



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

Is mían liom mo bheannachtaí a thabhairt dóibh siúd a ghlac páirt sa Léig Woodland agus sibh ag déanamh bhur seacht ndícheall Coill Mhór Eachtaí a athneartú.

May I extend my best wishes to all those involved in the Woodland League as you embark on your ambitious plan to restore the Great Forest of Aughty.

It is truly inspiring to see a dedicated group of concerned citizens coming together to revive the once majestic oak forest that played such a significant role in Ireland's natural heritage. By seeking to restore the Great Forest of Aughty, you are not only honouring the ancient legacy of Ireland but also embodying the spirit of stewardship and harmony with the land.

The gradual destruction of the Great Forest of Aughty over the centuries is a loss that resonates with all those who understand the importance of preserving our planet's precious ecosystems. It is also a reminder of the need for sustainable practices and the long-term consequences of exploiting our finite natural resources without considering the impacts on future generations.

In recent years the world has recognised the importance of restoring native woodlands, halting the loss of biodiversity and preventing the degradation of natural habitats through a shared global commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The restoration of the Great Forest of Aughty reminds us of the profound importance of our ancient forests and native woodlands, not only in sustaining life and enhancing biodiversity on our shared planet, but also in renewing and enriching our cultural heritage.

It is particularly noteworthy that you acknowledge the ancient connections to the Tuatha Dé Danaan, embracing the rich mythology and folklore that weave through the history of Ireland. This recognition allows for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the land's heritage, ár n-oidhreacht, bringing forth a sense of unity and reverence.

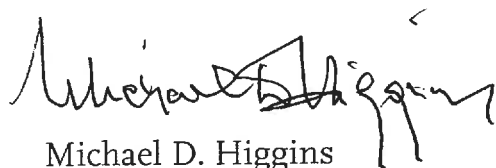
By also recognizing the wisdom and knowledge of Native American Indigenous peoples, who have long held a profound understanding of the intricate relationship between humans and the natural world, you display an inclusiveness and openness to learning from different cultures. The collaboration between these cultures can undoubtedly foster a profound exchange of insights, techniques, and respect for nature.

I commend your dedication and determination to make this restoration plan a reality. It is through the collective efforts of passionate groups and engaged individuals like yourselves that we can make a lasting impact on our environment and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Guím gach rath ar bhur n-iarrachtaí maidir leis an dtogra seo agus leis an bhfechtas cabhrach seo agus go seasa sé mar fhianaise don nasc buan idir daoine agus dúlra. Is féidir linn teacht le chéile chun todhchaí a chruthú ina léireofar meas d'áilleacht agus beocht ár gcoillte agus ina chosnófar na coillte ionas gur féidir leis an gcéad ghlúin eile taitneamh a bhaint astu.

May your efforts to restore the Great Forest of Aughty be met with success, standing as a testament to the enduring bond between humans and the natural world. Together, we can work towards a future where the beauty and vitality of our forests are cherished and protected for future generations to enjoy.

Beir gach beannacht do'n todchaí.



Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland