



PRESS RELEASE
Brest, July 22, 2022

Forest fires: EcoTree calls for action

Since January 2022, over 808 thousand hectares of forest area have burned in Europe, including 35 thousand hectares in France, where EcoTree has its roots and manages the majority of its forests. This situation has dramatically accelerated in recent weeks with new fires in the areas of Gironde and Brittany. EcoTree is calling on businesses and individuals alike to participate in the reconstruction of a priceless natural heritage.

Climate change: the root of wildfires

Scientists have warned us for years: we need to avoid and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, as climate change's rippling effects are already causing irreversible damage to our planet. The natural disasters and disturbances we're experiencing today are severely weakening our ecosystems.

Heat waves and droughts, exacerbated by global warming, are directly causing the forest fires currently ravaging many regions around the world. While fires may be part of certain forests' natural ecological process, the wildfires we are currently experiencing are exceptionally aggressive and damaging and likely will have lasting effects on the environment, or even cause some ecological regime shifts.

As soon as the fires are brought under control, thanks to the tireless efforts of local forces, it will be paramount to carry out diagnoses: how deep were soils burnt? Can we expect ecosystems to recover with time? If not, what kind of regime will they shift to? How can we support forest owners so that they can preserve this increasingly fragile, vulnerable and difficult to insure natural resource?

These purposive diagnoses will inform what comes next: **action**.

We need to repair and protect this priceless natural heritage. Where and when should we act? Which species and which forest management should be implemented? How can we support biodiversity?

Requests are pouring in from all sides. Governments will need practical help to restore damaged ecosystems. Forest owners will require financial and technical support to diagnose, replant and maintain their forests. In some cases, it will be necessary to let nature do its work, but in other cases, forests are impacted so deeply that it's necessary to take action to help its recovery.

Faced with this gargantuan project, **EcoTree would like to make an appeal** to the goodwill and solidarity of individuals and companies alike, **to help finance the reforestation of burned forests everywhere in France**. To do this, EcoTree will, in the coming days, set up a dedicated platform to encourage as many people as possible to participate in the reforestation effort and support forest owners.

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