

## Projects supported by your donation

### A) Zimbabwe Institute of Permaculture - Schools and Colleges Permaculture (SCOPE) Programme

Name: Linda Kabaira

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scopezimbabwe@gmail.com



#### About Linda

Linda is the National Coordinator of the Zimbabwe Institute of Permaculture - Schools and Colleges Permaculture (SCOPE) Programme. A graduate forester and environmentalist who holds a three year Forestry and a four year BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental studies Degree. A strategic, service focused development worker, able to facilitate partnerships and alliances in motivating forward momentum to get things done. She has held various positions in both implementation and managerial level in the field of natural resources management, agriculture, land use planning and design, mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and child protection issues. Before joining SCOPE in February 2012 she had spent 11 years working with international NGOs on food security and livelihood development targeting vulnerable households, woman and children. Promoted thrice in her tenure Linda's contribution has centered on spearheading capacity building of the vulnerable and marginalized communities. She attended an EDE course in South Africa (2012) and this changed and enhanced her lens for development. She is a GEN ambassador for Zimbabwe. Her current role involves tailoring of grassroots solutions in Education through permaculture education in partnership with the Ministry of Education, sport arts and Culture. Her wish is to be the facilitator for the change the developing world seeks to achieve with the endeavor to preserve, affect and influence development through capacity building of youths and women, including vulnerable emancipated youth and special-needs population. Her desire is to combine the educational and indigenous knowledge in affecting a better world.

## About SCOPE

SCOPE is a vibrant and practical environment education Programme of the Zimbabwe Institute of Permaculture (ZIP) registered as a welfare organization (W.O. 12/92). The Programme works closely with the Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture in facilitating sustainable land use in communities through schools and colleges. SCOPE provides educational institutions with a design tool and process to develop integrated land use management systems on their schools landscapes and works to influence development of policies and educational curriculum that is centered on building understanding of and application of the ecological principles on which sound land use practices are based.

## Aim of SCOPE

SCOPE's goal is to assist schools to benefit from the multiple outcomes that arise from a re-design of school environments using Permaculture. A holistic participatory approach, which brings together the school, college institution and the larger community in planning for sustainable management of their landscapes. Emphasizing on the community deriving benefits from the land and in the process improve their grounds through creation of holistic resource management designs. In this way permaculture is used to build resilient models, developing and maintaining environments that are diverse, productive, stable and resilient like natural systems.

## The supported project

**Name** Building resilience in Complex Agricultural landscapes

**Vision statement** To see an improved quality of life through active participation of the young in contributing towards their local community and environmental resilience.

## Goals

- To strengthen school and college communities to become actively spreading working examples of community and ecological resilience;
- To lobby and influence the integration of permaculture principles and practices in the formal curriculum and in other relevant policies in Zimbabwe;
- To assist schools, colleges and the wider community to implement, monitor and evaluate their land use design plans through tailored training at all strata;
- To provide institutional capacity building by way of production of curriculum materials and training of key personnel in institutions in support of permaculture.



Figure 1a and 1b: A comparative analysis of the same site at a school before and after implementation of permaculture principles using a fixed point photograph



Fig 2a: Permaculture school nutrition garden



Fig 2b: Fruits and fruit trees from the permaculture activities

With the current issues of depletion of energy supplies, increasing energy demand, population growth, the gloomy news about climate change, peak oil, crashing economy, the food and environmental crisis, it has become easy for the young people to feel lost and forget they are part of the solutions. SCOPE uses an integrated land use design (ILUD) tool, a step-by-step process that encourages participation by the community elders, teachers and learners. Helping them to discover, explore, innovate and create sustainable landscapes for their schools together bringing harmonization of nature, culture, tradition and the history of their community as the source of strength for conservation, rebuilding and healing of the land and the resources. Learners gain useful skills and knowledge through practical, action and inquiry-based learning.

## Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD)

### Themes focused in ILUD

- Food and nutrition security;
- Garden based learning (nursery management, tree planting, herbs, vegetables);
- Seed security – communal sourcing of germ plasm Seed saving and sharing through gene banks of traditional seeds;
- Intergenerational learning, cultural celebrations (stories of the land);
- Income activities (mushroom production, beekeeping, forage, market gardening, herbs, nursery management, grafting/ budding seedlings);
- Landscape management (rain water harvesting, erosion control, biodiversity, crop/ livestock integration, integrated pest management).

## ILUD as a step-by-step process



- i. Grounding - A transformation phase to connect participants with nature, traditional knowledge and cultural values, a holistic world view and systems science;
- ii. Situational analysis - Understanding the current system and defining thresholds;
- iii. Values and Vision - Defining values and the vision of the future;
- v. Design of all aspects - Broad scale landscape analysis – sectors and zones;
- v. Implementation - Plan of action linked to management of designs and participatory monitoring and evaluation (including action research).

Figure 1: ILUD values

## Our next steps

The proposed action aims at strengthening and building upon existing SCOPE' school initiatives in permaculture and integrated land use design (ILUD) through engaging 5 cluster schools in two areas, become strengthened, independent in ILUD and actively spreading the principles and practices to at least five schools within their geographic clusters. This will help reach up to 25 schools and the surrounding communities with ILUD and permaculture aspects.

## Key Deliverables

**To have 5 schools actively spreading working examples of community and ecological resilience.**

1. Conduct stakeholder sensitisation meetings with Provincial, District education officers on the ILUD/ SCOPE strategies in the 5 provinces to be covered. A crucial part of establishing strengthened ILUD models lies with the participation of the Government, Ministry of Education and the community.
2. To conduct a one – week ILUD implementation training for Schools.



3. Conduct participatory planning workshops and joint reflection meetings with SCOPE and ministry of Education at District level.
4. To provide technical backstopping, field visits and support to the schools and colleges at least one visit to each of the 5 Cluster schools per year.
5. Conduct school field days, Cluster competitions and exchange visits. SCOPE aims at encouraging adoption of the ILUD tool by all schools in Zimbabwe hence promotion of peer reviews, celebrations and experience sharing gatherings.

25 schools and their communities will come together at the 5 Cluster schools and learn ILUD/ permaculture and will receive support designed to enhance their capacity and know how to engage other schools through peer review and school cross learning forums.

### Where we are investing your donation \*

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	Units	Unit cost	TOTAL USD	REMARKS
1) 1 week implementation workshops in schools for the 5 Clusters * 5 schools (25 schools in total)	5	1300	6500.00	6 Clusters of 34 Schools (21 604 school children and 752 school staff and their communities) (120%) coverage of the intended schools were trained in permaculture/ integrated land use design. A total of 236 participants attended the training of trainers' course.
2) STARTER EQUIPMENT/ MATERIALS (nursery shed, mushroom shed, seeds, tools for land use design and maintenance, beehives/ chickens)	5	470	2350.00	Starter kits for ILUD designs, mainly the tools, seedlings were procured and distributed to the 34 participating schools.
3) DEMONSTRATION PLOT support		750	750.00	Demonstration plot support, drip kit, planting, pond construction will happen instead of the Ferro cement tank pilot
3) PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL Visibility banner, and stationery		200	200.00	Schools are revamping and redesigning the SCOPE logo

4) Off road Second hand Project vehicle (for school exchange & technical support	1	7000	7000.00	Vehicle was procure and very useful in training, monitoring and support of the activities in the Schools. Evidence will be shown on the annual financial accounts in February 2014.
5) Admin costs (bank charges)		200	200.00	
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>			<b>\$17000.00</b>	

## B) Peace Research Village Middle East

[www.prvme.org](http://www.prvme.org)



Name: Uri Ayalon

Age: 34

Email: [uri@prvme.org](mailto:uri@prvme.org)

Country of origin: Israel

Country of current residence: Israel

### About Uri

Uri was working as a journalist, as a history teacher and as a spokesman and public relations adviser. He was one of the founders of "Anarchists Against the Wall" - an Israeli direct action group, which is fighting against the wall in Palestine. In the last years he is focusing on studying, creating and practicing alternative models of living together and combining inner and outer peace. After 5 years of studying and living in Tamera Peace Centre (Portugal), in December 2012 he came back with a group of 7 committed pioneers to Israel-Palestine, and together they are the carriers of the Peace Research Village Middle East project.

### Aim of Peace Research Village Middle East (PRV-ME)

The aim of the PRV-ME is to support a positive global transition through the development of research centers and sustainable models of community in crisis areas. This refers to an outer crisis – political, economic and ecological – as well as an inner crisis – emotional, mental and spiritual. In these centers both Internationals and those indigenous to the area will research truthful co-existence and develop new concepts and concrete solutions for the emergence of a peace culture in all critical areas of human life: community, spirituality, love and gender relations, child rearing, technology, ecology, arts and education. **The task of the Peace Research Village Middle East (PRV-ME) is to establish such a model in the Middle East.**

## The supported project

**Name** Peace Research Village Middle East

**Vision statement** To establish a new eco-village in Israel-Palestine as a model for a new culture based on trust.



## Our next steps

In October-November we will hold the Global Campus, hosting 100 volunteers from all around the world

In December we will decide about the land of the village and will move to live on it during 2014!



## Where we are investing your donation \*

To hold a campaign to fundraise 1 million euro for our next steps.







### C) Gaia School Asia

[www.gaiaschoolasia.com](http://www.gaiaschoolasia.com)

Facebook: NextGEN Oceania & Asia



Name: Sunisa Jamwiset

Age: 33 years old

Email: [traveller\\_121@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:traveller_121@yahoo.co.uk),

[gaiaschoolasia@gmail.com](mailto:gaiaschoolasia@gmail.com)

Country of origin: Thailand

Country of current residence: Thailand

### About Om Sunisa Jamwiset

Sunisa lived and worked at Wongsanit Ashram in Thailand for 8 years. Wongsanit Ashram is an intentional community for simple living and for engaging in social action and spiritual practice. One year lived at the Panya project which is a permaculture based community in Thailand. Now starting and living at the Gaia Ashram, Suai Lhong village and found the Gaia School Asia, teaches and facilitates courses such as Ecovillage Design Education (part of Gaia Education), Socially Engaged Buddhism/Spirituality, Nature Connection and Training of Trainers. She has facilitated courses for NGO workers, young Buddhists activists, international students and children.

Aim of Gaia School Asia, Gaia Ashram, NextGEN GENOA

Gaia School Asia is a voluntary organization that wishes to see a future where we, humans, live in harmony with nature with awareness, understanding, love and respect to nature. We believe that we are not separate from nature and that all beings have intrinsic value. In collaboration with schools, communities, NGOs and parents, we aim to support children and youth in Asia, through our education and activities, to keep and deepen their connection to nature as well as encouraging them to seek for a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature.

NextGEN GENOA aims to strengthen and empower young generation within the Oceania and Asia region to take action and leadership in awareness raising among themselves and the public for social transformation toward harmony, sustainability and to promote Ecovillage living through different means and based on their local contexts.

## The supported project

**Name** The Journey to the Himalayas – The journey of empowering children and youth within the Himalayan countries: Srilanka, India, Ladakh, Nepal, for nature awareness and sustainability"

**Vision statement** positive future is created with the hearts and hands of next generation:

**Goals** Children and youth within the Himalayan countries are aware that we are all part of nature and that everything is connected, every single action has its cost and impact. Children and youth are inspired to take positive action for their positive future.

### Themes

Providing workshops for schoolchildren and village youth about nature connections, harms against nature by human activities and its impacts.

Inspire the children and youth to take positive actions for positive change.

Brainstorm what actions can be practiced and inspired to take by children and youth

Guide them through process of creating simple action plan

Practice an action and celebrate the action together at the end of the workshop

Provide awareness raising workshop and Teacher Training for school teachers.

### Our next steps

- Creating a network of Asia Youth in Action – Next project of NextGEN GENOA
- Creating a network of Teachers for Green Future – Next project of Gaia School Asia. Through this journey we have worked with many schools and connect with many teachers who are interested to be teachers for green future. We will work with them and provide training(Project of Gaia School Asia)
- The journey along the Maekhong River is our next journey. We will be doing the same kind of journey along the Maekhong countries: China, Thailand, Lao, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma.

### Where we are investing your donation \*

- Teaching materials including materials for tree plantings and tree nursery building projects in each area.
- Food, travel expense on local public transportations
- This journey is total voluntary works, we don't earn anything for 6 of the journey only.











### Personal Thank You Note

I deeply appreciate the big generosity we received. The donation have helped us to complete our 'Journey to the Himalayas' where we reached out about 2000 children, youth and school teachers to promote a vision of sustainable future and take some action together. During this journey we have experienced and developed processes to share our dreams, educate and empower children and youth to stand for their own future. Seeing how children and youth became motivated to create a sustainable future we are inspired to continue our journey along the Mae Khong River. During the months of March and April 2015 we will be traveling along the Mae Khong River to share our dream and vision with children and youth and to hear their dreams and vision for a sustainable future. We will meet with children in schools and youth in communities along the Mae Khong River, both in Lao and Thai sides. We deep appreciate your generous input that helped us to be able to continue our journey from The Himalayas to the Mae Khong River. For your kindness, we wish you healthy, happy and peaceful long life...With gratitude and Metta.



## D) River of Life

Global Ecovillage Network Africa

[www.gen-africa.org](http://www.gen-africa.org)



Name: Bitshilualua Bashala (Lua)

Age: 33

Email: [lua@gen-africa.org](mailto:lua@gen-africa.org)

Country of origin: Democratic Republic of Congo

Country of current residence: D.R.Congo and South Africa

### About Lua

Bitshilualua Bashala (Lua) is a Congolese woman currently living and working between South Africa and the Congo. She has a background in business and politics, having read law at Wits University. Her travels, since the age of 7 has broadened her worldview and understanding of social structures and possibilities. Lua is currently working on supporting several community led projects in Africa serving within her capacity as Executive Director for the Global Ecovillage Network Africa (GEN-Africa [www.gen-africa.org](http://www.gen-africa.org)). Such projects include Mama Na Bana Ecovillage and Permaculture Living and Learning Centre in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Msauli Village in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. She is also an Ecovillage Design Education Trainer with Gaia Education ([www.gaiaeducation.org](http://www.gaiaeducation.org)).

## The supported project

**Name** River of Life

### Where we are investing your donation \*

We used the funds to organize a skills training workshop which was a direct outcome of the EDE held in 2013 for Women by Women in South Africa. The skills training workshop allowed for some of the women in the River of Life Project to take part in the skills training workshop where they learned how to produce marula oil and start a cooperative for the purpose of engaging in a business for the benefit of the community members. Since the training, Lush Cosmetics UK has committed to supporting the community in starting their own local cosmetics production and is interested in purchasing the oil to use in their products.











## E) The Común Tierra Project

[www.comuntierra.org](http://www.comuntierra.org)



Name: Leticia Rigatti and Ryan Luckey

Age: 31 and 25

Email: [Leticia@comuntierra.org](mailto:Leticia@comuntierra.org),

[ryan@comuntierra.org](mailto:ryan@comuntierra.org)

Country of origin: Brasil and United States

Country of current residence:

Nomadic Eco-Caravan project in Latin America

### About Leticia and Ryan

Leticia Rigatti - Native to Porto Alegre, Brazil, M.A. University of Barcelona, Leticia has extensive experience working with social communication, and is a practitioner of the visual arts. Over the past seven years Leticia has lived in various countries in Europe, South and North America, studying different areas of human experience and learning about grassroots cultures and holistic and alternative ways of living. As a co-founder of The Común Tierra Project Leticia lives traveling, producing educational materials about sustainable living and creating an interactive map of sustainable projects in Latin America. She works to build networks of sustainability and to spread awareness towards a healthier human culture.

Ryan Luckey - Native to Oakland, California, Ryan is a musician and music producer, writer, and student of permaculture and sustainable design. He has spent 6 of the last 8 years traveling through Central and South America, India, Southeast Asia and Australia examining the concurrent environmental and social-cultural crises the modern world is facing, as well as diverse models of responding to these crises. Ryan's vision and work now lie in seeking practical holistic solutions to the complex social, environmental and spiritual challenges we face, with the Común Tierra Project.

### About Común Tierra Project

Founded in 2009, the Común Tierra Project is a mobile sustainability education project travelling in Latin America, documenting innovative solutions, sustainable communities and permaculture projects through short films and a multimedia website to promote sustainable living. Ryan and Leticia live and travel full-time in Minhoca, a mobile demonstration center for sustainable technologies including solar power, bicycle powered machines, a dry toilet, and composting. The project hosts solar-powered film screenings, local seed exchanges, and workshops for kids and adults on regenerative living techniques.

## The supported project

**Name** The Común Tierra Project - Documenting Sustainable Communities in Latin America

### Vision statement

The Común Tierra Project is a mobile sustainability education project, supporting grassroots sustainability efforts throughout Latin America by documenting and providing training in appropriate technologies, local self-sufficiency and community resilience.

### Goals

1. To support the movement of individuals and communities who are building the foundation for a sustainable future in Latin America and around the world, by creating high quality multimedia materials on diverse topics related to EcoVillages, Permaculture and other sustainable community initiatives.
2. To offer hands-on, demonstrative and multimedia educational experiences in local communities in topics related to EcoVillages, Permaculture and other sustainable community initiatives.
3. To support organic agriculture and food sovereignty through promotion of organic seeds and seed banks in local communities.

### Our Next Steps

Currently in Bolivia, the next year will bring Común Tierra to Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, sharing and connecting with Ecovillages and other sustainable community initiatives in the far South of the Americas. We will continue to be ambassadors of CASA and GEN, connecting more projects and communities to regional and international networks to strengthen the global sustainable community movements.

### Where we are investing your donation \*

We will use the donation in the day-to-day tasks of maintaining Común Tierra, including transportation costs and food, basic materials for workshop and event production, and the production of educational materials including videos and articles on our website.





Común Tierra Film Screening in Mexico, Aug. 21, 2010



Workshop with middle school in Santa Rosa National Park, Costa Rica - Sept. 21, 2011





Crossing from the Northern Hemisphere into the Southern Hemisphere in Ecuador Aug. 11, 2012



Planting organic seedlings with children from a school in Reque, Peru - Oct. 4, 2012

### Personal Thank You Note

Dear Evelyn, thank you so much for your gift to the Común Tierra EcoCaravan Project! Your generosity has really touched us, and has helped us carry out many activities in 2013-2014! If you want to see more details of what we have done, you can watch our [Four Year Celebration video](#). We're sending you a big hug from Argentina (our current location), and if you want to stay in touch with us, you can visit [www.comuntierra.org](http://www.comuntierra.org), and write to [leticia@comuntierra.org](mailto:leticia@comuntierra.org) and Común Tierra in Facebook. Take care, Leticia and Ryan



## **F) Genetic Resource Center (GRC)- Eco-community of Guédé Chantier**

[www.guedechantier.com](http://www.guedechantier.com)

### **About you:**

Name: Ousmane Aly PAME

Age: 47

Email: oalypame@ecovillage.org

Country of origin: Senegal

Country of current residence: Senegal

### **About Ousmane**

Dr Ousmane Aly Pame is the first mayor of the eco-commune of Guédé Chantier (7000 inhabitants, North of Senegal), and part time Associate Professor of translation, British civilisation and literature at the Department of English of Cheikh Anta Diop University where he earned his PhD in 2002.

His election as a Mayor in April 2009 is a result of his active involvement in development projects in his native Fouta Province (Northern Senegal) and supporting deprived school children in his rural area through distributions of free school materials and classroom constructions.

At the West African Research Centre (Dakar, Senegal), he coordinated several American Universities Study Abroad Programmes: Wells College, Michigan State University, and Minnesota Studies in International Development. He also worked as the academic director of Living Routes/ University of Massachusetts programme in Senegal between Fall 2007 and Spring 2010.

After his participation in a course on Ecovillage Design Education and sustainable development in Auroville (India) in 2007, Dr PAME started promoting ecovillage ideals and practices in his country.

In the first Pan African general assembly of Ecovillages activists in Sekem (Egypt) in December 2012, he was elected President of the Global Ecovillage Network/ Africa.

### **About Eco-community of Guédé Chantier**

Guédé Chantier is a thriving eco-community (7000 inhabitants) in the valley of River Senegal where the population decided in a general assembly in December 2007 to embrace the ideals and practices of ecovillages. Since then a number of innovative projects like fish farming, genetic resource center and computer classes have been implemented. A community center is being created with the support of the European Union. A programme of waste collection is taking place. We hope soon to turn this waste into organic fertilizer. The association of the eco-sentinelles regularly cleans public places, sensitizes the population against chemical fertilizers, use of plastic bags while promoting our cultural heritage. A voluntary nutrition team distributes reinforced flour to malnourished children and uses theatre to educate parents on ways to improve the health of children and community members. Women are trained to process food to earn extra income, especially during periods of scarcity. The local government supports all the community initiatives.

## The supported project

### Goals

1. Supporting the Genetic Resource Center – GRC – of Guede Chantier eco-community
2. To help preserve biodiversity, medicinal plants, support the eco-community seed bank and fight against desertification
3. To help the GRC to become a vibrant learning center for the community farmers and the eco-sentinelles Association
4. Genetic resource center in the north of Senegal

The Eco-community of Guéde Chantier is located in the semi- arid Senegal river valley by the border of Mauritania. The first settlements started in the early thirties when French colonists forced neighbouring villagers and people from other colonies, mainly Mali and Mauritania, to clear the forest for rice agriculture.

As the French started this project, my grandmother, now 107, was in her late twenties. The whole area was verdant, with a diverse wild life. There were lions, elephants, crocodiles, thousands of colourful birds and many other animals.

Towards the end of the seventies, the Senegalese government continued the colonial project. They gave Guinean refugees licenses to clear the forest for the implementation of rice farms. The results of these disastrous policies are the disappearance of organic crops, more frequent storm sands, erosion, extreme temperatures, and the destruction of wild life as well the degradation of the local people's lifestyles and living standards: before the introduction of rice farms in the river valley, locals led healthier and more sustainable lives. They grew a number of crops, such as organic millet, the rivers were not polluted by chemical pesticides or fertilizers and people could drink fresh river water without very serious health risks. But today local farmers are sadly trapped between heavy bank loans, poor crop yields and unhealthy diets.

Now most of the land in the north of Senegal is almost like a lunar landscape. To reverse this tendency, a number of strategies are currently being carried out. Among these strategies was the creation of a genetic resource center in Guédé Chantier eco-community in 2002. It is run by a group of farmers under the leadership of agriculture technician, Amadou Bra Sy.

In this center, endangered medicinal plants and tree species are grown to provide seeds for the seed bank and are distributed free of charge to local networks of farmers' associations.

The center is also a school where farmers come to learn techniques of composting and fighting pests without chemicals. Despite the challenges the center is now facing, its action has been beneficial to the local and surrounding communities: green areas are now coming into existence, some farmers are making their way back into business and the local population is more aware of the necessity to preserve the environment to secure medicinal plants and food for themselves and for their livestock.

## Our Next Steps

- i. The eco-community receives the money and organize a reception ceremony
- ii. The eco-sentinelles repair fence and prepare the soil under the guidance of agricultural technician and founder of the GRC, Amadou Sy
- iii. Plant new crops
- iv. Take care of plants (watering, weeding, fertilizing, keeping animals and birds away)
- v. Each stage in the development of the plants is a learning opportunity for the farmers and the eco-sentinelles
- vi. Harvesting and celebration

## Where we are investing your donation \*

The fund that my community will receive will be used buy seeds, fuel for the water pumping machine and small working materials like shovels, watering cans)







Amadou Bra Sy, founder of the Genetic resource center



## G) OTEPIC – Organic Technology Extension and Promotion of Initiative Centre

[www.otepic.org](http://www.otepic.org)

Name: Philip Odhiambo Munyasia

Country and region: Kenya Kitale

Age: 30

Email: [otepic07@yahoo.com](mailto:otepic07@yahoo.com)

### About Philip

Born and brought up in Kitale Kenya, Philip Odhiambo Munyasia, of Kitale, Kenya, traveled on a scholarship to study ecological agriculture in the United States. I returned to Kenya inspired and motivated to utilize the information, ideas and strategies he learned abroad to benefit my community in Transnzoia district.

I founded OTEPIC to bring change in people's lives through addressing the issues of food, water, and energy. OTEPIC was born out of this passion for sharing knowledge and innovative approaches to women and youth. Residents from the Mitume community and surrounding areas enthusiastically joined the effort and OTEPIC formally became a registered Community Based Organization (CBO) in 2008 and now has 40 members.

Since its inception, OTEPIC has made great progress in helping local people integrate proven organic methods into small-scale food production. Over 2,500 participants from approximately 25 community groups have been trained in ecological farming practices and have integrated this knowledge in their farms and gardens. OTEPIC has also promoted numerous grassroots initiatives such as growing portable gardens, making charcoal briquettes, building solar food driers, advocating for humane animal treatment, educating about nutrition for HIV/AIDS, and organizing trash clean-up days.

## The supported project

**Name** Organic Technology Extension and Promotion of Initiative Centre (OTEPIC)

**Vision statement** For the communities to have a blooming, independent future with food, water, clean energy and peace prevalence irrespective of their past. Forming a world network of like-minded groups, cooperating with similar communities throughout the world, sharing skills and services, taking political action - and forming the vital nucleus of a new civilization.

**Goals** OTEPIC believes in the capacity of our community to address our own development needs. We seek to mobilize local people, particularly women and youth,



to be the change we wish to see in our community. We focus on community-based agriculture as a primary means of eradicating poverty and poor family health in Kenya. While we focus on empowering local people, we also value collaborative and cooperative partnerships with local, national, and international organizations to strengthen our work in Transzoia and develop and share best practices that improve community food security and household nutrition while conserving the environment. OTEPIC believes that healthy soil grows healthy communities. We focus on maximizing the usage of locally-available renewable resources to improve soil health and fertility as well as promote whole system farming and ecological farm management.

### Next Steps

International Permaculture School for East Africa - Research Ecovillage in the frame of the Global Campus

Our long-term vision is to open an International Permaculture School and model farm where groups from all over East Africa and other countries can come and learn sustainable skills for organic food production, decentralized water management, ecological architecture, renewable energy production, and community building - a study place in the frame of the Global Campus peace education. For this vision, a piece of land has already been identified: 10 hectares of fertile farmland.

### Where we are investing your donation \*

#### MUSHROOM TRAINING AND GROWING PROJECT

The mushroom project will be started with an idea of improving food security and economic sustainability in the community, many groups of women and youths will be taught and supported to start the mushroom project in the community. This can serve as supplemental or major source of income, depending on the size of the farming activity and the number of mushroom houses. People with physical disabilities are fully capable of accomplishing all required tasks necessary in mushroom cultivation, although sometimes some modifications in techniques, handling, tools and equipment may be required.

Mushrooms can be produced within 2 - 4 months and can be sold fresh on the local market. Spawns or seeds and spawn bags can be bought at a reasonably low cost thus offering an acceptable profit margin. Market opportunity is essential and is verified through constancy in demand for mushrooms and stability in price over the years.

#### Advantages

- Employment for various youth's groups;
- Income generating activities to various women groups;
- Nutrition;
- Maximizing the usage of local.

**BUDGET:**

ITEMS	COST(Kenya shillings)
-Training	30,000
-Seeds/spawns	30,000
-Thatched housing	50,000
-shelves	20,000
-Substrate and transportation	5,000
-Solar dryer for mushroom -Knapsack sprayer -Sterilizing equipments	35,000
-Strings and reusable bags for incubating mushrooms substrate	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175,000</b>

**Personal Thank You Note**

Dear Evelyn,

Greetings from OTEPIC -Kenya project.

Thank you very much for the support to OTEPIC Kenya project, I do appreciate from the deepest part of my heart on behalf of our communities in Kenya.

We are always being motivated with your love in many ways and also manifested through your generous gift.

With the donation we did the mushroom project training and practical, also we set up one mushroom project demonstration to the project.

Once again Blessings for your kindness, generosity, time and effort that you put into making OTEPIC Kenya project successful.

Philip