

Tree planting campaign in southern Spain

With our limitation of wishes and donations from Sai 100 campaign by SSSIOCH

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



In southern Spain, erosion threatens to create deserts that could become a problem for Europe. Tree planting helps to counteract this. The trees in that area are used by songbirds on their journeys to the south in the fall and on their return journey in the spring.

The Fundación Monte Mediterráneo foundation in Andalusia has set itself the goal of sustainably supporting the ecosystem on its land with a reforestation campaign to mark the 100th birthday of Sathya Sai Baba on November 23, 2025. The plan is to plant around 100 trees as erosion protection, holm oaks and cork oaks (see attachment below: geographical map of the area of the farm and the planned plantations marked in red). The trees planted with our donations will then be photographed and the photos sent to us. In addition, wild shrubs and wild trees such as the carob tree will be planted on the 700-hectare site as erosion protection and this is still planned. This serves as food for birds and provides living space for mammals such as rabbits and hares and other animals such as lizards (see also <https://www.fundacionmontemediterraneo.com/de/10-aufforstung>). The entire reforestation will be documented with photos.

The farm is called Dehesa San Francisco and works ecologically and according to traditional forms of utilization. The forestry is FSC-certified, i.e. sustainable. Several areas on the farm suffer from erosion. The planned tree and shrub 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.

The Fundación Monte Mediterráneo is in charge of the tree and bush planting.

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Workers: Provided and hired by the Dehesa. This promotes awareness of ecology among the local population.

Tools: Provided by the Dehesa.

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

Costs: Euro 70/- per oak tree (cork and holm oak) with the above-mentioned work and utensils.
For 100 oak trees Euro 7'000.

In addition to the planting of oak trees, further donations are gladly used for reforestation with wild plants, trees and bushes.

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

Risks: Planting depends on the weather, rain is a condition. Therefore, planting can only be carried out in the fall, winter and possibly spring, depending on the conditions.

Ines Loeliger, Bern, Switzerland, in consultation with
Ernestine Lüdeke, Santa Olalla del Cala, Andalusia, Spain.

Übersetzung mit deepl durch Gabi 06.08.2024

Enclosures:

Entire area of the farm, the planned plantings are shown as red dots.



Detailed view: The planned plantations are marked as red dots.



Korkernte:

(www.de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korkeiche)

The first harvest takes place after about 12 to 15 years with a trunk diameter of 20 to 30 centimeters (BHD). The first cork layer is called "male cork", is still not very elastic and cracked and is only used for insulating mats. It is only the subsequent cork cores that provide a higher quality cork, the "female cork", which can be used commercially to its full extent. The best quality cork is obtained from the second, third and fourth harvests. Cork is harvested every nine to twelve years when a layer thickness of 2.7 to 4 centimeters has been reached. Under favorable (warm) conditions, harvesting can take place every eight years. In total, a cork oak can be harvested five to ten times.

