



# Govardhan Ecovillage

Galtare, Hamrapur (P.O), Wada (Taluka), Palghar (District),  
Maharashtra – 421303, India · [www.ecovillage.org.in](http://www.ecovillage.org.in)

H.E. Sveinung Rotevatn

Minister

Royal Norwegian Ministry of the Climate and Environment

UNEA 5 President

Dear Excellency,

Subject: THE DRAFT OUTLINE DOCUMENT FOR THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA5) on the theme: “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”

Govardhan Ecovillage expresses its gratitude to the President of UNEA5, H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, for facilitating consultations on the draft outline document of UNEA5. The draft outline document is succinct and serves as a good foundation for further consultations and refinements.

As per the invitation from the UNEA5 President, we would like to propose some concrete measures to be included in the draft outline document.

- As we attempt to reverse the loss and degradation of nature, it is important to emphasize in the outline document, the dire need of sustainably managing natural resources in order to be able to meet current and future needs. For this, there is a need to transition to a new economic model that addresses the drivers and pressures causing degradation and loss by integrating all pillars of sustainability. This can be operationalized using circular economic models in Sustainable Consumption and Production which will aid Agenda 2030. The document can emphasize the need for circular economy in processes and products. For example, our Ecovillage Model incorporates Organic Farming, Animal Farming, Green Building, Water Conservation, Alternative Energy and Soil Biotechnology. Through this Symbiotic Waste Management Model, GEV is converting 99% of wastes generated in various systems and using them as a resource for other systems.
- Poverty and unemployment was a major issue before which has now been compounded by the COVID 19 pandemic. There is a clear link between food security and poverty. If food security in the world is strengthened using sustainable food systems, it will assist to reduce poverty. Hence, it is proposed to have green recovery packages for the rural farmers (including women) as a resource. Using these budgets, training and resources can be provided to implement a circular farming economy models such as that in our ecovillage.



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- It is also crucial to note that most zoonotic diseases are as a result of the increasing consumption of animal meat, hence unsustainable food systems that need to be urgently addressed.
- Women, youth and indigenous people have been included in the draft outline document and they should be given great focus because with an inclusive society we can achieve our goals efficiently and effectively. In addition, we also propose the inclusion and the strengthened role of faith-based organizations in the document. Faith based organizations can be key and important players in strengthening actions for nature due to their intrinsic linkages between duty of care and environmental sustainability and faith concepts of stewardship. They also have multifarious network webs (with a variety of demography) as outreach channels that can connect remote grass-root level communities, corporates, educational institutes, etc to the agenda 2030. Many faith-based organizations have experience at the grass-root level. The declaration should incorporate collaboration with these institutions and support them with science-based evidence, methods, tools, etc. Hence, leaving no one behind, this will be a ripple-effect contribution to all three transformative areas and lead to a socially inclusive green recovery.
- The UN75 campaign is well known. In line with that, we propose the document to have a specific mention of how this theme and UNEA 5 will be a roadmap towards the upcoming UNEP 50 celebrations.

Thank you, Your Excellency, for your invitation to provide contributions. We assure you of our support and continued participation and contribution in the processes leading to the UNEA5.

Gauranga Das  
Director  
Govardhan Ecovillage Trust