europe, aligning with national, international, and EU policies. Our efforts emphasize biodiversity conservation (e.g. protected areas, KBAs, ecological corridors), disaster risk reduction, and sustainable agriculture, all while ensuring active community participation and benefit.</p>	<p>No particula priority areas but we favor reforestation of degraded forests, particularly in protected areas, and doing large-scale afforestation. The aim is to foster strong and large forest ecosystems.</p>
	<p>If ordinary people planted trees, how many would you say each person should plant each year? Zella author and illustrator of book Socksy, Foxy and the 17 Trees</p>	<p>Imagine every person would plant just 10 trees a year, that could add 100 bin trees a year to the planet. It's easy to do (at individual level) but hard to organise. Let's plant! (in our events, the average person plants 10-15 trees / bushes during a morning or afternoon)</p>	<p>It depens very much of how the land was prepared. If for example the holes were previously done, one volunteer could plant in 4 hours up to 100 seedlings.</p>	<p>It's difficult to give a precise number of trees an individual "should" plant per year, as it depends on many factors, including the individual carbon footprint; tree species and growth rate; local ecological conditions. In general, even planting a few trees can contribute to a positive environmental and social impact. The combined effect of many individuals planting trees can be significant if these trees are planted where they are needed the most!</p>	<p>According to our calculations, depending on his or her own lifestyle, each person should plant between 10 to 50 trees per month (100 per month for those that fly 50 hours per month). Not much if you think about it.</p>
	<p>I can see a big focus on planting "just trees". Are organizations moving towards a more holistic tree planting approach, which includes seed bombing, water storage, nests, etc.? (Thanks Life Terra for leading the way)</p>	<p>Yes! At Life Terra, we take a holistic approach to ecosystem restoration beyond just tree planting. We integrate seed bombing, water retention techniques, soil restoration, biodiversity support (e.g., bird nests, insect hotels), and agroforestry practices to maximize ecological impact. Our goal is to create resilient, thriving ecosystems, not just plant trees.</p>	<p>We are planting also shrubs (around 15%). Since 2021, we are promoting and implementing the concept of tiny forests in Romania, which means a "coktail" of 15-10 species in the same plot.</p>	<p>Increasingly, the limitations of simple tree planting are acknowledged, driving a shift towards holistic reforestation—an approach OTP has championed since its inception. This entails comprehensive landscape restoration, prioritizing local ecological conditions, biodiversity recovery, and ecosystem revitalization. Our projects encompass seed collection and banking, nursery management, soil health enhancement, water resource optimization, and the development of innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. Central to our strategy is the active engagement of local partners and communities throughout all project phases, fostering long-term stewardship. Crucially, we emphasize post-planting care and sustained monitoring, ensuring the enduring success and sustainability of our restoration efforts.</p>	<p>At My Forest Armenia, the focus is large-scale reforestation, we plant thus a large number of trees but also shrubs as they will attract insects, birds, etc. Further we install, where there are no trees at all, supports for birds to encourage a varied ecosystem.</p>