



Foundation for World Education

April 2017

NEWSLETTER

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KENYA

Auroville/Africa
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SADHANA FOREST

Sadhana Forest is one of Auroville's most vibrant and successful projects. In 2003, Yorit and Aviram Rozin aspired to transform seventy acres of severely eroded, arid land on the outskirts of Auroville. At the same time they sought to educate people regarding sustainable living, food security through ecological transformation, wasteland reclamation, and veganism. Fourteen years later, with the help of 7,000 volunteers from India and around the world, they have planted 29,000 indigenous trees suited to the local climate and have restored a severely depleted groundwater table. Over the years friendship and cooperation have also blossomed between Sadhana Forest and local villages. A large number of visitors from the region, including thousands of children, have been warmly welcomed and invited both to learn and to participate.

In the spirit of promoting human unity, Sadhana Forest has also founded projects in Haiti and in Kenya which emphasize planting food-bearing trees to create "food forests." The following article by Aviram Rozin is part two of the FWE newsletter's focus on the connection between Auroville and Africa.



“With the help of 7,000 volunteers ...they have planted 29,000 indigenous trees suited to the local climate and have restored a severely depleted groundwater table.”



SADHANA FOREST, KENYA

In a remote corner of Samburu County, northern Kenya the sun is only just peeking over the eastern hills, but a dedicated team of international volunteers and local Samburu already have a vehicle loaded up with tools, water and prep materials. There's just time for a quick breakfast before heading to one of the nearby villages where they will meet with members of the families who are receiving training and trees that day. Preparation work for planting is demanding, as the earth is dry and often very hard! The group takes its time to ensure the quality of the work is such that the young seedlings have the best possible chance of survival in the harsh and arid conditions.

Funding the evolution of consciousness around the globe...

The planting itself will take place later that evening, once the intensity of the daytime sun has diminished. That's when the team returns with tree seedlings, wick irrigation bottles, water, and planting mixture. The trees are planted, watered, mulched, measured, and GPS'd as family members work to finish building tree guards to protect the young trees from any straying animals.

The process of dreaming and designing Sadhana Forest Kenya started in late 2011. It would be a reforestation project, establishing food security through indigenous food forestry and water conservation alongside the Samburu people of northern Kenya. Key to the activities would be the inclusion of every person of good will. Bringing together volunteers from

all around the world and local Samburu families, Sadhana Forest Kenya would focus on service and collaboration, leaving behind the need for titles, position and social or educational standing.



Moringa saplings in the nursery

Progressing hand-in-hand with the creation of a spirit of human unity, the work of Sadhana Forest Kenya is now decreasing dependence on foreign food aid, encouraging restoration of the ecosystem, and bringing a sustainable and diversified source of nutrition through indigenous food forestry.

Overharvesting of natural resources over many decades has led to the destruction of the fragile ecosystem within Samburu County. Traditional forest area had been drastically reduced, and soil and vegetation cover is severely damaged and in need of immediate rehabilitation measures such as reforestation.



School training in the village

Biodiversity has continued to decline due to the pressures of increasing human and cattle populations. Vast swaths of land, once home to large populations of beautiful and diverse mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects have been severely degraded due to poor land use management. Many animal populations are dwindling, some to vulnerably low numbers, while other species that once existed wild in the area are



Community water station

now extinct. People/wildlife conflicts are continually rising in the county. Sadhana Forest Kenya tackles these issues by giving local families ownership of trees and the knowledge

F.W.E. MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation for World Education awards grants to incorporated nonprofit organizations around the world that support integral education, human unity, conscious evolution, and a transformed world as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

The FWE provides a continuous stream of funding for current and future generations through responsible management of its endowment, receipt of donations and bequests, and discerning selection of grant recipients.

The FWE aspires to be instrumental in transmuting financial energy to its true purpose in the unfolding evolution and manifestation of a greater consciousness on earth.

Planting seeds of human unity...

to properly care for them. The trees are planted around their houses, creating, for whoever wishes, a small food forest around each home. The people will take care of the small food forests, while in return the trees will supply each family with some or all of their dietary needs.

Trainings are an essential part of Sadhana Forest Kenya. In April of 2014 a campus was created in Samburu County which houses a training center and demonstration site, along with tree nurseries, to help train the Samburu people in tree planting, water conservation, sustainability, food forestry, and permaculture. Since April 2014, Sadhana Forest Kenya has trained well over 1,200 people of all ages and planted over 750 trees around local homesteads, schools, and churches. All trainings are offered free of charge.

Sadhana Forest Kenya is an entirely volunteer run and led project. International and local volunteers live and work closely together on our campus and have the benefit of a wonderful dormitory generously funded by the FWE.



“Since April 2014, Sadhana Forest Kenya has trained well over 1,200 people of all ages and planted over 750 trees... All trainings are offered free of charge.”

Trees and rains are interlinked. Trees and forests help to “pull down” rains. They absorb water from the soil for nourishment, and when the sun shines on the trees water is released from the leaves and is absorbed back into the atmosphere. The moisture eventually forms clouds that bring rain to different areas. This phenomenon also cools down the forested area, which in turn leads to rains being “pulled down.” Clouds, made up of water vapor, condense when cooled down, and this condensation results in rainfall.

“Harvesting” the rains when they arrive is also essential to water conservation. Sadhana Forest Kenya’s aim is to achieve, as near as possible, zero water run-off. Creating earth bunds, swales, earth dams, and check dams are just some of the techniques used to hold water in place. These techniques assure the aquifer is replenished and prevent soil erosion. The bunds, swales, dams, and check dams help slow down water and allow it to percolate into the underground aquifer. The trees that are planted also help in water conservation, as the roots of the trees slowly break hard soil and help the water reach the aquifer.

Following on the successful models of Sadhana Forest in Auroville, founded in 2003, and Sadhana Forest Haiti, founded in 2010, Sadhana Forest Kenya is furthering the wish of one volunteer—“May there be many more forests to grow people.” *B*

Aviram Rosin is a co-founder of Sadhana Forest in Auroville, India. In 2010 Sadhana Forest won the third place in the international Humanitarian Water and Food Award, given in recognition of the quality of their ecological and humanitarian work in India and Haiti. In 2014 Sadhana Forest started its third project in the north of Kenya, working with the Samburu tribe to create long-term food security through the creation of food forests.

For more information on how to participate as a volunteer or make a contribution, please contact: www.sadhanaforest.org

SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Over the years the FWE has continued to shift its investment portfolio to more and more socially-responsible funds as they become increasingly stable investments for the endowment. Find out more at:

info@FoundationForWorldEducation.org

Long-term giving to transform the earth.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Foundation for World Education invites grant applications from individuals, programs and groups who share the vision of a transformed world espoused by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. **All proposals must be presented to the FWE through the auspices of a nonprofit organization** and are subject to review by members of the board before a decision is taken. Proposals must be received by the board **four weeks in advance** of a scheduled meeting.* Please email your proposal to the secretary: info@FoundationForWorldEducation.org. If your organization is submitting a proposal for the first time, please include a copy of its nonprofit tax exemption status, or the name of the nonprofit organization that will facilitate should your grant proposal be approved.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

- **Summary/overview:** Name of your project/program and brief explanation of what you plan to do.
- **Need/rationale:** Justify the significance of your project /program in relation to your organization's mission and the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.
- **Program implementation and schedule:** Explain how you will implement this project. Include a time line and statement of the future viability of this project. Is it self-sustaining after initial seed money from the FWE, or will there be future requests to support the program?
- **Personnel:** Names and qualifications of groups and individuals directly responsible for project.
- **Project's contribution:** What is the duration and extent of influence your project will have for Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's vision of the Integral Yoga? How is your project related to other organizations or individuals currently engaged in the work of the Integral Yoga?
- **Current and future funding:** List sources of income and/or other funding sources for your project.
- **Budget:** Detail income and expenditure.
- **Final and progress reports:** Indicate method proposed to evaluate effectiveness of the project/program while in progress; written final report to be submitted within one year of completion of the grant or grant renewal. Indicate name of person who will prepare the final report.

* DUE DATES FOR NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
- JANUARY 7, 2018 (for main granting session)

THE FOUNDATION FOR WORLD EDUCATION FUNDS:

- The Eleanor Montgomery Endowment Fund
- Mickey's Fund (bequest of Eugene "Mickey" Finn)
- Ron's Fund (bequest of Ron Anastasia)
- Anuradha Sapru-Kohls Dedicated Fund

The FWE thanks the following non-profit organizations for their role in sponsoring grant recipients during 2016: Auroville International USA, Matagiri and Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham.

GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2016

Grants \$70,404.62

Auroville (via the Projects Coordination Group).....	\$41,422.00
- Africa House.....	7,965.00
- Teaching Filmmaking in Auroville Schools.....	4,557.00
- Lilaloka Roof Completion.....	4,412.00
- Ganga Yatra	4,191.00*
- Auroville Unity Fund	3,766.00
- Academic and General Library NESS.....	3,162.00
- Last School/Filmmaking Camera	3,106.00
- Eluciole Circus School Roof Replacement.....	3,000.00
- Management, Training & Development.....	3,000.00
- Sourcing Our Oneness.....	1,718.00**
- Livelihood for Local Women	1,471.00
- Teacher Training / Language Learning.....	1,074.00

Antioch-Auroville Teacher Exchange.....	6,500.00
Auro Mira Service Society Girls' Hostel.....	5,000.00***
Vanaver Caravan Dance Tour in Auroville.....	4,000.00
Resource Center Ramgarh Nainital.....	4,000.00
AUM 2016 Conference Scholarships.....	3,000.00
Bhagavad Gita Project.....	2,500.00
SAA AUM Continuity Fund.....	2,000.00
Sacred Groves (Auroville International).....	1,100.00
Mickey's Fund Disbursements	882.62
- Matrimandir.....	\$506.00
- Matagiri.....	334.00
- Sri Aurobindo Center of Boston.....	172.00

* (this grant is dedicated in memory of June Maher)

** (this grant is sponsored by Ron's Fund)

*** (this grant is from the Anuradha Sapru-Kohls Fund)



*FWE Board Members: John Schlorholtz, Jerry Schwartz, Mateo Needham
Bhuvana Nandakumar, Dakshina Vanzetti, Heidi Watts,
Jean Eisele and Margo MacLeod.*



Advisory Board Member: Paula Murphy

Founder: Eleanor Montgomery

How you can participate ...

The Foundation for World Education allocates annual grants through disbursement from its endowment. Since grant requests keep growing, we are able to fund only a portion of the worthy projects we consider each year. We therefore seek to grow in our ability to give grants by increasing the endowment. The FWE encourages donations, bequests, long term giving, and tax advantaged estate planning. We also welcome the establishment of designated funds for areas of special interest-- see our website for further details. As we are a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, contributions within the U.S. may be partially or fully deductible for income or estate taxes. Please consult with your own tax advisor to determine the specific tax benefits that may be available to you. Your gift to the FWE is a gift to future generations and to conscious evolution in diverse fields of human endeavor.

Foundation for World Education

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