



## Eco-Dharma Camp 2026

May 10 – May 15, 2026

Thippayasathan Dhamma Bhikkhuni Arama, Koh Yor, Songkhla

### 1. INEB's Eco-Temple Network

The [International Network of Engaged Buddhists \(INEB\)](#), is an internationally active NGO with its secretariat in Bangkok. It was established in the late 1980s by Buddhists thinkers and activists who had the conviction that in order to truly follow Buddha's teachings we must engage with the world around us and address the problems we observe, rather than exclusively focusing on our personal spiritual development. INEB nowadays is active in different areas such as ecology, child protection, youth empowerment, and community and peace building.

INEB's ecological engagement takes shape through the [Eco-Temple Network](#), an interreligious initiative spanning Southeast Asia and beyond. Rooted in Buddhist teachings, the network addresses environmental challenges at local, national, and international levels by supporting community-led ecological approaches adapted to different cultural and environmental contexts.

Through the Eco-Temple Network, INEB works closely with monastic and lay communities, including monks and nuns who integrate sustainability into monastic life and lead practical environmental projects. These initiatives range from permaculture and regenerative agriculture to renewable energy and community resilience.

In Thailand, two notable examples of ecological engagements rooted in Buddhism are the [Institute of Buddhist Management for Happiness and Peace Foundation \(IBHAP\)](#) and [Kok Nong Na – The New Agriculture Theory](#). IBHAP, founded by Venerable Napan Santibhaddo Thawornbanjob of Wat Saket - a long-time associate of INEB - connects Buddhist principles with sustainability practices within monastic and lay communities. Meanwhile, Kok Nong Na is a practice inspired by the late King Rama IX and further developed by Eco-Temple Network member Venerable Dr. Sangkom Thanapanyo Khunsiri. It promotes a holistic farming model that balances water management, food production, forestry, and the creation of living spaces to support self-sufficiency.

These initiatives reflect INEB's shared understanding that Buddhist practice is both spiritual and social, linking inner transformation with concrete action - an approach the Eco-Temple Network continues to strengthen and expand through such engagements.

### 2. Eco-Dharma Camp

Ecological issues have become omnipresent throughout the world. They are affecting people from different places and backgrounds, whether they live in cities or the countryside, mountainous regions or plains. A majority of people have been exposed to extreme weather events such as heavy rains, floods, heatwaves, and droughts, while facing various types of pollution at the same time, ranging from bad air quality to widespread plastic waste. In one way or another we are all affected by these issues.

In this context, temples and religious institutions hold significant potential to serve as centers for ecological awareness and action. Monastics, as respected spiritual leaders, play an influential role within their communities. Their position enables them to inspire reflection, ethical engagement, and collective responses toward greater social and ecological justice.

The Eco-Dharma Camp is designed as a space to inspire, support, and empower monastics from across Thailand in taking on this role. The camp seeks to introduce practical ecological concepts and demonstrate how temples can become active hubs for sustainability initiatives rooted in Buddhist teachings and practice.

The Eco-Dharma Camp will be a five-day training program, proposed to take place from **May 10 to 15 at [Thippayasathan Dhamma Bhikkhuni Arama, Koh Yor, Songkhla](#)**. The objective is to bring together a group of up to twenty monastics who are passionate about learning more about ecological concepts and

sustainability and who would like to get environmentally engaged themselves. The camp will be conducted in Thai and is open to all monastics – male and female – who are eighteen years or older. This will allow us to create a diverse and intergenerational learning environment.

Each day, participants will engage with guest speakers who are actively involved in environmental work across different fields, including community engagement, policy development, and advocacy through media and communication. Monastics who are already committed to ecological initiatives will also be invited to share their experiences. Through these exchanges, the camp seeks to inspire participants and offer practical perspectives on how Buddhist monks and nuns can integrate sustainability more deeply into their daily lives, spiritual practice, and community leadership.

More concretely, throughout the five days of the program there will be five learning components:

#### **Component 1: Inner Ecology and Buddhist Ethics**

Rooting environmental work in Dharma practice.

- Mindfulness, compassion, and interbeing
- Reflecting on consumption, sufficiency, and non-harm
- Working with ecological grief and responsibility

#### **Component 2: Community-based ecological action**

Strengthening collective participation and local ownership.

- Engaging lay communities and local networks
- Temples as hubs for community resilience and learning
- Participatory approaches to environmental initiatives

#### **Component 3: Communication, Advocacy and Policy Engagement**

From grassroots voices to structural change.

- Social media and storytelling for ecological awareness
- Ethical communication and public engagement
- Understanding policy processes and pathways for change

#### **Component 4: Embodied Ecological Practice**

Hands-on learning that connects daily life with environmental responsibility.

- Producing daily-use items and natural fertilizers
- Sustainable food systems and waste reduction
- Low-impact living practices within temple settings

#### **Component 5: Leadership for ecological transformation**

Sustaining impact beyond the camp.

- Skillful leadership and facilitation
- Conflict transformation and ethical decision-making
- Visioning, action planning, and eco-temple networking

### **3. Budget**

The Eco-Dharma Camp will be conducted over five days, with participants arriving one day prior to the start of the program. The camp will host up to twenty monastic participants, together with three to five INEB staff members and volunteers who will support coordination and facilitation throughout the program. Guest speakers and trainers will be invited to lead sessions across the different thematic components of the camp.

Participation in the Eco-Dharma Camp is free of charge. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the venue; however, a limited number of travel scholarships will be made available. Accommodation for participants, staff, and speakers will be generously provided by Thippayasathan Dhamma Bhikkhuni Arama.

The remaining costs - including food, program materials, and honoraria for invited speakers and trainers - will be covered through fundraising efforts, and donations to support the camp are warmly welcomed.

#### Budget breakdown

| Items   | Amount (THB)   | Notes |
|---|----------------|-------|
| Staff survey trip (Mar-Apr 2026)                          | 20,000         |       |
| Accommodation (5 nights for 30 pax)                       | In-kind        |       |
| Meeting space (5 days for 30 pax)                         | In-kind        |       |
| Meals (5 days for 30 pax)                                 | 75,000         |       |
| Staff transportation (Bangkok - Hat Yai return for 5 pax) | 15,000         |       |
| Local transportation in Hat Yai                           | 10,000         |       |
| Guest speaker travels                                     | 15,000         |       |
| Guest speaker honoraria                                   | 20,000         |       |
| Equipment and materials                                   | 10,000         |       |
| Scholarship for 10 participants                           | 30,000         |       |
| Donation to the venue                                     | 10,000         |       |
| Contingencies   | 10,000         |       |
| <b>Total (THB)</b>  | <b>215,000</b> |       |
| <b>(USD)</b>  | <b>~ 6,900</b> |       |

#### 4. Funding Strategy

The Eco-Dharma Camp will be supported through a diversified, values-based funding approach, drawing on aligned partners across faith, civil society, and the environmental sector. Key funding sources include:

- Sombath Somphone Memorial Fund (USD 3,000)**  
 An application will be submitted to support core program costs, including food, training materials, and honoraria for invited speakers and facilitators.
- Temple and Monastic Community Contributions**  
 Accommodation and facilities are generously provided by Thippayasathan Dhamma Bhikkhuni Arama with additional support sought from temples within the Eco-Temple Network committed to ecological engagement.
- Environmental and Sustainability Funds**  
 Support will be sought from funds prioritizing environmental education, climate action, and community-based sustainability initiatives.

- **Network and Partner Support**  
Contributions—financial, in-kind, or technical—will be mobilized through existing networks and partners, including INEB, the IUCN Thailand National Committee, and allied organizations working at the intersection of faith, environment, and social change.
- **Ethical Corporate Support (CSR / Green Projects)**  
Engagement with companies will focus on those with demonstrated commitments to sustainability, renewable energy, and responsible business practices, in alignment with INEB's values.
- **Individual Donations**  
Donations from practitioners, supporters, and the wider public will be welcomed to help keep the camp accessible and free of charge for participants.

This blended funding strategy allows the Eco-Dharma Camp to remain independent, accessible, and firmly rooted in ethical practice, strengthening the role of monastic communities as agents of ecological care and social transformation.

## 5. Conclusion

The Eco-Dharma Camp is a holistic learning initiative designed to support monastics of all ages and genders in deepening their understanding of sustainability and translating this knowledge into meaningful action. Rooted in Buddhist teachings, the camp creates a shared learning space where ecological awareness, spiritual practice, and practical engagement come together.

As a Buddhist organization with long-standing experience in engaged Buddhism and ecological action, INEB brings together monastics and practitioners who have been pioneering innovative responses to environmental challenges. Through the Eco-Dharma Camp, we aim to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, lived experience, and inspiration - demonstrating how Buddhist principles can meaningfully inform sustainability practices within monastic and community life.

In Thailand, the Buddhist monastic community remains a vital part of the country's social and cultural fabric. Addressing today's ecological challenges requires working within these existing structures and empowering monastics as ethical leaders and educators in their communities. By strengthening monastic education in this area, the Eco-Dharma Camp contributes to broader, community-based ecological engagement across the country.

We warmly invite partners and supporters who value INEB's work and the role of monastic education to support this initiative, and to join us in nurturing a growing movement of monastics committed to caring for both the spiritual and ecological well-being of society