2025

GLOBAL NATUREFRIENDS DAYS

CLIMATE HIKES

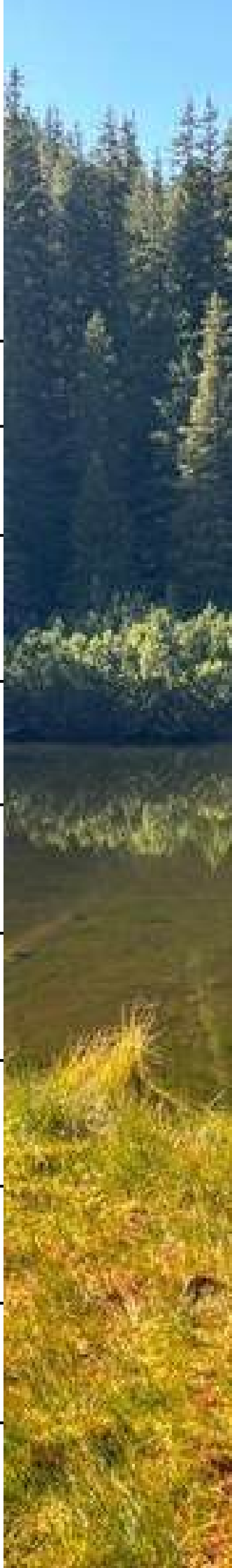
Hiking for a better future!

Naturefriends International

www.nf-int.org

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Celebrating nature and solidarity!

The idea of a Naturefriends Day was first introduced in 1948, around our foundation date of 16 September 1895. It was created to honour the strong sense of solidarity that helped our movement survive the difficult times of facism, especially thanks to the support of fellow Naturefriends in countries like Switzerland and the United States.

This beautiful tradition continues today, with many groups celebrating in September. To strengthen its international spirit, the 2018 NFI Annual Conference decided to revive the Global Naturefriends Day, focusing on internationality, solidarity, and nature.



Since 2021, our shared motto has been "Nature and Solidarity" , a theme that unites us all while giving each group the freedom to create their own local activities.

Together, we celebrate what connects us: our love for nature and our commitment to one another.

We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all Naturefriends groups that organised activities during the Global Naturefriends Days 2025.

Your energy and commitment made this celebration truly special!

Why a Climate Hike ?

This year (and in the years to come), we encouraged all Naturefriends groups to celebrate Global Naturefriends Days by organizing a Climate Hike!

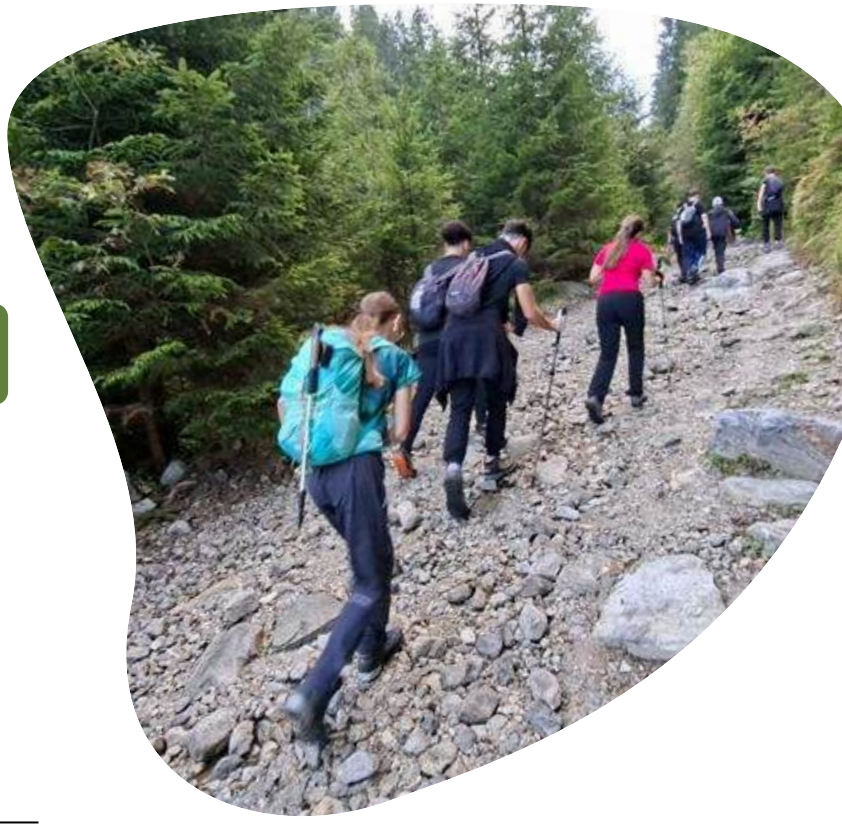
A Climate Hike is more than just a walk in nature. Rooted in our tradition of social hiking, it combines recreation, (self-)education, meaningful conversation, and environmental awareness. It's a chance to connect with nature, reflect on the climate crisis, and take action together.

Your hike can take any form that suits your community whether it's a family-friendly walk, a forest trail adventure, or a scenic route near your local Naturefriends House or Natura Trail.

We're delighted that the first Naturefriends groups have embraced this new concept and organised their own Climate Hikes!

Moreover, some groups focused their hikes on showing solidarity with the Climate Fund, combining outdoor activity with climate action.

Read on to discover all the highlights and inspiring moments from the activities that took place throughout September.



More about Climate Hikes and the guideline : nf int.org/climatehikes

Climate Hikes with Naturefriends France

On 14 September, Les Amis de la Nature France invited local groups to organise Climate Hikes across the country on the choosen theme of water. The national call was met with great enthusiasm, as several groups across the country took part in this initiative.

- **Naturefriends Grenoble joined forces with Naturefriends Brignoud for a shared Climate Hike.**
- **Naturefriends Île-de-France, namely members from Colombes, Saint-Quentin, Paris Centre, and Paris Sud came together to follow the path of the Marivel stream.**
- **Naturefriends Guebwiller, along with members from Vosges, Moselle, Bas-Rhin, and Haut-Rhin, explored the Petit Ballon region.**
- **Naturefriends Jean de Niost organised a Climate Hike along the Rhône and Ain rivers.**





Through the Climate Hikes, participants reflected on the crucial role of water in ecosystems and climate, strengthening both environmental awareness and community ties.

Climate Hike with Naturefriends Île-de-France

On 14 September, the Naturefriends Île-de-France group gathered at Porchefontaine station to begin their Climate Hike, following the scenic path of the Marivel stream.

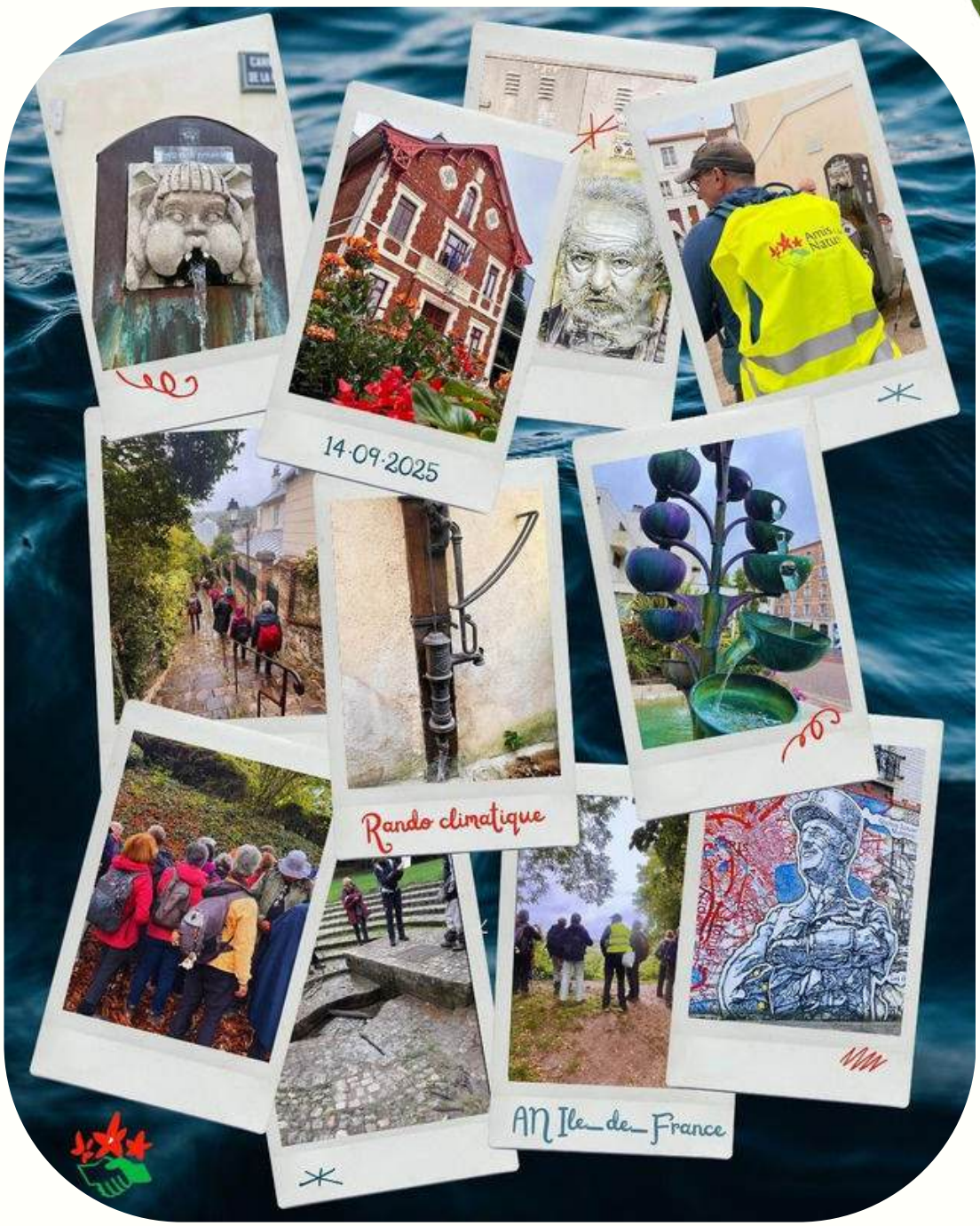
The day began with a reminder of a crucial message: water is a precious resource that deserves our respect.

Often called "Blue Gold," water has long been at the heart of both economic and ecological challenges.
Less than 1% of the planet's water is directly drinkable, the rest is salty, frozen, or polluted.



And according to the OECD, global demand for freshwater is expected to rise by 50% by 2050. We speak of water stress today but what will tomorrow bring?

With these reflections in mind, participants enjoyed a half-forest, half-urban route, rich in history and discovery. Along the way, they encountered fountains, old washhouses, the former royal cellars, remnants of the Meuse breweries, and beautiful street art frescoes.



The hike ended at Pont de Sèvres, where everyone parted ways with smiles and shared inspiration.

The Naturefriends of Colombes, St Quentin, Paris Centre, and Paris Sud have already agreed to meet again in 2026 for another Climate Hike!

Amis de la Nature France

Climate Hike with Naturefriends Guebwiller, Vosges, Moselle, Bas-Rhin, and Haut-Rhin

On Sunday 14 September, in eastern France, the interdepartmental meeting organised by the Naturefriends of Guebwiller brought together Naturefriends from the Vosges, Moselle, Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin regions at the Petit Ballon refuge.

Nearly 40 participants took part in the three hikes on offer before sharing a convivial moment over soup and sausages at the Rothenbrunnen refuge.

The theme of 'Water & Solidarity' was presented, with a project aimed at improving water retention in the Vosges mountains, which have been affected by drought.







Amis de la Nature France

Climate Hike with Naturefriends Grenoble and Brignoud

The Naturefriends of Grenoble and Brignoud joined forces to offer their members a hike in the Bois de la Bâtie Nature Reserve, as well as along the small lakes of the Bois Français.

Twenty-one members responded to the call, which was open to the general public.

To their surprise, the water in the marsh was very low.

The Isère region has not been spared during this period of global warming, especially with repeated heatwaves.
The day continued with a picnic lunch.







Some Naturefriends joined together for a guided tour of the Musée de la Houille Blanche (Maison Bergès) in Villard-Bonnot.

A tour of the house marked by the influence of Aristide Bergès.





At the end of the walk, participants were encouraged to make a voluntary contribution of € 1 to the Naturefriends Climate Fund.

As a result, € 15 were donated to the federation, which was responsible for transferring the funds.



Amis de la Nature France

Climate Hike with Naturefriends Saint-Jean-de-Niost

On Sunday 14 September, the Saint-Jean-de-Niost Naturfriends group responded to the call of the French Naturefriends Federation on theme of Water & Solidarity.

Despite uncertain weather, fifteen members of all ages enjoyed a beautiful 10 km hike to the confluence of the Ain and Rhône rivers, one of the last natural deltas in Europe.

The hike ended with the traditional drink at La Rivière campsite, bringing walkers and friends together for a warm moment.







Amis de la Nature France

Global Naturefriends Days with Naturefriends Oberfreiamt Oberrüti (NF Switzerland)

The second Freiämter Wandertag (Freiamt Hiking Day) took place on Sunday, 14 September 2025.
The goal of this event was to inspire nature and hiking enthusiasts from Freiamt and beyond to enjoy a relaxing and sociable day outdoors.



Participants could choose between three circular routes of varying difficulty, offering something for everyone.

The 2nd Freiämter Hiking Day was a great success, with 252 registered participants taking part!



As announced, they donated 2 Swiss francs per participant to the Climate Fund, amounting to 504 francs which was rounded it up, transferring 530 euros in total to the Climate Fund projects in Mali, Senegal and Togo.



NF Oberfreiamt Oberrüti

Global Naturefriends Days in Belgium

The Global Naturefriends Day 2025, organized by ATB De Natuurvrienden, took place on 14 September and was hosted by the local group of Aarschot, supported by members from Rotselaar.



For the first time, the event had an international character, welcoming around 200 participants from the Flemish Naturefriends, UFAN (Francophone Belgium), Nivon (Netherlands), and Naturefriends Germany.

The event was designed around three core values: biodiversity, sustainability, and solidarity, offering a diverse programme including hikes, nature activities, cultural experiences, and adventure.



Activities were fully member-organized, supported by expert nature guides from Natuurpunt and the Flemish Nature & Forest Agency.

The cultural programme featured music, dance, acrobatics, and performances by local artists, including contributions from Young Naturefriends.



Nature & Sustainability
The event highlighted sustainable practices through vegetarian meals with a low climate impact, collective transport, and hands-on experiences in nature. Participants explored forest management and biodiversity during guided visits to local nature reserves and learned about wind power as a renewable energy source. Sustainable values were further reflected in the use of handmade decorations made from garden flowers.



Social solidarity
The event strongly reflected the values of social solidarity through affordable participation, inclusive transport for people with disabilities, fair trade catering, and collaboration with a local social enterprise. Special dietary needs were respected, and proceeds from the day will support fire-protection investments at the Naturefriends House "Auberge d'Arimont."





International
The event had a strong international dimension, bringing together Naturefriends from Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels, the Netherlands, and Germany. A multilingual programme highlighted the social and political importance of cross-border cooperation, while informal networking laid the groundwork for future collaborations, including the Peace Walk 2027, joint projects around the Naturefriends House Auberge d'Arimont, the development of a shared hiking network with GPX tracks, and the organisation of more international events.

NF ATB Belgium

Climate Hike in Evo National Park, Finland







The Climate Hike in the Evo hiking area was organised on 27 September by the Finnish Hiking Association and Hämeenlinnan Retkeilijät as part of Global Naturefriends Days 2025 and its theme of climate-related hikes.

A total of 24 hikers from five different hiking clubs took part in the hike, and together with the support teams at the Tarus hut, there were over 30 participants. The following clubs were represented: Vihti Hikers, Kuusankoski Hikers, Salpausselkä Samoojat, Hämeenlinna Hikers, Helsinki Workers' Hikers and Järvenpää Hikers.

The event included a 5 km route, which took about 4 hours to complete and followed the Ilves (lynx) trail network around Lake Sorsajärvi. Led by experts, participants explored the Haarajärvi Nature Reserve, one of the few remaining primeval forests in southern Finland.

Highlights included the ice age-formed ridges with boulders, untouched lake and stream ecosystems, old spruce forests, grove-like depressions, remnants of historic log driving and a contrasting section with young commercial forest. Along the way, hikers were able to identify plants, collect mushrooms and observe traces of beavers. The programme began with group meetings in Hämeenlinna and Tuulos before everyone met at the Evo Centre. Breaks were taken at the Vaarinkorpi and Sorsakolu shelters. After returning to the starting point, the participants drove to the Tarus hiking area, where Hämeenlinnan Retkeilijät offered soup, evening snacks and the opportunity to take a sauna in their hut.

NF Finland

Global Naturefriends Days in Ylläs, Finland

A group of Naturefriends from Finland enjoyed a wonderful hiking adventure in Ylläs, where they experienced both the beauty of the landscape and the warmth of companionship.

With mostly favourable weather, the trek was both pleasant and safe.

Nine hikers completed a four-night backpacking journey, while twelve additional participants joined for day hikes.
The breathtaking autumn colours transformed the scenery into a vibrant backdrop, making every step unforgettable.

The hikers returned inspired, uplifted, and full of beautiful memories from their time in nature.







NF Finland

Climate Hike with Naturefriends Timisoara, Romania

The 2025 edition of Tura Alei brought together families, nature lovers, and environmental advocates for a special event themed Climate Hike. Held in Retezat National Park, one of Romania's most pristine natural areas, the event blended outdoor exploration with practical environmental education.



Because this year saw a record number of participants, organizers introduced two separate routes to prevent overcrowding and to minimize ecological pressure on a single trail. Adventurers could choose between the challenging ascent to Peleaga Peak (2509 m) or the scenic hike to Laculi Galesul (2000 m).



The event took into account a number of climate-friendly aspects:

Smart, Sustainable Transport
Efficient transportation from Timișoara → NF Codrin → Timișoara to limit emissions and reduce traffic impact.
Resource Management at NFhouse Codrin. Educational sessions on responsible use of:

- **Drinking & domestic water**
- **Electricity**
- **Reuse and repurposing of materials**
- **Waste reduction & proper waste management**

Seasonal, sustainable food

- **Meals prepared using seasonal, local ingredients, lowering the event's ecological footprint.**

Observing tourism impact

- **Understanding how increased foot traffic affects mountain trails, vegetation, wildlife, and overall ecosystem health.**

Nature protection in Retezat National Park

- **Learning about conservation practices and how each hiker can help preserve fragile mountain environments.**

Promoting eco-friendly practices

- **Encouraging participants to share their experiences to inspire environment-friendly behavior in wider communities.**







Tura Alei 2025 gives families the chance to explore the stunning Retezat Mountains while discovering how simple, everyday actions can protect nature.

Together, we're building a community that hikes responsibly, respects the environment, and promotes sustainable values.

NF Timisoara

Climate Hike in Biesbosch National Park, Nivon

On 27 September, members of Naturefriends Netherlands carried out a Climate Hike in the Biesbosch National Park, a unique tidal nature reserve that is home to the Nivon De Kleine Rug Naturefriends House.



The area is increasingly threatened by chemical pollution, particularly from Chemours, whose PFAS and plastic discharges are endangering the water quality, wildlife and ecosystems that make the Biesbosch such an extraordinary place.

In order to raise public awareness and strengthen community action, a Climate Hike was organised from De Kleine Rug. The day began with presentations by experts, including biologists, chemists and local guides, who explained the environmental challenges facing the region and how pollution directly affects the Naturefriends House.



Participants undertook a 13-kilometre hike through the beautiful Biesbosch.
The event brought together members of Nivon, local residents, environmental organisations and political representatives. The aim was to learn from each other, share our concerns and strengthen our collective power to protect nature. This initiative reflects the Naturefriends believe that environmental problems, the rise of the far right and climate change do not stop at borders.



After the walk, participants had lunch together and returned home on foot, by bicycle, by car or by public transport.
To help participants prepare, various information materials were made available, including Zembla's investigative reports on Chemours and several documentary films showing the beauty and vulnerability of the Biesbosch.

Nivon

Climate Hike with Naturefriends Greece

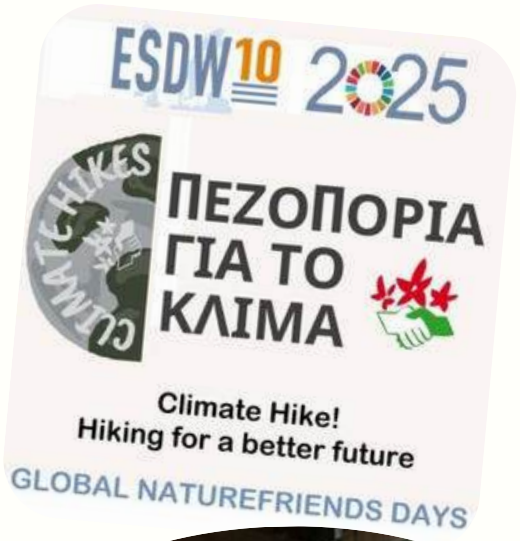
Naturefriends Greece (NFGR) continued its commitment to promoting environmental and social values by celebrating Global Naturefriends Days 2025 with a special activity aligned with the NFI campaign "Climate Hike! – Hiking for a Better Future."

This year's event took place at the renowned Julia & Alexander N. Diomedes Botanic Garden, located on historic Mount Aigaleo and recognised by The Guardian as one of Europe's "10 best secret gardens" (2025).

The program consisted of two parts:

Indoor educational Ssession that introduced participants to:

- **The UN Sustainable Development Goals, with emphasis on SDG 13: Climate Action**
- **The European Sustainable Development Week 2025 (ESDW) initiative, where the event was officially registered**
- **Key international reference texts, including the UIAA Declaration and the NFI publication "Guideline Climate Hikes – Step by Step Towards Your Climate Hike!"**
- **A presentation featuring the NFI Anniversary Video, the theme "Nature and Solidarity!", and highlights of NFGR, NFI, and IYNF activities.**







An outdoor activity, namely a climate hike where participants explored the Botanic Garden and nearby Mount Aigaleo while:

- **Learning about the garden's history**
- **Identifying local and ancient Greek plant species, guided by agronomist Alkisti Vitsa**
- **Discussing responsible hiking principles: safety, cultural respect, and Leave No Trace practices**
- **A special focus was placed on notable species such as Conium maculatum, historically used in the execution of Socrates.**



Around 40 guests attended, including Naturefriends members, Botanic Garden representatives, local citizens, and civil-society actors.
NFGR promoted the event through posters, a dedicated Climate Hike logo, social media, press releases, and outreach to the NATURE 2000 Environmental Network.



The 2025 Climate Hike strengthened:

- **The visibility and prestige of Naturefriends International in Greece**
- **The cohesion and engagement of NFGR members**
- **The long-term collaboration between NFGR and the Diomedes Botanic Garden, especially in environmental education and outdoor recreation**



NFGR's celebration of Global Naturefriends Days once again highlighted the importance of learning, connecting with nature, and taking collective action for a sustainable future.

NF Greece

Global Naturefriends Days with Naturefriends Togo

As part of the Climate Fund project "Trees for Kpalimé," Naturefriends Togo celebrated Global Naturefriends Days on 12 September by planting 1,022 seedlings.

"Trees for Kpalimé" is a two-year community reforestation and environmental education initiative that aims to create a 5-hectare forest park and arboretum in Kpalimé. In addition, two hectares along the Danyi River will be reforested to restore the gallery forest that protects the riverbanks and revitalize the ecosystem.

By planting 5,000 trees representing more than 30 native species, some of which are endangered, the project will restore urban green spaces, promote biodiversity conservation, and raise awareness among young people and citizens about climate change.



Planting today means protecting tomorrow's climate. In Kpalimé, demographic pressure is leading to severe deforestation. This project is a response to increasingly scarce rainfall and environmental degradation.

Pablo Agbogan Yaovi, Secretary General of the Case TOGO-Amis de la Nature







More about this project : climatefund.nf-int.org/en/trees-for-kpalime/

Naturefriends Togo

Get involved next year!

CLIMATE HIKES

Hiking for a better future!

Global Naturefriends Days
4 - 27 September 2026

Be Part of a Global Movement!

The more groups that join, the bigger the impact. Let's set an example together! Set a signal of solidarity by linking your hike to collection of donations for the Naturefriends Climate Fund (climatefund.nf-int.org) to further support climate action.



Don't forget to send us your photos and stories, we'll proudly share your activities on our social media channels to inspire others
or tag us
on Facebook: Naturefriends International and
Instagram: naturefriends_international

Please remember to use the hashtag:
#GlobalNaturefriendsDays

Organize a Climate Hike and be part of the change!