

Press release

Forest for a better climate:

LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein and Brazil's Clima Nativo sign cooperation agreement

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Brazil's Clima Nativo and LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein have decided to join forces in the reforestation of cleared, derelict forest land in Brazil. The two non-profit organisations have signed a cooperation agreement in which they pledge to launch specific, local reforestation projects in Brazil. The projects will be financed in Liechtenstein, an established hub for sustainable investments.

The contract was signed after several months of close talks and analyses during which both sides concluded that LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein and Clima Nativo were an excellent match thanks to their similar interests and complementary goals.

Environmental and pro-social

Brazil has not only the most biodiversity in the world, but also the world's largest contiguous forest: the Amazon rain forest. However, large swathes of primeval forest and nearly 93% of the Atlantic Forest have been destroyed. The continuing destruction not only devastates valuable natural habitats, but also releases bound CO₂ into the atmosphere, where it contributes to global warming. These ravaged areas will be transformed back to natural forest through specific long-term reforestation efforts that involve the local population. "As such, we will be making a significant contribution to preserving natural habitats, maintaining biodiversity and protecting our climate in general by binding CO₂. Involving the local population also creates jobs and changes people's thinking so that they are more responsible about our natural resources," said Herbert Schmid, a member of the Initiative Council of Clima Nativo, when announcing the collaboration.

Committed to the highest standards

"Clima Nativo shares our major objective and passion for promoting climate protection projects that not only meet the highest quality standards, but are also sustainable in every sense of the word," explained Dr Klaus Tschüscher, President of the Foundation Board of LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein and Head of Government of Liechtenstein. "As a stable financial centre with access to the European Single Market, Liechtenstein can reach out to a large investor base – and that makes it an ideal location to launch the investment products needed for reforestation projects. With the new AIFM legislation and our innovative, highly capable financial service providers, we have all the tools needed to supply the required alternative investments," added Tschüscher.

For LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein, the partnership with Clima Nativo is a logical extension of its chosen strategy: to pursue concrete, sustainable climate protection projects that are credible, professional, reputable and effective. LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein does not invest any funds itself, though. Instead, it acts as a financing platform that brings together projects and investors.

Finance and politics go hand and hand

The partnership between Clima Nativo and LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein will allow funds to be channelled and used where they are needed and can effectively accomplish something. “I can attest that our political leaders respect and appreciate Liechtenstein’s commitment and support for protecting our country’s forests. We also know that no tax treaties have been signed between Brazil and Liechtenstein yet, even though one would be beneficial for the planned investments in our country. For that reason, we have used our excellent connections in Brazil to push for the initiation of talks on a tax treaty,” concluded Schmid.

LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein is a non-profit foundation established in early 2009 under Liechtenstein law. The goals of LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein are to raise awareness and promote all aspects of sustainability and climate protection in order to protect our environment for future generations so they can lead a better life. The foundation’s supporters include the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association, the Liechtenstein Association of Professional Trustees, the Liechtenstein Investment Fund Association, the Liechtenstein Insurance Association and the University of Liechtenstein. Through the participation of business, science and policymakers, LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein has become the driving force and private-public partnership who reaches out to key sustainability players and brings them all to the table.

CLIMA NATIVO is a non-profit initiative dedicated to preserving natural resources and advancing the aims of the Kyoto Protocol through the development of tools and incentives. CLIMA NATIVO is convinced that Brazil, a country with a rich natural heritage and one of the future major economic powers, has an important role to play in the reduction of greenhouse gases. CLIMA NATIVO also believes that we can minimise the impact of global warming by planting trees, limiting deforestation and changing our own individual behaviour. This is why CLIMA NATIVO has made it its mission to promote and support local Brazilian projects that further these goals.



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