happy tree

an idea by sokrates'nonlinearis

Welcome!

Coming with an unserious name we try to open your mind for very serious issues. Imagine you could solve some humanities biggest problems and even earn money with it. Hunger, climate-change, poverty, land degradation, the CO^2 problem, the energy-crisis, enviromental destruction and the loss of monetary values through the inflation.

It is all possible at once. With trees.

This is an multifunctional strategy of interconnected interests to regreen vast areas of the world, to give people a living and a beautiful home and in the same moment creating values in money and far beyond.

Welcome to discover the idea behind happy tree.

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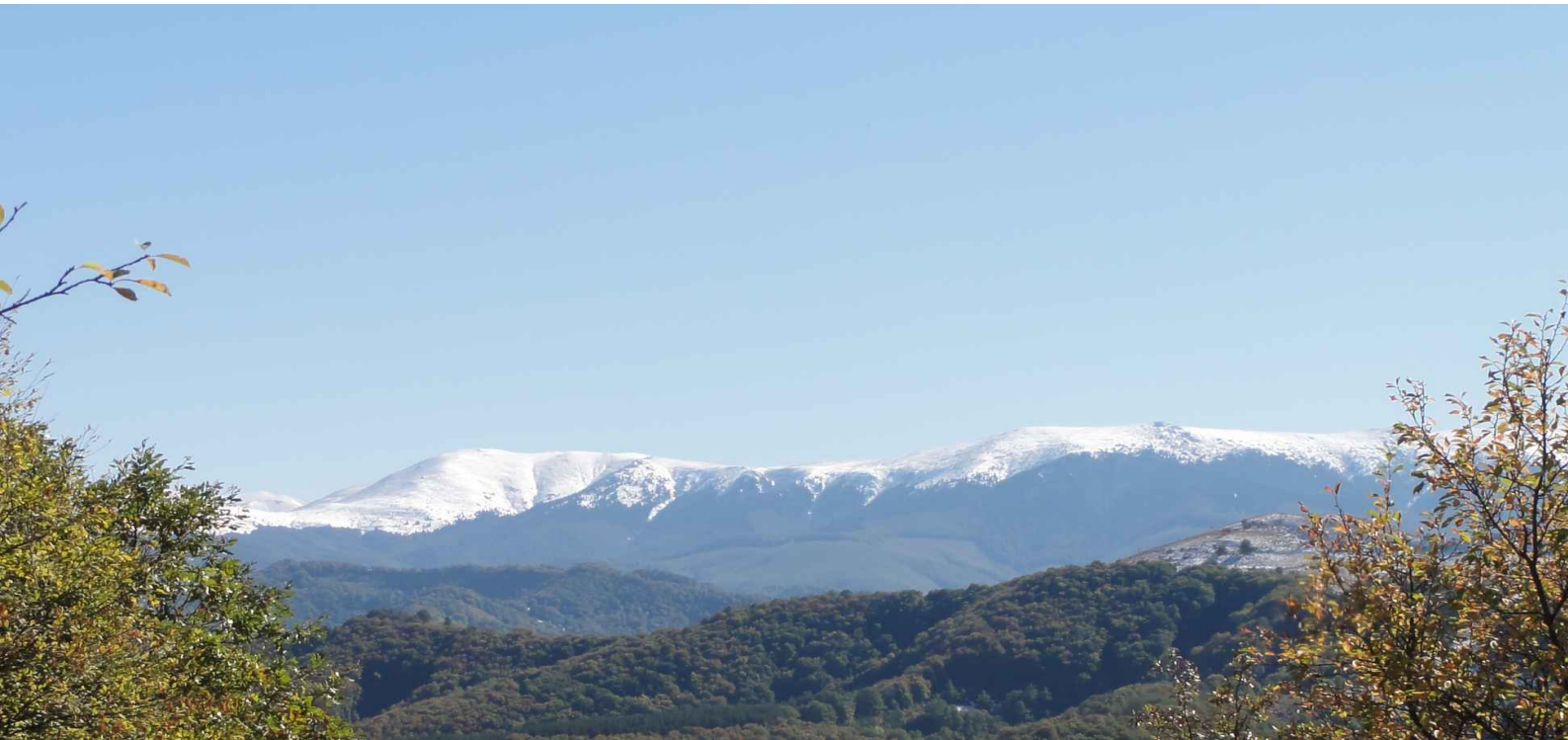
The Situation:

In the world, there is vast areas of depleted landscape. Every year, there are around 7 million hectares more erodet, dried out and lost to any use for human or complex eco-systems. The last existing eco-systems are in danger due to deforestation. Since 2006 humanity looses more land through erosion than it „wins“ through deforestation. Around half of the planets population is in poverty, depending the standards you set for „poor“. Hunger, thirst, lack of rights, education.... you name it. All people around the world more and more fight over the remaining ressources. Water, food, oil, metals, land, energy. CO^2 is causing acidification of the oceans, ready to kill most live in them. Values of money and derivatives will come to melt down. Pension-Funds, insurrance companies and other capital-holders will loose and with them all their clients. More and more spezies are extinct, the rate is so fast, that scientists speak from mass extinction. Life on planet is in danger to die.
This could be continued... but apocalypse means also chance. Lets go to this!

The Solution

Lets turn the problem into a solution. Let's use the degraded land as a ressource, lets bring chances and rights to the people without, so they can thrive. And how?
Its all about trees.

Trees are better than any human technology. No human technology can do what trees do. Human technology breaks down. Trees grow and reproduce. And this is valid for all „living technology“ including humans. So, let us use them.
The cutting of billions of trees causes some mayor problems humanity faces at present, and so planting trees can be a solution for many problems aeven go far beyond. We can have an abundant and thriving planet again.



Some functions of trees

- Trees shade the ground and feed it with branches, leafs and wood.
- Humus is created, what we know as fertile soil.
- Fertile soil can take in water and store it for slow infiltration and for plant growth.
- This is how trees create ground-water.
- Once the earth ist saturated, water reaches the top creating constant flow of creeks and rivers.
- This prevents floods and drought.
- Trees evaporate water, around 500 liters a day depending the tree, climate and the season.
- Clouds are created, clouds from the sea get fully saturated.
- Rain comes. Trees manage around 70% of all rain on land.
- Temperature is regulated through evaporation and atmospheric movement.
- Trees create climate, green deserts and are the fundament for life on land.
- They create habitat for animal, plants, funghi, insects...
- .. and human.
- Trees filter dust from the air.
- Catch CO^2 and produce Oxygen. They give us the air to breath and regulate the CO^2 level.
- Trees catch energy from the sunlight and store it in their organs.
- Besides being impressive and nice life, they create...
- ...wood, as material and energysource.
- ...food such as nuts, fruit, berries, seeds, saps, flowers, leaves.
- ...medizin in their different parts.
- And last but not least trees create the soil, the watercycles and the climate for our cultivated crops.

The Happy Tree plan.

Words are nice, but it needs action. Noone can do all of that work alone. It is also not in our interest to force someone, so we should see who would benefit and has interest in participating in regreening the planet (step by step).

It needs land, people, investment capital, expertise and political support. This is were we bring together different interest groups.

Territorial entities:
Many of regions on the world have destructed land with no actual use. They have interest in revitalising it. In return of giving land to the project and so to the people, sustainable development will be brought to the region and the people. The land will not be „owned“ by anyone anylonger, but there will be longtime plans of right and duty to secure sustainable use in one hand and land-rights for the people living of the land in the other hand.

Caretakers:
Poor people, unemployed and people that want to have a decent living on the land will become caretakers for the land. Small farms in new forms of sustainable agro-forestry are built, it gives the caretakers their living. They get a guaranted usage right and education in return of caretaking in a sustainable way. Experts all around the world agree this as the best and even only way for a sustainable future in agriculture[1].

([1] see Page 8)

Investors:
Regreening needs fast growing pioneer trees. The cutting-right for these and a small portion of valuable wood-trees go to investors. Depending on the local Situation, also other assets can be used for that purpose. As it is no monetary value, it is save from inflation and „naturally growing“. Energy wood as also wood as Material get more and more scarce, its a definitive market and prices will go up. It is a secure asset as long there is political stability. As the land has not to be bought and the nursing, planting and caretaking is made by the caretakers, land can be used where it is normaly to expensive to make forestry. As it is a green and ethical investment, it can be interesting for a new type of investor, also charities and churches, wanting to stop supporting the destructive system.

Experts:
Experts in regreening, watermanagement, hydrology, rural development, agro-forestry, clay building, permaculture and community building will plan the regreening process and put it into action. On plus, they train the caretakers for the necessary skillset to live of the land and to organise in local and resilient structures. There is enough knowledge and experts in this world, it only has to be channeled to the right places. By fast growing projects training and expertise ist the limiting factor, so it must be especially taken care for.

Political Support:
As regreening and enpowering people solves a lot global problems such as climate change (if the scale is big enough), food security, land-fleet, water-scarcity (and so on) it will be in the interest of the global community. Countries, NGOs and other organisations around the globe have an interest in supporting the happy tree projects. This can be diplomatic support, helping to set up legal security in difficult areas. It can be convincing regions to join the project or by helping with development expertise. The better the political support, the lesser the chance that corrupt regimes and politicians tout coleur can interrupt the projects. It brings security to the caretakers as well as investment security on the capital site. Supported eg. by embassies it would be a win win situation. Countries can cheaply enlarge their development goals where as the project wins protection. Environmental groups can support it to take pressure from the natural areas, as people not cut mor of them down for basic needs.

When all five elements come together, there can be symbiotic effects none of the partners could reach alone.

- Regions can recover and thrive without own investment. This is especially interessting for the so called third world, but also countries like the mediterrenian europeans, that lack the funds through the financial crisis.
- People all around the world can get education and an independent life through own initiative.
- Live supporting systems are in place again.
- Fresh water becomes abundant.
- Regional organic food and other products not only reduce (or not create) a destructive ecological footprint, they are also healthy and supporting the environnement and so nature.
- The bigger the area aforested, the bigger the „positive climate change“. Local microclimate is moderated and even global climate change and ocean acidification can be stopped and turned around when there is enough trees planted. What the G20 not do, people can do!
- Land will become green and nice to live in. Secondary development can start, such as higher education, arts, handcraft... all human culture. Poverty and hunger can be ended by the people taking an useful and important task.[2]

- Compared to all other solar systems (as focussing technologies, solar panels and photo-bioreactors) trees and plants in general are the most effective and the cheapest „technology“, especially when you take all effects or „products“ into account.
- Wood can be used as energy source. Stationary or turned into oil or gas for mobility.[3]
- Wood is also a ressource for hundreds of thousands of other uses, such as zellophan (kind of plastic), building material and tooth picks.
- Trees and a properly managed landscape is the fundament for a wealthy, healthy and happy society.
- Still „reasonable“ financial institutions can secure their assets, so the insolvency process of the financial sector can be done without taking the money from the masses. Pension funds, insurance companies and others can put the paper-money in „real value“ that it is not lost for the people by the coming melt-down of imaginary values (there is hundreds of times more paper-value in the world than real value). The worst nightmares of the financial crisis can be solved, too big can than fail without an collaps of the important structures for social peace and balance.
- Reasons for violence and even war can be taken. Global cooperation will lead to more understanding and empathy.
- Global development and end of poverty can be done without donations.

The Regreening:

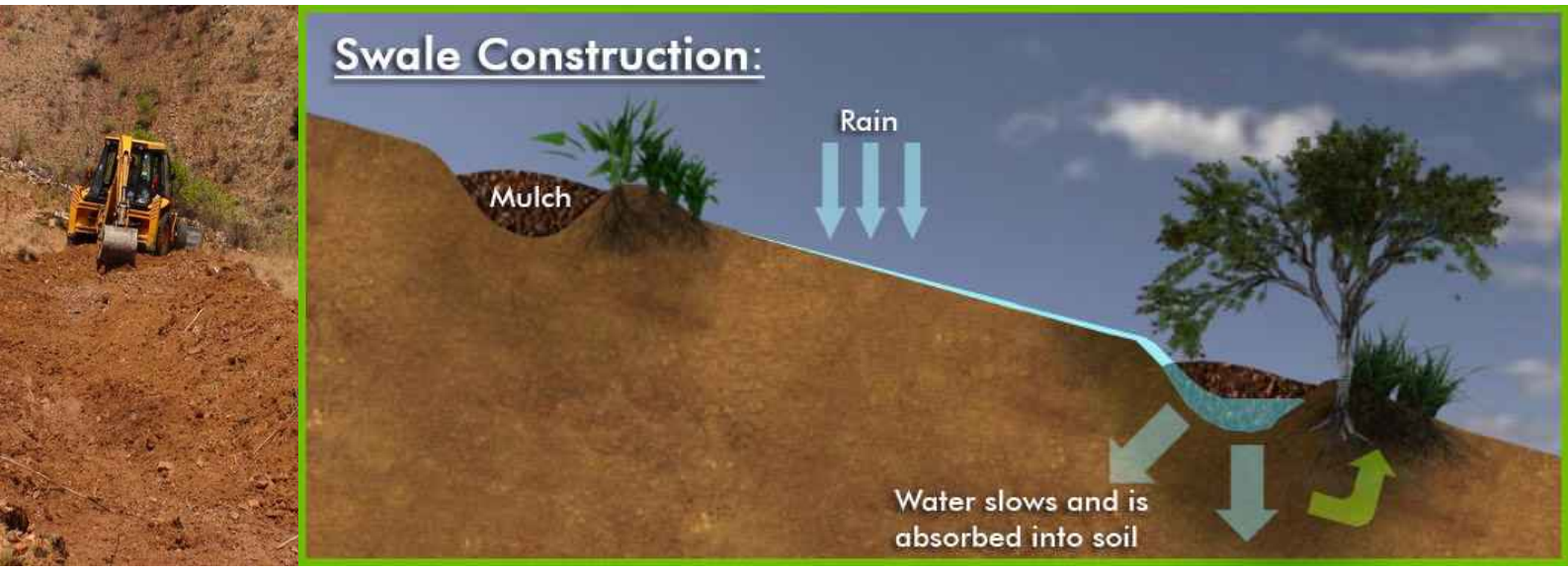
Water retention and reconstruction of fertility.

How do you to stop the erosion?
How to catch water?
How to restore the water cycle?

The answers to this questions, or rather, the first immediate steps, are the water retention systems.
In nature, the humus of the forest floor absorbes the water from the rain like a sponge. From there it slowly infiltrates to the ground and the air. If the soil is saturated, the sources from which form the feed streams and rivers. So it happens in nature.
Erosion occurs when the protective plant cover, the root system and the canopy, is removed (for example by plowing or slash and burn). In this case the water can not be buffered and flows away on top surface. It flushes out the fine particles with it. And so earth.
In addition, the groundwater and the soil moisture can not regenerate - the landscape dries out.
Good examples of this process are southern Europe, Arabia and northern Afrika (including waste parts of the Sahara). Once green, moist and fertile areas have been deforested and eroded to the present situation. This dry and barren landscapes are result of human activities. The fall of Rome is only one example, where ecological destruction was followed by the downfall of civilisation.

The solution is logically the re-vegetation of the landscape and the rehabilitation of the humus. But what to do until the plants grow and regenerate the earth? Nature needs a relatively long time for this process, which is carried out by pioneer organisms. Earth is enriched generation after generation, more and more complex life forms built humus.
If you manage to keep the rainwater on the land, you can speed up this process enormously. In this moment, water retention systems come into action. Ponds and lakes by building barriers. Furthermore, wwales, horizontally built trenches in which water can collect and has time to infiltrate.

As a result, the soil moisture raises, the vegetation can recover faster.

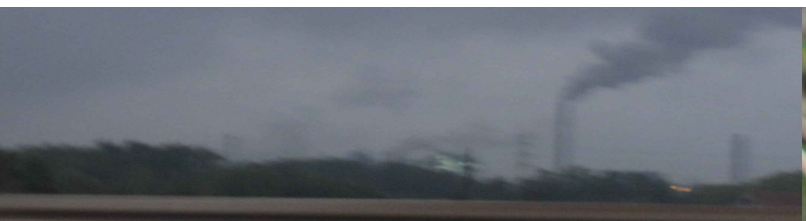
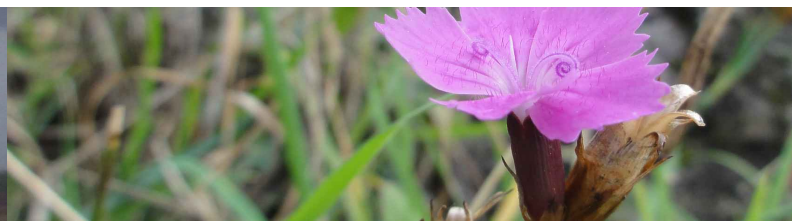


Now nitrogen-fixing pioneer plants and fast growing plants can be grown to obtain biomass for humus formation.

In the happy tree projects especially swales will be used, since they are relatively inexpensive to create. The trenches can be efficiently drawn with bulldozers or even by hand. Ponds and lakes are to be built especially for aquaculture, irrigation, for the cultural aspects (as lakes are beautiful and nice to be around and in it) and in the end for the completion of ecosystems.

At first ast growing trees like acacias are planted, in large quantities of up to 10 000 trees per hectare. These are directly sown or planted. The trees are adapted to for extreme conditions.
The acacias are then progressively thinned and felled for building up compost mass on the earth. Piece by piece, the trees are replaced by valuable wood, fruit trees, nuts, gardens and native plants. Partly, the fast-growing trees are left standing to commercial maturity blow and managed to generate a stable income. Stems are for human use, branches and leaves for the soil creation.

The long-term orientation are land management practices, which respect the soil, biological cycles and vegetation


Sources and further information:

Similar projects:
- „greening the desert“ in Jordan, a project showing regreening is possible in extreme situation.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sohI6vnWZmk

- „the loess-plateau“ in China, the biggest regreening project in the world
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQBeYffZ_SI
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loess_Plateau

Sources:
- „A Permaculture Designers Manual“, the most comprehensive book about permaculture, sustainable agro-forestry and local resilient development.
- „Water for the recovery of the Climate“, comprehensive book to show the links between human civilisation, ecosystems and climate. Shows that we can moderate the global climate

[1] „agricultur at crossroads“, released in 2008 by the IAASTD, shows clearly that only organic agriculture in small scale can feed humanity in a longterm perspective. We can add, that only the principles of Permaculture guarantuee the thriving of the ecosystems and wildlife.

[2] „the man who planted trees“, an artistic approach to show the potential in aforestation.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_7yEPNUXsU

[3] BtL, a technology to use any kind of solid biomass for oil production.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biomass_to_liquid

Contact:

Project paper by sokrates'nonlinearis: Please contact us if you want further information or want to bring this idea to realisation.

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Thank you for your interest.