

# The Peace Post



Dear Friends,

Our earth sustains the tremendous breadth and diversity of life itself—yet the ecosystems we depend on are under increasing pressure. As forests vanish and deserts expand, the need for coordinated, scalable solutions has never been more urgent. Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land) reminds us that protecting and restoring our earth is not just an environmental imperative—it is a foundation for peace.

In this month's Peace Post, we explore how regeneration and innovation can converge in service of peace. From thoughtfully designed urban parks that balance recreation with biodiversity, to reforestation strategies that build climate resilience, the choices we make today will shape the landscapes and livelihoods of tomorrow.

We also recognize that nature needs new tools. Drone-based reforestation is revolutionizing the way we plant and monitor native species, while blended finance and public-private partnerships are unlocking large-scale forest restoration. These models show that ecological protection and economic value are not at odds—they are mutually reinforcing when aligned with a shared vision for peace and sustainability.

The Peace Post exists to tell these stories, to share what's working, and to spark new dialogue and collaborations across sectors and disciplines. As always, we invite you to join us—as advocates, as innovators, and as leaders—and become part of our global Cooperative for Humanity. Now is the time to turn bold ideas into lasting impact—for people, for planet, and for peace.

In the spirit of peace and unity,  
Barbara Winston, President and Founder  
Gordon Winston, Co-Founder

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## Urban Parks Can Support People and Biodiversity—if They Are Designed With Both in Mind

A new study highlights how urban parks can be designed to benefit both people and biodiversity when designed thoughtfully. Researchers found that features like playgrounds, bodies of water, nature preserves, and dog parks can simultaneously enhance human recreation and provide vital habitats for wildlife. The study emphasizes that larger parks deliver the greatest benefits for both biodiversity and community well-being, but preserving these spaces is increasingly challenging amid urban development pressures. Simple changes, such as planting native species, can make parks more nature-friendly without sacrificing public use. The findings underscore the importance of strategic urban planning to ensure green spaces serve as havens for both people and wildlife.

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## The Rio Grande Valley was once covered in forest. One man is trying to bring it back.

Once sprawling across a million acres, the Tamaulipan thorn forest of the Rio Grande Valley is now reduced to less than 10 percent of its original extent. Driven by a lifelong passion for birds and biodiversity, Jon Dale began restoring this unique ecosystem as a teenager and now leads American Forests' efforts to revive it. The restoration of thorn forests not only supports endangered wildlife like ocelots but also helps local communities adapt to climate change by reducing flooding, preserving water, and providing shade. Despite funding and climate challenges, Dale and his partners are planting thousands of native seedlings and launching community forests to demonstrate nature-based solutions. Their work highlights the power of ecological restoration to strengthen both biodiversity and community resilience, advancing the goals of SDG 15.

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## Forest restoration can benefit from new financial models

New financial models are transforming forest restoration, unlocking opportunities for nature, communities, and investors. With 420 million hectares of forest lost since 1990, recent innovations have made restoration more cost-effective and measurable, but the real breakthrough comes from leveraging private capital alongside philanthropy. Projects in Brazil, for example, combine native forest restoration with sustainable timber production and carbon credit sales, creating both ecological and economic benefits for local communities. Initiatives like Mastercard's Priceless Planet Coalition demonstrate how global partnerships can fund large-scale restoration, support local livelihoods, and ensure long-term monitoring. These approaches show that restoring forests at scale is possible when profit potential, rigorous science, and community engagement align, offering a hopeful path for people and the planet.

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## Drone tree-seeding trial could 'revolutionise' the expansion of rainforests say exponents

A groundbreaking drone seeding project led by the Woodland Trust in southwest England has scattered 75,000 native tree seeds across 11 hectares of the Bodmin landscape. Using drones that can access steep or remote areas, the initiative aims to triple the region's temperate rainforest cover from 8% to 24% by 2050, restoring habitats that once covered most of Devon and Cornwall but have now been reduced by 90%. These temperate rainforests are biodiversity hotspots, supporting thousands of species, and their restoration is vital for tackling climate and biodiversity crises. The project is also testing the effectiveness of drone seeding compared to natural regeneration, with a target of at least a 25% seed-to-tree success rate. While challenges remain—such as seed supply and variable survival rates—the trial demonstrates how innovative technology can accelerate and expand reforestation, offering a hopeful model for landscape restoration and life on land.

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## Peace Innovator Spotlight: Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury



Driven by a steadfast belief in the transformative power of peace, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury has championed some of the United Nations' most enduring frameworks for equality and security. As Bangladesh's former Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Chowdhury shepherded two breakthrough texts that still shape global policy.

First, he guided adoption of the **1999 UN "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" (A/RES/53/243)**—the General Assembly's first framework linking peace to education, human rights, and gender equality. The following year, while presiding over the Security Council, he issued a precedent-setting statement on women's security and steered **Security Council Resolution 1325 (31 Oct 2000)** to unanimous approval. Resolution 1325 launched today's Women, Peace and Security agenda, mandating women's full participation in conflict prevention, peace processes, and post-conflict reconstruction.

These achievements fuse cultural transformation with concrete security obligations, embodying the Ambassador's conviction that "peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men." His visionary leadership continues to inspire a new generation of peace innovators who understand that lasting peace begins with dignity, inclusion, and shared humanity. Thank you, Ambassador, for your continued service and embodiment of peace innovation!

Your support and engagement drive us to continue our mission of fostering innovation for a more harmonious world. Whether you're reading, sharing, or contributing, you're playing a vital role in this journey toward global peace. If you have stories, insights, or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we're making a difference.

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Peace Innovation Initiative,  
269 S. Beverly Drive, #338,  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212 USA

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