



Acronym	#RootConnection
Full Title	Root Connection: Nature Claims the Forest
Grant Theme	Citizen and stakeholder engagement in Climate-Smart Forestry and forest restoration
Participants	Hnutí DUHA, Czechia
Start Date	March 2026
Duration	16 months
Description	Central European forests face critical vulnerabilities exposed during the 2018-2022 spruce and pine monoculture die-offs, demonstrating severe carbon leakage risks. Current governmental financial instruments provide flat subsidies without incentivizing climate-adaptive practices. Despite successful models like FSC-certified and Pro Silva Bohemica managed forests, carbon storage remains unmeasured. Forest owners prioritizing climate and biodiversity lack networking infrastructure and political representation. This project initiates a policy-active Central European Climate-Smart Forestry platform targeting nature-loving small forest owners managing up to 50 hectares, engaged foresters, and policymakers. Among 300,000 Czech small forest owners, it creates unprecedented networking and advocacy potential. Implementation occurs through three work packages. Platform foundation includes documenting five pioneers through published interviews, connecting 50 foundational stakeholders, delivering two webinars, and establishing institutional frameworks. Internal development builds online infrastructure through website upgrades, practical management cookbook addressing six forest scenarios, WhatsApp communication channels for 50 practitioners, hands-on training attracting 15 participants, and a specialized symposium for 12 professionals. Policy advocacy generates consultation responses on National Nature Recovery Plans, Climate Resilient Landscapes, and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans. Activities employ networking, coalition-building, skill-sharing, legal consultations, and collaborative policy writing. This represents Central Europe's first forest-driven climate mitigation initiative targeted at small forest owners.



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