AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION AS OPPORTUNITY FOR ADAPTATION

OBJECTIVE

CO_2 sequestration.

DESCRIPTION

Afforestation (i.e. converting long-time non-forested land into forest) refers to the establishment of forests where previously there have been none, or where forests have been missing for a long time (50 years according to UNFCCC). Reforestation refers to the replanting of trees on more recently deforested land (i.e. converting recently non-forested land into forest). If unsustainably managed, both practices may be controversial as they may lead to the destruction of original non-forest ecosystems (e.g. natural grassland).

EXPECTED RESULTS

Forests can act as carbon sink; they can accumulate atmospheric CO_2 as carbon in vegetation and soils.

RESULT INDICATORS

Hectares covered with forests.

INVOLVED ACTORS

Governments, NGOs and civil society organizations, private sectors and research institutions that have the expertise to select the afforested or reforested areas and to identify the characteristics of tree plantations.

EXPECTED TIMELINE FOR ACTION

- Long term (> 10 years)

BEST PRACTICES

- Montpellier – France
- Northern Italy
- Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region – Italy
- Marche Region – Italy
- Marche Region – Italy
- Apulia Region – Italy

CRITICALITIES

Acceptability of afforestation and reforestation by private landholders.

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

- Adaptation
- Mitigation

TYPE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Green

SECTOR OF ACTION

- Agriculture / Forests / Land use
- Biodiversity / Conservation of ecosystems
- Public health

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- Change or loss of biodiversity
- Other

IMPLEMENTATION SCALE

- Association of municipalities
- Municipality
- Region / Country

SOURCE

https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/help/share-your-info/general/afforestation-and-reforestation-as-adaptation-opportunity/#success_factors