



## SCOPE Zimbabwe Received Funding Updates



Project title: Schools integrated land use design – greening schools project

SCOPE Zimbabwe team and the community are truly grateful for the generous support, which contributed greatly to the local community food and livelihood development. The grant received contributed 20% of the organisational and project support towards a two year Schools integrated land use design Project. This fund directly supported 34 Schools, 20400 school children and their communities to receive training and starter inputs in support of integrated land use design project. The project improved school income, school grounds, food and nutrition security for school children. This ultimately resulted in improved number of children benefitting from good health and education as they were retained in School. The school landscapes were transformed from bare landscapes to edible landscapes.



| Planned Activities   | Budget          | Remarks and Action   |
|--|-----------------|--|
| 1 week integrated land use design training for 5 Clusters of 25 Schools. | 6500.00         | 120%, 6 Clusters 34 Schools were engaged in training in integrated land use design. A total of 20400 school children benefitted from the training, 238 school development Associations and 408 teachers and their communities benefitted from the fund received. |
| Starter materials  | 2350.00         | Each school received \$70.00 towards support on purchasing local seeds to establish nurseries for tree planting and vegetable production. This improved and boosted production in school environments.   |
| Demo plot Project establishment costs                                    | 750.00          | We established a demonstration Centre, which we use to conduct training for schools and communities. The fund received helped in establishing a fish pond, nursery and vegetable garden.   |
| Off road project vehicle   | 7000.00         | Provided core finding towards purchase of an off road project vehicle, used to ferry facilitators to trainings in school and to monitor field progress.<br>                  |
| Visibility and Admin Costs   | 400.00<br>17000 | This money was used to support the project activities.   |



St Columbus Tandi Primary School July 2014



St Columbus Tandi Prim School July 2014



St Columbus Tandi Primary School January 2014



St Columbus Tandi Prim School July 2014



Gwindingwi Sec School January 2014



Gwindingwi Sec School July 2014

Srilanka - India - Nepal - Bangladesh

# THE HIMALAYAS

*Awareness raising and empowering  
Children & Youth*

*to be aware, love, respect  
and take care of nature*



*NextGEN GENOA & Gaia School Asia: work with next generation to create positive future*

## Our Principles

- Awareness** To be aware that we all are part of nature and that everything is connected.
- Love** Nature is our home our life and it's amazingly beautiful. Loving nature is loving ourselves.
- Respect** All living and non - living beings have their role to play in sustaining the web of life. All deserve respect.
- Care** Human also have a role to play in sustaining the web of life. We need to take care of nature.

## Dear Friends & Families of nature

We, Om Sunisa and Tom Deiters representatives of NextGEN GENOA (Next generation of the Global Ecovillage Network of Oceania & Asia) and Gaia School Asia, are now on the journey to the Himalayas. We are traveling from Srilanka, India, Ladakh, Nepal and Bangladesh to work with children and youth. Along the way of our journey, we provide workshops for schoolchildren, village youth on connection with nature. Our workshops aim to encourage awareness, love, respect and care for nature. We are also raising awareness about global warming, climate change, waste, pollution, loss of biodiversity, and deforestation. We brainstorm with the children and youth what positive actions they can take in their direct environment and we do some positive action together with them at the end of our workshop. Our workshop is based on participatory and interactive learning that involves the head, heart and hands. Read more next page!



## NextGEN GENOA aims to...

strengthen and empower young generations within the Oceania & Asia regions to take action and leadership in awareness raising among themselves and the public for social transformation towards harmony and sustainability through different means and based on their local contexts.



## ACROSS THE HIMALAYAN COUNTRIES SRILANKA - INDIA- NEPAL - BANGLADESH

Our journey started in Srilanka, early June and we connected with the NextGEN representative of Sri Lanka, Trudy Juriansz. Trudy helped us through her network to connect with different individuals, organisations and youth in Sri Lanka. We connected with a Jezuit priest Father Benny in the Hill country. He arranged for us to teach

the children of Tamil tea-pluckers at a pre-school on a tea-estate in Hatton. We met with a Buddhist youth, Danushka, in Udawalawe and through him we taught about nature to children at a Buddhist school.

Then we went North to Anuradhapura to the Islander Center where we had a 3-days youth workshop for the

Sewalanka Foundation and after that another 3-days youth workshop for 47 youth of the Center for Peace Building and Reconciliation's (CPBR). The youth who participated in these workshop were very diverse as they were from all over the country representing Tamil and Singhalese, from Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic

*"I felt that I have experienced the beauty of nature deeply"*

religions. In the youth workshops we guided the youth to create an action plan for their village and the local NGOs and our NextGEN representative will follow up with the Youth on their action plans.

From Sri Lanka, we traveled to Tamila Nadu, South India. We connected with the representative of GEN India

(Global Ecovillage Network), John George. He arranged for us to teach near Bangalore where we worked with three different schools on nature awareness. At the SVISS School in Hosur we taught a three-day workshop for children and we planted about 75 trees with the children there.



Anuradapura, Srilanka

Afterwards we went to Orissa where held a 3-day training for tribal Youth.

(Continued next page....)



*In a Buddhist school, Udawalawa, Srilanka*

## *"It has been fun and hopeful so far..."*

*We have been experiencing that children from different background, religions, rich or poor, have strong connection, love and care for nature. They have been observing environmental issues around them and enthusiastically take action to solve the problem. They only need a little bit of guidance. Seeing their passion gives us a lot of hope and faith in next generations."*

There were 65 participants from different tribes in Orissa. In this workshop we learned that tribal people are the doers. They liked to learn things that are practical. We adapted our workshop to meet their needs.

We saw John's impressive work with the organization THREAD and his deep connection to the Orissa Tribals. We were glad to see that the adapted one-month "Ecovillage Design Education" courses are well received by tribals and that many who have done this training are empowered to take positive action in their village.

Now we are on our way to Southern Punjab, where we will be working with about 10 schools. We aim to be planting 1000 trees with schoolchildren. After 2 weeks with schools in Punjab we will move on to

Nubra, northern region of Ladakh in the Himalaya's. We will be working with school children and provide teacher training for school teachers about participatory learning, holistic education and how to teach Nature Awareness that is fun and empowering children.

After 2 weeks in Nubra, Ladakh we will be coming back to Dharmasala where we will provide another workshop for socially engaged Buddhist youth. After this we will be taking bus to cross the border to Kathmandu.

And yes, In Nepal we will be doing similar things.

It has been fun and hopeful so far. We have been experiencing that children from different backgrounds, religions, rich or poor, have a strong connection, love and care for nature. They have been observing environmental issues around them and enthusiastically

take action to solve the problem. They only need a little bit of guidance. Seeing their passion gives us a lot of hope and faith in next generations.

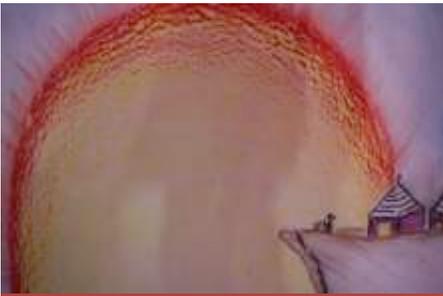
It has been two months since we started our journey in Srilanka and



we still have 4 months ahead of us

*Pre-School Children in tea plantation estate in Hatton, Srilanka.*

on our journey. We are doing this work voluntarily because we think it is important to raise awareness among the children and youth around the pressing environmental issues that will affect their future. It is important that they start to practice solutions now, even if it is a small solution.



My favorite place to play in Nature!

‘Who likes to play in nature? Where do you like to play? How is it fun?’ The children are always excited to respond to these questions. They connect with nature and develop their love to nature through playing in nature.



My flower for the earth

Action plan created in a form of flower to heal the earth. What I commit to do? When I commit to do it? Where? And with whom?

## Flowers for Earth from the children

**Our workshop is designed to have 8 steps which can be adapted for different ages. Through these steps we experienced that group energy moved like a wave.**

**Step 1. Community and Trust Building** among the participants and between the participants and the facilitators. We design processes and activities to open up. It enables us to also observe group dynamics and to understand the participants background so that we can adjust our activity in the workshop that is suitable for them.

**Step 2. Gratitude**, this step is to have the children connect with nature and to deepen this connection for nature through love, gratitude and joy.

**Step 3. Concerns**, is to hear from the children and youth what concerns they have for nature. For the older youth this step includes what concerns they have for their village and their own future.

**Step 4. Ecovillage Vision** (Creating a Positive Vision) For the children we channel their energy from sad and depressed feelings of the last step to hope/faith and a positive vision. For the children we will show them examples of other children who are involved in healing nature. For the older youth we give introduction about Ecovillage living, examples of

Ecovillages and other youth who take action to help nature.

**Step 5. Action Plan** – Flower for the Earth. In this step we will guide them through the process of creating a simple action plan. This action plan is created in the form of a flower with four petals – “What will I do?”, “Where I will do it?”, “When will I do it?” and “Who will be joining me?”. This flower of commitment is a symbol of love and gratitude for the Earth.

**Step 6. Networking & Group Strengthening.** This step is to create a network of NextGEN – Youth. In this step we will guide them to think about how they can strengthen their group and how they can stay connected with each other and with other youth groups.

**Step 7. NextGEN Spirit.** In this step we will connect to the heart, Spirit and the inner qualities that are needed to heal the earth.

**Step 8. Group Action & Celebration.** This step is to deepen and ground what we have learned in the workshop at practical level and celebrate actions taken.

*We experienced so far that the children and youth enjoyed the workshops. They enthusiastically participated in every step. It gives us a lot of energy to keep on our journey.*



## 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 deepen their connection to nature as well as encouraging them to seek for a sustainable lifestyle.

### Support Us:

We are voluntary groups of young generation that try to give our best in this work. We appreciate all kind supports that will help us bring more impacts in our work for nature and sustainable world.

### Contact us:

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

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

Facebook : NextGEN Oceania & Asia

<http://genoa.ecovillage.org>

*\* See pictures and slideshows of our journey and workshop on our website and facebook page*



**ORGANIC TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION AND  
PROMOTION OF INITIATIVE CENTRE (OTEPIC)**  
PO Box 4627-30200, Kitale, Kenya  
Email :otepic07@yahoo.com  
[www.otepic.org](http://www.otepic.org)

**Welcome in our newsletter documenting our triumphs and challenges and our day today activity about our passion to heal the planet!**



The rainbows continue to stream endlessly in our gardens and since we started this adventure of gardening and sharing with people on food and knowledge we realized that Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity. **Our garden is flourishing with a lot of bumper harvest from fruits, the seeds and leafy nutritious indigenous vegetables ,**



A lot of people in the community are continuing streaming to the centres from young children to old ,involving the children becoming creative on how to live in harmony with nature, and teaching people on how they can grow there food all year round. The Aloe vera garden is flourishing and we hope to start making aloe vera product soon like soap etc—The green house is doing great with a lot of organic tomatoes fruits, a lot of leguminous plants that cover the land and at the same time fixing nitrogen in the soil.





### **Appropriate technology**

Lucky that we have learnt from a number of excellent teachers over the years on alternative energy systems and one of our core workers is helping in building demonstrations biogas digesters in various neighborhood in order for people to reduce deforestation and to produce clean energy against using firewood smoke which causes lots of health problems ,Lots of training has been done and few demonstration biogas systems has been set up.

Also Our workshop tools and equipment is open to many people who are interested to explore new ways and alternative technologies, few youth have managed to build many metals works and this has created a lot of jobs to them hence they get income to sustain themselves.





## THE NEW PEACE VILLAGE FARM

OPEPIC crew constructed a water retention landscape which is filling up slowly to collect as much water as possible to recharge the earth body, it was great working together with the communities here women, youths children and community in general.

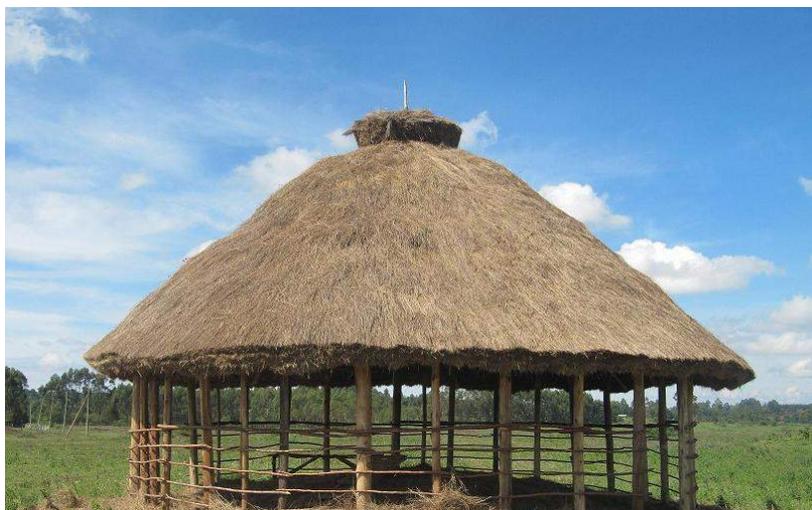
As the effects of climate change pursue, the necessity to build resilient communities and farms becomes ever more apparent. Often farmers are stuck dealing with incessant rainfall, hurricanes, floods and droughts. We are planning to build an innovative water conservation methods ,water retention landscape. Which has many benefit including soil conservation and improvement, enhanced biodiversity, and increased yields. The idea is to work with the movement of water to SLOW IT, TO SPREAD IT AND SINK IT to recharge the earth aquifeier earth bodies.



**OTEPIC KENYA PROJECT- "GROWING THE SOIL IN THE peace village farm"** Using beans and other leguminous nitrogen-fixing shrub to fix nitrogen and also using a lot of biomass produced in making compost to replenish soil fertility, the beans produced supplement our kitchen with nutritious food.



**Collecting and harvesting Building material for community house** --Hope to build more houses on our peace village farm, We will love to build it with materials that nature provides nearby clay, straw and local brick that we made here in OTEPIC, we want natural building. Because these materials require little processing or transporting, the environmental and economic costs are low not to mention. Some are renewable resources (like trees and straw), and some may be so abundant that their supply seems almost inexhaustible too. One of the beauties of building with local materials is that they seem to fit well with the feeling of the place, naturally. We shall use Adobe, Adobe is an extremely valuable building material, to be used for both walls and floors. We love the hoes to be round shapes.



**OTEPIC KENYA PROJECT- New OTEPIC Co-workers-** Pigs as part of permaculture We are very happy that our co-worker the "pig" gave birth to 11 piglets. we shall be involving our pigs in permaculture especially cooperating with pigs to seal ponds. Also pigs are very effective way of digging up new beds, welcome to the world!, pigs also help us with a lot of manure to be used for the farm.



**OTEPIC KENYA PROJECT- GLOBAL GRACE DAY-** By emphasizing that sharing is caring we dedicated this day in harvesting some of the first produce in our community farm, we used the open pollinated seeds variety, we sharing it amongst the community members and also we used alot of biomass produced to build compost to replenish the soil fertility in the new farm- It was such a work party when community came together, women men and children from different tribes-hence this promote good coexistence and peace in our communities





**Women meetings- women groups continue to meet in OTEPIC new land in a newly build peace hut to empower themselves and to discuss some other aspect of community development through circle sharing.**



**OTEPIC KENYA PROJECT- USING SPORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE AMONG YOUTH GROUPS-**Sports, in fact, can make an effective contribution to peaceful understanding between peoples who live with different rhythms and customs to meet and embrace and to establish the new civilization of love among themselves., Various youth groups who were enemy to each , who see each other as enemies”Gangs” come together play , develop friendship and peace among themselves hence peace dwell in the community





**Donations are highly appreciated**

### **BANK INFORMATION**

Name of Bank: **Equity bank**

Branch: **Kitale branch**

PO address of bank: **P.O box 801 Kitale**

SWIFT code: **EQBLKENA**

Name on account: **Organic technology extension and promotion of initiative centre**

PO address of name on account: **P.O BOX 1684(30200)**

Account number: **0330192107279.**























**SUPPORT OTEPIC,DONATION ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATED**

**BANK INFORMATION**

Name of Bank: **Equity bank**

Branch: **Kitale branch**

PO address of bank: **P.O box 801 Kitale**

SWIFT code: **EQBLKENA**

Name on account: **Organic technology extension and promotion of initiative centre**

PO address of name on account: **P.O BOX 1684(30200)**

Account number: **0330192107279.**