



# 2BILLION TREES

## 2 BILLION TREES SCIENCE

### Research in Support of Tree Planting

NOTE 7

## Indigenous guidance to plant the right trees in the right places

#### LEAD RESEARCHER:

Nicolas Mansuy

#### CFS CENTRE:

Northern Forestry Centre

#### PROJECT LOCATION:

Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 territories  
in the province of Alberta

#### Project Drivers

Indigenous peoples are the custodians of at least 40% of the world's forested landscape. Evidence shows that when local communities are empowered to manage and restore forests, forests are more resilient and provide more socio-economic outcomes. Therefore, creating opportunities to document and learn from Indigenous knowledge systems is critical to the future of both humans and nature. With this in mind, the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program strives to apply Indigenous and community knowledge systems to inform the 2BT program design and outcomes. Learning from Indigenous knowledge and expertise will play a key role in enhancing human well-being, increasing biodiversity, and scaling up climate change mitigation practices through tree planting. This project will build on established collaborations and existing networks with Indigenous communities and academic partners. In collaboration with these groups, the project team will identify and mobilize Indigenous knowledge to provide a better understanding of what optimal tree planting placement entails from an Indigenous perspective.

#### Project Approach

This project will build trust with Indigenous communities and incorporate their knowledge and practices. This understanding will expand upon seed collection and storage, site selection, species choice (trees and shrubs), traditional forest management practices, and socio-economic and cultural considerations. A workshop will be organized in Alberta to bring together these Indigenous communities with the goal of evaluating their needs and capacity. The workshop will also help to understand their perspectives and vision on restoration and tree planting practices.

#### Anticipated Outputs and Impacts

This project will inform the 2BT program about the needs of Indigenous communities in Northern Alberta. It will also explore the capacity and expertise of Indigenous peoples in the field of tree planting. This project will help identify and mobilize Indigenous knowledge, data, capacity and expertise to develop best practices and principles. The project team aims to publish a report and a scientific paper that summarizes Indigenous knowledge and guidance. The report will be presented in a toolkit format to support the development of best practices and principles for restoration and tree planting. This will support the 2BT program by informing proponents' project designs. Additionally, by engaging with different communities, this project will support co-learning, training and networking among communities.