

Tree planting campaign



*“Let's take action
and create a greener world for our children”*

Vast tree planting campaign within the AIC network

Launch date: 1st September 2024

Introduction

As announced in the last training reflection on Sustainable Development (June 2024), caring for our common home and promoting integral ecology has become an **ongoing priority** within our international AIC network. Numerous AIC initiatives bear witness to this. But **we can and must go further!**



That's why the AIC International team has decided to launch a **tree-planting campaign throughout the AIC network**: a concrete and visible action to protect our planet and help improve the quality of life of present and future generations.

Tree planting offers numerous **environmental benefits**, including climate regulation, improved air quality, preservation of biodiversity, soil protection and prevention of erosion. It also has **social benefits**, as it can improve mental and physical health and help promote community spirit and environmental awareness.



How to take part in the campaign:

- Each AIC association is invited to **plant at least one tree**, and if possible more, depending on the association's resources and available space.
- Choose a planting site, **preferably on land belonging to an AIC group or an AIC member**. If this is not possible, it may be land managed by a local authority, the Daughters of Charity or the Congregation of the Mission, for example. In this case, the agreement of the owners is always required.
- **Choose a good time for planting between 1st September 2024 and 1st September 2025**. Note that the best time will vary according to the country and the region. The International Secretariat will send out quarterly reminders.
- It is also possible to **join or participate** in a plantation or reforestation project organised by others (government, partner or local authority). For example:
 - o In the Philippines, tree planting in partnership with the local Environment Department, to prevent the erosion of a river bank.
 - o In Argentina, project to replant an ancient forest recently destroyed by a natural disaster, in partnership with the local authorities.



- Any type of tree can be planted (fruit trees, hedges, etc.), as long as the **species chosen is adapted** to the local climate and soil, and the consequences of climate change are taken into account (drought, strong winds, flooding, soil impoverishment).



- To publicise the progress of the plantations throughout the AIC network, each AIC association is invited to put up a small sign in front of the plantation, indicating:
 - o The AIC campaign logo
 - o The logo of the local AIC association and/or organisation initiating the planting
 - o The date of planting and the name of the species planted
 - o If some people want to sponsor a tree individually, they can also indicate own name.
 - o If an association does not have the opportunity to plant a tree, it can ask another association to plant one on its behalf and add its name and logo to the sign.

- **Monitor growth** (watering, weeding, pruning, pests, diseases). This monitoring can be done either by volunteers from the group where the trees are planted, or by trusted people living nearby (young people keen to get involved and take concrete action for the climate, pupils from a nearby school, families of beneficiaries of your projects, etc.). We recommend nominating one or several people to be in charge of the project.



- **Send photos** of your plantations with the small sign mentioned above indicating the country to info@aic-international.org. Volunteers taking part in actions initiated by others are also invited to share photos, even if the action began before the launch of this campaign.
- Please note that AIC will not be granting any subsidies for tree planting. However, it is always possible to ask for a donation at a garden centre. In some countries (e.g. Belgium, Madagascar), the Ministry of the Environment or local authority distributes trees free of charge at certain times of year that are ideal for planting.

The campaign will be officially launched on 1st September 2024, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This date marks the beginning of the **“Season of Creation”**, the period during which Christians from all over the world unite each year to care for our common home.

From this date onwards, the International Secretariat will share your experiences and testimonies about the campaign in a [new section of the AIC website dedicated to Sustainable Development](#). On each anniversary of the launch of the campaign, a brief review of the past year's initiatives and results will be presented.

We look forward to hearing about all the initiatives you implement as part of this campaign, and remain available if you have any questions.

United in prayer for the success of this vast AIC network campaign,

Kind regards,

Tayde de Callataÿ, Lisette Maillet and the Sustainable Development working group

