

WeForest projects are designed to yield early food and income for local people, reduce growing expenditures and speed up ecosystem regeneration.

Not just any type of reforestation!

By combining agriculture and forestry using **permaculture techniques**, replicable natural Systems can be created that simultaneously address climate change, poverty, soil degradation and water shortages.

You need large scale forests and tropical regions are best: plantations of oil palms or eucalyptus will not do it; on the contrary, it will only stress the water resources.

We need to address the root cause of deforestation:

One acre of **permaculture-designed** food and timber forest can sustainably support twice as many people as one acre of traditional agricultural land.

An example

In Borneo, the Masarang foundation did similar work and just 3 years after planting, cloud cover was up 11.5 %, rainfall up 25% and 3000 local people were making a sustainable income.

We promote:

- sustainable, bio-diverse, ecologically compatible, **permaculture-based** reforestation
- we combat global warming, poverty and water shortages.

We support:

- both education and dissemination of **permaculture techniques**
- we fund reforestation projects across the world



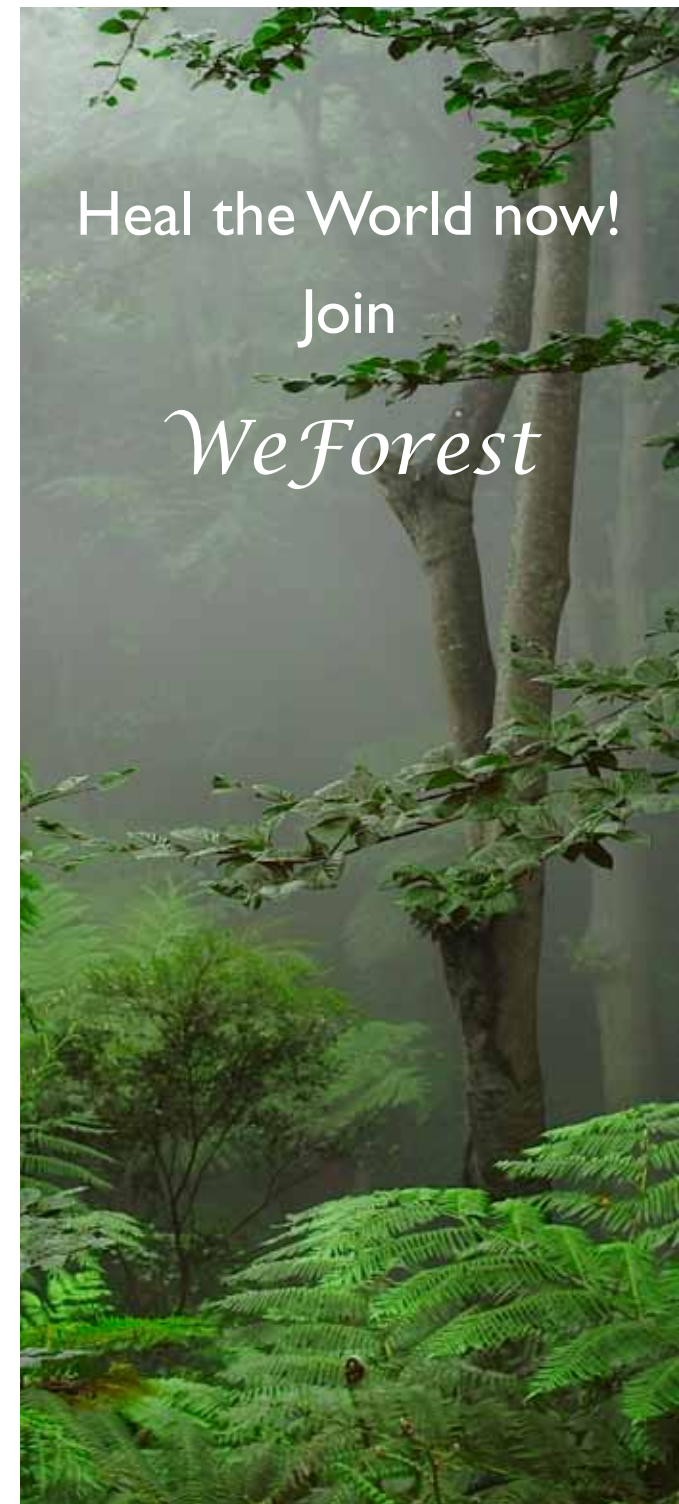
“Heal the world“



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Heal the World now!

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WeForest



Global warming and reforestation

Currently global warming is adding 1.6 watts of heat per square meter of land. If that m² is covered by a cloud, up to 80 watts of the sun's energy is reflected back into space. A 2% increase in cloud cover could halt global warming in its tracks long enough to develop technologies needed for a sustainable carbon sensible future for us all.

Why slowing down CO₂ emissions is only part of the climate change solution.

"Research by NASA show the world's oceans initially absorb most CO₂ we emit and then release it back over 25-50 years. This lag period ends with 60% of the CO₂ back in the air. Much of CO₂ released in the 1970s and 80s is still held in ocean. It therefore follows that we are locked into an accelerating CO₂ level in the air, beyond the 382 parts per million we have today, irrespective of CO₂ emission reductions. We had the opportunity and the warning in the 1970s and we failed to act. It is now 25 years too late to fix the issue by just reducing emissions. We have to do more."

-Walter Jeyne, microbiologist and ecologist with an interest in Earth Systems.

"We have to drain the air of its carbon to reduce CO₂ levels. The problem of carbon in the atmosphere is kind of like a bathtub filling up with water. As long as the amount of water being emptied out of the bathtub through the plug hole is more than the amount of water coming out of the tap, then we can stabilize the levels."

Dr. Peter Ellyard, an Australian futurist, strategist, speaker and author.

Our forests also play a key role in sequestering carbon and cooling the air: yet deforestation has accelerated. 50% of our rainforests were lost in the last 60 years alone. Deforestation produces between 18 and 22% of the CO₂ emitted every year into the air:



What is Permaculture?

It is a philosophy and a proven approach to designing environments which have the diversity, stability and resilience of natural ecosystems. They also have the productivity of naturally improved plant varieties and technologies from many cultures and countries.

Permaculture is based on a combination of modern science and traditional wisdom. It aims to create Systems that will sustain not only for the present, but for future generations.

Permaculture was first developed by Australians Bill Mollison and David Holmgren during the 1970s. Our partner Geoff Lawton with the Permaculture Research Institute of Australia has taken on this work globally.

With Permaculture even greening a desert is possible

An Example:

One of Geoff's most impressive projects was done in the Kafirin area in Jordan: 10 Km from the Dead Sea. Rainfall is 100-150 mm/year occurring mainly in 2 or 3 main events during the winter and the area suffers from severe droughts and very low fertility in the soil. The heavily salted soil suffers from very low organic matter with a general absence of natural vegetation cover. The vegetation of the surrounding area included only scattered wild plants that are tolerant of the high salinity. After two years of monitoring the farm, the following plants showed a good growth and yield: olives, figs, date palms, guavas and pomegranates. In addition, forest species also thrived such as: albizia, berconsonia, casuarina, acacias, porsopis julifolia, shinos moll, jasmine and polar:



How fast do we need to plant?

Our objective is to plant 20 million km² of rainforest by 2020. This is comparable to the current tropical forest (which according to UNEP in 2005 was 26 million km²). We also know that, in the Amazon only, the surface of a football field is being deforested every 7 seconds ...

How much do we need to plant?

There are 39 million km² of degraded farmland in the world today. Reforesting just over half (20 million km²) using **permaculture techniques** would create an additional 2% cloud cover over our precious planet Earth.

