

Tree planting campaign to combat erosion in southern Spain

In southern Spain, erosion threatens to create deserts that could become a problem for Europe. Planting trees can help counteract this.

The **Fundación Monte Mediterráneo foundation** in Andalusia has set itself the goal of sustainably supporting the ecosystem on its land with a **reforestation campaign by the 100th birthday of Sathya Sai Baba on 23 November 2025**. The plan is to **have planted 500 trees as erosion protection** by then. The farm is called Dehesa San Francisco and works organically and according to traditional forms of utilisation. The forestry is FSC-certified, i.e. sustainable. A slope on the farm area suffers from erosion. The planned tree plantations serve to prevent erosion. The trees will also create more humus and a microclimate, which is extremely important for plants and animals, especially in summer. Many songbirds need the trees on their autumn flight to the south and on their return flight in spring.

The **Fundación Monte Mediterráneo** is in charge of planting the trees.

Aim of the tree planting campaign: Within the Sathya Sai Organisation, we would like to give **Sathya Sai Baba a meaningful gift** for his 100th birthday (as part of **Sai100 Tree Planting**). And **Sai devotees can use** the "Ceiling on Desires" **programme** for themselves and **donate the money saved** for this purpose. In this way, **Sai Baba receives a double gift, which brings joy to each and every Sai devotee.**

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Labour: Is provided by the Dehesa and also hired in. This promotes awareness of ecology among the local population.

Work equipment: Provided by Dehesa.

Scope of work: digging planting holes, adding humus for better growth, planting trees, creating protection against browsing, pruning young trees and pruning for development. This is very costly and labour-intensive.

Cost: Euro 70/- per tree with the work and utensils mentioned.

For 500 trees a total of Euro 35'000.

Government audit: The foundation supervisory authority of the regional government (Andalusia) audits both the activities and the accounts of the foundation.

Risks: Due to the weather, planting can only be carried out in autumn, winter and possibly spring.

Thank you very much for considering this reforestation project: Ines Loeliger, Berne, Switzerland, and Ernestine Lüdeke, Santa Olalla del Cala, Andalusia, Spain.