



Impact summary

23/9/2026

europabank

De bank die durft.

Supports



100

trees planted



17.50

tonnes of CO₂
absorbed during lifetime



Projects we support



Steenhuffel project, Belgium 2024-2025

 100 trees planted

The Steenhuffel reforestation project aims to transform 3.8 hectares of low-diversity grassland, formerly used as a hayfield, into a mixed hardwood forest with continuous canopy. Before the project, the site which is located near the Robbeek creek, had low ecological and economic value and offered significant potential for biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, soil protection, water capture, and biodiversity conservation. A total of 9525 trees will be planted during the 2024-2025 season, representing numerous native species such as *Alnus glutinosa*, *Prunus padus*, *Betula pendula*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Fraxinus excelsior* and many others. The project will also include shrubs along the forest edge to protect biota. This project will significantly enhance local biodiversity and ecological value while contributing to climate resilience.

- Maintenance (2025–2028): Annual mowing of competitive weeds

- Biodiversity and Management: The site will be managed as a mixed hardwood forest, with no identified biotic or abiotic risks. No existing large deadwood or standing trees will require removal prior to planting. The field work will be executed by Bomenplanter.be (Meulebeke), with tree saplings supplied by SYLVA bv.

Plantation updates:

- Planting date: Trees were planted between 14 and 18 April 2025.
- 9525 trees planted: The mix includes 12% *Alnus glutinosa*, 12% *Prunus padus*, 6% each of *Betula pendula*, *Betula pubescens*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Prunus avium*, *Quercus robur*, and *Tilia cordata*. Additionally, 34% of the planting consists of native shrubs, mostly along the forest edge, including *Acer campestre*, *Cornus sanguineum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Euonymus europaeus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Ligustrum vulgare*, *Mespilus germanica*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Rosa canina*, *Sambucus nigra*, and *Viburnum opulus*.
- Monitoring summary: Due to prolonged wet conditions in early 2025, planting was delayed and the trees were stored in cold conditions to maintain dormancy. Planting was done in rows, with holes drilled for each tree. No sensitive habitats were affected.
- Maintenance: Follow-up may be needed depending on soil and weather conditions.

