

THE GREEN LEGACY CAMPAIGN IN ETHIOPIA

SETTING A NEW WORLD RECORD OF TREE SEEDLINGS PLANTED

On July 29th 2019 [the Green Legacy Campaign in Ethiopia](#) has reached the record of 353,633,660 tree seedlings planted in 12 hours across the country to combat environmental degradation.

The campaign is part of *the Green Legacy Initiative*, promoted by the Ethiopian Prime Minister to reach national green environmental goals and face the effects of deforestation and climate change in the country. The ambitious goal of the Initiative for 2019 is to plant a total of four billion indigenous trees by the end of the rainy season in October.

In this framework the Green Legacy campaign was launched to help achieve this goal, proposing to the whole country to participate by planting 200 million tree seedlings in 1000 sites across Ethiopia in one-day on Monday, July 29, 2019. This goal has been largely overcome, reaching the result of 353,633,660 tree seedlings planted and establishing a new world record.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, local governments, officials and operators of public institutions, schools and private companies, NGOs and associations of different sectors have joined the campaign. But it is above all the population of the country that has made it possible to achieve a result of such great impact.

The [Ministry of Agriculture informed that 2.6 billion new trees have already been planted](#), more than half of the target established by the *Green Legacy Initiative*. Most of the seedlings distributed to the participants and planted are from indigenous tree species and a nationwide monitoring will be conducted to ensure that the planted trees would be grown.

The promoters of the initiative and the national and international press have given great emphasis to the results of this campaign and to the new record set by Ethiopia. The [last record-breaking environmental campaign have been realized in 2017 by India](#), where around 1.5 million volunteers planted more than 66 million trees in 12 hours.

Reforestation initiatives are not new in a country like Ethiopia that has actively participated in the [Billion Tree Campaign](#), an extraordinary competition for a greener world promoted by the United Nations. Ethiopia ranks third in planting trees in the framework of this Campaign launched in 2006 by the United Nations Environment Program and inspired by the Nobel Peace Prize Wangari Maathai, founder of the [Green](#)



[Belt Movement](#) in Kenya. According to [Wikipedia](#) information, as of August 2018, the Campaign registered over 15.2 billion planted trees across 193 countries. The Top 10 countries are China, India, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Mexico, France, Turkey, Peru, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and United States.

The [Brochure of the Trillion Tree Campaign](#) highlights its impact on communities... *Some of the seedlings we plant will restore springs long dry, prevent soil erosion and create fertilizer to boost harvests. Others will break the Sahara winds, halting the spread of desert sand dunes. Countless more will provide food for people, in rural areas and cities alike. Some will supply forage for livestock and for insects that pollinate crops. Many will produce wood and natural oils for building and for fuel. Yet others will be used to create medicines to heal the human body and essential oils to ease the soul. All will draw carbon dioxide from the air, leaving us a little less vulnerable to the threats posed by climate change.*

In 2017, Ethiopia also joined more than 20 other African nations in pledging to restore 100 million hectares of land as part of the [African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative](#) promoted by the [African Union Development Agency-NEPAD](#).

The [UN Environment Program](#) has given visibility to the results achieved in Ethiopia by the *Green Legacy Campaign*, hoping that other countries will be inspired to carry out similar reforestation initiatives, contributing to the objectives of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#).

To know more

[Green Legacy Initiative in the Office of the Prime Minister website](#)

[Article in ethiopianembassy.be](#)

[Article in World Economic Forum](#)

[News in UN Environment website](#)

[Article in africanews.com](#)

[Article in africanews.com](#)

[Article in eastafricamonitor.com](#)

[Article in bbc.com](#)

[Article in edition.cnn.com](#)

[Article in treehugger.com website](#)

[Article in phys.org](#)

[Article in inc.com](#)

[Article in nytimes.com](#)

[Article in aljazeera.com](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).



[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in FAO website](#)

[Trillion Tree Campaign](#)

