

## Semi Finalists 2015 Land for Life Award

### 1. Commonland Foundation , Netherland, Europe

An organization who is establishing a whole new market sector while facilitating the investment of mostly family owned private sector enterprises to restore degraded land in large scale (with more than 300000 ha +). The organization promotes close cooperation and agreement with the local stakeholders. Their restoration model highlights: 4 returns (return of inspiration, return of social capital, return of natural capital and return of financial capital) by creating 3 zones landscapes restoration plan (Natural zone, Eco-Agro mixed zone, economic zone).



Restoration of Australian wheat-belt

More about Commonland: <https://www.commonland.com/en>

### 2. EEPSEA (The Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia)

Over the years, EEPSEA has funded 247 projects. It has provided training through courses and workshops to over 1,330 participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea. The list includes core courses in environmental economics for approximately 340 researchers as well as intensive training for approximately 160 university teachers. It also includes familiarization courses targeted specifically at policy-makers, natural resource managers, NGOs, judges, and journalists. Equally important are the achievements of EEPSEA alumni: developing curricula and new programs at local universities; forming national associations for networking and additional training; taking their expertise to government agencies, NGOs, and advisory groups; disseminating findings through journals and international conferences; and more.

The land trainings also extended to train judges in the region, a very interesting concept for capacity building and awareness raising on land degradation issues.



*Kunlayanee's research studies on Songkhla lake management were used as input during a workshop organized by the Songkhla province Southern Marine Fishery Resource Unit to propose the creation of community co-management lake conservation project.*

More about EEPSEA: <https://www.eaere.org/web-resurces/eepsea-economy-and-environment-program-southeast-asia>

### 3. SEKEM Group

Sekem was founded 30 years ago by Dr. Abouleish as a far, and a socially responsible business based on the principles of biodynamic and organic agriculture. The success in greening the desert outside Cairo is nearly miraculous. SEKEM has cultivated its own Biodynamic farms and with the establishment of the Egyptian Biodynamic Association ([EBDA](#)) helped over 700 farmers in Egypt to shift from conventional to Organic agriculture. Various companies have been established in the field of agriculture and cattle management, phytopharmaceuticals, Organic textiles and clothes and Organic food and beverages (market leader in Egypt). Furthermore, SEKEM established the independent SEKEM Development Foundation ([SDF](#)), which is running various schools, a kindergarten, a vocational training center, a medical center and a lot of projects. The latest achievement was the establishment of the Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, which successfully started its operations in the year 2012.



More about SEKEM: <http://www.sekem.com/>

4. Florent Kossivi, Green Radio World

A Togo-born science journalist, trainer, and consultant based in Bonn, Germany. He trains journalists from all countries of West Africa and specialized in environment and sustainable land management (SLM) issues. Tiassou initiated the training of rural radio journalists in the broadcast and dissemination of SLM best practices and is in charge of the Green Radio World. Till now, Green Radio-World has trained over 200 journalists who work with community radio stations in Africa and its network covers 18 countries in Africa, both francophone and Anglophone.



More about Green Radio World: <http://greenradio-world.org/>