



-ECOJAM-

2024

MARCH 3-9 2024

FIREFLIES INTERCULTURAL CENTRE
BENGALURU

Apply here:

<https://tinyurl.com/EcoJam2024App>

Deadline to apply:

Jan 03rd, 2024



Welcome

“WITHOUT COMMUNITY, THERE IS NO LIBERATION.”




- AUDRE LORDE

We warmly invite you to join us for the EcoJam 2024.

The EcoJam brings together 30 people from diverse backgrounds for six days of transformative experiences. We gather to know ourselves more deeply, build a community together, reconnect with Nature in a profound way, and find renewed vision, purpose, and support in our work in the world.

We welcome people from many fields connected to the environment: social entrepreneurs, environmental activists, organic farmers, teachers, conservationists, high-tech wizards, food advocates, those affected by environmental problems, and anyone passionate about Nature and sustainable living. You need not be an expert-- there will be some with more experience and others new in their journey. We invite you to join us on this fertile ground and link your roots with others to co-create an ecosystem of love and strength that can help shape a world where all beings thrive.

In a field that is often filled with burnout and division, the EcoJam is a space for us to be real and share all of ourselves - our struggles, frustrations, and joys alike. It is a space to learn from each other, especially across differences including gender, class and religion. It is a space to connect the dots between personal change and our work to create a sustainable and just world.





Why EcoJam?

As we write this invite, there are global climate meetings happening in Dubai where countries and governments are negotiating who is responsible for the climate crisis and what solutions are possible. But while they are doing that, large parts of India have been experiencing erratic weather, many lack clean drinking water, and sea levels are rising. Add to that biodiversity loss, indigenous lands being taken away for mining, and cities filling to the brim, the state of the environment is in peril. Yet, little action is taken.

This is a time when many people are realising and experiencing that we are interconnected with each other and all life. The time is ripe for change. And yet by ourselves, working for change can be frustrating. Even changing ourselves can be hard enough. The EcoJam is a space to slow-down together with others on a similar path, and to work on our own inner sustainability as we work towards building a sustainable world. It is a space to celebrate the Earth and remember our sacred ecology.

“You have shown me that I am not alone and that I don’t have to be alone. You have shown me the power in a collective and also in myself.”

- **Marishia Rodrigues, Activist**
(EcoJam 2023 Alumni)



What to expect at the EcoJam?

The EcoJam aims to address three interconnected levels of transformation: the personal, the interpersonal, and the social/systemic. It is NOT a typical environmental conference. We do not have panels. We do not have expert speakers. We are all participants.

We will be looking within at our own healing and growth, as well as our interpersonal relationships, in addition to healing our relationship to Nature at the systemic level. Through activities like facilitated dialogues, sharing circles, artistic expression, games, movement, participant-led workshops, outdoor adventure, and lots of free time for spontaneous interactions amongst the participants, we will together explore our own experiences, questions and dynamics.

Through conversations, exchanges and just plain hanging out together, we get a chance to see things from new perspectives. To activate our imaginations, creativity and curiosity. To align our vision and values. To face our fears and overcome our blocks. We get to heal and to find new friends and partners in our journey.



“I have become a jammer for the rest of my life. You taught me not only the EcoJam tools but also showed me hope of how we as a community of like-hearted beings can nurture each other.”

**- Reva Almeida, Ecological Restoration
(EcoJam 2023 Alumni)**

What's a 'Jam'?

In music, a jam is a creative, live gathering of musicians who together, spontaneously create a new sound, where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Similarly, Jams are places where diverse leaders and visionaries bring together their passion, openness, and unique perspectives. In spontaneous connection, we weave layers of experience, wisdom, heart and spirit to create some real magic.

To date, more than 200 Jams have been held on six continents, bringing together young and intergenerational leaders from more than 85 countries. The EcoJam is being co-organised by a diverse group of leaders, with the support of YES! based in the U.S. (see www.yesworld.org).

“I have laughed and cried and felt a shift within me and this is absolutely one of the best decisions I’ve taken and totally worth the time investment”.

**- Shub, Illustrator
(EcoJam 2019 Alumni)**








Financial Contribution

The actual cost of the EcoJam per participant is Rs 26,000 for the duration of 6 days (including food, accommodation, materials & modest stipends for organizers and facilitators and excluding travel). However, we recognize that not everyone can afford this, and so we have done some fundraising to offer a sliding scale which is Rs 9,000 to Rs 26,000. This means that you can contribute anywhere between these amounts, according to your capacity.

If you can, we urge you to pay in full or pay what is possible for you. We do ask that everyone take a stretch to give a little more than what may be comfortable, without undergoing hardships. This will help us provide scholarship opportunities to people who need it the most.

We also encourage, if you are in the position, to raise funds for yourself and for your travels. **If you would like us to share a fundraising template with, please reach out to us.** This template can help you in asking for support from family, friends, your organization, etc.

If you believe the Jam is the right place for you and that there is a calling for you to attend, please do not let money stand in the way of your participation. If you cannot pay the minimum Rs 9,000, please mention so in the application and we will figure out what we can do. In the end, this is about creating the diverse community we wish to see and recognizing that each of us has different capacities to contribute.



Venue

Jams are usually held in a naturally beautiful place, away from the hustle-bustle of modern life, so that it is both inspiring and rejuvenating. Fireflies Intercultural Centre is located in Dinnepalya, a village in the outskirts of Bangalore. It is an inclusive space that is open to people and organisations concerned with personal growth, cultural engagement and environmental protection. It is a place for renewal and action along social and ecological lines. Spread over 10 acres, Fireflies is an island of green on the edge of Bangalore. It celebrates our intimate connection with Mother Earth. The woods of the campus give it the feel of a tropical rain forest even though it is on the rim of the city. There is also abundant greenery just outside for leisurely strolls in the surrounding countryside.

For more, visit: <https://www.fireflies.org.in/>

Address: Fireflies Intercultural Centre,
Dinnepalya, Kaggalipura, Bangalore, 560082

Google Maps Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7xS3VCPB66YuWWxu7>



Accommodation and Food

We have shared dormitory rooms and will aim to have as much tasty, healthy, and natural food as possible during our stay. Please let us know well in advance if you have any special dietary needs.





THANK - YOU -

Important Links

Application: <https://tinyurl.com/EcoJam2024App>
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Contacts

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Venue

<https://www.fireflies.org.in/>
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7xS3VCPB66YuWWxu7>

More about YES!

www.yesworld.org