



*Tierra Divina
Foundation*



About Tierra Divina Foundation

The Tierra Divina Foundation is devoted to ecological, ethnobotanical, and Earth stewardship. We plan to network with others involved in related work, but our special emphasis is on bridges between the wisdom of indigenous societies and the modern world.

Our first project will be to draw together the key contributors to our understanding of the environment, the sources of pollution, the pressures on habitat, aridity and the reversal of desertification, forestry and soil concerns, and nuclear issues, including experts in sustainable agriculture, and those many other disciplines such as anthropology and ethnobotany.

The goal is to identify the sources of the threats to our quality of life and draw up a comprehensive plan for the complete correction of all issues. This, we expect will take three years and will involve many conferences, both by video link and live. Once there is consensus, the results will be translated into many languages and published in both print and pdf format. All explanations will be detailed and free of financial and political biases.

Meanwhile, some pilot projects involving greening of deserts and cleaning of rivers will be started. Additionally, competitions for creative solutions will be held with significant funding for those with promising proposals. All who have ideas worth exploring will be sponsored.

In the second phase, training, internships, and innovations will increase exponentially, and the network with kindred spirits will expand.



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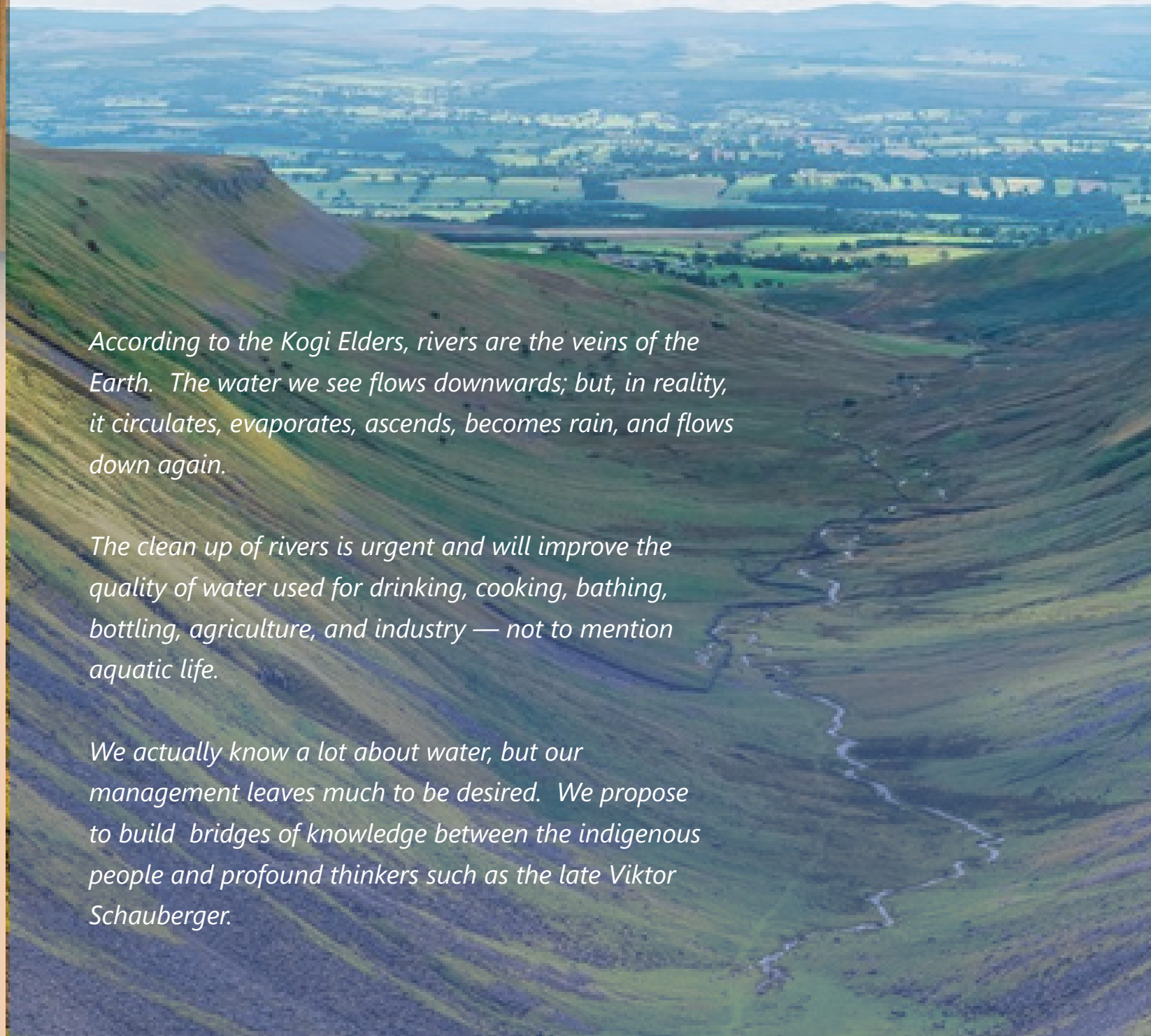


Conferences

In order to facilitate and advance the sharing of information between experts in the field of ecology, forestry, climate, pollution, and decontamination of our air, earth, and water, we plan to host guests from indigenous communities, academia, and environmental organizations to meet, discuss, and brainstorm solutions to all the problems facing our Planet and its inhabitants. Consistent with these aims, Tierra Divina Foundation will build a conference center with offices as well as guest accommodations for the advisors, consultants, and planners. This center will utilize facets of construction that are in alignment with our goals of being ecologically mindful and harmonious with Nature. It will be a beautiful facility that can host the gathering of many individuals whose wisdom and expertise can promote discussion and sharing of information for the many challenges our world is facing. We intend to provide an atmosphere of peace and fellowship in which the design for a truly healthy Planet can be realized.

Ecological and Ethnobotanical Concerns

RESTORATION OF LAND RAVAGED BY MINING,
OVERGRAZING, POOR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, AND
LACK OF PROPER EARTH STEWARDSHIP



According to the Kogi Elders, rivers are the veins of the Earth. The water we see flows downwards; but, in reality, it circulates, evaporates, ascends, becomes rain, and flows down again.

The clean up of rivers is urgent and will improve the quality of water used for drinking, cooking, bathing, bottling, agriculture, and industry — not to mention aquatic life.

We actually know a lot about water, but our management leaves much to be desired. We propose to build bridges of knowledge between the indigenous people and profound thinkers such as the late Viktor Schauberg.

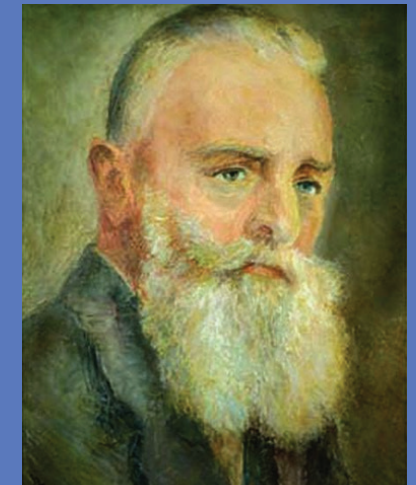
Kogi Elders

The Kogi consider themselves to be our Elder Brothers and the Guardians of the Earth. Hundreds of years ago, they fled their homes to the high mountains of Colombia where they have preserved their wisdom. Their core message for their younger siblings is that the Earth is dying and we are running out of time to do something about this. Our proposal is to invite the Kogi to advise the top environmental scientists, ecologists, and engineers as to the best strategies to reverse the threats we are all facing. We propose to draft a blueprint for correcting the issues and to create an enormous experimental project to demonstrate the value of the plans that will clean up our water, our air, our soil, and our habitats.



Viktor Schauberger

If the problem of the production of water were to be solved, making it possible to produce any desired amount and quality of water at any given location, then man would have the power to make the expanses of the deserts bloom. The price of food and the cost of mechanical power would sink to such low levels that speculators would be able to gain nothing from them. Free access to nutrition and mechanical energy are such radical ideas that our concept of the world and all ideologies would be turned upside-down.

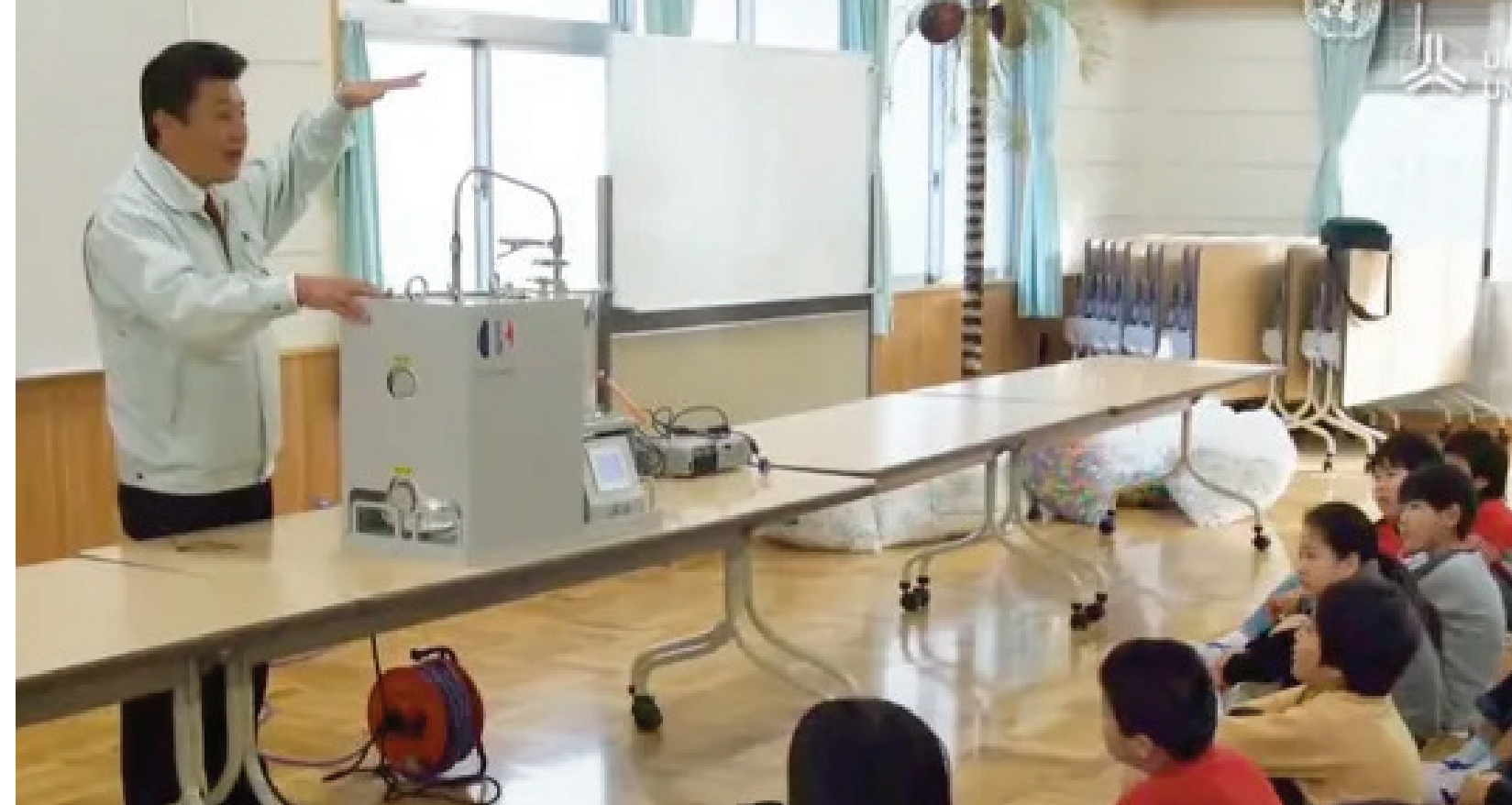


The majority believes that everything hard to comprehend must be very profound. This is incorrect. What is hard to understand is what is immature, unclear and often false. The highest wisdom is simple and passes through the brain directly into the heart.



There is a fundamental and guiding principle behind much of what we have presented here; it is that nothing ever really goes away. The beauty of the Earth, in its natural functioning, is that everything is constantly being transformed and utilized in different ways. The perfection that has evolved over the entire history of this planet needs to be understood in terms of our relationship to the environment. It is by our transgressions, and lack of real comprehension, that we find the world in its present state of extreme distress.

The particular issue that we hope to resolve is to put more emphasis on the need to recycle closer to where products are unpackaged and discarded. If this were organized, plastics and other trash would not enter the rivers and flow into the oceans. It would be a win-win for everyone from fish to people. There really is no limit to our ability to find creative solutions and convert waste and single-use items into safer products with a second life. Doing so is imperative to our very survival.



Rivers and Recycling

We propose to support the efforts of those working on the clean up of the rivers and oceans by concentrating effort on the source of the problems.

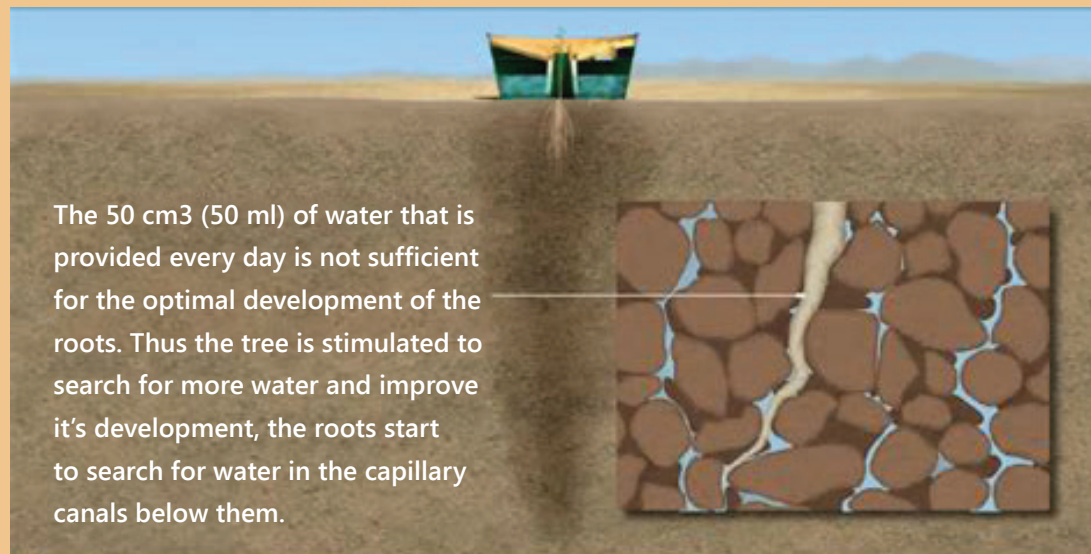
First, trash should be disposed of in responsible ways. Plastics should have a bold recycling logo that matches the logo on recycling bins. We propose to make biodegradable recycling bins from discarded agave leaves.

Then, the plastic should be converted back to oil so it never goes into the rivers in the first place. This will restore the health of the water upstream before it reaches our beaches and oceans.

Above is an image of Akinori Ito, the developer of machines that can transform many types of plastics, not PET, into oil: kerosene, gasoline, and diesel oils. As shown, some of the models are quite portable and can be used in schools, cafeterias, public places like parks and resorts — not to mention waste management operations. There are household models, portable models, and very large industrial models from numerous manufacturers.

Desertification

Desertification impacts every continent. Following an international conference in 2019, a goal was set to restore two billion acres to native plants, grasses, trees, and crops. Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen. Every year, a mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of CO₂ and supply enough oxygen for the daily use of four people. In addition, trees provide shade and fruit and nuts and medicines for plants and animals, thereby promoting health and sustainability for all kingdoms of Nature. The Water Box Project would help mitigate desertification by providing the water and nutrients needed by young trees.



Atacama Desert in Chile



ATACAMA DUNES

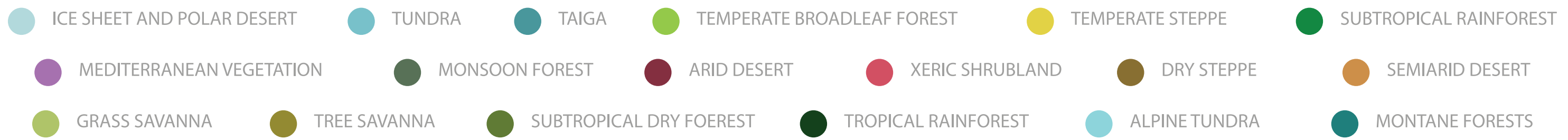
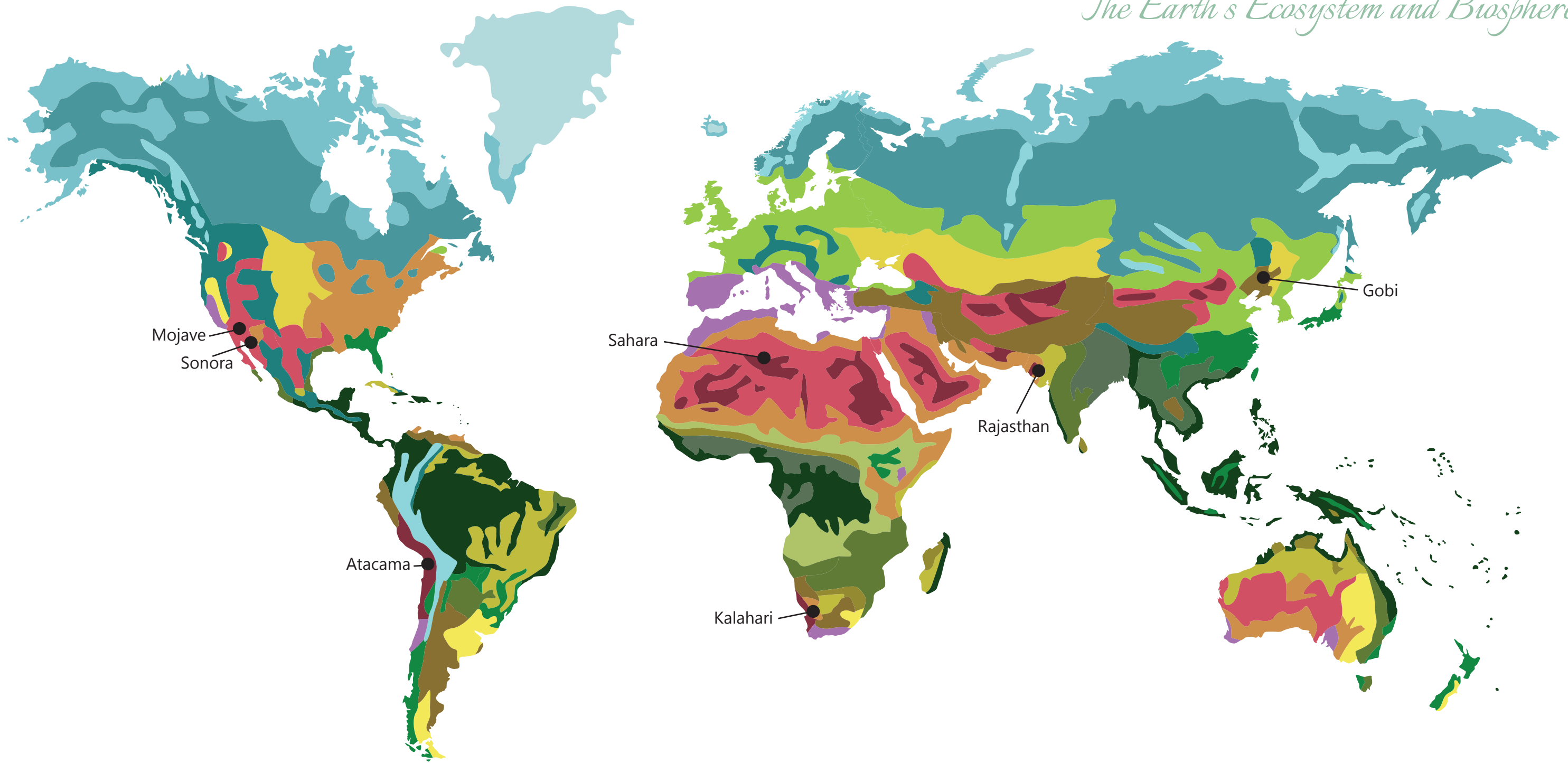


WIND BREAK IN ATACAMA



ATACAMA VINEYARD

When we think of deserts, we might think of the Sahara or the Australian Outback or maybe the Gobi spanning much of Mongolia and Northern China. Very few of us realize that there are deserts in Hawaii, Iceland, and South America. We might have some fantasies about deserts based on films like Lawrence of Arabia or The Gods Must be Crazy, but the reality is that deserts are created mainly by lack of foresight and concern for future generations. Countless efforts all over the world have shown that through careful planning, deserts can turn green and support life for plants, animals, and people.



The Future of Agave Leaves

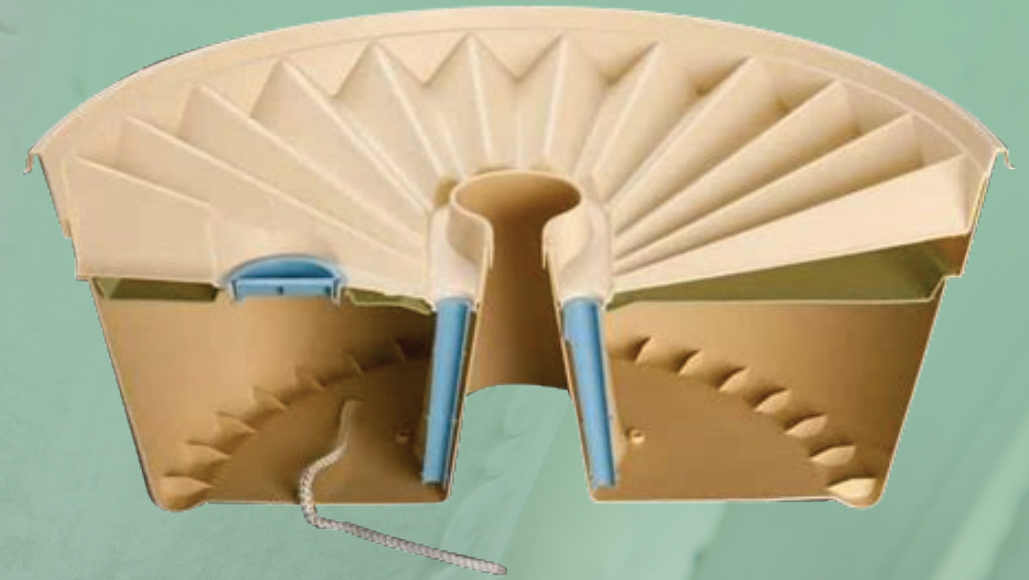
Only the pinion is used to make tequila, the leaves are not utilized. However, the leaves can be made into numerous eco-friendly products. We propose to make biodegradable planters and recycling bins out of agave.

Each tree box will contain a wick and a reservoir that holds sufficient water to establish seedlings to begin re-greening of the deserts. Little by little, the entire Planet can be reforested.

The recycling containers would be distributed in villages to discourage disposal of plastics into rivers. This will relieve the pressure on oceanic clean-up, and benefit the health of fish, wildlife, and humans.



Agave Water Box Project



AGAVE PINIONS AND LEAVES ON GROUND

Water Box



The leaves of agave can be made into boxes similar to what is seen in this photograph. The advantage of this over plastic is that it relies on a plant part that is normally burned or composted. However, being biodegradable, it would make excellent containers for large planting programs where watering is challenging due to inaccessibility of the seedlings. As the tree grows and puts down roots, it will have a subterranean source of water in addition to whatever rainfall it can collect. With increased foliage, the trees provide shade that in turn reduces evaporation. In addition, water boxes protect young seedlings from predators. This project will create a diverse array of jobs, and perhaps encourage the development of other useful products.



SPOOLS OF AGAVE AT FACTORY IN TECOH



INTERIOR OF HUT MADE OF AGAVE LEAVES

Is the Water Box Project Practical?

To answer this question, a few examples of products made with agave leaves are offered. Of these, the surfboard is obviously hugely interesting since it is used in water and sealed with resin obtained from the agave.



AGAVE BASKET



AGAVE LEATHER



AGAVE STRAWS



AGAVE SURFBOARD

Habitat Restoration & Wildlife Rescue

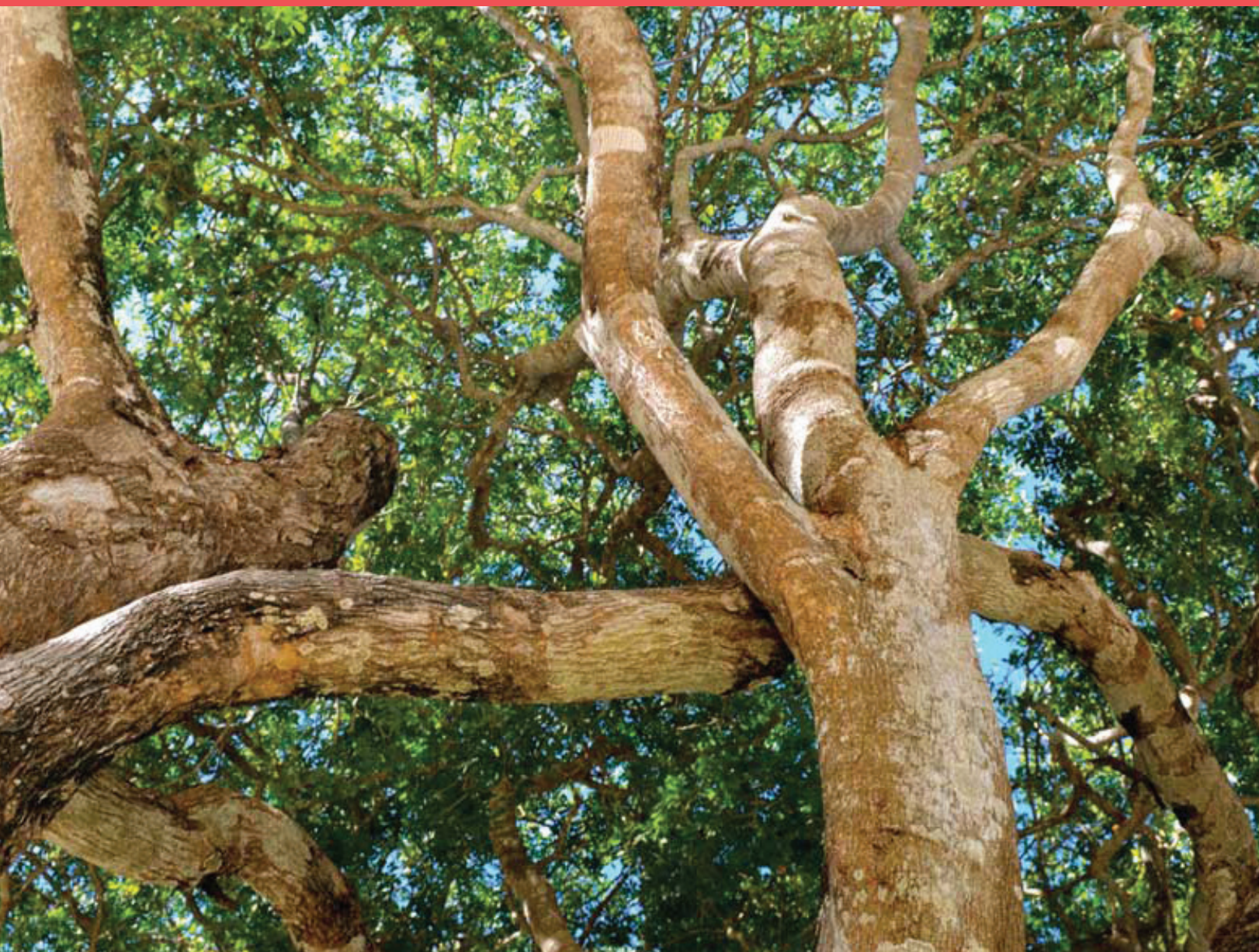
Due to pressure on their habitats, many species of plants and animals are facing crises, even extinction. We believe that by relieving aridity through proper management of land and water that the issues faced by starving people and animals can be alleviated.

In addition to what can be done to restore natural habitats, we plan to offer training in ecology and veterinary services and sanctuaries for animals. This will begin by awarding grants to existing organizations that are underfinanced and understaffed.



Endangered Species Plants

Lignum vitae, the source of guaiacum gum, is a severely endangered species tree native to the Caribbean. It happens also to be an important source for treating spirochete infections. Our dedication to alleviating suffering, especially the global epidemic of Lyme disease, makes us committed to encouraging the planting of this rather slow-growing tree. Whole plantations need to be planted so as to have the remedies that will continue to be needed for years to come.



Ethnobotany and Herbal Medicine

All cultures have histories of reliance on botanical medicines for treatment of their illnesses. We plan to create botanical gardens, teach ethnobotany, ecology, and plant medicine as well as to network with those who are already working in these areas of endeavor. Pictured to the left are images of *Larrea tridentata*, a very important plant for the treatment of both infection and cancer that is native to the Sonoran Desert.



CHAPARRAL GROWING NEAR PHOENIX, ARIZONA



MAYAN MEDICINE CEREMONY



TREE SHAMAN



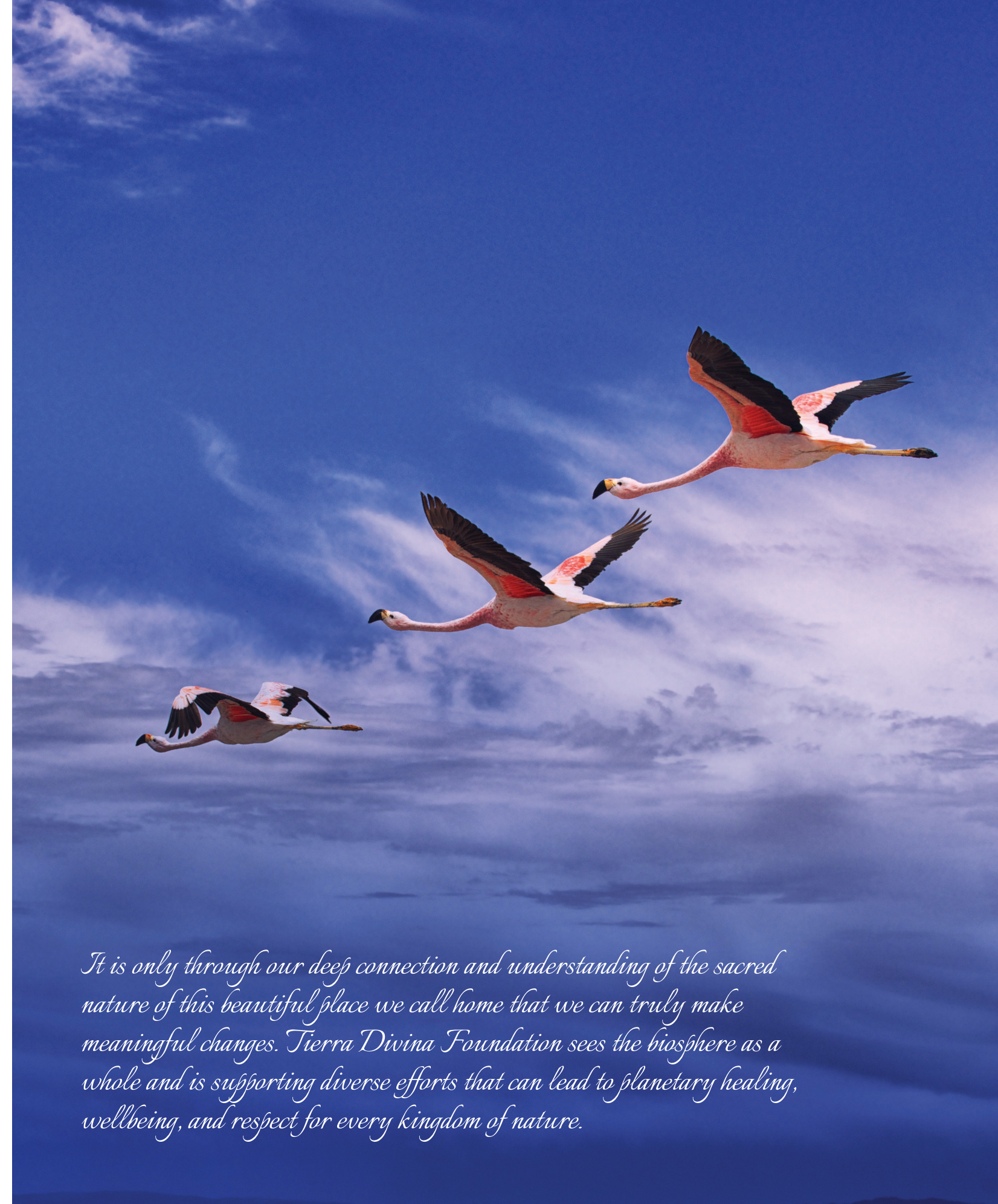
Awards: Prizes For Solutions For Ecological Issues

WE RECOGNIZE THE GREAT URGENCY NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE MYRIAD DISASTERS THREATENING OUR ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS. THESE PROBLEMS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY DUE TO THE IMPACT OF HUMANS.

As already noted, one of the key problems is the tremendous amount of plastic in the environment, with a great deal of it making its way into oceans. Though we plan to put a lot of effort into addressing this at the source, i.e. with better waste management upstream of the rivers that empty into the ocean, there is another concern over the persistent presence of microfibers in all water, a problem that is found even in supposedly pristine watersheds.

To encourage innovative solutions to these and other issues, we will provide substantial monetary prizes to those who develop permanent remedies for the countless ecological and health challenges requiring attention.

We believe that rewards, combined with the promise of funding for the testing and development of promising remedies, will act not merely as an incentive to use one's genius creatively but also contribute to the highest good for all kingdoms of nature.



It is only through our deep connection and understanding of the sacred nature of this beautiful place we call home that we can truly make meaningful changes. Tierra Divina Foundation sees the biosphere as a whole and is supporting diverse efforts that can lead to planetary healing, wellbeing, and respect for every kingdom of nature.

*“We shall awaken from our
dullness and rise vigorously
toward justice. If we fall in love
with creation deeper and deeper, we
will respond to its endangerment
with passion.”*

Hildegard of Bingen

12th Century Benedictine Abbess

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