

Rewilding Landscapes & Mindscapes with the Miyawaki Method

A proposal for funding local communities to plant
mini-forests that grow into a Bioregional Revolution

By Tracey Rogers Brandt
July 2025

“Mini-forests are where we touch life.”



“There may be no single climate solution that has greater breadth of benefits than mini-forests: **water, shade, coolth, pollinators, food, birds, biodiversity, water storage, carbon sinks, clean air.**”

When given the space, mini-forests grow sideways, not just up. They germinate, they spread, they enlarge. In open land, they are forest ‘seeds.’ **They generate themselves and all of life.**”

~Paul Hawken
Mini-Forest Revolution

Executive summary

Seeking collaborators and funders for a co-creation in the Bay Delta Bioregion, to plan, design, build and install **the conditions needed**, to plant Miyawaki Mini-Forests in each of the 65 unified school districts in our bioregion that includes 13 counties.

Land

Inquiry: Could the Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights (CDER) lead the Bioregion to pilot Land That Owns Itself Programs with each Miyawaki Forest location?

Labor

Inquiry: Could Tribal leaders provide learning and guidance for rematriation of landscapes, via K-12 Outdoor Ed and BIPOC focused workforce development with each location?

Funding

Inquiry: Could a blend of public and private resources collaboratively prototype a landbacked model for Trust Based Philanthropy practices to seed a horizontally scalable Bioregional Movement?



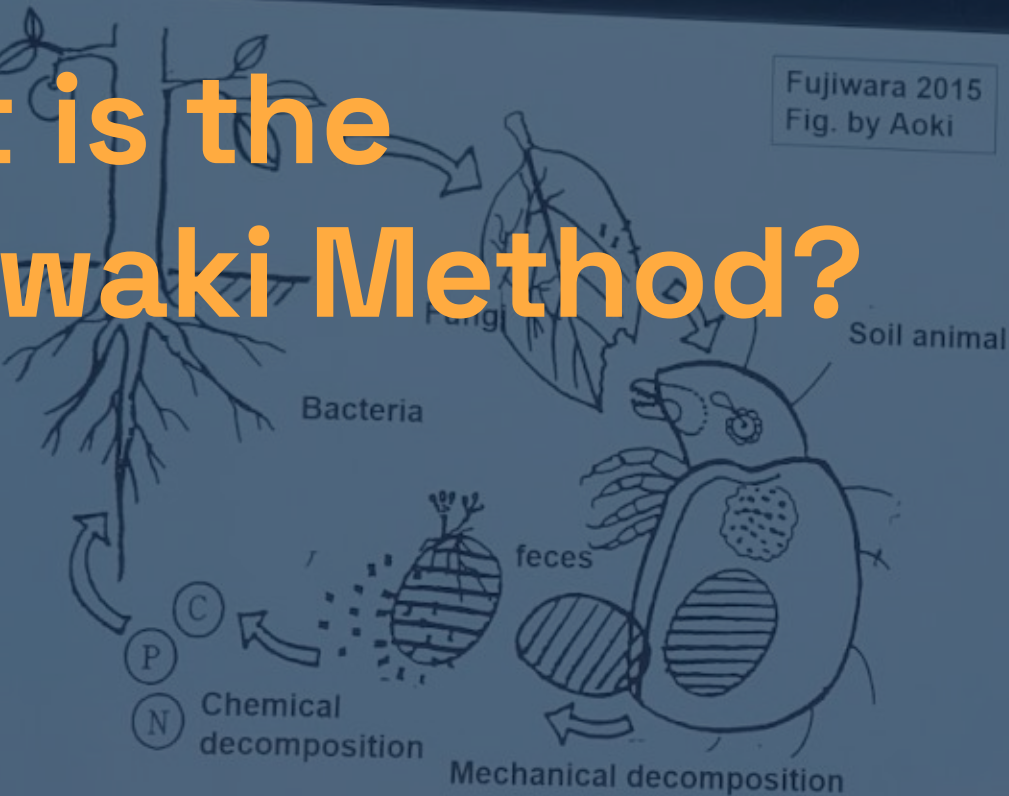
“It was human activity that turned much of the world’s land into an unproductive semi-desert, and it must be human efforts that restores at least some of this area.”

~ Professor Akira Miyawaki & Dr. Elgene Box,
Healing Power of Forests

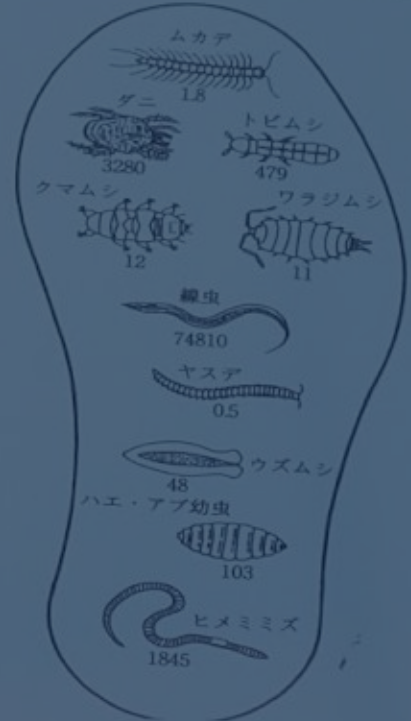
With the concept of **Potential Natural Vegetation (PNF)**, Professor Miyawaki developed, tested, and refined a method of ecological engineering to restore native forests, from seeds of native trees, on very degraded soils that were deforested and without humus.



What is the Miyawaki Method?



Fujiwara 2015
Fig. by Aoki



4. Decomposition of plant remains

± Relay action of mechanical decomposition by soil animals and chemical decomposition by microorganisms

3. The number of soil animals stepped on with each step in the forest (number on the sole of one shoe) in the Meiji Shrine 1976

Catalytic Growth from Natural Practices

The “Miyawaki Method”

Purpose: create a stable forest canopy, quickly, using long-living, dominant tree species from the local mature forest

Strategy: circumvent succession by planting the “climax” canopy tree species in an environment that creates a self-maintaining forest as quickly as possible

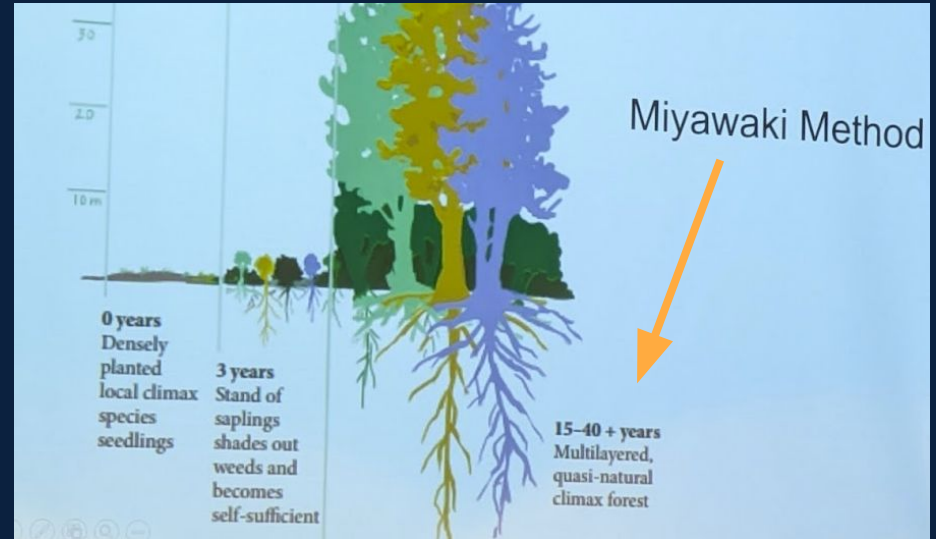
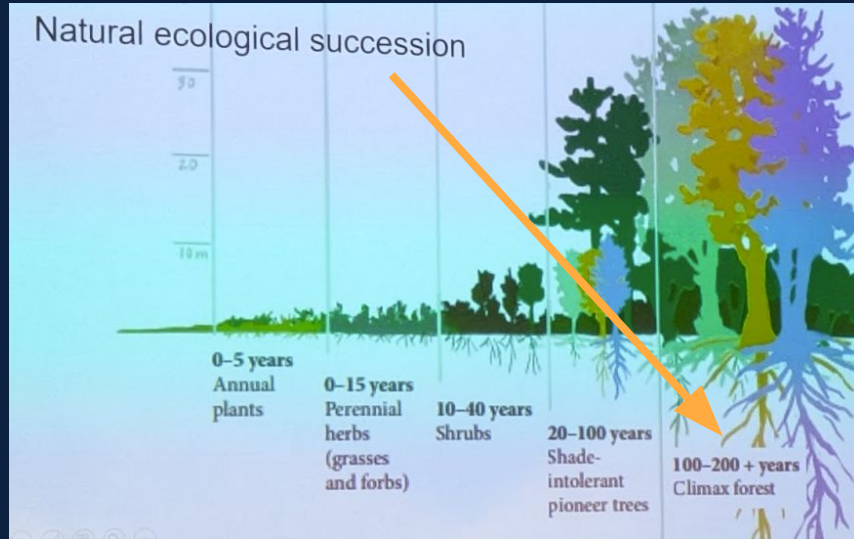
“The Miyawaki Method is unique in that it re-creates the conditions for a mature natural forest to arise **within decades** rather than **centuries**.”

~Hannah Lewis
Mini-Forest Revolution

Dr. Elgene Box speaking at “*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests*,” July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

Catalytic Succession via Planting Climax Species

Following core techniques of the Miyawaki Method, we can seed a forest and a bioregionalism movement, by organizing local communities to grow plants, soil animals and critically, the wisdom and compassion to imagine a new way forward.



Images by Hannah Lewis, *Mini-Forest Revolution*

Miyawaki Method is NOT a proposal to plant as many trees as possible



“Standing armies of trees are the opposite of a forest. Trees are like us. **We are social and so are trees.**

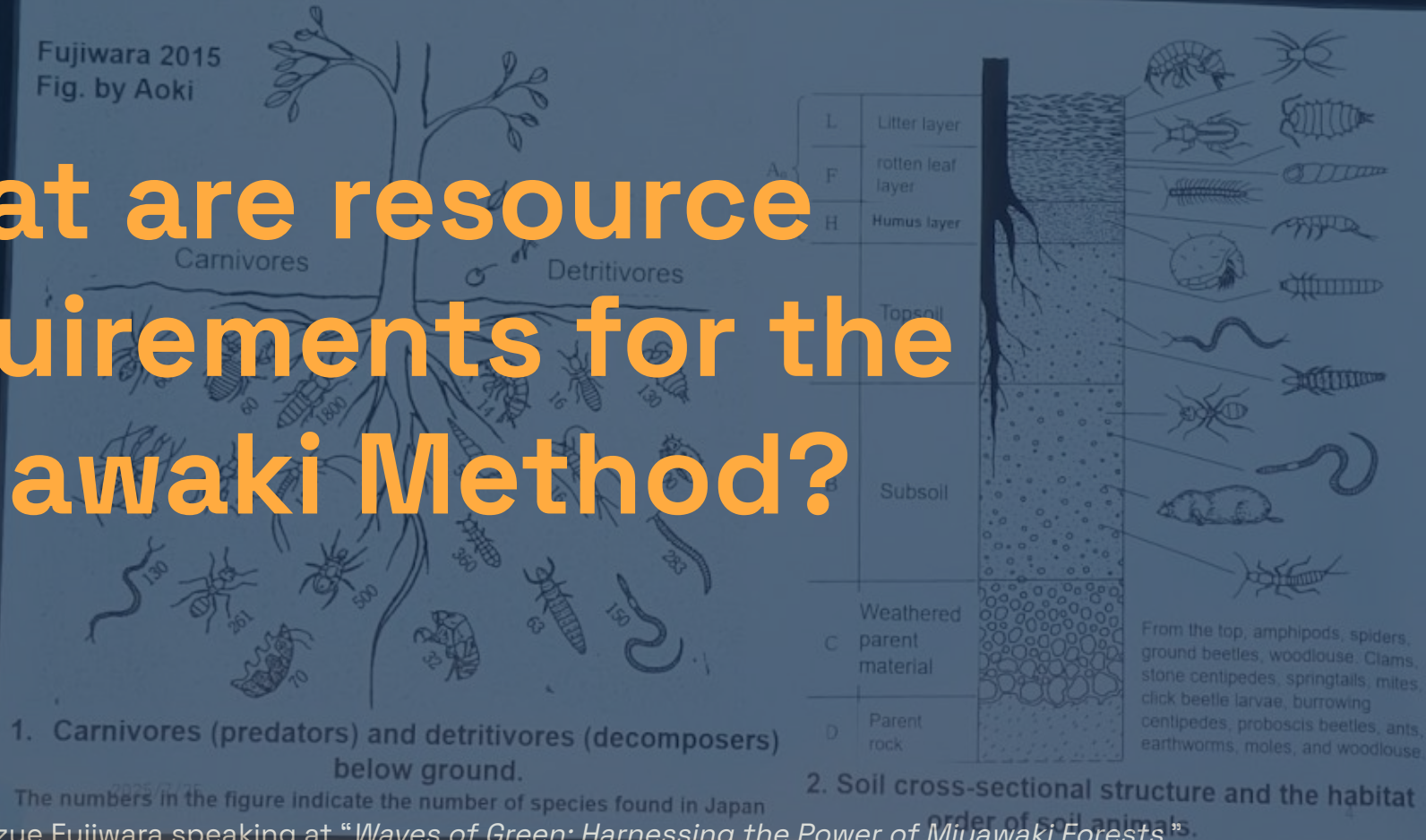
They thrive when they are interacting with a variety of other trees, shrubs, and plants.”

~Paul Hawken
Mini-Forest Revolution

Photo credit: [Urban Tilth](#) 8

What are resource requirements for the Miyawaki Method?

Fujiwara 2015
Fig. by Aoki



Dr. Kazue Fujiwara speaking at “*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests,*” July 2025, a Symposium presented by [Green Pocket Forest](#).

Miyawaki Method Needs Community Support

Planting one Miyawaki Forest requires minimal monetary resources relative to the incredible returns, once the land is secured. However the planning, monitoring, data collection and learning requires a community, and could be exponentially more supported with shared technology resources that help plan and monitor the site and create a sharable knowledge base.

A propose teachers list for planting a forest:

- Plants
- Compost
- Tools
- Consultants
- Fencing or netting
- Signage
- Snacks for volunteers
- Photographer/Videographer
- Forest Monitoring Tools

Miyawaki Method & Our Children's Future

Our underpaid and under resourced teachers share learning about how they can organize to fund planting mini-forests for **our children** from the PTA, partnering with local businesses and nonprofits.

For contrast, the anti-aging market, focused on selling products and services to extend adult's lifespan and healthspan, has a projected market size reaching \$600 billion by 2025.

The contradictions are as obscene as they are baffling.

Miyawaki Method & Student Voices



Six Bay Area students ranging from 8th to 12th grade shared best practices from the mini-forests they had participated in planting.

It would be impossible to overstate my admiration and gratitude for these young humans with clarity of vision and passionate purpose, **who are ready for us to join them in creating a planet positive, life affirming future built world!**

Annika Silverstrim, **shares her thoughts on stage** and following she and Amela Amago **created a campaign** to plant a Miyawaki Forest at Berkeley High School. You can sign their petition for Berkeley Mayor Adena Ishii **here.**

Miyawaki Method Offers Enormous Impact



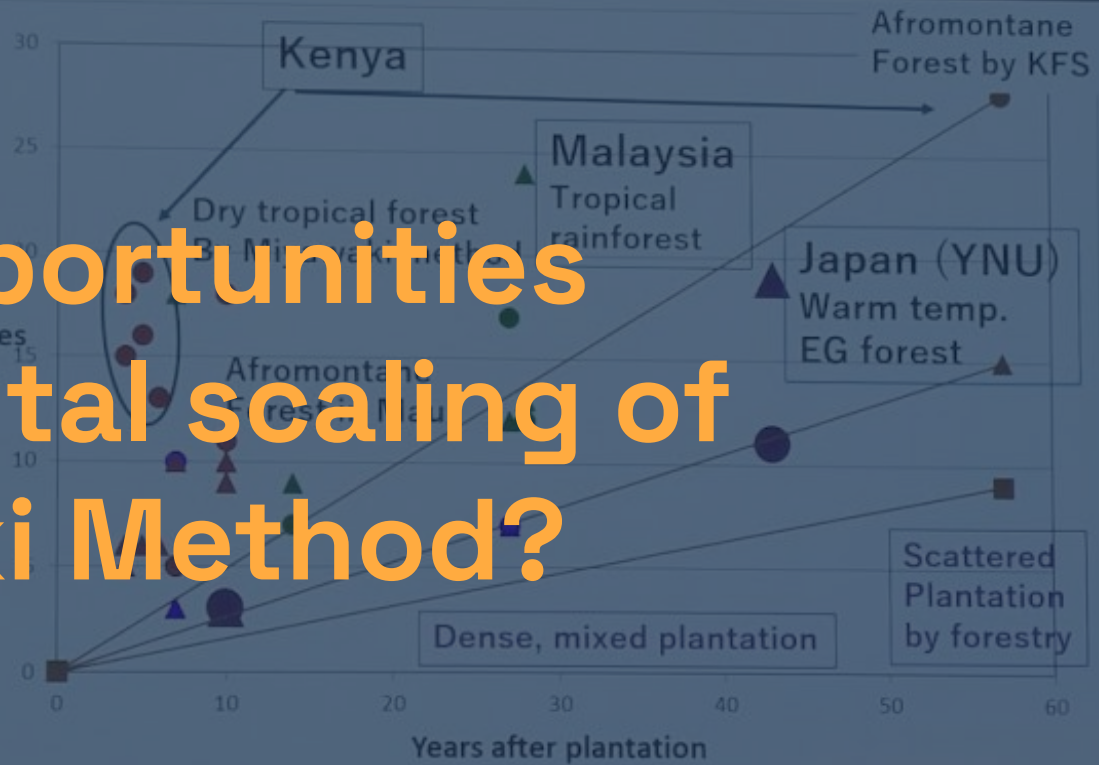
Future generations need us to open our eyes, hearts and bank accounts to liberate life, seed a bioregional evolution and transfer personal wealth **into collective well being before it's too late.**

With all due respect, the world's children need conscious wealth holders to divest from extractive everything and invest in life, not AI endeavors built on mirrors reflecting core values of endless acquisition of power and money.

What are opportunities from horizontal scaling of the Miyawaki Method?

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Newcomers
Surveyed in
May 2019



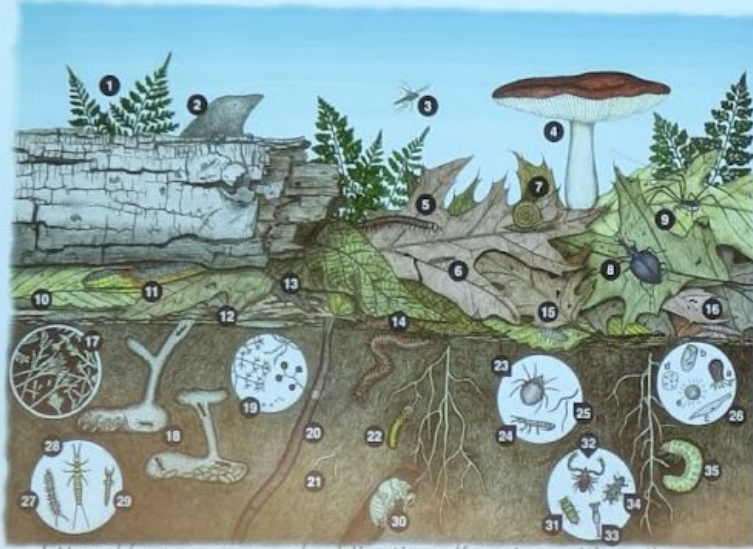
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Dr. Kazue Fujiwara speaking at “Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests,”
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Miyawaki Method & Healthy Topsoil

Miyawaki forest and development of soil animals

Kazue Fujiwara
Yokohama City University,
Prof. emerita of Yokohama Nat. Univ.
kazue05fujiwara@gmail.com



Healthy soil is full of life: 1: wood fern; 2: shrew; 3: March fly; 4: mycorrhizal mushroom (Russula); 5: millipede; 6: rove beetle; 7: snail; 8: snail-eating ground beetle; 9: daddy longlegs; 10: soldier fly larva; 11: ringneck snake; 12: crane fly larva; 13: soil flatworm; 14: soil centipede; 15: woodlouse; 16: firefly larva; 17: filaments (hyphae) of soil fungi; 18: ants with their larvae and pupae; 19: bacteria and actinomycetes; 20: earthworm; 21: potworms; 22: click beetle larva; 23: oribatid mite; 24: springtail; 25: nematodes; 26: protozoa and algae; (a) testate protozoa, (b, c) ciliated protozoa, (d) blue-green alga, (e) heliozoa; 27: symphylan; 28: dipluran; 29: proturan; 30: cicada nymph; 31—pauropod; 32: pseudoscorpion; 33: rotifer; 34 tardigrade; 35: carab beetle larva. (Adapted from J. Nardi 2007, University of Chicago Press.)

<https://www.sare.org/publications/farming-with-soil-life/our-living-soil/>

Dr. Kazue Fujiwara speaking at "Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests," July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

Miyawaki Method & Regenerative Tech

The Miyawaki Method has **6 basic steps**:

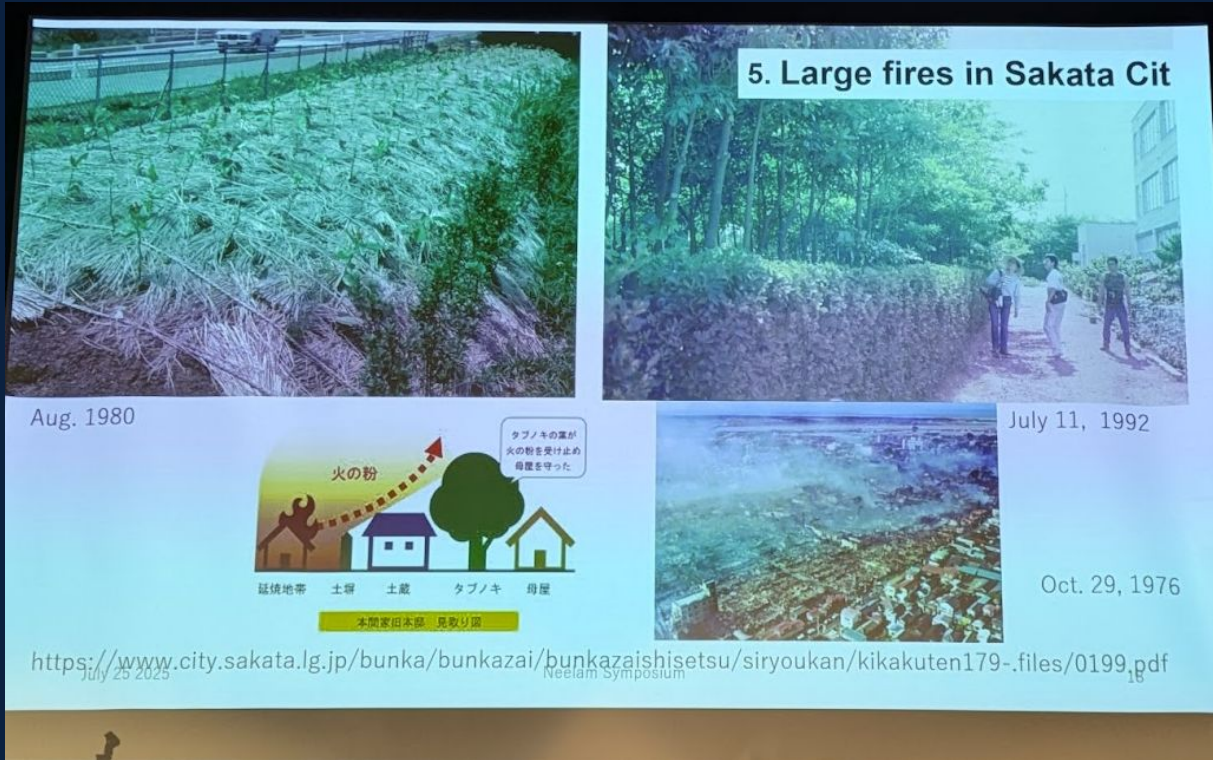
- 1) **Understanding** the local potential natural forest vegetation and its long-term canopy dominant species
- 2) Planting well-prepared **pot-grown saplings** of these species, with root systems already well developed
- 3) Planting on a slightly raised, **prepared site**, with imported better soil
- 4) Planting **mixtures** of 6-15 "climax" tree species, plus a few others
- 5) Planting at a **high density**, which promotes rapid, light-seeking upward growth, creates a shady, humid forest microclimate, and minimizes invasion by light-demanding weeds
- 6) **Mulching** immediately after planting, to hold water and deter weeds.

It would be impossible to overemphasize the opportunity for "Regenerative Technology" to **support the 65 Unified School Districts in the Bay Delta Bioregion.**

- Map assets and liabilities, creating frameworks and data based plans, for each Unified District (UD), to use for evaluating potential sites based on geology, topography, sun, water, industry, land use, current ownership, etc.
- Map each UD's native "Climax" tree species and other regenerative plants

Dr. Elgene Box speaking at "*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests*," July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

Miyawaki Method & Emergency Preparedness



- Fire prevention!
- Resiliency, connectedness, interdependence and new relationships
- Supportive programming such as rewilding urban and suburban landscapes to replace green and plastic lawns, foodscaping, etc.

Dr. Kazue Fujiwara speaking at “*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests*,” July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

Miyawaki Method & Community Building



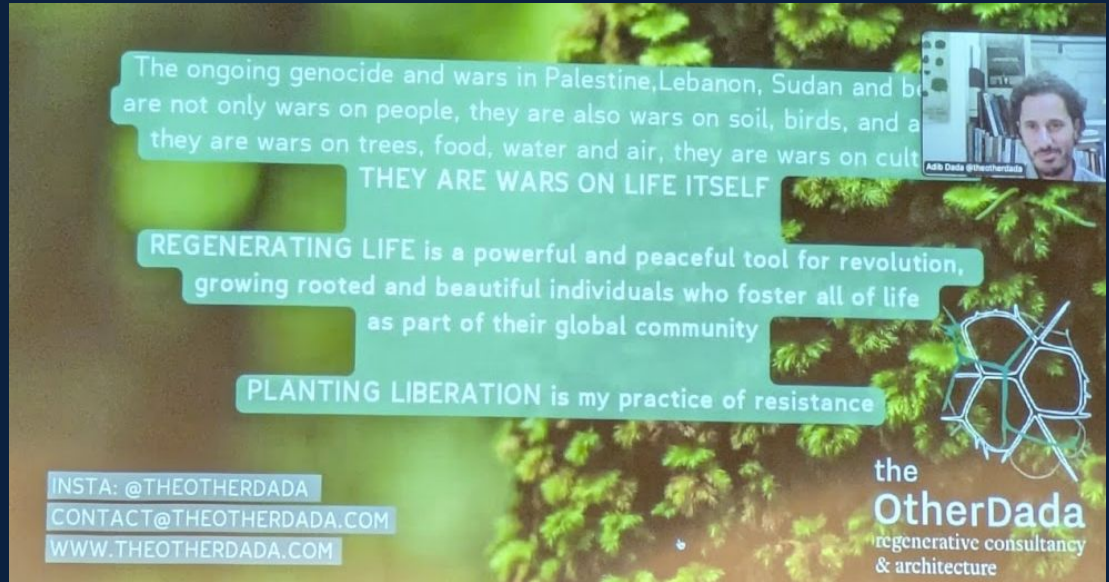
Adib Dada, from The Other Forest, in Lebanon, speaking at “*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests*,” July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

- Shared purpose and passion for planet positive, life affirming actions while together, outside, hands in soil
- Intergenerational connections in abundance
- Integration of Indigeneity practices led by Tribal leaders
- Educational opportunities for ecology, biology, statistics, data analysis, regen tech, AI, LLM's, etc.

Miyawaki Method & Social/Environmental Justice

Democracy, energy, technology, industry, money, governments and more, are interdependent human constructs that all benefit from communities rewilding the built world and rematriating the land together.

The built world constructs that create abstraction and disassociation, and enable unequal valuations of the members of the web of life, including amongst our own species, are crumbling under the weight of their toxicity.



Adib Dada speaking at “*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests*,” July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

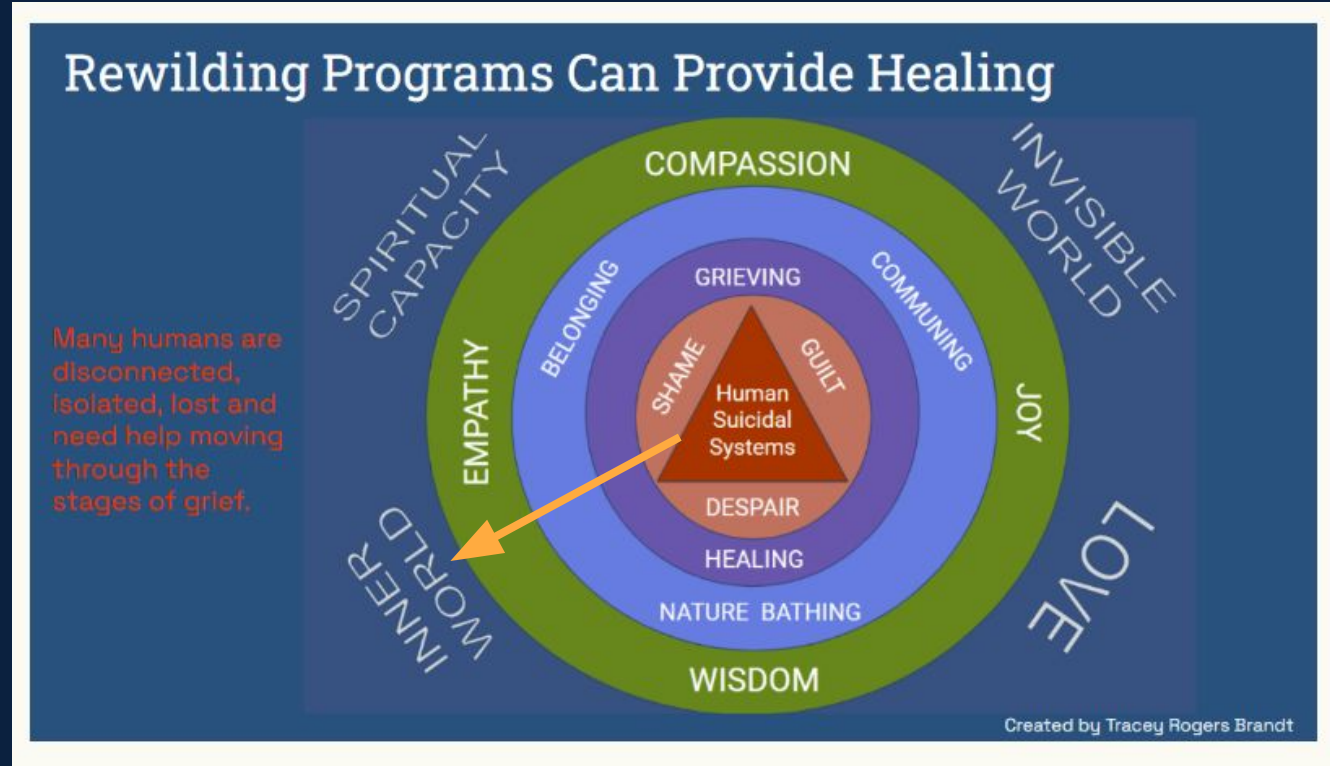
Miyawaki Method & Healing with Inner Work

Thesis:

Many humans are disconnected, isolated, lost and need help moving through the stages of grief associated with recognizing the systems running our “built world” are destroying the natural world and sacred life cycle humans, and billions of other species, depend upon.

Inquiry:

Could rewilding landscapes together, via the Miyawaki Method, enable communities to prepare for, and go through collapse together?



Miyawaki Method & Co-Learning



theOtherForest
a nature-based tool for ecological and social regeneration

WHAT WE DO

PLANT URBAN FORESTS

We plant dense native forests in the cities of the MENA region

FORE ECOSYSTEMS

We restore biodiversity, promote healthy soil and mitigate climate change

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

Landscaping & ecological restoration complement each other to make for a beautiful, restorative, and maintenance-free garden

WHO WE DO IT FOR

PUBLIC

We empower communities to reclaim public spaces and catalyze ecological & psychological healing



BIODIVERSITY

We provide habitat for birds, beneficial insects and underground microorganisms to flourish in degraded areas

PRIVATE

We encourage landowners to replace high-maintenance conventional landscaping with native forests to increase biodiversity and eliminate maintenance costs

We are proud to be the regional partners of Afforestt and part of the Forest Maker community at SUGi

Affores**木々**
Native. Wild. Forever.

SUGi**樹**

Adib Dada, from The Other Forest, speaking at “*Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests*,” July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

Miyawaki Method & Pioneering Emergence

The Miyawaki Method is grounded in decades of scientific research and thousands of practical experiences with plantings around the globe.

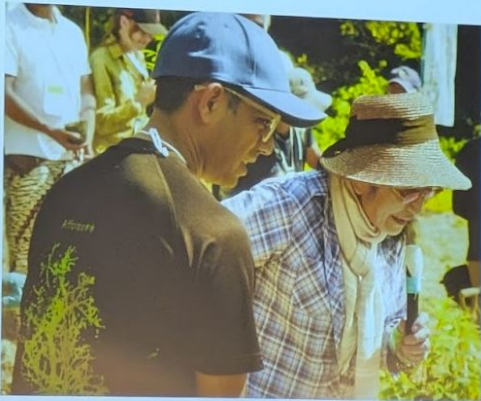
Even while under funded and under resourced, momentum is growing around the globe.

This new wave could be leveraged to seed a Bioregional Revolution to restore and regenerate landscapes together with an abundance of cascading benefits for all life on Earth.

Highlights from the Miyawaki Method's New Wave

Key dates:

- **2014** – Shubhendu Sharma's TED Talk
- **2015** – 1st "New Wave" mini-forest in Europe
- **2016** – 1st New Wave forest in the US
- **2021** – First US school mini-forests planted in Berkeley; first East Coast mini-forest planted with the City of Cambridge
- **2024** – First International Symposium on the Miyawaki Method at Yokohama National University (Japan)



How many forests:

- **Many hundreds** since 2011 – Afforestt (India)
- **131** since 2016 - Urban Forest (Belgium)
- **250-plus** since 2020 - Earthwatch Europe
- **100-plus** since 2020 – Pocket Forests (Ireland)
- **69** since 2018 – Minibigforest (France)
- **32** since 2023 – Network of Nature (Canada)
- **30** since about 2016 – Urban Forest (Pakistan)

Hannah Lewis, author of *Mini-Forest Revolution*, speaking at “Waves of Green; Harnessing the Power of Miyawaki Forests,” July 2025, a Symposium presented by Green Pocket Forest.

Miyawaki Method Berkeley Symposium



“The world is held together by teachers
and do-gooders with excel spreadsheets.”

~ Tracey Rogers Brandt

Seeking Conscious Wealth Holders to Become Venture Bioregionalists



Invest in cutting edge technology that is available, equitable and regenerative!

Fund the knowledge base and regen tech stack to plan, design, build and install locally customized Miyawaki Forests at scale.

Miyawaki Method Provides Us a New Tool!

You cannot change how someone thinks,
but you can give them a tool to use,
which will lead them to think differently.

~Buckminster Fuller

Tracey Rogers Brandt
tracey@circularpatterns.com
415-298-8816