



## NATUTARIAN COMMUNITY

### **ABOUT NATUTARIAN**

Natutarian is an initiative which aims at spreading awareness about natural living, eating, and healing for better health and happiness of humans, welfare of animals, regeneration of earth, and protection of the environment. The initiative was founded to help people learn to live in close alignment with nature, in a happy, stress-free and dis-ease free state. To learn more about Natutarian, visit [www.natutarian.com](http://www.natutarian.com).

### **THE COMMUNITY**

Like the usual corporations and organizations, we do not believe in defining / confining ourselves to pre-determined missions, visions, goals and objectives, and then suffer the misery of not getting there, and in the process, exploiting/ oppressing people, animals and the environment in order to achieve those.

The Natutarian Community is the coming together of nature-loving, compassionate people with the ambition, intent, and passion to build something to re-evolve the lost co-existence with nature. This shall be a peaceful, collaborative endeavor, to preserve and regenerate a small piece of earth, and make it home with self-sustainability, along with other living beings. Participating members will lead and guide themselves with free will and free flowing energy, in a collaborative and harmonious way.

#### **What this Community is all about:**

- The coming together of compassionate humans to protect a piece of nature
- Collaborative efforts to regenerate the piece of earth
- Living in harmony and peace, while learning more about nature, and spreading love
- Coexisting with other natural beings (humans/ plants/ animals and all life forms)
- Achieving self-sustainability and freedom of living in minimalistic ways
- Inspiring others to move towards nature and leaving behind a natural legacy for others to learn from, live in and seek constant inspiration from

Though we would not like to have any strict rules / laws like most oppressive forms of establishments, but at the same time, it is necessary that we lay down some guiding principles. These would help all of us to collaborate and cooperate to live in harmony with nature, while minimizing our adverse impact on it.

We have initiated the building of Natutarian Communities, where environmentally sensitive, health conscious and awakened people would co-exist peacefully. This is also an attempt to build (as much as possible) self-sustainable and predominantly off-grid communities, least dependent on the outside commercial and political world, that is becoming increasing unpredictable and complex. With these communities, we also want to promote and exemplify regenerative agricultural practices, soil building, restoring the natural biodiversity and practicing a completely natural lifestyle.



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**NOTE:** These guiding principles are subject to modifications, as we evolve, learn and understand more about co-existing with nature, with time and experience.

#### **COMMUNITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

1. The Natutarian Community would be built in the tropical region of India, on a legal agricultural land or similar, which would be acquired jointly by the founding members as a group of farmers having equal investments.
2. A core team led by the Founder will be formed to identify, evaluate, and acquire the overall land and individual plots for the community members, and for its subsequent development and re-generation. Services of legal consultants, lawyers, environmentalists, and other experts would be sought as and when required.
3. The Community will be formed and will function as a Farmers' Co-operative / Trust, where the founding and participating members would have equal say and voting rights in key decisions.
4. In the long term, the Community would aspire and work towards self-sustainability for most of its daily basic needs, while in the medium term, the Community will primarily work towards food-security and safe shelters in nature for its members and supporting individuals such as volunteers/ workers.
5. While founding members would contribute equal amounts in protecting the earth, they will also contribute to the Land Regeneration and Community / common development Fund equally, for the development of the common community land area and facilities, and permaculture food forest over a period of 1-5 years after the land purchase. The first installment of the Community Development Fund will need to be contributed in advance by each member, at the time of land registration. The details of the amount will be shared as we reach closer to the land purchase transaction for any finalized land.
6. The members would have to follow the laws of the state for agricultural land, for keeping the ratio of natural forest + plantation and house / structures, the construction type and covered area appropriately. In addition to these, the Community would also define detailed guidelines for structures and development by engaging sustainable architect/s.
7. The Community members would cooperate and support each other in producing organic plant-based natural food using permaculture food forest principles for its internal consumption, as much as possible, to have a self-sustainable food consumption practice. In case there is food shortage for any particular member, they can trade/ barter internally. And in case of overall food shortage, members can source organic food from outside in the interim, till the food forest is properly grown. In case of surplus food production, the Community would devise a plan to use it for community guests/ visitors, or sell it outside to generate income for its functioning and maintenance; the details of which will be worked out at a later stage.



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8. There would be no physical demarcation of areas/ plots purchased by individuals in overall land, as the Community as whole would protect, regenerate and enjoy the overall land. However, founding members would be given a personal space to develop dwellings and gardens etc. to live in privacy too, while enjoying the rest of the place as one Community with about 10% of their total land for their personal space and rest will be for common food forest, other plantations, natural forest in various permaculture zones.
9. The Founder would take the primary responsibility of macro permaculture design of the Community based on permaculture design principles, in collaboration with and support of founding members, and also engage outside experts as and when required, if need be.
10. Based on permaculture principles, the Community would have areas categorized in 4 zones. The zone categories and the approximate area allocation would be as given below. This may be revisited post land acquisition, but will mostly follow a similar land allocation criterion.

**Zone 0:** Zone 0 (area with most human activity) would have Community structures such as collaboration area, member and guest stay, recreation center, Community kitchen/cafe and utilities such as water tanks, solar power, windmill, storage and tool rooms etc. This area with manmade structures will not exceed the percentage defined by the law of the agriculture land in the state or by the Community itself, whichever is minimum. The common Community facilities built in the area will be funded by pooling in financial and other resources by all members equally.

Zone 0 will also have individual space for dwellings, and common areas contributed equally by all members from their respective land area. Individual plot size allocation would vary basis the overall Community land size, design and individual investment. For example, it could be about 10% of overall land investment, and the rest being utilized for food forest, and other zones, which the community would enjoy collectively.

**Zone 1:** Zone 1 is the most frequented area adjacent to Zone 0. This area would be surrounding Zone 0 and would be nearby the individual members' dwellings as part of their allocated individual plot. The members would have freedom to design and develop this area for their personal use and regular living. They could grow frequently consumed fresh produce in Zone 1, which may include vegetable beds, kitchen gardens, herb spirals, small fruit plants, and beautification and sit-out spaces such as small lotus and lily ponds, mandala gardens, lawns etc.

*Common Community structures, gardens, veggie and kitchen gardens would fall in common Community Zones 0 and 1, that are separate from individual Zones 0 and 1.*

*Overall, Zone 0 and 1 put together would be about 10-15% of the total Community land area.*

**Zone 2:** Zone 2 would be a comparatively lesser frequented area, after Zone 1. This would be a 7-layer food forest (comprising trees and plants), designed and developed using permaculture principles. The food forest shall be common to all members, and will cut



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across the individual land plots, for better biodiversity, adjacencies and connectedness, and better growth and production. All Community members shall have the freedom to consume from the food forest. They would also have the freedom to plant trees, based on their choices nearby their respective land areas, which is more likely to be frequented by a particular member. The fresh produce primarily should be used for community's consumption (members and guests) and other living beings in the community (animals). The surplus can be traded with the outside entities and any financial earnings from this can be utilized for the Community's maintenance and members' benefits. Details for this shall be worked out later, with the agreement of all the Community members.

**Zone 2 shall be about 40-60% of community land.**

**Zone 3:** Zone 3 would have beneficial trees, some other major annual/ seasonal crops, and some larger boundary trees. **This shall be about 15-20% of individual land areas.**

**Zone 4:** This would be the least frequented area in the Community land. Zone 4 would be the preserved, untouched natural forest for the wildlife to flourish and act as a cover between the Community and the outside world. **It shall be a minimum of 10-15% of the overall Community land.**

**NOTE:**

- a) *The above Zone categorization is for Community members, who are securing land of about approximately 25-30 acres or so.*
- b) *The Zone-wise land allocation is tentative and may vary, depending on the land type the Community finally will acquire.*

11. Community members would be encouraged to make ecological and sustainable house structures with local, environment-friendly materials in Zone 0. The individuals would have the freedom to design their own houses with surrounding areas and edible gardens, following certain broader guidelines from the community. ***Individual stay accommodation in their allocated land areas would be done by the individual, at his/her personal expense. However, there will be a common community stay facility for everyone (members and non-members) to use.***
12. All Community members would be cooperating to build the following common facilities collectively -- fence, approach roads, internal roads, common facilities for recreation center, healing retreat/eco-tourism facility (for creating awareness about natural, self-sustainable living and food growing), common food forest/ plantation/ water/ power etc., Forest School for natural living education. All this will be detailed at a later stage, along with inputs from all members.
13. Any development / maintenance work for common facilities will be done with the help of participating members, volunteers and local workers, as and when applicable. The efforts and cost will be discussed and decided mutually, and shared between all the members, as



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and when needed. The detailed guidelines for efforts/ management of these activities shall be worked out at a later stage.

14. Members would be encouraged to primarily use renewable sources of energy such as solar/ wind/ biogas and appropriate technologies with least impact on the environment, all of which will and primarily be off-grid.
15. Members would be encouraged to practice regenerative farming using native seeds, using organic, natural ways for restoring the natural biodiversity and environment, improving soil quality, increasing the vegetation cover, adding to the water table, and at the same time, maximizing produce, using veganic permaculture/ food forest principles mimicking nature.
16. This Community would follow a chemical free, natural sun-cooked and organic **whole foods plant-based diet**, and will not tolerate animal cruelty in any form on its premises. Certain healing systems recommend animal-based food in moderation for medicinal purpose in some rare diseases. Any member who is suffering from such a rare disorder and wants to follow that protocol, can do so outside the Community premises as an exception.
17. This Community neither promotes nor encourages the use of synthetic lab-made chemicals to be injected in the body in any form. Members, families, guests and visitors shall not expect or impose such unnatural treatments on the rest of the people in the Community in any way.
18. We will encourage the use of natural hygiene products only (herbal/ organic/ bio-degradable), by all Community members, guests and visitors. Members would be encouraged to avoid synthetic and non-organic clothing and other materials, so as to preserve the natural habitat in and around the Community.
19. Community members, guests, visitors would not be allowed to use processed and chemicalized foods, synthetic hygiene products, cosmetics, household cleaning chemicals, and any such chemicals that may disturb or affect the biodiversity and the environment within and around the Community premises.
20. Members, guests, and visitors would be expected to use non-polluting vehicles and equipment within the Community premises as much as possible.
21. **Consumption of any intoxicating or harmful substances such as alcohol, drugs of any kind and cigarettes, is strictly prohibited in the Community.** Members would be free to invite their guests, families and friends to the Community, and would be expected to follow the guidelines laid out by the Community. It should be ensured by the members and their guests/ families to strictly not consume any animal-based products, and intoxicating substances such as drugs, alcohol, cigarettes etc. on the community premises. If anyone's family/ guests are seen doing so, they will be asked to leave the premises immediately and if



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this behavior is observed repeatedly, the member will be asked to leave the Community permanently.

22. While the Community will strive to attain self-sustainability in the steady state, but during its development phase or later on, if a need arises to obtain goods and services from the outside world, the Community would devise income-generating plans and activities to cater to such needs. This could include offering healing retreats, eco-tourism, alternative lifestyle workshops, permaculture workshops, selling fresh produce or any Community-developed natural products. All such goods and services shall be offered to the outside world under the umbrella of the Community, for the overall wellbeing of the Community and associated members. The details for this shall be worked out in agreement with all the members at a later stage.
23. In this Community, nature is the prime entity, and we should abide by its laws. However, we respect people's traditional and cultural backgrounds, and they would be free to follow their faith, as far as it is non-discriminating, or imposing on other members in any way.
24. Celebrations of various festivals and other occasions would be advised to be done in least-polluting and environment friendly ways, in the interest of the Community premises, the biodiversity, and the health of the Community members.
25. The Community members would be encouraged to follow natural healing methods such as holistic detoxification, rational fasting, herbal protocols, and traditional Indian Ayurvedic methods, as much as possible. However, emergency allopathic medicines and procedures can be followed in case of accidents and emergencies as an exception. In a rare situation, if someone wants to use other synthetic chemical-laden treatments, they can do so outside the Community premises.
26. Members will be encouraged to coexist with animals as equal members of the Community, and build a symbiotic relationship with them, in an absolute non-exploiting way. **For example:** a member could have a cow, and could use cow dung as manure, because it is not used by the cow. But the cow milk will not be used by the members in any situation, as it is meant only for the cow's baby.
27. It is expected that the Community members would live in harmony, in a peaceful manner, with each other, to make it a happy and healthy living Community. But if any differences arise between any two or more members, these would be attempted to be amicably resolved within the Community, with the help of the Founder and other members.
28. Any criminal activities or acts, if ever happen on the premises of the Community campus, either by any member or outsider, would come under the jurisdiction of the respective state and country.



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29. Any member/s found to not be aligning with the guiding principles would be counselled by the Founder and other Community members and would be advised not to exhibit such behavior. But if the member/s do not align consistently, the Founder and rest of the Community members hold the right to ask such member/s to separate from the community. All major decisions shall be taken collectively in the larger interests of the Community in a transparent manner. In case of unresolvable issues and conflicts, the Founder would have the responsibility to take the final decision for the long-term benefit of the Community.
30. In case any member decides to leave the Community permanently, by selling off the land, s/he needs to inform the Founder and Community members. In such a case, the existing community members would have the first right to purchase the land from the separating member. In case no member has the capacity to buy the land, then the member will have to sell the land to an individual/ set of people who have the same ethos as the Community members, and will agree and adhere to the Community guiding principles. This transaction in no way shall impact the Community design and the land usage, which may have an adverse impact on the overall Community well-being. The inclusion and exclusion of any member will be the prerogative of the Founder and members and shall be done in a peaceful, amicable manner. Any gains arising out of land sale by exiting member shall be divided equally with the Community and the leaving members.

**NOTE:** *These are the initial guiding principles for aspiring participants, to understand the functioning and objectives of the Natutarian Community. However, an exhaustive set of guiding principles and rules will be created after land acquisition and member finalization.*

**For more details, get in touch with Shanu, Founder - Natutarian & The Natutarian Community**

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To know more about the Founder, visit <https://natutarian.com/about>