United Nations Registry of Significant Voluntary Commitments for Global Sustainability

Title: Maryknoll Sisters Conservation Easement

Organizations making commitment:
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
Westchester Land Trust

Select Primary Sustainable Development Area:
Biodiversity, Forests and other Ecosystems

Other Sustainable Development Area:
Sustainability Management

Keywords:

"wetlands", "wetlands buffer area", "forest management", "human-earth relationship", "land ethic", "biological diversity", "preservation of Earth's memories", "sustainable future", "commitment", "legal agreement", "significant environmental value", "wildlife habitat"

Where implemented

Maryknoll Sisters Headquarters
10 Pinesbridge Rd.
Maryknoll, NY 10545
USA

What will be achieved?

The Conservation Easement is a legal arrangement noted on the deed of ownership that requires the land owners to preserve the land in its natural state with little or no development, in perpetuity. In order to fulfill this commitment the Maryknoll Sisters have prepared a Land Assessment, a Land Ethic and a Forest Stewardship Plan under the aegis of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Conservation Easement or land preservation will allow the wet lands and forested area to become enhanced contributing to the sustainability of the life-support systems of Earth. Protection of the wildlife habitat within the forested and wet lands area is assured. The amount of land preserved is 43 acres.

Briefly describe how will this commitment be achieved.

The Westchester Land Trust is the principle partner of the Maryknoll Sisters Conservation Easement. It is the responsibility of the Land Trust staff to visit the property at least once a year to make certain that the land is being preserved according to the terms of the Easement and offer advice regarding issues that may arise. The basic plan for maintaining and enhancing the forest is detailed in the Forest Stewardship Plan approved by the Westchester Land Trust. The plan includes the ongoing identification of trees and vegetation, the elimination of invasive species, the maintenance of the woodland path, the restoration of the forest canopy, treatment of ailing trees and the elimination of trees that pose a danger within public access areas. The functional work is accomplished in a collaborative project including the

Maryknoll Sisters, associates, neighbors and contracted work crews for specialized work. The teachers and students of the neighboring public elementary school, the Brookside School, are also involved in the project.

Date of Commitment: 3 June 2012

Website: www.maryknollsisters.org
www.westchesterlandtrust.org

Deliverables:

- Restoration of adjoining field and barn area
- Education regarding the life support systems of Earth and witness of living in
- Harmony with nature beginning in 2012 and beyond.
- Preservation of 43 acres of significant wet land and forested area in PERPETUITY.

Resources devoted to this commitment:

- $25,000 in studies, surveys and specialized services.
- Donated services in terms of labor and for educational purposes
- Staff of Westchester Land Trust to monitor the implementation of project
- The primary resource devoted to this project is the 43 acre piece of valuable land.

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