

## **.ReSCOPE on E in Term 3 of 2008**

***An electronic newsletter of the Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Programme. For comments, contributions and requests for inclusion on the mailing list contact Mugove Walter Nyika at [zipscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zipscope@yahoo.co.uk) or [rescope@sdp.org.mw](mailto:rescope@sdp.org.mw)***

In this issue we begin by sharing with you feedback from some of the trainers who participated at the first regional training of trainers in Integrated Land Use Design that was held in Harare in May 2007. These facilitators spend 3 weeks learning about Permaculture and its application in the school setting. We include their full contact details so that if you are in the same country with these facilitators you can link with them when you need back up support from them. We also hope that the facilitators will also stay in touch with each other and with the people who trained them.

### Feedback from ILUD trainers in the region

First to share his feedback with us is John Waithaka who is working with Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) in Kenya:

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## Section 2: Harare workshop revisited

11. Which topics covered at the workshop have you found most useful in your context?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ecological processes</li> <li>- Situation analysis</li> <li>- production and uses of herbs</li> </ul>
12. Which topics have you found to be of little use	None
13. What topics have you wished that they should have been included in that workshop?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hygiene water and sanitation</li> <li>- Production and uses of herbs</li> </ul>
14. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being excellent, how do you now rate that workshop in terms of its overall relevance, impact and usefulness	10

15. What recommendations do you have for the next workshop?	It should involve more practical to address the gaps experienced in the last workshop
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### Section 3: Work details

16. Briefly describe your work in the last ten months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduced ILUD in parents meetings in schools</li> <li>- Training of ILUD in 3 schools</li> <li>- Facilitated ILUD in a teachers workshop in western, Nairobi and Central Kenya</li> <li>- Established Orchards in schools</li> <li>- Established vegetable gardens and tree nurseries for local, medicinal and exotic trees</li> </ul>
17. What changes have taken place in your work situation since May 2007?	<p>More co-operation by school teachers and pupils</p> <p>Change of attitude towards our work</p>
18. What do you intend to do in the next year or so?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Write a proposal to fundraise for ILUD activities in schools</li> <li>- Increase the number of schools under ILUD from 3 to 8</li> <li>- Continue with ILUD training and implementation in schools</li> </ul>
19. What would you like the ReSCOPE	- Link with the development partners

Programme to do to enhance your work?	- Networking
20. What recommendations do you have for work to promote sustainable land-use in schools in the region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is a brilliant/Noble idea to increase food security,</li> <li>- Environmental conservation, health and quality education for our peoples</li> <li>- More networks and updates of what is taking place</li> </ul>
21. Any other comments?	- I appeal to all stakeholders in this exercise to grease each an every joint to ensure we achieve our goal

In the next section, Zacharia Munga of SACDEP in Kenya shares his feedback:

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## Section 2: Harare workshop revisited

11. Which topics covered at the workshop have you found most useful in your context?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water harvesting</li> <li>- Soil improvement techniques</li> <li>- Dry land farming techniques</li> </ul>
12. Which topics have you found to be of little use	Nil
13. What topics have you wished that they should have been included in that workshop?	- Indigenous knowledge systems of land use.
14. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being excellent, how do you now rate that workshop in terms of its overall relevance, impact and usefulness	- 7
15. What recommendations do you have for the next workshop?	- Be in two phases. So that more attention is given to training without having many breaks

## Section 3: Work details

16. Briefly describe your work in the last ten months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A briefing was done to the other members of the organization and the management.</li> <li>- One school was identified and held discussions with the Head teacher and staff on ILUD. No activities have been done so far.</li> </ul>
17. What changes have taken place in	- No major changes.

your work situation since May 2007?	
18. What do you intend to do in the next year or so?	-Start the ILUD training with the Agriculture club in the school
19. What would you like the ReSCOPE Programme to do to enhance your work?	-Provide training and reading materials. -Organize another workshop.
20. What recommendations do you have for work to promote sustainable land - use in schools in the region?	- There should be stand alone projects since incorporating the activities with other project work like in my case appears rather difficult.

Feedback from more of the ILUD facilitators will be shared in the next issue of this newsletter. Watch this space!

#### PLAN Africa

Sad stories of food and nutrition insecurity continue to come out of Africa in spite of decades of the development of modern agriculture and the abundance of natural resources that the continent is endowed with. In contrast there are numerous examples of communities that have applied alternative approaches to make a difference in the quality of their lives. However the success stories are commonly isolated, not well documented and not often enough shared with other people who could benefit from similar experiences. Now come renewed efforts to impose and intensify the failed high external input approaches. Billions of dollars are being lined up for subsidizing the external inputs for the small scale African farmers, who with a fraction of that money could be empowered to improve the fertility of their soils using locally available materials.

This situation now calls for a concerted effort to document professionally the good stories that are coming out of Africa as well as to develop a major proposal for a continent wide scaling up of the initiatives that have worked well.

The one hectare Permaculture production trial plot

As part of the PLAN Africa initiative, Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre, a ReSCOPE partner 30 km ENE of Lusaka, Zambia has secured funding for the setting up of a one hectare rain-fed staple food production trial plot designed on Permaculture principles. The trial plot will be closely monitored by the School of Agriculture at the University of Zambia. Land preparation has been completed at the plot and a variety of local crops are being planted in a poly culture that includes some agro-forestry species. All information on the inputs, processes and outputs of the trial plot is being recorded under the supervision of the University. There are plans to share the story unfolding at Kasisi on the IPC9 conference website: [www.ipc9.org](http://www.ipc9.org)

### Visit to Norway

During the first two weeks of October, I went on a visit to Norway at the invitation of Nature, Culture and Health (NaCuHeal) Academy, an emerging civil society organization that is helping Norwegians to reconnect with their culture and their natural environment for better health. My visit was also partially hosted by the Permaculture Association of Norway whose Chairman, Ron Bruinvis, received me at Oslo Airport.

On my first day which was Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, I had a walk with Ron down the main street of Oslo up to the Nobel Peace Centre and to the Oslo harbour from where we boarded a ship to an island on the Oslo Fjord where I spent my first night courtesy of Ron's friend who is also an artist and member of Permaculture Norway. On the second day I participated in a one day seminar where we did a critique of donor Aid. It was very evident by the end of this seminar, that there was need to reorganise the whole development aid scenario if meaningful gains were to be made in tackling the challenges facing people in the South.

During my first week end I went to Holt farm in the Re Commune where I was hosted by the NaCuHeal team there ably led by Ingunn and Arvid. At Holt farm we had a very well attended and lively evening session on Sunday where I made a presentation about Permaculture in eastern and southern Africa to the local community. The following day I went to Oslo and was received by Claudio and Mauricio of Change the World who showed me around the city before taking me to the Sagem Community Centre where we had an evening session in the local community hall. We presented our projects at this session which was also lively and was well attended by local standards.

I then spent the greater of the week visiting Ron and Jutta in Tinn where I enjoyed learning about how the family used Permaculture principles to design their low external energy house and garden. On Friday we went back to Oslo and had meetings at the Ideabank and at the Development Fund. After the meetings we went to the Nobel Peace Centre and attended an inspirational photographic exhibition on life in the world's largest urban slums in Kenya, India, Brazil and Indonesia.

The next four days which were my last in Norway and these were spent attending 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 Sigdal and had the opening presentations on the Nature Culture and Health concept as well as a folk music concert in the evening. 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 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 Tinn. The comprehensive design at this home made me appreciate and understand the challenges of PC design in Norway. 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 and another one under construction that had low external energy designs.

In conclusion, I think that the Scandinavian countries should maintain their lead in being genuine partners for the development of the two thirds world. In Africa there is increasing realization that some of our international partners are not interested in sustainable development for Africa and would rather want to have Africa remaining poor so that they continue to exploit its resources and to be seen as perpetual benefactors.

I would advise the Nordic countries to move away from the donor - recipient relationships with the South to one where there are mutual and symbiotic relationships with communities in the two thirds world. I don't believe that we should label as Aid the instances when the Nordic countries (or any other country) provide resources to African communities for Environmental Education and for tree planting. This is because a better environment in Africa will be beneficial to the benefactor countries as much as it is to the African countries that will be recipients of the resources for tree planting. Studies have confirmed that part of the rainfall received in northern Europe is from transpiration that takes place in tropical rainforests. We have only one ecosystem on this planet so it our common responsibility to keep it healthy. Political boundaries are artificial and the Nordic countries could take the lead in gradually reducing the barriers that they impose. I believe there is a lot that communities at both ends

(North and South) can learn from each other. For example the eco-village concept is being seen as an innovation in the North when it is an every-day reality in many African communities.

### PELUM TRADIFFA

In the last week of October, 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.

### Contact person and lead organization for the partners in 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 Biowatch SA. The other partners are encouraged to do the same so that we can have strong network in South Africa.

## Formalization of partnerships with ReSCOPE

We urge all organizations that are interested in working with us to enter into a formal partnership with the ReSCOPE Programme. The criteria for eligibility to partner the ReSCOPE Programme are:

- ✓ Formal registration in your country of operation
- ✓ Existing or firm plans to work with schools and or colleges
- ✓ Commitment to promote ecologically sustainable environmental management in schools and colleges

The partnership will enable your organization to share experiences with like-minded partners in the region through:

- ❖ Newsletters
- ❖ Meetings
- ❖ Field visits
- ❖ Capacity building workshops
- ❖ A technical support service where you can receive advice on relevant issues at your request on email

There are no membership fees paid for being a ReSCOPE partner but your organization will be expected to contribute towards the costs of some of the activities that we organise for example paying for your transport to and from our workshops. The ReSCOPE Programme will also not pay allowances for your participation in its activities.

The partners who have so far formalised or are in the process of formalizing their links with us are:

<b>Kenya</b>	<b>Malawi</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>Uganda</b>	<b>Zambia</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>
RODI	PaNthunzi	BIOWATCH	St Judes	CYC	SCOPE

		SA			
SACDEP	MOET	SEED	EMESCU	ZAMCIVIC	
SMART INITIATIVES	YOUTH IN MISSIONS			STEADFAST ACTION FOUNDATION	
	School Health & Nutrition Programme of the Ministry of Education in partnership with GTZ			Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre	

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.
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- **Email Addresses:** [rescope@sdpn.org.mw](mailto:rescope@sdpn.org.mw) or [zipscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zipscope@yahoo.co.uk)

#### Country contact email addresses

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