



Self Help  
Africa



into



Irish National Teachers' Organisation  
Cumann Múinteoirí Éireann

Help Us Plant  
ONE MILLION TREES

# SCHOOLS

## Campaign



# Help Us Plant **ONE MILLION TREES**

**This campaign addresses and highlights the important role trees play in mitigating against climate change, maximising sustainable development and impacting positively on the livelihoods of people and their environment both in Ireland and Africa. In Self Help Africa, we have been planting trees as part of our projects in Africa for over 50 years and trees will continue to be an inherent part of our project delivery into the future years.**



Azeb Abebe, tree planting with Self Help Africa at Lake Ziway, Ethiopia.

**FOR EVERY €5 DONATED THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN, WE WILL PLANT 1 NATIVE TREE IN IRELAND: AND 10 TREES IN AFRICA.**

**T**his project amplifies the efforts of people living in Ireland and creates a global partnership in the fight against climate change. Trees provide one of the most effective ways to remove harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and with your help we can plant them at scale.

The communities we work with in rural Africa have a very small carbon footprint, yet they are among the worst affected by the crisis. At Self Help Africa, tree planting has always been an important part of the mix of activity on small farms. As conditions become hotter, rainfall more unpredictable, and extreme weather events more widespread, tree planting is more important than ever. More frequent droughts, floods and pest invasions are creating an incredibly difficult environment in which to survive. This planting initiative will support the vital food and farming needs of Africa's rural poor, while contributing to the wider global effort to absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Our model is both practical and powerful because of the benefits it creates both directly to the families in Africa and globally through addressing the reality of Climate Change. These ranging from direct revenue; to providing shade and shelter; providing fruit which is associated with better nutritional status of household members; helping to prevent soil erosion; restoring degraded land; soil improvement; windbreaks and most notably climate control. Trees provide a significant source of income for many African households and a measure of food security.

Each tree we plant represents a livelihood for an African family. An integral part of the project is to train farmers on managing their trees for this purpose. As a result, we know that the trees are looked after and cared for over the years. To date we have geo-mapped 67 sites in Africa (across 7 countries) where we have identified the locations of the 1 million trees that we are going to plant through the campaign. That information will be made available to you and your colleagues/schools to view your trees by satellite for years to come.

# SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

backed by



The One Million Schools campaign will be launched nationwide later this year, with each participating school eligible for a free native Irish tree per classroom complete with age-appropriate supporting lesson plans.

**THEN FOR EACH NATIVE TREE PLANTED THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND; WE'LL PLANT TEN MORE IN AFRICA.**

Together we can create a global partnership in the fight against climate change.



## TO GET INVOLVED FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

1

Register your school **online** to take part in the One Million Trees Campaign. *Registration must be completed by a teacher at the school. We request that the Teacher discuss this registration with the school Principal, INTO Representative and school colleagues. This may be particularly relevant if the school is involved in initiatives such as The Green Flag Programme.*

2

Once your school is registered, **each classroom** in your school is eligible to receive a native Irish tree sapling, and access to our age-appropriate resource materials to support your tree planting.

3

On the 3rd December 2021 primary schools across Ireland will plant their trees. For each tree that the school plants we will plant 10 more in Africa and provide you with the geo-location of where they are planted so you can look up your trees on Google Earth. *Self Help Africa welcome voluntary contributions towards the One Million Trees Project & each donation of €2 will allow us to plant an additional 10 trees in your school's name in Africa.*

# LESSON PLANS

**We know children instinctively both passionate and knowledgeable about climate change and the main causes of it, and we firmly believe that getting them to plant trees could be the perfect way for them to become part of the solution.**

We hope that through this tree planting project we can educate our young generation and our school communities about Climate Change and empower them to become solution driven rather than problem focused. It is also anticipated that this initiative will share information about trees both in Ireland and Africa and extend pupils' learning inside and outside the classroom.



The resource material has been developed by teachers in conjunction with INTO and complements the current curriculum and provides a short lesson plan on native Irish trees and African trees. They are available for 4 groups:

## Junior/Senior Infants



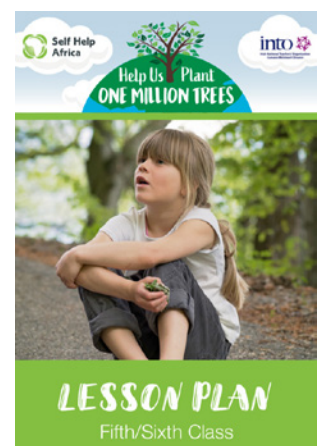
## First/Second Class



## Third/Fourth Class



## Fifth/Sixth Class



# FAQS

See below for some frequently asked questions regarding the campaign.

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## WHY TREES?

Trees are one of the most effective ways to remove harmful greenhouse carbon from the atmosphere.

## WHY IS SELF HELP AFRICA PLANTING TREES?

Self Help Africa has always planted trees, which are part of the mix of agricultural activities on small farms in Africa. We plant trees to help to rehabilitate degraded land, to restore nitrogen and nutrition to the soil, to provide shade and shelter, and to provide food and income for people (mango, papaya, passion fruit, citrus, cashew and macadamia are just some examples).

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## WHO ARE YOUR LOCAL TREE PLANTING PARTNERS IN IRELAND?

Trees on the Land is a collaborative project made up of a number of professionals and organisations working together across the 32 counties.

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## WHO IS SUPPORTING THIS CAMPAIGN?

‘One Million Trees’ is being supported by Irish family-owned dairy producers Glenisk, who are our key campaign partners and are promoting this for all of 2021 through their Bio yoghurt range.

The initiative also has the support of the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) to develop education resources around climate change and Africa. As part of the campaign, primary schools in Ireland will have an opportunity to plant tree saplings in Autumn 2021.

The Gaelic Player’s Association (GPA) is promoting the campaign through their members and players and supporting key events in 2021.

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## IS THIS PLANTING PROGRAMME SUSTAINABLE?

The investment in this project is not only in the purchase of tree seedlings. In Self Help Africa’s programmes, we will also provide training and technical support to our partners and communities who are engaged in tree planting activities. Trees on the Land adopt a similar approach to their planting activities, and on agreement their sites will be sustainably managed under continuous cover as a long-term resource.

## ARE TREES NOT A DISTRACTION FROM THE REAL PROBLEM?

Trees are not ‘the answer’ to climate change, and planting trees does not absolve us of the need to dramatically reduce the amount of polluting carbon that is being produced. The single most effective way to combat climate change is to reduce the number of emissions. Amongst the most effective ways to sequester carbon from the atmosphere is to plant trees and enhance the natural environment with other plant species.

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## WHAT TREES (IN AFRICA)?

The tree varieties will be decided, based upon the conditions of the particular location – including exposure, soil type, surrounding terrain, etc. We will be conferring with professionals. Examples of African trees include such varieties as: papaya, mango, cashew, macadamia, acacia saligna, alvida, olea africana, cordia africana, neem, grevillea robusta, sesbania, moringa oleifera, and moringa stenopetala.

You can find out more about the trees we will be planting by visiting our Tree Directory online.

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## WHAT TREES (IN IRELAND)?

The tree species will be decided, based upon the conditions of the particular location – including exposure, soil type, surrounding terrain, etc. which will be decided by our team of professionals. Examples of Irish trees include Oak, Birch, Alder, Scots Pine, Hazel, Rowan, Crab Apple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

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## HOW ARE YOUR PARTNERS SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN?

**Glenisk** is supporting the campaign by promoting ‘One Million Trees’ on its bio-pot yoghurts, and through their sales in 2021.

The **INTO** are providing invaluable support to Self Help Africa with this project by assisting with advice and direct financial support. INTO will also support with Lesson Plans and Communication regarding the project in tandem with logistical support with the distribution of seedlings to schoolchildren in participating schools.

The **GPA** is supporting ‘One Million Trees’ by promoting the campaign through its network of current and former players.

# THE TRILLION TREE CAMPAIGN



Self Help Africa's 'One Million Trees' is affiliated to the UN backed One Trillion Trees campaign, which was launched in 2015 and is aiming to plant one trillion trees worldwide. In 2019, the campaign began developing the Plant-for-the-Planet App, that allows users to register planted trees or plant trees by donating to different tree planting organizations around the world, Self Help Africa included.

“There is a **magic machine** that sucks carbon out of the air, costs very little, and builds itself. It's called **a tree.**”

- Greta Thunberg and George Monbiot, 'Nature Now'

In Africa, the people least responsible for climate change are feeling its worst effects.

Self Help Africa supports communities to plant trees: which can provide **food, fertiliser, income, shade and shelter.**

**Plant trees. Reduce carbon and combat poverty.**



Visit: [selfhelpafrica.org/onemilliontrees](https://selfhelpafrica.org/onemilliontrees)

Email. [info@selfhelpafrica.org](mailto:info@selfhelpafrica.org)

**Act Local + Global - Plant the Planet**

With thanks to our partners

