

# Allocation Guidelines "WeReforest Projects"

These allocation guidelines govern the procedure and conditions for applying to participate in WeReforest projects, as well as the selection criteria and selection process by the WeReforest Expert Commission.

## § 1 Purpose

- (1) In accordance with Section 2 of the Articles of Association of the DLG e.V. association, the aim is to promote the charitable purposes of nature conservation and landscape management, as well as to carry out research and development projects and events and publish publications on the topics of environmental protection and nature conservation, sustainability, biodiversity and climate change.
- (2) Within the framework of the WeReforest programme, DLG e.V. also acts in accordance with the Federal Nature Conservation Act and the nature conservation laws of the federal states, environmental protection, including climate protection, coastal protection and flood protection. The focus of the work is on initiating and promoting specific future projects in severely affected and endangered private and municipal forests in Germany in order to promote the preservation or timely restoration of indispensable ecosystem and climate protection services despite the considerable investments involved.
- (3) By conducting professionally executed initial afforestation, reforestation projects on calamity areas, and forest transformation measures for stabilizing stands on leased forest areas in Germany, a positive contribution is made to climate protection, sustainable supply of renewable wood resources, and biological diversity. Furthermore, the multifunctionality of the resulting forests is intended to be secured for the future.

## § 2 Measures on WeReforest Areas

- (1) Measures are carried out to permanently establish structurally rich mixed stands and to strengthen the resilience of existing forest stands, following the forest management concept of the WeReforest association:
  - a) Measures for afforestation or reforestation through planting, seeding, or a combination of these methods with natural regeneration.
  - b) Introducing stabilizing or growth-enhancing mixed tree species into existing, species-poor stands.
  - c) Establishing structured forest edges.
  - d) Protecting afforested areas against wildlife using mechanical plant protection (wire guards, protective covers, growth sleeves, and nets) and, for understory species, using small enclosures, subject to confirmation of necessity and approval by the WeReforest Expert Commission.

- e) Other measures corresponding to the purposes of the DLG association.
- (2) Necessary improvements after planting or seeding. Generally, improvements are made to achieve the originally selected rejuvenation goal. In justifiable exceptional cases, improvements can also be supported with other tree species beneficial for achieving the project's purpose.

## § 3 Applicants

- (1) WeReforest projects are intended to be initiated in private and public forests. Applicants must be owners of the respective areas or submit applications on behalf of the owner authorized by the owner.
- (2) Members of the WeReforest Expert Commission, their relatives, and their businesses are excluded from applying for WeReforest projects.

## § 4 Application

- (1) Interested and authorized forest owners can apply to the WeReforest association for the implementation of climate-stabilizing forest development measures according to §2 (Application form, see <https://www.dlg.org/en/agriculture/wereforest/participate>)
- (2) The offered areas and the desired measures on them must be explained verbally and quantitatively in the online application form. For each requested area, at least the following information must be provided:
- a. Cadastral details and area-related data of the requested area
  - b. Brief description of site-specific conditions
  - c. Explanation of the planned measure
  - d. Detailed breakdown of the expected costs of the planned measure (gross amount including applicable VAT)
  - e. Information about desired own contributions
- (3) A new application and allocation round takes place every year. Applications are possible from May 01 to July 31.
- (4) The area applied for must be between 0.5 and 3 hectares in size to be considered in the selection process. If the area is larger than 3 hectares, only applications with a partial area of up to 3 hectares can be considered in the selection process.

## § 5 Selection Criteria/Selection Process

- (1) Among the submitted applications, the WeReforest Expert Commission selects the most convincing projects based on the submitted application documents (§4) using professional judgment.

The number of selected applications (project areas) per round is determined by the expected annual donation volume.

If not all funds are used up after the allocation, they will be carried over to the next application round. However, these remaining funds also serve to compensate for

potential costs arising within the framework of the association's management (such as office, personnel, material costs, etc.) and must be used by the board in accordance with the association's goals.

- (2) The Expert Commission considers coherent forest management concepts, the ecological value of the measure, CO2 reduction potential, and the individual relevance to the applicants when making their selection. Only measures that promise an ecological, qualitative, and/or temporal advantage compared to gradual forest development will be supported.
- (3) Measures within existing protected areas according to applicable forestry, nature conservation, and water laws can only be carried out if it is ensured that the active forest management in line with the project purpose is not significantly compromised in the long term.
- (4) The use of locally adapted, certified planting material and seeds in accordance with the respective valid regulations is required; exceptions must be applied for through the commission.
- (5) Only areas designated for the implementation of WeReforest measures will be admitted, and areas whose reforestation or transformation is already funded through public funding programs will not be eligible (no double funding).
- (6) There is no legal entitlement to the implementation of specific measures.

## § 6 Process After Selection

- (1) The WeReforest association will inform all applicants within 12 weeks after the application deadline about the projects selected by the commission and their prioritization. Applicants whose projects were not chosen are free to resubmit their proposals in the next round.
- (2) The selected WeReforest projects will commence as soon as possible, but no later than the year following the application period, based on the available donation funds.
- (3) An admission notice will be sent to the applicants, detailing the next steps and important dates.