

Bucharest, 21 March 2019

Holzindustrie Schweighofer: Tomorrow's Forest plants over 200,000 seedlings in spring 2019

- **13 forest lands in six counties with a total area of almost 50 hectares will be planted**
- **About 160,000 seedlings have been planted since the start of the project**
- **One million seedlings are to be planted by 2024**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer announced, on International Forests' Day, that 50 hectares of degraded forest land will be part of this spring's planting actions, as part of its **Tomorrow's Forest** project. A total of 240,000 seedlings of spruce, beech, maple, ash, fir and oak will be used to regenerate these areas

The planting actions will cover 13 land areas in the counties of Cluj, Satu Mare, Suceava, Harghita, Covasna and Brasov. Also part of the *Month of Planting Trees*, the initiative is also monitoring and tending to the areas planted in the previous years – one of the objectives it assumed was to monitor and maintain the plantations for at least three years, so that the seedlings develop a healthy growth.

"We are glad to be back in Dumbravita, Brasov county, where we will plant an additional ten hectares in addition to the ten we planted last year," said Ionut Apostol, project manager for **Tomorrow's Forest**. "That was our first action in 2018 and it is of symbolic value to us. Just as in the previous year, we expect to be joined by kind-hearted volunteers, who are willing to learn as much as they can about the forest. In addition to the technical and environmental components, our project also has an educational component, and the hundreds of young people who take on our challenge each year are as many positive examples of involvement in protecting Romania's national environment."

The project was launched in September 2017 in partnership with the Association of Forests Administrators, the Stefan cel Mare University in Suceava and Holzindustrie Schweighofer, in a move of helping private forest owners as well as local administrations nationwide to reforest the forest land areas which experience regeneration difficulties.

The **Tomorrow's Forest** project will plant one million seedlings, with the aim of:

- supporting forest owners who do not have the capabilities to regenerate degraded forests;
- creating a significant positive impact for local communities, which will actively be involved in the project;
- substantially contributing to the conservation forest resources, prevent land erosion, land slides and flooding in the respective areas.

More than 160,000 seedlings have been planted since the start of the project, on a total area of 40 hectares. Until now, the **Tomorrow's Forest** initiative has involved over 1,000 volunteers in its actions, which took place in eight counties nationwide. The project targets private forest land owners all over the country, who can register an area on www.padureademaine.ro.

About Tomorrow's Forest

Tomorrow's Forest is a multiannual, national project, developed by the Association of Forest Administrators and the Stefan cel Mare University in Suceava, with the support of Holzindustrie Schweighofer. The project answers an urgent need to reforest private lands. The forest lands have been restituted in several stages and certain situations have led – in some cases – to forest degradation. There are subsidies for afforestation (forests planted on non-forest land), but not for reforestation in such areas. The project aims to plant one million seedlings over five years. Maintenance and monitoring works will continue for three years, to assure the reaching of the objective, respectively the successful installation of forest vegetation. More details on www.padureademaine.ro

About AAP

AAP is a non-governmental organisation, apolitical, non-profit, the professional association of forest administrators. The association was set up in 2004 and has the status of a public utility since 2015. Its members are 109 private Forest Management Units, which manage 1.5 million hectares of forest land owned by the territorial administrative units (64%), legal entities (30%) and individuals.

Holzindustrie Schweighofer's measures for a sustainable and secure wood supply chain in Romania

- **GPS-tracking – transparency for the supply chain**
 Holzindustrie Schweighofer has implemented a GPS tracking system in Romania (Timflow). This system surpasses all legal requirements by far. Every truck delivering Romanian saw logs to the company's sawmills is equipped with a GPS device, which proves the logs' exact loading place. The results are public on www.timflow.com.
- **Holzindustrie Schweighofer does not accept timber from national parks**
 Holzindustrie Schweighofer implemented a "Zero Timber from National Parks"-Policy in Romania, although the legislation would allow for logging in so called national park buffer zones.
- **Open doors policy for NGOs**
 In line with its commitment towards transparent communication, Holzindustrie Schweighofer has implemented an open door policy for NGOs. After registering with the company's Compliance Department and signing a standard non-disclosure agreement regarding the technologies used, representatives of recognized NGOs can visit our mills unannounced. Our goal is to transparently demonstrate our efforts to ensure a secure supply chain.
- **Regular EUTR controls confirm Holzindustrie Schweighofer's due diligence system**
 Between March 2015 and March 2018 Holzindustrie Schweighofer's Romanian sawmills and panel production sites were subject to 11 controls under the European Timber Regulation (EUTR). All confirmed that Holzindustrie Schweighofer's due diligence system complied with the standards laid down by the European Timber Regulation (EUTR). The EUTR is the legal framework ensuring that only legally harvested timber enters the European Union's market. The core of the 'due diligence' notion is that operators apply a risk management procedure appropriate to minimize the risk of placing illegally harvested timber, or timber products containing illegally harvested timber, on the EU market.
- **Improved stakeholder consultation**
 During the past two years, Holzindustrie Schweighofer improved and intensified its dialogue with all stakeholders. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to an open and transparent dialogue with NGOs and civil society. We share the aim of securing sustainability in timber processing.
- **Strict controls for sensitive forest areas**
 Holzindustrie Schweighofer has developed a system for risk minimization based on geographical maps issued by the Romanian Association for Forest Certification which identify regions that are susceptible to unlawful logging. If Holzindustrie Schweighofer buys timber from these regions or from sites that are located in close vicinity to national parks or virgin forests, our employees act with the highest degree of sensitivity by inspecting the most important documents necessary for legal timber harvesting (the authorized document proving the harvested amount "APV", the transport document "Aviz" and the forest management plan) with maximum attention.
- **Compliance and anti-corruption training**
 For its Romanian employees, especially those working in the area of purchasing, Holzindustrie Schweighofer organizes anti-corruption and compliance trainings on a regular basis.
- **Strengthened compliance team**
 A rigorous due diligence process requires an adequate number of trained experts. Holzindustrie Schweighofer doubled its team for compliance and certification, to 16 employees.
- **Exclusion of suppliers who do not comply with Holzindustrie Schweighofer's purchasing policy**
 If suppliers don't follow the company's purchasing policy, they are excluded from the supply chain.
- **Afforestation projects**
 In September 2017, Holzindustrie Schweighofer, together with the Romanian Association of Forest Administrators (AFA) and University of Suceava, launched the multi-year afforestation project "Tomorrow's



Forest / Pădurea de Mâine". The project targets degraded forest areas of small, private owners and communities. With this large-scale project Holzindustrie Schweighofer wants to contribute to the protection and regeneration of the Romanian forests. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is investing around 1 million Euros in this project, which aims at planting around one million trees until 2024. More details: www.padureademaine.ro

- **Holzindustrie Schweighofer pays a bonus of 10 lei/m³ (2 Euro) for FSC-certified saw logs**
To ensure a sustainable supply chain in Romania that meets the high FSC standards, Holzindustrie Schweighofer pays its suppliers a bonus for FSC-certified logs.
- **Information on our website www.schweighofer.at:** Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to a transparent and open public dialogue. The website www.schweighofer.at/en/responsibility.html is part of the company's contribution towards this discourse and showcases its efforts to improve sustainability.

About the Schweighofer Group

The Schweighofer Group has its roots in a traditional Austrian family company with over 400 years of experience in wood processing. Today, the Group is primarily active in the wood processing industry, forest management, bioenergy production and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel productions in Romania and one sawmill in Germany. It takes a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,100 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide.

Pentru mai multe detalii

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