

Sunday, July 24th, 2022

On July 18, a fire started on one of our reforestation projects in Ateca (Aragón, Spain).

The fire started while a contractor was using a retro-spider excavator to prepare the soil to plant trees later this winter. The operators alerted the emergency services, who worked non-stop and now have the fire under control. Nonetheless, we are devastated by the latest estimate that 14,000 hectares have been affected.

We sympathize deeply with the local community who were temporarily evacuated from their homes and saw their landscape severely damaged. Since the beginning of the emergency, we have offered our help and collaboration to the authorities. We will continue to follow up on anything we can do in this situation.

We want to emphasize that the contractor, a local company with extensive experience in the area, had the appropriate authorization issued by the local and regional authorities. In addition, Land Life requires all contractors to follow the preventive measures recommended by the authorities in these extreme drought and heat conditions.

Everyone at Land Life is deeply affected by the consequences of this devastating fire. Land Life was founded with the clear mission to restore nature, ecosystems and degraded land worldwide. After more than 7 years of planting trees in Spain, this year of unprecedented extreme climate conditions has been the first time we have experienced fire in our projects. Despite this heartbreaking setback, Land Life remains committed to restoring nature so critical to mitigating climate change.

We have opened an investigation to clarify what happened. We will share the results with the authorities and the public as soon as we have them. From Land Life, we send our support and solidarity to all affected people and the emergency teams involved.

Rebekah Braswell & Tjeerd Anema
CEOs, Land Life