

# THE RESCOPE PROGRAMME

## ***ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2009***

### *Introduction*

The year ended 28 February 2009 was the second one since the establishment of the ReSCOPE Programme and it was characterised by efforts to make its presence felt among stakeholders both in the participating countries and in other countries with potential funding and or implementing partners. Efforts were made to solidify and extend the partnership base for the Programme while at the same time putting in place systems and clarifying roles and responsibilities. The regional office continued to provide technical support to partners that requested for assistance. This report shares summaries on activities at both the regional platform level as well as in the participating countries.

### *Kenya*

In Kenya two more organizations joined the ReSCOPE partnership during the year to bring the number of partners there to 4 by the end of the reporting period. One of the partner organizations that joined us is Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Programme (COSDEP) that works with primary schools in the Kihara area. COSDEP envisions just, self reliant communities that are socially, economically and environmentally conscious and sustainable. They are committed to promoting organic farming and sustainable initiatives among small scale farmers in central region of Kenya through participatory practices.

The other new partner is Sustainable Mobilisation of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART), based in Kitale and runs projects in Western region and the Rift Valley areas of Kenya. They are planning to facilitate learning in sustainable agriculture practices in six primary schools. SMART Initiative facilitates the dissemination of appropriate low cost agriculture technologies through community education and participation in addressing food security. SMART believes that everybody should be food secure and live in a better environment.

These two new partners join the Sustainable Agriculture and Community Development Programme (SACDEP) in Thika and the Resources Oriented Development Initiative (RODI) in Ruiru. SACDEP is working with 10 schools at the coast while RODI is working with 23 schools in its Sustainable Organic Agriculture Programme (SOAP). The schools include public and private schools as well as schools for the physically challenged. This work has been continuing in spite of the lack of formal support from the Ministry and the fact that Agriculture is no longer part of the curriculum in primary schools. RODI also trains prison Officers in various skills and gives them certificates accredited to formal higher education institutions. The organization is using an approach that energises communities by demonstrating that they have a rich resource base with which to start their development initiatives.

The ReSCOPE Management Committee and secretariat visited RODI and SACDEP from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2008 in a trip that was organised by RODI Kenya as part of a scheduled Management Committee meeting. The field visits are part of ReSCOPE efforts to promote the sharing of experiences between partners implementing sustainable, productive environmental management projects in schools. The Management Committee meeting received and adopted the reports on the preceding year and plans for the first half of the 2008 to 2009 year among other business that was discussed.

The field visit took us Gladways Academy private school, Githunguri government primary school, Kambui School for the deaf, Thika Prison, the PELUM Kenya offices and the SACDEP Training Centre in Thika. Some of the key learning points from this visit are:

- It is important and beneficial to integrate animals such as milk goats and cows into the school gardens
- The animals can be raised on zero grazing
- Green houses can be used to increase productivity and income generation
- The production systems at the schools should be diversified
- Clubs are useful for providing leadership for environmental programmes within the school system and as a way to reach out to the whole body of the learners
- Value addition is possible and beneficial
- The children should be taught skills for processing foods such as milk into yoghurt
- The Permaculture approach should be piloted in a variety of schools such as private schools and schools for learners with special needs

### *Malawi*

In Malawi, the Ministry of Education has a School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Department which has developed a SHN policy and strategy with the following components:

- School meals
- School gardens
- Micronutrient supplementation
- Water and sanitation
- HIV prevention, care and support
- Woodlots
- Orchards and
- Recreation

ReSCOPE and its partners continue to work well together with the Ministry of Education as they work on the aspects listed above. ReSCOPE is a member of the technical working group on SHN in Malawi and a pilot project on productive school environments has been implemented in 8 districts by the Ministry with the support of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The SHN department coordinates the technical working group which includes other partners like the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization. This project will be evaluated in the coming year and is running in 40 schools out of the 5307 primary schools in Malawi. The SHN department is a member of the Global and African Child Nutrition Forum (ACNF) of which Zambia, Kenya and Uganda are also members. The ReSCOPE Programme could become a member of the ACNF.

A new member was added to the ReSCOPE partnership in Malawi and this is Mangochi Orphanage Education and Training (MOET). MOET aims to have a full centre for education and vocational Training where a holistic development of orphans and vulnerable children is seen taking place. Their mission is to uplift the lives of orphans and vulnerable children by providing free quality education and training opportunities for self reliance and socio-economic development. The main activities of MOET are the training of learners and teachers in Permaculture design as well as the setting up of school gardens and orchards that are run by the children themselves.

Two additional Malawian Trustees were also appointed to the ReSCOPE Advisory Board of Trustees. These are Mrs. Helen Munthali and Mrs. Meya Kalindekafe. Mrs. Munthali is with Towivrane HIV & AIDS support organization in Mzimba while Mrs. Kalindekafe is with the Biology Department at the University of Malawi's Chancellor College in Zomba. The two join Mr. Christopher Walker and Mr. Wise Chauluka who are both in Blantyre and who have been Trustees since the inception of the Programme in 2007.

### *South Africa*

Since the departure of Shepherd Urenje from the SADC Regional Environment Programme that was reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, the ReSCOPE partners in South Africa have not yet selected his replacement. The partner organizations in South Africa who have so far formalised their partnership with the ReSCOPE Programme are the Schools Environmental Education & Development (SEED) in Cape Town and Bio watch SA. The other partners are encouraged to do the same so that we can have strong network in South Africa.

### *Uganda*

In Uganda Kulika Trust has been working with 40 schools while St Judes is working with 14 schools. There are good relationships with the Ministry of Education at the local level. In Uganda the schools work with their local key farmer trainers (KFTs) who provide technical support to the schools in sustainable agriculture.

Kulika Uganda is a medium sized non profit organization whose development interventions are hinged on the three pillars of Research, Education and Community Development. Kulika runs training and demonstration centres as well as outreach

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programmes in sustainable agriculture in several remote districts in Uganda. The main Kulika centre at Lutisi just outside Kampala along Hoima Road offers an 11 month Post Experience Diploma in Sustainable Organic Agricultural and Farmer to Farmer Extension course. ReSCOPE has trained two of the trainers for Kulika in Permaculture and Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD).

One of the schools that Kulika Uganda is working with in its Sustainable Organic Agriculture (SOA) Programme is Kyamukoona primary school in Buwekula County. The school flies the British flag side by side with the Ugandan flag because it has a twinning arrangement with a school in England. The school collects rain water from the roofs of the classrooms using gutters and brick and cement water harvesting tanks as shown in the photograph below. The water harvested is used both for irrigation and for meeting the water requirements of the school's feeding and sanitation programmes.

Another school that is participating in Kulika's SOA programme is Kyirume public primary school in Kasambya Sub County in the same district. Kyirume School has a lush orchard garden with bananas and other foods. The school has a unique school feeding programme that is wholly owned, run and fully sponsored by the parents.

Kulika's SOA programme is woven around the concept of Key Farmer Trainers (KFT). In this approach to extension, promising farmers are trained in the innovations so that they in turn demonstrate the new technologies at their homesteads and in their gardens and other farmlands. The Key Farmer Trainers are also working with their local schools acting as resource persons for the SOA programmes at the schools. All the schools that are participating in the SOA Programme run by Kulika have KFTs attached to them.

One new partner organization in Uganda formalised their relationship with the ReSCOPE Programme during the year under review and this is the Emesco Development Foundation (EDF) which works with 20 primary schools in Kibaale district of North Western Uganda. The vision of EDF is to see all the poor in Kibale District having the necessary skills, knowledge, resources and technologies to free them from poverty and sustainably improve their socio-economic status. Their mission is to efficiently provide support to and to promote and implement integrated community development services that enhance the knowledge and skills of the poor communities of Kibaale District to sustainably utilize the available resources, services and technologies to better their socio economic status.

### **St Judes Family projects Sustainable Agriculture Training Centre, Masaka, Uganda**

A few hours' drive from the Ugandan capital of Kampala in the South Western direction is St Judes Family projects Sustainable Agriculture Training Centre. Situated on the edge of the town of Masaka, the Centre has an integrated organic production unit that has animals such as cows, chickens and goats whose outputs

are used in an orchard garden and the centre's kitchen. A biogas digester ensures that the kitchen has a constant supply of cooking fuel made from the animal wastes. The Founder and Director of this Centre, Mrs. Josephine Kizza is one of the early graduates of the training done by Kulika. The centre has hosted the President and First Lady of Uganda several times now and Mrs. Kizza is now a state adviser on sustainable agriculture.

### **Sabina home and school, Ssanje, Rakai District, Uganda**

Children of Uganda is a local non profit organization that set up and is running Sabina children's home and school at Ssanje Parish in Rakai District, South Western Uganda. Permaculture has been introduced at Sabina over the last few years with input from several international volunteers that include Rosemary Morrow, Amanda Culyer, and Mike Cloutier. Much of the design work for the Children's home has been done and a very productive garden has been established. A few swales have been constructed and planted and planting of a food forest is in progress.

### **Katwe schools Permaculture project**

Katwe is a unique area in the South Western corner of Uganda on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is unique because of its salt water mines and abundant wildlife and the main settlement is inside the game area. The community of Katwe is in a partnership exchange programme with the Re community in the South of Norway. As part of the exchange programme between the two communities, the Katwe schools are determined to implement Permaculture on their grounds and efforts are under way to plan for the implementation of this project. Representatives of the Katwe community had a field visit to Sabina Home Permaculture design and since then Permaculture gardens are springing up in the settlement. Already a Permaculture trainer from Australia has volunteered to come and work with the Katwe community on their Permaculture project.

### *Zambia*

In Zambia, ReSCOPE partners met the Principal Secretary and Director of Planning in the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education is supportive and a demonstration is being established at Kamulanga School in Jack East Compound, Lusaka with the support of Community Youth Concern (CYC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Terre des Hommes, Germany. The Ministry of Agriculture local extension officer provides technical support to the school. The Government Agricultural Training and Research (GART) Centre in Chisamba has also been supportive of the work of CYC. The other ReSCOPE partners in Zambia are Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre, Zambia Civic Education (ZAMCIVIC) and the Steadfast Action Foundation (SAF). Kasisi has set up a one hectare Permaculture Production trial plot that is being jointly monitored with the University of Zambia's School of Agriculture.

## **The one hectare Permaculture production trial plot at Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre**

As part of the PLAN Africa initiative, Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre, a ReSCOPE partner 30 km ENE of Lusaka, Zambia established a one hectare rain-fed staple food Permaculture production trial plot during the 2008 to 2009 growing season. The trial plot has been closely monitored by the School of Agriculture at the University of Zambia. A variety of local crops were planted in a poly culture that included a number of tree species in the agro-forestry system. All information on the inputs, processes and outputs of the trial plot is being recorded under the supervision of the University. The story unfolding at Kasisi is being shared on the IPC9 conference website: [www.ipc9.org](http://www.ipc9.org)

### *Zimbabwe*

In Zimbabwe there were massive disruptions caused by the political and economic instability to the extent that schools were not functioning for much of the year 2008 and the first term of 2009. Many teachers left for neighbouring countries and the NGOs including the SCOPE Programme were forced to close their operations for a while. The SCOPE Programme is now on the recovery path and the cluster activities are being revived. The partnerships with organizations like Environment Africa and with the Ministry of Education have been a strong point of the Programme in Zimbabwe

### *Additional Networking*

Between 17-21 July 2008 Carlos Manjate, the Director of REDE CAME, Maputo, Mozambique visited Malawi in collaboration with the ReSCOPE Programme and with financial support from terre des homes (TDH), Germany and Permacultura America Latina (PAL) of Brazil. REDE CAME is a network of organizations working to assist vulnerable children in Mozambique. The visit is part of the recommendation made by Ali Sharif, John Nzira and Walter Nyika aiming to bring Mahubo's Biodiversity Project, near Maputo into the scope of Permaculture that is currently practiced with good results in Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Brazil, among many other countries. During his visit Mr. Manjate visited relevant projects in the Mulanje, Thyolo, Blantyre and Lilongwe districts of Malawi.

The visits enabled Carlos Manjate to come up with some conclusions in the form of suggestions of things to do in Mozambique and these ideas were gathered out of joint reflections with his hosts in Malawi:

- Training course is needed for Mozambicans to start Permaculture projects and eventually become part of the ReSCOPE initiative. As PAL's representative Ali Sharif offered himself to find a Brazilian teacher to teach in Portuguese in November (earlier should be advisable), terre des Hommes and Rede CAME should prepare to support the hosting of such a 10 day course in Maputo. This must be confirmed soon so PAL can assist in securing a teacher soon.

- ReSCOPE's representative Walter Nyika should also attend the course in Maputo as facilitator to give an African perspective of the content as well as to use his presence to support the redesigning the Mahubo project, meet with GTZ, Mozal, Ministry of Education people to introduce them to the initiative of SCOPE and influence them to support something in Mozambique.
- Rede CAME would like to be part of ReSCOPE network in the Africa region in the near future

The ReSCOPE Coordinator went to Norway in October to attend a conference whose theme was *Nature, Culture and Health: How to cope with life in a changing world*. On the first day we went to the town of Sigdal and had the opening presentations on the Nature, Culture and Health concept that was followed with a folk music concert. The following day we began the day with a nature walk up and down one of the local hills before witnessing the ground breaking ceremony for the Sigdal Nature, Culture & Health (NaCuHeal) Academy. In the afternoon we had presentations from representatives of the local community before travelling to the town of Asker for the second leg of the conference. On the way to Asker we had a surprise encounter with art when we were asked to stop at a local alternative health centre and we made a group painting of a local natural setting.

At the conference in Asker we had a presentation from Walter of Austria who is the President of the International Academy of Sciences and then I gave my presentation on Permaculture as a tool for sustainable living in Southern Africa. Afterwards we had a tree planting session and a visit to the local NaCuHeal centre. On the fourth and final day of the conference, we had the final plenary presentation from one community and then we had small group discussions and I participated on the ones on non violent communication and eco-villages.

My main engagement with Permaculture in Norway was at the home of Ron and Jutta in the community of Tinn. The comprehensive design at this home made me appreciate and understand the challenges of PC design in Norway and in the temperate climates in general. While water is our main challenge in Africa, in Norway it is energy and I experienced the benefits of a well designed low external energy home in a cold climate. Ron and Jutta built their house using mostly local materials and they did a lot of the work themselves except for the laying of the timber to build the frame and walls. The timber gives the walls good insulation properties while allowing the house to 'breathe'. They used waste paper to provide additional insulation and the roof has a garden which serves several functions. A fish pond on the southern side and a green house both help to warm the house in addition to a multipurpose fuel wood stove that not only warms the living room while preparing food but also heats up the floors and the bath water.

As a result of these numerous interlinked designs, Ron and Jutta use only an average of 2000 kilo watts of electricity per year which is about a fifth of what similar households which do not have low external energy designs consume. In addition Ron and Jutta have designed the land around their house to create warm spaces for

their garden crops. I was also impressed with the Permaculture designs in public places in Oslo such as in the Sagem area. It was very gratifying to see that both the local authorities and the general public were slowly accepting that public places could also have functional landscapes in addition to the usual ornamental one. In the Re community at Holt farm, I also saw some houses had interesting designs.

### **Traditional Food Fair**

In the last week of October 2008, the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association held its triennial general meeting at Morogoro, in Tanzania. As part of the meeting, the Association organised a symposium on Traditional and Diverse Foods From and For Africa (TRADIFFA) which was attended by farmers, representatives of development organizations and the staff of PELUM member organizations. As part of the symposium, there were presentations on pertinent issues and the one I gave on behalf of ReSCOPE was on the issues surrounding the cultivation and consumption of maize in the region. I used the story of maize to illustrate the agronomic, culinary and health impact of the wholesale adoption of foreign cultures and technologies. The farmers put up amazing displays of a wide range of local foods and they cooked some of the foods for the participants to sample.

In the interactions that took place during the symposium a need emerged very clearly for the PELUM and ReSCOPE partners to connect and work together to push the agenda for a more sustainable and better of quality of life for the majority of the people in our region. The two networks need to explore how their strategies can lock into each other not only for strengthening the two organizations but also for greater impact. After all ReSCOPE and PELUM are both learning organizations that will benefit from a planned programme of sharing experiences and collaborative efforts at various levels.

### **The 9<sup>th</sup> International Permaculture Conference and Convergence (IPC9)**

A significant proportion of our time in the year ended was spent on preparations for the forthcoming 9<sup>th</sup> International Permaculture Conference and Convergence (IPC9) that will happen in Lilongwe, Malawi from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2009. The ReSCOPE Programme is the secretariat for the IPC9 events that are briefly described below.

IPC9 will happen at Kumbali Village near Lilongwe, Malawi during the first week of November 2009. The IPC9 Convergence will run from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of November while the Conference will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. These two events will be preceded by an International Permaculture Design Certificate (IPDC) course to be held at Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. The IPDC will be facilitated by Joel Glanzberg from the United States and John Nzira from South Africa. The two Permaculture practitioners have each got more than twenty years experience of teaching Permaculture on their respective continents.

The theme for IPC9 is *designing solutions for a sustainable future*. The primary focus of the work on this theme will be to develop a Plan Africa for food sovereignty and empowerment of communities. Issues of food and nutrition insecurity and lack of capacity to fight poverty are at the centre of the challenges facing many African countries and over the last century inappropriate high input solutions have been pushed down on Africa from foreign capitals.

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Since the early 1990s some exciting work has been done with Permaculture and related approaches in various African communities but the stories from these projects have largely remained untold and the projects have remained isolated with little wider impact.

The venue for IPC9 is a large farm on the edge of the town with an African village and a lodge among other facilities. The IPC9 events will be centred on the village and more information about Kumbali is available on the web site [www.kumbalilodge.com](http://www.kumbalilodge.com). IPC9 takes place during the hot season just before the rainy season and so temperatures during the day in Lilongwe will range from 26 to 33 degrees centigrade with the nights being warm and temperatures falling to the lower twenties.

Soon after the Convergence and Conference end a site tour of Permaculture projects will begin in Malawi on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and will take the participants through Malawi and Zimbabwe and finally end in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. The trip will take the participants to at least ten Permaculture sites in Malawi and at least five each in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Pre-registration for the IPC9 events is now open online at the conference website [www.ipcon.org](http://www.ipcon.org) and the forms and further information are also available from the conference secretariat at the following addresses: [zipscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zipscope@yahoo.co.uk), [ipc9malawi@ymail.com](mailto:ipc9malawi@ymail.com), [rescope@sdpn.org.mw](mailto:rescope@sdpn.org.mw).

### *Board changes*

Earlier in the year Mr. Shepherd Urenje resigned from his post at SADC REEP and in the Board of the ReSCOPE Programme. The Board subsequently elected Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri of RODI Kenya as Board vice chair in place of Mr. Shepherd Urenje.

### *Fund-raising*

Efforts to broaden the funding base of the Programme were intensified and many concept papers and proposals were sent out. A few of these are promising and the fund raising efforts will be continued. Parallel to these efforts we had a process of engaging the corporate sector in Malawi to sensitise them on the need to pool their resources and support sustainable environmental initiatives with a national impact. To this end a process was started to set up the Tsogolo Environmental Trust Fund as a vehicle for achieving the goal described above.

### *Website*

Our website was launched in January 2009. You can find us at [www.rescopeprogramme.org](http://www.rescopeprogramme.org)

We are in the process of creating a whole new web site again which you will find at [www.seedingschools.org](http://www.seedingschools.org) by the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> school term of 2009.

### *Newsletters*

Our newsletters are now produced in 3 termly issues per year and so we had three issues of the newsletter during the year. If you would like to receive a copy of the electronic newsletter please send us an email at [zipscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zipscope@yahoo.co.uk) with a copy to [rescope@sdpn.org.mw](mailto:rescope@sdpn.org.mw) or simply text your name and email address to +265 999 788 373.

## *Partnership with ReSCOPE*

Interested organizations should submit their applications so that we can establish formal relationships with them. The application forms are available from our office and on completion the forms should be submitted to the ReSCOPE lead organization in your country with a copy to our office. Please find our contact details below.

- **Postal Address:** P.O Box 32280, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi
- **Physical Address:** The Glass House, Zalewa Road, Next to Four Square Church, Chemusa, Blantyre, Malawi.
- **Telephone Number:** + 265 1 831 373
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