

# **The Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Programme**

## **ANNUAL REPORT NUMBER 1: MARCH 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The establishment of the Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Programme has been an interesting learning curve which has also been very empowering for the people involved. The Programme was up and running only six months after its conceptualization in Lusaka in December 2006.

### **2.0 Reports on individual participating countries**

#### **2.1 Kenya**

We have two partner organizations in Kenya namely Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) based in Ruiru and Sustainable Agriculture & Community Development Programme (SACDEP) based in Thika. RODI has set up a Schools Organic Agriculture Programme (SOAP) which is running in 25 schools. SACDEP is in the process of sensitising schools in the communities about the sustainable agriculture programme. Political instability in the last quarter of the year led us to cancel a monitoring visit to Kenya.

#### **2.2 Malawi**

The School Health and Nutrition Programme of the Ministry of Education, with support from German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has piloted Permaculture in 5 schools from each of 8 selected districts. Visits to most of these schools over the year has indicated impressive transformation of the school grounds from bare, unproductive, eroded soils to multi-purpose landscapes with agro-ecological production systems. Other NGO's like GOAL, WFP, River of Life, PLAN and Total Land Care have had some of their officers trained in Permaculture and they in turn have started to train schools in their operational areas. Partners in Malawi worked together to produce a School Health and Nutrition strategy as well as a guidelines for the development of school gardens. Partners in Malawi have been willing to meet their own costs for travel and subsistence to attend meetings.

#### **2.3 South Africa**

The ReSCOPE partners in South Africa are the Southern Africa Development Community Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC REEP), the Food and Trees for Africa (FTFA), Schools Environmental Education & Development (SEED), Ukuvuna, Novalis and Biowatch South Africa. Three of these partner organizations were visited and their school gardens are doing well but the challenge is to adopt a whole school land-use design approach. A meeting to help partners to form a national platform failed to materialise mainly due to lack of adequate resources as the members are spread right cross the country.

#### **2.4 Uganda**

The ReSCOPE partner in Uganda is Kulika based in Kampala but with projects across Uganda. They are building a training centre north of Kampala and have started to work with schools. The monitoring visit to Uganda was affected by the cancellation of

the trip to Kenya as it is more cost effective to visit the two countries during the same trip. We also got linked to St Judes Masaka Training and Demonstration Centre in Eastern Uganda who are interested in promoting Permaculture in schools.

## **2.5 Zambia**

We managed to conduct a sensitization workshop for staff from the Ministry of Education which generated a lot of interest. At the end of the one day workshop we paid a courtesy call on the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education. The Secretary was accompanied by her Director of Planning in the meeting that we held with her. She expressed interest in the Permaculture programme and she said that Zambia was ready to participate. The partner organisations in Zambia are Community Youth Concern, The Green Living Movement, Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre, Kaluli Development Foundation, Swedish Cooperative Centre and the Zambia Civic Education Trust.

## **2.6 Zimbabwe**

The SCOPE Programme in Zimbabwe continued to expand into new schools in Mashonaland West province with the support of the European Union. The Programme is using the cluster approach where 5 to 10 schools in the same locality are introduced to and implement Permaculture at the same time. Economic and political problems continued to slow down work.

## **3.0 Achievements**

### **3.1 Organizational development**

The Programme managed to develop its statutes and to define its identity using the following elements:

#### 3.1.1 Vision

*Schools and colleges in East and Southern Africa transformed into resource-rich centres for their communities.*

#### 3.1.2 Mission.

*Stimulate, promote and monitor Permaculture initiatives in East and Southern Africa.*

This is based on the recognition of the strategic nature of schools in the community and the need to build on the experience of the SCOPE Programme in Zimbabwe and other emerging experiences in east and southern Africa.

#### 3.1.3 Long term goal:

*Schools and Colleges in East and Southern Africa producing nutritious food and useful products; providing countless learning possibilities for the curricula; serving as resource centres within communities; and contributing to the development of the whole person.*

#### 3.1.4 Values charter:

- ☞ Caring for the earth and respect for all forms of life
- ☞ Integrity, transparency and accountability
- ☞ Partnerships, empowerment, democracy and sharing
- ☞ Creativity, innovation and fun
- ☞ Non discrimination

#### 3.1.5 The Board and Management Committee

A six-member Board was set up to provide policy direction to the ReSCOPE Programme. The members of the Board are Mrs. Gertrude Shinkanga of Community Youth Concern in Zambia, Mr. Shepherd Urenje of the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme based in South Africa, Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri of the RODI in Kenya, Mrs. Judith Nakayiza of Kulika in Uganda, Mr. Daniel Sithole from SCOPE Zimbabwe and Mrs. Stacia Nordin of GTZ School Health and Nutrition Programme in Malawi. Mrs. Shinkanga chairs the Board and she is deputised by Mr. Urenje while Mrs. Nordin is the Treasurer.

The Board appointed a Management Committee that is made up of the representatives of Zambia, South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

#### 3.1.6 Trustees

Mr. Christopher Walker of Pa Nthunzi in Malawi and Mr. Wise Everett Chauluka of Mulli Brothers Pvt. Ltd in Malawi are the Trustees. A third Trustee will be appointed in the coming year.

#### 3.1.7 Secretariat

Mr. Mugove Walter Nyika was appointed Regional Coordinator for the Programme and Miss Chiyanjano Ruth M'manga was appointed to the post of Administrative Assistant.

#### 3.1.8. Office

The ReSCOPE Programme has established its regional office for East and Southern Africa at the Glass House, Zalewa Road, Opposite Four Square Church, Chemusa Area, P.O. Box 32280, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, and Malawi. The telephone number is +265 1 831 373 and the fax number is +265 1 831 363. The email addresses are [rescope@sdpn.org.mw](mailto:rescope@sdpn.org.mw) and [zipscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zipscope@yahoo.co.uk)

### **3.2 Registration**

The ReSCOPE Programme became a member of the Council of Non Government Organizations of Malawi (CONGOMA) on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007 with certificate number 02/065 and registration number C 340/2007. Registration with the NGO Board was acquired on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2007. The NGO Board recommended further registration of the Programme as a Trust.

### **3.3 Regional ILUD training workshop**

We held our first Regional training workshop in Integrated Land Use-Design (ILUD) for schools from the 15<sup>th</sup> of April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May in Harare. 18 participants from

across the region of east and southern Africa participated in the workshop that was highly spirited and was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture in a speech read on his behalf by Mr. Mtembo, the Director of Education Services.

The table below summarises participation at the workshop by country and by gender.

**PARTICIPANTS AT THE REGIONAL ILUD TRAINING WORKSHOP**

COUNTRY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Uganda	1	1	2
Kenya	2	0	2
Malawi	2	0	2
Zambia	5	2	7
South Africa	4	1	5
Totals	14	4	18

A team of ten trainers from the Schools and Colleges Permaculture (SCOPE) Programme in Zimbabwe facilitated at the workshop.

**3.4 Fund-raising**

Proposals have been written and submitted to the Threshold Foundation, Mulli Brothers, WFD and Terre des hommes (TDH), Germany. A proposal has also been written to the corporate sector in Malawi for them to support environmental education initiatives as part of their social responsibility. A process is now under way to sensitise the companies with a view to set up an environmental Trust Fund that will support efforts to build the capacity of institutions particularly schools to demonstrate sustainable environmental management to their communities.

**4.0 Challenges**

**4.1 Inability to access banking facilities in the first quarter**

None of the organizations we contacted on arrival in Blantyre was able to provide us with temporary use of a bank account and this made it quite difficult to get started. We did get a variety of other assistance and information from some organizations in Blantyre namely; Pa Nthunzi, Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE), Wildlife and Environment Society of Malawi (WESM), Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust (MEET) and the Council for Non Government Organizations of Malawi (CONGOMA) for which we are very grateful.

**4.2 The high rate of import duties on new cars in Malawi**

When we tried to buy a new car we found out that our budget could not support the purchase because of the high rate of import duties. We had to eventually settle for a used car because of this constraint.

**4.3 The operating environment in Zimbabwe**

Our first major assignment was the 3 week Regional ILUD training that was held in Zimbabwe in April and May. The controlled exchange rate regime in the country coupled with the hyperinflationary economic situation presented us with major financial and logistical challenges that caused a strain on our budget.

#### **4.4 The venue for the regional ILUD training workshop**

In addition to the negative macro-economic operating environment in Zimbabwe we were very unfortunate to use a venue that presented us with difficulties. After obtaining a quotation among others from this venue we proceeded to pay for the services that we required. The quotations carried a price escalation clause and a few days after the workshop started we were told that the prices had changed and the rate of change put us off budget.

#### **4.5 Distance, communication and decision making**

Communication within the ReSCOPE Programme has not been as efficient as it could be due to the distances between the players and the over reliance on emails which have their own limitations. This made it difficult to make quick decisions when they were needed.

#### **4.6 Multiple registrations**

The Programme has to register with 3 different bodies and this takes some time, effort and resources to achieve.

#### **4.7 Delays in acquiring permit**

The process of obtaining an employment permit in Malawi has been long and arduous and it caused many disruptions to the Programme work throughout the year as the document had still not been acquired by the end of the year.

#### **4.8 Fund raising**

Our efforts to raise funds for programming and to diversify the funding base have not yet yielded the desired results but we remain confident that this will be done.

#### **5.0 Conclusion**

We are grateful to the Tudor Trust for providing the resources to start this exciting Programme and we are confident that the Programme can only grow from strength to strength and help to make a difference in the lives of especially young people across the region. With the links established by the ReSCOPE Programme so far the work to promote productive and sustainable gardens in schools is poised for rapid growth in the region. The remaining challenge is to raise resources in support of this work.