



**P R O J E C T**

**MAJA**

**10 YEARS**



We believe that individuals can make a difference. We know that it's our actions, not our opinions, that define us.

Founded in 2009, **Project Maja** is a social action programme bringing together leading politicians and activists from across the world to participate in community led voluntary projects: from building sports facilities in Gaziantep refugee camp, to refurbishing schools in Srebrenica.

This year's initiative - **Project Maja X** is being organised in Pakistan.



Due to the arid geographic location of the country, Pakistan has less forest cover than many countries in the region. The combination of high altitude alpine provinces, and low lying deserts mean that only 5% of the country is covered in woodland. Despite this – Pakistan is an incredibly biodiverse country with a nine distinct eco-regions: Mangrove Wetlands, Tropical Thorn, Sub-tropical Evergreen Broadleaved, Tropical Chir, Moist Temperate, Dry Temperate, Sub-alpine, Alpine, and permanent snow fields. The diversity of wildlife ranges from the Blind Indus Dolphin in the South, to the highly endangered snow leopard in the rugged mountains to the North.

However, poor forest management practices and the high dependency of local communities on logging for meeting a wide variety of needs - including construction timber, firewood, clearing way for agricultural land, and non-timber products such as wild fruits and medicinal plants - often results in deforestation and degradation of the ecosystems. Forest degradation in Pakistan has negatively impacted communities, ecosystems, and biodiversity. As forested areas shrink, their attendant resources also disappear.

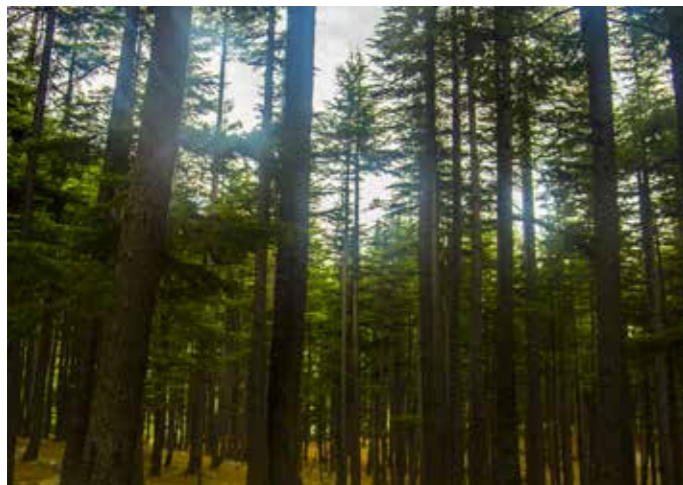


This year, Project Maja will take place in Pakistan to support Prime Minister Imran Khan's massive reforestation project – named the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami. What started in 2014 with the goal to restore previously deforested landscapes by planting 1 billion saplings - has already been achieved with over 350,000 hectares of trees added. The Government of Pakistan now aims to replicate that success, with an additional '10 Billion Trees'.



“Overseas projects such as this are not just an opportunity to help a community, to put something back and to help transform lives, they also help to strengthen ties.”

*Daniel Hannan*  
Chairman of Project Maja





“The core of Conservative philosophy and of the case for protecting the environment are the same. No generation has a freehold on this earth.”

*Margaret Thatcher*



OUR PREVIOUS PROJECTS

## Korčula, Croatia

In October 2018, MEPs travelled to Korčula, an island off the coast of Croatia, to assist in building a community football pitch to support the young people in the area. The pitch will be the home ground of Jadran, the local football team of the nearby town Smokvica. It is intended that the new pitch will help keep young people away from drugs, which have become a problem in recent years, by providing them with the safe space to develop away from the streets, and by giving support from professionals about diet, exercise, health, education and wellbeing. Our volunteers built the fence around the pitch and helped to improve the facilities for the team.



PROJECT  
MAJA

VIII

2016

## Athens, Greece

In November 2016, Project Maja Athens brought together parliamentarians from across Europe to assist in projects working to help those most affected by the euro currency crisis still gripping Greece today. Our volunteers had the chance to hear first-hand from charities and government representatives about the reality of the euro-imposed austerity; and provided material assistance to help the "Praksis" charity at their day centre for the homeless in the centre of Athens.



## Catania, Italy

In August 2015, 40 MPs, MEPs and party officials volunteered to help the Italian authorities struggling to cope with the migration crisis. As well as assisting at a landing and distributing aid, the volunteers renovated a centre for underage migrants in Messina and did up a primary school in Grammichele that has had to accommodate many migrant children.

PROJECT  
MAJA

VII

2015



## Slavonia, Croatia

In October 2014, over 40 party representatives from 15 countries spent two days building and renovating playgrounds in the villages of Rajevo Selo, Racinovcima and Drenovcima in the Slavonia region of Eastern Croatia devastated by severe flooding earlier in year. Volunteers, led by Ruza Tomašić MEP, also built new facilities in local schools.

## Zenica and Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

In July 2014, a delegation of 10 Ministers, MPs and Peers travelled to Bosnia to support a local charity, Medica Zenica, to help build and equip a new counselling and information centre. Medica Zenica provides psycho-social, medical, and informational support to women and children who have been affected by conflict, including sexual violence and war-time rape.



PROJECT  
MAJA

IV

2014

## Gaziantep, Turkey

In January 2014, we brought a team of fifty European parliamentarians from thirteen countries to the Nizip-2 refugee camp in Southern Turkey close to the Syrian border. Members and activists swapped their suits for hammers and paint brushes to help improve the amenities in the camp; laying a new football pitch for the refugees, while also distributing aid, warm clothing and toys to families and their children.



## Sarajevo and Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

In February 2012, Project Maja returned to Bosnia with a number of elected parliamentarians. This time the project included a renovation of a school for children with disabilities. During their stay, the delegation visited the Potocari Memorial Centre and talked with representatives from the Mothers of Srebrenica.

PROJECT  
MAJA

III

2012



## Sylhet and Dhaka, Bangladesh

In September 2011, a team of 35 volunteers refurbished Hazi Muhammed Shafiq High School in Sylhet, taught English, recorded the work of BRAC and Sight Savers in treating preventable blindness and helped London Tigers set up a football team and cricket centre.



## Sarajevo and Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

In July 2009, projects in this war-ravaged area included finishing off a newly built house for a war widow, building a football pitch for the young children and refurbishing an IT suite at the local secondary school, complete with ten brand new computers.





“Society is indeed a contract. It is a partnership not only between those who are living but between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born.”

*Edmund Burke*





[info@projectmaja.org](mailto:info@projectmaja.org)