

PETITION IN FAVOUR OF CORK AND CORK OAK FORESTS
WITH THE SUPPORT OF GoodPlanet.org – A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PRESIDED BY YANN ARTHUS BERTRAND – AND OF JEAN-MARIE PELT,
CHAIRMAN OF THE Institut Européen d'Écologie (European Institute of Ecology)

Join them and add your signature to this petition!

Every signature will be precious, more than you realize!

- With 6 signatures only we shall have saved a cork oak tree
 - For 1 signature = 7,5 m² of preserved forest (*)
 - Our goal : 10 000 signatures
- With all these signatures we will be able to save a forest of 1500 trees, that means 7,5 hectares of cork oak forests

Some good reasons to sign this petition :

• **Preservation of biodiversity**

- Because the cork oak forests are ecological sanctuaries
- They are the habitat of an exceptional variety of fauna and flora, of some of them are endangered species. Among these threatened species we have for example the Iberian lynx (with only 150 individuals trying to survive in the Portuguese wild forests) and the Iberian Imperial Eagle (one of the most endangered birds of prey in the world, with just 150 pairs remaining in the wild, ins Spain and Portugal)...
- The Mediterranean cork oak forests are one of the richest vegetal patrimonies in the world, following the tropical Andes (135 species per square meter of forest).
- These forests could be threatened in consequence of urbanization and of the turning out from a sustainable management policy (the way cork bark is stripped from the cork oak doesn't destroy the tree, but on the contrary this stripping of the tree is necessary for the renovation of the cork bark, as corks has the capacity to regenerate itself naturally).

• **To fight against rapid global warming (greenhouse effect)**

- The cork oak forests are excellent sinks of carbone.
- They have capacity to soak up carbon dioxide; the cork oak forests in Portugal soak up about 4,8 millions tonnes of CO₂/per year, that is 5% of the emissions of the whole country. These forests represent 32% of the world cork-oak forest.
- 1,3 hectare of forest which produces 1 tonne of cork stoppers, can absorb 2 tonnes of CO₂ in one sole year.

• **To preserve Nature and wild life**

- Cork oak forests help to conserve soil by providing protection against wind erosion and desertification; they also play a vital role in the prevention of forest fires, which in the last decades have done so much harm to the Mediterranean landscapes.

- **To preserve men and women, an equitable way of working as well as a traditional livelihood**

- More than 100,000 people in the seven Mediterranean cork-producing (from Portugal to Algeria) depend directly and indirectly on cork, as the cork sector employs many men and women (either in the task of cork harvesting or in the manufacturing of cork stoppers and other products made of cork).
- The cork oak forests host a local economy and a valuable 'savoir faire': it Iberian wild pig, mushrooms (Spain, Portugal and Italy); the branches of these trees as well as the cork wood waste that remains on the ground are collected and used as fuel, as a source of energy for heating the factory boilers (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia), tourism....

Cork oak forests are carefully managed by those who depend of them, for the manufacturing of cork stoppers which will close still wines and sparkling wines (70% of the economical production of a cork oak forest) and for the manufacturing of insulation products ecological and with a high performance

**Our choices have consequences!
By choosing cork you choose Nature**

Your signatures = our commitment

- What you can do to support our action ?

1. Signing the petition on our web page
2. Once the whole form is filled up, click on 'I validate'. Your signature will be automatically registered.
3. Talk among your relatives and friends about this petition. Small branches make huge trees !

(*) Our commitment : The professionals of cork (the French Cork Federation *Fédération Française des Syndicats du Liège* and the Portuguese Cork Association - APCOR) have assumed a compromise to finance the sustainable management or the plantation of **one cork oak tree every 6 signatures**. In order to prevent this engagement to turn into a 'symbolic' commitment and to make of this petition a solid action, we have fixed a goal of 10 000 signatures, which will demand the safeguarding of 1500 trees. It is a work of real, useful and urgent forestation.

- Our partner: The Mediterranean Institut of Cork ('Institut Méditerranéen du Liège - IML), an association that works for the plantation and adoption of good practices of the cork forests of the South of France. Yours signatures will represent a donation which transformed into an economic resource that will allow to achieve this hard task to have a settlement of 7,5 ha of forests of cork oaks.

- Who are we? Professionals of cork (APCOR –Portuguese Cork Association and FFSL – Fédération Française des Syndicats du Liège – Cork French Federation).

THANK YOU! Your signatures/votes will make our commitment meaningful