



# ANNUAL GLOBAL REPORT



2014



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**“We are the last generation that can change climate change. We have a duty to act.”** – Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General

This year (2015) marks GEN’s 20<sup>th</sup>, Gaia Education’s 10<sup>th</sup> and the UN’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary: a significant time to reflect and take stock. How far have we come? What is the future calling for now? How can we create regenerative cultures together?

Looking back on 2014, perhaps we think of highs like the bold carbon reduction targets set by the USA and China, Malala Yousafzai becoming the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and the narrowing of the rift between the USA and Cuba. We may also think of the lows of Ebola, the rise of violence in the Middle East and the kidnap of 270 schoolgirls in Nigeria. We witnessed acts of terror and acts of courage. GEN, supporting and linking hotspots of hope across the planet, has continued to play its part in the overall puzzle of a humanity straining to evolve its awareness and responsibility.

Please take a moment, right now, to feel your gratitude for all those who are working on the ground, developing and implementing tangible solutions, building community, empowering others, creating safe environments for an abundance of species, for young and old, for diversity and love to flourish: the ecovillage, transition and others, creating safe environments for an abundance of species, for young and old, for diversity and love to flourish: the ecovillage, transition and permaculture pioneers, the initiators, the farmers, peacebuilders, all the lovers of life. We know how much it takes to walk our talk within everyday realities, aiming to tread ever more softly on the earth while at the same time reaching out for real, palpable change. It calls for all our curiosity and intelligence to continue coming up with ways to marry the best of traditional wisdom with the potential of new innovations in order to not only sustain, but regenerate the social and natural environments around us.

We know that those of us who are planting the carrots and taking care of children are not necessarily the same as those who are travelling the world, speaking at conferences and connecting up the dots on the global map that GEN unfolds. It takes a culture of truly seeing, listening and appreciating each other to help our networks to thrive in connectedness. We are required to heal our history of power over, of colonialism and exploitation as we reach out to each other across continents, languages and cultures. We need to keep thinking beyond the limits of our own imaginations, stretching beyond the edges of our own individual existence in order to become more understanding and compassionate of each other.

One of the most lovely challenges that GEN faces is how to grow a global consciousness and solidarity which remains deeply rooted in the local. How can we create structures that help us develop this capacity, not as a conceptual exercise, but as an actual lived experience? In an exemplary fashion, the International Board meetings, which start with reports from each of the continents, help to expand our hearts and minds on a regular basis by connecting us deeply to the experience of friends elsewhere. One of the most precious assets of GEN is the relationships of solidarity between people of integrity.

How can we strengthen communication channels in GEN on a structural level that allow a free flow of information and resources in all directions?

In 2013, GEN-International was invigorated by becoming constituted as a Scottish Charity with a well-functioning and active Board, and five overarching Working Groups.

You will find a short report from each of these below. In 2014, the GEN landscape was further enriched by the Open Forum Initiative: an online forum for members of all regions of GEN to discuss topics of interest and formulate recommendations for the GEN Board and Steering Group. The Steering Group has also developed organically in 2014: in a dance with complexity, this group helps to coordinate the work of the Working Groups in accordance with the needs of various projects and regions. In 2015, we envisage the installation of a Listening and Convening Group: a circle of people that hold an open ear and listen to the field of GEN in order to convene all those conversations and create the connections necessary for a healthy evolution of the whole, between individuals, teams, regions, etc. Our meetings and governance continue to be strongly inspired by Sociocracy.

The biggest growth stretch for GEN in 2014 was certainly the Global Ecovillage Summit, which took place from 10-15 December in Dakar, Senegal. 40 countries and all of GEN's regions were represented at this conference, which was hosted by GEN-Africa, GEN-Senegal and GEN-International in collaboration with the Senegalese government. It was a fascinating

challenge for us to bridge the gap between bottom-up and top-down approaches, but also feel the tension of this gap. Clearly, there is a lot that both sides can bring to strengthen the work of the other – with the government sector helping to mainstream an ecovillage approach for sustainable development, and GEN and Gaia Education bringing to the table our rich and globally replicated experience around participatory design and the practice of deep democracy.

At a sumptuous reception at the King Fahd Hotel, the Senegalese Prime Minister expressed his personal commitment, as well as that of his President, to promote the ecovillage concept across the African continent. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment shared a resolution at the closing ceremony, proclaiming the Senegalese President's full support for GEN and the values it stood for. The icing on the cake was provided by Senegalese planetary mega music star, Youssou N'Dour, an honorary government ministerial adviser, who announced that he would be happy to serve as a Goodwill Ambassador for GEN! Teams travelled on to visit ecovillages on the ground in The Gambia and Senegal, many of us noticing a small relaxation as we came back to the luxurious simplicity of communities on the ground ...

As 2015 brings us a series of major meetings and negotiations seeking binding agreements on Climate Change and defined Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we invite you all to continue your engagement with GEN. Most specifically, to join us for the GEN+20 Summit, taking place in Findhorn from 6-11 July. We wish to celebrate where we come from, how far we've come, and see more clearly where we are headed for the next 20 years. What is the future calling forth and how can GEN best serve?

We would be delighted to have you with us, either virtually (the event will be streamed) or in real life – adding your insights to the vision of what is to come.

Hoping you will enjoy this short report of GEN's activities in 2014,

In community,



**Kosha Anja Joubert**  
President  
Global Ecovillage Network



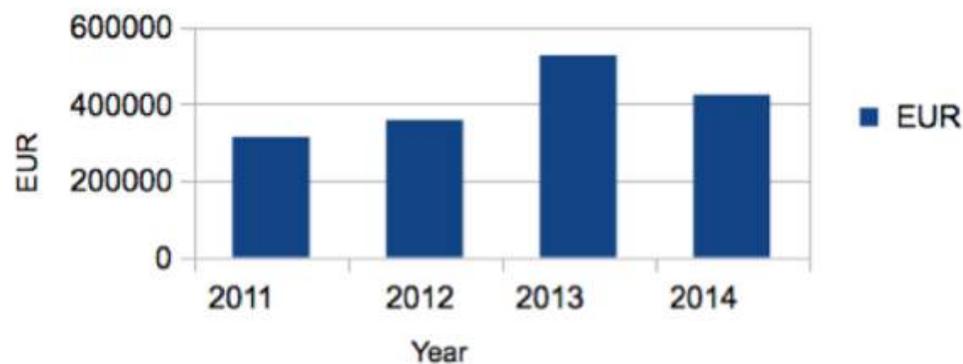


## INTRODUCTION

GEN Europe has seen a surge of growth in membership while continuing to strengthen its structures in 2014. New projects were started, new staff joined the teams and a new office was created at the same time as efforts to clarify structure and consolidate the organisation began. However the total turnover decreased slightly in 2014 due to the completion of the EU Grundtvig Programme which was central to GEN Europe's educational programme. GEN Europe continues to support the independent GEN Africa and the newly independent GEN International.

We perceive increased interest among the general public, policy-makers and academia for the work of GEN. New partnerships have been established, especially through ECOLISE which offers a platform to coordinate with many like-minded movements. Meanwhile, GEN Europe has been continuing its own successful work, especially in education, through a number of projects.

**GEN Europe Turnover 2011-2014**  
*Regular and Project Operations*





## GEN Europe Conference

A record number of 530 participants from over 30 countries came together for five days at ZEGG, Germany, to celebrate and share, present projects and ideas, and explore new strategies of collaboration.

It was a remarkable meeting of minds and hearts that revealed, in many ways, the new level that the Global Ecovillage Network has reached in its nineteenth year of existence. As a shift from the previous year the focus was on Europe.

The large group of young committed people who formed NextGEN at the conference of 2013 strengthened their ties during the year.

GEN has proven to be an organization capable of linking numerous grass-roots projects with large social movements, other global actors, and governments. With the support and assistance of GEN, the ecovillages of the world have developed from being a network to a movement that generates hope on a global level.

## National Networks Meeting

The series of national network meeting at the annual conferences ultimately led to the creation of the first national networks meeting as a separate event. On 17-19 January, 25 persons from 11 networks plus two more forming met in Torri Superiori, Italy. The professionally facilitated and well-documented event not only created new interest in developing national networks but as well for increased European- wide cooperation and sharing of ideas.

## Dream2Act

Some 33 participants held the ERASMUS+ "Dream2Act" 8-day Partnership Building youth event before, during and after the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) European Conference

2014 at ZEGG Ecovillage in Bad Belzig, Germany. The main aim of the project was to stimulate reflection about the connection between "dreams of change" and active citizenship amongst young people, cultivating an attitude of being.

The participants were aged between 18 and 30, from Germany, the UK, Romania, Portugal, Estonia, Sweden, Greece, and Italy, and were given the concrete opportunity to take part in the development of the youth branch of the GEN framework, called Next- GEN. This was the first step towards building Next-GEN as a vessel for new active citizenship and participation projects focused on the role of youth in Europe and in the world.

Participants took part in a circular series of exercises whereby they each played protagonist roles, in a unique experiential learning activity.

They acquired skills in the field of youth work, were immersed in cultural diversity, meditated on and discussed the concepts of European Citizenship, participation and active citizenship, and made plans for future collaborative projects which aim to bring about concrete changes in their local areas, in order to move towards a healthier global community.

## Models of Sustainable Living (UBA I)

Throughout 2014 GEN-Europe continued its implementation of this 2-year project funded by the the central German Environmental Protection Agency. GEN- Europe and the European Business Council for Sustainable Energy (e5) worked together on two thematic strands co-operatively which aim at mainstreaming the ecovillage approach and connecting actors in the field across existing institutions and society groups.

The first thematic strand was carried out by GEN-Europe presenting ecovillage solutions and the ecovillage approach to sustainability as possible answers to our pressing, complex and interconnected societal challenges to an urban audience and facilitate further connection between ecovillages in the German speaking community (Germany, Austria, Switzerland).

Several workshops and events were organised and accompanied by public relations, a newsletter and a new website in German, Also, GEN was represented at several conferences and gatherings.

The second thematic strand, called Sustainable Lifestyles through Commons Economy, held by e5, focused on the field of the commons economy and brings together actors from ecovillages, the urban commons movement and business in Germany. The project held four roundtables with representatives from different fields coming together to work on the question how impulses from ecovillages can support the transition of society. The findings of these meetings were included in a concluding study on the economic potentials of the commons economy in ecovillages.

## Urban Resilience Project (UBA II)

The project submitted to the German Environmental Protection Agency focuses on neighbourhoods in the pilot cities of Karlsruhe, Kassel and Berlin was applied for and approved to begin 2015. Strengthening of Transformative Education for Sustainable Development in Europe. Strengthening of Transformative Education for Sustainable Development in Europe. As GEN Germany had yet to be founded, GEN Europe successfully was awarded a large ER- ASMUS+ Adult Education Mobility Project for 100 mobility grants for Germans. The project offers teaching mobility, training mobility including course fees and job-shadowing. Some national networks were also successful in creating similar but smaller mobility projects. A large number of Germans have been able to take courses and be guest teachers at courses abroad during 2014 thanks to this project.



## OUTREACH

### ECOLISE

Work on creating broad-based network of local initiatives in Europe or ECOLISE continued throughout the year with strong GEN Europe involvement in every step and with GEN Europe members involved in different working groups.

The documents for registration were signed on 9 April and registration by royal decree a fact by summer 2014. The first General Assembly was however delayed until 6-8 February 2015.

### REALS project

GEN-Europe continued to be an associated partner in this project networking transition, permaculture and ecovillage movements in Russia, Belarus and Sweden. The project, run by the Swedish Permaculture Association is funded by the Swedish Institute.

### Gaia Excellency Award 2014

The Gaia Excellency Award funded by Gaia Trust and this year as well by Paulo Mellet's legacy was awarded at 2014 GEN Europe Conference. Ecovillage Excellency Award, 2014 went to Taneeb Farm/Global Campus, Palestine, and a second award to Aurora

Community, Romania. For the first time the Gaia Excellency Award was split into a European (including the Middle East) and an international project, with each of the projects receiving 1500 Euros and an artistic trophy.

The international project was awarded at the Ecovillage Summit in December, in Senegal, Africa. The audience of the GEN Europe conference this year decided to award the European prize to the Taneeb Farm in Palestine, and Aida Shibli's initiatives for the Global Campus, Palestine.

However, since the fresh and thriving Aurora community in Romania came a very close second, Ruth Andrade donated the same amount of money from Paulo Mellet's legacy.

This second prize to the young community "Aurora" was awarded as it has shown many aspects of sustainability and revitalization of a remote region in its two years of existence. Thanks to that extra donation this year it was possible to have two awarded projects in Europe and the Middle East.

## IT Development

Numerous IT projects involve collaboration between GEN International and GEN Europe. During 2014 the GEN Open Source IT Tool called “Solution Library” was further developed. GEN Sites was officially launched during 2014 and functionality was developed so that the sites of GEN Europe members could be hosted. At the same time work on the Community Sustainability Assessment tool and interactive maps continued enrolling GEN Europe member projects. GEN Europe focused interactive maps for the BEN and GEN Europe websites, including the German version of the latter.

## Earth Day

In collaboration with the Earth Day Network, GEN invited ecovillages worldwide to invite neighbours to visit the site or offer a presentation on ecovillage lifestyles in a city. Earth Day - Ecovillage Day is celebrated every year on April 22. To make visible our network, the locations were shown on our world map at [www.gen-europe.org](http://www.gen-europe.org). Ecovillages from all around the world joined in with different kinds of activities, open days or simply offering to join the meditation.

## GEN Europe film

GEN Europe was able to produce a slideshow that became a short film that can be used in different public events. It was first unveiled in the GEN conference in July. Originally in German and English the manuscript is being translated into several languages and speaker-voices will be recorded so as to create multiple language version of the film.

## Friends of GEN Campaign

From October a project manager was hired to focus on the new campaign for supportive membership, donations and other connections with GEN. Information on the campaign is available on the websites of GEN.

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## Global Ecovillage Summit

The Summit called “Ecovillage Transition Strategies for a Sustainable World” took place on 10- 15 December 2014 in Dakar Senegal bringing together over 120 persons from 40 countries around the globe. The conference part took place 10-13 December followed by a study tour of ecovillages in Senegal on 14 December, and GEN Africa General Assembly on 15 December plus a workshop on project development.

The Summit was hosted, designed, facilitated and organized by an African team. The Government of Senegal which created the Ministry of Ecovillages and the National Agency of Ecovillages of Senegal

(ANEM), has committed to support the dissemination of GEN’s model through the Ministries of Development of West African countries. Celebrity Youssou Ndour has agreed to be GEN’s international goodwill ambassador.

The project was funded through GEN Europe by the German Foreign Ministry and the Government of Senegal. The implementation of the project was mostly carried out by GEN International and GEN Africa.

## Gambia EDE Project

An EDE course was held in Kartong, the Gambia from 21 February to 20 March 2014. This EDE was the culmination of a long held dream that originated in 2007 when the Secretary General of the Village Development Committee of Kartong attended an EDE in Findhorn. The pre-screening ensured that the applicants’ levels of written and spoken English were sufficient and that they were clear about the requirements. 46 members of the community attended. They received a presentation on GEN and the Ecovillage Design Education course. They then had individual interviews and answered a written question.

The selection panel accepted 17 applications straight onto the course to ensure representation and diversity. Thereafter 14 applicants were selected to attend the second stage of the selection process which involved three activities. One activity looking at teamwork and the other two concerned problem solving abilities. From there, three applicants were selected and five were put onto a waiting list. Fortunately it was possible for all five attend the course.



The course was finally made up of 32 participants and 9 facilitators. 27 of the participants came from Kartong. The Kartonkas welcomed our international participants from Holland, Brazil, Togo and a member of the Gambia Tourism Board. The participants were made up of 11 women and 21 Men, a mixture of Christians, Muslims and a full representation of all tribes in the village. After the course the EDE group has continued to meet. The project was funded by the Heidehof Foundation.

## GEN Israel

GEN Israel was launched at an all-day conference 23 November at Kibbutz Gezer. Over 200 persons attended the meeting in which Kosha Joubert, GEN International and Aida Shibli, GEN Palestine. There is a follow-up meeting planned for Summer 2015. The event was financed by German MFA.

## GEN Palestine

The project “Waters of Hope: Nourishing the Heart of Sustainability amongst Middle East Change Makers” 18th – 24th November 2014 gathered 40 for all the duration of the meeting – 90. During the “Workshop Open Day”.

Total: 130. Conference programme: Illustration of good practices in the Field of Climate Change Adaptation in the area/s of reference – focus: Palestine, world-wide best practices:

GEN-Sham to be launched as a pre-stage for GEN-ME - from GEN-Palestine (GEN-Israel not to be involved at this stage). Conference in Jordan. envisaged in Spring 2016.

Financed by German Climate Fund. Hakoritna Farm, one of the winners of the Gaia Excellency Award 2014, co-hosted a meeting of GEN and Global Campus Palestine with the Palestine Technical University-Kadoorie, in order to meet the many challenges for peace and sustainability in an occupied country and to prepare the creation of GEN Palestine.

The next official meeting of GEN-Palestine is planned for November 2015, with a first Conference of GEN-Sham (Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) envisaged for spring 2016.

„



## INTRODUCTION

CASA Continental Consejo de Asentamientos Sustentables de las Américas The Council of Sustainable Settlements seeks to articulate and strengthen the actions of Latin American national and regional networks that promote, educate, investigate and disseminate sustainable and regenerative lifestyles.

CASA Continental seeks to create and visualize living examples, which can inspire change towards life patterns that recover and regenerate our ecological, economic and social support systems we consider vital to ensure the continuity of the human species on earth. The year 2014 was very important for Continental CASA Network, both for our internal organization as also for our external visibility.

We were one of the pioneers in adapting GEN SITES structure for our organization. After a long process, it was launched in June 2014, as a web platform [casa.ecovillage.org](http://casa.ecovillage.org) and also as a directory of communities and projects in Latin America. We also launched the [www.casacontinental.org](http://www.casacontinental.org) as a resource for institutional information on CASA. With these tools, CASA launched a video, which included more than 70 persons, in 9 countries, telling the story of CASA. We also create periodic newsletters and publish in social networks.

The steering council of CASA Continental (CASA cocina) reviewed our organizational structure and we are in the process of co-creating a membership policy. We are applying models inspired by sociocracy in our organization, to function more effectively in a more horizontal way. We considered very important to support national networks, and thus strengthen local processes and grassroots projects. In 2014 we created a fund to support projects of national networks, and we directed a portion of our budget to 2 projects. We supported CASA Mexico to make their website, and Eco Chile (CASA Chile) ,to publish a book documenting ecovillage process in Chile.The CASA Council has active national representation from 6 countries (Mexico, Colombia, Chile Brazil, and Argentina, Eco Nomads). This year we established formal relations with the Argentinean Network and we see an emerging process of "possible new CASAs" in Uruguay and Ecuador.



## HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS

### GEN MEXICO

Mexico is going through a serious political and social crisis. The complex situation is both a challenge and an opportunity for initiatives related to sustainability and eco-social regeneration. As one of many recent creative responses in Mexican civil society, CASA Mexico was formally established in November 2012, during the XII Vision Council "El Llamado de las Estrellas" in Chalmita, Edo. De Mexico. Since then, there have been more than 12 regional meetings, and countless educational events, courses, seminars, festivals, cultural activities, etc. CASA México has established sub-networks in seven bioregions.

Some of the many memorable events from 2014:

- CASACentro Regional Meeting, held in september 2014, at Ecovillage Ixixtlán, Atlixco (Puebla), was attended by nearly 50 representatives of projects in the four regions with active members in CASA Mexico: Mexico City, Edo. In Mexico, Morelos and Puebla. Representatives also arrived from Michoacán, Veracruz and Guanajuato.
- "Next GEN Mexico" was formed (represented by Arun Ruz);

The website of CASA Mexico, will be launched in March 2015

- Two courses "Ecohabitat", with EDE certification, took place: One in July / August 2014, in the Huehucóyotl Ecovillage, and the second one January 4th to 18th, 2015, at the Center for Permaculture "La Ventana", Palenque, Chiapas
- Coyote Alberto Ruz participated in the 1st World Ecovillage Summit in Dakar, Senegal, from 10 to 15 December 2014, representing CASAMexico and CASAContinental, with an audiovisual presentation on the origins of the ecovillage movement in Mexico and Latin America, until the formation of CASA and CASAMexico. Along with the grandmother of Namibia, Visalela R. Namises, Alberto Coyote was in charge of opening and closing ceremonies of the Summit, attended by representatives from more than 40 countries worldwide.
- Six members of CASACentro, gave presentations during the 1st International Conference on Education for Evolution, from 14 to 17 January, with 30 speakers from Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Chile. The purpose of the meeting was to articulate a pedagogy for a Culture of Peace, to be presented at the Autonomous University of Puebla (where the meeting was held) to be part of their educational curriculum.



## GEN CHILE

As every year, once the summer arrives, the projects that make up the alternative networks in Chile come alive and all sorts of activities, from volunteering to workshops, local meetings, gatherings and mingas, inviting helping hands in natural buildings and larger tasks that require the collective whole.

We want to consolidate growth of Ecochile network, not only trying to represent ecovillages, but all kinds of sustainable livelihood projects that want to join, so we will gradually forming a flower with petals which today represent CASA Continental. We are in the process of integrating with those who began with the birth of CASA CHILE and Red Ecochile to have a single heartbeat.

Right now our greatest work is focused on lifting the Second Ecovillage Meeting, which rename as a 2nd. Call of sustainable livelihood initiatives: »El Llamado del Canelo«, to be held in the central area of our country on April 25, 2015. Here we will create a space to have people experience in the social dimension, more tools that are needed today not only in projects like ours but in any collective endeavour, challenges all ecovillages and intentional communities live day to day and that becomes a mainstay for perpetuating them.

To strengthen local networks and the call to network with the various sustainable initiatives, we have divided into 2 main areas: Ecosur and Eco Center North. Both autonomous, being antennas to the social fabric and linking to the national network.

In short, we are in a process of empowerment, renaissance, strengthening our relationships and the deep tissue.

## GEN Argentina

The Permaculture Institute Na Lu'um, currently the main activator of CASA Argentina, has been developing many meetings throughout 2014. 21 Permaculture Design Courses have been delivered throughout the year, activating 21 different areas of Argentina and neighboring countries. The impact developed in these areas has provided us with tools that aim to extend our educational processes and thus enable us to help young people, who are more willing to enter this new path, to take larger steps.

This proposal of extending the educational processes has been made possible from our own economy. The students of each Permaculture design course we offered took all the design courses they wanted for free, only collaborating with our hosts with the cost of food. This has enabled us to have a group of people who are fully trained, developing powerful activities in different climates, ecosystems and cultures in which we provide trainings.

Another way in which we have involved young people in our processes is through educational grants management, enabling young people who are more willing to enter this new path, to take larger steps. This proposal of extending the educational processes has been made possible from our own economy.

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Another way in which we have involved young people in our processes is through educational grants management, enabling young people to participate, learning activities in different spaces in which the Institute develops designs, manages or educational campus or in the nodes representing the Institute in different Latin American countries. The Institute has developed about 10 Bioregional meetings and it has been the general coordinator of the 4th Argentinian Permaculture Gathering, while being part of the general coordination of the 4th Latin American Permaculture Convergence.

Amongst the activities that were proposed in 2014, they generated several articulations, productive projects, designs, consulting, extension of educational processes and sealed two alliances that are taking their first steps. One at a National level called Athaia and another called PermaneSer at a continental level. In this 2014 we travelled 180.000km, making possible all these achievements.

## GEN Colombia

Llamado de la Montaña – Call of the Mountain, The Call of the Mountain is the most relevant annual gathering of CASA Colombia. It was first convened by RENACE (Colombian Ecovillages Network) and today is organized by CASA Colombia. This event has been

taking place every year since 2006 and, by 2012, the gathering gave birth to CASA Continental aiming to articulate national networks of sustainable settlements in America and, for the first time, implementing the Council of Visions as methodology to organize encounters in real time among social sectors, but most important as a pedagogic proposal to articulate a social movement.

In 2012 the Call of the Mountain was an Iberoamerican gathering, with more than 450 participants from 22 countries which harvested the construction of P anbasá, a massive maloka at Ecoaldea Atlantida. By 2013 the Call when to make “acupuncture” to 4 different regions of the country with 4 Calls happening in parallel and harvesting the motto nationally connected, while impacting locally, again around 400 participants in total and collaborations with Ecovillages Anthakarana and Aldea Feliz, the Alternative School Colegio Ideas and the Urban Botanical Garden.

By 2014, once again a single gathering allied us with the Khrisna community Vrinda, fostering collaboration within projects World Consciousness Pact and Varsana Yoga Ecovillages; that year with about 380 participants from around 10 countries, the call has a very national invitation to people from spiritual, political and resistance movements in the country. This year 2015, the Call took us out of the comfort zone, and lead us to the entrails of the Andean mountains at the very centre of the conflict zone in Colombia;

The Call of the Mountain 2015 – Minga of Thinking and Territoriality took place just last 21 – 25 Jan, and we harvested an strong and growing alliance between CASA Colombia and the Misak University, the project of ancestral education of the Misak people, one the strongest indigenous group in resistance of the whole country. The Call 2015 gathers +400 participants from 21 countries, 8 indigenous communities, 3 afro groups, different farmers’ representatives, more than 10 spiritual leaders from different traditions of Colombia, all with 100% scholarship, 70% of.

the whole gathering was people coming to the Call for the first time ever and fresh food was purchased directly from local producers.

This year we are harvesting local entrepreneurship projects for ecological pisciculture, agro-ecologic production and diversification of fair markets with agro-ecological products of Misak indigenous farmers and the alliance of Misak University with urban professional and teachers for conventional and traditional knowledge exchange.

## Escuela para el Diseño de Ecoaldeas EDE

The EDE 2014 Colombia was a great opportunity to deepen in the work with grassroots communities. It was held in partnership with the Community Council of the Rosario Islands and Caribbean Network Agenda in Isla Grande, 45 minutes far from Cartagena. Some of the most outstanding processes were the ones inside worldview and cultural revitalization with the support of spiritual leaders of communities such as Arhuacos, Wayuu and AfroColombians. Sitting around the fire, with the community, especially the children, recognizing ourselves as part of nature, creating concrete actions for its care.

The issue of conflict resolution and nonviolent communication was well received, much of the community of Isla Grade participate in an experiential activity to solve a problem with a young men and this experience generated a great insight of the responsibility of each of us on the whole community dynamics.

Such experiences show how the toolbox, which within networks of ecovillages and sustainable settlements is being identified and harvest can be a great contribution to countries like Colombia in their current processes of land restitution, rehabilitation and peace talks, among others.

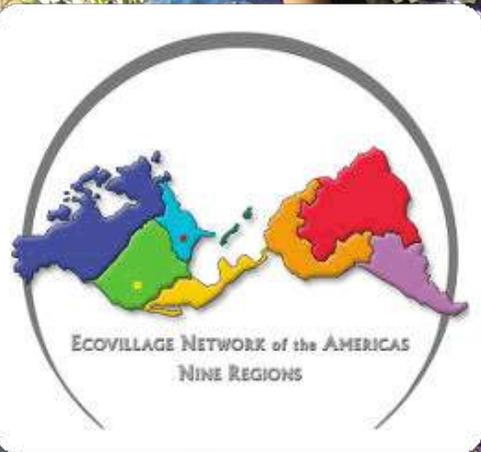
## Incubadora de Ecoaldeas CASA COLOMBIA, 2014

As an answer to the crescent need to share those tools, ecovillages are increasing their capacities to respond to a changing world, CASA Colombia offered the Ecovillages Incubation Training at the Bachué House of Midwives by 1, 2 and 3 Nov. Youngers, children, and adult social leaders united around practices of non-violent communication, emotional management, sociocracy, Colombian land ownership legislation and organizational evolution.

At CASA we understand that this type of trainings empowers people and organizations aiming to foster intentional communities and sustainable settlements, so we look forward to opening more IE by 2015.

## Participatory Action Research: Weaving worlds for a new world.

CASA Colombia is driving participatory action research in alliance with Wageningen University in Holland and COLCIENCIAS, through the doctorate thesis of Martha Chaves and and undergraduate student Fanny van Hal, who are studying new rural projects and the relevance of social networks on sustainability connecting globally local solutions and opening space for social learning exchange. Two young leaders from the Colombian Caribbean coast and 2 from the Misak Universidad at the South Andean region of the country are collecting information using participatory video as a mean to track and record academic results and, most important, as a socialization tool. The first video, recorded, edited and elaborated by the Misak students was already launched during the past Call of the Mountain Jan 2015.



## INTRODUCTION

At the start of 2014, the GEN-NA Task Force was integrating new members, Laird Schaub and Marty Klaif, representing the Fellowship for Intentional Communities (FIC) who'd joined a couple months earlier. The GEN-NA Task Force was formed and Chaired 2 years ago at the initiation of ENC, looking for a new birth of the North American network.

Sub-groups, including ENA, Ecovillage Network of Canada (ENC) and FIC reps worked on gathering and exchanging information about our various organizations - how they function, strengths and weaknesses, resources and capacities, key personnel, areas of interest/priority, visions/plans and ideas for how we could work together in our Region. In Summer 2014, Cynthia Tina joined NextGEN North America (NextGENNA) representatives Nick Joyce and Nebesna Forte on the Task Force, and joined these conversations.

FIC brought forward a proposal for key reps of each of these four partners to attend the next FIC Board meeting, which was in October of 2014. Daniel Greenberg, Giovanni Ciarlo and Cynthia Tina attended for the days designated by FIC for NA Regional topics; Linda Joseph stayed on the remaining days of the FIC's meeting; and Canadian partners Russ Purvis and Lee Davies, Skyped in for the entire time, too.

The highlight for many was a brainstorming session to look at what on-the-ground activities/projects the NA partners might focus on co-creating in 2015. Collaborative event(s) rose to the top, as did a co-presence at other organizations' larger events; GEN-NA web presence and integration with GEN Internet Technologies and systems; and developing fundraising and earning strategies in support of North American networking.

ENA US is inspired and already taking steps to actualize these collaborative intentions, and appreciate the opportunity they afford us to organically establish new, dynamic networking in North America. ENC's focus in 2014 has been clarifying all channels for a proposed new GEN-NA organizational structure.



## GEN Canada

### Kakwa Ecovillage

In its 9<sup>th</sup> year as a Cooperative Farm found inspiration from many visitors within a wide range of ages & ethnicities. Prolific gardens, expanded membership, field and pasture expansion and livestock herd expansion were highlights.

### Tycoed Family Ecovillage and Restorative Farm

We continue with our 6 adults and 2 children to work to transform our Managed Forest into a restorative farm based on permaculture principles. We have completed phase 1 annual vegetables and have started phase 2 – perennials and orchard/forest garden for – berries, nuts and fruits using hugelculture and landscape transmission on our hill to our pond. We had our first Community Shared agriculture group, our first fundraising, our first workshops (mushroom growing), our first joint permaculture tour and our first beekeeping. We had a wonderful article about our place in the local newspaper and also an article on the permaculture tour. We will be on the community garden tour in 2015 and do a permaculture/ecovillage/bioregional workshop at the famous Richter's herb company in our community. We are working on bioregional approaches connecting with local first nation groups. It's wonderful to be making this transition with more to come.

Whole Village has welcomed 3 new members this year and more renters so we are very full at the moment. One new member couple of note is Barb and Milt Wallace, who started the ENC many years ago. We're so lucky to have their wisdom and experience, not to mention their leadership and work ethic. We have renovated our old farmhouse and rebuilt a greenhouse destroyed by last winter's storms. A new young farmer, Ted Baker, (formerly researched us for his PhD) has been experimenting with a small CSA and has had enough success to increase member shares next year.



Our latest tally for trees planted since 2003 is 18,888. We're trying to use the principles of restoration agriculture, a farm version of permaculture. Each year we have been able to increase our fruit and vegetable production with the help of some members and volunteers. We'll soon be revisiting our vision to try to integrate our new members and go forward with a deep sustainability plan.

## La ité Écologique in Québec

What a great year for the ecovillage La Cité Écologique! Once more the internship program was a success, 14 interns shared our lifestyle during the summer. Over 1000 visitors took part of our guided tours or attended one of our events. The main activity was our open house day celebrating the 30th anniversary of the ecovillage. Also, the nine eco-businesses had a great year. Moreover, this fall, the ecovillage got certified by Gaia Education to offer the first Canadian EDE course next year!

## Yarrow Ecovillage

Yarrow has 18 new housing units, 82 people, 5 farming group, permaculture group, bees, affordable housing, commercial space.



## INTRODUCTION

The Asia-Oceania Region is one of the most diversely rich human ecosystems in the world. Home to most of the oldest civilizations on Earth, it hosts the second and third largest economies as well as the two most populous nations on the planet.

Given its sheer size and complex diversity, the Global Ecovillage Network of Oceania and Asia has been evolving continuously, striving to create a dynamic community network that effectively bridges the ecovillage realms spanning Oceania, South Asia, East Asia and South-East Asia.

Though we are still in our infancy stages faced with the overwhelming task of bridging our extreme socio-cultural, religious and economic differences, we see the emergence of three essential attributes that guide our next steps: Symmetric, Synergistic and Self-Regulating Feedback.

In the last years' gatherings, we have already been dancing around these three structural attributes that we hoped to embody as a network. In our recent four-day GENOA gathering in India in October, 2014, we recognize these as necessary qualities that addresses the many internal and external challenges our region has faced in the past. (Photo: Annual meeting in Orissa, India, November 2014)

In 2015, GENOA continues to devote its work to connecting and bridging intentional communities, ecological initiatives, and traditional networks throughout the region by sharing information, learning, experiences, and wisdom relevant to the context of the varying political, socio-cultural, and ecological dimensions the region is facing today. Addressing poverty, the rise in conflicts, and increase in vulnerability to climate change are some of the significant backdrops the regional ecovillage initiatives are working with.

This year, more meaningful membership expansion and gatherings are intended to be hosted to gather sub-regional groupings to better connect on the level of shared contexts. Special projects include the development of a story harvesting platform to map out Asian and Oceania best practices and models that can help develop a unique regional ecovillage design. Other highlighted projects include appropriate technologies led by indigenous villages promoting a grow your own food movement, bottle brick making for initiating green buildings, development of nurseries, and installation of solar lights for villages. We are bringing women together from different ethnic and religious groups, using the home garden as the tool for social reconciliation. An ecovillage inspired transformative healthcare and self health empowerment is emerging. There are also various activities by youth in pursuing sustainable lives and social change apart from competition-centered lives in urban areas as they explore alternative education, alternative economics, co-housing, returning to rural areas, international cooperation, art, food, culture, etc. We are responding to the increasing vulnerability of our region through a special think tank mapping and evolving ecovillage led responses to conflict and disasters called EmerGENcies Protocol. We hope to end the year with a learning exchange gathering to hold conversations, learnings, and innovations about ecovillages in response to climate change.





**GEN-Korea** is an emerging group in GENOA since 2013 GENOA gathering. Main activists of GEN- Korea are the young generation who are keen to introduce sustainable way of life, which is what GENOA represents to the youth as well as to individuals who are interested in sustainable living. As one of activities, GEN-Korea opened NextGEN Youth Camp in August, 2014 for 5 days for about 30 people in youth ecovillage which one of GEN- Korea activist leads and the main lecturers are Om & Tom (NextGEN). (Photo caption: NextGEN youth camp feast).

**GEN-Japan** has been re-organizing its structure and approaches. Through the annual general meeting in Tokyo in November 2014, Hiroko Katayama was elected as the new Japan representative, as Michiyo stepped down. A lot of eco-sound community development has emerged all over Japan since Fukushima and Tsunami disaster in 2011; especially around 50 bases of Transition Town Movement. Gen-Japan is also making an integrated platform for new networking. Transition Town Festival 2014 was held for a gathering over Japan in mountains of Nagano pref. Transition Town Symposium was held in Tokyo, for young generation.

## GEN China

The biggest intentional community of China — the Second Home of Lifechanyuan (established in 2009 and currently have around 100 members) were forced to resettle from Yunnan to Xinjian, from November 2013 to March 2014 as the local authorities disapproved of their community way of life and are threatened they will influence wider society. In 2014 Lifechanyuan set up an Avaaz campaign to get support to stop the resettlement of their communities, however, it seems like the whole community might be dissolved under such a strict and unreasonable political environment. In the midst of such challenges, the community claims that they will never give up their dream and will continue walk on the road of spirituality and community living.





In 2014 **GEN Philippines** continued its response to typhoon Yolanda (which happened in November 2013) through disaster relief and rehabilitation in one village of 600 members in Leyte. With the support of partners, they provided psychological first aid assistance and creative healing engagements; healthy and eco-friendly relief goods; installed solar panels for future livelihood projects; created a new faculty office for Batug Elementary School; built an Earthship Typhoon Bunker; established permaculture designed gardens; and developed model simple waste segregation processes. GEN Philippines also continued its work on transformative health and well being through

the Energy School workshops, which trained around 200 Inner Dance healing facilitators.



Two EDE Introductory courses were held by **GEN Myanmar** in early 2014, one organised by Alinein Organization (House of Wisdom) and the other held at a local primary. Both courses were five days, with 18-19 participants coming from different parts of Myanmar. The participants from the Alinein Organisation EDE had diverse backgrounds such as farmer, housewife, writer, poet, teacher, hospital worker, factory worker, social worker, environmentalist, and a political party member, where as the other course was focused mostly on youth with agricultural backgrounds. (Photo caption: EDE Introductory Course held by Alinein).



A group of 10 people from **GEN Laos**, came on an ecovillage exposure visit to Thailand in December about community sustainability and climate change. They visited the All Green Learning Center and Energy Ashram (alternative energy), Suan Lung Chok (agro- forestry) and Mab Aung Centre (Self-Sufficiency: Livelihoods, Herbal Medicine, Local wisdom and Farming).



In 2013, **GEN Malaysia** was formed and became an official member of GENOA. They have since played a key role in the disaster relief efforts in Philippines and began visiting ecovillage projects and ecological initiatives around Asia to learn and gain experience. GEN - Malaysia co-facilitated a one-month internship on ecovillage, permaculture and deep ecology, at the Gaia Ashram in Thailand. Ockenden Cambodia, member of GENOA continued its ecovillage and permaculture activities in 2014. Some of the activities include strengthening village committees, encouraging their indigenous people to learn from their village demonstration farm, supporting development of home gardens and supporting social and cultural events in the communities, such as Earth Day.

**GEN Sri Lanka** helped design and facilitate a women's initiative, FIFI, in partnership with the Center for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (CPBR), bringing women together from different ethnic and religious groups, using the EDE as a tool to work on social reconciliation. Belipola Sustainability Education Center, a member of GEN Sri Lanka also coordinated workshops for youth on ecovillage design, as well as two international trainings on Analog Forestry, a restorative ecological design system.





**GEN-Bangladesh** is coordinated by Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD), and has been actively transforming 42 traditional villages into ecovillages with the support of partners for many years. In 2014 they ran permaculture trainings and workshops for 120 active community leaders and farmers; 18 small climate change adaptation projects with communities in Southern Bangladesh; and and built 75 model climate change adaptation houses with at least 8 climate change adaptation techniques.

The third Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) was held by **GEN - India** for indigenous youth, hosted by THREAD Siddharth Village in Orissa, covering all four dimensions thoroughly – worldview, ecological, social, and economic. The group did hands on sessions in the garden, design work, participated in simulations and other activities, as well as spending time understanding the spiritual aspect of self-growth and life's purpose, which was previously unexplored with the indigenous groups.

**GEN - Australia** facilitated a six day Introduction EDE in April 2014, at Paradise One, a community in Byron Bay, NSW. The course was facilitated by Shane Schmidt (GEN), Prema Browne, Gehard Von Arderkas from Zegg, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Bunya Halaz and the Paradise One community, and covered the four dimensions of ecovillage design, and included the Zegg Forum process, rituals and strong economic and legal focus. It was a success with the Paradise One community, who changed its processes after the course and participants were richer and better equipped at community living as a result.





## INTRODUCTION

GEN Africa envisions the re-emergence of a sustainable and abundant Africa growing out of an alliance of self-empowered and resilient communities.

As a solution based alliance, GEN-Africa makes visible examples of best practices, and develops educational tools to inspire societal transition to resilience.

### Vision

We envision the re-emergence of a sustainable and abundant Africa growing out of an alliance of self-empowered and resilient communities.

### Mission

As a solution based alliance, GEN-Africa makes visible examples of best practices, empower existing ecovillages, support emergence of new ecovillages and develops educational tools to inspire societal transition to resilience.

## HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS

- Begin working on partnership agreement between Sustainable Lush and GEN Africa with Paulo and Kosha (notes found on mind map)
- Registration of GEN Africa offices in South Africa as a Non Profit Organisation complete
- GEN Africa council members attended New Story Summit in Findhorn and held several meetings during this time in preparation for the River of Life and GES
- Global Ecovillage Summit in Senegal



## GEN South Africa

GEN South Africa meetings held at Msauli Village alongside LUSH fund supported Marula Oil Skills training. This event was held from the 15-18th August.

The year 2014 has been a great year of success in a nutshell. Umphakatsi Peace Ecovillage, held a series of activities to promote sustainable development using rights based approaches. A stakeholder workshop with a purpose was to sensitise the community leaders of Steynsdorp village about the sustainable development project of Umphakatsi. Success stories are creation of about 50 jobs since the project started, though the jobs have been short term. Currently the project employs about 12 community members of Steynsdorp. Challenges have been on issues of racism, ethnicism, collective leadership and competition. The stakeholders resolved to form a committee to manage the issues raised as challenges in this report. We hosted a number of learning workshops on sustainability including setting up permaculture gardens and the food forest concept. We further hosted volunteers from Sweden, Portugal and South Africa as part of the youth cultural exchange programme. We also held an ecovillage bikini festival in celebration of the abundance gained.





## GEN RDCongo

- GEN GEN DR Congo already registered.
- An eco villages on day conference in Kinshasa
- Meetings with communities in nine provinces of the DRC,
- Lobbying the Office of the Prime Minister and with the departments of Youth, Sports, Leisure and Culture Organization of 3 TV programs on extension ecovillage strategies and the need for a holistic approach to building sustainable communities Awareness Meetings with Ministry of Planning, the EPSP and social affairs and lobbying on policies for eco villages in the DRC.
- Meeting with the representation of the World Bank and the Delegation of the European Union in Kinshasa. Establishment of a partnership with the diaspora of Martinique for the pilot of the first Eco Village training center in the DRC.
- With the support of Steve Manga, a member of the team fund raisers GEN International, we have updated the list of members of the DRC GEN network. Presentation of Ecovillages Strategies at Cine Forum organized by the Carter Center on Future City Development Strategies at the French School to 120 people.

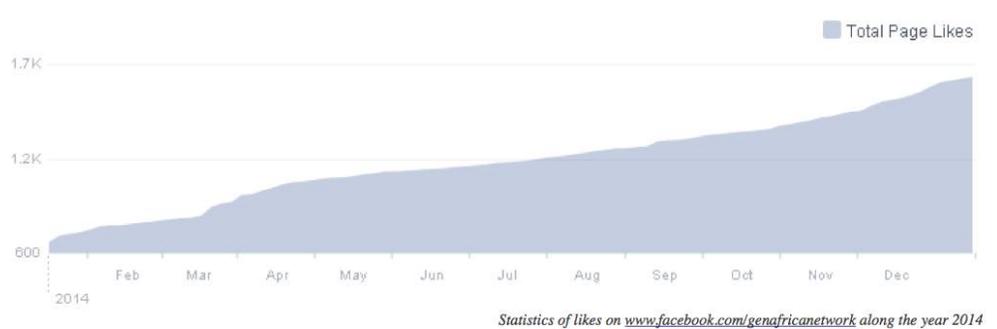
GEN Togo is slowly establishing a national Network

GEN Kenya has got strong projects on the ground of which International Peace Initiative, OTEPIC and G-BLACK feature the strongest within GEN at the moment all three projects are active and flourishing

GEN Cameroon has involved the mayor of Bafut -who was also at the Summit in Senegal- in Ecovillage strategies. Better world has run a youth camp based on the EDE and is planning to host another one in August 2015 which should also incorporate strengthening of NextGEN Africa

GEN Egypt Sekem continues to bless GEN and offered to host a GEN-Africa office





## GEN Africa – IT

- Preparing a new wire frame for a new Gen-Africa website
- Migrating Gen-Africa site to GEN-sites platform to match the rest of regional networks in GEN and to be interconnected and linked to other sites.
- Working on adding African projects, ecovillages, events, articles to GEN Africa web site.
- Moderating all African related content added on GEN database. Moderating all African solutions added on the solution library project
- Updating GEN-Africa flyer.
- Administrating of GEN Africa Facebook page
- Formulating GEN Africa IT team.
- Participating in the GEN International IT work groups meetings

## Specific Goals 2015

1. Resourcing human personnel and other resources
2. Organisational development processes
3. Financial stability(fundraising,consulting)
4. Trust, care and friendship
5. Facilitate conflict resolution
6. Needs/rights and responsibility of staff and volunteers
7. Decision making process and quorum
8. Bylaws and constitution
9. AdministrativeCapacity
  - 9.1 Database of trainers and facilitators
  - 9.2 Database of tools/curriculum (EDE, ABCD, T2R, 9.3 Small dedicated and functioning Working Group

## Targets 2015

- 25 full members by GEN+20 summit.
- 5 national networks consolidated by December 2015
- 2 emerging national networks identified by December 2015.
- 1 fully functioning and set up office by December 2015



## ReScope Programme

The year 2014 was a momentous one for the Rescope Programme as 3 fully fledged country chapters were born namely SCOPE Kenya, SCOPE Uganda and SCOPE Malawi. This was a welcome addition to SCOPE Zimbabwe who also reconstituted their Board. Towards the end of the year the Regional Facilitator changed his base to Zambia.

## SCOPE KENYA

The year 2014 was a momentous one for the Rescope Programme as 3 fully fledged country chapters were born namely SCOPE Kenya, SCOPE Uganda and SCOPE Malawi. This was a welcome addition to SCOPE Zimbabwe who also reconstituted their Board. Towards the end of the year the Regional Facilitator changed his base to Zambia.

### What worked well/successes

SCOPE Kenya managed to consolidate its members who are now 14 organizations which have some collaborating work with schools. They have started paying their membership fees, which is a sign of commitment to the forum. The board managed to have their first meeting and discussed a range of issues including registration of SCOPE Kenya as an association. The process of registration is going on and it is hoped this will be finalized in the first quarter of the year 2015.

On fundraising, SCOPE Kenya managed to get some top up funds from Swedbio of Sweden to support the training of ILUD Facilitators. Further fundraising activities are planned in the first quarter of 2015.

Even though the training did not happen in 2015, SCOPE Kenya managed to identify all the trainers from different member organizations, with a good gender balance. The training has now been scheduled to take place in January 2015. Two schools have also been identified which will act as the model ILUD schools. The process of setting up the models will begin in February after the training of ILUD facilitators. However some of our partners like Permaculture Research Institute (PRI) Kenya, Practical Permaculture Institute (PPI) and Kima Integrated Community Initiatives Programme (KICIP) have worked with a number of schools in several districts. Mwisena primary school in Mwisero constituency in Kakamega County, Western Kenya is one such school that has been supported by KICIP to develop an emerging demonstration of ILUD.

## What did not work well/ challenges

SCOPE Kenya did not manage to do the training of ILUD Facilitators in 2014 as had been planned. The challenge was identifying the ILUD facilitators for the training in good time, plus general coordination between Uganda and Kenya was a bit slow. Eventually it was decided to have the training in Kenya.

Fundraising was also a challenge as the Coordinator came in around August, a period when it is difficult to secure funding. Thus, SCOPE Kenya continued to operate on a low budget.

## Some statistics to include numbers of partners, schools etc.

- Number of partners: 14
- Number of ILUD Facilitators identified for the training in January 2015: 10 (5 men and 5 women)
- Target schools for introduction to ILUD IN 2015: 10

## Our aspirations for 2015

- To fundraise and introduce ILUD to at least 10 schools To train another bunch of 10 IULD Facilitators  
Hold an annual general meeting to launch SCOPE Kenya
- Set up a small secretariat for SCOPE Kenya with Chapter Coordinator, Accountant, and Communication Officer
- Finalize registration process of SCOPE Kenya

## SCOPE Malawi

The year 2014 saw the completion of the first phase of the EED/ BftW funded Growing Resilient School Communities project which began in July 2012. It also saw continued support to the regional partners as well as the continuation of the Welthungerhilfe project at Mbira School in Lirangwe, Blantyre Rural West. The Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) was the main tool used in the design of around 20 schools that we worked with in Malawi during the year. An organizational assessment and strategic planning process also took place in order to strengthen the capacity and delivery of the Rescope Programme's mandate.

### The Growing Resilient School Communities (GRSC) Project

The 2-year Bread for the World funded project which began in July 2012 ended in September 2014. The project in which Rescope partnered with 17 local partners and assisted 17 schools has achieved a lot. The project managed to train 35 people from the partner organisations. These partners were then monitored and supported throughout the implementation period to assist them to become good trainers, role models and to implement permaculture designs at work and at home. By the end of the project period, 26 partner organisation members had qualified to become trainers, 9 of them being women. By the end of the project period many schools had been transformed from bare dusty grounds to productive much healthier landscapes despite many challenges faced such as water shortages, destruction by animals and theft.

In light of the success of the project, a proposal to continue the project and address some of the challenges in the first phase of the project was drafted. This was done with the input of the partners.

## The Mbira School Project

Funded by Welthungerhilfe, this project supports Mbira primary school in Lirangwe. Having received training in 2013, the school continues to implement permaculture at the school and in the homes of about 40 of its vulnerable students.

## Future Plans

- Continuation of the Growing Resilient school Communities Project Phase 2
- Securing of more funding for more schools.
- Registering SCOPE Malawi as a free standing organisation.

## SCOPE Uganda

We appreciate Tudor Trust, Mugove Walter Nyika, St Jude and the Board Members; schools and communities for cooperating with Scope Uganda to implement ILUD. Your Support has been very vital for the achievements we have got in this period.

## Achievements

- SCOPE Uganda has enrolled and maintained 17 member organizations
- We also had a partners meeting where all the member organisations participated
- We had 3 Board Meetings.
- We processed an NGO registration Certificate, we will get it early Jan 2014
- We selected Schools to participate in ILUD and also selected the six Participants for ILUD Workshop

➤ We made introductory and work visits in four schools together with the Chairperson. I.e. Kyanamukaka Parents, St Paul Primary School Kyakabunga, Rakai Teachers College and Butale Primary School.

➤ We bought Office Equipment and set the office in place

➤ Scope has been marketed to different symposium by the Country Coordinator and the Board Members

➤ We sent a project to HIVOS, we are also working on a project to Echoing Green and Global Innovation Fund

## Challenges

Most Member organisations have not yet paid membership fees. Some Members take long to communicate when there are sensitive issues that need urgent response.

As I conclude, I would like to once again thank Mugove Walter Nyika, the Board Members, schools and the community for their love and support I, request you to continually support the operations of Scope Uganda. In the next quarter, I will reach all the member organisations and I believe much will be accomplished.

## SCOPE Zambia

In Zambia we do not have an established Country Chapter yet but we have several partner organisations that are interested in setting up the chapter. The table below shows these organisations and some of the areas where they are working.

| <u>Partner Organisation</u>                   | <u>District(s) Operating</u>   |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Community Youth Concern (CYC)<br>Petauke      | Lusaka, Chisamba, Siavonga,    |
| Build it International Zambia                 | Kapiri Mposhi, Mazabuka e.t.c. |
| Community Development<br>Programme(CODEP)     | Chiparamba area of Chipata     |
| Tikondane Community Centre                    | Katete,                        |
| Kasisi Agricultural Training<br>Centre (KATC) | Chongwe                        |
| African Community<br>Projects (ACP)           | Chipata, National              |
| Zambia Women and Girls<br>Foundation (ZWGF)   | Monze                          |

Promising work to establish demonstrations of ILUD started at Shipungu school near Kapiri Mposhi and at Lushomo school in Monze. A full ILUD course was organised by ZWGF in Monze but it will be completed in 2015.

## SCOPE Zimbabwe

### Successes

- Supported ILUD project in 69 Schools 10 Provinces and strengthened the demonstration Centre activities.
- Conducted ILUD follow ups training under a campaign theme “grow your own, cook your own and eat your own”. We trained over 130 people constituting school pupils, teachers and community in: integrated aquaculture, oyster mushroom production, organic potato production, Integrated beekeeping, Organic soil fertility management and vegetable production. These trainings focused on strengthening the ILUD designs in the 69 Schools. engaged in ILUD towards social enterprises.
- Facilitated peer learning and Cluster exchange visits by Schools at Cluster level and National level. We mobilized hundreds of people to participate in the field days conducted at three Schools with all 69 Schools participating.
- 2014 saw the coming in of a new team of 10 board members and the registration of SCOPE Zimbabwe Trust.
- Revamped our blog site to focus on spreading our work and harvesting stories of significant change. Our priority in 2015 is to upgrade the page with more sharing of stories from the schools and their
- Communities and connect with the outer world
- Fundraising is hard work, but 2014 saw us getting into partnerships with Global Eco village Network, Ecologia Youth Trust and strengthening linkages with Sino Zimbabwe, Nyaradzo friends of the environment in support of ILUD projects in Schools.

These accomplishments moved us forward on a path to a new reality of increased productivity in school ILUD activities with schools earning significant income from the project in the past year. 60% of the Schools recorded some form of sales in the last year.

These accomplishments moved us forward on a path to a new reality of increased productivity in school ILUD activities with schools earning significant income from the project in the past year. 60% of the Schools recorded some form of sales in the last year. More schools are participating in solving community environmental resilience, in 2013, 2 schools raised seedlings for community reforestation, 2014 saw the number of schools participating increase by over 300%. There was marked positive changes on the ecological aspects of ILUD in 100% of the schools. Cooperation between the SDC and the school personnel has greatly improved. More school development committees are actively taking part in local school development activities, this has seen 7 Schools receiving support to erect fence in the schools compared to 0 when the project started. Expansion of cultivated area, support with seeds by the local communities has all contributed to obtaining food security throughout the year in the project areas. Information campaigns and field days have contributed to better food choices and improved nutrition.

## Challenges and weaknesses

- Financial challenges limited the implementation, support and follow up of the project activities.
- Somewhat weak holistic and long term planning for refresher training of teachers and trainers, and continuous orientation and sensitisation of key stakeholders limited success in some schools.
- Mindset transformation, the perception of crop and animal integration versus swept/ bare and monoculture resulted in some authorities t more awareness among Educationists.

## 2015

To work on countering the challenges and continuously build the institutional capacity of Schools for the management of ILUD beyond SCOPE, Seek partners and sustain the designs for the benefits of the schools and the community. To move forward it will be critical to recognize the different partners and the value that the private sector and other partnerships at grass roots level have already started in adding to the sustainability and resilience of SCOPE initiatives and to involve the Private sector in the initiatives as collaborators and partners.

## Conclusion

As a region we look forward to 2015 with great anticipation as we are going to work on our regional strategy in April. Uganda and Kenya are going to have the first teams of ILUD facilitators and will consolidate their work to have good demonstrations in their pilot schools. We are grateful to all our implementing and funding partners. Our work would not have been possible without the support of the Tudor Trust, Bread for the World, Swedbio, the Global Ecovillage Network, Welthungerhilfe and Philippe Sibaud.

# NEXT GEN



## INTRODUCTION

NextGEN is developing and growing. Each regional NextGEN group has its own dynamics and challenges and yet we have a shared vision. On the level of NextGEN International in the past year we have learned how to better communicate together as regional and international representatives. It took us time to really start growing into our roles and responsibilities as NextGEN representatives and now things are happening faster and smoother. We have established regular online meetings, process on decision making and are building up our ability to work together.

On the GEN International website all NextGEN regions are now represented together at <http://nextgen.ecovillage.org/> with links to each regions website and/or Facebook page.

There was a number of regional gatherings and many projects and activities are ongoing in each of the 5 regions. Active NextGEN members from all regions have participated at three international meetings

- GEN Europe Conference in ZEGG in Germany
- New Story Summit, Findhorn in United Kingdom
- Global Ecovillage Summit, Dakar in Senegal.

## NextGEN North America

The event of the year for NextGEN North America was the first-ever Youth Ecovillage Summit (YES) in North America that took place during the 24-27th of April 2014. The event was hosted by NextGEN and held at Sirius Community, a 35+ year-old ecovillage in Massachusetts, U.S.A. An educational event, the Summit brought together some of the most exciting activists, educators, and students inspired by the ecovillage as a place to live, learn, and share. Over forty individuals from across North America attended, including a dozen from Canada and two from as far away as California. Although a mixed group, the majority was comprised of our target audience of university students and twenty-somethings from the East Coast. The diversity helped conversations flourish around the dinner tables. In their evaluation forms, participants gave high reviews and all said they would like to attend a similar event in the future.

NextGEN NA also participated at UMass Amherst's Revisioning Sustainability Conference. In the future are planning the first official meeting for NextGEN NA ecovillages ambassador in February 2015 in New York. Around 6-8 young adults involved within ecovillages will be meeting to work on the creation of program to help more youth participation in ecovillages.





## CASA Jóvenes

The year 2014 was a year of laying down the foundation of Next GEN in Latin America. They have chosen a name for their network - CASA Jóvenes (Jóvenes means Youth). They started to meet regularly as a Council with participants in Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, in addition to some members of EcoCaravans (nomads), and launched a graphic design contest to create their network logo. As they are a small group, they use consensus decision making.

Two of their Council members participated in the Call of the Mountain EcoVillage Gathering in Colombia in January, 2015, to connect with the Colombian youth movements and spread the word about CASA Jóvenes.

They created their first Vision Document, which includes Who We Are, Our Goals, Our Membership Model, and Network Strategies. The document is in Spanish, and they hope an English version can be shared soon.

They also began organizing a series of gatherings to be held in 2015 to further establish the network both at the local and continental levels. Possible places for these gatherings include Argentina, Uruguay, and Colombia.

## NEXT GEN Africa

Important things happened to NextGEN Africa at the Global Ecovillage Summit where they were able to hold face to face meeting as communication in Africa is at the moment the biggest challenge for smooth cooperation.

In the summit were NextGEN representatives from Africa, Europe, CASA, North America, Oceania and Asia and International level. Together they made a presentation on NextGEN and discussed about the objectives of the network.

Young Africans had their own election process to vote on eight council members for NextGen Africa. These members are from Senegal (2), Cameroon (1), Gambia (2), Ethiopia (1), Congo (1) and Kenya (1). The group has been very lively since then, using Facebook and Skype to hold meetings and further develop NextGEN in their region.

The group has been very lively since then, using Facebook and Skype to hold meetings and further develop NextGEN in their region.



## NextGEN-Europe

The event of the year in Europe was NextGEN gathering happening in parallel to GEN-Europe annual conference which was this year held in ZEGG Community in Germany. With the support of European funding the team of 8 organisers managed to bring together more than 55 young people from more than 10 European countries. NextGEN gathering started few days before the conference in order to give NextGEN people an opportunity to meet and get to know the organisation better.

The time spent together was very inspiring, in the group were people with many experiences from ecovillages and also those with none. It was amazing to observe how the »newcomers« were embracing community practice and culture into their being. NextGEN participants merged together with general GEN Conference after this one started in order to promote integration of NextGEN and GEN. After the meeting in ZEGG the NextGEN-Europe core group has been established which is now learning to implement Sociocracy to improve organisational and structural capabilities of regional network.

In 2015 the development of online learning platform for youth begins as part of Youth-led Social Innovation for Resilience (Erasmus+ funded project).

They created their first Vision Document, which includes Who We Are, Our Goals, Our Membership Model, and Network Strategies. The document is in Spanish, and they hope an English version can be shared soon.

They also began organizing a series of gatherings to be held in 2015 to further establish the network both at the local and continental levels. Possible places for these gatherings include Argentina, Uruguay, and Colombia.

## NextGEN GENOA

NextGEN Korea has been really active in 2014 and has organized a speech on holistic education, deep ecology and ecovillage for children and youth at Hongdoeng library where about 20 teachers, students and parents and local newspaper journalists were present. NextGEN Korea introduced themselves to the community and the people present were inspired by the topic and stories shared.

They organized a youth camp about deep ecology and introduced ecovillage design for 20 young Koreans. In this youth camp they got facilitation support from Sunisa and Tom, NextGEN GENOA mentors and a few Korean permaculturists and yoga facilitators.

Before the International GENOA Conference in Orissa, India there was a gathering of the NextGEN Oceania & Asia youth that aimed to build a strong core group in this region. They shared experiences of the work they have been doing for the Earth in individual countries.

Some time we dedicated to designing and planning NextGEN GENOA's vision and activities. As part of the program they spent time in indigenous ecovillages in the region to learn more about ecovillage living.