A photograph of a dirt road stretching into the distance. The road is flanked by a fence made of wooden posts and wire on the left, and trees and a building in the background on the right. The sky is clear and blue.

POUT,

An Economic Alternative
by means of Peace

**Self-esteem must be born
out of one's own struggle to
discover one's potential**

Sheikh Aly N'Daw

The Alternative: The human being at the centre

The peacemakers have always thought globally and acted locally. With the intelligence of the real, they have proposed an alternative in response to the violence of their society; an alternative full of creativity and which, like a revolution, breaks the bonds of conditioning to put Man in front of his Responsibility. This alternative calls out to the “being”: It calls for a conscious choice. It is neither a reaction nor the result of a judgment and therefore does not oscillate between what is just or unjust. It believes in a fertile middle ground and becomes thus a movement gathering everyone without any distinction. Its standard is that of creation, difference being a necessity of life.

The life of the Peacemakers is very revealing. Be it Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Wangari Maathai, Muhammad Yunus, William Penn or Mother Teresa, they have all met the challenge. In Senegal, we have the example of Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba who re-launched the economy of his country, not by creating an arena of integration within the system established by the French, but by creating a parallel economy, an economic alternative. Today, this initiative is rapidly expanding in the village of Bayouf, Pout, with the founder of the project, Sheikh Aly N'Daw, also head of the School of Peace and Service and of the Economy by means of Peace Movement.

To integrate a system is to repeat the shortcomings of this system. Creating an alternative is to be audacious and use the intelligence of the real. Thus, the peacemaker comes out of the institution to set up his own model of society. The “risk factor” becomes the catalyst element of the path towards success; the first means of this success is the HUMAN BEING.





"The situation in Africa is made up only of solutions but people prefer to think of the problems."

Sheikh Aly N'Daw

The figures are disastrous. The analysts, the economists, the donors, the international aiding organisations, the people, have all passed their judgment.

Africans move away from their land and are convinced that the miracle of their destiny resides in the big cities or in the northern countries. The young people dream of escaping towards brighter skies: crossing the sea at the risk of their life to get to a "better land".

Faced with alarming analysis on Africa, a ray of light "Bayouf, Pout" brings hope in the heart.

Faced with such a situation, economists react:
until when will Africa be dependent on foreign aid?

Indeed, the economy cannot be reduced to numbers. Born with Man, it accompanies him in his daily life; it is here to enable him to play his role in managing our planet. When we speak of the green revolution, of "feeding those who are hungry" and exploiting the earth to achieve this end, in Bayouf Pout Senegal, another vision full of hope grows day after day.

A micro-society emerges from the landscape of this forgotten bush land. Because change is first of all a matter of the heart.

The diagnostic of Bayouf, Pout

The land was acquired in 2006. Since then, it constitutes the experimental framework by excellence to set up an economic alternative: the return to the earth by means of non-violence in a place of social and economic stasis where:

- The lack of water has driven the peasants and youngsters away from their land
- Most women have become mango sellers
- Small business is booming at the expense of production

Globalization has the effect of creating almost the same reality everywhere in the world. We thus see big land owners who have the means to rehabilitate abandoned land. The peasant who, because of inadequate agricultural policy (lack of seeds, water shortage, lack of technical skills, lack of markets), is forced to sell his land to feed himself. He sees himself being reduced to a simple seasonal worker.

This situation has several consequences. In every case, the love of the land has completely disappeared:

- The land owner is motivated only by market demand
- The peasant, deprived of his dignity and waiting only for his salary, is trapped by rapid gain and ease

At the end, the relationship between Man and the earth is destroyed. Mother Earth finds herself in a situation of slow death organised for profit-making and becomes a victim of Man's greed.

*“The world of non-consciousness
knows no sense of responsibility.
Grows in him the germ of victimization.”*

Sheikh Aly N'Daw



The Awakening of Consciousness through work

Changing oneself to change the course of events

In the face of this diagnostic, the School works in close collaboration with volunteers from abroad and from Senegal, to rebuild the natural relationship which should bind Man - whether he is a land owner, a peasant, a producer or a consumer - with the earth.

*"There is no difference between the king
and the peasant.
But it is very difficult to explain
to the king as well as the peasant
that there is no difference between them."*

M.K.Gandhi

**So that everyone becomes an actor,
a producer of development,
a creator of solidarity and sharing**

In the fields, day after day, Sheikh Aly N'Daw strives to eradicate the employer-employee dynamic, so that everyone feels he is an actor! That is, someone capable of "producing development" by first developing within him all the necessary virtues for an equitable management of the earth and its benefits.

And to create this awakening, the School works to enable every person, through the work, to articulate his life around these three axes: Choice, Liberty, Love.



Our actions

Since 2006, Sheikh Aly N'Daw has launched many activities in Bayouf, Pout:

Awareness campaigns

All the villages surrounding Pout have been visited: Gapp, Lene, Palal, Bayouf. This led to “The Environment Cup”, a football tournament organised by the young villagers.

Borehole

Investment in a 100-metre deep borehole and a reservoir for water retention, the very condition for the success of agricultural activities

Training of the “self” on the field

The School places Man and not profit at the centre of its preoccupations.

Towards a balanced agriculture

From 2006 to 2010, the land has known an evolution in agricultural techniques: from the traditional methods towards more mechanical farming techniques. In 2009, we acquired a tractor. Since its independence, Senegal has practised an agriculture geared towards exports and has focused on the monoculture of peanuts instead of encouraging the cultivation of cereals (mil, sorgho) and market gardening. In the farm of Pout, we now maintain a system of mixed farming and we work towards the preservation of the environment and the quality of the soil.

Land allocation and sharing of profits

For the time being, the School as a land owner is undergoing its first experience of land allocation to a group of women from two surrounding villages. They manage the land and are actors of their own development. They constitute the first capital and the School, by ensuring the free provision of seeds and water, creates the necessary environment for the deployment of creative liberty. Finally, the proceeds of the harvest are shared between the partners: the School and the peasant as an actor.





“Act for Life” Launch of the programme

A vast awareness campaign on “Quality for All” is carried out by “Sarsara Fruits and Vegetables” because the region consumes products of inferior quality. EcoPeace offers the villagers and the city-dwellers first quality produce.

Quality for All

The first awareness campaign with the beans from Pout.

“Everywhere in the world, the intermediaries between producers and consumers reap all the profits.”
Pierre Gevaert

Mango Campaign and preservation of the environment

The most beautiful and tasty mangoes of Senegal are all exported. The mangoes on the local market have undergone a chemical process to accelerate ripening (use of calcium carbide). EcoPeace aims to awaken the consciousness of the buyer on the fact that he needs give himself the best products. In respecting the environment, EcoPeace recycles jute bags to sell mangoes and its other products.

No more intermediaries

The setting-up of a direct producer-consumer relationship in April 2010 has resulted in the opening of a shop in the middle of Thies market to continue this awareness campaign.

Awareness campaigns through environment

The women of the surrounding village of Gapp

Since the emergence of the project, the awakening shocks are starting to bear fruit. The land in Bayouf, Pout has become a true micro-society in constant evolution. Around 10 women from the village of Gapp have made their choice: no more chasing after cars to sell mangoes. They have committed themselves to the “Act for Life” project.

- A second group of women from another village has joined them. They receive literacy courses.
- They receive training on the environment with experts from the University of Dakar and agricultural engineers
- In the context of actions against deforestation, they have built their own traditional clay hearth which uses less wood and have started reforestation in their own village
- After having been trained by Mr Fofana on gardening techniques, they manage their own garden of organic vegetables
- They learn how to make their own compost under the direction of Mrs Rabia from France for use on the farm throughout the year
- They are the main actors of the fruit and vegetable processing unit. They have been trained by an agricultural engineer, Ms Fatou Kine Sall, who joined the team of “engineers of service” operating on the farm





Fruits and Vegetables

Processing Unit

The processing unit started operating in April 2009. To transform is to manage great losses and protect the environment. In the region of Pout, there is almost no structure for the transformation of fruits and vegetables. It is a paradox because the region of Niayes, where Pout is located, is one of the biggest producers of fruits and vegetables in Senegal! This year, the production going to waste cannot be measured! Those wastes become real nests favouring the hatching of all sorts of flies and insects.

EcoPeace, 100% natural!

Every season has its scent

Our products: Syrups, beverages, nectars, jams, marmalade, fruit paste, dried fruits, herbal teas

Our raw material: hibiscus sepals, corosol, ginger, tamarind, mango, papaya, lime, grapefruit, pineapple, guava, squash, basilica, mint and other local produce such as darkassou and kinkeliba.



One Africa One Earth In Bayouf, Pout

In 2010, an important aspect of the “Return to the Earth” project was developed: this earth which teaches us that difference is a necessity of life and that we all come from her. After the visit of a volunteer from South Africa, four youngsters from Burkina Faso have joined the team. They are currently experiencing the alternative to the concept of seasonal farmers. They will soon be joined by volunteers from Mauritania.

These youngsters have left their country for economic reasons. But today on the farm they awaken to becoming non-violent beings and develop within them the consciousness of unity. They view themselves as Africans and not as citizens of Burkina Faso. They are participating in French literacy programmes and receive technical training with one of the engineers of service on the farm.

These young people will return to their country of origin after their training on the farm to reproduce this socio-economic model there. In fact, the contribution of Africa to the edification of the Universal Man can be realised only through the economy.

*“When Africa awakens,
the world will be free from greed.”*

Sheikh Aly N'Daw

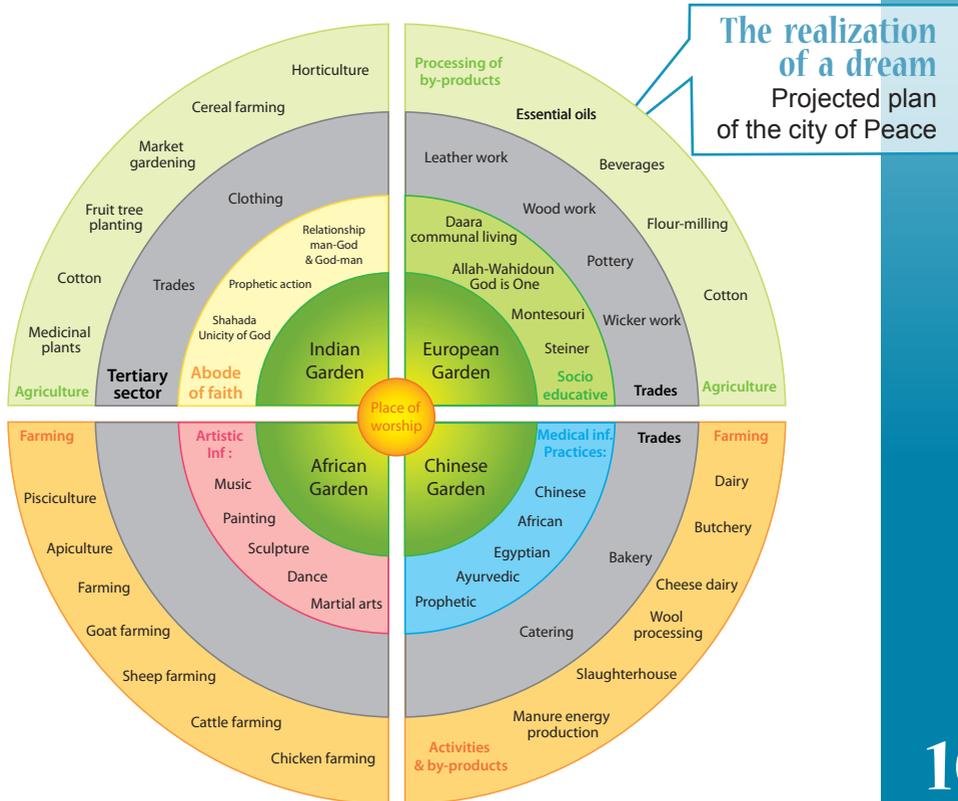


The Hope in Bayouf, Pout

Resuscitating Man through a return to the Earth

In this remote area of Senegal, a new question is being posed:
 How can Africa help the rest of the world?
 How can we contribute to the unity of nations?

Here, a new approach starts to bear fruit: the awakening of consciousness through a return to the Earth. Because the freedom of Africa is first of all an economic freedom. Hence, in Bayouf, we learn to come out of victimhood. We learn the sense of responsibility and to craft ordinary things with extraordinary perfection. We learn the culture of work. We learn to be free from greed, from rapid gain, to establish harmony with the nourishing Earth. We learn to be Peace to be able to serve our community, our village, our country, the world. The Economy by means of Peace calls for solidarity and sharing, to be in the consciousness of others.



2012: a Decisive Year for EcoPeace

Mango campaign

- Exporting for the first time: 2 local varieties, Baguinda and Smith, and Kent to France and United Kingdom.
- Acquisition of the Global Gapp Certification in August 2012
- Building of our own station for conditioning vegetables and fruits
- Training of the women of nearby village Gapp for working in the station
- Training in hygiene
- Training in First Aid

Transformation unit

- Production of herbal teas and dietary supplements
- With some of the plants grown on the field: Moringa, kinkeliba, dute gambie, lemongrass, African basil, mint, spinach
- Production of an Energy Kit with locally grown jujube, moringa seeds, cashew nuts and spinach and African beverage with locally grown millet
- Production of Jams with reduced sugar

2013: Ongoing Realizations

- Production of dried fruits with EcoPeace grown mangoes, bananas, pawpaw, lemon and vegetables
- Production of Spirulina which will be made available to the villagers for improving health conditions
- Making of a first “superpotager” for vegetable growing
- Production of honey
- Production of eggs from local hens
- Herbal and phytosanitary laboratory
- in the process of being certified organic

Quality for all campaign

Ongoing sensitization: investment in a truck bar to promote all EcoPeace produce such as eggs, beverages, jams, teas, powders...

Join the programme 'Act for Life' of
Bayouf Pout Peace village in Senegal
for a more conscious economy

