



PEACE FOREST IRELAND



PEACE PLUS Programme Response 20/02/2020



OBJECTIVES

- 1) To bring communities together co-operatively in order to develop the Peace Forest
- 2) To agree with communities the location and times of tree planting and the numbers of trees required and to inform all on contact lists.
- 3) To source Peace Forest funding for the Peace Forest
- 4) To organise tree workshops.
- 5) To prepare and circulate press releases.
- 6) To source trees for the project with particular emphasis on food producing trees.
- 7) To develop an educational programme appropriate to the project.
- 8) To promote peace and co-operation between communities north and south of the border with the tree as the Peace symbol
- 9) To organise seminars providing information about the crucial role of trees globally in the prevention of desertification and famine and the climatic role of the global forests as well as the economic value in terms of medicine food and herbal remedies, flooding alleviation, prevention of soil erosion, water purification, pollution control, etc. To organise seminars about site selection, soil types, tree suitability, tree plantings, seed collection, seed preparation, care after tree planting, information about native Irish tree varieties, tree nursery development and management, micro climatic conditions, shelterbelts.
- 10) To organise intercultural events
- 11) To develop the most suitable organisational structures for the achievement of the project objectives, whether, one with charitable status, a trust, or company
- 12) To develop and manage tree nurseries
- 13) To purchase and manage lands for the promotion of native woodlands.
- 14) To carry out inventories of trees located in the communities participating in the project and along both sides of the border areas generally.
- 15) To consult existing tree inventories to help the processes.
- 16) To identify all stakeholders and to carry out extensive consultation processes.
- 17) To develop an annual calendar of events.
- 18) To acquire and/or rent accommodation and land to achieve the objectives of the project.
- 19) To establish one or more centres of excellence of woodland biodiversity
- 20) To examine and utilise as far as practicable the potential of hemp in order to help the conservation of forests and create a more sustainable economy.



The project shall have the following modules:

- A. **Three agro-forestry enterprise hubs**, centres modelled on a business and job creation model ideally located on sites with mature woodland and forest biodiversity Including the following elements :
- ❖ Administrative centre
 - ❖ Agro-forestry promotion training centre
 - ❖ Tree nursery
- B. **Ten Peace Forest Ireland county community based and community driven projects**, autonomous to each County, including **Donegal Derry (London Derry), Tyrone, Ferma nagh, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Armagh, Down, (ten counties)**. These to have agro-forestry community development local cultural and cross-border peace promotion elements. Start up funding required based on an approved inclusive community driven plan. Start-up funding suggested 20,000 Euros for each county.
- C. **Peace Forest Ireland Peace Reconciliation and forest biodiversity centre, located on a 100 acre site** which contains mature woodland, a river, maximum range of Irish native biodiversilty flora and fauna. The centre to include full range of conference facilities including residential. The centre will be an agro-forestry and enterprise training centre for the three enterprise hubs. It shall include an extensive tree nursery for the cultivation of Irish native hardwood trees.
- D. **The establishment of an inclusive new administrative structure**, representative of community, business, non-governmental and governmental administrative and public service elements, based on cooperative models. The primary objective of this administrative structure is to facilitate the development of the project and create a suitable model, to empower local communities in their constructive role in the peace process. This will provide information and advisory function and be **located in the Peace centre**.
- E. **The cultivation planting and management of a trillion native Irish hardwood trees**
This to be done **in the context of the Peace centre** with elements from the other parts of the project. **Initial planting of 50,000 bare-rooted ‘whip’ size trees.**



A Three agro-forestry enterprise hubs

These centres will be based on a business and job creation model ideally located on sites with mature woodland and forest biodiversity including the following elements:

- 10 acre site for each with;
- Administrative centre
- Agro-forestry training centre
- Tree nursery
- Visitor and shop elements

Peace Forest workshops: Peace Forest workshops can be organised as part of the process whereby Interested members of the public can meet to exchange ideas agree targets and set up a process for joint action. Some of these workshops could be about collecting tree seeds locally and growing them on in the community to become part of the forest. Local tree nurseries can be set up for this purpose.

The three enterprise hub clusters:

- ❖ Donegal Derry Tyrone
- ❖ Leitrim Fermanagh
- ❖ Cavan Monaghan Louth Armagh Down

Each of the three hubs shall have a pick-up truck for its sole use-purchase cost 50,000 Euros approx.

Running costs 10,000Euros per vehicle

Additional Costs:

Land cost: 3X10X9,000Euros.....	270,000Euros
Building/rental 30,000 per annum/overheads- 5 years(30,000X3X5)	450,000
Materials/equipment50,000X3	150,000
Total costs:	870,000



BREAKDOWN OF INDIVIDUAL COSTINGS:

Resource	Cost approx. Euros
Offices	12,000
Land for tree nursery and horticultural training-10 acres-may include marginal lands with maximum biodiversity and mature natural woodland, ideally with river and mains water supply.	25,000
Secretary	30,000
CEO	50,000
Horticultural and tree expert	40,000
Tree Nursery Manager	30,000
Tree nursery trainees- 3 number : 3x15,000	45,000
Job Bridge- 6 number- state funded	
Interns- 6 number	6,000
Volunteers – 15 numbers approx	
Insurance costs	10,000
Materials, including tools, stock for nursery, machinery etc.	50,000
Site works	20,000
Total estimated costs	318,000

Staff structural requirements of each hub:

One CEO and deputy CEO to facilitate and administer the overall hub initiative: In addition

Each of the hubs to have:

- a) One enterprise manager
- b) One assistant manager
- c) Tree nursery manager
- d) Researcher- to establish inventory of local trees and woodlands
- e) One Secretary
- f) One PRO
- g) One treasurer
- h) Six number interns
 - I) Six manual (non-skilled operatives)
- j) Three skilled operatives relevant to the work involved.

Trainee operatives

Thirty trainee agro-foresters, ten per hub



B Ten Peace Forest Ireland community based and community driven projects,

Peace promotion climate mitigation community development enterprise initiatives and job creation projects with a high degree of autonomy.

These initiatives will be operated on an autonomous basis by each of counties, including **Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Ferma nagh, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Armagh, Down.** These to have agro-forestry community development local cultural and cross-border peace promotion elements. Start up funding required based on an approved inclusive community driven plan. Start-up funding required 20,000 Euros per project.

Costs:

A) Startupfunding10X20,000 200,000

Training programme: Each of the ten projects above to provide for twenty trainee horticulturalist/agro-forester and three administrative trainees.

Cost, 20,000 per annum per county duration 5 years

Total: This module 20,000X10X5



The Tree Speaks by Cathal O Searcaigh

I am the tree that will be destroyed tomorrow,
I will be cut and laid low.
My dignity will be hacked at,
my limbs will be strewn in the dirt of the street,
my strong limbs.
The white blossoms of my laugh will be stolen.
Everything I have stored
in the marrow of my memories will be destroyed.
My first tears of joy, my first leaves of hope,
the first syllables of music pulsing through my branches,
the first spring which clothed me in a green dress.
The tales of adventure related to me by the birds,
the nests that flourished in the leafy shelter of my eye,
the storms I calmed in the softness of my embrace.
The children who swung between life and eternity
in my branches,
the whispered secrets breathed to me in the night sky,
the moon who dressed me in the golden lace of autumn,
the angels who alighted me with snow.
with the fluent tongue of my leaves,
I defend passionately this space which I thrive,
in which I spread with wonder the green thoughts
that come to me in Spring.
With bounteous seeds I covered
this earthly space around me with certainty in celebration
of the Tree Spirit that quickened firmly in me as I came of age.
And tomorrow when they burn me,
when my bones will smoke,
I will become one with the sky, the Fiery Sky!
that has fuelled my imagination from dawn to dusk
with brightness, with Light.



C Peace Forest Ireland Peace and Reconciliation biodiversity centre, located on a 100 acre site

The site to be chosen shall contain some mature woodland, a river, maximum range of Irish native biodiversity flora and fauna. This centre to include full range of conference facilities including residential, peace conference centre, meditation centre.

It will have an international remit. The centre will be the main enterprise hub, an agro-forestry and enterprise training centre for itself and the enterprise hubs. It shall include an extensive tree nursery for the cultivation of Irish native hardwood trees and associated biodiversity. It shall contain an arboretum, 'Trees of the World'.

The project envisages the creation of a **Centre of Forest Biodiversity**, based on best practice in Horticulture Silva culture and Permacultural and agro forestry; a centre for environmental education, incorporating visitor centre, existing natural woodlands, new tree planting, using 100% native species, commemorative trees, woodcrafts, maximising community involvement; Ogham groves based on the Celtic tree alphabet.

The centre envisaged will be held in trust in perpetuity for community benefit. This Woodland Cross-border Peace Project with Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland will promote forest skills, a culture of trees and forests, capacity building and community development. To assist the design of the project and its planning the elements incorporated in the Auroville Peace Centre in Tamil Nadu India will be examined.

The 2016 module of the Peace Forest made possible the planting of 4,000 commemorative peace trees in memory of all those who lost their lives in the Northern Ireland conflict- This was done by a process of **liaising** with groups in the border counties in order to involve them in the project. Partnerships will be encouraged to assist all aspects and stages of the peace forest project, and to assist in the sourcing of suitable sites.

The potential of the project is very significant in terms of climate change. The Tree Council or Ireland has donated hundreds of trees, and the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland 2,000 trees

Links: <http://www.forestfriends.ie/> <https://www.facebook.com/ForestFriendsIreland>

<https://www.facebook.com/peaceforestireland>

EU LINKS <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEACEPLUS>

peaceplus@seupb.eu



LOCATION: The preferred location for this centre is within the Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Armagh, Down hub/ cluster of counties

Land 9,000X100	9,000,000
BUILDING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.....	1,000,000
MATERIALS.....	500,000
Vehicle: Purchase 60,000 maintenance 15,000 per annum (5 years)	75,000 135,000
SKILLED OPERATIVES	
40,000X6x5.....	1,200,000
TOTAL.....	11,835,000

A tree is worth \$193,250

According to Professor T. M. Das

Of the University of Calcutta.

A tree living for 50 years

Will generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen,

Provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control,

Control soil erosion

And increase soil fertility to the tune of \$ 31,250,

Recycle \$37,500 worth of water

And provide a home for animals worth \$31,250.

This figure does not include the value of fruits, lumber

Or beauty derived from trees.



D Admin structure the establishment of an inclusive new administrative structure,

The Administrative structure will be representative of community, business, non-governmental and governmental administrative and public service elements, based on cooperative models.

The primary element of this administrative element is to facilitate the development of the project and create a suitable sustainable model, to empower local communities in their constructive role in the Peace Forest Project. This will provide information and advisory function and be located in the Peace centre.

COSTS:

Set up costs:	20,000
Running costs.....10,000 per annum (5 years)	50,000
Administrative staff required 3 @ 20,000 p.a. (60,000X5)	300,000

Total costs: 70,000

Trainee staff five number: Operated under a governmental training scheme



E Trillion Tree Project

The cultivation planting and management of a trillion native Irish hardwood trees. This to be done in the context of the Peace centre with elements from all the other parts of the project. **Initial planting of 50,000 bare-rooted 'whip' size trees.**

COSTS: Five year time scale

TREES:25,000X5.... (25,000 per annum).....	125,000
Maintenance/renewal.....	20,000
Vehicle: Purchase	60,000
maintenance 15,000 per annum (5 years)	75,000
Operatives.....5 X 30, 000 per annum	150,000

Twenty trainee horticulturalist/agro-foresters-operated under a governmental funded scheme



The importance of trees:

The tree is universally a symbol of peace. Ireland was once a great oak forest which stretched from one end of the country to the other in continuous canopy. It was said that a squirrel could go from the east coast to the west coast without touching the ground. The Cross Border Peace Forest as envisaged can join all the communities along the border in the creation of a great linear woodland.

The city of Derry/Londonderry which was chosen for the launch of the project has had a most interesting history, not least its association with Colmcille, the Saint who founded the unique monastery of Iona at a time when Ireland was known as the Island of Saints and Scholars. Iona is associated with the Book of Kells, one of the greatest works of art in the world.

Historically trees were part of the language and a multitude of place names include references to trees. Indeed at one stage in the history of this island each letter of the alphabet depicted a native tree as can be seen in the case of the Ogham alphabet. During the period when the Brehon Laws which were an original legal system, there were specific penalties for damaging trees which were held as sacred.

The Cross-Border Peace Forest initiative can help to restore and strengthen our relationships with each other and with the culture of the tree, the woodland, the grove, the hedgerow and the forest.

Food producing trees, including fruit and nut trees are part of the heritage of trees. Orchard development could be part of the project, to produce local produce in suitable locations bearing in mind micro climatic conditions such as susceptibility to frost.

A mature tree can store a ton of carbon; give enough oxygen for ten people. Trees play a key role in flood control, and have climatic implications. Trees provide shelter. The leaves filter dust and particulates taking these out of the air. Trees slow down the speed of water run-off. They keep the soil from eroding and help to purify the soil and the water. There are health benefits associated with being in a woodland, forest or park. Research has shown that in a tree planted area the run off of water is more than sixty times less than a surface with no trees. Forests can help to reduce the incidence or intensity of respiratory and asthmatic conditions



Peace Forest Conceptual framework

The concept is based on the idea of communities all along the border between North and South, from Donegal/Derry-Londonderry to Armagh/Louth, working co-operatively and playing a key role in planting trees in a variety of ways, whether as individual tree plantings, groves, hedgerows, woodland or small or larger forest areas, joining together as far as possible to form a relatively continuous forest canopy.

Ideally communities on one side of the border would plant on the other side with the local community and vice versa with the benefits of cultural exchanges.

The concept is also based on several principles. First of all *empowerment*. Secondly, *constructive involvement*. Thirdly, the principle of *subsidiary function*, i.e. that tasks which can be effectively carried out at local level would operate at that level rather than from above.

Public relations and advisory Module:

Coordination, Communications, internally and externally, Outreach, schools and educational aspects community liaison and facilitation, public relations, function mainly advisory:

Staff and other personnel:

- Legal expert,
- Health and safety officer
- PRO,
- Administrative officer and assistants-two
- Five trainees
- Three trustees
- Schools outreach officers



RAINFOREST SONG

If a Tree Falls by Bruce Cockburn

Rain forest Mist and mystery

Teeming green Green brain facing lobotomy

Climate control centre for the world Ancient cord of coexistence

Hacked by parasitic greed head scam

From Sarawak to Amazonas Costa Rica to mangy B.C. hills

Cortege rhythm of falling timber.

What kind of currency grows in these new deserts?

These brand new flood plains? If a tree falls in the forest does anybody hear?

If a tree falls in the forest does anybody hear? Anybody hear the forest fall?

Cut and move on Cut and move on Take out trees

Take out wildlife at a rate of species every single day

Take out people who've lived with this for 100,000 years

Inject a billion burgers worth of beef

Grain eaters, methane dispensers.

Through thinning ozone, Waves fall on wrinkled earth

Gravity, light, ancient refuse of stars, Speak of a drowning

But this, this is something other.

Busy monster eats dark holes in the spirit world

Where wild things have to go To disappear Forever



Irish Trees

TREES:

Alder / *Alnus glutinosa* / Fearnóg

Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* / Fuinseog:

Aspen / *Populus tremula* / Crann creathach:

Birch / *Betula pendula* / Beith gheal:

Bird cherry / *Prunus padus* / Donnroisc

Wild cherry / *Prunus avium* / Crann silíní fiáin:

Crab apple / *Malus sylvestris* / Crann fia-úll:

Hazel / *Corylus avellana* / Coll:

Holly / *Ilex aquifolium* / Cuileann:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* / Dar ghallda:

Sessile oak / *Quercus petraea* / Dair ghaelach:

Rowan / *Sorbus aucuparia* / Caorthann:

Scots pine / *Pinus sylvestris* / Péine albanach

Strawberry tree / *Arbutus unedo* / Caithne:

Whitebeam / *Sorbus aria* / Fionncholl:

Willow / *Salix* species / Saileach:

Wych elm / *Ulmus glabra* / Leamhán sléibhe:

Yew / *Taxus baccata* / Iúr.

Juniper *Juniperus communis*

SHRUBS: Blackthorn or Sloe *Prunus spinosa*, Bramble, Alder Buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, Purging Buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*, Dog Rose, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Broom *Cytisus scoparius*, European Gorse *Ulex europeaus*, Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Honeysuckle, Ivy, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*.



Oak

Growing to heights of up to 40m and with a possible lifespan of over 1,000 years Two species of native oak are found in Ireland, the Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and the Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Sessile oaks grow in poor acidic soils and are commonly located in hilly regions. The Pedunculate oak favours heavy lowland soils and can withstand periods of flooding and wet soil in winter.

Native oak woods are the richest in terms of biodiversity of species. They are important habitats for hundreds of invertebrate species and many birds and mammals. In Ireland, almost 20 species of bird and over 200 species of insect inhabit the oak.

Oakland habitats provide important homelands for a variety of species and their leaves, acorns, rotting wood and sap are important components of the food chain. The oak tree was traditionally a symbol of strength, kingship, endurance and fertility and is often considered the King of Trees.

Throughout Irish history, one can find reference to the significance of the oak tree. The ‘Brehon law’, one of the earliest forms of Irish law was set up to protect the oak and the other five ‘chieftain trees’. Of the 62,000 townland names in Ireland, 13,000 have reference to trees and 1,600 have some derivation of ‘dair’ the Irish word for oak. E.g. Cill Dara (Kildare) meaning ‘Church of the Oak’ Kildare.

Out of 16,000 town lands in Ireland, 13,000 are named after trees. Sacred trees were planted at holy wells, and churches were created at the site of sacred trees and groves. Cultural ceremonies and celebrations were performed in woodlands and groves of trees.

Trees have also provided an educational setting, from the groves of the ancient Celts, to the hedgerow schools of more recent times. *Ogham*, the native Irish alphabet was based the names of Irish trees. Irish myth, story, and music abound with references to particular trees.

Coppiced and sustainably managed woodlands supplied a renewable source of wood for tools, building materials food and crafts. The *Brehon Law*, Ireland’s native legal system protected living trees and discouraged and penalises unlawful tree felling.

Classification of Native Irish Trees

A classification list of 28 trees and shrubs, was derived from the 8th-century legal tract *Bretha Comaithchesa*, classified them in four groups of seven :

- Nobles of the Wood
- Commoners of the Wood
- Lower Divisions of the Wood
- Bushes of the Wood.



‘Nobles of the Wood’ (Chieftain Trees):

Daur – Oak

Coll – Hazel

Cuilenn – Holly

Ibar – Yew

Uinnius – Ash

Ochtach - Scots Pine

Aball - Wild Apple

Aithig Fedo – Blackthorn

‘Commoners of the Wood’ (Peasant Trees):

Fern – Alder *Sail*

Willow *Scé*

Hawthorn (Whitethorn) *Cáerthann*

Rowan (Mountain Ash) *Beithe*

Birch *Lem*

Elm *Idath*

Wild Cherry *Fodla Fedo*

‘Lower Divisions of the Wood’ (Shrub Trees):

Draigen – Blackthorn

Trom - Elder (Bore Tree)

Féorus - Spindle-Tree

Crithach – Aspen

Crann Fir – Juniper

Findcholl – Whitebeam

Caiithne - Arbutus (Strawberry Tree)

Iosa Fedo



‘Bushes of the Wood’ (Bramble Trees):

Raith – Bracken

Rait - Bog-Myrtle

Aiten - Gorse (Furze)

Dris - Bramble (Blackberry)

Fróech – Heather

Gilcach – Broom

Spín - Wild Rose (Dog Rose)

These Trees and shrubs provided food in the form of fruits; apples, cherries, blackberries, sloes, rowan-berry jam, nuts and seeds. Hazelnuts, acorns and other seeds also provided food for animals such as pigs. Hawthorn, blackthorn, willow and holly provided hedging for stock.

Trees such as hawthorn, alder, elder, and willow provided medicine utilising flowers, fruits, and bark. Alder wood resists rot in water and was used as the foundation for building bridges, crannógs, bog roads, and houses.

Ash wood made furniture, tool handles, coach axles, building timber, and hurley sticks. Hawthorn provided wood for carving and the making of boxes. Yew wood made bows, holly spears and blackthorn cudgels.

Birch provided wood for cradles, gates, and branches for brooms. Hazel ash oak, aspen willow and other species were coppiced.

Willow, hazel and aspen rods were used to weave baskets. Reeds provided the thatching for roofs, as well as flooring and bedding for animals.

Ogham: The Ancient Irish Alphabet:

The Ogham system of writing was developed in Ireland from the 4th century. Each letter denoted a particular tree species.

B Beithe: 'birch-tree'.

L Luis: *Rowan*

F Fearn: 'alder-tree'

S Saille: 'willow-tree'.

N Nuinn Ash

H Úaithe: hawthorn'

D Dair: 'oak-tree'.

T Tinne: Holly



C Coll: 'hazel-tree'

Q Quert: Apple

M Muin: Bramble/Vine

G Gort: ivy

A Ailm: 'pine-tree'

O Onn: 'ash-tree'.

I Idad: 'wild cherry'? (see Kelly, *Celtica* 11 (1976), 115).

Sacred Trees:

There were five great trees of Ireland:

Bile Uisnigh, the ancient tree at Uisneach;

Bile Tortan at Ardbreccan in County Meath;

Craobh Daithi in County Westmeath;

Eo Rossa, a yew at Old Leighlin in County Carlow;

and *Dair Mugna*, an oak at the mouth of the Shannon, Co. Meath.

The Irish word *bíle* means 'sacred tree'. Sacred trees and groves were considered as sanctuaries, and were often the location of celebrations. *Fairy Trees* and *Rag Trees* were considered to be visited by beings of the Otherworld. *Mass Bushes* served as the location for sermons and *Monument Trees* as the location for weddings, royal inaugurations, seasonal festivals, and other social events. Even today, there is a reverence for *Fairy Trees*

Sources

<http://www.livingtreeeducationalfoundation.org/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com>

http://www.forestfriends.ie/html/news/Newsletter_n_26_Forest_Friends.pdf

http://www.forestfriends.ie/html/news/FOREST-FRIENDS-Ireland_NEWSLETTER-27.pdf

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEACEPLUS>

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CONCLUDING REMARKS:

1. The project will explore the possibility of donations from local authorities public and private agencies and philanthropic organisations.
2. Estimates of costs are based on the project running initially for a five year period.
3. The costs of the project can be reduced if the contribution of voluntary inputs can be maximised.
4. This project should be judged in terms of its possible contribution to climate change mitigation, job creation, community development, peace dividend, environmental conservation and enhancement, helping to make transformation from monocultures to biodiversity based model, maximising flora to facilitate pollination, environmental education, promotion of citizen participation.

Future organisational structure of the Peace Forest project;

1. **Trustees:** The project to have trustees to monitor the fulfilment of objectives and goals and to ensure the highest standards of probity.
2. **Facilitation process:** it is suggested that a small group would form a facilitation committee representative of all sectors of society, with communities playing a lead role.
3. **Structure.** The project to be set up as an independent charity, company limited by guarantee, trust as appropriate.

VOLUNTEERING:

It is envisaged that community volunteering will play a key role in the development of the project with opportunities under the following headings:

1. County Project leaders volunteers
2. Co-ordinator volunteers
3. Fundraiser-volunteers
4. Seed collector volunteers
5. Tree nursery and hemp developer volunteers
6. School and community liaison/outreach volunteers
7. Tree and other plant workshop volunteer organisers
8. Coordinating committee member volunteers



Elements in the development of the Forest Friends Ireland Cross Border Peace Forest Project:

- a) GIS Mapping of tree cover along the border areas.
- b) GIS mapping of tree species along the border
- c) Estimate of the contribution of present tree cover in terms of carbon storage and the other functions of trees and woodlands in these areas
- d) Identify tree species most appropriate for new plantings with an emphasis on native Irish hardwood species.
- e) Estimate of extent of tree planting, numerically, that is possible within a ten year period and the contribution which these can make over a 100 year time span. ***The economic values to be based on the following headings: Oxygen provision, carbon storage/climate change, air pollution control, prevention of soil erosion, land fertility value, water recycling, flood prevention, wildlife/biodiversity value, food (horticulture/permaculture), building materials crafts and other usages, aesthetic value, value in the promotion of ecotourism, best farming and horticultural, permacultural and educational values and enhancements.***
- f) Likely benefits to border communities, economic, cultural, social, heritage, environmental.
- g) Estimate of the amount of lands that will likely to become available for planting in the next ten years.
- h) Liaison with prospective partners and stakeholders-establish steering group.
- i) **Develop a flagship project , for a commemorative woodland development** for the planting of trees to commemorate all those who died as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Identify suitable site and tree donors. Forest Friends have offered to donate a substantial number of trees and have a community resource of 1,500 trees approx. Other possible partners and participants could be, Social Farming Across Borders, Macra na Feirme, the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland, the Tree Council of Ireland, CELT, , the Woodland League, ProSilva Ireland, the Forest Service Northern Ireland and the forest Service Republic of Ireland, Horticultural associations northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland, Society of Irish Foresters, to mention just a few. The project is open to other bodies with a particular interest in trees, forests, biodiversity and environmental sustainability to become involved
- j) The project shall provide for continuous community and all stakeholders consultation at **all stages.**
- k) **To avail of the research capacities of third level educational institutions**

HEMP

Hemp is a miracle plant, with myriad uses, fast rotation, environmentally friendly, soil purification properties source of paper clothes and capable of playing a key role in the construction industry.

It should be promoted widely in order to help forest conservation. Hemp should be seen as part of the agro forestry initiatives promoted in the Forest Friends Cross Border Peace Forest Project.