

EcoYoff and GEN Senegal Program of Action for the WSSD Partnership Initiative

Implementation Conference, August 24-26

Purpose:

Strengthen the capacity of African ecovillages to reverse the ravages of poverty, environmental degradation and uncontrolled globalization by:

- Protecting and re-integrating traditional ecological values into eco-community living and into the sustainable use of natural resources
- Applying modern and traditional ecological technologies
- Improving education and other capacity building and life enhancing services
- Expanding Internet connectivity, already existing in many rural areas
- Creating partnerships and decentralized cooperation with ecovillages and other like-minded communities world-wide

Objectives:

1. Strengthen and expand the Senegal Ecovillages Network (GEN Senegal) and the capacity of its members to develop ecologically sustainable livelihoods
2. Develop the activities and resources of the EcoYoff Living & Learning Center serving GEN Senegal and its partners.
3. Facilitate the development of GEN networks in other African countries and of a GEN Africa network uniting the African country networks.

Strengthening and Expanding GEN Senegal

Funds and technical expertise are needed for:

1. Essential equipment and support for operating costs of the headquarters of GEN Senegal
2. Visits to mobilize and accredit candidates for membership in the network
3. Transport for meetings of network members outside of Dakar
4. Expansion of Internet connectivity to villages not yet connected to the virtual network of GEN
5. Reforestation and soil improvement
6. Ecological construction of sustainable systems in waste-recycling, recuperation of rain water and preservation of other water supplies, erection of retaining structures and barriers surrounding protected areas
7. Promotion of solar and other renewable energy
8. Support for eco-guards, camp grounds for eco-tourism, and the construction of training centers in the ecovillages
9. Development of ecological harvesting and marketing of protected natural resources
10. Prioritization of women's income generation in environmental projects

Strengthening the CRESPEcoYoff Living & Learning (L&L) Center

Funds and technical expertise are needed for:

1. Essential equipment and support for operating costs of the of L&L center and decentralized learning activities
2. Workshop series to discover, record and disseminate traditional Senegalese ecological values and approaches to maintaining these values.
3. Education, training, action research and North-South, South-South exchanges in ecological technologies, sustainable lifestyles, cultural preservation and cross-cultural solidarity:
 - Permaculture, organic agriculture, and regulations for organic certification
 - Ecological building construction
 - Waste and waste-water recycling
 - Protection and rational harvesting, consumption and marketing of natural resources
 - Species preservation
 - Eco-tourism
 - Information technology
 - Sustainable programs in health, nutrition, education, vocational training

The L&L also needs to forge sustainable relationships with outside accrediting institutions, including universities and training and research institutes.

Facilitate the development of GEN networks in other African countries and of a GEN Africa network uniting the African country networks

We hope that the first meeting of an organizing committee for other African GEN networks will take place in Johannesburg through the auspices of organizations such as the Green Party of Africa. Following such an initial session, funds will be a regional forum followed by periodic regional meetings and for the development of the national networks.

Contact

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